

From: Pisarik, Holly  
To: plarosa@sled.sc.gov <plarosa@sled.sc.gov>  
Date: 7/27/2016 11:39:08 AM  
Subject: FW: Dunking won't work this time

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From: Bill Stephens [mailto:wstephens@sparrowhawk.org]  
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 9:33 AM  
To: Pisarik, Holly  
Cc: Taylor, Marshall  
Subject: FW: Dunking won't work this time

**Yup.**

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From: Bill Stephens  
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2016 1:29 PM  
Subject: RE: Dunking won't work this time

My last message to this group of recipients is included below. That message concluded as follows:

Just as I did in 2012 in support of the Romney/Ryan ticket, I am writing a white paper platform piece for consideration by the national party's Presidential campaign. This one will be for the DNC.

Try as I might, that will not happen. Too much wrong with that camp and their two leading candidates as well.

Each person makes his/her choice. I will not vote for the evil of lesser, and all the people left running in every party are clearly lesser by wide margins – each in his/her own way. So my vote will be a write-in. Wasted to many, symbolic to some. I cannot endorse any of them or the ethically bankrupt dynamics that got them there. Now, Bernie is at least authentic. He is ethical and principled in his own tortured and left-brained way. But I have not suddenly become a big fan of socialist/communist/anti-free enterprise free-stuff whack-jobs. Even the ones with white hair and genuine passion.

What I will be doing is something a number of people have suggested. By the time of the RNC and DNC conventions, I will have launched a web site with a blog. The many pieces I have sent you and others will be posted, and there will be a platform proposed.

The site name will be based on **The Rubicon Party**, which will be the moniker of a collection of principles, values, issues, and proposed alternatives and solutions. The web site will feature articles and opinions by such notable authorities as Rube Icon, Ruby Kahn and her husband Rubik, recording artist RUE B. CONN, and Ole and Lena Olson. Each author will address the issues and perspectives from different segments (constituencies) of American society.

As many of you recognize, I have expressed bitter disappointment in the choices made by people who support the candidates left standing. That fact is, like millions of others, I have been seriously disgusted with those choices and the people who have made those decisions and stranded the rest of us in a moral and ethical no-man's land. I recognize that group may include half or more of the friends and family members who receive my editorial opinions. And they (you) may be just as disappointed in me or disgusted with my choices. Unfortunately, the majority of Americans have left the minority in a worse dilemma by far than existed in 2008 or 2012. That's just how it goes in a representative democracy.

So, rather than yammer on and persist with sending potentially unwelcome opinions to family members and friends, that energy will be channeled into a web site that makes use of

pseudonyms to make points that might otherwise disgust or rile others. Kind of like a ventriloquist dummy. Hard to get all pissed off at a dummy. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams did battle in newspapers through dueling editorials written under pseudonyms for years – and died on July 4 of the same year hundreds of miles from each other – still great friends and colleagues.

In case you were wondering, I'll be Ole Olson. That'll be our little secret.

## Bill

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From: Bill Stephens  
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 3:23 PM  
Subject: Dunking won't work this time

### Profound Knowledge and Freshly-Minted Wisdom:

Mike Vance was Dean of the Disney University. The fourth person on the ground in the Florida swamp that is now Disneyworld and environs. Mike Vance used a nine dot puzzle to help people think creatively. He called the puzzle “Think Out of the Box” – because that was the only way to solve the puzzle. I had the privilege of spending an hour with Mike in 1999. He was in his early eighties at the time, I think.

When Mike was in Korea during the Korean War, he was in command of hundreds of troops. He described his experiences there that formed the foundation for and shaped the rest of his life. I remember him telling me that the K rations mostly tasted terrible, but the coffee was great. In his tent, alone at night, he would sit and dunk K rations in his coffee. Dunk something distasteful into something good to make it taste better and go down better. He realized that was a metaphor for how to live a happy, productive life.

Mike also invented the concept of the “Kitchen for the Mind” right there in that tent in Korea. That was (and likely still is) a key element of Disney University.

