

May 13, 2012

[Josh Kraushaar](#), National Journal, says the going is getting rough for the president. *This presidential election is coming down to two immutable facts that have become increasingly clear as November draws closer: President Obama will be running for a second term under a stagnant economy, and his two most significant legislative accomplishments—health care reform and a job-goosing stimulus—remain deeply unpopular. It doesn't take a professional pundit to recognize that's a very tough ticket for reelection.*

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According to [Victor Davis Hanson](#), one of the reasons might be the constant reminders of his malignant narcissism.

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In Clinton's defense, he spoke not just from his own selfish instinct to see presidential survival as more important than the fates of those who actually took the physical risk. Rather, a year ago Obama himself had already hijacked the mission with a flurry of self-referential pronouns: "Tonight, I can report . . . And so, shortly after taking office, I directed Leon Panetta . . . I was briefed on a possible lead to bin Laden . . . I met repeatedly with **my** national security team . . . I determined that we had enough intelligence to take action. . . . Today, at **my** direction . . . I've made clear . . . Over the years, I've repeatedly made clear . . . Tonight, I called President Zardari . . . and **my** team has also spoken . . . These efforts weigh on **me** every time I, as commander-in-chief . . . Finally, let **me** say to the families . . . I know that it has, at times, frayed . . ." ...

**Michael Barone** has the most recent example of president narcissist.

Barack Obama certainly made news today with his announcement that he has changed his position and now favors same-sex marriage. But one part of his statement has evidently aroused a firestorm in the conservative blogosphere. "When I think about those soldiers or airmen or marines or sailors," he said, "who are out there fighting on my behalf . . ." "My behalf"? They are fighting on behalf of the United States of America of which Obama is, like all his predecessors have been and all his successors will be, temporarily president and commander-in-chief. Obama could have accurately said "at my command," since that is literally true. But that would conflict with his campaign message that he ends wars rather than wages them. And if he were a constitutional monarch like Elizabeth II he could, I suppose, say "on my behalf." But we're not a monarchy and he's not royal.

Others have noted that in his spike-the-ball statements on the dispatch of Osama bin Laden, Obama has used first person pronouns in a way that presidents like George W. Bush, Dwight Eisenhower and Franklin Roosevelt were careful to avoid. With Obama, it's always all about him.

One of the things you can enjoy about this campaign is Romney's references to Jimmy Carter. **Politico** has the story.

For President Barack Obama, Mitt Romney is an obvious throwback to another era — a stiff Father Knows Best-type who straps the dog to the station wagon and marries his high-school sweetheart.

But Romney is pursuing his own strategy to puncture Obama's next-generation cool and paint the president as a retread, comparing him to Jimmy Carter and his fuzzy-headed liberal thinking. To the presumptive GOP presidential candidate, Carter is not just a former president, he's a potent metaphor and political weapon.

"When you mention Jimmy Carter, that lightens up certain regions of the mind and brings to mind ineptness and incompetence," said Peter Wehner, who worked in the Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush administrations. "That's going to be one of the things that Romney is going to try and tie to Obama."

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*"It was the most anti-small business administration I've seen probably since Carter. Who would've guessed we'd look back at the Carter years as the good ol' days, you know? And you just go through the president's agenda over ... the last several years and ask yourself, did this help small business or did it hurt small business?" ...*

You knew Ann Coulter would have a good column on Elizabeth Warren.

*... The universities that employed Warren rushed to claim that her fake Indian ancestry had nothing to do with it. They speak with forked tongue, causing heap-um laughter. (Harvard was so desperate for diversity, it made a half-black dilettante president of the Harvard Law Review!)*

*To grasp what a sin against political correctness this is, consider the Jesuitical debates about blackness regularly engaged in at our universities. About the time Lies on Race Box was getting a job with Harvard as a fake Indian -- valued for her fake hunting and tracking skills -- a debate broke out at Northwestern University law school about whether a potential faculty hire was black enough.*

*One professor wrote a heated three-page letter to the hiring committee complaining that the recruit "should not be considered a black candidate," explaining, "(n)ot all with dark skins are black," nor should they be considered "black in the U.S. context." (Flash to: My exact position on Obama.)*

*Warren has defended herself, claiming she did it only so she would be invited to powwows, or what the great white father calls "meetings," saying she hoped "I would be invited to a luncheon, a group something that might happen with people who are like I am."*

*What on earth does "people who are like I am" mean? Let's invite Elizabeth because she's 1/32nd Cherokee. We really need the 1/32nd Cherokee perspective around here. Maybe she has some old recipes that are 1/32nd Cherokee!*

*Then, the Warren campaign claimed it was sexist to question Warren about her bald-faced lie: "Once again, the qualifications and ability of a woman are being called into question by Scott Brown ... It's outrageous."*

