



## FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #254 — OCT. 24, 2012

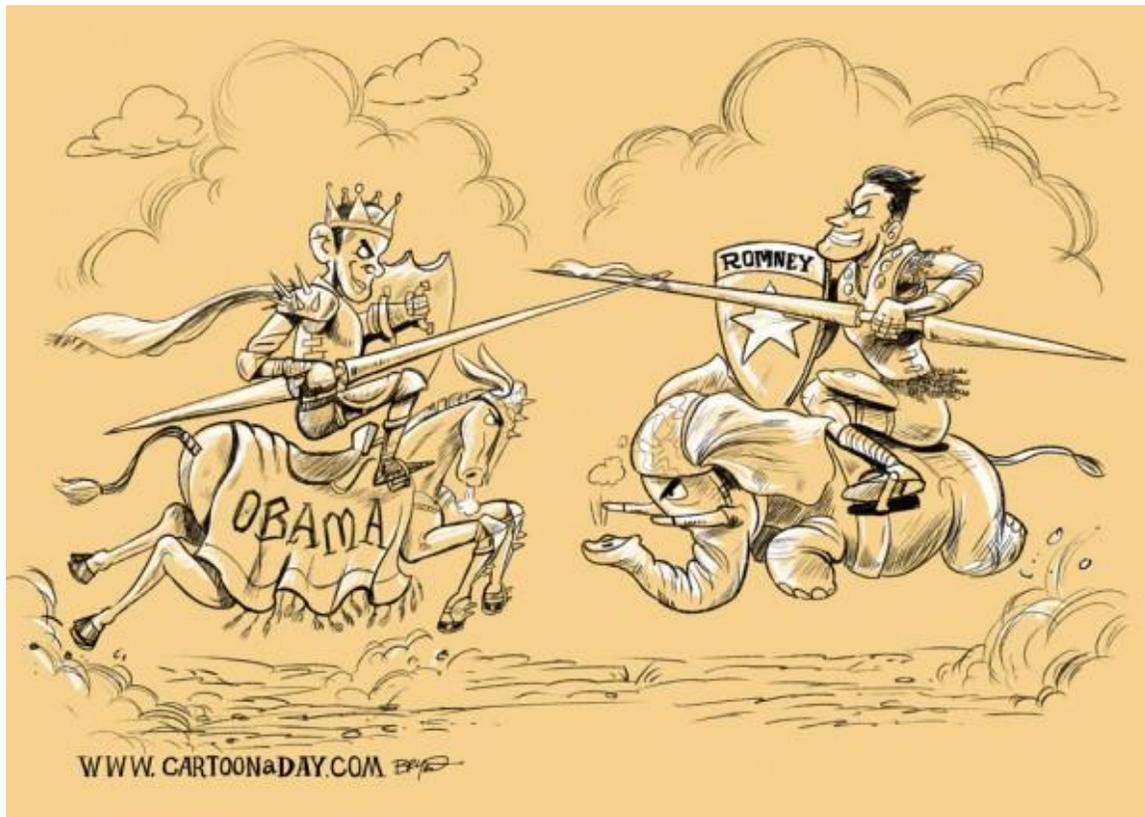
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**INDEX: Click here.**

### **In the Trenches of Class Warfare**

(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Oct. 24, 2012)

Never in my life have I seen such blatant lying as we have seen from Republicans this year used as a campaign tactic. The rule should be: **a liar cannot be President!** Please get out and vote! Vote early! Vote often! Vote Democratic! Make everyone you know do the same, even if you have to threaten that, if they don't, you will have your old Mafia friend come and break their kneecaps with a baseball bat. Most people don't usually want that. What America wants is free and honest elections. Here's why we don't want the election stolen by the liars:



"Obama as Commander-in-Chief, Romney as Dithering Bully" by Robert Reich, Huffington Post

Oct. 22, 2012, ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-reich/foreign-policy-debate\\_b\\_2004061.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=politics](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-reich/foreign-policy-debate_b_2004061.html?utm_hp_ref=politics))

I thought the third and last presidential debate was a clear win for the president. He displayed the authority of the nation's Commander-in-Chief -- calm, dignified, and confident. He was assertive without being shrill, clear without being condescending. He explained to a clueless Mitt Romney the way the world actually works.

