

March 11, 2016 - VOTE FOR TRUMP

These pages have not been friendly to the Trump campaign. We started June 22, 2015, then again July 29th, Aug 18th, and for half the post of Sept. 15th. So, we have anti-Trump bona fides. But, a self-serving speech by the foolish Mitt Romney made it plain **Pickings** was wrong. Listening to Mitt, one wanted to ask, "Where was this passion four years ago?"

For decades Donald Trump has made himself into a caricature of our expectations. But long exposure makes plain there is substance to the man. First off, we have his children. If the private man was truly the bombastic creep we see so often, his children would be emotional basket cases. That they are squared away people gives us a view behind the curtain. And he has enough success in business to provide belief that out of the public's view the business operating Trump is rational and able to secure the loyalty of qualified competent senior and middle managers. If not, these people would not hang around.

It is not too much of a stretch to think a Trump presidency could perform with Trumanesque results. Certainly, he could not do worse than the folks with sterling résumés that are the empty suits in our present Cabinet. Compare them to the giants in the Truman Cabinet.

Today we have a round up of the last two weeks of columns and cartoons, from every point of view, on the Trump phenomenon. And we'll start with Camille Paglia's mea culpa; "I was wrong about Donald Trump." (Puts Pickerhead in good company.)
... Trump's fearless candor and brash energy feel like a great gust of fresh air, sweeping the tedious clichés and constant guilt-tripping of political correctness out to sea. Unlike Hillary Clinton, whose every word and policy statement on the campaign trail are spoon-fed to her by a giant paid staff and army of shadowy advisors, Trump is his own man, with a steely "damn the torpedoes" attitude. He has a swaggering retro machismo that will give hives to the Steinem cabal. He lives large, with the urban flash and bling of a Frank Sinatra. But Trump is a workaholic who doesn't drink and who has an interesting penchant for sophisticated, strong-willed European women. As for a debasement of the presidency by Trump's slanging matches about penis size, that sorry process was initiated by a Democrat, Bill Clinton, who chatted about his underwear on TV, let Hollywood pals jump up and down on the bed in the Lincoln Bedroom, and played lewd cigar games with an intern in the White House offices. ...

Molly Ball in The Atlantic writes on how Trump happened.

... How did Trump happen? The theories abound. It was the other candidates' fault, for failing to take him seriously, for thinking he would fade. It was the party's fault, for making the nomination rules more frontrunner-friendly, and believing it could get Trump's supporters without his baggage—without him. It was the media's fault, for eating up the spectacle and giving him unlimited free airtime. It was the talk-radio hosts who ignored his ideological transgressions to applaud the way he was smashing the system. It was the Internet, which allowed him to broadcast his message to 6.5 million Twitter followers.

It was the establishment, which pushed an unappealing agenda and never kept its promises. It was the [political scientists](#) and pundits, who lulled people into believing this couldn't happen. It was Larger Sociocultural Forces, globalization and rapid social change that left the working class in the dust, disoriented in a world they didn't recognize. ...

... But people love to be with a winner. And Trump is giving people something they can't get anywhere else.

His rallies have turned into concertlike festivals that shut down the little towns he lands in for miles around. People by the tens of thousands park far away and stand in line for hours to get in, flanked by vendors hawking an amazing variety of wares. There are T-shirts with Trump as Superman and bright-pink ladies' hats that say "Trumpette." There are baby onesies and tie-dyed dresses. There are "Make America Great Again" scarves. In the parking lot of a football stadium in Huntsville, Alabama, on Sunday, a Girl Scout troop was selling cookies. Outside a college arena in Valdosta, Georgia, on Monday, a vendor was selling Trump-themed condoms.

The Alabama rally began with an endorsement of Trump by Jeff Sessions, the state's junior senator, a staunch opponent of immigration who was once denied a federal judgeship over allegations he had opposed civil rights. In what has now become a signature ritual of such events, Trump's speech was interrupted several times by protestors, who would yell something inaudible and be gently escorted out by security. "Tell me," Trump said after one such eruption, as a group of African Americans filed out with fists in the air, "isn't it fun to be at a Trump rally?"

It's all part of the show that people have come to expect. You meet all kinds of people at Trump rallies, and they do not hesitate to speak their minds. "It's about the white middle class—we have not been represented, and the only way we are going to get representation is if Donald Trump is our next president," Ginger Barbee, a retired criminal-defense attorney from Trussville, Alabama, told me. Not being afraid to say such things—being heard—is the whole point of Trump, whose flouting of "political correctness" resonates deeply with people who feel they've been silenced.

"We're treated like the minority, even though there are more of us," Barbee complained. A descendant of Confederate soldiers, she lamented the recent removal of Confederate flags and monuments. "I do not want any more Republican establishment people running the country any more than I want the Marxist Democrats," she added. "Write that down." ...

... People see whatever they want to see in Trump, and then they refuse to see anything else. He has won the moderate, secular, independent voters of New Hampshire, the archconservative, devoutly religious Southerners of South Carolina, and the rugged, gun-toting, government-loathing individualists of Nevada. If Trump is stopped now, what will happen to all these people? Are they really all going to vote for someone who got half as many delegates as Trump and got handed the nomination by a convention-floor establishment conspiracy?

"I expect he'll get the Republican nomination, unless they Shanghai him," Randy Lawson told me as we walked to Trump's rally in Alabama, along with his 11-year-old son, who had made a poster that said, "WE NEED...the TRUMP, the whole TRUMP, and nothing but the TRUMP." Lawson continued, "If they take it away from him, I think that would ruin the Republican Party."

I asked if that prospect bothered him. "No," he said. "It wouldn't break my heart."

And Tom Nichols in the Daily Beast says it's the PC police that created Trump. The American left created Donald Trump.

When I say “the left,” I do not mean the Democratic Party—or, solely the Democratic Party. Rather, the pestilence that is the Trump campaign is the result of a conglomeration of political, academic, media, and cultural elites who for decades have tried to act as the arbiters of acceptable public debate and shut down any political expression from Americans with whom they disagree. They, more than anyone else, created Donald Trump’s candidacy and the increasingly hideous movement he now leads. ...

... It’s pointless to try to explain Trump in terms of political platforms because Trump himself is too stupid and too incoherent to have any kind of consistent political views about anything beyond hating minorities and immigrants. Nuclear weapons? “With nuclear, the power, the devastation is very important to me.” Drugs? “That whole heroin thing, I tell you what, we gotta get that whole thing under control.” A random word generation program could do better.

To understand Trump’s seemingly effortless seizure of the public spotlight, forget about programs, and instead zero in on the one complaint that seems to unite all of the disparate angry factions gravitating to him: political correctness. This, more than anything, is how the left created Trump. ...

... When The New York Times tells the rubes that it’s time to hand in their guns, when The Washington Post suggests that Jesus is ashamed of them for not welcoming Syrian refugees the week after a terrorist attack, people react not because they love guns or hate Syrians, but because their natural urge to being told by coastal liberals that they’re awful people and that they should just obey and shut up is to issue a certain Anglo-Saxon verb and pronoun combination with all the vigor they can muster. And if they can’t say it themselves, they’ll find someone who will, even if it’s a crude jerk from Queens who can’t make a point without raising his pinky like a Mafia goon explaining the vig to you after you’ve had a bad day at the track.

These brutish leftist tactics radicalized otherwise more centrist people toward Trump not because they care so much about gay marriage or guns or refugees any other issue, but because they’re terrified that they’re losing the basic right to express themselves. Many of these people are not nearly as conservative or extreme as the white supremacists, nativists, and other assorted fringe nuts who are riding along on Trump’s ego trip. But they are cheering on Trump because they feel they have nowhere else to go. And for that, liberals—especially those who have politely looked away as such methods were employed in the public square—must directly shoulder the blame.

The great mistake made by both liberals and their most extreme wing on the American left is to assume that ordinary people, once corrected forcefully enough, will comply with their new orders. This is, of course, ridiculous: Americans do not magically become complacent and accepting multiculturalists just because they’ve been bullied out of the public debate. They will find a new vessel for their views, and will become more extreme with each attempt to shut them down as the issue moves from particular social positions to the far more encompassing problem of who has the right to tell whom to shut up, and to make it stick. Nixon’s “Silent Majority” increasingly feels itself to be a silenced majority, and Trump is their solution.

Note, for example, how Trump turned the incident in which Black Lives Matter activists humiliated Sen. Bernie Sanders to his own advantage. He didn’t bother drawing partisan lines or

going after Sanders. Trump and his supporters couldn't care less about any of that, and Trump until that point almost had almost never mentioned Sanders.

Instead, he made it clear that he'd never allow himself to be shut down by a mob. That, for his loyalists, was the money shot, especially when Trump pretty much dared BLM to disrupt a Trump event, in effect inviting them for an ass-kicking. A lot of people loved that shtick, because they want to see someone—literally, anyone—stand up to groups like BLM, even if it's in defense of poor Bernie, because they worry that they're next for that kind of treatment. ...

Zero Hedge weighs in with quotes from an article in the Guardian. UK.

*... I'm a liberal-left college professor in the social sciences. **I'm going to vote for Trump but I won't tell hardly anybody.***

My main reason is anger at the two-party system and the horrible presidencies of Obama and Bush. But I'm also furious at political correctness on campus and in the media.

*I'm angry at forced diversity and constant, frequently unjustified complaints about racism/sexism/homophobia/lack of trans rights. **I'm particularly angry at social justice warriors and my main reason to vote Trump is to see the looks on your faces when he wins.***

It's not that I like Trump. It's that I hate those who can't stand him. ...

Scott Adams of the Dilbert Blog with an interesting post from an African-American Trump fan.

... You are defending America from our enemies within, and it's an AMAZING thing to watch.

Last night, you also did something else. You became the Man that helped me see fear for what it is: an illusion of power, a powerful teacher, and the path to winning if used properly. There is no reason, regardless of the enormity of the task, to lose to fear if you prepare well, are disciplined in your execution, and have the faith necessary, in God, yourself, and in others...that leads to victory.

Winning is always possible, but becomes probable if you never back down, never quit, and become your dominant self. Once the battle is won, treat the vanquished with kindness and respect. Be the bigger man.

You taught me how to Win. ...

Michael Goodwin says Romney is too much of a coward to say what's on his mind. *... His failure to endorse either Marco Rubio or Ted Cruz is most revealing. Romney's only hope for stealing the nomination is a brokered GOP convention where nobody has a majority of delegates on the first ballot and he emerges as a compromise. And the only way for that to happen is for both Rubio and Cruz to collect enough delegates so that Trump can't reach the magic number of 1,237.*

If Romney really wanted to stop Trump now, he would have backed one of the two main rivals and urged the other, as well as John Kasich, to get out. A total consolidation of all others against Trump is the only plausible way to deny him the nomination.

But even that might spell disaster for the party. With Trump averaging 35 percent support in the first 15 contests, and with his voters the most committed and enthusiastic, any too-clever-by-half maneuvers that take the nomination from Trump could cause a revolt.

Suppose a furious Trump runs as an independent. Or suppose the bulk of his voters sit on their hands on Election Day. Either way, Clinton probably waltzes into the White House.

Any way you slice it, Romney offers no solution to the GOP's dilemma. The fears that the party cannot win with Trump are legitimate, but they won't be resolved by an insider deal or turning to a failed retreat. ...

