



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #215 — AUG. 30, 2012

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A Campaign Built on 'Big Lies' Not 'Big Ideas'

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Aug. 30, 2012)

I guess we should have known what to expect—more lies and more damned lies. What can you expect from candidates who swear, **"We're not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact-checkers."**

"Paul Ryan Address: Convention Speech Built on Demonstrably Misleading Assertions" by Ryan Grim, Huffington Post

Aug. 30, 2012, (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/30/paul-ryan-address_n_1841819.html)



Paul Ryan used misleading assertions in his address at the Republican convention Wednesday.

(TAMPA, FL) Paul Ryan pledged Wednesday that if he and his running mate Mitt Romney were elected president, they would usher in an ethic of responsibility. The Wisconsin congressman and GOP vice presidential candidate repeatedly chided President Barack Obama for blaming the jobs and housing crises on his predecessor, saying that his habit of "forever shifting blame to the last administration, is getting old. The man assumed office almost four years ago — isn't it about time he assumed responsibility?"

Ryan then noted that Obama, while campaigning for president, promised that a GM plant in Wisconsin would not shut down. "That plant didn't last another year. It is locked up and empty to this day. And that's how it is in so many towns today, where the recovery that was promised is nowhere in sight," Ryan said.

Except Obama didn't promise that. And the plant closed in December 2008 -- while George W. Bush was president.

It was just one of several striking and demonstrably misleading elements of Ryan's much-anticipated acceptance speech. And it comes just days after Romney pollster Neil Newhouse warned, defending the campaign's demonstrably false ads claiming Obama removed work requirements from welfare, **"We're not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact-checkers."**

Ryan, for his part, slammed the president for not supporting a deficit commission report without mentioning that he himself had voted against it, helping to kill it.

He also made a cornerstone of his argument the claim that Obama "funneled" \$716 billion out of Medicare to pay for Obamacare. But he didn't mention that his own budget plan relies on those very same savings.

Ryan also put responsibility for Standard & Poor's downgrade of U.S. government debt at Obama's doorstep. But he didn't mention that S&P itself, in explaining its downgrade, referred to the debt ceiling standoff. That process of raising the debt ceiling was only politicized in the last Congress, driven by House Republicans, led in the charge by Paul Ryan.

The credit rater also said it worried that Republicans would never agree to tax increases. "We have changed our assumption on [revenue] because the majority of Republicans in Congress continue to resist any measure that would raise revenues," S&P wrote.

Jodie Layton, a convention goer from Utah watching the Ryan speech, said she was blown away by the vice presidential candidate. But she said she was surprised to hear that after his speech about taking responsibility, he'd pinned a Bush-era plant closing on Obama.

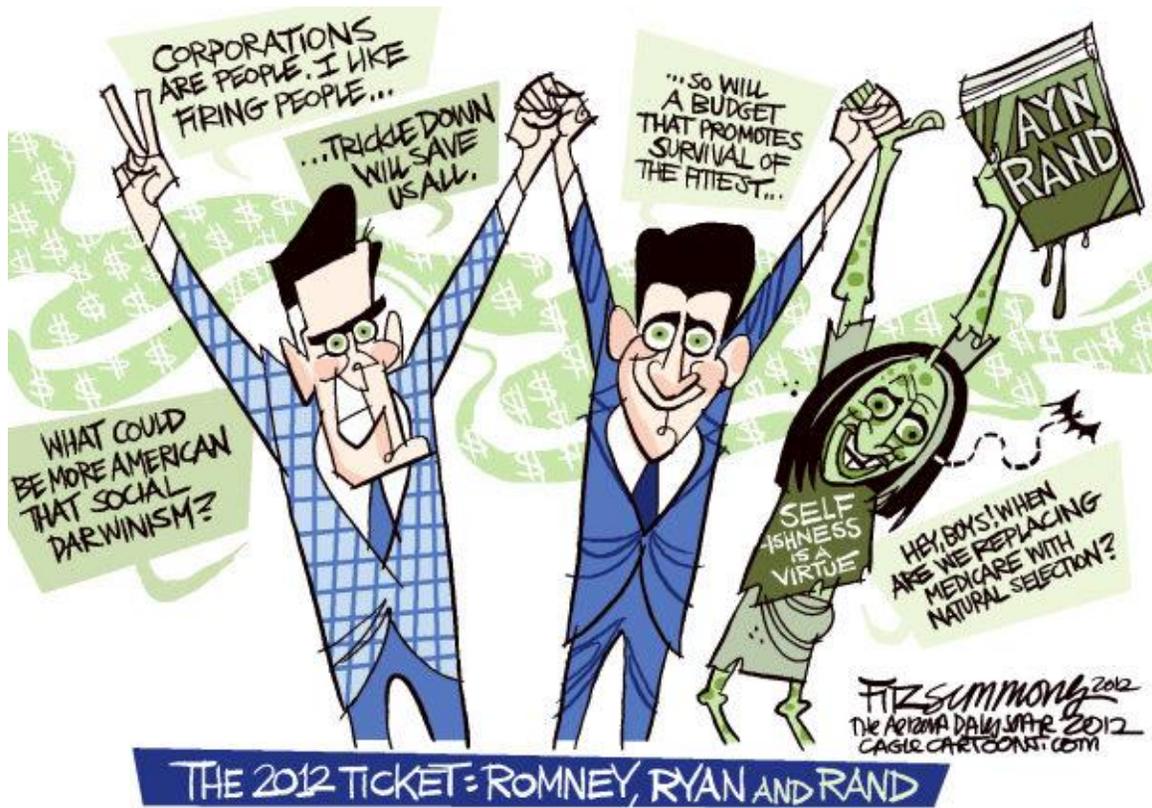
"It closed in December 2008?" she asked, making sure she heard a HuffPost reporter's question right. After a long pause, she said, "It's happening a lot on both sides. It's to be expected."

Ryan has referenced the GM plant before, and his attack was debunked by the Detroit News, which called it inaccurate. "In fact, Obama made no such promise and the plant halted production in December 2008, when President George W. Bush was in office," Detroit News reporter David Sherpardson wrote earlier this month. "Obama did speak at the plant in February 2008, and suggested that a government partnership with automakers could keep the plant open, but made no promises as Ryan suggested."

After the speech, CNN's political commentators focused mostly on Ryan's misstatements, demonstrating the degree to which they were evident.

Top Obama adviser David Axelrod jumped on the GM factory claim. "Again, Ryan blames Obama for a GM plant that closed under Bush. But then, they did say they wouldn't let fact checkers get in the way."

Ryan, however, appears to have made the calculation that the misleading won't hurt him with voters. He might be right. CNN's David Gergen, while acknowledging some "misstatements" in Ryan's address, suggested that pundits focus elsewhere. "But let's not forget that this was a speech about big ideas," he told his audience.



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20120829-01	08:53	Pam	Re: "Church Can't Collect Ref. 74 Donations" (reply to SteveG, FotM Newsletter #214)
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Here's what I don't understand. The way the media carries on, it seems there's a direct correlation between how much money is spent on a cause and the number of votes for that cause. Does this mean people are selling their votes? I don't think so, so what's the connection between spending and voting? They say negative ads work. Does that mean the electorate is so unsophisticated that they can't see through the hype? Is anyone but the already committed influenced at all by political advertising? I can see how the debates would be important, but the

notion that big spending equals political power tells me there's something rotten in Denmark. Exactly how do dollars translate into votes?

20120829-04 10:51 Art Re: "Church Can't Collect Ref. 74 Donations" (reply to Pam, above)

Yes.

20120829-02 09:11 SteveB Fw: CREDO Action Petition: Tell Duke Energy to Stop Funding ALEC!

from CREDO Action:

For years, the right wing has been trying to stop people of color, young people, and seniors from voting in order to help Republicans get elected — and now some of America's biggest companies, like Duke Energy, are helping them do it.¹

Duke has helped pass discriminatory voter ID legislation by funding a rightwing policy group called the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Voter ID bills linked to ALEC have already passed in seven states, and similar voter ID bills have been introduced in 27 other states.

