



FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #249 — OCT. 17, 2012

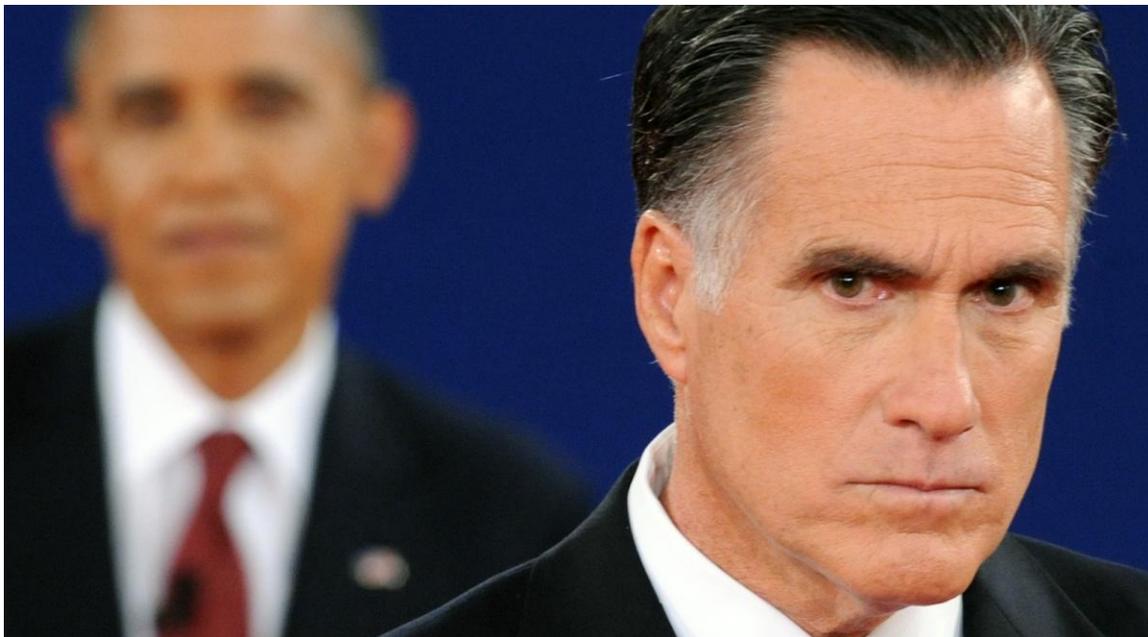
Welcome to always lively political discussion and whatever else comes up.
<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org> FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com

INDEX: Click here.

Barack!

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Oct. 17, 2012)

Here are five views of last night's O'Victory...



"Presidential Debate: Obama Snaps Back Hard" by Roger Simon, Politico

Oct. 17, 2012, (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1012/82509.html>)

(HEMPSTEAD, NY) As well as Barack Obama did in his second presidential debate — and he did very well, indeed -- you still have to ask yourself one question: Why didn't he do it in his first debate?

If, 12 days ago at the University of Denver, Obama had delivered the same high-energy, on-target, putdown of Mitt Romney as he did at Hofstra University Tuesday night, think of where he would be today.

He would not be trailing in the polls. He would not have the media circling over his head like vultures eyeing their next meal. He would not be trying to climb out of a hole, but would be moving forward instead.

Perhaps it was mere fatigue that night in Denver. Or overconfidence. Or lack of preparation. Or the altitude. Perhaps we will never know. Perhaps he will never know.

No matter. What matters is that in the second of three presidential debates, Obama was the performer his supporters were hoping for: the Obama of four years ago, a person hungry for the job and not ground down by it.

And Romney helped him out Tuesday night. If one believes the polls, Romney's big gains have come from his improving image with women. But at Hofstra, Romney tried to steamroller the moderator, CNN's Candy Crowley, just as he had steamrolled PBS' Jim Lehrer in Denver.

The pitfall for Romney was not that Crowley didn't let him get away with it, the pitfall was that he looked like a bully trying to put a woman in her place.

And, when Romney was trying to demonstrate the opposite, by saying he had hired many women as governor of Massachusetts, he said of his gubernatorial staff, "They brought me a binder full of women."

Women come in binders?

And Obama was better - - quicker, sharper, more fast-footed and sure-footed - - than he was the first time around.

Romney tried to make the point that Obama's retirement funds were probably invested offshore just like his own.

