

Alpha House Week 4

- Recent events designed to upset the 2020 election
- What Alpha House episodes we will cover in week 4:
 - In The Saddle
 - The Love Doctor
 - Gaffergate
 - The Contest
 - Shelter In Place

Recent Events Designed to Upset the 2020 Election

- **Voter registration artery cut near Richmond. Virginia**
 - Groups file lawsuit after Virginia state websites shut down for hours on last day of voter registration
 - – *Washington Post, October 13, 2020, 6:30 p.m*
- **Right-wing militarist plot**
 - F.B.I. Says **Michigan** Anti-Government Group Plotted to Kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer--*New York Times, October 8, 2020*
 - **Virginia** Governor Was Also a Possible Target of Anti-Government Plot, F.B.I. Says--*New York Times, October 13, 2020*
- **Having Dementia Doesn't Mean You Can't Vote**
 - New York Times, October 14, 2020*
 - [Does it also mean you can run for office?]*

Issues in Alpha House

- Filibusters
- Afghanistan
- Homophobia
- Super PACs
- Memes
- Military clout
- Treatment of vets
- Technology in politics
- Religion in politics
- Fracking
- Code words
- Macho in politics
- **Circus debates**
- **Paying No Taxes**
- **Congressional obstruction**
- **Dark money**
- **George W. standing**
- **Faking character**
- Women in the military
- Congressional horse trading
- Ronald Reagan's words

Circus debates

- 2016 Republican Presidential Debate



Circus debates

- Alpha House:
 - Pennsylvania Republican Primary Debate



Circus debates

- Number of candidates, divided by time, means less depth per issue
- Confusion multiplies by the square of the number of voices
- **Lack of moderation leads to chaos**
- **Chaos can be the desired effect for front runner**
- From Sun Tzu, The Art of War
 - If you know the enemy and know yourself,
 - You need not fear the result of a hundred battles.
 - If you know yourself but not the enemy,
 - For every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat.
 - If you know neither the enemy nor yourself,
 - You will succumb in every battle.

Paying No Taxes

- **Alpha House:** Clem Castles proudly announces that Cappy's Clam Shack has “legally not paid taxes since 1995.”
- **27 companies in the Standard & Poor's 500** reported paying no taxes in 2015.
 - This is considered a desirable achievement in accounting.
- **2013: Warren Buffett** announces that he pays a lower tax rate than his secretary.

Congressional obstruction

- **October 2010 : Republican Job #1**
 - Mitch McConnell announces that the “single most important priority” of the Republican party will be to make sure that the Obama Presidency is a failure.
- **September 2011: American Jobs Act**
 - Speaker John Boehner refuses Obama’s request to address a joint session of Congress to present the American Jobs Act.
 - 2011: Republicans filibuster extended unemployment benefits
 - 2011: Republicans filibuster Small Business Jobs Act
- **December 2012 : Gun Control**
 - After Sandy Hook Elementary school shootings Republicans filibustered bipartisan bill expanding background checks for gun purchases.
- **2012-2013: Obama’s Federal nominees blocked**
 - More than 27 filibusters of Obama nominees to Federal positions. Compared to none between the Eisenhower and Ford administrations, and 2 in the Carter administration.
- **March 2016 : Supreme Court Vacancy**
 - After the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Mitch McConnell leads Republican blockade of the nomination of Merrick Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court. Republicans aim to postpone the nomination of any Supreme Court candidate until the next administration.

Swift-Boating

- **Swift-boating**

- Term used to describe an unfair or untrue political attack.
- Term derived from the name of the organization "**Swift Boat Veterans for Truth**" (SBVT, later the Swift Vets and POWs for Truth, a 527 tax exempt organization)
 - The group produced a series of television ads and a bestselling book, **Unfit for Command** attacking Kerry
 - Group was financed by "dark money"
 - Federal Election Commission fined the group in 2004 (after the campaign) for not focusing on issues (527 charter)
- **Widely publicized—and later discredited—campaign against 2004 U.S. presidential candidate John Kerry**
 - Kerry served on a "Swift boat" (like JFK's PT boat) during the Vietnam War
 - Kerry received medals for his heroism on the boat
 - His opponent, George W. Bush, safely skated through non-combat service in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam era

George W. Bush standing

- **G.W.'s Stand-in: Jeb Bush**

- Ridiculed by Donald Trump in 2016 debates
- Received 0.92% of the vote in Republican primaries
- Acquired 4 pledged delegates compared to Donald Trump's 1457
- None of the Bush family attended the 2016 Republican National Convention

- **Post-Presidential activities**

- **Jimmy Carter:** *Habitat For Humanity*
- **Bill Clinton:** *Clinton Global Initiative*
- **George W. Bush:** *Sold paintings his toes in the bathtub*

Faking character

- **2003: NBC anchor Brian Williams**
 - Busted for claiming that he was part of a helicopter mission in Iraq that was attacked.
 - Untruth came to light in 2015 and he was suspended from NBC news desk
- **1968-74: George W. Bush military record**
 - Committed to six-year contract with Texas Air National Guard, May 1968
 - Did not choose to serve in Vietnam,
 - Skipped many appearances at Alabama air station to which he was transferred;
 - Promoted to Lieutenant for no particular reason;
 - Flight status suspended 1972

Doonesbury on Conservative Humor

August 3, 2014





I KID!
HIPPIES
DON'T GO
NEAR
WATER!

THIS IS
PAINFUL...

SO WHAT'S UP WITH
WETBACKS? SERIOUSLY!

HEY, FOLKS! EVER WON-
DER WHY CONSERVA-
TIVE COMEDY IS SO
UNFUNNY?



WELL, HERE'S THE PROBLEM. THE POINT OF SATIRE IS TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED BY AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE...

