



## FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #219 — SEPT. 5, 2012

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

**INDEX: Click here.**

### **You Go, Girl!**

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Sept. 5, 2012)

Funny...we're not talking today about gaffes, lies, and stupidity. Oh, it must be the Democratic Convention going on now, not the Republican Debacle.

"Michelle Obama's Speech: Both Apolitical and Politically Masterful" by E.J. Dionne Jr., *The Washington Post*

Aug. 5, 2012, ([http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/post/michelle-obamas-speech-both-apolitical-and-politically-masterful/2012/09/05/d7197c54-f722-11e1-8398-0327ab83ab91\\_blog.html?hpid=z2](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/post/michelle-obamas-speech-both-apolitical-and-politically-masterful/2012/09/05/d7197c54-f722-11e1-8398-0327ab83ab91_blog.html?hpid=z2))



(CHARLOTTE, NC) The most devastating attack on Mitt Romney at Tuesday's Democratic Convention came from Michelle Obama, who did not mention Romney's name and said not a single cross thing about him.

She devastated him by implication. If Romney was the son of privilege, she and her husband were anything but. What she said directly is that Barack Obama understands people who are struggling. What she didn't have to say is Mitt Romney doesn't.

As a general matter, her speech was a big hit: good enough that even Fox News was kind to her. But the specific stories — about her father working through the pain of multiple sclerosis, about the debts she and her husband accumulated from college — served a powerful campaign purpose. A speech that was thoroughly apolitical on the surface carried multiple political messages, linking a very traditional message about parenting with a call for social justice.

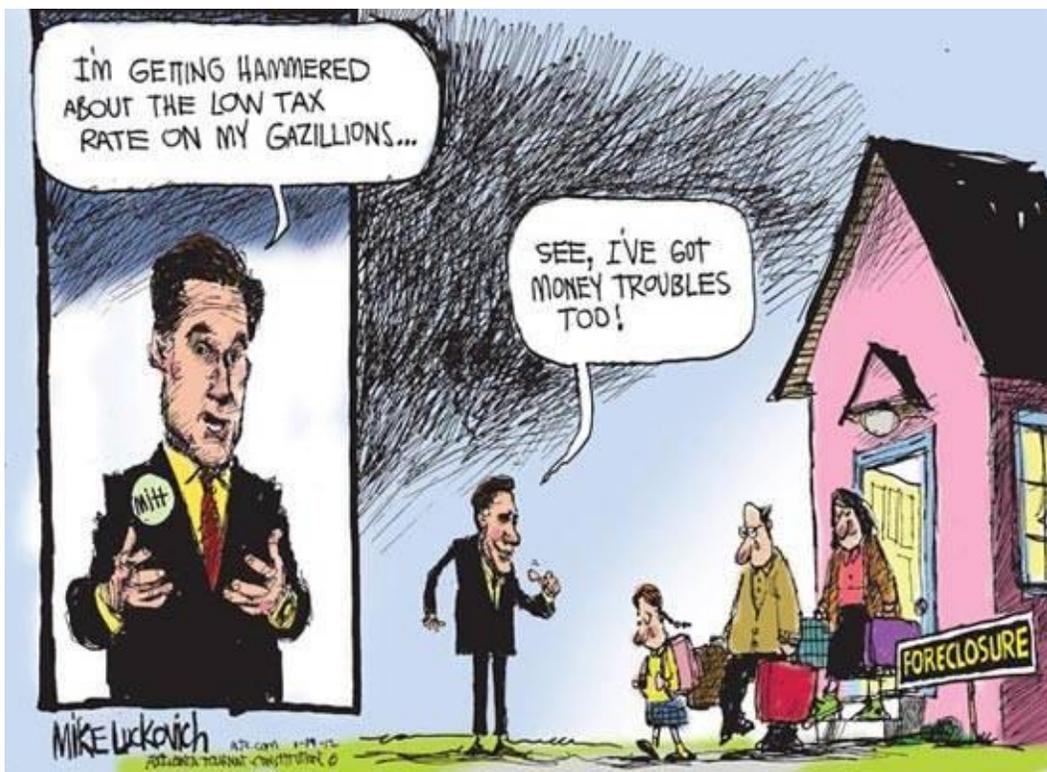
And it was almost entirely done through personal stories.

"And when my brother and I finally made it to college, nearly all of our tuition came from student loans and grants," she said at one point. "But my dad still had to pay a tiny portion of that tuition himself. And every semester, he was determined to pay that bill right on time, even taking out loans when he fell short. He was so proud to be sending his kids to college...and he made sure we never missed a registration deadline because his check was late. You see, for my dad, that's what it meant to be a man."

Among the many messages here: Her dad was awesome; he was also a traditional father; and, more broadly, people who receive government aid can be, usually are, very responsible citizens.

Another nice riff on student loans came later: "And believe it or not, when we were first married, our combined monthly student loan bills were actually higher than our mortgage. We were so young, so in love, and so in debt." I suspect this drew a lot of laughter in living rooms.

Oh yes, and she also said that for husband, "Success isn't about how much money you make, it's about the difference you make in people's lives." Did any other presidential candidate come to mind as perhaps having a contrasting approach? Michelle Obama was much too polite to say. She didn't have to.



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[20120904-02](#) 09:32 Art Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #218)

Hi, SteveB, well done again. One thing on the "Are you better off" question is the stock market. If you're invested in the stock market, you have made a ton of money since 2008.

[20120904-07](#) 12:08 Pam Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to SteveM, FotM Newsletter #218)

SteveM: Time to accept ownership for failure. Our first black Prez, turns out to be the worst in our history.

