

December 25, 2015 - HUMOR

We start with [Dave Barry's End of the Year Review](#).

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**... JANUARY**

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*For most Americans, however, the cold wave is not the pressing issue. The pressing issue — which will be debated for years to come — is how, exactly, did the New England Patriots' footballs get deflated for the AFC championship game. The most fascinating theory is put forth by Patriot Head Coach Bill Belichick, a man who, at his happiest, looks like irate ferrets are gnawing their way out of his colon. He opines — these are actual quotes — that "atmospheric conditions" could be responsible, and also declares that "I've handled dozens of balls over the past week." This will turn out to be the sports highlight of the year.*

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**... AUGUST**

*... The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that July was the hottest month globally ever recorded. With a renewed sense of urgency, the world's industrialized nations vow to continue sending large delegations via jumbo jets to distant conferences on climate change until this darned thing has been licked.*

*In politics, the Republicans hold their first presidential debate, featuring approximately 75 candidates ranging outward in popularity from Donald Trump at center stage to John Kasich and the late Warren G. Harding out at the far edges. ...*

### **... DECEMBER**

*... when, with the menacing specter of global climate change looming like some kind of spectral menace or something, 150 world leaders, finally getting serious about this urgent threat to the planet's future, decide to stay home and confer via Skype.*

*Ha ha! Seriously, the leaders all fly to Paris, where they and their security details and their vast minion entourages travel around in high-speed motorcades to attend dinners and make speeches about the importance of figuring out how to reduce these pesky carbon emissions. ...*

No humor post would be complete without [Andy Malcolm's](#) collection of late night humor.

*Meyers: A new poll says Newark is the country's least favorite airport. But only because **LaGuardia is technically classified as a prison.***

*Conan: United Airlines is bringing back free snacks for the first time since 2008. Unfortunately, the snacks are also from 2008.*

Now a selection of Jewish humor from [Commentary Magazine.](#)  
**The Eye-Test Joke**

Max Goldman, 88 years old, goes to the Motor Vehicles Bureau in Miami. He has to take an eye exam before they will renew his license. After a spate of accidents involving senior drivers, the Bureau has decided to make the test difficult and ask people to read the fifth line from the top only. The line says "KPROGNRWY."

The tester asks, "Can you read that, Mr. Goldman?"

"Read it?" he says. "That momzer was my next-door neighbor in Lodz!"

**Scott Adams** of Dilbert fame has a couple of posts on the Trump phenomenon. *The normal view of human beings is that we are mostly rational, but sometimes we get a bit emotional or crazy. My so-called **Moist Robot Hypothesis** on reality says the reverse, that we are irrational nearly all the time and that we rationalize our decisions after the fact. That view comes from my experience as a trained hypnotist.*

*I know that most of you don't **completely** buy into the Moist Robot Hypothesis, so I devised an unscientific test to rattle your confidence in your own rational processes.*

*I went into my garage and spent approximately two minutes selecting tools that represent the main political candidates for U.S. president. See how quickly you can tell which tool represents which candidate. My hypothesis is that those of you following American politics will easily map the tools to the candidates. No real “thinking” required. The pattern matching (bias) will be immediate.*

*But before you start, remember to observe your own mental processes as they happen, to see if the “thinking” happens before or after you decide which tool is which candidate. I’m betting you’ll decide first and think second. See if you feel it happening that way.*

*From the image below, identify the tool that maps to: Rubio, Cruz, Trump, Carson, Clinton, Fiorina, Christie, Paul. ...*

**Scott Adams** also posts on the "schlong" comment.

*... 1. Schlonged has just enough deniability built into it (similar to saying someone “sucks”) that Trump could almost-sort-of-but-not-quite explain it away. That “almost-but-not quite” quality makes it news. That is precisely how one would engineer a sticky story. A future president (and potential role model) who uses vulgar terms is a “man bites dog” story with just the right amount of “maybe not” to keep people jabbering. ...*

*3. A strong majority of humans love schlongs. Men love schlongs because we have them. Lots of women like them too. Schlongs are not politically correct, but when it comes to popular body parts, they are in the top two. From a rational perspective, using a vulgar-sounding expression is a mistake. But the Master Persuader filter only cares about the reflexive associations you make in your mind. And on the reflex level, schlongs are a base-clearing home run.*

*4. Schlongs also make you think of Bill Clinton and how hard Hillary must have tried to get a lock on his schlong. That doesn’t help her. ...*

We have one last joke. **This one is on us.** A 2008 video of a presidential candidate promising no vacations during his time in office. **Daily Caller** has the story. Go to the link for the video of the liar.

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Miami Herald

Dave Barry's 2015 Year in Review

*Was 2015 the worst year ever? Yes, yes it was.*

by Dave Barry



*Presidential debates, 'defleategate' and the selfie epidemic all made 2015 a year of Titanic disappointments.*

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OK, we'll have to get back to you on Good Things 2 through 10. We apologize, but 2015 had so many negatives that we're having trouble seeing the positives. It's like we're on the Titanic, and it's tilting at an 85-degree angle with its propellers way up in the air, and we're dangling over the cold Atlantic trying to tell ourselves: "At least there's no waiting for the shuffleboard courts!"

Are we saying that 2015 was the worst year ever? Are we saying it was worse than, for example, 1347, the year when the Bubonic Plague killed a large part of humanity?

Yes, we are saying that. Because at least the remainder of humanity was not exposed to a solid week in which the news media focused intensively on the question of whether a leading candidate for president of the United States had, or had not, made an explicit reference to a prominent female TV journalist's biological lady cycle.

That actually happened in 2015, and it was not the only bad thing. This was the year when American sports fans became more excited about their fantasy sports teams — which, for the record, are imaginary — than about sports teams that actually exist. This was the year when the “selfie” epidemic, which was already horrendous, somehow got even worse. Of the 105 billion photographs taken by Americans this year, 104.9 billion consist of a grinning face looming, blimplike, in the foreground, with a tiny image of something — the Grand Canyon, the pope, a 747 crashing — peeking out in the distance behind the person's left ear.

