



# FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #109 — APR. 4, 2012

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

## Index to Friends of the Middle Newsletter #109 — Apr. 4, 2012

### Presidential Material? Honestly? LOL!

Now that the Republican race seems about over...

For posterity: Quotes from this most unpresidential (in history?) presidential field of contestants.

All these incompetents kind of remind me of the Canadian "man" determined to become Miss Universe. Donald Trump: "Well...OK...if we have to!"

And, you want to know something? *Citizens United* or not, I don't think there's enough money in the world for any of these goons to buy their way into the White House!

"Craziest Quotes of the 2012 Primaries" by Politico

Mar. 24, 2012, (<http://www.politico.com/gallery/2012/03/craziest-quotes-of-the-2012-campaign/000023-000259.html>)

#### 1. Oops

'And let's see. I can't. The third one, I can't. Sorry. Oops.' — Perry, Nov. 9, 2011, freezing on the debate stage as he struggled to remember the third federal government department he planned to cut.

#### 2. Corporate speak

'Corporations are people, my friend.' — Romney, Aug. 11, 2011, to a heckler at the Iowa State Fair.

#### 3. Twirling

'OK, Libya. President Obama supported the uprising, correct? President Obama called for the removal of Qadhafi. Just want to make sure we're talking about the same thing before I say, 'yes I agree,' or 'no I didn't agree.' I do not agree with the way he handled it for the following reason – nope, that's a different one. I gotta go back to, see. I got all this stuff twirling around in my head.' — Cain, Nov. 14, 2011, in response to a question about Libya from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorial board.

#### 4. Unemployment

'I don't care what the unemployment rate's going to be. Doesn't matter to me.' — Santorum, March 19, 2011, at a campaign stop in Illinois.

#### 5. Take a bath

'Go get a job right after you take a bath.' — Gingrich, Nov. 19, 2011, speaking about Occupy Wall Street at a 'Thanksgiving Table' forum in Iowa.

#### 6. John Wayne

'Well what I want them to know is just like, John Wayne was from Waterloo, Iowa. That's the kind of spirit that I have, too.' — Bachmann, June 27, 2011, mixing up movie star John Wayne, who was born in Winterset, Iowa, with John Wayne Gacy, the serial killer, who was born in Waterloo.

#### 7. Fire away

'I like being able to fire people.' — Romney, Jan. 9, 2012, while speaking about holding insurance service providers accountable at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast in Nashua, New Hampshire.

#### 8. Things happened

'There's no question at times of my life, partially driven by how passionately I felt about this country, that I worked far too hard and things happened in my life that were not appropriate.' — Gingrich, March 8, 2011, referring to his extramarital affairs and multiple marriages in an interview taped at the Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition with CBN's David Brody.

#### 9. 'Blah' people?

'I don't want to make black people's lives better by giving them somebody else's money; I want to give them the opportunity to go out and earn the money.' — Santorum, Jan. 1, 2012, at a campaign stop in Sioux City, Iowa. Santorum said he actually mumbled 'blah' people, not 'black' people as was widely reported.

#### 10. Three words

'My strategy for China is three words: Outgrow China.' — Cain, Oct. 19, 2011, in a speech at the Western Republican Leadership Conference.

#### 11. Tweeter

'And you can always follow me on Tweeter.' — Perry, June. 21, 2011, accepting an award from RightOnline for his work in Texas and his involvement in new media activism.

#### 12. Showing off

'He doesn't quite understand the situation.' — Huntsman, Jan. 7, 2012, speaking Mandarin Chinese during a New Hampshire debate.

#### 13. Obamneycare

'President Obama said that he designed Obamacare after Romneycare and basically made it Obamneycare.' — Pawlenty, June 12, 2011, on 'Fox News Sunday.'

#### 14. 9-9-9

'9-9-9.' — Cain, repeatedly.

### 15. 'Very poor'

'I'm not concerned about the very poor.' — Romney, Feb. 1, 2012, in a CNN interview after his Florida primary win.