*First, Scott Brown has barely mentioned Warren's stinking lie. ...*

**Weekly Standard** piece about government by crucifixion.

*Government, and the party of government, have been through something of a rough patch lately. First, there was the GSA's Las Vegas blowout. Then, the Secret Service debaucheries. And, two weeks ago, the video of an Environmental Protection Agency bureaucrat preening about his enforcement strategy of "crucifying" five random oil drillers pour encourager les autres.*

*Then, to provide theme for the pudding, there was a Pew survey revealing that "just one in three [Americans] has a favorable view of the federal government—the lowest level in 15 years."*

*Proving, perhaps, that 33 percent of Americans have not flown commercial for some time. ...*

... For more and more people, their direct experience with government would incline them to believe that the examples of profligacy and arrogance we've seen lately are more rule than exception. One day, perhaps, a president will be elected who remembers being crucified by some bureaucrat who wanted to make an example of him. Then he can appoint a cabinet of people who will go out into the bowels of Leviathan and randomly fire five people in their respective agencies just to get the attention of the other bureaucrats who have become accustomed to a life of routine arrogance and perpetual immunity. ...

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**National Journal**

**Obama, the Underdog**

***Ebbing enthusiasm among the president's base points to the possibility of a decisive defeat.***

by Josh Kraushaar

This presidential election is coming down to two immutable facts that have become increasingly clear as November draws closer: President Obama will be running for a second term under a stagnant economy, and his two most significant legislative accomplishments—health care reform and a job-goosing stimulus—remain deeply unpopular. It doesn't take a professional pundit to recognize that's a very tough ticket for reelection.

But there is a glaring disconnect between the conventional wisdom, which still maintains that Obama has a slight edge in the electoral-map math, and the fundamentals pointing to the possibility of a decisive defeat for the president.

The three most recent national polls—Democracy Corps (D), Gallup/*USA Today*, and the *Politico*/George Washington University Battleground Poll—underscore how tough a reelection campaign Obama faces and why it's fair to call him an underdog at this point. He's stuck at 47 percent against Mitt Romney in all three surveys, with the small slice of undecided voters tilting against the president. His job approval ranges from 45 percent (Democracy Corps) to 48 percent (Battleground). Those numbers are hardly devastating, but given today's polarized electorate, they're not encouraging either.

Obama's scores on the economy are worsening, even as voters still have mixed feelings on who's to blame. In the Battleground survey, nearly as many voters now blame Obama for the state of the economy (39 percent) as those who don't think it's his fault (40 percent). In both the Battleground and Democracy Corps polls, 33 percent said the country is on the right track, with 59 percent saying it's on the wrong track—numbers awfully similar to the state of play right before the 2010 Republican landslide. These are several leading indicators that suggest the trajectory could well get worse for the president as the election nears.

And the survey data suggest that Republicans in Congress, unlike their Newt Gingrich-led counterparts in 1996, aren't shaping up to be the reviled opposition (yet) that the White House is hoping they'll be. The Battleground survey found Republicans leading Democrats by 2 points on the generic congressional ballot, while Democracy Corps found Democrats in Congress with only a slightly higher approval score (43.1) than Republicans (41.2). If the public favors Hill Democrats, it's by a narrow margin.

The other big red flag for the president is the waning enthusiasm of his base—college-age voters, African-Americans, and Hispanics. The most recent NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll showed that fewer than half of voters (45 percent) ages 18-34 expressed a high interest in the election, down 17 points from the same time four years ago. Democratic enthusiasm overall is down 16 points from 2008, and it now lags behind the GOP.

This is critical, because, for Obama, excitement is as important as persuasion. It's no coincidence that Obama held his first two rallies on college campuses. Obama campaign officials have been anticipating an upward tick in the minority share of the electorate for 2012 to compensate for the expected loss of older, white voters, and they are counting on college students to organize and rally behind the president, like they did for him in 2008. Those assumptions are hardly guaranteed.

While the campaign generated loud, enthusiastic crowds in Columbus, Ohio, and Richmond, Va., it fell thousands short of packing the 18,000-seat arena at Ohio State. For most candidates, gathering thousands at any event is impressive, but for a president so dependent on that segment of his coalition, it's a glaring shortfall. For comparison's sake: Before the 2010 midterms, Obama drew more than 35,000 students to the Ohio State campus to rally supporters for then-Gov. Ted Strickland.

Actions speak louder than spin, and the moves of Obama's campaign officials this past week indicate they are awfully worried about their prospects. The most recent telltale sign is that they went up with an early, expensive \$25 million ad buy on Monday in nine swing states, attempting to reintroduce the president in the best possible way. This was no rinky-dink purchase; it cost nearly one-quarter of the Obama campaign's war chest of \$104 million at the beginning of April. Going up with such a significant buy so early is the equivalent of abandoning the running game in football when your team is down by a couple of touchdowns.