How about this, Steve M.? The Bush administration accepts ownership for the failure of the economy during the decade PRECEDING Obama's presidency. Republicans admit to the tight relationship among government, lobbyists, the big banks, and mortgage lenders. Democrats enjoy this relationship too, but not to the same extent as Republicans. Look at the numbers. Check out the documentary "Inside Job."

"Worst in history!?" WTF And I might ask what's behind your referring to Obama as "our first black Prez"? What's your point??? Unless you can convince me otherwise, I'm going to assume that what really bugs you about Obama is not his stated intentions to increase job openings (with a jobs bill Republicans voted down), provide adequate health care to ALL Americans, and improve our schools. You probably do object to his stand on gay marriage, but my guess is that your real issue is the color of his skin. Jeeesh!

[20120904-15](#) 15:59 SteveM Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to Pam, above)

I have looked at the numbers. Take a look at the S&P 500 chart from 2007, when the Democrats took over the Senate, Harry, Barak and Chris, and the House, Nancy ,Barney, and Clive. It's a downward curve, indicating lack of leadership. Yeah Bush was in the car, but he wasn't driving. Own it!

[20120904-17](#) 16:09 SteveB Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to SteveM, above)

It didn't work like that in any way, shape, or form. No matter what Rush and Glenn might tell you.

At exactly the same period of time during which you very recently tried to condemn the President's job loss/creation performance, the stock market has zoomed. Period.

What's fair for the goose is fair for the gander. Right?

Or do Republicans see even that some other way?

[20120904-20](#) 17:41 SteveM Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to SteveB, above)

You didn't look at the chart did you?

[20120904-01](#) 04:34 SteveB Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to SteveM, FotM Newsletter #218)

Ya, better if we believe the lies of Republicans and ignore the truths of Democrats! (And that's not to say that either party has a monopoly on truth, but it ain't 50-50, either!)

<a href="#">20120904-03</a>	10:50	SteveM	Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to SteveB, above)
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If anyone would know about lying it would you Democrats.

<a href="#">20120904-06</a>	12:07	SteveB	Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to SteveM, above)
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As Art, suggests, above, take a look at what the stock market has done since 2008, when Bush tanked it and the entire economy!

Looks to me like rich Republicans, and a few others, are doing pretty damned well.

The true Republican constituency benefits at the cost of everyone else. Typical.

<a href="#">20120904-08</a>	12:26	SteveM	Re: "Democrats Do Damage Control on 'Better Off' Question" (reply to SteveB, above)
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What a truly socialist statement, Mao would be proud.

<a href="#">20120904-04</a>	10:56	SteveM	Fw: "Space Weather News for Sept. 3, 2012"
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"Space Weather News for Sept. 3, 2012" (<http://spaceweather.com>)

CME IMPACT: As expected, a coronal mass ejection (CME) hit Earth's magnetic field on Sept. 3rd at approximately 1200 UT (5 am PDT). The impact induced measurable ground currents in the soil of northern Scandinavia and sparked bright auroras around the Arctic Circle. At the time this alert is being issued, a moderately strong (Kp=6) geomagnetic storm is underway.

STORM ALERTS: Subscribers to our Space Weather Alert service were alerted by phone when the CME hit and when the subsequent storm began. You can sign up for alerts at <http://spaceweathertext.com> (text) or <http://spaceweatherphone.com> (voice).



[20120904-13](#) 15:40 SteveB Re: "Space Weather News for Sept. 3, 2012" (reply to SteveM, above)

I like the picture!

[20120904-05](#) 12:04 SteveB "Life Is Sacred"

"Life Is Sacred" by Chris Hedges, Truthdig/NationofChange

Sept. 4, 2012, (<http://www.nationofchange.org/life-sacred-1346763860>)

I retreat in the summer to the mountains and coasts of Maine and New Hampshire to sever myself from the intrusion of the industrial world. It is in the woods and along the rugged Atlantic coastline, the surf thundering into the jagged rocks, that I am reminded of our insignificance before the universe and the brevity of human life. The stars, thousands visible in the night canopy above me, mock human pretensions of grandeur. They whisper the biblical reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Love now, they tell us urgently, protect what is sacred, while there is still time. But now I go there also to mourn. I mourn for our future, for the fading majesty of the natural world, for the folly of the human species. The planet is dying. And we will die with it.

The giddy, money-drenched, choreographed carnival in Tampa and the one coming up in Charlotte divert us from the real world—the one steadily collapsing around us. The glitz and propaganda, the ridiculous obsessions imparted by our electronic hallucinations, and the spectacles that pass for political participation mask the deadly ecological assault by the corporate state. The worse it gets, the more we retreat into self-delusion. We convince ourselves that global warming does not exist. Or we concede that it exists but insist that we can adapt. Both responses satisfy our mania for eternal optimism and our reckless pursuit of personal comfort. In America, when reality is distasteful we ignore it. But reality will soon descend like the Furies to shatter our complacency and finally our lives. We, as a species, may be doomed. And this is a bitter, bitter fact for a father to digest.

My family and I hike along the desolate coastline of an island in Maine that is accessible only by boat. We stop in the afternoons on remote inlets and look out across the Atlantic Ocean or toward the shoreline and the faint outline of the Camden hills. My youngest son throws pebbles into the surf. My daughter toddles over the rounded beach stones holding her mother's hand. The gray and white seagulls chatter loudly overhead. The scent of salt is carried by the wind. Life, the life of my family, the life around me, is exposed at once as fragile and sacred. And it is worth fighting to save.

