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Edward Marcus: For Donald Trump, ignorance is bliss



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally Wednesday in Sacramento, California. ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Edward L. Marcus

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Donald Trump is very quick at coming up with clever nicknames to skewer anyone opposing him. My guess is, like all bullies, he can dish it out but isn't that great on taking it.

For example, one could call him the Wig Man — “that hair cannot all be his” — or how about Donald the Great Liar, since he certainly has excelled at that “attribute.” Trump has taken at least two positions on every critical issue to date. Lies? Bad memory? Confused mind? Or just a person who will tell an audience what they want to hear — even if it's the opposite of what was said elsewhere.

Clearly, Trump is one of the great prevaricators of all time. He makes a lot of noise, but people are starting to catch on. He was pro choice and now he is pro life. He contributed to both Bill and Hillary Clinton's campaigns but now says those contributions were for business. Is he admitting to attempting to bribe either Clinton?

Trump talks about his Great Mexican Wall and says he will make Mexico pay for it. How is he going to do that — will he guarantee it with his own money? Of course not. He is going to self-finance his campaign. Oops, not any more. He was for free trade, now he is for tariffs.

He's now for America First — just like Lindbergh, who started the America First group in the early 1940s, an outgrowth of his being a Nazi sympathizer in World War II.

Trump just received the endorsement of the NRA and he revealed that he has a permit to carry a gun. Does that make him a real man? It's time to accept the fact that requiring a license to carry a gun is a positive political position, which in no way affects the Second Amendment but does prevent people who do not meet very limited qualifications from obtaining a permit.

Can Trump really believe that all of the terrible gun-related tragedies that occurred in the last year could have been avoided if only the victims had been carrying a gun? He certainly is trying to sell that absurd notion. It is hard to believe that he thinks that multiple shoot-outs at the OK Corral are the answer.

Unfortunately, some people like the bluster and buy into his nonsense. Dumbo Donnie seems to believe that everyone owning an assault rifle is the answer to terrorism and crime. No reasonable person can agree.

And while we are at it, when was the last time we heard a candidate for president refer to him or herself in the third person. He talks about Trump, highlighting his egomaniacal temperament. Do you really want to give him the power to launch a nuclear strike?

Trump's failure to disclose his income tax returns is something he has danced around, even though he is the presumed Republican presidential nominee. During an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America" he was asked about his taxes and responded, "None of your business."

We cannot let him get away with that. The media and the public must keep after him. Income tax returns do give us important information. Right now we only have information that Trump wants to disseminate. Adam Gopnik, [writing in The New Yorker](#) said, "If Trump came to power, there is a decent chance that the American experiment would be over. This is not a hyperbolic prediction; it is not a hysterical prediction; it is simply a candid reading of what history tells us happens in countries with leaders like Trump. Countries don't really recover from being taken over by unstable authoritarian nationalists of any political bent, left or right. ... The nation may survive, but the wound to hope and order will never fully heal."

Alexander Pope made another observation. Even as you recognize that the world is a mixed-up place, you can't fool yourself about the difference between the acceptable and the unacceptable: "Fools! Who from hence into the notion fall/ The vice or virtue there is none at all," he wrote. "Is there no black or white? / Ask your own heart, and nothing is so plain; / 'Tis to mistake them, costs the time and pain."

The pain of not seeing that black soon enough will be ours, and the time to recognize this is now.

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