



# FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #132 — MAY 7, 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 #132 — May 7, 2012

### Eliminate All Business Income Taxes

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, May 7, 2012)

Here's all the more reason to bite the bullet and do it, raising upper level individual income taxes to one than compensate. At the same time, foreign income and disbursed profits must be taxed. The company would pay the first, individual owners/shareholders would pay the second. These taxes are not a system that works in the best interest of the country, and are simply passed-on to clients and customers, who pay the hidden tax—what little that gets paid! Money that is invested in U.S. jobs should not be taxed, but the rich are going to have to, oh, cr\*p, here it comes, pay more!

"The Corporate Tax Conundrum" by Laura Tyson, NationofChange

May 4, 2012, (<http://www.nationofchange.org/corporate-tax-conundrum-1336139203>)

The United States now has the highest statutory corporate-income tax rate among developed countries. Even after various deductions, credits, and other tax breaks, the effective marginal rate – the rate that corporations pay on new U.S. investments – remains one of the highest in the world.

In a world of mobile capital, corporate-tax rates matter, and business decisions about how and where to invest are increasingly sensitive to national differences. America's relatively high rate encourages US companies to locate their investment, production, and employment in foreign countries, and discourages foreign companies from locating in the US, which means slower growth, fewer jobs, smaller productivity gains, and lower real wages.

According to conventional wisdom, the corporate-tax burden is borne principally by the owners of capital in the form of lower returns. But, as capital becomes more mobile, relatively *immobile* workers are bearing more of the burden in the form of lower wages and fewer job opportunities. That is why countries around the world have been cutting their corporate-tax rates. The resulting "race to the bottom" reflects intensifying global competition for capital and technological knowhow to support local jobs and wages.

Moreover, a high corporate-tax rate is an ineffective and costly tool for producing revenues, owing to innovative financial transactions and legal tax-avoidance mechanisms. A company's legal residence and geographic sources of income can be and are manipulated for such purposes, and the incentives and scope for such manipulation are especially large in sectors where competitive advantage depends on intangible capital and knowledge – sectors that play a major role in the US economy's competitiveness.

In the absence of close and broad international cooperation, the US must join the race and lower its corporate-tax rate. A lower rate would strengthen incentives for investment and job creation in the US, and weaken incentives for tax avoidance. It would also reduce numerous efficiency-reducing distortions in the US tax code, including substantial tax advantages for debt financing over equity financing and for non-corporate businesses over corporate businesses.

But each percentage-point reduction in the corporate-tax rate would reduce federal revenues by about \$12 billion per year. These revenue losses could be offset by curtailing so-called "corporate-tax expenditures" – deductions, credits, and other special tax provisions that subsidize some economic activities while penalizing others – and broadening the corporate-tax base. Both President Barack Obama's plan for business-tax reform and the Simpson-Bowles deficit-reduction plan propose reducing such expenditures to pay for a reduction in the corporate-tax rate.

Corporate-tax expenditures narrow the base, raise the cost of tax compliance, and distort decisions about investment projects, how to finance them, what form of business organization to adopt, and where to produce. As Michael Greenstone and Adam Looney show in a just-released report, the resulting differences in effective tax rates for different kinds of business activity are substantial.

That said, if the goal of corporate-tax reform is to boost investment and job creation, broadening the tax base to pay for a lower rate could be counterproductive. Eliminating "special interest" loopholes, like tax breaks for oil and gas, or for corporate jets, would not yield enough revenue to pay for a meaningful rate cut. And curtailing accelerated depreciation, the manufacturing production deduction, and the R&D tax credit – which account for about 80% of corporate-tax expenditures – would involve significant tradeoffs.

Indeed, cutting these items to "pay for" a reduction in the corporate-tax rate could end up increasing the tax on corporate economic activity in the US. Eliminating accelerated depreciation for equipment would raise the effective tax rate on new investments; repealing the domestic-production deduction would increase the effective tax rate on US manufacturing; and rescinding the R&D tax credit would reduce investment in innovation.

Instead of cutting proven tax incentives for business investment, the US should offset at least some of the revenue losses from a lower corporate-tax rate by raising tax rates on corporate shareholders. Most countries that reduced their corporate-tax rates have followed this path, while the US has done the opposite.

At 15%, America's tax rates on dividends and capital gains are at historic lows, while the profit share of national income is at an all-time high. Defenders of low rates for capital owners argue that it minimizes "double" taxation of corporate income – first of the corporation and then of its shareholders. A lower corporate-tax rate would weaken this justification. Moreover, pension funds, retirement plans, and non-profit organizations, which receive about 50% of all corporate dividends, do not pay tax on these earnings, and would benefit from a lower corporate-tax rate.

Although individual taxes on corporate income reduce the after-tax return to savings, they have less distorting effects on investment location than corporate taxes do, and they are more likely to fall on owners of capital than on workers. Moreover, it is far easier to collect taxes from individual citizens and resident shareholders than from multinational corporations. Apple can use sophisticated techniques to manipulate the location of its corporate income, but individual US citizens who own Apple stock have to report the dividends and capital gains that they earn from it in their worldwide income.

A recent study found that taxing capital gains and dividends as ordinary income, subject to a maximum 28% rate on long-term capital gains (the pre-1997 rate), could finance a cut in the corporate-tax rate from 35% to 26%. Such a change would reduce corporations' incentives to move investments abroad or shift profits to low-tax jurisdictions, while increasing the progressivity of tax outcomes by shifting more of the burden of corporate taxation from labor to capital owners.

An increase in the corporate-tax rate appeals to many US voters who believe that corporations are not paying their fair share of taxes and are worried about widening income inequality. But, in a world of mobile capital, raising the corporate tax rate – or simply leaving it at its current level – would be a bad way to generate revenue, a bad way to increase the tax system's progressivity, and a bad way to help American workers.

**FotM NEWSLETTER #132 (May 7, 2012)—HYPERTEXT INDEX**

<u>DATE-ID</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>SUBJECT/TITLE</u>
<a href="#">20120507-00</a>		SteveB	<b>Eliminate All Business Income Taxes</b> by Steven W. Baker / SteveB ("The Corporate Tax Conundrum")
<a href="#">20120504-01</a>	09:05	Cândida	Video: U.S. State Dept. Gives \$3 Million to Ski Capitol Andorra Thinking It's a Poor, African Country
<a href="#">20120506-06</a>	07:25	SteveB	Re: U.S. State Dept. Gives \$3 Million to Ski Capitol Andorra (reply to Cândida, above)
<a href="#">20120504-02</a>	10:38	SteveG	Graphic: We Are the 99%
<a href="#">20120504-03</a>	11:05	SteveM	Re: Graphic: We Are the 99% (reply to SteveG, above)
<a href="#">20120504-04</a>	17:45	BobW	How the Economy Works
<a href="#">20120504-05</a>	17:54	SteveB	The First FotM E-Book: <i>Political Inbox: 2007-2011</i>
<a href="#">20120504-07</a>	19:59	Tom	Re: The First FotM E-Book: <i>Political Inbox: 2007-2011</i> (reply to SteveB, above)
<a href="#">20120504-06</a>	19:54	SteveG	"Can Going Without Money Hurt the Economy? One Man's Quest to Be Penniless"
<a href="#">20120505-01</a>	05:58	MarthaH	"Lugar Says He Needs Help – Fast"
<a href="#">20120505-03</a>	08:21	Art	Re: "Lugar Says He Needs Help – Fast" (reply to MarthaH, above)
<a href="#">20120505-02</a>	06:47	MarthaH	"Researchers Find Time in Wild Boosts Creativity, Insight & Problem Solving"
<a href="#">20120506-08</a>	12:07	SteveB	Re: "Researchers Find Time in Wild Boosts Creativity, Insight & Problem Solving" (reply to MarthaH, above)
<a href="#">20120505-04</a>	11:20	SteveB	Fw: MoveOn Action: Have an Idea for a petition? Start Your Own!
<a href="#">20120505-05</a>	11:53	SteveG	Fw: Daily Kos Action: Become a Citizen Co-Sponsor of the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT!
<a href="#">20120505-06</a>	13:47	SteveG	Fw: Change.org Petition: Help Stop Electro-shocking of Children
<a href="#">20120505-07</a>	15:38	SteveB	"The Real Job Creators: Consumers, Not the Wealthy"
<a href="#">20120506-01</a>	02:12	SteveM	Fw: America's Hunters
<a href="#">20120506-03</a>	06:33	SteveB	Re: America's Hunters (reply to SteveM, above)
<a href="#">20120506-10</a>	12:50	SteveM	Re: America's Hunters (reply to SteveB, above)
<a href="#">20120506-02</a>	02:13	SteveM	Fw: The Difference Between Chicken Salad & Chicken Sh*t
<a href="#">20120506-04</a>	07:02	SteveB	Re: The Difference Between Chicken Salad & Chicken Sh*t & "Osama Bin Laden Killed: Barack Obama's Speech in Full" & "[President Bush's] Speech on the Capture of Saddam Hussein" (reply to SteveM, above)
<a href="#">20120506-05</a>	07:23	Marci	Got Him!
<a href="#">20120506-07</a>	09:32	Art	Taking Out Dick Lugar"
<a href="#">20120506-09</a>	12:13	SteveB	"Rove Misfires, Pitting Obama Celebrity vs. Romney Void"
<a href="#">20120506-11</a>	15:40	SteveG	Fw: SumOfUs Petition: End Walmart Slavery
<a href="#">20120506-12</a>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: Flowering <i>Toboroichi</i> Tree, Bolivia

<a href="#">20120504-01</a>	09:05	Cândida	Video: U.S. State Dept. Gives \$3 Million to Ski Capitol Andorra Thinking It's a Poor, African Country
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ahahahahahahahahhaahha

Can you believe it?