This was the year of the “man bun.”

And if all that isn't bad enough, this was the year they tricked us into thinking Glenn got killed on *The Walking Dead*. (By the way: spoiler alert.)

At this point you are saying: “Wait a minute! Surely there were some positive developments in 2015! How about the fact that, after so many years of sneering judgmentalism and divisive, overheated rhetoric, we were able to have rational, open-minded conversations about such issues as gun ownership, gay marriage, race relations and abortion, so that, as a nation, we finally began to come together and ... Whoa! Sorry! Evidently I am high on narcotics.”

Yes, you are. And we intend to join you soon. But first we need to take one last look back at the hideous reality of 2015, which began, as so many ill-fated years have in the past, with ...

## **JANUARY**

... which finds the Midwest gripped by unusually frigid weather, raising fears that the bitter cold could threaten the vast herd — estimated in the thousands — of Republican presidential hopefuls roaming around Iowa expressing a newly discovered passion for corn. As temperatures plummet, some candidates are forced to survive by setting fire to lower-ranking consultants.

For most Americans, however, the cold wave is not the pressing issue. The pressing issue — which will be debated for years to come — is how, exactly, did the New England Patriots' footballs get deflated for the AFC championship game. The most fascinating theory is put forth by Patriot Head Coach Bill Belichick, a man who, at his happiest, looks like irate ferrets are gnawing their way out of his colon. He opines — these are actual quotes — that “atmospheric conditions” could be responsible, and also declares that “I've handled dozens of balls over the past week.” This will turn out to be the sports highlight of the year.

In Paris, two million people march in a solidarity rally following the horrific terrorist attack on the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

Eyebrows are raised when not a single top U.S. official attends, but several days later, Secretary of State John Kerry arrives in France with James Taylor, who — this really happened

— performs the song *You've Got a Friend*. This bold action strikes fear into the hearts of terrorists, who realize that Secretary Kerry is fully capable, if necessary, of unleashing Barry Manilow.

Meanwhile in Washington, a drone crashes on the White House lawn and immediately becomes a leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination.

In sports, the first-ever NCAA Division I college football playoffs reach a surprising climax when the Oregon Ducks are defeated in the championship game 42-20 by the New England Patriots. Asked how this is possible, given that the Patriots play in the NFL, Coach Belichick opines that it could be a result of “global climate change.”

Speaking of surprises, in ...

## FEBRUARY

... NBC suspends *Nightly News* anchor Brian Williams after an investigation reveals inaccuracies in his account of being in a military helicopter under fire in Iraq. “Mr. Williams did not actually come under fire,” states the network. “Also technically he wasn’t in a helicopter in Iraq; it was a Volvo station wagon on the New Jersey Turnpike. But there was a lot of traffic.” A contrite Williams blames the lapse on post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from killing Osama bin Laden.

Abroad, Greece, under intense pressure to meet its debt obligations, gives Germany two of its three remaining goats.

In the War on Terror, the White House, having struck a powerful blow with the James Taylor Tactical Assault Ballad, boldly follows up by — again, this really happened — hosting a three-day “Summit on Countering Violent Extremism,” featuring both workshops AND symposiums.

In weather news, Boston’s public schools are closed because of glaciers.

In the year’s biggest literary story, representatives of 88-year-old Harper Lee, denying allegations that they’re seeking to cash in on the beloved author’s literary fame, announce plans to publish what they claim is her recently discovered second book, *Fifty Shades of a Mockingbird*.

In the Academy Awards, the Oscar for Best Picture goes to *Birdman*. Accepting the coveted statuette, director Alejandro G. Iñárritu tells the audience that “like you, I never actually saw this movie.”

Leonard Nimoy is beamed up for the last time.

In business news, troubled retailer RadioShack files for bankruptcy, citing the fact that in the past six years, the chain’s 4,000 stores had made a nationwide total of one sale, that being a home email server purchased by Hillary Clinton.

In sports, the New England Patriots defeat the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 to win a Super Bowl marked by surprises, including one play in which the Patriots — undetected by game officials — had a grenade launcher on the field, an infraction that Coach Belichick later blames on “wind shear.”

The most surprising play comes at the end of the game, when the Seahawks, on second and goal with 26 seconds left and Marshawn Lynch, who is basically a UPS truck only harder to tackle, in the backfield, elect to throw a pass, which is intercepted. After the game Seattle Coach Pete Carroll defends his decision to pass. He is immediately hired as a strategic consultant by the Jeb Bush campaign.

As February draws to a close, 5,000 ISIS troops land in Mexico and march north. They are able to reach Cleveland unnoticed because the entire U.S. population is heatedly arguing over the color of a picture of a dress on the Internet.

Speaking of heated, in ...

## **MARCH**

... over the strong objections of the Obama administration, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses a joint meeting of Congress. He immediately becomes a leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination, four points ahead of the drone.

Abroad, Russian President Vladimir Putin mysteriously vanishes from public view for 10 days. It is later revealed that he was training customer-service representatives for Comcast.

In finance news, shares on European financial markets plummet when German authorities announce that one of the Greek goats is actually a highly modified squirrel.

Speaking of unnatural: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves the sale of genetically modified potatoes and apples, noting that they “offer many nutritional benefits” and are “completely safe” provided that consumers “do not anger them.”

In a harsh reminder that the winter is not over, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh is eaten by a polar bear.

Abroad, tensions mount on the Korean peninsula when North Korea, in an unprecedented cyberattack, posts an estimated 23 million negative Yelp reviews of South Korea, including several million containing the phrase “we ordered the dog, which arrived so undercooked that the tail was still wagging.”

Speaking of tension, in ...

