

## *The Obama Timeline – Part II*

### *The Doomed Presidency*

*October 2012*

Effective October 1 Medicare begins imposing fines on hospitals that readmit “too many” patients within 30 days of their discharge. The Associated Press reports, “The penalties are part of a broader push under [ObamaCare] to improve quality while also trying to save taxpayers money. About two-thirds of the hospitals serving Medicare patients, or some 2,200 facilities, will be hit with penalties averaging around \$125,000 per facility this coming year, according to government estimates.” (The rule is intended to encourage hospitals to “do it right the first time,” so that fewer patients are readmitted soon after discharge. But the rule ignores the fact that many readmissions are beyond the control of the hospital, such as a patient who does not follow instructions for medications or who does not limit his activities as recommended. The unintended consequences of the ObamaCare rule will be twofold. First, hospitals will increase charges for non-Medicare patients to offset the new fines—because hospitals cannot print money. Secondly, hospitals may be inclined to discourage patients from being readmitted before the 30-day period. That is, if the patient complains of complications 29 days after discharge, the hospital may encourage him or her to “wait a few more days” before returning for additional treatment. That may lead to worse care, better than improved care.) [37776, 38829]

The administration also begins awarding “bonus points” to hospitals for spending as little as possible on elderly patients. At Investors.com Betsy McCaughey later explains that the policy “...will result in fewer knee replacements, hip replacements, angioplasty, bypass surgery and cataract operations. These are the five procedures that have transformed aging for older Americans. They used to languish in wheelchairs and nursing homes due to arthritis, cataracts and heart disease. Now they lead active lives. But the Obama administration is undoing that progress. By cutting \$716 billion from future Medicare funding over the next decade and rewarding the hospitals that spend the least on seniors, the Obama health law will make these procedures hard to get and less safe.

...Astoundingly, doctors will be paid less to treat a senior than to treat someone on Medicaid, and only about one-third of what a doctor will be paid to treat a patient with private insurance. On July 13, 2011, Richard Foster, chief actuary for Medicare, warned Congress that seniors will have difficulty finding doctors and hospitals to accept Medicare. Doctors who do continue to take it will not want to spend time doing procedures such as knee replacements when the pay is so low. Yet the law bars them from providing care their patients need for an extra fee. You’re trapped. ...Foster warned Congress that 15% of hospitals may stop treating seniors once the ObamaCare cuts go into effect. The rest will have to lower the standard of care. Hospitals will have \$247 billion less over the next decade to care for the same number of seniors as if the health law had not been enacted.” [38551, 38829]

Attorney Orly Taitz applies to the U.S. Supreme Court for a stay of certification of the 2012 votes for Obama pending review of her appeal of *Taitz v. Astrue*—which relates to the government’s refusal to comply with a Freedom of Information Act request for Obama’s SS-5 application for a Social Security number. (It is believed by many that Obama’s use of stolen Social Security numbers issued in Ohio and Connecticut are the result of his never having filed for a number of his own.) [4322, 4323, 4324, 5436, 5437, 5438, 5659, 37778]

The government reports that the deficit for fiscal year 2012 (October 2011 through September 2011) was \$1,275,901,078,828.74, or \$1.276 trillion—or \$10,855 for every household in the United States. During each of Obama’s four years in the White House the deficit has exceeded \$1 trillion. (The Bush tax cuts boosted tax revenue and led to declining deficits; the deficit was \$161 billion in 2007. The financial crisis in 2008 caused the deficit to balloon to \$459. Obama’s \$800+ billion in stimulus spending in 2009 then resulted in a deficit of \$1.412 trillion in Obama’s first year in office.) [37836, 37837]

At WashingtonPost.com Jennifer Rubin comments on the latest WaPo/ABC poll: “You’ve got to get deep into the weeds to tell what is going on. The Washington Post-ABC pollsters tell us that ‘52 percent of likely voters across swing states side with Obama and 41 percent with Romney in the new national poll.’ But without the proper context, readers may jump to an incorrect conclusion when they see that figure, concluding that Obama is home-free in swing states. As I learned from Post pollster Jon Cohen, that finding is based on the responses of a total of 160 people, and it has a margin of error of 8 percentage points. So yes, there may be a difference between swing-state and national numbers, but the gap might be very small or it might be big.” The mainstream media happily reports that Obama leads by 11 points in the swing states—conveniently neglecting to report the details. The same poll shows Obama up by only two points nationally, 49–47, over Mitt Romney. If one believes that Obama is up by 11 in the swing states, it makes no sense that he is up by only two points nationally. The “swing states” are the close states, like Florida and Ohio. Obama will most certainly win the big welfare states of California, New York, and Illinois. But for Obama to be doing worse nationally than he is doing in the swing states means those other states are bringing his lead down. Neither the *Washington Post* nor ABC have explained how that can be happening. (The likely answer is that Obama is not up by 11 points in the swing states, and that a survey of 160 voters is meaningless.) [37788, 37789]

The Associated Press reports on the effect the expiration of the Bush tax rates would have on various families. “A married couple with no children that makes \$60,000 (each spouse earns \$30,000) would pay \$5,105 in federal income tax for 2011. Their income taxes would rise to \$6,308 next year and their payroll taxes would rise from \$3,390 in 2011 to \$4,590 in 2012. A single mother with three children and an income of \$40,000 would benefit from the earned income and refundable child tax credits to receive a tax refund of \$2,626 for 2011 and pay payroll taxes of \$2,260 for a total federal tax burden of –\$366. Under higher rates in 2013, she would owe \$183 in income taxes and pay \$366 more in

payroll taxes. A married couple earning \$200,000 (one spouse earns \$150,000, the other \$50,000) would see their income tax bill jump almost \$6,000 (from \$34,587 to \$40,545) and their payroll taxes rise \$3,358 (\$9,742 to \$13,000).” Although Obama wants the Bush tax rates to expire only for upper-income earners in 2013, he wants to extend the rates for other Americans for only one year. If Congress gives Obama what he wants, some Americans will get hit with income tax increases in 2013, and everyone else get hit with them in 2014. (In general, the mainstream media has focused only on Obama’s desire to raise taxes on those families earning \$250,000 or more. Reporters and commentators generally neglect to point out that taxes would increase for everyone in 2014.) [37790]

At Townhall.com, Katie Pavlich reports, “[B]ureaucracy combined with a long list of excuses inside the Pentagon has resulted in a record number of absentee military ballots not being requested or fulfilled. This election cycle is similar to what happened in 2008 when a record number of absentee ballots were never sent out to military voters or were sent out after the deadline to vote.” At PJMedia.com, Matthew Vadum reports that “...the Obama administration, which moves at light-speed to undermine common-sense state voter identification laws, hasn’t bothered to set up half of the installation voting assistance offices (IVAOs) required under the MOVE [Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment] Act. The law was created to help deployed soldiers, many of whom are constantly on the move, to exercise the right to vote that they risk their lives to protect. IVAOs are supposed to help military personnel find their way through the maze of confusing voting rules enforced by the nation’s 55 states and territories. But IVAOs can’t help anybody vote if they don’t exist. ...Do you think the administration’s lack of interest in protecting soldiers’ votes could have something to do with the fact that military personnel tend to lean Republican? Mitt Romney scored the support of 58 percent of the military compared to ...Obama’s 34 percent in a Gallup poll this past May.” [37791, 37831]

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the inflation rate for the period August 2011 through July 2012 was a mere 1.4 percent. [37792]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Department of Agriculture personnel in the Obama administration have met with Mexican Government officials dozens of times since [Obama] took office to promote nutrition assistance programs—notably food stamps—among Mexican Americans, Mexican nationals and migrant communities in America.” [37795]

A CNN poll shows Obama leading Mitt Romney 50–47; the poll’s margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percent. The poll’s D/R/I sampling is 37/29/34, which gives an 8-point turnout advantage to the Democrats—even though in 2008 the advantage was only 7 points. (In other words, it is yet another poll that laughably assumes the pro-Obama enthusiasm will be even greater in 2012 than it was in 2008. A 32/30/34 turnout for 2012 is probably more likely than 37/29/34.) [37798]

The American Crossroads political action committee releases an ad that slams Obama for responding to the terrorist attack on the consulate in Libya by flying to Las Vegas to campaign, and for ignoring world leaders at the United Nations so he could instead appear on ABC's *The View* and refer to himself as "eye candy." The ad concludes, "...Obama needs to learn, being president isn't just about being on TV and protecting your job. It's about leadership. It's time for a president who gets it." (Note: For the sake of consistency *The Obama Timeline* has used and will continue to use the word "consulate" to refer to the facility in Benghazi, Libya at which Ambassador Christopher Stevens was killed, even though it was arguably neither an embassy nor a consulate but a private home with several buildings rented by the U.S. government. Some might say it was essentially a CIA operations center.) [37804, 37813]

The Obama campaign shamelessly uses a letter from a young girl with Down Syndrome in a "letter of the week" web page. The letter, from a girl named Brittany, is intended to portray Mitt Romney and Republicans as mean-spirited and eager to slash spending for disabled persons, based on Romney's fundraiser comments about the 47 percent of Americans who pay no federal income taxes. The letter reads, "I am one of the 47% of Americans who fall under Mitt Romney's definition of 'entitled' and 'unable to take responsibility for my life.' I have Down syndrome." First, neither Romney nor any Republican candidate for the House or the Senate has ever discussed or has any intention of slashing federal programs for disabled individuals. Second, Brittany in her letter, "I am now working for a store, folding clothes and doing returns. I like my job a lot! I make \$4.98 an hour and I am allowed to work 25–30 hours a week (I have paid \$542.72 in federal, FICA, state, and city taxes this year as of August 31st)." Brittany is a taxpayer, *and is therefore not even in the 47 percent who avoid income taxes.* [37805]

Europe, whose fiscal policies Obama is eager to follow, reports record high unemployment. *The Telegraph* reports a eurozone unemployment rate of 11.4 percent in August. The unemployment rate is 25.1 percent in Spain and 24.4 percent in Greece. The rate is only 5.5 percent in Germany—which has not followed the borrow-and-spend policies of Spain and Greece. [37806]

This author's editorial, "Just Happened..." (also known as "Can It All Be a Coincidence") is promoted on various web sites. The essay notes the many coincidences in Obama's life. For example: "Obama just happened to know 60s far-left radical revolutionary William Ayers, whose father just happened to be Thomas Ayers, who just happened to be a close friend of Obama's communist mentor Frank Marshall Davis, who just happened to work at the communist-sympathizing *Chicago Defender* with Vernon Jarrett, who just happened to later become the father-in-law of Iranian-born leftist Valerie Jarrett, who Obama just happened to choose as his closest White House advisor, and who just happened to have been CEO of Habitat Company, which just happened to manage public housing in Chicago, which just happened to get millions of dollars from the Illinois state legislature, and which just happened not to properly maintain the housing—which eventually just happened to require demolition. Valerie Jarrett also just happened to work for the city of Chicago, and just happened to hire Michelle LaVaughan Robinson (later

Obama), who just happened to have worked at the Sidley Austin law firm, where former fugitive from the FBI Bernardine Dohrn also just happened to work, and where Barack Obama just happened to get a summer job.” [37810, 37811, 37812, 38701]

Woody Johnson, owner of the New York Jets football team, is asked, “What is the bigger priority to you right now, a winning season for the Jets or a winning election for Mitt Romney?” Johnson replies, “Well, I think you always have to put country first, so I think it’s very, very important, ...not only for us but [in] particular for our kids and grandkids, that this election come off with Mitt Romney and Ryan as president and vice president.” [37816]

The Obama campaign releases an ad criticizing Mitt Romney’s Bain Capital for its investment in Global-Tech, a company that manufactures appliances in China. (It is worth noting that Obama once campaigned at a Maytag appliance factory in Galesburg, Illinois, promising 1,600 workers that he would make sure they kept their jobs. The company, owned by the wealthy Crown family, was then shuttered and the jobs were transferred to Reynoso, Mexico. The Crown family has donated heavily to Obama’s campaigns, and has ownership in defense contractor General Dynamics. The Crown family also sits on the board of energy company Exelon—which was formerly known as Commonwealth Edison, whose CEO was Thomas Ayers, the father of William Ayers. Thomas Ayers also served on the board of General Dynamics, with billionaire Lester Crown. In 2006, Obama obtained a \$1.3 billion earmark to fund the company’s High Explosive Air Burst Technology.) [842 p. 227–228; 2328, 37823, 37829, 37830]

Football Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway endorses Mitt Romney. He states, “Governor Romney is a proven leader with the experience and background to turn around our struggling economy. In these tough economic times, we need a president who understands how to get America working again—by standing on the side of taxpayers and small-business owners who do the real job creating. I am endorsing Governor Romney and Congressman Ryan for President and Vice President because I know having the courage to make decisions and tackle challenges is what leads to results and real change. America needs a comeback team—Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan are that team.” [37839]

A survey of physicians shows they prefer Mitt Romney over Obama 55–36 percent; 15 percent of those who voted for Obama in 2008 have now switched to Romney. [37840]

The U.S. Supreme Court gives the Department of Justice 30 days to respond to a March 2010 lawsuit filed by Liberty Counsel on behalf of Liberty University that challenges ObamaCare’s individual and employer mandates. WND.com reports, “It’s been stalled because a federal appeals court ruled that the suit could not proceed because no one had been penalized or taxed yet through the mandates. The recent Supreme Court decision essentially struck down that ruling.” (Courts generally do not hear lawsuits challenging new taxes until the implementation date of the tax.) [38053, 38439]

On October 2 DailyCaller.com reports that Obama may be considering issuing a pardon for killer Oscar Lopez Rivera—after the election. “Puerto Rican separatist leader Oscar Lopez Rivera’s group, the Armed Forces of Puerto Rican National Liberation (FALN), killed ... Frank Connor 37 years ago during a deadly bombing spree that stretched from the 1970s to the early ’80s. The terrorist group bombed New York City’s historic Fraunces Tavern on Jan. 25, 1975, killing 33-year-old Frank Connor.” Connor’s son Joe suspects that Obama will pardon Rivera, who brother Jose Lopez, a “Chicago-based community organizer,” had a relationship with Obama. (Then-Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder persuaded Bill Clinton to grant pardons to 16 FALN terrorists on his final day in office. The move may have been partially motivated by a desire to gain votes in the Puerto Rican community for Hillary Clinton’s U.S. Senate run, and partly by Holder’s generally sympathetic attitude toward revolutionaries. Holder’s role in securing the Clinton pardons was called “unconscionable” by a Congressional committee, partly because he kept the deliberations hidden until the last minute to avoid protests from U.S. District Attorneys.) [164, 353, 408, 508, 530, 37819]

At LayCatholics.org Peter L. Hodges, Sr. writes, “As a Catholic who works in the trade association profession in the auto industry it was unsettling to hear ... Obama claim that he saved the auto industry. ... Obama closed over 2,200 auto dealerships, which caused the losses of decades old family-owned businesses and over 120,000 jobs they provided. The closures were allowed to happen under the false notion that auto dealerships were an expense on their auto maker. ... Obama ignored the fact that auto dealers are not an expense to automakers. Auto makers own none of what you see at auto dealerships. Auto dealers own all their property; the cars and trucks, parts, buildings, land, signs, everything. The dealerships pay their employee’s salaries and millions of dollars in taxes to state and local governments. The manufacturer has nothing to do with any of these things. ... [Obama’s] actions against auto dealers violated the Catholic social teaching principles of social justice and the common good by removing owners rights to their property and defrauding workers of their wages. His actions (he calls it ‘shared sacrifice’) were an example of collectivism, centralized planning and socialism. All of these ideas are rejected by America and all are rejected by Catholic teaching in regard to the commandment, ‘thou shall not steal.’ Many people have forgotten what damage ... Obama did to the auto industry and the auto dealer and their employees. Please remind them.” [38018]

Succumbing to pressure from the White House, defense contractor Lockheed Martin agrees not to issue advance layoff notices to thousands of its workers—even though they are required by law—because Obama does not want the mailings to go out just days before the election. (At an October 1 press conference Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) stated, “The WARN Act is crystal clear when it comes to defense contractors having to issue notices of impending layoffs as a result of sequestration. I hope defense contractors will follow the law and warn their employees about the devastating impact of sequestration [automatic spending cuts scheduled to take effect January 1, 2013]. “Sequestration is the law of the land and clearly calls for devastating defense cuts. The hundreds of thousands of workers affected by these cuts should be made aware immediately. In 2007, [then-] Senator Obama wanted to extend the WARN Act notices to

90 days, up from 60, to ensure workers were treated fairly. Now, ...Obama is trying to suppress the issuance of WARN notices, which will hit mailboxes right before the election. The Obama administration's legal advice is dubious at best. This is typical Barack Obama politics—being supportive of the WARN Act when convenient and against it when it creates political downside.” [37820, 37821, 37825, 37881, 37892, 38205]

At TheDailybeast.com Eli Lake reports, “In the five months leading up to this year’s 9/11 anniversary, there were two bombings on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi and increasing threats to and attacks on the Libyan nationals hired to provide security at the U.S. missions in Tripoli and Benghazi. ...The new information disclosed in the letter [from Congressman Darrell Issa to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton] obtained by The Daily Beast strongly suggests the U.S. consulate in Benghazi and the late Ambassador Chris Stevens were known by U.S. security personnel to be targets for terrorists. ...The letter also discloses for the first time a bombing at the U.S. consulate that occurred on April 6, 2012. It says that on that day, two former security guards for the consulate in Benghazi threw homemade improvised explosives over the consulate fence. That incident resulted in no casualties. *The Wall Street Journal* first reported last month that on June 6 militants detonated an explosive at the perimeter gate of the consulate, blowing a hole through the barrier. The letter to Clinton quotes one source who described the crater as ‘big enough for forty men to go through.’” (According to ForeignPolicy.com, In Clinton’s response to Issa’s letter, she asks him “to withhold any final conclusions about the Benghazi attack until the review board finishes its work and reports to Congress, which could come as early as November or as late as early next year.” “Early November” most certainly means, “Not before the November 6 election.”) [37824, 37877, 37878, 37880]

CBS reporter Lara Logan addresses the Better Government Association’s annual luncheon in Chicago. Logan, who has reported extensively from the Middle East, tells the audience that 11 years after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Taliban and al-Qaeda have not been eliminated, still hate Americans, and have no intention of going away. “I chose this subject because, one, I can’t stand that there is a major lie being propagated. ...There is this narrative coming out of Washington for the last two years.” Logan says of claims of a moderate Taliban, “It’s such nonsense.” According to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Logan “made a passionate case that our government is downplaying the strength of our enemies in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as a rationale of getting us out of the longest war. We have been lulled into believing that the perils are in the past: ‘You’re not listening to what the people who are fighting you say about this fight. In your arrogance, you think you write the script.’ Our enemies are writing the story, she suggests, and there’s no happy ending for us. ...Logan even called for retribution for the recent terrorist killings of Christopher Stevens, the U.S. ambassador to Libya, and three other officials. The event is a harbinger of our vulnerability, she said. Logan hopes that America will ‘exact revenge and let the world know that the United States will not be attacked on its own soil. That its ambassadors will not be murdered, and that the United States will not stand by and do nothing about it.’” [38122, 38123, 38162, 38173, 38228, 38242]

Politico posts 10 quotes that haunt Obama: “Washington is broken. My whole campaign has been premised from the start on the idea that we have to fundamentally change how Washington works.” “I think that I’m a better speechwriter than my speechwriters. I know more about policies on any particular issue than my policy directors. And I’ll tell you right now that I’m gonna think I’m a better political director than my political director.” “If I don’t have this done in three years, then there’s going to be a one-term proposition.” “Ronald Reagan changed the trajectory of America in a way that Richard Nixon did not, and a way that Bill Clinton did not.” “Guantanamo will be closed no later than one year from now.” “I think that health care, over time, is going to become more popular.” “I favor legalizing same-sex marriages, and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages.” “It’s here that companies like Solyndra are leading the way toward a brighter and more prosperous future.” “I fought with you in the Senate for comprehensive immigration reform. And I will make it a top priority in my first year as President.” “What we have done is kicked this can down the road. We are now at the end of the road and are not in a position to kick it any further. We have to signal seriousness in this by making sure some of the hard decisions are made under my watch, not someone else’s.” [37826]

A judge in Pennsylvania *partially* blocks the implementation of the state’s photo ID law for voting, arguing that there is not enough time for many voters to obtain identification cards in time for the November 6 election. Judge Robert Simpson writes, “I reject the underlying assertion that the offending activity is the request to produce photo ID. Instead, I conclude that the salient offending conduct is voter disenfranchisement. As a result, I will not restrain election officials from asking for photo ID at the polls”—but those who do not provide it will nevertheless be allowed to cast ballots. “I expected more photo IDs to have been issued by this time. For this reason, I accept petitioners’ argument that in the remaining five weeks before the general election, the gap between the photo IDs issued and the estimated need will not be closed.” (For all future elections, Pennsylvania voters must provide photo ID or they will not be allowed to cast ballots.) [37827, 37828, 37882]

CNSNews.com reports, “From fiscal 2008 to fiscal 2011, according to the U.S. Treasury, the federal government increased spending on foreign aid by 80 percent and, in fiscal 2011, spent 76 percent more on foreign aid than it did securing the borders of the United States.” Foreign aid spending was \$11.427 billion in 2008; it was \$20.599 billion in 2011. “Prior to ...Obama taking office, international assistance spending had been trending down for three years, according to the Treasury. In fiscal 2005, it was \$14.787 billion. In fiscal 2006, it dropped to \$13.914 billion. In fiscal 2007, it dropped again to \$12.764 billion. And, in fiscal 2008, it dropped yet again to \$11.427 billion.” Border security spending dropped from \$12.122 billion in 2009 to \$11.376 billion in 2010 and \$11.698 billion in 2011. [37832]

Obama leads Mitt Romney 48–47 percent in Rasmussen’s Daily Presidential Tracking Poll of likely voters. [37838]



Campaigning in Charlotte, North Carolina, Vice President Joe Biden says, “This is deadly earnest. How they [Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan] can justify—how they can justify raising taxes on the middle class that’s been buried the last four years. How in the lord’s name can they justify raising their taxes with these tax cuts?” (Biden does not indicate whether the middle class was buried by Obama’s \$800+ billion program of “shovel-ready” jobs.) Romney and Ryan have *not* proposed raising taxes on the middle class. They have proposed extending the Bush tax rates for all income levels. Obama and Biden have shamelessly argued that allowing the wealthy to remain under the Bush tax rates necessarily means raising taxes on the middle class. But Republicans quickly take advantage of Biden’s statement that the middle class has been “buried the last four years”—as he apparently forgot that Obama, and not George W. Bush, has been in the White House those four years. Romney issues a Twitter message: “Agree with Joe Biden, the middle class has been buried the last 4 years, which is why we need a change in November.” (The next day, the Romney campaign starts selling “Honest Joe” t-shirts, with an image of a smiling Biden and the quote, “The middle class has been buried the last four years.”) [37843, 37844, 37858]

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports, “The Obama administration and [Illinois] Gov. Pat Quinn have mapped out an end-run around the GOP that will enable the state to unload the long-mothballed Thomson Correctional Center for \$165 million, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin’s office confirmed Tuesday.” (The administration had previously planned to transfer all the terrorist detainees from the Guantanamo military facility to the Thomson facility, but Congress refused to approve the funding. Obama has apparently transferred \$165 million from another budget—possibly illegally—to purchase the abandoned prison. The cost of upgrading the prison is not known. The Obama administration laughably denies that the purchase of Thomson is for the future relocation of terrorists held at Guantanamo.) Congressman Peter King (R-NY) states, “It is difficult to believe the claim that [the Obama] Administration intends to use the Thomson facility solely for housing [non-terrorist] criminals since the Federal government already owns four additional empty prison facilities that are awaiting activation.” [37852, 37891, 38030, 38049, 38050, 38051, 39065]

BorderIssues.us reports, “Mexico’s Attorney General Morales, the first woman to hold that office, believes Obama knows more about guns smuggled into Mexico than he’s admitting. ... In a statement released by Mexican Attorney General Marisela Morales, she called Operation Fast and Furious ‘an attack on Mexicans’ security.’ Morales told Mexican reporters that she is demanding a full and honest explanation from the United States government especially since evidence is being gathered that reveals the Obama administration was more involved in Operation Fast and Furious than top officials admitted in their sworn statements. If what is being reported is true, U.S. Attorney General and other government officials may have committed perjury and/or obstruction of justice if it’s proven they lied when testifying before House and Senate committees. ... [Morales] claims she learned about the operation in the news media rather than being told about it in advance by U.S. government officials, including members of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s staff. Morales said that if U.S. federal officials were involved, it would be a ‘betrayal’ of Mexico while its police and military were fighting a war against

drug cartels.” [38847, 38848, 38449]

At WND.com Jerome Corsi, author of *The Obama Nation* and *Where’s the Real Birth Certificate?* writes about the “Down Low Club” at Chicago’s Trinity United Church of Christ (TUCC), which Obama attended for about 20 years. “Over the past several months, WND investigators have interviewed a number of members of the church who claim [Obama] benefited from Wright’s efforts to help black men who engage in homosexual activity appear respectable in black society by finding them a wife. ... The Down Low Club at Trinity ‘doesn’t have meetings, and it isn’t like the Rotary Club,’ a source identified for this article as ‘Carolyn’ explained to a WND investigator in Chicago. ‘It was more that [Reverend Jeremiah] Wright served as a matchmaker,’ said Carolyn, a 20-year member of Trinity who has played a role in church administration and knows the Obamas personally. ‘He kept his eye on the young guys coming up in Trinity,’ she said, ‘and if he spotted someone that acted or looked gay, then Wright would give them kind of a guidance counselor-type direction on how to keep down low—how to do the things they wanted to do, but then also getting married and looking ‘respectable’—being part of black society.’ To Trinity insiders, the Down Low Club was simply known as ‘the program.’ ‘That’s the terminology. At Trinity, you’re urged to ‘get with the program,’ explained a male beneficiary of the Down Low Club. ‘What that means is it’s OK to go ahead and have sex with men, just as long as you ‘get with the program’ and marry a woman, somebody no straight guy would want to marry.’ The wife, the Down Low Club member explained, is ‘your ‘beard,’ your cover—so you can look like you’re living a straight life, even though you’re not.’” [37841, 38095]

According to Carolyn, Wright “connected Obama in the community, and he helped Obama hide his homosexuality. ... I’m still scared to discuss any of this. At Trinity, if you even hint at talking about Obama being gay, you are reminded of our dear departed choir director [Donald Young]. He was killed, and it wasn’t a robbery. The Christmas presents weren’t touched. The TV was not taken, nothing in the apartment was missing.” (Young was murdered in December 2007. A few weeks earlier Larry Bland, another gay member of the church, was murdered. Young’s mother believes her son was killed because of what he knew about Obama. There have long been suspicions that Obama is gay and that his marriage to Michelle was a sham to make him appear “respectable” for his political career. Among those rumored to have been Obama’s gay lovers: former White House “body man” Reggie Love, actor Kal Penn, Donald Young, Larry Bland, college roommate Phil Boerner, former Congressman Artur Davis, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, and former Senator Bill Frist. Also of note is Larry Sinclair, who claims he shared cocaine and homosexual activities with Obama in the back of a limousine in Chicago on November 6, 1999, and again the next day in a motel room in Gurnee, Illinois.) [10867, 26111, 26114, 28376, 28379, 28385, 28389, 28392, 28395, 28400, 28402, 28412, 29821, 32225, 32227, 32235, 32245, 32254, 32256, 32259, 32272, 32273, 32300, 37841, 38095]

The Obama campaign posts an “ecard” (electronic greeting card) that reads, “Vote like your lady parts depend on it... because they kinda do.” (The campaign later removes the

image and claims it slipped through its “regular review” process.) [37851, 37870]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “House investigators warned Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to expect a hearing into their finding that American staff at the U.S. Embassy in Libya had their request for additional security denied by Washington officials.” [37857]

CNSNews.com reports that Obama “will travel to California next Monday [October 8] to establish a national monument honoring Cesar Chavez, the late Mexican-American farm workers’ leader.” (Chavez, a follower of *Rules for Radicals* author Saul Alinsky, was famous for his slogan, “Sí, se puede”—“Yes we can.”) [37883, 38517]

As the Obama administration’s ineptitude over the attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya, White House press secretary Jay Carney stonewalls a question from ABC’s Jake Tapper with the response, “Embassy security is a matter that has been the purview of the State Department. ... So I’m not going to have very much to provide to you on the security situation on the ground in Libya. ... I’m just not going to be able to comment on what is a matter under investigation and review by both the FBI and the State Department.” [37869]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The day after the terrorist attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, military intelligence was spreading the word inside the Pentagon that an al Qaeda-linked group was likely responsible. A source familiar with intelligence reporting told The Washington Times that the Libyan militant group Ansar al-Sharia was singled out as the likely principal planner and executor of the attack that killed U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans on Sept. 11.” (The administration almost immediately knew the killings were the result of a planned terrorist attack, yet continued to claim that they were nothing more than people demonstrating against a movie none of them had ever seen. Leading into the election, Obama’s primary foreign policy success was his claim that the killing of Osama bin Laden meant al-Qaeda was no longer much of a concern and that he had its members “on the run.” Admitting that terrorists were responsible for the attack in Benghazi destroyed that argument—which means that Obama had to avoid the admission as long as possible.) [37872]

