



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #210 — AUG. 23, 2012

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

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The Sacred Sperm Must Be Protected Too!

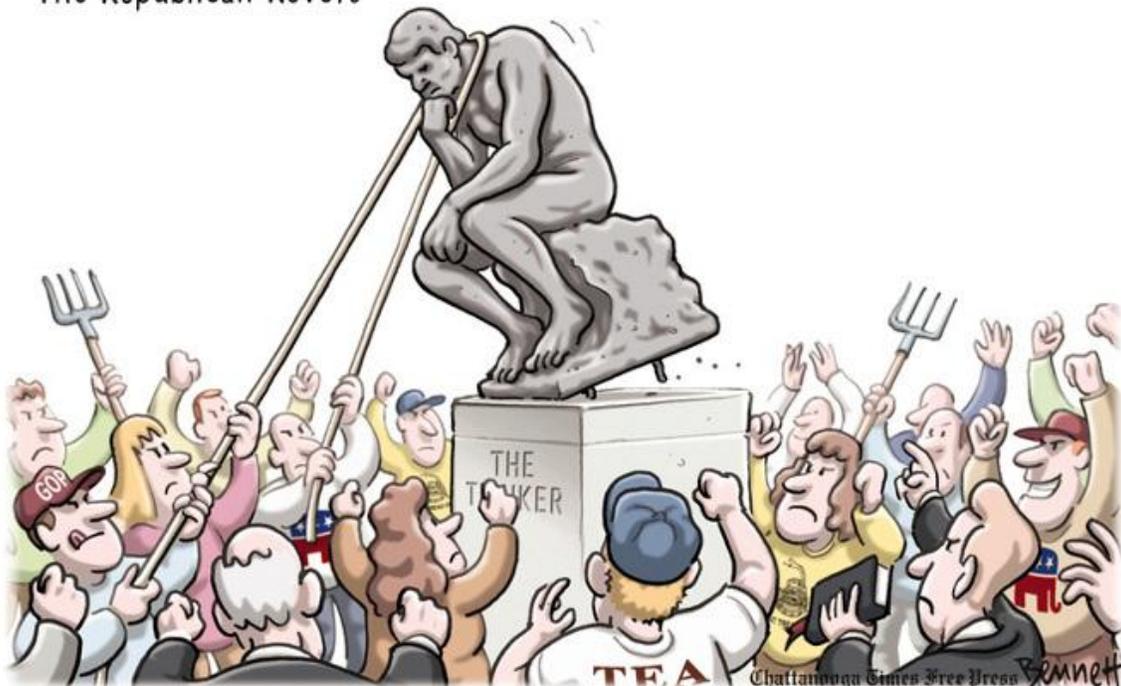
(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Aug. 23, 2012)

Shouldn't our "best and brightest" ideas be extended to their logical conclusions? Aren't men and women equal? What's that you say, Mitt? The equality of men and women didn't make it into the Constitution or the Book of Mormon? How convenient for Republicans hell-bent on returning us to Biblical times! "Now, please saddle-up my donkey and don't forget, the dog rides on top."

"Go for It, GOP — Sperm Rights!" by Martha Burk, Huffington Post

Aug. 22, 2012, (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/martha-burk/go-for-it-gop-sperm-right_b_1823325.html?utm_hp_ref=politics)

The Republican Revolt



I hope this blog reaches the GOP platform committee in time: you're being way-y-y too shy with your planks. A Human Life Amendment to the Constitution outlawing all abortions and granting embryos personhood through the 14th Amendment are good starts. Now, why not go all the way? Your party has already campaigned to eliminate contraception for women, but fertilized eggs shouldn't be the only ones to benefit from anti-contraception policies.

Simply put, sperm deserve equal personhood too (they're potential life), and men deserve the same life-affirming treatment vis-a-vis contraception that women are getting. The Bible says, "be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly" -- and the GOP can help.

The facts of men's fertility are that they can cause hundreds (even thousands in the case of certain athletes who brag about their abilities) more pregnancies than women can. In the most extreme case on both sides, consider a woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth every year of her fertile life. It is theoretically possible for her to have 35 children in her lifetime. In the same period, if a man had unprotected intercourse just once per week he could father 1,820 children. Add his increased years of fertility, and his potential for physical domination over women (aka "legitimate rape"), and we see that the problem of populating the earth is largely one of aiding male fertility -- meaning free the sperm from the contraceptives that kill them and the condoms that smother them.

So how do we facilitate sperm rights? By outlawing condoms beginning at puberty, and requiring DNA samples to go into a national DNA registry at the same time. That way, each fertilized egg could exercise its constitutional right to know its paternity, and the full-term babies that result would be entitled to support until they reach 21, whether or not the father is married to the mother. Use of condoms for medical reasons unrelated to fertility would have to be approved by a panel of three doctors, and with the permission of his designated female partner. For men under 18, a judge's permission would be needed.

Control of men's fertility would not be hard to enforce. We could use a combination of punishments for those who obtained condoms illegally (and for pharmacies that sold them without proper authorization). The men could be required to adopt one orphan child per infraction and rear it to adulthood. The pharmacists could lose their licenses, or go to prison if they habitually aided men under the table by selling condoms or spermicides for their partners. With DNA fingerprinting the method is foolproof, especially if drug stores and convenience stores reported any man who tried to buy birth control unlawfully.

Protecting sperm rights would benefit society, and wouldn't really harm men.

