

# Trump will make GOP unrecognizable

This is the era of disruptive technologies.

Uber is one for the taxi industry, AirBNB for hoteliers, the internet for newspapers.

Such technologies use innovation to create an entirely new market with an entirely new value. The rules of the game must be quickly rewritten and long-entrenched powers are thrown scrambling to the bottom of the heap.

Donald Trump is such a disruptive technology for the Republican Party. The GOP will be unrecognizable once he is through with it, whether that is in November or two presidential terms down the road.

Over the course of his campaign, Trump has dismantled numerous supposed cornerstone beliefs of the Republican party, sometimes for good and sometimes in a way that will do longterm damage to the GOP.

Here are a few examples: Republicans are known for their unwavering support of the American military, but Trump's plethora of potshots haven't spared American soldiers.

"He's not a war hero," he famously sneered about John McCain, a man who suffered gravely in the name of the United States after being captured and tortured in a North Vietnamese prison cell for more than five years.

And last week he accused soldiers of graft and corruption: "Iraq, crooked as hell. How about bringing baskets of money — millions and millions of dollars — and handing it out ... I want to know who were the soldiers that had that job, because I think they're living very well right now, whoever they may be."

He also has plans to privatize veterans' care and was caught lying about his financial support for veterans' charities, only cutting the check months after he promised he would and after being repeatedly questioned about it by The Washington Post. He also said he would order American service members to kill the families of ISIS members, something that would make them immediate war criminals. He has also excoriated George W. Bush and his wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Another example: Perhaps one of the thickest planks in the Republican platform in recent decades has been opposing abortion.

And despite being pro-choice for much of his life, Trump now says no one is as anti-abortion as he is.

Yet he went out of his way to support Planned Parenthood when the organization was under routine attack during Republican primary debates.

"You can say whatever you want, but they have millions of women going through Planned Parenthood that are helped greatly," he said.

It caused millions of heads to spin, but it didn't cause his poll numbers to dip.

Neither did his background

— three wives and two divorces — which you think may have scared off evangelical voters who make up such a powerful segment of the GOP. You might think Trump's inability to name a single Bible verse would be held against him by voters, but it's not so.

Just this week he attacked another sacred cow within the GOP coalition: the National Rifle Association. Trump said he would approach the NRA about a law that would ban people on the terrorist watch list from buying guns. It's a great idea — something more than 90 percent of Americans agree with — but because of NRA power and threats such a bill has not been able to pass the Senate.

Trump's naiveté and his ego have allowed him to bust down doors no one thought any GOP candidate could get away with.

He has leveled blistering attacks on Fox News and popular anchor Megyn Kelly.

He has been notably fickle on matters of policy, and his anti-free trade platform is at odds with Republican orthodoxy that promotes industry-led policies.

And don't get us started on immigration. Party leaders like Paul Ryan have threatened to sue Trump over his immigration bans and forced deportations. And no one in either party takes Trump's idea to build a wall and make Mexico pay for it seriously.

He has ripped apart Obamacare at every turn, but also spoke in support of making sure the government didn't let people "die on the streets."

