June 11, 2012

<u>Mark Steyn</u> writes on the president whose name soon will be the punch line for a thousand jokes.

Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Diamond Jubilee a few days ago – that's 60 years on the throne. Just to put it in perspective, she's been queen since Harry S. Truman was president. At any rate, her jubilee has been a huge success, save for a few churlish republicans in various corners of Her Majesty's realms from London to Toronto to Sydney pointing out how absurd it is for grown citizens to be fawning over a distant head of state who lives in a fabulous, glittering cocoon entirely disconnected from ordinary life.

Which brings us to President Obama.

Last week, the republic's citizen-president passed among his fellow Americans. Where? Cleveland? Dubuque? Presque Isle, Maine? No, Beverly Hills. These days, it's pretty much always Beverly Hills or Manhattan, because that's where the money is. That's the Green Zone, and you losers are outside it. Appearing at an Obama fundraiser at the home of "Glee" creator Ryan Murphy and his fiancé David Miller, the president, reasonably enough, had difficulty distinguishing one A-list Hollywood summit from another. "I just came from a wonderful event over at the Wilshire or the Hilton – I'm not sure which," said Obama, "because you go through the kitchens of all these places, and so you never are quite sure where you are."

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Neal Boortz analyzes Clinton's apology.

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<u>Ed Morrissey</u> posts on Lanny Davis' remarks about the "vicious people" working for the president.

Via <u>BuzzFeed</u> and <u>Matt Lewis</u>, here's the latest in blue-on-blue political warfare from Lanny Davis, literally one of Bill Clinton's most ardent defenders. Davis presented the defense during Clinton's impeachment trial and has been loyal to both Clinton and the Democrats for decades. At some point this week, those loyalties ceased to be redundant as the Obama team humiliated the former President and <u>even had Clinton's own team insinuating</u> that he might be a little too old to be taken seriously any longer — at age 65. An Obama administration official told the New York Post that Newark Mayor Cory Booker was "<u>dead to us</u>" despite humbling himself in what was widely panned as a "hostage video" after contradicting the Obama campaign's Bain Capital-"vampire capitalist" strategy.

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Thomas Sowell on the real war against women.

Among the people who are disappointed with President Obama, none has more reason to be disappointed than those who thought he was going to be "a uniter, rather than a divider" and that he would "bring us all together."

It was a noble hope, but one with no factual foundation. Barack Obama had been a divider all his adult life, especially as a community organizer, and he had repeatedly sought out and allied himself with other dividers, the most blatant of whom was the man whose church he attend for 20 years, Jeremiah Wright.

Now, with his presidency on the line and the polls looking dicey, President Obama's re-election campaign has become more openly divisive than ever.

He has embraced the strident "Occupy Wall Street" movement, with its ridiculous claim of representing the 99 percent against the 1 percent. Obama's Department of Justice has been spreading the hysteria that states requiring photo identification for voting are trying to keep minorities from voting, and using the prevention of voter fraud as a pretext.

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Investors.com on what caused the slow recovery.

Whenever the subject of the weak economic recovery under President Obama comes up, his defenders tend to respond along the lines of: "What do you expect, since the recession was the worst since the Great Depression?"

It's an argument the head of Obama's Council of Economic Advisers made last week, after the U.S. created just 69,000 jobs in May, and unemployment remained stuck above 8% for the 40th month in a row.

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Orange County Register Obama redefines 'Green Zone' by Mark Steyn

Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Diamond Jubilee a few days ago – that's 60 years on the throne. Just to put it in perspective, she's been queen since Harry S. Truman was president. At any rate, her jubilee has been a huge success, save for a few churlish republicans in various corners of Her Majesty's realms from London to Toronto to Sydney pointing out how absurd it is for grown citizens to be fawning over a distant head of state who lives in a fabulous, glittering cocoon entirely disconnected from ordinary life.

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Ah, the burdens of stardom. The old celebrities-have-to-enter-through-the-kitchen line. The last time I heard that was a couple of decades back in London when someone was commiserating with Sinatra on having to be ushered in through the back. Frank brushed it aside. We were at the Savoy, or maybe the Waldorf. I can't remember, and I came in through the front door. Oddly enough, the Queen enters hotels through the lobby. So do Prince William and his lovely bride. A month ago, they stayed at a pub in Suffolk for a friend's wedding, and came in through the same door as mere mortals. Imagine that!

