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**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2016 7:03 AM  
**To:** Sorrell, Bill  
**Subject:** Friday's Headlines: The detente between Trump and Cruz is definitely over

The Washington Post

# Today's Headlines

The morning's most important stories, selected by Post editors

## Top Stories



## The detente between Trump and Cruz is definitely over

Their arguments over fitness to govern and “New York values” were among the heated exchanges Thursday night.

By Karen Tumulty and Philip Rucker • [Read more »](#)

Ascending to the most dangerous position in the GOP race, Ted Cruz becomes everyone's target

The senator from Texas found himself on the defensive — being attacked by both front-runner Trump as well as his lower-polling rivals.

By Jenna Johnson, Katie Zezima and David A. Fahrenthold • [Read more »](#)



Can Donald Trump actually be the GOP nominee?

His durability in national polls and his standing in the early states have forced GOP leaders — and all his rivals — to confront the possibility that the New York billionaire could end up leading the party into the fall campaign against the Democrats.

By Dan Balz • [Read more »](#)



The Fix: Winners and losers

Marco Rubio came out hot from the start, channeling the anger of the GOP base. But Ben Carson continued to look out of his depth.

By Chris Cillizza • [Read more »](#)



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## Fact Checker: Did Christie support Planned Parenthood?

That was just one of the contested points made at Thursday's sixth round of debates that was worthy of a closer look.

By Glenn Kessler and Michelle Ye Hee Lee • [Read more »](#)



## The Fix: Debate's most surprisingly noble moment

Yes, it really came by way of Donald Trump.

By Janell Ross • [Read more »](#)



## Transcript: Who said what and what it meant

By Team Fix • [Read more »](#)



## Opinions



The riveting GOP debate

By Jennifer Rubin • [Read more »](#)



The dismal, dark world of the GOP debate

By Stephen Stromberg • [Read more »](#)



The state of the presidency: spent

By Charles Krauthammer • [Read more »](#)



Finally, Hillary Clinton has a battle on her hands

By Eugene Robinson • [Read more »](#)



The horrific story of how I was trolled on the Internet

By Fareed Zakaria • [Read more »](#)



Unleash America's airpower in Afghanistan

By David Petraeus and Michael O'Hanlon • [Read more »](#)

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### Hillary Clinton's national lead is slipping faster in 2016 than it did in 2008

The numbers are fickle right now, but in some ways, she's doing worse than she was eight years ago. And it can't be much fun to have it happen for two big races in a row.

By Philip Bump • [Read more »](#)

### U.S. veteran finds lost love in Vietnam — and she has a surprise for him

The ex-Air Force sergeant hunted for 10 years before reconnecting with the bar hostess he left in Saigon in 1970.

By Annie Gowen • [Read more »](#)

### New questions for Emanuel on what he knew about teen shot 16 times by Chicago police

Amid renewed scrutiny in one fatal shooting involving a young black man, a judge orders video to be released in another.

By Mark Guarino, William Wan and Brady Dennis • [Read more »](#)

### U.S. Episcopal Church punished by Anglican body after gay-marriage rift

The decision in England to suspend the American branch for three years from key voting positions was seen as a blow to the church and a victory for conservatives.

By Sarah Pulliam Bailey • [Read more »](#)

### Obama administration to announce moratorium on some new coal leases

The sweeping changes also include a review of how taxpayers are compensated for coal taken from government lands.

By Joby Warrick • [Read more »](#)

Oscars variety? Yes — and (a big) no.

This year's slate reflects a rich range of performances by — and roles for — women but, again, includes no actors of color.

By Ann Hornaday • [Read more »](#)

Alan Rickman never disappeared into a role. But that's what made him great.

In every character the late actor played, he excelled by being himself.

By Michael O'Sullivan • [Read more »](#)

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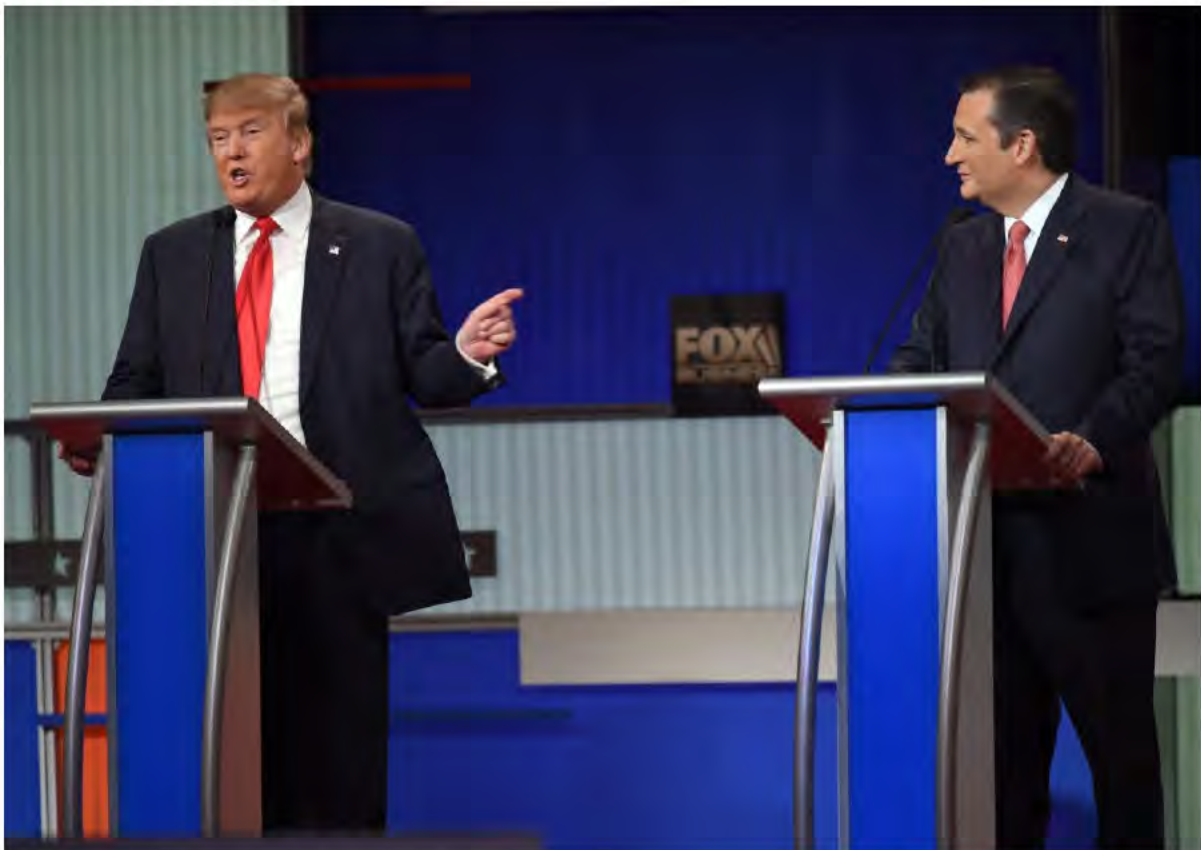
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# Politics

The most important politics stories today



Timothy A. Clary / AFP/Getty Images

## The detente between Trump and Cruz is definitely over

Their arguments over fitness to govern and “New York values” were among the heated exchanges Thursday night.

By Karen Tumulty and Philip Rucker • [Read more »](#)

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Rand Paul fans briefly interrupt debate, as he takes questions on Periscope

By David Weigel • [Read more »](#)

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Running second makes Cruz everyone’s target at GOP debate

The Texas senator found himself on the defensive at Thursday night’s debate, being attacked by both front-runner Trump as well as his lower-polling rivals.

By Jenna Johnson, Katie Zezima and David A. Fahrenthold • [Read more »](#)

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Here’s what the White House plans to address rural America’s struggle with heroin

The administration can develop a strategy and elevate the issue in the American consciousness, Vilsack says.

By Juliet Eilperin • [Read more »](#)






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## The Take: Can Donald Trump actually be the Republican nominee?

What was unthinkable a few months ago no longer is.

By Dan Balz • [Read more »](#)



## Clinton responds to Sanders's 'attack' ad: Obama took Wall Street money too

Clinton said that the Sanders ad criticizing her position on Wall Street is also a criticism of Obama and all Democrats.

By Abby Phillip • [Read more »](#)



## County state's attorney investigating Martin O'Malley furniture purchase

Presidential candidate bought furniture at a steep discount when he left the governor's mansion last year.

By Ovetta Wiggins • [Read more »](#)



## 'Undercard' candidates insist they're the ones who can win the White House

Guns seizures and nuclear doomsday are among the topics the Republican long shots bring up.

By Jenna Johnson, Katie Zezima and David A. Fahrenthold • [Read more »](#)



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## Sanders says he'll detail costs of his universal health-care plan before voting begins

The Democratic presidential hopeful has been pressed on the issue in recent days by the Clinton campaign.

By John Wagner • [Read more »](#)



## Fact checking the sixth round of GOP debates

Here's our roundup of 14 fishy or interesting claims in the GOP debates.

By Glenn Kessler and Michelle Ye Hee Lee • [Read more »](#)



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## O'Malley secures spot on Democratic debate stage in Charleston on Sunday

NBC News announced that all three Democratic hopefuls have met its polling-based criteria to participate.

