

May 31, 2012

Holman Jenkins writes about the Bain ads.

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Here's the real message of the Bain ads. The ads may invoke classic private-equity slurs like looter and stripper, but the real message is that private equity is exactly what it says it is: a bringer of efficiency and rationalization. Mr. Romney, the ads say, wants to take things away from you that he claims no longer are affordable; Mr. Obama, the ads say, will fight whoever tries to take things away. To the less sophisticated voter, the Obama message is a soothing "nothing has to change." To the more sophisticated, President Obama proposes himself as the defender of every spending interest, never favoring a cut, always pushing for higher taxes.

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Andrew Malcolm lists three of Romney's emerging strengths.

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Advantage: Romney ...

Jennifer Rubin thinks Romney's electoral college prospects are good.

Not too long ago pundits were [arguing](#) that Mitt Romney's [path to 270](#) electoral votes was "[narrow](#)." [We didn't buy it](#).

Lo and behold, conventional wisdom has now changed. [The Associated Press writes](#): "Warning signs for Obama on tight path to 270." The AP explains:

"Obama's new worries about North Carolina and Wisconsin offer opportunities for Republican Mitt Romney, who must peel off states Obama won in 2008 if he's to cobble together the 270 electoral votes needed to oust the incumbent in November.

Iowa, which kicked off the campaign in January, is now expected to be tight to the finish, while New Mexico, thought early to be pivotal, seems to be drifting into Democratic territory.

If the election were today, Obama would likely win 247 electoral votes to Romney's 206, according to an Associated Press analysis of polls, ad spending and key developments in states, along with interviews with more than a dozen Republican and Democratic strategists both inside and outside of the two campaigns.

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Among that group, you have to like Romney's chance in Florida, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio and Virginia, with Iowa and Colorado going to the President Obama. That puts Romney's total at 276. ...

Alana Goodman thinks the president's campaign will have a hard time scaring the folks with the "hard right Romney."

John Heilemann has a big-picture [report](#) on the Obama campaign's shift from hope to fear. Rather than focusing on an affirmative reelection message, Obama's strategy is to paint Mitt Romney as a composite of various nightmarish right-wingers in the hope that it will scare off independent voters and shore up the progressive base:...

... Beyond Romney's record, his personality doesn't fit the stereotype of the extreme right-winger. He's mild-mannered and accentless, and walks without swagger. He chooses his words carefully and rarely goes off message. The Obama campaign can compare him to fringe characters like Joe Arpaio all it wants, but the disparity is unmistakable....

Weekly Standard piece wonders if Scott Brown is going to get lucky again.

The event was called "Hoops for Our Troops," and it was held on Armed Forces Day (May 19) in a high school gym here in Newton. The mayor, Setti Warren, came up with the idea. He is an Iraq war veteran himself and passionate about helping vets. The event brought veterans together with potential employers as well as representatives from job training programs, health care providers, counseling services, and others. Spice for the event came in the form of two basketball games. In one, the players were disabled veterans in wheelchairs. The other game, which was the draw, was between teams that were a mix of vets and local celebrities, mostly

from broadcasting and sports, among them Kevin Faulk of the New England Patriots. Mayor Warren also suited up to play.

This was a made-to-order opportunity, then, for any capable, hustling politician looking to connect with constituents, early in a tough campaign. So Senator Scott Brown, who is an officer in the National Guard with some brief service in Afghanistan, arrived a little before halftime in the second game and worked the room. He goofed a little with the players. Shook a lot of hands. Did not make a speech and, in general, kept things low-key and casual. He was either enjoying himself and happy to be there, or very gifted at pretending to be. Which, in his line of work, probably amounts to the same thing.

It is fortunate for Brown that he is good at this sort of thing because if he intends to win in the league where he has chosen to compete, then he is going to have to play large. He is, first of all, a Republican, and no matter how hard you try, you can only go so far in ameliorating that liability in Massachusetts, which is among the bluest of the blue states. So blue, in fact, that Mitt Romney, who once managed to get himself elected governor of Massachusetts, is certain to concede the state as a lock for President Obama.

The Senate seat which Scott Brown now occupies was held for 46 years by Ted Kennedy. It is still considered by many to be “the Kennedy seat,” though Brown got some traction in the 2010 special election to fill the two years remaining in Kennedy’s term after his death by insisting that it is “the people’s seat.” Nice point, but then most of “the people” are Democrats.

