

August 2, 2015

We start with the third and final part of Salon's interview with [Camille Paglia](#). Turns out she thinks highly of our favorite - Scott Walker. Here she is talking about the ways the Clintons have been a disaster for the Dems.

... First of all, when we look at the abundance of candidates who have put themselves forward on the GOP side, compared to the complete paralysis of the Democratic party by the Clinton machine, I think you have to be worried about the future of the Democratic party. Young feminists are asking why there hasn't been a woman president and automatically blaming it on male sexism. But there are plenty of women Democratic politicians who are too scared to put themselves forward as candidates because of the Clinton machine. There's something seriously wrong here with Democratic thinking. You either believe in the country, you believe in your party, or you don't!

Given the problems facing the nation, this passive waiting for your turn is simply unacceptable. The Democrats have plenty of solid, capable women politicians who are just too timid to challenge the party establishment. Well, excuse me, that proves they don't deserve to be president! You sure won't be able to deal with ISIS if you can't deal with Debbie Wasserman Schultz! The paucity of declared Democratic presidential candidates is a major embarrassment to the party. Look at that herd of eager-beaver competitive guys on the Republican side—overflowing with energy and ambition. There's even a woman, Carly Fiorina, who has no political experience and therefore no chance of winning, but she is bravely putting herself forward and speaking out. And she has impressively informed herself about international politics, which is a No. 1 requirement for any woman presidential candidate. I said in a recent op-ed for Time that women must take responsibility for mastering more than the usual social welfare issues. Women politicians have to develop themselves beyond the caretaking side of the spectrum. All this talk about the lack of women engineers and how that's somehow evidence of sexism—oh, really? It's mostly a self-selecting process, as proved by the way that the overwhelming majority of women politicians around the world actually behave. What do they instantly gravitate towards? Social welfare, caretaking, the environment. They ignore military history and strategic geopolitics.

I have constantly said that Senator Dianne Feinstein should have been the leading woman presidential candidate for the Democratic party long ago. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi is a very deft and clever behind-the-scenes legislator and dealmaker, a skill she acquired from her political family—her father and brother were mayors of Baltimore. Both of these women, to me, are far better politicians than Hillary Clinton. Hillary has accomplished nothing substantial in her life. She's been pushed along, coasting on her husband's coattails, and every job she's been given fizzled out into time-serving or overt disaster. ...

... What a colossal tactical error American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten (a longtime Clinton friend and donor) made several weeks ago in unilaterally declaring her union's endorsement of Hillary Clinton right in the middle of the Bernie Sanders surge. Probably for the first time ever, American liberals woke up to the corrupt practices that have become way too common in the political maneuverings of the big unions. The point here is that Scott Walker, in his defeat of the public sector unions, drew the roadmap for struggling municipal and state governments everywhere to balance their budgets, as he did in Wisconsin. Because who ends up suffering the most? It's the kids. All that money outrageously pouring into inflated pension plans has been gutting public education and community arts programs.

Exactly how have the teachers unions improved the quality of education in our big cities? Look at the dilapidated public schools in Philadelphia or in many other cities run by Democrats. The rigid and antiquated seniority system imposed by the teachers unions has been a disaster—"last hired, first fired." So many young and vital teachers have been terminated during budget cuts—the entire future of the profession. The unions value seniority over quality, and it's inner-city children who have paid the price.

In my opinion, Scott Walker still lacks seasoning, presidential temper, and a working knowledge of international affairs. But if Democrats try to use the union issue to take him down, they're simply empowering him—and we're going to end up with President Walker. ...

... If Biden enters, I'm not counting him out. He's going to suck up a lot of Hillary's support. I've never taken Biden too seriously—he always seemed like a lightweight. But the death of his son Beau, a nice guy with military experience who seemed on track for the presidency, has given Biden more gravitas than he ever had before. The way he handled himself at Beau's funeral—standing for five hours, personally greeting all callers. Biden comes in as someone who doesn't have enemies and who knows the departments of government and international affairs. He handles himself well in debates—even though Sarah Palin defeated him!

Biden doesn't have any of Hillary's negatives. Why do we want another divisive, polarizing figure in the White House? Who wants a president that half the country already hates? Does that make any sense? At a time when the U.S. has to negotiate with hostile or untrustworthy foreign states, you'd think we would want a president who has the support and good will of the nation. People are tired of the polarization and looking for a uniter!

Roger Simon has added a feature to his Diary of A Mad Voter - [The Daily Trump](#).
... DATELINE MANHATTAN (THE SNOBBY PART): Rape! Rape! Clueless Daily Bleat reporter Tim Mak accuses Trump of "violating" wife Ivana before Mak was born as scribe humiliates self on [The Kelly File](#), proving (TRIGGER WARNING!) not all Asians are smart. Ivana joins Cuban in backing Trump. Rolling Stone's Jann Wenner throws jealous fit, wants phony rape beat back. (Notice we resisted saying "Trumped up," but we may use it later.)

DATELINE MANHATTAN (THE EVEN SNOBBIER PART): John Cassidy of The New Yorker (you know, the mag you used to subscribe to when James Thurber was alive) warns that [Donald Trump's Troubles Are Just Beginning](#). Cassidy claims Trump has bad judgement in lawyers. Maybe he should hire Bill Clinton... oh, wait.

DATELINE NORTH POLE: Donald Trump told [Sarah Palin's Mama Grizzly Radio](#) that Palin should be part of a Trump administration. "She's really a special person and I think people know that," The Donald said to host Kevin Scholla. No word on what cabinet position he had in mind. ...

Myron Magnet writes on the city de Blasio has wrought.

... Take a walk around the Grand Hyatt and neighboring Grand Central Terminal these days. It's often like stepping out of H.G. Wells's time machine straight back into the 1970s or 1980s. Vanderbilt Avenue, in particular, is becoming once again the urinal of the universe, with one block wall-to-wall "bum stands," as my son, with childhood inventiveness, used to call them: the stolen supermarket shopping cart, the garbage bag full of scavenged cans and bottles for redemption, the prone figure wrapped mummy-like in a filthy blanket. The heart sinks. It took so much effort by so many people to clear up the human wreckage that so many years of liberal "compassion" had created in a dying New York. And to see it all—I can't put it any better than the esteemed New York Post—"pissed away" by a mayor not smart or perceptive enough to have learned one thing from the experience of the last 20 years, since his own personal demons have left him stuck in the politics of the 1950s and 1960s, is tragic. It is so hard to build; so easy to destroy.

Listen, Mayor: the first job of government is to keep the people safe in their homes and in the streets. If you can't do that as a municipal chief executive, you are a flop. Equality is not the job of government, unless you are a Communist, in which case equality usually comes at the barrel of a gun or the end of a noose. And voters of New York, please learn this lesson too, despite your attachment to FDR and the New Deal or your seductive professor of race-class-and-gender studies at Brown or Wesleyan. New York needs a realistic mayor. We don't have one.