By John Wagner • [Read more »](#)




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## The Daily 202 P.M. Special: A huge test for Ted Cruz, and other dynamics to watch in tonight's Republican debate

THE BIG IDEA: — The restrooms at the media filing center in North Charleston are stocked with Advil, Alka-Seltzer and eye drops. “By the time tonight is over, it may come to be seen as an omen,” says Karen Tumulty, one of half a dozen Post journalists in South Carolina for the sixth Republican debate. The [...]

By James Hohmann • [Read more »](#)



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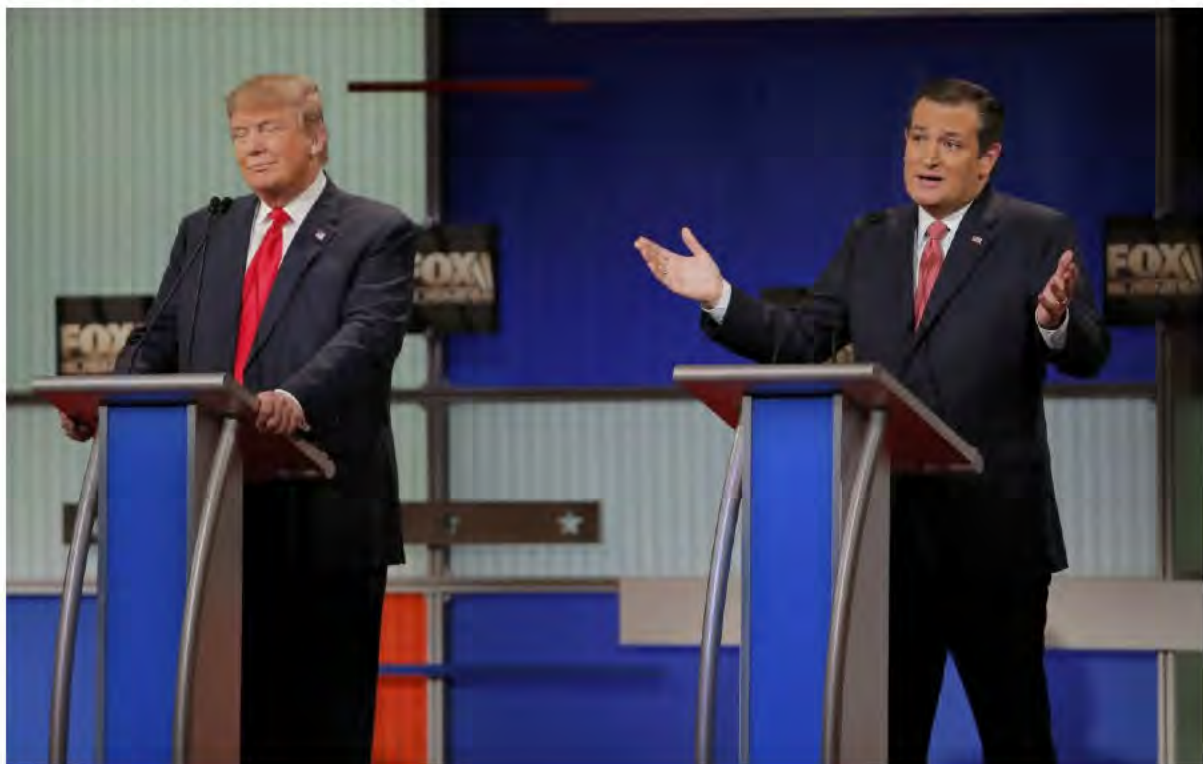
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The Washington Post  
**Politics P.M.**

Politics happens fast. Catch up.



Chris Keane / Reuters

## GOP establishment warms to Trump — and remains cool toward Cruz

Many see the Texas senator as dangerously inflexible in his politics and grating personally.

By Robert Costa, Philip Rucker and David A. Fahrenthold • [Read more »](#)

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## Pentagon to take over control of background investigation information

The government will shift responsibility for storing background information on millions of federal employees and others from the Office of Personnel Management to the Defense Department and will create a new entity to oversee background investigations.

By Eric Yoder • [Read more »](#)

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## New John Kasich video mocks Jeb Bush as high-fee governor

Swipe by Kasich's campaign marks a new tone for the Ohio governor, who has largely limited his attacks to hitting front-runner Donald Trump.

By Matea Gold • [Read more »](#)

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## Christie cancels N.H. campaign events because of blizzard

The Garden State governor is suffering from record-low approval ratings at home and has been absent from the state during previous natural disasters.

By Ed O'Keefe • [Read more »](#)

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Decentralizing control of the Internet; meet TrumpScript, a new programming language; are iPhone sales in decline?

Today's tech policy news roundup.

By Elise Viebeck • [Read more »](#)



Second choice of O'Malley voters is the 'million dollar question' in Iowa caucuses

Under caucus rules, voters can move to a second choice if their candidate doesn't reach a 15 percent threshold.

By John Wagner • [Read more »](#)



How Ted Cruz's best friend drew him into Jamaican politics and business

As his career was starting, Cruz made a tidy sum from a Caribbean firm that relied on government funds.

By Rosalind S. Helderman and Tom Hamburger • [Read more »](#)



North Korea captures American student, new plans to protect Libya, and stealing military secrets

A daily roundup of top defense and foreign policy headlines.

By Karoun Demirjian • [Read more »](#)



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Former Carson campaign manager Barry Bennett is quietly advising Trump's top aides

Bennett described his unpaid role as one of counselor and resource to Trump's top aides as they begin to prepare for a possible general-election campaign.

By Robert Costa • [Read more »](#)



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## Cruz ad: Trump 'won't change the system; he's what's wrong with it'

It focuses on Trump's decades-long court battle with an Atlantic City, N.J., widow

By Katie Zezima • [Read more »](#)

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## Sledding is back on Capitol Hill; Kasich and the beer label law; and U.S. sets date to sign trade pact

Your daily roundup of budget and tax news.

By Kelsey Snell • [Read more »](#)

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## Think you can predict the election? Join our 2016 Forecasting Tournament.

This is your chance to beat the pundits.

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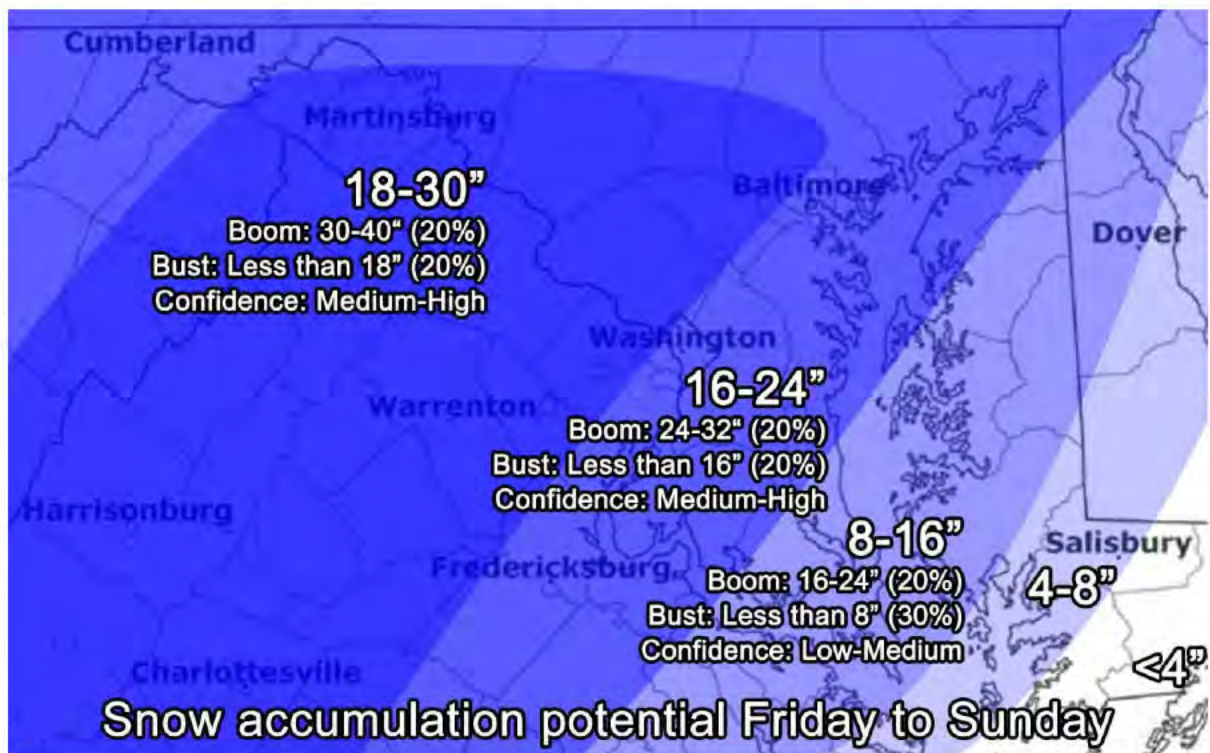
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The Washington Post

# Today's Headlines

The morning's most important stories, selected by Post editors

## Top Stories



## D.C. area braces for potentially record-breaking blizzard

The federal government announced that its agencies would close at noon, and school districts canceled classes ahead of the storm. Metro said it would shut down its bus and rail services, including underground, starting Saturday.

By Ashley Halsey III and Paul Duggan • [Read more »](#)

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## Storm takes shape over the South; snow could arrive in D.C. region as early as noon

In Washington area, there was a potential start time anywhere from around noon to 2 p.m. The snow was expected to stick quick, and the intensity was expected to pick up as well.