So far this year, President Obama has been to three times as many fundraisers as President George W. Bush had attended by this point in the 2004 campaign. This is what the New York Post calls his "torrid pace," although judging from those remarks in California he's about as torrid as an overworked gigolo staggering punchily through the last mambo of the evening. According to Brendan J. Doherty's forthcoming book, "The Rise of the President's Permanent Campaign," Obama has held more fundraisers than the previous five presidents' re-election campaigns combined.

This is all he does now. But, hey, unlike those inbred monarchies with their dukes and marquesses and whatnot, at least he gets out among the masses. Why, in a typical week, you'll find him at a fundraiser at George Clooney's home in Los Angeles with Barbra Streisand and Salma Hayek. These are people who are in touch with the needs of ordinary Americans because they have played ordinary Americans in several of their movies. And then only four days later the president was in New York for a fundraiser hosted by Ricky Martin, the only man on the planet whose evolution on gayness took longer than Obama's. It's true that moneyed celebrities in, say, Pocatello or Tuscaloosa have not been able to tempt the president to hold a lavish fundraiser in Idaho or Alabama, but he does fly over them once in a while. Why, only a week ago, he was on Air Force One accompanied by Jon Bon Jovi en route to a fundraiser called *Barack On Broadway*.

Any American can attend an Obama event for a donation of a mere \$35,800 – the cost of the fundraiser hosted by Dreamworks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg, and the one hosted by Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg, and the one hosted by Will Smith and Jada Pinkett, and the one hosted by Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas, and the one hosted by Crosby, Stills and Nash. \$35,800 is a curiously nonround figure. Perhaps the ticket cost is \$36,000, but under Obamacare there's a \$200 co-pay. Those of us who grew up in hidebound, class-ridden monarchies are familiar with the old proverb that a cat can look at a king. But in America only a cool cat can look at the king.

However, there are some cheap seats available. A year and a half ago, big-money Democrats in Rhode Island paid \$7,500 per person for the privilege of having dinner with President Obama at a private home in Providence. He showed up for 20 minutes and then said he couldn't stay for dinner. "I've got to go home to walk the dog and scoop the poop," he told them, because when

you've paid seven-and-a half grand for dinner nothing puts you in the mood to eat like a guy talking about canine fecal matter. And, having done the poop gag, the president upped and exited, and left big-shot Dems to pass the evening talking to the guy from across the street. But you've got to admit that's a memorable night out: \$7,500 for Dinner With Obama* (*dinner with Obama not included).

And here's an even better deal, for those who, despite the roaring economy, can't afford even \$7,500 for non-dinner with Obama: The president of the United States is raffling himself off! For the cost of a \$3 nonrefundable online-application processing fee, you and your loved one can have your names put in a large presidential hat from which the FBI background-check team will pluck two to be ushered into the presence of their humble citizen-executive. That's to say, somewhere across the fruited plain, a common-or-garden non-celebrity will win the opportunity to attend an Obama fundraiser at the home of "Sex And The City" star Sarah Jessica Parker, co-hosted by Vogue editor Anna Wintour, the British-born inspiration for the movie "The Devil Wears Prada." I wish this were a parody, but I'm not that good. But I'm sure Sarah-Jessica and Anna will treat you just like any other minor celebrity they've accidentally been seated next to due to a hideous faux pas in placement, even if you do dip the wrong end of the arugula in the *amuse-bouche*.

If you're wondering who Anna Wintour is, boy, what a schlub you are: She's renowned throughout the fashion world for her scary bangs. I'm referring to her hair, not to the last sound Osama bin Laden heard as the bullet headed toward his eye socket on the personal orders of the president, in case you've forgotten. But that's the kind of inside tidbit you'll be getting, as the Commander-in-Chief leaks highly classified national-security details to you over the zebra mussel in a Eurasian-milfoil coulis. For a donation of \$35,800, he'll pose with you in a Seal Team Six uniform with one foot on Osama's corpse (played by Harry Reid). For a donation of \$46,800, he'll send an unmanned drone to hover amusingly over your sister-in-law's house. For a donation of \$77,800, he'll install you as the next president-for-life of Syria (liability waiver required). For a donation of \$159,800, he'll take you into Sarah Jessica's guest bedroom and give you the full 007 while Carly Simon sings "Nobody Does It Better."

There are monarchies and republics a-plenty, but there's only one 24/7 celebrity fund-raising presidency. If it's Tuesday, it must be Kim Cattrall, or Hootie and the Blowfish, or Laverne and Shirley, or the ShamWow guy

I wonder if the Queen ever marvels at the transformation of the American presidency since her time with Truman. Ah, well. If you can't stand the klieg-light heat of Obama's celebrity, stay out of the Beverly Wilshire kitchen.