On cue, CBS News in NY reports on a man bathing in the fountain at Columbus Circle. The city's response will be to require 10,000 cops to undergo four days of training equipping them to handle emotionally disturbed citizens. They could start with de Blasio.

It was a shocking scene at one of the city's most visited landmarks.

CBS2 political reporter Marcia Kramer obtained exclusive images of what some call the latest public insult of Mayor Bill de Blasio's New York City.

Pictures were snapped of a homeless man taking a bath in the fountain at Columbus Circle, a popular city landmark that is now the bathtub of a bum.

The man who took the photo called the incident simply appalling.

"This, for me, was the tipping point on quality of life. This man is actually lathering up with a bar of soap," Ken Frydman said.

The homeless man also stores his toiletries under the benches near the fountain, Kramer reported. ...

The poster child for blithering idiots in city government is Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, mayor of Baltimore. [NY Post](#) reports shootings, and the resulting deaths, are setting records. And, of course, they would since her policies have made policing impossible. *BALTIMORE — Baltimore reached a grim milestone on Friday, three months after riots erupted in response to the death of Freddie Gray in police custody: With 43 homicides in July, the city has seen more bloodshed in a single month than it has in 43 years.*

The 43rd recorded homicide was Jermaine Miller, 18, who took a bullet to his head just before noon the day before.

With his death on Friday, this year's total homicides reached 187, far outpacing the 119 killings by July's end in 2014. Non-fatal shootings have soared to 366, compared to 200 by the same date last year. July's total was the worst since the city recorded 45 killings in August 1972, according to the Baltimore Sun.

The seemingly Sisyphean task of containing the city's violence prompted Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to fire Police Commissioner Anthony Batts on July 8.

"Too many continue to die on our streets," Rawlings-Blake said then. "Families are tired of dealing with this pain, and so am I. Recent events have placed an intense focus on our police leadership, distracting many from what needs to be our main focus: the fight against crime."

But the killings have not abated under Interim Commissioner Kevin Davis since then. ...

Kevin Williamson writes on the minimum wage scam.

... The worst kind of welfare state is the welfare state that is ashamed of itself and therefore feels obliged to pretend to be something it isn't. Instead of forthrightly taxing individuals and businesses and converting that revenue to welfare benefits in an honest and transparent way, covert welfare statists usually attempt to disguise welfare payments as wages. Artificial wage increases imposed by law perform the same function as ordinary welfare benefits — transferring income from politically disfavored groups to politically favored groups — but the revenue doesn't show up on the government ledger as taxes and the outlays don't show up as spending. Everybody in government gets the opportunity to engage in a little delicious moral preening about how they're doing the right thing for the hardworking people of wherever while maintaining fiscal discipline, as if the underlying facts of the policy — "Patron X shall give Client Y at least Z amount of money" — weren't fundamentally identical to those in a transparent welfare state.

Which is to say, laws mandating wages and benefits beyond market prices are political money laundering for unpopular welfare payments. They work brilliantly: Americans have a generally low opinion of welfare programs, but large majorities of us — including majorities of Republicans — support raising the minimum wage.

The problem, as coddled French dairymen and millions of unemployed Americans ought to know, is that a wage is a price — the price of a particular quantity of labor — and when prices go up, demand goes down. Politicians may break all sorts of laws, but they cannot break the law of supply and demand. ...

Salon

[“Ted Cruz gives me the willies”](#): Camille Paglia analyzes the GOP field — and takes on Hillary Clinton

She dismisses Rubio, Jeb and Rand in part three of our interview, but warns Dems not to overlook Scott Walker

by David Daley

In the first two parts of Salon’s conversation with Camille Paglia, we covered Bill Cosby and Bill Clinton, the return of the ’90s sensibility, and then the rise of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump.

Today Paglia trains her devastating insight and wit on the rest of the GOP field — look out Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush. She also has some surprising thoughts on why Hillary Clinton will not be the Democratic nominee — and why it would be unwise for Democrats to overlook the appeal of Scott Walker.

Catch up with the first two parts of our interview [here](#) and [here](#).

The Tea Party has been very successful in pushing the Republicans to the right. Now you’re finally seeing progressives understand they have to be active and aggressive if they want to exert power within the Democrats. The Sanders/Warren wing and #blacklivesmatter have changed the conversation. But Hillary remains the very likely nominee and she doesn’t even feel like she needs to answer questions on TPP and Keystone, for example. The Sanders enthusiasm makes for good copy, but progressives are going to lose those fights. Where are the 16 Democratic candidates who might make for a more robust and lasting debate?

First of all, when we look at the abundance of candidates who have put themselves forward on the GOP side, compared to the complete paralysis of the Democratic party by the Clinton machine, I think you have to be worried about the future of the Democratic party. Young feminists are asking why there hasn’t been a woman president and automatically blaming it on male sexism. But there are plenty of women Democratic politicians who are too scared to put themselves forward as candidates because of the Clinton machine. There’s something seriously wrong here with Democratic thinking. You either believe in the country, you believe in your party, or you don’t!

Given the problems facing the nation, this passive waiting for your turn is simply unacceptable. The Democrats have plenty of solid, capable women politicians who are just too timid to challenge the party establishment. Well, excuse me, that proves they don’t deserve to be president! You sure won’t be able to deal with ISIS if you can’t deal with Debbie Wasserman Schultz! The paucity of declared Democratic presidential candidates is a major embarrassment to the party. Look at that herd of eager-beaver competitive guys on the Republican side—overflowing with energy and ambition. There’s even a woman, Carly Fiorina, who has no political experience and therefore no chance of winning, but she is bravely putting herself

forward and speaking out. And she has impressively informed herself about international politics, which is a No. 1 requirement for any woman presidential candidate. I said [in a recent op-ed for Time](#) that women must take responsibility for mastering more than the usual social welfare issues. Women politicians have to develop themselves beyond the caretaking side of the spectrum. All this talk about the lack of women engineers and how that's somehow evidence of sexism—oh, really? It's mostly a self-selecting process, as proved by the way that the overwhelming majority of women politicians around the world actually behave. What do they instantly gravitate towards? Social welfare, caretaking, the environment. They ignore military history and strategic geopolitics.

I have constantly said that Senator Dianne Feinstein should have been the leading woman presidential candidate for the Democratic party long ago. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi is a very deft and clever behind-the-scenes legislator and dealmaker, a skill she acquired from her political family—her father and brother were mayors of Baltimore. Both of these women, to me, are far better politicians than Hillary Clinton. Hillary has accomplished nothing substantial in her life. She's been pushed along, coasting on her husband's coattails, and every job she's been given fizzled out into time-serving or overt disaster. Hillary constantly strikes attitudes and claims she's "passionate" about this or that, but there's never any sustained follow-through. She's just a classic, corporate exec or bureaucrat type who would prefer to be at her desk behind closed doors, imposing her power schemes on the proletariat. She has no discernible political skills of any kind, which is why she needs a big, shifting army of consultants, advisors, and toadies to whisper in her ear and write her policy statements. There's this ridiculous new theme in the media about people needing to learn who the "real" Hillary Clinton is. *What?* Everything they're saying about what a wonderful person Hillary is in private tells us that she's not competent or credible as a public figure! A politician, particularly a president, must have a distinct skill or expertise in communicating with the masses. It's the absolutely basic requirement for any career in politics.