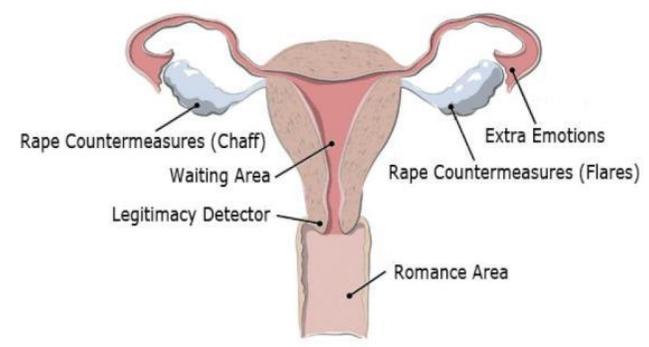
Understand -- a man's right to control his own body and life choices would not be infringed. Men could still have sex. They would merely be asked to accept a few tiny, ever-so-reasonable restrictions.

C'mon GOP. You've got another few days to do the right thing -- now beef up that platform!



US House Committee on
SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY

LADY PARTS DIAGRAM



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20120822-01	05:17	Tom	Video: "How One Texas County Fakes Crime Stats to Make Border Look Safe"
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Video: "How One Texas County Fakes Crime Stats to Make Border Look Safe" (Part 1), PJTV

Aug. 20, 2012, (<http://www.pjtv.com/?cmd=mpg&mpid=174&load=7331>)

20120822-02	10:45	SteveB	"Why Romney's Poll Numbers Are Falling Fast"
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Notice that this story is dated Aug. 11. Since then, there has been the Akin problem, etc., etc. I still haven't been able to hear anything concrete from R0mney about his much vaunted "economic message" above the din. And the tax problems and Bain problems are only going to get worse—much worse. I wonder if the guy is completely sure he really wants to be POTUS? Maybe for a guy of privilege, it just isn't worth it?

Maybe it will be just like when our worker Oscar gave up, walked off the job, and left his phone unanswered for days, once he discovered how truly hard it is to chisel a big arched doorway through a yard-thick solid brick wall. That must be how R0mney feels right now. And he could so easily be soaking in one of his hot tubs in one of his helicopters on one of his yachts in one of his swimming pools on one of his car elevators in one of his mansions or castles. (Think AND not OR!)

Ryan certainly hasn't produced much bounce in the polls. Who knows what R0mney's true feeling are on abortion, but he can take no stance other than what his base orders, which is anti-. I don't know why women would vote for the guy. How is it still so allegedly close? I have no blinking idea!

"Why Romney's Poll Numbers Are Falling Fast" by Henry Decker, *The National Memo*

Aug. 11, 2012, (<http://www.nationalmemo.com/why-romneys-poll-numbers-are-falling-fast/>)

Mitt Romney's presidential campaign is putting on a brave face in response to a series of polls that show President Obama expanding his lead over Romney, claiming that the new numbers don't really matter.

"There has not been any national news, anything that would push these numbers from 3 to 9 points," one anonymous Romney adviser told Politico. "You've got to have something to precipitate that kind of sea change."

Here at *The National Memo*, we can think of plenty of things that could have pushed Romney's numbers into a nosedive. Here are five of the many reasons that Romney may be fading in the polls:

The Romneyshambles

On the eve of the Olympics, Mitt Romney set out on an overseas trip in an effort to strengthen his foreign policy credentials. It did not go well.

Romney instantly offended Britain by questioning the country's preparation for the Olympics and doubting the Olympic spirit of the British people. For his troubles, he was skewered by the British press, personally rebuked by Prime Minister David Cameron, and booed by a crowd of 60,000 Londoners. Apparently Mitt's touted "Anglo-Saxon heritage" didn't do him much good, after all.

Praising Israel's Health Care

On the next leg of his trip, Romney praised Israel's health care system by noting that, while costs are "completely out of control" in the United States, Israel only spends "eight percent of [gross domestic product] on health care. And you're a pretty healthy nation."

Normally, pointing out these facts wouldn't be any sort of "gaffe" at all. Unfortunately for Romney, complimenting a country that has had universal health care since its founding in 1948 undercuts his own party's message of "Let him die!"

"Kiss My A*s!"

Somehow, Romney wasn't finished botching his foreign policy trip. At a stop near Poland's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, members of the national press corps — toward whom Romney is both evasive and combative — began shouting questions at the Republican nominee, who had refused to engage them throughout the entire trip.

Romney's press secretary Rick Gorka responded to their questions in pretty much the least helpful manner possible, telling them to "Kiss my a*s" and "shove it."

It was a fitting end to a miserable trip for Team Romney.

Tax Plan Proven Mathematically Impossible

Romney has had trouble on the domestic front as well. Last week The Tax Policy Center released a study showing that, even if one assumes the most favorable conditions for Romney, it is literally impossible for his tax plan to achieve its stated goals.

Romney dismissed the report by accusing the non-partisan group that wrote the report of liberal bias. That bias is apparently a recent development; when the Romney campaign cited a report by the Tax Policy Center in November, it referred to the Center as an "objective third-party."

Where Are The Tax Returns?

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has taken it upon himself to make sure that Romney's refusal to release more than two years of tax returns stays in the news. Reid's claim that a Bain investor told him Romney did not pay any taxes for a decade outraged Romney and some figures in the media, but the public is on Reid's side: According to a recent CNN poll, 63 percent say that Romney should release more returns.