The Republican Jewish Coalition releases a 9-minute video excoriating Obama for his anti-Israel actions. The video concludes, “We can do better than Barack Obama. We *must* do better.” [37871]

On the Fox News channel’s *Hannity*, host Sean Hannity plays segments of a speech delivered by Obama at Hampton University on June 5, 2007. Obtained by DailyCaller.com, the full video shows Obama making off-script remarks that were not included in the text distributed to reporters who attended. Obama’s comments, delivered in the phony black accent he uses for black audiences (Hampton University is an historically black college in Virginia), slams the federal government for not caring about

black people. The Daily Caller's Tucker Carlson says Obama "is telling a predominately black audience something very clear: 'The federal government doesn't like you because you are black.' That's a demagogic thing to say; that's a divisive thing. They don't like you because you are black. That is the theme of the speech, from front to back, from beginning to end. They don't like you because of your skin color. And that is a shockingly—that's a nasty thing to say, it's a divisive thing to say, it's a demagogic thing to say, and in the case of [Hurricane] Katrina, it's an untrue thing to say. The moment he uttered those words, 'You're getting short-changed of Katrina reconstruction funds'—the administration... the government had pledged \$110 billion to the Gulf." [37842, 37847, 37848, 37849, 37866, 37873, 37966, 37967]

Far less than \$110 billion, about \$20 billion, was pledged to New York City after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Yet in his speech Obama says, "[W]hen 9-11 happened in New York City, they ...said, 'This is too serious a problem. We can't expect New York City to rebuild on its own.' ...And that was the right thing to do. When Hurricane Andrew struck in Florida, people said, 'Look at this devastation. We don't expect you to come up with yer'own money, here. Here's the money to rebuild. We're not gonna wait for you to scratch it together— because you're part of the American family. ...[But] What's happening down in New Orleans? Where's your dollar[s]? ...Makes no sense! Tells me that, somehow, the people down in New Orleans, they don't care about as much!" (Katrina-affected areas had already been given \$110 billion, and Obama asks his black audience, "Where's *your* dollar?" That \$110 billion in federal cash does *not* include the massive amounts of voluntary donations collected across the nation for the victims.) Obama does not mention that just 10 days before his speech he was one of only 14 Senators who voted *against* waiving Stafford Act requirements in order to make an additional \$6.9 billion immediately available for Hurricane Katrina victims. In his address he had the audacity to criticize the Bush administration for not working to waive the Stafford Act when, in fact, *it did*—and Obama attempted to block that very same waiver. (The Stafford Act requires that states kick in 10 percent of the amount allocated by the federal government for disaster assistance. It was waived for Hurricane Katrina in order to speed the delivery of the aid, and because the states did not have the money to deal with the enormity of the hurricane.) [37842, 37847, 37848, 37849, 37866, 37873, 37966, 37967]

Among other things, Obama says in the speech, "We need additional federal public transportation dollars flowing to the highest-need communities. We don't need to build more highways out in the [white] suburbs. If we have people in the cities right now who want to work but have no way to get into those jobs, we've got to help connect them to the jobs that exist. We should be investing in minority-owned businesses, in *our* [black] neighborhoods, so people don't have to travel from miles away." Carlson comments, "This [word choice] is not a dog whistle; this is a dog siren. These are appeals to racial solidarity. And a few minutes before that he said, '*Our* people, *our* young people' should have gotten the construction jobs to rebuild after Katrina but instead they went to Halliburton. So, look, he's making a very clear case, again, on the basis of his racial solidarity with this audience, that they are getting shafted by a racist federal government." [37842, 37847, 37848, 37849, 37866, 37873]

DailyCaller.com describes Obama's performance: "The racially charged and at times angry speech undermines Obama's carefully-crafted image as a leader eager to build bridges between ethnic groups. For nearly 40 minutes, using an accent he almost never adopts in public, Obama describes a racist, zero-sum society, in which the white majority profits by exploiting black America. The mostly black audience shouts in agreement. The effect is closer to an Al Sharpton rally than a conventional campaign event. Obama gave the speech in the middle of a hotly-contested presidential primary season, but his remarks escaped scrutiny. Reporters in the room seem to have missed or ignored his most controversial statements. The liberal blogger Andrew Sullivan linked to what he described as a 'transcript' of the speech, which turned out not to be a transcript at all, but instead the prepared remarks provided by the campaign. In fact, Obama, who was not using a teleprompter, deviated from his script repeatedly and at length, ad-libbing lines that he does not appear to have used before any other audience during his presidential run. A local newspaper posted a series of video clips of the speech, but left out key portions. No complete video of the Hampton speech was widely released. Obama begins his address with 'a special shout out' to Jeremiah Wright, the Chicago pastor who nearly derailed Obama's campaign months later when his sermons attacking Israel and America and accusing the U.S. government of 'inventing the HIV virus as a means of genocide against people of color' became public. To the audience at Hampton, Obama describes Wright as, 'my pastor, the guy who puts up with me, counsels me, listens to my wife complain about me. He's a friend and a great leader. Not just in Chicago, but all across the country.'" (After Wright became a political liability, Obama threw him under the bus.) [37842, 37847, 37848, 37849, 37866, 37873]

Author and columnist Ann Coulter comments on the Obama speech: "Obama is such a fraud. He grew up in a 'Beverly Hills, 90210' existence, but he's just desperate to have this angry, black persona. It's rather like reading about you know, Hitler's musings on his Germanic identity. You know, he graduated from this fancy, fancy school in Hawaii, voted recently the greenest school in America. And yet, when he wants to, he just turns it on and suddenly we've got Malcolm X speaking to us. ...[I]t's all an act It's like his 70 percent of Twitter followers being fake. The whole thing is just smoke and mirrors. And at least for people of our generation, this is a large part of why we now have more child molesters than racists in America. It just isn't a part of our existence. During our entire lifetime, the only effect of being black is that you get benefits. Doors open for you. You are more likely to get a position in Harvard Law School. [For] Anyone who grew up watching 'The Brady Bunch,' this racism and discrimination—at least discrimination against black people, there's some discrimination against white people—simply isn't a part of our conceptual apparatus, which is why it's so strange to have of all people this half-black man born in Hawaii in 1961 walking around like he's Martin Luther King." (Although many Americans will be offended by Obama's angry race-baiting in the 2007 speech, the issue will almost certainly not be mentioned by Mitt Romney or Paul Ryan—because they know they will immediately be labeled as racists by the mainstream media for daring to discuss it.) [37850, 37936, 37937]

Newsmax.com reports, "American Crossroads super PAC and its affiliate Crossroads

GPS are about to unleash their biggest ad offensive of the 2012 campaign, with \$16 million going to one week's worth of TV and radio ads in eight key presidential states and four Senate battlegrounds. For the presidential race, American Crossroads is putting out an \$11 million spot focusing on ...Obama's promise that his stimulus package would push unemployment down to 5.6 percent by now... The rate actually stands at 8.1 percent. 'Obama's spending drove us \$5 trillion deeper in debt, and now we have fewer jobs than when he started,' the ad's narrator says. The piece will be shown in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, and Virginia. Crossroads GPS is shelling out \$1 million for radio ads in those states. That leaves \$4 million of spending for the Karl Rove-linked groups in the Senate races in North Dakota, Virginia, Montana, and Florida. ...The Crossroads groups are slated to spend \$300 million in total during the election campaign to boost GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his fellow Republicans." [37853]

On Sean Hannity's radio program, former vice president Dick Cheney says, "I think the danger from [the Obama Administration's] standpoint is that this whole episode of Benghazi demonstrates that they don't have a handle on foreign policy and national security matters. They like to go out and say, 'bin Laden is dead. Terrorism is dead, al Qaeda is dead, and, you know, we're great in the foreign policy field,' but that's hogwash. First of all, the people who deserve credit are the intelligence professionals who worked on that issue for 10 years and finally got on the trail of bin Laden. But secondly, that claim to be competent in the world of foreign affairs just goes down in flames when you look at what happened in Benghazi. The latest thing I've heard now is that, and they were denied—now this is all second hand, I haven't seen the confirmations yet—they had denied the additional security resources that had been requested by the Benghazi consulate or the Libyan. Our embassy in Libya had asked for more help and didn't get it. ...[I]t looks to me like it's gonna get messier and messier, and, in fact, it looks like the administration's been involved in a cover-up claiming that it was all caused by this YouTube video when, in fact, it was clearly the result of the developments with respect to al Qaeda and terrorism in North Africa. The battle is not over by any means. They keep wanting to say that there is no 'war on terror,' [and] 'we don't use the word terror.' They refuse to recognize the situation we are in and that's the first step towards ultimate failure and ultimately future terrorist attacks." [37888]

On October 3 VanityFair.com reports, "In an adaptation from his new book, *The Finish...* Mark Bowden reveals that ...Obama intended to put Osama bin Laden on trial in the federal court system if he had been captured, rather than killed, during the Abbottabad raid. Bowden had access to key players including C.I.A. deputy director Michael Morell and [Obama] himself. According to Bowden in the story—in November's *Vanity Fair*—in the unlikely event that bin Laden surrendered, Obama saw an opportunity to resurrect the idea of a criminal trial, which Attorney General Eric Holder had planned for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. This time, [Obama] tells Bowden, he was prepared to bring bin Laden back and put him on trial in a federal court. 'We worked through the legal and political issues that would have been involved, and Congress and the desire to send him to Guantanamo, and to not try him, and Article III. I mean, we had worked through a whole bunch of those scenarios. But, frankly, my belief was if we had captured him, that

I would be in a pretty strong position, politically, here, to argue that displaying due process and rule of law would be our best weapon against al-Qaeda, in preventing him from appearing as a martyr.” [37845, 37846]

On the Tom Joyner radio program, Michelle Obama says, “Well, we’re understanding that, you know, you can have a president you love, but if you don’t have a Congress that’s willing to work, you know, you wind up stalled in so many ways. And I think that Barack has done a phenomenal job working around a Congress that has never been willing to help move the country forward on so many different issues. But I think he’s done everything humanly possible to get things passed around the margins. But, you know, just imagine where this country will be [if Obama is reelected] and we have a Congress that’s ready to work hand-in-hand, and willing to compromise to make sure that this country moves forward for everyone.” (Mrs. Obama—who has apparently never heard of the term “checks and balances”—is essentially bragging about Obama’s unconstitutional Executive Orders to bypass Congress and the will of the people.) [37876]

The Romney campaign releases an ad with various statements of the problems facing middle-class Americans since Obama took office. It concludes with Joe Biden saying, “The middle class has been buried the last four years,” and the message, “We couldn’t have said it better ourselves,” [37858]

With accompanying charts, Investors.com debunks five phony Obama claims that are the basis of his reelection campaign: “Bush tax cuts and deregulation caused the recession.” “I stopped a second Great Depression.” “My policies are working.” “A slow recovery was inevitable.” “Nobody could have done any better.” [38156]

In an NBS/WSJ/Marist poll in Florida, Obama leads Mitt Romney by only one point, 47–46. (The poll’s D/R/I gives Democrats a five-point advantage, an arguably unrealistic edge in a state Obama own by only 1.5 points in 2008. Among independent voters in Florida, Romney leads 47–41.) [37859]

According to a nationwide United Technologies/National Journal Congressional Connection poll, Obama and Romney are tied 47–47 among likely voters. NationalJournal.com notes, “Romney led in the poll among independents, 49 percent to 41 percent, with both candidates winning more than 90 percent support from their respective parties. The survey had Obama winning 81 percent of the nonwhite vote and Romney carrying 55 percent of white voters.” (Obama is focusing on voter turnout in black and Hispanic communities because he is losing the white vote.) The poll’s D/R/I is 36/29/30; the 2008 turnout was 39/32/29. (Some might find it difficult to believe that Republican voters will be less enthusiastic in 2012 than they were in 2008. *The Obama Timeline* believes the likelihood of a +7 Democrat advantage on election day is close to non-existent. The Obama team hopes the turnout resembles 2008. The Romney team hopes it resemble the 2010 mid-term election. If it is closer to the latter, Obama will lose. [37860, 37861, 37879]

Obama leads Romney 49–46 in an NBC/WSJ poll. (The margin of error is 3.1 percent; the D/R/I is 32/26/26.) [37862, 37863, 37879]

According to a September 24–26 Fox News poll of likely voters, 73 percent believe the nation’s policies need to change, and only 24 percent want to “stay the course.” Additionally, 52 percent believe Mitt Romney is the candidate “more likely to have the U.S. take the lead on world events;” 36 percent choose Obama. [37904]

Breitbart.com’s John Nolte lists reasons why Obama’s 2007 fear-mongering, race-baiting speech matters in 2012: “The video released by the Daily Caller last night does include footage the media never broadcast or reported on.” “Now we know the media and the Obama campaign ‘selectively edited’ the video in 2007 in order to cover up Obama’s divisive racial rhetoric.” “Past is prologue. Always.” “Obama grew up in Hawaii and Chicago, so where in the world does that hilariously fake southern accent come from?” “In order to stoke racial division and resentment, Obama lied to his audience.” “Obama is prone to believing and spreading dishonest and wildly false conspiracy theories.” “At the 19:20 mark we learn that the Christian Obama doesn’t know the Lord’s Prayer.” “Obama’s ‘us vs. them’ rhetoric and beliefs extends to his governance.” “At the 20:10 mark, Obama laments the social injustice that created 37 million Americans living in poverty and pledges to fight that injustice as president.” “When Obama gave this speech, the Reverend Wright scandal had yet to break.” “We know it’s news because the corrupt media is telling us there’s nothing to see here, even as they kill themselves to blow it back on Romney and ensure as few people as possible see it.” [37867]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey comments on Obama’s 2007 speech: “...I think the larger point here isn’t that Obama pandered to black audiences. Every Democrat on the national stage does that. Hillary Clinton adopted what we could gracefully call a ‘Southern patois’ in similar circumstances at that time that doesn’t emerge under any other circumstances. John Edwards’ Carolina drawl grew stronger in those appearances, too. Joe Biden did the same a few weeks ago in order to feed the same kind of racial demagoguery with his ‘They gonna put y’all back in chains’ comment to a predominantly black audience in Virginia. Anger and demagoguery along racial lines are not an exclusive province of Obama, not then and certainly not now. The larger point here is that the media has a double standard on race, and a double standard for Republicans. They like to talk about ‘dog whistles’ among conservatives that—last time I checked—includes the words ‘Chicago’ and ‘basketball.’ When a Democrat of any background gets up and flat-out tells a predominantly black audience that the federal government likes the ‘suburbs’ better than ‘our neighborhoods,’ it doesn’t even get so much as a dog-biscuit mention by the media. When Tucker calls the original coverage ‘a subversion of what journalism’s supposed to be,’ he’s absolutely right. Will this video change minds about this election? I doubt it. Partisans have already chosen sides, and the undecideds and low-information voters will care more about the economy and perhaps the cover-up in Libya. This, however, serves as a good data point about media biases and double standards.” [37874]



It is worth noting that Obama's statements, "We don't need to build more highways out in the [white] suburbs" and "We should be investing in minority-owned businesses, in *our* [black] neighborhoods, so people don't have to travel from miles away" are clearly segregationist. He is assuming that the suburbs are for white peoples and the cities are for black people, but the whites should be taxed more to improve the black cities. Integration seems not to enter into Obama's worldview.

Obama's deputy campaign manager, Stephanie Cutter, says the Romney campaign should apologize for DailyCaller.com's posting of Obama's 2007 speech: "I think allies to Mitt Romney are responsible and the Romney campaign should stand up and do the same—the right thing and say it was the wrong thing to do." (Throughout the day Democrats have been arguing the video is meaningless, it has been on YouTube.com for ages, it is old news and should be ignored. Yet Cutter expects Romney to apologize—because someone simply brought an Obama speech to the attention of others.) [37885]

DailyCaller.com reports, "In a video that surfaced on YouTube Wednesday morning [October 3], a young state Sen. Barack Obama is seen explaining from a church pulpit that the principle of nonviolent resistance for social change applies more readily to the wealthy than to Americans in lower social classes. 'I don't know if you've noticed,' Obama says in the video, shot on Jan. 21, 2002 at the University of Chicago, 'but rich people are all for nonviolence. Why wouldn't they be? They've got what they want. They want to make sure folks don't take their stuff.'" Obama, noting the large percentage of blacks in prison, states, "It's hard to imagine that the powerful in our society would tolerate the burgeoning prison industrial complex, if they imagined that the black men and Latino men that are being imprisoned were something like their sons." (In other words, powerful white people put others in prison because they are black or Hispanic, not because they commit crimes.) Obama also suggests education is racist, saying the "education system ... funded by [local] property taxes [is] fundamentally unjust. So you have folks up in Winnetka [Illinois]; pupils who are getting five times as much money per student as students in the South Side of Chicago." (Residents of Winnetka, a wealthy community north of Chicago, also pay far more in property taxes than do Chicago. Obama apparently believes that people who do not even live in Chicago should fund Chicago schools.) [37868, 37884]

According to *The New York Times*, "The United States is laying the groundwork for operations to kill or capture militants implicated in the deadly attack on a diplomatic mission in Libya, senior military and counterterrorism officials said Tuesday, as the weak Libyan government appears unable to arrest or even question fighters involved in the assault. The top-secret Joint Special Operations Command is compiling so-called target packages of detailed information about the suspects, the officials said." HotAir.com asks, "If this is so 'top-secret,' then how can the NYT be reporting on it? Simple: the administration is leaking this in the desperate attempt to look like they're back on top of this situation. The Obama administration has discovered what happens when the White House lies, and lies badly, about terrorist attacks and their preparation for those attempts, and now they want to undo some of the damage by looking tough. ... The problem with

leaking this story is that it sets expectations for a quick strike of retribution on the terrorists responsible for the attack. Without any eyes on the ground and with at least one of the major terror networks on the move (Ansar al-Sharia has pulled out of Benghazi for the moment), it's more likely that we'll still be talking rather than striking for the next few months. Given our lack of attention to the threats in that region before the sacking of our consulate, it may be longer than that before we have a clear idea who to hit." [37875]

Paul Kengor, author of *The Communist*, a book about Obama's communist mentor, Frank Marshall Davis, points out that even though Davis is mentioned 22 times in Obama's book, *Dreams From My Father*, he is not mentioned once in the audio version of the book. Kengor tells TheBlaze.com, "Every reference to 'Frank' everywhere in the book, from every section—and there are many of them—are gone." [37886]

Retired Commander Charles Kerchner (*Kerchner v. Obama*) reports that Republican presidential primary candidate Rick Santorum is not a natural born citizen. Documents obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request show that his father, an immigrant from Italy, did not become a U.S. citizen until 1961—three years after Rick Santorum's birth in 1958. The former Senator from Pennsylvania is therefore ineligible to serve as president. (Also ineligible are Florida Senator Marco Rubio, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, and Barack Obama—because none of them had two U.S. citizen parents at the time of their births. The true and historical meaning of "natural born citizen" has been distorted for decades. The term means born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents.) [37897, 37898]

According to a September 15–17 poll conducted by YouGov, only 59 percent of Americans believe Obama was born in the United States; 21 percent believe he was not; 19 percent are unsure. Among Republicans only, the percentages are 27, 39, and 34. [37903]

Michelle Obama tells CNN's Jessica Yellin, "I get so nervous at these debates. I'm like one of those parents watching their kid on the balance beam. You're just standing there trying not to, you know, have any expression at all." [37887]

In the first presidential debate between Obama and Mitt Romney, Michelle's husband gives her good reason to be nervous with a sub-par performance which will prompt a mountain of criticism. In the 90-minute debate in Denver, Colorado, Obama appears listless, tentative, and nervous, looking at the floor and his lectern and avoiding eye contact with Romney. Although Obama finishes with about four minutes more talk time than Romney, most observers will likely consider Romney to have dominated the evening. (Additionally, the stammering Barack Uhbama utters 236 "uhs.") Romney challenges Obama's statements and his record, debating aggressively without being mean-spirited. Obama seems "off his game," perhaps because moderator Jim Lehrer does not generally lob predictable softball questions but instead promotes more of a traditional debate, allowing each speaker ample time to rebut the other's statements. (There is one exchange in which Lehrer helps "walk Obama through" a deficit reduction discussion,

leading him with, “About the idea that in order to reduce the deficit, there has to be revenue in addition to cuts,” and “But ...you’re saying in order to get the job done, it’s gotta be balanced. Gotta have...” Obama, unaccustomed to being challenged by anyone, is caught off-guard by Romney’s command of the facts and his ability to refute Obama’s own statements. (Ironically, Romney ends up with 47 percent of the talk time; Obama with 53 percent.) [37895, 37905, 37934, 37944, 37948, 38021, 38022]

Obama, not surprisingly, points out that he inherited significant problems from the Bush administration, claims he has made progress, and argues that four more years of his policies will eventually lead to recovery. Romney states, “You have been president for four years, you said you would cut the deficit in half and you have run \$1 trillion in deficits each of the four years. That does not get the job done. ...You never balance the budget by increasing taxes. I don’t want to go down the path of Spain.” Obama calls for ending \$4 billion in annual oil company tax deductions—as if \$4 billion would have much impact on a \$1.3 trillion deficit: “Does Exxon Mobil need more money when they are making money every time you go to the pump? We have to eliminate tax deductions for moving jobs overseas. A balanced approach to increasing taxes will help people go to college.” Romney pounces on that statement, saying, “You put \$90 billion of tax breaks into losers like Solyndra, this is not the type of tax policy you implement to make the United States energy secure,” and notes that what Obama has wasted on “green energy” schemes has cost far more than the \$4 billion he wants to get from the oil companies. Romney says, “You put \$90 billion into... into green jobs. And I—look, I’m all in favor of green energy, [but] \$90 billion, that would have... that would have hired two million teachers; \$90 billion.” (Romney’s line is particularly effective, coming after Obama’s statement that he wanted to hire 100,000 new math and science teachers.) [37905, 37925, 37934]

Of the massive national debt, Romney says, “I think it’s not just an economic issue, I think it’s a moral issue. I think it’s frankly not moral for my generation to keep spending massively more than we take in knowing those burdens are going to be passed on to the next generation and they’re going to paying the interest and the principle all their lives.” Among the spending Romney would slash would be subsidies for the Public Broadcasting System. Romney addresses PBS moderator Jim Lehrer: “I’m sorry, Jim, I’m gong to stop this subsidy to PBS. I’m going to stop other things—and I like PBS! I love [*Sesame Street*’s] Big Bird! I actually like you too! But I’m not going to keep on spending money on things to borrow money from China to pay for...” (Ending the PBS subsidy would not eliminate the network. It would merely have to rely on additional corporate funding or advertisers. *Sesame Street* will have no trouble finding advertisers.) Obama calls for tax increases: “It’s on [my] website; you can look at all the numbers—what cuts we make and what revenues we raise. And the way we do it is \$2.50 for every cut, we ask for [one] dollar of additional revenue, paid for, as I indicated earlier, by asking those of us who have done very well in this country to contribute a little bit more to reduce the deficit.” (The problem Obama has is that many voters do not believe he will use additional taxes to cut the deficit; he will use the revenue for even more federal spending.) [37927, 37934]

Surprisingly, Obama does not once mention Bain Capital, outsourcing jobs to China, Romney's tax returns, Romney's foreign investments, or Romney's fundraiser comments about the 47 percent who pay no income taxes. (Obama himself benefits from foreign investments. He has as much as \$100,000 in his retirement plan from his years as an Illinois State Senator, and that fund owns shares of Sensata Technologies—which is closing an Illinois factory and moving the operations to China's Jiangsu Province.) Obama is largely on the defensive, and his attacks are limited to claiming that Romney will raise taxes on the middle class to pay for extending the Bush tax rates on the wealthy. Romney counters by saying he wants to lower tax rates for all income levels, and pay for them by reducing deductions and loopholes for the wealthy and getting unemployed Americans back to work—so they can pay income taxes rather than collect government benefits. Obama asks why, during the Republican primary debates, Romney and his fellow debaters turned down a hypothetical offer of \$10 in spending cuts for every \$1 in increased taxes. The question is buried in a long series of comments, and is, “If Congress would agree to \$500 billion in spending cuts, we would not need \$50 billion in tax increases,” or “Congress will raise the taxes but cannot be trusted to follow through with the spending cuts.”) Romney points out that Obama supported extending the Bush tax rates for all income levels because of the weak economy, and charges that because the economy is still weak Obama's call to let the rates expire is inconsistent with his earlier views. Romney scores points with his mocking of Obama's economic policies as “trickle down government,” the belief that simply printing money and passing it out will make things better. Obama says nothing that viewers have not heard before: promote wind, solar, and biofuel energy development; hire 100,000 new math and science teachers, and increase taxes on those earning \$250,000 or more. Not a single thing Obama says would give voters a reason to believe a second term for him would be any different than his first. (Some might argue that Obama did not bring up the “47 percent” issue because his campaign believes it would work *against* him. That is, most Americans are probably unaware that 47 percent pay no income taxes, and if Obama mentions it they will find out—and *be outraged*. Romney would also be given an opening to say, “Many of the 47 percent pay no income taxes because they can't find jobs in the Obama economy. I don't want to punish them. I want them to get good jobs so we can shrink that percentage.”) [37895, 37920, 37934, 38514, 38515, 38516]

In Romney's criticism of ObamaCare, he singles out the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, that is referred to by many as the “death panel.” Obama responds, “It... when Governor Romney talks about this board, for example, unelected board that we've created, what this is, is a group of health care experts, doctors, et cetera, to figure out, how can we reduce the cost of care in the system overall? Now, so what this board does is basically identifies best practices and says, let's use the purchasing power of Medicare and Medicaid to help to institutionalize all these good things that we do.” Romney emphasizes that Americans do not want a government panel in Washington, D.C. coming between them and their doctors. (Voters are on Romney's side on the issue, as are many Democrat legislators. Bipartisan legislation is pending that would eliminate the IPAB. Supporters of the legislation include Democrat Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts.) [37926, 37934]

During the debate Obama praises the Cleveland Clinic as a model of innovation that he claims ObamaCare promotes. But [wyblohg.us](http://wyblohg.us) later points out that ObamaCare makes it illegal for physicians to own hospitals—like the Cleveland Clinic. “Section 6001 of the health care law effectively bans new physician-owned hospitals (POHs) from starting up, and it keeps existing ones from expanding. It has already halted the development of 24 new physician-owned hospitals and forced an additional 47 to struggle to meet the deadline to complete construction, according to the Physician Hospitals of America (PHA). You couldn’t build the Cleveland Clinic today if you wanted to.” [37998]

At one point in the debate, Obama repeats a claim about Romney’s tax plan that Romney had already stated was inaccurate. Romney remarks that repeating something that is untrue does not make it true—and then adds, “you know, I raised five boys and they’d often keep saying something until they thought I’d believe it and it never worked.” (HillBuzz.org’s Kevin DuJan later writes, “I’ve never seen a grown man humiliated this way before... being compared to small children and not being able to give any sort of retort because it was totally accurate. ...Obama put his head down after that and didn’t try that \$5 trillion thing again. Romney totally scolded Obama and Obama had no retort for it. It Was. Epic.” Some delusional Obama defenders go so far as to call Romney’s references to his sons a “racist” remark—implying Obama is his “boy.”) [38003, 38060]

Arguably, one of Obama’s worst debate moments comes after Romney explains how the best way to work toward a balanced budget is by getting people back to work, not higher taxes. Obama responds by looking to moderator Jim Lehrer and saying, “Jim, I... I... I... you may want to move on to another topic.” [38106]

Near the end of the debate, moderator Jim Lehrer spends almost three minutes warning Romney and Obama that there is only three minutes left for the debate. (Some might argue that is reason enough to end PBS funding.)