Brown was expected to lose that election, and he might have, except that it was the time of the Tea Party ascendant, and opposition to Obamacare was running high. Voters knew that Brown might represent the needed 40th vote to keep a filibuster alive in the Senate.

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Throughout the Fauxcahontas flap, the Boston Globe has been supporting her version of events - until now. Corner post by [Patrick Brennan](#) has the story. Over the weekend, more news emerged about the bizarre controversy over how Elizabeth Warren and Harvard University identified the law professor’s ethnicity. Warren has claimed that she did not identify herself as a minority, and didn’t know that Harvard had, but Harvard registered her as a Native American in a federal database that’s usually based on self-identification (indeed, one wonders how else someone would label Warren a Native American, save her claim). The Boston Globe [reports](#): ...

[Andrew Malcolm](#) has late night humor.

Fallon: A recent survey found that more men are finding work in fields that are historically dominated by women. Yeah, I heard it from that nun at my church -- Sister Gary.

Fallon: Michelle Obama says if she could trade places with anyone in the world, it would be Beyoncé. Of course, it got awkward when Barack was like, “I’m game!”

Fallon: A solar-powered plane tried to fly over 1,500 miles. Going great until the plane encountered this one technical problem — night.

WSJ

[The Bain Ads Are About Spending](#)

Steelworkers make better 'victims' than 50-year-old government retirees.

by Holman W. Jenkins, Jr.

Who says Wall Streeters aren't filled with a desire to please? Two big-name Democratic financiers, Roger Altman and Steven Rattner, may not be ready to defend the president's deceitful Bain ads. But they promptly took to the airwaves to defend the president's defense of the ads, after President Obama himself issued a few syllables they could cling to, saying the ads merely questioned whether profit maximization is an appropriate governing principle.

Which of course has nothing to do with anything. It certainly has nothing to do with the Bain ads. The ads aren't meant to engage viewers in a discussion of the limits of the profit motive. The ads are about pure *ressentiment*.

The word is French and was once adopted by philosophers as diverse as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Weber. It describes a kind of moral scapegoating of others to explain our disappointments and dissatisfactions.

Wikipedia is especially instructive in the matter: Sartre also used the term "bad faith" for the habit of blaming others for our plight.

Mr. Obama's great political talent has been his knack for granting his admirers permission to think highly of themselves for thinking highly of him. The self-approval of his supporters is the engine of his political rise, albeit married to the kind of hardball that drove his two most formidable rivals out of the 2004 Senate race in divorce-related scandals.

But now there's a problem. In a presidential re-election race, the formula is inconvenienced by the existence of a very public record of things done and said, of persistent joblessness and sluggish growth, and one big issue that threatens to dwarf the Obama allure altogether—the entire industrial world's rendezvous with insolvency.

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Look at Europe. Look at California. This strategy can work electorally. As policy, it may be unbelievable, irrational and misleading—like Gov. Jerry Brown clinging to his bullet train. But it makes a kind of political sense.

Mr. Brown's politics in fact are worth studying. His state is flirting with fiscal collapse. Businesses and workers are fleeing its high taxes. Yet he defends a perfectly senseless plan to build a \$68 billion high-speed rail to nowhere. His message to his state's spending interests: "I'm your guy. No compromise." As in Greece, where austerity has meant the private sector shrinks but the government doesn't, so in California, if Mr. Brown has anything to say about it.

Politicians who work this vein are careful not to be heard actually saying "everything is affordable." But voters get the message "the rich will pay." If the proceeds of the Buffett tax were proportional to the noise Mr. Obama has made promoting it, the Buffett tax alone would solve our fiscal problems (in fact, its impact would be negligible).

The *ressentiment* campaign, then, is not about the legitimacy of capitalism, which isn't really in question. It's about Scott Walker in Wisconsin; it's about Chris Christie in New Jersey. The symbolic victims in Obama's Bain ads are steelworkers only because a 50-year-old retiree living on a government pension doesn't make a compelling victim. The villains are rich bankers because the average taxpayer doesn't make a good villain. The Bain ads are about the spending wars, and those who benefit from government largess and those who foot the bill.

Mr. Romney should be happy to fight on these grounds. A lot of voters—known as taxpayers—worry about the economic future. Mr. Obama's stance of "let's preserve and expand the handouts and to hell with tomorrow" frightens them. Quite possibly some decipher the Obama ads exactly as Team Obama intends, but like the ring of Mr. Romney's private-equity history. It has nothing to do with putting profits above people—and everything to do with stopping the rot.