If you don't have an effective public persona, if you're not a good speaker, if you don't like to press the flesh, if you're not nimble enough to deal with anything that comes along, then you are not a natural politician! And you sure aren't going to learn it in your late 60s! Get off the stage, and let someone else truly electable on! All this silly talk about how wonderful Hillary is in private. Oh, sure, she's nice to the important people and the people she wants or needs something from! Then she's Pollyanna herself! There are just too many reports stretching all the way back to Arkansas about Hillary's nasty outbursts toward underlings when things aren't going well. The main point is that the ability to communicate with millions of people is a special talent, and Hillary pretty obviously lacks it.

That said, is there a single candidate on the Republican side you could imagine as an actual president?

I thought that Mitt Romney was an excellent choice by the GOP four years ago, even though he was opposed by the Tea Party. He was an old-style Rockefeller Republican, a type that doesn't exist anymore. Nelson Rockefeller was governor of New York when I was in college in the 1960s, and he was flooding the state university system with tons of money in an attempt to make it equivalent to the University of California. I was very grateful for what he did, because I had a superb education at Binghamton, with wonderful new facilities and funding of programs like the film society. Rockefeller collected abstract art. It's hard to imagine a Republican politician today—or actually a Democrat either—as an art collector. He was such a sophisticated, genial man, but today he would be considered a RINO by many Republicans—Republican In Name Only. It's unfortunate, because there was value in that old WASP patrician style—where people were born to wealth and privilege and yet they devoted their lives to public service.

At any rate, looking at this crop of GOP candidates, I don't see anyone right now who seems authentically presidential or who has the necessary gravitas.

Let's walk through some of them. The young senators – Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

Rubio is widely praised for his intelligence, but he comes across as unsettlingly glib to me. He's sharp on foreign affairs—that's a strong suit for him. But he seems oddly weightless, like a peppy young boy. I don't see any depth yet. Ted Cruz—oh, lord! Cruz gives me the willies. The guy is a fanatic! He's very smart, clever and strategic, and he has a fine education from Princeton, so people have to watch out for him. But I think he is self-absorbed and narcissistic to a maniacal degree. I will never forgive him for his insulting arrogance to Dianne Feinstein when the Judiciary Committee was debating gun control two years ago. There's a two-minute clip on YouTube which I urge people to look at it. Cruz is smirkingly condescending and ultimately juvenile. He peppers Feinstein with a long list of rat-a-tat questions, as if he's playing Perry Mason grilling a witness on the stand. He was trying to embarrass her but only embarrassed himself. A president must be a statesman, not a smart-alecky horse's ass.

Rand Paul hasn't caught fire and his foreign policy stances can be wildly inconsistent, but he is interested in a host of issues – civil liberties, the drug war, drones, privacy, the growth of the surveillance state – that I certainly wish the left would raise, yet are not exactly in Sanders' wheelhouse.

Exactly! Code Pink's Medea Benjamin wrote a protest book called *Drone Warfare* that is a very important statement. I've been furious about the Democratic party's lack of pressure on the Obama administration about the obscene overuse of drones. As a libertarian, I find myself agreeing with Rand Paul on so many different social and political issues. Unfortunately, however, Paul lacks gravitas as a physical presence. The U.S. presidency has a highly ceremonial aspect. The president isn't merely a prime minister, a political leader—he's the symbolic embodiment of the nation. Therefore, physical attributes and vocal style are very important. Despite the cartoons that caricature and ridicule him as a befuddled boy with big ears, Obama has always known how to handle himself as a candidate and then president. He projects a sober, unflappable confidence and presents himself with elegance and grace—all of which produced his success early on, when Hillary was the frontrunner in 2008. Many Americans were so sick of Bush, with that lumbering cowboy stance of his. And remember that terrible moment at a European summit when Bush came up behind the seated Angela Merkel and grabbed her by the shoulders? She jumped out of her skin. What an embarrassment to the nation! I was so happy when Obama took office—finally a president who projected class and dignity. I'm talking only about persona here, not policies—because while I voted for Obama in 2008, I would not do it again in 2012, when I voted for Jill Stein of the Green Party.

In the primary debates, Cruz will benefit from having a tall and commanding physique, as Bill De Blasio did in the New York mayoral debates. On the whole, Republicans don't seem to realize that persona and self-presentation are crucial in a media age. For example, Rand Paul has obviously had his eye on the presidency for years, so it's astonishing that he apparently has never given any thought to how he should dress or cut his hair or even stand in front of cameras. It's as if his idea of style was flash-frozen in the Everly Brothers era. The tall candidate often has a big advantage in any campaign. It wasn't the case with Jimmy Carter, but he was an exception. People do want a sense of implicit authority in the president. This is certainly what has also held women back from reaching the White House—they don't present or conceive of themselves in an authoritative way. Dianne Feinstein is the only woman politician in America who has true gravitas. I'm not talking about her policies, about which there is huge division in California. What I'm saying is that candidates for president must have a perhaps

unteachable quality of inward power and steadiness—and Feinstein has it. Rand Paul neglected this issue—which led to his surprisingly thin skin with the media. You would think after so many years in the public eye, he would be better about handling the press. But right out of the gate, he was arguing and sniping with a woman TV interviewer. It came across as petty and tacky—utterly unpresidential.

In the same way, Sarah Palin, who I had great hopes for as a dynamic new type of frontier-woman politician, was way too reactive with the media. She was fighting with bottom-feeders half the time, and they dragged her down to their level. A major politician can't do that! You have to learn how to take it but give it back in ways that don't bounce back at you. You have to pick the right fights. It's a game that every politician must learn—including the ability to satirize the media, which voters love. Being able to handle the media is an essential aspect to running for president, and here is where Hillary has failed abysmally in this campaign. You can't simply ignore the media or spew memorized talking points at them. Carly Fiorina is proving herself surprisingly superior to Hillary in knowing how to spar with the media.

Let me pull you back to the front-runners. Scott Walker.

I think that liberals are dangerously complacent about Scott Walker. They've tried to portray him as a madman, an uneducated rube, a tool of the Koch brothers. Right now, Walker seems to be the true GOP frontrunner, but I also feel he lacks gravitas. He's not ready for his close-up. What is this oddity about so many of the GOP candidates—their excessive boyishness, as if their maturation stalled? But Walker is a very talented and combative politician, with far more substance than liberals are allowing for.



