



## FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #91 — MAR. 9, 2012

*Welcome to always lively political discussion and whatever else comes up.*  
<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org> [FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com)

**INDEX: Click here.**

### **Inspirational Quotes by a Great American or *Mierda*?**

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Mar. 9, 2012)

I thought that, since it's Friday, I would present a few quotes and tributes to women from the Great Man Himself. What a mouth!

Forget politics! Why don't they have a 'WORD'S BIGGEST A\*S-HOLE AWARD'? Could there be one any bigger than what you see below?

"The Dumbest Things Rush Limbaugh Has Ever Said" [Are you sure? –SteveB] by Daniel Kurtzman, About.com

updated Mar., 2012, (<http://politicalhumor.about.com/od/rushlimbaugh/a/limbaughquotes.htm>)

"It doesn't look like Michelle Obama follows her own nutritional dietary advice. And then we hear that she's out eating ribs at 1500 calories a serving with 141 grams of fat ... No, I'm trying to say that our first lady does not project the image of women that you might see on the cover of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue or of a woman Alex Rodriguez might date every six months or what have you." –Rush Limbaugh, Feb. 21, 2011

"These were highly civil comments for crying out loud. I mean, people are going nuts. USA Today, the Politico. And some people were suggesting that my comments were below the belt. Well, take a look at some pictures. Given where she wears her belts. I mean, she wears them high up there around the bust line. Isn't just about everything about her below the belt when you look at the fashion sense she has?" –Rush Limbaugh, after being criticized for making derogatory comments about First Lady Michelle Obama's weight, Feb. 22, 2011

"What Mr. Loughner knows is that he has the full support of a major political party in this country . . . he knows that . . . the Democrat party is attempting to find anybody but him to blame. He knows if he plays his cards right, he's just a victim. . . . This guy clearly understands he's getting all the attention and he understands he's got a political party doing everything it can, plus a local sheriff doing everything that they can to make sure he's not convicted of murder — but something lesser." --Rush Limbaugh on Arizona shooter Jared Loughner, Jan. 11, 2011

"As far as the media's concerned, Mrs. Obama deserves this. Look at the sordid past. Look at our slave past, look at the discriminatory past. It's only fair that people of color get their taste of the wealth of America too." --Rush Limbaugh, claiming the media is allowing Michelle Obama to take a vacation as a form of reparations for "our slave past," Aug. 6, 2010

"That cracker made a lot of African-American millionaires." --Rush Limbaugh, on the death of longtime New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, July 13, 2010

"[Obama] wouldn't have been voted president if he weren't black. Somebody asked me over the weekend why does somebody earn a lot of money have a lot of money, because she's black. It was Oprah. No, it can't be. Yes, it is. There's a lot of guilt out there, show we're not racists, we'll make this person wealthy and big and famous and so forth.... If Obama weren't black he'd be a tour guide in Honolulu or he'd be teaching Saul Alinsky constitutional law or lecturing on it in Chicago." --Rush Limbaugh, July 6, 2010

"When do we ask the Sierra Club to pick up the tab for this leak?" --Rush Limbaugh, blaming the oil spill in the Gulf on the Sierra Club, arguing that the environmental group had driven oil producers off the land to more high-risk situations offshore, Rush Limbaugh, May 17, 2010

"The ocean will take care of this on its own if it was left alone and left out there. It's natural. It's as natural as the ocean water is." --Rush Limbaugh, on the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, May 3, 2010

"Guess what? Faisal Shahzad is a registered Democrat. I wonder if his SUV had an Obama sticker on it." --Rush Limbaugh, lying about the failed Times Square car bomber, who is not registered to vote, May 4, 2010

"What better way to head off more oil drilling, nuclear plants, than by blowing up a rig? I'm just noting the timing, here." --Rush Limbaugh, suggesting that "environmentalist whackos" deliberately blew up the oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico that created one of the biggest environmental disasters in U.S. history to stop offshore oil drilling, April 29, 2010

"Our political correct society is acting like some giant insult's taken place by calling a bunch of people who are retards, retards...There's going to be a retard summit at the White House." --Rush Limbaugh, on his Feb. 3, 2010 radio show, referring to Chief of Staff Rham Emanuel's remark calling the idea of liberal groups running health care-related ads against Democratic lawmakers "f\*\*king retarded". Sarah Palin called on Emanuel to resign over the comment.

