



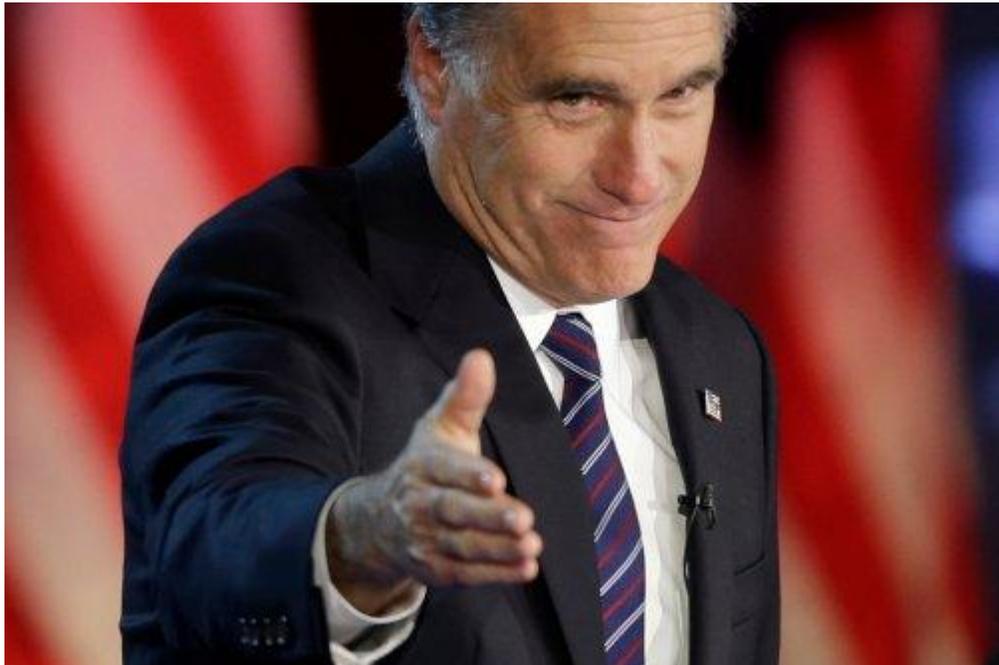
## FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #271 — NOV. 16, 2012

*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.**

### **R0mney's 'Gifts' Gaffe**

(posted by Friends of the Middle, Nov. 16, 2012)



**MarthaH** (07:19): I wrote Graham and McCain yesterday and will write my Congressman (soon to be gerrymandered into another "R" district) and Senators today. A weekly reminder that they serve US, not their caucus thugs is in order to get things accomplished. PLEASE join me! We aren't off to a good start with Mitten's election rationalization observations or Ryan's take on voter turnout. SOS—distress call and same old STUFF...Will they not learn? What price do WE pay?

**SteveB** (10:05): I love your weekly letter idea, Martha! If all citizens who are awake would do that weekly, well...pretty soon we might wake them up to the realization of for whom they work.

**Pam** (11:51): I suppose it was too much to hope that once the election was over sanity would return to the body politic. This latest issue of states refusing to participate in Obamacare, thus increasing costs to the entire system

and depriving many of their citizens' basic health care, is beyond incredible. The best, cheapest way to deal with health care IMHO would be universal coverage with a single payer. But it's not efficiency or fairness that matters to the Right. No, it's all about some sort of mythic frontier ideology, which is not far off survival of the fittest. There's a new book out about the Victorian workhouse and the Victorian attitude toward poverty generally. Workhouses were the last refuge of the destitute, and they were deliberately most unpleasant in order to discourage people from entering them. Still, the Victorians felt a Christian duty to care for the poor, and that became part of their justification for colonialism. What is the American attitude toward the poor? Do we even have one? I believe the Puritans have a lot to answer for here. If success was a sign of God's grace, then poverty had to be a sign of God's disfavor, and there was nothing to be done about it. And so a work ethic is born. In England you had "noblesse oblige," wherein the rich had a moral responsibility to the less fortunate. In America, the land of great fortunes derived from industry, philanthropy usually meant founding a library or endowing some other institution, like a museum. And who uses libraries and museums? Some of my favorite museums are small, exquisite collections like the Barnes in Philadelphia or the Frick in New York. I don't want to get into an argument about the value of art or books, but I find it telling that we save our most enthusiastic kudos for enterprises that cater to the elite--ballet, opera--rather than alleviate poverty. We give "welfare" grudgingly and are always looking for ways to cut it back even more. We never consider the need and what would be required to meet it adequately. It's no accident that England has National Health Service, and we don't. Speaks volumes.