When I was a boy and came to this coast on duck hunting trips with my uncle, fishing communities were vibrant. The fleets caught haddock, cod, herring, hake, halibut, swordfish, pollock and flounder. All these fish have vanished from the area, victims of commercial fishing that saw huge trawlers rip up the seafloor and kill the corals, bryozoans, tubeworms and other species that nurtured new schools of fish. The trawlers left behind barren underwater wastelands of mud and debris. It is like this across the planet. Forests are cut down. Water is contaminated. Air is saturated with carbon emissions. Soil is depleted. Acidity levels in the oceans skyrocket. Atmospheric temperatures soar. And someone, somewhere, makes obscene sums of money from it. Corporations, indifferent to what is sacred, see the death of the planet as another investment opportunity. They are scurrying to mine the exposed polar waters for the last vestiges of oil, gas, minerals and fish. And since the corporations dictate our relationship to the ecosystem on which we depend for life, the chances of our survival look bleaker and bleaker. The final phase of 5,000 years of settled human activity ends with collective insanity.

"All my means are sane," Captain Ahab says of his suicidal pursuit of Moby-Dick, "my motive and my object mad."

The ocean floor off the coast of Maine, which this summer has seen a staggering five-degree rise in water temperature, is now covered in crustaceans—lobsters and crabs—that no longer have any predators. The fish stocks have been killed for profit. This crustacean monoculture carries with it the fragility of all monocultures, a fragility that corn farmers in the Midwest also have experienced. Lobsters provide 80 percent of Maine's seafood income. But how much longer will they last? When a diverse and intricately balanced biosystem is wiped out, what future is there? After you dismantle nature and throw away the parts, what happens when you desperately need to put them back together? And even if you can nurture back to life the fish stocks decimated by the commercial fleets, as valiant organizations such as the Penobscot East Resource Center are attempting to do, what happens when sea temperatures and acidity levels continue to rise amid global warming, dooming most life in the oceans?

The warmer water this year caused lobsters to shed six weeks earlier than usual. What happened to the sea further south is now happening off New England. Long Island Sound, two decades ago, had an abundance of lobsters. Then as the water heated up they disappeared. They fell prey to parasite infestations and shell disease, and the survivors migrated to colder water.

All natural resources are being exploited until exhaustion. They will diminish and soon vanish. Droughts are affecting forests in the Northeast as well as the Northwest. The wintertime die-off of pine beetles and other pests—

a reduction vital for the health of the forests—is no longer happening as the planet steadily warms. The traditional hardwoods of the northern forests and the great conifer trees are dying. They are being replaced by oak-hickory forests, dooming the biodiversity, eradicating the habitat of a variety of songbirds and other wildlife and ending the maple syrup industry. Maple syrup was produced a few decades ago in Connecticut and Massachusetts. As a child I would hike in snowshoes to the farmers' sheds deep in the woods containing vats of boiling syrup. We would pour syrup on the blanket of snow outside to make brittle winter candy. But production in the southern New England states has been largely extinguished and shifted to northern Maine and Canada. These are the small natural indicators that something is terribly wrong.

The daily loss of Arctic sea ice this summer is the most severe on record. The amount of sea ice has fallen by 40 percent since satellite tracking began in the late 1970s. The complete disappearance of summer Arctic sea ice may be no more than a decade or two away. And with the disappearance of the summer ice, our planet's weather patterns will become dominated by freakishly powerful and sudden storms and other violent natural disturbances. Droughts will devastate some parts of the Earth, and in others there will be unrelenting rainfall. It will be a world of extremes. Hurricanes. Tornadoes. Floods. Dust bowls. Fire and water.

Our political leaders, Democrat and Republican, are complicit in our demise. Our political system, like that in the declining days of ancient Rome, is one of legalized bribery. Politicians, including Mitt Romney and Barack Obama, serve the demented ends of corporations that will, until the final flicker of life, attempt to profit from our death spiral. Civil disobedience, including the recent decision by Greenpeace activists to chain themselves to a Gazprom supply vessel and obstruct a Russian oil rig, is the only meaningful form of resistance. Voting is useless. But while I support these heroic acts of resistance, I increasingly fear they may have little effect. This does not mean we should not resist. Resistance is a moral imperative. We cannot use the word "hope" if we do not fight back. But the corporations will employ deadly force to protect their drive to extract the last bit of profit from life. We can expect only mounting hostility from the corporate state. Its internal and external security apparatus, as the heedless exploitation and its fatal consequences become more apparent, will seek to silence and crush all dissidents. Corporations care nothing for democracy, the rule of law, human rights or the sanctity of life. They are determined to be the last predator standing. And then they too will be snuffed out. Unrestrained hubris always leads to self-immolation.

<a href="#">20120904-09</a>	12:37	SteveM	Fw: Ice Cream
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[Source of original email unknown. –SteveB]

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE -- SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS. SO GO OUT AND BUY SOME ICE CREAM!



In honor of the 44th President of the United States Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream has introduced a new flavor: Barocky Road.

Barocky Road is a blend of half vanilla, half chocolate, and surrounded by nuts and flakes. The vanilla portion of the mix is not openly advertised and usually denied as an ingredient. The nuts and flakes are all plentiful.

The cost is \$92.84 per scoop--so out of a hundred dollar bill you are at least promised some CHANGE!

When purchased it will be presented to you in a large beautiful cone, but after you pay for it, the ice cream is taken out of the cone and given to the person in line behind you at no charge.