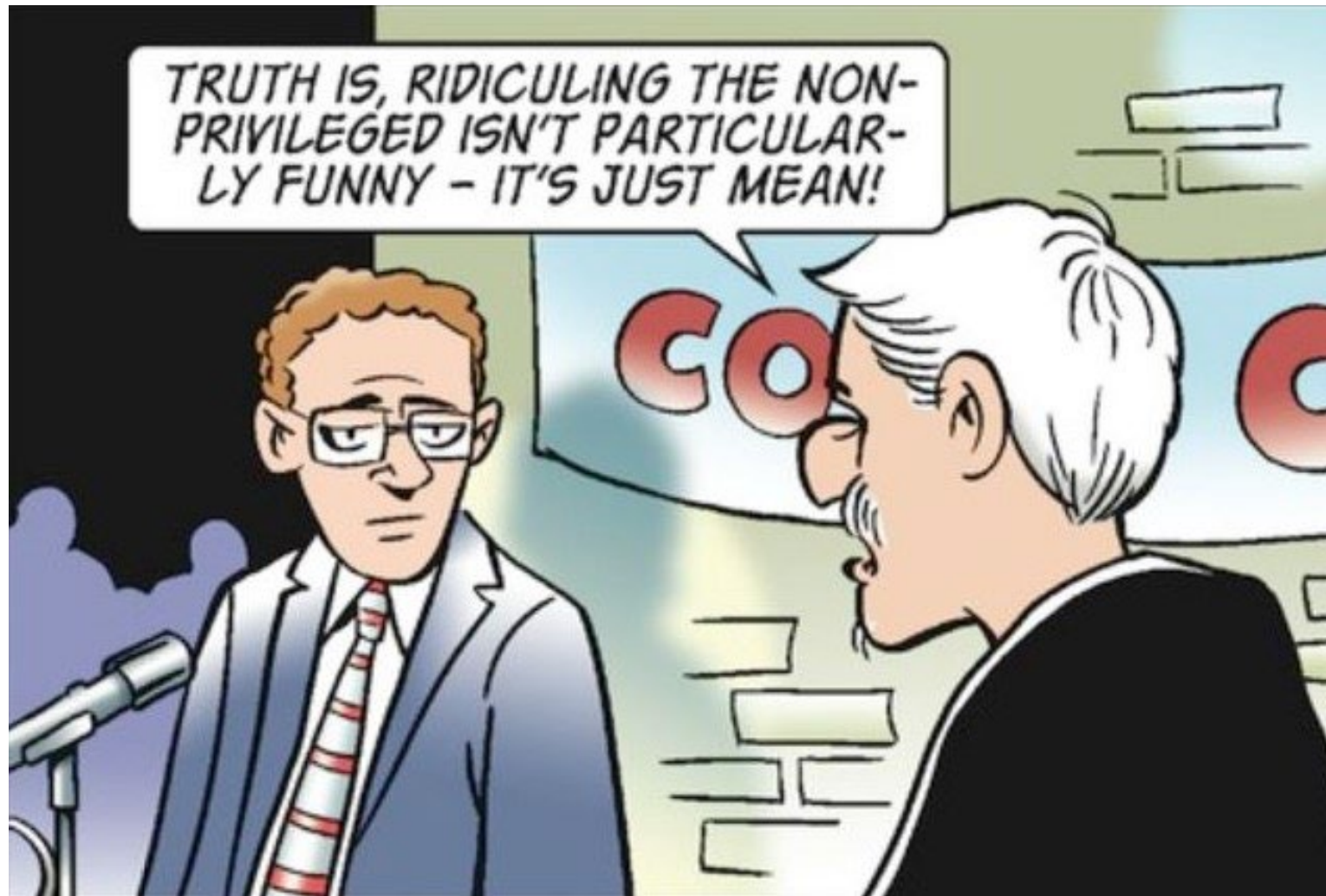


8-03



... WHEREAS THE POINT
OF CONSERVATISM IS
THE EXACT OPPOSITE!

TRUTH IS, RIDICULING THE NON-PRIVILEGED ISN'T PARTICULARLY FUNNY - IT'S JUST MEAN!



THE RESULT? THERE'S
VIRTUALLY **NO** GOOD
CONSERVATIVE COMEDY!

BUT, HEY,
DON'T TAKE
MY WORD
FOR IT...



HEAR FOR YOURSELF!

SO 20,000 ILLEGALS SNEAK INTO A BAR...

COO COM

GROAN

BOOO!