For another point of view; [Thomas Sowell](#) provides an apocalyptic view of Trump's rise.

The "Super Tuesday" primaries may be a turning point for America — and quite possibly a turn for the worse. After seven long years of domestic disasters and increasing international dangers, the next President of the United States will need extraordinary wisdom, maturity, depth of knowledge and personal character to rescue America.

Instead, if the polls are an indication, what we may get is someone with the opposite of all these things, a glib egomaniac with a checkered record in business and no track record at all in government — Donald Trump....

... On the campaign trail, Donald Trump's theatrical talents, including his bluster and bombast, may be enough to conceal his shallow understanding of very deep problems. But that will not cut it in the White House, where you cannot clown or con your way out of problems, and where the stakes are matters of life and death.

Trump's acting like a bull in a china shop may appeal to some voters but, in the world as it is, he may well cost us our last chance to recover from the great dangers into which the Obama administration has gotten this nation.

We already have an ego-driven, know-it-all president who will not listen to military or intelligence agency experts. Do we need to tempt fate by having two in a row?

Despite Donald Trump's string of primary vote victories, he has not yet gotten a majority of the Republican votes anywhere. But although most Republican votes are being cast against him, the scattering of that vote among so many other candidates leaves Trump with a good chance to get the nomination. ...

More apocalypse from [Angelo Codevilla](#) writing in The Federalist.

The Obama years have brought America to the brink of transformation from constitutional republic into an empire ruled by secret deals promulgated by edicts. Civics classes used to teach: "Congress makes the laws, the president carries them out, judges decide controversies, and we citizens may be penalized only by a jury of our peers."

Nobody believes that anymore, because no part of it has been true for a long time. Barack Obama stopped pretending that it is. During the twentieth century's second half, both parties and all branches of government made a mockery of the Constitution of 1789. Today's effective constitution is: "The president can do whatever he wants so long as one-third of the Senate will sustain his vetoes and prevent his conviction upon impeachment."

Obama has been our first emperor. A Donald Trump presidency, far from reversing the ruling class's unaccountable hold over American life, would seal it. Because Trump would act as our second emperor, he would render well-nigh impossible our return to republicanism.

Today, nearly all the rules under which we live are made, executed, and adjudicated by agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and countless boards and commissions. Congress no longer passes real laws. Instead, it passes broad grants of authority, the substance of the president's bureaucracy decides in cooperation with interest groups.

Nancy Pelosi's remark that we would know Obamacare's contents only after it passed was true, and applicable to nearly all modern legislation. ...

Are we tired yet of Chris Christie? How about this hilarity from [Olivia Nuzzi](#) in the Daily Beast.

*... Christie has long been mocked for his heft, but behind Trump, he looked puny and unremarkable, **a hotel end-table of a human being.***

He shifted his weight from foot to foot and periodically looked down. When his eyes rose to meet the scene again, disappointment spread across his face.

It was real. He really had done this to himself.

The end of Christie's presidential campaign was always going to be the end of his political career. Any casual observer could've told you as much. Maybe he would become a high-priced securities and appellate lawyer afterward, like he was before his time as the U.S. Attorney and then governor. Or maybe he would pivot to punditry on one of the many cable networks he frequently appeared on as a guest. But with his endorsement of Trump, it seems possible that Christie never thought that far ahead. Maybe, after dropping out, he panicked at the idea that he would never again control a media cycle, never again be met by a sea of cameras and recorders shoved in his face. ...

For a bonus we have late night humor from Andy Malcolm.

Conan: A Saudi Arabia official says a Trump presidency would "set the world back centuries."
The Saudi added, "Which is why Trump has our full support."

Meyers: During his recent victory speech, Donald Trump said he is a "unifier." Then he turned to Chris Christie and said, "Right, idiot?"

Fallon: Bernie Sanders is getting the support of students at Hillary Clinton's alma mater, Wellesley College. So now of course, Hillary is trying to get the support of Bernie's alma mater, Jurassic Park.

The cartoonists have a blast.

Salon

[I was wrong about Donald Trump: On the GOP front-runner's refreshing candor \(and his impetuousness, too\)](#)

Yes, he remains thin-skinned and easily riled. But his fearlessness and brash energy also seem necessary and rare

by Camille Paglia

I'm dying for an update from you on Donald Trump. Last summer you called him "not a president" and a "carnival barker." Do you still feel the same? If you loved Trump, would Salon even let you proclaim it? I mean, they're kind of as liberal as they come, no?

Why can't there be a party that is basically Republican, but minus the religion, minus the legislating of morality, and that cares about climate change/overpopulation? Could Trump be that guy?

Christie Cooley Randolph
Santa Rosa, CA

Well, Trump may still be a carnival barker, but he's looking more and more like a president!

Along with most media pundits in the Northeast, I found it improbable if not impossible that Trump could survive his klutz-o-rama cascade of foot-in-mouth flubs, from carelessly categorizing Mexican immigrants as rapists to hallucinating about "thousands" of Muslims cheering the fall of the twin towers from the mean streets of New Jersey. Surely he would soon implode and pouf into fairy dust!

But only a few weeks after that [interview of mine in Salon](#), I suddenly realized that Trump's candidacy had a broad support that few had expected or discerned. The agent of my revelation was a [hilariously scathing, viral Web blog video](#) posted by Diamond and Silk–Lynette Hardaway and Rochelle Richardson, two African-American sisters and former Democrats in Fayetteville, North Carolina. They were reacting with indignant outrage to the first GOP debate, broadcast

by Fox News from Cleveland on August 6 and hosted by Megyn Kelly, whose loaded questions had impugned Trump as a sexist.

If Trump wins the White House, that no-holds-barred video will go down in history as “the shot heard round the world,” Ralph Waldo Emerson’s phrase for the first salvo of the American Revolution by rural insurgents at Concord. The video signaled a popular uprising and furious pushback against the major media and political elites, who had controlled the national agenda and messaging for far too long. Diamond and Silk threw zinger after zinger in defending Trump: “Here’s the damn deal, Megyn Kelly—or Kelly Megyn, whatever your name is!... Go back and report news on *Sesame Street*!... You hit below the belt, Kelly!... He was the only one up there on that stage with any common sense!... He’s going to be the next president, whether you like it or not. Get used to it, girl! Get used to it!”

This fiery endorsement blew me away because it demonstrated how Trump was directly engaging with a diverse coalition in ways that the mainstream media had completely missed. I felt, and still do, that Trump is far too impetuous and thin-skinned in his amusingly rambling, improvisational style. The American president, who can spook markets or spark a war with a rash phrase, must be more coolly circumspect. And aspirants to the presidency shouldn’t care what small fry like bobble-head TV hosts say or do. A leader must have the long view and show an instinctive capacity to focus and prioritize.

Nevertheless, Trump’s fearless candor and brash energy feel like a great gust of fresh air, sweeping the tedious clichés and constant guilt-tripping of political correctness out to sea. Unlike Hillary Clinton, whose every word and policy statement on the campaign trail are spoon-fed to her by a giant paid staff and army of shadowy advisors, Trump is his own man, with a steely “damn the torpedoes” attitude. He has a swaggering retro machismo that will give hives to the Steinem cabal. He lives large, with the urban flash and bling of a Frank Sinatra. But Trump is a workaholic who doesn’t drink and who has an interesting penchant for sophisticated, strong-willed European women. As for a debasement of the presidency by Trump’s slanging matches about penis size, that sorry process was initiated by a Democrat, Bill Clinton, who chatted about his underwear on TV, let Hollywood pals jump up and down on the bed in the Lincoln Bedroom, and played lewd cigar games with an intern in the White House offices.

Primary voters nationwide are clearly responding to Trump’s brand of classic can-do American moxie. There has been a sense of weary paralysis in our increasingly Byzantine and monstrously wasteful government bureaucracies. Putting a bottom-line businessman with executive experience into the White House has probably been long overdue. If Mitt Romney had boldly talked business more (and chosen a woman VP), he would have won the last election. Although the rampant Hitler and Mussolini analogies to Trump are wildly exaggerated—he has no organized fascist brigades at his beck and call—there is reason for worry about his impatient authoritarian tendencies. We have had more than enough of Obama’s constitutionally questionable executive orders. It remains to be seen whether Trump’s mastery of a hyper-personalized art of the deal will work in the sluggish, murky, incestuously intertwined power realms of Washington.

From my perspective as a fervent supporter of the ruggedly honest and principled Bernie Sanders, Trump with his pragmatic real-life record is a far more palatable national figure than Ted Cruz, whose unctuous, vainglorious professions of Christian piety don’t pass the smell test. Trump is a blunt, no-crap mensch, while Cruz is a ham actor, doling out fake compassion like chopped liver. Cruz’s lugubrious, weirdly womanish face, with its prim, tight smile and mawkishly appealing puppy-dog eyebrows, is like a waxen mask, always on the verge of

melting. This guy doesn't know who the hell he is—and the White House is no place for him and us to find out.

The Atlantic [Tipping Point](#)

After a strong Super Tuesday, the Republican frontrunner is more dominant than ever—and his party is at war like never before.

by Molly Ball



PALM BEACH, Fla.—The ballroom at Mar-a-Lago is white and gold—it is called, in fact, the White and Gold Ballroom. Gilded columns topped with gilded arches line the sides of the room; the ceiling is embossed with a gilded pattern of seashells and vines. This is Donald Trump's home away from home, the estate-turned-private-club where he chose to celebrate the biggest night so far of his improbable presidential campaign.

The room was too small for the dozens of reporters who crammed into it on Tuesday night, jostling behind cameras and squeezing into stiff-backed gold-painted chairs. And that was before a contingent of flamboyantly dressed, aggressively tanned older people filed in—members of the club, there to support their friend Trump.

The governor of New Jersey, Chris Christie, who once hoped to be president himself, introduced Trump. “Tonight, Donald Trump is the clear winner on Super Tuesday,” he said. “But the win is for our country.” Trump had, at that point, already won Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Virginia; he would go on to win Arkansas, while Ted Cruz won Oklahoma, Texas, and Alaska. It was time, Christie said, for the Republican Party to come together.

Outside the room, that was not, to put it mildly, what was happening. The GOP had spent the past week in a paroxysm of abject terror. A sitting senator and many others declared they would not vote for Trump if he was the nominee; hundreds [signaled their agreement](#) in tweets and emails and [articles](#). After Trump, in a Sunday interview, repeatedly [declined](#) to reject the support of David Duke and the Ku Klux Klan, the clamor intensified. The speaker of the House and the Senate majority leader publicly [decried](#) such flirtations with “bigotry.”

Christie did not smile as he spoke. He looked, frankly, like a hostage. Earlier, the New Hampshire *Union Leader* had [rescinded](#) its endorsement of him from the primary, and six New Jersey newspapers had [called on him](#) to resign. But he had chosen his place, and it was beside the winner.

Trump took the lectern, which was also white and gold, on the stage at the front of the ballroom. The white-curtained backdrop was lit pink and purple, giving it the feel of an *ancien regime*-themed disco. “It was a very tough night for Marco Rubio—he had a tough night,” Trump observed, to laughs. “He is a lightweight, as I’ve said many times before.” Rubio, the Republican establishment’s last, best hope for an alternative to Trump, had spent the week aggressively taunting the frontrunner. Though he would eventually be declared the winner of a single contest—the Minnesota caucuses—he had come in third in most of them. Polls have him trailing in his home state of Florida, which is due to vote in two weeks.

