



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #190 — JULY 26, 2012

Welcome to always lively political discussion and whatever else comes up.
<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org> FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com

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Mitt in Mass.

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, July 26, 2012)

If a Presidential candidate can't win his home state, where he was governor and where he still allegedly lives, when his friends and neighbors don't want to vote for him, then what good can he be for the whole country?

from the article, below:

"So in his home state, the presumptive 2012 GOP nominee is running an astonishing 40 points behind the 50-year average for the winners of presidential elections....One of Romney's greatest problems may be that Massachusetts remembers him all too well."

Willard Romney today accused President Obama of pushing for massive defense spending cuts.

~ Addressing the 113th VFW Convention
July 24, 2012 - Reno, NV

**But he didn't mention a minor detail:
Republicans forced the "radical" defense cuts
with their budget brinkmanship last year.**

Anklejive.com

(Thanks to SteveG!)

"Romney: Massachusetts's 'Un-Favorite Son'" by Robert McElvaine, Politico

July 25, 2012, (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0712/78977.html>)

The Obama campaign has had some success in attacking one of Mitt Romney's two key claims for being able to fix the economy and help middle-class Americans: his tenure as head of Bain Capital.

You might then expect the presumptive Republican nominee to focus on his other major asset: his term as Massachusetts governor. But he's not.

One reason, of course, is that talking about this reminds voters of Romney's health care program, which President Barack Obama cites as one model for what Republicans denounce as "Obamacare."

But there is a larger reason: the way Bay State voters now view him as their "un-favorite son."

Massachusetts is vying with New York in polls as the state where Romney trails Obama the most. In Massachusetts, the state's former governor is now estimated to be 21 percentage points behind the president.

Though Massachusetts is a "blue" state, that doesn't fully explain Romney's low ratings. Republicans do win in Massachusetts. Romney demonstrated that in 2002 — as did William Weld, who won two gubernatorial elections in the 1990s.

Consider that Scott Brown won Ted Kennedy's former Senate seat in 2010. Brown is now running an essentially even reelection campaign against popular progressive Elizabeth Warren. That puts Brown more than 20 points ahead of Romney in the state.

It is worth noting that Romney does claim several "home" states. He cites Michigan, where he was born, and New Hampshire and California, where he owns vacation homes. He is now trailing Obama in all these states — though not by as much as where he served as chief executive.

To appreciate how significant this low support is, compare the home-state support of the losers in the three biggest presidential election landslides of the past half-century: 1964, 1972 and 1984.

While Lyndon B. Johnson trounced Sen. Barry Goldwater in 1964, winning 61.1 percent of the nationwide popular vote — the highest ever in a contested United States presidential election — Goldwater still carried his home state of Arizona. Goldwater won Arizona with 50.4 percent of the votes — almost 12 percentage points higher than nationally.

In Richard Nixon's 1972 landslide, Sen. George McGovern carried just one state, winning only 37.5 percent of the popular vote nationwide. Though he didn't win his home state, South Dakota, McGovern still did far better there than nationally. His home state gave him the fourth-highest percentage of the vote he received in any state — a full 8 percentage points above his nationwide average.

In 1984, Ronald Reagan carried every state except Minnesota — the home of his Democratic opponent, Walter Mondale. Reagan took 58.8 percent of the popular vote nationwide, but Mondale narrowly carried his home state. In Minnesota, Mondale ran more than 9 percentage points better than he did nationwide.

Even these figures, however, do not adequately reflect just how unusual Romney's lack of support in his home state is.

Only twice in the past half-century has a major party presidential nominee failed to carry his home state: McGovern lost South Dakota in 1972 by 8.7 percentage points, and Vice President Al Gore lost Tennessee in 2000 by 3.8 percentage points. Romney's current 21-point deficit in home-state support is nearly three times greater than the worst home-state loss by a losing candidate in the past 50 years.