### 16. What a snob

'President Obama wants everybody in America to go to college. What a snob.' — Santorum, Feb. 25, 2012, speaking to a tea party group in Michigan.

### 17. The good news

'The good news is, that little plan that I just shared with you doesn't force the Granite state to expand your tax footprint. If you know what I mean. Like 9 percent expansion.' — Perry, Oct. 28, 2011, in a speech at the Cornerstone Action Dinner in Manchester, N.H. that went viral and touched off speculation that he could have been drunk or taking painkillers.

### 18. \$10K

'Rick, I'll tell you what — ten thousand bucks? Ten thousand dollar bet?' — Romney, Dec. 10, 2011, to Rick Perry during a presidential debate trying to settle a dispute about health insurance.

### 19. Ubeki...

'And when they ask me who is the president of Ubeki-beki-beki-beki-stan-stan I'm going to say, 'You know, I don't know. Do you know?'" — Cain, Oct. 7, 2011, in an interview with CBN News' David Body.

### 20. Recanting

'Let me say on the record, any ad which quotes what I said Sunday is a falsehood.' — Gingrich, May 17, 2011, telling Fox News's Greta Van Susteren he made a mistake criticizing Rep. Paul Ryan's budget.

### 21. Devil's in the details

'When you take the 9-9-9 plan and you turn it upside down, I think the devil's in the details.' — Bachmann, Oct. 11, 2011, at a debate in New Hampshire.

### 22. Fake

'Because he's a fake.' — Paul, Feb. 22, 2012, responding to CNN's John King's question at a debate why he was running an attack ad calling Santorum a 'fake.'

### 23. Cars, cars, cars

'I drive a Mustang and a Chevy pickup truck. Ann drives a couple of Cadillacs, actually.' — Romney, Feb. 24, 2012, in a speech to the Detroit Economic Club at Ford Field.

### 24. Gotta catch 'em all!

'A poet once said, 'life can be a challenge. Life can seem impossible. It's never easy when there's so much on the line.'" — Cain, Aug. 11, 2011, actually quoting Donna Summer's song 'The Power of One' from the film 'Pokémon: The Movie 2000.' Cain frequently quoted the song, most notably in his speech suspending his campaign on Dec. 3, 2011.

### 25. Politicians to the moon

'Well, I don't think we should go to the moon. I think we maybe should send some politicians up there.' — Paul, Jan. 26, 2012, responding to CNN's Wolf Blitzer's question about his thoughts on the space program at the Jacksonville, Fla. Debate.

#### 26. Bull----

'Quit distorting my words. If I see it, it's bull——.' — Santorum, March 25, 2012, to New York Times reporter Jeff Zeleny when asked about his line that Romney was 'the worst Republican in the country to put up against Barack Obama.'

#### 27. Grandiose

'I think grandiose thoughts.' — Gingrich, Jan. 19, 2012, at the South Carolina Republican debate. [I think you missed a few shades of meaning there, genius. --SteveB]

#### 28. Shucky Ducky

'Aw, shucky ducky!' — Cain, May 21, 2011, officially announcing his presidential bid at a rally in Atlanta.

#### 29. Who doesn't love trees?

'The trees are the right height. I like seeing the lakes. I love the lakes. There's something very special here. The Great Lakes, but also all the little inland lakes that dot the parts of Michigan. I love cars.' — Romney, Feb. 16, 2012, at a campaign stop in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

#### 30. Reflecting on the past

'One of the reasons we fought the revolution in the 16th century was to get away from that kind of onerous crown.' — Perry, Oct. 11, 2011, speaking after a debate on the Dartmouth College campus.

#### 31. Etch A Sketch fallout

'If you're going to be a little different, we might as well stay with what we have instead of taking a risk with what may be the Etch A Sketch candidate of the future.' — Santorum, March 22, 2012, at a campaign stop in San Antonio, Texas.

#### 32. Students as janitors?

'These schools ought to get rid of the unionized janitors, have one master janitor and pay local students to take care of the school.' — Gingrich, Nov. 18, 2011, at an address at Harvard.