The biggest guessing game for voters, of course, is whether these campaigns actually have any bearing on what would happen after Election Day. Mr. Romney is already being slagged for not saying what he would cut. Mr. Obama is slagged for pretending the ship can be righted without cutting. Politics remains the art of the possible. It's always likely, whoever wins, the great American consensus machine will settle back on stalling and doing nothing, until some greater financial crisis hits. But a constructive new gravitational force has begun to act in our politics too: It's called Simpson-Bowles.

Investors.com

[Three of Mitt Romney's emerging strengths](#)

by Andrew Malcolm



(Can you spot the Secret Service agents?)

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Advantage: Romney

Despite the Obama-Biden recovery promises that have become sad laugh lines, there seems to be a widespread feeling that the country's economic situation, as one neighbor recently put it so eloquently, "still sucks."

Even [Sherlock Obama admitted that recently](#) when he observed, "The past few years have been difficult for this country."

Obama can talk all he wants about light at the end of the tunnel, but three-out-of-four Americans don't share his tunnel vision, saying they know the recession continues. So, happy talk just makes this fundraising-partying-golfing White House crowd look even more out of touch.

Many Americans still blame President Bush for the economic quagmire's genesis. But we checked and he's not running ever again. So, how do economically troubled middle-class voters feel about the two major party candidates in 2012?

Oops. Romney kills again, 58% for the former governor to 32% for the Democrat with [the composite girlfriends](#). Not bad for a Republican who's supposed to have difficulty connecting with regular people.

[Romney captures](#) similar substantial margins among those white voters who've lost jobs or have family/friends who've lost jobs in recent times. Many of these harder hit people do not have college degrees.

The Chicagoan's deep deficit there continues a hapless tradition for Democrats in that immense demographic. Despite his long convention kiss of Tipper, [Al Gore failed to win](#) them in 2000. John Kerry did the same in 2004. And so did Obama in 2008, losing them to McCain-Palin 58% to 40%.

Advantage Romney

Speaking of McCain, this 2012 presidential election is the first in 64 years that neither one of the major party candidates is a veteran of the military. So Obama and Romney should be about even, right?

Well, *no!*

In fact, we've just learned that veterans of the armed forces are overwhelmingly backing Romney [58% to 34%](#) for the community organizer. That 24 point difference is 14 points *better* than Navy veteran and former POW McCain did against Obama four years ago.

Veterans comprise about a quarter of American men, which Romney is also winning. Veterans make up only 2% of adult American women, which Obama has regularly won in polls. But his margin has dwindled to seven points among females, especially the married ones.

Obama has talked a lot, as late as yesterday, about paying special attention to veterans and his wife has a campaign to hire veterans. But the veterans disability backlog has grown under the Obama administration and the Democrat's ongoing drastic defense cutbacks throughout every service will dump thousands more veterans into the country's stagnant job market in coming months.

Romney, on the other hand, has talked of halting the military's decline and expanding the armed forces.

Since the military draft ended in the early 1970's, a smaller percentage of the population has entered military service. As a result, the current U.S. veteran population skews older, as well as Republican.

More good news for Romney: Older voters are the most reliable and more dutiful than the younger generation with a hazy memory that might go all the way back to 1990.

Right Turn

[Romney's Electoral College prospects bright — still](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

Not too long ago pundits were [arguing](#) that Mitt Romney's [path to 270](#) electoral votes was "[narrow](#)." [We didn't buy it](#).

Lo and behold, conventional wisdom has now changed. [The Associated Press writes](#): "Warning signs for Obama on tight path to 270." The AP explains:

Obama's new worries about North Carolina and Wisconsin offer opportunities for Republican Mitt Romney, who must peel off states Obama won in 2008 if he's to cobble together the 270 electoral votes needed to oust the incumbent in November.

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If the election were today, Obama would likely win 247 electoral votes to Romney's 206, according to an Associated Press analysis of polls, ad spending and key developments in states, along with interviews with more than a dozen Republican and Democratic strategists both inside and outside of the two campaigns.

Seven states, offering a combined 85 electoral votes, are viewed as too close to give either candidate a meaningful advantage: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio and Virginia.