Abraço.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AP22Ys8\\_ro](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AP22Ys8_ro)

[20120506-06](#) 07:25 SteveB Re: U.S. State Dept. Gives \$3 Million to Ski Capitol Andorra (reply to Cândida, above)

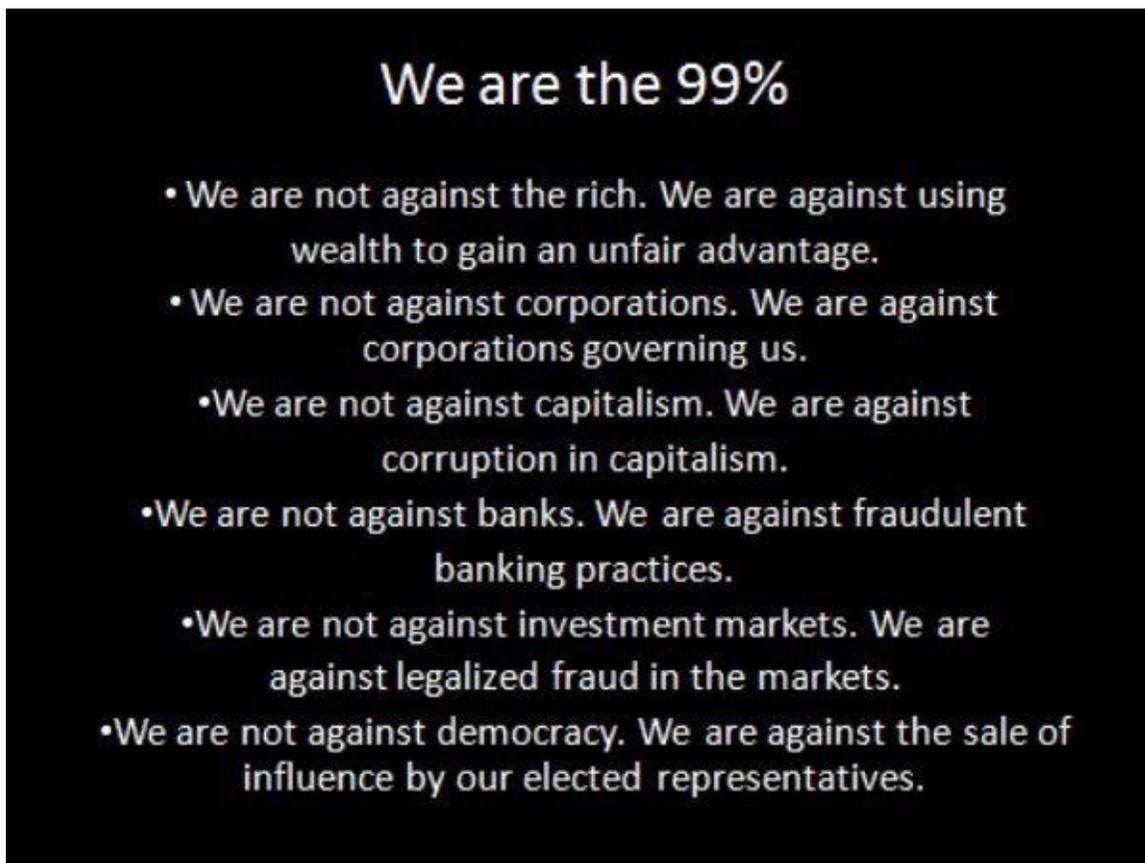
Andorra...er...that's in Africa, right?

OMFG! Why don't they just send you or me a few \$million??? Couldn't we tell the State Department that your town is a country near, say, Afghanistan?

OK, that's the European view, here's the Onion's:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q\\_iqrvc\\_4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q_iqrvc_4).

[20120504-02](#) 10:38 SteveG Graphic: We Are the 99%



[20120504-03](#) 11:05 SteveM Re: Graphic: We Are the 99% (reply to SteveG, above)

The socialist policies of Pelosi, Reed and Obama has done more to enrich their friends and family and suppress the masses. And they are depending on fools like you to direct their anger toward the opposition.

Think about that!

"Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end." —Unknown

[20120504-04](#) 17:45 BobW How the Economy Works

That's all folks.

The food stamp program, part of the Department of Agriculture, is pleased to be distributing the greatest amount of food stamps ever.

Meanwhile, the Park Service, also part of the Department of Agriculture, asks us to "please do not feed the animals" because the animals may grow dependent and not learn to take care of themselves.



The FotM Archive is finished and published, thanks to you all! Check it out at the links below. It's a big file and might load slowly, which is why it's better to copy it to your own computer. Occasionally, browsers will load a PDF file, then fault upon trying to open it. If you get an error message, just select "Reload Page" and the file will open immediately.

Have a great weekend! Here's the introduction:

**Introduction and Excuses**

This is a project I embarked upon six months ago, and that's just the editing part—an average of probably 15-20 hours a week. I wanted to do justice to special writing that comes from the hearts of friends, and I guess I'm just slow sometimes. :-)

The project has certainly been no chore. Instead, it has been fun and interesting, communication usually is. I have learned more than in the original moments of the emails because I've had time to reread and rethink things. I've appreciated that time.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this effort. To my wife, **Marcela**, who has brought me coffee, coca tea, and grilled cheese sandwiches at odd hours, so I could keep working, I offer you the love of our first kiss, which continues and grows, and I thank you for your help in all things.

The most important group of people for me to thank are the members of Friends of the Middle who have contributed their thoughts and feelings and a little part of their lives to this effort. Not that anyone knew, until maybe the very end of these emails, that they were doing anything remotely like contributing to some future e-book project. No, they were engaged in a higher purpose, simply trying to communicate with a friend. These are special people, also smart, knowledgeable, successful people, and that's why this project is so special. This compilation resulted from these people doing something to try to make the world a little better place, a world that might find the answers to its problems if led by people who care as much.

Thank you all, my friends! Thank you **Pam**, who has probably written the most words of any of us and they are thoughtful, well-written words, indeed; **SteveM**, who essentially ended my apolitical years by sending me emails that pi\*sed me off, our argument continues, but we can't forget the great times we had traveling coast-to-coast when we were young enough to need to learn everything; **Dennis**, who kept sending me things that almost always made sense, even though I began thinking of him as a conspiracy theorist, but I finally concluded in the end at last that it's way past the conspiracy stage; **SteveG**, who has probably introduced us all to more good sources, information, and causes than anyone; **GaryC**, who wrote more interestingly from a conservative perspective than most of us have seen anywhere, he can make the Right seem almost logical, I swear; **Charis**, who welcomed me as a friend to a new and strange land and loves writing almost as much as I do; **India**, who took me around the world with her.

Thank you all so much for the words you have written and the treasures you have led us all to: **AliceMarie, Art, Ben, Bill, Bob, BobK, BrentR, Charlie, Clark, Dale, DaveY, David, Dick, GaryF, Jim, Larry, Lianne, Marci, Marissa, Mark, Mary, Mike, SteveBA, Pat, PamB, Patti, Paul, Paula, Phil, RickF, Robert, Sandy, Susette, Tom, and Trudy.**

Many more contributors have stepped up to the plate since the time of this compilation and I can assure all these writers that they will appear in future e-books (the FotM Newsletter monthly compilations).

The other group to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude is our F0tM Newsletter subscribers and readers, who now number almost 400 and growing. Everyone, please keep forwarding the FotM Newsletters to everyone in your Contacts List and, now, the link to this free FotM e-book!

Someone might ask: Why would anyone want to read 1856 emails and articles in 44 categories, consisting of about 977,000 words (roughly half from FotM members and half from sources), in a 1550 page, 20 Mb., PDF e-book? Simple! Because, for most of us, this was the first opportunity we had to describe a sort of philosophy of life for ourselves. It's all here. Who we are. What we value. What we want to change. What we fear. What our hopes and dreams of the future are. What we believe in and do not believe in. For those who know any of us or will, for our grandchildren and the future, I wish I had something like this from my parents...maybe as good as a video. For everyone else, the subject matter is one that will, I believe, prove to be a crucial time in American history, from 2007 through 2011 and into 2012 with the FotM Newsletters. Frankly, many of us hope this will prove to be the beginning of the transition away from the failed policies of both major political parties during most of our lifetimes.

And, as I have often told people as I have worked on this project, the end result is an undergraduate education in the inner workings of the Current Events of this important four year period. Few on the Right or the Left could read it cover-to-cover and not come away with an altered view of what's going on in America this century.

*Political Inbox: 2007-2011* contains many valuable little treasures: President Obama's birth certificate and Inaugural Address, "William Jennings Bryan's "Cross of Gold" speech, The Treaty of Tripoli, which answers the question of whether the U.S. was founded as a Christian nation. Articles by famous people like Mitt Romney, Robert Reich, Alan

Grayson, Noam Chomsky, Bill Moyers, Oliver North, Christopher Hitchens, and many, many more. The short period covered encompasses a lot of history: two important elections, the election of our first black president, the formation of the Tea Party, the Housing Bubble Crash of 2008, the Bail-Out, the passage of Obamacare, the transfer of power from the Republicans to the Democrats, then back to the Tea Party Republicans in the House, the stalemate, gridlock, and near default of the government, coming out of Recession, and, at last, the beginnings of a slow Recovery.

Lest I continue on and overstate my case, instead, please allow me to apologize for many lost emails, especially from the early period, many that I simply deleted, not having imagined this compilation or FotM. But, even then, if I or a friend wrote very much on any non-personal subject, or sent something very interesting, I tended to keep them. Much of the stuff I deleted was redundant material, most of the rest was personal. I probably received every one of the Obama attack emails from the Right at least a dozen times and tried to reflect a little of that in these pages. In very few cases does anything missing affect that which remains. Where that was the case, I have usually provided a few notes to compensate: **[This is a note. —SteveB]**.