"I'm a huge supporter of women. What I'm not is a supporter of liberalism. Feminism is what I oppose. Feminism has led women astray. I love the women's movement — especially when walking behind it." --Rush Limbaugh, responding to criticism that he is sexist and defending his selection as one of the judges at the 2010 Miss America Pageant, "Fox News' Fox & Friends," February 3, 2010

"We've already donated to Haiti. It's called the U.S. income tax." --Rush Limbaugh, discouraging donations to relief efforts in Haiti after the devastating earthquake, Jan. 13, 2010

"This will play right into Obama's hands. He's humanitarian, compassionate. They'll use this to burnish their, shall we say, 'credibility' with the black community -- in the both light-skinned and dark-skinned black community in this country. It's made-to-order for them. That's why he couldn't wait to get out there, could not wait to get out there." --Rush Limbaugh, on Haiti earthquake relief, Jan. 13, 2010

"Obama's got a health care logo that's right out of Adolf Hitler's playbook ... Adolf Hitler, like Barack Obama, also ruled by dictate." --Rush Limbaugh, Aug. 6, 2009

"Exercise freaks ... are the ones putting stress on the health care system." --Rush Limbaugh, June 12, 2009

"The phony soldiers." --Rush Limbaugh, on U.S. service members who support withdrawal from Iraq (Source)

"He discusses his service in Iraq, the wounds he suffered there, and he says to me in this ad, 'Until you have the guts to call me a 'phony soldier' to my face, stop telling lies about my service.' You know, this is such a blatant use of a valiant combat veteran, lying to him about what I said, then strapping those lies to his belt, sending him out via the media in a TV ad to walk into as many people as he can walk into." --Rush Limbaugh, denouncing an ad by VoteVets.org featuring Iraq war veteran Brian McGough by likening him to a suicide bomber

"Look, let me put it to you this way: the NFL all too often looks like a game between the Bloods and the Crips without any weapons. There, I said it." --Rush Limbaugh, Jan. 19, 2007

"He is exaggerating the effects of the disease. He's moving all around and shaking and it's purely an act. ... This is really shameless of Michael J. Fox. Either he didn't take his medication or he's acting." --Rush Limbaugh, on an ad by Michael J. Fox endorsing Claire McCaskill for Senate for supporting embryonic stem cell research (Watch video)

"And don't forget, Sherrod Brown is black. There's a racial component here, too. And now, the newspaper that I'm reading all this from is The New York Times, and they, of course, don't mention that." --Rush Limbaugh, on the 2006 Ohio Senate primary race involving then-Rep. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), who is white

"This is no different than what happens at the Skull and Bones initiation...I'm talking about people having a good time, these people, you ever heard of emotional release? You ever heard of the need to blow some steam off?" --Rush Limbaugh, on the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal

"Too many whites are getting away with drug use...Too many whites are getting away with drug sales...The answer is to go out and find the ones who are getting away with it, convict them, and send them up the river, too." --Rush Limbaugh, in 1995

"I am addicted to prescription pain medication." --Rush Limbaugh, in 2003

"Feminism was established so as to allow unattractive women easier access to the mainstream of society." --Rush Limbaugh

"We're not sexists, we're chauvinists -- we're male chauvinist pigs, and we're happy to be because we think that's what men were destined to be. We think that's what women want." --Rush Limbaugh

"She comes to me when she wants to be fed. And after I feed her -- guess what -- she's off to wherever she wants to be in the house, until the next time she gets hungry. She's smart enough to know she can't feed herself. She's actually a very smart cat. She gets loved. She gets adoration. She gets petted. She gets fed. And she doesn't have to do anything for it, which is why I say this cat's taught me more about women, than anything my whole life." --Rush Limbaugh, on his cat

"She sounds like a screeching ex-wife." --Rush Limbaugh, on Sen. Hillary Clinton

"I've been racking my brain. I've been trying to figure out how Bob Dole's luggage got on my airplane...I told the doctor, I said, 'Look, I'm worried about the next election.' ... A misunderstanding." --Rush Limbaugh, after he was detained by custom officials for possessing Viagra with a prescription made out in someone else's name

"They oughtta change Black History Month to Black Progress Month and start measuring it." --Rush Limbaugh

"Sorry to say this, I don't think he's been that good from the get-go. I think what we've had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well. They're interested in black coaches and black quarterbacks doing well. I think there's a little hope invested in McNabb and he got a lot of credit for the performance of his team that he really didn't deserve." --on Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb, during a September 2003 broadcast of ESPN television's Sunday NFL Countdown program. The controversy generated by the remark prompted Limbaugh to resign from his position as a commentator on that show

"The only way to reduce the number of nuclear weapons is to use them."