You are left with an almost empty wallet, staring at an empty cone--and wondering what just happened. Then you realize this is what "redistribution" is all about.

THIS COMING ELECTION IS NOT ABOUT ELECTING ROMNEY.

IT'S ABOUT UNELECTING OBAMA!

[20120904-26](#) 18:59 SteveB Re: Ice Cream (reply to SteveM, above)

What a strange thing to say about a candidate...that "it's not about electing R0mney."

It's an admission he's not really qualified to be elected. Otherwise, if he was so good, it would at least also be "about electing" him, wouldn't it? But it's not.

No one likes Mitt or believes in him or believes he stands for anything except money and greed, do they?

Now, this pushes me over the line!

"Sanctions Block Iran Gamers from World of Warcraft" by Raphael Satter, AP

Aug 28, 2012, (<http://www.newsvine.com/news/2012/08/28/13532565-sanctions-block-iran-gamers-from-world-of-warcraft>)

(LONDON) They've vanquished elves, trolls, and all manner of magical monsters. But one select group of online gamers is facing an even more formidable foe: The U.S. sanctions regime.

Iranian players of "World of Warcraft," the massively popular online multiplayer franchise, have found themselves frozen out by Blizzard Activision Inc., the American company behind the game. Iranian role playing enthusiasts have spent much of the past week peppering Blizzard's message board with complaints about how they weren't able to log on to the service — only to be told recently that U.S. law was to blame.

"United States trade restrictions and economic sanction laws prohibit Blizzard from doing business with residents of certain nations, including Iran," the company said in an email sent to players last week and forwarded to The Associated Press late Tuesday. "Blizzard tightened up its procedures to ensure compliance with these laws, and players connecting from the affected nations are restricted from access to Blizzard games and services."

A post to Blizzard's message board by a company employee also noted that rules meant Iranian players would not be getting refunds.

Blizzard's "Warcraft" franchise dates back to 1994 and has grown into a sprawling virtual world complete with its own online economy and a thriving subculture. The games' more than 9 million subscribers can log on to assume the identity of a dizzying array of fantastical characters and fight together — or each other — for experience, magical weapons, and loot.

It wasn't clear precisely how many players were affected by the block. Blizzard's public relations director, Rob Hilburger, said that the company doesn't break player data out by country or region for competitive reasons. But he said the Iranian market compromised only "a tiny fraction" of the company's subscribers worldwide.

Hilburger didn't immediately respond to a question asking why the company had only recently blocked Iranian players from its service.

The United States and its allies have been steadily increasing economic pressure on Iran as it tries to convince the Islamic republic to open up about its disputed nuclear program, which Western governments fear is a cover for the development of atomic weapons. Tehran insists the program is intended for civilian energy generation.

Not being a noodle kind of guy, and having shrimped up quite a lot last week, I decided to "chicken out" on lunch today. Sorry it's a hectic day today, so it's just the photos of my plate and of what I first took to be a Breakfast Plot from the Gauntlet (which turned out to be a platter of desserts on their way to the Gauntlet staging area).

I apologize with some embarrassment to having fallen into a Dan Brown trap, but.. doggone it, flawed it may be, but it's also fun.



Seared Chicken Breast, Green and Yellow Beans, and Manchego Polenta



Ultimate Pudding Cake

20120904-14 15:45 SteveB Re: Today's Lunch at Apple (reply to Ben, above)

I think it is unconscionable that you are so prejudiced against beef and pork! Racist!

And white meat too, I note!

20120904-18 16:10 Ben Re: Today's Lunch at Apple (reply to SteveB, above)

SteveB, who says?

I love pork. I eat as much beef as pork, and I love a good hamburger or a great steak.

Unfortunately, Apple doesn't serve any pig products in the cafeteria. We all secretly believe that was a Steve mandate, although it's never been confirmed. Nor has it ever been acknowledged that when Faith the Pastry Chef had a birthday, the cafeteria staff prepared her favorite meal: an entire roast pig, which I was honored to view and smell. (It was golden and gorgeous.)

Bacon does NOT grow on turkeys. But - to be fair - the ONLY chicken sausage I've every had that even resembled actual sausage is the Italian chicken sausage they make right here, for use in pizza and pasta dishes. It's really tough to distinguish from the real deal, except it's much milder.

Beef, though, is a problem of a different sort. Perhaps you've forgotten how inundated the American diet is with beef. "Beef: it's what's for dinner." Yeah, true. But most of it is hormone-laden and grain-fed. Neither is IMHO particularly great for one's health. The cafeteria did a great prime rib a while back, and I loved it. The South of the Border line serves beef every day! But I have no inclination to have a hamburger and fries for lunch, when I can have grilled fish and properly prepared vegetables instead.

20120904-27 19:48 SteveB Re: Today's Lunch at Apple (reply to Ben, above)

Mainly kidding, of course...

Also, I guess I've started thinking in terms of the way we do things around here, so I had kind of forgotten about dinner as a time for eating beef and "heavier" foods.

There are two conflicting Bolivian traditions in place.

One is that, when it's a special occasion (it doesn't necessarily take much), you eat a big dinner late, maybe with a lot of beef done on the BBQ (*parilla*).

But, in everyday life, lunch (followed by a nap) is the big meal of the day. Dinner is very light or non-existent. Tea is also a very social event, so not necessarily every day, but would almost always include some kind of pastry. Breakfast is also normally very light.

It's a healthier way of living, really, because, as I'm sure you know, the earlier in the day you eat calories the better. A bunch of late night carbs and fat are especially bad.