Among that group, you have to like Romney's chance in Florida, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio and Virginia, with Iowa and Colorado going to the President Obama. That puts Romney's total at 276.

The [New York Times](#), likewise, puts Romney's current total at 206.

In other words, without Wisconsin, Michigan, Colorado and Pennsylvania, and with *either* New Hampshire *or* Nevada, Romney can get to 270. That's a lot of leeway, isn't it?

As I argued back in April, Romney's task is to win back *some* of the states Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) lost in 2008, but which President Bush carried in 2000 and/or 2004. Romney does not need to, although he certainly could, win states such as Wisconsin (which Bush lost by less than 1 percent both times), New Mexico (which Bush won in 2004) or Iowa (which Bush also won in 2004).

To a large degree, most of the polling you see is irrelevant. For example, Romney is losing the Hispanic vote badly in national polling to Obama. But if you take out states with some of the [largest Hispanic populations](#) in deep red (Texas, Georgia) or deep blue (California, New York, Illinois and New Jersey) — that is, states *not* in play — is Obama doing all that well? Is the Hispanic vote going to be decisive in states like Ohio, Virginia and New Hampshire? Maybe not so much. We don't have precise data, but the current national poll numbers on Hispanic voters aren't predictive of much of anything.

Finally, this certainly could be an election in which Obama could get the majority of the popular vote by racking up big wins in populous states (California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, where Romney will probably not bother to spend time or money) and nevertheless lose the Electoral College. Such a result would bring howls from the left about the Electoral College and accusations that Romney would not have political "legitimacy," but that, as everyone knows, doesn't amount to much. For all the caterwauling, it's still a race to 270, and Romney has broad and multiple pathways to get there.

Contentions

[Who's Afraid of Mitt Romney?](#)

by Alana Goodman

John Heilemann has a big-picture [report](#) on the Obama campaign's shift from hope to fear. Rather than focusing on an affirmative reelection message, Obama's strategy is to paint Mitt Romney as a composite of various nightmarish right-wingers in the hope that it will scare off independent voters and shore up the progressive base:

Though the Obamans certainly hit John McCain hard four years ago—running more negative ads than any campaign in history—what they intend to do to Romney is more savage. They will pummel him for being a vulture-vampire capitalist at Bain Capital. They will pound him for being a miserable failure as the governor of Massachusetts. They will mash him for being a water-carrier for Paul Ryan's Social Darwinist fiscal program. They will maul him for being a combination of Jerry Falwell, Joe Arpaio, and John Galt on a range of issues that strike deep chords with the Obama coalition. "We're gonna say, 'Let's be clear what he would do as

president,” Plouffe explains. “Potentially abortion will be criminalized. Women will be denied contraceptive services. He’s far right on immigration. He supports efforts to amend the Constitution to ban gay marriage.”

As I’ve written [before](#), the problem with this is that it’s not believable. Romney was the governor of Massachusetts for four years, and held pro-choice positions until 2004. Even under President George W. Bush, who was staunchly pro-life since his teenage years, and a majority-Republican Congress, abortion remained legal. The idea that it would likely be criminalized under Romney is absurd. The same goes for denying women contraceptives. If Romney is so radical that he opposes birth control, how on earth did he get elected governor of arguably the most liberal state in the country?

Beyond Romney’s record, his personality doesn’t fit the stereotype of the extreme right-winger. He’s mild-mannered and accentless, and walks without swagger. He chooses his words carefully and rarely goes off message. The Obama campaign can compare him to fringe characters like Joe Arpaio all it wants, but the disparity is unmistakable.

The progressive media outlets will definitely pick it up, but, again, it’s hard to see Comedy Central, “SNL” and late-night talk shows buying into the Romney-the-Tea-Party-Extremist narrative. Even when these shows do take shots at Romney, they steer clear of that line. For example, here are some lyrics from Mick Jagger’s [performance](#) on “SNL” last week:

“Mr. Romney, you know, he’s a mensch. But he always plays a straight affair. Yes, Mr. Romney he’s a hard-working man, and he always says his prayers. Yeah, but there’s one little thing about him – don’t ever let him cut your hair.”

The hair cut part is a reference to the Romney high school bullying story, but take a look at the rest of the lyrics. A mensch, who plays a straight affair, is hard-working and says his prayers? That’s it? The Obama campaign has a lot of work ahead if they’re going to turn that guy into a boogeyman.