"There are more acres of forestland in America today than when Columbus discovered the continent in 1492."

"I know these people like I know every square inch of my glorious naked body." --on Democrats

"Have you ever noticed how all composite pictures of wanted criminals resemble Jesse Jackson?"

"Take that bone out of your nose and call me back." –responding to a black caller he was having a hard time understanding in the 1970s when he worked under the name "Jeff Christie" on a top-40 music program in Pittsburgh, as quoted in Newsday, Oct, 8, 1990

"What does it say about the college co-ed Susan Fluke [sic] who goes before a congressional committee and essentially says that she must be paid to have sex -- what does that make her? It makes her a slut, right? It makes her a prostitute. She wants to be paid to have sex. She's having so much sex she can't afford the contraception. She wants you and me and the taxpayers to pay her to have sex." -Rush Limbaugh, referring to Sandra Fluke, a student at Georgetown Law School who was denied the right to speak at a congressional hearing on contraception hearing, in which she planned to discuss a friend of hers who needed contraception to prevent the growth of cysts, February 29, 2012

"A Georgetown coed told Nancy Pelosi's hearing that the women in her law school program are having so much sex they're going broke, so you and I should have to pay for their birth control. So what would you call that? I called it what it is. So, I'm offering a compromise today: I will buy all of the women at Georgetown University as much aspirin to put between their knees as they want. ... So Miss Fluke and the rest of you feminazis, here's the deal. If we are going to pay for your contraceptives and thus pay for you to have sex, we want something. We want you to post the videos online so we can all watch." -Rush Limbaugh, March 1, 2012

There's a lot more, but one can only take so much idiocy, hatred, racism, and sexism. This man is seriously detrimental to the country! But I will defend to the death Limbaugh's God-given right to keep destroying any last vestige of positive image the American Right might have maintained. Go, Rush!

**FotM NEWSLETTER #91 (Mar. 9, 2012)—HYPERTEXT INDEX**

<u>DATE-ID</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>SUBJECT/TITLE</u>
<a href="#">20120309-00</a>		SteveB	<b>Inspirational Quotes by a Great American or <i>Mierda?</i></b> by Steven W. Baker / SteveB ("The Dumbest Things Rush Limbaugh Has Ever Said")
<a href="#">20120308-01</a>	05:34	SteveB	Re: "One More Hurdle in Afghanistan: Justice" (reply to Art, FotM Newsletter #90)
<a href="#">20120308-03</a>	11:16	Art	Re: "One More Hurdle in Afghanistan: Justice" (reply to SteveB, above)
<a href="#">20120308-02</a>	11:04	Pam	Re: "One More Hurdle in Afghanistan: Justice" (reply to all, above)
<a href="#">20120308-04</a>	11:47	Phil	Re: The Strangest & Most Beautiful Streets/Roads in the World (reply to Bill)
<a href="#">20120308-05</a>	12:04	Phil	Re: "Closing In on the 'God Particle'" (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #90)
<a href="#">20120308-06</a>	12:26	SteveB	Re: "Closing In on the 'God Particle'" (reply to Phil, above)
<a href="#">20120308-07</a>	23:58	SteveB	Our Cookie Business in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Day 6
<a href="#">20120308-08</a>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: Grand Rapids, Michigan & "Whitecaps" 'Fifth Third Burger' Not for Faint of Heart"

<a href="#">20120308-01</a>	05:34	SteveB	Re: "One More Hurdle in Afghanistan: Justice" (reply to Art, FotM Newsletter #90)
-----------------------------	-------	--------	---

from Art:

This is so like Vietnam, it is really depressing.

Art, I was just reading your comments and had a question. As you may remember, I missed Viet Nam by the skin of my teeth...very lucky, yet also unlucky...for a writer who might happen to live through it. An unfortunate unknown, of course.

Anyway, and please excuse my ignorance and admiration, but I always thought of Viet Nam as sort of matriarchal, that women are at least roughly equal to men. But maybe you didn't mean your comparison in that way.

