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[You can safely 'Enable Ediing', above, to get a better web layout of this material. –FNC]

**The science of satire and lies: Watching Colbert can fight right-wing brain rot**

The mainstreaming of lies in the Trump era is hurting our cognitive abilities. Research says satire can save us

**SOPHIA A. MCCLENNEN**

[Sophia A. McClennen](http://sophiamcclennen.com/) is Professor of International Affairs and Comparative Literature at the Pennsylvania State University. She writes on the intersections between culture, politics, and society. Her latest book, co-authored with Remy M. Maisel, is, [Is Satire Saving Our Nation? Mockery and American Politics](http://amzn.com/1137427965). ["The book studies the intersections between satirical comedy and national politics in order to show that one of the strongest supports for our democracy today comes from those of us who are seriously joking. This book shows how we got to this place and why satire may be the only way we can save our democracy and strengthen our nation."]

In a National Rifle Association (NRA) [TV ad from February of this year](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/02/the-nras-greatest-weapon-is-either-truth-or-a-giant-hammer.html) a man stands in front of a TV screen that airs a series of clips. Among them is a shot of John Oliver saying the words “National Rifle Association” and another of Alec Baldwin impersonating Donald Trump on Saturday Night Live.  The rest of the shots are of talk shows, pundits or cable news reporting. As the clips roll, the man takes a sledgehammer to the TV and smashes it. Then a slogan appears: “The truth is our greatest weapon.”

It is a stunningly stupid ad. And it helps explain why the right keeps going after comedians.

It’s also a pretty funny ad, because what better way for the NRA to expose its penchant for aggressive hyperbole and its snowflake logic than to have a man sledgehammer a TV and equate that act with the “truth”?  So according to NRA logic, their weapon is the truth, which is a sledgehammer that they will use on anyone who says things they don’t like. This is the ad they use to suggest they are being misrepresented as aggressive lunatics. Its irrationality is only outdone by its irony.

This weird habit of freaking out over comedians and suggesting that they are threatening the truth [I don't think there really *is* a large or rapidly rising group of such people. But the number of Deplorables who used to watch late-night TV is surely dropping. Because it is has recently become so biased. –FNC] isn’t just the domain of the NRA. It’s a right-wing trend.

No one needs reminding of Donald Trump’s incessant agitation over Alec Baldwin’s impersonations of him for "SNL." Recall that Trump wasn’t just upset at the way that he was being presented as a bombastic fool (hardly a creative stretch); Trump also suggested that folks were “[forced](https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/entertainthis/2018/03/02/trump-rips-alec-baldwin-his-impersonation-twitter-agony-those-who-were-forced-watch/388067002/)” to watch the impersonations, that the comedy was “one-sided” and “[biased](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/trump-responds-alec-baldwin-calling-snl-impression-agony-1090165)” [Is that not true?] and that he deserved “[equal time](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/trump-responds-alec-baldwin-calling-snl-impression-agony-1090165).”

But one of the best recent examples of the right-wing witch-hunt over late night comedy came from House Intelligence Committee Chair Devin Nunes, who didn’t take kindly to a recent sketch Stephen Colbert did on “The Late Show” that mocked him. Colbert [traveled to Washington, D.C. to grill lawmakers](https://www.thedailybeast.com/stephen-colbert-goes-to-washington-in-search-of-trump-russia-answers) about the investigation into the Trump campaign’s possible collusion with Russia. While there, he released his own redacted memo about Nunes.

Nunes later called into Neil Cavuto’s Fox Business show and [called Colbert’s jokes a “danger” to the country](https://www.thedailybeast.com/rep-devin-nunes-calls-colbert-memo-sketch-a-danger-in-the-country). “Conservatives in this country are under attack,” Nunes said. “They attack people who are trying to get to the truth.”

Many of us [All of us! –FNC] are aware of the fact that [Donald Trump is the most-mocked president in U.S. history](https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/trump-be-mocked-president-by-late-night-study-finds-1000499). But the other side of the story is that this is the first time in our nation's history that comedians have so consistently been under attack across such a broad range of venues and in such a public way.

So, what is it about these comedians that has the right in such a tizzy?