Whether Obama immediately recognized how poorly he had performed is not known for certain—*The Telegraph*’s Toby Harnden claims Obama initially believed “he’d got the better of Romney”—but his wife certainly knew he had been defeated. J. T. Hatter later writes at [AmericanThinker.com](http://AmericanThinker.com), “The situation was so tense after the presidential debate in Denver that the larger of the Obama team, Michelle, placed her body between Obama and a surprised Romney—and glared at the Republican, daring him to step out from behind the podium and lay one more word on her metrosexual man. The Obama anger was palpable. The television cameras didn’t show this to you, but the most hysterical image of the political season [a still photograph showing Michelle Obama’s angry expression] captured the moment. Internet wags lamented, ‘If only our military could weaponize that look!’” [38157, 38158, 38170, 38243]

Even on liberal-leaning CNN, the post-debate commentators agree that Romney’s performance is better than many expected, while Obama’s is disappointing. Democrat strategist James Carville remarks that Romney seemed eager to debate, while Obama seemed like he wanted to be somewhere else. “Let’s be real They have run a very good

campaign thus far. I don't think that ...Obama did what this campaign wanted him to do. I think he was off his game tonight. But let's don't go overboard here. It will be like a big sort of pushback. ...My point is this: ...Obama came in, he wanted to have a conversation. It takes two people to have a conversation. Mitt Romney came in with a chainsaw. He's trying to talk to a chainsaw." [37895, 37905, 37923]

On MSNBC, a clearly annoyed and angry Chris Matthews says, "I don't know what he [Obama] was doing out there. He had his head down, he was enduring the debate rather than fighting it. Romney, on the other hand, came in with a campaign. He had a plan, he was going to dominate the time, he was going to be aggressive, he was going to push the moderator around, which he did effectively, he was going to relish the evening, enjoying it. ...Here's my question for Obama: I know he likes saying he doesn't watch cable television but maybe he should start. Maybe he should start. I don't know how he let Romney get away with the crap he threw out tonight about Social Security. ...Where was Obama tonight? He should watch—well, not just *Hardball*, Rachel [Maddow], ...he should watch the Reverend Al [Sharpton], he should watch Lawrence [O'Donnell]. He would learn something about this debate. There's a hot debate going on in this country. You know where it's been held? Here on this network is where we're having the debate. We [at MSNBC] have our knives out [to help Obama]. We go after the people and the facts. What was he doing tonight? He went in their unarmed. He was, like, 'Oh an hour and half? I think I can get through this thing. And I don't even look at this guy.' Whereas Romney—I love the split-screen—staring at Obama, addressing him like the prey. He did it just right. 'I'm coming at an incumbent. I got to beat him. You've got to beat the champ and I'm going to beat him tonight. And I don't care what this guy, moderator, whatever he thinks he is because I'm going to ignore him. What was Romney doing? He was winning. ...If he does five more of these nights, forget it. ...Obama should watch MSNBC, my last point. He will learn something every night on this show and all these shows. This stuff we're watching, it's like first grade for most of us. We know all this stuff." (Some might interpret Matthews' tirade as meaning, "Look, Obama, we in the media have been covering for you for four years. We've been telling viewers you are brilliant. We pretended you deserved a Nobel Peace Prize. We've hidden your past. We've ignored your gaffes. We've even called your wife thin and stylish! We've portrayed Mitt Romney as a murderer and a felon. We've carried your water for you—and now you're making us all look like idiots! How could you do that to us?") [37889, 37899, 37929]

ABC's Jake Tapper comments, "Well I've covered ...Obama for about six or seven years now, and I've seen him inspire crowds of tens of thousands. And I also recall the summer of 2007 when he was listless and flat and uninspired, and his campaign manager knocked some sense into him to get him back in the game. Unfortunately for the Obama campaign, that's the Obama I saw on the stage tonight. It was not a strong performance by him. And even Democrats and close Obama aides acknowledge Romney was ahead on stylistic points, on zingers. They feel good about when Obama was talking to the camera to the voters, and they feel good that they think Romney was doubling down on policy which they think can help them win, but ultimately, I think, performance-wise this was a strong night for Mitt Romney." [37890]

In a post-debate interview on MSNBC, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley inadvertently refers to Mitt Romney as "President Romney." Asked, "If you could do ten minutes of coaching with [Obama] on the next debate, based on what you saw tonight, what would you tell him to do differently?" O'Malley responds, "Uh, I don't know." [37893, 37953]

MSNBC's Ed Schultz comments, "I was disappointed in [Obama]. He had an opportunity tonight. He created a problem for himself on Social Security tonight. He agrees with Mitt Romney. Every liberal in this country knows that Mitt Romney wants to privatize Social Security down the road, and to do a deal with the devil on that would be the wrong thing to do. I think [Obama] created a big problem for him tonight, for himself. I don't think he explained himself very well on the economy. I thought he was off his game. I was absolutely stunned tonight." MSNBC's Rachel Maddow says, "I don't know who won this debate." (Translation: "I can't believe what just happened!") The Huffington Post's Howard Fineman observes, "It's a classic case of a president kind of showing up and figuring that because he's president he going to get extra points. It didn't work that way tonight. And it's a big wake-up call to the Obama campaign with 34 days in the race." [37894, 37899]

On Current TV, former vice president Al Gore blames Obama's poor debate performance on jet lag and high altitude: "I'm gonna say something controversial here. Um... Obama arrived in Denver at 2 p.m. today, just a few hours before the debate started. Romney did his debate prep in Denver. When you go to 5,000 feet, and you only have a few hours to adjust, I don't know, maybe..." Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) quips that Obama's policies "are just as bad at sea level." (At HillBuzz.org Kevin DuJan later speculates, "The biggest blunder of [Valerie] Jarrett's career was trying to detox Obama before the October 3rd, 2012 presidential debate in Denver. That was a critical error, because Jarrett insisted that Obama be taken off all cocaine before that debate... and instead pumped full of a weird combination of Adderall, amphetamines, Oxycontin, Dexedrine and Ultram. They'd done this before, when Obama had to function at a higher level for something and couldn't have a TelePrompTer while doing it... but it looks like Jarrett didn't factor Denver's high altitude into the mix when settling on the dosages Obama needed to function during that debate. As a result, his withdrawal from cocaine that night was clearly visible to every American watching... and even the Ministry of Truth [the mainstream media] could not spin the train wreck that followed in his favor.") [37896, 37914, 39484]

DailyBeast.com's Andrew Sullivan, and Obama sycophant, remarks, "He choked. He lost. He may even have lost the election tonight. ... This is a rolling calamity for Obama. He's boring, abstract, and less human-seeming than Romney! He's throwing the debate away. ... This was a disaster for [Obama] for the key people he needs to reach and his effete, wonkish lectures may have jolted a lot of independents into giving Romney a second look. Obama looked tired, even bored; he kept looking down; he had no crisp statements of passion or argument; he wasn't there. He was entirely defensive, which

may have been the strategy. But it was the wrong strategy. At the wrong moment. The person with authority on that stage was Romney—offered it by one of the lamest moderators ever, and seized with relish. This was Romney the salesman. And my gut tells me he sold a few voters on a change tonight. It's beyond depressing. But it's true." [37899, 37900, 37938]

Eleanor Clift, also at TheDailyBeast.com, calls Obama "curiously passive" and criticizes Romney for "mixing facts and falsehoods, and speaking in such rapid-fire fashion that Obama appeared flummoxed much of the time. Even so, Romney did little Wednesday night to cure his biggest problem, a failure to create a bond of trust with the American people. His glib, even slick performance may score with debate coaches but the American people may not be similarly wowed." [37958]

Leftist HBO comedian Bill Maher on Twitter: "Obama made a lot of great points tonight. Unfortunately, most of them were for Romney." "Obama's not looking like he came for a job interview, Romney so far does." "I can't believe I'm saying this, but Obama looks like he DOES need a teleprompter." (On his HBO program Maher later remarks, "I'm sorry, he sucked. He looked tired. He had trouble getting his answers out. [It] looks like he took my million [Maher donated \$1 million to an Obama PAC] and spent it all on weed.") [37899, 38020]

On Fox News, a focus group almost unanimously calls Romney the winner of the debate. One participant states, "Up until tonight, I think Obama had defined Romney. Tonight Romney defined himself." Another comments, "Everyone said Obama was flat. Well, it's really hard to defend a failed record like he has." Every participant agrees that Romney exceeded expectations. (That prompts an observation from Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson: "This is what happens when the media paints one man as a great orator and the other as a gaffetastic, out-of-touch buffoon. Those perceptions conflict so starkly with reality that people are shocked when the filter is lifted. For once, the media's Obama boosterism actually hurt him. Whether this resounding win will give Romney much of a lasting boost in the polls remains to be seen, but as a snapshot in time, it's very gratifying for conservatives to see a Republican meticulously and relentlessly prosecute the case against [Obama]—and do it so effectively that everyone has no choice but to recognize and acknowledge what happened. Simply put, last night's outcome was un-spinnable.") Veteran pollster Frank Luntz, conductor of the focus group, says he has never seen a group's opinion shift so much at one event and adds, "This is a big deal." [37909, 37910, 37935]

On Fox News, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin warns, "[T]hese guys in the Obama camp, they're not going to go down without swinging. They're going to pull something... And the American public—with the media's help, these lapdogs in the media, kind of going along with whatever it is that Obama and his people want to do to shake some things up if Mitt Romney continues to do so well—the American public just needs to be aware that they've got to do their own home work; don't rely on the filter of the media; and just be aware something could be pulled here to turn things around if Mitt Romney



continues to gain so much ground.” [37913]

*Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer comments, “I thought Romney won, and Romney won big. He won by two touchdowns. You know, when a challenger just steps up on the stage, that already gives stature, but when he performs the way Romney did, I think it really changes. It doesn’t change the game, but it changes the momentum. The Romney campaign has had a terrible month, to the extent that people are saying, ‘Who is this guy? He seems like a sap.’ All of a sudden, this Romney shows up. And he is knowledgeable, he is confident and he’s got nerve. He never backed down on any of the Obama attacks. In fact, every time Obama hurled a particular at him, he came back with a three-point answer—not a one-point, but a three. So, I think he didn’t just hold his own. He showed himself to be the equal of [Obama] and, in fact, if you counted it on points the way you would a [prize] fight, you’d say he won by far the majority of the rounds. And I think, for him, what it does is it gives him stature that he doesn’t have, and it changes the narrative of the campaign, that is sort of clueless, going nowhere, making mistake after mistake, to one in which people stop and say, ‘Is that the guy?’ This is the first time they’re actually seeing him unfiltered. ‘That’s not that the guy that we thought we saw and we heard about and we read about. He’s different from that.’” [37930]

“And with Obama, I thought he had a very weak night. It looked as if he was sitting on a lead. I can guarantee you, that had he been behind in the polls, he would have hammered at the 47 percent, the video that really damaged Romney. It didn’t come up at all. And that’s somebody who thinks all he has to do is get up there, play out the 90 minutes, hold the ball and win. But he didn’t. He lost. Again, it’s not going to change the election. But I think it does stop the Romney slide. It is not just that it energizes his base. I think what’s important here is that people who’ve heard millions of dollars worth of ads about Romney, that he’s the Gordon Gecko of our time, that he wants to inflict pain on the middle class. Look at this guy and say, he’s got no horns. He’s a guy who has ideas, some of them perhaps are wrong. But he’s got some concern for the country, he’s got ideas, and he knows his stuff. So I think it helps to wipe away a lot of that advantage that Obama’s had from this huge amount of advertising that you’ve seen in the swing states. And I think we might begin to see some slight narrowing, perhaps a point or two but that’s all you need to change the direction of an election with a month to go.” [37930]

Krauthammer notes that Obama didn’t attack Romney’s fundraiser comment about the 47 percent of people who pay no income tax: “I think his thinking was, you know, the worst thing you can do is to appear aggressive, beating up on the challenger, and sort of lose the image of the cool and composed guy. So, in order not to do that, he was exceptionally deferential, ...but in some sense weak. And that’s what you do when you think that you’re ahead. I suspect in the second round [of debates] he’s going to be a lot different.” [37930]

The Obama team—which takes a full 10 minutes to make itself available to reporters after the debate—does what it can to spin the outcome. Campaign press secretary Jen Psaki tells reporters, “Our goal was to speak to the American people. He [Obama] turned

and faced the American people at several points in the debate and said, ‘These are my policies, this is what I’m fighting for.’” Deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter says, “I think he came in there knowing what job he had to do, and that was to communicate to people at home his detailed plans for moving the country forward... and I think he did that. I think Mitt Romney scores points on style, and he clearly practiced that, but that’s not been his problem in this campaign. Mitt Romney needed to come in here tonight not just to win this debate—which, let’s face it, challengers normally do—he needed to change the dynamic of this race. He didn’t do that.” Campaign manager James Messina comments, “I think [Obama] did exactly what he did in his convention speech. We don’t believe in decisive moments” A campaign is about “telling a story over a period of time.” [37917, 37945, 38139]

Former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani tells reporters, “This was a knockout. I’ve been to many presidential debates; I’ve never seen one as one sided as this one. Governor Romney was on target; his facts, he was in great command of them; he was on the attack against ...Obama. ...Obama looked confused, he looked like he was searching for his teleprompter, he didn’t have it, and what he retreated to instead was an incomprehensible explanation of his ObamaCare.” [37917]

*Time* magazine’s Michael Crowley quips. “Sensing weakness, Sasha and Malia just hounded dad into doubling their allowances.”

RightDame Tweets: “This isn’t breaking news to us, but to the rest of you who seem so confused [by the debate], this is the result of an inept media. You didn’t know either man.” (That is, the mainstream media has created a phony image of Obama, while shamelessly portraying Romney as inept and mean-spirited.) [37939]

The Right Sphere’s Kevin Eder: “Obama looked very tired. I’d be too if I spent all my time in partying in Vegas, chatting with Letterman, & livin’ it up with Jay-Z.” [37940]

HotAir.com’s Mary Katherine Hamm: “I had no idea the 20th anniversary was the Embarrassing Capitulation Anniversary.” [37941]

The Weekly Standard’s Mark Hemingway: “That wasn’t a debate so much as Mitt Romney just took Obama for a cross country drive strapped to the roof of his car.”

After the debate, White House press pool reporters inadvertently get in vehicles from the Romney motorcade, rather than Obama’s. AFP reporter Stephen Collinson reports, “In an amusing moment, poolers were sitting in the Press One van outside the debate hall and the driver said ‘I think that Romney did real good.’ There was a moment of baffled silence,” after which someone said, “guys, we are in the Romney van.” [37949]

On October 4 Charles Hurt writes at WashingtonTimes.com, “Bewildered and lost without his teleprompter, ...Obama flailed all around the debate stage last night. He was

stuttering, nervous and petulant. It was like he had been called in front of the principal after goofing around for four years and blowing off all his homework. Not since Jimmy Carter faced Ronald Reagan has the U.S. presidency been so embarrassingly represented in public. Actually, that's an insult to Jimmy Carter. The split screen was most devastating. Mitt Romney spoke forthrightly, with carefully studied facts and details at the ready. He looked right at [Obama] and accused him of being miles out of his depth." (Throughout the event, a split screen showed both Romney and Obama, rather than only the one who was speaking.) "Mr. Obama? His eyes were glued to his lectern, looking guilty and angry and impatient with all the vagaries of Democracy. This debate was seriously chafing him. What exactly was Mr. Obama's strategy here? Did he figure with so many people unemployed in this abomination of an economy he should go for the sympathy vote? Like voters could relate to a guy who is just scared pants-less that he is about to lose his job? ...Almost pleading, Mr. Obama reached out to the moderator for a lifeline: "You may want to move onto another topic." [37901]

On NBC's *Today*, Obama political strategist David Axelrod does damage control duty for his boss's disastrous debate performance, saying, "People know that [Romney is callous toward the non-wealthy], and what they were looking for last night were real honest distinctions on the issues. [Obama] gave those distinctions in an honest way and Governor Romney did not." On MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, Axelrod says that Obama "is never satisfied with his performance. He's always challenging himself." [37902]

Michael D. Jackson of Tazewell County, Illinois files a criminal complaint with the local grand jury, charging Obama with treason and identity fraud. [38112]

A CNN/ORC poll of 430 adults, with a slight oversampling of Democrats (+4), resulted in 67 percent calling Romney the winner of the debate, with 25 percent favoring Obama. (CNN polling director Keating Holland points out, "No presidential candidate has topped 60 percent in that question since it was first asked in 1984.") Among independents, Romney won 75-17. Additionally, "82 percent said Romney performed better than they'd expected, 61 percent said Obama fell short of expectations. Mitt Romney's favorable rating jumped to 56 percent. Romney led on every issue polled: The economy by 12 points, healthcare by five, taxes by nine, and the deficit by 16. Asked who would be the stronger leader, Mitt won 58-37. ...Romney even won the 'likeability' head-to-head, albeit by a single point [46-45]. By a 2-to-1 margin, voters said the debate made them more likely to vote for Romney than vice versa [35-18]." [37906, 37907, 37922, 37924]

Romney was considered the debate victor by 46-22 percent in a CBS poll of undecided voters. "Asked if the debate improved respondents' impressions of the candidates, 56 percent said this was true of Romney. Just 13 percent said the same of Obama. On issues: Romney +21 on the economy, +37 (!) on the deficit, +5 on taxes, +1 on energy. Obama maintained a small lead on Medicare, though Romney gained ten points on that issue overnight. The percentage of undecideds who said they were now voting for Romney increased by 12 percent. Obama flat-lined. Prior to the debate, these undecideds were

asked if Romney (1) understands the needs of people like you, (2) has strong leadership qualities, (3) has made clear what he'd do if elected. They were asked the exact same questions after the debate. Here are the percentages of undecided voters answering 'yes,' pre/post debate: (1) 30/63. (2) 59/78. (3) 22/54. That first one is huge." [37906, 37908]

The Republican National Committee quickly releases an Internet ad called "smirk" showing Mitt Romney rattling off the failures of the last four years, while Obama reacts with smirks. [37911, 37921]

Mitt Romney's successful debate performance results in a decline in the stock prices of hospitals. Townhall.com's Kate Hick explains that the hospitals "...stand to gain quite a bit financially from the law, in that the cost of treated uninsured patients will no longer fall directly to them. The day the Supreme Court upheld the ACA [ObamaCare], the entire market fell about one per cent, but hospital stocks spiked, up to 8.5%. So the fact that hospital shares fell last night signals fears that the Act will be repealed—which, of course, only happens if Mitt Romney wins in November." (In other words, hospitals have assumed that ObamaCare will shift some of their expenses to the taxpayers. If ObamaCare is repealed, they lose that free lunch.) Coal company stocks increased by about five percent on Romney's statement of support for the coal industry during the debate. [37912, 38027]

At PJMedia.com David P. Goldman comments on Obama's debate performance: "Barack Obama is a narcissist and a sociopath, with the skills of persuasion that children abandoned by their parents learn as a survival mechanism. In the adoring light of the liberal media, Obama reflected power and self-confidence—so long as he was in control, and stood in front of the teleprompter. The real Barack Obama is the one who cowered in the Oval Office protected by his Praetorian guard, who declined to hold cabinet meetings or meet with Republican leaders: McBama surrounded by the weird sisters, Valerie Jarrett, Susan Rice and Michelle. Obama's greatest strength always has been his greatest weakness, potentially a catastrophic one: he manipulates so effectively because he has a compulsion to be in control. When he knows that he is not in control, Obama is paralyzed. Absent last night were the easy rhetorical flourishes and rock star pose of 2008. When he is not in control, as in last night's debate, he freezes. Obama's stumbling delivery and poor body language betrayed a frightened and enraged man who desperately wanted to be somewhere else than on a public stage, mano a mano with Mitt Romney. The most pertinent question to ask the Obama campaign now is which psychiatrist they have put on retainer." [38012]

Obama issues a Twitter message: "I'll use the money we're no longer spending on war to pay down our debt and put more people back to work." (The government has been running deficits for more than a decade. The "money we're no longer spending" was borrowed money. Ending the wars does not make that money available for paying down the debt, as the money itself was debt. Ending the wars results in reduced deficits. It does not provide a surplus that can be used. The economic illiteracy of Obama's statement is stunning. If a teenager borrows \$50 from his parents to pay his cell phone bill and

reduces his usage to \$40 the following month, the teenager does not “have” an extra \$10 to give his parents to pay the \$50 he owes for the prior month. He simply owes \$90—\$50 plus \$40—rather than \$100.) [38013]

Obama, addressing a crowd in Denver, says, “But it couldn’t a [sic] been Mitt Romney [at the debate] because the real Mitt Romney has been runnin’ around the country for the last year promising \$5 trillion in tax cuts that favor the wealthy. The fellow on stage last night said he didn’t know anything about that.” (Romney’s tax plan would not provide \$5 trillion in tax breaks because the reduced rates would be partially offset by the elimination of deductions and exemptions for high-income earners.) “The real Mitt Romney said we don’t need anymore teachers in our classrooms...” (Romney did not make any such statement.) “The guy on stage last night, he said that he doesn’t even know that there are such laws that encourage outsourcing. He’s never heard of ‘em. Never heard of tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. He said that if it’s true he must need a new accountant. Now, we know for sure it was not the real Mitt Romney because he seems to be doing just fine with his current accountant.” (There are no tax breaks for shipping jobs overseas. The lower corporate tax rates in other countries, of course, does encourage relocation. But that is the restful of the high, 35 percent corporate tax rate in the United States, not any “loopholes.”) “...What I talked about last night was a new economic patriotism. Patriotism is rooted in the belief that growing our economy begins with a strong thriving middle class. ...Now, last night Governor Romney ruled out raising a dime of taxes on anybody ever, no matter how much money they make.” (Romney made no such statement.) “He ruled out closing the loophole that gives oil companies \$4 billion in corporate welfare.” (Romney did *not* rule it out. In fact, he stated that eliminating the deduction was “on the table”—and noted that \$4 billion pales in comparison to the billions of dollars Obama has lost on failed “green” energy “investments.”) “He refused to even acknowledge the loophole that gives tax breaks to corporations that shift jobs overseas.” (There is no such loophole.) “And when he was asked what he’d actually do to cut the deficit and reduce spending, he said he’d eliminate funding for public television. That was his answer. I mean, thank goodness somebody is finally getting tough on Big Bird. It’s about time. We didn’t know that Big Bird was driving the federal deficit, but that’s what we heard last night. How about that?” (Romney did not say that Sesame Street’s Bug Bird was the driver of the deficit, but used it as an example of a program whose costs are not justified by borrowing from China.) [38010, 38054, 38080, 38179]

The Romney campaign responds: “In full damage-control mode, ...Obama today offered no defense of his record and no vision for the future. Rather than a plan to fix our economy, ...Obama simply offered more false attacks and renewed his call for job-killing tax hikes. Last night, Mitt Romney demonstrated why he should be President, laying out the clear choice in this election. We can’t afford four more years of the last four years. We need a real recovery—and Mitt Romney has a real plan to deliver it.” [38010]

On CNN, Obama’s deputy campaign manager, Stephanie Cutter, is questioned about Obama claim that Romney has proposed \$5 trillion in tax cuts. Erin Burnett says,

“Stephanie, let me ask you about that. Because here at CNN, we fact checked that, that \$5 trillion in tax cuts and we’ve come and said that’s not true. Mitt Romney has not promised that, because he’s also going to be closing loopholes and deductions. So his tax cut wouldn’t be anywhere near that size.” Cutter responds, “So you’re... you’re disputing the size of the tax cut? Are you disputing also how he’s going to pay for it?” Burnett: “We’re disputing the size.” Cutter: “Erin, he’s campaigned on lowering tax rates by 20 percent for everybody, including those in the top one percent. That was one of the main selling points in the Republican primary.” Burnett: “So you’re saying if you lower them by 20 percent you get a \$5 trillion tab, right?” Cutter: “It’s a \$5 trillion tab.” Burnett: “But when he closes deductions he won’t be anywhere near \$5 trillion. That’s our analysis.” Cutter: “Well, okay, stipulated, it won’t be near \$5 trillion, but it’s also not going to be the sum of \$5 trillion in the loopholes that he’s gonna close. So it is gonna cost someone. And it’s gonna cost the middle class...” (In other words, Cutter admits that Obama was lying about Romney’s \$5 trillion tax cut. Her statement, “Well, okay, stipulated, it won’t be near \$5 trillion” quickly makes its way into a Romney campaign ad.) [38054, 38074, 38089]

WND.com posts a 2005 speech by Obama in which he credits “blind luck” for the success of many Americans. At the Harvard Law School Association’s “Celebration of Black Alumni” Award Luncheon on September 17, 2005, Obama, who received that year’s award, said, “...[T]he other side [supporters of capitalism] has an easier job because their argument is essentially what is, you know, labeled the ownership society is actually pretty easily articulated [sic]. It says, ‘We are all in it by ourselves.’ ...There’s a certain attractiveness in its simplicity, that idea [of capitalism]. And it’s particularly attractive, I think, for those of us who are successful, because it allows us to be self-congratulatory and say, in fact, the cream rises to the top. You know, look how well we did. Everybody can do what we did. Denying the role of blind luck that played in getting everybody here. Or the sacrifices of a generation of women doing someone else’s laundry and looking after someone else’s children to get you here. ...Where there [are] market-based solutions to problems we embrace market based solutions. But the market fails sometimes and where it fails we have got to help people because that is what has always been done... You know, the railroads didn’t just appear.” (In 2005 Obama was already using the “You didn’t build that” argument,” implying, “You aren’t successful because you worked hard. You are successful because of blind luck, because someone else did your laundry, and someone else built a railroad.” Obama is apparently incapable of understanding that even without government assistance the railroads would have been built, and that having clean laundry does not cause the light bulb to be invented or the assembly line to be developed. Thomas Edison and Henry Ford were creative and industrious, not lucky—regardless of who did their laundry.) [37915]

The humorous “Borowitz Report” announces, “The White House today announced that it was offering a ‘substantial cash reward’ for information leading to ‘the location and safe return of ...Obama’s mojo.’ White House Press Secretary Jay Carney announced the search with an air of urgency: ‘We will use every resource at our disposal to ensure the return of [Obama’s] mojo, and that goes double for his groove.’ Mr. Carney said that as of late Wednesday afternoon no one at the White House knew [Obama’s] mojo was

missing, but minutes into last night's televised debate 'it became clear that something was terribly, horribly wrong.' Even if the White House is successful in locating Mr. Obama's mojo, Mr. Carney acknowledged, it could take days or even weeks to get it working. In an effort to reboot his campaign, ...Obama plans to announce some bold initiatives for his second term, including killing Osama bin Laden again." [37916]

On *Fox & Friends*, author Ann Coulter comments on the debate: "I think [Obama is] trying to transmit to the American people he doesn't want this job. 'Please, relieve me of my duties. I just want to golf and hang out with [actress] Scarlett Johansson.' ...I really think he was a disaster. I mean, part of it is he's never been challenged in his entire life. Every place he goes, he gets a standing ovation. He becomes president and wins the Nobel Peace Prize. He's never been challenged before and [he was only] up against McCain last time. And Romney was spectacular. ...The fact that Obama didn't prepare—I mean, this is like him not being prepared for the attack on our consulate. He *never* prepares. He just expects to walk out, be cool and get a standing ovation. ...He was very, very bad last night. He looked depressed. He looked anemic, those big ears poking out. The first time I watched the debate, I was mostly listening to it and Romney was killing and then I watched it again and before the end was actually watching it and the visual made it so much worse. Obama was depressed, looking down. You could see at the end of that debate, he knew that anniversary or not, Michelle wanted to go home with Mitt. ...This is landslide material. I think this could carry [Republican U.S. Senate candidate] Todd Aiken to victory." [37918]

Obama political strategist David Axelrod begs reporters to beat up on Mitt Romney, saying, "And so today, as the day after, I think the question for you [the media], for the American people is really one of character and whether or not a candidacy that's so fundamentally rooted in hiding the truth and the facts from the American people and deception is the basis of trust on which you assign the presidency to a person. So that is what we are going to focus on moving forward. We're going to hold Governor Romney accountable for the things that he said last night and we're going to make him justify those claims—as I hope you will make him justify those claims. ...People are willing to give Governor Romney credit for his performance but that didn't necessarily translate into support for him for President. He may win the Oscar for his performance last night but he's not going to win the presidency for his performance last night." [37919, 37962, 38060]

During Axelrod's media conference call, several "objective" reporters eagerly offer advice on how Obama should attack Romney. According to DailyCaller.com, NBC's Andrea Mitchell says, "I'm wondering whether [Obama], whether you have rethought the strategy of not bringing up either women's issues, or the 47 percent or some of the other issues that have worked so well for you in your campaign advertising and in your stump speech?" The *Washington Post's* Scott Wilson tells Axelrod, "Thanks very much for doing this everyone. Just to focus again on [Obama's] performance last night, you all have read some of the reviews—he appeared listless, distracted, annoyed at times. Will you be talking to him about that?" Another reporter: "You said some weeks ago that one

of Mitt Romney's strengths as a debater was his willingness to lie with ease. Was the President adequately prepared to call him out on that last night?" [37962, 38060]