20120822-03	10:56	Pam	Re: "Why Romney's Poll Numbers Are Falling Fast" (reply to SteveB, above)
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It is beyond my comprehension how women, African-Americans, senior citizens, Latinos, college students, the unemployed and underemployed, the disabled, or the well-informed could consider voting for Romney, yet I know at least two smart people who plan to do just that. All I can conclude is that, in the end, we all vote with our gut, and some people are so irritated by liberals they think anything else is better. The big question is whether there is a majority of those folks or not. I wouldn't think so, which is why I find the closeness in the polls strange. I wonder if the media is keeping the race exciting artificially. Of course, Fox News has a lot to answer for, and I can imagine there being more fans of Ann Coulter than of Alan Grayson. There's a reason why aristocrats always feared the mob.

20120822-05	11:19	SteveB	Re: "Why Romney's Poll Numbers Are Falling Fast" (reply to Pam, above)
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Here's how OpEdNews puts it (<http://www.opednews.com/articles/Republicans-Gone-Wild-by-Andy-Ostroy-120822-27.html>):

And just what the hell is a "legitimate" rape? Maybe it's akin (pun intended) to "forcible" rape, another favorite Republican term. Apparently these imbeciles never looked at a dictionary, which defines rape as "forcing another person to have sexual intercourse."

While Preisse's and Yoder's offenses are despicable, it is Akin's utterly ignorant, misogynistic, insensitive, empathy-deficient remark that's beyond the pale. These radical ultra-conservatives like Akin have nothing but contempt for women. Their philosophies are Neanderthal and their behavior unconscionable.

And get this: Ryan has co-sponsored not one but two bills with Akin: The Sanctity of Life Act, informally known as the "Personhood" bill, and another which would allow for abortion exception in cases of "forcible rape" only. Is this the guy we want just a heartbeat away from the Oval Office? Someone who sanctions terms such as "legitimate rape" and "forcible rape?" Someone whose views on women's rights and issues mirrors that of a radical extremist like Akin? But the bazillion dollar question really is, What woman in her right mind would vote for Romney and Ryan?

20120822-06	11:47	Ben	Re: "Why Romney's Poll Numbers Are Falling Fast" (reply to SteveB, above)
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SteveB: What woman in her right mind would vote for Romney and Ryan?

Yes, that IS a question. The reality of its answer will surely surprise you.

Probably millions will.

20120822-04	11:06	Phil	Fw: Social Security / Government
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This is about as "middle" as it gets. It crosses the aisle. Both sides are complicit. These numbers might not be totally accurate, but the premise is. YOUR elected representatives don't care about doing what is morally, ethically or legally right. These programs, SS and Medicare, almost certainly affect most of us more directly than other issues.

I try to at least scan the news, stories, and views that you most graciously provide on a daily basis, SteveB. And I thank you for that and for all the input from your readers. Evaluating it from my perspective makes me believe that I am probably more closely aligned to the "middle" than most who respond. Frankly, I'm unconvinced that either side of the aisle cares to fix our problems.

The saddest thing is that the electorate continues to vote for these people. And now that Akin confirms he is remaining in the race, he is going to demonstrate my despair. He should not get more than a minute percentage of the vote, yet wait and see what he tallies in the fall. If he gets more than 10% of the vote, it will be a true travesty. Yet whoever is elected will, in my opinion, selfishly work to perpetuate their "service" in public office to the detriment of the people. Eventually, the citizenry is going to have to wake-up to the fact that it isn't the party that is denigrating the system, it's elected officials. BOTH PARTIES, people!

Thanks for allowing me to ramble.

[Source of original email unknown. –SteveB]

SOCIAL SECURITY NOW CALLED 'FEDERAL BENEFIT PAYMENT'/ENTITLEMENT!

Have you noticed, your Social Security check is now referred to as a "Federal Benefit Payment"?

I'll be part of the one percent to forward this. I am forwarding it because it touches a nerve in me, and I hope it will in you. Please keep passing it on until everyone in our country has read it.

The government is now referring to our Social Security checks as a "Federal Benefit Payment." This isn't a benefit – its earned income! Not only did we all contribute to Social Security but our employers did too.

It totaled 15% of our income before taxes. If you averaged \$30K per year over your working life, that's close to \$180,000 invested in Social Security.

If you calculate the future value of your monthly investment in social security (\$375/month, including both your and your employer's contributions) at a meager 1% interest rate compounded monthly, after 40 years of working you'd have more than \$1.3+ million dollars saved! This is your personal investment.

Upon retirement, if you took out only 3% per year, you'd receive \$39,318 per year, or \$3,277 per month.

That's almost three times more than today's average Social Security benefit of \$1,230 per month, according to the Social Security Administration (Google it - it's a fact).

And your retirement fund would last more than 33 years (until you're 98 if you retire at age 65)! I can only imagine how much better most average-income people could live in retirement if our government had just invested our money in low-risk interest-earning accounts.

Instead, the folks in Washington pulled off a bigger Ponzi scheme than Bernie Madoff ever did. They took our money and used it elsewhere. They "forgot" that it was OUR money they were taking. They didn't have a referendum to ask us if we wanted to lend the money to them.

And they didn't pay interest on the debt they assumed. And recently, they've told us that the money won't support us for very much longer. But is it our fault they misused our investments?

And now, to add insult to injury, they're calling it a "benefit," as if we never worked to earn every penny of it. Just because they "borrowed" the money, doesn't mean that our investments were a charity!