As time passed and the vision became clearer, I started saving just about everything, though most communications of an entirely personal nature do not appear in this compilation and, obviously, except in my own case, User Names protect the identities of FotM Members and Subscribers.

I can't explain the strange lull in email activity about and around the 2010 elections, other than to say we must have all felt a collective sense of dread that suppressed communications in that direction. Maybe we all knew, so nothing needed to be said, maybe I got discouraged and tossed it all, but I can't remember doing any such thing, nor would that be like me.

#### A Few Technical Things About *Political Inbox: 2001-2011*

1. To read this e-book online: [http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org/Political\\_Inbox\\_2007-2011.pdf/](http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org/Political_Inbox_2007-2011.pdf/).
2. To download this e-book: <http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org/>. <right-click> on the picture of the e-book and, depending on which browser you use, select "Save Target as..." or "Save Link as..." Then you can change the name of the file and determine where to store it on your computer. Alternatively, if you open the PDF file in your browser (#1, above) or using the Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can select the picture of a disk to save the file.
3. Email: [FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com).
4. There are two hyperlinked indexes. The first contains only the 44 subject matter categories and links to the main index of all emails segregated by category and arranged mainly by date, oldest first, but also by logical thread. All related links go back and forth. After you jump to an email, clicking that date code will take you back to that entry in the index.
5. In the body of the compilation, all emails appear strictly by date and time, oldest through news.
6. To navigate, click on Category Headings (back and forth between the two indexes) and Date Codes (back and forth between the main index and the emails. Red links are internal to this document, blue links connect to the internet.
7. Here is how the date codes work: DATE-ID = YYYYMMDD-##.
8. Training Link: [20120504-01](#). Try it, then jump back here. (If you're computer savvy, please excuse.)
9. See? It's very easy to get around and not get lost. Alternately, it can be enjoyable to skip the index and simply read the emails and articles in any order you like.

10. Many of the SUBJECT lines of the original emails have been changed to unify and better represent the contents of the particular THREADS of conversation.

11. Organizing the Categories and their emails is as much a work of art as a science. The largest categories ended-up being, basically, Economics and Taxes. I left these Categories broad because it's too often a toss-up, since many related subjects can be touched upon in any one email or article. Some Categories are very small, but they have very distinctive subject matter, so I tried to accommodate. I hope you will find the index easy to use. These same categories, approximately, will be used when the daily FotM Newsletter indexes are combined and organized into the monthly compilations.

12. As usual, please try to inform me of errors, inconsistencies, confusions, or any other problems that you find.

*Salud!* And, as Alan Grayson says, Courage!

--Steven W. Baker (SteveB)  
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<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org>

#### Conviction's Lies

To enter the realm of truth  
Certainty must be left behind  
With all the other forgotten  
And lost things of this world  
Neither hope nor love among them  
Though bright beyond all imagining  
Remember conviction's lies.

©1997,2012 Steven W. Baker

<a href="#">20120504-07</a>	19:59	Tom	Re: The First FotM E-Book: <i>Political Inbox: 2007-2011</i> (reply to SteveB, above)
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Steve, really.... You have too much time on your hands! ;-) thanks!

<a href="#">20120504-06</a>	19:54	SteveG	"Can Going Without Money Hurt the Economy? One Man's Quest to Be Penniless"
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Worth a read for all of us.

"Can Going Without Money Hurt the Economy? One Man's Quest to Be Penniless" by Abby Ellin, ABC News/Good Morning America/Yahoo! News

May 3, 2012, (<http://gma.yahoo.com/going-without-money-hurt-economy-one-mans-quest-211049892--abc-news-topstories.html>)

(Daniel Suelo is 51 years old and broke. Happily broke. Consciously, deliberately, blessedly broke.)

Not only does he not have debt, a mortgage or rent, he does not earn a salary. Nor does he buy food or clothes, or own any product with a lower case "i" before it. Home is a cave on public land outside Moab, Utah. He scavenges for food from the garbage or off the land (fried grasshoppers, anyone?). He has been known to carve up and boil fresh road kill. He bathes, without soap, in the creek.

In the fall of 2000, Suelo (who changed his name from Shellabarger), decided to stop using money altogether. That meant no "conscious barter," food stamps or other government handouts. His mission was to "use only what is freely given or discarded and what is already present and already running," he wrote on his web site, Zero Currency.

The question many people wonder: Is he insane, or a mooch, or simply dedicated to leading a simple, honest, dare we say, Christ-like existence?

They're good questions. And depending whom you ask, the answers vary.

Suelo wasn't always a modern-day caveman. He went to the University of Colorado and studied anthropology, at one point considering medical school. He lived in a real house, with four walls, a window and a door, and shopped in stores, not their dumpsters.

But over time he says he grew depressed, clinically depressed, mainly with the focus on acquisition. "Every time I made a resume for a job, signed my name to a document, opened a bank account, or even bought a banana at the supermarket, I felt a tinge of dishonesty," he said.

He was born into an Evangelical Christian home in Grand Junction, Colo., and took his religion seriously. Eventually, he started wondering why "professed Christians rarely followed the teachings of Jesus--namely the Sermon on the Mount, namely giving up possessions, living beyond credit and debt--freely giving and freely taking--giving, expecting nothing in return, forgiving all debts, owing nobody a thing, living beyond payback of either evil-for-evil or good-for-good, living and walking without guilt (debt), without grudge (debt), without judgment (credit & debt), living by Grace, by Gratis, not by our own works but by the works of the true Nature flowing through," he said.

Although he considered himself a Christian, he discovered that the same principles applied to Taoism, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Mormonism, Shamanism, and Paganism.

One year he went to Alaska and worked on the docks. But that, too, he says, felt dishonest. Instead, he and a buddy decided to live off the land—spearing fish, foraging for mushrooms and berries. (Think *Castaway*, but with snow). Suelo (which means soil in Spanish) eventually hitch-hiked back to Moab with \$50 in his pocket. By the time he arrived, his stash had dwindled to \$25. He realized that he only needed money for things he really didn't need, like snacks and booze.

He began toying with the idea of living full-time without money. He traveled to India, and became fascinated by Hindu Sadhus, who wandered without lucre and possessions. He considered joining them, but then he realized that "A true test of faith would be to return to one of the most materialistic, money-worshipping nations on earth, to return to the authenticity profound principles of spirituality hidden beneath our own religion of hypocrisy, and be a Sadhu there," he said. "To be a vagabond, a bum, and make an art of it - this idea enchanted me."

And soon, that's exactly what he did. He says he left his life savings—a whopping \$30—in a phone booth, and walked away.

But he didn't do it in a vacuum; he maintained his blog for free from the Moab public library. Rather than just sitting on a mountain and gazing at his navel, he wanted to have an impact on others, to spread his gospel.

In 2009, Mark Sundeen, an old acquaintance he'd worked with at a Moab restaurant, heard about Suelo through mutual friends. At first, "I thought he must have lost his mind," Sundeen, 42, said in a telephone conversation. But then he began reading his blog, and grew intrigued. Sundeen divides his time between Missoula, Mont., and Moab, where he was once a river guide, and he paid a visit to Suelo's cave.

Gradually, he said he realized that much of what Suelo was saying made a whole lot of sense. This was right around the time the economy crashed, and "It felt like a lot of what he was saying was prophetic," said Sundeen. "That money is an illusion, an addiction. That resonated with me after the collapse for the economy."

Sundeen was so intrigued that he decided to write a book about Suelo, *The Man Who Quit Money*, which was published in March.

While the book reviews have been generally positive, Suelo has come under fire by some who say he's a derelict, sponging off society without contributing. They are valid criticisms: This is a guy, after all, who has gotten a citation for train hopping (what would Jesus say about that?). And he's not opposed to house sitting in winter--not exactly living off the land.

And besides: How is he actually helping others by going without? It's not like he's solving world hunger, or curing cancer.

Sundeen disputes these arguments. "He doesn't accept any government programs--welfare, food stamps, Medicare," he said. "The only ways in which he actually uses taxpayer funded derivatives is walking on roads and using the public library. So in that regard he's a mooch--he's using the roads and not paying taxes. But if you try to quantify the amount of money he's taking from the system--it's a couple of dollars a year, less than anyone's ever used."

Instead, he is actively promoting "his idea that money is an illusion," Sundeen said. "The Fed just prints it up, it doesn't mean anything and it's going to lead us down the road to serfdom." Suelo simply doesn't want to contribute to that, and so he lives life on his own terms.

That said, Sundeen wouldn't live the way Suelo does. "The appeal to me is the living outdoors part, but I feel like I got my feel of that working as an Outward Bound guide," he said. "At this point I have other priorities."

Suelo, for his part, has no plans to bring money back into his life. "I know it's possible to live without money," he said. "Abundantly."

<a href="#">20120505-01</a> 05:58 MarthaH "Lugar Says He Needs Help – Fast"
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"Lugar Says He Needs Help – Fast" by Mary Beth Schneider and Chris Sikich, *Lafayette Journal-Courier*

May 5, 2012, (<http://www.jconline.com/article/20120505/NEWS/305040018/Lugar-says-he-needs-help-fast>)

Sen. Richard Lugar's campaign came down to one word Friday: "help."

In the political equivalent of an SOS, the Navy veteran urged Hoosiers of any political persuasion who like what he's done in his 36-year career in the Senate to help him stay there.

"Every person in Indiana who wants me to continue, every person wherever they might be at this point, I encourage them to come out," he said. "Come out immediately, as fast as you can."

The reason for the urgency: The primary election is Tuesday, and a new poll shows state Treasurer Richard Mourdock defeating Lugar, 48 percent to 38 percent.

That's a dramatic slide for Lugar, who won in 2006 with more than 80 percent of the vote after Democrats didn't field a candidate against him. Only a month ago, another Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground poll showed Lugar leading Mourdock, 42 percent to 35 percent.