Axelrod also states, "What [Obama] hoped to avoid was a situation where you had two politicians standing there insulting each other instead of offering ideas for the future of the country, but you know, you have to strike a balance. You can't allow someone to stand there and basically manhandle the truth about their own record and ideas and about yours and not deal with that. I'm sure that is a takeaway from this debate." (In other words, "Obama expected Romney to be weak and was stunned that he was not. In the next debate Obama will be nasty.") "This was the first chance for [Obama] to see how Governor Romney operates in these debates first hand. You have to make some adjustments to the fact that, you know, he is kind of a serial... artful dodger. That makes it a more challenging kind of event." (Axelrod's excuse is lame. Romney was also facing Obama for the first time.) "We're going to have to make some judgments as to where to draw the lines in these debates and how to use our time. In terms of changes and such, these things are always, you know it's like the playoffs in sports. You evaluate after every contest and you make adjustments, and I'm sure that we will make adjustments. I don't see us adding huge amounts of additional prep time, but I think there's [sic] some strategic judgments that have to be made and we'll make them." (Obama did poorly in the debates partly because he is not exposed to challenging questions. He avoids press conferences, instead appearing on television programs where he is praised rather than pressed. He is likely surrounded by "yes men" and people who rarely say, "I disagree" or "I think you're wrong." Obama assumed moderator Jim Lehrer would simply ask him easy questions he could respond to with memorized talking points. He was mistaken.) [37993, 38060]

DailyCaller.com senior editor Jamie Weinstein writes, "By halfway into the debate, viewers were surely hoping for the equivalent of a Little League mercy rule to kick in. Romney pounded away on [Obama] while he hardly fought back. He was listless and weak. There could be no spinning it: ...Obama lost and lost bad. In one evening, Romney may have partially erased the Obama campaign's effort define him as a rapacious businessman who only cares about rich people. The charge didn't ring true Wednesday night. Romney came across as a serious man bearing facts. Romney also came across as a credible president. Standing next to ...Obama on stage, he didn't look small. He looked like he belonged there. You could imagine him sitting in the Oval Office making consequential decisions. Many fellow pundits were quick to say in the run up to the debates that presidential debates rarely make a big difference. That may be true, until they do. And there is no question that Wednesday night's debate, which was likely the most watched event of the campaign season thus far, will cause the polls to narrow in Romney's favor—perhaps significantly so." [37922]

*Time* magazine's Joe Klein states, "I'm with all the other talking heads: Mitt Romney won this debate. Barack Obama lost it. I mean, he got his butt kicked. It was, in fact, one of the most inept performances I've ever seen by a sitting president." [37952]



The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) criticizes Obama for using its name during the debate: “While we respect the rights of each campaign to make its case to voters, AARP has never consented to the use of its name by any candidate or political campaign. AARP is a nonpartisan organization, and we do not endorse political candidates nor coordinate with any candidate or political party.” (In criticizing Romney’s plan to repeal Obamacare, Obama stated, “And then, what you’ve got is folks like my grandmother at the mercy of the private insurance system precisely at the time when they are most in need of decent health care. So, I don’t think vouchers are the right way to go. And this is not my own, only my opinion. AARP thinks that the... the savings that we obtained from Medicare bolster the system, lengthen the Medicare trust fund by eight years. Benefits were not affected at all.” [37928]

Political strategist Dick Morris writes, “Romney scored a number of key victories in the turf wars that underlie this campaign. ...Romney got out from under Obama’s character assassination negative ads. By failing to raise the Cayman Islands bank account, the 47% speech, Bain Capital or the tax return issue in the debate, he almost dismissed them from the campaign. ...Romney insulated himself—with Obama’s consent—from the doubts of the elderly about his policy on their benefits. After the 47% comments, Romney risked losing the elderly for fear that he meant to curtail their entitlements. But Obama helpfully agreed that his Social Security policy did not differ from Romney’s at all and that either way the benefits would be ok. And he agreed that neither he nor his opponent would cut Medicare for those now over 65 or those closing in on retirement. So the 47% is now aimed at welfare, food stamps, and Medicaid which is the target Romney originally intended and Obama let him get away with it. Obama let Romney sell the notion that he was cutting Medicare for current beneficiaries by \$716 billion and let Romney repeat that stat without contradiction. And he let Romney inject the 15 member board—the rationing board—into the debate without trying to blunt Romney’s accusation that it would decide on who gets what treatment. ...Romney was able to make the debate, and therefore the race, about big issues like the size of government, the impact of taxes on growth, the need to drill for oil, Obamacare and rationing. He elevated not just his game but the race to these fundamental questions on all of which Republicans and Romney have an advantage. He explained well how a tax increase for the ‘wealthy’ was really a tax increase on small businesses that hire half of all American workers. By explaining that these owners are taxed as individuals not as corporations ...he made us understand that fighting these taxes is not about battling for yachts and private planes but about creating jobs.” [37931]

Ed Bolen, president and CEO of the National Business Aviation Association, writes Obama to express his displeasure over his debate comment: “Why wouldn’t we eliminate tax breaks for corporate jets? My attitude is if you got a corporate jet, you can probably afford to pay full freight, not get a special break for it.” Bolen states, “Your comments seemed to discount and ignore the importance of business aviation in the U.S., and appear to be at odds with your stated interest in promoting job growth, stimulating exports, driving economic recovery and restoring America to its first-place position in manufacturing. ...America leads the world in business aircraft manufacturing, which supports countless highly skilled jobs, and is one of the few remaining industries that

contributes positively to the nation's balance of trade. It's disappointing to know that you've chosen to vilify this essential American workforce instead of doing all you can to promote its growth as part of your overall goal of supporting a resurgence of manufacturing in the U.S. ...I know you've heard from more than 100 mayors from across the country, who have talked about the importance of business aviation to their economic plans, to the overall health of the nation's economy and transportation system and to American competitiveness. Please consider promoting, rather than disparaging, business aviation—it's a great American industry." (According to Aero-News.net, "[T]he business aviation industry is responsible for 1.2 million American jobs, and contributes \$150 billion annually to the U.S. economy.") [38432, 38433]

CBSNews.com reports, "A House committee says a State Department officer told panel members there were 13 threats made against the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya during the six months before the Sept. 11 attack on the facility. ...The panel adds that the officer told it the U.S. mission had made repeated requests for increased security. A spokesman for the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is holding a hearing on the controversy next week, says its source is Regional Security Officer Eric Nordstrom, who was stationed in Libya from September 2011 to June 2012." [37932]

The Daily Beast's Eli Lake, reports, "In the six months leading up to the assault on the United States consulate in Benghazi, the State Department reduced the number of trained Americans guarding U.S. facilities in Libya, according to a leading House Republican investigating the Sept. 11 anniversary attacks. The reduction in U.S. security personnel increased America's reliance on local Libyan guards for the protection of its diplomats. This is the latest charge from Rep. Jason Chaffetz, the Utah Republican leading a House investigation on the Benghazi attacks, regarding alleged security defects in Benghazi. Chaffetz said the information comes from whistleblowers who have approached the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform." (Not only did the Obama administration fail to provide additional security for the consulate—despite 13 threats over six months—it actually *reduced* security.) HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey observes, "In Libya, we didn't have any footprint at all. We decapitated the Moammar Qaddafi regime and left no order at all behind. That left a huge power vacuum in Libya, especially in the east, where radical Islamist terror networks had already been operating just out of Qaddafi's reach but under the radar. Under those circumstances, the danger might be worse after the war than during it—and it worked out that way for Ambassador Stevens and the other Americans in Benghazi. If State [Department] cut security while Stevens demanded more, and while other countries (the British especially) fled Benghazi, that would be a dereliction of *common sense*, if not duty. It's certainly not 'smart power.'" [37942, 37943]

WashingtonPost.com reports that "sensitive documents" were left at the U.S. consulate in Benghazi and there has been almost no security to protect them. According to the *Post*, "The documents detail weapons collection efforts, emergency evacuation protocols, the full internal itinerary of Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens's trip to the city and the

personnel records of Libyans who were contracted to secure the mission.” CNN’s Arwa Damon reports that a safe was taken from the consulate by looters. (HotAir.com asks, “If State [Department] thought a [local Libyan] militia was up to the task of securing the compound before the attack, why isn’t it up to the task of securing the compound now so that the FBI can get inside for a few days? That’s the excuse we’ve been given about the feds’ foot-dragging, that the city’s just too dangerous for American personnel. But it was dangerous on September 10th, too—enough so that the consulate was already making plans for back-up in the event of an attack. Why was the 17th February militia good enough on September 10th if it’s not good enough on October 3rd?”) [37933, 37946]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the White House insider, who states, “How was that? The governor delivered big time. Amazing prep work by the campaign. Almost like they had a few pages right out of Obama’s own prep book hand delivered to them about 48 hours earlier. Obama looked very uncomfortable, tired, and agitated. Watch donations to Romney rise in the coming days. And we got another big deal about to be delivered. Not just the one I already told you about. Pushing in the walls from all sides now. This wasn’t a good night. THIS WAS A GREAT NIGHT. The governor tonight was better than BC [Bill Clinton] at his best. No joke. He was damn good. Shocked the hell out of a whole lot of people tonight. Guess [New Jersey Governor Chris] Christie was right on. Wow. Now [Obama advisor Valerie] Jarrett shows her teeth. Governor’s team has been warned. They are prepared. God I love this sh-t when it goes good like this. Will be in touch.” [37947]

MediaBistro.com reports, “More than 58 million people watched the first Presidential debate last night between Obama and Mitt Romney, up substantially from the first debate in the 2008 election cycle, which had 52.4 million viewers.” (The Nielsen rating service later estimates the audience to be 67.2 million—not counting Internet, C-SPAN, and PBS viewers. The Fox News Channel had the most viewers, with more than 10.4 million.) [37950, 37973, 37974, 37992, 38091]

WND.com reports, “Iran could announce a temporary halt to uranium enrichment before next month’s U.S. election in a move to save ...Obama’s presidency, a source affiliated with high Iranian officials said today. The source, who remains anonymous for security reasons, said a three-person delegation of the Obama administration led by a woman engaged in secret negotiations yesterday with a representative of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The delegation urged the Iranian leader to announce a halt to enrichment, even if temporary, before the Nov. 6 election, promising removal of some sanctions. The source said the delegation warned that a Mitt Romney presidency would change the U.S. relationship with Iran regarding its nuclear program. The U.S. representatives reminded the Iranians that ...Obama has stood in front of Israel, preventing the Jewish state from attacking Iran over its illicit nuclear arms policy. Yesterday’s meeting, which took place in Doha, Qatar, was coordinated by the Qatar monarchy, whose members attended at the request of the Obama administration.” [37951]

NationalReview.com posts some of Obama's responses from his first presidential debate with Senator John McCain (R-AZ) in 2008. Among his statements: "When President Bush came into office, we had a budget surplus, and the national debt was a little over \$5 trillion. It has doubled over the last eight years. And we are now looking at a deficit of well over half a trillion dollars." (Obama has presided over four consecutive years of more than \$1 trillion.) "When I'm president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely." (Had Obama actually done that, he would not have added \$5 trillion to the national debt.) "If you've got a health care plan that you like, you can keep it. All I'm going to do is help you to lower the premiums on it. You'll still have choice of doctor. There's no mandate involved." (Premium costs have increased dramatically, and ObamaCare includes a mandate.) "Obviously, our policy over the last eight years has not worked," (Nor have Obama's policies.) "We cannot tolerate a nuclear Iran." (Iran is much closer to a nuclear weapon than it was in 2008.) "I actually believe that we need missile defense, because of Iran and North Korea and the potential for them to obtain or to launch nuclear weapons." (Obama cancelled the installations that had been planned for Poland and the Czech Republic.) "And that's [a no-fly zone in Sudan] what I intend to do when I'm president." (He did not. Muslim killing of Christians in Sudan continues.) "Nobody's pro-abortion. I think it's always a tragic situation." (ObamaCare requires free abortifacients, and Planned Parenthood—the nation's number one provider of abortions—continues to receive federal funding.) "What is important is making sure that we disagree without being disagreeable. And it means that we can have tough, vigorous debates around issues. What we can't do, I think, is try to characterize each other as bad people." (The Obama campaign has called Mitt Romney a felon and accused him of being responsible for the cancer death of a steel worker's wife.) [37954]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports that the Obama campaign, "...rattled by his Wednesday night debate performance, could be in for even worse news. According to knowledgeable sources, a national magazine and a national web site are preparing a blockbuster donor scandal story. Sources told Secrets that the Obama campaign has been trying to block the story. But a key source said it plans to publish the story Friday or, more likely, Monday. According to the sources, a taxpayer watchdog group conducted a nine-month investigation into presidential and congressional fundraising and has uncovered thousands of cases of credit card solicitations and donations to Obama and Capitol Hill, allegedly from unsecure accounts, and many from overseas. That might be a violation of federal election laws." (The Obama campaign collected significant amounts of illegal contributions from foreign donors in 2008. The schemes were exposed by AtlasShrugs.com, but the Federal Election Commission prosecuted no one. Nothing will happen in 2012 either, as any investigation would not be completed until after election day, and Obama's attorney general, Eric Holder, is not about to indict or prosecute anyone in the Obama administration.) [37955, 37960, 37977, 38034, 38035, 38939]

At WND.com Jerome Corsi continues his reports that Obama's marriage to Michelle LaVaughan Robinson was "arranged" by Jesse Jackson and Reverend Jeremiah Wright. Corsi writes, "As a young single woman, Michelle Robinson was a fixture in the home of civil rights leader Jesse Jackson... 'If you want to understand Michelle Obama, you've got to go back to Jesse Jackson,' a woman called 'Robyn' ...told WND. Robyn, who

spent several years working for Jackson's Rainbow PUSH Coalition, explained to a WND investigator in Chicago that Michelle Obama 'just about grew up in Jesse Jackson's home. Jesse should have charged her rent and board for the amount of time she spent in his home instead of her own,' she said. Jackson's daughter, Santita, is still one of Michelle's best friends. Santita and Jesse Jr. call her 'sis,' short for 'sister.'" Robyn explains, "It all relates back to Trinity [United Church of Christ] and to the Jesse Jackson orbit of blacks here in Chicago who gave Obama legitimacy and helped him establish his identity as a black man. The political left wanted to push a black to the presidency, and the key operatives in the Democratic Party decided long ago it wouldn't be Jesse Jackson (Sr.). Then Jesse wanted it to be his son, but Jesse Jr. has serious drug and mental problems that the world knows about now. These were also known about in the past, and Jesse Jr. was never going to be the black president. So, the political left then chose Obama." [37956, 38095]

According to Robyn, "Michelle hated working for the city even more than she hated working at Sidley Austin. At the law firm, she lasted so short of a time because they expected her to do work. At the City of Chicago, where she worked under Mayor Daley, Michelle had one of those 'Jesse hires' positions. These are patronage jobs where the recipients did nothing. She sat at a desk and read the newspaper all day. Sometimes she read romance novel paperbacks. No one could say anything to her because she was a 'Jesse hire.' This meant if anyone did complain about her not working that Jesse Jackson would get mad at Daley over that, and there would be trouble. [She was] essentially treated like she was Jesse's daughter, and Michelle's connections in Chicago were a key to Obama's rise to power. ...Michelle came from a political family; she was intelligent even if she didn't really like to work. Wright knew Obama was gay, but he needed the cover of a wife if he were to succeed in politics." Another church member, Carolyn—whose name, like Robyn's, has been changed to protect her—states that Reverend Wright "helped a lot of blacks get successful and connected. That's what Wright did for Obama. He connected Obama in the community, and he helped Obama hide his homosexuality." Robyn adds, "Michelle was nasty, and most straight guys would never be able to put up with her moods and temperament. But Obama really didn't care. Michelle had the credentials and she looked the part. Obama wasn't interested in her for sex." [37956, 38095]

"Hazel," another church member, relates, "I remember being at this function at Reverend Wright's house, one of the many parties Wright had, in 1996. I went to the room where all the coats were on the bed, because I wanted to leave. I was surprised to find the light in the room was off and the coats were on the floor. Then I realized there were two men hugging and kissing in there. One of those men was Obama. This was long before anybody knew Obama, before he became famous like he is today." (*The Obama Timeline* has long believed that Obama is bisexual, if not homosexual, and his marriage to Michelle is one of "convenience." He would certainly not be the first person in politics—or the business world or the entertainment industry—to understand that a wife and children are necessary to project an "all-American" image.) [37956, 38095]

The local CBS affiliate in Chicago reports, “The President of the South Suburban Branch of the NAACP alleges a director of the re-election campaign of Barack Obama has threatened and intimidated him” because he doesn’t support his reelection. “David Lowery says he believes he was threatened during a phone conversation with Louis Raymond, the Illinois political director for Obama for America. Lowery says he doesn’t personally support [Obama] because he’s not addressing issues important to the black community. He said he was explaining that to Raymond when the Obama campaign official told him, ‘You know what? I know everything about you. ... We’ve been watching you, and since you don’t support Obama, we’ll deal with you.’” (Lowery has filed a police report, “in case something happens.” The Obama campaign says there was a “miscommunication.”) [37957, 37963, 39547]

In *The Wall Street Journal*, Peggy Noonan writes, “All the books being written about the 2012 race will tell us the background and circumstances of Mr. Obama’s surprising and deeply unimpressive performance. For now what can be said is this is how journalists described it in real time: passive, listless, effete, detached, flaccid, dull-brained, disengaged, professorial. The last is unjust. Professors are often interesting. When Mr. Romney gave him the sweet-faced ‘You’re a cute little shrimp’ look, and he gave it to him all night, Mr. Obama couldn’t even look at him. When Mr. Obama stared down and nodded at his notes it looked, as someone observed in an email, like his impersonation of a bored wife. Everything he said—everything—was something you’d heard too many times.” [37959]

Some might argue that the course of the election was changed by Jorge Ramos, Maria Elena Salinas, and Jim Lehrer. Ramos and Salinas asked Obama tough questions in a September 20 interview on the Spanish language network Univision—questions for which he was clearly unprepared. (Not that it is easy to prepare for, “You didn’t keep that promise” “Why have you not fired Eric Holder?” and “Why wasn’t the administration better prepared with more security at our embassies on September 11?”) Obama also did not receive the softball questions he may have expected from debate moderator Jim Lehrer, leaving him unable to respond with well-rehearsed talking points. Obama may have lost tens of thousands of Hispanic votes with his Univision interview, and hundreds of thousands of additional votes with his disastrous debate performance. (Empty suits can win one big election, but reelection is much more difficult.)

MyFoxPhilly.com reports that 16-year-old honor student Samantha Pawlucy was told by a teacher to “Get out of the class” because she came to school wearing a Romney-Ryan t-shirt. The teacher added, “You can’t wear a Republican shirt in a Democratic school.” Pawlucy, whose parents want the teacher fired, states, “She took a red marker, tried to draw on it, and then she told me to take off my shirt and she would give me a different one.” [37969, 37970]

Obama campaigns at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. DailyCaller.com reports, “Kenneth Mayer, a political science professor at UW, sent a letter to university administrators chiding them for renting central campus to the Obama campaign. ‘It

hardly seems appropriate to shut the central campus down for an entire day, closing offices and seriously disrupting our mission,' he wrote. 'I have several colleagues who had scheduled exams for Thursday. Surely there were other venues that would pose less disturbance.' Others were more concerned with the registration process for the event. To attend, students followed a link from the university website to the official Obama campaign website, and gave their names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Then they had to click a box that reads, 'I'M IN!' ...The campaign paid UW about \$15,000 to use the venue. But the public university [that is, Wisconsin taxpayers] will pay the security costs of the event, which totaled \$260,000 last time Obama came to the campus." (Obama also campaigned in Wisconsin on September 22. Some would argue that if he needs to visit a state he won by 14 points in 2008, his campaign is in trouble.) [37521, 37522, 37971]

Outside the Madison event, Breitbart TV interviews university students who believe it was unfair that the Obama was not allowed to use a teleprompter during the debate with Romney. [37987, 37988]

Mitt Romney greets a crowd of 14,000 in Fishersville, Virginia. He is joined by country singer Trace Adkins. [38428]

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reports that for the third year in a row the Social Security system paid out more in benefits than it collected in tax revenue, and the system—which Obama said in the October 3 debate was “structurally sound”—will be insolvent by 2033. [37972, 38001]

In a letter to several Republican senators who had asked why she had wrongly blamed the attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya on an anti-movie demonstration that had gotten out of control, Obama's U.N. ambassador Susan Rice writes, “I relied solely and squarely on the information the intelligence community provided to me and other senior U.S. officials, including through the daily intelligence briefings that present the latest reporting and analysis to policy makers. This information represented the intelligence community's best, current assessment as of the date of my television appearances, and I went out of my way to ensure it was consistent with the information that was being given to Congress” Rice blames James Clapper, director of National Intelligence, adding, “As the Intelligence Community collects and analyzes more information related to the attack, our understanding of the event continues to evolve. As we learned more about the attack, we revised our initial assessment to reflect new information indicating that it was a deliberate and organized terrorist attack carried out by extremists.” [38058, 38059]

The senators respond, “Elements of the intelligence community apparently told the administration within hours of the attack that militants connected with al Qaeda were involved, yet Ambassador Rice claims her comments five days later reflected the ‘best’ and ‘current’ assessment of the intelligence community. Either the Obama administration is misleading Congress and the American people, or it is blaming the entire failure on the intelligence community. Ambassador Rice claims the administration launched a

‘comprehensive’ effort to determine what happened in Benghazi, but the administration failed to secure the scene of the terrorist attack for three weeks—allowing evidence and sensitive information to be compromised and destroyed. From beginning to end, the administration’s behavior in the wake of the attack indicates a breathtaking level of incompetence and suggests an intent to deliberately mislead Congress and the American people.” (For years the media has excoriated George W. Bush for believing the intelligence reports that said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. With the Obama administration now blaming bad intelligence, the media leftists find themselves having to use faulty intelligence as an excuse to cover Obama’s ineptitude and deceit.) [38058, 38059]

At NationalReview.com Robert Costa reports on Mitt Romney’s debate preparation, with Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) acting as a stand-in for Obama during practice sessions. “Portman says Romney’s willingness to fully commit to the prep was striking. Day after day, he’d get up early, exercise, and then join the team for hours of work. Advisers certainly played a role, but according to Portman, it was the candidate who drove his advisers. Even when he had a busy week of campaigning, Romney would always find time to study or hold a brief mock debate. ‘It was all him,’ Portman tells me. ‘Honestly, I’ve spent a lot of time with Mitt Romney for the past month or so, and what I saw on stage is who he is. He’s smart, he’s articulate, and he’s got a big heart.’ ...One longtime Romney friend tells me that Romney markedly improved throughout September as he devoted himself to his briefing books and the mock debates. The friend says Romney didn’t think of the debate as a political dialogue but as a grueling, 90-minute competition that demanded discipline. He prepared in the same way he used to review pending business deals at Bain Capital: He challenged his closest advisers about the most minor points, he spent a lot of time reading, and he constantly bantered with his aides about the other side’s weaknesses and strengths.” (More than a few Americans might want that in a president—someone who takes his job seriously and does his homework, rather than playing golf, skipping daily security briefings, and expecting soft treatment from the media. Obama, on the other hand, told reporters that debate preparation was “a drag.”) [37975, 37976]

Campaigning in Iowa, Vice President Joe Biden tells an audience, “You know the phrase they always use: ‘Obama and Biden want to raise taxes by a trillion dollars.’ Guess what? Yes, we do, in one regard—we want to let that trillion dollar tax cut expire so the middle class doesn’t have to bear the burden of all that money going to the super wealthy. That’s not a tax raiser. That’s called fairness where I come from. Yes, we’re going to ask the wealthy to pay more. My heart breaks. Come on, man.” (For the record, Obama and Biden are not planning to “ask” the wealthy to pay more taxes. They will force them to pay more taxes.) [38002]

At HillBuzz.org Kevin DuJan claims that Obama’s poor debate performance was drug-related: “Obama was injected with amphetamines or something before the debate and they wore off about 20 minutes in. Here in Chicago, word on the street for the last month has been that Valerie Jarrett was specifically tasked with getting Obama off coke and



other drugs before the debates so that he would not embarrass himself on stage for an hour and a half. So, word is that Obama's been detoxing since at least September. This explains how haggard he's looked and how prickly he's acted for a while now... it's what addicts look and act like when they're cut off from their drugs. Remember that [he] can have whatever drugs he wants. The Secret Service [agents] are not there to keep [him] from breaking the law, they are just there to keep him alive. Obama's main drug suppliers are the junior staffers who work in the White House who go to Lafayette Park and buy him whatever he wants... and he also gets special deliveries from his friend Bobby Titcombe in Hawaii, who brings him 'fish and poi' to the White House (that's Hawaiian slang for 'weed and coke'). To get through the almost two hours of being on TV, Obama looks like he needed a big injection of beta-blockers and/or amphetamines. If you noticed at the beginning of the debate he was talking fast, acting erratic, and blinking like CRAZY he was still jazzed up by whatever they gave him. [Obama's blink rate was 70.8 per minute during the 42 minutes and 40 seconds he spoke.] About twenty minutes later, it seems like the adrenaline in his system from being in front of the crowd might have caused the uppers to wear off... and his energy levels collapsed after that. By the end of the debate, Obama looked like he was aching for a new fix. This could be the reason Michelle Obama rushed him off stage and skipped the traditional 'let's wave to the crowd for a while' schtick. She could tell he needed to get out of sight because he totally lost it out there." (*The Obama Timeline* has no way of confirming DuJan's claim, but it is not inconsistent with reports that Obama was under the influence of drugs the night of his acceptance speech in Denver in 2008 and had to be "brought down" for the occasion.) [38003, 38014]

DuJan also remarks, "Obama's hands were skeletal, his face was twitching, his eyes had deep dark circles around them, and he generally looked like death walking. In Chicago, most people on the ground think Obama has 'The Slims', which is black slang here for AIDS. I personally think he has Parkinson's disease... which is actually related to cocaine abuse in black men. Obama shakes, his face twitches, and he's gaunt these days. This is more than just severe drug abuse in the White House... this is illness. The man is not well, and it's showing. ...But someone with a five-star chef living downstairs, access to any kind of food that he wants, and nonstop vacations and 'golf outings' should not look like a desiccated corpse walking around on stage in Denver. Something is seriously wrong. Of course, his medical records are kept hidden and not released to the public ... I used to volunteer a lot with AIDS charities here in Boystown and would deliver holiday meals to shut-in AIDS patients who looked more robust and alive than Barack Obama did last night. ... THAT was not a healthy man up there. That was someone who will be in a wheelchair or be bed-ridden soon." (Again, *The Obama Timeline* has no way to confirm DuJan's speculation, but the purpose of the *Timeline* is to report everything of significance about Obama.) [38003]

The Obama campaign and Democrat National Committee report that they raised \$181 million in September, slightly less than the \$193 million raised in the same month in 2008. Mike Flynn writes at Breitbart.com, "The campaign said that just over 1.8 million people made donations to the campaign last month. According to the campaign, over 500k of these were brand-new donors, having neither given in 2008 nor 2012. 98% of

contributions were under the reporting threshold of \$250. Of these, the average contribution was \$53. It's really a tale of two worlds. 35k people gave an average of \$2,600, while just over 1.7 million people gave an average of \$53. Half the campaign's haul came from people giving around the maximum amount and half from people who don't have to be disclosed. Seems a bit odd. The average of \$53 from small donors is particularly noteworthy. Contributions under \$200 don't have to be disclosed, but the campaign still has to keep track of the donor's name, in case subsequent donations push their contribution over the reporting threshold. For contributions under \$50, however, the campaign doesn't even have to keep track of the donor's name. It is effectively considered a 'petty cash' donation. A person could theoretically make 10 \$49 donations and never be reported, even though their total contributions are above the FEC's reporting threshold. With an average donation of \$53 from small donors, Obama has A LOT of donors who will never be disclosed and whose names aren't even known to the campaign. Tens of millions of dollars worth." How much of the cash comes from illegal foreign contributions is not known.) [38015, 38016, 38038]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "In a remarkable reversal of fortune for ... Obama in Ohio, the GOP has closed the huge gap in absentee ballot requests used by early voters that favored the Democrats and the president in 2008, setting up what one state analyst said could be a Mitt Romney blowout on Election Day. While in 2008, 33 percent of the 1,158,301 absentee ballots went to Democrats and just 19 percent to registered Republicans, a 14-point gap, this year 29 percent are being requested by Democrats and 24 percent by Republicans, a five-point gap. ... Even more dramatic, while the GOP has cut the Democratic advantage in early voting throughout the state, the changes favoring the Republicans in certain counties has been huge. In Franklin County, home to Columbus, for example, a 2008 Democratic advantage of 5 percent is now a 5 percent GOP advantage. In Cuyahoga County, home to Democratic Cleveland, the GOP has shaved six points off the Democrat's 2008 advantage. And in Hamilton County, home to Cincinnati, Republicans have expanded their 2008 advantage to 13 percent. University of Dayton Professor Larry Schweikart told American Majority Action President Ned Ryun that the GOP gains favor Romney. 'Although it is early, we will soon be at a point where—assuming Republicans vote for Romney—the Democrats will have to overwhelmingly win all the remaining early voting just to be even on November 6. But, given Ohio's voting history, if the numbers are even close after early voting, Obama will lose, and possibly lose big.'" [38045, 38055]