**SteveB** (13:18): I just love this writing, Pam.

It's unbelievable to me that these—I want to and don't want to at the same time call them—ass-holes suffer an historic loss at the polls and, instead of learning anything, here they are in the faces of the majority again with their lunacy. Where is any attempt to solve any real problems?

Isn't it permissible for a free society to outlaw behaviors that are destructive to the whole? We do it for many other behaviors, why not for spreading major discontent and insurrection via gigantic lies?

But, no, Mr. Obama was somehow elected illegally, has no legitimacy, let alone a mandate, so the nation must be ripped apart. The majority must suffer. The poor, immigrants, children, students, and women must suffer. If you're black or gay or, heaven forbid, black and gay, you are SOL!

You are so right about charity, Pam. It's been exhaustively proven (even in these pages) that the rich have gotten very much richer since Reagan. If the rich were going to take care of the poor, wouldn't they have done it long before now? They haven't even made a dent in it, though assisted by \$billions in government/tax-payer help, both to the poor and, even more so, to the rich themselves. Give me a GD break!

I, for one, grow weary of their fascist crap that nobody wants to pick-up either end of. (Did I say that right?) Peace and love...

Ref: Graphics [20121115-02](#) (Republican Jesus), below.

**Pam:** (13:32): Right. If all that wealth is supposed to trickle down and create jobs, why hasn't it? And don't give me "regulation" and "uncertainty" and having to pay for health insurance. It might have said something nice about the Republican party if some of those billions they spent on the election had gone to alleviating some of our worst problems. But Noooooooooo. That would take away our freedom--to be selfish bastards.

**SteveB** (13:43): The problems come, of course, from the top, as well as from the bottom of the GOP...

Mitt says he's sorry...sorry he didn't win!

He also says of any future Republican presidential nominee – "which, by the way, will not be me."

What, Mitt, you don't have the cajones to run again? Thank God for small favors! Maybe we'll have Newt or Satanorum to kick around... In the meantime, you hold the record for world's worst loser of all time, Mr. Mittens.

Ref: Articles [20121115-03](#) ("Mitt Romney: Obama Won with 'Gifts' to Blacks, Hispanics, Young Voters") and [20121115-04](#) ("The Final Insult: Mitt Romney's Clueless Gift Gaffe"), below.

**Pam** (13:50): F-----g unbelievable! Excuse my French. This is really beyond belief. Who are these morons anyway? They're like termites, building themselves up at everyone else's expense--and being proud when it works and childish stupid when it doesn't. No matter what, nothing is ever THEIR fault. Aaaaaaarrrrghhh!

**SteveB** (14:05): I guess Mittens isn't listening to his fellow Republicans...

Ref: Article [20121115-05](#) ("Mitt Romney Campaign Did Not Offer Specifics, Say Top Republicans").

**Art** (16:28) In trying to figure this all at the moment it is like we are dealing with petulant children. I think at least part of the problem and explanation is the tea bags and others told so many lies about President Obama over the past couple of years ( he wasn't born in the United State, he wants to destroy the country, he's a communist, a NAZI, a Moslem, a socialist, he doesn't salute the flag and on and on) that they actually began to believe most of what they were saying. Now you can understand this to a degree from the rank and file tea baggers, who from what I've seen are pretty dim bulbs to began with, but the smarter guys at the top should have know better, but apparently they also got lost in the web of lies.

Having convinced themselves that the President was really evil, despite repeated corrections by every fact checker known to man, they then took the noble concept into the election that the Republicans were running against a truly horrible man who no true American could possibly support. In their limited all white little crowds they worked themselves up to a frenzy of beliefs that this was a wave of national expression against evil.

Hence their stunned surprise when they were not just beaten but beaten badly. How could this be? How could the country not see the evil that they so clearly saw. They are still trying to figure it out. Blame minorities, now they blame President Obama for "buying off" certain segments of the population (sort of goes back to that worthless minorities and immigrants thing doesn't it?) blame the stupidity of the liberals for failing to understand the evil they were opposing and on and on. So far none of them, and I really think even the top "thinkers" have failed to grasp that their entire premise was based on a web of lies and that many, many people, like most of us, saw clearly through that.