Romney seemed out of his depth. His arguments were more a series of bromides than positions -- "we have to make sure arms don't get into the wrong hands," "we want a peaceful planet," "we need to stand by our principles," "we need strong allies," "we need a comprehensive strategy to move the world away from terrorism."

This has been Romney's problem all along, of course, but in the first debate he managed to disguise his vacuousness with a surprisingly combative, well-rehearsed performance. By the second debate, the disguise was wearing thin.

In tonight's debate, Romney seemed to wither -- and wander. He often had difficulty distinguishing his approach from the President's, except to say, repeatedly, "America needs strong leadership."

On the few occasions when Romney managed to criticize the President, he called for a more assertive foreign policy -- but he never specified exactly what that assertiveness would entail. He wanted "tougher economic sanctions on Iran," for example, or "stronger support for Israel" -- the details of which were never revealed.

Obama's most targeted criticism of Romney, on the other hand, went to Romney's core weakness -- that Romney's positions have been inconsistent, superficial, and often wrong: "Every time you've offered an opinion," said Obama, "you've been wrong."

Nonetheless, I kept wishing Obama would take more credit for one of the most successful foreign policies of any administration in decades: not only finding and killing Osama bin Laden but also ridding the world of Libya's Gaddafi without getting drawn into a war, imposing extraordinary economic hardship on Iran, isolating Syria, and navigating the treacherous waters of Arab Spring.

Obama pointed to these achievements, but I thought he could have knitted them together into an overall approach to world affairs that has been in sharp contrast to the swaggering, bombastic foreign policies of his predecessor.

Like George W. Bush, Mitt Romney has a pronounced tendency to rush to judgment - to assert America's military power too quickly, and to assume that we'll be viewed as weak if we use diplomacy and seek the cooperation of other nations (including Russia and China) before making our moves.

President Obama won tonight's debate not only because he knows more about foreign policy than does Mitt Romney, but because Obama understands how to wield the soft as well as the hard power of America. He came off as more subtle and convincing than Romney -- more authoritative -- because, in reality, he is.

Although Monday night's topic was foreign policy, I hope Americans understood it was also about every other major challenge we face. Mitt Romney is not only a cold warrior; he's also a class warrior. And the two are closely related. Romney tries to disguise both within an amenable demeanor. But in both capacities, he's a bully.

["Angry Obama Loses to Unflappable Romney" by Michael Medved, The Daily Beast](#)

Oct. 23, 2012, (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/10/23/angry-obama-loses-to-unflappable-romney.html>)

(Why'd you spend your time smearing Mitt instead of actually talking foreign policy, Mr. President? A cool, consistent, and peace-loving Romney won, says Michael Medved.)

Mr. President, why so angry? What's up with that gloomy edge and the sour mood?

Aside from all the bewildering back-and-forth about Libya, Iran, apology tours, and auto bailouts, by far the most important aspect of the third and final presidential debate involved its atmospherics—which candidate came across

as more calming and confident, more plausible and reassuring as commander-in-chief? Which of the contenders, in other words, emerged from their final confrontation looking like a leader, frontrunner, and ultimate winner?

In that regard Barack Obama helped himself with his fluent command of foreign affairs and passionate engagement with the disparate subjects under discussion. But he hurt himself with a chip-on-the-shoulder demeanor and attack-dog aggressiveness against Mitt Romney. On several occasions the GOP nominee reasonably responded that "attacking me is not an agenda."

Debate viewers watched an odd spectacle in which the president of the United States, the most powerful man on earth, devoted a considerable portion of his prime opportunity to discuss his nation's place in the world, to smearing reviews of random speeches, interviews, and position papers by his unelected opponent.

