## OPINION: IS 'SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP' CHRISTIE'S FATAL MISSTEP?

CARL GOLDEN | NOVEMBER 4, 2014

The governor likes to paint himself as blunt and outspoken, but did his mouth get away from his mind in Belmar?



Carl Golden

Call it his "sit down and shut up" moment, but judging from the largely unfavorable reaction, Gov. Chris Christie's outburst directed at a questioner at an appearance in Belmar on the second anniversary of Hurricane Sandy may have damaged the brand he'd like to carry into presidential politics next year.

It wasn't so much that Christie used harsh language to silence a critic -- New Jerseyans have become accustomed to that -- but his strident dressing-down response portrayed for many who saw it played over and over on national TV an undisciplined out-of-

control individual unable to rein in his temper when challenged.

His repeated sarcastic use of the word "buddy" conveyed the disdain he so obviously felt toward the questioner, who held a hand-lettered sign aloft and interrupted the governor demanding to