Clearly, they don’t like being ridiculed. But that isn’t the main reason why these comedians feel like a threat. Instead, the real challenge comedians pose is to the right-wing version of the “truth” that is actually grounded in lies, B.S. and faulty logic. And what really makes the right’s antagonistic attitude towards comedians interesting is the fact that the comedians aren’t just challenging right-wing truth claims; they are thwarting the cognitive processes that lead us to accept right-wing falsehoods as true. [IMHO, this is only secondarily about veridicality (scientific factuality / truth versus falsehood). This is, more fundamentally, about two clashing sets of values. Call it pointy-headed intellectual values versus values of deplorables. –FNC]

Many of us have pointed out that the real threat to our nation caused by the Trump era is the [mind warp it is causing](https://www.salon.com/2017/02/25/beware-the-trump-brain-rot-the-cognitive-effects-of-this-administrations-actions-could-be-disastrous/). This is not only true for those who exhibit extreme belief bias [the term 'belief bias' hides the difference about 1) veridicality and 2) conflicting values. –FNC] and simply accept everything they hear on Fox News; it is also a problem for those of us who would like to remain critically analytical.

We now have significant evidence that the Trump era has created a cognitive load — a mental exhaustion on the nation — one that is so significant that fake news headlines can be taken as true if repeated enough. [One study](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2958246) by Gordon Pennycook, Tyrone Cannon and David Rand on the cognitive processing of fake news stories showed that “increased perceptions of accuracy for repeated fake news headlines occurs even when the stories are labeled as contested by fact checkers, or are inconsistent with the reader’s political ideology.” [Yes.]

Back in early 2017, [Maria Konnikova wrote a piece](https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/01/donald-trump-lies-liar-effect-brain-214658) that explained what happens to the brain when it has to incessantly process lies. She cited research that shows that the brain has to first accept a lie as true, only to analyze it, then refute it. Over time, the brain tires of that process and slowly starts to accept the lies as true. She refers to [a fascinating, if disheartening, 2015 study](https://www.thecut.com/2015/11/why-even-people-who-know-better-fall-for-lies.html), that showed that if people repeated the phrase “The Atlantic Ocean is the largest ocean on Earth” enough times, the Atlantic Ocean started to seem like the largest ocean on Earth. [Yes.]

This is all to show that there is now proof that the mainstreaming of lies in the Trump era is indeed rotting our brains. It was first thought that one way to prevent the spread of false information would be to flag it by third-party fact checking, but the study cited above showed that that effort did not sufficiently help.

[I personally was going to start a Fact-checking section on [this public web page](http://chasegalleryconnect.org/FNC_C/Micron_F/homeplace_.html). Search for the section that looks like this:

Lie pies, Hoaxes, Lies, Scams, Urban Legends, and the like: Snopes' Top 25, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,

as well as substantial other indications on and associated with that page.

However, I became disillusioned with the facts that every fact-checker itself has a business plan to pay its costs of operation and that sponsoring entity has its own personal, quite possibly private set of objectives. –FNC]

And that’s where the comedians come in. Thus far there have been no studies that have compared cognitive processing of satire with cognitive processing of falsehoods. But there is significant research to show that it may well be true that the best cognitive defense against Trump era falsehoods is satirical comedy. [Yes. But this is a tactical consideration. For both snowflakes and deplorables. And while in 2016 it was more ready at hand on the side of the snowflakes than the deplorables, that has, by 2018, been duly noted by the deplorables.]

 [This discourse would be far more meaningful if it distinguished scientific factual truth from disagreement about two clashing sets of values[[1]](#footnote-1).–FNC] We know, for instance, that those who consume sarcasm are [smarter](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-science-of-sarcasm-yeah-right-25038/), more [creative and better at reading context](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-surprising-benefits-of-sarcasm/). All are useful tools to process lies.

What is most interesting is that processing falsehoods and processing certain types of satire appears to follow a very similar cognitive path. In both cases, the brain has to be able to distinguish between what is said and what is true. [Arguably, we should not use sarcasm/humor at all for matters of scientific truth. And this is simply a tactical consideration for advocates of pointy-headed intellectual values (versus values of deplorables). –FNC] And in both cases the brain has to reconcile ambiguity, incongruence and the misuse of words. It further has to process tone, context and body language to infer meaning. [I would suggest that sarcasm is a tool to deceive or cajole and has little value in written discourse. And that its main use is to recruit undecideds to one or the other of warring armies of value system advocates. Through raw force. And therefore should be avoided by all of us when not fairly used to deride both sides of an argument! A comedian relying heavily on sarcasm should leave us with minds unchanged, with respect to facts and to values! -FNC]