As Jimmy Carter discovered in his single disastrous debate with Ronald Reagan, when the incumbent president concentrates his energy on savaging his opponent, he concedes to that rival the status of frontrunner. If he focuses on trying to scare the American people about the prospect of the other guy as president, he implicitly acknowledges that this prospect is both conceivable and imminent. Why else would he want to provoke worry of the opponent's proposals for the next four years rather than inspiring enthusiasm for his own?

Romney won the debate by offering an image of even-tempered geniality, good-natured self-assurance, and unshakable commitment to cautious, reasonable, and peace-loving leadership. When he repeatedly acknowledged his agreement with aspects of the president's policies, it reflected strength more than weakness and contrasted powerfully with Obama's annoying inability to find any aspect of his opponent's positions or career worthy of praise or even grudging acceptance. In an argument the combatant who takes the more critical and indignant tone almost always ends up as the loser.

This pattern will prove especially potent for the few remaining undecided voters or wavering independents who express their heartfelt yearning for more cooperation and conciliation from our elected officials in gridlocked Washington. Romney addressed that yearning explicitly with his reminder of his own record as a commonsense problem-solver who worked successfully with Democrats as governor of Massachusetts.

In selecting a chief executive to safeguard the nation's well-being in turbulent times, voters instinctively seek steadiness, cool, and consistency. This last quality gave Romney another edge in this climactic confrontation: the American people saw precisely the same unflappable guy who turned up at debate No. 1 and debate No. 2. In Obama's case the contrasts and metamorphoses seemed striking—from sleepy Obama to snippy-and-interrupting Obama in the second debate to angry-and-aggrieved Obama in debate No. 3.

These shifts in personal presentation may stem from coming adjustments in strategy and won't keep the president or his partisans from claiming victory in the final faceoff. After all, he delivered a vigorous, intermittently effective defense of a record in foreign affairs that has, as he claimed, kept the nation safe from major harm.

But in the process he wasted too much time trying to paint a formidable, sophisticated, and unmenacing opponent as a dangerous, warmongering amateur. But the frightening Halloween costume stubbornly refused to fit.

Meanwhile, Mitt may not be ready to don the cloak of presidential command, but in the third debate viewers at least got the chance to check him out as he credibly tried it on.

"Reality vs. 'Reality'" by Michael Tomasky, The Daily Beast

Oct. 23, 2012, (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/10/23/reality-vs-reality.html.html>)

(Obama won the debate, and everyone but Romney and the Republicans know that.)

Today may be the most important single day of the campaign. Obama won the debate. Everyone this side of Charles Krauthammer agrees that Romney was general and platitudinous and not that engaged. That makes two

out of three. You might think that would mean momentum. And yet the conventional wisdom is congealing right now—it is hardening this morning, minute by minute—that Romney is going to win the election.

From Playbook, which distills the c.w.: President Obama won last night's foreign-policy debate on substance, in snap polls and with the pundits, but Mitt Romney did well enough that for the first time in six years, Romney folks emailed, "We're going to win."

In reality, Obama is the favorite. The state maps still make him so. Nate Silver, the only person who takes every single poll into account (plus loads of other indicators), still has him so. This emerging c.w. is built more on spin and smell, which the media are starting to buy. One piece that Mike Allen bought this morning in that Playbook item: A Romney aide told him New Hampshire leans their way.

Ridiculous. Even RCP has Obama +3 in New Hampshire. A poll yesterday had him up nine. He's never trailed there. It's been a fight, true, but he is clearly on course to win it. But the Romney aide just threw it out there. Not blaming him or her—it's the kind of thing you throw out when you want to start giving an impression of inevitability. But that is what the Romney team is trying now to do. (It's up to journalism, of course, to say when something doesn't seem true.)