That's why we're joining our friends at Color of Change and a growing coalition of civil rights and environmental organizations calling on Duke Energy to end its support of this rightwing organization.

The American Legislative Exchange Council has successfully promoted voter ID legislation that has the potential to disenfranchise up to 5 million voters — especially people of color, young people, and seniors. It also orchestrates extreme anti-environment legislation across the country that lets major polluters off the hook. I urge you to immediately and permanently stop funding ALEC.

Tell Duke Energy to stop funding ALEC and its attempt to disenfranchise millions of voters. Click here to sign the petition:

https://act.credoaction.com/campaign/duke_alec/.

Supporters of discriminatory voter ID laws claim they want to reduce voter fraud (individuals voting illegally, or voting twice). But such fraud almost never actually occurs, and never in numbers large enough to affect the result of elections. What is clear is that voter ID laws prevent large numbers of eligible voters from casting a ballot, and could disenfranchise up to 5 million people.

The truth is that voter ID laws are discriminatory — African Americans, Latinos, seniors, students, and the poor are all less likely to have the photo IDs necessary to vote under these laws. For example, if you've recently moved because of foreclosure or some other economic circumstance, you're more likely to have an address that is not your current residence on your driver's license. If you don't have a car, you're less likely to have a driver's license in the first place.

ALEC's voter ID laws are undemocratic, unjust and part of a longstanding rightwing agenda to weaken the voting blocs that historically oppose Republican candidates. We have to expose the major companies like Duke Energy that are helping ALEC suppress the votes of millions of Americans before it's too late.

Tell Duke Energy to stop funding ALEC and its attempt to disenfranchise millions of voters. Click here to automatically sign the petition.

In addition to Duke Energy's role in funding ALEC's voter suppression attempts, Duke is also a member of ALEC's Environment, Energy and Agriculture Task Force, which shapes ALEC's climate change denial and dirty energy agenda. Legislation drafted and supported by this task force undermines local environmental protections, thwarts efforts to address climate change and prevents major polluters from being held accountable.²

ALEC's extreme anti-environment efforts, which Duke Energy plays a key role in shaping and supporting, directly contradict Duke's frequently stated support for legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.³

In the past, Duke has been sensitive to public pressure calling out its hypocrisy on environmental issues. In 2009, after the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity was embroiled in a forgery scandal intended to mislead members of Congress about pending federal climate change legislation, Duke parted ways with the group, saying its activities were "not consistent with Duke Energy's work to pass economy-wide and cost effective climate change legislation as soon as possible."⁴

The same is now true of Duke's support for the American Legislative Exchange Council.

We hope Duke Energy will simply do the right thing and stop supporting ALEC. If they don't, we'll be prepared to shine a spotlight on them and make sure the world understands what they're involved in.

Josh Nelson, Campaign Manager

Sources:

¹ALEC Corporations, SourceWatch, <http://act.credoaction.com/r/?r=5545776&id=45944-5766577-hj73Ayx&t=12>.

²Environment, Energy and Agriculture, ALEC Exposed, <http://act.credoaction.com/r/?r=6946689&id=45944-5766577-hj73Ayx&t=13>.

³Climate Change, Duke Energy, <http://act.credoaction.com/r/?r=6946690&id=45944-5766577-hj73Ayx&t=14>.

⁴Duke Energy Quits Controversial Coal Lobby Front Group, Huffington Post, 9/2/09, <http://act.credoaction.com/r/?r=6946691&id=45944-5766577-hj73Ayx&t=15>.

20120829-08	13:24	SteveG	Fw: MoveOn Action: Watch "The Man from Bloomfield Hills"!
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from MoveOn.org:

The story of Mitt...

Polls show that our efforts to redefine Mitt Romney as the candidate of the 1% have been effective, but at this week's Republican Convention, Mitt's got one more chance to re-introduce himself to the country.¹ He's running a three-day advertising campaign, with prime time media coverage, to convince voters that he's actually concerned about the average citizen.

But that's a lie we're not going to let him tell.

This Thursday, we're releasing "The Man from Bloomfield Hills," a hilarious mini-doc based on the true story of Mitt's hardscrabble upbringing in one of the wealthiest towns in the U.S. The "mockumentary" is in the style of other candidate biographies shown at conventions, and is told from the perspective of the people who know Mitt best, including his wife Ann Romney.

To celebrate the release, and to coincide with Romney's acceptance of the Republican nomination, we're having an online watch party Thursday evening. Will you watch with us? Click here to view the trailer and RSVP for the online watch party:

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

Thanks for all you do. –Lenore, Victoria, Mark, Carrie, and the rest of the team

Source:

¹"Poll: Mitt Romney better for the rich," Politico, Aug. 27, 2012, <http://www.moveon.org/r?r=279545&id=50069-20195165-eiUULAx&t=1>.

[20120829-03](#)

10:49

SteveB

From the Right: "The War on Drugs: Because Prohibition Worked So Well..."

"The War on Drugs: Because Prohibition Worked So Well..." by John Stossel, Human Events

Aug. 29, 2012, (<http://www.humanevents.com/2012/08/29/stossel-the-war-on-drugs-because-prohibition-worked-so-well/>)

Forty years ago, the United States locked up fewer than 200 of every 100,000 Americans. Then President Nixon declared war on drugs. Now we lock up more of our people than any other country — more even than the authoritarian regimes in Russia and China.

A war on drugs — on people, that is — is unworthy of a country that claims to be free.

Unfortunately, this outrage probably won't be discussed in Tampa or Charlotte.

The media (including Fox News) run frightening stories about Mexican cocaine cartels and marijuana gangs. Few of my colleagues stop to think that this is a consequence of the war, that decriminalization would end the violence. There are no wine "cartels" or beer "gangs." No one "smuggles" liquor. Liquor dealers are called "businesses," not "gangs," and they "ship" products instead of "smuggling" them. They settle disputes with lawyers rather than guns.

Everything can be abused, but that doesn't mean government can stop it. Government runs amok when it tries to protect us from ourselves.

Drug-related crime occurs because the drugs are available only through the artificially expensive black market. Drug users steal not because drugs drive them to steal. Our government says heroin and nicotine are similarly addictive, but no one robs convenience stores to get Marlboros. (That could change with confiscatory tobacco taxes.)

Are defenders of the drug war aware of the consequences? I don't think so.

John McWhorter, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, indicts the drug war for "destroying black America." McWhorter, by the way, is black.

McWhorter sees prohibition as the saboteur of black families. "Enduring prison time is seen as a badge of strength. It's regarded (with some justification) as an unjust punishment for selling people something they want. The ex-con is a hero rather than someone who went the wrong way."

He enumerates the positive results from ending prohibition. "No more gang wars over turf, no more kids shooting each other. ... Men get jobs, as they did in the old days, even in the worst ghettos, because they have to."

Would cheaper and freely available drugs bring their own catastrophe? "Our discomfort with the idea of heroin available at drugstores is similar to that of a Prohibitionist shuddering at the thought of bourbon at the corner store. We'll get over it."

The media tell us that some drugs are so powerful that one "hit" or "snort" will hook the user forever. But the government's own statistics disprove that. The National Institutes of Health found that 36 million Americans have tried crack. But only 12 percent have used it in the previous year, and fewer than 6 percent have used it in the previous month. If crack is so addictive, how did 88 percent of the users quit?

If drugs were legal, I suppose that at first more people would try them. But most would give them up. Eventually, drug use would diminish, as it has in Portugal, which decriminalized all drugs, and the Netherlands, which allows legal marijuana. More young men would find real jobs; police could focus on real crime.