We knew back when Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert were on Comedy Central that [their viewers were among the most informed](https://thinkprogress.org/survey-daily-show-colbert-viewers-most-knowledgable-fox-news-viewers-rank-lowest-854e2c6d917d/) on issues of any group consuming news. But now the role of satire in informing the public may be even more important — satirists may be the one thing that is keeping analytical thinkers engaged. [Yes, quite possibly! Preaching to the choir!–FNC]

It’s important to note that sarcastic statements are like a true lie. [There McClennen goes again, smearing disagreeing pairs of facts and disagreeing pairs of values.] “You’re saying something you don’t literally mean, and the communication works as intended only if your listener gets that you’re insincere,” [explains Richard Chin](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-science-of-sarcasm-yeah-right-25038/).

What is perhaps most interesting about the way that satire works as a foil for Trump-era mental manipulations is that satire is designed to go after the three main ways our brains are constantly being duped:

* lies,
* B.S. and
* faulty logic. [Reference, please. –FNC]

In his first 406 days as president, [Trump made 2,436 misleading or false claims](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2018/03/02/president-trump-made-2436-false-or-misleading-claims-so-far/). Most analysis of Trump’s false statements, like the running tab kept by The Washington Post, lumps his lies together with his bullshit — and that is a mistake. [As Pennycook explains](https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2015/12/3/9844480/why-people-believe-bullshit-science), “The difference between bulls\*\*t and lying is that bulls\*\*t is constructed without any concern for the truth. It’s designed to impress rather than inform. And then lying, of course, is very concerned with the truth — but subverting it.”  Understood this way, it seems clear that Trump employs B.S. as much, if not more, than lies. Even better, he admits to it. [He recently bragged](https://www.salon.com/2018/03/15/president-trump-admits-to-the-world-that-he-makes-things-up-to-americas-allies/) that he just made up assertions of trade imbalances between the United States and Canada when talking to Justin Trudeau.

Flawed logic is a different thing altogether. These sorts of deceptions can take many forms, but as [John Oliver pointed out](https://www.rollingstone.com/tv/news/john-oliver-breaks-down-trumps-dangerous-speaking-tactics-w511598), one of the Trump team’s favorites is whataboutism. "It implies that all actions regardless of context share a moral equivalency," says Oliver. "And since nobody is perfect, all criticism is hypocritical and everyone should do whatever they want.” Trump practiced whataboutism, for example, when he suggested that there were “many sides” to blame when a neo-Nazi intentionally drove a car into a mass of people and killed protestor Heather Heyer in Charlottesville.

[In one example of satire mocking a Trump lie](https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2018/02/trump-state-of-the-union-ratings-colbert), Colbert called out Trump for claiming that his State of the Union address had the highest number of viewers in history. Colbert remained stunned that Trump needed to lie about his numbers and then decided to respond by using ironic exaggeration: “So let me just say right now, in advance, congratulations to President Trump on winning the Super Bowl. Well played . . . Also, you make a great Black Panther.”

But here is the really interesting part of the story.  We know that fake news headlines, Trump B.S. and NRA skewed logic does in fact get cognitive traction even among those of us not predisposed to accept those falsehoods. Yet, those viewers who watch satire and other types of ironic comedy do not lose the ability to detect the ways that these comedians use creative deception to be funny. Why do we get tired of processing lies, but not of processing ironic comedy? [Isn't it simply the lack of dissonance in indulging one of one's confirmation biases?] And are satire consumers better at detecting falsehoods?

While more research is needed to fully make the case, there seem to be two main reasons why satire viewers may be better at detecting falsehoods than those who don’t consume this type of humor.

Satire viewers enjoy using their reflective cognitive abilities, which are effortful, typically deliberative and require working memory, over intuitive cognitive abilities, which don’t require higher order cognition. When I spoke with Pennycook about the potential of satire to serve as a defense against Trump era falsehoods, he remained skeptical that satire could strengthen mental fitness as a defense against falsehoods, but he did say that there may well be an overlap between people who are both willing and able to think analytically and satire viewers. “People do break down,” he explained, “according to the degree that they are willing and eager to engage in analytic reasoning.”