And so, after their side's third consecutive debate loss, conservatives are the ones feeling confident. They are creating a reality. They're talking up Romney's supposedly unstoppable momentum now that he's survived the debates without making one of those Gerry Ford-style goofs (that's the bar now for the presidency?). They're tweeting things about Silver, sharpening their knives, contemplating his November 7 takedown. They're not quite measuring the drapes, but they're getting their rulers out of storage.

Factually, this isn't remotely justified. At worst from Obama's perspective, the thing is tied. As far as we know, looking at all the averages, on a state-by-state basis he's ahead. If you assume seven or eight states in play and go through all the permutations, Obama often wins by taking just two or three of them. Yes, a lot hinges on Ohio. But he can win even without it (he needs a strong inside straight, but it's possible). Romney absolutely cannot.

Conservatives know all this. But they're constructing an opposite reality. This is at the heart of everything going on right now, I think. It's what they can do that liberals can't really do. They've always done it. "Romney is going to win" in 2012 isn't so different from "We'll be hailed as liberators" in 2003. They say something and try to make it so, and the media go for it time and time again.

This is what's maddening to liberals about what Romney has done since the first debate. He's constructed a new reality about himself and he's gotten away with it, mostly. Specifically, it's that he's flip-flopped on all these things without the remotest hint of acknowledgement that the old positions even existed. Last night's Afghanistan pirouette was stunning.

We're used to a politician who says, "You know, I once thought..." or something like that. Then our minds can kind of buy the idea that he's flip-flopping. Most pols do this. It used to be thought by political consultants that pols had to do that part of it. But not Romney and his team. No acknowledgement, not an inch. A complete lie. And a real f-you, by the way, to voters who'd like to know why he changed his mind, except why bother, really, since there's no substance there. He changed his mind to win, period.

So today is the most crucial day of the campaign. Republicans are going to be filling journalists' heads with the inevitability "reality": a few poll results, a few morsels from the trail, and so on. A lot of the media will keep writing it that way, too.

What should Obama do? Well, Republicans want to make Democrats fearful and jittery and reactive—appear to be accepting the Republican premise. So basically, anything but that. These next two or three days will be crucial, and if the Democrats do seem fearful and reactive, they'll help the new c.w. congeal and maybe help seal a fate that the facts don't yet come close to foreordaining.

**FotM NEWSLETTER #254 (Oct. 24, 2012)—HYPERTEXT INDEX**

<u>DATE-ID</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>SUBJECT/TITLE</u>
<a href="#">20121024-00</a>		SteveB	<b>In the Trenches of Class Warfare</b> by Steven W. Baker / SteveB ("Obama as Commander-in-Chief, Romney as Dithering Bully" & "Angry Obama Loses to Unflappable Romney" & "Reality vs. 'Reality'")
<a href="#">20121023-01</a>	07:25	SteveB	Re: 'Where Do We Come From, Grandpa?' (reply to Pam, FotM Newsletter #253)
<a href="#">20121023-02</a>	11:00	Pam	Re: 'Where Do We Come From, Grandpa?' (reply to SteveB, above)
<a href="#">20121023-03</a>	11:50	Ben	Photo: Yesterday's Healthy Lunch at Apple
<a href="#">20121023-04</a>	14:05	SteveB	Fw: ASSALAMU'ALAYKUM!!!!
<a href="#">20121023-05</a>	15:03	Charis	Santa Cruz Festival of Independent Alternative Music
<a href="#">20121023-06</a>	20:38	SandyI	Cartoon: Fox News Characterizes the Last Debate
<a href="#">20121023-07</a>	23:22	Tom	Cartoon: Bill Clinton—All in a Day's Work
<a href="#">20121023-08</a>	23:31	Tom	"International Monitors at U.S. Polling Spots Draw Criticism from Voter Fraud Groups"
<a href="#">20121023-09</a>	23:57	Marci	Photo: Special Moments #7
<a href="#">20121023-10</a>	23:58	Dennis	Graphics: Why We Can't Let Our Newspapers Go Out of Business #2
<a href="#">20121023-11</a>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: of the day

<a href="#">20121023-01</a>	07:25	SteveB	Re: 'Where Do We Come From, Grandpa?' (reply to Pam, FotM Newsletter #253)
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Pam: "It's the 'I'm right and you're wrong' mentality that drives me around the bend."