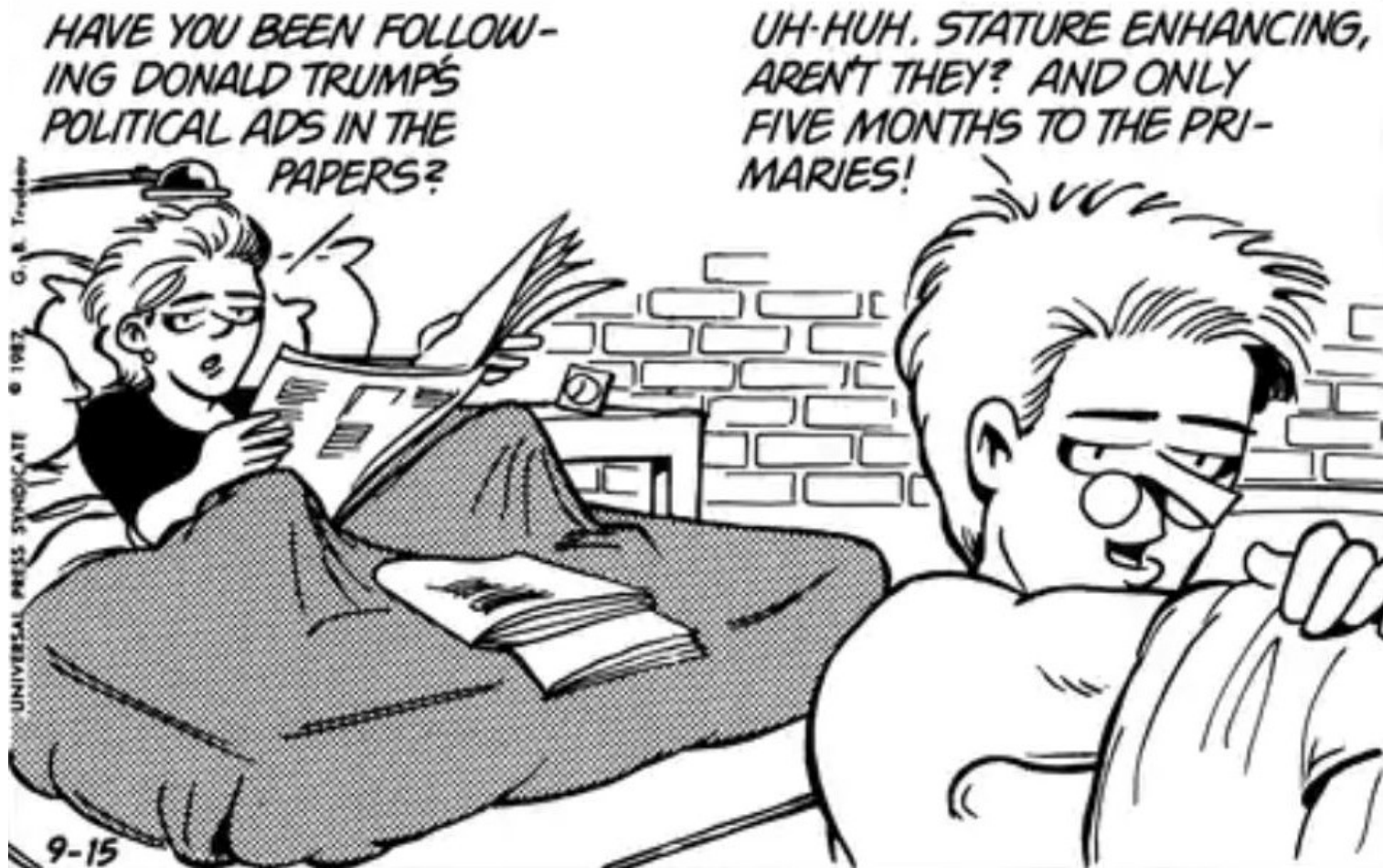
HISS!

GB Nielsen



Archives:
Doonesbury on Trump

1987 Deregulated Marble



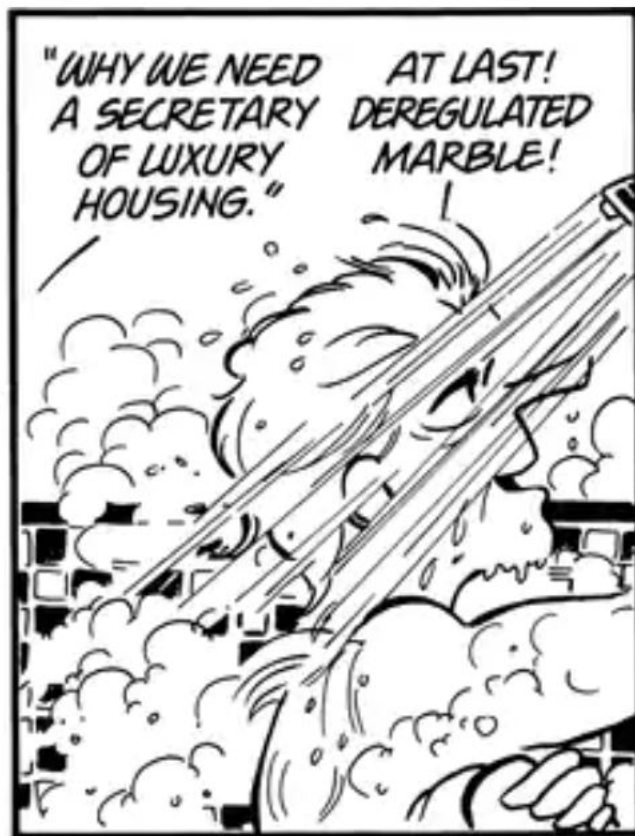
OH, C'MON.
A CONDO
DEVELOPER
FOR PRESI-
DENT?

HE'S GOT US
TALKING ABOUT
IT, RIGHT?
WHAT'S THIS
WEEK'S OF-
FERING?



"WHY WE NEED
A SECRETARY
OF LUXURY
HOUSING."