The ad itself is in search of a cohesive message. The first part underscores how severe the recession was, as a preemptive defense for why the economy hasn't turned around faster. The second half argues that America is "coming back," thanks to job growth over the past year. It's that part that will prove to be a tough sell. Indeed, it was top Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg who [advised the campaign in February](#) that this is the type of message -- saying things are getting better when voters don't agree -- that polls miserably "and produces disastrous results."



But Obama's campaign officials can't utilize the time-tested "are you better than you were four years ago" message because it doesn't ring true, so they have to argue things are getting a little better and the administration needs more time. It shows how limited the Obama playbook is this time around—mobilize the base, lambaste the opposition, and hope enough independents will hold their nose and vote for you. It's hard to believe that Obama's campaign is confident of victory, as *Time's* Mark Halperin [reported on Monday](#). More likely, campaign officials are putting on an awfully good game face in light of what promises to be a very challenging reelection.

## National Review

### Presidential Narcissism

by Victor Davis Hanson

Former President Bill Clinton just appeared in a reelection television commercial for President Barack Obama. At one point, Clinton weighs in on the potential consequences of Obama's decision to go ahead with the planned assassination of Osama bin Laden. He smiles and then pontificates, "Suppose the Navy SEALs had gone in there . . . suppose they had been captured or killed. The downside would have been horrible for him [Obama]."



There is a lot that is disturbing about Clinton's commentary — and about the fact that such an embarrassment was not deleted by the Obama campaign. Clinton offers unintended self-incrimination as to why in the 1990s he did not order the capture of bin Laden when it might well have been in his power to do so — was it fear of something "horrible" that might have happened to his fortunes rather than to our troops? And, of course, such crass politicization of national security and the war on terror is exactly what Barack Obama accused the two Clintons of in the 2008 Democratic primaries. We also remember that Obama on several occasions chastised George W. Bush for supposedly making reference to the war on terror for political advantage, though he never did so in as creepy a fashion as Clinton. And aside from the fact that Barack Obama promised never to "spike the football" by using the SEAL mission to score campaign

points, only a narcissistic Bill Clinton could have envisioned the death or capture of Navy SEALs not in terms of those men's own horrible fates, but only as political "downside" for an equally narcissistic Barack Obama.

In Clinton's defense, he spoke not just from his own selfish instinct to see presidential survival as more important than the fates of those who actually took the physical risk. Rather, a year ago Obama himself had already hijacked the mission with a flurry of self-referential pronouns: "Tonight, **I** can report . . . And so, shortly after taking office, **I** directed Leon Panetta . . . **I** was briefed on a possible lead to bin Laden . . . **I** met repeatedly with **my** national security team . . . **I** determined that we had enough intelligence to take action. . . . Today, at **my** direction . . . **I've** made clear . . . Over the years, **I've** repeatedly made clear . . . Tonight, **I** called President Zardari . . . and **my** team has also spoken . . . These efforts weigh on **me** every time **I**, as commander-in-chief . . . Finally, let **me** say to the families . . . **I** know that it has, at times, frayed . . ."

As for the civilian responsibility for approving such hazardous missions for our intelligence and military communities, Obama has never confessed, then or now, that most of the anti-terrorism protocols that led to critical intelligence about the probable whereabouts of bin Laden had been strongly opposed by Obama himself. Indeed, almost every Bush-Cheney policy that President Obama eventually embraced — renditions, tribunals, Guantanamo, the Patriot Act — was opposed by Obama as a state legislator, a U.S. senator, and a presidential candidate. Apparently, there is no loudly announced "reset" when it comes to the war on terror.

The logic of the narcissistic mind in matters of the war on terror works out something like this:

The president will take credit for all the successes on his watch, without ever acknowledging reliance on the policies put in place during the eight years before he took office, much less admitting that he once did his best to undermine all of those inheritances that he eventually found so useful. And in matters concerning his predecessor, Obama will damn Bush for the bad economy that he left to his successor and yet ignore Bush for the successful anti-terrorism protocols that he passed on.

Unfortunately, the latest triumphalism is a continuance of a long line of self-adulation that we have grown accustomed to in Barack Obama since he came to the public's attention — the professor's two memoirs without a single commensurate scholarly publication; the Latinate motto; the faux-Greek columns; the biblical quelling of the rising seas and cooling of the planet; the fallback retreat to the Victory Column when questions were raised about the appropriateness of the Brandenburg Gate as a venue for his speech; and so on. The common characteristics in Obama's *I/me/my* career have been such rhetorical, visual, and symbolic efforts to mask an absence of accomplishment (e.g., why not even one *Harvard Law Review* article, or perhaps a single publication as a University of Chicago lecturer, or a successful program as a Chicago community organizer, or a signature piece of legislation as an Illinois legislator, or an acknowledged legislative record as a U.S. senator?).