The first question for Trump from the press was about the topic on everyone’s mind: the many Republicans who say they will sooner support a third party than vote for him.

“Well, they can always do that, but then they’ll lose everything,” he said. “That would be the work of a loser.” Christie, standing behind Trump, had his left hand in his pants pocket; as Trump spoke, he slowly balled his right hand into a fist, then relaxed it.

“I will say this, look: We have expanded the Republican Party,” Trump added, pointing to the record turnouts in various states, the independents and Democrats who had come out to support him. “Look, I’m a unifier,” he said. “I know people find that a little hard to believe, but I’m a unifier! Once we get this finished, I’m going to go after one person: Hillary Clinton.”

Trump was asked about the Klan. On Monday, he had blamed the non-disavowal on a faulty earpiece. He said that he had disavowed the white supremacists multiple times before and after the interview in question. “I mean, how many times do I have to disavow?” he said.

Can Trump be stopped? Dozens of articles say he can; just as many say it’s too late. The truth is, nobody knows. After Tuesday, he is far ahead of his rivals in the race for the 1,237 delegates needed to secure the nomination; their best hope is not to overcome him but to prevent him from getting a majority, so that they can fight it out on the floor of the Republican convention in July.

Over the past week, the Trump resistance began in earnest, an anguished outpouring of fed-up conservatives who swore they’d had enough and would block him at all costs. A Trump nomination, they said, would be the end of everything they had worked for and believed in. “A

generation of work with African Americans—slow, patient work—I can't tell you how great it is that we've pissed that away because of Donald Trump in one day," sputtered Rick Wilson, a Florida admaker who had been agitating for months that Trump needed to be stopped.

Wilson did not relish his Cassandra-like role. "For the first three months, it was 'Oh, bullshit, he's a joke,'" Wilson told me, recounting the reception he initially got when he tried to get some of the party's big-money donors to fund an advertising effort aimed at attacking Trump. "For the next three months, it was, 'We're going to strategically leverage him to help our candidate.' And now they're throwing shit in the air in total panic, screaming, running for the hills." I could practically hear Wilson rolling his eyes over the phone. "I was 'never Trump' before it was cool," he said.

How did Trump happen? The theories abound. It was the other candidates' fault, for failing to take him seriously, for thinking he would fade. It was the party's fault, for making the nomination rules more frontrunner-friendly, and believing it could get Trump's supporters without his baggage—without him. It was the media's fault, for eating up the spectacle and giving him unlimited free airtime. It was the talk-radio hosts who ignored his ideological transgressions to applaud the way he was smashing the system. It was the Internet, which allowed him to broadcast his message to 6.5 million Twitter followers.

It was the establishment, which pushed an unappealing agenda and never kept its promises. It was the [political scientists](#) and pundits, who lulled people into believing this couldn't happen. It was Larger Sociocultural Forces, globalization and rapid social change that left the working class in the dust, disoriented in a world they didn't recognize.

"I was backstage with him when he endorsed Mitt Romney," Katie Packer, who served as Romney's deputy campaign manager, recalled of the day Romney accepted Trump's endorsement in Las Vegas four years ago. "I found him obnoxious, egotistical, and arrogant." Trump that day was fixated on the size of the mob of journalists who had come to observe the proceedings, which he insisted was the biggest of its kind. "I found it so unseemly, I was embarrassed for Mitt," Packer told me. "But it was easier to have him on the team than to have him crapping all over us every day. We had to focus on winning."

Like so many others, Packer did not initially see Trump's candidacy as a threat. "It never entered my mind that a pro-choice, anti-Second Amendment, pro-stimulus candidate could ever get through any Republican primary," she said. But by December, as Trump continued to gain steam, she became frustrated with the lack of a campaign against him, and began raising money for a new [political-action committee](#). It has raised millions of dollars since the Iowa caucuses, airing ads that seek to raise questions about Trump's sincerity and authenticity.

More such efforts are coming together. A group of sitting Republican governors held an [alarmed conference call](#) on Monday. A bunch of millionaires on Tuesday [resolved to get together](#) to send more resources to Packer's group, which hired Jeb Bush's former communications director. In the coming weeks, these Republicans hope, Trump will face a sustained barrage of attacks for the first time, and his support will gradually begin to erode.

"He hasn't gotten to 50 percent in any primary yet, so of course he can be stopped," Packer told me. "All we can do is try. And if we're not successful, we can sleep at night knowing that we tried."

But people love to be with a winner. And Trump is giving people something they can't get anywhere else.

His rallies have turned into concertlike festivals that shut down the little towns he lands in for miles around. People by the tens of thousands park far away and stand in line for hours to get in, flanked by vendors hawking an amazing variety of wares. There are T-shirts with Trump as Superman and bright-pink ladies' hats that say "Trumpette." There are baby onesies and tie-dyed dresses. There are "Make America Great Again" scarves. In the parking lot of a football stadium in Huntsville, Alabama, on Sunday, a Girl Scout troop was selling cookies. Outside a college arena in Valdosta, Georgia, on Monday, a vendor was selling Trump-themed condoms.

The Alabama rally began with an endorsement of Trump by Jeff Sessions, the state's junior senator, a staunch opponent of immigration who was once denied a federal judgeship over allegations he had opposed civil rights. In what has now become a signature ritual of such events, Trump's speech was interrupted several times by protestors, who would yell something inaudible and be gently escorted out by security. "Tell me," Trump said after one such eruption, as a group of African Americans filed out with fists in the air, "isn't it fun to be at a Trump rally?"

It's all part of the show that people have come to expect. You meet all kinds of people at Trump rallies, and they do not hesitate to speak their minds. "It's about the white middle class—we have not been represented, and the only way we are going to get representation is if Donald Trump is our next president," Ginger Barbee, a retired criminal-defense attorney from Trussville, Alabama, told me. Not being afraid to say such things—being heard—is the whole point of Trump, whose flouting of "political correctness" resonates deeply with people who feel they've been silenced.

"We're treated like the minority, even though there are more of us," Barbee complained. A descendant of Confederate soldiers, she lamented the recent removal of Confederate flags and monuments. "I do not want any more Republican establishment people running the country any more than I want the Marxist Democrats," she added. "*Write that down.*"

Tootsie Cobb, an elegantly dressed 72-year-old retired nurse, had not yet heard about the Klan controversy when I spoke to her, and it gave her momentary pause. "Oh, that's bad," she said. Cobb could vividly recall the Klan in her hometown of Arab, Alabama, when she was younger. They gathered on a mountaintop just outside of town in their robes and hoods; they would put up a cross "as tall as those pillars," she said, indicating the uprights of the football field we were standing on.

She always felt frightened of them, and she did not like the idea of Trump associating with them. "I will still vote for him, but I am very disappointed," she said. "But what else is there? I do wish he had more empathy. His ego is very fragile. But we have to build the wall."

Until 2003, there was a tire plant in Madison, Alabama, owned first by Dunlop and then by Goodyear. At one time it employed 1,200 people, including Brad Chittam, who began working there, alongside his father, as soon as he graduated from high school. He built tires and changed molds. But when the plant closed, Chittam was out of work.

He got a government grant to go back to school and get a two-year degree. Truthfully, he cherished the extra time he got to spend with his then-7-year-old son. When he finished school, he got a job building rocket engines used by the NASA facility in Huntsville. It is the best job he has ever had. The scourge of unrestricted trade had not worked out so badly for Chittam, yet he was moved by Trump's denunciations of job displacement. "I'm not only looking out for myself," said the 47-year-old, whose red hair curled beneath a University of Alabama visor. "We should be doing something to prevent that from happening and make the jobs stay here." Things had to be built somewhere—why shouldn't it be here in America, rather than somewhere else?

In Valdosta, I met Brandy Gillis, a stay-at-home mother whose husband owns a timber company. “I’m 41 with five children and I can’t understand my 9-year-old son’s math homework because of Common Core,” she said. “My son has ADHD, but he doesn’t get any one-on-one help because we live in a rural area and there are 15 or 20 immigrants in his school who can’t speak a lick of English. So they get the one-on-one help and we have to hire a tutor.”

“The social world has changed so much,” fretted 83-year-old Maxine Chaney, who wore a blue velvet tracksuit and punctuated her sentences with gentle smiles. “Things that we felt were not appropriate are accepted now,” like people living together before they’re married and women having babies outside of wedlock. “A girl can make a mistake one time, but two times, that’s a want-to,” she said. She wished Trump wouldn’t swear so much.

“I consider myself an independent—a moderate,” said Brock Garvis, a 29-year-old truck driver with tattooed calves and a Make America Great Again cap. Garvis’s brother died in Afghanistan in 2007, leaving behind three young children. He wanted to tighten the borders and keep out the Muslims to prevent another 9/11, which he feared was imminent. “I also like Bernie Sanders,” he added. “People should not have to work more than 40 hours to support their families. That’s just not right.”

So many people came to see Trump in Valdosta, in southern Georgia on the Florida border, that at least 1,000 couldn’t get in and had to listen to his speech on loudspeakers, standing on the tennis court outside the basketball arena that was packed to the rafters. (Trump claimed there were actually 12,000 people stranded outside, but a policeman I asked afterward gave me a lower estimate.) Before the speech, a group of African Americans [said they were](#) quietly escorted out; the Trump campaign denied it was behind the ejection.

Bill Griffin was one of those who didn’t make it in, because he had to drive to the rally after work. He is a social worker in Florida; from 1998 to 2002, he worked in the state legislature in Tallahassee, where he knew Jeb Bush. Griffin had already voted early for Trump. “I’m a moderate Republican,” he said. “Who else is there? You know, Trump really is a moderate. He used to be a Democrat, for God’s sake! He’ll get smart people in there who know what they’re doing.”

People see whatever they want to see in Trump, and then they refuse to see anything else. He has won the moderate, secular, independent voters of New Hampshire, the archconservative, devoutly religious Southerners of South Carolina, and the rugged, gun-toting, government-loathing individualists of Nevada. If Trump is stopped now, what will happen to all these people? Are they really all going to vote for someone who got half as many delegates as Trump and got handed the nomination by a convention-floor establishment conspiracy?

“I expect he’ll get the Republican nomination, unless they Shanghai him,” Randy Lawson told me as we walked to Trump’s rally in Alabama, along with his 11-year-old son, who had made a poster that said, “WE NEED...the TRUMP, the whole TRUMP, and nothing but the TRUMP.” Lawson continued, “If they take it away from him, I think that would ruin the Republican Party.”

I asked if that prospect bothered him. “No,” he said. “It wouldn’t break my heart.”

The Daily Beast

[How the P.C. Police Propelled Donald Trump](#)

By assailing sensible conservatives as sexists, racists, and imbeciles, they paved the way for a jackass who embodies their worst fears.

by Tom Nichols

The American left created [Donald Trump](#).

When I say “the left,” I do not mean the [Democratic Party](#)—or, solely the Democratic Party. Rather, the pestilence that is the Trump campaign is the result of a conglomeration of political, academic, media, and cultural elites who for decades have tried to act as the arbiters of acceptable public debate and shut down any political expression from Americans with whom they disagree. They, more than anyone else, created Donald Trump’s candidacy and the increasingly hideous movement he now leads.