## **APRIL**

... there is troubling news from Baltimore, where the death of an African-American man in police custody touches off a conversation on race that lasts several days, resulting in 250 arrests and extensive property damage. The Rev. Al Sharpton rushes to the scene but is unable to prevent things from eventually calming down.

In another alarming development, Washington, D.C., is hit by a power outage, meaning that for several harrowing hours the rest of the nation is forced to form its own policies. A week later Washington is again shaken when a Florida mailman, making a powerful statement for or against something, lands a gyrocopter on the lawn of the Capitol building. He immediately becomes a front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination.

Elsewhere on the political front, Hillary Clinton declares her candidacy for president and sets out to demonstrate that she is a regular human by riding to Iowa in a custom van driven by Secret Service agents.

In Maumee, Ohio, she stops at a Chipotle for takeout, a news event that produces a spasm of political journalism. The New York Times (we are not making this journalism up) breaks the story, reporting that Clinton wore sunglasses and ordered a chicken burrito bowl. Bloomberg gets a follow-up scoop, reporting that the Clinton party's bill was "\$20 and some change" but Clinton "did not leave a tip." Politico runs a 1,200-word story headlined (we are still not making this up) "The 'everyday people' who made Hillary Clinton's burrito bowl." Incredibly, nobody thinks to do a profile of the chicken.

In other journalism news, Rolling Stone apologizes for a discredited story about an alleged rape at a college fraternity and announces that it has disciplined its lead fact-checker, Brian Williams.

Responding with drastic measures to California's worsening drought, Gov. Jerry Brown announces the creation of a state Saliva Conservation Board.

Abroad, Djoomart Otorbaev resigns as the prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, citing an inability to get business cards with everything spelled correctly.

In sports, the NCAA men's basketball tournament is won by the New England Patriots, who defeat the University of Wisconsin 2-0 in a game featuring a basketball inflated to basically the same pressure as a roadkill squirrel.

Speaking of sports scandals, in ...

## **MAY**

... international soccer is rocked by allegations that bribery was involved in awarding the 2022 World Cup to Qatar, a nation with little soccer tradition, as evidenced by the fact that the 12 stadiums it has built for the tournament all feature large decorative fountains in the middle of the playing field.

But the big sports story is the long-awaited — we're talking decades — boxing match between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao for the undisputed world title in the Older Guys Basically Standing Around division.

Mayweather wins the fight and takes home \$220 million, which works out to a little over \$70 million per punch actually landed, then celebrates by attempting to wake up his entourage.

Elsewhere in sports, the Kentucky Derby is won by New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, riding tight end Rob Gronkowski. All the actual horses in the race mysteriously collapse at the starting line from what Coach Bill Belichick speculates could be "allergies." Brady also wins the Indianapolis 500 driving a U.S. Army M1 Abrams battle tank that averages only 30 miles per hour but proves to be extremely difficult for the other vehicles to pass.

Abroad, there is big excitement in England, where Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, produce another royal baby, who, in a sign of the changing times, is christened Princess Brooklyn Dakota. She joins the line of royals destined to spend their lives gamely trying to appear interested in an endless series of building dedications.

In Garland, Texas, two armed men are gunned down by police after they open fire on a security guard outside an exhibit of Muhammed cartoons, highlighting the need for a national conversation on the problem of cartoonists drawing things that leave religious fanatics with no choice but to try to kill them. James Taylor is unavailable, so federal authorities dispatch The Captain and Tennille to the scene, where they perform a powerful version of *Muskrat Love*.

As California's drought continues to worsen, Gov. Brown announces a controversial relief plan involving Lake Superior and a 17-million-foot hose.

In a disturbing development, a Seattle convenience store is robbed at gunpoint by what police identify from the surveillance video as a genetically modified potato.

Speaking of disturbing, in ...

## JUNE

... the federal Office of Personnel Management announces that hackers have gained access to the personal records of millions of current and former government employees. An OPM statement downplays the seriousness of the data breach, stressing that "if anybody publishes any photos allegedly depicting an alleged cabinet secretary with an alleged goat, those are fake," further noting that "it was totally a consenting goat."

In another disturbing federal story, a report on an undercover investigation into airport security reveals that Transportation Security Administration screeners failed to detect banned items, including weapons and explosives, 67 out of 70 times. Responding to the report, TSA officials state: "What report? We don't see any report."

In a historic decision on gay rights, the nation's highest legal authority — Kim Davis, clerk of Rowan County, Kentucky — overturns the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that state laws banning same-sex marriage are unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, in what is widely hailed as a brave and courageous display of bravery and courage, a 65-year-old woman allows herself to be pictured on the cover of *Vanity Fair* wearing only a corset.

In other gender news, the Treasury Department asks for input from the public on which woman will be depicted on the redesigned \$10 bill. The immediate front-runners are Mary Ann, Ginger, Taylor Swift and the two sisters from *Frozen*.

On the political front, the big story is Donald Trump, who declares his candidacy for president and lays out a bold, far-reaching vision for America consisting of whatever thought is flitting through his mind at that particular moment. Trump is deemed to have no chance by veteran Washington-based political experts with vast knowledge of what all the other veteran Washington-based political experts think. Also declaring his candidacy, and predicted by the experts to do far better, is Jeb Bush, whose official campaign slogan is: "Jeb! — The Exclamation Mark Denotes Enthusiasm."

Speaking of excitement, in ...

## JULY

... the New Horizons interplanetary probe, having traveled more than three billion miles over nearly 10 years, finally reaches Pluto and transmits back data proving conclusively — in a discovery that sends shock waves of bladder malfunction throughout the astronomy community — that Pluto consists of both ice AND rocks.

The nation reacts with horror to the news that a Minnesota dentist has killed Cecil the World's Suddenly Most Beloved Lion. The dentist instantly becomes a less-popular version of Hitler and goes into hiding to escape animal-rights activists threatening to give him a root canal with a chainsaw. This story totally dominates the news for the better part of a week, which we will eventually look back upon as an innocent time.