In the world of a narcissistic Barack Obama, rhetoric need not translate into reality. The more emphatic and emotive the pledges to shut down Guantanamo, the more readily all such serial assurances could be ignored. The more idealistic support is expressed for public campaign financing and scorn for bundling, fundraisers, super PACs, Wall Street mega-donors, the revolving door, and lobbyists, all the easier it is to shun the former and embrace the latter.

The Obama way is to offer the boilerplate “I/me/mine/my team” speech, and then simply let events follow their own course — as if the fact that Obama weighed in rhetorically on a topic was ipso facto enough. “Make no mistake about it,” “I” have dealt with the jobs, deficit, debt, and sluggish-growth problems. Ergo, they no longer exist.

So “reset” is grandly proclaimed for Russia — with no acknowledgment that relations have so soured with Putin’s thugocracy that Moscow now threatens to take out proposed anti-missile sites in Eastern Europe. Libya is such a strong blueprint of Obama’s competent and moral “lead from behind” strategy in the Middle East that who cares that such a model will never be applied to an equally disintegrating Syria? That Obama gave the Iranians five deadlines to desist from nuclear acquisition should have been enough for them to desist: So it’s their problem, not ours. North Korea has been addressed, as if the rhetorical and the concrete definitions of that word were synonymous.

So what is the problem with a charismatic, narcissistic president? After all, most presidents by definition must be somewhat self-absorbed. Yet the rub is that the world has tuned Obama out. All his prime-time rhetoric from Afghanistan, the cool multicultural accentuation of Pakistan and the Taliban, the photo-op reminders that it was Obama who ordered the mission that took out bin Laden — all this meant nothing to the Taliban, who will now patiently wait us out, unleash a North Vietnamese–like offensive very soon, and remind us that just because we don’t believe there are still things like victory and defeat in our messy wars, that does not mean there are not.

In other words, I worry that Vladimir Putin, the Iranian theocrats, the North Korean apparat, the Chinese central committee, the Muslim Brotherhood, and all the others who detest the United States have sized up Barack Obama. For 40 months they have acknowledged that his postracial image and his youthful charisma, as David Axelrod and Robert Gibbs rightly insisted, threw them for a loop — for a while. And that “for a while” is now ending, replaced with a new belief abroad that the more Obama talks about himself and his team, and the more emphatic he becomes with his “Make no mistake about it” and “Let me be perfectly clear” vacuities, the more he can at first safely be ignored, and then, quite soon, safely be taken advantage of.

The problem with a narcissistic president is not just that he sees the world as all about himself, but that the world soon sees that it is not about him at all.

## **Washington Examiner**

### **[Obama: troops fighting "on my behalf"](#)**

by Michael Barone

Barack Obama certainly made news today with his announcement that he has changed his position and now favors same-sex marriage. But one part of his statement has evidently aroused a firestorm in the conservative blogosphere. “When I think about those soldiers or airmen or marines or sailors,” he said, “who are out there fighting on my behalf . . . .” “My behalf”? They are fighting on behalf of the United States of America of which Obama is, like all his predecessors have been and all his successors will be, temporarily president and commander-in-chief. Obama could have accurately said “at my command,” since that is literally true. But that would conflict with his campaign message that he ends wars rather than wages them. And if he were a constitutional monarch like Elizabeth II he could, I suppose, say “on my behalf.” But we’re not a monarchy and he’s not royal.



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## Politico

### [Mitt uses Carter as campaign weapon](#)

by Reid J. Epstein

For President [Barack Obama](#), Mitt Romney is an obvious throwback to another era — a stiff Father Knows Best-type who straps the dog to the station wagon and marries his high-school sweetheart.

But [Romney](#) is pursuing his own strategy to puncture Obama's next-generation cool and paint the president as a retread, comparing him to Jimmy Carter and his fuzzy-headed liberal thinking. To the presumptive GOP presidential candidate, Carter is not just a former president, he's a potent metaphor and political weapon.



“When you mention Jimmy Carter, that lightens up certain regions of the mind and brings to mind ineptness and incompetence,” said Peter Wehrer, who worked in the Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush administrations. “That’s going to be one of the things that Romney is going to try and tie to Obama.”

Romney has mentioned [Carter](#) periodically on the campaign trail: Twice this month, he has made unflattering references to the 39th president. When asked on the anniversary of the killing of Osama [bin Laden](#) whether he would have green-lighted the mission, Romney told reporters on a New Hampshire rope line that “even Jimmy Carter would have given that order” to kill bin Laden.

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“What the president has done, and I think unknowingly, never having spent any time in the private sector himself ... was one item after another make it harder and harder for small business to thrive and to grow and to start up,” Romney said.