Neal Boortz Clinton's "Apology"

For the past 18 hours or so I've been watching various pundits try to analyze Bill Clinton's socalled "apology" to Barack Obama? Apology for what? Apology for suggesting that now, while we're in a recession and trying to find the key to growing our economy, might not be a good time to raise taxes on the rich. So naturally the Obama people contacted the Clinton people to ask them just what in the hell they're trying to do? Obama's one constant theme since he was sworn in is that the rich – the people who pay the bulk of the income taxes in this country – need to pay more because, after all, they have money they don't "need." Obama even went so far at one point as to say that he didn't want to live in a country that would "allow him" to keep this money that he has earned that he didn't really need. And then along comes Clinton to say that now would be a bad time to raise taxes on these people?

So yesterday, Clinton apologizes. Clinton, the man who last year gathered a group of people together in his home to discuss Obama – a meeting at which he referred to Obama as an "amateur," – now feels sorrowful for saying that raising taxes on the evil rich would be bad right not? Clinton said: "I'm very sorry for what happened. I thought something had to be done on the fiscal cliff before the election." He said that now he wants to agree with Obama that taxes need to be raised on the rich right now!

OK ... I'm just seeing this differently than other folks. That's probably because I'm not as smart and experienced as they are in the world of political punditry. But here is what I think Clinton was really saying. Seriously .. the tone of his comments, the way he uttered his apology .. here's what I think he really wanted us to hear:

"I mean, what the hell do I know? I managed the U.S. economy for eight years, and we never were in this kind of a mess. What does my eight years in the White House mean in the face of the massive executive and economic experience Barack Obama brought to the White House with him. Foolish me. I thought that at a time when job growth isn't even coming close to keeping pace with our population increase; at a time when we're making downward corrections in the numbers of new jobs every single month; here I thought that this might not be a good time to raise taxes on the very people we depend on to create new jobs. Not only that, but I thought that we needed to do everything we could to promote job creation before the election, instead of waiting until after. I'm truly very sorry. Really! What was I thinking? Barack Obama's reelection is much more important than moving now to stimulate job growth, and the president's class warfare campaign – playing off of wealth envy by insisting on punishing the rich with higher taxes – is really all he has going for him. So I'll be the team player. To hell with our economy. This is really all about Obama, not about those people out there looking for a way to support their families, pay their bills, keep their homes and plan for their retirements. So let's raise taxes on the jobs producers right now!"

Yup --- that's pretty much what he said. The sarcasm was palpable. You just had to listen carefully.

Hot Air <u>Lanny Davis blasts "vicious people working for the President"</u> by Ed Morrissey

Via <u>BuzzFeed</u> and <u>Matt Lewis</u>, here's the latest in blue-on-blue political warfare from Lanny Davis, literally one of Bill Clinton's most ardent defenders. Davis presented the defense during Clinton's impeachment trial and has been loyal to both Clinton and the Democrats for decades. At some point this week, those loyalties ceased to be redundant as the Obama team humiliated the former President and <u>even had Clinton's own team insinuating</u> that he might be a little too old to be taken seriously any longer — at age 65. An Obama administration official told the New York Post that Newark Mayor Cory Booker was "<u>dead to us</u>" despite humbling himself in what was widely panned as a "hostage video" after contradicting the Obama campaign's Bain Capital-"vampire capitalist" strategy.

Speaking yesterday on "America's Radio News Network," Davis blasted Obama's teams in the administration and the campaign, and wondered where they'd find *any* friends after this week:

"You have vicious people who are working for the president — not the president [himself] — who are saying that Corey Booker — one of the great supporters of President Obama's policies — is 'dead' because he's giving the president good advice, disagreeing with the Kool-Aid drinking people in the campaign who think the way to win the presidency is to trash the other guy rather than to defend your own guy's record. ..."

"[W]hy would they want to create enemies, or depict people as enemies, who are their friends?"

Not the President himself? Is Davis sure about that? After all, he's the man in charge, the one who hired these "vicious people" in the first place. Are we to believe that Lanny Davis thinks it's an accident that we have Chicago-on-the-Potomac now, or is he just noticing it because they're now going after *Democrats*? If it's really the former, it's worthy of a Captain Louis Renault award:

More to the point, we are now seeing Democrats melt down into disarray. Remember when the conventional wisdom was that a Mitt Romney nomination would split the GOP and the Tea Party, leaving Barack Obama with a united Democratic Party and Left-Labor activist base? The opposite has proven true — the pressure of a poor economy and rising anger from voters has now split the Democratic Party, while Romney has united the Right. There is a lot of time between now and the election and conditions can change rapidly, but Davis is right about the imminent meltdown. In fact, it may have already started this week.