Hackers announce that they have broken into the Ashley Madison website and obtained personal data on millions of clients allegedly seeking to have affairs. A statistical analysis will later reveal that, of the 37 million accounts hacked, only 23 belonged to actual women, 21 of whom were Ashley Madison employees posing as clients. The remaining two belonged to Miley Cyrus.

Elsewhere on the tech front, Microsoft releases Windows 10, which, in a widely hailed breakthrough, turns Windows 8 back into Windows 7.

In political news, the crowded field of Republican presidential hopefuls is joined by a person named "John Kasich," who claims to have at one time been governor of Ohio, although nobody can verify this. On the Democratic side, enthusiasm builds for the candidacy of 147-year-old socialist Bernie Sanders and his populist plan for reining in Wall Street via a combination of stricter financial controls and strategic beheadings.

In other finance news, the International Monetary Fund sends a collection agent to Athens, only to discover that the Greek government has moved out of Greece without leaving a forwarding address. Also, the Acropolis is missing.

Speaking of missing: In Mexico, infamous drug lord "El Chapo" (literally, "The Chap") escapes from a "maximum-security" prison via an elaborate tunnel that somehow was dug to his cell without anybody noticing. Equally alarming is the fact that the other end of the tunnel turns out to be in Miami.

But the big international news comes from Vienna, where Iran signs a deal with the United States and five other nations under which Iran, in exchange for a lot of money, promises to stop trying to build a nuclear bomb. President Obama says the deal "makes our country, and the world, safer and more secure." For his part, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says, quote, "Death to America," but he says it in what U.S. negotiators describe as "a softer tone."

In sports, the U.S. wins the Women's World Cup, defeating Japan 5-2, with three of the goals being scored by Tom Brady wearing a Brandi Chastain model sports bra.

Speaking of hot, in ...

## AUGUST

... The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that July was the hottest month globally ever recorded. With a renewed sense of urgency, the world's industrialized nations vow to continue sending large delegations via jumbo jets to distant conferences on climate change until this darned thing has been licked.

In politics, the Republicans hold their first presidential debate, featuring approximately 75 candidates ranging outward in popularity from Donald Trump at center stage to John Kasich and the late Warren G. Harding out at the far edges. Jeb Bush has an off night, falling asleep several times during his own answers. Ben Carson does better, except for when he identifies Pyongyang as "a kind of lobster." Trump dominates the evening, at one point ordering everybody to shut up while he takes a call onstage from Beyoncé. Savvy Washington-based political insiders agree, after conferring with other savvy Washington-based political insiders, that Trump's unorthodox behavior will alienate voters and he will be out of the race by fall.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton continues to have no choice but to roll her eyes over all these pesky scandals that her enemies keep dreaming up to prevent her from serving the American people, especially women. The current scandal involves the email server she used as secretary of state, which, in a deviation from government-security standards, was located in her home and had Mrs. Clinton's personal secret password ("PASSWORD") written on a sticky note stuck to the front. A Clinton spokesperson, speaking through another Clinton spokesperson who was briefed by a third Clinton spokesperson on condition of anonymity, denies that the server ever held classified emails and promises that it will be turned over to the FBI "as soon as it has been melted down to a softball-sized blob."

In financial news, the stock market unexpectedly plunges more than 1,000 points. Small investors are urged not to panic by financial experts who (a) did not predict the plunge, (b) cannot explain why it happened, (c) have no earthly idea what will happen next, and (d) have their own money invested in collectible refrigerator magnets.

Abroad, the German parliament votes to give yet another financial bailout to Greece, in return for which Greece agrees not to publish photographs of Angela Merkel naked.

In geography news, President Obama signs an executive order officially changing the name of North America's tallest mountain, Mount McKinley, back to its traditional Native American name, Elvis.

Speaking of rock stars, in ...

## SEPTEMBER

... the popular Pope Francis becomes the first pope ever to address a joint meeting of Congress, issuing a powerful challenge to the lawmakers to work together toward solving pressing world problems including hatred, poverty and pollution. Congress, inspired to take rare bipartisan action but apparently confused by Francis' thick accent, votes unanimously to declare war on Greenland.

In political news, The New York Times runs the following actual headline: "Hillary Clinton to Show More Humor and Heart, Aides Say." Mrs. Clinton reportedly will display 17 percent more humor and 23 percent more heart, according to anonymous Clinton aides who were briefed by

anonymous Clinton strategists who had direct access to what one source, who asked not to be named, described as “a high-level Clinton confidante.” The source said the Clinton team is also considering having Mrs. Clinton “directly engage selected voters in banter.”

On the Republican side, Rick Perry and Scott Walker drop out of the presidential race after polls show them both trailing the late Warren G. Harding. Meanwhile Donald Trump continues to present his vision for America’s future in the form of a steady stream of hastily composed tweets insulting people who have offended him. This strategy has Trump easily leading the GOP field, to the consternation of knowledgeable Washington-based insiders with vast knowledge pertaining to the inside of Washington.

Excited Apple fans line up to purchase the new iPhone 6s, which is identical to the iPhone 6 except it has a special alarm that will alert Apple fans exactly when to line up to purchase the next new iPhone, due out in approximately three months.

In business news, the Environmental Protection Agency accuses Volkswagen of cheating on emissions testing, precipitating an international scandal that ultimately forces VW’s Martin Winterkorn to resign and take a job as equipment manager for the New England Patriots.

Speaking of scandals, in ...

## **OCTOBER**

... Hillary Clinton testifies for 127 straight hours before the House Committee On Investigating Benghazi Until The Earth Crashes Into The Sun. There are many testy exchanges between Clinton and Republican congressmen, but in the end the American public has a much clearer picture of the extremely high level of mutual loathing that makes our government work the way it does.

In other political news, a person calling himself “Lincoln Chafee” manages to get onto the stage of the Democratic presidential candidates’ debate on CNN and make several policy statements before he is noticed by security and escorted out. This might have been embarrassing for the Democrats, but fortunately nobody is watching CNN, including moderator Anderson Cooper, who is openly playing Candy Crush.

