

Ground Hog

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Ground Hog Edition

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TRUMP YOU!

Donald Trump took the White House like a third world dictator returning to his throne: the opposition was rioting in the streets screaming about the legitimacy of his election.

But the American system is the electoral college which voted Trump the new President. It was the worst election in this generation of voters, but elections have consequences.

The power liberals are in shock, shock!, that Trump actually started to do what he campaigned to do: build a Mexican wall, impose tariffs to pay for it, repeal the TTP trade agreement, put a hard vetting process on immigration and start to unravel federal regulations.

The Democrats vowed to block the Trump agenda, especially controversial cabinet appointees and his conservative Supreme Court nominee. Four more years of obstruction politics is the last thing the United States needs in a global economy that is about to pivot to slower growth and more political instability.

Trump tapped into the angry Middle Class

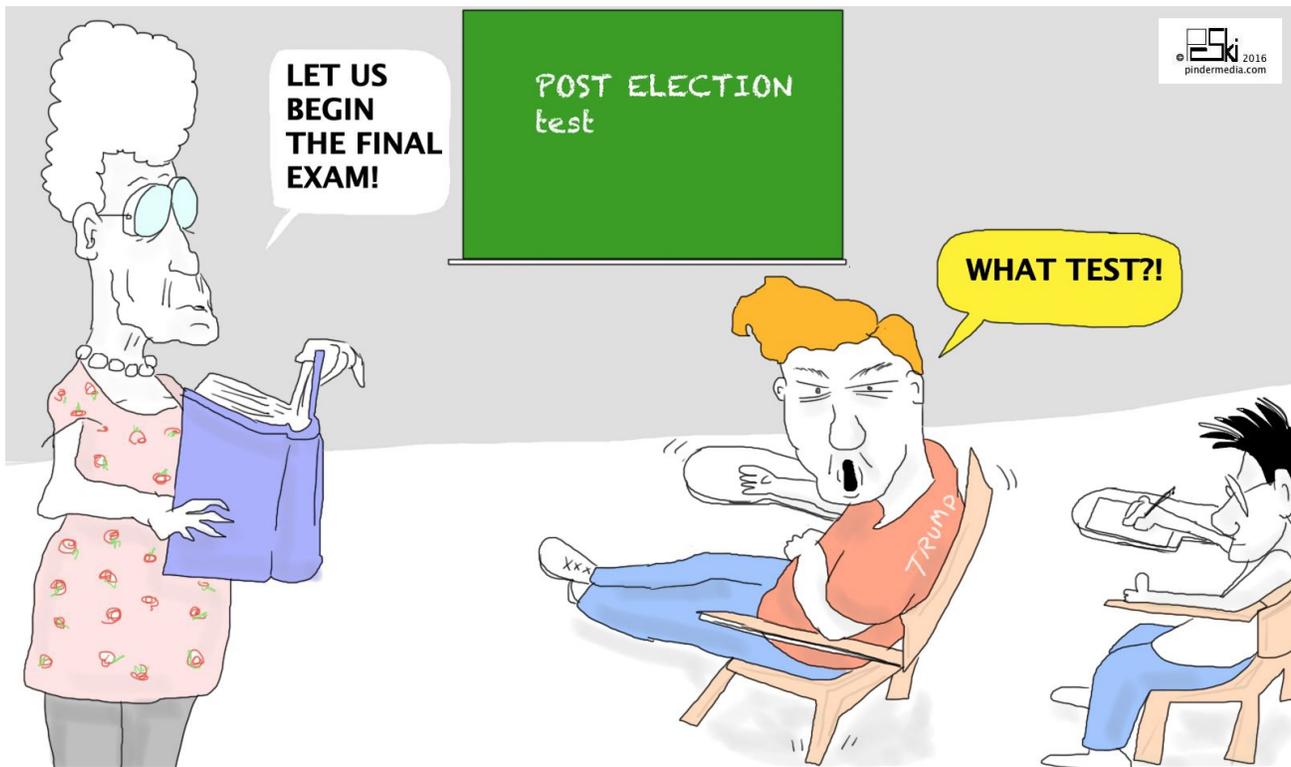
**LIBERALS, YOU HAVE
FOUR MORE YEARS
OF THE WINTER
OF YOUR DISCONTENT.**



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to come to Washington with a populous mandate to change the political class. Career politicians are appalled by the Trump crass bluntness, especially to foreign leaders. Leaks and fake news reports filled the airwaves during the President's first week in office, fueling the rage of the displaced power elite.

But Trump seems not to care about what the press says about him. He would rather tweet a



reply than hold a press conference. The old Washington World Order is gone and dead. The Republican Congress has no idea how to deal with Trump and his mood swings: play nice or treat him as radioactive waste.

