



Word Worth®

WORD WORTH

WORLD MAGAZINE OF
IDEAS AND THE ARTS

Winter — Twenty Eleven

Volume XI — Number 1

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Quarterly

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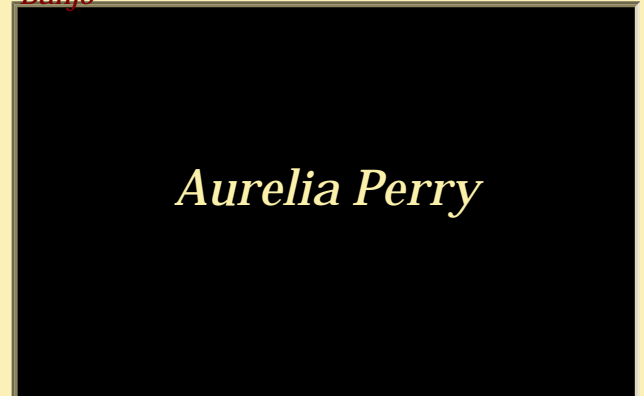
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Trumped

... *The Donald* strides in like a conquering emperor with his slightly truculent pout, but he becomes engaging nonetheless. The show is his attempt to transform his image from *enfant terrible* to wise patron. It's amusing: he sits on a raised platform in a chair that looks much like a throne; everyone else is seated, and he comes in last; they address him as "Mister Trump" while he calls them by their first or nick names. In spite of that, hopefully not because of, he appears more wise...

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EDITORIALS

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Bul lies Rule

by Anna Seymour

The “Tea Party” did not want Gabrielle Giffords in Congress, and now she won’t be for a long, long time, if ever. When she recovers, she may be like Jim Brady. While only the gunman is responsible for the murders, the “Tea Party” cannot shrug off responsibility for inciting the kind of hostility that generated this action. Nor can all those who prevented sensible gun control laws shed responsibility for this event.

The imagery they consistently used was more than a metaphor for violence—with the cross hairs of a gun scope over their opponents’ districts; with the remarks of Sharron Angle (R), the unsuccessful Senate candidate in Nevada, who last year advocated “second-amendment remedies” to some of the nation’s problems; with statements like, “Don’t Retreat, Instead – RELOAD!”

[Arizona Daily Star](#) reported of Jesse Kelly:

He seems to be embracing his fellow Tea Partiers’ idea. Kelly’s campaign event website has a stern-looking photo of the former Marine in military garb holding his weapon. It includes the headline: “Get on Target for Victory in November. Help remove Gabrielle Giffords from office. Shoot a fully automatic M16 with Jesse Kelly.”

No one can deny that this is dangerous language aimed at getting one’s way by means of death and destruction.

Palin’s reaction to the shooting in itself was woefully inappropriate: “My sincere condolences are offered to the family of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and the other victims of today’s tragic shooting in Arizona....” Condolences? To the family? Giffords wasn’t dead. Wishful thinking?

If she and other “tea partiers” were at all sincere, they would have come out strongly against the threats and violence against the offices and families of Congressional Representatives who voted as their constituents

wanted them to. Instead, she comes out with the ridiculous statement, “They're not going to shut me up. They're not going to shut you up....” She’s the one trying to shut up anyone who doesn’t agree with her biased views. She aims gun scopes at them.

For decades, Rush Limbaugh and his clones have ratcheted up hatred and animosity with their illogical and irrational supercilious pronouncements made in a tone of sanctimonious, righteous indignation. Limbaugh needed health care in Hawaii, got treated, talked about how wonderful our health care was, that it didn’t need fixing, then learned that Hawaii has universal health care and suddenly decided that it was all bad.

People who adamantly disagree with Rush keep listening to him because they “have to know what he is saying.” No, you don’t. You are the people who have made him obscenely rich. He still gets air time because he has “cross-over” listeners—people who despise his flagrantly foolish name-calling but listen anyway. Stop listening. Turn him off.

It is incredible that after the many instances of the language of hatred, the “tea party” people are now trying to play victim and claim that those who are working to prevent future occurrences like the Arizona shooting are exploiting the situation.