#### 33. Another history mixup

'You're the state where the shot was heard around the world at Lexington and Concord.' — Bachmann, March 12, 2011, to a crowd in Manchester, N.H., mixing up Concord, N.H. with Lexington and Concord, Mass.

#### 34. Doggone

'My next door neighbor's two dogs have created more shovel-ready jobs than this administration.' — Johnson, Sept. 22, 2011, at the Fox News-Google debate in Orlando, Fla.

#### 35. Unusual

'This is an unusual interview.' — Romney, Nov. 29, 2011, in a testy interview with Fox News' Bret Baier.

#### 36. 18 or 21?

'Those who are going to be over 21 on November 12, I ask for your support. Those who won't be, just work hard.' — Perry, Nov. 29, 2011, at a town hall meeting at the Institute of Politics at New Hampshire's Saint Anselm's College. [Where the voting age is 18. --SteveB]

#### 37. Nausea

'What kind of country do we live in where only people of non-faith can come in the public square and make their case? That makes me throw up.' — Santorum, Feb. 26, 2011, on ABC's 'This Week.'

#### 38. Tiffany's

'Go talk to Tiffany's.' — Gingrich, May 22, 2011, asked about the \$500,000 he spent at the jewelry store.

#### 39. Koch brothers

'I am the Koch brothers' brother from another mother.' — Cain, Nov. 4, 2011, speaking at an Americans for Prosperity summit in Washington.

#### 40. Unemployed

'I should tell my story. I'm also unemployed.' — Romney, June 16, 2011, after listening to a group of unemployed Floridians talk about their difficulties find a job.

#### 41. Contraception

'One of the things I will talk about, that no president has talked about before, is I think the dangers of contraception in this country.' — Santorum, Oct. 18, 2011, in an interview with CaffeinatedThoughts.com.

#### 42. Appalled

'I'm appalled you would begin a presidential debate on a topic like that.' — Gingrich, Jan. 19, 2011, to CNN's John King after he opened the South Carolina debate asking if Gingrich wanted to respond to the allegations that he asked for an "open marriage" with his ex-wife.

#### 43. Legalize it

'So I advocate legalizing marijuana — control it, regulate, tax it.' — Johnson, May 5, 2011, at the first Republican presidential debate in Greenville, South Carolina.

#### 44. Zoo lover

'When you say to me about really great moments of happiness, it is hanging out at zoos.' — Gingrich, Nov. 8, 2011, in an interview with CNN's Piers Morgan.

#### 45. The fence

'When I'm in charge of the fence, we going to have a fence. It's going to be 20 feet high. It's going to have barbed wire on the top. It's going to be electrocuted, electrified. And there's going to be a sign on the other side that says it will kill you.' — Cain, Oct. 15, 2011, talking about the United States-Mexico border at a rally in Tennessee. A day later, he called the proposal a joke.

#### 46. Enormous success

'Obama is an enormous success — the most successful food stamp president in American history.' — Gingrich, May 13, 2011, in a speech to the Georgia Republican convention.

47. Tutti-frutti

'I'm not going to say it. I'm not going to say it. ... Tutti-frutti. I know I'm going to get in trouble!' — Cain, on what ice cream flavor would best describe Michele Bachmann in a mid-October interview with GQ that ran in the Dec. 2011 issue.

48. Woodrow Wilson [Oops! --SteveB]

'Washington has abused the Constitution. You go back to the, a decade ago, with Woodrow Wilson.' — Perry, Nov. 29, 2011, in an interview with CNN citing Pres.

49. Pink slip

'I know what it's like to worry whether you're going to get fired. There were a couple of times I wondered whether I was going to get a pink slip.' — Romney, Jan. 8, 2012, speaking at a rally about sharing the anxiety of workers worried about losing their jobs.

50. 'Delicious?' [What a worldly guy! --SteveB]

'How do you say 'delicious' in Cuban?' — Cain, Nov. 16, 2011, in a question to reporters in Miami.