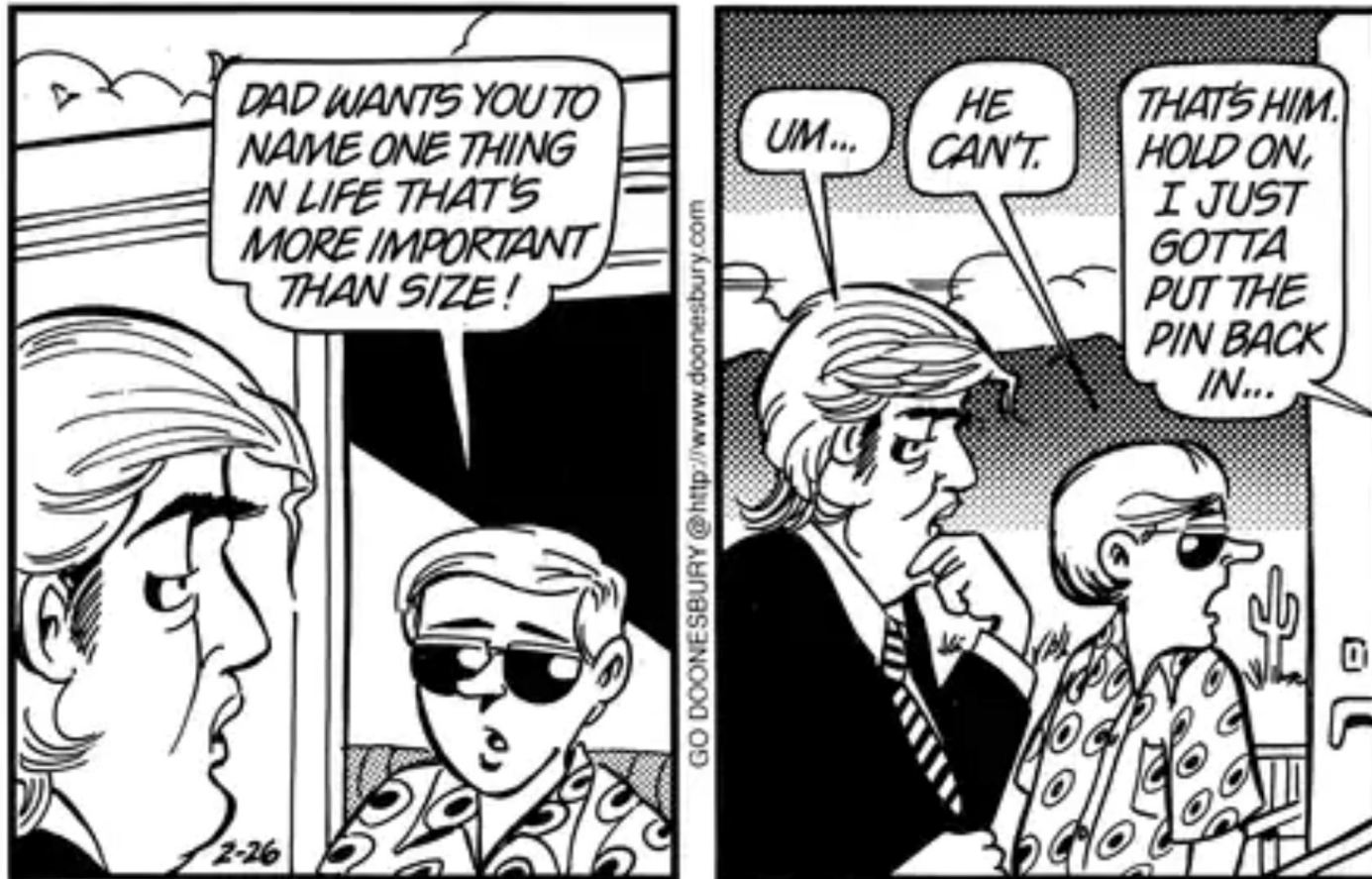
AT LAST!
DEREGULATED
MARBLE!