When the public is this divided about an issue, it's best left to voluntary social pressure instead of legal enforcement. That's how most Americans decide whether to drink alcohol or go to church every week. Private voluntary social networks have their own ways of punishing bad behavior and send more nuanced messages about what's unacceptable. Government's one-size-fits-all rules don't improve on that.

"Once the principle is admitted that it is the duty of the government to protect the individual against his own foolishness," economist Ludwig von Mises wrote, "why not prevent him from reading bad books and bad plays ... ? The mischief done by bad ideologies is more pernicious ... than that done by narcotic drugs."

If we adults own our own bodies, we ought to get to control what we put in them. It's legitimate for government to protect me from reckless drivers and drunken airline pilots — but not to protect me from myself.

"RNC vs DNC – Will Medical Marijuana Decide the Election?" by Steph Sherer, OpEdNews

Aug. 29, 2012, (<http://www.opednews.com/articles/RNC-vs-DNC--Will-Medical-by-Steph-Sherer-120828-535.html>)

**CAN
BROKEN
PROMISES
LOSE
AN ELECTION**

**1 MILLION
MEDICAL MARIJUANA PATIENTS AND
THEIR FAMILIES WILL DECIDE!**

Obama promised the American people that he would lead his agencies based on science and not political ideology, and promised not to interfere with state medical marijuana laws. He has broken both promises. It's his administration's policy that marijuana has no medical value and is more dangerous than methamphetamines. In the first 3.5 years of President Obama, the DEA has raided more medical marijuana facilities than in 8 years of Bush. For this election, 1 million legal medical marijuana patients and their families are being asked to put politics before their health. Tell Obama patients count!

CampWakeUpObama.com

 Americans For
Safe Access
Advancing Legal Medical Marijuana Therapeutics and Research



ASA Poster by Americans For Safe Access (<http://safeaccessnow.org/>)

This week, as the average American begins to pay close attention to the Presidential race during the party conventions, my organization, Americans for Safe Access, is preparing to flood America -- and especially swing states -- with a poster that asks the question, "Can Broken Promises Lose an Election? 1 Million Medical Marijuana

Patients Will Decide." This message is controversial, and many liberals who support President Barack Obama as well as compassionate use are asking why we are targeting a President who once made the boldest pro-access statement in history.

We are sending a message to President Obama and his supporters because he is our President, and his decisions have grave consequences for medical cannabis patients. His administration has rejected our petition to overturn the federal definition of marijuana as without "accepted medical use in the United States" -- a decision that we will challenge in court on October 16th. Obama's administration has raided more medical marijuana facilities in three and a half years than Bush's administration did in eight. And his appointed US Attorneys are shutting down dispensaries left and right, including model operations whose medicine is a lifeline for patients.

ASA has been accused of creating a propaganda campaign that will help Mitt Romney. But that's not the reality on the ground. We are hearing from our grassroots -- and reading in polls -- that medical marijuana patients and their loved ones are considering voting for third-party candidates or not voting at all. This trend is most pronounced in the medical cannabis states that are also swing states, like Colorado and Nevada. In a close election, a few percentage points peeled off to a third party could make the difference in the Electoral College, and we want to wake Obama up to that fact.

Medical marijuana does not have to be a partisan issue -- lawmakers on the Republican side of the aisle have supported and led efforts to respect state laws on compassionate use in state capitols and in Congress. Republicans and Republicans-turned-Independents such as Ron Paul and Lincoln Chaffee have vocally supported medical cannabis access and efforts to reschedule cannabis in the Controlled Substances Act -- a position we will advance in court just weeks before the election.

Medical marijuana patients are sick and tired of being sick and tired. We don't want our issue to be treated like a criminal justice issue, but as a healthcare issue. We need leadership that respects our medical needs. Obama's biggest mistake was trying to deal with medical cannabis in a piecemeal memo. He should have put together a team of agencies along with governors of medical cannabis states to find a long-term solution.

This is not in my control, it is in Obama's hands. If I tried to rally support for Obama, I wouldn't get very far, because the patients and their supporters who tell pollsters they support third-party candidates wouldn't listen. If Obama doesn't wake up to the needs of medical marijuana patients with an indication that his hard line could be softened, these votes will be lost.

That is why I and other medical cannabis supporters are distributing posters throughout the nation. We want Obama's campaign to know that the reason they aren't meeting their volunteer goals in deep-blue counties, or are uncomfortably close in polls in key swing states, is because people who would otherwise be strong supporters are finding this President's policies on cannabis too hard to swallow. And we want Republicans to know that our movement is not just a wing of Democratic party: we are looking for compassionate leadership where we can find it.

It's not too late for the President to turn this around. We want to hear that the Obama administration's historically harsh crackdown on medical cannabis access will be reconsidered, and only then we can begin efforts at rallying supporting in states like Colorado and Nevada. With polls showing the public's overwhelming acceptance of state compassionate use laws, and with an outdated Controlled Substances Act the subject of our court battle in October, there is no reason for President Obama to go down in history as America's latest hardline drug warrior.

If the subject of our posters bothers you, please e-mail the Obama campaign and not me. I am just articulating the sentiment of the one million legal medical marijuana patients. Only Obama can ask for their votes.

20120829-05

11:17 Art

"GOP Platform Through the Years Shows Party's Shift from Moderate to Conservative"

Saw this in an article this morning in the *Washington Post*. Think it may best explain in a few words why former Republican conservatives like me made the jump. Said another way, the party has been taken over by the whackadoos.

"The Republican Party, viewed through its quadrennial platform documents, is consistently business-oriented and committed to a strong defense, but has morphed over the past half-century from a socially moderate, environmentally progressive and fiscally cautious group to a conservative party that is suspicious of government, allied against abortion and motivated by faith."

"GOP Platform Through the Years Shows Party's Shift from Moderate to Conservative" by Marc Fisher, *The Washington Post*

Aug. 28, 2012, (http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/gop-platform-through-the-years-shows-partys-shift-from-moderate-to-conservative/2012/08/28/09094512-ed70-11e1-b09d-07d971dee30a_story.html)

The word "abortion" does not appear in a Republican Party platform until 1976, when the party concedes that it is deeply split between those who support "abortion on demand" and those who seek to protect the lives of the unborn.

The quest for lower taxes does not define Republicanism until the 1980s, and matters of faith play almost no role in the GOP's plank until the 1990s.

The Republican Party, viewed through its quadrennial platform documents, is consistently business-oriented and committed to a strong defense, but has morphed over the past half-century from a socially moderate, environmentally progressive and fiscally cautious group to a conservative party that is suspicious of government, allied against abortion and motivated by faith.

Influenced by the rise of tea party activists, this year's platform, adopted Tuesday at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, has shifted to the right, particularly on fiscal issues. It calls for an audit of the Federal Reserve and a commission to study returning to the gold standard. There are odes of fidelity to the Constitution but also calls for amendments that would balance the federal budget, require a two-thirds majority in Congress to raise taxes and define marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

The new plank urges the transformation of Medicare from an entitlement to a system of personal accounts, increased use of coal for energy and a ban on federal funding to universities that give illegal immigrants in-state tuition rates.

House Speaker John A. Boehner (Ohio) expressed skepticism that the lengthy recitation of the party's positions has much meaning or function.

"Anybody read the party platform? I never met anybody," Boehner told reporters. He said the document should be no more than one page. "That way, Americans could actually read it."

Party platforms are not easy to digest. They are the meat missing from a campaign menu dominated by sweet and sour TV commercials. Platforms are aspirational laundry lists, packed with sops to every interest group that makes up a modern party. But in retrospect, they provide a good guide to where a party is heading.

What it means to be a Republican has changed enormously over the past half-century. The GOP opposed a Palestinian state as late as 1992, went silent on the issue for eight years, then endorsed the idea in its past two planks. During the George H.W. Bush presidency, Republicans acknowledged global warming and boasted of efforts to commit billions of federal dollars to finding solutions. The party then spent two election cycles saying there was too much "scientific uncertainty" before accepting in 2008 that humans have a role in altering the climate.

