

# A Menagerie of the Inexperienced

By Donato (Danny) Pietrodangelo

There's a growing crack in the core of the nation's social conscience, as the moral imperative to safeguard the well-being threatens to erode.

Washington, corporate America - and too many of The People - are losing the moral compass that guided them to environmental stewardship, quality public education, access to affordable health care, decent housing, fair-paying work - America's historical promise of equity and equal opportunity for all - central to every parent's hope of making our kid's world and lives better than ours.

The mood's changing from, "What can I do to help," to a dark, "What's in it for me?" Over the next few years, everyone will be affected - liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican - no matter who you voted for.

Mr. Trump promised a tremendous government, with new opportunities for the politically vaulted and opportunistically championed workers and middle class. That's hard to imagine considering the moneyed, special interest functionaries picked to help him govern.

He promised to "drain the swamp. He didn't warn us he'd restock it with a menagerie of the inexperienced cretins - appointees, fundamentally and ideologically at odds with the missions their institutions are legally - and morally - tasked to uphold.

Mr. Trump's bizarre cast of characters include:

An energy baron Secretary of State, with no government or diplomatic experience, but does have financial entanglements in Russian oil; a conspiracy theorist, National Security Advisor

who promoted the absurd claim that Hillary Clinton masterminds a child sex slave ring; an Energy Secretary who promised to dissolve the agency he will head, whose name he couldn't remember when he proposed dismemberment; the Labor Secretary appointee is a fast food magnate who opposes raising the minimum wage, believes workers are "over protected," and said, about his Hardees' commercials, "I like beautiful women eating burgers in bikinis. I think it's very American."

The would be Education Secretary, disdains the public school system; selected for Treasury Secretary is a Goldman Sachs banker accused of "widespread misconduct" subprime mortgage lending. World Wrestling

is the new SBA administrator's claim to fame; the pick for EPA chief denies that climate change is real; the HHS Secretary appointee wants to privatize Medicare, cut millions from Medicaid and kill "Obamacare"; and, the new HUD Secretary says poverty is a choice and government fair housing programs are a "social engineering scheme."

None has demonstrated a single iota of the statesmanship needed to navigate a divided country through a world embroiled in too much hate and anger. Most frightening, these



“outsiders” will have the power to make institutional and policy changes that will hurt and haunt us for years to come.

Why should you care? Because Trump played you and to you, he promised to make things better for you, the common folk. First act, appoint the *entitled* to rule the *unentitled*.

Where are your advocates in this lineup? Where are the people who will have your back? Looking at their professional and personal resumes, most of these people don't know or care you exist. Unless you can make them money.

One of the most myopic and ill-conceived plans for change is the crusade - the obsession - to gut the Affordable Care Act (ACA) - “Obamacare.”  
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[SEP][SEP] Again, why should you care?

Because everyone of us has benefited from Obamacare. Everyone. Regardless of where you get your get you insurance - work, an ACA exchange, or your own pocket.

A recent report by CNN lays it out in detail. The ACA: allows children under 26 to stay on their parent's insurance; prohibits denying coverage because of preexisting conditions; provides free prevention services like mammograms and colonoscopies; requires coverage for maternal care and mental health services; requires businesses with more than 50 employees to offer health plans; and more.

Because it's given everyone unprecedented

protection, repealing the law, will trigger a chain of cascading effects, that can reverse the progress towards accessibility, increase the cost, reduce the scope and reshape our health care delivery system.

About 20 million people got insurance under the ACA. If they lose it, and say, get the flu, they'll go to an ER. If they can't afford to pay, the hospital “cost shifts” the loss, passing it on to insurance companies, by charging them more for services to patients insured by the company. But ultimately, you pay for that ER visit, through higher deductibles and premiums - passed on to you by your insurer.

All of this is an ironic circle, since with insurance they could have gotten a flu shot or gone to a doctor's office, not visit the ER at your expense.

Over the next few years your world is going to change; most likely not for the better. That is, unless you're rich, CEO of a big business, on Wall Street, in Congress or - having paid your \$100,000 initiation fee - a member of the Mar-a-lago Club.

But, we made it through Reagan and Bush II, and were rewarded with an elegant man with a true moral compass. So, in the words of 70s singer Gloria Gaynor, “I (we) will survive.”

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Pietrodangelo is a freelance writer and fine art photographer. [pietro1@pipeline.com](mailto:pietro1@pipeline.com)

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