These are fighting words, not least because no one really wants the blame for creating the Trump phenomenon, and understandably so. Democrats want to perma-glue Trump to the Republicans so that the GOP will never get his stink off the party even after he’s been defeated. Republicans, for their part, can’t post enough pictures of Trump and the Clintons, or play enough clips of Trump noting that he voted for [President Obama](#) and showering praise on Hillary.

This is what parties do, and it’s natural for both the Democrats and the GOP to see who can hang Trump on the other. Of course, it all misses the point: Trump is too uncontrollably narcissistic to be genuinely attached to either party. As much as Republicans point out the money he gave to Hillary Clinton, for example, the fact is that Trump would have given money to Yuri Andropov if he thought there was a photo op in it. (Exhibit A: his creepy, un-American attachment to Russian dictator Vladimir Putin.) Democrats can try to tar the GOP with Trump, but Trump’s a GOP newcomer whose views on abortion, health care, and taxes are mostly anathema to actual conservatives.

It’s pointless to try to explain Trump in terms of political platforms because Trump himself is too stupid and too incoherent to have any kind of consistent political views about anything beyond hating minorities and immigrants. Nuclear weapons? “With nuclear, the power, the devastation is very important to me.” Drugs? “That whole heroin thing, I tell you what, we gotta get that whole thing under control.” A random word generation program could do better.

To understand Trump’s seemingly effortless seizure of the public spotlight, forget about programs, and instead zero in on the one complaint that seems to unite all of the disparate angry factions gravitating to him: political correctness. This, more than anything, is how the left created Trump.

I am not referring here to the daily political correctness that became normal after the 1970s, the reflexive self-editing that we’ve all learned to do, almost unconsciously, in the name of being nice to other people. This early “correctness” was always awkward and artificial, but it wasn’t overly onerous. [Richard Russo penned a satire](#) of academic life in the 1990s called *Straight Man* in which one of the professors reminded his colleagues so often to include female pronouns that his nickname was “Orshe,” as in “he, *or she*,” and while that kind of person might be annoying, much of that stuff was actually rooted in well-meaning ideas about inclusive language.

Today, however, we have a new, more virulent political correctness that terrorizes both liberals and conservatives, old-line Democrats and Republicans, alike. This form of political correctness is distinctly illiberal; indeed, it is not liberalism at all but Maoism circa the Cultural Revolution.

The extremist adherents of this new political correctness have essentially taken a flamethrower to the public space and annihilated its center. Topics in American life that once were the legitimate subjects of debate between liberals and conservative are now off-limits and lead to immediate attack by the cultural establishment if raised at all. Any incorrect position, any expression of the constitutional right to a different opinion, or even just a slip of the tongue can lead to public ostracism and the loss of a job. (Just [ask Brendan Eich](#).) There is a huge vacuum left by this leftist attack on speech, and Trump is filling it.

Many liberals, I know, will scoff at this because they believe that American public discourse has shifted irretrievably to the right. But that's because to them, political discourse in the United States is already where they think it should be: firmly centered on liberal ideas. They see conservative objections as aberrations, not as the views of half the population. Liberals won America's culture war—and they did, even if conservatives undeniably won the contemporaneous economic war—and so liberals don't really notice what they consider to be nothing more than mopping up operations on abortion, gay rights, immigration, and other hot-button issues.

Gay marriage is a good example. Liberals wanted gay marriage to win in the Supreme Court, and it did. Leftists wanted more: to silence their opponents *even after those opponents completely lost on the issue*. Ugly language that good liberals would normally deplore emerged not in the wake of defeat, but of victory: actor and gay activist George Takei, for example, actually [called Justice Clarence Thomas a "clown in blackface"](#) and said Thomas had "abdicated" his status as an African American. That's heavy stuff, and it would likely scan better [written in Chinese on a paper dunce cap](#).

I could reel off many other examples. When *The New York Times* [tells the rubes that it's time to hand in their guns](#), when *The Washington Post* [suggests that Jesus is ashamed of them for not welcoming Syrian refugees](#) the week after a terrorist attack, people react not because they love guns or hate Syrians, but because their natural urge to being told by coastal liberals that they're awful people and that they should just obey and shut up is to issue a certain Anglo-Saxon verb and pronoun combination with all the vigor they can muster. And if they can't say it themselves, they'll find someone who will, even if it's a crude jerk from Queens who can't make a point without raising his pinky like a Mafia goon explaining the vig to you after you've had a bad day at the track.

These brutish leftist tactics radicalized otherwise more centrist people toward Trump not because they care so much about gay marriage or guns or refugees any other issue, but because they're terrified that they're losing the basic right to express themselves. Many of these people are not nearly as conservative or extreme as the white supremacists, nativists, and other assorted fringe nuts who are riding along on Trump's ego trip. But they are cheering on Trump because they feel they have nowhere else to go. And for that, liberals—especially those who have politely looked away as such methods were employed in the public square—must directly shoulder the blame.

The great mistake made by both liberals and their most extreme wing on the American left is to assume that ordinary people, once corrected forcefully enough, will comply with their new orders. This is, of course, ridiculous: Americans do not magically become complacent and accepting multiculturalists just because they've been bullied out of the public debate. They will

find a new vessel for their views, and will become more extreme with each attempt to shut them down as the issue moves from particular social positions to the far more encompassing problem of who has the right to tell whom to shut up, and to make it stick. Nixon's "Silent Majority" increasingly feels itself to be a *silenced* majority, and Trump is their solution.

Note, for example, how Trump turned the incident in which [Black Lives Matter activists humiliated Sen. Bernie Sanders](#) to his own advantage. He didn't bother drawing partisan lines or going after Sanders. Trump and his supporters couldn't care less about any of that, and Trump until that point almost had almost never mentioned Sanders.

Instead, he made it clear that he'd never allow himself to be shut down by a mob. That, for his loyalists, was the money shot, especially when [Trump pretty much dared BLM to disrupt a Trump event](#), in effect inviting them for an ass-kicking. A lot of people loved that shtick, because they want to see someone—literally, anyone—stand up to groups like BLM, even if it's in defense of poor Bernie, because they worry that they're next for that kind of treatment.

For the record, I despise Donald Trump and I will vote for almost any Republican (well, OK, not Ben Carson) rather than Trump. I'm a conservative independent and a former Republican. I quit the party in 2012 because of exactly the kind of coarse ignorance that Trump represents. The night Newt Gingrich won the South Carolina primary on the thoughtful platform of [colonizing the moon](#), I was out. If in the end God turns his back on America and we're left with only the choice of Trump or Hillary Clinton, I will vote for a third candidate out of protest—even if it means accepting what I consider the ghastly prospect of a Clinton 45 administration.

But I understand the fear of being silenced that's prompting otherwise decent people to make common cause with racists and modern Know-Nothings, and I blame the American left for creating that fear.

With that said, we have to consider the GOP elephant in the room. If regaining their voice is all that Trump supporters really want, then why haven't they turned away from him as his statements have become increasingly insane? Trump reveled in the endorsement of Putin, an avowed enemy of the United States; if Obama had accepted a similar endorsement, conservatives would have impeached him. (Recall that when the U.K.'s David Cameron said a nice word about Obama in the 2012 campaign, people who no doubt now approve of Trump's bromance with Putin [went berserk at this foreign interloping](#) from one of our closest allies.) What's it going to take?

Trump's staying power, however, is rooted in the fact that his supporters are not fighting for any particular political outcome, they are fighting back against a culture they think is trying to smother them into cowed silence. What they want, more than any one policy, is someone to turn to the chanting mobs and say, without hesitation: "No, I will not shut up." How long this will go on, then, depends on how long it will take for those people to feel reassured that someone besides Trump will represent their concerns without backing down in the face of catcalls about racism, sexism, LGBTQ-phobia, Islamophobia, or any other number of labels deployed mostly to extinguish their dissent.

In the end, the significant cadre of kooks attached to Trump will likely scare the normals away from their flirtation with all this little-league brown-shirting. But the point remains that this is happening not because of an overly rightist GOP, but because American liberals, complacently turning away from the excesses of the left and eviscerating their own moderate wing, have damaged the two-party system to the point that an unhinged billionaire demagogue is raking in

support from people who are now more afraid of leftists controlling the Justice Department than they are of Putin or ISIS.

Zero Hedge

[Trump Supporters - In Their Own Words](#)

by Tyler Durden

The Guardian recently asked Trump supporters to explain in detail the rationale behind their support. What emerged is one of the most fascinating articles I've read all year. Not only are the demographics not what you'd expect, but their reasons for support were much more varied, complex and nuanced than you might imagine.

One surprisingly common response consisted of people who supported Trump despite the recognition that his presidency could be an unmitigated disaster. Many of them believed the American populace was in need of such a disaster in order to shed its apathy and become politically active.

Interestingly, I've harbored similar thoughts on various occasions. For example, perhaps it will take someone as in your face authoritarian and shameless as Trump to wake certain millennials to the fact there are bigger problems in this world than micro aggressions. It's a major gamble, but we as a country definitely need to get off our asses and change the direction we're headed in. It's possible that Trump could serve as that wake up call, but it's also a huge risk.

Also noteworthy was the fact that many Trump supporters expressed admiration for Sanders as well, but would never vote for Hillary. These types could very easily make up a new "silent majority" in American politics.

Now without further ado, here are some of the more interesting responses. You can read the entire article [at The Guardian](#):

The Hispanic attorney (29, Florida)

'He has demonstrated that he is, at heart, a caring person'

On paper, I probably look like a guaranteed Cruz or Rubio vote. I'm a millennial woman, my parents immigrated from Castro's Cuba, I work as a trial attorney in Miami and I'm a born-again Christian. But I'm voting for [Donald Trump](#), and I've convinced all my friends and family to do so as well.

My sister worked for him and has spoken glowingly of him for years, just like everyone else who actually knows the man. I trust her judgment more than any random pundit's. Actions speak louder than words, and he has demonstrated that he is, at heart, a caring person through his [many](#) random [acts](#) of [kindness](#). His peers say there are "two Trumps" – the brash character he portrays himself as, and the decent man they know behind closed doors. It's clearly a strategy; his proclamations have kept him on the front pages for a sustained eight months.

Political correctness is the birthplace of disastrous, un-American policies that will destroy the country in a death by a thousand cuts. But here comes Trump, the first person who didn't even blink when the machine turns its sights on him.

He didn't just fight back. He chewed it up and spit it out.

The scientist who likes both Bernie and Donald (48, California)
'I'm very concerned about radical Muslims'

I moved to San Francisco from the UK in 2000. I'm a citizen now and I voted for Obama. I am a closet Trump supporter and I haven't told any of my friends or co-workers. They would think of me as a meat-head if they knew. The funny thing is that I like Trump and Sanders, and there's no party or politician for me.

There's that "I like both Trump and Sanders" sentiment. I've been writing about this repeatedly in recent days. See:

[Democratic Presidential Candidate Jim Webb Says He Won't Vote for Clinton, Might Vote Trump](#)

["Bernie or Bust" – Over 50,000 Sanders Supporters Pledge to Never Vote for Hillary](#)

[Why Hillary Clinton Cannot Beat Donald Trump](#)

I'm a patriotic socialist, but my strong-borders patriotism wins over my socialism if I have to choose. As Donald says, we either have a country or we don't.

This next one is probably my favorite...