“It was the most anti-small business administration I’ve seen probably since Carter. Who would’ve guessed we’d look back at the Carter years as the good ol’ days, you know? And you just go through the president’s agenda over ... the last several years and ask yourself, did this help small business or did it hurt small business?”

The parallels between Obama and Carter — as Republicans see it — are too plentiful to ignore. There’s a first-term Democratic president dealing with an economic recession, high gas prices, a prevailing sense of malaise following the hope-and-change election of 2008 and an executive Republicans have, almost since day one, painted as in over his head.

And then there’s the best part: If you can frame yourself as Carter’s foe, you get to lay claim to becoming Ronald Reagan.

It’s unclear whether sticking Obama with a Carter label is an effective campaign tactic. A senior Romney aide said the campaign has not poll-tested Carter’s name as a campaign touchstone and warned not to put too much stock in Carter as a Republican boogeyman.

A whole generation of young voters who were born after 1980 aren’t familiar with the former Democratic president — and what they do know, they might like as Carter now works to alleviate global poverty and disease. On the other hand, middle-aged and older voters — who vote in larger numbers — might identify with the idea of Obama as a hapless president.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, Romney’s chief Capitol Hill recruiter and a key surrogate on the campaign trail, said the Carter name gives him flashbacks to tough times with his father, who was briefly married to Kitty Dukakis.

“Even though I was a little squirt, I still remember sitting in line with my dad trying to fill up our car with gas,” Chaffetz, 45, said this week. “I remember that. That’s when we started the Department of Energy. Talk about an agency that’s fundamentally failed. We had a major oil crisis, terrorism was looming, our military was getting weaker. The economy was sour. Unfortunately, it’s the ideal parallel.”

But even if voters don’t identify Obama explicitly with Carter, Romney seems to hope they see Obama as belonging to a generation of old Democrats that has been firmly rejected.

Recently, in Michigan, Romney began what aides described as an effort to cleave the Democratic vote, separating centrists — whom the Republican identified with the prosperous 1990s Clinton era — from liberals like Carter and Obama, whose reelection campaign would not comment for this story.

Before Romney’s remarks, a senior aide told reporters that the campaign aimed to “frame up the race a little bit about the past versus the future,” with Carter and Obama as emblematic of past economic policies and Romney and Clinton representing the future.

“President Clinton in 1992 ran as a New Democrat,” the aide said. “President Obama has really turned his back on all that. He’s not run as a New Democrat, he’s run as an old Democrat with old-school liberal solutions.”

The aide didn’t mention Carter during the brief conference call with the traveling press, but the implication was clear.

“There’s a very clear difference in the approach of where Clinton was taking the party back in 1992 and where President Obama has taken the country over the last four years.”

Here, at an oil-drilling site in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, Romney twice declared that Obama’s energy policies are “of the past.”

“I happen to think that the president’s policies are shaped by a perspective that’s old and outdated,” he said. “His policies are rooted in perspectives of the past. His ideas about energy are simply out of date. His other policies flow from the thinking of the liberals from years ago.”

It’s not too hard to figure out to whom Romney is referring.

No one younger than 45 would have been even a teenager while the Georgia peanut farmer was in the White House, and five presidents have served since Carter lost the 1980 election.

But among older Republican voters — Romney’s base even in the primaries — the Carter line works.

In May 2011, after the bin Laden killing, Wehrer wrote in *Commentary* magazine that Obama would no longer be painted as weak like Carter.

“The specter of [Jimmy Carter](#) was beginning to haunt the Obama administration,” he wrote then. “For now, at least, that narrative is stopped in its tracks.”

But this week, Wehrer said touting a failed president from the other party is fair game in campaigns.

“Democrats ran against Herbert Hoover for decades after he had been president,” Wehrer said. “Carter mentioned Hoover as well in ’76. These things have a long half-life, failed presidents have a long half-life.”

Republicans began making unflattering comparisons of Obama to Carter almost as soon as the Chicagoan was sworn in.

In February 2009, less than a month after Obama’s inauguration, Newt Gingrich took to the “Today” show to suggest the stimulus proposal made the 44th president like the 39th.

“I think he is in real danger of becoming Jimmy Carter instead of Ronald Reagan,” [Gingrich](#) said.

Rick Tyler, a former Gingrich aide who spoke for the former House speaker’s super PAC during the presidential primary, said the allusions to the Carter years aren’t aimed at young voters, in part because they don’t matter as much as older ones.

“Not that you want to give up the under-40s, but we know that people over 50 vote five times as often as people 24 and under,” said Tyler, who is 47. “To the average Republican who does remember him, Carter is shorthand for weakness in foreign policy, appeasement and policies that lead to joblessness, inflation, higher taxes, more regulation, more government. It’s a quick shorthand, and it’s a way of saying those things failed.”