A number of studies have suggested that those who support right-wing ideology are more [susceptible to bullshit](https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2015/12/3/9844480/why-people-believe-bullshit-science), more governed by belief bias and [less tolerant of irony and humorous exaggeration](http://psycnet.apa.org/record/2017-51853-001). But as the recent studies on fake news processing show, both the left and the right can fall for fake news. The critical difference, then, isn’t left or right political views, but analytical or intuitive thinkers.

The second part of the story is that processing humor cognitively involves pleasure. There is a cognitive reward for processing a joke that leads to laughter or amusement. Jokes engage both analytical and affective cognitive processes. Watching Samantha Bee or Colbert or Oliver dissect falsehoods is both analytically engaging and fun. The element of fun may be part of the reason why we keep getting the joke but can get worn down by incessant lies. When lies are processed through comedy, we don’t lose the ability to detect them as false.

And that may well be why these comedians keep being attacked as a danger to the NRA, the Trump agenda and right-wing extremism. Each time a comedian ironically makes fun of the right-wing mindset, they help engage our analytical thinking in a fun way. [Comedians keep being attacked by deplorables because all the comedians are, more or less, snowflakes. And they have chosen to stop playing fair as (repeating) a comedian relying heavily on sarcasm should leave us with minds unchanged, with respect to facts and to values. But they don't, anymore. (Key and Peele are the exceptions that prove the rule!) -FNC]

The problem with the culture of lies — besides the cognitive toll it talks on all of us -- is that it may well be closely tied to a decline in democratic values. [A study released this week by the Democracy Voter Study Group](https://www.voterstudygroup.org/publications/2017-voter-survey/follow-the-leader) found that there is an alarming level of support for authoritarian rule among U.S. voters. Trump himself seems to have no real fondness for democracy, but we now know that only a slim majority of Americans (54 percent) consistently express a pro-democratic position. In addition, the highest levels of support for authoritarian leadership come from those who are disaffected, disengaged from politics, deeply distrustful of experts, culturally conservative and have negative attitudes toward racial minorities. That is also the same demographic that doesn’t like political satire and may even consider it “dangerous” to the nation.

It may be that the right’s real problem with late-night comedy isn’t that they can’t take a joke; it’s that they can’t take what a joke might do to their agenda. [Yes. Absolutely. And snowflakes and deplorables are both just the same about that.]

[The book McClennan co-authored was published October 30, 2014 but in mid-March 2018 it has only 6 Amazon reviews.

**[A few of the] Comments(26)**

Sort by**Best**

* **sbrownn**Leader

1d

Forget about the people who believe Trump's lies, they are stupid morons and we don't need their votes to throw this traitorous bunch of miscreants out. Last I saw, 25% of voters isn't enough to win an election unless the other side doesn't show up. Show up to vote and we will win as the decent people still outnumber the deplorables in this country by 3:1.

[This is the best comment??]

Reply

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*10 Likes*

* **Concernednowplease**Leader

1d

"""""""fact that the comedians aren’t just challenging right-wing truth claims; they are thwarting the cognitive processes that lead us to accept right-wing falsehoods as true. Many of us have pointed out that the real threat to our nation caused by the Trump era is the mind warp it is causing.""""""" But as usual, the writer immediately then launched into the fox news example. We always go to the fox news example. Because it's one of the main reasons for the problem. I still have to read the rest, cause Sophia is usually pretty good, but if I pause here, and break the above down, it still to me kind of boils down to this: There's no mind warp going on here. Certain people are not starting to accept fox news and trump's and all the right wing scum's lies due to cognitive breakdowns due to repetition etc. Not for the stuff that matters. We're cognitively exhausted, yes, and satire brings sanity, yes, but there's still a bottom line here:

* + We don't have a bunch of converts from sanity and reality to the fox news way. Idiots started out that way, and have remained that way, and chose that way.
	+ The rest of us aren't on the precipice constantly in danger of falling into it.

We're just fricking exhausted and disgusted by it, and the satire by Jon Stewart and Oliver and Colbert brings us the therapy needed to survive it. Yes there's a particular focus on it more now than perhaps before, but that's mostly because the sane are simply sick of this shit.