Robert Dion, a University of Evansville political science professor, summed it up simply: "devastating."

Mourdock's campaign spokesman, Chris Conner, said the poll -- taken Monday and Tuesday of 700 likely GOP primary voters statewide, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.7 percentage points -- confirms what that campaign has believed:

"Hoosiers are tired of Senator Lugar's willingness to support liberal causes in Washington, they feel he is out of touch with the values they hold dear and they firmly believe it is time for a change."

The usually staid Lugar was animated as he made his last-ditch appeal at his Broad Ripple headquarters while volunteers called voters to urge their support.

As a bell rang each time a volunteer won a commitment from a voter, Lugar pleaded with groups that he has helped over the years to now help him salvage his political career.

They needed, he said, to "come forward and visibly give their support." He cited farmers he had boosted with agriculture legislation and fights against regulations. He called on "working men and women," saying his ties with business and labor are needed to create jobs.

He appealed to veterans, Jewish voters who cared about his work to help Russian Jews, women who might have benefited from his program to build political networks and minority students who were helped by his scholarship program.

In Indiana, voters do not register by party. Anyone voting in the primary election can ask for a Republican or Democratic ballot. While they can be challenged if they are known to be a member of the other party, it's difficult to prove that someone hasn't had an election day conversion.

"I believe that right now, if a majority of Hoosiers were to vote in an election -- that is, all Hoosiers regardless of party, Republicans, Democrats, independents -- I would win," Lugar said. "I'm not asking anybody to cross over. I'm just saying positively, 'Register your vote, because if you do not, I may not be able to continue serving you. At this point, help.'"

And he pulled out one final weapon: Mourdock, he argued, is not qualified.

"I'm just saying as positively as I can: Do not elect an unqualified person to serve in the Senate," he said.

Citing his work on national security, jobs, farm issues and budget cutting, Lugar said: "If you're a Hoosier and you're genuinely interested in these problems, please vote for somebody who is actually on the job doing it and will continue doing it effectively."

He blamed the hole he is in on millions of dollars in attacks against him made by outside groups whose support has helped Mourdock erase what otherwise would have been a substantial cash advantage for Lugar.

Defending his own negative ads against Mourdock, Lugar said that "after you take millions of dollars of hits, day in and day out, at least somebody ought to say Mr. Mourdock simply is unqualified to handle the complex situations in our world today."

Lugar, though, got no help from Gov. Mitch Daniels on this issue. Daniels, who got his start in politics working for Lugar and is backing Lugar in TV ads, said Friday that Mourdock is "a thoroughly credible person who is a friend and ally of mine."

Lugar's charge that Mourdock cannot be effective if he isn't willing to work across party lines crystallizes the differences between them, Mourdock said.

"I want Republicans to be the majority so that we don't have to be working with the other side, hoping to pick one off now and then," Mourdock said. "I want to build the Republican Party, and he wants to try to count on winning a few votes when he needs them from the other side."

Democrats, though, said that attitude is one reason they think their candidate, U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, can win in November if Republicans nominate Mourdock.

Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker pointed to the poll's finding that 60 percent of the likely GOP primary voters polled want a senator to focus on trying to solve the nation's problems, "even if that means working with elected officials across the aisle to do it."

Only 30 percent of those polled preferred their senator to focus first on standing up for conservative principles, even if that meant rejecting bipartisanship to solve problems.

That, Parker said, is "the one number in this primary poll that tells me the matchup for Joe Donnelly against Mourdock is going to be a good one."

"He is a tea party fringe candidate, whether they want to rebrand him or not," Parker said. "He has a strident ideology that's not going to fit well with the general election."

A trio of academics -- Dion, at the University of Evansville; Andy Downs, at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne; and Leslie Lenkowsky, at IU -- all said Lugar still can win. Primary elections, they noted, are notoriously difficult to gauge because the outcome is heavily dependent on voter turnout.

"It's a long shot, but I certainly wouldn't rule it out," Downs said.

Lenkowsky, who only a couple of weeks ago predicted a Lugar win, said the appeal to independent voters may make a difference despite the clear deficit Lugar faces. And the poll, Dion said, could have an impact, galvanizing people who otherwise might not have voted.

"Man, the million-dollar question is: Who gets energized by this?" he said. "The tea party people are already whipped into a lather, so you can't get more excited than they are now. The kind of slow, sober-minded traditional Republican may decide that it's time to go the polls and bring a friend."

<a href="#">20120505-03</a>	08:21	Art	Re: "Lugar Says He Needs Help – Fast" (reply to MarthaH, above)
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Congratulations, Indiana has now reached the level of South Carolina.

<a href="#">20120505-02</a>	06:47	MarthaH	"Researchers Find Time in Wild Boosts Creativity, Insight & Problem Solving"
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What I already knew!

"Researchers Find Time in Wild Boosts Creativity, Insight, and Problem Solving" Brendan Lynch, University of Kansas (KU) News Service

Apr. 23, 2012 (<http://www.news.ku.edu/2012/april/23/outdoors.shtml>)

(LAWRENCE, Ks.) There's new evidence that our minds thrive away from it all.

Research conducted at the University of Kansas concludes that people from all walks of life show startling cognitive improvement — for instance, a 50 percent boost in creativity — after living for a few days steeped in nature.

Ruth Ann Atchley, whose research is featured in this month's Backpacker magazine, said the "soft fascination" of the natural world appears to refresh the human mind, offering refuge from the cacophony of modern life.

"We've got information coming at us from social media, electronics and cell phones," said Atchley, associate professor and chair of psychology at KU. "We constantly shift attention from one source to another, getting all of this information that simulates alarms, warnings and emergencies. Those threats are bad for us. They sap our resources to do the fun thinking and cognition humans are capable of — things like creativity, or being kind and generous, along with our ability to feel good and be in a positive mood."

The researcher said that nature could stimulate the human mind without the often-menacing distractions of workaday life in the 21st-century.

"Nature is a place where our mind can rest, relax and let down those threat responses," said Atchley. "Therefore, we have resources left over — to be creative, to be imaginative, to problem solve — that allow us to be better, happier people who engage in a more productive way with others."

Atchley led a team that conducted initial research on a backpacking trip in Utah with the Remote Associates Test, a word-association exercise used for decades by psychologists to gauge creative intelligence. Her fellow researchers included Paul Atchley, associate professor of psychology at KU, and David Strayer, professor of cognition and neural science at the University of Utah.

Intrigued by positive results, the researchers partnered with Outward Bound, the Golden, Colo.-based nonprofit that leads educational expeditions into nature for people of many backgrounds. About 120 participants on outings in places like Alaska, Colorado and California completed the "RAT" test.

"We worked with a number of backpacking groups that were going out last summer," Ruth Ann Atchley said. "Four backpacker groups took the test before they hit the trail, and then four different groups did it on the fourth day just like we had done before. The data across age groups — regular folks from age 18 into their 60s — showed an almost 50 percent increase in creativity. It really worked in the sense that it was a well-used measure and we could see such a big difference in these two environments."

Best of all, she said that the benefits of nature belong to anyone who delves completely into wilderness for an amount of time equivalent to a long weekend.

"There's growing advantage over time to being in nature," said Ruth Ann Atchley. "We think that it peaks after about three days of really getting away, turning off the cell phone, not hauling the iPad and not looking for internet coverage. It's when you have an extended period of time surrounded by that softly fascinating environment that you start seeing all kinds of positive effects in how your mind works."

<a href="#">20120506-08</a>	12:07	SteveB	Re: "Researchers Find Time in Wild Boosts Creativity, Insight & Problem Solving (reply to MarthaH, above)
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I agree! It sure always seems to help my frame of mind...

It's ne of the reason I live here...though Montana had plenty of wilderness within walking distance of my house! And, as a kid in Indiana, I would seek out the deserted, empty places that remained and that still remain, just to see what they were like...and maybe to see if my courage would hold... (Though my favorite is gone—between Blackstock and the old stone quarry near the Big Walnut.)

<a href="#">20120505-04</a>	11:20	SteveB	Fw: MoveOn Action: Have an Idea for a petition? Start Your Own!
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from MoveOn:

Have you ever heard the story of how MoveOn started? In 1998, when Newt Gingrich and the Republicans in Congress were focusing all of their efforts on impeaching President Clinton over a sex scandal, we started a simple online petition: "Censure President Clinton and Move On to Pressing Issues Facing the Nation."

We had no past political experience, but we felt passionately about our message and shared the petition with as many of our friends as we could think of. Within days, the petition went viral, and we had hundreds of thousands of signatures. And from the list of people who signed that original petition grew MoveOn.org—an organization of 7.5 million members and a powerful progressive force in American politics.

Because we've seen firsthand how regular people can make a difference, we're thrilled that MoveOn has launched a new website called SignOn.org where anyone can start their own online petitions. MoveOn will even email out the most popular petitions to help build support for your cause—and as always we'll never ever sell your personal information to anyone.

Click here to start your own petition on SignOn.org right now:

<http://www.moveon.org/r?r=263094&id=40732-20195165-bzw9Utx&t=1>.

As always, thanks for all you do.

—Wes Boyd & Joan Blades, Founders of MoveOn.org

<a href="#">20120505-05</a>	11:53	SteveG	Fw: Daily Kos Action: Become a Citizen Co-Sponsor of the EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT!
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from Daily Kos:

it's time to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and enshrine gender equality in the Constitution once and for all. Please, click here to become a citizen co-sponsor for the ERA.

The ERA has been in the queue for decades. With the recent escalation of the Republicans' War on Women—trying to defund women's health care, refusing to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, voting against the Paycheck Fairness Act, and holding men-only congressional hearings on birth control—women not only deserve, but need, their equality guaranteed in the Constitution.