In so many other ways (maybe even including this one) Afghanistan seems so amazingly like Viet Nam that you would think it would have made us fight a different kind of war there—one we could win! Or simply not go. Though I agree that something had to be done at that time, some a\*s had to be kicked. But...I thought we learned that you never fight a war with one arm tied behind your back and our best dying for nothing.

P.S. One of the things I missed was Vietnamese women, to my mind, some of the most lovely, graceful creatures on Earth. May they have a great International Women's Day! (I just hope Rush Limbaugh doesn't go marching behind them!)

<a href="#">20120308-03</a>	11:16	Art	Re: "One More Hurdle in Afghanistan: Justice" (reply to SteveB, above)
-----------------------------	-------	-----	--

You are correct, no comparison on treatment of women in Vietnam. Pretty much equals in most respects.

Comparison was us trying to win something, with a corrupt local government as our partner. It was never going to work. The Viet Cong were more just and more appealing to the locals. I think same with the Taliban, although I still think after destroying those statues at Banyan, they should all be exterminated. [SteveB, the Buddhist, agrees with this almost completely! -SteveB]

Bottom line is we simply cannot waltz into any country and expect them to instantly change their lives and fall in love with our ideas. I think problem may be compounded because we bring so much money with us. That in turn

corrupts the folks on our side and loses whatever we might have gained morally in overturning some local dirtbags. Afghanistan may be classic. The Taliban were pretty much hated by a large portion of the population when we first arrived but now seem to be gaining the upper hand. We could still win if the Afghanistan Government was really concerned about the people and really manned by caring local officials. While I am sure there are some, the Taliban do their best as did the Viet Cong to eliminate them, leaving only the corrupt self serving ones in power. We are seeing the results.

And yes, the Vietnamese women in their traditional Ao Dai are lovely indeed.

<a href="#">20120308-02</a>	11:04	Pam	Re: "One More Hurdle in Afghanistan: Justice" (reply to all, above)
-----------------------------	-------	-----	---

*The Kite Runner* is another good book about Afghanistan. The plight of women in these hardcore Muslim countries is really quite appalling. Men rule everything, and religion is embedded in every corner of life. It's suffocating to someone like me who wants to be free at all costs. I do not believe we in the West can do anything to change the situation, except, as Art suggests, to provide a safe haven. I wonder what would happen if suddenly everyone who was unhappy where they are could move to another, more congenial place. Let the hardline religious traditionalists have their space to do what they will, but let everyone who doesn't want to live with those constraints leave. I've also imagined setting aside "drug camps" where people who want to be addicts could go and get all the drugs they want. They'd just have to stay away from everyone else. You want to be an addict? Here's a ticket to a ranch in Wyoming where the cocaine is abundant and free. It's always amazed me how certain countries lock their borders and prevent their citizens from leaving. That seems to me tantamount to admitting that your country is so awful people are desperate to get out. How can a government like that be any good at all?

And what is all this saber rattling about Israel and Iran? Are we on the brink of another middle-east war? I'm feeling very uneasy these days. I hope all the heated rhetoric is just bluster.

I heard a Jewish settler on NPR the other day who defended the rights of Jewish settlers to occupy the West Bank and Gaza because it belonged to Jews a millennium ago. With that kind of logic, we should give back most of the U.S. to Native Americans. Everyone knows we're not about to do that. Human populations are fluid. I wish there were some 21st c. way to accommodate that. I'm wandering all over the place here, but I've got a lot on my mind.

20120308-04

11:47 Phil

Re: The Strangest & Most Beautiful Streets/Roads in the World (reply to Bill)