Reply

Share

*10 Likes*

* + **Christopher1988**Leader

Concernednowplease

1d

Why would anyone be "exhausted and disgusted" by alternate opinions and opinion sites that endorse them? This baffles me, and I say this as a liberal who doesn't like or watch Fox News. You turn the channel. You listen to the opinions that make sense to you. Or you watch news sites that don't reflect an ideology (C-SPAN). Let's get this straight: you will never, never live in a world where everyone agrees with your vision of reality. You will probably never live in a world with more than 50% of the people in your society agreeing with you, and you may have to deal with a world where less than that percentage does. You might as well get used to it. If you can't handle that, then living in a democracy might not be ideal for you. Unfortunately, even there you're screwed, as there are no liberal fascist states. Don't obsess on those who see the world differently than you do. It's worthless, and I think on some level juvenile. Expect at least every eight years for a party you dislike and whose aims you oppose to be in power. That's life in the United States.

Reply

Share

*3 Likes*

* + **Concernednowplease**Leader

Christopher1988

1d

So truth is relative for you. Got it.

Reply

Share

*3 Likes*

* + **Christopher1988**Leader

Concernednowplease

20h*Edited*

It isn't about truth being relative. It's about being exhausted by everyone not agreeing with what you've determined is truth. You think Orthodox Jews are "exhausted and disgusted" by people who think Jesus was the messiah? You think people who know the truth is that Kennedy was killed by a lone gunman are "exhausted and disgusted" by people who follow conspriacy theories? You don't have to think truth is relative to act like an adult. You sound like someone who can't be happy unless you can force truth on others--preparing any Inquisitions?

Reply

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* **Concernednowplease**Leader

1d

People have always used sarcasm as a way to thwart lies and bogality. It's because the liars deserved to be mocked, and, while it might have sometimes been dangerous to mock, sarcasm presents one of the bravest ways to pointedly refute the stupid and harmful to society. How does one approach someone who just blatantly lies? You must respond as superior to combat the assault on reality. Because it is that serious an offense you are thwarting. And mocking is may be the most effective tool, since it ridicules using humor - the only acceptable safe thwarting mechanism. Yelling and screaming forcefully and with hostility works, a little. But calm sarcasm boy, that's the superior ticket.

Reply

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*6 Likes*

* **Killgore Trout**Leader

1d

"It may be that the right’s real problem with late-night comedy isn’t that they can’t take a joke; it’s that they can’t take what a joke might do to their agenda." Great sentence Sophia! Brava!

Reply

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*6 Likes*

* + **paradoctor**Leader

Killgore Trout

1d

And what the joke might do is reveal that the agenda is also a joke.

Reply

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*4 Likes*

* **tabonsell**Influencer

1d

A well-tuned sense of humor is the most observable sign of a keenly honed intelligence, and that superior intellect of comedians may be what really bats the balls of conservatives.

Reply

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*3 Likes*

* + **Killgore Trout**Leader

tabonsell

1d

Oh, it does, it does. That's one reason they hate education.

Reply

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*1 Like*

* **Killgore Trout**Leader

1d

Ridicule can be a powerful weapon, when done right.

Reply

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*2 Likes*

* + **Christopher1988**Leader

Killgore Trout

1d

I think extremely well-done works of satire--Dr. Strangelove, MacBird!, the better political satires of SNL, The Daily Show when Jon Stewart was on it--demonstrate the opposite. Nothing changed.

Reply

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* + **Killgore Trout**Leader

Christopher1988

1d

Really? Nothing changed?

Reply

Share

* + **Christopher1988**Leader

Killgore Trout

20h

Not because of satire. Republicans are still popular and Fox News is popular, despite the Daily Show. SNL didn't stop a Reagan/Bush victory. Dr. Strangelove hasn't stopped the possibility of nuclear annihilation.

Reply

Share

* **Valentin Voroshilov**

1d

Do you know the reason for "a mental exhaustion on the nation"?? Here is the hint. When untrained arm has to lift heavy stuff dozen times it becomes tired. The same happens with untrained brain! Simple! <http://www.cognisity.how/2016/12/handbook.html>  And what is the name of the facility training brains? A school! When people have not been taught how to think they will not suddenly start thinking because TV is showering them with BS. People just getting numb. And disengage. And that is exactly what the BS-ers want. See more



[**Fundamental Laws of TeachOlogy: a Handbook For a Beginner Teacher**](http://www.cognisity.how/2016/12/handbook.html)

Teaching is guiding students through an arrangement of learning experiences specifically designed for...