This little theory would help explain their current actions such as goofy succession petitions and their continued obsession with issues such as Benghazi where they are absolutely convinced they will finally find the evil they just know is there. What are they going to find? It is standard diplomatic practice that the safety and protection of our diplomats relies on the host country. You simply cannot have a big enough army in every country (would we want armed Chinese or Russians patrolling our streets?) to provide perfect protection for our diplomats. Further having American troops gunning down local civilians in the name of security does not win friends or influence people ( see parans above). Them's the rules. So I repeat, what are they going to find? I will tell you nothing. Fingers can be pointed claiming we should have had more security but based on what. We all knew Libya was a dicey place. Same line of logic could be used to hold Bush II accountable for 9/11.

Bottom line is they will spend enormous effort and valuable time on this non productive witch hunt because they continue to believe that, up to this point, elusive piece of evidence that will finally prove that they were right all along and evil does rest in the White House, is just around the corner. And meanwhile the important business of government, such as the economy and the deficit, goes un-addressed.

**Pam** (16:57): Alas, everything you say here, Art, is all too true. Rather than being relieved that Obama is NOT a Muslim or a Nazi or a socialist, as has been proven over and over, they prefer to cling to their skewed world view.

They actually prefer that things be bad, because complaining is so delicious. I find this secessionist idiocy really beyond the pale, but actually no surprise. For many many folks in the South, the Civil War isn't over; it's just in remission.

**SteveB** (17:15): I love this. You wrote a really great description of the problem! And it seems that I'm not the only one who agrees with you. This is what some leading Republicans have had to say about R0mney's "gifts" gaffe:

Bobby Jindal ([http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83892.html?hp=t1\\_3](http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83892.html?hp=t1_3))

"No, I think that's absolutely wrong," he said at a press conference that opened the RGA's post-election meeting here. "Two points on that: One, we have got to stop dividing the American voters. We need to go after 100 percent of the votes, not 53 percent. We need to go after every single vote.

"And, secondly, we need to continue to show how our policies help every voter out there achieve the American Dream, which is to be in the middle class, which is to be able to give their children an opportunity to be able to get a great education. ... So, I absolutely reject that notion, that description. I think that's absolutely wrong."

He reiterated the points for emphasis.

"I don't think that represents where we are as a party and where we're going as a party," he said. "That has got to be one of the most fundamental takeaways from this election: If we're going to continue to be a competitive party and win elections on the national stage and continue to fight for our conservative principles, we need two messages to get out loudly and clearly: One, we are fighting for 100 percent of the votes, and secondly, our policies benefit every American who wants to pursue the American dream. Period. No exceptions."

Sen. Marco Rubio (<http://www.politico.com/blogs/on-congress/2012/11/rubio-gently-rebuts-romney-149669.html?hp=f2>)

"I don't want to rebut him point by point," Rubio said of Romney. "I would just say to you, I don't believe that we have millions and millions of people in this country that don't want to work. I'm not saying that's what he said. I think we have millions of people in this country that are out of work and are dependent on the government because they can't find a job."

Joe Scarborough (<http://www.politico.com/blogs/joe-scarborough/2012/11/mitt-romneys-postelection-gaffe-149667.html?hp=r3>)

Mitt Romney proved again that in Washington, a gaffe is when you accidentally say something that you mean. **He also showed why he was ideologically unfit to be the Republican nominee for president.**

For Mr. Romney, the gaffe caught on camera and made public in September was that 47 percent of Americans are victims, grifters and thieves. And in a conference call with supporters on Wednesday, the former Massachusetts governor further exposed just how sheltered his life has been by explaining that these grifters were mostly minorities bought off with "gifts" from Barack Obama.

The conference call underlined what I have been saying for well over a year: that Mr. Romney has no idea what conservatism offers 100 percent of Americans who believe that freedom leads to prosperity and centralized planning is a road to serfdom. That message led Margaret Thatcher to an unlikely victory in 1979 and Ronald Reagan to a historical landslide a year later. And if Mr. Romney believes that message is no longer relevant to Hispanics and African-Americans, he should've stayed in La Jolla to oversee the building of his car elevator.

The future belongs to conservatism. It's time Republicans start electing leaders who actually believe it.

The only problem with these true believers is that their party, as currently configured, offers nothing to anyone but the rich, so the rewards of their conservatism for the 100% are a total myth.