By Ian Livingston • [Read more »](#)

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## North Korea says U-Va. student arrested for 'hostile acts'

The student, identified as Otto Frederick Warmbier, arrived in the country on a tourist visa, according to Korea's news agency.

By Anna Fifield • [Read more »](#)

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## Jason Rezaian's wife, mother describe their tortuous final hours in Iran

For 25 hours, the Post reporter's family didn't know if the deal to free him would stick — or if they could leave themselves. And as the jet for Rezaian waited in Tehran, his wife and mother were held briefly by the hardline Revolutionary Guard.

By Andrew Roth • [Read more »](#)

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## GOP leaders warm to Trump — and keep cool toward Cruz

Establishment Republicans can tolerate Trump because they see Sen. Ted Cruz as dangerously inflexible in his politics.

By Robert Costa, Philip Rucker and David A. Fahrenthold • [Read more »](#)



## Rubio's summer of 1990: An arrest, then newfound purpose

Starting with a misdemeanor, that season marked a turning point when a somewhat aimless young man found direction.

By Manuel Roig-Franzia and Scott Higham • [Read more »](#)



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## The GOP gets the Iran prisoner swap wrong

By Charles Krauthammer • [Read more »](#)



## Sarah Palin takes the GOP campaign to a new low

By Eugene Robinson • [Read more »](#)



## Trump and Palin join forces in the war against reason

By Michael Gerson • [Read more »](#)



## The chilling effects of China's fall

By David Ignatius • [Read more »](#)



## In politics and business, women just can't win

By Catherine Rampell • [Read more »](#)



## D.C.-area leaders drop the (snow) ball

By Editorial Board • [Read more »](#)

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## National Review loses GOP debate sponsorship over anti-Trump issue

The Republican National Committee ended the partnership after the conservative magazine devoted an issue to reasons why voters should reject Donald Trump's campaign.

By David Weigel • [Read more »](#)

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## This is how the government is catching people who use child-porn sites

Investigators are using techniques more typically used by hackers to find criminals on the dark Web.

By Ellen Nakashima • [Read more »](#)

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## EPA issues emergency order for water crisis in Flint, Mich.

The agency's top official for the region has resigned as 100,000 people remain unable to drink water that comes into their homes because of elevated levels of lead.

By Lenny Bernstein and Mark Berman • [Read more »](#)

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## Stephanie Rader, undercover spy in postwar Europe, dies at 100

Her immersion in Polish language and culture — and what a superior described as “fortitude and sang-froid” — helped her gather data on the Soviets despite daunting odds.

By Adam Bernstein • [Read more »](#)

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## Navy bribery scandal shows how easy it can be to steal military secrets

Daniel Layug, an enlisted sailor with a weakness for electronic bling, is the first person sentenced in a corruption case that has paralyzed the Navy since 2013.

By Craig Whitlock • [Read more »](#)

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## Basketball's shorts are getting shorter

After decades of bigger and baggier shorts, a new generation of NBA players, including LeBron James, is showing a little more leg.

By Jorge Castillo • [Read more »](#)

## Alabama has 1st execution since 2013 after Supreme Court rejects appeals

Christopher Brooks argued that a recent ruling in Florida should stop his execution, but Alabama lawyers said their state already complies with the high court's standard.

By Mark Berman • [Read more »](#)

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## Ex-Oklahoma City officer sentenced to 263 years in prison for rapes, sexual assaults

Daniel Holtzclaw was convicted in December of several charges in connection to incidents that authorities believe occurred when he was on duty.

By Sarah Larimer • [Read more »](#)

## Stephen Colbert delivers his own speech in Palin-ese. And it's spot-on.

"The Late Show" host delivered his own rendition of a Palin endorsement speech, complete with her own unique style.

By Aaron Blake • [Read more »](#)

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# The Daily 202

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**Bernie Sanders has a Eugene V. Debs problem**



Bernie Sanders at the Best Western in Marshalltown, Iowa. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

## THE BIG IDEA:

— **Eugene V. Debs is Bernie Sanders’ political hero.** A picture of the socialist union organizer [hung in city hall](#) when he was mayor of Burlington, Vermont. A plaque honoring Debs is [now](#) by the window in Sanders’ Senate office. In 1979, Sanders even directed a glowing half-hour tribute—released on vinyl record—to “a socialist, a revolutionary and probably the most effective and popular leader that the American working class has ever had.”



**Debs ran for president five times between 1900 and 1920, earning 6 percent of the national popular vote in 1912.** He spent six months in jail in 1895 for leading a railroad strike despite a court ruling that it was illegal. He went to prison in 1918 for violating the Espionage Act by urging resistance to the draft during World War I. Debs led his 1920 campaign from a federal penitentiary in Atlanta.



Eugene V. Debs (AP file photo)

— **If you're a political junkie, or an opposition researcher, the 1979 record is revelatory.** Sanders read Debs' quotes in his own distinct voice. In [an accompanying booklet](#), he excitedly noted that Debs drew bigger crowds when he ran in 1908 than the Republican candidate who was soon to be president: "In New York City, Debs spoke before ten thousand people ... In San Diego, 15,000 workers paid their way to a Socialist Party meeting to hear him speak, and in Cincinnati more people came to hear Debs than to hear

William Howard Taft.” Sanders, of course, is known for drawing some of the biggest crowds of the 2016 campaign.

— **Debs never believed he had a chance to be president, but he thought he could foment a political revolution by running.**

In the 1979 audio tribute, Sanders said: “Throughout his life Debs was hailed by many as a prophet, a Moses—a man who would lead the American working class out of the desert of capitalism, and into the promised land of socialism. But Debs rejected that role. He said that if the workers were dependent upon some famous leader ... then some other famous leader would come along a few years later and lead them right back into capitalist slavery.”

In his stump speech now, Sanders echoes this sentiment: “This campaign really is not about Bernie Sanders. It’s about transforming America.”



[Listen to the full recording here.](#) (@PeoplesWar)

— **Sanders, though leading in polls by single digits in Iowa and double digits in New Hampshire, is still widely perceived as a Debs-like candidate, a vessel to express anger about the status quo more than a plausible Commander-in-Chief.** For his

campaign to have staying power beyond the early states, the self-described “democratic socialist” must combat the deeply-ingrained mindset—endemic in media coverage and ever-present during interviews with Democratic voters—that he does not actually *want* to win.

— **The Debs Problem is less about Sanders’ ideas being radical – which many are – and more about the perception that he’s running to make a point, to pull the Democratic Party leftward and to force Hillary Clinton to make concessions to the base.** Ron Paul had a similar challenge in the 2012 Republican primaries. Donald Trump has struggled to a lesser degree with the same perception, though that has subsided in recent weeks as Republican elites come to terms with his frontrunner status. (More on that below.)

— **Don’t forget: Sanders is an independent who caucuses with Senate Democrats.** It’s an obscure chapter in a life defined by radicalism, but he nearly cost Pat Leahy his Senate seat in 1974. Bernie, running on the Liberty Union ticket, received 4.1 percent of the vote. Leahy, the Democratic nominee, only defeated the Republican by 4,000 votes and prevailed with a plurality. Needless to say, the Senate’s longest-serving member has never forgotten. He supports Clinton.

— **Ahead of the 2012 reelection campaign, Sanders suggested several times that it would be healthy for someone to challenge Barack Obama in the primary. Again, it was not to topple him, but to force the president to pay attention to the base.** “If a progressive Democrat wants to run, I think it would enliven the debate, raise some issues, and people have a right to do that,” he told WNYC in March 2011. “There are a lot of smart, honest progressive people who I think can be good presidents,” he said in October 2011. “And I think one of the reasons President Obama has moved as far to the right as he has, is he thinks he can go all the way and no one will stand up to him.” Clinton attacked Sanders for these statements at last weekend’s debate. (Matea Gold looks back on this [in today’s paper](#).)

— **Sanders has made some strides in reassuring skeptical Democrats that he wants to be more than a Don Quixote swinging at windmills.**

- **He aggressively talks up his “[electability](#).”** Bernie now talks almost as much as Trump about polling on the hustings, making the explicit case that he’d fare better than Clinton in a general election because he lacks her baggage and could galvanize otherwise unenthusiastic voters. The campaign constantly cites polls that show Sanders performing better in head-to-head matchups against the leading Republicans. While technically accurate, these results are misleading because Sanders has not faced millions in attack ads highlighting his views. Hillary has been on the national stage for a quarter-of-a-century and faced near-daily criticism. Bernie’s negatives would surely rise as voters are exposed to his more controversial stances.
- **He has become more hawkish on – and begun to talk about – foreign policy.** Initially, after the Paris and San Bernardino attacks, Bernie tried to avoid talking about ISIS. That’s not why he is running, after all. He memorably blew off questions about the issue during a visit to Baltimore, raising questions about his seriousness. Now he pledges to destroy the Islamic State, and this week he is running an ad in Iowa called “[Defend this Nation](#).”
- **Bernie is also trying to position himself as inside the mainstream, backed up by a diverse array of folks from all walks of life.** The campaign released this minute-long commercial, [set to Simon and Garfunkel’s “America,”](#) yesterday:



(Bernie 2016)

— **The Clinton campaign argues that Sanders is doing well precisely because many of his supporters do not think he's in it to win it.** “They didn’t take him seriously enough because they thought they had a gadfly,” Florida attorney John Morgan, a Clinton donor, complained to the [AP](#). “The gadfly wasn’t a gadfly — he was a lightning bug. And people have been following that lightning bug all over America.”

