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**OUR VIEW**

# An Olympic achievement

Perhaps nothing is better for the world than the Olympics. Sure, we've got our governments and soldiers and bankers and pastors, who try in their own ways to keep the world in a system free from chaos.

But the Olympics does it another way, disguised by celebration and sport, that belies how truly revolutionary it is.

That makes the Olympics powerful, and that has come at a price. The Olympics have become bloated and corrupt — a fertile environment for professional sportocrats to line their pockets while amateur athletes dedicate their lives to compete for peanuts. Its value to television companies and advertisers has come at the expense of the audience.

But the Olympic ideals remain, under the surface, still revolutionary and a force for planetary good.

Thus year, a North Korean and South Korean gymnast shared a selfie — as close and as peaceful as those two countries have been since they were formed.

Young girls in this country and across the world were inspired by Simone Biles, the 4-foot-8-inch American gymnast who ran faster and jumped higher and redefined the shape of the sport.

Humans across the globe were gob-smacked watching Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt test the limits of human ability, while doing it with unmatched joy and confidence.

And many have been inspired by the continued excellence of Michael Phelps — who rarely settles for second place — and the incredible accomplishment of Yusra Mardini, the Syrian swimmer who became a refugee and helped save lives by guiding a sinking ship across the Aegean Sea. From winning to just showing up, sports show us the end result of an attitude work ethic that can improve our lives.

The Olympics often shed light into corners of the world that are

filled only with darkness. Athletes often are not from rich backgrounds. Syria aside, even Biles and Phelps came from poor and middle-class upbringings. In a world that often celebrates the rich and powerful, athletics in general offer one of the few ways for poor, inner-city, favela kids to excel.

And while jealousy-inducingly fit, they are not beautiful in the ways that our culture often puts in front of us, be they supermodels or celebrities. Especially for young girls, seeing women of endlessly varying body types succeed and become stars is important.

We also see people of all colors and all races, from countries rich and powerful to those we have never heard of. In a nation such as ours, where our world news is often limited only to warfare and bombings, it is good to see athletes from Ethiopia and Macedonia giving their all alongside our own.

There are always problems — an Egyptian judoka refused to shake the hand of the Israeli who defeated him. Most of the Russian team was sent home for doping. The costly and useless buildings will bankrupt, not benefit, Rio de Janeiro. The pollution and Zika threat will remain long after the hoopla is gone.

Yet there are more pros than cons. Humans are prideful creatures. We're proud of where we're from, we want to prove it and, yes, deep down inside we want to pound that volleyball really hard right at the other team.

The Olympics have created a venue where that can be done and no one dies. Because really, what are wars but a competition about might, smarts, skill and heart?

It's no wonder that terrorists and anarchists are obsessed with disrupting the events. The Olympics are one of the great achievements of humanity and civilization, and we should do our best to support the ideals, prosecute the corruption and protect the games.

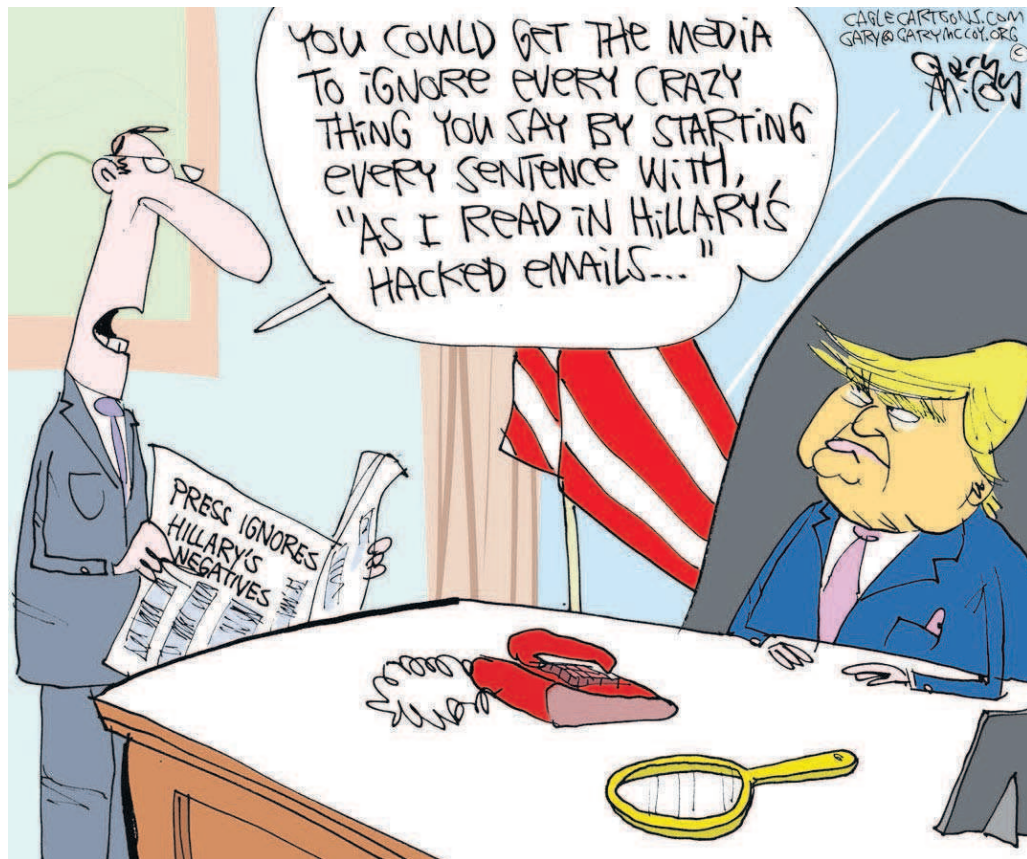
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**OTHER VIEWS**



## Trump, media running a 'baloney machine'

It's no secret Donald Trump's supporters wish he would spend more time in his public appearances focused on issues and less on the offhand remarks that have gotten him into trouble recently.