Especially about things like Jesus being married when everyone knows he wasn't!?

Yes, as we have discussed a little...when people think they know the mind of God, that they have the answers and the "good" lies beyond this realm in the afterlife, they can justify nearly any horror, here, in the name of getting there. As they say in Tennessee, that there is a very dangerous thingee.

And, yep, I don't get it either...especially as a driver of passion. Inexplicable!

We have a couple of friends here who love Jesus Christ. I mean, seriously! He's been dead a while, even if he's in heaven, right? I don't get it! And, even if he's the greatest thing since toast, to, like, literally love and adore him? Come on! I don't even feel that way about Melville. (And, by the way, have you read *Moby Dick* lately? It's so astounding! To think, the experts searched for the "great American novel" for how long? Maybe they're still searching... There it was, all along. What do experts know?)

<a href="#">20121023-02</a>	11:00	Pam	Re: 'Where Do We Come From, Grandpa?' (reply to SteveB, above)
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I do think *Moby Dick* is the great American novel. I find the whaling chapters rather hard going, but the epic story of man against nature and the destructiveness of obsession tap into the American core.

I guess if love is all in our head, with a little help from our hormones, then you could talk yourself into feeling love for just about anything--a cat, a dog, a plant, Jesus, the color purple.

Yep: I just couldn't see myself wolfing down a plate of nachos of any kind, as reading my book while eating is a big part of the ritual, on days when I have no visitors. The book had hotted up enough that the extra napkin action just wasn't going to cut it.

So I had a LARGE salad. A small salad is huge, a large one is... bigger:



A Lovely Salad

This looks good, but I'm going to try to wait for at least a 50-50 split. 40% hardly seems worth my effort. Maybe the dude is desperate enough to give me a better offer?

from "Dr. Ibrahim Shorowa":

ASSALAMU'ALAYKUM!!!!!!

DEAR FRIEND

With due respect to your person and much sincerity of purpose, I make this contact with you as I believe that you can be of great assistance to me. My name is Dr.Ibrahim shorowa, from Ouagadougou Republic of BURKINA FASO , West Africa . Presently I work in the African development Bank as telex manager. I have been searching for your contact since you left our country some years ago.

I do not know whether this is your correct email address or not because I only used your name initials to search for your contact .In case you are not the person I am supposed to contact, please see this as a confidential message

and do not reveal it to another person but if you are not the intended receiver, do let me know whether you can be of assistance regarding my proposal below because it is top secret.

I am about to retire from active Bank service to start a new life but I am sceptical to reveal this particular secret to a stranger. You must assure me that everything will be handled confidentially because we are not going to suffer again in life.

It has been 10 years now that most of the greedy African Politicians used our bank to launder money overseas through the help of their Political advisers. Most of the funds which they transferred out of the shores of Africa were gold and oil money that was supposed to have been used to develop the continent. Their Political advisers always inflated the amounts before transfer to foreign accounts so I also used the opportunity to divert part of the funds hence I am aware that there is no official trace of how much was transferred as all the accounts used for such transfers were being closed after transfer.

I acted as the Bank Officer to most of the politicians and when I discovered that they were using me to succeed in their greedy act; I also cleaned some of their banking records from the Bank files and no one cared to ask me because the money was too much for them to control. They laundered over \$5b Dollars during the process .As I am sending this message to you, I was able to divert thirty five million united state dollars (\$35m) to an escrow account belonging to no one in the bank. The bank is anxious now to know who the beneficiary to the funds is because they have made a lot of profits with the funds.