Let's take a stand. We have earned our right to Social Security and Medicare.

Demand that our legislators bring some sense into our government. Find a way to keep Social Security and Medicare going, for the sake of that 92% of our population who need it. Then call it what it is: Our Earned Retirement Income.

99% of people won't forward this. Will you?

20120822-07 14:13 SteveB Re: Social Security / Government (reply to Phil, above)

I think you raised some really important points here, Phil, especially in your introduction to the forwarded email.

I agree completely that both of our principal political parties have been corrupted by power and campaign contributions. It's a system our government created that it needs to change. Now, let me ask you one quick question: which of the two parties is most likely to listen to reason?

Though, as you point out, it is really the personnel we are dealing with here, not the abstract parties per se. Still...

All the more reason to vote them all out of office and start over (except, please, for Mr. Obama): "Take out the trash this November!"

Another thing I agree with is that the government has bungled Social Security (though, like you, I suspect the numbers presented in the email). **But Social Security needs to be fixed, not destroyed.** The same goes for Medicare, Medicaid, welfare, and education. Even Paul Ryan, in his budget, admitted that Obamacare saves money. Maybe stopping the damned wars would save more...

Lastly, I too don't like the way these programs have come to be known as "entitlements" and "benefits" rather than "insurance" or "retirement fund" or some name that might afford them more protection from the Republican axes than "entitlements" or "benefits".

20120822-09 15:25 Pam Re: Social Security / Government (reply to Phil, above)

I totally agree. Our politicians are out of control. I think there are a few good ones, but most want either to ram their agenda down our throats or stay in office so they can get rich. I'm disgusted by the whole mess. "Benefit" indeed. What a misuse of language! I think the Dems. are slightly less culpable (well, lots less) than the Reps., but the bozos we have in Congress now are a bunch of spineless, greedy wimps. Thanks for opening my "rant" valve.

20120822-11 17:47 SteveG Re: Social Security / Government (reply to Phil, above)

By having a two party system, the parties making the responsibility of each office holder/candidates to raise specified amounts of money, by having office holders tow the party line to get committee assignments, and by having Citizens United I would say that both parties and the office holders as well as current laws are the problems. Fixes are easy but will not be done in our or our children's life time – there is too much money involved.

20120822-13 18:56 Art Re: Social Security / Government (reply to Phil, above)

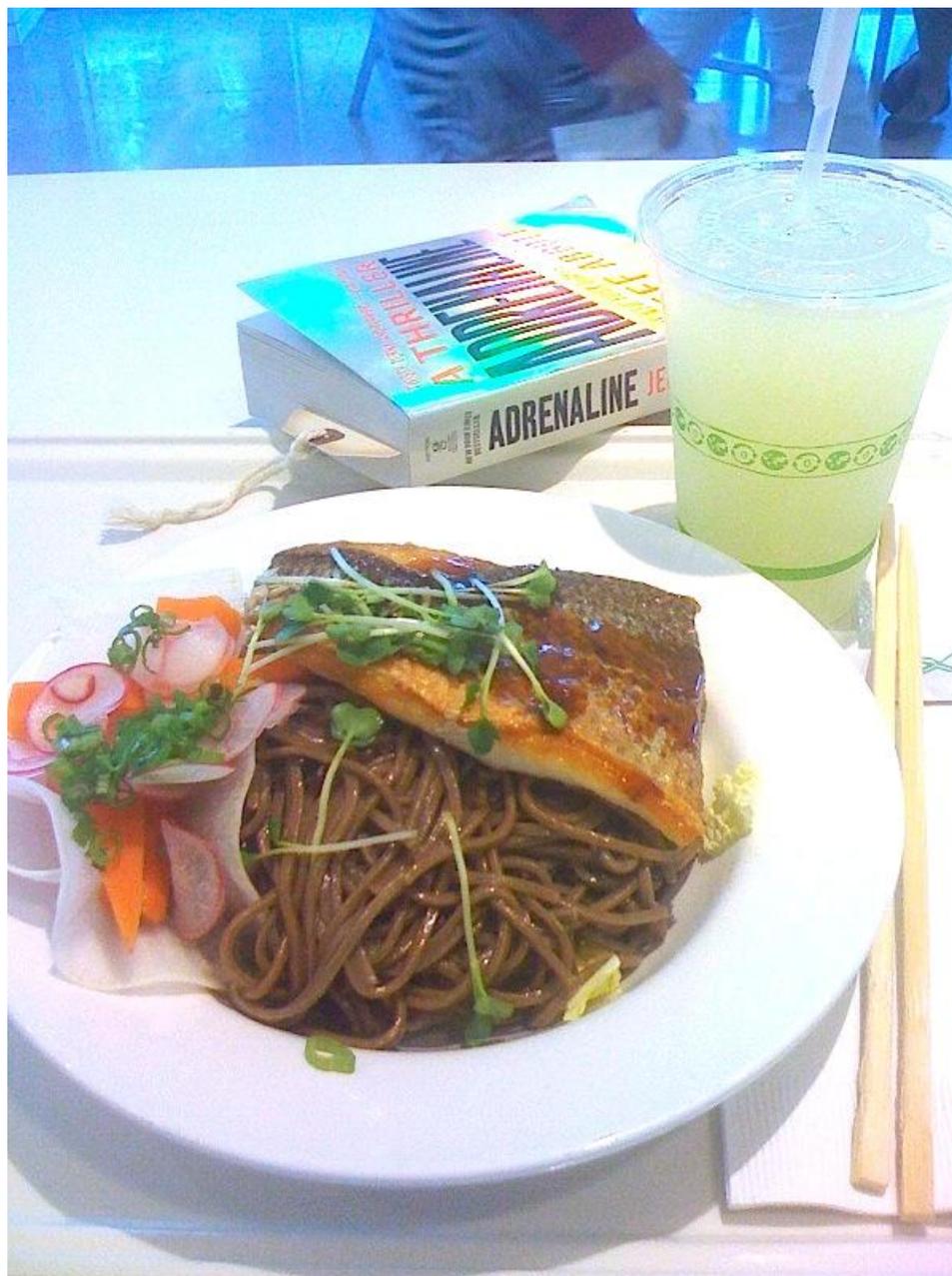
I thought you might find the following article from snopes.com interesting:

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/taxes/benefit.asp>.

This has been around for awhile. The math is off by quite a bit. First it uses a high set of figures to assume how much you may have paid in, then it compares this to the average taken out. Read the last paragraph carefully.

20120822-08 14:15 Ben Photo: Today's Lunch at Apple

Another fabulous fish feast for me today: although not a noodle guy at all, I found the whole-wheat soba noodles a better complement to the rest of the meal than I'd have imagined. My generous filet of real, actual, wild sea bass (NOT the farmed non-bass "toothfish" from Chile!) was (surprise!) seared "to a Queen's taste": crispy-skin, moist-flaky perfection, its delicate flavor and texture accented by a tasty soy-sesame sauce applied in appropriate moderation. The various radishes of the garnish, traditional reds, shaved daikon and daikon sprouts, were crisp and fresh: a subtle zest against the earthy blandness of the cold whole-wheat soba noodles. Lurking underneath was a generous foundation of very fresh, crisp Napa cabbage. A delicious and beautiful dish:



Real Sea Bass, Radish and Napa Salad over Soba Noodle

from MoveOn.org:

Representative Todd Akin's comment about "legitimate rape" was no gaffe. It was a glimpse into the GOP War on Women.

Republicans are just days away from ratifying a personhood amendment as part of their party platform, which would ban all abortions, with no exceptions for rape or incest.¹

32,000 rape survivors get pregnant in America each year.² And the Republican party would ban abortions for all of these women.

Today's *New York Times* editorial is challenging Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan to amend this "extremist," "mean-spirited and intolerant platform."³

MoveOn members need to join that call with hundreds of thousands of voices, because even if Romney and Ryan won't listen, America is listening. Representative Todd Akin's comments were a wake-up call about Republican views on women.

This shameful moment is our best opportunity to draw attention to the dangerous woman-hating agenda of the Republican Party and expose it to American voters.

But the GOP Convention is next week, and we want to confront Ryan and Romney with a massive petition at an event TOMORROW for the media to see, so we need to act urgently. **Can you sign today and ask everyone you know to sign, too?**

Romney and Ryan: "Remove the abortion ban for rape survivors from the Republican Party platform."

<http://pol.moveon.org/abortionban3/?rc=homepage>

Republicans, including Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, are trying to run away from the terrible comments of their Senate candidate, Rep. Todd Akin, about "legitimate rape." But they can't.

Here's a brief history of Romney and Ryan's own words and deeds on this issue:

- Ryan and Akin were the original co-sponsors of a bill that would limit the definition of rape to "forcible rape" (Akin's idea of "legitimate rape").⁴
- Ryan co-sponsored a personhood bill with Akin, which would outlaw some forms of birth control and all abortions, with no exceptions for rape or incest.⁵
- Mitt Romney told Mike Huckabee that he would have "absolutely" supported a constitutional amendment establishing the definition of life at conception.⁶

Of course, now that the media is paying attention to their extreme views, the Romney-Ryan campaign stated that they would not prohibit abortion in cases of rape.⁷ But talk is cheap.

If Romney and Ryan want to prove that they don't stand with Akin on abortion bans for rape survivors, they need to get it out of the party platform. And our job is to make sure the country is watching what they do.

Sign today—Romney and Ryan: "Remove the abortion ban for rape survivors from the Republican Party platform."

Thanks for all you do, –Lenore, Elena, Amy, Marika, and the rest of the team

Sources:

¹"GOP party platform sticks with anti-abortion stance, does not address rape exception," *The Washington Post*, August 21, 2012, <http://www.moveon.org/r?r=279220&id=49504-20195165-I7waFhx&t=6>.

²"Injury Center: Violence Prevention," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.moveon.org/r?r=279195&id=49504-20195165-I7waFhx&t=7>.

³"What the G.O.P. Platform Represents," *The New York Times*, August 21, 2012, <http://www.moveon.org/r?r=279242&id=49504-20195165-I7waFhx&t=8>.

⁴"How Todd Akin and Paul Ryan Partnered to Redefine Rape," Think Progress, August 19, 2012, <http://www.moveon.org/r?r=279196&id=49504-20195165-I7waFhx&t=9>.

⁵"Paul Ryan Sponsored Fetal Personhood Bill, Opposes Family Planning Funds," Huffington Post, August 11, 2012, <http://www.moveon.org/r?r=278852&id=49504-20195165-I7waFhx&t=10>.

⁶"Romney: I Would 'Absolutely' Support State Constitutional Amendment to Define Life As Beginning At Conception," Think Progress, October 3, 2011, <http://www.moveon.org/r?r=279210&id=49504-20195165-I7waFhx&t=11>.