So, anyway, happy to find you haven't become a meat racist. ;-)

I think we should lobby for pork at Apple. Do they have breakfast? Without pork? Whatever happened to animal rights?

[20120904-12](#)

14:50

SteveM

Re: Obvious Message in This Photo... (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #218) & "Facebook Poll on Obama 'Assassination' Probed" & "Gay Activists Flip Off Ronald Reagan Portrait at White House"

Hey, dummy, last week you made a dumb-a\*s comment about a picture showing someone flipping off the president's Bus.

You suggested it might be a right wing nut.

Let me suggest that if O'bama is shot, it will be left-wing activist acting on behalf of Hillary Clinton, because they didn't like the way she was treated in the primaries by Barack. It wouldn't surprise me if we had a Manchurian candidate moment, where Obama is gunned down during the Democratic national convention and Hillary lifts up his body and vows to continue his "good work" so she could get elected president! Just like Sinatra's 1960's movie

It is well known that the Clintons are like oil and water! Of course Janet Napolitano will use the start of this event to try to seize all the guns in the nation. Too bad your imagination is so narrow that all you can do is follow the party line.

Or it could be one of your Gay activists so filled with hate and vitriol because Obama didn't act sooner (see below).

Or maybe one of your Facebook friends (also see below).

As for me, SteveB, I for one want a long life Barack and for him to be defeated in this election. I want Obama to live a long life so he can see the reports of what a terrible president he really was. Just like when Grant put the National Cemetery in Gen. Lee's garden, so that we would be forever reminded of what he did to the nation. I want him (O'bummer) to be reminded that he was the worst president ever the rest of his useless life.

I do feel sorry for his children, as they will be forever reminded that daddy was an abject failure, reviled by many in the Democratic Party and the better half of the United States, I feel sorry for them when they go to college and history is discussed. But perhaps I'll make just make them stronger.

In closing, I'm curious how liberals can expect respect from others, when they show so little respect themselves (see below).

"Facebook Poll on Obama 'Assassination' Probed" by AP, MSNBC

Sept. 28, 2009, ([http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33060855/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-security/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33060855/ns/technology_and_science-security/))

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating an online survey that asked whether people thought President Barack Obama should be assassinated, officials said Monday.

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

"Gay Activists Flip Off Ronald Reagan Portrait at White House" by Patrick Svitek, Huffington Post

June 22, 2012, ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/22/gay-activists-ronald-reagan-white-house\\_n\\_1619392.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/22/gay-activists-ronald-reagan-white-house_n_1619392.html))

If several raised fingers are any indication, some LGBT activists who visited the White House last week are fully evolved on what they think of President Ronald Reagan.

In a photo, removed from her Facebook page Friday afternoon, Philadelphia photographer Zoe Strauss is pictured waving two middle fingers at Reagan's presidential portrait. She did, at least, have the courtesy to tag Reagan in the photo.



[Maybe they're giving it to W? –SteveB]

[Continue reading at Huffington Post...](#)

20120904-16 16:04 SteveB Re: Obvious Message in This Photo... (reply to SteveM, above)

On the contrary, Republicans have guaranteed that Mr. Obama will be eternally cherished because they indelibly named the Affordable Health Care Act after him. They created the word "Obamacare" because they hate the idea of "affordable" health care, or the European/World concept of fair and equal access to health care.

Obamacare alone would guarantee his legacy. But also:

- He ended the evil war in Iraq.
- He got bin Laden and many other bad guys, making the Bush-Halliburton Administration look downright inept.
- He pulled us back from Bush's Precipice.
- He held off the Tea Party radicals. He fought the do-nothing Congress.
- He sold out to big money and big business almost like a Republican, but no worse.
- His administration has been given a rousing vote of approval by the stock market's advance during his administration.
- He was tough while starting no new endless wars. He's proven himself to be a good Commander-in-Chief, respected by his troops and by world leaders. He restored world respect for America after the ridicule heaped upon Bush and, now, upon Romney.

I don't think Mr. Obama will ever have to worry about being named our worst President. Bush, on the other hand, who's name could not even be mentioned at the Republican Convention, who was not even invited by Romney to speak, who seeming tried to destroy America...that a-hole had better worry about going down as the worst and stupidest President in the history of the known universe.

As usual, I'll bet a steak dinner and a beer on it...

Don't understand your logic on the nature of "respect" since you insist on so much name-calling and outright racism. Not that I mind. Just pointing that out, my friend.

20120904-19 16:44 Jim "Apple Granted Patent to Disable Cameras According to Location"

Here is the latest electronic control that could easily be abused.

"Apple Granted Patent to Disable Cameras According to Location" by Steve Watson, Infowars.com

Sept. 3, 2012, (<http://www.infowars.com/apple-granted-patent-to-disable-cameras-according-to-location/>)

(Recording, communicating during protests, political events could be restricted.)

Apple was granted a patent last week that will enable it to wirelessly disable the camera on iPhones in certain locations, sparking fears that such techniques could be used to prevent citizens from communicating with each other or taking video during protests or events such as political conventions and gatherings.

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

[20120904-21](#) 17:57 SteveM

Fw: Bloomberg Report—GM Sales ("79% of GM's Sales Last Month Were Government Purchased")

Remember this when he's bragging this week about saving GM and jobs. BTW he sure didn't save my Auto job!