In these 12 presidential elections, the losing candidate nationally received an average of 51.5 percent in his home state. Romney is now polling at 36 percent in Massachusetts — 15.5 percentage points lower than the average for past losers.

In those past dozen presidential races, the losing candidate nationally has run an average of 8.6 points better in his home state than the nation. Romney is now running 9.2 points worse in his home state than nationally. His home-state-to-national support is almost 18 points lower than the average for losing presidential candidates in the past 12 elections.

There's also this: The last Massachusetts governor who won a major party presidential nomination ran on his allegedly successful economic policy as chief executive of the Bay State. In 1988, Michael Dukakis regularly talked about the "Massachusetts Miracle." He was widely ridiculed, however, and lost the national election to George H.W. Bush by nearly 8 points. Yet in Massachusetts, Dukakis won by almost 8 percent — a stunning 29 points better than Romney is now registering.

If Republicans hope to win the presidency in November, they should be even more alarmed at how their nominee's home-state backing compares with that of the winners of the past 12 presidential elections.

Romney's current 36 percent Massachusetts support is 21 percent less than the average home-state totals for the past 12 presidential winners.

In fact, the victor in every presidential election for the past 50 years won his home state — with an average margin of victory at 18.8 percent. Romney, however, now trails Obama in Massachusetts by 21 points. **So in his home state, the presumptive 2012 GOP nominee is running an astonishing 40 points behind the 50-year average for the winners of presidential elections.**

"I will remember Massachusetts," the Bee Gees sang. **But one of Romney's greatest problems may be that Massachusetts remembers him all too well.**

Those who know Romney and his policies best are more opposed to him than voters in virtually any other state — and far more than voters in the home state of any major party nominee in the past 50 years were to them.

If Obama, his campaign team and Democrats in general can't make political hay of this, they are in the wrong line of work.

(Robert McElvaine, a historian, is the Chisholm distinguished professor of arts and letters at Millsaps College. His most recent book is a 25th anniversary edition of *The Great Depression*. He is now completing two nonfiction books.)

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(Thanks to Dennis!)

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20120725-01	07:45	SteveG	Fw: CREDO Action Petition: Ban Assault Weapons!
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from CREDO Action:

The shock and trauma from the images and stories from Aurora are still very much with us, and it is impossible to put into words the pain being felt by families and friends of the victims.

But that doesn't mean we shouldn't speak out. In the wake of this massacre, it's time to put aside politics and reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons.

Urge President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney to ask Congress to reinstate the expired federal assault weapons ban today. [Click here to automatically sign the petition.](#)

After the news broke last Friday, President Barack Obama said that "there are going to be other days for politics, this I think is a day for prayer and reflection." Governor Mitt Romney said, "I stand before you today not as a man running for office, but as a father and grandfather, a husband, and American."¹ Both of their campaigns asked networks to pull their negative advertisements.

The gestures from the two men who are running for President were welcome steps. But, we need more than sympathetic words. We need real leadership to start to address the senseless gun violence that holds our communities hostage.

One of the principal weapons used by the shooter in the horrific Aurora massacre was an AR-15 assault rifle.² This weapon features a magazine that holds 100 rounds of bullets, and its trigger is capable of firing 50-60 rounds per minute.³

The federal assault weapons ban which was passed in 1994, banned the sale of guns like the AR-15.⁴ Unfortunately, that ban expired in 2004 as a result of fierce lobbying by the NRA. It's long past time to reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons like the AR-15.

Urge President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney to ask Congress to reinstate the expired federal assault weapons ban today.

CREDO members worked to pass the federal assault weapons ban in 1994. And we fought to stop its expiration in 2004. And we continue to advocate for a federal ban on assault weapons like the AR-15 used in the Aurora massacre.

Massacres on the scale of the tragedy in Aurora happen in part because our federal gun laws make it easy for civilians to obtain military-level firepower. We need to pass and enforce sensible federal gun laws restricting ready access for civilians to assault weapons. Reinstating a strong version of the federal ban on assault weapons known as the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act is where we should start.