— **Clinton now wants voters to take Sanders’ candidacy seriously.** Her allies have begun describing him as a “socialist” with gusto over the past week. Reading from a Teleprompter in Iowa yesterday, the candidate tried to frame the election as a choice between theory and reality. “Theory isn’t enough. A president has to deliver in reality,” she said. “I am not interested in ideas that sound good on paper but will never make it in the real world. I care about making a real difference in your life.” **Clinton then argued,**

dubiously, that Sanders is actually more of an establishment candidate than she is because he has served in Congress more years than she was a senator. A Clinton adviser told CNN that Hillary was trying to “shake some sense into lowans” with the speech.



Hillary with Demi Lovato in Iowa City last night. (AP)

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With contributions from [Michael Smith](#).

**WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING:**



Donald Trump speaks at a casino in Las Vegas yesterday. (Reuters/David Becker)

— **Trump is launching his first negative ad against Cruz, slamming him as a flip-flopper on immigration.** The 60-second spot relies on the Texan’s own words, opening with footage from that disastrous interview with Fox News’ Bret Baier last month. Then it shows 2013 footage of Cruz on the Senate floor: “I want immigration reform to pass ... and that allows those who are here illegally to come out of the shadows.” The screen says, “Pro Amnesty,” and “What is he talking about?” Then the final 20 seconds includes footage of Trump talking about ending illegal immigration by building a wall. *Watch below (Listen to a separate radio spot featuring Jerry Falwell, Jr. [here](#)):*



([@washingtonpost](#))

— The RNC has dropped *National Review* as a sponsor of its Feb. 25 debate after the magazine published a special issue listing reasons why conservatives should not vote for Trump. The magazine’s publisher, Jack Fowler, [called](#) the RNC severing ties a “small price to pay for speaking the truth about Donald.” Executive Editor Rich Lowry [told David Weigel in an interview](#) early this morning: “We wanted to push back against this notion that it was just the establishment that was opposed to Trump, so we assembled this group of people who nobody can accuse of being the establishment.” Weigel notes [the precedents](#): “In 1962, Buckley devoted 5000 words to the John Birch Society, attempting to write it out of the movement ... Twenty-nine years later, Buckley wrote 40,000 words — an entire issue of the magazine — to condemn what he saw as anti-Semitism festering on the right, personified in Pat Buchanan, who was then mounting the first of three unsuccessful presidential bids.” [Read the full N.R. edition here.](#)

— **THE NARRATIVE: The GOP establishment is warming to Trump over Cruz, if forced to choose.** “In private, some veteran conservative Republicans have been reaching out to Trump. And Trump himself called the ultimate establishment figure in Washington, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, for a talk late last year,” [Robert Costa, Philip Rucker and David A. Fahrenthold](#) write on the front page of today’s Post. “Many



have decided that Trump — for all his faults — is better. For one thing, many Republicans in Congress especially despise Cruz, who has a history of picking long-shot fights and blaming other Republicans when [he] is unsuccessful. Beyond that personal hostility, there's a political calculation. If Cruz is nominated, they say, he could alienate swing voters with his brand of scorched-earth conservatism. If he's elected, they fear, Cruz would shut Republican moderates out of power." Says Rudy Giuliani: "If it came down to Trump or Cruz, there is no question I'd vote for Trump. As a party, we'd have a better chance of winning with him, and I think a lot of Republicans look at it that way."

— **Trump nodded to the traditionalists yesterday:** "We've got to be a little establishment," he said. "We've got to get things done. We've got to get along with people."

— **Two Iowa polls published yesterday underscore that the caucuses could go either way.** A [Loras College](#) poll had Cruz up 7 points over Trump (30-23) among likely caucus-goers, with Ben Carson and Marco Rubio each getting 11 points. A [CNN-ORC](#) poll released put Trump up 9 points (37-26), with Rubio at 14 percent and Carson at 6 percent. The CNN poll had Sanders up 8 points over Clinton (51 percent to 43 percent). Just last month, the same poll had Clinton up 18 points (54-36).

— **Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) reportedly told donors he would vote for Sanders over Cruz in a general election.** The AP says he did not appear to be joking. The Intelligence Committee chairman denies making the comment and his reelection campaign asked the AP for a retraction. The wire service stands by its story, per [the Charlotte Observer](#).

— **Lindsey Graham, who now backs Bush: "If you nominate Trump and Cruz, I think you get the same outcome. Whether it's death by being shot or poisoning, does it really matter?"** ([Karoun Demirjian](#))

— **Not all the establishment would pick Trump over Cruz.** Katie Packer, deputy campaign manager for Mitt Romney in 2012, has founded an anti-Trump super PAC that spent \$45,000 this week to send anti-Trump mailers to Iowans, per [Politico](#).

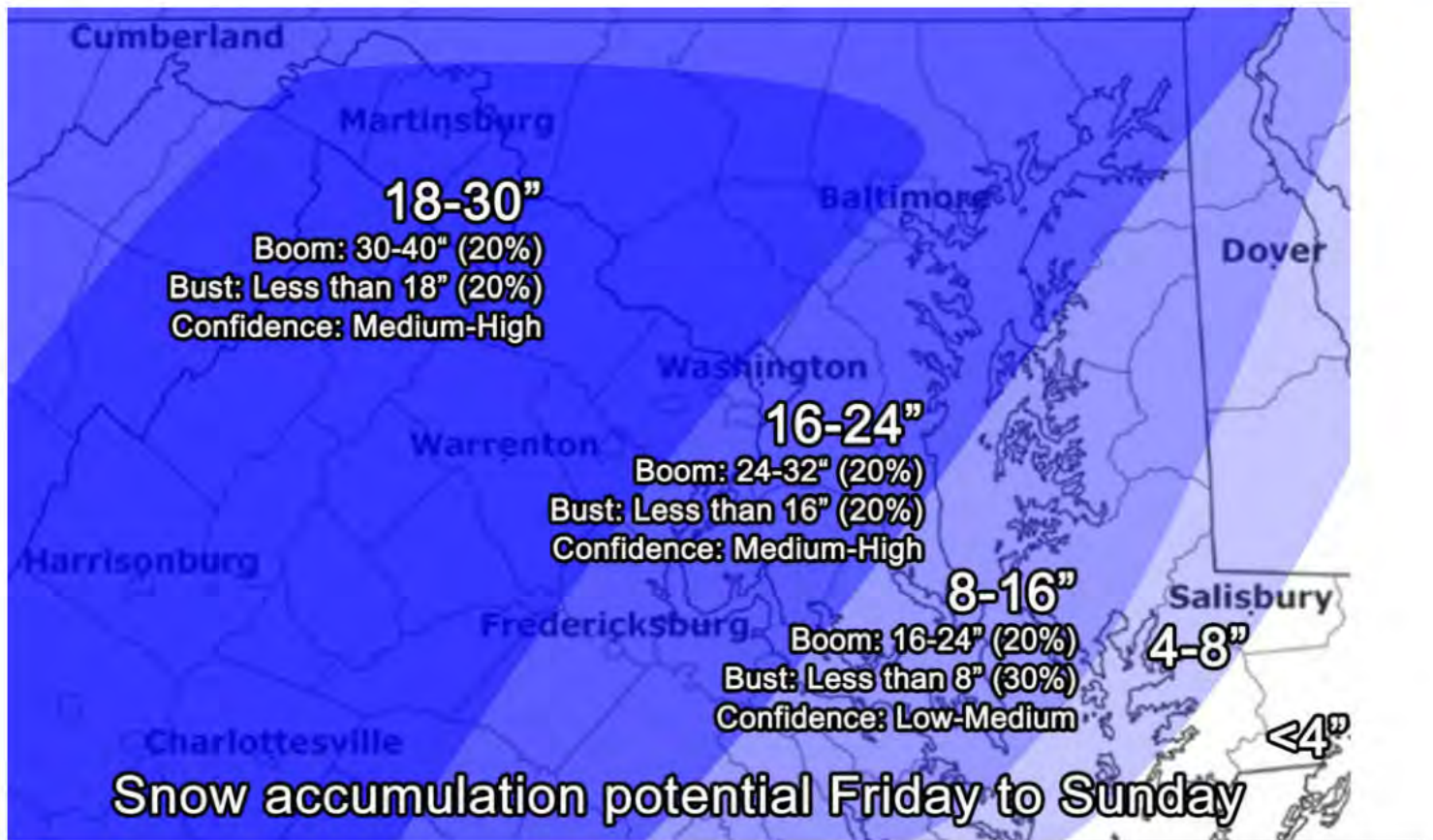
— **A reality show divided:** Yesterday, “Duck Dynasty” star Willie Robertson [endorsed](#) Trump in Las Vegas. His father Phil, another star of the show, supports Cruz and recorded an ad for him.



A pile of shoveled snow on the east side of the Capitol yesterday. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

— **Not a drill:** “**CONFIDENCE IS QUITE HIGH FOR A CRIPPLING SNOWSTORM,**” [The Capital Weather Gang reports](#). The blizzard warning starts at 3 p.m. today, and most of us will likely be immobile through at least Sunday and perhaps into early next week.