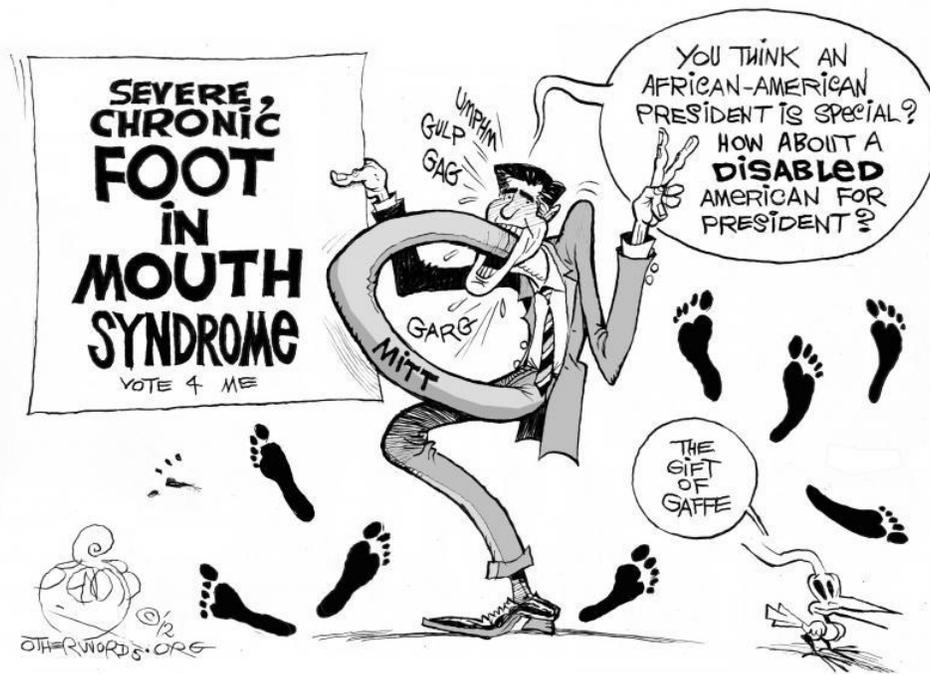
As Art says above, LIES, LIES, LIES, that is the GOP's (and, as a result, our basic problem)! (Well, other than racism and greed and their fruits!) In the Republican sense, that word should be spelled "rascism".

My God, I feel so fortunate Mittens Asshole R0mney was not elected President!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Art** (18:40): Ref: Article [20121115-08](#) ("A Few Words for My Republican Friends"), below.

**MarthaH** (21:18): Facts, not gifts!

Ref: Article [20121115-09](#) ("RNC Report Suggests Other Reasons Why Romney Lost"), below.



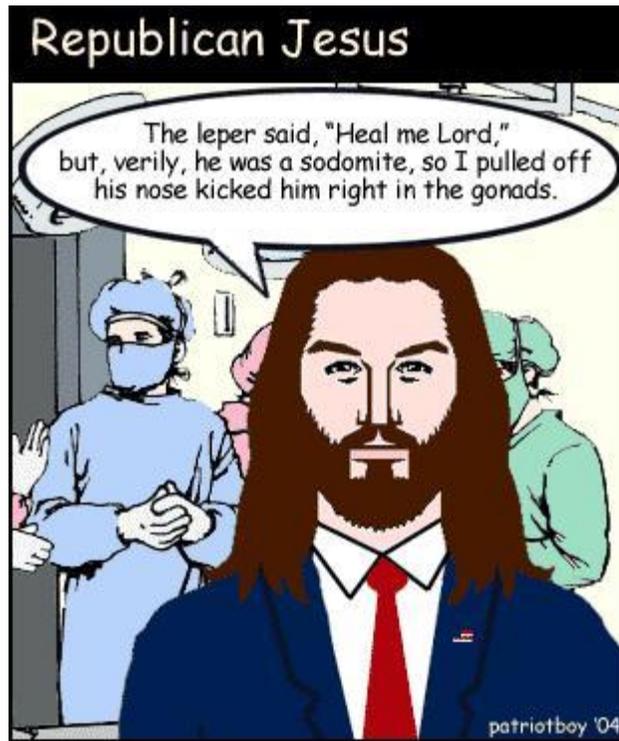
**FotM NEWSLETTER #271 (Nov. 16, 2012)—HYPERTEXT INDEX**

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<a href="#"><u>20121115-02</u></a>	13:18	SteveB	Graphics: Republican Jesus
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<a href="#"><u>20121115-11</u></a>	23:58	GaryF	Photos: Trust Me, I'm an Engineer... #8 (New Bike & D.I.Y. Toilet)
<a href="#"><u>20121115-12</u></a>	23:59	SteveB	Photo: Titi (Bolivia)

<a href="#"><u>20121115-01</u></a>	07:19	MarthaH	Re: "Odor-Eliminating Pants Are Hot Seller in Japan..." (reply to SteveB, FotM Newsletter #270) & More
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Personally, I will take the mountain view to the underwear one!