"Have you looked at your pension?" Romney said, then used the same hectoring repetition he had used in some of his primary debates. "Have you?"

"No," Obama said with a grin, "it's not as big as yours."

Even the reporters, who really do try not to express outward emotion during these debates, erupted into a roar of laughter in the press filing center.

Obama hit his talking points, demonstrating that rehearsal - - as silly as it is for two informed candidates to have to rehearse - - does pay off. He summed up his campaign in one answer to a member of the town hall audience.

"Osama bin Laden is dead," the president said. "Insurance companies can't jerk you around. We saved an auto industry on the brink of collapse."

And, in the most somber and bitter exchange of the debate, over whether U.S. diplomats had been provided with proper protection in Libya, at first Romney appeared to do well. He implied that today Obama cries crocodile tears over our slain diplomats but that after the Benghazi attack he flew to Las Vegas for a fundraiser.

Obama snapped back that right after the attack he denounced the attacks as terror.

Romney pounced, saying this was not true and that in reality it had taken Obama several days to denounce the attack as an act of terror.

Obama objected and Crowley ruled in his favor, saying that, in fact, Obama had used the word "terror" in the Rose Garden.

Obama's actual words were: "No acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation."

And it gave Obama a further chance to make up ground with women. Hillary Clinton, his secretary of state, has been saying she was responsible for any flaws in protection in Libya.

Tuesday night, Obama lifted any blame from her shoulders.

"I am ultimately responsible for what took place there," he said. "I have to greet those coffins."

It sounded conscientious. Gutsy. Presidential. Everything that Obama wasn't in his first debate, in fact.

Was this really the same person? Just 12 days later?

Apparently so. Though Donald Trump might insist on a DNA test to prove it.

"Obama Outsources Romney" by John Nichols, *The Nation*

October 16, 2012, (<http://www.thenation.com/blog/170621/obama-outsources-romney#>)

Mitt Romney's first name is Willard, which means that he is actually "W. Mitt Romney."

And it was a "W" that did him in Tuesday night.

In the middle of the second presidential debate, the one where Barack Obama had to do better and did, moderator Candy Crowley invited a question from Susan Katz, an undecided voter.

Katz admitted that she was "disappointed with the lack of progress I've seen in the last four years." That sounded good for Romney, but then Katz added the "however..."

However, I do attribute much of America's economic and international problems to the failings and missteps of the Bush administration. Since both you and President Bush are Republicans, I fear a return to the policies of those years should you win this election. What is the biggest difference between you and George W. Bush, and how do you differentiate yourself from George W. Bush?

There was never any question that Mitt Romney—who long ago abandoned the liberal Republican values of his parents—would throw the most recent Republican president under the bus.

That's how Mitt rolls.

Unfortunately, he was so busy tossing Bush under the bus that he did not notice that it was dragging him down as well.

After being forced to answer the question by Crowley, Romney finally said that "President Bush and I are different people, and these are different times."

For instance, Romney said, "I'll crack down on China. President Bush didn't."

That was all Barack Obama needed.

"When [Governor Romney] talks about getting tough on China, keep in mind that Governor Romney invested in companies that were pioneers of outsourcing to China and is currently investing in...companies that are building surveillance equipment for China to spy on its own folks," announced Obama. "Governor, you're the last person who's going to get tough on China."

In the parlance of the Romney campaign, that was a "zinger."

It stung because it had the ring of truth.

Again and again, on a night that saw Romney match the aggressiveness of his first debate performance, Obama stepped up. Instead of the listless performance that cost him so dearly in their initial encounter, this time the president was fighting.

Obama was not just fighting back, however. He was playing offense. On pay equity and immigration and tax policy, Obama called Romney out. And on the inevitable Libya question, he caught Romney out, explaining that he had from the beginning described the Benghazi attack as terrorism -- and getting a confirmation from Crowley that left the Republican candidate sputtering.

When Romney abandoned the truth, as he did on a question about energy production, Obama abandoned the deference that had served him so poorly in the first debate.

"It's just not true," the president said of his challenger's assertion.

Referencing his challenger's ever-changing positions on central issues of the campaign—such as tax cuts for the rich—Obama recalled the right-wing stances on economic and social issues that Romney so ardently embraced during the Republican primary campaign. "When Governor Romney stands here, after a year of campaigning, when during a Republican primary he stood on stage and said 'I'm going to give tax cuts'—he didn't say tax-rate cuts, he said 'tax cuts'—to everybody, including the top 1 percent, you should believe him because that's been his history," Obama said.