The union issue is huge—because as governor of Wisconsin, Walker went to war with unions and won. Liberals are caught in the past right now in their rosy view of unions, which were heroically established during the progressive era that reformed the abuses of the industrial revolution. But the union battle in Wisconsin had nothing to do with exploited working-class miners or factory workers. In his push to balance the state budget, Walker took action against the middle-class public sector unions, whose negotiations with municipal and state governments outside the arena of private competition have become an enormous drain on local budgets as the economy has worsened. There has been a history of rampant corruption in the public sector unions, coming from their cozy quid pro quo relationships with politicians. Liberals need to wake

up about this! All they have to do is read the obituaries of the smaller newspapers in metropolitan New York to see how the early retirement and lavish pensions of the public sector unions have grotesquely drained taxpayer dollars. Obituary after obituary—so-and-so, aged 75, worked for fifteen or twenty years as a policeman or city sanitation worker, retired in his late 40s, and spent the rest of his life on the taxpayer's dime, pursuing his hobbies of fishing, boating, and golfing. Great work if you can get it!

And then the teachers' unions! What a colossal tactical error American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten (a longtime Clinton friend and donor) made several weeks ago in unilaterally declaring her union's endorsement of Hillary Clinton right in the middle of the Bernie Sanders surge. Probably for the first time ever, American liberals woke up to the corrupt practices that have become way too common in the political maneuverings of the big unions. The point here is that Scott Walker, in his defeat of the public sector unions, drew the roadmap for struggling municipal and state governments everywhere to balance their budgets, as he did in Wisconsin. Because who ends up suffering the most? It's the kids. All that money outrageously pouring into inflated pension plans has been gutting public education and community arts programs.

Exactly how have the teachers unions improved the quality of education in our big cities? Look at the dilapidated public schools in Philadelphia or in many other cities run by Democrats. The rigid and antiquated seniority system imposed by the teachers unions has been a disaster—"last hired, first fired." So many young and vital teachers have been terminated during budget cuts—the entire future of the profession. The unions value seniority over quality, and it's inner-city children who have paid the price.

In my opinion, Scott Walker still lacks seasoning, presidential temper, and a working knowledge of international affairs. But if Democrats try to use the union issue to take him down, they're simply empowering him—and we're going to end up with President Walker.

The name Jeb Bush has not come up at all from you...

[loud laughter] What a joke! I didn't remember him at all! This shows what a nothing he is! The major media have been constantly saying that Jeb is the GOP front-runner, which is utter nonsense. It's the same thing with Hillary—the polls have just been showing name recognition, nothing more. I've been looking at the comments on political news articles since last year, and Jeb Bush seems to have absolutely no support whatever—like zero! To this day, I've never seen an online commenter enthusiastically supporting him. It's really strange! All these rich people throw big money at him, but I don't know who his voters could possibly be.

If Jeb had run for president after his successful run as governor of Florida, he would have had a better chance. But he lost his chops during his long hiatus, and he's coming across as fuzzy and bumbling. Conservative talk radio is totally against him—he's dismissed as the ultimate RINO. On the other hand, let's see what happens in the primary debates. It could well be that some of the younger GOP candidates will seem too shallow or shrill, and Jeb will gain because of his amiable personality and fund of government knowledge and experience. Voters might well go for him in the end as the safe choice.

And there you are with a Bush versus a Clinton, and another of the returns to the 1990s we discussed earlier.

Oh, I don't see Hillary as even getting as far as the debates! If things continue to trend downward for her, in terms of her favorability and the increasing scandals, then the Democratic

establishment will have to take action to avoid a sure GOP win. Hillary has way too much baggage for a general election—that should have been obvious from the start. If Vice-President Biden jumps in, that would change everything. I don't think Hillary wants to be defeated, so what I've been predicting all along is that there will be a "health crisis," and she will withdraw. Right now, her campaign is trying to change the headlines by releasing some new policy statement every day, but it's not going to change the looming investigations into her conduct as Secretary of State. And of course the GOP is holding back its real anti-Hillary ammunition until she's the nominee. Then we'll all be plunged backward into the endless nightmare of the Clinton years—it will be pure hell!

I'm hoping, once we get to the debates, that Martin O'Malley can show himself to best advantage. He was an experienced mayor and governor of Maryland, and he has an attractive, low-key temperament. He's presented himself very well thus far in media interviews. He's relaxed, open, and actually enjoys being with people—which Hillary clearly does not. He has an outgoing, fun-loving Irish pol quality, which many people nostalgically remember from the Kennedy years.

O'Malley, really? He hasn't caught much traction, has been supplanted by Sanders in hearts and minds – and was very damaged by the protests in Baltimore, and the stories about his very aggressive police practices, and the way those strategies created the environment in which Freddie Gray died in custody.

Yes, that's true, but we're still very early in the process. I feel that once we get to the debates, O'Malley's actual hands-on, day-to-day experience with complex big-city governance will get traction. Right now we're in a volatile period of slogans being shouted and passions about racial and immigrant issues boiling over. That's what's currently driving the news, but we're not at the point where people are sitting in front of their T.V.s and intently assessing candidates for the presidency. How is this person handling him or herself behind the podium? How is that person responding to questions or conflict? The actual debates are when the electorate is auditioning candidates for the presidency. That's where Obama gained big on Hillary.

If Biden enters, I'm not counting him out. He's going to suck up a lot of Hillary's support. I've never taken Biden too seriously—he always seemed like a lightweight. But the death of his son Beau, a nice guy with military experience who seemed on track for the presidency, has given Biden more gravitas than he ever had before. The way he handled himself at Beau's funeral—standing for five hours, personally greeting all callers. Biden comes in as someone who doesn't have enemies and who knows the departments of government and international affairs. He handles himself well in debates—even though Sarah Palin defeated him!

Biden doesn't have any of Hillary's negatives. Why do we want another divisive, polarizing figure in the White House? Who wants a president that half the country already hates? Does that make any sense? At a time when the U.S. has to negotiate with hostile or untrustworthy foreign states, you'd think we would want a president who has the support and good will of the nation. People are tired of the polarization and looking for a uniter!

David Daley is the editor-in-chief of Salon

Roger L. Simon
[The Daily Trump](#)



Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to the first issue of your new web home for *All Things Trump* because, as we say in our slogan, “If Donald’s Not In It, It Never Happened!” (Sort of like that tree falling in the wilderness thing.) We follow the Trump news, so you don’t have to. So if you’re ever feeling a deficit in All Things Trump, you’ll know where to find us. (Also on Twitter, Facebook, and all the ships at sea — especially yachts.)

And now, off we go. Day One — *The Daily Trump*:

DATELINE DALLAS: [Mogul to Mogul](#), Dallas Mavericks owner and cable TV czar Mark Cuban backs Trump. “He’s a game changer,” says the tycoon who may have even more money than Donald. (Hey, why doesn’t he run?) Cuban added Trump is “probably the best thing to happen to politics in a long, long time.” *The Daily Trump* concurs, but asks, why the “probably”?

