

Title: GameStop, Sears and the Cancellation of Bill Gates

Author: funsnacks

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Preface

Three hours before the House Committee on Financial Services hearing *Game Stopped? Who Wins and Loses When Short Sellers, Social Media, and Retail Investors Collide* on February 18th, 2021 CNBC aired an unusual, pre-recorded interview with Bill Gates innocently sporting a blue sweater and white collared shirt in a bright, modern office. During the interview Gates equated “meme” stock investing to gambling and suggested the SEC needed to “look at the individual investor.” He talked about the market activity involving “meme” stocks lacking societal value and how the events of January and February reminded him of the Post-depression era 1930s as though he’d lived through it. So why did Bill take it upon himself to cast individual investors as degenerate gamblers in advance of this hearing?

Not much has been made of Gates’ possible involvement in GameStop beyond mention of his well-known “family office”, Cascade Investments, and [speculation](https://www.reddit.com/r/GME/comments/m2ozdh/another_1_million_shares_borrowed_from_etfs_in/gqklwg9) on Reddit in early March 2021 that his vocalization on market events signaled maneuvering ahead of a divorce - like Gabriel Plotkin’s announced on January 31st, 2021 - meant to secure assets under a soon-to-be ex-spouse’s name before they could margin call from them. Foresight later acknowledged by a Marketwatch article [here](<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/bill-and-melinda-gates-divorce-was-a-predictable-market-phenomenon-and-bullish-for-gamestop-we-can-explain-11620158462>).

But after the months of divorce headlines and an Epstein apology tour things seem to be back to normal for Gates and company. He’s once again writing [op-eds](<https://time.com/6115046/bill-gates-pandemic-preparedness/>) about public health and how we can prepare for future pandemics as if all is forgotten and forgiven... right? I’m not so sure and think Gates still has some explaining to do.

Background

Please allow me to add a new equity of interest to the search results of r/Superstonk: AutoNation.

I was reminded of this company a few months ago after a nobody analyst by the name of Anthony Chukumba went on CNBC in attempt to not only cast doubt on the ascent of GameStop but also assassinate the character of Ryan Cohen. During the interview Chukumba, with fervor, said:

> “The valuation is nonsensical and at some point **let’s just call it what it is - the emperor has no clothes.** I know Ryan Cohen you know founded Chewy and sold it for a gajillion dollars. He’s got at least three zeros in his net worth more than I do... but at the end of the day **this is Eddie Lampert with Sears all over again.** At some point we’re going to have to come to the realization that **the emperor has no clothes there’s no strategy there’s no turning this business around** and it’s nonsensical that it’s that the valuation is 15 billion dollars.” - [Anthony Chukumba - September 9th, 2021](<https://youtu.be/0Sc8tIAhEEU>)

Hold up. Ryan Cohen, an emperor with no clothes? Eddie Lampert with Sears all over again? How weird were these analogies?

First of all, I’m pretty sure RC has at least one premium black Lulu hoodie... and what makes Anthony so sure Eddie Lampert is a foolish, vain emperor who lacks cunning? Eddie has a grand total of zero public interviews on YouTube and like CNBC points out [here](<https://youtu.be/gZqmlZK9I30>) has long been known to avoid the spotlight. Let me ask you a question - do either the yacht and accompanying black Bond villain boat recently spotted in Charleston, South Carolina

[here](https://abcnews4.com/news/local/130m-megayacht-owned-by-sears-ceo-visits-charleston-harbor) or 13 bathroom house in "[Miami's Billionaire Bunker](https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/article247709685.html)" strike you as the property of a foolish emperor?

Second of all, their business practices are, very obviously, entirely different. RC has created hundreds (thousands?) of jobs in his first year as Chairman of GameStop. Lampert on the other hand systematically dismantled a classic American corporation resulting in the loss of *several hundred thousand jobs* while playing *Weekend at Bernie's* with Sears' underlying credit insurance as demonstrated by the company's settlement with Omega Advisors Inc., Och Ziff Capital Management Group and Saba Capital Management in December 2018 after:

> "The judge presiding over Sears Holdings Corp.'s bankruptcy suggested an \$82.5 million bankruptcy sale didn't follow proper procedure and may have unfairly disadvantaged investors who bought insurance on the company's debt." - [Wall Street Journal - December 20th, 2018](https://www.wsj.com/articles/sears-s-82-5-million-note-sale-to-cyrus-is-thrown-into-doubt-11545351623)

Eddie and his buddy Stephen C. Freidheim of Cyrus Capital were essentially caught playing funny games during Sears' bankruptcy auction and had to cough up a very small amount of money relative to their net wealth as a result. Meager price to pay for the actual amount of capital Lampert has extracted from Sears over the years and representative of why an association with Eddie Lampert is a character assassination in and of itself. He's a bad person, unlike Ryan Cohen.

It seems Chukumba has not only been wrong about GameStop in his analysis but RC and Lampert as well. Almost as embarrassing as the quality of Loop Capital's [website](https://www.loopcapital.com) and their only available translation option being Mandarin.

Hypothesis:

Ok, so, back to Gates - he wouldn't involve himself with someone like Eddie Lampert, would he? Well, it just so happens that Cascade purchased \$186 million of Sears debt in 2016 and was subsequently very lenient when it came time for the loan to be repaid by Sears in [2018](https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-sears-loan-lampert-cascade-0605-story.html). Once a fluke, twice a coincidence...

Thrice a pattern... Did you know Bill Gates [transferred](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-05-04/cascade-transfers-canadian-national-autonation-to-melinda-gates) 14.1 million shares of AutoNation - a company Lampert has a [10%](https://whalewisdom.com/filer/esl-investments-inc) stake in and was [formerly](https://investors.autonation.com/news-and-events/press-releases/press-release-details/2007/Edward-S-Lampert-Not-Standing-for-Re-Election-to-AutoNation-Board/default.aspx) on the board of - to Melinda Gates and then sold off another 2.94 million at ~\$103.47/share on May 3rd, 2021? While researching this post AutoNation was trading ~\$123.65 which means Bill Gates has effectively parted ways with \$343,867,200 in unrealized gains during 2021 while doing so.

Fourth time a standard... of trading behavior that is all too coincidental when taking into account the bizarre pink sheet OTC volumes observed for "zombie companies" like Sears and Blockbuster that people have [observed](https://www.reddit.com/r/Superstonk/comments/phazqs/what_in_the_fuck_is_this_large_volume_moves_in) unexpectedly overlap with GME trading throughout 2021. RC even tweeted about the two companies [here](https://twitter.com/ryancohen/status/1400492465442811904?s=21) and [here](https://twitter.com/ryancohen/status/1346943412663177218?s=21).

While it is still unclear as to whether Bill Gates has lost money directly tied to GameStop or not one thing is clear - he has left a veritable trail of behaviors and relationships behind him that suggests he still has some explaining to do.

Conclusion

To wrap this up, I'd like to once again refer to Gates' comparison of Retail Investors, like you and me, to gamblers like himself during his February 18th, 2021 pre-market CNBC appearance. I do not enjoy

casinos, losing money, Windows PCs, or being judged by a person whose family office is known for it's "[culture of fear](<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/26/business/bill-gates-cascade-michael-larson.html>).” I can't imagine Time Magazine would, for example, allow Bill Cosby to write an op-ed nowadays - so I'm not sure why they recently allowed Bill Gates to? Perhaps they will one day publish a piece about the relationship between Gates and Lampert.

Just a Retail Investor, not a financial advisor.