



Trump and His Menacing Band of Misfits

By Dr. Maura Cullen

The "birther movement" has been a pesky mosquito buzzing around our collective heads for far too long. It is easy to dismiss them as an unstable group of far right conspiracy theorists. That said, the 'birthers' were the recipients of a credibility lift when Donald Trump joined their ranks.

Yet 'The Donald', has stepped out of his area of expertise and has unfortunately stepped onto the political stage. Whatever credibility he once had is quickly evaporating as he takes a page out of the madness that is Charlie Sheen, "I win--I am a winner". Mr. Trump was so pleased with himself, that he took credit for being the man that finally had the President produce his long form birth certificate, as if this was a crowning achievement. What he did was distract the President from doing the work of the people.

If the demand for the birth certificate wasn't enough, Trump is now demanding that the President produce his academic records. President Obama graduated Magna cum laude from Harvard Law School and was the first Black President of the Harvard Law Review. In my mind, that is an impressive record.

George W. Bush admitted to not being the brightest bulb in the pack, yet the Republican spin machine turned that into a positive attribute, by suggesting he is just a regular guy. We all know how that turned out. But Trump is suggesting that Obama is not smart enough to do the job, that he is incompetent. Trump's assertions are not only wrong; they are racist at the core.

Trump is acting like the self-centered bully he is, but it is at the expense of all of us. The President of the United States has more important issues to deal with than Trump and his menacing band of misfits.

Bottom line, Trump and the birther movement are fanning the flames of racism very successfully. Given Trump's possible political aspirations, these attacks will not likely end soon. Don't be surprised if you see a double dose of racism being used as a political strategy as we gear up for another Presidential election--Trump/Palin?

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