About 450,000 dead and duplicate names have been removed from Ohio's voter registration, further hurting Obama's chances to win the state—because most of the names removed were registered as Democrats. Ryun states, "Considering Obama won the state by 263,000 votes, Ohio's cleaner rolls could make a big impact. The five largest counties in Ohio have all shifted at least 6 percent and as much as 27 percent to the Republicans since 2008. While the polls show an Obama lead, these real votes—assuming registered voters vote for their candidate—demonstrate a Republican shift since 2008." Although Obama won Ohio by four points in 2008, requests for absentee ballots from registered Republicans are up six percentage points or more from 2008 in the state's five largest counties—and by as much as 27 percent in one county.) [38045, 38055]

The election forecast of University of Colorado political science professors Kenneth Bickers and Michael Berry shifts to give Mitt Romney additional electoral votes. Bickers states, “We continue to show that the economic conditions favor Romney even though many polls show [Obama] in the lead. Other published models point to the same result, but they looked at the national popular vote, while we stress state-level economic data.” The updated forecast shows Romney winning New Mexico, North Carolina, Virginia, Iowa, New Hampshire, Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida, as well as the other states John McCain captured in 2008. Obama is expected to win Michigan and Nevada, along with Illinois, California, Oregon, Washington, and the traditional Democrats states of the northeast (excluding Pennsylvania and New Hampshire). Berry states, “Our model indicates that Governor Romney has a 77 percent likelihood of winning the popular vote.” [38096, 38626]

On October 5 the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that a mere 114,000 jobs were created in September. Despite that weak number, the unemployment rate miraculously falls from 8.1 to 7.8 percent—because hundreds of thousands of Americans have stopped looking for work and are no longer counted as part of the workforce. Campaigning in Fairfax, Virginia, Obama immediately pounces on the number and claims they prove his policies are working., saying, “This morning, we found out that the unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest level since I took office. It’s a reminder that this country has come too far to turn back now. ... We’ve made too much progress to return to the policies that led to the crisis in the first place.” (On May 7, 2010 Obama noted the 290,000 jobs created in April 2010 and said, “We’ve gotta be mindful that today’s job number, while welcome, leave us with a lot of work to do.” So, 290,000 jobs means there is a lot more work to do, while a disappointing 114,000 jobs means, “I deserve to be reelected.”) He also says, “Today’s news certainly is not an excuse to try to talk down the economy to score a few political points. It’s a reminder that this country has come too far to turn back now.” (In other words, “I don’t want anyone to point out that the unemployment rate fell only because hundreds of thousands of people dropped out of the workforce.”) Townhall.com quips, “I guess we are only not supposed to ‘read too much into’ one jobs report when it’s bad.” (It is worth noting that the monthly BLS data is based only on surveys of 410,000 businesses and 60,000 households—out of 150 million households. That is, the “official” numbers are based on polling, with a “confidence interval” of  $\pm 100,000$ .) [37961, 37978, 37982, 37991, 38005, 38019, 38033, 38036, 38037, 38040, 38043, 38086, 38108]

Obama also tells the Virginia audience, “This country does not just succeed when just a few are doing well at the top. It succeeds when the middle class gets bigger. Our economy does not grow from the top-down, it grows from the middle-out. We do not believe that anybody is entitled to success in this country. But we do believe in opportunity. We believe in a country where hard work pays off and responsibilities are rewarded and everybody is getting a fair shot and everybody’s doing their fair share. And everybody’s playing by the same rules. That is the country I believe in. That is what we have been fighting for the last four years. That is what we’re going to put in place in the next four years if you reelect me.” (Obama’s statement, “We do not believe that anybody

is entitled to success in this country,” will most certainly be questioned, and perhaps used against him in a campaign ad. People who work hard most certainly *are* entitled to success.) [38007]

Mitt Romney states, “This is not what a real recovery looks like. We created fewer jobs in September than in August, and fewer jobs in August than in July, and we’ve lost over 600,000 manufacturing jobs since...Obama took office. If not for all the people who have simply dropped out of the labor force, the real unemployment rate would be closer to 11 percent.” The 114,000 jobs created in September puts the number of employed Americans at about 133.5 million—a level last seen in 2005. The 133.5 million is an improvement over the 129 million of January 2010, but still far lower than the 2008 high of about 138 million. (Obama may face a problem with the October figures to be released by the BLS on November 2—just days before the election. The unemployment rate fell below 8 percent only because hundreds of thousands of people gave up looking for work and are no longer considered part of the workforce. But the more the Obama campaign and the media claim the economy has “turned the corner,” the more the unemployed will “test the waters” and start looking for work again. If hundreds of thousands seek jobs in October but cannot find them, they will boost the number of unemployed people who are considered part of the workforce—and cause the unemployment rate to jump. It is in Obama’s best interests if they don’t bother looking for jobs because they will remain uncounted in the November 2 report.) [38043, 38093]

The BLS report’s U-6 number remains a depressingly high 14.7 percent. (The U-6 figure is the number who have applied for work in the past six months. It includes the unemployed and those working part-time while they still seek full-time work. Another 8 million or so Americans have simply given up looking for work. If they are counted, the unemployment rate is about 19 percent.) The BLS writes, “In September, 2.5 million persons were marginally attached to the labor force.” (“Marginally attached” means they “wanted and were available for work” but “were not counted as unemployed because they had not searched for work in the 4 weeks preceding the survey.”) In other words, the unemployment rate ignores at least 2.5 million people who are unemployed. Of course, the unemployment rate also does not count people who are now collecting welfare benefits and food stamps. They are not employed either.) Additionally, the count of “involuntary part-time workers” rose by 600,000 in September. The BLS states, “These individuals were working part time because their hours had been cut back or because they were unable to find a full-time job.” Arguably more significant than the unemployment rate is the labor force participation rate, which fell from 66.1 percent in August to 63.6 in September; only 63.6 percent of working-age Americans are working. [37991, 38033, 38036, 38037, 38039, 38040]

Shadowstats.com’s John Williams writes, “The August-to-September change in the headline unemployment rate almost certainly was not a 0.3% decline. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) knows the reported change in unemployment was wrong—other than by extreme coincidence—and it knows what consistent reporting actually showed. Only politics prevents the BLS from releasing the correct number, whether the

unemployment rate actually declined, held even, or rose as predicted by consensus forecasters. The lack of transparency here in the data preparation allows for direct political manipulation. The problem is that the BLS knowingly has been preparing the seasonally-adjusted headline unemployment numbers on an inconsistent and non-comparable basis for some time. The September number was prepared using a different set of seasonal factors than was used in coming up with the August number. The reporting difference can be large, when proper consistent month-to-month changes are used. The BLS has the correct number and could publish it... Now would be a particularly good time for the BLS to come clean on its unemployment estimates, even if the numbers 'confuse' data users. As has been discussed frequently, reporting of month-to-month changes in both payroll employment and the unemployment rate is of such poor quality that the headline labor data have become worthless as indicators of current economic activity. Problems with seasonal-factor distortions—created by the economic collapse and exacerbated by the use of concurrent seasonal factors—have widened the likely margins of reporting error in the payroll survey to something beyond the usual +/- 129,000 jobs at the 95% confidence level, and the monthly headline unemployment numbers simply no longer are comparable on a month-to-month basis.” [38086]

At USNews.com Mort Zuckerman points out, “It used to be that you were in the labor force if you had been looking for work some time in the last four years, but that was changed to one year in the later Clinton years. If we use that older and more reasonable standard, the unemployment rate would be at least more than one percentage point higher.” (The Obama administration considers a person to be in the workforce only if he has sought employment in the last four weeks.) [38057]

On MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough says, We’re still scratching our heads now; these [new unemployment] numbers we’re talking about... these numbers don’t make any sense.” Willie Geist observes, “We need more explanation. We’re reading through the [BLS] report in great detail now because 114,000 jobs were added, which is below [the level of] population growth; a lot of people who projected that number said if it comes down at about 113,000 [or] about 120,000 you get about 8.1 percent unemployment. And now we’ve had a major tick-down to 7.8 percent unemployment, so we’re still working though this [because the numbers are inconsistent].” [37990]

On CNBC, Rick Santelli says, “I told you they’d get it under 8 percent. They did. You can let America decide how they got it there.” [38032]

Former General Electric CEO Jack Welch comments on the newly-released numbers: “Unbelievable jobs numbers... these Chicago guys will do anything... can’t debate so change numbers.” Obama’s Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, responds, “You know, I’m insulted when I hear that because we have a very professional, civil service organization where you have top, top economists that work at the BLS. These are our best trained and best-skilled individuals working in the BLS, and it’s really ludicrous to hear that kind of statement.” (Welch is correct; the numbers make no sense. With about 12.5 million unemployed Americans, a 0.3 percent drop in the unemployment rate would require the

creation of about 375,000 jobs—not a mere 114,000. A decline to 7.8 percent can only be accounted for by a substantial number of Americans dropping out of the workforce. That is, 114,000 may have found jobs, but at least 300,000 stopped looking for work. In fact, the report shows that the number of unemployed persons decreased by 456,000 in September, to 12.1 million; 114,000 people found jobs, but 342,000 gave up looking and dropped out of the workforce in September. Additionally, the count of “multiple jobholders” increased by about 183,000; those are people working two part-time jobs because they cannot find a full-time job. Undoubtedly, many of the new part-time job holders are recent college graduates who were not able to find full-time employment.) [37965, 37991, 38023, 38028]

Congressman Allen West (R-FL) expresses doubts about the new unemployment numbers, telling CNBC, “...I continue to see these inconsistencies; we continue to see revisions of numbers upwards and downwards. When I look at these numbers and compare them to the workforce participation rate, which still remains at a 30-year low, when I look at these numbers of the 7.8 percent and you compare this to the U-6 computation, which takes into account unemployed, underemployed and discouraged workers, that U-6 computation number did not move. It stayed at 14.7 percent.” Asked by host Tyler Mathiesen if he is charging that the administration is “actively manipulating” the numbers, West replies, “Well, absolutely. Look at what happened with our GDP numbers. Fourth quarter GDP numbers last year were at three percent. Then they were revised upward to 4.1 percent—” Mathiesen interrupts and demands proof. West responds, “Well, if you would stop yelling in my ear and allow me to answer your questions, maybe we could get to the bottom of this. When I look at the GDP numbers, which have gone from 4.1 percent and went to 1.9 percent, then it was a 1.7 percent. It got revised down just about a month ago to 1.3 percent. We’ve got numbers that are all over the place. We don’t understand really the direction this economy is going.” [37964]

“When I look on the ground down here where I am, in south Florida, here in Palm Beach County we’ve got unemployment that’s above 9.5 percent. To the north, in Martin County, almost 10 percent, and in St. Lucie County it is 13 percent. So I don’t see these [improved] numbers that people are talking about and I don’t understand how they can come back later in this month and say they’re revising the numbers from July and August...” Mathiesen accuses West of making false accusations, as Senator Harry Reid did about Mitt Romney’s tax returns. West immediately challenges him, asking, “Did the workforce participation rate change? No, it’s still a 30-year low. Did the U-6 computation, 14.7 percent, change? No. So how is it that we had a drop of three-tenths of a percentage point on the unemployment rate if these other statistics, which are related to that, do not change? And don’t challenge my intelligence, because, I tell you, it wasn’t too long ago that we were being told a video was the evidence for this spontaneous attack [in Libya] that ended up killing an ambassador. So there are a lot of questions that come out of this administration. And I’m not talking about impeachment, I just want someone to come clean with the process and methodology because there’s [sic] a lot of inconsistencies.” [37964]

The unemployment rate for federal and state government workers is a mere 4.3 percent. CNSNews.com reports that the Obama administration "...added 10,000 civilian workers to the federal government's payroll since July." The number of construction jobs has fallen by 1,035,000 since Obama took office—despite the fact that he promised his \$833 billion stimulus legislation would create 400,000 construction jobs. [37999, 38000]

In Brattleboro, Vermont, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood appears at an event celebrating railroad track work on an Amtrak route. He says, "That is what this is about today. A good use of stimulus money and I know they're not running any thirty second ads up here about the fact the stimulus didn't work, because people here know better. In some places in the country they're trying to say to people 'the stimulus didn't work.' Baloney! The stimulus worked, this is it." (The track work cost the taxpayers \$52.7 million and created 7.82 jobs—or about \$6.756 million per job.) [38326]

Author and former presidential candidate Pat Buchanan says of Obama's debate performance: "Let me say, if there is one word I would use to describe Obama as he was being hit again and again and again—it's petulance. It's 'who is this man over here to be saying all these things about me and my record? You know, I am Barack Hussein Obama, the President of the United States, most powerful leader in the world. Respected, I'm a heroic figure in history. And here he is pounding me.' And I think that petulance, the sullenness came through." [37968]

In a politically correct Columbus Day proclamation, Obama states, "Today, we recall the courage and the innovative spirit that carried Christopher Columbus and his crew from a Spanish port to North America, and we celebrate our heritage as a people born of many histories and traditions. When the explorers laid anchor in the Bahamas, they met indigenous peoples who had inhabited the Western hemisphere for millennia. As we reflect on the tragic burdens tribal communities bore in the years that followed, let us commemorate the many contributions they have made to the American experience, and let us continue to strengthen the ties that bind us today." (Obama could not say, "Happy Columbus Day" and march in a parade in an Italian neighborhood. Instead, he condemns white Europeans for colonizing the Americas.) [38187, 38200]

ABCNews.com reports that it has "obtained an internal State Department email from May 3, 2012, indicating that the State Department denied a request from the security team at the Embassy of Libya to retain a DC-3 airplane in the country to better conduct their duties. Copied on the email was U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, who was killed in a terrorist attack on the diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, Sept. 11, 2012, along with three other Americans. That attack has prompted questions about whether the diplomatic personnel in that country were provided with adequate security support. No one has yet to argue that the DC-3 would have definitively made a difference for the four Americans killed that night. The security team in question, after all, left Libya in August. But the question—both for the State Department, which is conducting an internal investigation, and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is holding hearings next week—is whether officials in Washington, D.C., specifically at the State

Department, were as aware as they should have been about the deteriorating security situation in Libya, and whether officials were doing everything they could to protect Americans in that country.” [37979]

A Reuters/Ipsos poll of likely voters gives Obama a 46–44 percent lead over Mitt Romney; the previous poll showed Obama ahead 48–43. [37980, 37981]

A We Ask America poll shows Mitt Romney leading Obama 47–46 in Ohio, 49–46 in Florida, and 48–45 in Virginia. A Rasmussen poll shows Romney up 49–48 in Virginia, and Obama up 50–49 in Ohio. Among those Ohioans who say they are “certain” to vote, Romney leads 51–48. On the economy, Ohio voters prefer Romney 49–45 over Obama. Nationwide, Obama leads Romney 50–49 in the Rasmussen poll. [37389, 37996, 37997, 38004, 38017, 38055]

Campaigning in Cleveland, Ohio Obama says, “Now, my opponent, he’s doing a lot of, a little tap dance, at the debate the other night, tryin’ to wiggle out of stuff he’s been saying for a year. Doing like a, it... it was like, ‘Dancing with the Stars.’ Or, maybe it was, ‘Extreme Makeover: Debate Edition.’ But my... but no matter what he says, my opponents, he’s... he’s a big believer of these top-down economics. He thinks that if we spend another \$5 trillion on tax cuts that favor the wealthiest, we get rid of more regulations on Wall Street, all of our problems are gonna be solved. Jobs and prosperity will rain down from the sky. Deficits will magically disappear. We’ll live happily ever after.” [37983, 37984]

At Cleveland’s West Side Market, Obama stops at Rolston Poultry and asks the owner how business has been. The man responds, “Terrible since you got here.” [38031, 38180]

FreeBeacon.com reports on “a ‘cover up’ of intelligence information about terrorism in North Africa. Intelligence held back from senior officials and the public includes numerous classified reports revealing clear Iranian support for jihadists throughout the tumultuous North Africa and Middle East region, as well as notably widespread al Qaeda penetration into Egypt and Libya in the months before the deadly Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. ...Officials with access to intelligence reports, based on both technical spying and human agents, said specific reporting revealed an alarming surge in clandestine al Qaeda activity months before the attack in Benghazi.” One official comments, “The Obama Administration is afraid to admit al Qaeda is running rampant throughout the region because it would expose the truth instead of what ...Obama so pompously spouted during the Democratic Convention.” [37985, 37986]

To no one’s surprise, the National Rifle Association (NRA) endorses Mitt Romney for president. Romney states, “It is the NRA that protects the Second Amendment. I am proud to have their support for my candidacy, and when I am president, I will do all in my power to defend and protect the right of all law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms.” [37994, 37995]



Former National Basketball Association player Greg Anthony endorses Mitt Romney, saying in an ad, “I voted for Barack Obama; thought he’d be a centrist. I really lost faith in him. I’m supporting Mitt Romney. He’s a no-excuse kind of guy, and I think over the last four years we’ve heard enough excuses. I just don’t believe we can afford four more years like the last four years.” [38006]

In defense of Obama, several leftist media web sites argue that Mitt Romney cheated during the debate, and claimed that he was seen taking notes from his pocket. (After shaking hands with Obama, Romney removed a handkerchief from his pocket and placed it on the lectern. During the debate he was seen wiping his face.) [38008]

Debate moderator Jim Lehrer also becomes a punching bag for Obama defenders, who felt that the PBS veteran did not help him enough. Remarkably, CNN’s Carol Costello even tells Paula Krueger, the CEO of PBS, “There was criticism when Jim Lehrer was initially named to be a moderator. People said: ‘oh, another white guy; he’s too old to be doing this; we live in a new world—we don’t need an old-fashioned journalist doing these things any longer.’” Krueger barely defends Lehrer, saying, “I think that it was a complicated structure for the debate.” Lehrer tells Politico, “Based on what the goal was, I saw it as successful. I’ve always said this and finally I had a chance to demonstrate it: The moderator should be seen little and heard even less. It is up to the candidates to ask the follow-up questions and challenge one another.” [38009]

FoxNews.com reports, “A film dramatizing the death of Usama bin Laden is set to debut next month on the National Geographic Channel, two days before the presidential election. ‘Seal Team Six: The Raid on Usama bin Laden,’ from The Weinstein Co. and Voltage Pictures, will air Sunday, Nov. 4 [two days before the election], the channel said Thursday. ... Weinstein co-chairman Harvey Weinstein is a prominent fundraiser for Obama’s re-election campaign, which has touted bin Laden’s death as an example of [Obama’s] leadership.” (National Geographic Channel denies that its decision to air the movie right before the election is political. Instead, it calls its scheduling decision “opportunistic.”) [38024, 38079]

At WashingtonPost.com George Will provides details of the Obamacare “death panel,” referred to in the legislation as the Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB. Will writes, “Beginning in 2014, IPAB would consist of 15 unelected technocrats whose recommendations for reducing Medicare costs must be enacted by Congress by Aug. 15 of each year. If Congress does not enact them, or other measures achieving the same level of cost containment, IPAB’s proposals automatically are transformed from recommendations into law. Without being approved by Congress. Without being signed by the president. These facts refute Obama’s Denver assurance that IPAB ‘can’t make decisions about what treatments are given.’ It can and will by controlling payments to doctors and hospitals. Hence the emptiness of Obamacare’s language that IPAB’s proposals ‘shall not include any recommendation to ration health care.’ By Obamacare’s terms, Congress can repeal IPAB only during a seven-month window in 2017, and then

only by three-fifths majorities in both chambers. After that, the law precludes Congress from ever altering IPAB proposals. Because IPAB effectively makes law, thereby traducing the separation of powers, and entrenches IPAB in a manner that derogates the powers of future Congresses, it has been well described by a Cato Institute study as ‘the most anti-constitutional measure ever to pass Congress.’ But unless and until the Supreme Court—an unreliable guardian—overturns it, IPAB is a harbinger of the ‘shock and awe statism’ (Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels’s phrase) that is liberalism’s prescription for curing the problems supposedly caused by insufficient statism.” [38025]

In an interview with *The Weekly Standard*, Paul Ryan discusses his upcoming debate with Joe Biden, saying, “I’ve watched his tapes, I’ve watched his speeches, like the one he gave today, and just looked at a lot of their issues, their positions. ...Joe Biden’s one of the most experienced debaters in American political life. I mean, he’s run for president twice. He’s the vice president. He’s been on this big stage many times. This will be my first time. Everybody says he gaffes quite a bit, but not in debates. He’s very disciplined in debates. He’s also in the situation room and the Oval Office dealing with these issues every day. He’s got one very big weakness though. And that’s [Obama’s] record. They can’t defend it, so they’re just going to attack us instead. ...What was wrong with Obama [in the first debate]? I don’t know. It was really something. ...Obama was flustered. He has a terrible record to run on. It’s pretty indefensible as witnessed by the fact that he didn’t do a very good job of defending it last night. That means the focus is going to be on Joe, and I expect the vice president to come at me like a cannonball. He’ll be in full attack mode, and I don’t think he’ll let any inconvenient facts get in his way.” [38029]

Investors.com reports that Obama leads Mitt Romney 49–37 in a McKeon and Associates poll in Cook County, Illinois. The county includes Chicago and some of its surrounding suburbs. Although a 12-point lead may seem overwhelming, Obama polls mostly in the low 40s in the remainder of the state. (In 2008 Obama won Cook County by an astounding 76.2–22.8 percent, which helped him win the state by 61.8–36.9 percent.) A We Ask America poll in the 10th Congressional District shows Obama with a mere 47–45 lead; Obama won that district with 61 percent of the vote in 2008. Illinois-based political consultant Paul Miller observes, “For ...Obama to be in a statistical tie in an area that he won by around 20 points in 2008 truly reveals the failure of his presidency. The economy is undoubtedly the key factor, but in suburbs with a large Jewish population [like the 10th district], his treatment of Israel is also taking its toll.” (The odds of Obama losing Illinois to Mitt Romney are minimal. But if Romney can come close in Illinois, with its large population of welfare recipients, he should be able to win the states that Obama carried by much smaller margins in 2008. If Romney is close in Illinois on November 6, he may very well win Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Florida, Iowa, and perhaps even Michigan and Oregon.) [38047, 39452]

KansasCity.com reports, “The Obama administration has refused for the first time to declare that Pakistan is making progress toward ending alleged military support for Islamic militant groups or preventing al Qaida, the Afghan Taliban or other extremists from staging attacks in Afghanistan. Even so, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has

quietly informed Congress that she's waived the legal restrictions that would have blocked some \$2 billion in U.S. economic and military aid to Pakistan. Disbursing the funds, she said in an official notice, is 'important to the national security interests of the United States.'" [38440, 38441]

*The Telegraph's* Tim Stanley writes, "In the last couple of days, I've done a lot of interviews talking about the debate. A conversation with one producer was illustrative of Romney's battle against poor media expectations. He called just before the debate and said, 'So, I guess Obama's going to win easily tonight. Do you want to come on and talk about it?' I replied that I'd love to but that Romney was actually the stronger debater and I'd be tipping him to win. 'Really?' Yes. 'Well, that is a surprise. I'm not sure people will buy it, but if you want to say that—it's up to you.' The day after the debate he rang again. I was expecting him to say, 'Hey, you were right! Can you come on to talk about how Romney won?' Instead, he said, 'Can you come to talk about how debates don't really matter?' I sighed deeply." [38061]

*The Wall Street Journal* reports, "Mitt Romney's strong debate performance Wednesday night has generated \$12 million in online contributions [in less than 48 hours], his campaign said, as well as a surge in volunteers and bigger crowds at his events. ... Volunteers in Nevada lined up before campaign staff could open the doors on Thursday morning, the campaign said, and larger-than-usual groups showed up to work at field offices across the country. The campaign said it added more than 300,000 new Facebook friends. ... On the heels of the debate, the Romney campaign is scrapping smaller, indoor venues for outdoor rallies aimed at firing up thousands of supporters. Messrs. Romney and Ryan drew about 10,000 people to a rally Thursday night in Fishersville, Va., according to the campaign's tally, where they were joined by country-music star Trace Adkins and a fireworks display after the Republican nominee wrapped up his remarks." [38067]

On his late night CBS program, David Letterman says, "Yeah, we want to get a look at those tax returns because I believe we will discover that the man [Mitt Romney] has not paid a nickel in United States federal income tax. That's right, we have a felon running for president." (The accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has examined Romney's tax returns for 1990–2009 and confirmed that he paid taxes in each of those years. In a desperate bid to help Obama win reelection, leftist Letterman has committed acts of defamation and slander. False allegations that an individual has committed a crime is defamation. Letterman's accusation can arguably be considered to have been made with "actual malice," because he knows it to be false—the media widely disseminated information about the PricewaterhouseCoopers review of Romney's tax returns. Romney could possibly file a legal action against Letterman, although he would certainly not do so before the November 6 election or if he defeats Obama. If Romney is defeated, however, he could cause Letterman a great deal of legal trouble, and possibly a great deal of money, if he files a defamation and slander lawsuit.) [38064, 38065, 38066]

On *The Tonight Show*, Jay Leno says, "And Obama supporters were livid [about the

debate]. Oh, my God. Did you see [MSNBC's] Chris Matthews after the debate? He was just goin' crazy..." A video is then shown of Matthews being taken away in a straight-jacket. [38069]

On October 6 Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–47 in the Rasmussen poll. (The poll of likely voters includes surveys conducted both before and after the October 4 debate.) [38026]

Barry Rubin, director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA) Journal, writes that in the course of the debate “Obama said what might be the most revealing slip he has ever made. This one phrase tells more about Obama and the ideology of his left-wing supporters than every other word they have spoken in the last four years. ...Obama said: ‘All those things are designed to make sure that the American people, their genius, their grit, their determination, is—is *channeled and* [emphasis added]—and they have an opportunity to succeed. And everybody’s getting a fair shot. And everybody’s getting a fair share—everybody’s doing a fair share, and everybody’s playing by the same rules.’ ...[I]t is that word ‘channeled’ that gives the game away. Channeled by whom? The government, of course, and the great geniuses whose ideology and book-learning seeks to dominate the economy and culture, forcing people to do things for their ‘own good.’ Who has ever proposed that some power should override the liberty of the American people to channel them, to tell them what to do? The problem is that in a free enterprise (with reasonable regulation) country under the Constitution, Americans decide for themselves what to do. Nobody channels them, a phrase which sounds like a rancher driving his cattle to market. ‘Channeled’ is a nice way to say manipulated, pushed, forced, and ordered. ...Thus, Americans will be told what they can do in pursuit of good health, what they can eat, how they can do business, what they are supposed to think and know about, what their religious institutions can do, and so on. ...In that moment he revealed himself totally.” [38041]

The Debka File reports, “Our most exclusive Iranian and intelligence sources disclose that [Iranian] President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s personal cameraman, Hassan Golkhanban, who defected from his UN entourage in New York on Oct. 1, brought with him an intelligence treasure trove of up-to-date photographs and videos of top Iranian leaders visiting their most sensitive and secret nuclear and missile sites. ...For some years, Golkhanban worked not just as a news cameraman but personally recorded visits by the Iranian president and supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei of top-secret nuclear facilities and Revolutionary Guards installations. When he left Tehran in the president’s party, his luggage was not searched and so he was able to bring out two suitcases packed with precious film and deliver it safely into waiting hands in New York. The Iranian cameraman has given US intelligence the most complete and updated footage it has ever obtained of the interiors of Iran’s top secret military facilities and various nuclear installations, including some never revealed to nuclear watchdog inspectors. ...Our sources also disclose that, in late September, he took the precaution of sending his wife and two children out of Iran on the pretext of a family visit to Turkey. They are most

likely on their way to the United States by now. ...This was his second visit to New York. The first time, a year ago, US intelligence was able to make contact and persuade him to defect with his stock of priceless photos and film.” [38042]

In California, the average price for a gallon of gasoline reaches a record \$4.61. In Calabasas, one gas station sells regular for \$5.699 and super for \$5.899. At a service station in Escondido the price reaches \$5.999. (Townhall.com points out that the nation’s unemployment rate closely follows the price of gasoline. When gas prices go up, more unemployment follows. When gas prices fall, the job market recovers. The response is not immediate, but the relationship is indisputable. That suggests 2013 may be a very difficult year for many people.) [38044, 38143, 38202, 38448]

An October 3–4 Gravis Marketing poll in Colorado shows Mitt Romney with a 49.4–45.9 lead over Obama. (Obama led 50.2–45.5 in a September 25 poll.) WashingtonTimes.com reports, “...Obama’s job approval numbers are also significantly underwater in the new poll: 40.5 percent approve, while 50.9 percent disapprove. Just 36.8 percent of voters say the country is on the right track, compared to 53.5 percent who think it’s on the wrong track.” (The poll’s D/R/I weighting is 28/32/40, which is arguably generous toward the GOP. Nevertheless, the race is tightening and Colorado is no longer the lock Obama likely thought it was.) [38046, 38063]