Newt Gingrich, the Trump vice presidential finalist who goes in and out of favor at Trump Tower, has long counseled a tighter, more disciplined focus on issues. In an interview Friday morning, as the Obama-is-the-founder-of-ISIS controversy spilled into another day, Gingrich seemed to reach a new level of frustration, suggesting that Trump and the news media have created a "baloney machine" that distracts the public from important issues.

"Trump should spend more time talking about America and less time talking about Trump," Gingrich told me after an appearance on Fox News.

"It's not helpful, and it's not helpful to have quips that distract from the main issues," Gingrich continued. "If Trump is not talking about the economy, and he's not talking about safety, and he's not talking about reforming Washington, he's losing ground."

Indeed, Trump is losing ground. He is running 6.3 points — a substantial margin — behind Hillary Clinton in the RealClearPolitics average of national polls. Even more concerning are new polls of states Trump must win if he is to become president. Even as Gingrich spoke, NBC and the *Wall Street Journal* were releasing surveys showing Trump trailing Hillary Clinton by 5 points in Florida, 9 points in North Carolina, 13 points in Virginia and by 14 points in Colorado.

Add those to polls showing Trump in trouble in Ohio and falling behind in Pennsylvania — two absolutely critical states for Trump — and the polls are sending Trump



**BYRON YORK**  
Comment

a very loud message that what he is doing now is not working. And yet Trump has said several times that he sees no need to change his style to compete in the general election.

Gingrich sees an increasingly urgent situation. "The fact is, you only have a limited amount of communications time, and you should be focusing that time on the issues that matter to the American people," he said. "If talking about yourself drowns out everything else you're talking

about — because you know as a conservative the news media is never going to give you a break — you have to make sure you don't give them a break. And every time he gives them something to talk about that allows them to avoid his issues, they're going to take it."

**"Trump should spend more time talking about America and less time talking about Trump."**

— **Newt Gingrich**, Republican, former U.S. House Speaker

Gingrich pointed to the House Republican report that the U.S. Central Command altered its intelligence to suggest the Islamic State is making more progress than is actually the case. "That ought to be a major national scandal," Gingrich said.

"But it gets totally submerged in all of this baloney," Gingrich concluded. "And Trump contributes to the baloney. He and the news media have a sort of baloney machine going between them."

Nevertheless, Trump has repeatedly refused to change his approach. On Tuesday, he told Fox Business's Maria Bartiromo that, "I think that you know my temperament has gotten me here ... I certainly don't think it's appropriate to start changing all of a sudden when you've been winning." On Thursday, Trump told CNBC, "At the end, it's either going to work, or I'm going to, you know, I'm going to have a very, very nice long vacation."

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.

**OTHER VIEWS**

## Bakken after the boom

*The Bismarck (N.D.) Tribune*

When the oil boom exploded in North Dakota it was every man for himself. Companies jockeyed for the best sites, landowners pursued the most lucrative deals and government scrambled to improve infrastructure.

It was the Wild West.

Now, with falling oil prices, calm has prevailed on the region. Drilling continues, but at a less frantic pace. Highway traffic no longer seems like a racetrack and the number of wells in operation has declined.

There's time to step back and evaluate the situation. That's what the World Wildlife Fund hired the Covenant Consulting Group to do. Members of the World Wildlife Fund toured the Bakken region and they visited areas of the Badlands not impacted yet by the oil boom. They wanted to know how development, if it reached into new areas, could be handled better. They also wanted to know how things could be improved in the Bakken.

Rod Backman of Covenant Consulting Group has been explaining the study results. One thing he wants to make clear, none of the stakeholders in the Bakken want or expect oil drilling to go away. What they want is better planning and more reasoned development.

Backman's team found people appreciated the jobs and community revitalization that resulted from the boom. They also found widespread support for protection of surface assets. Backman put together a team of industry, conservation and ranching experts and interviewed 71 people — 26 members of ranching and grazing associations, 21 state, local and federal government officials and 20 members of conservation groups. The team also contacted 11 oil companies and got responses from four officials.

The next step in the process involves

the selection of five representatives from government, the oil industry, conservation and ranching who will meet six times over the next five months with the goal of developing salable solutions. Backman said the five North Dakotans are independent, charged with coming up with a plan for Badlands users by Badlands users. After five months the group can decide whether they want to continue to disband.

The wisdom of their plan will determine whether it's adopted, in whole or part, or ignored.

Over the last few years there have been ideas floated about task forces or special committees to develop recommendations for oil development in North Dakota. Nothing came of the ideas. The World Wildlife Fund and Covenant have given the state a starting point. It's unlikely everyone will agree with everything that the group of five proposes. It will benefit everyone to consider their suggestions. So far there's nothing to indicate this project is guided by an agenda other than finding better ways for all stakeholders to work together.

The craziness of the early Bakken days resulted in outcomes unsatisfactory to all parties involved. We have a chance to improve the situation as we move forward. It will benefit residents and companies to pay attention to the proposals coming from the five. They should be given close scrutiny because of the potential impact on the state. It's also important to remember all stakeholders expressed interest in protecting surface assets.

Finding ways to do this, whether it's oil companies sharing roads or landowners working with companies to develop plans, will benefit us.

This study provides an opportunity for North Dakota and should be taken seriously.