20121115-03 13:43 SteveB "The Final Insult: Mitt Romney's Clueless Gift Gaffe"

"The Final Insult: Mitt Romney's Clueless Gift Gaffe" by John Avalon, The Daily Beast

Nov. 14, 2012, (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/11/14/the-final-insult-mitt-romney-s-clueless-gift-gaffe.html>)

(Speaking to donors, the salesman candidate blamed his loss on the president's pitch with no evident sense of the irony, writes John Avlon.)

Mitt Romney made his final newsworthy post-election pronouncement, explaining to a conference call of big-dollar donors that he had fallen short because President Barack Obama had bribed liberal special interests with expensive gifts.

Here's what he said, according to *The New York Times*:

**With regards to the young people, for instance, a forgiveness of college loan interest, was a big gift...Free contraceptives were very big with young college-aged women. And then, finally, Obamacare also made a difference for them, because as you know, anybody now 26 years of age and younger was now going to be part of their parents' plan, and that was a big gift to young people. They turned out in large numbers, a larger share in this election even than in 2008 ... You can imagine for somebody making \$25,000 or \$30,000 or \$35,000 a year, being told you're now going to get free health care, particularly if you don't have it, getting free health care worth, what, \$10,000 per family, in perpetuity, I mean, this is huge ... Likewise with Hispanic voters, free health care was a big plus. But in addition with regards to Hispanic voters, the amnesty for children of illegals, the so-called Dream Act kids, was a huge plus for that voting group.**

Romney's comments about his opponent's "old playbook," as he called it, again revived a dystopian scenario conservatives have been warning about since the New Deal, where Democrats "buy" a permanent majority and undermine democracy at the cost of the productive class. Using this old myth to explain his defeat illustrates again

Romney's disconnect from modern America. He views growing groups—young voters and particularly young women, and Hispanics—as outside special interests, and not as an essential part of the fabric of America.

And it shows the mind of a man who believes that everything is for sale—including, or especially, votes. This is consistent with what I always felt was the most accurate criticism of Romney: that he approached politics as a salesman, offering every group a different pitch. From that perspective, it's easy to see how he could complain about government as a competing salesman, cobbling together constituencies with "gifts"—which sound perilously close to "bribes" in this context.

A final point: President Obama backing the DREAM Act or contraception coverage is not a nakedly political gesture, it is a matter of policy difference. Addressing the needs and desires of people is not a bribe or a government gift to be exchanged for a vote. It is part of the purpose of representative government as conservative forefather Edmund Burke himself once envisioned: "Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants. Men have a right that these wants should be provided for by this wisdom."

Romney's distance from this perspective about government shows how far the conservative conversation has drifted from original principles. His impulse to rationalize defeat as victory for liberal special-interest bribery shows again that it is probably best for the country that he was not elected president this November.

20121115-04 13:43 SteveB "Mitt Romney: Obama Won with 'Gifts' to Blacks, Hispanics, Young Voters"

"Mitt Romney: Obama Won with 'Gifts' to Blacks, Hispanics, Young Voters" by AP

Nov. 15, 2012, ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/14/mitt-romney-obama-gifts\\_n\\_2133529.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=politics](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/14/mitt-romney-obama-gifts_n_2133529.html?utm_hp_ref=politics))

(WASHINGTON) Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney is telling top donors that President Barack Obama won re-election because of the "gifts" he had already provided to blacks, Hispanics and young voters and because of the president's effort to paint Romney as anti-immigrant.

"The president's campaign, if you will, focused on giving targeted groups a big gift," Romney said in a call to donors on Wednesday. "He made a big effort on small things."

Romney said his campaign, in contrast, had been about "big issues for the whole country." He said he faced problems as a candidate because he was "getting beat up" by the Obama campaign and that the debates allowed him to come back.