It is more than Eight years now and most of the politicians are no longer using our bank to transfer funds overseas. The (\$35) Million Dollars has been LAYING waste but I don't want to retire from the bank without transferring the funds to a foreign account to enable me share the proceeds with the receiver. The money will be shared 60% for me and 40% for you.

There is no one coming to ask you about the funds because I secured everything. I only want you to assist me by providing a bank account where the funds can be transferred. You are not to face any difficulties or legal implications as I am going to handle the transfer personally. If you are capable of receiving the funds, do let me know immediately to enable me give you DETAILED information on what to do.

For me, I have not stolen the money from anyone because the other people that took the whole money did not face any problems. This is my chance also to grab my own but you must keep the details of the funds secret to avoid any leakages as no one in the bank knows about the funds.

Please get back to me if you are interested and capable to handle this project

I shall intimate you on what to do when I hear from your confirmation and acceptance. If you are capable of being my trusted associate, do declare your consent to me.

Waiting for your urgent response. Yours Faithfully, Dr.ibrahim shorowa

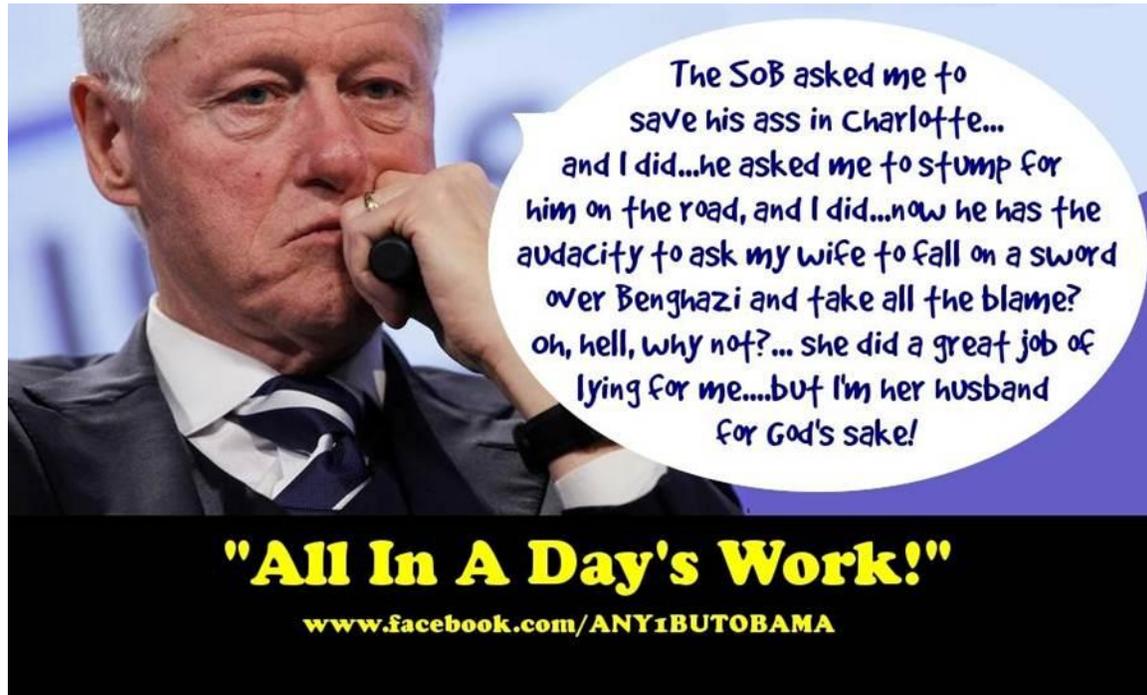
<http://www.boliviabella.com/ii-festival-de-msica-alternativa-independiente.html>



Greg posted this on Facebook and I'll have to admit I LOVE IT!!!!!! And I didn't even watch the debate, but I am a devotee of Monty Python's Flying Circus.



This shows how low the President Obama campaign has sunk. B.H.O. has the "lying, rapist-in-chief, anti-military bigot" working for them.