[Please note the subject line of the original email ("Bloomberg Report—GM Sales"), even though there is no Bloomberg report given that would relate to the headline. --SteveB

"79% of GM's Sales Last Month Were Government Purchased" by Angel, PushBackNow

July 12, 2012, (<http://pushbacknow.net/2012/07/12/79-of-gms-sales-last-month-was-government-purchased/>)

Remember how Obama keeps telling us how he saved GM, and how our economy is getting better, it seems the car company he bought is being saved by Govt employees using our tax money to buy new cars. 79% of GM's sales last month was government purchased.

GM's sales figures for last month were the best since 2008, up 16% for the month of June. YIPPEE! Well, wait just a minute. It seems that those rosey sales figures are due primarily to a 79% increase in fleet sales to the U.S. government in June. That's right. Our tax dollars are being used to pump up GM's sales figures ahead of next month's quarterly report so that Dear Leader can point to Government Motors as a huge success. The incestuous relationship between GM, the UAW and the Regime has never been more glaringly apparent. I've said it before and I'll say it again. GM is unsustainable without government subsidies and will ultimately go bust again, taking billions of taxpayer dollars down with it.

We bailed out General Motors to the tune of \$50 billion. \$30 billion of this is effectively a loss, mostly sunk into fattening the United Auto Workers union—fierce Obama supporters—while the actual bondholders were shown the elevator shaft.

Meanwhile, as NewsBusters reports, "We the Taxpayers are still stuck holding 500+ million shares of GM stock. Which we need to sell at \$53 per. Which debuted post-bankruptcy at \$33 per. And which is currently trading at just over \$20 per. Meaning we'll lose about \$15 billion."

But it gets better. Despite the overwhelming negatives, the tiny bright spot of positive June sales numbers is being heralded by Obama and the leftist press as proof the auto bailout was a "success."

Obama is now campaigning on the "success" of – the government buying cars from...the government's car company. With our money.

Americanvision says That's like you setting up a lemonade stand for your kids. You buy them the lemons, sugar, cups and pitchers – and then buy most of the lemonade yourself.

[Not a quote? Then what is it? –SteveB]

The pressure is on Government Motors to appear financially strong as this may be the last earnings report before November elections and sets the stage for how "successful" GM is. One of GM's past tricks to help fudge earnings numbers has been to stuff truck inventory channels. Old habits die hard at GM. **According to a Bloomberg report, "GM said inventory of its full-size pickups, which will be refreshed next year, climbed to 238,194 at the end of June, a 135 days supply, up from 116 days at the end of May."** 135 days supply is huge, the accepted norm is a 60 day supply. The trick here is that GM records revenue when vehicles go into dealership inventories, not when actually sold to consumers.

[My emphasis in above paragraph. –SteveB]

[20120904-29](#) 21:42 SteveB Re: Bloomberg Report—GM Sales (reply to SteveM, above)

This seems to me to be a more reliable and believable source:

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-03/auto-sales-in-june-provided-bright-spot-for-u-dot-s-dot-economy>.

They say your article lies (and they have no axe to grind). Once again, the misinformation is coming from your side. How many of these things do I have to swat down?

[20120904-32](#) 20:13 SteveM Re: Bloomberg Report—GM Sales (reply to SteveB, above)

If you can't believe the liberal Bloomberg, who can you believe?

[20120904-37](#) 23:51 SteveB Re: Bloomberg Report—GM Sales (reply to SteveM, above)

Well, I don't consider Bloomberg to be liberal, but that has nothing to do with this issue.

You see, Bloomberg never reported that all those cars were sold to the government. Only your article did (from hardly a reputable source like the conservative *Businessweek*):

<http://pushbacknow.net/2012/07/12/79-of-gms-sales-last-month-was-government-purchased/>.

Here is all Bloomberg said (according to your own ultra-right-wing article):

According to a Bloomberg report, "GM said inventory of its full-size pickups, which will be refreshed next year, climbed to 238,194 at the end of June, a 135 days supply, up from 116 days at the end of May."

Nothing at all about sales to the government. See how they sneak the lies in there? Even you were fooled.

Have a nice day.

[20120904-22](#) 18:09 SteveM Photo: R0mney Muscle Shirt

I want one of these!



[20120904-24](#) 18:23 SteveB Re: R0mney Muscle Shirt (reply to SteveM, above)

When you order, I wonder if you could get me one that says:

**I'll take the  
MUSLIM  
Over the  
MORMON!**

[20120904-23](#) 18:22 SteveG "Yes, We Are Better Off!"

"Yes, We Are Better Off!" by ThinkProgress War Room

Sept. 4, 2012, (<http://thinkprogress.org/progress-report/yes-we-are-better-off/?mobile=nc>)

2008 v. 2012 in Six Charts

Four years ago, the economy was on the downslide and about to go into free fall. What became a painful recession and still-ongoing recovery could've been another Great Depression. And then President Obama and Democrats worked together to turn things around. Too many families are still struggling and more must be done, but it's an undeniable fact that we've made a lot progress since 2008.

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan would implement the same conservative policies that crashed the economy in the first place — only on a much grander scale. Here's six charts to remind us what happened when conservatives last ran the show compared to where we are today under President Obama.

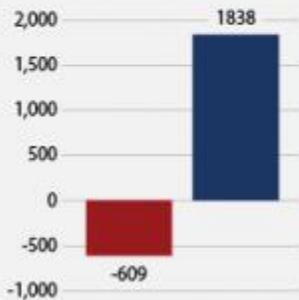
## Are We Better off Today than in 2008? You Betcha!

By almost any measure, our economy, our companies, and our livelihoods are better today than when conservatives last had a chance to implement their economic policies.