⁷"Romney Statement on Abortion Contradicts Ryan's Earlier Stance," *The New York Times*, August 20, 2012, <http://www.moveon.org/r?r=279214&id=49504-20195165-I7waFhx&t=12>.

20120822-12	18:11	SteveB	Invalsa Coffee from Bolivia
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I don't know about you, but I love a good cup of coffee! It seems like my Mom always had a pot on, to have a cup or two with anybody who showed-up.

Another thing I love is trying to use (whenever possible) and promote local products. For instance, we use only Bolivian ingredients in our cookies, and the packaging is Bolivian. Our equipment is Brazilian, whenever possible. And all our ingredients come from our own Department (state) of Santa Cruz, except our chocolate comes from the neighboring Amazonian Department of Beni. The coffee we serve comes exclusively from the Yungas.

I want to let all of you know, especially those of you who will go out of their way for a good cup of joe, that the Bolivian coffees are wonderful and still incredibly reasonably priced in the States.

When we lived in Montana, we bought green Bolivian coffee beans in reasonable quantities from this American importer and purveyor of Bolivian coffees:

<http://www.invalsa.com/>.

They are great people! True Bolivians! Their website is very interesting and instructional.

Here's the skinny on coffee, in case you didn't know. Green, unroasted coffee beans can easily stay fresh for more than a year. Once coffee is roasted, without extreme packaging measures, it stays fresh for a week at the most. Once it is ground, you have maybe a day, though I prefer to say one minute.

For the very best coffee, you need a small roaster and a grinder. Invalsa, Amazon, and many online retailers sell good roasters for less than \$200. You can pay for these things with the money you will save by buying unroasted beans. You can roast beans the night before, but **you must make coffee immediately after grinding**. For best results, use boiling water poured through a "natural" paper filter, not the bleached white kind.

If you don't want to go to all that trouble, maybe your local Starbucks or other coffee place has roasted Bolivian coffee you could try. It's always certified organic and fair labor. The problem with buying roasted coffees from these

places is that they also house all kinds of yukky flavored coffee beans which pollute the delicate flavor of all the unflavored beans in the house. Boo!

20120822-14 22:58 SteveM You Always Have Something to Say...

About the dumb a*s thing Repub's might do or say, but I never hear criticize or mock the dumb a*s thing that Biden, Pelosi, Harry or Odummy say or do.

And you claim to be Friends of the Middle? I guess you took that name because the *Daily Worker* was spoken for?

[Source of original email unknown. –SteveB]

1. If any other of our presidents had criticized a state law that he admitted he never even read, would you think that he is just an ignorant hothead?
2. If any other of our presidents joined the country of Mexico and sued a state in the United States to force that state to continue to allow illegal immigration, would you question his patriotism and wonder whose side he was on?
3. If any other of our presidents had pronounced the Marine Corps like Marine Corpse, would you think him an idiot?
4. If any other of our presidents had put 87,000 workers out of work by arbitrarily placing a moratorium on offshore oil drilling on companies that have one of the best safety records of any industry because one foreign company had an accident, would you have agreed?
5. If any other of our presidents had used a forged document as the basis of the moratorium that would render 87000 American workers unemployed would you support him?
6. If any other of our presidents had been the first President to need a Teleprompter installed to be able to get through a press conference, would you have laughed and said this is more proof of how inept he is on his own and is really controlled by smarter men behind the scenes?
7. If any other of our presidents had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to take his First Lady to a play in NYC, would you have approved?
8. If any other of our presidents had reduced your retirement plan holdings of GM stock by 90% and given the unions a majority stake in GM, would you have approved?
9. If any other of our presidents had made a joke at the expense of the Special Olympics, would you have approved?
10. If any other of our presidents had given Gordon Brown a set of inexpensive and incorrectly formatted DVDs, when Gordon Brown had given him a thoughtful and historically significant gift, would you have approved?
11. If any other of our presidents had given the Queen of England an iPod containing videos of his speeches, would you have thought it a proud moment for America?
12. If any other of our presidents had bowed to the King of Saudi Arabia would you have approved?
13. If any other of our presidents had visited Austria and made reference to the nonexistent "Austrian language," would you have brushed it off as a minor slip?
14. If any other of our presidents had filled his cabinet and circle of advisers with people who cannot seem to keep current in their income taxes, would you have approved?

15. If any other of our presidents had stated that there were 57 states in the United States, wouldn't you have had second thoughts about his capabilities?

16. If any other of our presidents would have flown all the way to Denmark to make a five minute speech about how the Olympics would benefit him walking out his front door in his home town, would you not have thought he was a self-important, conceited, egotistical jerk.

17. If any other of our presidents had been so Spanish illiterate as to refer to "Cinco de Cuatro" in front of the Mexican ambassador when it was the 5th of May (Cinco de Mayo), and continued to flub it when he tried again, wouldn't you have winced in embarrassment?

18. If any other of our presidents had burned 9,000 gallons of jet fuel to go plant a single tree on Earth Day, would you have concluded he's a hypocrite?

19. If any other of our presidents' administrations had okayed Air Force One flying low over millions of people followed by a jet fighter in downtown Manhattan causing widespread panic, would you have wondered whether they actually get what happened on 9-11?

20. If any other of our presidents had failed to send relief aid to flood victims throughout the Midwest with more people killed or made homeless than in New Orleans, would you want it made into a major ongoing political issue with claims of racism and incompetence?