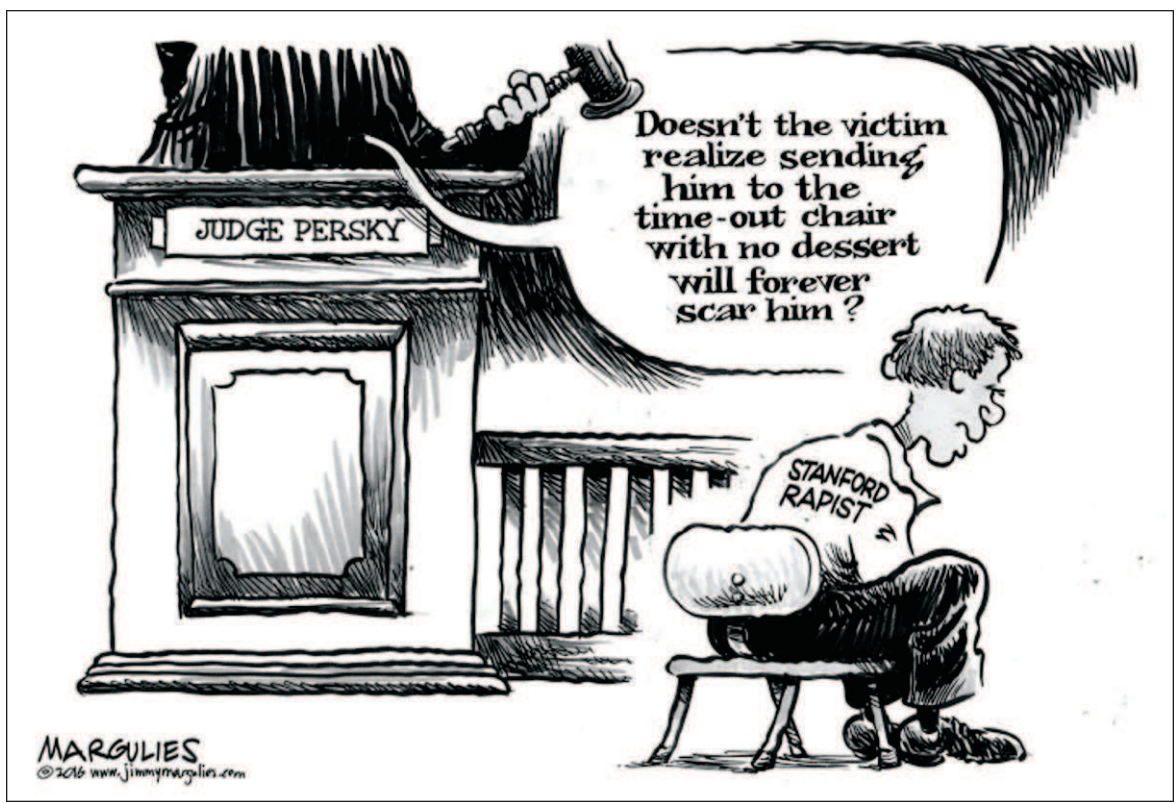
Trump's success is inexplicable on one hand, but quite simple on the other.

He is a reminder that the boogeymen that have been propping up the Republican Party for generations have become outdated. A majority of Americans are no longer fearful about gays or marijuana or Communist health care.

Trump has created new boogeymen — mostly racially focused — that have had success in congealing a sizable contingent of Republicans around him. But he's certainly polling in the mid 30s, a disastrous number, and if he fails in the November election or even fails to make it that far, Republicans will have a difficult task of rebuilding the Grand Old Party.

Yet all his wild disruptions have yanked a few rotten planks from the Republican platform. There is a chance it is rebuilt as a more modern party, released from the shackles of a few bad stances. But there is also the risk that it is reborn as a mutant mess of dangerously far-right, anti-immigration, isolationist insult comics.

Trump will not leave anything as he found it. That may be beneficial in the Republican primary, but it's more than a little nerve-racking to think there is a chance he could recast what it means to be president of the most powerful county on Earth.



## FARMER'S FATE

# Crying babies and salesmen

By Brianna Walker  
For the Blue Mountain Eagle



Brianna Walker

My fingers were tingling with numbness as I bounced my baby on an exercise ball. It was one of those long, lousy days where baby was tired and crabby — which in turn made me tired and crabby.

The more I bounced, the sleepier he got. The sleepier he got, the louder his "you can't make me go to sleep" cries were. The louder they got, they shorter they became, though. Soon his head started to loll against my arm, which caused a welcome but increased tingling sensation as his body started to become dead-weight.

This little boy is a chunk. We've laughed that buying clothes for him is like purchasing a computer. It's obsolete and outgrown before you've arrived home.

His eyes closed, my fingers numb on my right hand, and his whimpering barely audible now. A few more minutes of gentle bouncing, and I would finally be able to get some much needed chores done. Like take a shower and get dressed!

I finally decided to chance it. I stood up. So far so good. I kept up the bouncing-like motion in my arms as I headed for the bed. The thought crossed my mind that maybe I could just lay down too — only for a minute — how good it would feel to close my eyes and just...

That's when the doorbell rang. And not some sprightly "ding-dong" ring. No, my 7-year old loves changing out the sound. A long, dark organ

dirge banged loudly through the speakers. Immediately a nap was out of the question. The baby let out a loud and angry scream, drowned out only by the still playing doorbell. Did I mention it was long?

With the doorbell still playing its ghastly song, and the baby screaming at the top of his lungs, I opened the door — to a salesman. A door-to-door salesman. I felt like crying too.