In the call, Romney didn't acknowledge any major missteps, such as his "47 percent" remarks widely viewed as denigrating nearly half of Americans, his lack of support for the auto bailout, his call for illegal immigrants to "self-deport," or his change in position on abortion, gun control and other issues. He also didn't address the success or failure of the campaign's strategy of focusing on the economy in the face of some improvement in employment and economic growth during the months leading up to Election Day.

Obama won the popular vote by about 3.5 million votes, or 3 percent, and won the Electoral College by a wide margin, 332-206 electoral votes. Exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and television networks showed that Obama led Romney by 11 percentage points among women and won better than 7 of 10 Hispanic voters and more than 9 of 10 black voters.

Romney called his loss to Obama a disappointing result that he and his team had not expected, but he said he believed his team had run a superb campaign. He said he was trying to turn his thoughts to the future, "but, frankly, we're still so troubled by the past, it's hard to put together our plans for the future."

Romney's finance team organized the call to donors. *The Los Angeles Times* first reported Romney's remarks.

Among the "gifts" Romney cited were free health care "in perpetuity," which he said was highly motivational to black and Hispanic voters as well as for voters making \$25,000 to \$35,000 a year.

Romney also said the administration's promise to offer what he called "amnesty" to the children of illegal immigrants – what he termed "the so-called DREAM Act kids" – helped send Hispanics to the polls for Obama.

Young voters, Romney said, were motivated by the administration's plan for partial forgiveness of college loan interest and being able to remain on their parents' health insurance plans. Young women had an additional incentive to vote for Obama because of free contraception coverage under the president's health care plan, he said.

"I'm very sorry that we didn't win," he told donors. "I know that you expected to win. We expected to win. We were disappointed; we hadn't anticipated it."

Romney said he and his team were discussing how his donor group could remain connected and have an influence on the direction of the Republican Party and even the selection of a future nominee – "which, by the way, will not be me."

20121115-05	14:05	SteveB	"Mitt Romney Campaign Did Not Offer Specifics, Say Top Republicans"
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"Mitt Romney Campaign Did Not Offer Specifics, Say Top Republicans" by Philip Elliott, Huffington Post

Nov. 15, 2012, ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/15/mitt-romney-republicans\\_n\\_2135967.html?ref=topbar](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/15/mitt-romney-republicans_n_2135967.html?ref=topbar))

(LAS VEGAS) Top Republicans meeting for the first time since Election Day say the party lost its bid to unseat President Barack Obama because nominee Mitt Romney did not respond to criticism strongly enough or outline a specific agenda with a broad appeal.

In conversations at the Republican Governors Association confab in Las Vegas, a half dozen party leaders predicted the GOP will lose again if it keeps running the same playbook based on platitudes in place of detailed policies. Instead, they asserted, the party needs to learn the lessons from its loss, respect voters' savvy and put forward an agenda that appeals beyond the white, male voters who are its base.

"We need to acknowledge the fact that we got beat," Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said in an interview. "We clearly got beat and we need to recognize that."

Little more than a week after Romney came up short in his presidential bid, the party elders were looking at his errors and peering ahead to 2016's race. Some of the contenders eying a White House run of their own were on hand and quietly considering their chances. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie scheduled a private meeting on the sidelines with Haley Barbour, the former Mississippi governor who is widely seen as one of the GOP's sharpest political operatives.

"We need to have a brutal, brutally honest assessment of everything we did," Barbour said. "We need to take everything apart ... and determine what we did that worked and what we did that didn't work."

Other potential White House contenders such as Jindal, Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker were outlining a vision for the party in coming elections.

"We need to figure out what we did right and what we did wrong, how we can improve our tone, our message, our technology, our turnout – all the things that are required to win elections," McDonnell said. "We are disappointed, but we are not discouraged."

With polls in hand and shifting demographic trends in mind, these Republicans are looking at how best to position the party to make inroads with growing numbers of Hispanic, black and young voters who overwhelmingly voted Democratic last week. The Republicans were still smarting over constant criticism of Romney from Obama and Vice President Joe Biden – and what they saw as Romney's often ineffective response.

"They spent all their time making Mitt Romney unacceptable and making him out to be someone who was untrustworthy and unacceptable to enough of the American people – and it worked," Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said in an interview.

In the hallways at the conference, the governors and their top advisers uniformly blamed Romney's loss on an uneven communications strategy. They said Romney allowed himself to be branded a corporate raider who put the interests of the wealthy above those of middle-income voters.