Here is the latest:



(@capitalweathergang)

- **Federal offices in D.C. will close at noon today.** Other important closures include Alexandria, Arlington, D.C. and Fairfax public schools.
- **Metro, Metrobus and MetroAccess will be shut down for the whole weekend.** Bus routes will end at 5 p.m. today and trains will stop at 11 p.m. (Julie Zauzmer and Paul Duggan)
- **Politicians, they're just like us:** President Obama's usual 10-minute motorcade from Andrews to the White House took 1 hour and 14 minutes the night before last because of the snow. (David Nakamura and Juliet Eilperin)



Pastor David Bullock holds up a bottle of Flint water as Michigan State Police hold up a barrier to keep protesters out of the Romney Building, where Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's office resides. (Jake May/The Flint Journal-MLive.com via AP)

— **Another head rolls for Flint: An EPA regional director, Susan Hedman, resigned over her handling of the water crisis.** She and her staff are accused of not responding quickly enough to warnings. Administrator Gina McCarthy, accepting the resignation, announced last night the agency will begin testing the city's water and said she ordered an independent review of what happened. ([Detroit Free Press](#); [Mark Berman](#))

— **Post reporter Jason Rezaian is flying to the United States after completing medical examinations at a military hospital in Germany.** The 39-year-old said he is "feeling well" despite an ordeal that included 49 days in solitary confinement and health complications such as periodic infections and acute weight loss while in Tehran's Evin prison. ([Andrew Roth](#))

— North Korean authorities arrested a University of Virginia student who was part of a tourist group organized by Young Pioneers, which labels itself as the first company to offer discount tours of the country. ([Anna Fifield](#))

### GET SMART FAST:

1. The D.C. Circuit denied a petition to block the **EPA** from implementing the **Clean Power Plan**, a win for environmentalists. ([AP](#))
2. **Planned Parenthood Action Fund** spent more than twice as much on lobbying in 2015 as it did in 2014, and the **NRA** spent just over \$3 million — a 9 percent increase from the prior year. ([Catherine Ho](#))
3. In another unintended consequences of **Obamacare**, many companies are now excluding outpatient surgery from their list of covered medical procedures. ([Jay Hancock](#))
4. An **F-16** from Arizona's Luke Air Force Base crashed. The pilot's condition is not known. ([ABC News](#))
5. A bill aimed at removing a **Confederate general** as **Florida's** representative in the U.S. **Capitol's Statuary Hall** made it through a key committee in the state legislature. ([Florida Politics](#))
6. That **Oklahoma City cop** convicted of four counts of first-degree rape was sentenced to 263 years in prison. ([Sarah Larimer](#))
7. **Alabama** executed its first inmate since 2013 after the Supreme Court declined to hear his appeal. ([Mark Berman](#))
8. Authorities in **Tajikistan** shaved the beards of 13,000 men and shut down 160 stores that sell traditional Islamic attire in an attempt to curb radicalization. ([Ishaan Tharoor](#))
9. The Islamic extremist group **al-Shabab** attacked a restaurant in Somalia and killed more than 20 people. ([AP](#))
10. At least 21 refugees drowned after two boats sunk off the **Greek Isles**. ([AP](#))
11. **Al-Jazeera** said three of its journalists were probably kidnapped while on assignment in **Yemen**. ([AP](#))

## POWER PLAYERS IN THE NEWS:

1. **George W. Bush** might soon campaign for **Jeb**. “I wouldn’t be surprised if we see 43 on the trail in South Carolina,” said Dorothy Bush Koch, Jeb and George W.’s sister, on a call for administration alums. ([New York Times](#))
2. **Rubio** cut his Iowa television spending by \$860,000. ([Politico](#))
3. **Bob Gates**, who was Defense Secretary when **Clinton** was at State, said “the odds are high” that the Russians, Chinese or Iranians compromised Hillary’s homebrew email server, despite her insistence they did not. He said he never used email when he was SecDef or DCI. ([Hugh Hewitt](#))
4. **John Kerry**, in Davos, expressed confidence that **Iran** having access to billions of dollars now that some sanctions have been lifted will not increase the danger to American allies in the Middle East. ([Carol Morello](#))

## MORE ON THE DEMOCRATIC RACE:

1. **Chelsea** shared concerns about her mom’s campaign at a private meeting with New York supporter this week, [per the AP](#).
2. **Bill** is also getting nervous. [Politico](#) says he’s “been phoning campaign manager **Robby Mook** almost daily to express concerns about the campaign’s organization in the March voting states.”
3. **David Brock**, spearheading another day of ugly attacks, continues to become a **bigger liability for Clinton**. Citing the white faces in Sanders’ latest commercial, he told the AP: “From this ad, it seems black lives don’t matter much to Bernie Sanders.” In fact, some minorities do appear in the spot. The Sanders campaign also pointed out that Brock, when he used to be a *conservative* hatchet man, went after “distinguished African-American law professor” Anita Hill after she accused Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment, [John Wagner reports](#).
4. The [Burlington Free Press](#) reports that **Correct the Record**, a group founded by Brock, has sought to pitch it negative stories about Sanders “off the record.” But that it will not agree to such ground rules.

5. **EMILY's List** attacked **Sanders** for not caring enough about social issues. The pro-Clinton women's group condemned a [Rolling Stone interview](#) in which Sanders said: "Once you get off of the social issues — abortion, gay rights, guns — and into the economic issues [...] there is a lot more agreement than the pundits understand."
6. Actress **Jamie Lee Curtis** will campaign in Iowa for Hillary starting Sunday. ([KCCI](#))

## WAPO HIGHLIGHTS:



Marco Rubio in Plymouth, New Hampshire, on Wednesday (CJ Gunther/EPA)

— **“Rubio’s summer of ’90: An arrest, then newfound purpose,”** by Manuel Roig-Franzia and Scott Higham: “Marco Rubio’s first year of college at a small school in Missouri ended badly. His grades were awful. A neck injury dashed any hopes of achieving greatness on the football field. He was hurting for money. He resolved to go back to Florida and get his life on a path to success. Instead the 18-year-old added to his troubles after

returning to Miami for summer break. He was arrested one night in May 1990 for being in a crime-plagued public park after closing time, according to police records and an interview with a friend who was cited with Rubio that night. The previously unreported misdemeanor, which eventually was dismissed, tugged Rubio into the criminal-justice system just one year after the conviction of his brother-in-law in a major drug-trafficking case had exacted a devastating toll on his family. But that summer also marks a turning point for Rubio, the moment when a somewhat aimless young man found a direction and purpose ... There's no indication that Rubio was involved in any illegal activity other than drinking beer and being in a public park after closing."

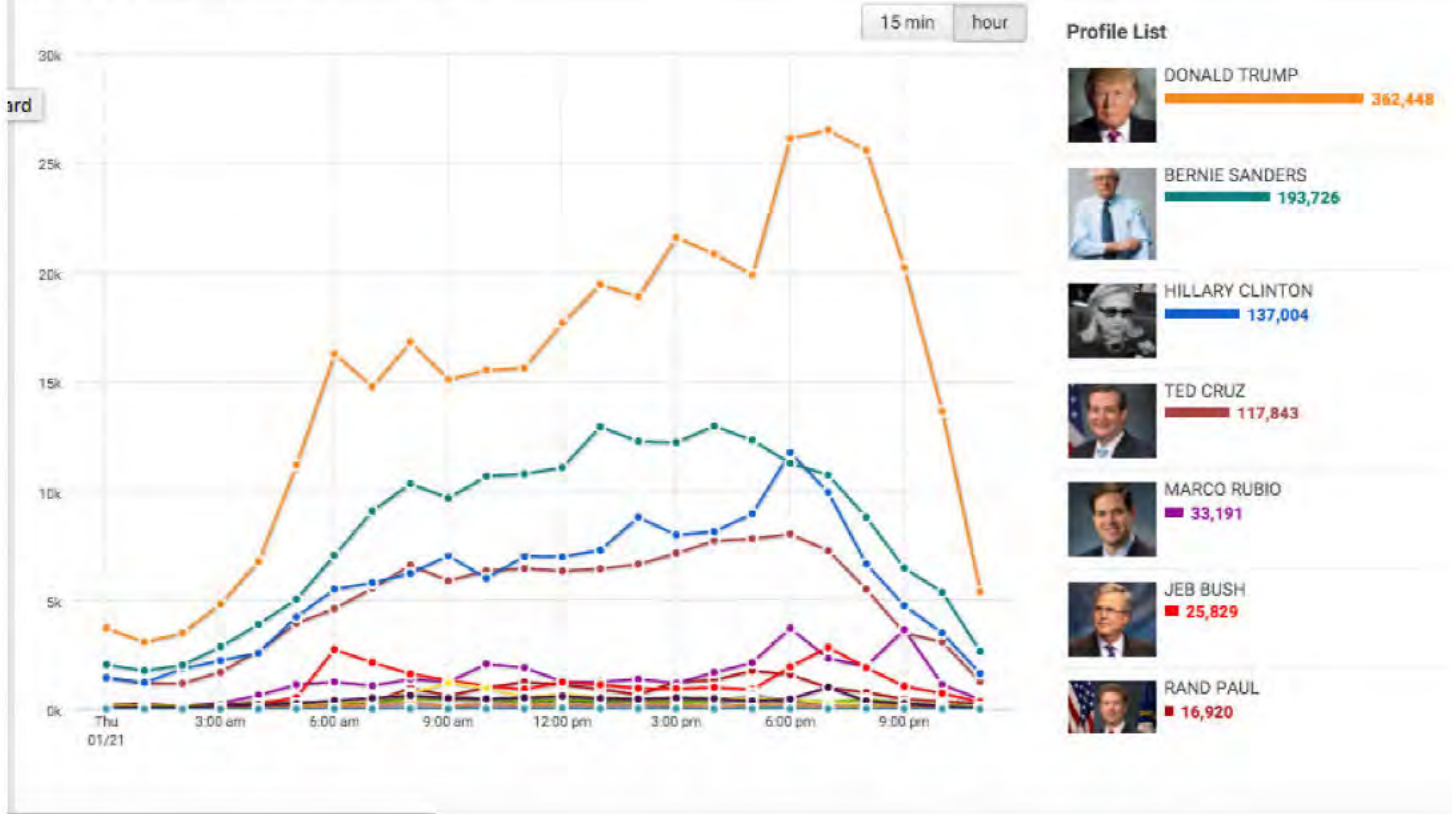
— **"How Trump got religion — and why his legendary minister's son now rejects him," by Paul Schwartzman:** "Trump likes to cite an exalted force when he's asked about his religious convictions: Norman Vincent Peale, the Christian minister whose book 'The Power of Positive Thinking' was a pillar of American self-help culture during the 1950s and beyond. Or 'the great Norman Vincent Peale,' as the Republican front-runner refers to the preacher, who ministered to Trump and his parents before his 1993 death. The feeling toward Trump is not exactly mutual among Peale's offspring. John Peale, 79, the minister's son, said he winces when Trump invokes his father's name, as the candidate has several times since launching his presidential campaign. 'I cringe,' Peale said in a phone interview. 'I don't respect Mr. Trump very much. I don't take him very seriously. I regret the publicity of the connection. This is a problem for the Peale family.'"