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<a href="#">20120403-01</a>	08:19	Charis	"For Bolivian Farmers, Quinoa Boom Is Both Boon & Bane"
<a href="#">20120403-02</a>	08:35	SteveB	Re: "For Bolivian Farmers, Quinoa Boom Is Both Boon & Bane" (reply to Charis, above)
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<a href="#">20120403-13</a>	21:24	SteveG	Bumper Sticker: GOP Is Afraid of 2012
<a href="#">20120403-14</a>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: Quinoa growing in <i>El Altiplano</i> , Bolivia/Peru

<a href="#">20120403-01</a>	08:19	Charis	"For Bolivian Farmers, Quinoa Boom Is Both Boon & Bane"
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Quinoa, now known as one of the world's Super Foods is creating land conflicts, environmental problems, and a decline in local consumption in Bolivia.

"For Bolivian Farmers, Quinoa Boom Is Both Boon and Bane" by Jean Friedman-Rudovsky, *Time*

Apr. 3, 2012, (<http://news.yahoo.com/bolivian-farmers-quinoa-boom-both-boon-bane-093806693.html>)  
(<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2110890,00.html>)

As a child, Benjamin Huarachi, 55, ate quinoa almost every day, as a matter of practicality. The crop is one of few that thrive on Bolivia's high plains, 13,000 ft. (4,000 m) above sea level, explains the farmer. His impoverished family had no idea that the colorful tall tufts yield one of the healthiest foods on the planet. Nor did Huarachi imagine that his childhood staple would one day bring economic success. "Quinoa was always comida para los indios [food for Indians]," he says, almost laughing, "Today it's food for the world's richest."

Over the past decade, the "Andean superfood" has become a pinnacle product for First World foodies. Often mistaken for a grain, quinoa is actually a chenopod (cousin to a beet); rich in minerals, it's the only vegetable that's a complete protein. To the added delight of politically correct health nuts, it's produced by small-scale Andean farmers like Huarachi who reap direct benefits of its international popularity. Recently, those benefits have skyrocketed: quinoa's price has tripled since 2006, triggering a boom in the poorest region of South America's poorest country. "Now we've got tractors for our fields and parabolic antennas for our homes," says Huarachi, who's also a board member of Bolivia's largest quinoa-growers association, ANAPQUI.

Growers relish in the moment and the attendant prosperity. "My quinoa sells like hotcakes," says Fidencia Huayllas, grinning. She's spent her boom cash on expanding her mud-and-brick home. Seventy percent of the region's high school graduates can now afford to attend university, Huarachi says, "thanks to quinoa." He leans forward, face

brightening: "In 1983, 100 lb. of quinoa sold for 25 bolivianos -- the price a T-shirt. Now that sack goes for \$100 [700 bolivianos]. That's a lot of T-shirts."

But the windfall could become a double-edged sword. In February, violence over prime quinoa-growing territory left dozens injured, and land conflict is spreading. "Sure, the price of quinoa is increasing," says Carlos Nina, a local leader in Bolivia's quinoa heartland, "but so are our problems." Apart from increasing feuds over property rights, these include the collapse of the traditional relationship between llama herding and soil fertilization, with potentially disastrous consequences of quinoa's "organic" status, and the ironic twist that the children of newly prosperous farmers no longer like eating quinoa, contributing to dietary problems.

According to historians, quinoa cultivation originated in the Altiplano around 3,000 B.C. Legend says it was a gift from the gods to the indigenous Aymara: a highly nutritious crop as small compensation for being saddled with one of earth's harshest climates. (It's an easy story to believe, since only divine intervention seems to explain how anything could sprout from the high plateau's rocky, sandy soil.)

The present from the heavens has always been a base of the Andean diet, but only recently did the crop begin its international journey. In 1993, NASA researchers recommended it as part of a potential space-colony diet. Over the following decade, the food gained wider appeal, going from hippie hype to Costco convenient practically overnight. "Quinoa was in the eye of the storm," says Bolivian-born Sergio Núñez del Arco, founder of Andean Naturals, the U.S.'s largest quinoa importer, explaining that the product fit almost every recent health craze: whole grain, gluten-free, fair trade, organic.