DATELINE MANHATTAN (THE SNOBBY PART): *Rape! Rape!* Clueless *Daily Bleat* reporter Tim Mak accuses Trump of “violating” wife Ivana before Mak was born as scribe humiliates self on [The Kelly File](#), proving (TRIGGER WARNING!) not all Asians are smart. Ivana joins Cuban in backing Trump. *Rolling Stone*’s Jann Wenner throws jealous fit, wants phony rape beat back. (Notice we resisted saying “Trumped up,” but we may use it later.)

DATELINE MANHATTAN (THE EVEN SNOBBIER PART): John Cassidy of *The New Yorker* (you know, the mag you used to subscribe to when James Thurber was alive) warns that [Donald Trump’s Troubles Are Just Beginning](#). Cassidy claims Trump has bad judgement in lawyers. Maybe he should hire Bill Clinton... oh, wait.

DATELINE NORTH POLE: Donald Trump told [Sarah Palin’s Mama Grizzly Radio](#) that Palin should be part of a Trump administration. “She’s really a special person and I think people know that,” The Donald said to host Kevin Scholla. No word on what cabinet position he had in mind.

DATELINE NOT ETHIOPIA: Trump struck back Tuesday against President Obama who is apparently walking around Kenya staring at Donald on his smartphone, outraged that this could be his successor. Said The Donald: [“These countries must be saying what’s going on over there? He’s over in Africa and he’s talking about Trump.”](#) Better than the Iran Deal, says *The Daily Trump*.

DATELINE NO-MORE-TEACHERS-NO-MORE-BOOKS: Donald Trump will NOT prepare for the debate on August sixth. [“I am what I am,”](#) he tells CNN’s Don Lemon.

DATELINE ONLINE: Donald Trumps [“trucker hat”](#) sells out. All gone from store in Trump Tower. Whiny liberal lawyers wonder whether that’s a campaign contribution.

And speaking of WHINY... in its Wednesday edition, America’s Whiniest Newspaper (you guessed it — the *New York Times*) accuses Trump — in a “news” article, needless to say — of being [“boorish and demeaning.”](#) They should know.

And that’s it for today’s *The Daily Trump*, folks. More to come.

City Journal

[Order, Please, Not Utopia](#)

Bill de Blasio’s New York has the wrong priorities.

by Myron Magnet



Amidst fear and loathing, it’s hard not to have a smidgen of sympathy for Frederick Young, the 43-year-old career criminal who slashed a pretty young Korean tourist’s arm with a machete in Bryant Park last month. After all, it’s no fun—and not one’s own fault—to have demonic voices in one’s schizophrenic head, warning that every passerby is a Martian carrying enough Kryptonite to blow you up if you don’t attack him *now*. Even political philosopher Thomas

Hobbes acknowledged that madmen live outside the social contract, lacking the reason to understand, much less obey, the laws. In the 1960s, the destruction of the [state mental hospital system](#)—inspired in part by flower-child sentimentality and in part by a cynical ploy to dump the mentally ill off the state budget and onto some other government's ledger—created a disaster whose cruelty historians will add to the list of other barbarities that the supposedly enlightened, supposedly progressive twentieth century perpetrated.

But one look at the smirking face of drunken bum John Addis, 40, [sticking out his tongue](#) as police frog-marched him into custody Saturday, after he smashed Xiaoming Huang, 51, across the face with a two-by-four, without a word of warning, as the Chinese tourist walked by the Grand Hyatt Hotel on 42nd Street, where he had been staying, inspires nothing but outrage. What you see here is not madness but evil. Here is a muscular, well-nourished guy, who [reportedly](#) bought eight or ten cans of beer a day from the local 7-Eleven, presumably drank them, and then, having drowned any inhibitions, went out and assaulted passersby randomly, sometimes at least giving the warning of “Fuck you, bitch!” before sucker-punching a 39-year-old woman walking on Second Avenue. The 7-Eleven employees, one of whom Addis already had assaulted, expected him to kill somebody, and of course the cops have arrested him repeatedly. As Aristotle rightly judged, the man who commits crimes when drunk is doubly guilty—not only of the crime but also of voluntarily divesting himself of the reason that tells him the difference between good and evil, and makes him human. And he deserves a double punishment.

A few more incidents like this will stop tourists from coming to Gotham and choke off [a rich growth industry](#), as top cop Bill Bratton recognizes. So while Mayor Bill de Blasio blathers about raising taxes on “the rich” to fight his chimera of inequality (which some days seems like his version of Kryptonite), his heavy anti-cop rhetoric, and the ongoing efforts of his city council allies to decriminalize quality-of-life offenses like fare-beating and public urination, threatens to sweep away many of the unskilled hospitality-industry jobs that the orderly New York of Mayors Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg nurtured. Think of de Blasio as the Inequality Grinch who could steal Gotham's earned prosperity.

Take a walk around the Grand Hyatt and neighboring Grand Central Terminal these days. It's often like stepping out of H.G. Wells's time machine straight back into the 1970s or 1980s. Vanderbilt Avenue, in particular, is becoming once again the urinal of the universe, with one block wall-to-wall “bum stands,” as my son, with childhood inventiveness, used to call them: the stolen supermarket shopping cart, the garbage bag full of scavenged cans and bottles for redemption, the prone figure wrapped mummy-like in a filthy blanket. The heart sinks. It took so much effort by so many people to clear up the human wreckage that so many years of liberal “compassion” had created in a dying New York. And to see it all—I can't put it any better than the esteemed *New York Post*—“pissed away” by a mayor not smart or perceptive enough to have learned one thing from the experience of the last 20 years, since his own [personal demons](#) have left him stuck in the politics of the 1950s and 1960s, is tragic. It is so hard to build; so easy to destroy.

Listen, Mayor: the first job of government is to keep the people safe in their homes and in the streets. If you can't do that as a municipal chief executive, you are a flop. Equality is not the job of government, unless you are a Communist, in which case equality usually comes at the barrel of a gun or the end of a noose. And voters of New York, please learn this lesson too, despite your attachment to FDR and the New Deal or your seductive professor of race-class-and-gender studies at Brown or Wesleyan. New York needs a realistic mayor. We don't have one.

CBS News - New York

Exclusive: Photos Show Homeless Man Taking Bath In Columbus Circle Fountain

NYPD To Train More Officers On How To Better Deal With Emotionally Disturbed People

It was a shocking scene at one of the city's most visited landmarks.

CBS2 political reporter Marcia Kramer obtained exclusive images of what some call the latest public insult of Mayor Bill de Blasio's New York City.

Pictures were snapped of a [homeless man](#) taking a bath in the fountain at Columbus Circle, a popular city landmark that is now the bathtub of a bum.

The man who took the photo called the incident simply appalling.

"This, for me, was the tipping point on quality of life. This man is actually lathering up with a bar of soap," Ken Frydman said.

The homeless man also stores his toiletries under the benches near the fountain, Kramer reported.

Frydman is no ordinary New Yorker. He worked for former mayor Rudy Giuliani.

When asked if Giuliani would have tolerated such behavior, Frydman said, "No, no, this man would have been approached and questioned and taken probably to a psychiatric facility. I see a progressive backsliding of civility and quality of life in the city."