Carter’s office declined requests to comment for this story, but Leo Ribuffo, a George Washington University professor who is writing a book titled “The Limits of Moderation: Jimmy Carter and the Ironies of American Liberalism,” said it almost doesn’t matter that the most negative picture of the Carter era is embellished, just as Carter’s attempts to tether Gerald Ford to Hoover weren’t grounded in the facts.

“It’s basically partisan and wrong,” Ribuffo said. “Historians know that Hoover didn’t sit around and starve. He was an activist president. And historians know that Carter was more of a hawk, but historians don’t have cable news shows.”

## Human Events

### [Elizabeth Warren dances with lies](#)

by Ann Coulter

Elizabeth Warren, who also goes by her Indian name, "Lies on Race Box," is in big heap-um trouble. The earnest, reform-minded liberal running for Senate against Scott Brown, R-Mass., lied about being part-Cherokee to get a job at Harvard.

Harvard took full advantage of Warren's lie, bragging to The Harvard Crimson about her minority status during one of the near-constant student protests over insufficient "diversity" in the faculty. Warren also listed herself as an Indian in law school faculty directories and, just last month, said, "I am very proud of my Native American heritage."

Except, oops, she has no more evidence that she's an Indian than that buffoon out of Colorado, Ward Churchill.

The Boston Globe immediately leapt to Warren's defense, quoting a genealogist who found a marriage license on which Warren's great-great-uncle scribbled that his mother, Warren's great-great-great grandmother, was a Cherokee. This is not part of the official marriage license. (If I scribble "Kenyan" on Obama's birth certificate, does that make it true?)

But let's say it's true. That would make Warren a dotriacontaroon -- 1/32nd Cherokee. That's her claim to affirmative action bonus points? *You don't know what it's like to be 1/32nd Cherokee, to never have anyone to talk to, spending so many evenings home alone, wondering if there was some other 1/32nd Cherokee out there, perhaps looking at the same star I was.*

Soon, however, the preponderance of the evidence suggested she wasn't even 1/32nd Cherokee. The census records for 1860 list the allegedly Cherokee great-great-great-grandmother, O.C. Sarah Smith Crawford, as "white." Also, Warren's family isn't listed in the Cherokee registry. (Unlike Democrat voter rolls, to be on the Cherokee list, proof is required.)

On the other hand, we have what her son scribbled on his marriage license -- something, by the

way, that none of his siblings claimed about their mother.

So now we're down to Warren's reminiscence that her great-aunt used to point to a portrait of her great-great-grandfather and call him an Indian, noting his high cheekbones.

Family lore is not proof. Proof is contemporary documentation, produced under penalty of perjury, such as a census record. My mother told me she found me under a rock, but I don't put that on job applications.

The universities that employed Warren rushed to claim that her fake Indian ancestry had nothing to do with it. They speak with forked tongue, causing heap-um laughter. (Harvard was so desperate for diversity, it made a half-black dilettante president of the Harvard Law Review!)

To grasp what a sin against political correctness this is, consider the Jesuitical debates about blackness regularly engaged in at our universities. About the time Lies on Race Box was getting a job with Harvard as a fake Indian -- valued for her fake hunting and tracking skills -- a debate broke out at Northwestern University law school about whether a potential faculty hire was black enough.

One professor wrote a heated three-page letter to the hiring committee complaining that the recruit "should not be considered a black candidate," explaining, "(n)ot all with dark skins are black," nor should they be considered "black in the U.S. context." (Flash to: My exact position on Obama.)

Warren has defended herself, claiming she did it only so she would be invited to powwows, or what the great white father calls "meetings," saying she hoped "I would be invited to a luncheon, a group something that might happen with people who are like I am."

What on earth does "people who are like I am" mean? *Let's invite Elizabeth because she's 1/32nd Cherokee. We really need the 1/32nd Cherokee perspective around here. Maybe she has some old recipes that are 1/32nd Cherokee!*

Then, the Warren campaign claimed it was sexist to question Warren about her bald-faced lie: "Once again, the qualifications and ability of a woman are being called into question by Scott Brown ... It's outrageous."

First, Scott Brown has barely mentioned Warren's stinking lie.

But, second, the only people who consider it a "qualification" to be 1/32nd Cherokee are university hiring committees. Possible Warren campaign speech:

"I am a dotriacontaroon American. I want to be a voice for those who are 1/32nd Cherokee, but also 1/32nd Pequot, 1/32nd Mohawk -- basically the senator for all dotriacontaroons. Isn't it time we had a senator who was 1/32nd Cherokee?"

Now it's beginning to look like her ancestors not only did not suffer, but caused the suffering she's getting the benefit of. The great-great-great-grandfather married to the not-Cherokee O.C. Sarah Smith Crawford turns out to have been one of the white enforcers on the brutal Trail of Tears, helping round up Indians from their homes in order to march them to a less desirable part of the country.



What's next?

"Yes, and my other grandfather, Theophilus Connor ..."