The Occupy protester turned Trump supporter (24, New York)
'His candidacy is ripping the soul of America apart – we deserve it'

I work in a liberal arts department. I've read the works of Karl Marx, Herbert Marcuse, John Stuart Mill, Friedrich Nietzsche, Plato, Judith Butler, Simone de Beauvoir, Michel Foucault and so on. I am more inclined to listen to what Slavoj Žižek or Noam Chomsky have to say about current affairs than Rachel Maddow or Bill O'Reilly. If one were to take account of my demographics, the smart money would be to peg me for a [Bernie Sanders](#) supporter.

My interest in politics did not truly develop into an intellectually mature form until 2011, when Occupy Wall Street broke out as a populist leftist grass roots movement to combat the evils of unrestricted robber baron capitalism.

Early in 2014 I began concealing my political opinions from people, and it was shortly after this time that I began plotting to vote Republican in hopes that the party would send the country so far in the direction of complete unrestricted neoliberalism and libertarian free market superstition that Americans would come to recognize the dangers of these ideologies and eventually reject them.

I don't find conversations about how morally repugnant Trump is to be interesting when the rest of the candidates seem to also support imperialistic and fascist policies concerning drone strikes, torture and mass surveillance.

I don't agree with discussions of how Trump is making the national dialogue more base and vulgar when Obama has instated [common core standards](#) to gear humanities education in public schooling to be teaching children how to read memos, rather than cultivating critical thinking skills that would allow them to understand subtle arguments.

Do I like Trump's platform? No, I think most of it is silly and misguided, but at least it is not the same bullshit casserole that has been on the menu in Washington DC for as long as I have been alive.

His candidacy is a happy accident that is currently ripping the soul of America apart, which is something that I think we desperately need (and deserve) at this time in our history, for better or for worse. I support whatever strange gods happen to be behind his candidacy, for, as Martin Heidegger proclaimed in his famous Der Spiegel interview, although for slightly different reasons, "Only a God can save us."

The casino supervisor (56, Oklahoma) **'We are completely tired of government'**

I am a Democrat but will vote for Trump, because he is not bought and paid for by anyone. We the American people are tired of politicians owing favors to rich businessmen, bankers, oil companies and stock markets. It should be against the law to have lobbyists involved with government.

The middle class and lower class – which I am part of – are completely tired of our government, which treats our veterans like they don't even exist. These are men and women who have gone to fight for what they think was the right reason, only to see that it was for money or some arms sale that is done behind closed doors. We are also sick and tired of working and paying taxes and then seeing our government send it to other countries to benefit someone else when we have homeless people and vets that need it just as much.

The yoga teacher (29, Tennessee) **'Don't publish my name. It would ruin my progressive image'**

Barack Obama talked about hope and change, but I believe he failed to deliver on his promises. His record with drone strikes and prosecutions of whistleblowers are especially troubling (not to mention he didn't follow-through with prosecutions of those who caused the financial crisis).

As far as Obamacare goes, I'm not buying it, because it seems ignorant to throw money at a problem and hope it will get better. I'm glad more people are covered, but the plans aren't worth shit, as many of them don't kick in until you spend thousands on a co-pay. No thanks.

Bernie is a breath of fresh air, but I'm not sure he can beat Hillary. In a match between Bernie and Donald, I'd vote for the former. In a match between Hillary and Donald, I'd vote for the latter. It isn't a vote for Trump, but rather a vote against the political establishment (which must be removed from office at any cost – even if it means electing a reality TV star for president). The stakes are too high. Hillary cannot win or the oligarchy will continue unabated.

There's another "I prefer Bernie to Trump, but I'd take Trump over Clinton" voter. There are more of these than most people recognize.

And please don't publish my name, it would ruin the whole "progressive" image (and my girlfriend might kill me).

I bet a lot of pragmatic sorts are in the same boat ...

The retired biomedical engineer (56, Hawaii) **'It's too late for a cure'**

Given a chance, I would vote for Bernie. But the only choices will probably be Trump and Clinton. In that case, I will vote for Trump.

It's almost getting to be a broken record at this point.

I believe that Clinton will continue the Wall Street-style march to oligarchy. With her, the eventual demise of democracy will lead to a fascist plutocracy. It is going on right now, and it will continue to be slow, painful and inevitable.

I believe that it is too late for a conventional cure. So, there is Trump. He is indeed a buffoon and a recipe for disaster. If he were to do half of the horrific things he says he would, he would be a catastrophe. He could be a blend of Hitler and Hirohito.

That's why I would vote for him. The last time we crossed paths with a Hitler and/or Hirohito, the country woke up and fought. And won! He might supply us with the shock we need in order to wake up and fight.

While risky, you can't argue with the logic.

The gay Arab Muslim student (20, Missouri) **'My parents are horrified'**

As a gay muslim, the Republican Party has not been kind to me, to say the least. However the Democrats almost arrogantly expect me to hand my vote to them because of who I am, which insults me.

I am a son of immigrants but we have always followed the law to the letter. Donald Trump's discussion on immigration is extremely relevant. I even support the temporary ban on Muslims, even though I still have many law abiding family members in Syria who deserve the opportunity to come to the US and escape the horrors of the war. We don't vet these people properly. To let them in willy nilly is ludicrous.

Trump will break the poisonous bonds that hold America and the cult state of Saudi Arabia. Clinton would never do that; she would continue supporting Saudi Arabia while bombing Islamic countries left and right.

The anti-PC college professor (50, California)
'I'm angry at forced diversity'

I'm a liberal-left college professor in the social sciences. I'm going to vote for Trump but I won't tell hardly anybody.

My main reason is anger at the two-party system and the horrible presidencies of Obama and Bush. But I'm also furious at political correctness on campus and in the media.

I'm angry at forced diversity and constant, frequently unjustified complaints about racism/sexism/homophobia/lack of trans rights. I'm particularly angry at social justice warriors and my main reason to vote Trump is to see the looks on your faces when he wins.

It's not that I like Trump. It's that I hate those who can't stand him.

The white male early retiree (62, Delaware)
'Trump is a wake up call'

Trump is a wake up call. A president Trump could be as bad as Hitler, but if he shocks some good people in both the Republican and Democratic parties into realizing that they are ignoring legitimate concerns of a seizable minority, then let him have his four years.

There's that same logic again. Get Trump in there as a shock to the system, even if the shock is a dangerous one.

The manager (52, South Carolina)
'People would realize democracy is messy'

Not even my wife knows.

I voted for Trump with the faint hope that his election would actually be good for the country. If he were elected, it would perhaps teach more to the country than all the high school civics lessons in the our nation's brief history.

If elected, Trump would accomplish very little to none of his vacuous agenda. His congressional agenda would be as dead on arrival as that of Bernie Sanders's. So what good could result? Perhaps more people would begin to realize that members of Congress, governors, mayors, and members of the state houses have the real power. That the framers of the Constitution created this wonderfully balanced system in which no one person holds the kind of power that Trump claims he could wield. That democracy is messy and frustrating. That change involves more hard work than just voting for somebody who says the right things.

*This article results in only one obvious conclusion as pertains to the 2016 election. **Sanders could put up a very strong fight against Trump and possibly win. In contrast, Hillary is an***

extraordinarily weak and vulnerable candidate, and could get demolished in a head to head matchup with Trump.

Dilbert's Blog

A Letter to Donald Trump (from a voter, not me)

by Scott Adams

This letter from Troy Morton was in the comments to my post from earlier today. I am reposting it here, with permission, because it is simply beautiful.

Breathtaking, actually.

Enjoy.

—

To: President Trump

From: Just a simple man

I've been following your campaign since your announcement, reading millions of words written about you, watching thousands of hours of video and speeches, listening to many talk radio show segments, and engaging in dozens of debates with people around me.

No candidate has ever captured my attention the way you have.

Now that it's clear you will be the Republican nominee, I want to share with you something so personal, painful, and uplifting, that I almost don't want to write it, but I will anyway...trolls be damned:

My whole life, up until yesterday, has been based on reaction to fear.

Growing up as a black man in Washington D.C. during the "crack 80's", when Marion Barry was mayor, I lived a lower middle class childhood in one of the most dangerous cities in America. Though I had many friends, I was also subject to the threats, intimidation, and bullying that happens when you're not like the people around you.

There was no father in my life to steel me against the world I lived in. My mother was strong, but it's not exactly the kind of strength I needed. I was a boy, and needed a Man.

Without strong male guidance, I learned to fear...but not how to face fear and win. Even joining the military and going to war didn't overcome my weakness, and all my future decisions considered strongly the level of fear I had at the time.

As a result, my life has been full of conflict, as I have unintentionally signaled to adversaries that I am an easier opponent to beat than others. I have won victories, but never truly enjoyed them

knowing the battle is never won for me...only endured. I have also suffered crushing defeats, and important people in my life lost confidence in me as a result. I have not reached my potential, and settled instead into apathy and stasis, content to only being "smart enough" or "good enough"...not great. Not strong. Not resolute...

Not a leader. Not a winner.

My life, in many important ways, mirrors the American experience. Potential to be great, but paralyzed by fear. Full of conflict. Enduring, not winning. No leadership. No strong Male inspiration. And occasional, crushing defeats that hit to the core of our country...most notably 9/11, but also with the erosion of our middle class and uniquely American culture.

Like you say so often: we don't WIN anymore.

Watching your campaign, and being as invested in it as I am, has been an exercise in recognizing, and confronting, fear that I never expected. Every time your opponents hit you...I feel fear for your candidacy and our country. Every charge of racist, sexist, facist, etc. causes me to worry that no one, not even you, can really change the country for the better. That we're doomed to failure...

Then...inevitably...you win the battle. You don't "survive", or "endure"...you attack, and put fear into your opponents. You don't stop until they are buried under your feet. Until they become paralyzed...

Sometimes, you even bait them into hitting you, just so you can beat the crap out of them again. Your life is full of conflict, but it becomes yet another opportunity to WIN, and makes you MORE powerful...not less.

Then, once they are eliminated as a threat, you are generous to the vanquished. It's not personal, and they are not evil. They were, simply...in the way. Once they are not, they become worthy of kindness and respect.

Furthermore, you're not just a blunt instrument...your strategy is impeccable. You go into every conflict knowing exactly what your opponents weaknesses are, how to exploit them, and what levers to pull to ensure victory. Clearly, you spend good time before announcing your candidacy doing the things the military taught me as a young soldier: surveying, recon, intelligence-gathering, ammunition, discipline, execution...

You are defending America from our enemies within, and it's an AMAZING thing to watch.

Last night, you also did something else. You became the Man that helped me see fear for what it is: an illusion of power, a powerful teacher, and the path to winning if used properly. There is no reason, regardless of the enormity of the task, to lose to fear if you prepare well, are disciplined in your execution, and have the faith necessary, in God, yourself, and in others...that leads to victory.

Winning is always possible, but becomes probable if you never back down, never quit, and become your dominant self. Once the battle is won, treat the vanquished with kindness and respect. Be the bigger man.

You taught me how to Win.

I appreciate what you've done for me personally, and what you're doing for our country. I know I'm not the only man who admires you, and can't wait for you to become the father, and leader, of our country. It's been a long, cold winter for men in America the last 8 years, and I believe that your election will dramatically improve the level of respect, admiration, and love people will show for strong men and Fathers, and will create a new generation of leaders from impressionable young boys.