Isn't this special? UN affiliated folks from Central Asia and Europe are coming to monitor our elections to make sure that conservative groups don't suppress the votes of the vulnerables.

I wonder if they will be at that polling place in Philadelphia, where, in 2008, the New Black Panthers were making comments about "white crackers," while playing with their billy clubs?

[All the more reason, it seems to me, to have as many monitors as possible. Americans monitor elections the world over, I'm happy to have them come and help us out. I hope they send some computer experts because I don't trust any voting machine as far as I can throw it. I also don't trust Black Panthers playing with billy clubs, white crackers, or the Tea party when it comes to our elections! -SteveB]

"International Monitors at US Polling Spots Draw Criticism from Voter Fraud Groups" by Alexander Bolton, The Hill

Oct. 20, 2012, (<http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/263141-international-monitors-at-polling-places-draw-criticism-from-voter-fraud-group>)

United Nations-affiliated election monitors from Europe and central Asia will be at polling places around the U.S. looking for voter suppression activities by conservative groups, a concern raised by civil rights groups during a meeting this week. The intervention has drawn criticism from a prominent conservative-leaning group combating election fraud.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a United Nations partner on democratization and human rights projects, will deploy 44 observers from its human rights office around the country on Election Day to

monitor an array of activities, including potential disputes at polling places. It's part of a broader observation mission that will send out an additional 80 to 90 members of parliament from nearly 30 countries.

Liberal-leaning civil rights groups met with representatives from the OSCE this week to raise their fears about what they say are systematic efforts to suppress minority voters likely to vote for President Obama.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the NAACP and the ACLU, among other groups, warned this month in a letter to Daan Everts, a senior official with OSCE, of "a coordinated political effort to disenfranchise millions of Americans — particularly traditionally disenfranchised groups like minorities."

The request for foreign monitoring of election sites drew a strong rebuke from Catherine Engelbrecht, founder and president of True the Vote, a conservative-leaning group seeking to crack down on election fraud.

"These activist groups sought assistance not from American sources, but from the United Nations," she said in a statement to The Hill. "The United Nations has no jurisdiction over American elections."

Neil Simon, director of communications for the OSCE's parliamentary assembly, agreed the U.N. does not have jurisdiction over U.S. elections but noted all OSCE member countries, which include the United States, have committed since 1990 to hold free and democratic elections and to allow one another to observe their elections.

The observers, from countries such as Germany, France, Serbia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, will observe voting at polling places and other political activity.

"They [will] observe the overall election process, not just the ballot casting," said Giovanna Maiola, spokeswoman for OSCE. "They are focusing on a number of areas on the state level, including the legal system, election administration, the campaign, the campaign financing [and] new voting technologies used in the different states."

In a follow-up e-mail, Maiola noted that it is a limited election-observation mission. She said "the OSCE has regularly been invited to observe elections in the United States, in line with OSCE commitments."

Access of international observers during voting is explicitly allowed in some states such as Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota and New Mexico.

"State law does not generally provide for international observers," Maiola said. "However, through our contacts at state and county level in certain states, we managed to secure invitations at local level and we have taken up the offer to observe. Where this is not possible, we will respect the state regulation on this matter and will not observe in precincts on Election Day."

International observers will follow up on the concerns raised by civil rights groups.

"We attended their meeting, we took note of the issues they raised and we asked our observers in the field to follow up on them," said Maiola.

The OSCE has 56 participating states from Europe, Central Asia and North America, including the United States and Canada. It has assessed elections in the United States since 2002.

Voting is expected to be more contentious this November than in past years because of a running battle over election law pitting conservative groups and Republican state officials against the Obama administration and liberal allies.

The Obama campaign scored a victory this week when the Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal filed by Republican officials in Ohio seeking to limit the state's early voting program.

Last month in Wisconsin, the state Supreme Court declined to immediately review lower-court rulings invalidating a voter-identification law signed by Republican Gov. Scott Walker.