The GOP, like its opposition, has responded to ideological, demographic and social changes by hardening some of its positions and adopting entirely new planks, all part of an effort to create a coalition capable of winning national elections. In the Republicans' case, that meant adapting and appealing to a new base in the South from the 1970s forward, becoming the dominant party of white suburbia, and finding ways to marry its traditional pro-business foundation with less affluent, more socially conservative voters.

Many positions Republicans often tout as traditionally conservative are actually relatively new to GOP ideology. Indeed, although the party's stance on the issues has shifted rightward over the past 20 years, Republicans have studiously avoided using the word "conservative" in platforms.

For decades, the party presented itself as "moderate" or even "progressive." The 1960 plank, for example, touts "progressive Republican policies" such as "liberal pay" and says the government "must be truly progressive as an employer."

In 1972, the platform celebrates Republicans' use of wage and price controls to curb inflation, a doubling of federal spending on manpower training, and a tripling of help to minorities.

Even the party's most conservative platforms avoid that word, which first appears in 1992. From the 1960s to 2008, platforms liberally criticize "liberals," but "conservative" is used almost exclusively to refer to judges.

From the 1960s through the '80s, each plank reads like a snapshot of its time, capturing the frustrations of the party or the pride of those in power, sometimes wryly needling Democrats, other years slamming them hard. But from the 1990s forward, the platforms exhibit a sameness of rhetorical style, a reflection of the cut-and-paste reality of the computer age, in which entire sentences appear over and over in successive planks.

Even as ritual expressions of solidarity with the Philippines or calls to abolish inheritance taxes survive each round of platform construction, the party line changes markedly on many issues.

For decades, Republicans emphasize federal funding for public transit. Then, in 1980, a turn: "Republicans reject the elitist notion that Americans must be forced out of their cars. Instead, we vigorously support the right of personal mobility and freedom as exemplified by the automobile."

Throughout the 1960s and '70s, the GOP platform includes vigorous support for an equal-rights amendment to protect women. Then, in 1980, the party stalemates: "We acknowledge the legitimate efforts of those who support or oppose ratification."

In the 1960s and '70s, the party positions itself as a strong advocate for D.C. voting rights, in the Senate as well as the House. Then, in 1980, all mention of voting rights vanishes; the subject has not appeared since.

The first appearance of the abortion issue represents a party very much split between business-oriented moderates and religious conservatives: Abortion "is undoubtedly a moral and personal issue" on which Republicans disagree, the 1976 plank says.

Four years later, the issue has been settled: The GOP seeks a constitutional amendment protecting "the right to life for unborn children." By 1992, the platform includes a call to appoint judges who oppose abortion.

Words such as "faith" and "heritage" rarely appear until the 1980s. (In 2000, religion plays an even larger role in the platform as the party goes beyond supporting prayer in public schools by seeking to allow them to post the Ten Commandments.)

The 1960 plank calls for government workers to receive "salaries which are comparable to those offered by private employers." In 1984, public-sector workers are redubbed "bureaucrats" and "Washington's governing elite," and are blamed for "an epidemic of crime, a massive increase in dependency and the slumming of our cities." Republicans pledge a major cut in the government workforce.

The watershed platform of 1980 introduces tax cuts and an increasingly critical attitude toward government. "The Republican Party declares war on government overregulation," it says.

Antipathy toward high taxes strengthens, resulting in 1992 in an explanation of how lowering taxes on the wealthy would lead to job creation, adding a simple declaration: "We will oppose any attempt to increase taxes."

The platforms of 1980 and 1992 are the party's big pivots, both in positions and rhetoric. But the roots of today's Republicanism become clear during the 1964 conservative uprising that led to Barry Goldwater's presidential nomination.

In 1960, Republicans give "firm support" to "the union shop and other forms of union security" and say that "Republican conscience and Republican policy require that the annual number of immigrants we accept be at least doubled." Four years later, the GOP bashes Democrats for being "federal extremists" wedded to an ever more intrusive central government. (Calls to limit benefits for illegal immigrants and deny citizenship to U.S.-born children whose parents arrived here illegally enter the platform in 1996.)

The optimism of 1960 — brimming with hope about new nations, weapons and ideas — gives way four years later to worry about "moral decline and drift" born of "indifference to national ideals rounded in devoutly held religious faith." Suddenly, faith is at the core of Republicanism: The 1960 plank says nothing about religion; four years later, "faith" is one of the most frequently used words, along with "heritage" and "freedom."

In 1960, the platform calls for "vigorous support of court orders for school desegregation" and affirms the rights of civil rights protesters. The 1964 plank calls for "discouraging lawlessness and violence" and "opposing federally sponsored 'inverse discrimination.'"

The shift in substance comes with a notable pivot in tone. From the 1960 platform: "We have no wish to exaggerate differences between ourselves and the Democratic Party." Four years later: "Let the Democratic Party stand accused."

On foreign policy, Republicans remain mostly consistent, calling for increased defense spending to combat communism. But the 1964 plank foreshadows the skepticism about the United Nations that would become a GOP mainstay from the 1990s forward. In 1960, the party pledges to "support and strengthen the U.N." Four years later, it warns that "Republicans will never surrender to any international group the responsibility of the United States for its sovereignty."

If the fiery rhetoric of 1964 presaged the Reagan and tea party revolutions, the path was not smooth. The Richard M. Nixon years brought a return — in the platform, if not in the coarser approach revealed in the Nixon White House tapes — of a more moderate message.

The 1968 platform would strike many voters today as a Democratic agenda — addressing air and water pollution, crowded slums, and discrimination against minorities, all with "a new mix of private responsibility and public participation in the solution of social problems."

The '68 plank also proposes to expand Social Security by lowering the age for universal coverage from 72 to 65. Future platforms remain supportive of maintaining benefits until 2004, when the party endorses George W. Bush's proposal to shift to personal retirement accounts.

But amid that progressive Republicanism, the roots of the culture wars to come poke through the soil. The '72 platform opposes quotas to achieve racial balance in college admissions and hiring, and rails against liberal hegemony on campuses. (That theme remains through 2008, when the platform says that "leftist dogmatism dominates many institutions.")

By 1992, "family values" become a major theme. The platform states that "the media, the entertainment industry, academia and the Democrat Party are waging a guerrilla war against American values." (That abbreviated version of the other party's name, without the "-ic" suffix, appears for the first time in 1976, an early sign of the sniping that has come to dominate interparty rhetoric.)

The '92 plank, the first to mention same-sex relationships, rejects any recognition of gay marriage or allowing same-sex couples to adopt children or become foster parents. The stand against adoption and foster care does not reappear.

The passage about marriage grows longer and more strident every four years, culminating in the 2004 call, echoed in 2008, for the amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. From 1996 through 2008, Republicans repeat that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

The GOP also evolves on campaign finance. In 1992, it calls for reforms that include the elimination of "political action committees supported by corporations, unions or trade associations." By 2000, that position morphs into one championing "the right of every individual and all groups to express their opinions and advocate their issues" — a veiled reference to efforts to eliminate limits on campaign contributions.

And the party's attitude on the balance between civil liberties and aggressive security measures shifts dramatically after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The 1996 and 2000 platforms oppose President Bill Clinton's decision to close Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, promising to reopen the street. But later platforms embrace George W. Bush's emphasis on the vigorous expansion of the government's role in homeland security.

(Rosalind S. Helderman and Karen Tumulty in Tampa contributed to this report.)