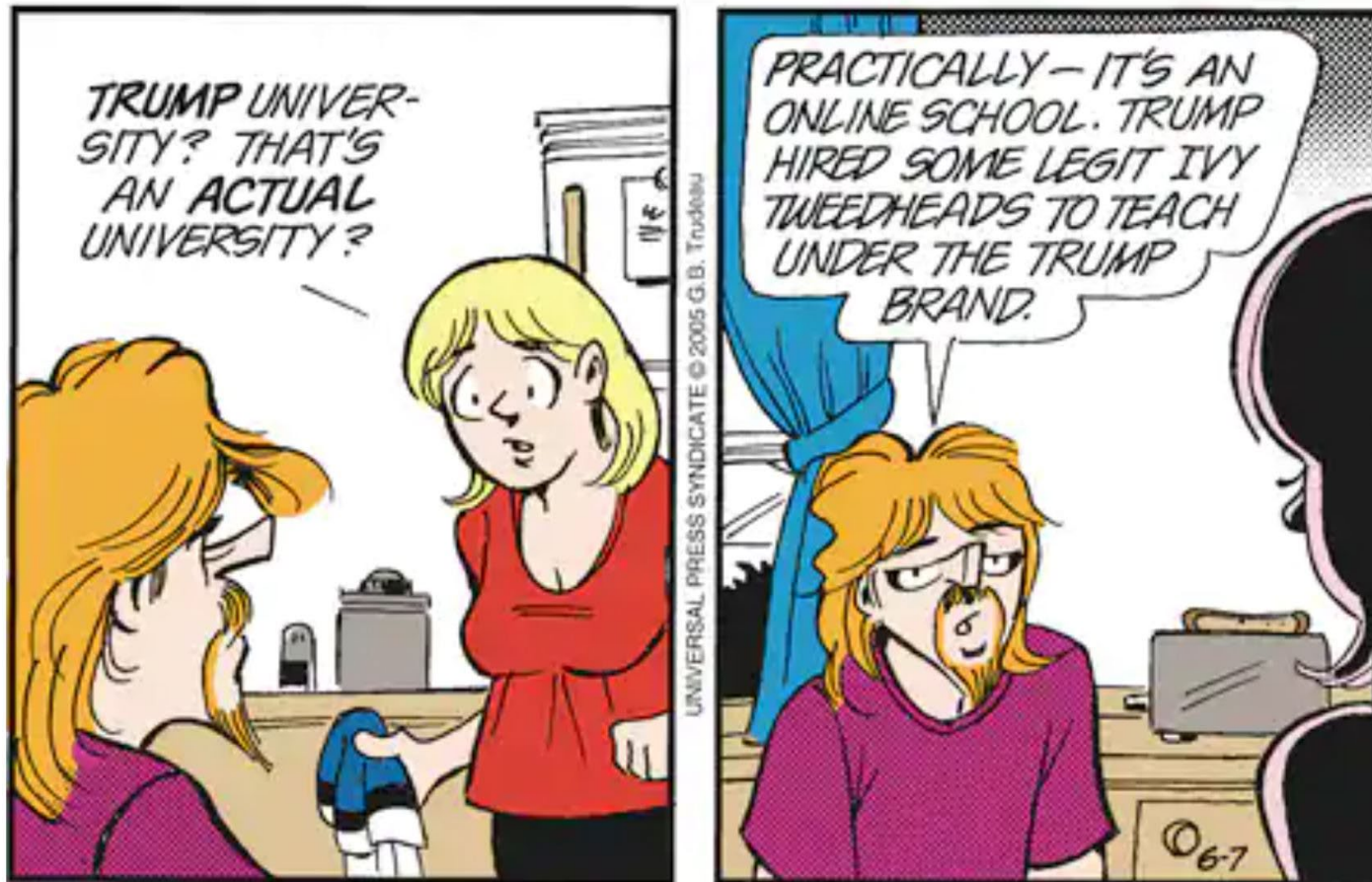
Trump and Uncle Duke



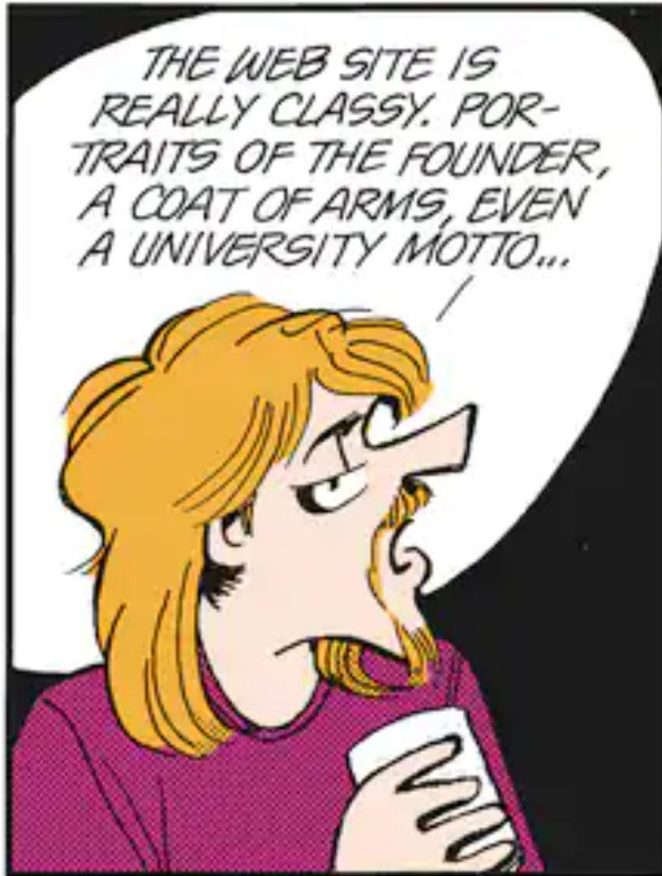
Trump and Uncle Duke



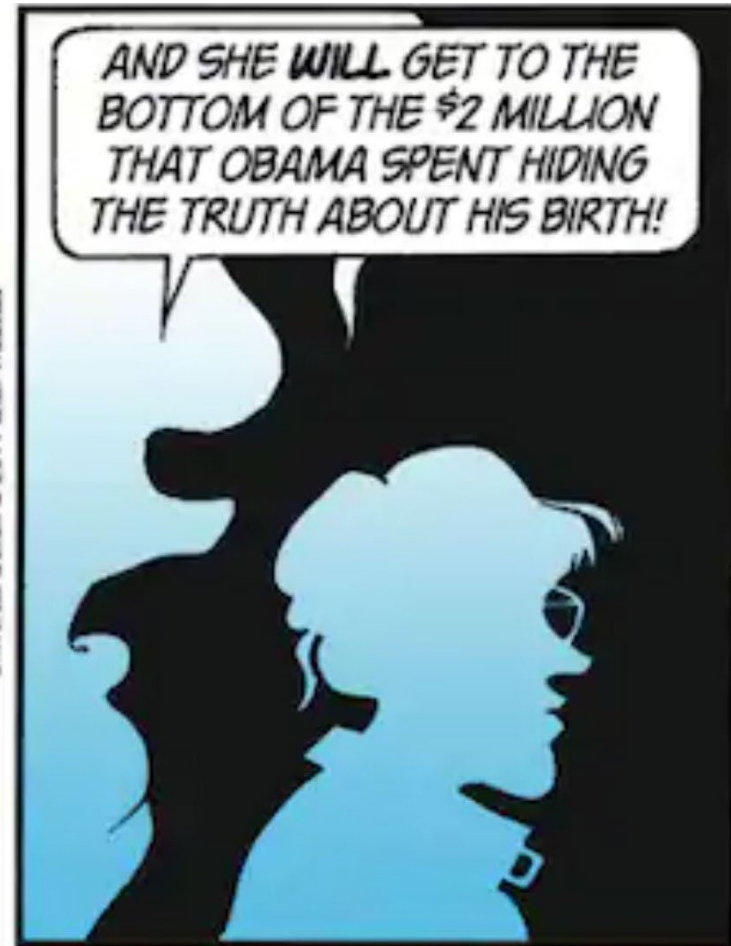
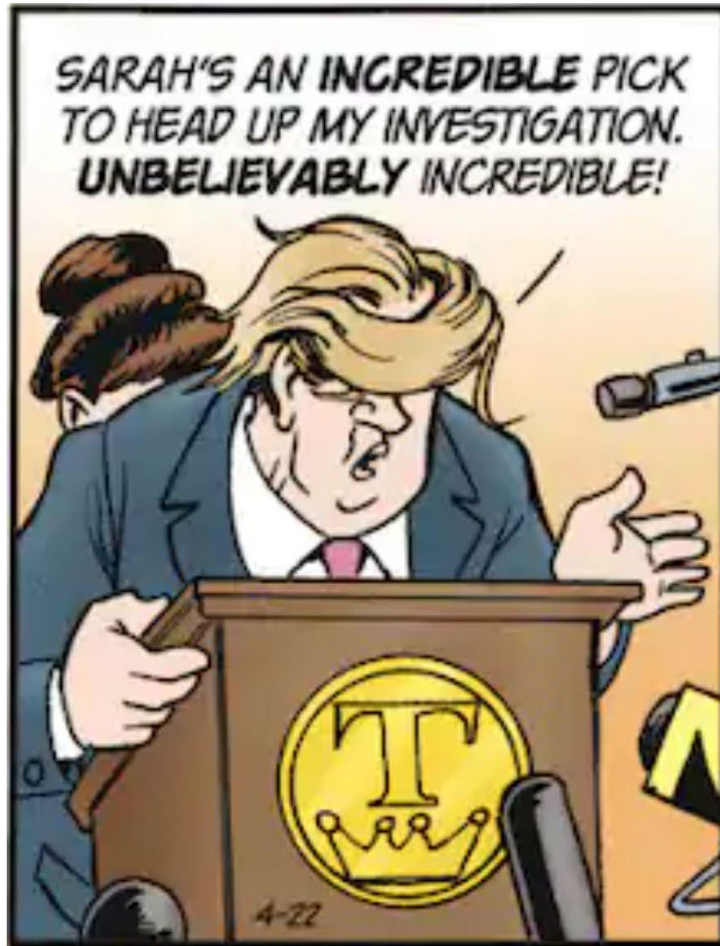
Trump U