We're not so naïve as to think that sensible gun laws are all that's needed to stop the killings. There are many things that need to change in American culture to stop the next Aurora-like massacre. But we do know one thing we should put at the top of the list — keeping military-level assault weapons like the AR-15 with a high capacity clip out of the hands of civilians. Click below to sign the petition:

http://www.credoaction.com/campaign/obama_romney_guns/?rc=homepage.

Thank you for speaking out.

Becky Bond, Political Director

¹Adam Serwer, "Politicizing Tragedy and the Aurora Theater Shooting,' MotherJones.com, July 20, 2012.

²Zack Beauchamp, "Expired Assault Weapons Ban Would Have Covered Rifle Used In Colorado Shooting," ThinkProgress.org, July 20, 2012.

³Caroline Hedley, "It Was Shockingly Easy For The Batman Shooter To Buy A Massive Arsenal," BusinessInsider.com, July 21, 2012.

⁴Beauchamp, "Expired Assault Weapons Ban Would Have Covered Rifle Used In Colorado Shooting."

20120725-02	08:10	Pam	Re: Keystone Pipeline (reply to Bill, FotM Newsletter #189)
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Bill: Martin Amis somehow captured the nature of it all in the title of his book, *Moronic Inferno*. But I'd advise some reasonable effort, as you suggest you are doing, by trying to be happy. Life's too short, no?

I've read a fair amount of Martin Amis but not this one. I'll check it out

20120725-03	09:56	SandyI	Fw: What the Supreme Court Decision Really Means (from Rep. Richard Nugent)
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So, in case you were interested, here's where Mr. Nugent stands on the ACA. Are you surprised that it is the longest e-mail I ever got from a politician?

from Rep. Richard Nugent (July 24, 2012):

Since the Supreme Court's ruling on the President's healthcare law a few weeks ago, a lot of people on both sides of the issue have asked about my reaction to it. It probably goes without saying at this point that I think the law was an enormous mistake from a policy standpoint - \$800 billion in new taxes (\$675 billion in the most recent estimates by the Joint Committee on Taxation plus roughly another \$125 billion in taxes from their 2010 estimates of the individual mandate, employer mandate, and other revenues – likely to go up further), plus \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare, zero done to control the growing costs in healthcare, etc - but setting aside the specific issue of health reform, my biggest concerns surround the ruling itself and the precedent it sets. These are issues that frankly, I think the media has a responsibility to make sure Americans are informed about.

Here is the short version. The Supreme Court ruled that the individual mandate requiring Americans to buy health insurance could not be allowed under Congress' constitutional authority to regulate interstate commerce. The Court said very plainly that the federal government does not have the authority to require you to buy something and penalize you for failing to do it.

But in the same breath, citing Congress' authority to levy taxes, the Court said that although the federal government can't force you to buy health insurance, they can compel you to buy it by taxing you if you don't. In a nutshell, the government can't fine you for not buying something, but they can hit you with a tax penalty if you don't... I frankly don't see a meaningful difference between the two.

Think about it this way: the federal government has long been able to encourage certain behavior through the tax code (think about the mortgage interest tax deduction), but it has never been able to compel you to go out and buy a house by threatening to hit you with a tax penalty if you didn't. That is a huge difference. On page 39 of his majority opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts used the example of energy efficient windows. He suggested that although the federal government couldn't require you to buy energy efficient windows, it could essentially force you to do so by levying a tax on you if you don't.

I don't think anybody out there disputes the benefits of having health insurance or lowering your electricity bill, but in the United States of America, those decisions have always been up to the people – not up to the federal government. And regardless of how you feel about the healthcare law, I think this is something that all Americans should consider very carefully. Should Congress have the power to force American citizens into buying things that they don't want? Should the federal government be able to force you to buy a certain car, or windows, or insurance, or anything else that the Congress thinks you should have? Is that a power that We The People want to surrender?