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:**

— **SIGNAL VISUAL: Thursday offers another important lesson in how Twitter sees the world ... and how TV sees the world.** Via our analytics partners at Signal Labs, here is a chart tracking mentions of the candidates on Twitter:

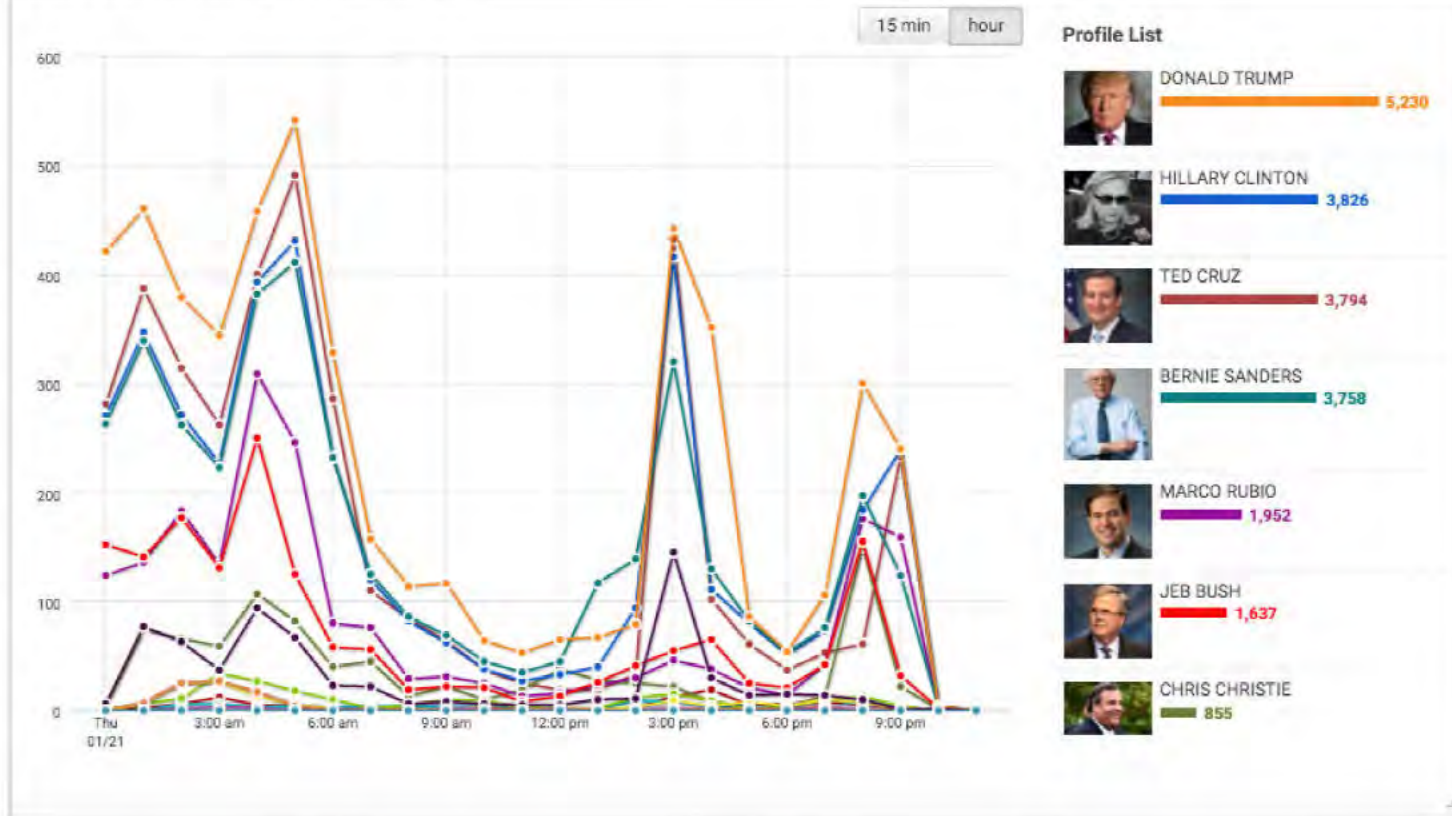


### SIGNAL LABS TOTAL MENTIONS -- TWITTER



And this chart tracks mentions on television:

### SIGNAL LABS TOTAL MENTIONS -- TELEVISION



— Pictures of the day:

Rep. Steve Stivers (R-Ohio) posted this photo of a new polar bear cub from the Columbus Zoo. If you want to help name it, Stivers invited followers to click [here](#) and submit suggestions:



([repstevestivers](#))

Ted Cruz found himself holding a lightsaber while chatting about campaign finance with New Hampshire voters:



(@teddyschleifer)

Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.) with members of the 187th Fighter Wing of the Alabama National Guard:



RESCUE

1. PUSH IN  
2. PULL UP  
3. EJECTOR

(@RepTerriSewell)

Here's a new one. Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-N.C.) celebrated her bird Oliver's 26th birthday with a party and birdseed cupcakes. "Unfortunately for Oliver, this is the last year he'll be covered under his parent's health policy ... #thanksObama," Ellmers tweeted:



(@RepReneeEllmers)

In WaPo news, demolition has begun on our old 15th Street building:



(philiprucker)

We gathered in front of our *new* building yesterday to celebrate Jason Rezaian being a free man (his mother and wife recount their torturous final hours in Iran [here](#)):



**-Tweets of the day:**

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) documented this conversation about Social Security between Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and his son:





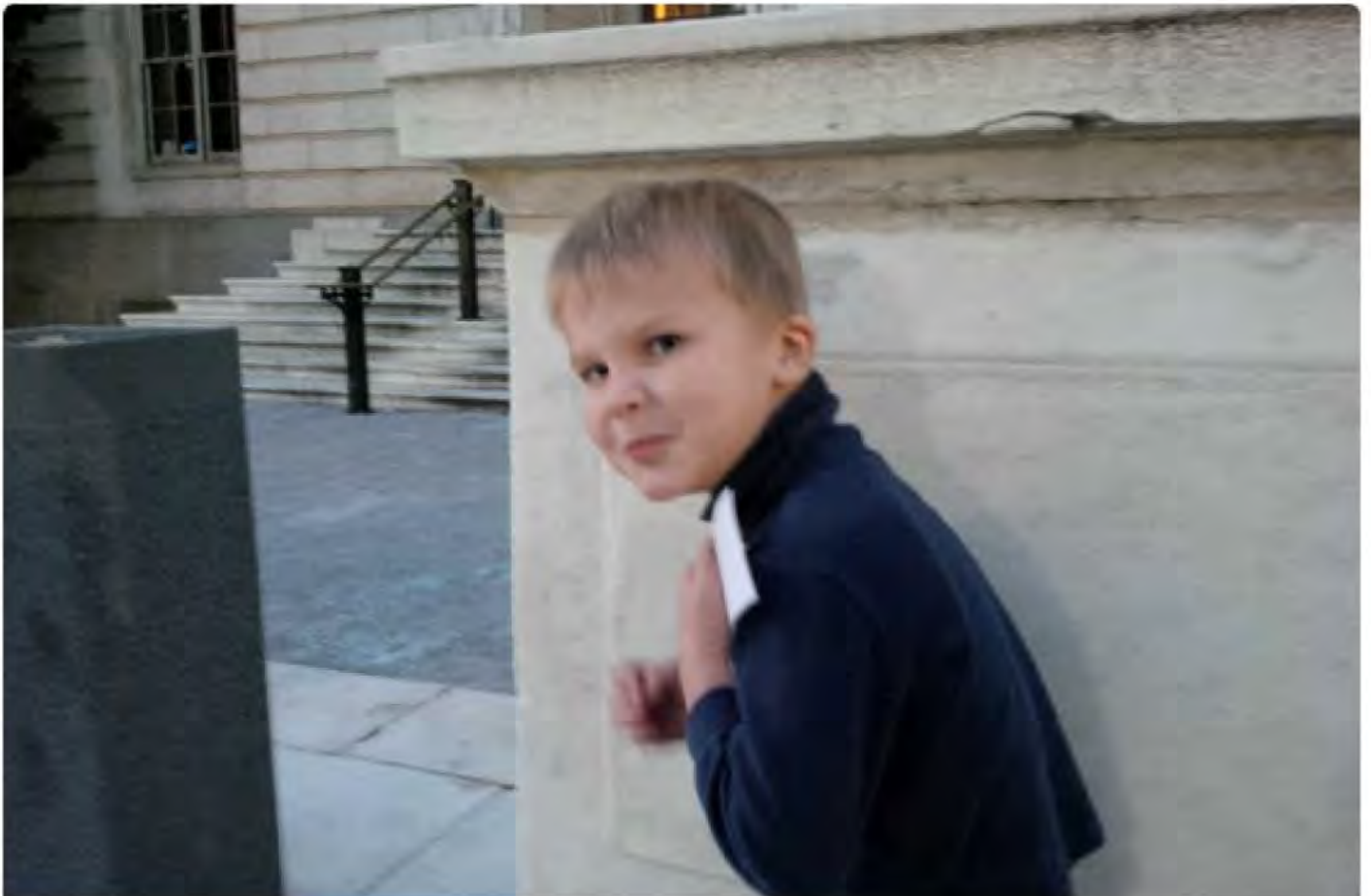
**Ben Sasse** ✓

@BenSasse



 Follow

4yr-old is w/me @office today  
He tried 2scare Sen. @grahamblog: Hey!  
LG:"Hey Man, Sorry abt Soc.Security. U r  
hosed"



(@BenSasse)

ABC chief political analyst Matthew Dowd, the chief strategist for George W. Bush's 2004 reelection campaign, made a bold prediction:



**Matthew Dowd**  
@matthewjdowd



 Follow

it wouldn't surprise me that Huckabee gets out before the Iowa Caucus. and then endorses [@realDonaldTrump](#) . let's watch the next 10 days.

([@matthewjdowd](#))

In case you missed it, allies of Kasich and Bush are trading attack ads.

Here's the spot from Right to Rise:



([Right to Rise USA](#))

And the response from Kasich's super PAC:



(New Day for America)

And Kasich's chief strategist:



**John Weaver**

@JWGOP



[Follow](#)

We knew the Bush special interest slime machine would hit this week, but [@johnkasich](#) will weather this just fine. [#dynastydesperation](#) [#sad](#)

(@JWGOP)

Christie will stay in New Hampshire, and [not return home to New Jersey](#), for the coming storm. It's a calculated political risk. He's already deeply unpopular back home, but if things go poorly it could definitely undercut his core message of competent leadership:



**Matt Arco** ✓

@MatthewArco



 Follow

Not only is Christie not anticipating returning to Jersey for storm ([s.nj.com/a5KFRFM](https://www.nj.com/news/politics/2013/09/Christie-not-returning-to-New-Jersey-for-storm.html)), he added 4 new stops to his NH trip.

([@MatthewArco](#))

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) marked the anniversary of the Citizens United decision:



**Elizabeth Warren** ✓

@SenWarren



 Follow

Six years ago today, [#CitizensUnited](#) turned loose a flood of hidden money that is about to drown our democracy.

([@SenWarren](#))

The RNC's digital director joked about this comment from Hillary Clinton on the campaign trail:



**Gerrit Lansing**

@lansing



 Follow

sold me



**Monica Alba** @AlbaMonica

Man on rope line asks Clinton about report saying her email server was hacked. Clinton: "It's totally untrue"

(@lansing)

**-Instagrams of the day:**

Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) celebrated National Hug Day by posting this old photo from 2009:



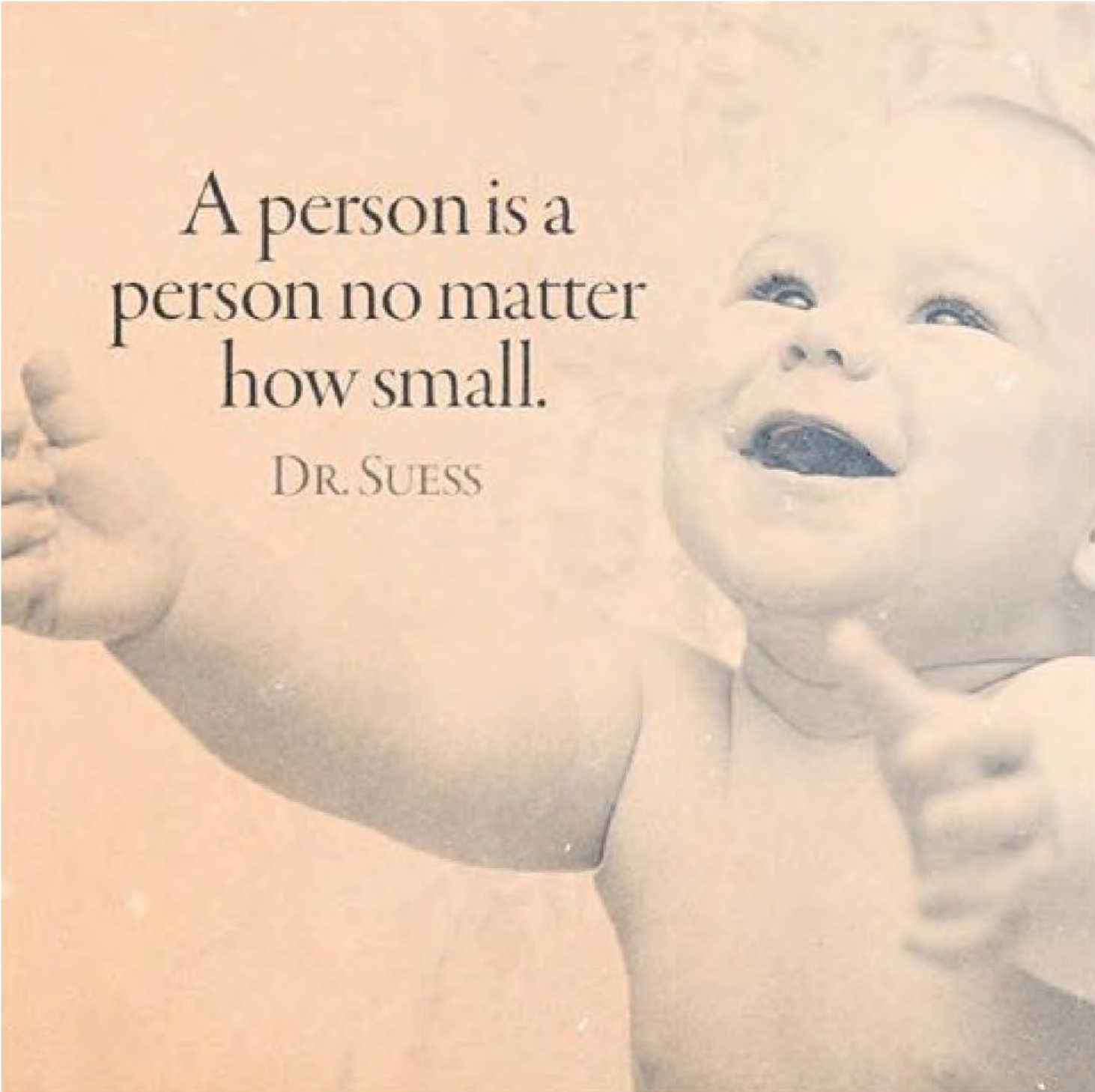
(reptimryan)

Christie recalled this moment with his wife Mary Pat at an Adele concert for Throwback Thursday:



(chrischristie)

Congressional Republicans are preparing for today's March for Life (we'll forgive Scalise for the misspelling):



A person is a  
person no matter  
how small.

DR. SUESS

([stevescalise](#))

Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.) snapped a photo of Star Wars sleeping bags coming off the assembly line:





(robert\_aderholt)

#### GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE:

— Wall Street Journal, "[Cruz's career in private practice complicates his legal record](#)," by Brent Kendall and Heather Haddon: "For four years leading up to his Senate election, his work in private practice provided a steady diet of corporate work and a few

conservative legal causes—but also a handful of cases that complicate (his) image as a conservative purist. Among them, Mr. Cruz helped defend a Chinese tire company facing a \$26 million jury verdict for copying technology stolen from a U.S. businessman ... He also participated in two New Mexico personal-injury cases that sought to preserve historically large punitive damages, despite supporting sharp limits on such payouts elsewhere.”