21. If any other of our presidents had created the position of 32 Czars who report directly to him, bypassing the House and Senate on much of what is happening in America, would you have ever approved?

22. If any other of our presidents had ordered the firing of the CEO of a major corporation, even though he had no constitutional authority to do so, would you have approved?

So, tell me again, what is it about Obama that makes him so brilliant and impressive?

Can't think of anything? Don't worry. He's done all this in 34 months, so you don't have that much time to come up with an answer.

Every statement and action in this email is factual and directly attributable to Barack Hussein Obama. Every bumble is a matter of record and completely verifiable.

AND NOW--HE ACTUALLY WANTS US TO RE-ELECT HIM.

[Well, I'd have to ask...is this the best they can come up with? I would answer all of these questions, I am sure, in the way least expected by their author. By the way, we call ourselves "Friends of the Middle" because we are polite and respectful to each other and everything we get from you and the other Republicans is so radically Right that it's amazing. Case in point: the above email and all the racist lies it contains, and how irrelevant if there is a tiny glimmer of truth? But thank you for submitting it...always instructional. And, yes, I always seem to have something to say! For instance, here's a question back at you: Are the following terms indicative of the Middle or the far Right: "forcible rape", "legitimate rape", "no abortion for incest pregnancy for you, b*tch"? Do you really think your Party can even see the Middle from where they stand? Do you ever answer questions or just pose them?--SteveB]

20120822-15	23:02	SteveM	"Obama: Like a Banana-Republic Despot"
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You can't disagree with the article below, because it was written by a black man and it would be racist to do so. That is, if you hold yourself to the same standards you held everyone else to, 4 years ago.

[Qué? It's racist not to believe everything any black man writes? Does that include Allen West? Barack Obama? Then you are surely a racist, my friend. –SteveB]

"Obama: Like a Banana-Republic Despot" by Thomas Sowell, WND

Aug. 21, 2012, (<http://www.wnd.com/2012/08/obama-like-a-banana-republic-despot/>)

There are some very serious issues at stake in this year's election – so many that some people may not be able to see the forest for the trees. Individual issues are the trees, but the forest is the future of America as we have known it.

The America that has flourished for more than two centuries is being quietly but steadily dismantled by the Obama administration, during the process of dealing with particular issues.

[POPPYCOCK! FANTASY! DELUSION! LIES! Let me ask you this. If the above is true, why are Republicans letting him get away with it? Shouldn't they be condemned even more vociferously because they should know better? LOL! –SteveB]

For example, the merits or demerits of President Obama's recent executive order suspending legal liability for young people who are here illegally, presumably as a result of being brought here as children by their parents, can be debated pro and con. But such a debate overlooks the much more fundamental undermining of the whole American system of constitutional government.

The separation of powers into legislative, executive and judicial branches of government is at the heart of the Constitution of the United States – and the Constitution is at the heart of freedom for Americans.

No president of the United States is authorized to repeal parts of legislation passed by Congress. He may veto the whole legislation, but then Congress can override his veto if they have enough votes. Nevertheless, every president takes an oath to faithfully execute the laws that have been passed and sustained – not just the ones he happens to agree with.

If laws passed by the elected representatives of the people can be simply overruled unilaterally by whoever is in the White House, then we are no longer a free people, choosing what laws we want to live under.

When a president can ignore the plain language of duly passed laws and substitute his own executive orders, then we no longer have "a government of laws, and not of men" but a president ruling by decree, like the dictator in some banana republic.

When we confine our debates to the merits or demerits of particular executive orders, we are tacitly accepting arbitrary rule. The Constitution of the United States cannot protect us unless we protect the Constitution. But, if we allow ourselves to get bogged down in the details of particular policies imposed by executive orders, and vote solely on that basis, then we have failed to protect the Constitution – and ourselves.

Whatever the merits or demerits of the No Child Left Behind Act, it is the law until Congress either repeals it or amends it. But for Barack Obama to unilaterally waive whatever provisions he doesn't like in that law undermines the fundamental nature of American government.

President Obama has likewise unilaterally repealed the legal requirement that welfare recipients must work, by simply redefining "work" to include other things like going to classes on weight control. If we think the bipartisan welfare reform legislation from the Clinton administration should be repealed or amended, that is something for the legislative branch of government to consider.

There have been many wise warnings that freedom is seldom lost all at once. It is usually eroded away, bit by bit, until it is all gone. You may not notice a gradual erosion while it is going on, but you may eventually be shocked to

discover one day that it is all gone, that we have been reduced from citizens to subjects, and the Constitution has become just a meaningless bunch of paper.

Obamacare imposes huge costs on some institutions, while the president's arbitrary waivers exempt other institutions from having to pay those same costs. That is hardly the "equal protection of the laws," promised by the 14th Amendment.

John Stuart Mill explained the dangers in that kind of government long ago: "A government with all this mass of favours to give or to withhold, however free in name, wields a power of bribery scarcely surpassed by an avowed autocracy, rendering it master of the elections in almost any circumstances but those of rare and extraordinary public excitement."

If Obama gets re-elected, he knows that he need no longer worry about what the voters think about anything he does. Never having to face them again, he can take his arbitrary rule by decree as far as he wants. He may be challenged in the courts but, if he gets just one more Supreme Court appointment, he can pick someone who will rubber stamp anything he does and give him a 5-to-4 majority.