Approximately half the world's supply is now grown in Bolivia. (Peru is a close second, Ecuador third.) "We worked hard to keep quinoa out of the hands of middlemen," says ANAPQUI's general secretary Ciprian Mayorga inside the association's processing plant, the entrance to which is now manned by an armed private security guard. Members' harvests arrive there, where a thorough washing removes the seeds' bitter outer layer before its direct export to the U.S. and Europe. Strong growers' unions have also kept multinational agro companies at bay. Production remains family based, average plots range from 1 to 15 hectares (2.5 to 37 acres). Free of genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, Bolivia's export is 90% organic. This fair-trade model has elevated the superfood's image. "You can feel good about drinking well," says reviews for France-based Fair's new (Bolivian-grown) quinoa vodka, echoing virtually every quinoa ad campaign out there. Consumers feel confident supporting a product with just roots.

But despite good intentions, a dangerous cycle may be under way. "When you transform a food into a commodity, there's inevitable breakdown in social relations and high environmental cost," says Tanya Kerssen, a food-policy analyst for the U.S.-based food and development institute Food First. February's conflict is a harbinger, notes Kerssen. Global warming has led to fewer frosts, resulting in more prime land available for quinoa cultivation. That has led to a near free-for-all. For three days in February, hundreds of farmers fought over what was once abandoned land. Four people were temporarily kidnapped, dozens were injured and, according to local leader Nina, a dynamite blast left one man armless. "I've never seen anything like this in my life," says Nina, 70, adding that since the government is ignoring pleas for military monitoring of the upcoming harvest, the situation will likely worsen.

What's more, territorial bickering is spreading. "Every week, I visit two or three communities with land disputes related to quinoa," says Nina, who, as mallku (traditional indigenous authority) must resolve these quarrels personally. Many families don't have land titles, he explains -- they weren't needed when the ample arid soil was communal herding ground. Also, quinoa's high sale price is prompting a reverse migration of those who had long ago abandoned the Altiplano, triggering property disagreements.

Environmental problems are emerging too. Traditionally, quinoa fields covered 10% of this fragile ecosystem, llamas grazed on the rest. Now, llamas are being sold to make room for crops, provoking a soil crisis since the cameloid's guano is the undisputed best fertilizer for maintaining and restoring quinoa fields. (Other options like sheep poop appear to encourage pests.) Increased production also means erosion and strains on limited water sources. "It's frightening to think that a region that has sustained Andean civilizations for millennia could become sterile," says Kerssen.



Equally troubling is the fact that growers themselves are eating less of their gift from the gods. Last year, the Bolivian government acknowledged that national quinoa consumption over the previous five years had decreased 34%. Now there's worry of malnutrition in the quinoa heartland as growers admit that it's tempting to sell their entire harvest while prices are high.

But, they add, decline in rural consumption can't be blamed entirely on price spikes. "My kids eat quinoa -- because they are obligated to," says Huarachi, explaining that the next generation simply prefers Coca-Cola over homemade quinoa soda, cookies over quinoa bread. Ironically too, growers note that as villagers climb out of poverty, a badge of upward mobility is the replacement of the nutritious comida de indios with processed "city" foods.

The Bolivian government says it includes quinoa-based products in school breakfasts and maternal-nutrition baskets nationwide. "We've got people in [the Amazon] eating quinoa," says Bolivia's Vice Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture, Victor Hugo Vásquez, explaining that before quinoa's mass production for export, Bolivians outside of the western highlands didn't even know it existed. The government also provides low-interest loans to small farmers, aiming to increase production, which could eventually make the product more affordable there.

But it may be too little too late, says Kerksen: "Quinoa is now a free-market phenomenon. This is a boom, and there's definitely going to be a bust."

<a href="#">20120403-02</a>	08:35	SteveB	Re: "For Bolivian Farmers, Quinoa Boom Is Both Boon & Bane" (reply to Charis, above)
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You've really been doing a great job with Bolivian news on your website (<http://www.boliviabella.com>).