The man apparently sees the fountain as his home base. On Wednesday, CBS2 cameras caught him hanging out at the fountain for hours, with the police doing nothing.

Kramer then sought out the mayor to demand answers.

Kramer: "I have in my hand a picture of a man who takes a daily bath, with soap I might add, in the fountains at Columbus Circle. I wonder what you can do about this?"

De Blasio: "We are going to enforce quality-of-life offenses. The fact is (NYPD) Commissioner (Bill) Bratton is dedicating a lot of resources right now to hot spots where we believe we're having serious quality-of-life issues and you're going to see the effect of that very quickly."

Kramer: "But when you see somebody taking a bath in..."

De Blasio: "Again, I've answered the question."

The police commissioner said that part of his plan [to address the homeless](#) will be to train about 10,000 cops to deal with the problem of how to cope with the street homeless, about 40 percent he said are emotionally disturbed.

The four-day course expands a pilot program currently in place in northern Manhattan, 1010 WINS' Juliet Papa reported.

NY Post

Baltimore has deadliest month in 43 years

BALTIMORE — Baltimore reached a grim milestone on Friday, three months after riots erupted in response to the death of Freddie Gray in police custody: With 43 homicides in July, the city has seen more bloodshed in a single month than it has in 43 years.

The 43rd recorded homicide was Jermaine Miller, 18, who took a bullet to his head just before noon the day before.

With his death on Friday, this year's total homicides reached 187, far outpacing the 119 killings by July's end in 2014. Non-fatal shootings have soared to 366, compared to 200 by the same date last year. July's total was the worst since the city recorded 45 killings in August 1972, according to the Baltimore Sun.

The seemingly Sisyphean task of containing the city's violence prompted Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to fire Police Commissioner Anthony Batts on July 8.

"Too many continue to die on our streets," Rawlings-Blake said then. "Families are tired of dealing with this pain, and so am I. Recent events have placed an intense focus on our police leadership, distracting many from what needs to be our main focus: the fight against crime."

But the killings have not abated under Interim Commissioner Kevin Davis since then.

Baltimore is not unique in its suffering; crimes are spiking in big cities around the country.

But while the city's police are closing cases — Davis announced arrests in three recent murders several days ago — the violence is outpacing their efforts. Davis said Tuesday the "clearance rate" is at 36.6 percent, far lower than the department's mid-40s average.

Crime experts and residents of Baltimore's most dangerous neighborhoods cite a confluence of factors: mistrust of the police; generalized anger and hopelessness over a lack of opportunities for young black men; and competition among dealers of illegal drugs, bolstered by the looting of prescription pills from pharmacies during the riot.

Federal drug enforcement agents said gangs targeted 32 pharmacies in the city, taking roughly 300,000 doses of opiates, as the riots caused \$9 million in property damage in the city.

Perched on a friend's stoop, Sherry Moore, 55, said she knew "mostly all" of the young men killed recently in West Baltimore, including an 18-year-old fatally shot a half-block away. Moore said many more pills are on the street since the riot, making people wilder than usual.

"The ones doing the violence, the shootings, they're eating Percocet like candy and they're not thinking about consequences. They have no discipline, they have no respect — they think this is a game. 'How many can I put down on the East side? How many can I put down on the West side?'"

The city's official tally of 42 homicides recorded in May included Gray, who died in April after his neck was broken in police custody. The July tally likewise includes a previous death — a baby whose death in June was ruled a homicide in July.

Shawn Ellerman, assistant special agent in charge of the Baltimore division of the Drug Enforcement Administration, said May's homicide spike was probably related to the stolen prescription drugs, a supply that is likely exhausted by now. But the drug trade is inherently violent, and turf wars tend to prompt retaliatory killings.

"You can't attribute every murder to narcotics, but I would think a good number" of them are, he said. "You could say it's retaliation from drug trafficking, it's retaliation from gangs moving in from other territories. But there have been drug markets in Baltimore for years."

Across West Baltimore, residents complain that drug addiction and crime are part of a cycle that begins with despair among children who lack educational and recreational opportunities, and extends when people can't find work.

"We need jobs! We need jobs!" a man riding around on a bicycle shouted to anyone who'd listen after four people were shot, three of them fatally, on a street corner in July.

More community engagement, progressive policing policies and opportunities for young people in poverty could help, community activist Munir Bahar said.

"People are focusing on enforcement, not preventing violence. Police enforce a code, a law. Our job as the community is to prevent the violence, and we've failed," said Bahar, who leads the annual 300 Men March against violence in West Baltimore.

"We need anti-violence organizations, we need mentorship programs, we need a long-term solution. But we also need immediate relief," Bahar added. "When we're in something so deep, we have to stop it before you can analyze what the root is."

Strained relationships between police and the public also play a role, according to Eugene O'Donnell, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Arrests plummeted and violence soared after six officers were indicted in Gray's death. Residents accused police of abandoning their posts for fear of facing criminal charges for making arrests, and said emboldened criminals were settling scores with little risk of being caught.

The department denied these claims, and police cars have been evident patrolling West Baltimore's central thoroughfares recently.

But O'Donnell said the perception of lawlessness is just as powerful as the reality.

"We have a national issue where the police feel they are the Public Enemy No. 1," he said, making some officers stand down and criminals become more brazen.

"There's a rhythm to the streets," he added. "And when people get away with gun violence, it has a long-term emboldening effect. And the good people in the neighborhood think, 'Who has the upper hand?'"

National Review

The Insidious Political Power of Minimum-Wage Laws

by Kevin D. Williamson

One of the great spectacles of the day is the sight of French workers engaged in violent protests, aggrieved that their economic positions are being undermined by the cheap labor of foreign workers — Germans, in this case.

A bit of advice for the workingmen of France: When the people who make Mercedes-Benz and Leica are the cheap foreign labor you're complaining about, perhaps it is time to reconsider some basic economic assumptions.

The dispute pits the French farmers' unions — because of course French farmers are unionized — against the German dairy cartel, which bears the Teutonically sinister-sounding name Milchindustrie Verband. It sounds like the sort of outfit that ought to employ Ernst Stavro Blofeld. In fact, *everything* sounds 27.5 percent more evil in German; a recent confrontation between German dairy farmers and commercial buyers featured the slogan “Milch Ist Macht!” — “Milk Is Power!”

As the International Labour Organization runs the numbers, what this means is that workers in France, the nation with the eleventh-highest wages in the world (averaging \$2,886/month), is feeling victimized by unfair competition from Germany, the nation with the 13th-highest wages in the world (averaging \$2,720/month). The free-trading nations that dominate the top spots on the list — the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, etc. — do not seem to believe themselves much victimized by relatively low-wage workers in Sweden and Canada. Odd, that.

As welfare-state models go, the best ones seem to be the most straightforward: Impose high taxes on one end and write large checks on the other. This template has the added benefit of being honest and transparent, which is why no politician willingly embraces it.