[20120829-10](#) 14:54 Pam Re: "GOP Platform Through the Years..." (reply to Art, above)

I actually think this phenomenon goes far beyond the Republican party; I think it is world-wide. Europe has Jean-Marie la Pen, and Holland has politicians who are as informed about pregnancy as Mr. Akin. "Modern" Islamic countries are being taken over by reactionary fundamentalists, and humanity seems divided between the haters/fearers and the Kantian followers of the Golden Rule. We are indeed one world, more so now than ever, and our politics reflect that, not just in the U.S. but across the globe. I feel a paradigm shift coming on.

[20120829-06](#) 12:35 SteveB "Welcome to GOP Nutland!"

"Welcome to GOP Nutland!" by Jim Hightower, NationofChange

Aug. 29, 2012, (<http://www.nationofchange.org/welcome-gop-nutland-1346246625>)

While it's hard to fathom right-wing nuttiness, it's sure not hard to find these days.

We saw it bloom spectacularly recently, popping right out of the head of Todd Akin, the GOP's Senate candidate in Missouri. The learned congressman gave America a twisted tutorial on the imaginary science of "legitimate rape," including an astonishing assertion of his belief in medical mojo. Akin explained that raped women don't get pregnant because — according to his grasp of reproductive science — the female body has ways "to shut that whole thing down."

Whoa! Screamed Mitt Romney and the entire Republican hierarchy, as they rushed to declare Akin out-of-bounds, unacceptable and ... well, nutty.

But wait. Guess who's presently cosponsoring legislation with Akin to impose this theological witchcraft on America's women? Why it's Romney's choice to hold the second-highest office in our nation, VP nominee Paul Ryan. Like his buddy Todd, Ryan has sponsored many bills to deny abortion to victims of rape.

Now, guess which party has just fully embraced Akin's nuttiness by including his absolutist "no-abortion-even-in-the-case-of-rape" provision in its national platform? Yes, the Romney-Ryan Republicans. Yet, that same party's panicked Poobahs have pronounced Akin's views so extreme that he should withdraw from the Missouri Senate race. Excuse me, but — logically speaking — doesn't that mean Ryan should also withdraw from his race?

Of course, in the fantasy universe of the far right, logic is an alien intruder, barred from interfering with either approved doctrine or political expediency. Indeed, here's their idea of logic: Akin, a devout worshipper of junk science, is a member of the House Committee on Science. Go figure.

And if you find that surreal, let me add that his committee assignment is hardly the only illogical perversion in the doctrinal right's carefully constructed NutLand.

Michele Bachmann, for example, is a member of the House Intelligence Committee.

While Akin's pseudo-scientific tommyrot about "legitimate rape" has surged him into the lead for the title of Dottiest and Most Dangerous Political Nut of the Year, never count out us Texans in any hard-nut contest.

Our state's DMDPNY front-runner had been Ted Cruz, currently the GOP candidate for U.S. Senate, who's deeply concerned that the United Nations is plotting to take over America's golf courses. Suddenly, however, a dark horse from Lubbock has shot past Cruz and seized the lead. County Judge Tom Head, perhaps suffering from the heat of August, shocked and delighted the right-wing-o-sphere by demonstrating in an Aug. 21 interview that it's actually humanly possible to get even nuttier about President Obama than simply ranting that he's a Kenyan Muslim socialist. I'll let Head speak for himself.

"In this political climate, what is the worst thing that could happen? Obama gets back in the White House," he answered to his own question. "No. God forbid," he added. Why? Plunging deeper into paranoid darkness, Head announced that a re-elected Obama is "going to try to hand over the sovereignty of the United States to the U.N." And that, warned Head, will lead to the worst: "Civil unrest, civil disobedience, civil war, maybe. We're talking Lexington, Concord, take up arms and get rid of the guy. Now what's going to happen if we do that?" asked Head as he built to his logical conclusion: "(Obama's) going to send in U.N. troops."

However, Head (who oversees emergency preparedness in the county) told Lubbockians not to worry, for if they approve a local tax increase, he will use the money to recruit and train more police to combat Obama's diabolical U.N. takeover scheme. "I don't want 'em in Lubbock County," Head said. "So I'm going to stand in front of their armored personnel carrier and say, 'You're not coming in here.'"

Thank you, Judge Head, for showing America just what you're made of: a sack of nuts and a bucket of silly putty.

20120829-07	13:13	SteveG	"Lying for the Lord"
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Interesting...

"Lying for the Lord" by Ken Clark, MormonThink

2008, (<http://www.mormonthink.com/lying.htm>)

Evidence presented in this essay establishes that when the church image or its leaders needed protection it was and is, okay to fib, deceive, distort, inflate, minimize, exaggerate, prevaricate or lie. You will read quotations by church leaders who admitted that deception is a useful tool to protect the church and its leaders "when they are in a tight spot," or "to beat the devil at his own game." They admit engaging in moral gymnastics; that God approves of deception - if it's done to protect the "Lord's Church" or "the brethren" as the leaders are called.

I was stunned after I learned these uncomfortable truths. I had naively believed that when church leaders transgressed, they followed the required steps of repentance, as taught to members and investigators. I believed they had the courage to face their mistakes and confess their shortcomings, no matter what the consequences; to live the same standards they set for the members. I believed they were completely honest.

D. Michael Quinn called the use of deception by LDS church leaders, "theocratic ethics." (The Mormon Hierarchy: Origins of Power, page 112) Smith lied to protect himself or the church; which was an extension of himself. Dan Vogel in his excellent work, Joseph Smith: The Making of a Prophet, described Smith's viewpoint; he was a pious deceiver. Smith used deception if in his mind; it resulted in a good outcome. Smith had Moroni, an ancient American prophet and custodian of the gold plates declare, "And whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do good is of me; for good cometh of none save it be of me. (Moroni 4:11-12). Translation: if deception was necessary to do good, or bring a soul to Christ, then it was worth it, as long as God approves. Smith believed he knew when God approved of lying.

[Continue reading at MormonThink...](#)

[20120829-13](#) 15:06 Pam Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to SteveG, above)

It's obvious Romney is a Mormon through and through. He'll say ANYTHING.

[20120829-14](#) 15:10 Dennis Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to Pam, above)

And he's so effective. Two years in Paris on his mission and he converted no one!

[20120829-15](#) 15:15 Pam Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to Dennis, above)

It is my belief (and I speak for no one else) that the Mormon Church sends young men out on missions to places where they know no one to get them away from the normal temptations young men face. They send them in pairs so they can report on each other. They are not allowed to date during those two years, to say nothing of having a coke or a cup of coffee. I'm all for reigning in young men, but missionaries of all stripes are offensive to me.

[20120829-19](#) 18:14 SteveB Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to Pam & Dennis, above)

Can you imagine the difficulty in converting Parisians to Mormonism? Golden plates of Jesus in America? Multiple wives? The French already have that in the form of multiple mistresses.

Why do Mormons even try such a task?

[20120829-21](#) 18:31 Dennis Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to SteveB, above)

Like the French would give up drinking wine for some bogus religion. Only a naive Mormon kid would attempt that one.

[20120829-22](#) 19:55 Art Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to SteveB, above)

But what a great place to send the rich Mormon elite, especially to avoid the draft.

[20120829-23](#) 20:22 SteveB Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to Art, above)

Ya, that's a very slick trick, when you think about it.

Mohammed Ali just needed to be a little more organized. (or not black, or Mormon not Muslim)

The government gave-up long ago messing with something like the Mormon Church. The Church owns half the West, but pays no taxes. What if the Mormon Church is just a another big tax avoidance scheme?

They also still practice polygamy. Someone in Montana gets arrested for it every few months, it seems, always Mormon.

Not that I think religion should be the subject of this election. Jeez! A Muslim against a Jerk...I mean, a Muslim against a Mormon, who's to choose? But, honestly, to me, and not anything to do with the election, the Mormons are a cult. They have all the earmarks.

[20120829-24](#) 20:26 SteveG Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to SteveB, above)

Can a Scientologist be far behind?

[20120829-25](#) 20:39 Pam Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to SteveG, above)

Peas in a pod.