I don't believe it is. But that's what the Supreme Court has done here. Regardless of whether or not the President's healthcare law is repealed, the precedent has been set. The government now has the legal authority to force you to buy things. That wasn't the case before the ruling and it is not something that is easily undone. Following on the heels of our Independence Day, when all Americans gather together to celebrate our freedom and the sacrifices of those who made it possible, this is an issue that I think we should all consider very carefully. Are we less free as a people in the wake of this ruling and is that something we should be comfortable with?

You know where I stand.

Sincerely, Richard B. Nugent, Member of Congress

[20120725-04](#)

11:52

Pam

Re: What the Supreme Court Decision Really Means (reply to SandyI, above)

Mr. Nugent misses a very important point in his weak argument. If everyone is not mandated to contribute to the funding of health care, then only the rich will be able to afford it. The young and healthy must contribute, as they do to Social Security, or the system fails. This issue of the government FORCING people to buy something they don't want simply doesn't fly. Workers don't choose whether or not to contribute to Soc. Sec., and homeowners who don't purchase energy efficient windows are not jeopardizing others with their decision. Saving electricity is nice, but when comparing it to funding health care it's apples and oranges. All I hear is Republicans whining, "You can't make me. Na na na boo boo."

20120725-07	13:54	SteveB	Re: What the Supreme Court Decision Really Means (reply to SandyI, above)
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With health care, I am reminded so much of the automobile industry.

Thanks to government regulations, when I buy a new car in the U.S., I am mandated by the government to buy seatbelts and airbags (and more). I have no choice. For the benefit of all, health-wise, pain-wise and insurance-wise, I am forced to buy things I might think I don't want.

And remember, before these enlightened, fairly minimal laws were passed, both the industry (private enterprise) and many of our politicians told us it would be impossible to profitably make safer vehicles and, therefore, we'd just have to keep dying as bloody masses of blood and guts in our wrecked cars. Thank God common sense prevailed.

The entire story is exactly the history of every battle that has ever been fought to wrest a bit of decent life from the rich and powerful for the common people. Like health care now.

20120725-09	14:20	SteveG	Re: What the Supreme Court Decision Really Means (reply to Pam, above)
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If I remember right: we all paid into Medicaid and Medicare; we all paid for public schools if we owned property whether we had children or not or if they went to private schools or not; we all paid for public libraries whether we used them or not or could read or not. In short, we pay for a lot of things that are mandated by the system. Every new service that has been mandated has initiated complaints, but as time has passed we seem to adjust and complain less.

20120725-10	14:28	Pam	Re: What the Supreme Court Decision Really Means (reply to SteveG, above)
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I simply don't get it. What seems like common sense to me (us) is like waving a red flag in front of those who want to say No to everything, just because they don't want the other side to "win." It's so incredibly selfish!

20120725-11	15:14	Fran	Re: What the Supreme Court Decision Really Means (reply to Pam, above)
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That's the basic difference between us & them....they only think about themselves and we, as Democrats & Progressives, think about everybody. We understand the statement "the common good" and the rich only understand the statement "me first & only". What I don't understand is how there can be poor Republicans. The Republicans treat all poor Americans as "freeloaders" and see no reason to "give" them any more free help. They just don't have the same world view.

[Welcome aboard, Fran! -SteveB]

[20120725-14](#) 16:38 SandyI Re: What the Supreme Court Decision Really Means (reply to SteveB, above)

Love your analogy. I'm reading *The Fall of Giants* by Ken Follett and it's about WW1 and how the poor were sent into battle that no one could win at Somme and how thousands died. I see a return to the early 1900's when the royalty and rich "used" the poor (99%) as if they owned them. Or am I just being a cynic?

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain." —unknown

[20120725-15](#) 17:40 SteveB Re: What the Supreme Court Decision Really Means (reply to SandyI, above)

I think you're right, SandyI. I'm not sure who thought of it, but to me, one of the best descriptions I've heard of the goal of the Right is that they want to return all of us to the 19th Century.