According to recent polling, 91% of Americans believe the Constitution should guarantee equal rights for women. It's time—long past time—to pass the ERA.

Please click here to become a citizen co-sponsor of the Equal Right Amendment:

[http://campaigns.dailykos.com/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=112](http://campaigns.dailykos.com/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=112)

Keep fighting, Kaili Joy Gray, Daily Kos

<a href="#">20120505-06</a>	13:47	SteveG	Fw: Change.org Petition: Help Stop Electro-shocking of Children
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from Change.org:

In 2002, a special needs student named Andre McCollins was allegedly strapped down and electrocuted for hours, leaving him with permanent brain damage, all because he refused to take off his jacket. The people torturing Andre were officials at his school. You can watch what happened on video.

Video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAj9W0ntJMI&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAj9W0ntJMI&feature=player_embedded).

The video was shot at a Massachusetts school for special needs kids called the Judge Rotenberg Center (JRC). Gregory Miller used to be a teacher there, and he says electrocuting kids as punishment is extremely common -- even for minor offenses like raising your hand to go to the bathroom.

"A non-verbal, nearly blind girl with cerebral palsy was shocked for attempts to hold a staff member's hand -- her attempts to communicate and to be loved," Gregory says.

Gregory desperately wants to help the kids at the JRC --that's why he started a petition on Change.org demanding that the JRC stop using electroshock to punish kids.

Click here to add your name:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/judge-rotenberg-educational-center-please-stop-painful-electric-shocks-on-your-students>.

Gregory says the JRC's founder created electroshock devices which are even stronger than police stun guns to punish students for bad behavior. An official at the United Nations said that using these devices on children is considered torture.

According to the Boston Globe, the JRC's founder resigned after being charged with misleading a grand jury by destroying video footage of other students being shocked.

Gregory believes that if thousands of people sign his petition, his former bosses will capitulate in the intense pressure generated by a national spotlight.

Sign Gregory's petition demanding that the JRC immediately cease its practice of punishing special needs kids with electroshock devices.

Thanks for being a change-maker, Jon and the Change.org team

20120505-07	15:38	SteveB	"The Real Job Creators: Consumers, Not the Wealthy"
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"The Real Job Creators" by Joan Walsh, Salon

May 4, 2012, ([http://www.salon.com/2012/05/04/the\\_real\\_job\\_creators/](http://www.salon.com/2012/05/04/the_real_job_creators/))

(Consumers, not the wealthy, are the key to an economic rebound, and GOP austerity is shackling them.)

Republicans have made it official: "The wealthy" must be called "the job creators" in any debate about tax policy. Democrats are playing their own word games: Centrists insist the 2012 campaign shouldn't focus on "income inequality," or whether the worst concentration of riches since the Great Depression might have to do with what Paul Krugman has taken to calling the Lesser Depression. "Income inequality" is a downer, the centrists say; better to talk about "growth" and "prosperity."

But it's becoming increasingly clear that growth and prosperity are threatened by the declining share of income going to the non-wealthy over the last 35 years.

Friday's disappointing jobs report confirms that "the job creators" should be fired, since they only created 115,000 new jobs in April, which isn't even enough to employ new entrants to the workforce. And while the unemployment rate ticked down from 8.2 to 8.1 percent, that's only because more unemployed people gave up and left the labor market entirely. Romney advisor Eric Fehrstrom (Mr. Etch-A-Sketch) blames President Obama, and he even pretends his candidate cares that "people are so discouraged they are dropping out of the workforce all together."

Let's get one thing straight: Even with this anemic recovery, the economy under Obama has replaced all of the jobs lost under the Bush administration. NBC's Chuck Todd deserves kudos for noting to Fehrstrom Friday that British austerity policies have sent that nation into a double-dip recession – and that Mitt Romney supports the same policies. Fehrstrom performed the standard Romney pivot – whatever you're asked, insist on talking about the U.S. economy *only* – brushing off Todd's question about how Romney would improve the economy more than Obama has, with his "cut, cap and balance" austerity policies that have failed elsewhere.

But the stalling economy is not good news for Obama-Biden 2012. I've said before that I think the debate over whether the Democrats' campaign message should highlight income inequality vs. growth, opportunity and prosperity presents a false choice: The president is a skilled enough communicator to explain how they're linked. But he's really got to find a way to turn around the debate and make clear that consumers, not the wealthy, are the real "job creators." Until we figure out a way to get people employed and almost as important, get incomes rising again (for more than just the folks at the top) our economic troubles will stay with us.

Paul Krugman is making the rounds talking about his new book "End This Depression Now!" which puts in one place the arguments he's been making since at least 2009: The Lesser Depression is more a political problem, at this point, than an economic problem, since the GOP is implacably opposed to the government spending that has traditionally goosed the economy out of its doldrums. Right on time, McCain economic advisor Doug Holtz-Eakin is out with a piece that doesn't challenge Krugman by name but argues that all the stimulus of the last decade – from Bush tax cuts through the 2009 Recovery Act and mini-stims like the payroll tax cut – haven't helped the economy, because this hasn't been a "demand recession" but a structural "asset-driven recession," due to the bursting of first the dot-com bubble and then the much more serious housing sector and banking collapse.

I'm not qualified to get into the weeds with either of these two economists, but we should remember two things about the '80s recovery that Holtz-Eakin says was a strong one. First, few Republicans ever acknowledge that Ronald Reagan became a stealth military Keynesian mid-term, letting Paul Volcker loosen up the money supply while presiding over a defense buildup that was also a stimulus package. The Reagan years also saw the beginning of household debt beginning to balloon, while household savings declined – a result of the flattening of wages taking place especially for the working class. Holtz-Eakin ignores the extent to which the banking collapse itself took demand out of the economy, and money out of consumers' hands – money they'd been taking out of their homes or their credit cards, at least partly because they weren't getting it in their paychecks.

And the Recovery Act that the former McCain advisor terms a failure was hailed as a success by another McCain economic advisor, Moody's Mark Zandi, who is on record saying it stemmed job losses and probably kept us out of a real depression. Its problem was that it didn't pump enough money into the economy, not that it pumped it wastefully. All we really know is that stimulus via tax cuts, the great Bush experiment, didn't work at all; they helped wreck the economy.

What does Holtz-Eakin recommend instead? "Pro-growth tax reform" – he doesn't say what that involves – and "fundamental entitlement reform that eliminates the debt threat." Of course, fundamental entitlement reform, which normally involves proposals to raise the eligibility age for Social Security and Medicare and/or cut benefits, would take money out of the hands of senior citizens who need it, to eliminate the supposed "debt threat" that's only a threat when a Democrat is in the White House, by the way. "Reagan proved deficits didn't matter," Dick Cheney told Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill in 2002, a month before he fired him. The GOP really needs to get its story straight on this one.

But so do Democrats. I'm anxious about reports that Democrats are willing to vote for the Simpson-Bowles deficit reduction package, even if they oppose its program cuts, because they know Republicans will oppose its tax increases and they'll get to proclaim themselves the party of deficit reduction. They need to become the party of jobs, not deficit reduction.

The White House reportedly considers Krugman a bit of a scold and tunes him out; the same with Robert Reich, who makes similar points on his blog today. But let's hope they find time to read Krugman's essay in the New York Review of Books, which goes into the weeds on the way government spending boosts employment and deficit reduction does not. President Obama's approval ratings have climbed since he began touting job creation, and as Krugman observes:

The experience of Obama's first term suggests that not talking about jobs simply because you don't think you can pass job-creation legislation doesn't work even as a political strategy. On the other hand, hammering on the need for job creation can be good politics, and it can put enough pressure on the other side to bring about better policy too.

Or to put it more simply, there is no reason not to tell the truth about this depression.

Put even more simply, Democrats need to make the case that consumers are the real job creators. Unless we can get them employed and with higher wages, this Lesser Depression will persist.

20120506-01 02:12 SteveM Fw: America's Hunters

[Source of original email unknown. -SteveB]

AMERICA'S HUNTERS --- Pretty Amazing!

The world's largest army... America's hunters!

I had never thought about this...

A blogger added up the deer license sales in just a handful of states and arrived at a striking conclusion: There were over 600,000 hunters this season in the state of Wisconsin.

Allow me to restate that number: Over the last several months, Wisconsin's hunters became the eighth largest army in the world. More men under arms than in Iran. More than France and Germany combined.

These men deployed to the woods of a single American state, Wisconsin, to hunt with firearms, and no one was killed. That number pales in comparison to the 750,000 who hunted the woods of Pennsylvania and Michigan's 700,000 hunters, all of whom have now returned home safely.

Toss in a quarter million hunters in West Virginia and it literally establishes the fact that the hunters of those four states alone would comprise the largest army in the world. And then add in the total number of hunters in the other 46 states. It's millions more.

The point? America will forever be safe from foreign invasion with that kind of home-grown firepower.

Hunting...it's not just a way to fill the freezer. It's a matter of national security.

That's why all enemies, foreign and domestic, want to see us disarmed.

Food for thought, when next we consider gun control. Have A Great Day!

Overall it's true, so if we disregard some assumptions that hunters don't possess the same skills as soldiers, the question would still remain...what army of 2 million would want to face 30, 40, 50 million armed citizens?

(IF YOU AGREE, AS I DO, PASS IT ON, I FEEL GOOD THAT I HAVE AN ARMY OF MILLIONS WHO WOULD PROTECT OUR LAND AND I SURE DON'T WANT THE GOVERNMENT TAKING CONTROL OF THE POSSESSION OF FIREARMS)

For the sake of our freedom, don't ever allow gun control or confiscation of guns.

20120506-03 06:33 SteveB Re: America's Hunters (reply to SteveM, above)

EXACTLY!