[20120829-26](#) 20:42 SteveB Re: "Lying for the Lord" (reply to SteveG & Pam, above)

Scientologists invented the cultish earmarks. But it's a perfect fit for Tom Cruise...short!

[20120829-09](#) 14:54 SteveG "Fact Check: Christie's Keynote Address"

"Fact Check: Christie's Keynote Address" by Eugene Kiely and Lori Robertson, [FactCheck.org](http://factcheck.org)

Aug. 29, 2012, (<http://www.usatoday.com/news/politics/story/2012-08-29/christie-keynote-fact-check-rnc/57400644/1>)

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie largely avoided factual claims in a Republican convention keynote address that was heavy on generalities, opinion and platitudes. The pugnacious former prosecutor exaggerated a bit, though, when he bragged about his accomplishments as governor, and he repeated the common but false claim that the president's health care law interferes with the doctor-patient relationship.

- Christie said he delivered "three balanced budgets with lower taxes." Actually, he cut the state Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income residents and the popular property-tax rebate program for renters and homeowners. It's a matter of interpretation whether those are tax hikes or spending reductions. A proposed 10% income tax cut hasn't been enacted.
- He said he took on public-sector unions to reform a pension system "headed to bankruptcy" and "saved retirees their pension." That's accurate as far as it goes. But the state is not fully funding the revamped system, and the pension liabilities gap will begin to grow again.
- Regarding teachers, Christie said he ended "the guarantee of a job for life regardless of performance." That's correct. Christie worked with a Democratic Legislature to make significant changes to the tenure system — even providing a path to fire tenured teachers with negative evaluations.
- On state taxes, Christie said "we have three balanced budgets with lower taxes." First of all, New Jersey, like many states, requires a balanced budget. But did he balance the budget "with lower taxes"? He did sign into law some business tax incentives, but broad-based income and sales taxes have not changed. He has proposed lowering income taxes by 10% across the board, but that measure has yet to pass.

In fact, Christie has cut state payments that his critics say amount to tax increases. He cut more than \$800 million from the state's popular property-tax rebate program in his fiscal year 2011 budget. The *Star-Ledger* reported that Christie "eliminated rebates for nearly 103,700 renters and cut rebates for everybody else by 75%." He increased funding for the program in fiscal 2012, but has not fully restored the cuts.

Christie also cut the state Earned Income Tax Credit from 25% of the federal benefit to 20% in fiscal 2011, and later vetoed a bill to restore it. The left-leaning New Jersey Policy Perspective estimates that the \$100 million cut over two years has reduced tax credits by \$200 per family.

Christie has made some sweeping changes in state pensions and teacher tenure rules in a state with strong labor unions.

The governor said he overhauled the state's pension system and "saved retirees their pension." As we have reported before, Christie last year signed a law that required public employees to pay more into the pension system, suspended cost of living increases for retirees, and reduced the state's growing unfunded pension liabilities.

But four months later, the *Star-Ledger* wrote — in a story headlined "Christie's overhaul may not save N.J. pension system" — that the state was underfunding the pension system and, as a result, the unfunded liabilities gap would begin to widen again.

The paper said, "The 'unfunded liability' — the difference between how much the pension system has and what has been promised to current and future retirees — dropped from \$53.9 billion to \$35.4 billion after the law was signed, the state said in bond documents. But because the state won't be making full pension payments, the gap will swell again to \$58 billion by 2019, according to the state's estimates."

Fred Beaver, a former state pension director, told the *Star-Ledger* the governor's changes were "admirable" but ultimately "paper reform" unless the state makes its payments.

On the other hand, the *Star-Ledger* called the governor's overhaul of the state's tenure laws "dramatic."

Star-Ledger, June 25, 2012: The bill would make a series of dramatic changes to a law first enacted in 1909. The most important would institute a new system of yearly evaluations for teachers and principals based partly on growth in student test scores — a move that sets New Jersey on the same path as Indiana, New York, Washington, D.C., and others....

But any teacher, regardless of seniority, could be fired after two years of negative evaluations. Disputes would be handled through arbitration instead of administrative law judges, which proponents say would drive down costs for school districts that can get enmeshed in costly battles.

Christie also repeated a false claim about the health care law interfering with doctor-patient relationships.

Christie: Romney will tell us the hard truths we need to hear to end the debacle of putting the world's greatest health care system in the hands of federal bureaucrats and putting those bureaucrats between an American citizen and her doctor.

As we just said in our first item on the convention, the Affordable Care Act doesn't create a government-run system, like that of Britain or Canada, nor does it regulate the work of doctors. Republicans often call the Independent Payment Advisory Board, which would recommend ways to slow the growth of Medicare spending, "bureaucrats" that would ration care. But the IPAB, made up of health care professionals, economists and others, wouldn't have the power to do that, according to the law.

20120829-11	14:55	Dennis	"The Recovery Is Beginning"
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If Obama is doing so poorly, according to every GOP Convention speaker, why are investment letters saying the opposite?

"The Recovery Is Beginning" by Marc Lichtenfeld, Investment U

Aug. 29, 2012, (<http://www.investментu.com/2012/August/the-recovery-is-beginning.html>)

Ever since the financial system was on the brink of complete collapse four years ago, it's been a tough slog. But that shouldn't be unexpected. This was no ordinary recession.

When someone recovers from the flu, it takes a week or two before they're feeling 100%. On the other hand if someone was in intensive care with double pneumonia, it's going to be quite a while before they're feeling back to themselves.

Well, in 2008 and early 2009, not only was the U.S. economy in intensive care with double pneumonia, but Presidents Bush and Obama, along with Hank Paulson had to break out the defibrillator a few times to revive the patient. The recuperation process was going to be long.

But now the patient is home, up and moving around again and on the road to recovery. There's still a long way to go, but make no mistake about it – things are improving:

- In August, building permits were up 6.8% from last year.
- Employers added 163,000 jobs in July, higher than the 73,000 average from April – June.
- Timber company Weyerhaeuser (NYSE: WY), whose revenue is 84% tied to housing, saw second quarter revenue higher than it has been in several years.
- More employees are going on strike. According to Barron's, RBC Global Asset Management noted that there have been 17 incidences of walkouts with 1,000 or more employees – the highest since 2004-2005. That's a sign of confidence on the part of labor.
- In South Florida, one of the hardest hit areas by the popping of the real estate bubble, there are so many new construction projects in my small town, it's hard to keep track.
- Brand new buildings are going up to house restaurants including McDonald's (NYSE: MCD) and YUM! Brands' (NYSE: YUM) Taco Bell. Toys R Us is expanding its store. New strip malls are being constructed when just two years ago, existing ones were vacant.
- Housing prices in South Florida rose 2.8% in July, the eight consecutive monthly increase. This is a market where a year ago, you couldn't give a house away.
- And in some parts of Northern California, housing is back to the fervor experienced during the dot come days. A realtor told me of a friend who bid on a house only to be one of 25 people making an offer. Another worked with a client on a condo that received seven offers and went for 9% above the asking price. She now has a client bidding more than 12% above what the seller is asking for.

Last week, I talked about following the smart money. If anyone qualifies as smart money, it's the management of companies like McDonald's, YUM! Brands and Weyerhaeuser.

Intel (Nasdaq: INTC), the world's largest semiconductor maker is investing \$300 million into a new facility in Chandler, AZ. General Motors (NYSE: GM) will spend \$220 million at two factories in Ohio. In October, Tanger Factory Outlet (NYSE: SKT) and Simon Property Group (NYSE: SPG) will jointly open a 350,000 square foot retail center in Texas.

Surprise! Stocks are up 20% this year...

Things obviously aren't all lollipops and rainbows. There are still way too many people who need work and are struggling. We continue to have real problems that need to be tackled. But economies are cyclical and do bounce back, even after the extreme conditions of a few years ago – and that's what we're starting to experience now.