[COGNISITY.HOW](http://www.cognisity.how/2016/12/handbook.html)

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* **Basho**Leader

1d*Edited*

Many of us on the political left think today’s Democratic Party is a pathetic joke, a sad travesty of what they once were, a spineless bunch of closet Republicans wearing p\*ssy hats, an army of lunatics standing on the street corner claiming the Russian are stealing our precious bodily fluids..  The American public is more progressive than the typical Democrat in Congress.

Reply

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*1 Like*

* **Gregory Wonderwheel**

1d

Colbert is barely funny anymore. His is bland and lame liberal who disdains progressive issues.

Reply

Share

*3 Likes*

* + **The Deadhead**Leader

Gregory Wonderwheel

1d

Your response does not support the author's premise at all!

Reply

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* + **Killgore Trout**Leader

Gregory Wonderwheel

1d

Give us an example of Colbert disdaining progressive ideas.

Reply

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*1 Like*

* **Jeremy Driscoll**Leader

1h

I wonder why the right would possibly feel under attack in any way?: "Watching Colbert can fight right-wing brain rot" You just suggested that simply by maintaining a political stance that is right of center, you are suffering from "brain rot". To actually suggest right-wing voters suffer from "brain rot", without even describing what that is or defining your terms, just shows the intellectual dishonesty of this piece. To suggest that right-wing individuals are more susceptible to bullshit/lies (which are one in the same regardless of claims to the contrary) is, ironically, an absolute falsehood. The writer appears to justify this claim by making the correlation that analytical, skeptical and intelligent people are the ones able to repel lies more effectively.. the inference being that these traits are inherent in people with liberal views (while linking to a Vox article which never outwardly makes that claim). To simply say that lies and deception are a trademark of the right, is laughably hypocritical. ALL POLITICIANS LIE, whether on the right or left (As if the irony of a journalist from the MSM trying to attribute lies to conservatives wasn't already rich enough). Remember Barack "We don't spy on Americans" Obama? Remember "you'll be able to keep your doctor"? I cannot contest that many of Trump's public claims are either exaggerated or false. Trump is also new to political theatre; give him time and he'll soon be spouting Orwellian doublespeak with the best of them

Reply

Share

* **Basho**Leader

1d

Donald Trump is a walking nightmare and sometimes it is healthy to satirize him. I joke about him often. On the other hand, ever since the orange monster was elected president, Democrats have have freaked out and lost all sense of portion. As such they have become a remarkably ineffective opposition. The Democrats too need to be satirized. None does it better than Jimmy Dore, who is himself a passionate progressive. Watch him on youtube.

[ Here is an example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuWXMUkDvzI> ]

Reply

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* + **The Deadhead**Leader

Basho

1d

Nonsense. Democrats have not freaked out and they have been a effective opposition. What could they have done that they didn't? It is nonsense like this that spreads the false equivalency of whataboutism.

Reply

Share

*2 Likes*

* + **Basho**Leader

The Deadhead

1d*Edited*

* Democrats shut the government down and a couple days later gave Trump everything he wanted.
* They threw in the towel on the border wall.
* They dropped the ball on DACA.
* Seventeen Democrats voted to weaken the already weak Dodd-Frank law.
* They gave Trump an even bigger military budget than what he asked for.
* They have become rabid fans of the CIA, the FBI, and the military-industrial complex.
* They are doing everything they can to keep progressives from gaining power.
* They never criticize Trump’s military atrocities.
* They made vulgar fools of themselves by wearing pussy hats shortly after Trump was elected.
* They oppose Trump’s character rather than his policies.
* They engage in hyperbole that makes them look like fools.
* They have doubled down on neoliberalism.
* They have restarted a cold war with Russia and immediately believe every evidence-free charge against Russia that comes out.
* They continue to blame racism and sexism for why Hillary lost and refuse to engage in self-examination or try learn from the last election.
* They act like white Christian males are subhuman.
* MSNBC has become completely nuts, covering nothing but conspiracy theories about Trump and the Russians, while ignoring endless other important stories like the cholera epidemic in Yemen.

Reply

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*1 Like*

1. The New World Order, Identity Politics snowflake value set and the Conservative, Christian values set of the deplorables. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)