BULL CONNOR?

"Yes, but I swear, James Earl Ray is not a BLOOD uncle. We're related only by marriage. At least that's what my cousin John Wayne Gacy used to always tell me."

Warren's lie is outrageous enough to someone like me, who isn't a fan of race-based affirmative action programs. Still, she is a liar, and she stole the credit of someone else's suffering.

For liberals, it should be a mortal sin: Elizabeth Warren cheated on affirmative action.

### Weekly Standard

#### Crucified by Government

*Washington plays by TSA rules.*

by Geoffrey Norman

Government, and the party of government, have been through something of a rough patch lately. First, there was the GSA's Las Vegas blowout. Then, the Secret Service debaucheries. And, two weeks ago, the video of an Environmental Protection Agency bureaucrat preening about his enforcement strategy of "crucifying" five random oil drillers *pour encourager les autres*.

Then, to provide theme for the pudding, there was a Pew survey revealing that "just one in three [Americans] has a favorable view of the federal government—the lowest level in 15 years."

Proving, perhaps, that 33 percent of Americans have not flown commercial for some time.

A measure of dissatisfaction with the government, these days, is to be expected. The country is, after all, in the economic doldrums with another summer of recovery on the verge of being postponed until next summer. Unemployment is high and so is the price of gas. GDP growth is low and so are wages. People blame government, and that might be unfair, except that those in charge of government promised something else and do not seem to be able to deliver or, worse, to admit that they can't.

Which is the larger problem, as well, with the various scandals. While some people at the GSA and the Secret Service have been fired, the overall response of those in charge has been to insist that these were the actions of a few rogue operators, that the enterprise as a whole is first rate, staffed by people who are loyal, conscientious, dedicated, honest, etc. And to make the argument somewhat indignantly.

In the case of that EPA tough guy, he resigned after issuing one of those apologies that evoke Chesterton's comment about how the "stiff apology is a second insult."

The EPA followed up the resignation with a statement exonerating itself of everything and anything, saying it was "deeply unfortunate" that the crucifixion talk by "an EPA official

inaccurately suggests we are seeking to 'make examples' out of certain companies in the oil and gas industry."

The very idea!

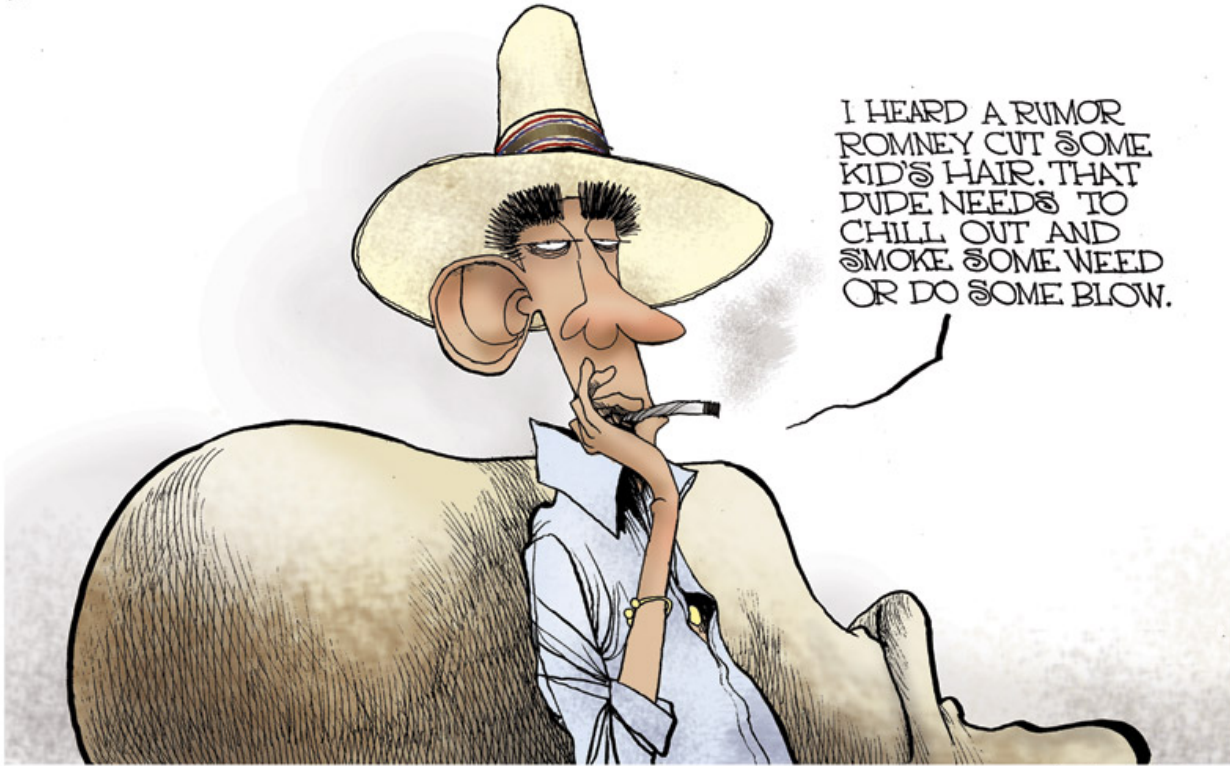
Instead of being allowed to resign, that regional administrator for random persecutions and crucifixions should have been sent out into the oil patch and made to wear steel-toed boots, Carhartt overalls, and a hardhat while he did a month as a roughneck on a drilling rig, just to get a feel for the industry. Now he is gone, and nothing much will change, except the EPA might issue a directive to its administrators advising them that the crucifixion of oil drillers is strictly against agency policy and anyone violating this rule should expect to be sternly disciplined.