It appears that Trump wants to “hire” his staff (cabinet posts), give them marching orders, and then sit back and see what happens. This is the Presidential Apprentice reality television show that gives media critics the bloody fits.

It is not to say that Hillary Clinton would have been any better against an opposition Republican Congress. The Clinton Money Machine dried up with the snap of a finger when Trump was declared the winner on election night. The Clintons can no longer use their positions to receive donations, honors and foreign access to Washington policy makers. If one positive happened from the election was the stake pounded through the Clinton foundations.

But Trump backed off on any investigation of the Clintons in regard to the email scandal, and probably the alleged foundation charity issues. Trump seems to want to project himself as a gracious winner. But once he gets off his prepared script, he is a loose cannon. It makes Wall Street and foreign allies nervous.

So the public should be prepared to wither through another “campaign” year of the bombastic Trump. He won so he thinks that he is right. A righteous lunatic is the most dangerous kind.

Even his own handlers hope his one check and balance, his kids, will be able to calm the waters. But even though the president and vice president are exempt from holding business interests while serving in office (it has only been tradition to put assets into blind trusts), his children have to follow government ethics rules if they become part of his kitchen cabinet. The press has jumped on favoritism allegations in foreign policy decisions that would adversely affect Trump’s foreign holdings.

In the chaos and upheaval of the post-election head butts, the public needs to be aware of the flank assault on some of America’s basic institutions, including a free press. Both Trump and Hillary had an open disdain for the press and its watch dog role. The internet and social media have negated much of traditional media’s influence and reporting on public affairs. An eroding press is bad for the preservation of all individual freedoms.

On the other hand, good money has Trump as a one term; after four years he will get the perks of being President without the headaches.

BIG BROTHER TRUMP



IS TELLING YOU!



He will get the royal ex-President secret service detail for life. He will be able to spout off with the authority of being the former commander in chief. He wants to go out a winner. He won because he did not have a political record. He wants to write his own legacy and “exit strategy.”

The business of Trump will always be Trump. His ego, self-esteem and wealth are all tied to his alter-ego persona. He is the king of his own revisionist history. He speaks in vague mumbles in order to preserve the classic back face and blame game to subordinates.

Trump’s eventual downfall will be the plague of the modern world leader: delegating his duties. Just as ousted South Korean president Park was impeached for corruption in allowing a friend allegedly influence peddle and shakedown corporations, Trump says something then expects his staff or associates to do all the heavy lifting. For example, the Obamacare repeal has been fraught with stumbles because 1) Trump is not a part of actually drafting new legislation; 2) The Republicans in Congress will not unite behind Trump; 3) Trump would rather counterpunch the endless Democratic criticisms than being president; and Trump’s cabinet is still cleaning house.

Many critics also saw Obama as a placeholder-in-chief; he would rather take the perks of the presidency than actually govern the country.

Being president is a stressful, full time job. Trump’s 180 degree policy turns are evidence that he is still stuck in “campaign mode,” i.e. telling the people what they want to hear in the shifting winds of public opinion.

The only tangible benefits in Trump’s first 50 days of office have been 1) record level on the stock market; 2) two good job employment reports; 3) the public’s renewed confidence in the future; and 4) The Apprentice is dead.

There is plenty of meat on the bone for the press to do its job in the midst of the social media “fake news” wave. There have been plenty of stories of staff/appointee conflicts of interest or unsavory ties to the Russian government. But most Americans do not care about the political rugby match of charges and countercharges between party partisans. The public still wants jobs, safety from crime and terrorism and less nanny state in their private lives.

The latest Wikileaks exposure of the CIA spy methods barely made a ripple on Main Street. The main revelation was that the CIA has developed techniques to mask its own spying by faking foreign IP addresses to shift blame to other foreign nationals. Instead, the media focus has been on the wild Trump allegation that the prior administration “bugged” his campaign offices. It seems that the president was merely re-chirping a vague, unsourced internet allegation against the Democrats as the truth.

Truth seems to be in short supply on the international stage. Trump diverts attention by degrading critics by claiming they are spreading “fake news,” while at the same time he takes internet gossip as gospel. The post-election froth will have to settle down or everyone will drown in soap suds of mistrust and deception.

The populist, anti-government wave is real. From Brexit, to Trump’s victory, to conservative nationalism in Europe to the impeachment in South Korea, normal citizens are beginning to exercise their political will against their government leaders. Politicians are like rats on a pirate ship: so long as the hold is filled with gold there is no reason to abandon ship. Time will tell if Trump’s golden anti-politics will make his presidency work.