The man tried really hard to ignore the screaming baby, the pajamas and a hairdo that looked like I'd slept in it for a week — I'm sure it couldn't have been more than a couple of days. He started his spiel, and I kept trying to quiet a baby. Suddenly the baby spit up. Epically spit-up. Warm baby puke oozed down my shoulder and puddled in my elbow before making rhythmic splats on the deck.

The man looked down at his product and back up to a crying baby and a mom that was standing there in pajamas and baby puke, and I think he realized his speech was going to be wasted. He stopped mid-sentence.

"Ma-am, I can see you're busy. You just have a good day, ya hear?"

He nodded at me as he backed down the porch, away from the baby puke that was still glopping down my arm.

Later that day, I had fed the baby and finally, finally gotten him to a light slumber. That's when the horrible doorbell rang again.

The baby rolled and began fretting. I was torn between answering the door or trying to keep the baby asleep. I opted for the baby. I cooed to him and rubbed his back. The doorbell droned on for its one-minute song, and I released my breath when it ended. The baby was still sleeping. Then it rang again. No way could I keep him asleep for another minute of that racket. He was soon awake — thankfully not screaming. I scooped him up and headed for the door. Maybe it was important. After all they rang twice.

I guess it was important. It was a couple ladies inquiring about my eternal salvation and wanting to leave me pamphlets to read. As they started into their rehearsed questions, the baby leaned away from me and puked. Missing the one lady's shoe by less than an inch. She looked up quickly.

"I didn't realize your baby was sick," she stammered, thrusting the pamphlets into her purse and scurrying down the porch. Baby puke is like kryptonite to unsolicited visitors.

I headed back in the house, turned the ringer off the doorbell and started thinking up a sign for the front door. I think it should be something like: "No Soliciting. We are too broke to buy anything. We know who we are voting for. We have already found Jesus. Seriously, unless you are giving away tractors, ammo, have a package from Amazon or are selling Thin Mints, go away! We have baby puke, and we know how to use it!"

*Brianna Walker occasionally writes about the Farmer's Fate for the Blue Mountain Eagle.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Britton a community-minded, reasonable businessman

**To the Editor:**  
I regularly attend the meeting of the Grant County Court. I have found Commissioner Boyd Britton to be a good listener, a fair-minded individual and eager to research issues that are presented.

Boyd owns and operates a business in Grant County. I have been observant of his business practices, and when he has constructed anything for me the price has been reasonable, and the work is certainly of good quality.

I also know that Boyd is community minded. He has been generous with his time and expertise when asked to produce items for display. His business has been generous with donations for activities and groups asking for donations.

I do not believe in recall to replace an elected official. If the citizens are unhappy with an elected official, there is always the ballot box and an election. Grant County has had enough problems. It is time for the citizens and residents to work together to keep the diversity we enjoy, and the benefits of living here. Thank you.

Sharon Livingston  
Long Creek

### '62 Days a success — except for the women's restroom

**To the Editor:**  
Another '62 Days has come and gone, and we feel like it was a success. We cannot thank those who participated enough, the vendors, parade participants, Hope 4 Paws breakfast, Stephanie Coleman and the barbecue, Hugh Snook and the Gold Rush Walk/Run. The "Voices from the Past" was very well received as well as "Romancing the West" on Friday evening and St. Thomas Church's pie social. A lot of work, preparation and volunteers go into putting an event like this on.

This being said, I would like to address the young or older women who totally trashed the women's restroom at Sels on Saturday. You know who you are and I don't, but if I ever find out who you are, you will be "blackballed" from Sels forever. I know your mothers taught you better. Our thanks for providing you with a fun evening was to do filthy things to the ladies' room. I hope you are proud of yourselves.

On the other hand, you gentlemen were gentlemen and kept your facility very clean.

Leslie Traylor  
The Whiskey Gulch Gang

### Madam mayor

**To the Editor:**  
I have lived in Granite for 21 years. It is sure nice to know we have a secret police department.

It must be a secret deputy because no one in Granite that I have talked to has ever heard of or seen our chief, now retired in good standing. I am sure glad you informed us.

I missed his retirement party! Granite has many departments patrolling our area: Oregon State Police from La Grande, Baker City, John Day, county police from Grant and Baker counties, forest police from Willowa-Whitman and Umatilla Forests.

Why, with a population of 20 people, does Granite need a town police department?

Who paid his salary? I don't see any mention in the financial report.

Where was his office? I never had a chance to complain about anything.

Mayor Sandy Smith should resign for wasting all our city funds if there is any money left in the city accounts.

Mitchell Fielding  
Granite

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