On CBS’s *This Morning*, correspondent Bill Plante reports that the Obama campaign is “simply upset and really outraged” over the debate outcome. “They blame [Obama’s] team, first of all, for not preparing him to meet the challenge of an aggressive Mitt Romney. They say that nobody in the room challenged him, including the guy that he was debating with, John Kerry, because, as they say, he wants to be Secretary of State so he’s not going to get in [Obama’s] face. And presidents are used to deference; they’re not used to people challenging them like that. So they think that the debate prep was terrible, but they also fault [Obama] himself for not understanding that Romney was going to be more aggressive.” [38048]

Beverly Perlson, founder of The Band of Mothers, appears on Fox & Friends to express opposition to the Obama administration’s \$165 million purchase of the Thomson Correctional Center in Illinois—despite the objections of Congress. (It is assumed that Obama plans to close the detainee center at Guantanamo in his second term—if he gets one—and relocate the terrorists to the Thomson facility. Senator Dick “Eddie Haskell” Durbin (D-IL) claims that is not the plan.) Perlson argues that Illinois does not need a federal prison to house a few dozen terrorists; Thomson should be made a state prison to help cope with the overcrowded conditions of existing state facilities. [37852, 37891, 38030, 38049, 38050, 38051]

According to BusinessInsider.com, “national and swing-state polls are beginning to tighten in the presidential race” between Obama and Mitt Romney. Obama leads Romney by only three points in a Gallup poll; Romney leads Obama by two points in a Rasmussen poll; Obama leads by two in a Reuters/Ipsos poll. (Because most polls typically have a

three-point margin of error based on survey populations, the race is essentially tied.) In state polls, Romney has moved ahead of Obama in some polls in Florida, Virginia, and Colorado. In a Public Policy Polling survey, Obama leads Romney by a mere two points in Wisconsin—a state Obama won by 14 points in 2008. [38056, 38063]

In his Saturday radio/Internet address, Obama says, “After losing about 800,000 jobs a month when I took office, our businesses have now added 5.2 million new jobs over the past two and a half years. And on Friday, we learned that the unemployment rate is now at its lowest level since I took office. More Americans are entering the workforce. More Americans are getting jobs. But too many of our friends and neighbors are still looking for work or struggling to pay the bills—many of them since long before this crisis hit. We owe it to them to keep moving forward. We’ve come too far to turn back now. And we’ve made too much progress to return to the policies that got us into this mess in the first place.” (The unemployment rate was 7.8 percent in January 2009, when Obama took office. Almost four years and \$5 trillion later, it is back at 7.8 percent. Obama’s statement, “More Americans are entering the workforce” is a lie. Although 114,000 Americans found jobs in September, another 342,000 gave up looking for work and dropped *out* of the workforce—which was the only thing that allowed the unemployment rate to fall under 8 percent.) [38072, 38073]

Politico reports, “NBC has asked ...Obama’s campaign to stop using the network’s footage in a recently released reelection ad... In a letter sent Friday night to Obama campaign manager Jim Messina, NBC told the Obama campaign to cease using network footage in a new 30-second spot, released shortly after Wednesday’s debate, in which Andrea Mitchell is shown on air citing an independent analysis that Mitt Romney’s tax plan would cost \$4.8 trillion over 10 years, a source said.” (Although it is difficult for reasonable viewers to not notice that Mitchell is “in the tank” for Obama, but NBC prefers not to make it even more obvious with an ad showing her repeating debunked Democrat talking points.) [38081, 38082]

NBC’s *Saturday Night Live* ridicules MSNBC’s reaction to Obama’s debate performance. One comic portrays Al Sharpton defending Obama, saying, “See, Denver, Colorado is a mile high. There’s no way to know for sure how many feet that is, but it could be upwards of a million. Obama’s from Hawaii which is a mile below the earth. So for him speaking in Colorado is... is like being flung two miles into the air and then having to give a speech in outer space.” A Chris Matthews impersonator says, “Disappointed!?! I’ve never been so disgusted in my life. I feel bad for whoever had to move the podium [sic; the wooden stand is a lectern] afterwards because Obama took a giant dump behind it. ...He forgot the first rule of debating: always be interrupting. When I don’t have points to make on my show, I make up one by screaming at people. That’s how you win a debate.” [38052, 38062, 38071, 38078]

On October 7 FirstPost.com reports, “One-eyed radical Islamist cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri made his first appearance in federal court in New York on Saturday [October 6] after Britain extradited him to the United States to face trial and a potential life sentence

on terrorism charges. ...Hamza is accused by Washington of supporting al Qaeda, aiding a kidnapping in Yemen and plotting to open a training camp for militants in the United States. He was flown late on Friday to the United States along with four other men also wanted on U.S. terrorism charges. ...Under the terms of British and European court rulings authorizing the extradition, the five suspects must be tried in U.S. civilian courts and federal prosecutors cannot seek the death penalty.” (The Obama administration will not be detaining al-Masri at Guantanamo. Instead, he will be treated as a U.S. citizen and given a civilian trial.) [38068]

On *Face the Nation*, Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod charges Mitt Romney with lying during the October 3 debate: “It was completely un-rooted in fact. It was completely un-rooted in the positions he’s taken before, and he spent 90 minutes trying to undo two years of campaigning. ...As President Clinton would say, it takes a certain brass to do what Governor Romney did. The basic theory is, ‘Say whatever you need to get the deal,’ and that’s what [Romney] did that night.” CBS political director pushes back on Axelrod’s “Romney lied” charge: “When Senator Obama in 2008 said, ‘I’m going to cut the deficit in half; I’m going to close Gitmo,’ a lot of people said those are unrealistic, but they didn’t say he wasn’t telling the truth.” (That is, merely believing that Romney may not be successful in offsetting tax cuts with economic growth and the closing of deductions does not make him a liar.) Axelrod: “Well, uh...” Dickerson: “There’s a difference, isn’t there?” Axelrod: “No, there... there is... there... The difference is that, um, closing Gitmo was an... involved an act of Congress, and he wasn’t able to get Congress, uh, to agree with him on that question.” On ABC’s *This Week*, Obama sycophant Robert Gibbs follows the same playbook, stating, “If you’re willing to say anything to get elected president, how can they trust you if you are elected president?” On NBC’s *Meet the Press*, Gibbs says, “It’s not rocket science to believe that [Obama was] disappointed” by his own debate performance. Romney, says Gibbs, “did a superb acting job. He did everything but learn tap dancing.” Asked about charges that the Obama administration manipulated the September unemployment report, Gibbs responds, “There are some people who believe the real jobs report is in a safe in Nairobi with [Obama’s] Kenyan birth certificate.” [38075, 38076, 38077, 38119, 38120]

In their talk show appearance Axelrod and Gibbs follow the script devised the night of the first debate. According to *The New York Times*, a conference call was “convened by [Obama campaign] aides in Denver and Chicago even as the candidates were still on stage” because “there was no debate in the Obama campaign about the debate. None of the advisers fooled themselves into thinking it was anything but a disaster. Instead, they scrambled for ways to recover. They resolved to go after Mr. Romney with a post-debate assault on his truthfulness. Ad makers were ordered to work all night to produce an attack ad. And they would seize on Mr. Romney’s vow to cut financing for Big Bird.” (Of the \$432 million in taxpayer dollars that subsidized public broadcasting in 2011, about \$8 million went to Sesame Street. But Sesame Street licensing fees and product royalties bring in more than \$125 million per year. It hardly needs, therefore, \$8 million from the taxpayers. Columnist S. E. Cupp says, “Big Bird is, in fact, a welfare muppet, who lives off of \$8 million from the federal government while he’s making on his own about \$125 million the old fashioned way: the capitalist way.”) [38170, 38171, 38179, 38181, 38213]

Actress Stacy Dash sends a Twitter message, “Vote for Romney. The only choice for your future.” The message prompt immediate insults and vile responses from “tolerant” leftists. (The rage Hollywood was afraid to unleash on Clint Eastwood is instead being directed toward Dash—who dares to be a black conservative.) [38135, 38136, 38142, 38239]

According to WeeklyStandard.com, Vice President Joe Biden is in the middle of taking nearly a week off the campaign trail” to prepare for October 11 debate with Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI). (Whether his debate coaches will instruct him on the proper use of the word “literally” is not known.) [38083]

Filmmaker Joel Gilbert announces additional mass mailings of free DVDs of his movie, *Dream From My Real Father*, to voters in various states. The film explores Obama’s relationship with his communist mentor, Frank Marshall Davis, and speculates that Davis is Obama’s real father. Recent and planned mailings: Florida - 1.5 million; Colorado - 700,000; Iowa - 500,000; Ohio - 1.2 million; New Hampshire - 100,000; Nevada - 100,000. An additional 3 million will be mailed to voters in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Gilbert states, “Because almost all levels of the mainstream media are suppressing the information in *Dreams from My Real Father*, my distribution company is mailing millions of free copies of the DVD across the United States.” [38084, 38094]

WND.com reports, “The former Libertarian Party vice presidential candidate who has claimed Barack Obama was unknown to him and his fellow Columbia University classmates charges [Obama] is using the Internal Revenue Service to punish and silence him. Wayne Allyn Root—a pre-law and political science major in the class of 1983, like [Obama]—told WND that despite a spotless tax record, he became the target of an audit in January 2011 when he received an ‘unsettling’ call from an IRS agent who called himself a fan of his and considered it ‘an honor’ to audit him. Root won a complete victory three months ago in tax court, which found no taxes owed in his 2007 and 2008 filings. But then, he said, something shocking happened—something his tax attorney has never heard of in his entire career. Root was hit with a new audit just five days later, for 2009 and 2010. ‘That order had to come from the highest levels of government,’ he asserted. ‘Obama is using the power of the IRS and other government agencies to punish his political opposition and intimidate and silence his critics,’ Root charged. ...Root is now calling for congressional hearings ‘to determine if the Obama administration is misusing its power to damage or ruin the lives, drain the finances, or just distract Obama’s critics and political opposition.’” (Note that for more than 40 years this author had never had any issues with the IRS—until *The Obama Timeline* was published. Several wealthy businessmen, including Frank VanderSloot, Sheldon Adelson, and Steve Wynn, have also had IRS problems since their large donations to conservative political actions committees were made public.) [38085]

In Venezuela, Hugo Chavez is reelected president, with 54 percent of the vote. (Exit polls



showed Chavez losing, which prompted him to send tanks and armed troops into the streets to reduce the chances of demonstrations against assumed fraud.) Whether Obama telephoned Chavez personally to offer his congratulations is not known, but White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “The Venezuelan National Elections Commission has declared that president Hugo Chavez won reelection, I believe roughly 54 to 45 percent, with 90 percent reporting. We congratulate the Venezuelan people on the high level of participation, as well as on what was a relatively peaceful election process. I would note the challenger has conceded the race.” (In other words, “Don’t ask Obama whether Chavez stole the election, or why Venezuela’s secret service erased the memory of cameras, computers, and cell phones of some foreign journalists before they were allowed to leave the country.”) [38088, 38099, 38111, 38114, 38153, 38154, 38184, 38350]

A Romney rally draws a crowd of 12,000 in Port St. Lucie, Florida. [38428]

Obama attends a campaign fundraising concert and a \$25,000 per person dinner in Hollywood, California. Sucking up to the concert crowd, Obama says, “everybody here is, uh, incredible professionals [sic], they’re such great friends and they just perform flawlessly, night after night. I can’t always say the same [about myself].” According to HollywoodReporter.com, Obama’s trip also includes “a private meeting in Beverly Hills with 12 donors to thank them for their support... Former President Bill Clinton... is expected to attend.” [38070, 38090, 38119]

On October 8 Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich reports, “A new report obtained by Townhall from the non-partisan Government Accountability Institute [GAI] shows the Obama campaign has potentially violated federal election law by failing to prevent the use of fraudulent or foreign credit card transactions on the official Obama for America [OFA] donation webpage. ...OFA seems to be taking advantage of a ‘foreign donor loophole’ by not using CVV on their campaign donation page. When you donate online to the Obama campaign using a credit card, the contribution webpage does not require donors to enter a secure CVV number (also known as CSC, CVV2 or CVN), the three-digit securing code on the back of credit cards. This code, although not 100 percent effective, is used to ensure a person making a purchase physically possesses the card. According to the report, 90 percent of e-commerce and 19 of the 20 largest charities in the United States use a CVV code, making its use standard industry practice in order to prevent fraud. Another anti-fraud security measure includes software, better known as an Address Verification System, to verify a donor’s address matches the address on file with the credit card company. The investigation could not determine whether OFA is using this type of software to prevent fraudulent or illegal donations.” (*The Obama Timeline* reported in April 2012 that the Obama campaign is *not* using the CVV and address verification features.) [38087, 38102, 38103, 38134, 38145, 38151, 38174, 38175, 38939]

Pavlich continues, “Because of the lack of a CVV code requirement, the door is opened for OFA to accept robo-donations, or in other words, large numbers of small and

automatic donations made online to evade FEC reporting requirements. Although it isn't illegal to decline the use of a secure CVV credit card code for campaign donations, it is illegal to accept campaign donations from foreign sources. Campaigns are required under criminal code not to solicit, accept or receive foreign donations in any amount. The Federal Elections Commission doesn't require campaigns to disclose the names of donors making contributions of less than \$200 unless audited. In addition, FEC rules don't require campaigns to keep records of those giving less than \$50. These rules combined with the lack of a CVV numbers make it easy for campaigns to get away with taking foreign donations." (The Romney campaign does use the CVV code and address verification.) ...OFA has specifically touted its 'grassroots' success by showcasing the majority of its donations coming from those giving less than \$200. It appears the campaign also solicits funds for less than \$200 in order to avoid having to report the name of the person making a donation under FEC rules." OFA has even sent fundraising emails that state, "Donate \$190 or whatever you can before tonight's fundraising deadline." That \$190 figure is *not* an accident. [38087, 38102, 38103, 38134, 38145, 38151, 38174, 38175]

"A large part of the Team Obama operation is outsourced," reports Pavlich. "More than 200 domain names with the word 'Obama' in the web address have been purchased. The most significant of these websites may be Obama.com, which is owned by an Obama bundler in Shanghai, China with 'questionable business ties to state-run Chinese enterprises,' according to the [GAI] report. Obama.com was purchased in 2008, and, although Obama.com is owned by a third party, not the campaign itself, the site redirects its foreign traffic, a whopping 68 percent, directly to the official Obama for America campaign donation page. The Obama campaign's official and main website, BarackObama.com, sees 43 percent of its traffic coming from foreign IP addresses, according to web metrics firm Markosweb and noted in the report. ...Is the non-use of CVV code verification simply an oversight or mistake made by Obama for America? Most likely, no. The Obama campaign is willing to pay millions in fees in order to accept unsecured contributions on their donation page without the CVV code. ...OFA isn't run by amateurs and has a highly sophisticated online presence. " (Not using the CCV code results in higher fees to the credit card companies. The Obama campaign is therefore paying more to get less security. OFA uses the CVV code for purchases of Obama products, such as t-shirts and mugs, but does not use the code for campaign donations.) Pavlich notes that in 2020 Obama stated, "I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests, and worse, by foreign entities." His crusade for online campaign donations makes it incredibly easy for him to collect cash from overseas. [38087, 38102, 38103, 38134, 38145, 38151, 38174, 38175]

The Obama campaign responds to the GAI report by asking donors for still more money and accusing Mitt Romney of buying the election. A solicitation from David Axelrod states, "We're about to get hit with an avalanche of negative ads. Romney-allied outside groups have already lined up more than \$23 million in television spending for this week alone. That's been the other side's strategy from the beginning: slamming the airwaves with ads trashing [Obama] and his record. Listen, I'll be blunt: They are trying to buy this election, and we're the only ones who are standing in their way. Don't wait any longer to

take ownership of this campaign. Can you chip in \$5 or more right now to help?” [38163]

At Slate.com David Weigel asks, “Why do Obama donation appeals go out to non-Americans, anyway? And why isn’t the credit card protection stronger? ...I’ve asked the campaign to clear this up and will update if they do.” [38166]

At Breitbart.com Wynton Hall writes, “Minutes after *Newsweek* published a story [via TheDailyBeast.com] the threat of illegal foreign and fraudulent online campaign donations late Monday afternoon, the Obama campaign struck back hard with a response smearing one of the article’s authors and offered an anemic defense of its online fundraising operations.” Unable to kill the message the Obama team tries to kill the messenger, calling the Government Accountability Institute’s Peter Schweitzer a “right-wing activist.” (Schweitzer has also criticized Mitt Romney not releasing names of his fundraising bundlers, and worked to expose insider trading abuses.) Schweitzer tells Breitbart.com, “Protecting U.S. elections from illegal foreign donations is an effort behind which all Americans can unite. As the GAI report demonstrates, lax and antiquated Federal Election Commission (FEC) laws are woefully out of step with the technological realities of today’s digital campaigns. ...Bottom line: we are living in an iPod world with jukebox campaign laws. It’s up to our leaders in Washington to update campaign laws to the dangers that come with our pixelated political reality.” [38216, 38217, 38225, 38938]

In Keene, California, Obama delivers an address at the Cesar Chavez National Monument. (A 1906 law allows presidents to designate monuments. In this case, Obama is clearly doing so right before the election in order to gin up the Hispanic vote. Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA) remarks, “Additions to the National Park System should result from careful public review and a vote by Congress, not secret election-year deals cut behind closed doors at the White House. This national monument designation is an unnecessary use of presidential powers and appears to be based more on politics than sound policy. In addition, the costs and any liabilities associated with running and maintaining this site are unknown at a time when ...Obama has led us to trillion dollar annual budget deficits and there are millions of dollars in backlogged maintenance for our existing parks. Major land-use decisions that impact local communities and economies should be made by those affected and their elected leaders, not unilaterally by the president.”) [38190]

DailyCaller.com reports, “At the height of early-1990s conservative backlash over political correctness and ‘speech codes’ on U.S. college campuses, Barack Obama participated in a panel event geared toward denying that restrictions on free expression were problematic, or happening at all. The 1991 Harvard Law School [HLS] yearbook [said Obama was] virtually shrugging his shoulders at the thought that non-liberal white students might take offense at restrictions on speech that minority students found objectionable. ‘I don’t see a lot of conservatives getting upset if minorities feel silenced,’ Obama said, flipping the argument around.” Among the other panelists was Brian Timmons, an Obama classmate who had been the managing editor of the Harvard Journal

on Law and Public Policy. Timmons tells DailyCaller.com it seemed as though the “...diversity proponents didn’t exactly want more viewpoints on campus, nor did they want to just increase the numbers of racial and ethnic minorities. They wanted more minorities who embraced the same basic left-leaning political ideology of the HLS establishment. In other words, they wanted more people who looked different but thought the same. ...I remember [Obama] as a dynamic speaker, much the same way he is today. I had trouble discerning who he really was as a person, instead of seeing the projection of himself he wanted others to see. ...To the extent that he was [the political bridge builder he claims to be], it would have been the left and the extreme left, but together they comprised the vast majority of the students. Even though Obama was clearly bright, I saw him as more of an ideologue, than a seeker of intellectual truth, and someone quick to pander to his audience for political gain. Even then, he was ever the politician, always running, it seemed, for office.” [38097]

At the Virginia Military Institute Mitt Romney delivers an address on foreign policy in which he says, “It is time to change course in the Middle East,” and states, “This latest assault [on the U.S. consulate in Libya] cannot be blamed on a reprehensible video insulting Islam, despite the administration’s attempts to convince us of that for so long. No, as the administration has finally conceded, these attacks were the deliberate work of terrorists who use violence to impose their dark ideology on others, especially women and girls; who are fighting to control much of the Middle East today; and who seek to wage perpetual war on the West.” Romney says that his administration will “not hesitate to impose new sanctions on Iran, and will tighten the sanctions we currently have. ...For the sake of peace, we must make clear to Iran through actions—not just words—that their nuclear pursuit will not be tolerated.” [38098, 38116, 38117, 38118, 38172, 38192]

Romney excoriates Obama with the statement, “I want to be very clear: The blame for the murder of our people in Libya, and the attacks on our embassies in so many other countries, lies solely with those who carried them out—no one else. But it is the responsibility of our president to use America’s great power to shape history—not to lead from behind, leaving our destiny at the mercy of events. Unfortunately, that is exactly where we find ourselves in the Middle East under ...Obama. The relationship between [Obama] and the Prime Minister of Israel, our closest ally in the region, has suffered great strains. [Obama] explicitly stated that his goal was to put ‘daylight’ between the United States and Israel. And he has succeeded. This is a dangerous situation that has set back the hope of peace in the Middle East and emboldened our mutual adversaries, especially Iran.” [38189, 38192]

“When we look at the Middle East today,” says Romney, “with Iran closer than ever to nuclear weapons capability, with the conflict in Syria threatening to destabilize the region, and with violent extremists on the march—and with an American ambassador and three others dead likely at the hands of Al-Qaeda affiliates—it’s clear that the risk of conflict in the region is higher now than when [Obama] took office. I know [he] hopes for a safer, freer, and more prosperous Middle East allied with us. I share this hope. But hope is not a strategy. ...We cannot support our friends and defeat our enemies in the

Middle East when our words are not backed up by deeds, when our defense spending is being arbitrarily and deeply cut, when we have no trade agenda to speak of, and the perception of our strategy is not one of partnership, but of passivity. ...In Syria, I'll work with our partners to identify and organize those members of the opposition who share our values, and then ensure that they obtain the arms they need to defeat Assad's tanks and helicopters and fighter jets. Iran is sending arms to Assad because they know his downfall would be a strategic defeat for them. We should be working no less vigorously through our international partners to support the many Syrians who would deliver that defeat to Iran rather than sitting on the sidelines." [38098, 38116, 38117, 38118, 38172, 38186, 38192]

Romney states, "The first purpose of a strong military is to prevent war. The size of our navy is at levels not seen since 1916. I'll restore our navy to the size needed to fulfill our missions by building 15 ships per year, including three submarines. I'll implement effective missile defenses to protect against threats and on this, there will be no flexibility with Vladimir Putin." [38172]

Former Secretary of State under Bill Clinton, Madeline Albright, critiques Romney's address, telling reporters, "I find him very shallow. ...If one of my students turned it in, he'd get a C [grade]." She criticizes Romney's call for certain "clear conditions" on foreign aid to Egypt, saying that aid "is very much needed now in order to make sure that they are able to pursue what is good for us and for them in terms of getting people back on the right track and the job issues." (Albright wants no conditions on aid for a government run by the radical Muslim Brotherhood, and apparently believes putting Egyptians back to work is more important than creating jobs for Americans.) Remarkably, Albright says, "if you load conditions on [aid], you can't get anything done because you completely lose your leverage." (She does not explain how the United States would have any leverage at all if it gives billions to Egypt with no strings attached.) DailyCaller.com reports, "Obama's campaign aides quickly recognized Albright's gaffe. 'Our assistance is also already conditioned on many of the things that he listed, like Egypt meeting its obligation to the peace treaty with Israel, and to proceed with its transition to democracy,' said campaign press secretary Ben LaBolt." [38169, 38192]

The Heritage Foundation posts a timeline of the events surrounding the terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, beginning with an April 6 explosive device thrown over the fence and White House press secretary Jay Carney's October 2 refusal to comment "on reported requests from diplomats in Libya for additional security." (The timeline clearly demonstrates that the Obama administration is either incompetent or has been lying.) [38100]

TheBlaze.com posts some of the death threats against Mitt Romney posted by leftists on Twitter, which have been brought to the attention of the Secret Service and the FBI. Language, spelling, and grammar have not been edited in these messages: "If Romney wins Ima Shoot his ass Its Gonna Be another JFK insident" "Romney is trying to ban tampons. Omg. I'm not even kidding, someone go with me so we can shoot him dead."

“If i could i would murder mitt romney” “I’ll shoot mitt romney & both of his knee caps & smack his ass with the BuRner til he die” “I crash that fucking airplane that that faggot nigga Romney, stab Mrs. Romney in her GOD DAMN esophagus. & won’t stop until the cops come in” “Just want yal ta know...if Romney win we still gone be cool...CUZ IM A SNIPE HIS ASS!!” “If Romney wins the elections I will start a national riot to kill his ass!” “I just wanna assassinate Romney... I hate him.” “Romney need his white ass kneecaps blown off black ppl ain’t the problem it’s lazy rich mufuckas like him who never scrubbed a pot before!!!” “omfg, somebody snipe Mitt..” [38101, 38694, 38939, 39079]

An October 4–6 Gallup poll of registered voters shows Mitt Romney and Obama tied, 47–47. Gallup’s misleading headline reads, “Romney Narrows Vote Gap After Historic Debate Win.” (Romney did not narrow the gap; he eliminated the gap.) Gallup remarks, “[T]he race has become somewhat more competitive compared with before the first debate.” (The race is not “somewhat more competitive.” It is competitive. Before the October 3 debate Obama led 50–45 in the Gallup poll.) The Gallup poll is of *registered* voters; had Gallup polled *likely* voters Romney would have led Obama. [38104, 38105, 38110]

In a Rasmussen poll of likely voters in Colorado, Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–48 percent. [38107]

At PJMedia.com John Hawkins lists “The 5 Unique Ways Intelligent People Screw Up Their Lives.” (Although the article is not about Obama, some may wonder if Hawkins had him in mind when he made his list: “They may believe that learning about something is the same as doing it.” “They can be really good at coming up with excuses for failure.” “They sometimes become overconfident about their intellect.” “They’re used to being right so much that they stop listening to other people.” They may try to show how ‘uncommon’ they are.” [38109]

ABCNews.com reports, “U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens wanted a Security Support Team, made up of 16 special operations soldiers, to stay with him in Libya after their deployment was scheduled to end in August, the commander of that security team told ABC News. The embassy staff’s ‘first choice was for us to stay,’ Lt. Col. Andrew Wood, 55, told ABC News in an interview. ‘That would have been the choice of the embassy people in Tripoli.’” [38115]

In a Battleground Tracking Poll, Mitt Romney leads Obama 51–35 among independent voters; Obama won independents 52–44 in 2008. Breitbart.com’s John Nolte observes, “That’s a 24-point swing among independents since 2008, a group that makes up anywhere from a quarter to a third of voters, and yet Battleground still has Obama in the lead 49–48...? ...The Battleground Poll also shows a 13 point enthusiasm gap in Romney’s favor. Only 73% of Obama’s supporters are ‘extremely likely’ to vote, compared to 86% of Romney’s supporters.” (Assuming most Democrats will vote for Obama and most Republicans will vote for Romney, it is absurd to believe that Obama

has a 49–48 percent nationwide lead if independents favor Romney by 16 points.) Nolte points out, “The worst news for Obama is 85% of the calls made for this new Battleground Poll were made prior to Obama humiliating himself in last week’s debate.” (The Battleground poll’s a D/R/I is 38/30/32, which gives Democrats a one-point greater turnout advantage than in 2008—and even with that unlikely edge Obama ekes out only a one-point gain over Romney.) [38121, 38125]

Obama leads Mitt Romney 48–45 in an EPIC-MRA poll of likely voters in Michigan. (Obama led 47–37 in the previous poll.) In an SP&R poll in Pennsylvania, Obama leads Romney 47–45. [38128, 38137]

Romney leads Obama 49–45 in an October 4–7 Pew Research Center poll of likely voters. Obama led 51–43 in the company’s September 12–16 poll. Romney has therefore gone from -8 to +4 in the space of three weeks, with the two most significant factors in the turnaround probably the fallout from the administration’s handling of the terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi and Romney’s debate performance. Not only has Romney moved to a 49–45 lead in the poll, he ties Obama 47–47 among women (Obama led 56–38 in the prior poll) and he leads Obama only 49–46 among voters age 18–49 (Obama previously led 56–39). (The poll arguably oversamples Republicans by a few points; it is unlikely that Romney has achieved a 47–47 tie with Obama among women.) [38126, 38127, 38140, 38159, 38160]

At TheDailyBeast.com liberal columnist Andrew Sullivan examines the Pew poll results and asks, Did Obama just throw the entire election away? The Pew poll is devastating, just devastating. Before the debate, Obama had a 51–43 lead; now, Romney has a 49–45 lead. That’s a simply unprecedented reversal for a candidate in October. Before Obama had leads on every policy issue and personal characteristic; now Romney leads in almost all of them. Obama’s performance gave Romney a 12 point swing! I repeat: *a 12 point swing* Romney’s favorables are above Obama’s now. Yes, you read that right. Romney’s favorables are higher than Obama’s right now. That gender gap that was Obama’s firewall? Over in one night. ... Seriously: has that kind of swing ever happened this late in a campaign? Has any candidate lost 18 points among women voters in one night ever? And we are told that when Obama left the stage that night, he was feeling good. That’s terrifying. On every single issue, Obama has instantly plummeted into near-oblivion. He still has some personal advantages over Romney—even though they are all much diminished. ... But on the core issues of the economy and the deficit, Romney is now kicking [Obama’s] ass. ... I’ve never seen a candidate this late in the game, so far ahead, just throw in the towel in the way Obama did last week—throw away almost every single advantage he had with voters and manage to enable his opponent to seem as if he cares about the middle class as much as Obama does. ... Maybe if Romney can turn this whole campaign around in 90 minutes, Obama can now do the same. But I doubt it. A sitting president does not recover from being obliterated on substance, style and livability [sic] in the first debate and get much of a chance to come back. He has, at a critical moment, deeply depressed his base and his supporters and independents are flocking to Romney in

droves. I've never seen a candidate self-destruct for no external reason this late in a campaign before." [38144]