The worst kind of welfare state is the welfare state that is ashamed of itself and therefore feels obliged to pretend to be something it isn't. Instead of forthrightly taxing individuals and businesses and converting that revenue to welfare benefits in an honest and transparent way, covert welfare statists usually attempt to disguise welfare payments as wages. Artificial wage increases imposed by law perform the same function as ordinary welfare benefits — transferring income from politically disfavored groups to politically favored groups — but the revenue doesn't show up on the government ledger as taxes and the outlays don't show up as spending. Everybody in government gets the opportunity to engage in a little delicious moral preening about how they're doing the right thing for the hardworking people of wherever while maintaining fiscal discipline, as if the underlying facts of the policy — “Patron X shall give Client Y at least Z amount of money” — weren't fundamentally identical to those in a transparent welfare state.

Which is to say, laws mandating wages and benefits beyond market prices are political money laundering for unpopular welfare payments. They work brilliantly: Americans have a generally low opinion of welfare programs, but large majorities of us — including majorities of Republicans — support raising the minimum wage.

The problem, as coddled French dairymen and millions of unemployed Americans ought to know, is that a wage is a price — the price of a particular quantity of labor — and when prices go up, demand goes down. Politicians may break all sorts of laws, but they cannot break the law of supply and demand.

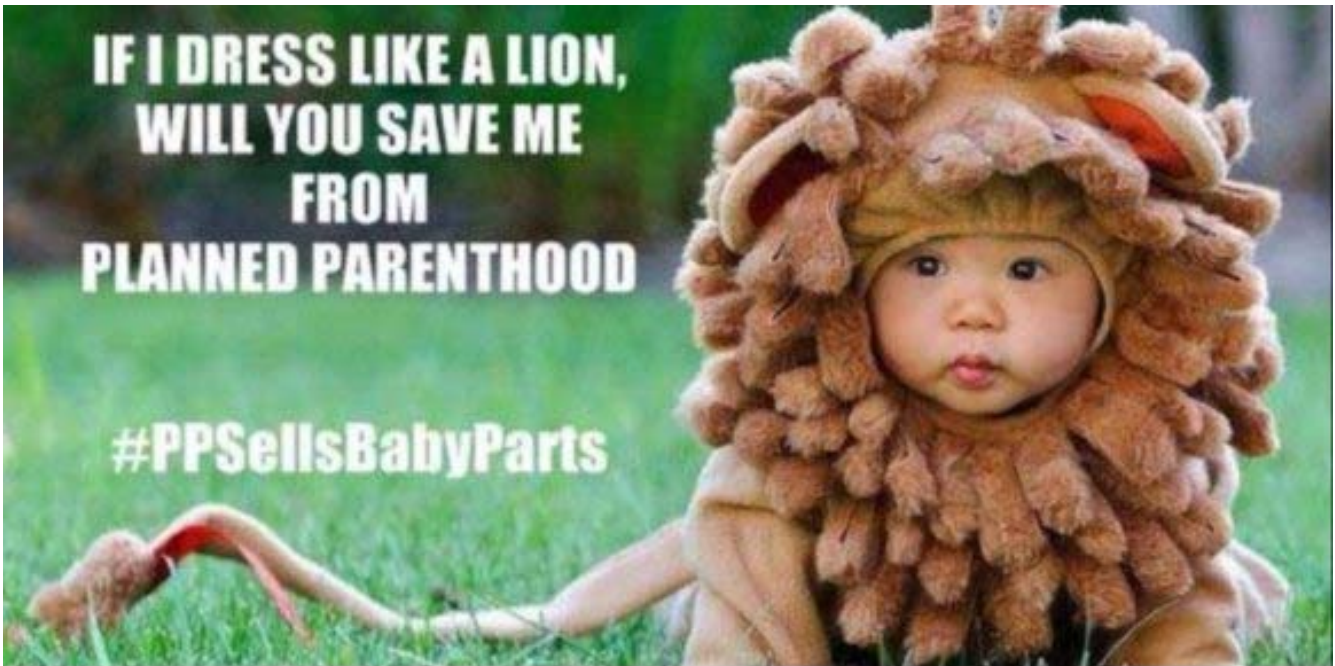
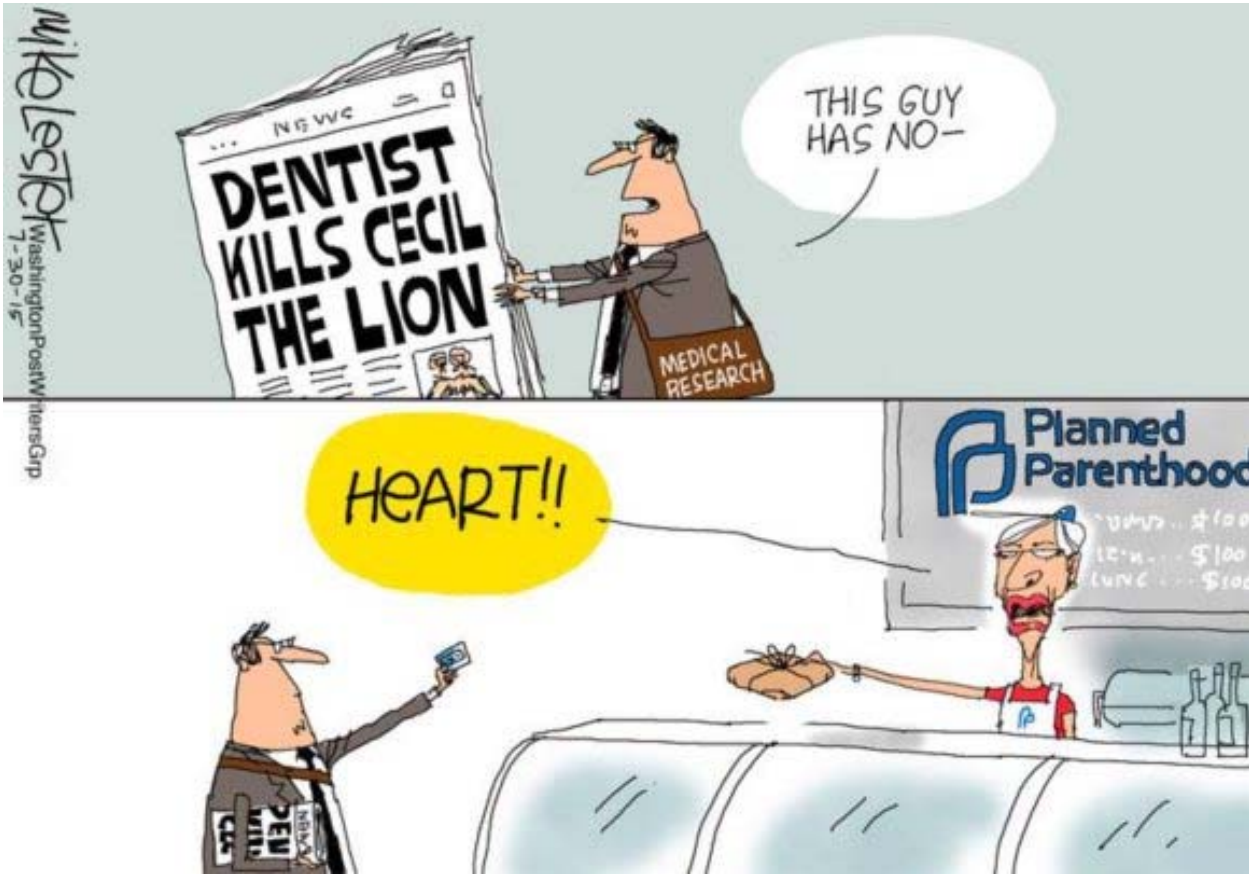
In the U.S. context, what this means is that the left hand of government spends its time adding to the cost of employing Americans with wage and benefits mandates while the right hand of government spends its time trying to enact legislation that will prevent these higher costs from having their natural effect, e.g. by restricting trade with those perfidious low-wage foreigners in Germany and Sweden, or by bribing and bullying companies into knuckling under to political demands. This produces a labyrinthine network of mandates, penalties, and subsidies that is so complex as to be incomprehensible to anybody without the time and resources to make a careful study of the matter, which in effect renders the architecture of this secondary welfare state invisible to the typical voter.