After much agonizing, Vice President Joe Biden announces that he will not run for president, stressing that the decision had nothing to do with the severed horse head wearing a HILLARY! button he found in his bed, which Biden says he believes “was meant in a supportive way.”

Meanwhile the Republican candidates’ debate on CNBC takes a lively turn when Ted Cruz, responding to a question about the federal budget agreement, throws a chair at moderator Carl Quintanilla, setting off a round of applause so loud that it awakens Jeb Bush, who notes that as governor of Florida he had a strong record of promoting furniture safety.

Knowledgeable Washington insiders declare that the clear debate winners are Cruz, Marco Rubio and Chris Christie, so it is no surprise that Donald Trump and Ben Carson surge still farther ahead in the polls.

In sports, FIFA, the scandal-plagued governing body of international soccer, suspends its president, Sepp “Sepp” Blatter. Among those seeking to replace him is a South African businessman named — we are not making this name up — Tokyo Sexwale.

A huge military blimp breaks loose from its moorings and rampages across Pennsylvania, wreaking havoc and knocking out power for thousands before being lured back into captivity by a Hello Kitty blimp hastily borrowed from the Macy's Thanksgiving parade and positioned in what a Pentagon source describes as "a provocative pose."

Speaking of havoc, in ...

## NOVEMBER

... the world reels in shock after horrific terrorist attacks in Paris and Mali. With rumors of new threats coming daily, the U.S. State Department briefly considers unleashing Neil Diamond and Barbra Streisand (code name "Doomsday Duet") to sing *You Don't Bring Me Flowers* but elects instead to issue a Worldwide Travel Alert, warning American citizens to avoid potentially dangerous areas, "especially the Northern and Southern Hemispheres." The department assures Americans that "there is no need to panic," stressing that they should "remain in bed paralyzed by butt-puckering fear."

But November is not just a time for fear: It is also a time, as Thanksgiving ushers in the holiday season, for all Americans, regardless of ethnicity, religion or political views, to be deeply offended. Nobody is more offended than college students, who stage a series of protests over the racism, sexism, fascism, heteronormism and — trigger warning — insensitive Halloween costumes that constitute the festering hellhole of hurtful things that is the modern American college campus and THERE IS NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT IT.

Also deeply offended in November are people who have taken time out of their busy lives to notice that the 2015 Starbucks holiday cup is just plain red and — trigger warning — does not have snowflakes or reindeer on it. This is yet another salvo in the War On Christmas, which has completely eliminated Christmas from our lives except for Christmas carols playing on loudspeakers everywhere and huge Christmas displays in every store and Christmas movies on TV constantly and numerous Christmas-related news stories and an endless stream of Christmas-themed commercials running 24/7 since approximately Labor Day.

In presidential politics, Ben Carson reacts angrily to CNN reports suggesting that he never tried to stab anybody or hit his mother with a hammer. Really. Donald Trump continues his two-pronged campaign of saying reprehensible things and then clarifying his statements by saying he didn't really say them so STOP HATING YOU PATHETIC LOSERS, a strategy that continues to cost him vital support among knowledgeable Washington insiders. Jeb Bush seeks to revive his flagging campaign by unleashing an awesome new slogan — "Jeb Can Fix It!" — and immediately surges ahead in the coveted 3-year-old-boy voter demographic.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton continues to execute spontaneous acts such as smiling while campaigning on the theme that she is both a human being and a woman who cares about other humans in the middle class and women specifically.

In a major sports upset, the seemingly invincible Ronda Rousey is defeated in a UFC title fight by Tom Brady, who uses a maneuver he calls the "crowbar," although Coach Bill Belichick is quick to point out that in fact it is "just a regular claw hammer."

In the World Series, the Kansas City Royals defeat the New York Mets. The payrolls of these two teams combined are less than the payroll of the New York Yankees, who were eliminated



The scary part is: That wouldn't be so bad.

As the year finally staggers to a close, Americans set aside their differences, if only briefly, and join together in the cherished, time-honored tradition of pretending that New Year's Eve is fun. So let's raise a glass to toast the demise of 2015. Then let's set the glass down untasted, in case God forbid it contains gluten. Then let's go to bed.

Happy New Year.

## IBD

### Late Night Humor

by Andrew Malcolm

Previous [collections of late-night jokes are available here](#).

Fallon: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said her favorite book of 2015 was "Whatever yours was."

Meyers: The international climate talks in Paris wrapped up with 195 countries reaching a landmark agreement to cut greenhouse gases. And then they all drove to the airport in 195 cars.

Meyers: A woman in India named her new son Uber after delivering the child while using the ride-sharing app. He joins his older sister, Hospital.

Conan: A woman has named her baby Uber after giving birth in an Uber on the way to the hospital. Frankly, I'm more interested in hearing about the birth of her first child, Unicycle.

Meyers: A new poll says Newark is the country's least favorite airport. But only because [LaGuardia is technically classified as a prison](#).

Conan: United Airlines is bringing back free snacks for the first time since 2008. Unfortunately, the snacks are also from 2008.

Meyers: A Virginia man was charged with stealing \$22,000 of 5-hour Energy Drinks from a warehouse. Police suspected him because he led them on a high-speed chase, even though he was walking.

Conan: Larry King said when he dies he wants to be cryogenically frozen. Larry said, "I was frozen once during the Ice Age and I loved it. Best nap I ever had."

Meyers: A London architect has announced a concept for a floating hotel that's self-sustaining and could potentially move around the world. Great job, sir. You just invented the cruise ship.

Meyers: According to the Pantone Color Institute, Rose Quartz and Serenity are 2016's two big colors. Incidentally, Rose Quartz and Serenity were also 2015's "Strippers of the Year."

