

Alpha House Week 3

- Irony
- Cynicism
- Trump's Positions
- First They Came For...
- Pendulum Politics
- Mike Pence fly jokes

Layering of Irony

- **Much of Garry Trudeau' humor is based upon the layering of ironies:**
 - Character A makes “outrageous” statements, unaware of their incongruity.
 - We, the audience, can see an obvious disjuncture between what character A says and the surrounding reality of that statement.
 - Character B in the same scene may also be aware of the disjuncture and may either comment upon it or play along with it sarcastically.
- **The humor comes from feeling superior to the foibles of character A, who never catches on.**

Layering of Irony

- **Alpha House Example:**
 - Barber shop scene in the Ruby Shoals episode
 - A patron talks about his hard-earned disability and unemployment benefits
 - At the same time he denounces “takers” who feed off of government handouts.

Irony October 11, 2020

- Casino TV Ad:
 - “Stimulus Package Special!”

What The World Thinks Of Us

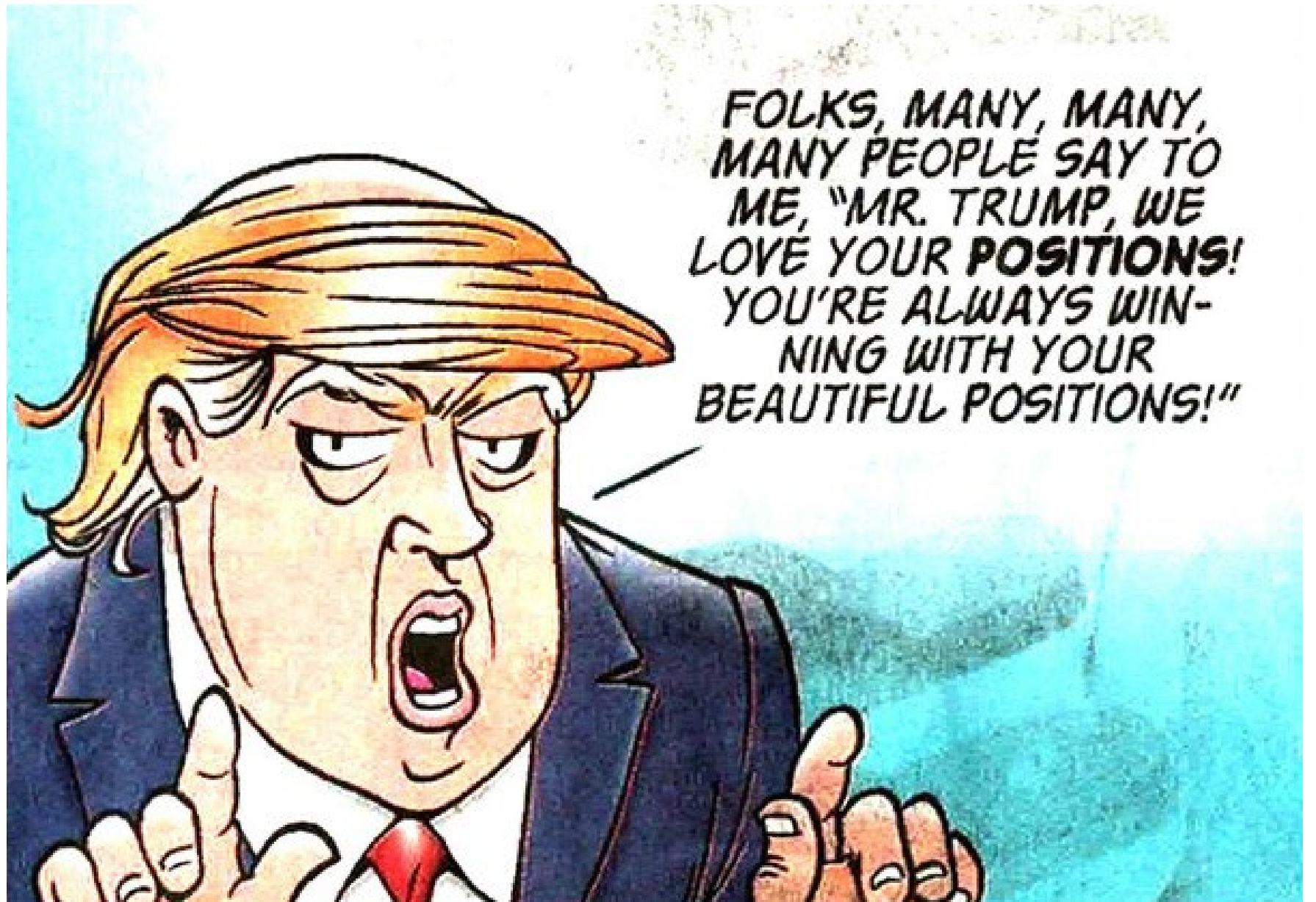
--Café in London 2016



“No matter how cynical I become
I still can’t keep up.”

