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Forum: Donald Trump a consummate entertainer



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump takes pictures with supporters during a rally Feb. 23 in Reno, Nevada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Edward Marcus

I find myself this year drawn to watch Republican debates like never before. They are not all that informative but do provide incredible entertainment. Where have you ever heard exchanges in a presidential campaign like those between Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio? Are they really running for president of the United States or are they in a name calling fight for class president of an elementary school?

Ben Carson seems like a nice man but admits he's not a politician. It shows. John Kasich argues that he's not like the other candidates, saying he's only going to be positive — and then he gently slips the proverbial knife into an opponent. It's a circus with each candidate trying to prove that he is the "real" conservative.

What a mess. They have been effectively pushed to the right of Attila the Hun. That one of them will be the Republican Party's nominee for president is disturbing.

Trump is a brash, outspoken buffoon who has caught the attention of people looking for change. People who can easily be whipped up by Trump, without thinking, have until now supported him.

Trump's supporters appear to be disinterested in reality and facts and don't seem to pay much attention to what Trump says — or what he has done.

Trump admits he has used the legal system like a "good businessman" by putting at least four companies into bankruptcy. Then he stared at Jeb Bush in a recent Republican debate and said "not me." He personally never filed bankruptcy. I guess he means it was OK to beat the lenders to his companies out of hundreds of millions of dollars and force the loss of thousands of jobs. To Trump, it seems, that was just good business.

Some of Trump's widely-reported promises:

1. Build a wall along the southern border that's taller than the arenas where Trump holds rallies, and one foot taller than the Great Wall of China. This "artistically beautiful" wall will be constructed out of hardened concrete, rebar and steel, and it will be "the greatest wall that you've ever seen" — so great the nation will one day name it "The Trump Wall."
2. Get rid of Obamacare and replace it with something "terrific" that is "so much better, so much better, so much better."
3. "I will take care of women, and I have great respect for women. I do cherish women, and I will take care of women."
4. Never take a vacation while serving as president.
5. Be unpredictable. "No one is going to touch us, because I'm so unpredictable."
6. Target and kill the relatives of terrorists.
7. Oppose killing journalists: "I hate some of these people, but I would never kill them."
8. Students at Wofford College in South Carolina, where Trump attended a town hall, will all have jobs at graduation.
9. Get rid of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.
10. Ensure that Americans can still afford to golf.
11. Use "common sense" to fix the mental health system and prevent mass shootings. Find ways to arm more of the "good guys" like him who can take out "sickos." Get rid of bans on certain guns.
12. Deport the almost 11 million immigrants illegally living in the United States.
13. End birthright citizenship.

Trump seemingly just says anything that comes to his mind resulting in some of his statements being downright foolish. Others have no factual backup. Look at his face when someone needles him. He contorts it like a 3-year-old child.

Trump really cannot be the Republican Party's candidate for president in 2016. I do not believe that will happen, but when Bernie Sanders can become a real candidate with his "everything for nothing" campaign, who knows?

The only candidate that I really respect is Hillary Clinton, who has the ability and knowledge to lead this country. Let's hope that people voting in primaries over the next weeks and months get it right. Get this mess sorted out before Sanders and Trump start looking like real possibilities.

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