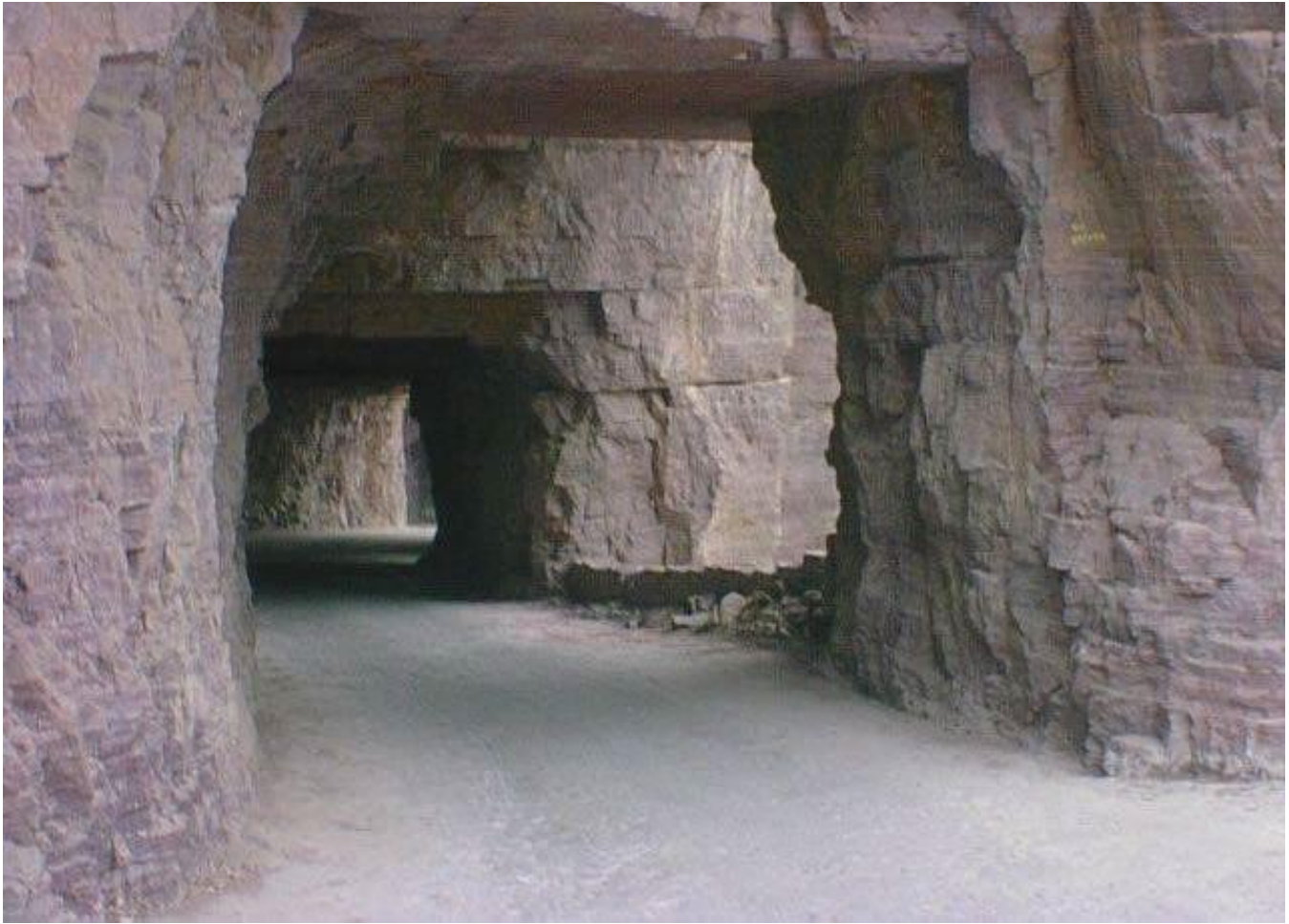
I wonder how many "locals" drive those roads without giving a second thought to the beauty? I especially like the "round about" over the water.



[This is Bolivia's famous "Death Road".  
Said to be "the most dangerous road in the world", I loved driving it! -SteveB]







[20120308-05](#) 12:04 Phil Re: "Closing In on the 'God Particle'" (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #90)

The article on the LHC reminded me of an incident that recently occurred. I was at this gathering with some of my friends when lo and behold in walks the spirit of Einstein. As I was nearest to the door when he arrived, he walked up to me and introduced himself and then asked, what's your IQ? So I accurately told him it was somewhere around 180. Einstein chose to converse and we discussed things like quarks and I updated him on things like CERN and the TEVATRON. After a few minutes he wandered on over and introduced himself to one of my friends and asked him, what's your IQ? He said it's about 140, so Einstein conversed with him for a few minutes about the economy, politics and other current events. After a few more minutes he wandered over to another guy that was at the gathering (I didn't know this gentleman), introduced himself and asked, what's your IQ? The guy told him, It's 60. Taken aback Einstein thought for a moment....., then asked, "What about those BOILERMAKERS!!"

[20120308-06](#) 12:26 SteveB Re: "Closing In on the 'God Particle'" (reply to Phil, above)

Phil, I swear you are trying to get on my bad side!!!