I have tried to see if some of Mike's concepts might be applied to today's national and world challenges.

Here is one conclusion: Nothing you can dunk Donald Trump in or surround him with will make any difference. He is a big, stinking, greasy turd in the punchbowl:

## The Menu Photo

## The Shitty Reality

Regardless of your historical affiliations, principles, or values – here are two articles you might want to scan.

Having been in the business sector serving national and global industry for 38 years (16½ as a business owner) and having spent 4½ years in government, I can attest Mr. Salter is dead-on.

And regarding Mr. Trump's statements regarding debt, negotiations with creditors, and printing money to avoid default (see second article), I can attest that such talk will get you cut off at the knees and/or avoided like the plague in the financial world.

Many of the Trump supporters referred to O'Bama supporters in 2008 and 2012 as "low information voters". Talk about a boomerang statement!

O'Bama talked about "Hope and Change" and Republicans were universally derisive.

Now something like half of Republicans who talked that way in 2008 and 2012 are wondering what in the Hell happened to the crazyass flockers who now support Trump.

Just as I did in 2012 in support of the Romney/Ryan ticket, I am writing a white paper platform piece for consideration by the national party's Presidential campaign. This one will be for the DNC. The last Democrat candidate I voted for in the Presidential election was Jimmy Carter. As bad as the Jimmy Carter Presidency turned out, I would vote for the goofy, incompetent putz again this November if he were running against Donald Trump.

Donald Trump is a truly dangerous and toxic person who should never, ever be trusted with the keys to the United States.

The man is seriously messed up in the head – and I know a thing or two about that. He just ain't right in any sense of the word.

Just wanted to explain my apparent change in stripes.

So.....The choice is this:

Either:

**Elect the Crook!**

or

**Stomp the worthless turd before somebody dumps it into the punch bowl.**

**Bill**

[Off Message](#)

## **‘I think he could come apart’**

Mark Salter, John McCain’s speechwriter and alter ego, talks Trump, Republican apostasy, and why he’s backing Hillary Clinton on POLITICO’s ‘Off Message’ podcast.

By [Glenn Thrush](#)

05/09/16 05:23 AM EDT

POLITICO's Glenn Thrush interviews Mark Salter for this week's Off Message podcast. | Bridget Mulcahy

- Mark Salter, the most prominent and most defiant Republican to announce his support of Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump, thinks the 2016 campaign could literally — no joke — drive the billionaire developer insane.

Salter, one of McCain’s top aides during the 2008 campaign and the co-author of his books, spent the final few doomed weeks of the race against Barack Obama in a glum fog — knowing his boss, buddy and alter ego would lose, and badly. It was a rotten experience, but Salter, the guest on POLITICO’s “Off Message” podcast this week, sees in Trump’s rise (and potential fall) a sliver of redemption for McCain, with the possibility of paying back Trump for disrespecting his hero.

Eight years ago, McCain was stoic and self-deprecating in defeat — one of the few fringe benefits of having endured the far greater trials of near-death in a Hanoi prison. But Salter thinks Trump, who infamously mocked McCain for getting “captured,” will melt like Fontina in a fondue pot in the glare of general election when he realizes he can’t beat Clinton.

“He’s going to lose, and I think he’s got kind of an unstable personality to begin with,” Salter told me last week, a couple of days after sparking a minifrenzy by tweeting that his loathing for Trump had metamorphosed into — gasp — support for Clinton. Hashtag: #Imwithher.

Salter, sitting in his writer’s warren/office in Old Town Alexandria, said he wouldn’t venture a guess on Trump’s mental state. Then he smiled and went right ahead. “I think he could come apart, you know, in some kind of visible way,” the 61-year-old Salter said. “I think that’s quite possible. ... I’m not a psychiatrist, but there is something wrong with [the] guy.”

On Sunday, Clinton told “Face the Nation” host John Dickerson that she’s had “a lot of outreach” from Republicans interested in possibly defecting to her side. So far, however, they have been keeping their apostasy to themselves, apart from the occasional wayward Koch brother and a handful of centrists like Salter.