"We didn't have effective means by which to counter the attacks the Obama-Biden campaign took against Mitt Romney and his team," Walker said. "I just don't think you can let that go unanswered."

Time and again, the governors pointed to Obama attacks that settled into voters' minds.

"His whole campaign was a fear-and-smear attack to make Romney unacceptable and to blame George Bush for anything that happened while Obama was president," Barbour said. "This was all personal: that Romney is a vulture capitalist who doesn't care about people like you, ships jobs overseas, is a quintessential plutocrat and is married to a known equestrian."

Barbour added, "An attack unanswered is an attack admitted to."

Had the criticism been shown to be false or unfair, the results might have been better, said Bill Bennett, an education secretary in the Reagan administration and an informal adviser to governors.

"We were in a big fight. We came with a knife; they came with a gun," Bennett said. "If Mitt Romney had responded and had we responded on his behalf – and had his campaign pushed back more forcefully – I think it would have been a different result."

[So...are we supposed to believe that Romney and his team and backers didn't do everything they could to win? I thought they put everything "on the field"? But, you know, I guess they just didn't think the election was important enough to even try their best. What BS! –SteveB]

**Jindal, however, attributed Romney's loss to a lack of "a specific vision that connected with the American people."**

"His campaign was largely about his biography and his experience," Jindal said. "But time and time again, biography and experience is not enough to win an election. You have to have a vision, you have to connect your policies to the aspirations of the American people. I don't think the campaign did that and as a result, this became a contest between personalities and – you know what? – Chicago won that."

Romney cast his loss in a different light, at least in a phone call with top donors Wednesday. He asserted that Obama won re-election because of the "gifts" the president had already provided to blacks, Hispanics and young voters and because of the president's effort to paint Romney as anti-immigrant.

"The president's campaign, if you will, focused on giving targeted groups a big gift," Romney said, citing immigration proposals aimed at Hispanics and free contraception coverage that appealed to young women. "He made a big effort on small things."

White House press secretary Jay Carney disputed Romney's assessment, telling reporters traveling with Obama aboard Air Force One that policies allowing more young people to go to college or stay on their parents' health plans are good for all Americans and the economy as a whole.

"I think that view of the American people or the electorate and the election is at odds with the truth of what happened last week," Carney said.

Romney said his campaign, in contrast, had been about "big issues for the whole country." He said he faced problems as a candidate because he was "getting beat up" by the Obama campaign and said the debates allowed him to come back.

The Republican nominee didn't acknowledge any major missteps and said his team had run a superb campaign.

<a href="#">20121115-08</a> 18:40 Art "A Few Words for My Republican Friends"
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"A Few Words for My Republican Friends" by Cass Stivers, Liberals Unite

Nov. 3, 2012, (<http://samuel-warde.com/2012/11/a-few-words-for-my-republican-friends/>)

With the election right around the corner, I thought I would make an apology to those who will be voting Republican this year. So here it goes...

I am sorry that as a person who makes less than \$20K a year at a job I've worked at for over a year, I would like health insurance. I'm sorry that I want access to antibiotics when I'm sick and I want to know why there's blood in my stool and urine. I'm sorry that if I had insurance, I would want to be covered for my pre-existing condition. I'm sorry that I can see other people who are in my position and I think we should all have access to proper healthcare.

I am sorry that I used Medicare for a couple months when I was pregnant, before my miscarriage. I just wanted a healthy baby and I knew a doctor's supervision was necessary. I'm sorry that it was such a waste of your tax dollars.

I am sorry that you want to take away my ability to have an abortion. I'm sorry you complain about having to pay for Medicaid to allow me to have a hopefully healthy child but then also don't want to support me spending my own money to terminate the pregnancy. I'm sorry that you want to force me to have a child, even if I might not be able to afford it.

I am sorry that I don't fit your stereotype of low income people. I let down your expectations of the poor and for that I am truly sorry.

I am sorry that after high school, I decided to work two jobs to help out my family rather than go off to college. I'm sorry for not being born rich or able to find a job that pays more than \$20K a year or one that advances one up to that income.

I am sorry that I am poor and probably will never be anything more. I'm sorry I'm not talented, rich, or have more than a high school diploma. I'm sorry that my hard work hasn't paid off for me.

I am sorry you feel the need to tell me how wrong national healthcare is, despite me being one of the people who need it. I'm sorry you call people like me a lazy bum and I'm not.