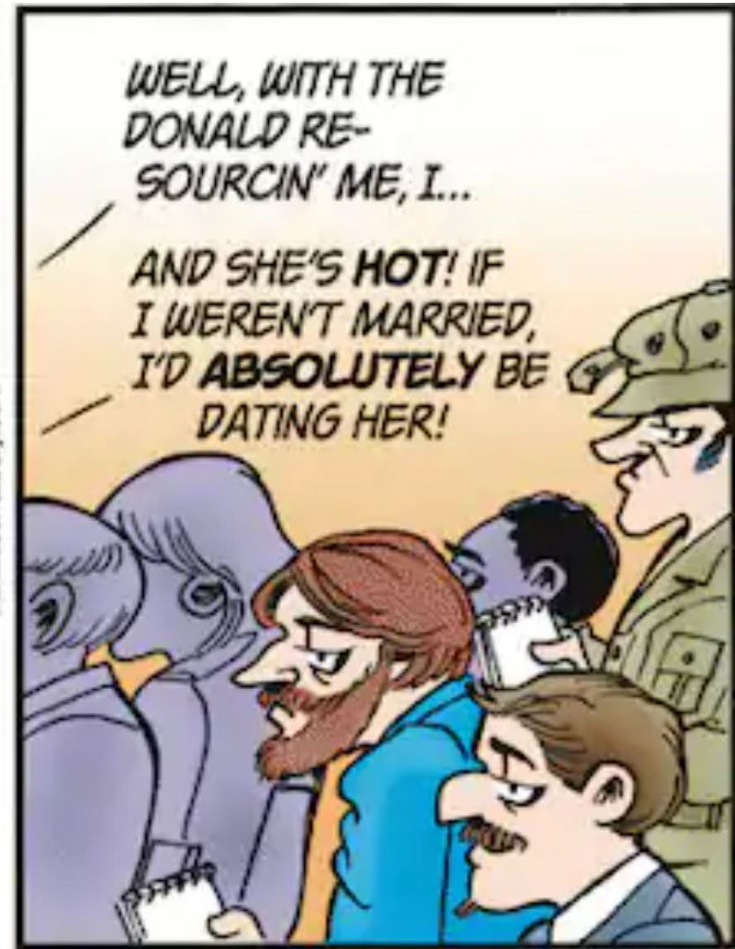
Trump U



Trump the Birther



Trump the Birther



Mark Slackmeyer and The Donald





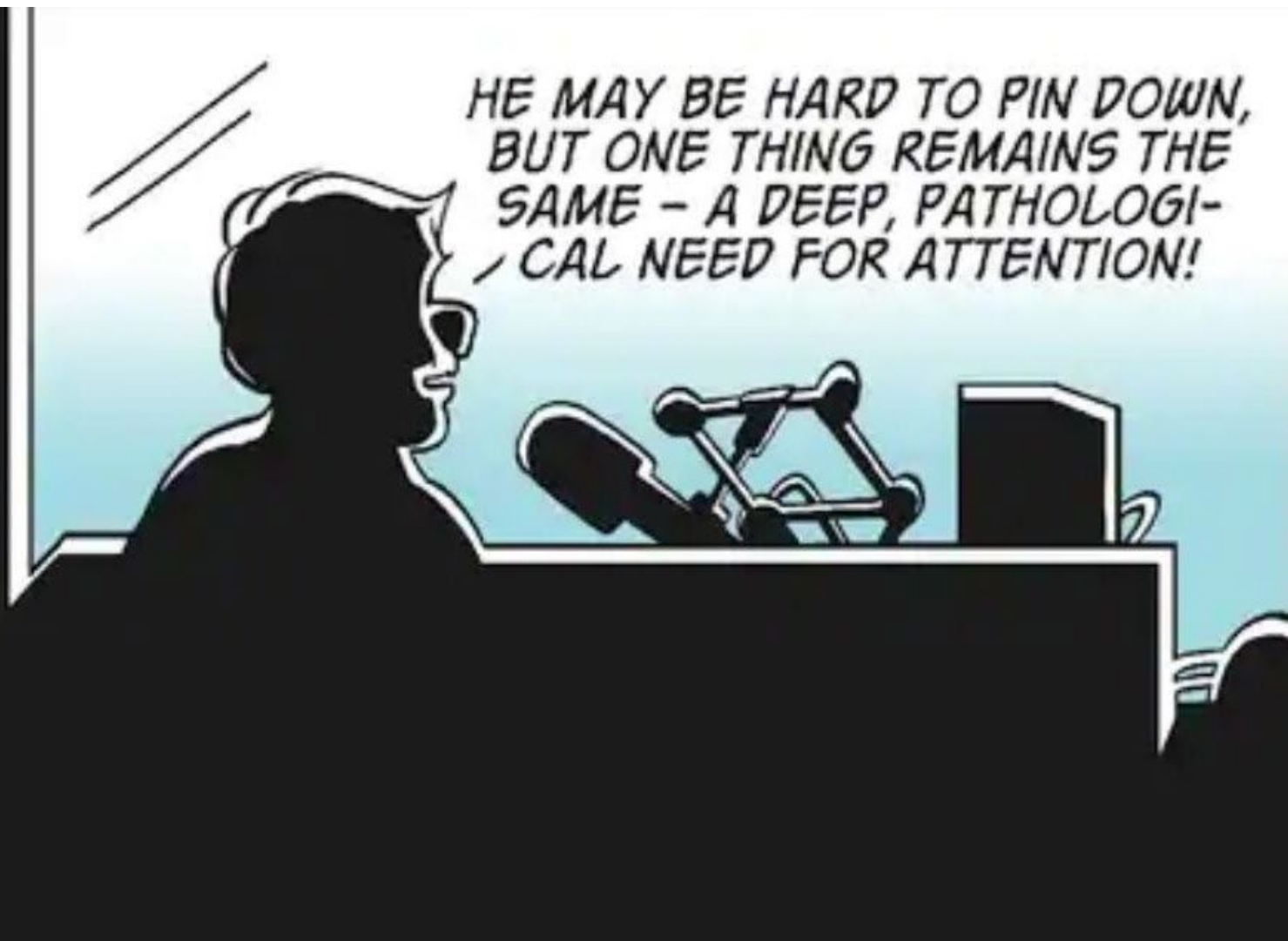
ME! ME! ME!
ME! ME! ME!

I! I! I!
I! I! I!

MINE! MINE!
MINE!



HE MAY BE HARD TO PIN DOWN,
BUT ONE THING REMAINS THE
SAME - A DEEP, PATHOLOGI-
CAL NEED FOR ATTENTION!



AS FAR BACK AS 1987, HE'S PRETENDED
TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT, FRESHENING HIS
TACKY BRAND WITH FREE MEDIA, BUT **ALWAYS**
WIMPING OUT BEFORE THE FIRST PRIMARY!







YOU DIDN'T SAY MY