Jewish World Review The Real 'War on Women'

by Thomas Sowell

Among the people who are disappointed with President Obama, none has more reason to be disappointed than those who thought he was going to be "a uniter, rather than a divider" and that he would "bring us all together."

It was a noble hope, but one with no factual foundation. Barack Obama had been a divider all his adult life, especially as a community organizer, and he had repeatedly sought out and allied himself with other dividers, the most blatant of whom was the man whose church he attend for 20 years, Jeremiah Wright.

Now, with his presidency on the line and the polls looking dicey, President Obama's re-election campaign has become more openly divisive than ever.

He has embraced the strident "Occupy Wall Street" movement, with its ridiculous claim of representing the 99 percent against the 1 percent. Obama's Department of Justice has been

spreading the hysteria that states requiring photo identification for voting are trying to keep minorities from voting, and using the prevention of voter fraud as a pretext.

But anyone who doubts the existence of voter fraud should read John Fund's book "Stealing Elections" or J. Christian Adams's book, "Injustice," which deals specifically with the Obama Justice Department's overlooking voter fraud when those involved are black Democrats.

Not content with dividing classes and races, the Obama campaign is now seeking to divide the sexes by declaring that women are being paid less than men, as part of a "war on women" conducted by villains, from whom Obama and company will protect the women — and, not incidentally, expect to receive their votes this November.

The old — and repeatedly discredited — game of citing women's incomes as some percentage of men's incomes is being played once again, as part of the "war on women" theme.

Since women average fewer hours of work per year, and fewer years of consecutive full-time employment than men, among other differences, comparisons of male and female annual earnings are comparisons of apples and oranges, as various female economists have pointed out. Read Diana Furchtgott-Roth of the Hudson Institute or Professor Claudia Goldin of Harvard, for example.

When you compare women and men in the same occupations with the same skills, education, hours of work, and many other factors that go into determining pay, the differences in incomes shrink to the vanishing point — and, in some cases, the women earn more than comparable men.

But why let mere facts spoil the emotional rhetoric or the political ploys to drum up hysteria and collect votes?

The farcical nature of these ploys came out after House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi declared that Congress needed to pass the Fair Pay Act, because women average 23 percent lower incomes than men.

A reporter from The Daily Caller then pointed out that the women on Nancy Pelosi's own staff average 27 percent lower incomes than the men on her staff. Does that show that Pelosi herself is guilty of discrimination against women? Or does it show that such simple-minded statistics are grossly misleading?

The so-called Fair Pay Act has nothing to do with fairness and everything to do with electionyear politics. No one in his right mind expects that bill to become law. It will be lucky to pass the Senate, and has no chance whatever of getting passed in the House of Representatives.

The whole point of this political exercise is to get Republicans on record voting against "fairness" for women, as part of the Democrats' campaign strategy to claim that there is a "war on women."

If you are looking for a real war on women, you might look at the practice of aborting girl babies after an ultrasound picture shows that they are girls. These abortions are the most basic kind of discrimination, and their consequences have already been demonstrated in countries like China

and India, where sexually discriminatory abortions and female infanticide have produced an imbalance in the number of adult males and females.

A bill to outlaw sexually and racially discriminatory abortions has been opposed and defeated by House Democrats.

Investors.com What's Really To Blame For The Lousy Recovery by John Merline

Whenever the subject of the weak economic recovery under President Obama comes up, his defenders tend to respond along the lines of: "What do you expect, since the recession was the worst since the Great Depression?"

It's an argument the head of Obama's Council of Economic Advisers made last week, after the U.S. created just 69,000 jobs in May, and unemployment remained stuck above 8% for the 40th month in a row.

"There is much more work that remains to be done to repair the damage caused by the financial crisis and deep recession," wrote Alan Krueger.

Obama himself has used this excuse. "From the moment we first took action to prevent another Great Depression, we knew the road to recovery would not be easy; we knew it would take time," he said last week.

But the history of economic cycles suggests that the exact opposite should have happened.

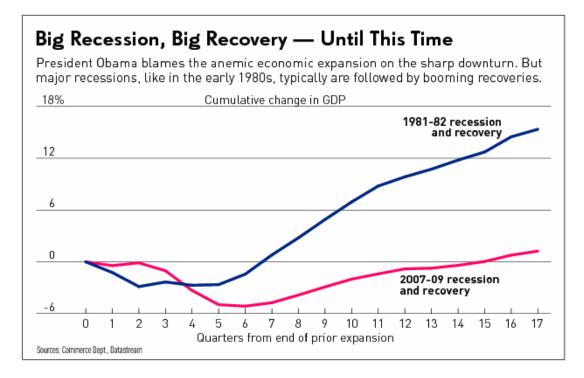
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Bigger They Fall...