Thanks a bunch, girl!

<a href="#">20120403-03</a>	08:37	Art	Re: Canadian Billboards are Hilarious! (reply to Marci, FotM Newsletter #108)
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Terrific!!

<a href="#">20120403-04</a>	11:58	Pam	Re: Canadian Billboards are Hilarious! (reply to Marci, FotM Newsletter #108)
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Very amusing, but I doubt they're "real." Last time I looked, Canada had a law against billboards. I HATE billboards, and our state had a huge controversy over them some years ago. It was always such a pleasure to go from highways lined with billboards big enough to house entire families to Ontario, where you could actually see the scenery.

<a href="#">20120403-05</a>	13:37	Beth	Re: Not Wanting to Offend Anyone (reply to Marci, FotM Newsletter #108)
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I have already seen this one debunked, though I don't remember where. Fox News nonsense.

Further. among those of us who call ourselves Christians, not all of us have the same political convictions.

<a href="#">20120403-06</a>	16:26	SteveB	Fw: USAction Petition: Make the 1% Pay Their Fair Share!
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from USAction:

Tax Day is in just two weeks and this year the Senate will vote on whether the ultra-rich will finally pay their fair share.

Up for a vote is Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse's "Paying A Fair Share Act" which would make it so millionaires and billionaires paying lower tax rates than the middle class would have to pay a 30 percent effective tax rate.<sup>1</sup>

Already, the support for this bill has been huge. Earlier this year we delivered over 50,000 petitions to Sen. Whitehouse in support of his bill to tax the ultra-rich. And new polls show over 73 percent of Americans support the Buffett Rule — a rule making sure people like Warren Buffett don't pay a lower tax rate than their Secretaries.<sup>2</sup>

But it's not Sen. Whitehouse and progressive champs like him that we need to convince. If we're going to make the Buffett Rule the law of the land, we need to convince moderate Democrats and even some Republicans.

Will you check if your Senators are on board with the Buffett Rule yet — and if not, ask them to sign on as a cosponsor today?

[http://act.truemajorityaction.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=314&track=email\\_2859&Email=friendsinthemiddle@hotmail.com](http://act.truemajorityaction.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=314&track=email_2859&Email=friendsinthemiddle@hotmail.com)

In addition to your letters, a number of our affiliates will have secretaries and other 99ers deliver petitions in person to Senators' district offices to send the message home.

Right now, a dozen Senators are already signed on as sponsors. Many more agree, but haven't signed on yet.

Help us get the cosponsors we need to break a filibuster and pass the Buffett Rule. Every letter you send helps because whether your Senator fights for the 1% or the 99%, they all know that if you're willing to write them a letter, you're willing to talk to friends and family about why the ultra-rich should pay their fair share.

And in an election year, showing politicians that we know their voting record and are willing to speak out is the best tool we have to make change. Send your Senators a personal message asking them to cosponsor the Buffett Rule.

Sincerely, David Elliot, USAction / TrueMajority

<sup>1</sup><http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/domestic-taxes/207515-senate-dems-push-buffett-rule-bill>

<sup>2</sup><http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2011/09/poll-73-percent-support-the-buffett-rule-including-66-percent-of-republicans.php>

<a href="#">20120403-07</a>	18:29	Art	Re: Why Labels Can Be Misleading (reply to Pam, FotM Newsletters #107-108)
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Here's a thought. As I think I mentioned, I enjoy (not quite the word I want by OK) looking at the letters attached to a news article or also in my case on Speaker of the House Bonehead's blog (long story here for another time). At any rate, the one thing that strikes me, as we have discussed previously, is the vicious dislike for President Obama contained in these "letters" but never any substance to go with it. "We need to make sure that communist, NAZI, atheist, Moslem, anti Christian never serves another term." Never why, just the hatred.