And that, of course, is the point.

The current fashion among progressives is the demand for a \$15/hour minimum wage. Bernie Sanders supports it, Elizabeth Warren supports it, Martin O'Malley supports it, and Hillary Rodham Clinton . . . won't quite answer the question. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that a \$15/hour minimum wage would throw 3.3 million Americans out of work. Jonathan Meer and Jeremy West of Texas A&M put the number at 6.6 million lost jobs; Jeffrey Clemens and Michael Wither's estimate for the National Bureau of Economic Research puts the number of lost jobs at 16.8 million. (More here.) If those jobs do in fact disappear, the politicians will try to redress this development with more economy-distorting subsidies and penalties, and when these fail you can be confident that Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump will make a lot of noise about the wily Chinese and dirty Mexicans "stealin' our jobs!"

We are all French dairymen now.



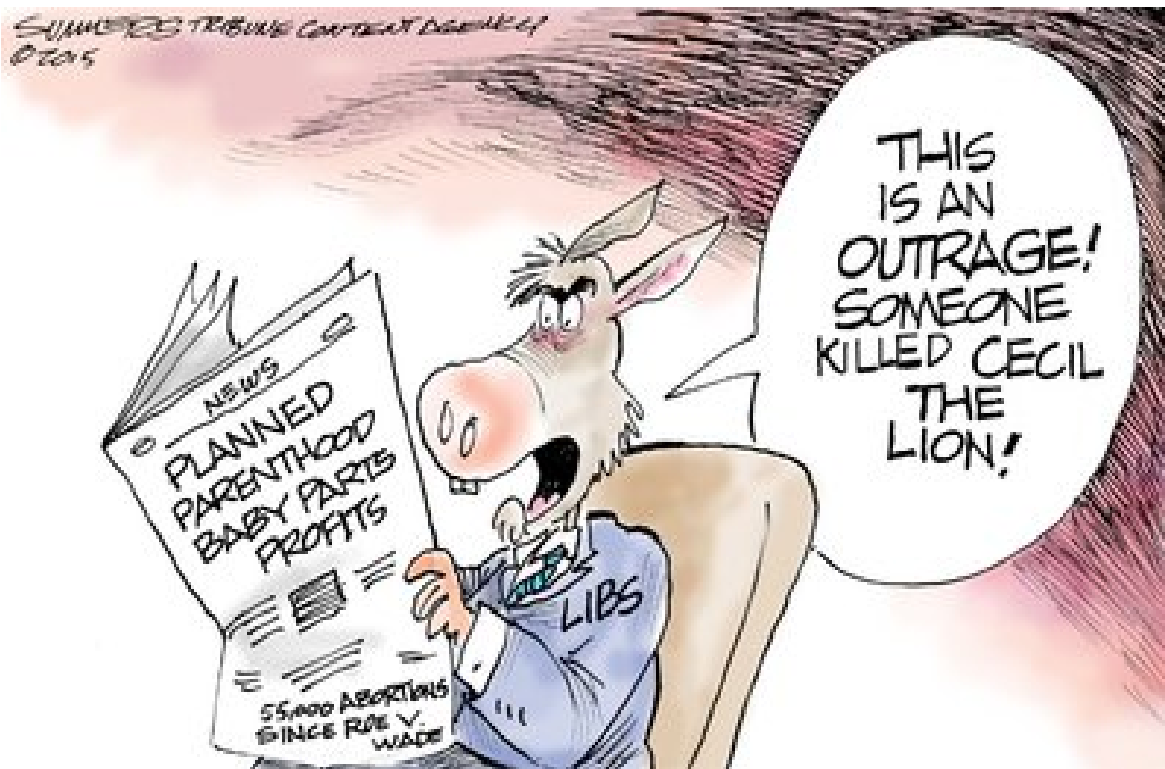


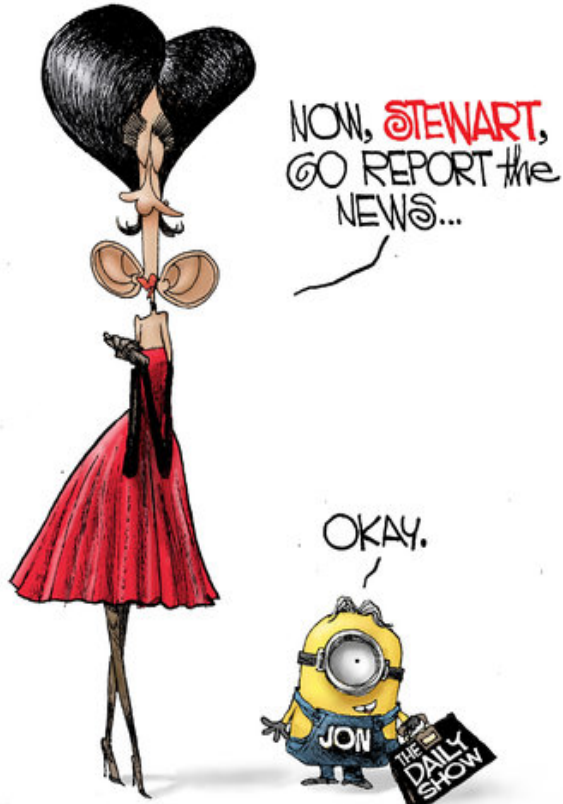
Life 2015 7-31 Dist by Wash. Post Writers Group



Copyright Lisa Benson

SUMMER TRIBUTE CARTOON DOME 1/1
© 2015





NOW, STEWART,
GO REPORT THE
NEWS...

OKAY.

MINION

MMMMMMMMMM



BACON SEEDS