What's more, deeper recessions tend to produce strong recoveries.

"You can't find a single deep recession that has been followed by a moderate recovery," Dean Maki, chief U.S. economist at Barclays Capital, said back in August 2009.

The 1957-58, 1973-74 and 1981-82 recessions were the sharpest post-war slumps until the Great Recession. From those lows, the economy rose 15%, 18.5% and 19.6% over the next 11 quarters, respectively, vs. just 6.8% for the Obama recovery.



The president and his economic advisers also initially expected a solid recovery this time around.

Obama's first budget in February 2009, forecast "rapid growth" that "is expected to push down the unemployment rate ... to 5% by the end of 2013." That month, Obama told the public that the \$830 billion stimulus plan would "ignite spending by businesses and consumers" and "usher in a new wave of innovation, activity and construction."

The administration's August 2009 budget update claimed that "once the recovery takes hold, it is expected to gain momentum as time passes."

And as the true depth of the recession became clear over the next several months, the White House continued to promise a solid recovery.

Hiring Never Boomed

Obama's next budget in February 2010 predicted 3.8% real GDP growth in 2011 and 4.3% in 2012. The White House Council of Economic Advisers that year touted the "rapid turnaround in growth" in 2009 as "remarkable" and "impressive."

In April 2010, Vice President Biden promised that "some time in the next couple of months, we're going to be creating between 250,000 jobs a month and 500,000 jobs a month." (Monthly job gains have averaged just 133,000 since Biden said that.)

And in June 2010, Obama said "our economy is getting stronger by the day."

The administration wasn't alone in expecting a solid recovery. The Congressional Budget Office in 2009 projected growth rates of 4% or above starting in 2011.

IHS Global Insight chief economist Nariman Behravesh wrote in November 2008 that "in my view the recession will be deep — but the recovery is also likely to be strong."

Reuters reported in September 2009 that strong retail sales offered "hope for a solid recovery from a severe recession" and noted that some analysts expect "the economy could enjoy a quick recovery from the slump that started in December 2007."

And in April 2010, First Trust Advisors economists Brian Wesbury and Robert Stein <u>argued that</u> "the economic data clearly trace out a V-shaped recovery."

The connection between large contractions and big expansions is simple enough. Nobel Prizewinning economist Milton Fried man likened it to a plucked guitar string. The further down you pull it, the faster it will snap back. Research since has generally affirmed the connection.

Yet, as <u>IBD reported recently</u>, despite the fact that the 2007-2009 recession was very deep, the current recovery has been uniquely anemic. In fact, growth rates for the current expansion have been well below the average set by the previous 10 recoveries.

So why, then, has this recovery been so unusually weak?

Credit Crisis Impact?

According to some economists, it's because the recession was caused by a financial crisis, which they argue tends to produce more sluggish economic recoveries.

"As the economists Ken Rogoff and Carmen Reinhart have written, recoveries that follow financial crises are typically a hard climb," Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner stated in an <u>August 2010 op-ed</u>.

But others have challenged this contention. A September 2011 Atlanta Fed paper <u>concluded</u> that the history of recessions in the U.S. offers "no support" for the claim.

And a November 2011 paper by economists at Rutgers University and the Cleveland Fed <u>found</u> <u>that</u> "recessions associated with financial crises are generally followed by rapid recoveries."

Cure-All Or Poison

Some on the left blame the lack of adequate stimulus for the recovery's tepid pace. Former Obama economic adviser Larry Summers this week called for still more borrowing.

Those on the right blame Obama's own policies for slowing the recovery down, pointing to the substantial increase in the national debt, the growth of <u>costly new regulations</u>, the threat of new taxes, the impending ObamaCare mandates, and a general sense of uncertainty in the business community.

Human Events Did Walker 'Survive'?

by David Harsanyi

This morning, readers across the country were confronted with headlines that read, in some variation, Walker "<u>survives</u>" recall. <u>The Boston Globe</u>. <u>The Washington Post</u>. <u>The New York</u> <u>Times</u>. And so on. I suppose, though, that this is technically true -- after all Walker won a recall challenge -- but, implicit in the word "survive" is "close call." One of the definitions of survive is, "To carry on despite hardships or trauma."

So here's something to remember:

The Wisconsin "survival" election:

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A more appropriate headline would be Walker "cruises" to victory.







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