■ Lead up to 2008 ■ Lead up to 2012

**FIGURE 1**  
**From job losses to job gains**

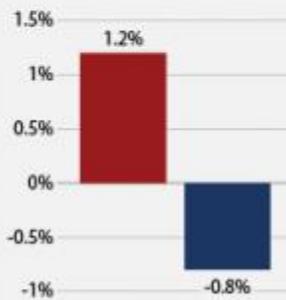
Employment change during year leading up to July 2008 and 2012 (thousands)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2012). Current Employment Statistics. Washington, DC: BLS.

**FIGURE 2**  
**Lines of the jobless shrink**

Change in unemployment rate during year leading up to July 2008 and 2012



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2012). Current Population Survey. Washington, DC: BLS.

**FIGURE 3**  
**Economic growth strengthens**

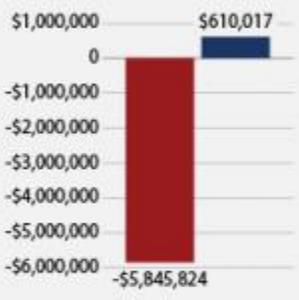
Gross domestic product (GDP) change in year leading up to March 2008 and 2012



Source: Calculations based on Bureau of Economic Analysis. (2012). National Income and Product Accounts. Washington, DC: BEA.

**FIGURE 4**  
**Household wealth exits free fall**

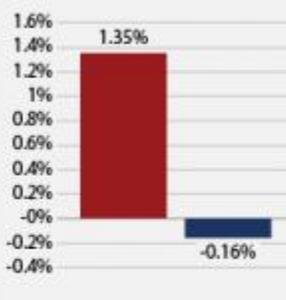
Change in household wealth in year up to March 2008 and 2012 (millions of 2012 dollars)



Sources: Calculations based on Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System. (2012). Release Z.1 Flow of Funds Accounts of the United States. Washington, DC: BOG and Bureau of Economic Analysis. (2012). National Income and Product Accounts. Washington, DC: BEA.

**FIGURE 5**  
**Home mortgage foreclosures reverse course**

Year-over-year change in foreclosure rate leading up to June 2008 and 2012



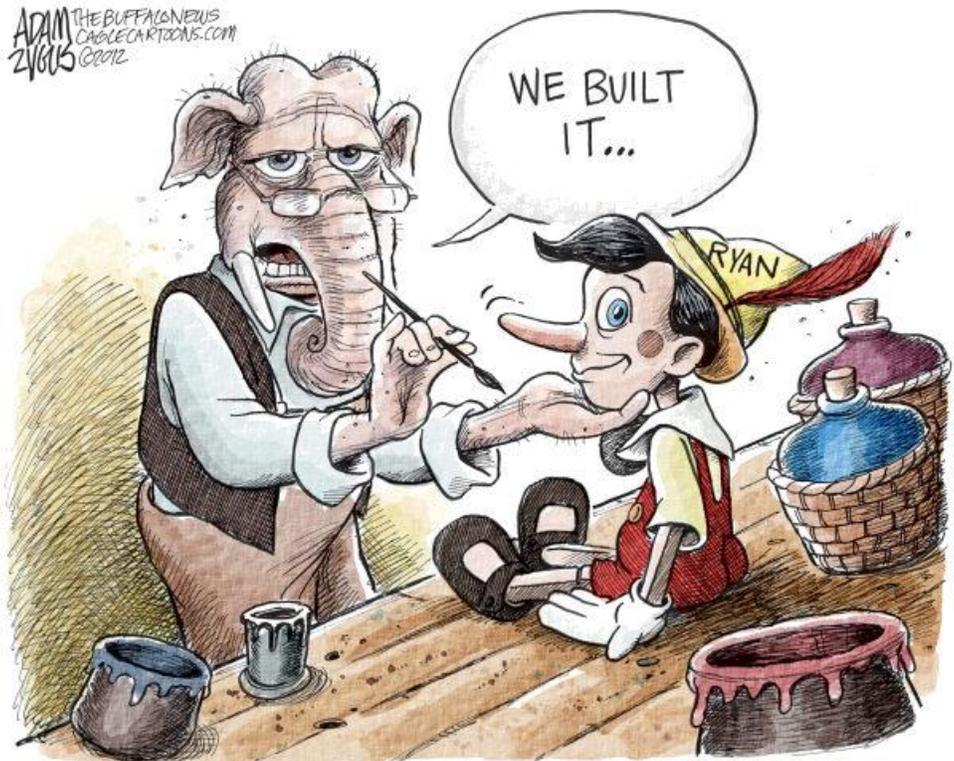
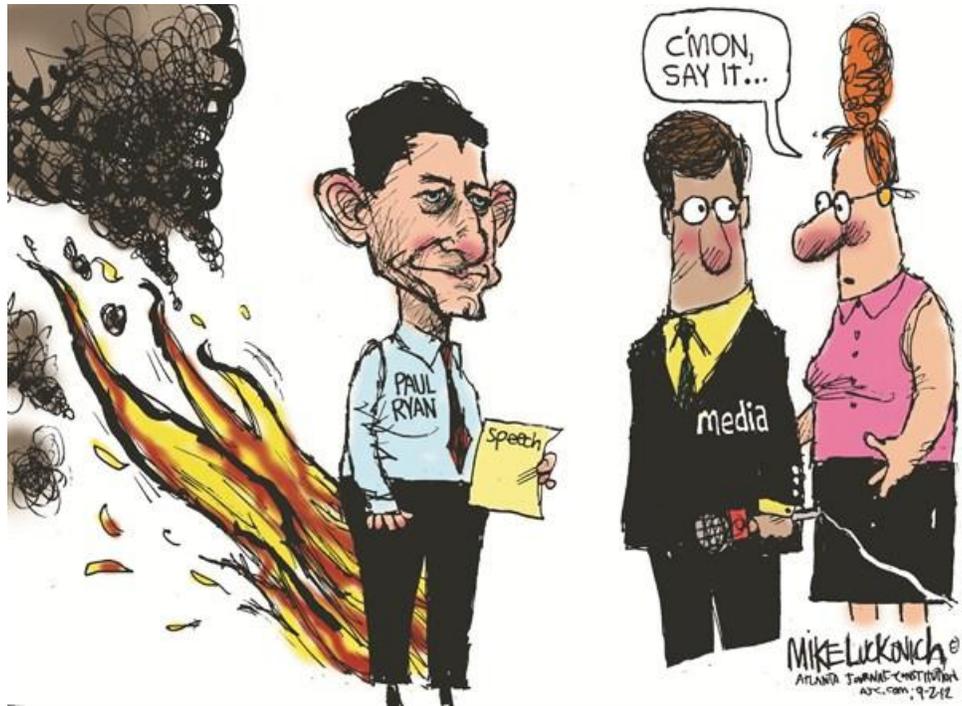
Source: Mortgage Bankers Association. (2012). National Delinquency Survey. Washington, DC: MBAA