"And," he continued, "that's exactly the kind of top-down economics that is not going to work if we want a strong middle class and an economy that's striving for everybody."

Obama was not always the debater that some of his supporters would have preferred. He did not, for instance, mount the sort of muscular defenses of Social Security and Medicare that Democrats such as Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown and Wisconsin Senate candidate Tammy Baldwin have made centerpieces of their campaigns this fall. That was politically tone-deaf, and practically worrying for progressives who fear that this president might be inclined to compromise on issues where he needs to fight.

The medium-cool president—who will never be confused with a full-on economic populist—did not begin to rip Romney as aggressively as he could have on the matter of the Republican nominee's overseas investments and on Romney's continued ties to the outsourcing machine that is Bain Capital.

Would that Obama had mentioned the circumstance in Freeport, Illinois, where Bain is this fall shuttering the advanced-technology Sensata plant and shipping the jobs to a client state in China.

But when Obama was on, he was very on.

In that same answer to the "W." question, Obama nailed it.

"When I said that we had to make sure that China was not flooding our domestic market with cheap tires, Governor Romney said I was being protectionist, that it wouldn't be helpful to American workers," said the president. "Well, in fact we saved a thousand jobs, and that's the kind of tough trade actions that are required."

That was a direct hit.

But the president was not done swinging.

[The] last point I want to make is this: You know, there are some things where Governor Romney's different from George Bush. George Bush didn't propose turning Medicare into a voucher. George Bush embraced comprehensive immigration reform. He didn't call for self-deportation. George Bush never suggested that we eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood.

So there are differences between Governor Romney and George Bush, but they're not on economic policy. In some ways, he's gone to a more extreme place when it comes to social policy, and I think that's a mistake. That's not how we're going to move our economy forward.

It was theme that Obama would return to again and again on a night where the president was talking to voters in swing states such as Ohio, which have been so hard hit by outsourcing.

After Romney made his big job-creation pitch, Obama acknowledged that "it's estimated that that will create 800,000 new jobs."

Then, with a smile, he added, "Problem is, they'll be in China or India or Germany. That's not the way we're going to create jobs here."

Obama was not speaking to Romney, or to Candy Crowley on that one.

He was talking to Toledo.

That's politics.

Smart politics.

"Romney vs. Obama Was a Nauseating Draw, and Both Deserve to Lose" by John Tamny, *Forbes*

Oct. 17, 2012, (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/johntamny/2012/10/17/romney-v-obama-was-a-nauseating-draw-and-both-deserve-to-lose/>)

(HEMPSTEAD, NY) Back in 1968, Alabama Governor George Wallace thundered that "There's not a dime's worth of difference between the Republicans and Democrats." Wallace's famous quote sprung to mind last night as Mitt Romney and Barack Obama squared off in their second debate.

Surely there were differences between them, but to watch the debate was to see two candidates vying to say who would cut taxes the least for top earners, who would "crack down" most on China, and who believed the most in an "all of the above" energy strategy. Neither said much of import, if at all, each candidate won certain segments, but the impossible to escape conclusion was just how unimpressive both candidates were.

It was like two beginners playing tennis with each other, neither able to hit the ball over the net. Both deserve to lose.

It began with the first question asked by a Hofstra College student who wanted to know what either would do to ensure that future grads like him will have jobs.

Romney responded that (all quotes paraphrased) "We'll have to make a college education more affordable for all, and I'll do this through growth of the Pell Grant program." The problem, of course, is that it's the federal government's existing subsidization of college loans through programs like the Pell Grant that reduce the incentives for colleges and universities to lower tuition costs. And then in promoting a boost in Pell Grant funding, Romney's calling for more of the same whereby the feds take money from one set of American hands, and place those funds in the hands of others. On the street this would be called theft, but when politicians propose it, it's "compassion."

After that, Romney basically repeated the same line over and over again: "I know what it takes to create jobs, and I'm going to make sure you get a job." The president as our nanny, one supposes. The sad thing is that Romney, far more than Obama, *does know* how to create jobs, but to explain how he does he'd have to be more up front that he's rich precisely because he's expert at turning around companies.

Obama's response was no better. He added his support for expanding the Pell Grant program that makes college more expensive, and then "bragged" that funding for Pell Grants had already increased during his deficit-ridden presidency.