Everything they say and do points in that direction.

And, during their "Golden Age of Capitalism" (and Robber Barons) not only did they use the poor as if they owned them, they actually owned many of them. Isn't that their goal?

But as President Obama says, "Forward!"

(I really love dancing in the rain! But I prefer the rain to be tropical...)

[20120725-05](#) 12:09 SteveM Videos: Anita Moncrief, ACORN 'Whistleblower', at C-PAC

Is anyone shocked the main stream media gave this woman no play?

Video (Part 1): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CmkbShVqNA>.

Video: (Part 2) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gy6odnqyLeU>.

[Shocked! "Mainstream media"? I wonder what radio programs you listen to? —SteveB]

[20120725-06](#) 13:26 SteveB "What Five Oil Companies Did with Their \$375 Million in Daily Profits"

"What Five Oil Companies Did with Their \$375 Million in Daily Profits" by Rebecca Leber, NationofChange

July 25, 2012, (<http://www.nationofchange.org/what-five-oil-companies-did-their-375-million-daily-profits-1343222546>)

The Big Five oil companies – BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil and Shell – are slated to announce their 2012 second-quarter profits later this week.

We can expect these companies, all of which rank in the top 10 of the "Fortune 500 Global Ranking," to reveal billions of dollars more in profits, after earning *\$375 million in profits per day* in 2011 (\$261,000 per minute), and \$368 million per day in the first three-months of 2012 — bringing their combined profits to \$1 trillion from 2001 through 2011.

Below is a quick look at just how much these Big Oil companies are making, and where they are spending their billions in profits.

Big Oil's Big Profits — In 24 Hours

- The five biggest oil companies earned a combined profit of \$375 million per day, or a record \$137 billion profit for the year, in 2011, despite reducing their oil production.
- In 60 seconds, these five companies earned \$261,000 — more than 96 percent of American households make in one year.
- These five oil companies received \$6.6 million in federal tax breaks every day.
- In 2011, the three largest domestic public oil companies spent \$100 million of their profits each day, or over 50 percent, buying back their own stock to enrich their board, senior managers, and largest share holders.
- The entire oil and gas industry spent on average \$400,000 each day lobbying senators and representatives to weaken public health safeguards and keep big oil tax breaks, totaling nearly \$150 million.
- Each CEO of the Big Five companies received an average of \$60,110 in compensation *per day* last year. On average, their pay jumped 55 percent in 2011. Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson's compensation came close to \$100,000 *per day* last year.

Millions in Political Contributions and Lobbying

- Despite ranking as some of the most successful companies in the world, big oil and gas companies continue to receive \$4 billion in tax breaks each year.
- The oil and gas industry has already given over \$30.5 million in federal campaign contributions this year, with a whopping 88 percent going to Republicans.
- Big Oil has spent an additional \$37 million on lobbying Congress this year, with the top spenders being Exxon, Shell, Chevron, Koch Industries and BP.
- Their efforts are paying off. This is the most anti-environment Congress in history, with the House of Representatives averaging one anti-environment vote per day, or a total 247 votes through mid-June. The biggest beneficiary of these votes has been Big Oil. The House voted to enrich the oil and gas industry 109 times, a total 44 percent of its anti-environment votes.
- The House is on track to collect a record amount of oil industry contributions this cycle, having already reached 2008 and 2010 levels. And these are direct donations only — it does not include Super PAC spending or other campaign assistance.