Weekly Standard

[Indian Spring](#)

Another Massachusetts miracle for Scott Brown?

by Geoffrey Norman

Newton, Mass.

The event was called “Hoops for Our Troops,” and it was held on Armed Forces Day (May 19) in a high school gym here in Newton. The mayor, Setti Warren, came up with the idea. He is an Iraq war veteran himself and passionate about helping vets. The event brought veterans together with potential employers as well as representatives from job training programs, health care providers, counseling services, and others. Spice for the event came in the form of two basketball games. In one, the players were disabled veterans in wheelchairs. The other game, which was the draw, was between teams that were a mix of vets and local celebrities, mostly from broadcasting and sports, among them Kevin Faulk of the New England Patriots. Mayor Warren also suited up to play.

This was a made-to-order opportunity, then, for any capable, hustling politician looking to connect with constituents, early in a tough campaign. So Senator Scott Brown, who is an officer in the National Guard with some brief service in Afghanistan, arrived a little before halftime in the second game and worked the room. He goofed a little with the players. Shook a lot of hands. Did not make a speech and, in general, kept things low-key and casual. He was either enjoying himself and happy to be there, or very gifted at pretending to be. Which, in his line of work, probably amounts to the same thing.

It is fortunate for Brown that he is good at this sort of thing because if he intends to win in the league where he has chosen to compete, then he is going to have to play large. He is, first of all, a Republican, and no matter how hard you try, you can only go so far in ameliorating that liability in Massachusetts, which is among the bluest of the blue states. So blue, in fact, that Mitt Romney, who once managed to get himself elected governor of Massachusetts, is certain to concede the state as a lock for President Obama.

The Senate seat which Scott Brown now occupies was held for 46 years by Ted Kennedy. It is still considered by many to be “the Kennedy seat,” though Brown got some traction in the 2010 special election to fill the two years remaining in Kennedy’s term after his death by insisting that it is “the people’s seat.” Nice point, but then most of “the people” are Democrats.

Brown was expected to lose that election, and he might have, except that it was the time of the Tea Party ascendant, and opposition to Obamacare was running high. Voters knew that Brown might represent the needed 40th vote to keep a filibuster alive in the Senate.

He also had the good fortune to run against a political stiff who established her empathetic detachment from the voters of her state when she said that Curt Schilling, the warrior pitcher for the Red Sox, was “a Yankees fan.” This was a tectonic political gaffe that played straight to Brown’s personal appeal. He was, after all, an athlete himself, a good-looking guy with a glamorous wife (a TV newswoman), attractive daughters, and a pickup truck. Not a regular guy, exactly, but definitely the kind of guy that regular guys around Boston would *like* to be and could imagine themselves being, if things had only gone a little differently.

Brown was the nearly ideal anti-elitist candidate, in other words. And he won. Democrats were horrified and angry. A Republican man had defeated a Democratic woman in a contest for “the Kennedy seat.” This was sacrilege or worse.

Brown, of course, had only two years to build a record of votes and constituent service—and to create a media-shaped personality—before he would be obliged to run again. And this time, the Democrats would not be caught by surprise or take him lightly.

In Washington, Senate Democrats used a parliamentary maneuver that made it impossible to stop Obama-care by filibuster. Brown was not able to play Horatio at that particular bridge. But he became the potential 60th vote to break a filibuster of the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill. Brown conducted extended negotiations with Rep. Barney Frank. Except for the fact that both are from Massachusetts, these two could not be more unlike—in temperament, appearance, and politics. Still, they managed to reach some kind of agreement, and Brown did cast that 60th vote. The Dodd-Frank bill became law, and it would not have happened except for Brown’s vote. He may have hoped that this would buy him some love back home, but his opposition in

Massachusetts seems determined not to let what Barney Frank considers Brown's good deed go unpunished.

From the moment it became clear that Scott Brown would win "the Kennedy seat," Massachusetts Democrats began thinking of a rematch. And this time, Brown would not have the luxury of running against some political pug. They would send out a real candidate and raise plenty of money for that candidate's campaign.

The Democrats' handpicked champion appears to be Elizabeth Warren. There is still the party convention on June 2, which looks a little less like the mere formality it was a few weeks ago, back when Warren seemed the perfect candidate and an odds-on favorite to restore the proper political order in the state of Massachusetts. But the long odds are still for a Brown-Warren race.