I am sorry I don't care if someone is gay. I'm sorry that I see people as people and think everyone should be able to be married. I'm sorry that I don't see how gay marriage affects me in any way and think everyone should be able to do something that makes them happy, especially if it doesn't infringe on my own "pursuit of happiness".

I am sorry that if I was raped, I would not want to keep the baby and only be reminded of my rape every time I looked at my child. I'm sorry that I believe in genetics and their effects on one's personality and behaviors. I'm sorry that my opinion on genetics is backed by science. I'm sorry I don't want to raise a potential rapist. I'm sorry I want to be able to choose to bring a child into my own mess of a life.

I am sorry you hate me so much and don't even realize it's me you hate. I'm sorry you try to shove your opinion down my throat despite me trying to avoid the topic and saying flat out I didn't want to discuss it.

Oh, and last but not least...I'm sorry that you are an ignorant prick.



(Note from the Editor: I wanted to thank Cass for her very first published piece. Congrats. Outstanding job.)

20121115-09 21:18 MarthaH "RNC Report Suggests Other Reasons Why Romney Lost"

"RNC Report Suggests Other Reasons Why Romney Lost" by Mark Murray, NBC News

Nov. 15, 2012, (<http://firstread.nbcnews.com/news/2012/11/15/15192985-rnc-report-suggests-other-reasons-why-romney-lost?lite>)

While Mitt Romney has attributed his defeat, in part, to "gifts" President Obama was able to shower on key constituencies, a Republican National Committee report on the election points to other reasons -- like changing demographics, Hurricane Sandy, George W. Bush, and the failure to win over the middle class.

This RNC report of exit poll data, which NBC News has obtained and which RNC Chair Reince Priebus presented to GOP senators on Wednesday, states that "demographic change" in the United States "is real." It notes that the white share of the electorate has declined from 81% in 2000 to 72% in 2008. And it points out that "3 in 10 voters will be minorities in 2016."

Click here to see the full report:

[http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Sections/A\\_Politics/Today\\_Stories\\_Teases/11142012ChairmansPPTforSenatePolicy.pdf](http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Sections/A_Politics/Today_Stories_Teases/11142012ChairmansPPTforSenatePolicy.pdf).

In addition, the report (which Politico also has written about) includes data from the exit poll showing that voters -- by a 53%-to-38% margin -- blamed Bush for the state of the economy instead of Obama.

It also observes that Obama's response to Hurricane Sandy "provided a bump" to the president, with 42% saying it was either the "most important" or "an important" factor in their vote. Obama won those voters by more than a 2-to-1 margin.

And the presentation observes that 44% of voters believed Obama's policies favored the middle class, versus 34% who said that of Romney's policies.

But the RNC report also notes the positives from the election:

- Romney outperformed John McCain from 2008, especially in battleground states.
- Fewer than a combined 400,000 votes in Florida, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Virginia separated Romney from the presidency (though even fewer than that amount separated Al Gore and John Kerry from the presidency, too).
- And Romney improved among whites and independents from 2004 and 2008.

At the end of this presentation, the RNC says it will conduct a fuller "deep dive" report into what worked in 2012 and what didn't. That will include conducting a post-election survey, meetings with party leaders, and getting feedback from volunteers.

[20121115-06](#) 15:10 Ben Photo: Today's Healthy Beef Lunch at Apple

Mostly with vegetables, which is a Good Thing.

Yep: all fresh; greens were mixed Romaine and Spring Mix, with carrot and cucumber slices, chick-a-peas, egg, cheddar, punkin and sesame seeds, dried cranberries, toasted pecans, and... other stuff. Topped with about 1/8 dipper celery seed vinaigrette, just enough to tell there was something there with a salad flavor. Taco was excellent; I ate it first, and could probably have been done right there...



Taco and a 'Small' Salad

[20121115-07](#) 17:29 SteveB Great Cat Videos!

<http://newsfeed.time.com/2012/11/15/friskies-oscar-for-cat-videos-l-a/>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=Q34z5dCmC4M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Q34z5dCmC4M)

[20121115-10](#)

23:57

Marci

Cool Photos #8 (European Beech Trees of Mariemont, Belgium)



[20121115-11](#)

23:58

GaryF

Photos: Trust Me, I'm an Engineer... #8 (New Bike & D.I.Y. Toilet)





[http://titiales.blogspot.com/2011\\_01\\_01\\_archive.html](http://titiales.blogspot.com/2011_01_01_archive.html)



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Steven W. Baker (SteveB), Editor/Moderator

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