This is why we don't need to bankrupt the country, eliminate Medicare, Social Security, and education and deprive the poor of Big Macs when it's true:

NO COUNTRY WILL ATTACK THE HILLBILLY ARMY OF WISCONSIN! (especially not Canada, Mexico, Cuba, or China)

I'M DEAD SERIOUS! Think how much more effective than the Syrian people. I'm with Ron Paul on this one and have been for a long time.

It's way past time: **BRING THE TROOPS HOME, NOW!**

But, while I gotcha on the line...one lie...it ain't that safe! Nor would anyone expect it to be with all those stupid, drunk, cheese-head hillbillies shooting at anything that moves.

But, hey, as long as the childish yet sometimes necessary game continues, more power to the hunters of the world! Maybe hand grenades, bazookas, and mortars would be a cool addition to assault rifles?

See this for a contrary view:

<http://animalrights.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=animalrights&cdn=newsissues&tm=11&f=00&tt=12&bt=0&bts=0&zu=http%3A/www.all-creatures.org/cash/accident-center.html>

As I've always said, and as we saw in the Arab Spring and OWS, sometimes the people have to take matters into their own hands.

Here's my prediction and bet: If Americans ever have to take-up arms against their government, it will be a right-wing, not a left-wing government that they will struggle against. I sure hope they win!

For a stirringly patriotic video presentation see: <http://thestoryoflibertyblog.com/2012/02/29/the-worlds-largest-army-americas-hunters/>.

20120506-10	12:50	SteveM	Re: America's Hunters (reply to SteveB, above)
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You have a better chance of being harassed buy Obama's health care Gestapo than being injured by a hunter

But nice try to diminish another segment of the population with no facts. You could be writing the Democratic talking points.

Do you even read what you write, dummy?

Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end.

20120506-02	02:13	SteveM	Fw: The Difference Between Chicken Salad & Chicken Sh*t
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[Source of original email unknown. -SteveB]

**LOOK AT THE YELLOW HIGHLIGHTING ON THE "I".**

**This is the difference between chicken salad and chicken sh\*t:**

**President George W. Bush's** speech after the capture of Saddam Hussein:

The success of yesterday's mission is a tribute to our men and women now serving in Iraq. The operation was based on the superb work of intelligence analysts who found the dictator's footprints in a vast country. The operation was carried out with skill and precision by a brave fighting force. Our servicemen and women

and our coalition allies have faced many dangers in the hunt for members of the fallen regime, and in their effort to bring hope and freedom to the Iraqi people. Their work continues, and so do the risks. Today, on behalf of the nation, I thank the members of our Armed Forces and I congratulate them!

### And chicken sh\*t:

[President] Obama's speech after the killing of bin Laden:

And so shortly after taking office, I directed Leon Panetta, the Director of the CIA, to make the killing or capture of bin Laden the top priority of our war against al Qaeda, even as we continued our broader efforts to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat his network. Then, last August, I was briefed on a possible lead to bin Laden. It was far from certain, and it took many months to run this thread to ground. I met repeatedly with my national security team as we developed more information about the possibility that we had located bin Laden hiding within a compound deep inside of Pakistan. And finally, last week, I determined that we had enough intelligence to take action, and I authorized an operation to get Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice. **Today, at my direction, the United States launched a targeted operation against that compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.**

**Obama did not once acknowledge our brave men and women who fight for our country.**

20120506-04	07:02	SteveB	Re: The Difference Between Chicken Salad & Chicken Sh*t & "Osama Bin Laden Killed: Barack Obama's Speech in Full" & "[President Bush's] Speech on the Capture of Saddam Hussein" (reply to SteveM, above)
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It doesn't sound very likely, does it? And it turns out, it's not. Like that doctored photo of the POTUS and FLOTUS saying the Pledge of Allegiance with their left hands over their hearts, simultaneously! Ya, right! I believe the CIC always treats and refers to the troop, as he should, with the utmost respect and gratitude. This is simply a very false, malicious charge.

(Steve, the pictures? didn't come through.)

Bush's "Mission Accomplished" speech has gone down in history as a moment of great Presidential stupidity. Are you sure you want to bring it up again?

This email is just another little lie, as the full text (below) of the two speeches clearly shows. President Obama praised the troops more than Bush did in Bush's extremely short presentation. I believe there are more personal references (I, me, my, we, us, our, ours, mine, the President, this Office) per word in Bush's speech than President Obama's and I believe Barry heaped more praise on the military than did Bush. It helps to have the whole story, instead of the very selective editing in the forwarded email.

If an email's author is anonymous, it's probably lies.

"The truth will out."

So the guy who got bin Laden when Bush and Cheney couldn't, the guy who took-out Gaddafi, who ended our stupid presence in Iraq, is chicken sh\*t? I doubt it! Notice it's Bush, now, who's afraid (ashamed, more likely) to even open his mouth, while the other ex-Presidents talk openly about anything. Bush demonstrably did as much to destroy America as any one person ever has.

"Osama Bin Laden Killed: Barack Obama's Speech in Full", *The Telegraph*

May 2, 2011, (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/barackobama/8487354/Osama-bin-Laden-killed-Barack-Obamas-speech-in-full.html>)

Good evening. Tonight, I can report to the American people and to the world that the United States has conducted an operation that killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda, and a terrorist who's responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women, and children.

It was nearly 10 years ago that a bright September day was darkened by the worst attack on the American people in our history. The images of 9/11 are seared into our national memory - hijacked planes cutting through a cloudless September sky; the Twin Towers collapsing to the ground; black smoke billowing up from the Pentagon; the wreckage of Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where the actions of heroic citizens saved even more heartbreak and destruction.

And yet we know that the worst images are those that were unseen to the world. The empty seat at the dinner table. Children who were forced to grow up without their mother or their father. Parents who would never know the feeling of their child's embrace. Nearly 3,000 citizens taken from us, leaving a gaping hole in our hearts.

On September 11, 2001, in our time of grief, the American people came together. We offered our neighbours a hand, and we offered the wounded our blood. We reaffirmed our ties to each other, and our love of community and country. On that day, no matter where we came from, what God we prayed to, or what race or ethnicity we were, we were united as one American family.

We were also united in our resolve to protect our nation and to bring those who committed this vicious attack to justice. We quickly learned that the 9/11 attacks were carried out by Al-Qaeda - an organisation headed by Osama bin Laden, which had openly declared war on the United States and was committed to killing innocents in our country and around the globe. And so we went to war against Al-Qaeda to protect our citizens, our friends, and our allies.

Over the last 10 years, thanks to the tireless and heroic work of our military and our counterterrorism professionals, we've made great strides in that effort. We've disrupted terrorist attacks and strengthened our homeland defence. In Afghanistan, we removed the Taliban government, which had given bin Laden and Al-Qaeda safe haven and support. And around the globe, we worked with our friends and allies to capture or kill scores of Al-Qaeda terrorists, including several who were a part of the 9/11 plot.

Yet Osama bin Laden avoided capture and escaped across the Afghan border into Pakistan. Meanwhile, Al-Qaeda continued to operate from along that border and operate through its affiliates across the world.

And so shortly after taking office, I directed Leon Panetta, the director of the CIA, to make the killing or capture of bin Laden the top priority of our war against Al-Qaeda, even as we continued our broader efforts to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat his network.

Then, last August, after years of painstaking work by our intelligence community, I was briefed on a possible lead to bin Laden. It was far from certain, and it took many months to run this thread to ground. I met repeatedly with my national security team as we developed more information about the possibility that we had located bin Laden hiding within a compound deep inside of Pakistan. And finally, last week, I determined that we had enough intelligence to take action, and authorized an operation to get Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice.

Today, at my direction, the United States launched a targeted operation against that compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. A small team of Americans carried out the operation with extraordinary courage and capability. No Americans were harmed. They took care to avoid civilian casualties. After a firefight, they killed Osama bin Laden and took custody of his body.

For over two decades, bin Laden has been Al-Qaeda's leader and symbol, and has continued to plot attacks against our country and our friends and allies. The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat Al-Qaeda.

"Yet his death does not mark the end of our effort. There's no doubt that Al-Qaeda will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must - and we will - remain vigilant at home and abroad.

As we do, we must also reaffirm that the United States is not - and never will be - at war with Islam. I've made clear, just as President Bush did shortly after 9/11, that our war is not against Islam. Bin Laden was not a Muslim leader; he was a mass murderer of Muslims. Indeed, Al-Qaeda has slaughtered scores of Muslims in many countries, including our own. So his demise should be welcomed by all who believe in peace and human dignity.

Over the years, I've repeatedly made clear that we would take action within Pakistan if we knew where bin Laden was. That is what we've done. But it's important to note that our counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan helped lead us to bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding. Indeed, bin Laden had declared war against Pakistan as well, and ordered attacks against the Pakistani people.

Tonight, I called President Zardari, and my team has also spoken with their Pakistani counterparts. They agree that this is a good and historic day for both of our nations. And going forward, it is essential that Pakistan continue to join us in the fight against al Qaeda and its affiliates.

The American people did not choose this fight. It came to our shores, and started with the senseless slaughter of our citizens. After nearly 10 years of service, struggle, and sacrifice, we know well the costs of war. These efforts weigh on me every time I, as Commander-in-Chief, have to sign a letter to a family that has lost a loved one, or look into the eyes of a service member who's been gravely wounded.

So Americans understand the costs of war. Yet as a country, we will never tolerate our security being threatened, nor stand idly by when our people have been killed. We will be relentless in defence of our citizens and our friends and allies. We will be true to the values that make us who we are. And on nights like this one, we can say to those families who have lost loved ones to Al-Qaeda's terror: Justice has been done.

Tonight, we give thanks to the countless intelligence and counterterrorism professionals who've worked tirelessly to achieve this outcome. The American people do not see their work, nor know their names. But tonight, they feel the satisfaction of their work and the result of their pursuit of justice.