The deranged Sullivan (who laughably claimed in 2008 that Sarah Palin's infant son Trig was not really her son but her grandson) also comments on speculation by several other columnists that Obama may *want* to lose the election. He concludes, "That we are having this discussion at all reflects the enormity of Obama's implosion. This race is now Romney's to lose. Not just because Romney is a shameless liar and opportunist. But because Obama just essentially forfeited the election. In the first match-up between the two candidates, one was a potential president; the other a dithering wonk. I'm still reeling. I'm sorry if these are not things an Obama supporter should say at this point. But the demoralization is profound." [38146, 38147, 38148, 38149, 38150]

At HillBuzz.org Kevin DuJan recaps another conversation he had with members of "The Think Squad," several "prominent members of the black community" in Chicago's Hyde Park and the city's south side. The group argues that Obama had "used up all the white guilt." One explained how race guilt had been used effectively against whites in Chicago for decades: "It was a game people played. You wanted something and you just had to time it right. The city especially would race to get you whatever you asked for if they thought Jesse [Jackson] would show up with his guys and scream and yell about racism if [Mayor] Daley didn't give them what they wanted. Daley was smart. He never wanted black people to be picketing anything in Chicago. So all it would take would be a call from Jesse where he'd make the threat and the next day Daley would give in. He was no fool. He didn't want no trouble. Worked like a charm for thirty years!" The "think squad" assumes Obama will lose the election and retire to Hawaii to play golf. "That's all good for Barack and Michelle," says one of them, "but what happens to the rest of us? We ain't getting squat from any of this. Worse, we don't get to exploit the white guilt any more because that's not there these days. It's all gone. He [Obama] done did it. He ruined it for us. White people don't feel guilty no more and won't do stuff for us now that they used to do so fast you wouldn't believe it. All of it is gone. They used it all up to elect him and to scream at anyone who said boo to him in the last four years. White people got used to being called racist all the time and aren't scared about it anymore. I have no idea how I'm going to get funding for my programs now because I always counted on white people being too scared to say no to anything we needed at work. This is a disaster for the black." [38273]

Another group member remarks, "Miss Muffett on her tuffett wised up, whatever a tuffett is I don't right know. It's bad for all of us that the spider don't scare white folk no more. Barack used it too much and those dummies around him didn't keep it in reserve like we always did before. Now white people aren't scared and they won't give in so easily. It's going to be harder to get money or to scare people in the City to do what we want. No one is scared of black people anymore now like they used to be and that's a bad thing for our community." Still another: "I think he ruined it for good. I mean, there's been a black president. Most white people voted for him. They think they've done enough and aren't afraid anymore. You know how people on TV would say, 'I have black friends' and that



was the thing they'd spit out when someone called them a racist? Well the new thing to say now is, 'I voted for Obama' and that proves you are not a racist. Ain't nobody saying they have black friends now. It is all, 'I voted for Obama' and that is proof you aren't a racist. People aren't scared anymore." The consensus of the group is that although few blacks will vote for Romney, large numbers of them will stay home on election day: "I saw them out there shaking their butts four years ago, shouting 'It's the Black House now!' because Obama was going to win and these people had never got up to vote before but they did because they wanted to vote for a black president. Well, that black president ain't done diddly squat for them just as he ain't never did nothing while he was a senator or in Washington so just you watch these butt-shakers from the past will be sitting on their butts this time. They ain't gonna vote and they ain't giving [the Democrat precinct captain] the street money this time neither." "This is a big deal," one concludes. "Ain't nobody talking about it. But it's real. He's [Obama's] in big trouble over this, but sadly we're all in trouble too. I don't know what we're going to do now that white people aren't scared of us any more. A lot of people are going to have to fend for themselves and it ain't gonna be pretty. The magic's all gone because they used it all up. And what did we get out of it? Nothing. Not a damn thing." [38273]

Andrew Stiles writes at FreeBeacon.com, "A wireless company profiting from the so-called 'Obama phone' giveaway program is run by a prominent Democratic donor whose wife has raised more than \$1.5 million for [Obama] since 2007." Under the "Lifeline" program, "The government subsidizes telecommunications firms providing the service, and those firms also pass on [some of the] costs to customers via the 'Universal Service Charge' on their phone bills. The program expanded to include cell phones in 2008. ... One of the major providers of the free cell phones—3.8 million subscribers as of late 2011—is Miami-based TracFone Wireless, a company whose president and CEO, Frederick 'F.J.' Pollak, has donated at least \$156,500 to Democratic candidates and committees this cycle, including at least \$50,000 to the Obama campaign. Pollak's wife, Abigail, is a campaign bundler for Obama who has raised more than \$632,000 for [Obama] this cycle, and more than \$1.5 million since 2007. She has personally contributed more than \$200,000 to Democratic candidates and committees since 2008." [38124]

"The Pollaks hosted Obama at their Miami Beach home in June for a \$40,000-per-plate fundraising dinner, and hosted a similar event with Michelle Obama in July 2008. The couple personally donated a combined \$66,200 to Obama's reelection effort that year. ... TracFone, a direct financial beneficiary of the Lifeline program, receives \$10 a month for each subscriber in the form of federal subsidies. ... TracFone, which did not return a request for comment, is the U.S. affiliate of America Movil, one of the largest phone service providers in Latin America. America Movil is one of many business ventures controlled by Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim, currently the world's richest man, according to Forbes. Slim's stake in the firm accounts for more than half of his \$70 billion net worth. Slim—who bailed out the New York Times and is often referred to as 'Mexico's Mr. Monopoly'—has visited the White House at least twice, according to visitor logs." [38124]

The Obama campaign criticizes Mitt Romney for electing not to appear on a “Kids Pick the President” program on the children’s Nickelodeon channel. Laughably, the Obama campaign’s deputy national press secretary, Adam Fetcher, tells TMZ.com, “It’s no surprise Romney decided to play hookey. Kids demand details, and I’m sure they want some answers on why Romney could increase their class sizes, eliminate their teacher’s jobs [job], raise taxes on their families and slash funding for Big Bird. ... ‘The dog ate my homework’ just doesn’t cut it when you’re running for president.” (Obama does not have time to meet with the Israeli prime minister, but manages to respond to questions from children. Of course, a president has no control over class size or teacher hirings and firings; those are decisions made at the local level by school districts. Romney has proposed cutting taxes, not raising them, and children’s programming on PBS would survive without federal subsidies. Big Bird would certainly find corporate sponsors.) [38150, 38183, 38188]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Sesame Workshop, the independent nonprofit corporation that produces the popular childrens’ program Sesame Street, received a \$1,067,532 stimulus bill grant in August 2010, via the Department of Health and Human Services. The funding was to promote healthy eating according to the federal Recovery.gov website. ...The projected created ‘1.47’ new jobs, the website reported. How they could calculate this to a hundredth of a percent is anybody’s guess. In any event, that comes out to about \$726,000 per job created.” [38191]

Princeton economist Harvey Rosen calls out the Obama campaign for misrepresenting his study of Mitt Romney’s tax proposal. Rosen tells WeeklyStandard.com, “I can’t tell exactly how the Obama campaign reached that characterization of my work [that Romney plans to raise taxes on middle class families]. It might be that they assume that Governor Romney wants to keep the taxes from the Affordable Care Act in place, despite the fact that the Governor has called for its complete repeal. The main conclusion of my study is that under plausible assumptions, a proposal along the lines suggested by Governor Romney can both be revenue neutral and keep the net tax burden on taxpayers with incomes above \$200,000 about the same. That is, an increase in the tax burden on lower and middle income individuals is not required in order to make the overall plan revenue neutral.” [38129, 38130]

FoxNews.com reports, “In a briefing to Capitol Hill staffers delivered the day after the deadly Sept. 11 attack in Benghazi, a top aide to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the killings appeared to be the result of a terrorist attack. Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick F. Kennedy—who exercises responsibility for all department personnel, facilities, and operations, and who is one of the department’s most respected civil servants, having served in his position under both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations—delivered the assessment in an unclassified, half-hour conference call with staff aides to House and Senate lawmakers from relevant committees, and leadership offices, on the evening of Sept. 12. Capitol Hill sources described the call to Fox News.” (Despite the acknowledgement that it was a sophisticated, planned terrorist attack, for days afterward Obama, Clinton, and U.N. ambassador Susan Rice continued to instead

place the blame on an anti-movie demonstration that grew violent. Rice appeared on at least four Sunday talk shows on September 16 to repeat the lie.) [38132]

“Fox News and other news organizations have previously reported that earlier on Sept. 12—within 24 hours of learning about the murders—the Obama administration made a secret determination that Benghazi was indeed a terrorist attack. Doing so enabled them, under the terms of a 2001 anti-terrorism statute, to move men, money and materiel around more freely, and position these assets to meet the threats in Libya and other parts of the Mideast that had recently seen attacks on U.S. installations. Kennedy’s assessment accorded with that determination. This leaves unexplained how Rice, ostensibly armed with the intelligence community’s best assessment, could have offered such a starkly different account in her Sunday show appearances. As late as Sept. 17, Fox News reported last week, high-level U.S. intelligence officials obtained from outside security contractors assessments of the mortar damage done at the U.S. annex in Benghazi. Sources told Fox News these officials then used the contractors’ mortar damage assessments—which indicated the presence of at least two highly skilled mortar teams using GPS devices—to rebut Rice’s claims internally.” [38132]

CBSNews.com reports, “The former head of a Special Forces ‘Site Security Team’ in Libya tells CBS News that in spite of multiple pleas from himself and other U.S. security officials on the ground for ‘more, not less’ security personnel, the State Department removed as many as 34 people from the country in the six months before the terrorist attack in Benghazi that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others. Lt. Col. Andy Wood will appear this week at a House Oversight Committee hearing that will examine security decisions leading up to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi. Speaking to CBS News correspondent Sharyl Attkisson, Wood said when he found out that his own 16-member team and a six-member State Department elite force were being pulled from Tripoli in August—about a month before the assault in Benghazi—he felt, ‘like we were being asked to play the piano with two fingers. There was concern amongst the entire embassy staff.’ He said other staffers approached him with their concerns when the reduction in security personnel was announced. ‘They asked if we were safe,’ he told Attkisson. ‘They asked... what was going to happen, and I could only answer that what we were being told is that they’re working on it—they’ll get us more (security personnel), but I never saw that.’ Wood insists that senior staff in Libya, including Ambassador Stevens, State Department Regional Security Officer Eric Nordstrom, and himself, all wanted and had requested enhanced security. ‘We felt we needed more, not less,’ he tells Attkisson. Asked what response their repeated pleas got from the State Department in Washington, Wood says they were simply told ‘to do with less. For what reasons, I don’t know. We tried to illustrate... to show them how dangerous and how volatile and just unpredictable that whole environment was over there. So to decrease security in the face of that really is... it’s just unbelievable.’” [38133, 38182, 38219]

A Michigan maker of batteries for electric vehicles, Compact Power (LG Chem), begins placing workers on “rotating furloughs.” FoxNews.com reports, “The facility, which was

opened in July 2010 with a groundbreaking attended by Obama [and with \$150 million in taxpayer cash], has yet to produce a single battery for the Chevrolet Volt, the troubled electric car from General Motors. The plant's batteries also were intended to be used in Ford's electric Focus. Production of the taxpayer-subsidized Volt has been plagued by work stoppages, and the effect has trickled down to companies and plants that build parts for it—including the batteries.” Paul Chesser, of the National Legal and Policy Center, tells Fox, “Considering the lack of demand for electric vehicles, despite billions of dollars from the Obama administration that were supposed to stimulate it, it's not surprising what has happened with LG Chem. Just because a ton of money is poured into a product does not mean that people will buy it. ...Electric car batteries do not perform much better than they did 100 years ago. Research has not conquered the battery storage issue, and therefore the electric transportation ‘stimulus’ did not boost the ‘technology of the future,’ but instead a century-old technology as far as performance and capability goes.” (Chevy Volts produced so far have used batteries imported from South Korea.) At the 2010 groundbreaking Obama said, “You are leading the way in showing how manufacturing jobs are coming right back here to the United States of America. Our goal has never been to create a government program, but rather to unleash private-sector growth. And we're seeing results.” [38138, 38178, 38480, 38811, 38818, 38833]

It is later reported that employees of Compact Power not only never shipped any batteries for use in Chevy Volts, they often had nothing to do at the factory. Former employee Nicole Merryman states, “There was probably up to 40 of us that would just sit in there during the day. We were given assignments to go outside and clean; if we weren't cleaning outside, we were cleaning inside. If there was nothing for us to do, we would study in the cafeteria, or we would sit and play cards, sit and read magazines. ...It's really sad that all these people are sitting there and doing nothing, and it's basically on taxpayer money...” (In 2010 Obama said of the company, “this is a symbol of where America's going.” If he is reelected, that may be an accurate statement.) [38811, 38812, 38818]

Fox News reports, “Florida Republicans are outraged after a school district allowed a pro-Obama organization to conduct student voter registration drives and deliver speeches to classes—but denied the Romney campaign similar opportunities. Pasco County Schools confirmed to Fox News that volunteers from Organizing For America were given access to as many as a half dozen high school and middle school campuses. ...According to email correspondence obtained by Fox News, volunteers tried to infiltrate at least three other school campuses—but on-campus officials rebuffed those efforts. In addition to voter registration, a former teacher was allowed to deliver Obama speeches to a number of senior high school students.” James Mathieu, general counsel for the Pasco County Republican Party says, “She got into six classrooms and gave pro-Obama speeches—like, way off to the left. That got out to parents and parents complained. ... We have a liberal culture in our school system and we know that. The problem is someone has used false credentials, false pretenses and there is a security issue. These people have used false pretense to get into the high schools and all they're giving us is whitewash and lip service.” Mathieu “has filed a complaint with the Florida Division of Elections and also contacted the Florida Attorney General's office” and “said that some of the

Organizing for America volunteers [improperly and illegally] identified themselves to school officials as being with the local elections office.” [38141]

Dave Siegel, founder and CEO of Westgate Resorts, sends an email to his 7,000 employees with the warning, “If any new taxes are levied on me, or my company, as [Obama] plans, I will have no choice but to reduce the size of this company. Rather than grow this company I will be forced to cut back. This means fewer jobs, less benefits and certainly less opportunity for everyone. So, when you make your decision to vote, ask yourself, which candidate understands the economics of business ownership and who doesn’t? Whose policies will endanger your job? Answer those questions and you should know who might be the one capable of protecting and saving your job. While the media wants to tell you to believe the ‘1 percenters’ are bad, I’m telling you they are not. They create most of the jobs. If you lose your job, it won’t be at the hands of the ‘1%’; it will be at the hands of a political hurricane that swept through this country. You see, I can no longer support a system that penalizes the productive and gives to the unproductive. My motivation to work and to provide jobs will be destroyed, and with it, so will your opportunities. If that happens, you can find me in the Caribbean sitting on the beach, under a palm tree, retired, and with no employees to worry about.” (Siegel notes that he cannot tell anyone whom to vote for and “certainly wouldn’t interfere with your right to vote for whomever you choose”—but he is not afraid to hold back in his description of reality.) [38210, 38454]

Peter Schweitzer and Steve Bannon, of the Government Accountability Institute, appear on *Hannity* to discuss the Obama campaign’s failure to use adequate credit card security features to prevent illegal foreign donations. Sean Hannity: “You both think that they are purposely soliciting money ...from foreign countries and donors.” They respond, “Absolutely.” (According to DailyCaller.com, Schweitzer was told by Obama campaign spokesman Adam Fetcher, “We take great care to make sure that every one of our more than three million donors are eligible to donate and that our fundraising efforts fully comply with all U.S. laws and regulations.”) [38151, 38165]

A Canadian brags in an entry at BarackObama.com that she has [illegally] donated to the Obama campaign. She writes, “I had donated to the original [2008] campaign and will again. I would also give my vote but alas I am a Canadian... but am a staunch supporter of the Obama-Biden team.” (Breitbart.com notes, “The Obama blog has since deleted all comments on the thread, but not before Breitbart News screen captured them. In another entry, a supporter comforts a noncitizen lamenting the fact they cannot vote or donate directly to Obama. In lieu of contributing to Obama, the consoler tells the foreigner, they should instead make a donation to the Democratic National Committee—an act that is [also] illegal for noncitizens. ...The Obama blog has since deleted all comments in this thread as well.” (At PJMedia.com, British citizen Mike McNally later writes, “I’ve been able to donate \$25 to the Obama campaign in three separate transactions, despite being a lifelong British citizen resident in the UK. What’s more, two of my donations were processed despite the Obama campaign noting that I had provided a non-U.S. address, and despite my failure to provide proof of American citizenship when asked to do so.”

The Romney campaign web site prevented McNally from making a donation.) [38224, 39200]

An NBC4 poll in Ohio shows Obama leading Mitt Romney 45–44. (Because a majority of the undecided voters tend to move toward the challenger at the last moment, and because Obama is at only 45 percent, Romney has a clear opportunity to win Ohio.) [38161]

Mitt Romney campaigns in Newport News, Virginia, where a steady rain failed to keep the crowds away. He tells his audience, “People wonder why it is I’m so confident we’re going to win. I’m confident because I see you here on a day like this. This is unbelievable.” [38196]

Romney’s running mate, Paul Ryan, campaigns at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Entertainer Kid Rock introduces Ryan, saying, “I am very proud to say that we had elected our first black president; I’m sorry... I’m sorry he didn’t do a better job, I really wish he would have—I do, but the facts are the facts.’ According to Fox News, “Kid Rock joked to the crowd of thousands ...that he enjoyed Romney’s face-off with ...Obama so much that ‘I think I might throw a keg party for the Ryan-Biden debate.’ ...The Grammy-nominated musician admitted to the audience that it’s ‘a little difficult to put myself in this position knowing it may alienate a few fans. I really believe strongly that it’s okay to disagree on politics and the direction of our country without hating one another. I mean it’s no secret that I am embedded in an industry that leans very left.” [38211]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on Mitt Romney’s foreign policy address at the Virginia Military Institute: “It wasn’t a speech about Afghanistan. It was a speech about Obama and his relation with the American power and preeminence. And the point was, it was subtle, but I think it was the theme of the whole speech, is that Obama is uncomfortable with ...the presence, the rightness, the justice and the use of the American preeminence in the region. And he [Romney] will reassert it with a sense of America’s rightness. And thus, the specifics will follow. Ally with your friends and support them unquestionably. Oppose your enemies, unlike Obama with Iran, and oppose them unquestionably, and in the end, provide the defense, the means and material to back our word in the region. So, it’s a larger issue than just a policy here and there. And even though people aren’t aggressive in wanting to reintroduce our troops in Afghanistan or Iraq, ...they want a sense that America is preeminent and isn’t ashamed of it or afraid of it. And I think that’s what Romney conveyed today.” [38167]

Obama attends a fundraiser in San Francisco, California. He tells the wealthy donors, “I very much intend to win this election. But we’re only going to do it if everybody is almost obsessive for the next 29 days.” Mocking Mitt Romney’s plan to cut funding for public television and Sesame Street, Obama also says, “Elmo has been seen in a white Suburban! He’s driving for the border!” (It is assumed Obama is suggesting O. J. Simpson’s 1994 “slow-speed chase” on a Los Angeles freeway in a white *Ford Bronco*.)

Obama also brags, “Now, four years ago, I made a few commitments to you. I told you I’d end the war in Iraq, and I did. I said I’d end the war in Afghanistan, and we are. I said we’d refocus on the people who actually attacked us on 9/11, and today, al Qaeda is on its heels and Osama bin Laden is no more.” (Al-Qaeda is so “on its heels” that it killed an U.S. ambassador and three other Americans in Libya.) [38177, 38196, 38254, 38322]

Outside the fundraiser, PJMedia.com reports that, “Protesters swirled around the entrance to the Bill Graham Auditorium, tormenting the ticket-holders waiting in line to see Obama and radical socialist musician Michael Franti. What made this particular protest unique was that its participants spanned the entire spectrum of American politics, from conservatives to leftists, from marijuana advocates to the NRA, from the Tea Party to Code Pink, from Occupy San Francisco to ‘Porn Stars for Romney’ to PETA, and everyone in between. Who can unite them all? Only Obama!” Protest signs include: “Obama was just a bad hire!” “Obama murders women and children (accompanied by model of a drone)” “Obama keep your promise [to not shut medicinal marijuana clinics]” “Buy your medicine in dark alleys” “Fight crime, not cannabis” “Defend Freedom Defeat Obama” “Stop Killer Drones” “President Zero” “We need a leader in the White House, not eye candy” “Nobama” and “One Big Ass Mistake America.” One PETA supporter calls on Obama to “Confiscate beaten circus elephants.” [38259]

On October 9, the Associated Press reports, “Israel has deployed a missile defense battery in a main city near the Lebanese border, the military said Tuesday, two days after warplanes shot down an unmanned aircraft that entered Israeli skies. An army spokesman said the Patriot missile defense battery has been stationed in the northern city of Haifa. He refused to say if the battery’s deployment was connected to Saturday’s drone incident. ...The drone entered Israeli airspace from the Mediterranean coast and flew for about 20 minutes before it was shot down over remote desert terrain. Israeli officials say they began tracking the craft before it reached Israel, waiting to bring it down in order to avert possible casualties on the ground.” [38164]

Obama campaigns at Ohio State University. [38176, 38196]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–47 in Rasmussen’s swing state tracking polls in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. [38385]

At Intrade.com, Obama’s chances of winning reelection slip to 62.1 percent. [38198]

Campaigning in Van Meter, Iowa, Mitt Romney says, “These are tough times, with real serious issues. So you have to scratch your head when [Obama] spends the last week talking about saving Big Bird. I actually think we need to have a president who talks about saving the American people and saving good jobs and saving our future.” Romney also relates that he had met a Navy SEAL (Glen A. Doherty) a few years earlier when he and his wife inadvertently went to the wrong house for a neighborhood Christmas party.

Romney tells the audience, “You can imagine how I felt when I found out that he was one of the two former Navy SEALs killed in Benghazi on Sept. 11. It touched me, obviously, as I recognized this young man that I thought was so impressive had lost his life in his service of his fellow men and women.” Without mentioning their names, Romney notes that Doherty and fellow SEAL Sean Smith were not at the consulate, but “They went there. They didn’t hunker down where they were in safety. They rushed there to go help. This is the American way. We go where there’s trouble. We go where we’re needed. And right now we are needed. Right now the American people need us.” (Doherty’s mother later objects to Romney mentioning her son, and he agrees not to repeat the story. Doherty says, “I don’t trust Romney.” Meanwhile, reports HotAir.com, “In comments that have gotten far less coverage, the mother of former SEAL Tyrone Woods, also killed that day in Benghazi, took to her Facebook page to object to the administration’s handling of the investigation of the attack: ‘Don’t want to ever politicize the loss of my son in Libya, but it has been 16 days and the FBI has yet to get to Benghazi to begin their investigation. Apparently they have made it to Tripoli but haven’t been allowed to enter Benghazi. Meanwhile, the diplomatic outpost where Tyrone and Glen died, was not and is not secured. Absolutely unacceptable.’”) [38197, 38246, 38249]

At Spectator.org Jeffrey Lord, former White House political director, asks how the unemployment rate could possibly have fallen over the last several months when Obama’s June 2012 Executive Order allowing illegal immigrants work permits added more than one million people to the workforce. “What happened to all those newly work permitted Americans? Did all 1.7 million suddenly get jobs in a suddenly hot economy? Which would require a job increase of some 15 times that 114,000 [new jobs in September]? Obviously not.” (In Chicago alone, more than 12,000 illegal immigrants turned out to obtain work permits on August 15, the first day they were distributed.) [38191]

Dane County, Wisconsin Sheriff Dave Mahoney plans on having jail deputies provide inmates with absentee ballots, even though state law prohibits felons from voting while in jail or on parole. According to RedState.com, “A memo sent [by] Lt. Mark Twombly of his department instructed deputies working at the county jail to allow inmates to obtain and cast absentee ballots. The memo specifically instructed the officers to not check the department’s computer system to determine whether or not the inmate is eligible to vote under state law. ... Sheriff Mahoney has ties to the Democratic establishment in Wisconsin. A former labor union boss, Mahoney refused to arrest protesters at the state capitol when they harassed and threatened Republican lawmakers and staff. Some female staffers felt extremely threatened by male protesters who would walk into their offices shouting and threatening them.” (Democrats in several states have been attempting to change the laws in order to allow convicts and felons to vote. They apparently assume that most criminals are Democrats.) [38193]

While a Wisconsin sheriff is eager to allow felons to vote illegally, the Obama administration seems determined to prevent members of the military from voting.