--Lily Tomlin





FOLKS, MANY, MANY,
MANY PEOPLE SAY TO
ME, "MR. TRUMP, WE
LOVE YOUR **POSITIONS!**
YOU'RE ALWAYS WIN-
NING WITH YOUR
BEAUTIFUL **POSITIONS!**"



WELL, GUESS WHAT! THEY'RE RIGHT!
NOBODY HAS TAKEN MORE POSITIONS
THAN ME. OKAY? **NOBODY!**

CHECK THE
RECORD!

FOR AGAINST

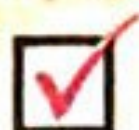
TAXING THE RICH



RAISING MINIMUM WAGE



NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION



ABORTION CHOICE



ABORTION PUNISHMENT



ORDERING TORTURE



TROOPS TO FIGHT ISIS



FOR AGAINST

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN



BACKGROUND CHECKS



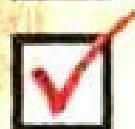
GUNS IN CLASSROOMS



LEGALIZING DRUGS



ETHANOL SUBSIDIES



PRIVATIZATION OF SS



DEFAULTING ON DEBT



FOR AGAINST

INVASION OF IRAQ



RELEASING TAX RETURNS



TOTAL MUSLIM BAN



SELF-FUNDED CAMPAIGN



DEBATING SANDERS



IRAN DEAL



ACCEPTING SYRIAN
REFUGEES



**UNBELIEVABLE, RIGHT? I HAVE TWICE
AS MANY POSITIONS AS OTHER POLI-
TICIANS, OKAY? THAT I CAN TELL YOU,
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH...**

**JUST SO YOU
UNDERSTAND...**

IN ALL HONESTY...

BELIEVE ME!

OKAY?

CBT Mader



The Gerrymander

March 1812 South Essex, Massachusetts

Gerrymander => Governor Gerry + Salamander



First They Came For...

- Signboard at Oakland protest:
 - **“First They Came For The Journalists...”**
 - **“We don’t know what happened after that”**
 - Referential humor refers to:
 - German Pastor Martin Niemoller’s lament of inaction upon watching the Nazis remove from society:
 - Communists
 - Socialists
 - Trade Unionists
 - Jews
 - ...Before coming for him
- October 9, 2020:
 - SF Bay Guardian voting recommendation website goes down
 - (It has now been restored) Causes unknown

SF Bay Guardian Website Hijacked?

October 9, 2020

“Clean Slate” Recommendations Inaccessible



This Connection is Untrusted

You have asked Firefox to connect securely to **sfbg.com**, but we can't confirm that your connection is secure.

Normally, when you try to connect securely, sites will present trusted identification to prove that you are going to the right place. However, this site's identity can't be verified.

What Should I Do?

If you usually connect to this site without problems, this error could mean that someone is trying to impersonate the site, and you shouldn't continue.

[Get me out of here!](#)

- ▶ [Technical Details](#)
- ▶ [I Understand the Risks](#)

<https://twitter.com/sfbg>

[SF Bay Guardian \(@sfbg\) · Twitter](#)

Hi everyone -- we're experiencing some difficulty with the site at the moment and are working to restore it.

Please stay tuned!

Twitter · 2 hours ago

Pendulum Politics

- Also called Cyclical Theory of U.S. Politics
- Model used by historians Arthur M. Schlesinger Sr. and Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. to explain the fluctuations in politics throughout American history
- In this theory, the United States's national mood alternates between liberalism and conservatism
- Nice idea, but it's just a description of events up until the 1960s

Schlesinger's liberal-conservative cycle

Schlesinger phases of American history^{[1][2][5]}

From	To	Duration	Type	Name
1776	1788	12	Lib	Liberal Movement to Create Constitution
1788	1800	12	Con	Hamiltonian Federalism
1800	1812	12	Lib	Liberal Period of Jeffersonianism
1812	1829	17	Con	Conservative Retreat After War of 1812
1829	1841	12	Lib	Jacksonian Democracy
1841	1861	20	Con	Domination of National Government by Slaveowners
1861	1869	8	Lib	Abolition of Slavery and Reconstruction
1869	1901	32	Con	The Gilded Age
1901	1919	18	Lib	Progressive Era
1919	1931	12	Con	Republican Restoration
1931	1947	16	Lib	The New Deal
1947	1962	15	Con	
1962	1978	16	Lib	
1978			Con	

Mike Pence Fly Jokes

- “Mike Pence’s fly is showing”
- “On its way to Walter Reed” (*Picture of fly lying on its back*)
- “The fly has sold his life story to Netflix”
- “That fly knows its manure better than anyone in the building.”
- “The fly adhered to the 2 minute time limit better than either candidate.” (*2 min 3 seconds*)
- “That fly created more buzz than either of the candidates”
- “Did the fly plant babies? If so, would Pence abort them?”
- Who will play the fly on the SNL cold opening?