NAME, YOU FREAKIN'
PINHEAD!

SORRY, SIR,
I'M BLANK-
ING ON IT.
HOW EMBAR-
RASSING!



IT'S...

OOH, WE'RE
OUT OF TIME!

OUR
THANKS
TO THE
CALLER!

CLICK!

CB Mudgeau

Doonesbury, June 1985

Gary Trudeau reacts to
Ronald Reagan awarding Frank Sinatra
The Medal of Freedom



“His love of country, his generosity for those less fortunate, his distinctive art ..



**.. And his winning and
compassionate persona make him
one of the most remarkable and
distinguished Americans..**



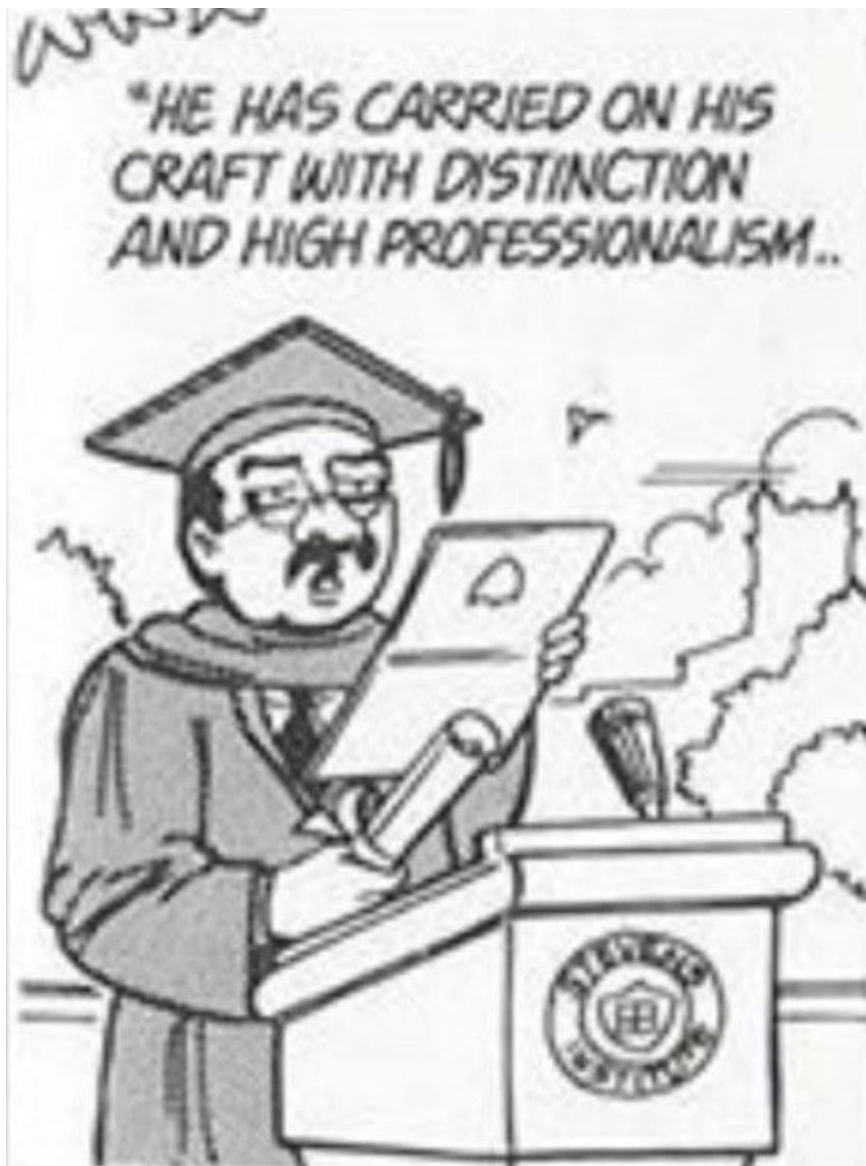
..And one who truly did it his way."