On jobs specifically, the nanny standard bearer for the Democrats said "We need good jobs, jobs that can support a family." Having said this, he then said that he wanted to create manufacturing jobs which, even if he could, would in today's world at best foot the bill for a Starbucks latte – once a day. Barack Obama to families: Drop dead!

Moderator Candy Crowley followed up with a query about what either candidate would do about the high number of jobless Americans overall.

This segment went to Romney for the former governor pointing out that the unemployment rate is the same today as when Obama entered office. He added that the number is only 7.8% because so many have exited the labor force due to a lack of job opportunities.

Obama responded with his stock line about 5 million jobs created since he entered office, plus his wildly questionable assertion that he saved 1 million automobile jobs; jobs that would have disappeared under Romney for the latter having wanted to send GM and Chrysler into bankruptcy. Romney's response was fairly good for him pointing out that Obama too took the ailing carmakers into bankruptcy; Romney simply having wanted to do it the normal way (you know, without the fleecing of secured creditors, gifting the automakers to the UAW) whereby the company continues to operate while restructuring its debt.

In the next question Obama was asked about Energy Secretary Steven Chu having admitted three different times that he'd like to see gasoline prices higher.

Obama predictably talked up how much oil and natural gas exploration has increased during his administration, then pivoted to the green energy he likes so much, and then proclaimed that he would "not cede green energy jobs to China and Germany." Funny how much us taxpayers have had to pay so that Obama could pursue his green fantasy, and as for China and Germany, if taxpayers in both countries are so eager to fund the economic lie that is green energy, and if skeptics like this one turn out to be wrong, the good news is that we'll be able to import the energy at a market price as though it was conceived in Berkeley. Does anyone want to bet me on my assertion that green energy will never be able to stand on its own absent major subsidies? Can I pay you back ten lifetimes from now when you win the bet?

Romney then predictably responded that yes, oil and gas exploration is up under Obama, but none of it on federal lands. He also brought up a criminal action the Obama administration took against a producer in North Dakota. And then ever a me-too candidate, Romney said he too was for an "all of the above energy plan", which on its own is strange for someone who claims to believe in the free market; free markets surely devoid of national energy plans. Puzzling to this writer is why Romney didn't attack Obama again for not just the costs of his green energy fantasies, but also how much of the companies funded are now bankrupt. A lost opportunity for Romney.

Romney perhaps drew blood for pointing out that a gallon of gas in Nassau was \$1.84 when Obama entered office, and now it's \$4. Obama drew blood in return with his reminder that gasoline was relatively cheap when he entered office precisely because the U.S. economy was collapsing under Republican policies that Romney would supposedly like to revive. Of course neither made the obvious point that gasoline is only expensive insofar as the Obama dollar is very cheap; Obama failing to make that point for obvious reasons, Romney failing to make it because his economic advisers such as Greg Mankiw actually support the Treasury and Fed's so far successful, and economy wrecking efforts to debase the greenback.

On taxes, Romney was asked what tax deductions he would limit in order to cut taxes for all Americans across the board.

Notable here was that the questioner pointed out the good in the Romney tax plan (20% across the board cuts for all earners); this something Romney has so far been reluctant to do given his odd and frustrating desire to not appear to support a reduction in the price of work for the top 1% in this country whose economic achievements improve all of our lives on a daily basis. Instead, Romney went out of his way yet again to oddly brag that the top 5% would still account for 60% of federal revenues (and you thought Obama was a socialist), while all the benefits would come to middle earners whose tax savings by virtue of them being middle earners can't move the investment dial that leads to job creation. After that, Romney's implicit message to middle income types with designs on making it into the 1% is essentially "If you have the temerity to achieve so much that you enter the 1%, your penalty will be higher taxes." Romney's the growth candidate. No seriously, he is.

Obama was naturally no better. He, much like his taxation doppelganger in Romney promised middle class tax relief, though in his case he proposed doing the impossible whereby he would try to fleece top earners even more

than at present in order to close the deficit. Lots of luck with that. He then added that "Governor Romney thinks it's fair and that it grows the economy when people making \$20 million a year pay a lower tax rate than those making \$50,000. That does not grow the economy." Actually, Mr. President, it does grow the economy when you lower the tax burden on the vital few whose exploits elevate our economic existence, not to mention that any income not taxed away by the feds morphs into investment, investment authors all company formation, and through company formation there's job creation. Economic growth is easy, though you wouldn't know it from listening to either of the candidates.