Elizabeth Warren was one of the Obama administration's more compelling figures in its early days. A law professor who had achieved prominence for her work on consumer issues—especially bankruptcy—she served as chair of a panel overseeing the TARP financial bailout and was later an assistant to the president and special adviser to the secretary of the Treasury. She pushed for the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and was thought to be in line to be its head.

Warren had credibility as an expert whose big issue could not have been better aligned with the times. She had written books about the economic storms that were, increasingly, swamping the middle class. While she was a professor of law at Harvard, her Oklahoma roots are blue collar. Her empathy for the middle class and its economic struggles is plainly genuine and passionate. Her books on the subject are compelling enough that Christopher Caldwell wrote of them (and her) in these pages: "Her understanding of the financial crisis is best described as populist, conservative, even right-wing. It arises from what has happened to the American middle class in the past four decades."

A Harvard law professor who empathized with average Americans and a woman, Warren seemed cut out to run against Brown, and once she announced, the money began rolling in. In the first quarter of 2012, she raised almost \$7 million. Brown raised less than half that.

And, of course, Warren's nascent campaign was covered lavishly (if not slavishly) by the media. This included a firm, schoolmarmish, fingerpointing lecture which she delivered on the matter of class warfare:

You built a factory out there? Good for you. But I want to be clear: You moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for; you hired workers the rest of us paid to educate; you were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for. You didn't have to worry that marauding bands would come and seize everything at your factory, and hire someone to protect against this, because of the work the rest of us did.

One almost expected her to conclude by saying, "So sit up straight, keep quiet, and pay your taxes." This peroration was a kind of war cry for the left and established Warren as a candidate of tough ideas, a fresh face, and some kind of inevitable political force. The phrase *Warren for President* began to appear on the Internet. She reacted the way most people would and began, evidently, to believe the extravagant things that were written and said about her. When the

Occupy Wall Street movement burst onto the scene, she did not merely endorse it but went so far as to claim that she had “created much of the intellectual foundation for what they do.”

By the spring of 2012, Warren had emerged as a political heavyweight, and Democrats were counting on her to take back their Senate seat in Massachusetts, one they badly needed. Still, it would be a tough, expensive race. Brown would run as a centrist, work-across-the-aisle kind of guy, while he painted her as an elitist Harvard leftist. Warren, meanwhile, would accuse Brown of being . . . well, a Republican. One who took campaign contributions from Wall Street, among other sins.

Her line of attack seemed, on the face of it, cleaner and more likely to draw blood. Brown, after all, *is* a Republican and he does take contributions from Wall Street. That Elizabeth Warren is an elitist seems a slightly harder case to make. There are those Oklahoma roots and the undeniable (and appealing) efforts on behalf of the middle class, which Caldwell wrote about. She might be teaching at Harvard, but she got there, it seemed, through hard work and not by virtue of birth.

And, then, in April came the story that one blogging wit captured perfectly with the headline: “Funny, She Doesn’t Look Siouxish.”

As just about everyone knows by now, Elizabeth Warren has claimed to be a “native American.” (Cherokee, to be precise, but where’s the pun in that?) This isn’t so unusual among people from Oklahoma, but Warren’s claim was more than just anecdotal bar talk. From 1986 through 1995 she listed herself as a minority in a professional directory of the Association of American Law Schools. First the University of Pennsylvania and then Harvard identified her as one of their “minority” faculty. It is not possible to know if this was a consideration in her hiring, since the schools have not released her employment records. But in the world of elite universities, where diversity is celebrated and quotas are the clandestine order of the day, it worked out nicely for all.

However, Warren could not back up her claim of being 1/32 Cherokee. (She has blonde hair, blue eyes, and decidedly white skin.) This, in spite of the fact that the Cherokee Heritage Center maintains a genealogical research operation at its headquarters in Park Hill, Oklahoma, that can trace such claims back to the Dawes Rolls of the early 20th century and does so routinely. The *Boston Globe* did publish a story that seemed to endorse Warren’s claim on the basis of an 1894 application for a marriage license, but then printed a retraction, leaving the claim unsupported by any documentary evidence. Things seem likely to remain that way after the *Atlantic’s* Garance Franke-Ruta’s exhaustive reporting, which explored all the official possibilities. But while Warren may be unable to prove she is a Native American, Franke-Ruta writes, neither is there credible evidence that she gained any professional preference from the claims.