Outside Interests and Big Oil Allies Spending Tens of Millions More to Influence the Energy Debate

- Fueled by Koch Industries and other Big Oil interests, the industry is spending hundreds of millions to fund false ads in this year's elections. According to the Annenberg Public Policy Center, 85 percent of the dollars have funded false ad, during a season where most advertising have focused on energy.
- Pro-Romney outside interest groups spent \$24.6 million on energy ads through June 24, according to Kantar Media CMAG data. This is more than ten-times the amount spent by pro-Obama groups, which spent \$2.3 million on energy spots.
- American Energy Alliance, Americans for Prosperity, American Future Fund, and Crossroads GPS — the top outside pro-oil and pro-Romney interest group spenders — have spent a total \$24.9 million on deceptive ads, many of them energy-related, according to the Annenberg Public Policy Center.
- Koch-backed Americans for Prosperity has devoted more than 90 percent of its ad spending to energy ads. Two of the Americans for Prosperity ads pushed patently false claims — roundly debunked by fact checkers — that the stimulus funded jobs overseas.
- Fact checkers have thoroughly debunked these anti-clean energy ads. Both Politifact and the Washington Post Fact Checker have given the ad their worst ratings of "pants on fire" and four Pinocchios, respectively. Politifact found all three examples used to be false, with the ad stringing together "alarming" soundbites that are "ultimately ridiculous."

20120725-08

14:03

SteveB

From the Right: "Hey, Boston: Leave Chick-fil-A Alone"

"Hey, Boston: Leave Chick-fil-A Alone" by Michelle Malkin, *Human Events*

July 25, 2012, (<http://www.humanevents.com/2012/07/25/michelle-malkin-hey-boston-leave-chick-fil-a-alone/>)

It's one thing for Hollywood moppets and television Muppets to protest Chick-fil-A over the fast-food chain president's support for traditional marriage. They're private citizens and entities. But when an elected public official wields the club of government against a Christian business in the name of "tolerance," it's not harmless kid stuff. It's chilling.

This week, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino declared, "Chick-fil-A doesn't belong in Boston." He recklessly slandered the company by accusing it of "discriminat(ing) against the population." And he warned ominously: "If they need licenses in the city, it will be very difficult — unless they open up their policies."

Drawing on the city's history, he railed against the restaurant empire's plans to build a franchise near a famed path: "We're an open city. We're a city that's at the forefront of inclusion. That's the Freedom Trail. That's where it all started right here. And we're not going to have a company, Chick-fil-A or whatever the hell the name is, on our Freedom Trail."

Poverty is on track to rise to the highest nationwide levels since the 1960s. Boston's jobless rate has been stuck at 6 percent. The city's May employment numbers were revised downward for the second month in a row; in June, the city shed 2,600 jobs. Chick-fil-A employs some 50,000 workers across the country at 1,500 outlets in nearly 40 states and the District of Columbia. The company generates more than \$2 billion in annual revenues and serves millions of happy customers looking for affordable food in a family-friendly setting.

[This is crazy talk! To be "stuck at 6% unemployment is to be in heaven in today's Republican economy (Bushonomy). She makes that out to be bad? And Chick-fil-A is some kind of god to be worshipped because they provide minimal, poverty-level jobs at less than minimum-wage (the "part-timer exclusion loophole")? Because they're a good Christian, capitalist venture and the rest of us are not? Sounds a lot like Evangelicals pounding on the doors of the convent yelling that everyone inside must be baptized immediately (again?) or suffer eternal damnation (Ouch!). -SteveB]

Menino must have a darned good reason for meddling with government licensing decisions and turning away one of America's most successful private employers, right?

Wrong. Menino's beef with the beloved chicken sandwich supplier is as full of holes as Chick-fil-A's trademark waffle fries. It's Menino who is engaging in blatant viewpoint and religious discrimination against an out-and-proud company whose leadership embraces biblically based principles and values.

In an interview with the Baptist Press last month, Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy talked about his personal support of traditional family values and fidelity. "(Guilty) as charged," he told the reporter. "We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that."

As I reported last year, the Cathy family's commitments to "glorify God" and "enrich the lives of everyone we touch" have made them public enemies of the progressive left. Never mind that the company's community service initiatives have supported foster care, summer camp scholarships and marriage enrichment. Never mind Chick-fil-A's family-strengthening and faith-enhancing decision to forgo profits and close every Sunday to give workers a day of worship and rest.