That, more than anything, will Make America Great Again. -Troy

NY Post

[Romney is too much a coward to say what's really on his mind](#)

by Michael Goodwin

Mitt Romney's [attack on Donald Trump was concise and well-written](#) and, by calling the front-runner a "phony" and a "fraud," hit all the erogenous zones of the anti-Trumpsters. But in the end, the speech flopped because, like so much else of Romney's career, the message was muddled.

Why was the last GOP nominee shredding his most likely successor? If he feels so strongly that Trump must be stopped, why didn't he endorse another candidate? And why make the unprecedented attack now?

Three questions, one answer: Romney wants back in, but doesn't have the nerve to come out and say it. So typical, and another example of what so many Republicans like about Trump. As writer and Fox commentator Monica Crowley put it, frustrated GOP voters "want a street fighter," and in Trump, they finally have one.

Romney reminded us Thursday that he is a boardroom fighter. He might have been a very good president, and I don't regret voting for him four years ago. I only regret that he lost an election he should have won.

He was an incompetent candidate, believing he was going to win until the last minute, when he realized his polls were all wrong. He stood mute as a biased moderator sided with President Obama on Benghazi in the crucial second debate. His computerized turn-out-the-vote operation crashed on Election Day.

Romney came close to running again this time, but backed out early last year, a decision he surely regrets. "I would love to be president," he told Katie Couric. "I just concluded I was not the best person to carry forward the Republican torch."

He was right then, and he's still not the right person. Nobody misses him because everybody knows Hillary Clinton would wipe the floor with him.

Yet, save for election or death, there is no cure for the presidential bug, so Romney won't give up his fantasy. But what he hoped would be seen as a principled stand against Trump was, in fact, a disingenuous and selfish act.

His failure to endorse either Marco Rubio or Ted Cruz is most revealing. Romney's only hope for stealing the nomination is a brokered GOP convention where nobody has a majority of delegates on the first ballot and he emerges as a compromise. And the only way for that to happen is for both Rubio and Cruz to collect enough delegates so that Trump can't reach the magic number of 1,237.

If Romney really wanted to stop Trump now, he would have backed one of the two main rivals and urged the other, as well as John Kasich, to get out. A total consolidation of all others against Trump is the only plausible way to deny him the nomination.

But even that might spell disaster for the party. With Trump averaging 35 percent support in the first 15 contests, and with his voters the most committed and enthusiastic, any too-clever-by-half maneuvers that take the nomination from Trump could cause a revolt.

Suppose a furious Trump runs as an independent. Or suppose the bulk of his voters sit on their hands on Election Day. Either way, Clinton probably waltzes into the White House.

Any way you slice it, Romney offers no solution to the GOP's dilemma. The fears that the party cannot win with Trump are legitimate, but they won't be resolved by an insider deal or turning to a failed retreat.

It's time that Romney and all the other bent-out-of-shape gentry conservatives face reality. If they don't have a candidate who can beat Trump fair and square in the primaries, their only other choice is Clinton. And that's no choice at all.

Jewish World Review **Last Chance for America?**

by Thomas Sowell

The "Super Tuesday" primaries may be a turning point for America — and quite possibly a turn for the worse. After seven long years of domestic disasters and increasing international dangers, the next President of the United States will need extraordinary wisdom, maturity, depth of knowledge and personal character to rescue America.

Instead, if the polls are an indication, what we may get is someone with the opposite of all these things, a glib egomaniac with a checkered record in business and no track record at all in government — Donald Trump.

If so, the downward trajectory of America over the past seven years may well continue on into the future, to the point of no return.

Democrat Susan Estrich says that it is "fun" watching Donald Trump. She may be able to enjoy the spectacle because Trump is Hillary Clinton's best chance of winning the general election in November. Even if the FBI's investigation leads them to recommend an indictment, the Obama administration is not likely to indict Hillary.

No doubt "The Donald" is entertaining, and he has ridden a wave of Republican voter anger against the Republican establishment, which has repeatedly betrayed them, especially on illegal immigration.

But these political problems are a sideshow, in a world where Iran is guaranteed to get nuclear weapons and North Korea, which already has them, is developing long-range missiles that can reach American cities. Iran is also developing long-range missiles.

Then there are the international terrorist organizations from the Middle East — many sponsored by Iran — whose agents have had easy access to the United States across our open border with Mexico.

We will need the cooperation of nations around the world to keep us informed of these terrorist organizations' activities, and to help disrupt the international money flows to terrorists.

Those nations know that helping the United States makes them targets of terrorism. So they have to weigh how much they can rely on America, before they risk their own national survival by cooperating with us against the terrorists.

Is Donald Trump someone who would inspire such confidence among leaders of other countries? Already Trump's irresponsible rhetoric has caused a backlash in Mexico and there has also been an attempt in Britain to ban him from setting foot on British soil.

We need all the allies we can get, from countries around the world, including Muslim allies in the Middle East. The last thing we can afford, at this crucial juncture in history is a president who alienates allies we have to have in a war against international terrorists.

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump's theatrical talents, including his bluster and bombast, may be enough to conceal his shallow understanding of very deep problems. But that will not cut it in the White House, where you cannot clown or con your way out of problems, and where the stakes are matters of life and death.

Trump's acting like a bull in a china shop may appeal to some voters but, in the world as it is, he may well cost us our last chance to recover from the great dangers into which the Obama administration has gotten this nation.

We already have an ego-driven, know-it-all president who will not listen to military or intelligence agency experts. Do we need to tempt fate by having two in a row?

Despite Donald Trump's string of primary vote victories, he has not yet gotten a majority of the Republican votes anywhere. But although most Republican votes are being cast against him, the scattering of that vote among so many other candidates leaves Trump with a good chance to get the nomination.

Everyone understands that the best chance for stopping Trump is for that fractured majority vote to consolidate behind one candidate opposed to him. But who will step aside for the good of the country?

When we think of American military heroes who have fallen on enemy hand grenades to save those around them, at the cost of their own lives, is it really too much to ask candidates — especially those who present themselves as patriots — to give up their one political chance in a zillion this year for the sake of the country?

Voters have a responsibility too. They might well ask themselves: Do I plan to use my vote to vent my emotions or to try to help save this country?

The Federalist

Donald Trump Is The Next Barack Obama

The difference between Donald Trump and Barack Obama amounts only to whatever difference may exist between each emperor's set of cronies.

by Angelo Codevilla

The Obama years have brought America to the brink of transformation from constitutional republic into an empire ruled by secret deals promulgated by edicts. Civics classes used to teach: "Congress makes the laws, the president carries them out, judges decide controversies, and we citizens may be penalized only by a jury of our peers."

Nobody believes that anymore, because no part of it has been true for a long time. Barack Obama stopped pretending that it is. During the twentieth century's second half, both parties and all branches of government made a mockery of the Constitution of 1789. Today's effective constitution is: "The president can do whatever he wants so long as one-third of the Senate will sustain his vetoes and prevent his conviction upon impeachment."

Obama has been our first emperor. A Donald Trump presidency, far from reversing the ruling class's unaccountable hold over American life, would seal it. Because Trump would act as our second emperor, he would render well-nigh impossible our return to republicanism.

Donald Trump Is Everything that Has Ruined Us

Today, nearly all the rules under which we live are made, executed, and adjudicated by agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and countless boards and commissions. Congress no longer passes real laws. Instead, it passes broad grants of authority, the substance of the president's bureaucracy decides in cooperation with interest groups.

Nancy Pelosi's remark that we would know Obamacare's contents only after it passed was true, and applicable to nearly all modern legislation. The courts allow this, pretending that bureaucrats sitting with their chosen friends merely fill in details. Some details! Americans have learned that, as they say in DC, if you are not sitting at one of these tables of power, "you're on the menu."

Trump's claim to be an enemy of rule-by-inside-deal is counterintuitive. His career and fortune have been as participant and beneficiary in the process by which government grants privileges to some and inflicts burdens on others. Crony capitalism is the air he breathes, the only sea in which he swims, his second nature. His recipe for "fixing" America, he tells us, is to appoint "the best people"—he names some of his fellow crony capitalists—to exercise even more unaccountable power and to do so with "unbelievable speed." He assures us that, this time, it will be to "make America great again." Peanuts' Lucy might reply: "This time, for sure!"

Deal-Making Expands Government

In recent years, Obama and the Democratic Party (with the Republican leadership's constant collusion) have prevented Congress from voting to appropriate funds for individual programs

and agencies. They have lumped all government functions into “continuing resolutions” or “omnibus bills.” This has moved the government’s decision-making into back rooms, shielding elected officials from popular scrutiny, relieving them of the responsibility for supporting or opposing what the government does. This has enabled Obama to make whatever deals have pleased him and his Republican cronies.

Trump touts his own capacity to make good deals. But good for whom? And who is to say what is good? Who or what causes would benefit from continuing government by secret deals? Who or what would lose? Trump’s stated objective is to wield whatever power might be necessary to accomplish whatever objectives upon which he—in consultation with whomever—might choose from time to time. But the difference between Trump and Obama amounts only to whatever difference may exist between each emperor’s set of cronies.

By contrast, the U.S. Constitution of 1789, as explained by James Madison, envisages a continuous mutual effort at persuasion among the American people’s many parts, to “refine and enlarge the public views” and to result in “decisions based on the “cool and deliberate sense of the community.” For two centuries, the government’s main decisions have happened through open congressional proceedings and recorded votes. That’s the republic we used to have.

Rule By Will, Not Law

Like Obama, Trump is not about persuading anybody. Both are about firing up their supporters to impose their will on their opponents while insulting them. Throughout history, this style of politics has been the indispensable ingredient for wrecking republics, the “final cause” that transforms free citizens into the subjects of emperors.

This style of politics has grown, along with a ruling class that rejects the notion that no person may rule another without that person’s consent. [As I have shown at length elsewhere](#), America is now ruled by a uniformly educated class of persons that occupies the commanding heights of bureaucracy, of the judiciary, education, the media, and of large corporations, and that wields political power through the Democratic Party. Its control of access to prestige, power, privilege, and wealth exerts a gravitational pull that has made the Republican Party’s elites into its satellites.

This class’s fatal feature is its belief that ordinary Americans are a lesser intellectual and social breed. Its increasing self-absorption, its growing contempt for whoever won’t bow to it, its dependence for votes on sectors of society whose grievances it stokes, have led it to break the most basic rule of republican life: deeming its opposition illegitimate. The ruling class insists on driving down the throats of its opponents the agendas of each its constituencies and on injuring persons who stand in the way. This has spawned a Newtonian reaction, a hunger, among what may be called the “country class” for returning the favor with interest.

The Cycle of Revenge Rarely Slows

Ordinary Americans have endured being insulted by the ruling class’s favorite epitaphs—racist, sexist, etc., and, above all, stupid; they have had careers and reputations compromised by speaking the wrong word in front of the wrong person; endured dictates from the highest courts in the land that no means yes (*King*), that public means private (*Kelo*), that everyone is entitled to make up one’s meaning of life (*Casey*), but that whoever thinks marriage is exclusively between men and women is a bigot (*Obergefell*).

No wonder, then, that millions of Americans lose respect for a ruling class that disrespects them, that they identify with whomever promises some kind of turnabout against that class, and that they care less and less for the integrity of institutions that fail to protect them.

Trump's voters expect precisely such turnabout. Within good measure, not only would this right any number of wrongs and restore some balance in our public life, it is also indispensable for impressing upon the ruling class and its constituents that they too have a stake in observing the limits and niceties that are explicit and implicit in our Constitution.