We give thanks for the men who carried out this operation, for they exemplify the professionalism, patriotism, and unparalleled courage of those who serve our country. And they are part of a generation that has borne the heaviest share of the burden since that September day.

Finally, let me say to the families who lost loved ones on 9/11 that we have never forgotten your loss, nor wavered in our commitment to see that we do whatever it takes to prevent another attack on our shores.

And tonight, let us think back to the sense of unity that prevailed on 9/11. I know that it has, at times, frayed. Yet today's achievement is a testament to the greatness of our country and the determination of the American people.

The cause of securing our country is not complete. But tonight, we are once again reminded that America can do whatever we set our mind to. That is the story of our history, whether it's the pursuit of prosperity for our people, or the struggle for equality for all our citizens; our commitment to stand up for our values abroad, and our sacrifices to make the world a safer place.

"Let us remember that we can do these things not just because of wealth or power, but because of who we are: one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you. May God bless you. And may God bless the United States of America.

Dec. 14, 2003 (<http://www.famous-speeches-and-speech-topics.info/famous-speeches/george-w-bush-speech-capture-of-saddam-hussein.htm>)

Good afternoon. Yesterday, December the 13th, at around 8:30 p.m. Baghdad time, United States military forces captured Saddam Hussein alive. He was found near a farmhouse outside the city of Tikrit, in a swift raid conducted without casualties. And now the former dictator of Iraq will face the justice he denied to millions.

The capture of this man was crucial to the rise of a free Iraq. It marks the end of the road for him, and for all who bullied and killed in his name. For the Baathist holdouts largely responsible for the current violence, there will be no return to the corrupt power and privilege they once held. For the vast majority of Iraqi citizens who wish to live as free men and women, this event brings further assurance that the torture chambers and the secret police are gone forever.

And this afternoon, I have a message for the Iraqi people: You will not have to fear the rule of Saddam Hussein ever again. All Iraqis who take the side of freedom have taken the winning side. The goals of our coalition are the same as your goals -- sovereignty for your country, dignity for your great culture, and for every Iraqi citizen, the opportunity for a better life.

In the history of Iraq, a dark and painful era is over. A hopeful day has arrived. All Iraqis can now come together and reject violence and build a new Iraq.

The success of yesterday's mission is a tribute to our men and women now serving in Iraq. The operation was based on the superb work of intelligence analysts who found the dictator's footprints in a vast country. The operation was carried out with skill and precision by a brave fighting force. Our servicemen and women and our coalition allies have faced many dangers in the hunt for members of the fallen regime, and in their effort to bring hope and freedom to the Iraqi people. Their work continues, and so do the risks. Today, on behalf of the nation, I thank the members of our Armed Forces and I congratulate 'em.

I also have a message for all Americans: The capture of Saddam Hussein does not mean the end of violence in Iraq. We still face terrorists who would rather go on killing the innocent than accept the rise of liberty in the heart of the Middle East. Such men are a direct threat to the American people, and they will be defeated.

We've come to this moment through patience and resolve and focused action. And that is our strategy moving forward. The war on terror is a different kind of war, waged capture by capture, cell by cell, and victory by victory. Our security is assured by our perseverance and by our sure belief in the success of liberty. And the United States of America will not relent until this war is won.

May God bless the people of Iraq, and may God bless America.

Thank you.

20120506-05	07:23	Marci	Got Him!
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20120506-07 09:32 Art "Taking Out Dick Lugar"

Think this says it best:

"Taking Out Dick Lugar" by Dana Milbank, *The Washington Post*

May 4, 2012, ([http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/ads-of-mass-destruction/2012/05/04/gIQARLNT1T\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/ads-of-mass-destruction/2012/05/04/gIQARLNT1T_story.html))

When Indiana Republicans go to the polls on Tuesday, they will do more than choose a candidate for the Senate. They will choose between party and country.

That's a stark assessment but true. On one side is a man who has made it his life's work to build a cross-aisle consensus for keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists and rogue states. On the other side is a man

who mocks his opponent for such efforts and who talks more about fighting Democrats than fighting America's enemies.

For years Dick Lugar has been the leading Senate Republican on foreign policy, shaping post-Cold War strategy, securing sanctions to end South African apartheid and bringing democracy to the Philippines, among other things. His signature achievement, drafted with Democrat Sam Nunn, was the 1992 Nunn-Lugar Act, which has disarmed thousands of Soviet nuclear warheads once aimed at the United States.

Enter Richard Mourdock, a tea party hothead attempting to defeat Lugar in the GOP primary. A cornerstone of his effort to oust Lugar is the six-term senator's bad habit of bipartisanship — never mind that Lugar's bipartisanship was in the service of protecting millions of Americans from nuclear, chemical and biological terrorism.

In one typical ad, Mourdock's campaign plays a clip of Barack Obama saying, "I've worked with Republican Senator Dick Lugar to pass a law." And then a clip of Obama saying, "What I did was reach out to Senator Dick Lugar."

Deviously, Mourdock's ad cuts off the clip before the viewer can learn what the law was about. In the first instance, Obama said: "I've worked with Republican Senator Dick Lugar to pass a law that will secure and destroy some of the world's deadliest, unguarded weapons." In the second instance, Obama said: "What I did was reach out to Senator Dick Lugar, a Republican, to help lock down loose nuclear weapons."

Those details omitted, this ad — and variations of it posted by the Mourdock campaign over the past year — goes on to show a cartoon Lugar dancing and giggling with a cartoon Obama, pink valentines between them and a rainbow (symbol of the gay pride movement) above them. "Some say he has even earned the title of President Obama's favorite Republican senator," Mourdock says in the ad. "My friends, I can tell you that is a title I will never hold!"

Indeed, Mourdock, Indiana's state treasurer, boasts about his refusal to work with Democrats. "The time for being collegial is past," he told the *New York Times* recently. "It's time for confrontation."

There is a great deal to dislike in Mourdock's message, but the most egregious part is his underlying contention that Lugar should be punished for cooperating with the other party — even though such cooperation protects the country against unimaginable destruction. That's not just wrong; it's unpatriotic.

The legislation Obama and Lugar drafted in 2006 expanded the original Nunn-Lugar Act to cover conventional weapons stockpiles. It was wrapped into a House bill and proved so uncontroversial that it passed by a voice vote there and by unanimous consent in the Senate.

The Mourdock campaign attributes Mourdock's claim that Lugar is "President Obama's favorite Republican" to MSNBC, apparently referring to an online report before Obama won the presidency that was headlined "Barack Obama's favorite Republican?" The report noted that Lugar "is a loyal Republican and McCain supporter."

The deeper implication — that Lugar isn't a conservative — is at odds with Lugar's 77 percent lifetime rating by the American Conservative Union (75 percent last year). That hardly makes him a moderate (the ratings of Maine's Republican senators hover around 50 percent), but among the sans-culottes in the modern Republican Party, anything less than purity merits purging.

Murdock hits Lugar for voting in favor of Obama's two Supreme Court nominees; never mind that Lugar also voted for all five conservative justices. Mourdock condemns Lugar for supporting the START Treaty, the assault weapons ban and the Dream Act. Lugar also voted against Obama's stimulus, health-care plan and financial reforms. "His bipartisanship, his willingness to push the Obama agenda, has caused him to be labeled President Obama's favorite Republican senator," Mourdock falsely alleges in one ad.

As Mourdock piles up support from the likes of Sarah Palin, Michele Bachmann and Grover Norquist, Lugar is still clinging to the notion that substance matters; this week, his office issued a news release titled "Lugar Announces Elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction through Nunn-Lugar."

Some Democrats hope that Mourdock beats Lugar because it would increase the likelihood that Democrat Joe Donnelly will win the seat in November. But that's not why Hoosier Republicans should reject Mourdock. They should reject him because they still believe that national security trumps partisanship.

20120506-09	12:13	SteveB	"Rove Misfires, Pitting Obama Celebrity vs. Romney Void"
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"Rove Misfires, Pitting Obama Celebrity vs. Romney Void" by Robert S. Becker, NationofChange

May 6, 2012, (<http://www.nationofchange.org/rove-misfires-pitting-obama-celebrity-vs-romney-void-1336312222>)

(Is Romney not opposite this ex-Food Stamp, poor minority kid with single-mother, whose student loan debt followed him for decades -- all without a sugar daddy?)

I take it back, conceding Karl Rove (a.k.a. Turd Blossom) must be smart. Perhaps W.'s nickname is telling, as in laying "an egg." Didn't this PR con artist mastermind the re-election of our most illiterate, incurious, wastrel president -- whose habitual "deer faces reality" gaze let slip his opacity? Notwithstanding that this twice-elected regime unleashed our most virulent, Constitution-bashing V.P -- still haunting us, the undead from a bad horror movie.

Yes, the old man's Supreme Court iced the flunkey's first appointment, but that's nothing compared to ripping John Kerry with this abysmal "compassionate conservative" turned botched "war president." All the more impressive considering Bush-Cheney's serial albatrosses: caught defenseless by triple sneak attacks, storm-trooping us into non-9/11 wars, the Plame-Libby scandals, and incessant class warfare -- altogether a walking-talking gaffe of a presidency.

But today Rove appears over the hill and losing his golden touch. Item, his cross-eyed Crossroads America's "personality ad war" to boost Romney against Obama. As if Rove now cares for truth (well, Obama is the world's greatest celebrity), here's the old sleazy fringe ploy: undermine your opponent's greatest strength. High risk, as Obama's personal story and likeability remain his two splashy virtues. By what logic does Rove's Romney, the privileged offspring of a rich auto executive turned governor, enriched further by unapologetic corporate raiding, stand against Obama's remarkable, self-made ascent? Is Romney not opposite this ex-Food Stamp, poor minority kid with single-mother, whose student loan debt followed him for decades -- all without a sugar daddy?