Ambivalence is likely to be a bigger problem than outright desertion for Trump this fall. With leading conservatives like House Speaker Paul Ryan urging a watchful waiting period before endorsing Trump, many Republicans are predicting depressed turnout in the general election. GOP money men are focusing their efforts on saving the Senate and — incredibly — the House from Trump blowback, and some senators are already talking about capitulating and green-lighting Obama’s Supreme Court pick, Merrick Garland.

For his part, Salter confesses he’s not entirely sold on Clinton despite his tweet; he’s gotten a lot of encouraging emails from fellow Republicans, albeit few offers to join him, and plenty of hate from pro-Trump trolls.

“I’m sure 10 minutes into Hillary Clinton’s inaugural address I’ll sort of be disappointed,” he cautions. “[But] her foreign policy would probably be a modest to maybe substantial improvement over the incumbent. ... I’ve never voted for a Democrat for president in my life. But she is the more conservative choice and the least reckless one. She won’t — or at least she hasn’t said that she would — take the U.S. out of NATO. She hasn’t encouraged other nations to get their own nuclear weapons. She hasn’t threatened to slap a 45 percent tariff on imported goods.”

But it all might be for naught: If a good third-party candidate pops up, he might jump.

When I ask Salter whether there’s anything Trump could do to change his mind, he laughs. “He’d have to have a brain transplant.”

When McCain talks about Trump, you can see the little drill instructor inside his head screaming for him to show restraint. His response to the diss from Trump — who sat out Vietnam with educational deferments, followed by the discovery of a bone spur in his foot — was tempered, and the worst he’s said about the reality star so far this cycle is that Trump will hurt him with Hispanic voters. Arizona’s junior senator, Jeff Flake, has taken a much harder line — saying he simply can’t endorse who backs a policy as “nutty” as the Mexican border wall.

Salter, whose career has consisted of a three-decade McCain mind-meld, suggests McCain is a little less diplomatic about the GOP front-runner in private, but will only hint at his friend’s pique with the “captured” crack. “I talked to him when that happened and, you know, I’m sure it irritated him,” said Salter, who viewed the comment as a net positive in McCain’s reelection campaign because it reminded voters the 79-year-old

incumbent is a war hero. “I said to him, ‘Well, if we’re going to spend the weekend talking about John McCain, the POW, it’s fine.’”

Salter? He hates Trump with the intense passion of a man who wants to return a sucker punch delivered to his best friend. “He’s just an asshole,” said Salter of Trump. “I mean, you don’t want a guy like that for a neighbor, for a friend, for a member of your church, for a colleague, for a boss. You wouldn’t want — really, you wouldn’t — you know, if he had a flat tire, you wouldn’t pull over and offer to help.”

McCain, he told me, doesn’t view Trump as a draft dodger — but Salter has no trouble making that connection himself. “Trump’s sort of breezy, which is galling, given his own lack of military service,” says Salter, who has written several books about McCain and other service members who were killed or grievously wounded under fire. “[Trump] said he was waging his own personal Vietnam, you know, avoiding venereal disease. So yeah, it just shows you what a vainglorious, foolish, ignorant, low-character, bum of a guy Trump is.”

Speechwriters have a tendency to bend their rhetorical tendencies to the will of the boss (in a telling passage of a much-discussed New York Times Magazine profile last weekend, Obama speechwriter and foreign policy aide Ben Rhodes remarked, “I don’t know anymore where I begin and Obama ends”). It works the other way ’round with Salter, whose unmistakable writing voice has had a profound impact on McCain’s oratory. Left to his own devices, McCain, the son and grandson of decorated Navy officers, speaks in the clipped jargon of the dreadnought gentry — punchy, profane, with the impatience of a flyboy waiting under the wing for the refueling crew to finish. Salter gives him elevation, a loftier, etched-in-marble style uncommon in modern politics — owing more to Roman generals or to military historians like John Keegan than the focus-grouped word salad served up by most Senate offices or presidential scribes.