Obama then asserted that Romney thinks economic growth can only occur if capital gains taxes on the rich are maintained at their present rate of 15%. Romney should have answered him in the affirmative, that capital gains taxes are a cost placed on investment, that if you want more jobs you need more investment, and that the job-maximizing capital gains rate is zero, but instead he repeated for seemingly the 6th time his platitudinous line about how "I know what it takes to create jobs, and my five point plan will get us there." Those listening to the debate on the radio probably thought they were listening to a 4th grade debate, as opposed to a faceoff between two men vying to lead the richest, most important nation on earth. Seriously, we used to be a serious country with serious leaders.

On male/female income disparities, Obama talked about enforcing laws, ending discrimination and more education, and then Romney talked about how he made a point when governor to get more women into his cabinet. There was a time when Republicans decried affirmative action.

Up next was a question from an undecided voter who, though disappointed in our progress the last four years, is similarly worried that Romney would bring us back to the Bush policies that she similarly didn't like. Good taste, this questioner.

Romney's response brought new meaning to the word hopeless. Once again he trotted out his "Five Point Plan", after which he talked up a rush to energy independence that would cripple us economically for violating comparative advantage, then he said "I'll crack down on China, Bush didn't." Actually Bush bashed the Chinese too, and the result was a severely debased dollar that drove oil to nosebleed heights, and a horrifying increase of investment into the sink of wealth that is housing (the middle classes have to hedge governmental destruction of the dollar too) which led to a recession, and then led to a financial crisis thanks to massive bipartisan support of bank bailouts. And then channeling Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis, two presidential candidates who pandered to the little guy on the way to landslide presidential losses, Romney said "I'm for small business, Bush wasn't." Ok, the problem here is that though small businesses create lots of jobs, they tend to be able to thanks to their proximity to *large businesses*. Rest assured, absent big business, there would be very few small businesses.

In his response, Obama once again blamed the Bush administration for all of the economic problems during his own presidency, then he turned to Romney and said "Governor, you're the last person who's going to get tough on China." Second graders could doubtless relate to the two candidates as they tried to out-protectionist one another.

The next question went to Obama. The questioner had voted for Obama in 2008, didn't think things were so hot economically in 2012, so how would they be different if Obama were handed a second term.

Obama naturally blamed Bush yet again before talking about the 5 million jobs he created. Romney perhaps did a little better in response as he rattled off the economic statistics of what is Obama's failed economic presidency. Romney noted that during Reagan's recovery, and despite a much smaller population, two times as many jobs were created. He then had a good line about how Obama "is great at describing his vision, but his record doesn't match his rhetoric." Round to Romney, flyweight division.

And then Obama took the next round when a Hispanic woman asked about their immigration policies for productive, but illegal immigrants. Romney gave the usual GOP line about how he wants immigration, if it's legal. "But I won't grant amnesty to illegals", and then he talked about his support of a computer system that would crack down on companies that hire illegals. No joke, we used to be a free country, and Republicans used to be into freedom.

Obama seemed reasonable after Romney in the sense that he acknowledged the truth that we're a nation of immigrants, not to mention the happy truth that the world's talented still want to come to the U.S. Obama then