Won't happen. :-)

GO, PURDUE!

[20120308-07](#) 23:58 SteveB Our Cookie Business in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Day 6

Things have been moving slowly because Marci has been finishing up her lawyering to be able to work on the business full-time starting next week. We're planning on signing the contract with our landlords, who have been finishing the last construction details. We'll have our other legal papers in order soon.

20120308-08

23:59 SteveB

Photo: Grand Rapids, Michigan & "Whitecaps' 'Fifth Third Burger' Not for Faint of Heart"

Marci says, "This should be illegal!"

The Amazing Fifth Third Burger! Only 4800 calories and 300 grams of fat.



"Whitecaps' Fifth Third Burger Not for Faint of Heart" by Michael Zuidema, *The Grand Rapids Press*

Mar. 25, 2009, ([http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/03/whitecaps\\_fifth\\_third\\_burger\\_n.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/03/whitecaps_fifth_third_burger_n.html))

(COMSTOCK PARK) The next item the West Michigan Whitecaps might want to consider selling at Fifth Third Ballpark concession stands is antacids. Or cholesterol medication.

That is because their newest menu option is a 4,800-calorie mouthful.

The team's Fifth Third Burger recently garnered attention from ESPN's "SportsCenter" and NBC's "The Today Show," in addition to Web sites and blogs across the country.

"We always try to come up with something new and innovative," Whitecaps president Scott Lane said. "We believe it's very important to the overall experience."

Here's what fans can expect from the Fifth Third Burger:

- Start with an 8-inch sesame seed bun that requires 1 pound of dough and is made especially for the Whitecaps by Nantucket Baking Co. of Grand Rapids.
- Spoon on nearly a cup of chili and place five one-third pound hamburger patties on top of that. (Get it, 5/3 pounds of beef for the Fifth Third Burger?)
- Add five slices of American cheese and liberal doses of salsa, nacho cheese and Fritos.
- Top it off with lettuce, tomato and sour cream, and you have a burger that can be sliced with a pizza cutter and feed four people for \$20. Jalapenos are optional.

If a single person can consume the entire 4-pound finished product in one sitting, the team plans to give him or her a special T-shirt.

"Besides being unique and large and bizarre, it tastes good," Lane said. "I'm sure there are going to be crazies that come down and try to eat the entire thing."

This is not the Whitecaps' first unique menu option. In recent years, the team has offered everything from deep-fried Twinkies and deep-fried Pepsi to entire turkey drumsticks. Each offseason, team officials brainstorm ideas for their next culinary creation. Potential ingredients for this season included cactus, sausage gravy, Spam, fried eggs and grape jelly. Fortunately, not all on one sandwich.

Eventually, the Whitecaps settled on the Fifth Third Burger because it consisted mostly of items that easily can be found at a ballpark. Other new food options for the season are a Chicago-style hot dog cart and frozen bananas dipped in chocolate.

But what about those health implications?

In addition to more than 4,800 calories -- potentially the most caloric item ever offered at a ballpark -- the Fifth Third Burger contains nearly 300 grams of fat, 744 milligrams of cholesterol and more than 10,000 milligrams of sodium. The smell alone might be 25 calories.

Not to worry, Lane said. Fifth Third Ballpark has plenty of healthy options, including salads and wraps, although many fans enjoy indulging at sporting events.

"Why hide it?" he said. "At home, people eat healthy. When they come to a game, they might eat a hot dog."

—Friends of the Middle,  
Steven W. Baker (SteveB), Editor/Moderator

You can subscribe to this free, no-obligation, daily Newsletter filled with lively, intelligent discussion centered on politics and government, but ranging to anything members feel is important, interesting, or entertaining. To subscribe, use the form on our website or blog, or simply reply to this email with "Yes" or "Start" in the Subject line, then add our email address (below) to your Contacts or Safe list. To opt-out, reply with "No" or "Stop" in the subject line.

Welcome to all our new members who may be here for the first time. We want to hear from YOU! To submit your comment, you can use the form on our website or blog, or reply to this email with your two cents worth. Be sure to sign with your desired user name.

Your email address will always be kept strictly confidential.

Feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone you know on the Right or the Left, though your motives might be different in each case. Regardless, PASS IT ON! Help keep your friends and acquaintances informed and thinking.

<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org>  
[FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com)

original material ©2012 Steven W. Baker, all rights reserved