The markets know this. The stock market is a forward looking indicator. It's likely why stocks have gained over 12% year to date and 20% in the past year.

If the 20% gains of the market over the past year were for a full calendar year, it would be the 22nd best performance in the past 84 years. The good news is 20% gains in the market has been a good indication of future economic growth. Let's take a look at the five markets closest to the past year's performance.

- In 1967, the stock market rose 20.02%. The following year, GDP rose by 4.8%.
- In 2009 and 1963, the market climbed 19.67% each year. GDP grew 3.2% in 2010 and 5.2% in 1964.
- In 1999, the market grew by 19.64% resulting in a 2.9% increase in GDP.
- And in 1996, when the market rose by 19.33%, GDP was higher by 4.4% just 12 months later.

After so many years of suffering, it may be difficult to picture brighter days ahead, but rest assured, they're coming. That's not me being my usual cheerful self. That's the numbers and executives of some of America's top companies talking.

After a near death experience, the patient is about to go back to work. Before you know it, he'll be back at the gym and on the golf course. Let's stop treating him as an invalid and start recognizing that things will return to normal.

[20120829-12](#) 15:02 Pam Re: "The Recovery Is Beginning" (reply to Dennis, above)

I love this! A ray of hope.

[20120829-16](#) 15:52 Ben Today's Lunch at Apple

Lunch — Wednesday, August 29, 2012

Bistro

Seared halibut (\$7): Local Texas Gulf halibut. Served with mushroom risotto, roasted beets, and citrus cream sauce. Contains vegan butter, extra-virgin olive oil, Portobello, black fungus, shiitake, oyster, bunapi, beech, and maitake mushrooms, shallots, garlic, lemon zest and juice, cream, and butter.

Mushroom risotto (\$7): Served with roasted beets, citrus cream, and sautéed spinach and arugula. Contains garlic, shallots, mushroom stock, and Portobello, black fungus, shiitake, oyster, bunapi, beech, and maitake mushrooms.

Grilled chicken Caesar salad (\$7): Garnished with tomatoes, olives, and croutons. Contains garlic, anchovies, capers, Dijon mustard, lemon, parmesan, canola oil, flour, and wheat.

Far East

Chicken dilruba (\$7): Chicken breast simmered in punjabi curry sauce with roasted cauliflower, Serrano riata, naan bread, and choice of white or brown basmati rice. Contains stewed mustard greens, eggplant, walnuts, almonds, yoghurt, Indian spices, gram flour, dry mango powder, garlic, ginger, onions, and lime juice.

Makki paneer pakora (\$7): Grated and cubed paneer cheese simmered in corn curry sauce with roasted cauliflower, Serrano riata, naan bread, and choice of white or brown basmati rice. Contains stewed mustard greens, paneer cheese, cream, Greek non-fat yoghurt, Indian spices, gram flour, dry mango powder, garlic, ginger, onions, and lime juice.

Coconut lassi (\$2): Yogurt based drink with coconut milk, lime, and cardamom.

South of the Border

Grilled chicken "al pastor" tortas (\$6.50): Mexican sandwich served with marinated grilled chicken, refried beans, drunken grilled pineapple, Cotija cheese crema, lettuce, tomatoes, cilantro, and Chihuahua cheese. Contains guajillo chilies, orange, lime, and lemon juices, onions, garlic, chipotle peppers, tequila, spices, cilantro, and beer.

Today's fillings

Tofu fajitas: Fried tofu, bell peppers, and onions.

Marinated grilled chicken thigh: Paprika, garlic, onions, cayenne, chile powder, lime juice, canola oil, salt, and pepper.

Beef picadillo: Pickled jalapeños, carrots, onions, tomatoes, and beer.

Al Forno

Chicken Caesar salad pizza (\$6.50): With anchovies, grilled romaine lettuce, pecorino cheese, olive oil, mozzarella cheese, and Caesar dressing. Contains anchovies and egg.

Pasta

Bucatini with chicken meatballs and marinara (\$7): Contains carrots, celery, onions, garlic, tomatoes, and red wine.

Tofu parmesan (\$7): With grilled eggplant and bucatini with marinara. Contains carrots, celery, onions, garlic, red wine, tomatoes, and breadcrumbs.

Salad

Broccoli salad (\$2): With shallots, sunflower seeds, cranberries, salt, pepper, house-made mayonnaise, and honey.

Fruit salad (\$2): With honeydew, pineapples, strawberries, blueberries, cilantro, orange juice, champagne vinegar, salt, and Serrano peppers.

Pasta salad (\$2): With Asiago cheese, sour cream, house-made mayonnaise, olive oil, parsley, shallots, garlic, sun-dried tomatoes, Kalamata olives, and spinach.

Soup

Thai hot and sour coconut chicken (large \$3.50, small \$2): With tamarind, chile powder, coconut milk, mushrooms, brown sugar, fish sauce, chicken stock, chicken thigh, ginger, kaffir leaf, lemongrass, and lime juice.

Roasted carrot fennel (large \$3.50 small \$2): With onions, sugar, vegetables stock, roasted carrots, and roasted fennel.

Dessert

Chocolate chip cookie (\$1): With butter, brown sugar, sugar, salt, flour, eggs, vanilla extract, baking powder, baking soda, and chocolate chips.

Snickerdoodle (\$1): With butter, eggs, light brown sugar, flour, salt, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder, and vanilla extract.

Crispy chewy pecan and oats (\$1.25): With butter, sugar, flour, rolled oats, pecans, eggs, marshmallows, baking soda, baking powder, vanilla extract, and salt.

Chai chocolate cake (\$2.50): Made with chai, molasses cake, chai and gianduja chocolate ganache, espresso buttercream, and Italian meringue.

Flourless English breakfast tea cake (\$3): Flourless vanilla sponge cake layered with English breakfast tea infused buttercream, Valrhona Caramelia chocolate, and tea ganache with tempered pistachio dark chocolate.

Peach maple hand pie (\$3.50): White peaches poached in lemon syrup, almond crème, Blis maple syrup, toasted pecans in a hand made puff pastry.

Cookies ricotta cheesecake (\$3): Chocolate cookie crumbs and cream on almond crust.

Rose white chocolate panna cotta (\$1.50): With yogurt-vanilla jelly. Contains gelatin.

Caramelized poached plum tart (\$3): Plums poached in a gin, thyme, and vanilla syrup, then caramelized with brown sugar, vanilla bean, and thyme custard, and in a sugar tart shell.

Chocolate devil's food pudding cake (\$3): Goopy devil's food cake folded with Valrhona 35% milk chocolate, fresh brewed coffee, chocolate crème anglaise, and shaved bitter chocolate.

Ultimate vanilla pudding cake (\$2.50): House-made yellow vanilla cake, creamy vanilla bean pudding center, and fresh strawberries.

Well, the menu said "Halibut" and I was looking forward to it. One of the easiest of fishes to overcook, the Apple Cafeteria gets it right. Tray in hand, I got in line, only to discover that the halibut hadn't shipped; we got mahi mahi instead. A lesser fish, perhaps, but in no way disappointing. My generous filet was over an inch thick, succulent and moist, just short of juicy, barely opaque, and completely wonderful and fork-flakable and all that stuff you want a great piece of fish to be. Complementing this yummy morsel was a pair of pairs of thick beet slices: 2 red, 2 golden... a beautiful, savory mushroom risoto... a generous blob of lightly sauteed spinach... and a twist of exotic mushrooms as a garnish. Delicious!