Fallon: Scientists say a mile-wide asteroid will closely pass Earth on Christmas Eve They say it probably won't hit us, adding, "Anyway, happy holidays, folks!"

Meyers: A French hunter is expected to recover after his dog knocked his gun to the ground, jumped on the trigger and shot him in the arm. Fortunately, help arrived before the dog could reload.

Conan: Experts in Israel are trying to recreate a wine used in the time of Jesus. Apparently, all they need is some water and Jesus.

Fallon: Hillary Clinton is increasing her poll lead over Bernie Sanders. Experts say Bernie would need something major to regain attention. Then Bernie was like, "All right, [leak the sex tape.](#)"

Conan: Los Angeles is getting much closer to having an NFL team. So pretty soon, the Lakers won't be the only team in LA scoring about 20 points a game.

Conan: Kim Kardashian and Kanye West will have no more children. They said, "All the really terrible names are taken."

Fallon: Donald Trump was heckled from the audience at Tuesday's Republican debate. A moderator said, "You'll have more than enough time to speak at your next debate, Hillary."

## **Commentary** **Jokes of the Month**

### **The Mother-in-Law Joke**

Bernstein has always wanted to go big-game hunting. His wife, Myrna, has always wanted to go on a safari. They compromise and decide to do both. "Oh," says Myrna, "we have to bring my mother with us, too."

"You're kidding," says Bernstein.

"We'll never hear the end of it. She's coming."

The first night, Myrna rushes into the tent. "I can't find my mother," she says.

They go out into the veldt. Bernstein has his gun. There they see Bernstein's mother-in-law standing face-to-face with a tiger. Neither is moving.

"Do something," Myrna says. "Shoot!"

"No way!" says Bernstein. "The tiger got himself into this mess, he's gonna have to get himself out."

### **Two Jokes**

Goldberg was walking down Collins Avenue in Miami Beach when he saw a man facedown in the gutter. He rushed over to help. "Sir, sir, are you all right?" he asked. "Should I get an ambulance?"

The man said, "Sssh. I just saw a parking space, and I sent my wife to buy a car."

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Mandelbaum was a notorious skinflint. He wore the same clothing for 40 years and couldn't bring himself to buy anything new. Finally came the day of his grandson's bar mitzvah. So he took a gun and went to Madison Avenue and found a small men's store with only one salesman in it. "Stick 'em up," he said. "Bring me a nice suit I can steal or I'll fill you full of lead. 40 Regular."

The salesman, who saw the glint in Mandelbaum's eye, hurried to the back and returned with a herringbone suit. Mandelbaum pointed the gun at him. "How much do you sell that for?"

"I-it's \$975," said the salesman.

"What? Nine seventy-five?"

"Ye-yes, sir."

"I don't know," Mandelbaum said. "Don't you have anything cheaper?"

### **The Eye-Test Joke**

Max Goldman, 88 years old, goes to the Motor Vehicles Bureau in Miami. He has to take an eye exam before they will renew his license. After a spate of accidents involving senior drivers, the Bureau has decided to make the test difficult and ask people to read the fifth line from the top only. The line says "KPROGNRWY."

The tester asks, "Can you read that, Mr. Goldman?"

"Read it?" he says. "That momzer was my next-door neighbor in Lodz!"

### **The Heaven and Hell Joke**

The gateway between Heaven and Hell is broken. No one can get into the underworld. As a result, the lobby where the souls of the newly dead must wait to be judged is getting very crowded.

The archangel Gabriel calls Satan.

"According to our contract, it's your job to fix this," Gabriel says.

"I know," Satan says, "but what can I tell you, Gabe? My handymen all went on strike."

"That's not my problem," Gabriel says. "We have a contract."

"Look, be reasonable," Satan says. "They'll get to it, maybe next Thursday."

"You leave me no choice," Gabriel says. "We'll have to sue."

"Oh, come on," Satan says. "Where are you going to find a lawyer?"

### **The Marriage Counselor Joke**

Goldberg, who sold Rabbi Plotkin his car but is not part of the synagogue community, comes into the rabbi's office.

"Mr. Goldberg," says the rabbi, "you look terrible."

"That's why I'm here, rabbi," Goldberg says. "I didn't know where to turn. I think my wife is trying to poison me."

"Don't be ridiculous," the rabbi says. "That only happens in movies and novels. Clearly you just have stress."

"For years she wouldn't let me eat cake," Goldberg says. "Now every night she serves me a piece of cake and instead of gaining weight, I'm losing weight, I don't feel well..."

"Look, Goldberg, I don't know your wife, but she finally decides to do you a kindness and you think she's trying to kill you?"

"I knew you wouldn't believe me," Goldberg says in despair.

"I see you are suffering spiritually," the rabbi says. "And perhaps I can help in some way. Let me go talk to your wife, get a sense of her feelings, and report back to you."

Goldberg thanks the rabbi profusely and leaves. He returns the next day.

"Did you talk to my wife?" Goldberg asks.

"I did," the rabbi says.

"Well, what do you think?"

"Goldberg," the rabbi says, "take the poison."

### **The Pious Man and the Sea Joke**

Sol Hymowitz was known to all as a man of great piety who never missed a daily minyan. He gave away his money, cared nothing for clothes, did not see to his own pleasures. He was the holiest and most modest of men.

One day his son Morty, a successful stockbroker, said, "Pop, you're a wonderful man and you've never done a thing for yourself. Let me do something for you." His father protested, but the son said, "Please. As a favor to me."

So Sol relented. Morty took him to a fancy hairstylist, who gave him a splendid cut and gave his grey hair a brown tint. Then they went to Brooks Brothers, where Morty bought him a double-breasted blue jacket with a silk pocket square, boating shoes, and a captain's hat. Morty then took him to the Wall Street boating slip and announced that his father was going to spend two hours at the helm of his own boat—a childhood dream come true. "I have a meeting, otherwise I would go with you," Morty said.