--Ronald Reagan

May 23, 1985



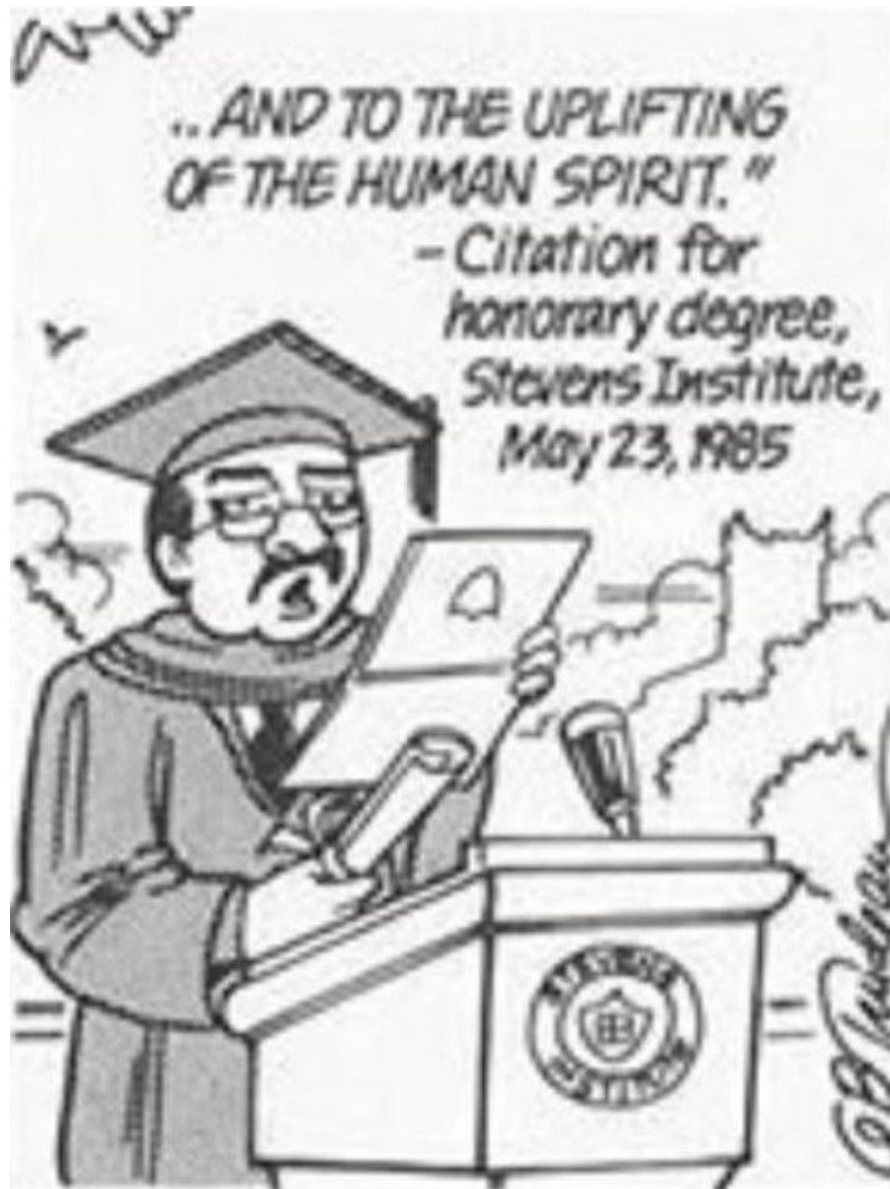
Medal of Freedom recipient Frank Sinatra doing it his way with Tommy “Fatso” Marson, Don Carlo Gambino, Richard “Nerves” Fusco, Jimmy “The Weasel” Fratiano, Joseph Gambino, and Greg Depalma



“He has carried on his craft with distinction and high professionalism..



He has applied his talents to the benefit of mankind..



..and the uplifting of the human spirit."

**--Citation for honorary degree,
Stevens Institute**

May 23, 1985



Dr. Francis Sinatra uplifting the spirits of alleged human Aniello Dellacroce, later charged with the murder of Gambino family member Charley Calise.