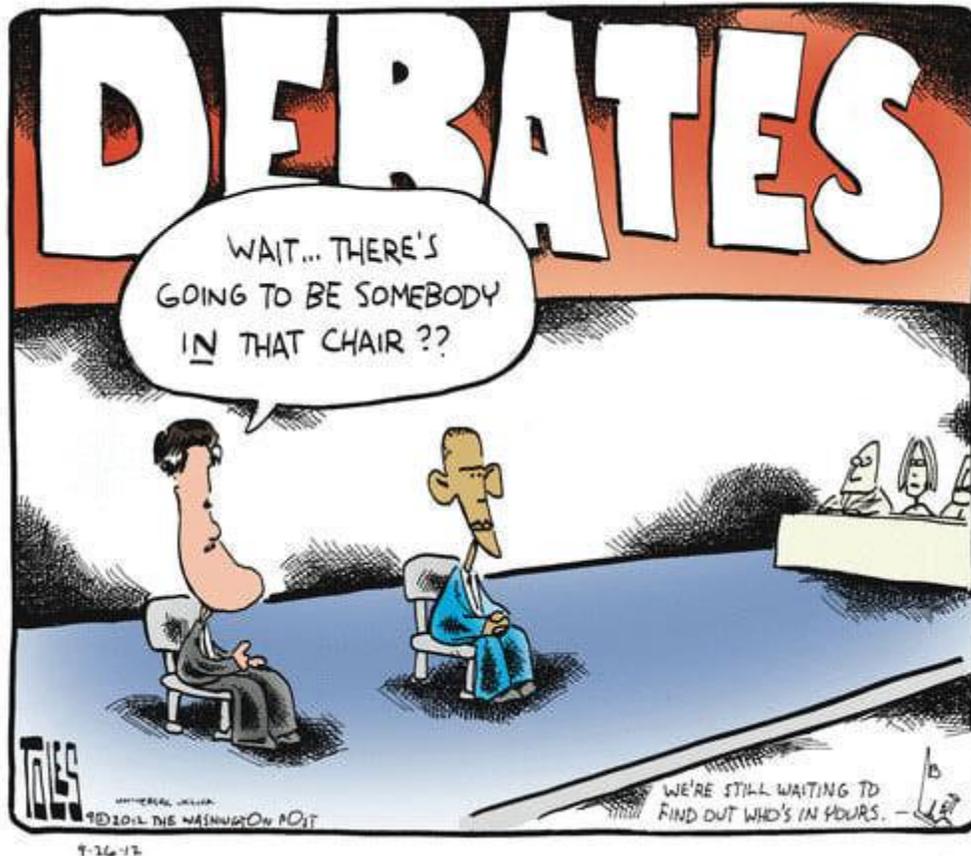
opened himself up to major smackdown from Romney when he noted that the illegal inflow of workers across the border is the lowest it's been in 40 years. Romney could have easily said that the "inflow has plummeted precisely because your economy is so bad", but to do so, he would have had to acknowledge just how foolish is his own immigration stance. Round to Obama, featherweight division.

And then they returned to jobs, and a questioner asked what both would do about outsourcing; outsourcing the economically stimulative process whereby low value work is sent overseas, the outflow of jobs boosts profits for U.S. companies, then those U.S. companies use their profits to expand while creating higher-paying jobs stateside. If we didn't send jobs overseas, we'd be a very poor country for so many Americans still stuck in low value work. In short, outsourcing is beautiful.

Not to these two amateurs. In Romney's case, as though he felt he hadn't stressed enough his plan to start an economy-wrecking, stock market crashing trade war with China, the former governor, as if on auto-pilot talked up again his promise to "crack down" on China in order to bring jobs back to the U.S.

And then Obama, never one to let a bad, economy crippling idea go unanswered, followed up with his own bad idea, contradicting himself in the process. Specifically, he drooled that "Some jobs won't come back to America because they're low wage and low skill, and that's why I want to bring back manufacturing jobs to the United States." Translated: "Low wage, low skilled jobs aren't coming back to America, so I want to bring low wage, low skilled jobs back to America."

Last night's debate has to be considered a draw, albeit one in which both fighters punched *themselves* out in the first round. It was truly an embarrassing night for each candidate, and as the world was watching, an embarrassing night for the United States more broadly. It's been said that "When a Democrat runs against a Democrat, a Democrat wins." I'll have neither.



FotM NEWSLETTER #249 (Oct. 17, 2012)—HYPERTEXT INDEX

<u>DATE-ID</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>SUBJECT/TITLE</u>
<u>20121017-00</u>		SteveB	Barack! by Steven W. Baker / SteveB ("Presidential Debate: Obama Snaps Back Hard" & "Obama Outsources Romney" & "Romney vs. Obama Was a Nauseating Draw & Both Deserve to Lose")
<u>20121016-01</u>	08:24	Pam	Re: My Political Muse... (reply to Art, FotM Newsletter #248)
<u>20121016-02</u>	08:50	Pam	Photo: Son and Daughter-in-Law
<u>20121016-03</u>	14:15	Ben	Photo: Today's Seafood Lunch at Apple
<u>20121016-04</u>	16:31	Art	Re: "My Take: 'I'm Spiritual but Not Religious' Is a Cop-Out" (reply to Pam, FotM Newsletter #240)
<u>20121016-05</u>	16:41	Pam	Re: "My Take: 'I'm Spiritual but Not Religious' Is a Cop-Out" (reply to Art, above)
<u>20121016-06</u>	16:51	SandyI	Video: Is This Woman for Real?
<u>20121016-07</u>	17:19	Art	Re: Video: Is This Woman for Real? (reply to SandyI, above)
<u>20121016-08</u>	23:58	Marci	Photo: Special Moments #3
<u>20121016-09</u>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: Hofstra University Grounds, Hempstead, New York