Seared Mahi Mahi, 'room risoto, beets, spinach



Faith's Caramelized Poached Plum Tart



20120829-18	17:39	Charis	"Bolivian Police Confiscate \$50 Million of Uranium in La Paz" & Video: Festival Internacional de Cine Verde en Bolivia. Septiembre a Noviembre 2012
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[This story is completely crazy, but it illustrates, I think, how much goes on in the world that we don't know about. Was this destined for Iran? Mexico? –SteveB]

"Bolivian Police Confiscate \$50 Million of Uranium in La Paz" translated by BoliviaBella

Aug. 28, 2012, (<http://www.boliviabella.com/bolivian-police-confiscate-50-million-of-uranium-in-la-paz.html>)

(LA PAZ) An elite police unit carried out an operation at a private home in downtown La Paz, confiscating 2 tons of uranium. As a result, four Bolivian citizens have been detained. The uranium is valued at approximately \$50 million dollars, according to preliminary information provided by the police. Bolivia appears to have been a "transit" country for the uranium, the destination of which was allegedly the Republic of China. The home is located on Campos Street, near the corner of Arce Avenue.

Additionally, what causes some consternation is that the arrested citizens used the written media to publicize the product. Uranium is a health hazard for neighbors in the area. Laboratory personnel are carrying out the respective analyses. Police and investigators will work to find out to what degree the four citizens were involved. The Viceminister of the Interior, Jorge Pérez, indicated that uranium is highly radioactive and clarified that Bolivia does not produce uranium.

Source: Eju.tv, Aug. 28, 2012, Read Original Article in Spanish: <http://eju.tv/?p=229381>.

Festival Internacional de Cine Verde en Bolivia. Septiembre a Noviembre 2012

Promo Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNEfcEvCslI&feature=share&list=UURRERgwmG2jAcGwYWQ0-vxw>.

20120829-27 20:44 SteveM Fw: Why Mitt R0mney Is Unlikable!
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[Source of original email unknown. –SteveB]

Why Mitt R0mney is Unlikable!

A lot is being said in the media about Mitt Romney not being "likable" or that he doesn't "relate well" to people. Frankly, we struggled to understand why. So after much research, we have come up with a Top Ten List to explain this "unlikability."

Top Ten Reasons to Dislike Mitt R0mney:

1. Drop-dead, collar-ad handsome with gracious, statesmanlike aura. Looks like every central casting's #1 choice for Commander-in-Chief.
2. Been married to ONE woman his entire life, and has been faithful to her, including through her bouts with breast cancer and MS.
3. No scandals or skeletons in his closet. (How boring is that?)
4. Can't speak in a fake, southern, "black preacher voice" when necessary.
5. Highly intelligent. Graduated cum laude from both Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School...and by the way, his academic records are NOT sealed.
6. Doesn't smoke or drink alcohol, and has never done drugs, not even in the counter-culture age when he went to college. Too square for today's America?
7. Represents an America of "yesterday", where people believed in God, went to Church, didn't screw around, worked hard, and became a SUCCESS!
8. Has a family of five great sons....and none of them have police records or are in drug rehab. But of course, they were raised by a stay-at-home mom, and that "choice" deserves America's scorn.
9. Oh yes.....he's a MORMON. We need to be very afraid of that very strange religion that teaches its members to be clean-living, patriotic, fiscally conservative, charitable, self-reliant, and honest.
10. And one more point.....pundits say because of his wealth, he can't relate to ordinary Americans. I guess that's because he made that money HIMSELF.....as opposed to marrying it or inheriting it from Dad.

Apparently, he didn't understand that actually working at a job and earning your own money made you unrelatable to Americans. My goodness, it's a strange world, isn't it?

Personal Information:

His full Name is: Willard Mitt R0mney.

He was Born: March 12, 1947 and is 65 years old.

His Father: George W. Romney, former Governor of the State of Michigan

He was raised in Bloomfield Hills , Michigan

He is Married to Ann R0mney since 1969; they have five children.

Education: B. A. from Brigham Young University, J. D. and M.B.A. from Harvard University

Religion: Mormon - The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints

Working Background:

After high school, he spent 30 months in France as a Mormon missionary. After going to both Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School simultaneously, he passed the Michigan bar exam, but never worked as an attorney. In 1984, he co-founded Bain Capital a private equity investment firm, one of the largest such firms in the United States.

In 1994, he ran for Senator of Massachusetts and lost to Ted Kennedy.

He was President and CEO of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

In 2002, he was elected Governor of the State of Massachusetts where he eliminated a 1.5 billion deficit.

Some Interesting Facts about Romney:

Bain Capital, starting with one small office supply store in Massachusetts, turned it into Staples; now over 2,000 stores employing 90,000 people. Bain Capital also worked to perform the same kinds of business miracles again and again, with companies like Domino's, Sealy, Brookstone, Weather Channel, Burger King, Warner Music Group, Dollarama, Home Depot Supply and many others.

He was an unpaid volunteer campaign worker for his dad's gubernatorial campaign 1 year.

He was an unpaid intern in his dad's governor's office for eight years.

He was an unpaid bishop and state president of his church for ten years.

He was an unpaid President of the Salt Lake Olympic Committee for three years.

He took no salary and was the unpaid Governor of Massachusetts for four years. He gave his entire inheritance from his father to charity.

Mitt Romney is one of the wealthiest self-made men in our country but has given more back to its citizens in terms of money, service and time than most men.

And in 2011 Mitt Romney gave over \$4 million to charity, almost 19% of his income....

Just for comparison purposes, Obama gave 1% and Joe Biden gave \$300 or .0013%. Mitt Romney is Trustworthy:

He will show us his high school and college transcripts.

He will show us his social security card.

He will show us his law degree.

He will show us his draft notice.

He will show us his medical records.

Mitt Romney's background, experience and trustworthiness show him to be a great leader and an excellent citizen for President of the United States. You may think that Romney may not be the best representative the Republicans

could have selected. At least I know what religion he is, and that he won't desecrate the flag, bow down to foreign powers, or practice fiscal irresponsibility.

I know he has the ability to turn around this financial debacle that the current regime has gotten us into. We won't like all the things necessary to recover from this debt, but someone with Romney's background can do it.

But, on the minus side, he never was a "Community Organizer", never took drugs or smoked pot, never got drunk, did not associate with communists or terrorists, nor did he attend a church whose pastor called for God to damn the US.

[20120829-28](#) 20:45 SteveM Graphic: Here's How Stupid Obama Is!

**Some people say I'm stupid.
Really?
Here's how "stupid" I am:**

I was hired by over 69 million voters who didn't even do a routine background check on me. I'm doing a lousy, stinking job, with a record number of people out of work. I gave guns to Mexican drug gangs, I kill innocent people all over the world with drone strikes, and I decide which laws I'm going to enforce and which ones I won't. I've doubled the deficit. I've ruined our health care system. And yet I still stand an excellent chance of being re-hired.

That's how stupid I am.
NOW, HOW STUPID ARE YOU?

[20120829-29](#) 20:51 SteveB Re: Here's How Stupid Obama Is! (reply to SteveM, above)

Apparently not stupid enough to believe these lies!

[20120829-30](#) 21:05 SteveM Re: Here's How Stupid Obama Is! (reply to SteveB, above)

Ah, don't put yourself down, SteveB, you certainly ARE stupid enough!!

BTW, there have been 2000 US deaths in Afghanistan, half of them in the past 27 months. Who's your Prez? You are stupid enough to believe if the lame stream media doesn't report this fact, this way, it doesn't exist and BHO is blameless, but had it been a Bush. you'd be stupid enough to show you NONE middle, partisan slant. No damn wonder little gets done in Wastington with friends of the middle like you!

And you, a Republican, think an American President should just (what?) walk away from Bush's war?

It wasn't enough for you that Obama ended Bush's disastrous war in Iraq?

Getting out of Bush's other mess is harder. Do you have any suggestions that wouldn't be harmful to American interests? R0mney doesn't seem to, and Ryan has no idea where Af-who-sistan might be.



Where Paul Ryan wants to return the middle class and the poor: ANCIENT TIMES in the Wisconsin Dells, blessed with a "selfish" evangelical administration? No, thanks!

<http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=24634>



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

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