She did, however, contribute some recipes to a cookbook called *Pow Wow Chow*, edited by her cousin and published by the Five Civilized Tribes Museum of Muskogee. Warren’s byline identified her as “Elizabeth Warren, Cherokee.” Worse, the recipes may not have been original but cribbed from the French chef and *New York Times* columnist Pierre Franey, whose crab dish was the specialty of a New York restaurant and a favorite of that famous Indian chief, the Duke of Windsor.

The entire matter has been great fodder for local talk radio, blogs, and the *Boston Herald*. Warren has not backed down, contending that she is going by family lore, that she is proud of her Native-American heritage, and that the entire matter is a distraction. When Ed Schultz asked about the matter, she answered, "Scott Brown and the Republicans would rather talk about anything other than real issues." Among them, the influence of Wall Street and the banks to which Brown supposedly caved in his negotiations with Barney Frank when, Warren contends, he traded his vote for a weakening of the Dodd-Frank legislation.

If the Cherokee business is, indeed, a distraction, then it is a good one in that it turned the attentions of voters onto the loathsome diversity hustle that they are -otherwise not permitted to talk about. And, of only slightly less importance, it has made a politician who was excessively adored by the media look foolish and human. This is always a good thing.

Warren will still run, then, as the friend of the middle class and enemy of big-money institutions (though, in the minds of some people in Massachusetts, she is employed by one). And she will continue to be supported by the usual suspects, including Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, who did a recent fundraiser for her campaign.

While the glow has been dulled a little, one suspects that by November voters will no longer be focusing on the Indian stuff and the election will be what it started out being: a contest between two pretty attractive personalities, both of them with baggage. In Warren's case, Harvard. In Brown's, the Republican party.

After all, this is still Massachusetts.

Geoffrey Norman, a writer in Vermont, is a frequent contributor to The Weekly Standard.

The Corner

[**Boston Globe: Warren Looks Likely to Have Self-Identified at HLS**](#)

by Patrick Brennan

Over the weekend, more news emerged about the bizarre controversy over how Elizabeth Warren and Harvard University identified the law professor's ethnicity. Warren has claimed that she did not identify herself as a minority, and didn't know that Harvard had, but Harvard registered her as a Native American in a federal database that's usually based on self-identification (indeed, one wonders how else someone would label Warren a Native American, save her claim). The *Boston Globe* [reports](#):

US Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren has said she was unaware that Harvard Law School had been promoting her purported Native American heritage until she read about it in a newspaper several weeks ago.

But for at least six straight years during Warren's tenure, Harvard University reported in federally mandated diversity statistics that it had a Native American woman in its senior ranks at the law school. According to both Harvard officials and federal guidelines, those statistics are almost always based on the way employees describe themselves.

In addition, both Harvard's guidelines and federal regulations for the statistics lay out a specific definition of Native American that Warren does not meet.

The documents suggest for the first time that either Warren or a Harvard administrator classified her repeatedly as Native American in papers prepared for the government in a way that apparently did not adhere to federal diversity guidelines. They raise further questions about Warren's statements that she was unaware Harvard was promoting her as Native American. . . .

Warren, who has been dogged with questions about her ancestry since late April, was again grilled by reporters during a campaign stop in Brookline Thursday, but she refused to answer most of the queries, instead trying to shift the focus to Senator Scott Brown's economic record.

The US Department of Labor requires large employers to collect diversity statistics annually and suggests they be based on employees' classification of themselves. In cases in which employees do not self-identify, federal regulations allow some administrators to make judgment calls on the correct categories using "employment records or observer identification."

Investors.com

Late Night Humor

by Andrew Malcolm

Fallon: Did you see the photo of President Obama throwing a football at Soldiers Field? He told [Joe Biden to go long](#), then got in his car and drove away.

Fallon: Mark Zuckerberg got married a day after Facebook raised \$16 billion on the stock market. He listed 10 things he loved about her and she listed 16 billion things she loves about him.

Fallon: The Zuckerberg wedding reception was really annoying though. As soon as everyone sat down, the Facebook founder changed the layout for no reason.

Fallon: Happy Birthday to Mr. T. He just turned 60. You can tell he's getting old. Today he pitied the fool who couldn't get Barry Manilow tickets.

Fallon: Well, they just broadcast the finale for the 'House' show. You know this economy is bad when even the show 'House' gets foreclosed.