<u>20121016-01</u>	08:24	Pam	Re: My Political Muse... (reply to Art, FotM Newsletter #248)
------------------------------------	-------	-----	---

It is so gratifying to hear you say this, Art. I've been worried about this issue for years, ever since I taught Western Civ. and learned just how many times throughout history the rich have stuck it to the poor, with disastrous results for everyone--except those in power, and even they get killed in the end. I do fear violence and perhaps outright revolution if we don't get a handle on this, and I am pretty sure that revolution would come from the Right, which would not be pretty. I had dinner with my libertarian friend last night, and we both hope the next 50 years, at least, will be peaceful. That may be a lot to ask.

20121016-02

08:50

Pam

Photo: Son and Daughter-in-Law

I want to share the happiness.



20121016-03

14:15

Ben

Photo: Today's Seafood Lunch at Apple

...over white Nishiki sticky rice with nori shaker stuff.

Yum.

Most of my miso experience has been miso soup before sushi. Miso, which is fermented soy done in one of those many specialized ways in which soy can be fermented, has a strong flavor. In soup form, it's barely noticeable, if still quite distinctive. Applied as a paste or batter or whatever to a mild fish like cod, it revs things up a bit. Inside, the tender, moist cod flakes were still pure cod, cooked enough to firm up and flakify the flesh; if I may introduce this new verb, in future, we may speak of flakification. (No, I don't think so. Scratch new verb.) The crust and top layer of fish, though, emphasized that miso itself is less gentle than the soup made of it. I am still pondering whether this is a way I'd like to eat fish more often, or less often. Definitely different, very much its own thing. Definitely, delicious and worthy. Definitely, I liked it; whether I would prefer it to other ways of preparing cod is less clear. Without question, it's always good to try new thing, to step outside one's bento...

The pickled cabbage, which was a more emphatic purple than my photo would suggest, was very crisp, and had an awesome delayed pucker factor. Crunchy pickled cabbage laid down a nice contrast to soft, resilient fish. The sauteed cabbage julienne and shiitake were a nice contrast in both flavor and texture, to each other, and with the rest of the dish as well. Very nice variety of flavors and textures - and color! - on this dish. The Japanese Kabocha squash was very like butternut; dense, firm, rich, and sweet.



Miso Baked Cod over Nisiki Rice with Pickled Cabbage, Kabocha Squash, Cabbage-Shitaki Sautee

[20121016-04](#)

16:31 Art

Re: "My Take: 'I'm Spiritual but Not Religious' Is a Cop-Out" (reply to Pam, FotM Newsletter #240)

I know this is a little late but as part of my recently completed trip we spent a few days in New York and saw the Broadway play, *Book of Mormon*. Absolutely hilarious. Best thing I've seen since the Andrew Lloyd Webber days. It has nothing to do with the election but does poke a lot of fun at the Mormon religion and beliefs. Of course, any thinking person who sees it will see the same folibles in every religion. It has played to sold out houses for a year now in New York and has just launched a nationwide performance schedule. See it if you have the chance.

[20121016-05](#)

16:41 Pam

Re: "My Take: 'I'm Spiritual but Not Religious' Is a Cop-Out" (reply to Art, above)

That would be fun. I saw the playwrights interviewed on the Daily Show (I think it was). It sounds like a very irreverent play, just my cup of tea. I wonder if Mitt has seen it? Is everyone going to watch tonight's debate? If you do, you can tell me about it tomorrow. I can't bear to watch.

[20121016-06](#) 16:51 SandyI Video: Is This Woman for Real?

Is this woman for real? You have to watch this...this woman is serious.

Video: "Please Move the Deer Crossings!" (<http://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/CI8UPHMzZm8?rel=0>).

[20121016-07](#) 17:19 Art Re: Video: Is This Woman for Real? (reply to SandyI, above)

And we wonder how some of our candidates can get away with what they do. All part of the dumbing down of America. Worth a listen.

[20121016-08](#) 23:58 Marci Photo: Special Moments #3



http://longisland.about.com/od/familiessinglesseniors/ss/HofstraDutchFestival_9.htm



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

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

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

Your email address will always be kept strictly confidential.

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

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

original material ©2012 Steven W. Baker, all rights reserved