But not only do opposing sets of wrongs not make anything right. [As I have argued](#) (Sophocles did it a lot better), trying to stop the cycle of political payback with another round of it, while not utterly impossible, is well-nigh beyond human capacity.

Neither Obama nor Trump seem to know or care that cycles of reciprocal resentment, of insults and injuries paid back with ever more interest and ever less concern for consequences, are the natural fuel of revolutions—easy to start and soon impossible to stop. America's founders, steeped in history as few of our contemporaries are, were acutely aware of how easily factional enmities deliver free peoples into the hands of emperors. America is already advanced in this vicious cycle. The only possible chance of returning it to republicanism lies in not taking the next turn, and in not following one imperial ruler with another.

Angelo M. Codevilla is a fellow of the Claremont Institute, professor emeritus of international relations at Boston University and the author of To Make And Keep Peace, Hoover Institution Press, 2014.

Daily Beast

[Trump's Latest Acquisition: Christie's Soul](#)

by Olivia Nuzzi



Chris Christie seemed trapped in a nightmare at Trump's press conference Tuesday night—and in a lot of ways, he was and it's all his fault.

Chris Christie gazed up at the back of Donald Trump's golden head in a Mar-a-Lago ballroom the evening of Super Tuesday. His mouth was slightly open. His brow was furrowed. His eyes

were wide and uncertain, as if adjusting to the soft light of the crystal chandeliers that adorn his new world for the first time since Friday, when he shocked the political class and the members of his own inner circle by [endorsing Trump's candidacy](#).

“Look, Planned Parenthood has done very good work for many, many—for millions of women,” Trump told the cameras, confidently. “I’m a conservative, but I’m a commonsense conservative.”

Behind him, Christie seemed to shudder as his political career passed before his eyes. He had once admitted to supporting Planned Parenthood himself, in the mid-1990s when he served in local government, but he had long since converted to social conservatism and staunch anti-abortion politics. He spent an entire week of his presidential campaign this year denying that he had ever supported Planned Parenthood, and now here he stood behind a man singing the organization’s praises—and winning in spite of it.

Christie’s mouth curled into a frown, and then it opened.

But all that escaped was dead air.

A few weeks ago in Exeter, New Hampshire, when he was still a candidate, Christie had warned of what could happen if an unprepared Republican—specifically [Marco Rubio](#)—got too close to the presidency.

“The lights go on—they’re very bright and they’re very hot,” he said, “and they get brighter and hotter the closer you get to the presidency.”

At the time, he never could have predicted that he would soon find himself paralyzed beneath the the glare of those lights reflecting off the golden mane of a man he, and the rest of the establishment he belonged to then, regarded as a joke.

Trump was, he said then, nothing but a reality TV star with ideas that were not just impossible to execute, but fundamentally stupid. “You know it’s all make believe, right?” he told an audience at a town hall in Hampton. “There’s no boardroom in New York where you look at people and say, ‘You’re fired!’ It’s television.”

But Tuesday night was not, as some on Twitter joked, a hostage situation. Unless Christie was both the hostage and the hostage-taker, his opportunism having finally succeeded in subsuming the last remaining shreds of his humanity, assuming he had any to begin with.

Christie has long been mocked for his heft, but behind Trump, he looked puny and unremarkable, a hotel end-table of a human being.

He shifted his weight from foot to foot and periodically looked down. When his eyes rose to meet the scene again, disappointment spread across his face.

It was real. He really had done this to himself.

The end of Christie’s presidential campaign was always going to be the end of his political career. Any casual observer could’ve told you as much. Maybe he would become a high-priced securities and appellate lawyer afterward, like he was before his time as the U.S. Attorney and then governor. Or maybe he would pivot to punditry on one of the many cable networks he frequently appeared on as a guest. But with his endorsement of Trump, it seems possible that

Christie never thought that far ahead. Maybe, after dropping out, he panicked at the idea that he would never again control a media cycle, never again be met by a sea of cameras and recorders shoved in his face.

His decision to endorse Trump was not a well thought out one. It was not deliberated over with his top advisers. And its effect on what was left of his career was swift and brutal.

Earlier in the day on Tuesday, seven New Jersey newspapers—all owned by the publisher Gannett—called on Christie to resign in a joint editorial, including the *Daily Record*, the paper of his hometown, Mendham.

“What an embarrassment,” the editorial began. “For the good of the state, it’s time for Christie to do his long-neglected constituents a favor and resign as governor. If he refuses, citizens should initiate a recall effort.”

This came after Meg Whitman, the former chairwoman of his defunct presidential campaign, issued a statement that basically said, “You are dead to me.”

After Christie announced he would campaign for Trump, some Trump supporters, who are defined by their opposition to conventional politics, told me “it’s just *politics*.”

But at what point can shameless social-climbing and star-fucking no longer be shrugged off as savvy networking? When does it stop being *just politics* and start being a moral disgrace?

Christie seemed to be asking himself those very questions Tuesday evening. For the first time in his public life, he looked disgusted with himself—and justifiably so.

IBD

Late Night

by Andrew Malcolm

Meyers: An Ohio farm has "NO TRUMP" written so large in cow manure that it can be seen by planes overhead. The crazy part is no one asked the cow to do that.

Conan: Five months until the Rio Olympics. Brazilian organizers are having some trouble selling tickets though. Their promotional offer: "Your Second Bout of Zika Is Free."

Fallon: To better represent modern families, Lego has created a stay-at-home dad figure. The only problem is, once you snap it into the Lego couch, it won't come off.

Conan: A Saudi Arabia official says a Trump presidency would "set the world back centuries." The Saudi added, "Which is why Trump has our full support."

Meyers: During his recent victory speech, Donald Trump said he is a "unifier." Then he turned to Chris Christie and said, "Right, idiot?"

Conan: Bernie Sanders says, "I am so proud to bring Vermont values all across this country." Then Sanders said, "Now, who wants to go antiquing?"

Bin Laden's bequests

Conan: Osama bin Laden's will has come out, and it says he wanted most of his \$29 million fortune to be used "on jihad." He also left \$5 million to his Siamese cat, Mr. Peepers.

Fallon: New Hampshire is drafting a bill to outlaw women exposing their breasts in public because it could hurt tourism. Then, New Orleans observed, "You sure about that?"

Conan: Hillary Clinton says that, several times a day, she speaks to God. But never for less than \$100,000.

Conan: Arnold Schwarzenegger has officially endorsed John Kasich. Or else he said "a horse junkie is sick." It was hard to tell.

Meyers: Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders faced off in a PBS debate. Or as PBS calls it, "Antiques Roadshow."

Meyers: CNN and Telemundo both carried a recent GOP debate. So, questions were addressed either "for Mr. Trump" or "para El Diablo."

Conan: Hillary came to Los Angeles to visit the set of the political drama, "Scandal." There was an awkward moment when Hillary told the writers, "Man, have I got some ideas for you."

Conan: It's been reported that Donald Trump, despite his anti-immigration stance, hired over 500 foreign workers at his Florida resort. In fairness, the resort is called "Hypocrisy Cove."

Meyers: Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders were both in Las Vegas recently. Hillary attended a campaign rally, while Bernie played the nickel slots.

Can any Hillary mistake be an honest one?

Meyers: Hillary says this email problem is just an honest mistake. Ever notice the only time people in Washington are honest is when they make a mistake?

Meyers: After Bernie Sanders' recent primary wins, Hillary's team is trying to dig up dirt on him. Know what you call someone who digs up dirt on Bernie Sanders? An archaeologist.

Meyers: A big decision looming for Bernie Sanders, picking a vice president. It's important, because whoever he chooses will be just a prostate away from being the next president of the United States.

Fallon: Bernie Sanders is getting the support of students at Hillary Clinton's alma mater, Wellesley College. So now of course, Hillary is trying to get the support of Bernie's alma mater, Jurassic Park.

Fallon: Ikea is accused of evading \$1 billion in taxes. Prosecutors have been after IKEA for years. They've just had a hard time putting their case together, getting all the pieces of evidence to fit.

Conan: President Obama has unveiled his plan to finally shut down Guantanamo Bay. To make sure no one ever goes there again, Obama handed it over to the people who run Radio Shack.

Conan: In Chile, authorities found more than 100 ecstasy pills that are shaped like the Minions characters hidden inside a child's backpack. Police are now looking for the notorious Chilean drug kingpin, El Timmy.

The end of Florida

Meyers: A recent study suggests it's harder to concentrate in the winter. Researchers noted, "For example, this study was supposed to be about traffic accidents."