**FIGURE 6**  
**Corporate profits rebound**

Change in nonfinancial corporate profits in year leading up to March 2008 and 2012 (millions of 2012 dollars)



Sources: Calculations based on Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System. (2012). Release Z.1 Flow of Funds Accounts of the United States. Washington, DC: BOG and Bureau of Economic Analysis. (2012). National Income and Product Accounts. Washington, DC: BEA.





"SC Gov. Nikki Haley tells Dems to 'Bring it!'" Laura Ingraham's "America in Decline"

Sept. 4, 2012,

(<http://www.lauraingraham.com/pg/jsp/charts/streamingAudioMaster.jsp?dispid=302&headerDest=L3BnL2pzcC9tZWRpYS9mbGFzaHdlbGNvbWUuanNwP3BpZD0xMzQ3MQ%3D%3D>)

(1) Hour 2: "War on Women" getting nowhere quick

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was on the show to give a Republican response to the upcoming Democratic National Convention. Gov. Haley laughed off the Democrat's phony "War on Women", telling them to "Bring it!" She said Republicans have the answers to issues like the economy that women really care about, and that issues such as abortion and contraception are distractions.

(2) Political consultant Chris Begala joined Laura to give his insight into the upcoming election. He threw doubt on the Democrats' hope that abortion and contraception will help them in November, pointing out that only around 40% of Americans call themselves pro-choice. Instead, Begala pointed to a poll showing that 70% feel the country is headed in the wrong direction; a poll he says will sink Obama's chances.

(3) CALL of the Day: Eric says he's not better off under Obama - September 04, 2012

"Bat Fest 2012" by Austin360

Aug. 26, 2012, (<http://galleries.austin360.com/gallery/bat-fest-2012/#657089>)

The Bat Fest was celebrated Saturday evening on the Ann Richards Congress Ave. bridge with music, food, vendors and artistry for the masses culminating in the nightly flight of thousands of Mexican free-tail bats from under the bridge. Drifter Patrick Kearns, also known as Rain Wolf, hitch-hiked into Austin on his way to Santa Cruz. "I planned to stay her only two days and it's been three weeks. I love this town." said Kearns, who is enjoying the sights and sounds of Bat Fest.

(by Ralph Barrera/*American Statesman*)

[20120904-33](#) 22:37 SteveG Video: 1994 R0mney-Kennedy Debate for US Senate

[http://www.cnn.com/video/?hpt=hp\\_t2#/video/politics/2012/09/05/dnc-bts-victoria-kennedy-romney-1994-debate.cnn](http://www.cnn.com/video/?hpt=hp_t2#/video/politics/2012/09/05/dnc-bts-victoria-kennedy-romney-1994-debate.cnn)

[20120904-34](#) 23:01 SteveM Video: Ray Stevens: "Obama Nation"

<http://youtube.googleapis.com/v/AFaCytKXOSQ?hl=en&fs=1&autoplay=1>

[20120904-35](#) 23:33 SteveM Video "U.S. Capitol Tour with David Barton"

YOU WILL BE SURPRISED ABOUT THOMAS JEFFERSON

A Church very Few People Know About right in the heart of D.C.

Everyone in the United States needs to see this; Most especially our President, Congress, and Supreme Court Justices.

Something we were never taught in school; 99 out of 100 people don't know this, do you?

<http://stg.do/Iwpc>

[20120904-36](#) 23:44 SteveB Fw: Dennis Kucinich Action: Video: Democratic Convention Day 1

from Dennis Kucinich:

First day of the Convention and Dennis and Elizabeth are getting an enthusiastic response from delegates and guests from across America! Here is his first report from inside the Center.

Please view the video: <http://action.kucinich.us/page/s/dnc-1>.

—Kucinich Action

[20120904-38](#) 23:59 SteveB Photo: Charlotte, NC, Y'All!

[http://melissabrownblog.com/channels/regional\\_localism/topics/relocate\\_to\\_charlotte\\_nc](http://melissabrownblog.com/channels/regional_localism/topics/relocate_to_charlotte_nc)



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

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