For a group of radicals to choose the name “Tea Party” is, in itself, a disgrace. Unlike the Boston Tea Party, this group **has** representation for the taxes they pay. They simply don’t like the democratic process in which more sensible voices can prevail. They are nothing less than school yard bullies grown big.

The “Tea Party” group seem to believe that they will be safe from violence because they side with the gun-toting hotheads and insist on the right of dangerous people to own guns. They should think about the statement in the Christian Bible, the book they claim to follow: All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Matthew xxvi. 52

But they are smorgasbord Christians, taking what’s convenient and leaving the rest. They are the USA’s counterpart to the Taliban.

Links:

- [Blame the Victim](#)
- [Rush Limbaugh on Health Care](#)
- [Return to Sanity](#)

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Trumped

by Marien Helz

I watch very little television, and have watched almost no “reality” TV since early renditions of the genre (if one can stand elevating it even so far as to give it a classification). *The Apprentice*, therefore, is something I never considering watching until someone in the office talked about how she found the show interesting because of the ingenuity the contestants displayed. So I watched a few episodes of the 2010 fall episodes. Now I’m hooked.

Sure it’s a bit over the top the way “The Donald” strides in like a conquering emperor with his slightly truculent pout, but he becomes engaging nonetheless. The show is his attempt to transform his image from *enfant terrible* to wise patron. It’s amusing: he sits on a raised platform in a chair that looks much like a throne; everyone else is seated, and he comes in last; they address him as “Mister Trump” while he calls them by their first or nick names. In spite of that, hopefully not because of, he appears more wise than anyone would have imagined a decade ago. He has a young man and woman on either side of him—councilors to his king. When I first heard the young woman speak, I was impressed with her poise, succinct advice, insight, and level observation.

Then I discovered: That’s his daughter!

How did that happen? Donald Trump’s escapades were splashed over the pages of the nation’s legitimate newspapers for a decade. Ivana Trump was only slightly less self-indulgent than he. How did those two produce something like Ivanka Trump? And then one finds that the young man to his right is his son, Don, who is also assertive, reasonable, and insightful. In a later episode, Eric Trump appeared. He has the same analytical nature that his older brother and sister exhibit. All three are assertive without being aggressive, and they are dignified and wise. It’s possible that they are jerks in their private lives; there’s no way to tell, of course, but they are remarkable in their ability to analyze situations on their father’s show without being either subservient or pushy. They all have the Trump pout, but that’s probably due to inherited jaw structure rather than learned behavior.

At one point, Don asked a candidate if he wasn't having trouble getting his team to perform for him because of his elitist attitude. The statement was made in a matter-of-fact tone that didn't cause offense. One of the contestants described Don as "hot", and he is hot in every way that slang term is currently used. When he interacted with the dogs that jumped to see him in the Doggie Day Care Project, Don showed a charming warmth. In other situations he has shown an engaging sense of humor.

You can't help wondering how Donald Trump interacted with those three as they were growing up. He could not have coddled them, or they wouldn't have developed their ability to interact with people as well as they do.

In her boardroom statements and advice to candidates, Ivanka demonstrates a sense of empathy, a moral compass, and wisdom that is remarkable in someone who is not yet thirty years old.

Political analysts and insiders have reported that prior to the 2008 campaign, Republicans were intimidated by all the buzz that Hillary Clinton was getting, and were desperately looking for a woman candidate. Hence Sarah Palin.

They should think about Ivanka Trump. She did some modeling early on, which is a liability, but it was rather sedate and she is clearly not anorexic. She will be old enough by 2016, and the 2012 election would not be a good one to waste a promising candidate on.

Wisdom, analytical ability, dignity, grace, and empathy are fine qualities to have in a President. It would be a very good thing to continue to have intelligence in that office, since we saw the national debt skyrocket and our national security plummet under a previous President who completely lacked the quality.

In addition, someone as level and balanced as Ivanka Trump could return the Republican party back to its moniker: *The Grand Old Party*. Republicans, think about her for 2016.

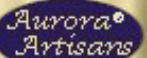
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Banjoist Aurelia Perry performing at Gayle Picard's **The Bull Run Sound Stage** held at the Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley MA with Mike Nutter

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