20120822-16 23:04 SteveM Fw: Sign of the Times

This is a custom made sign hanging on the fence of Blue Stream – Oil and Gas Rental and Supply Company, Highway 90, New Iberia, La. The "We" in the sign refers to the Owners, Hard Working and Dedicated Employees, The Suppliers and, most important, the Clients and Customers. I understand that many other successful companies are in the process of having similar signs made.



20120822-18 23:38 SteveB Re: Sign of the Times (reply to SteveM, above)

Don't you get it? This company didn't do one single thing without government help! Who built the Interstates they ship over, for instance? Who provided education, etc., etc.? That's the way America works (or any other country for that matter). This company probably started with a government guaranteed Small Business Administration loan.

This is so elementary as to be ludicrous. America decided these issues long ago, now the ignorant and power-hungry want us all to forget and return to the 19th Century. No!

Just because some rich, selfish Republican a*s-hole says something does not make it true.

Have a nice day.

20120822-17	23:08	SteveM	"Why Is Michelle Obama so Tired?"
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You can't disagree with the article below, because it was written by a black man and it would be racist to do so. That is, if you hold yourself to the same standards you held everyone else to, 4 years ago.

"Why Is Michelle Obama so Tired?" by Mychal Massie, WND

Feb. 27, 2012, (<http://www.wnd.com/2012/02/why-is-michelle-obama-so-tired/>)

(Exclusive: Mychal Massie says first lady 'doesn't give a rat's tail' about her behavior.)

What on earth can Michelle Obama possibly be tired from? What has she done since her husband was elected that gives her one reason to be tired? I know that flying, for the proletariat such as myself, can be tiring and, more times than not, a genuine pain – but she flies in presidential luxury, sans the president. And the only checkin' in and full-body scan she goes through at an airport is when she looks at herself in a mirror.

We, the taxpayers of this great nation, demand to know just what it is that has her royalness so worn out and tired, that after just enjoying a lavish 17-day Hawaiian Christmas vacation (that cost taxpayers \$4 million), she needs another vacation at one of the most exclusive (and anti-union) resorts in the country.

It cannot be that she is overworked because, if the liberal *Los Angeles Times* is to be believed, between them, the Obamas have 454 White House aides, at a cost to the taxpayers of more than \$37 million annually – and that doesn't include recent pay raises. (See: "No Recession For Obama's 454 White House aides: They'll make \$37,121,463 this year"; Andrew Malcolm, July 5, 2011.) And before you ask – yes, that is more than President and Mrs. Bush had, and I was one of the lone voices decrying the size and cost of Laura Bush's staff.

Could Ms. Obama still be suffering fatigue from the weight of having kept secret, for two years, her extravagant Halloween costume ball? Even though they used military families as a cover in case it got out, the last thing she wanted the public to know was that, while Americans were suffering in the depths of recession, she had the biggest players in Hollywood doing an exclusive costume party just for herself and her family.

Or perhaps it's the lingering effects of taking her mother and daughters to South Africa and Botswana, or the sheer exhaustion of rushing out of Washington, four hours ahead of her husband, so she wouldn't have to share her presidential jet with him on the way to Martha's Vineyard for their annual beach break.

Then again, maybe she was exhausted from her personal \$50,000 underwear shopping spree with the queen of Qatar, at Agent Provocateur, the store that bills itself as selling "the most erotic lingerie in the world." Realizing that you're responsible for closing down Madison Avenue can be tiring, and watching staff carry all those bags back to her limousines ... whew! – that would sure wear me out. And after the tiring experience of picking out all of those exotic undies, what better place to recover than an uber-posh Vail resort and the private home owned by Paula and Jim Crown?

Or maybe she's worn out from rolling around on the floor to the delight of Ellen Degeneres, or making muscles on a daytime show, or pulling on a rope on another show, or eating at all of the restaurants where she loves to pig it up.

Then again, maybe Ms. Obama is just an arrogant, high-minded person who doesn't give a rat's tail about propriety or how her behavior looks to a suffering public because, after all, her husband claims the economy is improving, and who are we going to believe – the reality of our financial situation or her husband?

Michelle Obama can afford to live life large since every dime she's spending comes on the backs and sweat of others. Nothing, zip, nada that she spends did she personally earn. And therein is the disgusting elitism of a woman who forgets where she came from, and dares you to remind her.

We are responsible for the billionaire life she lives, and it's time we started demanding that she be accountable to us. It's time we started confronting Obama at every press conference and/or speaking venue about the behavior of his wife. He is spending hundreds of millions of our money, flying around the country to raise a billion dollars for his campaign war chest, and we're paying \$4 per gallon for fuel. We've lost our homes, our mortgages are upside-down, our property taxes aren't enough to cover the increasing cost of infrastructure because of the drain of resources by illegal aliens, and all of this is happening as the price of putting milk and cereal on our tables is rising dramatically.

But why shouldn't she be smiling? For the first time in her adult life, she is proud of America – and why not? She has tens of millions of peons paying for her very own private reparations – now that's enough to put a smile on any elitist's face.

20120822-19

23:58

SteveG

Quotes: The Candidates on Paying for Higher Education

THE CHOICE

Paying for higher education



6.27.2012

Students should “get as much education as they can afford.”

6.21.2012

“Higher education cannot be a luxury reserved for the privileged few. It is an economic necessity.”

BARACKOBAMA.COM/TRUTHTEAM

<http://dailycoffeenews.com/2012/02/29/bolivian-farmers-switching-from-coca-to-coffee/>



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

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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.

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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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