To the various agencies of the government, any embarrassing event is an "isolated example that in no way . . . ." The Transportation Security Administration is hit with one of those just about every day and its spokespeople routinely issue a pro-forma denial or apology, along with a statement defending the agency's policies and procedures. It is their way of reminding the public that if they don't like it, then they can take the bus to Cleveland, or wherever it is they want to go.

We won't be hearing about a housecleaning at the GSA or the Secret Service, the TSA or the EPA. There is no need for one according to . . . the GSA, the Secret Service, the TSA, and the EPA. If the people are unhappy with the government, then the attitude of the government seems to be that it is the fault of the people. And since the people don't seem angry enough to get themselves a new government, there is nothing much to worry about and no need to take action.

For more and more people, their direct experience with government would incline them to believe that the examples of profligacy and arrogance we've seen lately are more rule than exception. One day, perhaps, a president will be elected who remembers being crucified by some bureaucrat who wanted to make an example of him. Then he can appoint a cabinet of people who will go out into the bowels of Leviathan and randomly fire five people in their respective agencies just to get the attention of the other bureaucrats who have become accustomed to a life of routine arrogance and perpetual immunity.

Until then, the game will continue to be played by TSA rules.



I HEARD A RUMOR ROMNEY CUT SOME KID'S HAIR. THAT DUDE NEEDS TO CHILL OUT AND SMOKE SOME WEED OR DO SOME BLOW.

I USED TO BE AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE...

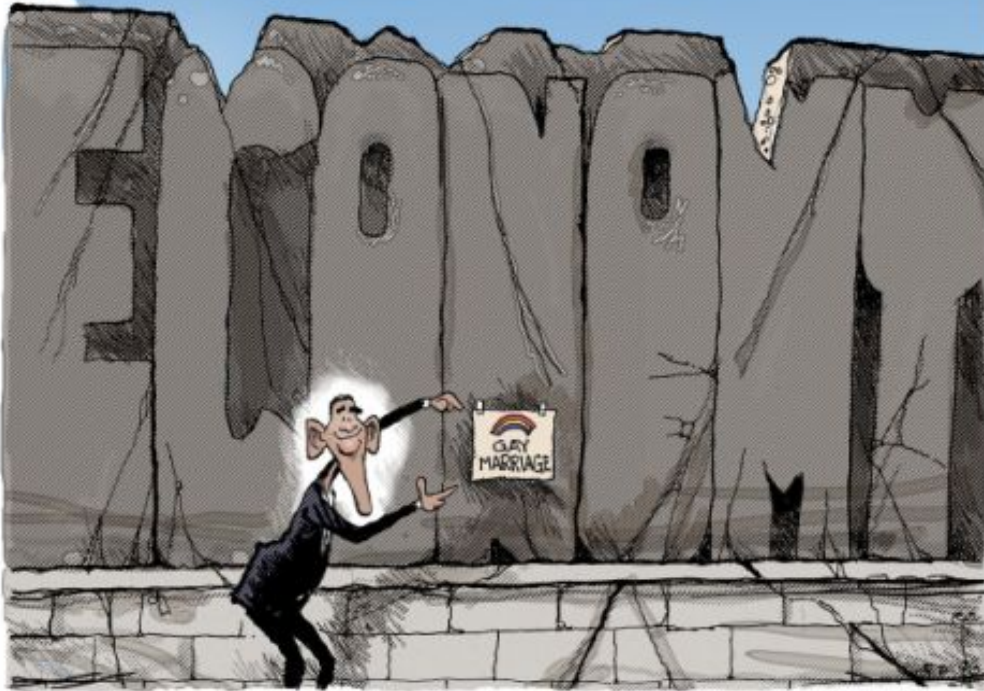


NOW I'M FOR IT.  
...BUT ENOUGH OF ALL THAT...



LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT FLIP-FLOPPER, MITT ROMNEY.





IT'S THE DISTRACTION, STUPID.