Anti-Christian organizers have been staging boycotts and smear campaigns against "anti-gay" Chick-fil-A for the past year. An activist lesbian reporter for The New York Times poured fuel on the fire. The proprietors of The Muppets are just the latest to take a public stand.

It's their right. It's also the right of Chick-fil-A supporters to organize social media campaigns, exercise their free speech and exercise the power of their pocketbooks to back the company.

What's disturbing is the flippant schadenfreude with which Tinseltown starlets such as actress Eliza Dushku are cheering Menino's threat to Chick-fil-A's First Amendment rights. "That's right, B!" she tweeted along with a link to

Menino's attack. What's galling is the self-serving smugness of PC police such as Menino, who defended his vendetta against Chick-fil-A by bragging, "We're a leader when it comes to social justice and opportunities for all."

Social justice and economic opportunity "for all" — as long as you hold the proper political and social views. This is ugly repressive civility enforced with government brass knuckles. Boston's Founding Fathers must be steaming in their graves.

[20120725-12](#) 15:42 Sandy Photo: New Indiana Rain Gauge

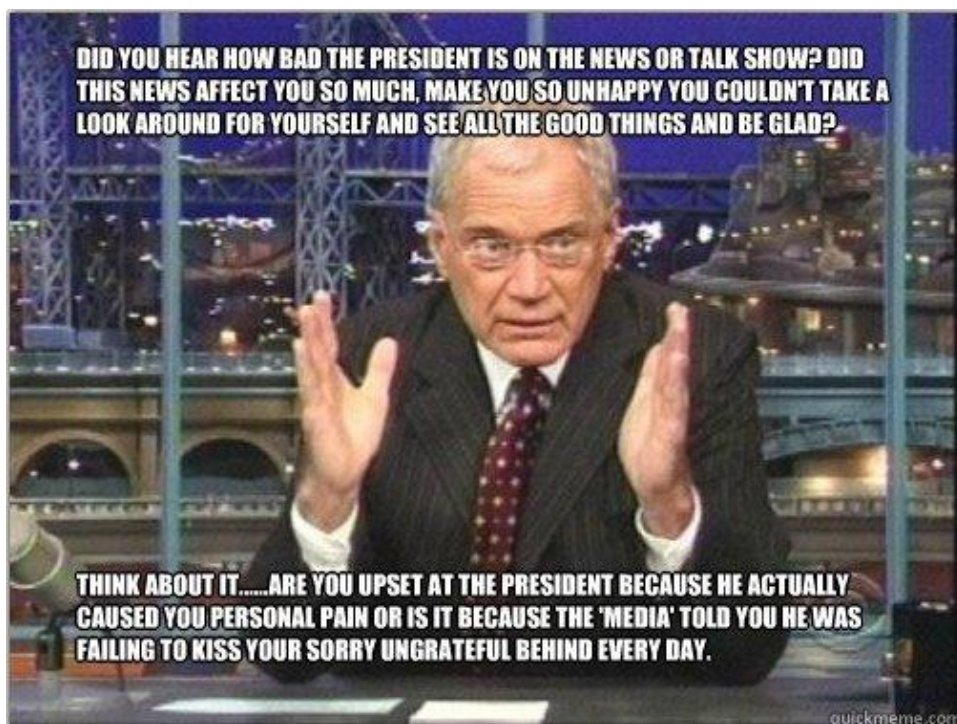


[20120725-17](#) 22:03 SteveB Re: Photo: New Indiana Rain Gauge (reply to Sandy, above)

Thanks, Sandy! I sure hope it rains there soon! It's dry even here in Bolivia this year.

[20120725-13](#) 15:45 Dennis Graphic: Romney's Tax Returns





Life holds on tenaciously, yet her grip can be easily broken...

<https://plus.google.com/106223965383290201748/posts/bxUX5yC6oCK>



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

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

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

Your email address will always be kept strictly confidential.

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

<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org>
FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com

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