Why?? One thing I do hear from time to time is the President is arrogant and speaks down to people. He certainly is very smart and I can see how some could take it that way. So here's a theory. I know this is going to sound a bit condescending but it seems to fit. In my limited experience the people who I know who seem to express such hatred for the President are all from what I would call the limited intelligence group. Many have college degrees of some sort but not advanced degrees. Of course many have no degrees at all. They rail at the President's use of a teleprompter but conveniently forget the debates with McCain where he handed McCain his debating head without any teleprompter. In their hearts they know the President is much smarter than they are and they think that he

thinks that, and that is why they hate him. Of course, the fact he has black skin makes it that much worse. Bright, smart, well educated people are not put off by the President's intelligence but the less bright ones are.

I didn't say this very well but just out of curiosity think about your group. Do the really bright well educated and well traveled ones support the Democrats and the others the Republicans? Might be a clue to unravel the mystery.

20120403-09 19:27 Pam Re: Why Labels Can Be Misleading (reply to Art, above)

Americans are so anti-intellectual. We adulate athletes who are thugs but disdain anyone with a Harvard degree. You can always tell an insecure man by whether he's intimidated by a smart woman or not. One reason I always liked Clinton was that he liked Hillary (at least some of the time). All this posturing and caterwalling about "elitism" is just a screen for a massive case of inferiority complex--as I see it. We have to assert that we're No. 1, because if we didn't, no one else would. I love it that Obama is smart. I love it that Stephen Hawking is smart. I even love it that Steve Jobs was smart, though he may have been less than sympatico. WHY is intelligence the great no-no?! Thanks for calling a spade a spade, Art.

20120403-08 18:52 Dennis Re: Why Labels Can Be Misleading (reply to Art, above) & Cartoon: Obamacare

from Art:

At any rate, the one thing that strikes me, as we have discussed previously, is the vicious dislike for President Obama contained in these "letters" but never any substance to go with it. "We need to make sure that communist, NAZI, atheist, Moslem, anti Christian never serves another term." Never why, just the hatred.

I think the following may illustrate your point, Art:



20120403-10 19:28 Pam Re: Why Labels Can Be Misleading (reply to Dennis, above)

Brilliant.

[20120403-11](#) 19:36 Dennis Video: Powerful Speech on Climate Change

Listen to what this young woman told these UN delegates in Durban....

Hopefully it got their attention.

Video: "This Amazing Young Lady Stuns UN Delegates With A Powerful Speech" posted by Brandon, MoveOn.org

Apr. 3, 2012, (<http://front.moveon.org/this-amazing-young-lady-stuns-un-delegates-with-a-powerful-speech/>)

She finishes in great style with a technique made popular by Occupy Wall Street. Watch:

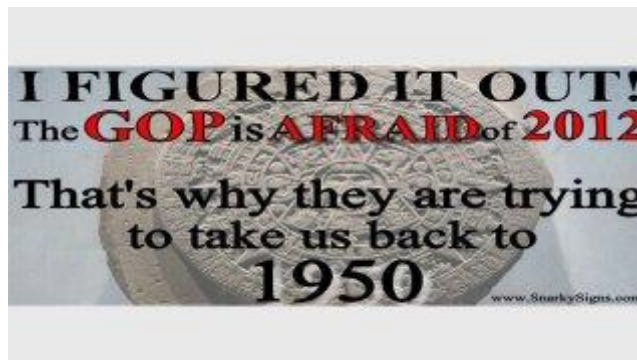
[20120403-12](#) 19:55 SteveG Video: Martin Sheen: Stand Up for Medicare

Take a listen:

Video: "Martin Sheen Calls Out The Fear Mongers In Under Two Minutes" posted by Jayne, MoveOn.org

Apr. 2, 2012. (<http://front.moveon.org/martin-sheen-calls-out-the-fear-mongers-in-under-two-minutes/#.T3uKGEdaGhc.facebook>)

[20120403-13](#) 21:24 SteveG Bumper Sticker: GOP Is Afraid of 2012



[Or maybe 1850! With slavery. Taxes were way too high for the 1% in 1950. That's why we had the "golden age".  
-SteveB]

<http://technorati.com/lifestyle/article/quinoa-supergrain-of-the-andes/>

Field of harvest-ready quinoa (Bolivia)



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

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