Sol set sail. About an hour later, when the boat was in the ocean, a huge storm gathered. Waves crashed into the side of the boat. The boat caught fire. It slammed into a rock. Sol was thrown into the water. As he struggled to stay afloat, he looked up to the heavens. "God," he said, "I have always tried to be a good man and have kept your commandments as best I could. What did I, Sol Hymowitz, do to deserve this?"

The heavens opened up and the voice of the Almighty boomed down: "To tell you the truth, Sol, I didn't recognize you."

### **The Firing Squad Joke**

Sam Finkelstein and Ben Schwartz are brought before a firing squad. They are put up against a wall.

"Any last requests?" the captain asks.

Finkelstein says, "I would like please a blindfold."

Schwartz says, "Sam, please, *don't make trouble.*"

### **Dilbert Blog**

#### **[A Deeply Unscientific Test of Your Political Bias \(Trump Persuasion Series\)](#)**

by Scott Adams

The normal view of human beings is that we are mostly rational, but sometimes we get a bit emotional or crazy. My so-called [Moist Robot Hypothesis](#) on reality says the reverse, that we are irrational nearly all the time and that we rationalize our decisions after the fact. That view comes from my experience as a trained hypnotist.

I know that most of you don't **completely** buy into the Moist Robot Hypothesis, so I devised an unscientific test to rattle your confidence in your own rational processes.

I went into my garage and spent approximately two minutes selecting tools that represent the main political candidates for U.S. president. See how quickly you can tell which tool represents which candidate. My hypothesis is that those of you following American politics will easily map the tools to the candidates. No real "thinking" required. The pattern matching (bias) will be immediate.

But before you start, remember to observe your own mental processes as they happen, to see if the "thinking" happens before or after you decide which tool is which candidate. I'm betting you'll decide first and think second. See if you feel it happening that way.

From the image below, identify the tool that maps to: Rubio, Cruz, Trump, Carson, Clinton, Fiorina, Christie, Paul.



My hypothesis predicts that you laughed when you saw the huge drill next to the other tools because you instantly knew it was the Trump tool. No thinking required. But I'll bet you started feeling your rational mind kick-in to identify Cruz and Rubio. And that's my point.

Trump is operating on the reflex part of your brain, and intentionally. The other candidates are appealing to your reason. That's the phenomenon I saw back in the summer, and why I predicted Trump will win in a landslide. He isn't winning the game so much as playing an entirely different one.

You know Trump's babbling, repetitive, content-free, happy-talk? Every bit of it is engineered persuasion. While the other candidates talk statistics and reason, Trump speaks to your

emotions. He knows people will pick the strong, decisive, optimistic leader over the candidate that agrees with their own views. We are wired that way. Reagan didn't win over so many Democrats because his arguments were strong. He won them by emotion. After the fact, people assumed his policies must have been brilliant too. (Cognitive Dissonance.)

Yesterday there was a [story](#) making the rounds that said Trump's polling numbers might **underestimate** the strength of his support. The observation they make is that folks support Trump in greater numbers when no one is watching them do it. When a pollster calls on the phone, people are less likely to say they support Trump, out of social [embarrassment](#), the researchers suppose. Trump does better with anonymous online polls. The Moist Robot Hypothesis takes this idea one level deeper and says Trump has sent a big portion of the country into cognitive dissonance of the type we have not seen since Reagan. By that hypothesis, people are holding two competing thoughts:

1. I can't be a Trump supporter! Nooooooooo!!!! I can't be that person!
2. He keeps saying things I secretly agree with.

When folks go into the polling booth in November, and no one is watching, they are likely to be choosing from a candidate who promises to keep their freedoms and dignity intact versus a candidate who is (in their irrational minds) more likely to kill their enemies and keep U.S. citizens alive.

**Predicted result:** Trump Landslide

I will add to my predictions under the Master Persuader filter and say the polling on the final day of the campaign will do a terrible job of predicting the result. It **might** get the direction right by then, but not the margin of the win.

—

I wrote a [book](#) that is a thoughtful gift for someone who is trying to figure out how life works. Reviewers seem to like it.

## **Dilbert Blog**

### **[The Master Persuader Filter and Trump's Schlong](#)**

by Scott Adams

If you are following the U.S. presidential campaign, you know that Donald Trump recently said Hillary Clinton got "[schlonged](#)" in her last campaign attempt against Obama. According to the standard 2D analysis on the news, this is the sort of vulgar gaffe that should hurt a candidate.

But you might be wondering if "schlonged" was a deliberate and clever move by a [Master Persuader](#) or just another in a long list of Trump vulgarities. Let's look under the hood and see if the engine is purring or it is full of squirrels.

Here's how I see it:

1. Schlonged has just enough deniability built into it (similar to saying someone “sucks”) that Trump could almost-sort-of-but-not-quite explain it away. That “almost-but-not quite” quality makes it news. That is precisely how one would engineer a sticky story. A future president (and potential role model) who uses vulgar terms is a “man bites dog” story with just the right amount of “maybe not” to keep people jabbering.

2. Schlonged has what I call the “Osso Bucco effect.” When you hear about a pork dish called osso bucco, you have to repeat its name several times in your head. You almost can’t resist. Same with schlonged. That looks engineered to me. In hypnosis, this is a variant of the O.J. defense “If the glove fits, you must acquit.” The science of persuasion says a rhyme is more persuasive than a non-rhyme, probably because you repeat it several times in your head, like schlonged.

3. A strong majority of humans love schlongs. Men love schlongs because we have them. Lots of women like them too. Schlongs are not politically correct, but when it comes to popular body parts, they are in the top two. From a rational perspective, using a vulgar-sounding expression is a mistake. But the Master Persuader filter only cares about the reflexive associations you make in your mind. And on the reflex level, schlongs are a base-clearing home run.

4. Schlongs also make you think of Bill Clinton and how hard Hillary must have tried to get a lock on his schlong. That doesn’t help her.

