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Welcome to the Arctic Circle

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By Carl Golden/NJ Voices
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At its most primal, politics is like a years' worth of Januarys at the Arctic Circle --- a harsh and unforgiving environment th that he misread his medication dosage.

He was far more animated than he had been, waving his arms, cracking wise, and riffing on --- among other items --- the defeat of the Texas Rangers in the World Series.

His campaign insisted there was nothing untoward, that he was being what he was criticized for not being --- relaxed and comfortable rather than wooden and intense. His performance was an unseen side of his personality, they said, and not produced by anything from a bottle, pill or otherwise.

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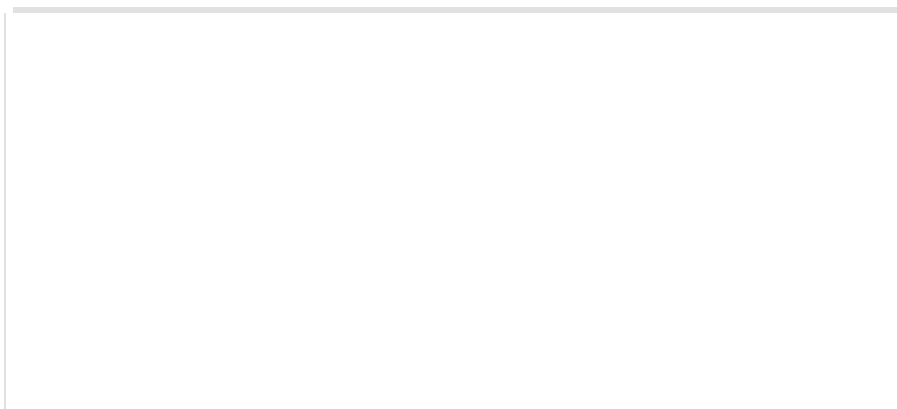
Perry will emerge unscathed from the incident, primarily because it didn't reach the level of the improprieties attributed to Cain, but also because his campaign staff quickly and firmly stepped on the story with a believable response. It was the kind of reaction that not only satisfies the media, but sets it off quickly in another direction pursuing another story.

It was precisely what the Cain campaign failed so miserably at.

The harsh and unforgiving environment applies to those who have left public life as well, particularly if the departure was involuntary.

When the news broke last week that a Wall Street brokerage firm headed by former New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine had made high risk investments of such magnitude that it collapsed into bankruptcy, the history of his one term as Governor was re-run in a less than flattering fashion. Corzine has since resigned from the firm and a Federal review has begun.

His critics were una 1 TffiewHis (s)-4s drawash-4.r .0003 Tw(bu)6.6(t.6(s18(guff quiw-4)- unen h(on t)6.ϩ(-gsets iber.8319 0)8.938009 Tc.0033 Tw(p1)8.8(n



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