In Florida, judges stopped attempts to restrict voter-registration drives but allowed measures to reduce days of early voting and to remove non-citizens from voting rolls to stand.

Both sides expect wrangling over voter identification and eligibility to extend to polling places and are recruiting armies of volunteers for Election-Day showdowns.

True the Vote, a group with Tea Party origins, has an ambitious plan to deploy hundreds of thousands of volunteers at polling stations to monitor election fraud.

"We may surpass a million volunteers or fall short, it will be hard to know," said Engelbrecht. "But we're very excited about the level of enthusiasm, the number of volunteers, and the fact that we had a positive impact in bringing awareness to this important issue, of election integrity."

Democratic allies will counter with their own forces. The AFL-CIO will dispatch 300 lawyers to monitor poll workers and third-party groups challenging voter registration.

The Advancement Project, a self-described multi-racial civil rights organization, will send more than 3,000 poll watchers to battleground states.

The Election Protection coalition, which includes Democratic allies such as the Sierra Club, Service Employees International Union and People for the American Way, plans to recruit 8,000 to 10,000 volunteers to cover 80 cities and counties.

"We hope that all groups that are putting people at a polling place, that they should follow the law and they should be there to make sure that responsible Americans who wish to participate in our democracy are able to free of intimidation," said Eric Marshall, co-leader of Election Protection.

Civil rights groups have complained about what they say are subtle efforts of intimidation. They point to a billboard campaign in swing states such as Ohio warning voter fraud is a felony punishable by up to three and a half years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Engelbrecht of True the Vote says intimidation is not her group's motive.

"We are not in the business of picking winners or losers, but instead, to ensure that the process is iron-clad," she said. "Properly trained and capable poll watchers or workers should offer no indication of their partisan or ideological leanings to voters at the polls."

[Smoooooooooth! –SteveB]



### Miracle cure kills fifth patient

**By The Associated Press**

A fifth volunteer died Tuesday from an experimental drug tested as a miracle cure for hepatitis B, beyond medical rescue even as scientists unraveled the mystery of what went gravely wrong in a clinical trial.

Aggravatingly, the first clue was in plain sight a year ago, but researchers at the National Institutes of Health didn't know enough about how the drug worked to recognize what it meant, the study's lead scientist says.

"Something terrible happened and we missed it," Dr. Jay Hoofnagle said in an emotional interview describing the horror of realizing the drug was killing people months after they stopped taking it.

"The dreadful thing [is] waiting to see what will happen," he said, his voice trembling, before learning of the most recent death. "I just hope we're over the worst."

The drug Fialuridine, or FIAU, had shown great promise for fighting the hepatitis B virus, which can cause deadly cirrhosis and liver cancer. When dogs passed toxicity tests unharmed, the Food and Drug Administration approved FIAU for human trials.

Too late, scientists would discover that in humans, FIAU stealthily attacks the very building blocks of cells in livers, kidneys and nerves.

Five people treated with FIAU have died of liver and kidney failure, despite liver transplants for three of them. On Tuesday, a 33-year-old woman succumbed after two months in critical condition, and two liver transplants at the University of Virginia Medical Center. One volunteer remains in serious condition there, and another is recovering from an Aug. 4 transplant at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

## The bra celebrates a pair of historic milestones this year

After 100 years of innovation, the device still holds up

**By SHARON FINK**  
*N. Petersburg Times*

It's time to mark two important milestones in the

bra, the Wonderbra, the water bra, bras are constantly evolving.

Although it often may not feel like it, the industry's No. 1 goal is comfort, said Norah Alberto, senior style director at Maidenform.

"You kind of want to forget you're wearing (a bra)," she

moment that got the cultural pot-stirrer as much attention for her image as her music.

Bras as outerwear were eventually joined by bustiers and corset tops (without bones in them). Then slips started being worn as dresses. Camisoles became a dressier kind of tank top. And under-

<http://mylifemytrip.com/music-video-pitbull-international-love-hits-more-than-125-m/>



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

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