This past week, Trump used his schlong to absorb all the energy from the media while creating an association that is positive for him and negative for his opponent.

**Conclusion:** Schlonged is not just engineered; it is *perfectly* engineered. It might have been spontaneously engineered while he formed the sentence, but that is within his skill range. I’ve watched him engineer new and persuasive sentences during live interviews and he does it instantly.

Also, keep an eye on the empty space. The empty space is the mistakes Trump should have made by now but has not. As an artist (by occupation, not talent) I always look for the blank space. Trump is creating a boatload of blank space where you think his mistakes should be. In a way, that non-story is the biggest story. And so far, only the Master Persuader filter explains Trump’s “baffling” blank space and his consistency in the polls.

The other explanation for all of this is that Trump has gotten lucky twenty-seven times in a row (or whatever) in a way that looks exactly like engineered persuasion. In other words, we can’t rule out the [Lucky Hitler Hypothesis](#) because we don’t know what is in the man’s head, and sometimes lucky things happen. That’s why it’s called luck.

Here I remind new readers that I am not endorsing Trump or anyone else. I’m not smart enough to know who would do the best job of president. They all look qualified to me. My interest is Trump’s persuasion skills.

**Bonus Thought:** Pay attention to how many times the pundits are using the word “persuader” to describe what a president should be. Did you hear that word as often in other campaigns? If you see more of it, that’s a tell for persuasion.

Daily Caller

[FLASHBACK: Obama Promises No Vacations For Himself As President](#)

by Aaron Bandler

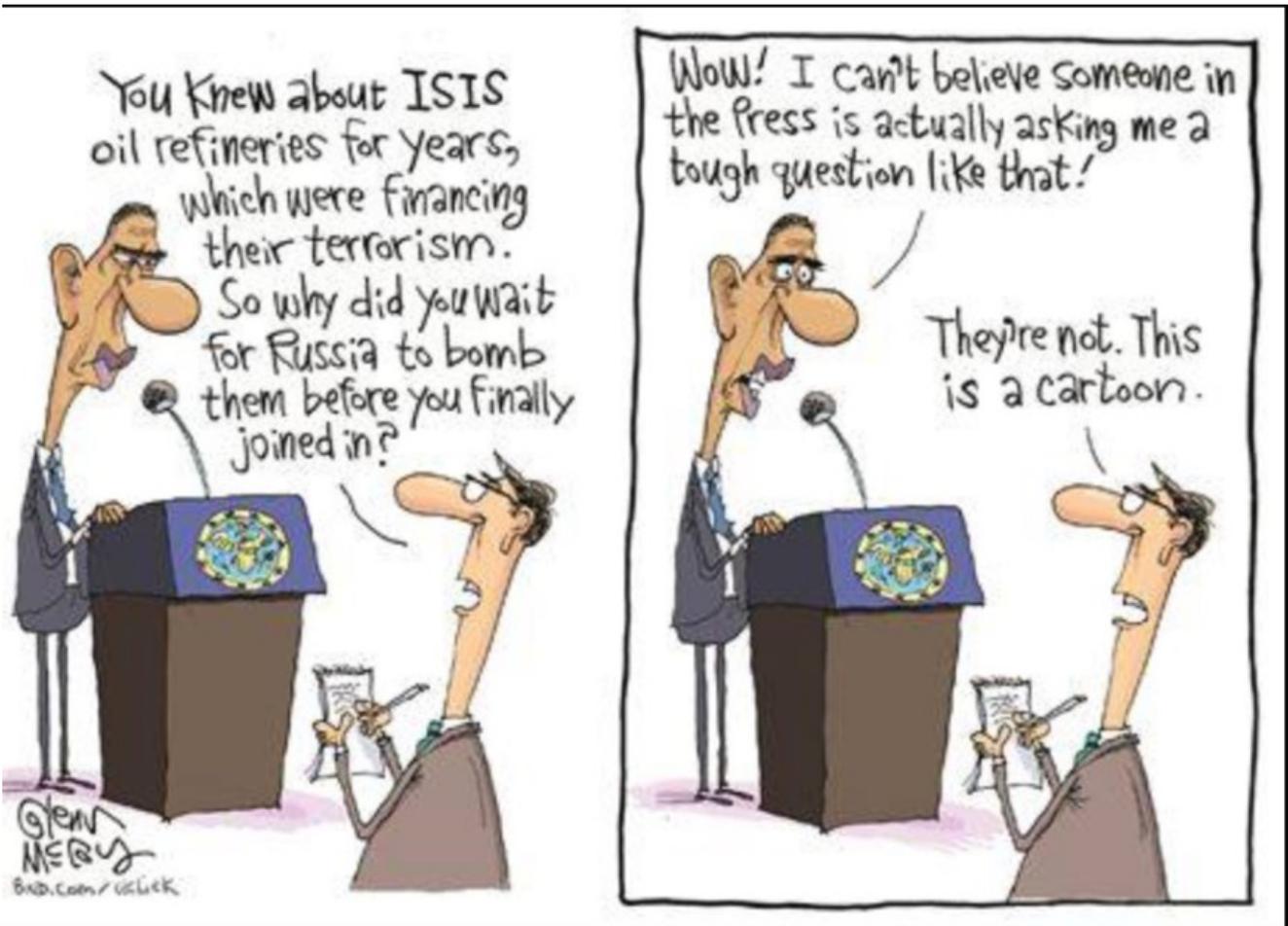


[Weasel Zippers](#) has revived an old video of Barack Obama promising not to take vacations if he were elected president.

The video features then-Sen. Obama discussing his book “The Audacity Of Hope” with New York Times columnist Bob Herbert in 2008.

The future president was talking about how those running for president need to be prepared to “give their life to it.”

“The bargain that any president strikes with is, you give me this office and in turn my, fears, doubts, insecurities, foibles, need for sleep, family life, vacations, leisure is gone,” Obama said. “I am giving myself to you.”







Time to get serious about climate change.