## HOT ON THE LEFT

— **“Clinton’s paid speeches to Wall Street animate her opponents,”** from the front page of today’s New York Times: “For a fee of \$275,000, [Hillary] had agreed to appear before the clients of GoldenTree Asset Management, the capstone of a lucrative speechmaking sprint through Wall Street that earned her more than \$2 million in less than seven months. ... Together, Mrs. Clinton and her husband ... have earned in excess of \$125 million in speech income since leaving the White House in 2001, one-fifth of it in the last two years. ... Mrs. Clinton’s own speechmaking was a veritable tour through high finance. She gave paid speeches at GTCR, the Chicago private equity firm that the Republican governor of Illinois, Bruce Rauner, helped found; Deutsche Bank, the German financial services conglomerate; and the investment bank Morgan Stanley, among other companies. Goldman Sachs alone paid Mrs. Clinton \$675,000 for three speeches in three different states,

## HOT ON THE RIGHT

**Cruz says he doesn’t have health insurance.** From Politico: “I’ll tell you, you know who one of those millions of Americans is who’s lost their health care because of Obamacare? That would be me,” Cruz told a New Hampshire audience. “I don’t have health care right now.” Cruz explained he purchased an individual policy and that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas had canceled all of its individual policies in Texas, effective Dec. 31. Cruz and his wife, Heidi, who is on temporary leave from her job with Goldman Sachs, purchased an individual plan last year after previously receiving coverage through the Wall Street firm.”

a fact Mr. Sanders has highlighted repeatedly.”

## DAYBOOK:

–**What’s happening today on the campaign trail:** The Iowa caucuses are in 10 days. The New Hampshire primary is in 18 days. Most of the Republicans are in New Hampshire ahead of a big state GOP cattle call last night.

- **Trump** flies into Iowa.
- **Cruz** is on his bus tour in New Hampshire.
- **Hillary** makes stops in Rochester, Concord and Manchester, N.H.
- **Bill** is in Reno.
- **Sanders** speaks in North Conway, Concord, Bedford, Hudson and Manchester, N.H.
- **Rubio**, also in the Granite State, hosts town halls in Manchester and Merrimack.
- **Bush** stops in Stratham, Exeter and Rochester.
- **Christie** meets with police chiefs in Sandwich before heading to Littleton, Lancaster and Lebanon, N.H.
- **Kasich** visits a veterans’ home in Hilton and then goes to Franklin, Dover and Rye, N.H.
- **O’Malley** hosts a town hall in Portsmouth followed by a meet and greet in Tilton.
- **Paul** is in Manchester and Nashua, and then hosts a town hall in New Boston.
- **Fiorina** will be joined by Susan B. Anthony List president **Marjorie Dannelfelser** and others who oppose abortions in the March for Life’s walk on the National Mall all the way to the Supreme Court building. They say it will go on despite the snow.
- **Carson** stops in Creston, Iowa, before headlining a BET Twitter town hall in Des Moines.
- **Huckabee**, in Iowa, heads to Spencer, Spirit Lake, Thompson and Garner.

- **Santorum** appears at a forum in Manchester before hosting a town hall in Wolfeboro.

–**On the Hill:** There will be no voting for the House on Monday because of the storm. The first votes of next week will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

–**At the White House:** President Obama attends various meetings in the afternoon. Due to the snowstorm, the ceremony to recognize the winners of the National Medals of Science and the National Medals of Technology was postponed.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

The drummer from “The Doors” **John Densmore**, wrote [an op-ed](#) for today’s Des Moines Register explaining why he supports Sanders: “Several years ago I thought, ‘Wow, in my lifetime I might see an African-American man and a woman become president of the United States!’ Then several months ago I thought, ‘I’m really not that excited about Hillary Clinton. What’s wrong? I love smart women. What’s the problem?’”

### NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.:

— **The Capitals’ game versus the Anaheim Ducks today has been moved up to 5 p.m.** ([Staff report](#))

— **The Maryland General Assembly overrode five of Gov. Larry Hogan’s 2015 vetoes.** The resurrected measures include dealing with public marijuana smoking and pot paraphernalia; police seizures of criminal assets; taxation of online hotel-booking services; and funding to renovate an arts center in Annapolis. ([Josh Hicks](#))

— **A Northern Virginia man accused of trying to fly to Syria to join ISIS will be held without bond until a court appearance in February.** ([Matt Zapotosky](#))

— **Montgomery County’s Democratic Central Committee nominated Del. Craig J. Zucker to fill a vacant seat in the state Senate.** ([Ovetta Wiggins](#) and [Antonio Olivo](#))

— **Political Twitter still has plenty to say about the coming storm:**



**Brendan Buck**

@BrendanBuck



 Follow

I love when we get snow. But please spare us the tweets about how much better your hometown is at handling snow. Really happy for you.

(@BrendanBuck)



**Grover Norquist** 

@GroverNorquist



 Follow

This weekend remember.  
Republican Congress allows kids to sled at Capitol.  
President Obama does not allow such at WH.

(@GroverNorquist)



Charles Rangel

@cbrangel



Follow

#TBT to 2015 blizzard. There could be even more snow this wknd- stay safe & warm & burn some calories!



Charles Rangel

@cbrangel

Snowed in? Don't be a couch potato. Join my #RangelRes to get healthier not heavier!  
[Rangel.house.gov/Rangelres](http://Rangel.house.gov/Rangelres)



(@cbrangel)

And finally, for those who have not experienced the run on the super markets, check out this video of what our stores looked like last night:



([washingtonian.com](http://washingtonian.com))

This is the scene at the Whole Foods on P Street:



(rebeccasinderbrand)

## VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Funny or Die cut the funniest bits together from Sarah Palin's Trump endorsement:





(Funny or Die)

Stephen Colbert did a bit on Sarah Palin's return to the spotlight:



(The Late Show with Stephen Colbert)

Jimmy Fallon poked fun at Rubio's attempts at telling jokes:



([Marco Rubio](#))

Jimmy Kimmel gave Jeb Bush his very own Freedom Kids, featuring a cameo from Vanessa Hudgens:



([Jimmy Kimmel Live](#))

Watch folks who are enrolled in “Camp Cruz:”



(@washingtonpost)

Check out the [hover test](#) for SpaceX's Crew Dragon:



(@Commercial\_Crew)

Finally, please stay safe and warm this weekend! And thank you for reading.



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**Sent:** Thursday, January 21, 2016 8:23 AM  
**To:** Sorrell, Bill  
**Subject:** The Daily 202: Do endorsements matter?

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**PowerPost**

# The Daily 202

Morning intelligence for leaders

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**Do endorsements matter?**



Sarah Palin hugs Donald Trump after she introduced him in Tulsa, Okla., yesterday. (AP Photo/Brandi Simons)



BY JAMES HOHMANN

## THE BIG IDEA:

— Sarah Palin’s **endorsement** of Donald Trump underscores something remarkable: Neither Trump nor Ted Cruz, the two Republicans leading in the polls, has the endorsement of a single sitting governor or senator.

“It is staggering that Trump does not have a major elected official or any statewide elected officeholder anywhere in the country supporting him,” said former New Hampshire GOP



chairman Fergus Cullen, who has not endorsed anyone. “People who actually win elections recognize he’d be a train wreck ... but his supporters love that. And Cruz wears the lack of a single endorsement from a Senate colleague as a badge of honor.”

— **On the Democratic side, the entire political establishment of New Hampshire publicly lined up behind Hillary Clinton – including Gov. Maggie Hassan and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen – but Bernie Sanders’ lead in the state has grown into double digits.** Even in Sanders’ home state, neighboring Vermont, the Democratic establishment – including Sen. Pat Leahy and Gov. Pete Shumlin – publicly backs Clinton. Yet Sanders has the state’s March 1 primary locked up.

Liberal talk radio host Arnie Arnesen, once the Democratic nominee for governor in New Hampshire, thinks **Clinton has struggled to change the perception that she typifies the status quo because of all the politicians who have endorsed her.**

“Now more than ever, endorsements don’t matter,” said Arnesen, who is officially neutral. “This is a year where everyone is really looking for someone who is prepared to change the conversation or change the landscape ... Clinton will bring in the same people.”

— **A bunch of high-profile GOP endorsements in the Granite State scattered last year among the establishmentarians.** Ex.-Sen. Judd Gregg, the scion of the storied political family, backed Jeb Bush. Former senators John E. Sununu and Gordon Humphrey backed John Kasich. John McCain, who won the New Hampshire primary in 2000 and 2008, went all in for his amigo Lindsey Graham – making several visits to the state before the South Carolina senator dropped out.

On the other hand, **even Cruz’s best friend in the Senate (and, frankly, one of his only friends in the chamber), Utah’s Mike Lee, is staying neutral.** It is worth noting that Cruz has received endorsements from several House members, including Iowa’s Steve King, who represent deeply-conservative areas. Ken Buck blew a winnable 2010 Senate race in Colorado by running a disastrous campaign. In 2014, he got elected in a safely-Republican district. Yesterday, the Cruz campaign released a statement touting his endorsement.

Joseph D. Kenney is a member of New Hampshire's Executive Council, a powerful post that gives him some control over state spending. He has been courted by all the candidates. Chris Christie texts him. Heidi Cruz sat down with him last week. Carly Fiorina baffled him by repeatedly calling him "Joey." Kenney's wife prefers Marco Rubio, but at Scott Brown's rally for Trump in Portsmouth this weekend he explained why he plans to stay neutral. **"My endorsement is not going to mean really anything," said Kenney, the 2008 GOP nominee for governor.** "It's different in local and state races. But presidential endorsements here don't mean as much as they used to." At that same Trump rally, before the Palin rollout, several rank-and-file voters told me they want someone who is not "tainted" by holding elected office.

**–Local press dutifully covers most endorsements, though, even when they are totally irrelevant.** The [Star-Ledger](#) yesterday wrote, for example, about David Karnes endorsing Christie. He represented Nebraska in the Senate from 1987 to 1989. The truth is that this doesn't matter. Ditto with Chuck Douglas, a one-term congressman from New Hampshire (1989-90), who formally backed Kasich yesterday.