Rove must figure if he can't win on policy or sound bites, drag out the failed '08 McCain ploy: Obama the ambitious "celebrity." As if that's a bad thing in a culture obsessed with celebrity, equating fame with moral virtue, however facts defy this linkage. What was Rove thinking, since in any personality sweepstakes Romney measures a -10 (on a scale of 10)? "The least interesting person in the world," quips Bill Maher, so boring he's what "Ambien takes when it can't sleep." If ambushing Obama's celebrity is the best shot from today's rightwing smear machine, think 2016.

#### A Boring Vulture Capitalist?

Not only does Romney crow about triumphant exploits as "vulture capitalist" (thanks, Rick Perry), neither his vast treasure trove, nor advisers can uplift his lackluster image. He escaped his primary siege as the scaliest, phoniest, most fabricated non-entity in memory. Thus, his incredibly low 34% national approval rating, with only 62% GOP favorability. Unlike the entertaining Gingrich or Santorum, Romney's congenital, off-key mendacity doesn't make him engaging, a double loss for lying exacts a price. How incredible all the king's men can't transmute this Humpty Dumpty into a more plausible phony. Romney is the Tin Man without a heart yet whose insides are stuffed with only cardboard flip-flops. Nature may abhor a vacuum, but better politicians leave none.

Say what you will about W.'s pathetic bottom feeding, the primitive selling "the only thing to fear is fear itself," yet he had an identifiable, if coarse personality. Think prodigal ferret on the way home, crashing the family car, forever ambushed by believing his own B.S. Though both fronted for a dreadfully cynical regime, Rove sustained W.'s image as just plain folks, making him, like moronic Joe the Plumber, a guy Tea Party morons fancy.

So, is not Rove's PR implication that Romney's impossible-to-read, whiter and "weirder-than-thou" personality can outshine Obama's popularity? Even Republicans don't buy that his ever-complaint, poll-driven robot mask shows leadership or character, only prefer him to the WH devil. Further, aside from losing badly to both Ted Kennedy and that fraudulent maverick John McCain, what makes this thinly resuméd, one-term governor anything more than a "celebrity Republican" cartoon? Unemployed since 2007, excepting failed presidential runs, Romney boasts no federal or Washington experience, making him less qualified than the inaugurated Obama. Obama's resume, after all, boasted years as a political mediocrity.

What further strikes me is how Rove here makes Obama hipper than in real life, when he stumbles over words or dumps more fudged reversals. Hardly "cool" to the left, yet Rove magically portrays this evasive compromiser as stylish man about town worth having a beer with (as pictured). If "mere politician" is the crowning career put-down, then elevation to the world's greatest celebrity is stirring endorsement. Maybe secretly Rove wants Romney blasted, prepping 2016 for the next Bush. Okay, he's not dumb.

### Romney's V.P. Problem

Because Romney the 90 lb. political weakling lacks charisma, experience, and ideas, his V.P. pick is especially daunting: finding someone respectable who's strong enough to help yet won't make Mitt look even duller, richer, more out of touch, or less savvy. What decent V.P.'s resume wouldn't shrink Mitt's veneer of a bio? We're talking Herman Cain, though with less personality as circus hawker. Forget the other GOP primary numbskulls: all show more experience and/or are far more ideologically consistent. That leaves guys with no more magnetism than Mitch Daniels, Rob Portman, or Paul Ryan. Scratch vile Joe the Plumber or any top female -- too lively.

So I don't get it, setting Mr. Presidential Smiley Face against Mr. Rich-Remote Capitalist whose scary emptiness would double down W.'s reign, a hollowed-out hustler pitted against the world's most famous, celebrated hustler (pace Bill Clinton, now BO ally). Clearly, Romney's forte is unscrupulous business know-how, amplified by peerless flip-floppery that surpasses Obama's own "pragmatism." We begin to appreciate Rove's quandary.

All in all, Romney works as political vampire, the bloodless fiend who gets vitality by preying on the life force from less affluent victims. List one identifiable idea he didn't steal, or posit a core that would sustain a big idea? Right, his own embarrassing state health reform? Just as vulture capitalism feeds off hemorrhaging companies, Romney campaigns like a spider, ready to pounce, anesthetize, then suck the life out of foes. So why would Rove promote this sound-bite bloodsucker against a youthful and energetic street fighter whose decent footwork drives his effective rope-a-dope, so far.

### Is Romney Any Body?

The "anybody but Romney" zinger now expands to a more damaging puzzle, "is Romney any body"? Is anyone truly at home, zipped or not? A personality void only magnifies his other flaws: narrow experience, none in Washington, and now cynical alignment with the most reactionary New Rethugs. But Romney faces a campaigner expert at knocking off famous, well-funded rivals. Yes, the country wouldn't mind changing horses, but not from a popular high-stepper to a mulish, out of touch tycoon with both a dog and an anger problem. Really, elect a guy whose smug advice to impoverished college students is "borrow money from your parents"? That locks up the youth and parent vote, for sure.

Finally, there remains the nagging question, exactly how weird is Romney, indeed with articles entitled, "Why is Mitt Romney so Incredibly Weird?" What if, as one physicist depicted the mysterious universe, Romney is not only stranger than we now imagine but stranger than we can imagine. Someone off-the-wall nutty, say, a much wealthier, deluded oddball like Tricky Dick Nixon. Of course, the best thing about Romney is that his incessant gaffes guarantee he can't hide his dim light under a bushel. What, and who he is, especially if he stays desperate underdog, will soon enough emerge into the light. Rove better up his game or he's kaput as political genius.

20120506-11	15:40	SteveG	Fw: SumOfUs Petition: End Walmart Slavery
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from SumOfUs:

Last month, in a factory in Thailand that processes shrimp for a major supplier to Walmart -- the world's largest corporation that runs over 8,500 stores in 155 countries, including ASDA Stores in the UK, Seiyu in Japan, and Walmex in Mexico -- there was a revolt. 2,000 guest workers from Cambodia and Myanmar angrily protested the seizure of their passports by factory owners in Thailand. Police were called. Shots were fired.

But it wasn't just the passport seizure that incited their anger -- it was management slashing wages again. Their wages already didn't cover the most basic needs, and this action put workers deeper into the factory's debt -- it's called debt bondage. At this moment, many of them are still legally and financially trapped at the factory, victims of human trafficking.

Sign our petition to Walmart's VP of Ethical Sourcing -- and former Head of Technical at ASDA, Walmart's subsidiary in the UK -- Rajan Kamalanathan to demand these factory owners end human trafficking immediately and allow independent monitors to audit all of their factories.

[http://sumofus.org/campaigns/shrimp/?akid=442.97777.HD\\_DKI&rd=1&sub=fwd&t=2](http://sumofus.org/campaigns/shrimp/?akid=442.97777.HD_DKI&rd=1&sub=fwd&t=2)

This is not an isolated incident. Also in Thailand, a pineapple factory had similar protests over wage reductions. There are now reports of human trafficking and that children under 15 have been bought and sold to work there. 73% of the company's US exports go to Walmart, and they are likely a large supplier to Walmart's subsidiaries globally.

Walmart's own internal system claims to protect against these abuses, some of which the Bangkok Post Editorial staff have described as "the equivalent of actual slavery". But these two cases highlight a chronic problem -- human trafficking, identity document seizure, child labor, forced unpaid overtime, and debt-bondage are found across Walmart's supply chain.

Its internal system that audits factories to prevent these kind of abuses is broken at its core.

We only know about these worker abuses because the workers' revolt spilled out onto the streets. The problem is almost certainly far worse -- and extends beyond the borders of Thailand. But we don't know for sure and neither does Walmart.

Tell Walmart's VP of Ethical Sourcing to demand these factory owners end human trafficking immediately and allow independent monitors to audit all of their factories.

We know that Walmart's internal auditors schedule visits to factories -- a deeply flawed practice that allows owners to coach workers and hide the most egregious abuses as is evident today. On the other hand, independent monitors show up unannounced, don't aim to please factory owners, and provide a real check against some of the worst abuses -- that is why they are so desperately needed.

Walmart customers around the world may be buying shrimp, pineapple, and who knows what else and unwittingly supporting near-slavery, debt bondage and child labor. We as consumers shouldn't have to worry about supporting those kinds of horrendous abuses.

Walmart is already feeling the heat after a New York Times investigation exposed a top-level cover up of a bribery scandal in the company's Mexican subsidiary. With mainstream media drawing attention to Walmart's broken internal auditing, they are desperately trying to regain public trust. If we press this issue now, while Walmart and the media are listening, we can help bring an end to these practices and can protect some of the most vulnerable workers around the world.

That's why we set up a petition to Walmart's VP of Ethical Sourcing, calling for him to demand these factory owners end human trafficking immediately and allow independent monitors to audit all of their factories. Will you add your name?

Thanks for fighting for workers' rights and corporate accountability, Kaytee, Becky, Emma and the rest of us

This is the time of the year that the magical *toborocheis* show-off their gaudy pink blossoms no photograph can do justice to. These trees attain gigantic sizes here in and around Santa Cruz, and usually form trunks with pot bellies in middle age. I love `em and worry about them, because they have bloomed early at least two years in a row... They are so precious and their wood is amazing...more dense and harder than oak, impervious to all insects known to the Amazon...one of the problems...

<http://www.boliviabella.com/rainforest.html>



This is what their trunks look like when the *toborochois* are young:

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/2071569>

*Chorisia speciosa*, also known as silk floss tree, kapok, *ceiba del brasil*, *toborochoi*, *yuchán*, *algodonero*, *palo botella*, *palo barrigudo*, *samohú*, or *painero* — on the way to El Encanto Falls, Noel Kemff Mercado NP, Santa Cruz, Bolivia.



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

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