Leno: President Obama is giving graduation speeches these days. He tells grads their future is great--unless they want jobs.

Leno: California is so broke Nigeria has taken us off their email list.

Letterman: Signs all over New York City. Mayor Bloomberg is cracking down on bad behavior, enforcing rules like no texting by pedestrians. Yesterday one guy was so busy reading the mayor's signs everywhere he got hit by a taxi.

Fallon: A&E is canceling "Dog the Bounty Hunter" after eight seasons. Which is pretty good when you consider that it's, like, 56 in dog seasons.

Fallon: Yup, A&E is canceling "Dog the Bounty Hunter" and telling fans they're taking him to a farm in the country where he can run and play forever.

Leno: California is so broke that many LA streets are down to just one Starbuck's.

Fallon: Mark Zuckerberg's already lost \$2 billion since Facebook went public. When he wants to log on to Facebook now, he has to use the free Wi-Fi at Starbuck's.

Leno: Facebook has lost billions on the stock market, so much that Mark Zuckerberg has been named to the board of directors of JP Morgan.

Conan: Facebook shares fell again today. At one point this afternoon, Mark Zuckerberg went from being a billionaire to being "still a billionaire."

Conan: The inventor of the TV remote control has passed away. As per his wishes, he will be buried between two couch cushions.

Conan: Bagged salads across the country have been recalled over contamination fears. Luckily, this is America so none of the salads were touched.

Conan: A new report says Christopher Columbus may have been Jewish. What tipped them off was his diary entry describing his journey to America as a real "schlepp."

Letterman: Remember [Al Gore the tubby VP](#)? He has a new girlfriend, unless the Supreme Court takes her away, 5-4.

Leno: Did you see this? South Dakota police arrested a 53-year-old man from Chicago, who was trying to climb onto Mt. Rushmore. A guy in his 50's, from Chicago, desperate to get on Mt. Rushmore. Oh, my God! It's Obama!

Leno: Four of the Secret Service agents fired over the Colombian sex scandal say they didn't know the women they took to their hotel rooms were prostitutes. Really? Guys who watch crowds for a living.

Letterman: The man who invented the TV remote died this week. And with him went the secret of what the hell the SAP button is for.

Fallon: After losing billions, Facebook stockholders are suing Mark Zuckerberg for hiding the company's financials. Apparently, he posted them where no one would look, over on MySpace.

Fallon: A recent survey found that more men are finding work in fields that are historically dominated by women. Yeah, I heard it from that nun at my church -- Sister Gary.

Fallon: Michelle Obama says if she could trade places with anyone in the world, it would be Beyoncé. Of course, it got awkward when Barack was like, "I'm game!"

Fallon: A solar-powered plane tried to fly over 1,500 miles. Going great until the plane encountered this one technical problem — night.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICIAL OBAMA "KILL LIST"

- Jobs
- Deficit Reduction
- East European Missile Defense
- Keystone XL Pipeline
- NASA Moon Mission
- Traditional Marriage
- American Prestige
- Atlantic Offshore Drilling
- Religious Liberty
- Business Investment
- Bipartisance!

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YOU GOT THE FIRST MAINSTREAM AFRICAN-AMERICAN WHO IS BRIGHT AND CLEAN.

WHEN THE STOCK MARKET CRASHED FDR GOT ON TELEVISION.

THIS IS A BIG @*#! DEAL!

THE PRESIDENT HAS A BIG STICK.

STAND UP CHUCK, LET 'EM SEE YA IN YOUR WHEEL CHAIR.

TO PROTECT AGAINST SWINE FLU... DON'T FLY!

ROMNEY'S BAIN EXPERIENCE NO MORE QUALIFIES YOU TO BE PRESIDENT THAN BEING A **PLUMBER**.

HIS MOM LIVED IN LONG ISLAND, GOD REST HER SOUL- WAIT, YOUR MOM'S STILL ALIVE.

YOU CANNOT GO TO A 7-11 OR DUNKIN DONUTS UNLESS YOU HAVE A SLIGHT INDIAN ACCENT.

VP

SERIOUSLY?

WHO IS MORE QUALIFIED TO BE PRESIDENT ?

OFF WITH HIS HEAD!

AFTER THE ELECTION.



National
**SPELLING
BEE**

SPELL
'HYPE'!

F-A-C-E-B-O-O-K.