Salter is gloomy and self-dismissive (his Twitter motto is “I used to almost be somebody”) but he takes deep pride in his collaborations with McCain, especially their books together and the senator’s 1993 commencement speech at the Naval Academy, which hangs in a triptych next to Salter’s desk. “It took longer than usual. Usually, it’s pretty quick with him, because we’d been doing it a long time,” he told me, his voice choked with emotion. “He was involved in every paragraph of it. ... I think we got — we were close right from the go, jump. You know, we just have similar personalities.”

For all Salter’s criticism of Trump, McCain’s team faced similar blowback for tapping Sarah Palin (who pulled a reverse-Trump, morphing into a reality star *after* running for office), a candidate he now acknowledges was unfit for the nation’s second-highest office.

“We did rush the vet,” he says of the whirlwind, last-minute decision pushed by McCain campaign manager Steve Schmidt — and seconded by Salter.

“Do you think you opened the door a crack for a Trump-type candidate because of Palin?” I asked him.

A pause. “Maybe,” Salter says. “Maybe a little.”

#### **Authors:**

**Glenn Thrush**

[gthrush@politico.com](mailto:gthrush@politico.com)

[@Glenthrush](https://twitter.com/Glenthrush)

**"You know, I'm the king of debt," Donald Trump said. "I understand debt probably better than anybody. I know how to deal with debt very well."**

## **Trump: U.S. can never default because it prints money**

By [Nick Gass](#)

05/09/16 08:18 AM EDT

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Donald Trump assailed the media on Monday for what he said was a misrepresentation of his comments on debt, rejecting the notion that he would have the United States default on his debt.

"I said if we can buy back government debt as a discount. In other words, if interest rates go up and we can buy bonds back as a discount, if we are liquid enough as a country we should do that. In other words, we can buy back debt as a discount," the presumptive Republican nominee said in a telephone interview on CNN's "New Day."

Those who said he wants to buy debt and default on it are "crazy," he added.

"This is the United States government. First of all, you never have to default because you print the money. I hate to tell you. So there's never a default. But the point is it was reported in the New York Times incorrectly," he said, referring to a critical Times [article](#) that ran on Friday.

That article examined an interview Trump gave to CNBC last Thursday in which he suggested that he could reduce the national debt by persuading U.S. creditors to accept less than full payment.

"It was reported in the failing New York Times and other places that I want to default on debt," Trump said. "You know, I'm the king of debt. I understand debt probably better than anybody. I know how to deal with debt very well. I love debt but you know, debt is tricky and it's dangerous and you have to be careful and you have to know what you're doing. If there's a chance to buy back debt as a discount, interest rates up and the bonds down and you can buy debt. That's what I'm talking about."

No one would ever confuse business dealings with government practice, Trump suggested, remarking that the government would not ask creditors to buy back debt at a discount.

"In business, that happens all the time. I bought mortgages back when the market went bad, I bought mortgages back at tremendous discounts. And I love doing it. I mean, there's nothing like it. Actually, it gives me a great thrill," he said. "But in the United States with bonds, that won't happen. Because you know, in theory the market doesn't go down so that you default on debt. And that's what happened."

"So here's the story, just to have it corrected. If we have an opportunity where interest rates go up and you can buy back debt as a discount," he explained. "I always like to do

that, if you can do it. But that's all I was talking about. They have it like I'm going to go back to creditors and I'm going to renegotiate restructured debt. It's ridiculous and they know it's ridiculous but they print it out wrong purposely."

Trump then called into Fox Business Network where he reiterated much of the same, calling it a "wonderful thing" if the U.S. government is able to buy back bonds at a discount.

"All I said is that if interest rates go up, we'll have a chance to buy back bonds at a discount, which is standard," he told Maria Bartiromo. "Certainly I'm not talking about renegotiating with creditors."

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**Authors:**

[Nick Gass](#)

[ngass@politico.com](mailto:ngass@politico.com)

[@NickGass](#)