

Public discourse

**Humor ... may be a way of telling us
not to feel sorry for ourselves.**

**But it is more often a way of telling us
not to feel sorry for others.**

**It creates an economy of compassion,
limiting it to those who are laughing and
excluding those who are being laughed at.
It makes the polarization of humanity fun.**

...

**Trump is America's biggest comedian.
His badinage is hardly Wildean, but his put-
downs, honed to the sharpness of stilettos,
are many people's idea of fun. For them,
he makes anger, fear and resentment
entertaining.**

Fintan O'Toole, NY Rev. of Books, Mar. 21, 2024