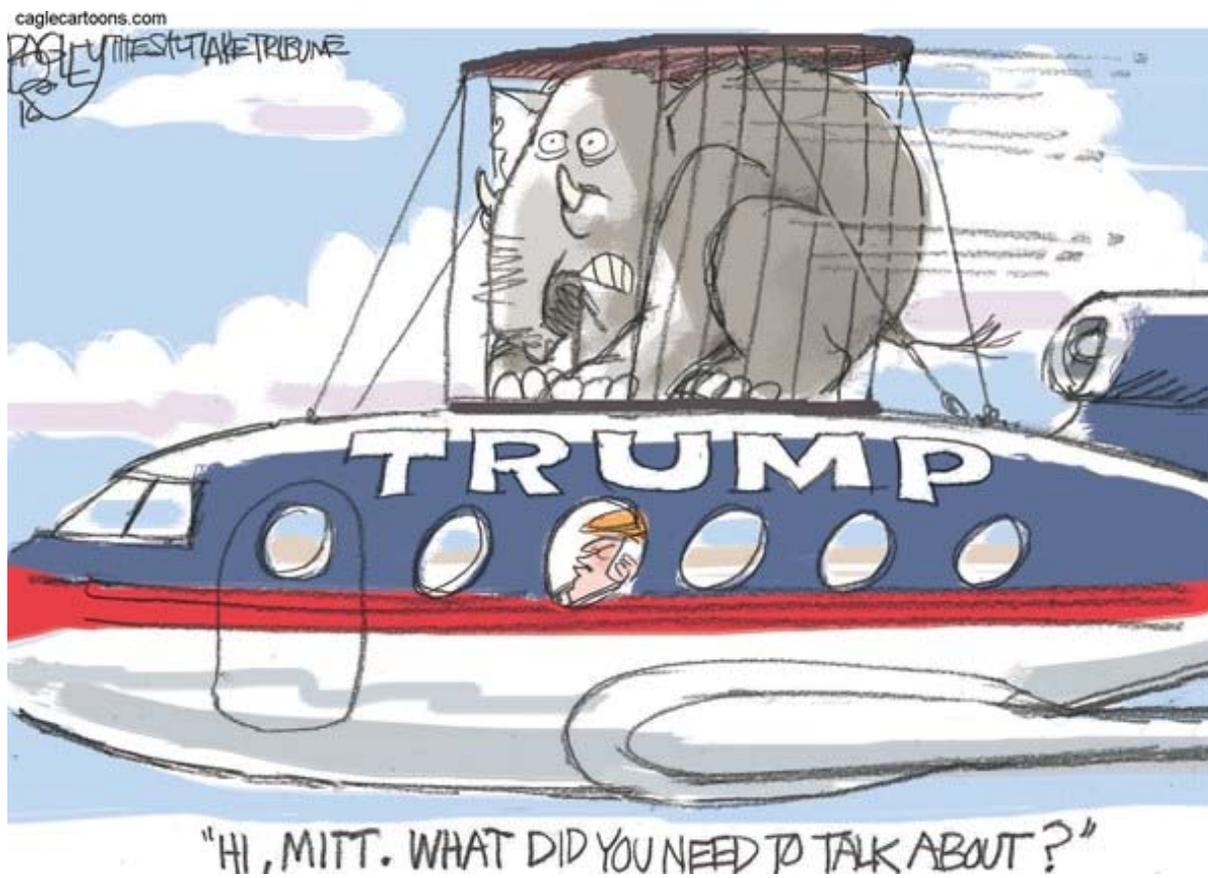
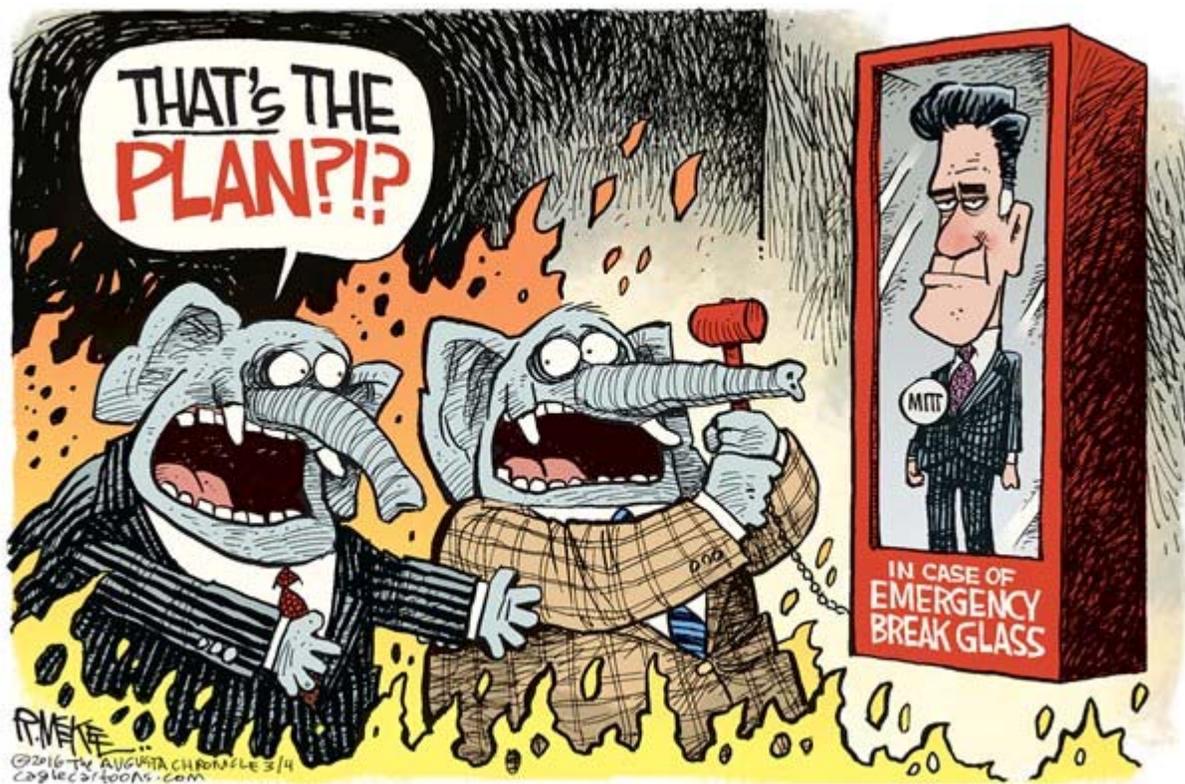
Conan: Researchers say much of Florida could be underwater by the end of the century. On the bright side, they say it could happen much sooner.

Meyers: Ben Carson was so excited about the Republican primary elections that he barely got 14 hours of sleep a night.

Meyers: Hillary Clinton recently visited the set of the hit ABC show "Scandal." Is that really the show you should be visiting right now? Why not drop by the set of "I Did Nothing Wrong," or maybe "There Was Nothing Illegal in Those Emails!"

Meyers: Lego is adding a working mom figure, handicapped and a stay-at-home dad. Side note: The handicapped Lego figurine became disabled after stepping on a Lego in his bare feet.







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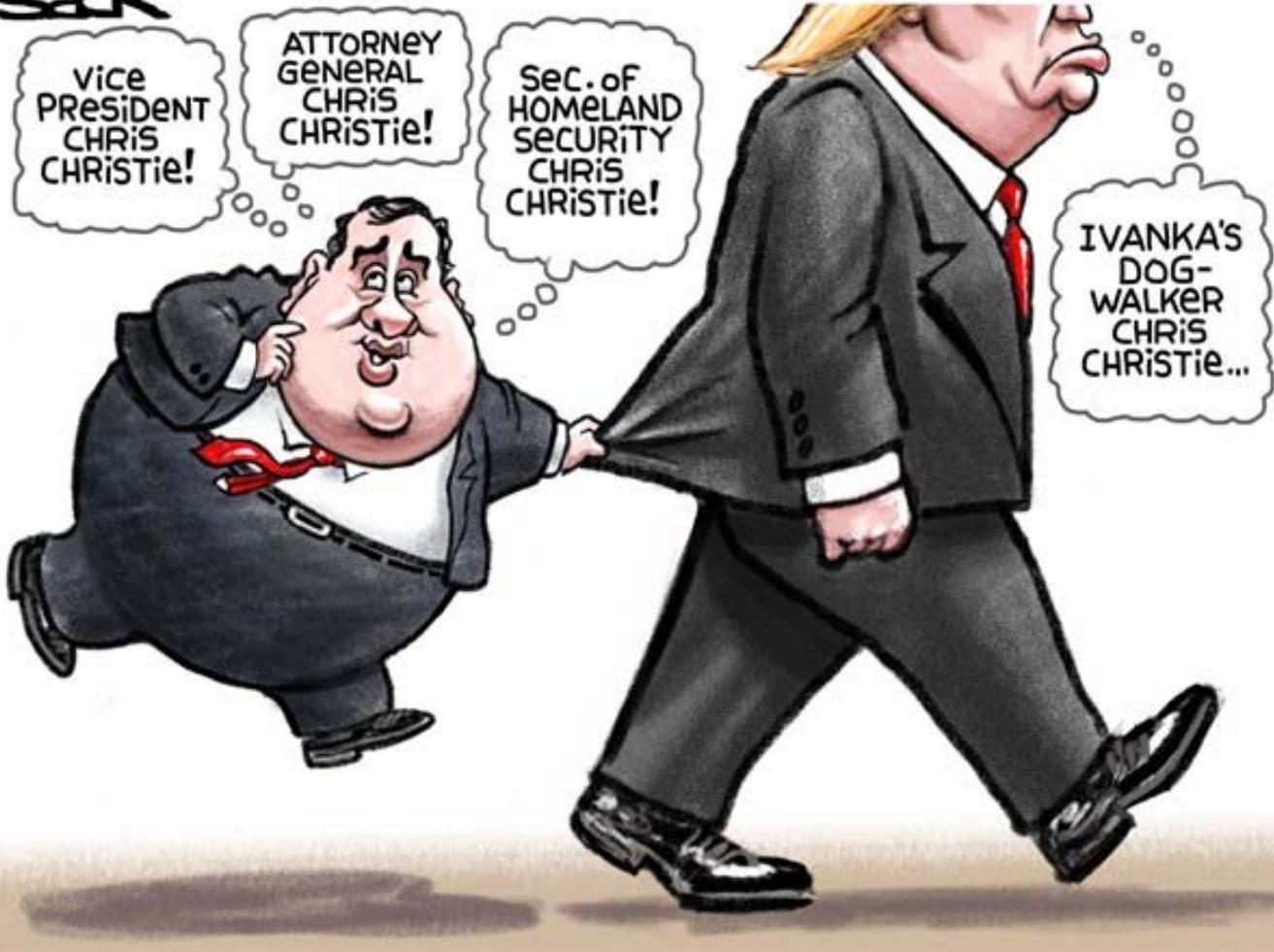
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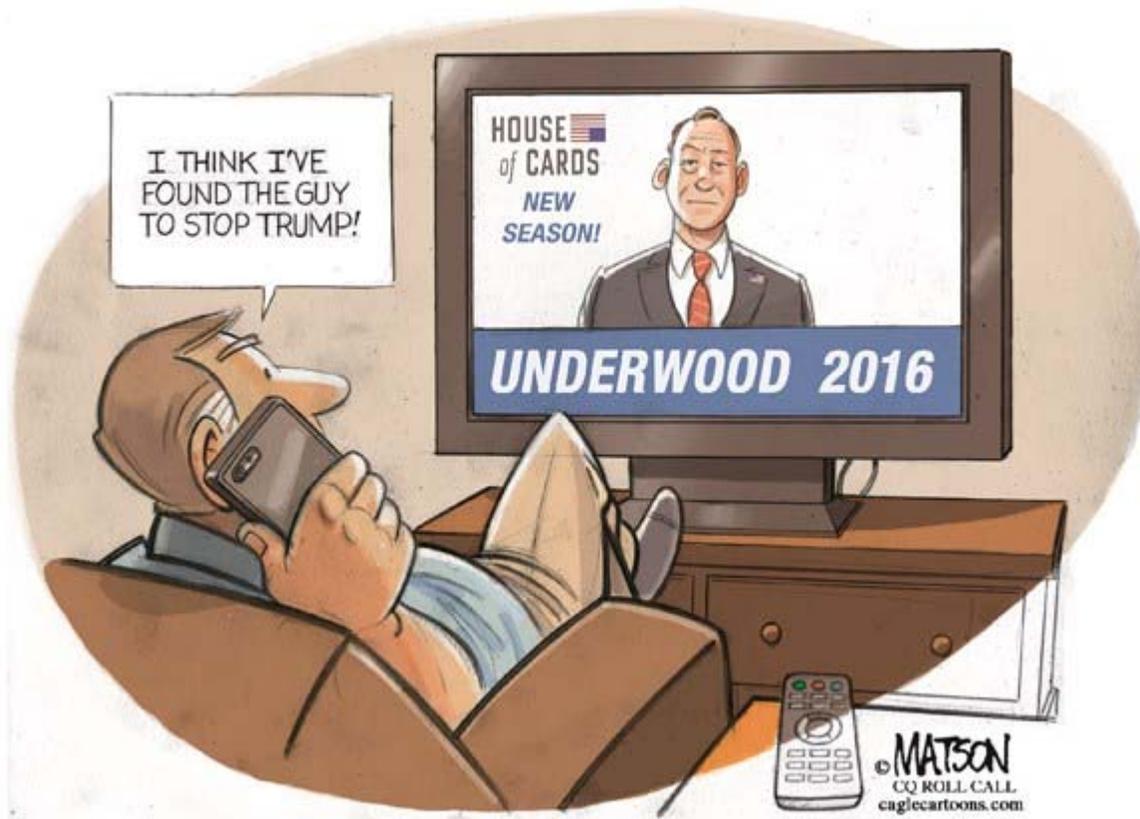


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ASTRONAUT SCOTT KELLY DISCOVERS HE'S NOT THE ONLY AMERICAN
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TRUMP

Probably No Internment Camps