WND.com reports, “[T]he number of military absentee ballot requests is strangely down by staggering numbers compared to the 2008 election. ... The Defense Department has been coming under fire after reports of an exponentially low number of requests for military absentee ballots this year compared to the 2008 election. The Military Voter Protection Project last week released the results of a study listing the number of requests in key states such as Virginia, where military absentee ballot requests are down 92 percent compared to 2008. In Ohio, only 9,700 absentee ballots have been requested as of late September compared to more than 32,000 in 2008. Florida so far has 37,953 requested ballots as of last month as opposed to 86,926 in 2008—a difference of 48,973. North Carolina only has 1,859 requests listed compared to 13,508 in 2008. ... Just this week, a Military Times survey of military forces showed Republican nominee Mitt Romney with a 26-percent lead over the president. The Times survey follows an earlier Rasmussen poll that showed a 59 to 35 percent lead for Romney among military service voters.” [38212]

WashingtonTimes.com reports on a new book by *The Wall Street Journal's* Stephen Moore, *Who's the Fairest of Them All?: The Truth about Opportunity, Taxes, and Wealth in America*, which shows that the 10 percent of income earners in the United States pay a larger share of taxes than those in any other industrialized nation. “According to Moore, these earners pay almost half (45 percent) of the country's total taxes. This conclusion flies in the face of the liberal concept that top earners in the U.S. are not paying their ‘fair share’ in taxes. ... Moore also delves into what the “47 percent” of America actually pays and receives from the federal government and that the perception that the middle class is shrinking is a myth. In fact, the actual trend has been an upward mobility and a better standard of living for the middle class and lower income earners in the last 25 years.” In an interview with DailyCaller.com Moore says, “There’s nothing fair about making everyone poor. ... Obama wants to make everyone equally poor.” [38194, 38292]

IBTimes.com comes to the defense of Obama and Big Bird, arguing that “only 12 percent of PBS funding comes from the federal subsidy that Romney wants to eliminate—roughly \$445 million. ... What some may overlook about Romney vs. Big Bird is that the \$445 million the government would save is peanuts when it comes to the national debt. The \$445 million is a start, but it’s less than 1/100th of a percent of the \$3.5 trillion federal budget. ... The Nieman Journalism Lab reported that the per capita spending on public broadcasting is \$4 a year...” (During the debate Romney stated, “I will eliminate all programs by this test: Is the program so critical it’s worth borrowing money from China to pay for it? And if not, I’ll get rid of it.” Most Americans would likely agree that it is not worth borrowing money from China to subsidize public broadcasting, which can certainly find additional corporate sponsors to fund a mere 12 percent shortage. To point out that the subsidy amounts to only \$4 per person per year emphasizes the obvious: if Romney can eliminate only 100 such wasteful programs he can reduce the tax burden by \$400 per person per year.) [38195]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 48–47 percent in an ARG poll in Ohio—despite the outrageous D/R/I weighting of 42/33/25. (Even counting nine percent more Democrats

than Republicans in the poll, Obama is still down by one point. A more realistic weighting would be +3 for the Democrats. Obama won Ohio by four points in 2008, and Republican John Kasich won the race for governor in 2010. No one should expect Democrat turnout in Ohio to best 2008 by five points.) Romney leads Obama 57–37 among independents; 50–46 among men; and trails Obama among women, 48–45 percent. (It is almost impossible to believe Romney is up by only one point if he has a 20-point lead among independents.) [38201, 38253]

TheHill.com notes Mitt Romney's lead among independent voters in recent polls: "IBD/ITP poll released today: Romney 52% Obama 34%. Pew poll, released yesterday: Romney 46% Obama 42%. Politico/GW poll, released yesterday: Romney 51% Obama 35%. CNN, released last week: Romney 49% Obama 41%. National Journal, released October 3: Romney 49% Obama 41%." HotAir.com comments, "This has been a consistent trend all during the summer and fall, and it leads to this question: if Romney's doing so consistently well among independents, how could he be trailing? After all, ...Obama won in 2008 by seven points overall, and eight points among independents. A double-digit shift in the gap among independents should be decisive. ...Republicans have the advantage (so far) among committed partisans on enthusiasm, and they're also winning independents consistently and significantly in the same polls that show the race as a virtual dead heat. That suggests that some of the assumptions built into the pollster models are still leaning too far to 2008, and that Romney is actually in better shape than those topline suggest." [38253]

On Air Force One, Obama spokesperson Jen Psaki tells reporters, "[T]here's only one candidate in this race who is going to continue to fight for Big Bird and Elmo, and he is riding on this plane." (The "success" of "Cash for Clunkers" apparently convinced Obama of the need to trumpet "Money for Muppets.") [38309]

On CNBC, NBC reporter Chuck Todd refers to Rasmussen polls as "slop," and brags that NBC's polls "are the gold standard." On Fox News, Scott Rasmussen tells Megyn Kelly, "I don't really follow his work, but I'm happy to have competition. Our poll, as you said, we've been showing this race to be close for a long time. As other polls shift to likely voter models, they're showing the same thing. Four years ago, we showed virtually no change of the final 40 days of the campaign. We've shown a steady race this time. Both men have been within three points of each other 89 of the last 100 days and happy to compare our work to anybody's." Kelly notes a Fordham University study that rated Rasmussen number one in the accuracy of the final pre-election polls, and NBC in 13th place. [38215]

While the Obama campaign is busy calling Mitt Romney a liar and claiming his tax proposal is unworkable, Alan Reynolds points out at NatinalReview.com that some of Obama's advisors favor Romney's plan. Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform and the Bipartisan Policy Center's Debt Reduction Task Force both suggested lower marginal tax rates on a broader tax base, lower corporate taxes, and a repeal of the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Romney's tax reform proposal

is essentially the same, with the major differences being that Romney proposes a dollar cap on all deductions for high-income taxpayers rather than caps on each specific deductions. The commission and task force recommend individual tax rates between 12 and 28 percent; Romney's range is 8 to 28 percent. Romney proposes a corporate rate reduction from 35 to 25 percent, rather than to 28 percent. Reynolds writes, "Unlike the Obama plan, the Romney plan would collect huge revenues from many 'millionaires and billionaires' such as Warren Buffet and Mitt Romney, who would be unaffected by higher tax rates on salaries but unable to follow their usual practice of deducting millions in charitable donations every year. Charitable donations have long been a nearly constant share of GDP regardless of tax rates, so the surest way to increase charitable donations is to increase GDP." Obama's tax proposals, on the other hand, would "Raise the top two individual tax rates (including Obamacare taxes) to 39.8 and 43.4 percent, and raise top tax rates on dividends and capital gains to at least 30 percent (the Buffet Rule); Retain the alternative minimum tax (AMT) and bring back rather than repeal the personal-exemption phase-out (PEP) and the phase-out of itemized deductions; [and] Consider cutting the corporate income-tax rate by an unspecified amount only in exchange for eliminating alleged, inexplicable deductions..." (More importantly, Romney's plan would encourage productivity and economic growth, while Obama's proposals would discourage it.) [38203, 38204]

Although White House press secretary Jay Carney has spoken with reporters on Air Force One, he has not held a daily press briefing since September 24. (HotAir.com asks, Could it be because... he ended up becoming the public face of the White House clusterfark over Benghazi? And now, after two more weeks of evidence about how negligent the State Department was in failing to protect Chris Stevens, the administration's less inclined than ever to send him back out there in front of a camera? ...Question: Who in this administration is willing to face the media anymore? Carney's AWOL, Biden hasn't done a national interview since May, and the Empty Chair these days contents himself with outlets like Nickelodeon. The only people you still see are [David] Axelrod and [David] Plouffe on Sunday morning, and all they want to talk about is Big Bird and the war on women, blah blah blah. Note to O: The media's rooting for you. They'll be nice-ish if you just say hi. All you need to do is explain why you left the U.S. ambassador to Libya woefully unprepared to cope with a terror attack that pretty much everyone saw coming.") [38206, 38207]

The American Crossroads PAC releases a devastating ad attacking the Obama administration for ignoring terrorist threats in Benghazi, Libya and misleading the public into believing the September 11 killing of four Americans was the result of an Internet video. The ad concludes, "What did this president know? And when did he know it?" (Those words will, of course, remind older voters of the Watergate break-in that forced the resignation of Richard Nixon in 1974.) [38208]

At WND.com Jerome Corsi, author of *Where's the real Birth Certificate?*, reports that an extreme close-up of a photograph of the ring Obama wears on his wedding ring finger appears to show the Arabic text for "There is no God but Allah." Corsi writes, "As a

student at Harvard Law School, then-bachelor Barack Obama's practice of wearing a gold band on his wedding-ring finger puzzled his colleagues. Now, newly published photographs of Obama from the 1980s show that the ring Obama wore on his wedding-ring finger as an unmarried student is the same ring Michelle Robinson put on his finger at the couple's wedding ceremony in 1992. Moreover, according to Arabic-language and Islamic experts, the ring Obama has been wearing for more than 30 years is adorned with the first part of the Islamic declaration of faith, the Shahada: 'There is no God except Allah.' ...Sincere recitation of the Shahada is the sole requirement for becoming a Muslim, as it expresses a person's rejection of all other gods. Egyptian-born Islamic scholar Mark A. Gabriel, Ph.D., examined photographs of Obama's ring at WND's request and concluded that the first half of the Shahada is inscribed on it. 'There can be no doubt that someone wearing the inscription 'There is no god except Allah' has a very close connection to Islamic beliefs, the Islamic religion and Islamic society to which this statement is so strongly attached,' Gabriel told WND." (TheBlaze.com later reports, "One academic, a professor at Duke University, provided a candid assessment, but asked to remain off-the-record. Based on the images and analysis present in the WND report, he said that the script present on Obama's ring appears to be Arabic and that it does, indeed, include the first portion of the shahada.") [38209, 38280, 38281, 38282, 38283, 38429, 38513, 38518]

At Politico.com, former Congressman Joe Scarborough (of MSNBC's *Morning Joe*) asks, "Is [Obama] no more than a mediocre political talent who's had one of the greatest runs of luck in history? And did that luck begin to run out in Denver last Wednesday during the homestretch of his final campaign? A week later, many Democrats fear that it did. ...It is possible that the political class has overestimated Barack Obama's talents for too long. But I suspect Wednesday night's [debate] outcome was more the result of an arrogant campaign underestimating a former Massachusetts governor. That proved to be a pretty dumb thing to do to a guy who breezed through Harvard, revolutionized Wall Street, saved a Winter Olympics, signed a landmark health care bill with Ted Kennedy by his side, raised five gifted boys, and retains the love and respect of a woman he first met in elementary school. Like every campaign that crossed swords with Ronald Reagan, Chicago's arrogance blew up in its face. The question now is whether Barack Obama will suffer the same fate as Gov. Pat Brown and President Jimmy Carter. The answer to that question is anyone's guess. ...One bad debate may be a temporary bump in the road, but another collapse could create a narrative that could sweep Barack Obama right out of the White House and back to Chicago. Because let's be honest: Obama didn't look like he wanted it last week. Now the question is whether he can prove he's more a master of fate than a child of good political fortune." [38269]

Barack "You Know" Obama tells radio talk show host Tom Joyner, "I mean, you know, the debate, I think it's fair to say I was just too polite, because, you know, it's hard to sometimes just keep on saying, 'And what you're saying isn't true.' It gets repetitive. But, you know, the good news is, is that's just the first one... And, you know, I think it's fair to say that we will see a little more activity at the next one." [38268, 38307, 38317]

At WashingtonPost.com Greg Sargent writes, “Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg is not known for flinching from delivering bad news to Democratic politicians, and his new diagnosis of Obama’s slippage in the polls is no exception. Greenberg told me in an interview that his new research persuaded him that Mitt Romney beat Obama in the debate for a simple reason. Unmarried women—a critical piece of Obama’s coalition—did not hear Obama telling them how they would make their lives better. By contrast, they did hear Romney telling them he’d improve their lives. Greenberg says the research also indicates a clear route to winning reelection, however. ‘This is a major turning point and an opportunity for [Obama],’ he says.” (In other words, Obama has to offer young women voters something for nothing.) [38256]

On CNBC, Steve Wynn, billionaire businessman, casino owner, and developer of Wynn Resorts, says, “I’ve created about 250,000 direct and indirect jobs according to the state of Nevada’s measurement. If the number is 250,000, that’s exactly 250,000 more than [Obama], who I’ll be damned if I want to have him lecture me about small business and jobs. I’m a job creator. Guys like me are job creators and we don’t like having a bulls-eye painted on our back. [Obama] is trying to put himself between me and my employees. ...By class warfare, by deprecating and calling a group that makes money ‘billionaires and millionaires who don’t pay their share.’ I gave 120 percent of my salary and bonus away last year to charities, as I do most years. I can’t stand the idea of being demagogued, that is put down by [man] who has never created any jobs and who doesn’t even understand how the economy works.” Wynn explains why he and other businessmen are “sitting on their thumbs” and not investing in business creation or expansion: “I’m afraid of [Obama]. I have no idea what goofy idea, what crazy, anti-business program this administration will come up. I have no idea. And I have to tell you ...that every business guy I know in the country is frightened of Barack Obama and the way he thinks.” [38241, 38267]

Supporting Wynn’s argument that businessmen are frightened, Casey Research’s Dan Steinhart writes, “US corporations are sitting on more cash than at any point since World War II. That’s *without* including banks. I’m only talking about non-financial corporations—the ones that sell goods and services and make the economy go. Those businesses hold \$1.4 trillion. In absolute terms, that’s the most ever. In relative terms, it’s the most since World War II.” In savings accounts, checking accounts, and money market mutual funds, businesses are holding about 9 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product (GDP). It has not been under 5 percent since the 1990s. Steinhart points out, “That tells me that businesses are not just a little jittery about the future. They’re prepared for an apocalypse. ...Clearly, by their judgment, the risk of investing in new projects outweighs the reward—the exact opposite of the conditions needed to produce healthy economic growth.” (The problem the nation faces in the future is that if and when the economy recovers, businesses will start spending that cash. That will result in higher prices as the increased amount of money in the economy chases a temporarily limited supply of goods and services.) [38360]

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) calls on the Obama administration to stop promoting food stamp usage and encouraging Americans to apply for them. (The Department of Agriculture had even been running a “novella” on Spanish-language radio in which the main character was being pressured by friends to apply for the benefits.) [38238]

At AmericanThinker.com author Jack Cashill (*Deconstructing Obama*) writes, “Obama was not ‘off his game’ [in the debate] in Denver. That *was* his game.” Cashill, who believes William Ayers wrote much of *Dreams From My Father*, notes a lengthy 2001 interview in which Obama’s supposed brilliance is nowhere to be seen: “Off the cuff, here as always, Obama did not impress. His vocabulary was pedestrian, his syntax uninteresting, his thinking more or less off-the-shelf, and his use of the phrase ‘you know’ maddening. True, people write in a different style from how they speak, but usually not that different. The reader of *Dreams* had a right to expect more from ‘the best writer to occupy the White House since Lincoln’ than this interview offers. These limitations would not even be an issue if Obama and his acolytes acknowledged them. Before [the debate on] Wednesday, they did not. Based on little more than *Dreams* and his ability to read well, Obama supporters thought Obama a genius and did not shy from saying so. Obama shared their opinion. ‘I had learned as an organizer to be able to articulate a position and express myself in clear ways that served me well as a law student and, ultimately, as a lawyer as well,’ he told [2001 interviewer Julieanna] Richardson. That talent was not exactly evident to Wednesday’s debate audience. To the dispassionate observer, it never has been evident.” [38233, 38234]

In the 2001 interview Obama reveals some of his “You didn’t build that” and class envy attitude. Speaking of his childhood in Indonesia, Obama said, “You know, you’d see beggars on the streets with nothing and then generals in homes with five or six or ten cars, and so I think it made me acutely aware of the degree to which economic power and political power and social power can be skewed. And not because the poor were less deserving or the wealthy were smarter or more able, you know, but simply because they had been craftier, stronger or luckier, or more ruthless. And I think—so that probably reinforced a general suspicion of inequality and power and the corrupt uses of power and the desire to make things fair.” (Obama *assumes* that those who have wealth did not earn it but stole it from others. While that may certainly be true in countries run by military dictatorships, such as Indonesia in the past, that does not make it true in the United States. Obama seems unable to differentiate between theft promoted by government and theft prohibited by government.) [38323, 38324]

The Associated Press reports, “The owner of Olive Garden and Red Lobster restaurants [Darden Restaurants] is putting more workers on part-time status in a test aimed at limiting costs from ...Obama’s health care law.” (ObamaCare requires businesses with 50 or more full-time workers to provide them with health insurance or face fines. For purposes of ObamaCare, the IRS defines full-time workers as those working 30 or more hours per week. The health care law therefore inadvertently *encourages* businesses to reduce their employee count to less than 50 or reduce the number of hours worked to fewer than 30 per week. The per-employee fine is \$2,000. The cost of insurance can vary,

but if it is \$8,000 that means the business would face \$400,000 in annual health care costs or \$100,000 in annual fines. In either case, the cost will necessarily be passed on to customers in the form of higher prices—or the employer will get its employee count under 50 or reduce working hours to less than 30. Obama and the members of Congress who passed ObamaCare failed to realize that while they can pass legislation, they cannot prevent individuals and businesses from taking actions to avoid the costs of that legislation.) According to FoxNews.com, “White Castle, McDonald’s and Denny’s are other affordable brands in the industry that have said they were looking for a way to avoid the new employer mandate due to take effect in 2014.” (Interestingly, the Bureau of Labor Statistics considers 35 hours or more per week as full-time employment. ObamaCare treats 30 or more hours as full-time. Most Americans consider 40 or more hours to be full-time employment.) [38227, 38289, 38454, 39155]

DailyCaller.com reports, “House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rep. Peter King is asking CIA director Gen. David Petraeus and White House national security adviser James Clapper to investigate whether a columnist for The Daily Beast received the same classified foreign policy briefings as ...Obama.” King’s letter “focuses on The Daily Beast’s Dr. Leslie Gelb.” A Gelb article defending U.N. ambassador Susan Rice “served as one firewall the administration may have used to explain why Rice made false public statements. In it, he [Gelb] blamed the intelligence community. And, as King points out in his call for an investigation, Gelb ‘even infers that he received the same briefing as President Obama and Ambassador Rice.’” Gelb wrote, “Her [Rice’s] mistake was taking the initial intelligence at face value. The White House briefers made the same error, and so did I. I too repeated in an op-ed on The Daily Beast what the intelligence briefers told me.” (King properly questions why national security intelligence briefers are telling Gelb anything.) [38226]

The day before a major Congressional hearing on the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, the State Department confirms in a conference call to reporters that there was no anti-movie protest. John Nolte writes at Breitbart.com, “In other words, just days after [Obama] declared al-Qaeda all but obliterated at his convention in Charlotte, and because no one took direct threats and pleas for added security seriously, on the anniversary of September 11, four Americans were assassinated in Libya by al-Qaeda associates. And for days and days and days afterward, the Obama Administration covered this fact up with lies of omission, half-truths, double talk, and outright lies. By keeping our focus and anger on a completely fabricated fable about a stupid video and a ‘spontaneous’ protest gone bad, the White House could pretend the lack of security or the lack of turning a pile of intelligence into something ‘actionable,’ wasn’t their fault.” (The “sudden honesty” of State Department officials may mean they are throwing both Obama and Clinton under the bus. They know that Clinton will not remain as Secretary of State even if Obama wins reelection, and they may suspect that Obama stands a good chance of losing. There is, therefore, no reason to risk their careers to save either Clinton or Obama—when they’d probably rather report to John Bolton and Mitt Romney anyway.) [38218, 38219, 38220, 38231, 38237]

In the conference call with reporters—a call that excludes Fox News—State Department officials say, “The ambassador [Christopher Stevens] walked guests out [of the consulate] at 8:30 p.m. or so [on September 11]. There was nobody on the street. Then at 9:40 p.m. they saw on the security cameras at the consulate that there were armed men invading the compound. Everything is calm at 8:30 p.m.; nothing unusual. There had been nothing unusual during the day, outside all day, and then the attack.” (From the beginning the State Department and Obama knew there was no Benghazi demonstration against an anti-Islam movie trailer on YouTube, yet that was the storyline the administration followed for more than two weeks by Obama, Hillary Clinton, U.N. ambassador Susan Rice, and White House press secretary Jay Carney. Obama’s problem is that the “We killed Osama bin-Laden” boast is meant to also imply, “Obama stopped al-Qaeda where Bush failed.” Because he could not allow the voters to know that al-Qaeda and its affiliates are far from extinct, Obama needed the anti-movie narrative. Obama’s problem was his need to continue the charade until election day. He failed—and Hillary Clinton is not about to shield his neck with her own neck.) [38220, 38231, 38237, 38466, 38511]

After the State Department official describes the events that took place the evening of the attack, *which makes it abundantly clear there was no demonstration about a movie or anything else*, Associated Press reporter Brad Klapper asks, “You described several incidents you had with groups of men, armed men. What in all of these events that you’ve described led officials to believe for the first several days that this was prompted by protests against the video?” Another State Department official answers, “That is a question that you would have to ask others. That was not our conclusion. I’m not saying that we had a conclusion, but we outlined what happened. The Ambassador walked guests out around 8:30 or so, there was no one on the street at approximately 9:40, then there was the noise and then we saw on the cameras the—a large number of armed men assaulting the compound.” [38466, 38467, 38511]

The State Department conference call to reporters makes it clear that it was not responsible for U.N. ambassador Susan Rice or Obama using the “anti-video protest gone wild” claim for more than a week after it was clear that was no demonstration. Hillary Clinton is essentially saying, “Don’t blame me.” (Clinton herself repeated the anti-movie claim, however, so she is hardly blameless. But Rice most certainly did not appear on five Sunday talks shows on her own without Obama knowing about it, and she was probably told by him or Valerie Jarrett what to say. Examiner.com points out, “Ambassador Rice would not have the authority to speak for the administration in such a sensitive matter of national security except under the specific direction of the White House.” [38491, 38492, 38493, 38511]

On Fox News, Democrat contributor Kirsten Powers says, “It’s completely outrageous that nobody from Fox News was on this call. Susan Rice sat at this desk and sat at multiple desks around this city and weaved an unbelievable tale that had already been disproven by other reporters. There were already reports saying that it was quiet outside the embassy before. And I just urge everybody to go back and look at the transcripts, at how specific she was, at the specific details she offered about how it was a copycat of



what was going on in Cairo and how it built and built and then these people came in and took it over. They're accusing Mitt Romney of lying in the debate. The lying that's going on here should be causing a, you know, front page scandal in this city." (Fox News may have been excluded because the State Department's conference call was intended not just to provide some information, but to coordinate a plan to defend Obama and Hillary Clinton and to "get everyone in the leftist media on board." The plan may be to blame the Libya blunders entirely on the intelligence community. That is, "Obama, Clinton, and Rice were only repeating what they were told, just like George W. Bush was told Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction." Blaming faceless intelligence officers may be the only way Obama can deflect some of the criticism before the election.) [38265]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "Less than two months before the fatal attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, the State Department concluded that the risk of violence to diplomats and other Americans in Libya was high and that the weak U.S.-backed government in Tripoli could do little about it. 'The risk of U.S. Mission personnel, private U.S. citizens and businesspersons encountering an isolating event as a result of militia or political violence is HIGH,' a State Department security assessment from July 22 concludes. The department approved a 30 percent 'danger pay' bonus for Americans working in Libya during the summer, according to documents released by Congress on Tuesday." The State Department document also stated, "The government of Libya does not yet have the ability to effectively respond to and manage the rising criminal and militia violence, which could result in an isolating event." ("Isolating event" is government-speak for a security threat an attack.) [38232]

David Paleologos, director of Suffolk University's Political Research Center, appears on *The O'Reilly Factor* and tells host Bill O'Reilly his polling team has "already painted red" Virginia, Florida, and North Carolina and consider them won by Mitt Romney. "We're not polling any of those states again. We're focusing on the remaining states." If Paleologos is correct in his assumption that Romney has those three states sewed up, then a win in Ohio and any other state—such as Colorado or Iowa—would give Romney a victory over Obama. (Rush Limbaugh later states, "The Obama campaign is spending money in the state, but they've reduced the amount of their television buy by 40 percent from where it was in June, at a time when they're ramping up in every other battleground state. They can't pull out of the state without it being a news story." That is, the Obama team, knows it has lost North Carolina.) [38230, 38255, 38339]

In an interview on ABC's *Nightline* Michelle Obama says, "My connection to military life was pretty tangential [before she entered the White House]. Most Americans like me, they just don't have a clear idea of the sacrifice these men and women and their families make. ...I thought, well if I don't know about this, I'm educated and consider myself pretty well informed about a lot of issues, [and I] didn't know these stories..." (Some might argue that "most Americans" are not like Michelle Obama and they certainly *do* have an idea of the sacrifices made by members of the military and their families—even if they did not get affirmative action scholarships to attend Princeton University and Harvard law School.) [38221, 38222, 38223, 38295]

On October 10 Jack Welch, the well-respected former CEO of General Electric, writes in *The Wall Street Journal*, “Unfortunately for those who would like me to pipe down, the 7.8% unemployment figure released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) last week is downright implausible. And that’s why I made a stink about it. ...The Obama campaign and its supporters, including bigwigs like David Axelrod and Robert Gibbs, along with several cable TV anchors, would like you to believe that BLS data are handled like the gold in Fort Knox, with gun-carrying guards watching their every move, and highly trained, white-gloved super-agents counting and recounting hourly. Let’s get real. The unemployment data reported each month are gathered over a one-week period by census workers, by phone in 70% of the cases, and the rest through home visits. In sum, they try to contact 60,000 households, asking a list of questions and recording the responses. Some questions allow for unambiguous answers, but others less so. For instance, the range for part-time work falls between one hour and 34 hours a week. So, if an out-of-work accountant tells a census worker, ‘I got one baby-sitting job this week just to cover my kid’s bus fare, but I haven’t been able to find anything else,’ that could be recorded as being employed part-time.” [38214]

Welch notes, “I sat through business reviews of a dozen companies last week as part of my work in the private sector, and not one reported better results in the third quarter compared with the second quarter. Several stayed about the same, the rest were down slightly. The economy is not in a free-fall. Oil and gas are strong, automotive is doing well and we seem to be seeing the beginning of a housing comeback. But I doubt many of us know any businessperson who believes the economy is growing at breakneck speed, as it would have to be for unemployment to drop to 7.8% from 8.3% over the course of two months. ...I’m not the first person to question government numbers, and hopefully I won’t be the last. Take, for example, one of my chief critics in this go-round, Austan Goolsbee, former chairman of the Obama administration’s Council of Economic Advisers. Back in 2003, Mr. Goolsbee himself, commenting on a Bush-era unemployment figure, wrote in a *New York Times* op-ed: ‘the government has cooked the books.’ The good news is that the current debate has resulted in people giving the whole issue of unemployment data more thought. Moreover, it led to some of the campaign’s biggest supporters admitting that the number merited a closer look—and even expressing skepticism. The *New York Times* in a Sunday editorial, for instance, acknowledged the 7.8% figure is ‘partly due to a statistical fluke.’ The coming election is too important to be decided on a number. Especially when that number seems so wrong.” [38214]

Thomas Peterffy, who grew up in poverty in Hungary and emigrated to the United States to earn a fortune as founder and CEO of Interactive Brokers, produces and funds his own television ad to warn Americans to stay away from socialism. Peterffy says in the one-minute ad, “I grew up in a socialist country, and I have seen what that does to people. There is no hope, no freedom, no pride in achievement. The nation became poorer and poorer, and that’s what I see happening here. As a young boy I was fantasizing about one day going to America, making a success of myself, the American dream. America’s wealth comes from the efforts of people striving for success. Take away their incentive

with bad-mouthing success and you take away the wealth that helps us take care of the needy. Yes, in socialism the rich will be poorer, but the poor will *also* be poorer. People lose interest in really working hard and creating jobs. I think this is a very slippery slope. It seems like people don't learn from the past. That's why I'm voting Republican and putting this ad on television." According to CNN, Peterffy "expects to spend \$5-\$10 million on the ad buy, depending on its effectiveness. The spot will run on CNN, CNBC, Bloomberg, and test markets in Ohio, Wisconsin, and possibly Florida." (At Breitbart.com Warner Todd Huston notes that CNN's story of Peterffy's ad was given the anti-success, negative title, "Rich, Worried and Buying Ad Time," rather than something more on the order of, "Successful Immigrant Warns America?" Huston writes, "As it happens, Peterffy is right to be worried. But it isn't just an out of control government that he should worry about. This sort of bias in the Old Media establishment is helping drive this country toward the evils of socialism. The media is as much an enemy as big government, nanny state thinking is. Peterffy has more to worry about than he thinks.") [38410, 38421, 38447, 38464]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "The Internal Revenue Service urged a bankruptcy judge to reject solar panel maker Solyndra LLC's bankruptcy plan Wednesday, saying it amounts to little more than an avenue for owners of an empty corporate shell to avoid paying taxes. 'The undeniable conclusion is that tax benefits drive this plan,' attorneys for the IRS wrote in a bankruptcy pleading. Arguing that the bankruptcy court ought not confirm a plan 'whose principal purpose is tax avoidance,' attorneys said in filings in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware that the tax breaks would be worth more money than funds set aside for creditors." Taxpayers are on the hook for more than a half-billion dollars after the company filed for bankruptcy last year, just two years after winning a loan guarantee from the Department of Energy. What's more, government attorneys said that as far back as 2010 [when the Obama administration was giving the company \$535 million] Solyndra owners had 'planned meticulously' to be able to use Solyndra's net operating losses to offset future tax liabilities. 'The only reason for the shell corporation to exist post-confirmation is to enable its owners to exploit these tax attributes, which would be lost in liquidation,' the IRS argued in court papers." [38348]

Meanwhile, "a series of emails from solar power giant BrightSource Energy Inc. show how the company applied political pressure and used behind-the-scenes cajoling to win a \$1.6 billion loan guarantee in April 2011. Emails obtained by The Washington Times show BrightSource leaders discussing in great detail how to best push the Energy Department to green-light the loan to fund the company's massive Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in California's Mojave Desert, the largest loan guarantee issued by the administration. 'We have a lot of force gearing up to leverage [sic] them now, including the WH and VP office [Sen. Harry] Reid and [Sen. Dianne] Feinstein, and Gov. [Jerry] Brown' of California, reads an early March 2011 email from Arthur Haubenstock, the company's vice president of regulatory affairs. ... 'Calls are in to [Joe] Biden's staff and I will be approaching the political affairs office at the White House tomorrow as well, as this project could benefit two senators who are in cycle and whose races will be tough next year—[Barbara] Boxer and the Majority Leader, Sen. Reid,' he wrote in the [2009] message to BrightSource CEO John Woolard." [38349]

DailyCaller.com reports that Obama attended the 1991 wedding of Martha Raddatz and Julius Genachowski. Raddatz will moderate the October 11 debate between Joe Biden and Paul Ryan. Genachowski, a former Harvard classmate of Obama, was appointed by him to head the Federal Communications Commission. “Both Politico and The Daily Beast jumped to ABC and Raddatz’s defense. The Huffington Post, a liberal news outlet, joined them shortly thereafter, while calling ‘unusual’ ABC’s attempt to kill the story before it gained wide circulation.” Raddatz and Genachowski divorced in 1997. Nevertheless, her leftist politics and connections to Obama should make debate viewers wonder whether Raddatz can be impartial. (According to Newsbusters.org, Raddatz is now married to Tom Gjelten, a veteran National Public Radio journalist—who no doubt does not want his taxpayer-funded paychecks to stop. Along with Genachowski, another ex-husband of Raddatz is Ben Bradlee III, son of the former executive editor of *The Washington Post*. In other words, she has liberal credentials. At PJMedia.com Bryan Preston points out that Raddatz worked with Obama at the *Harvard Law Review*.) [38236, 38290, 38299, 38332]

Project Veritas releases a video showing Obama for America campaign staffer Stephanie Caballero giving an undercover reporter instructions on how to vote both in person in Texas and by absentee ballot in Florida. Caballero says, “Oh my god, this is so funny. It’s cool though! ...If anyone checks, say ‘I don’t know.’” Another video shows similar advice being given by Obama staffers in New York. (In both cases, the Obama workers laugh about the process and never state that it is illegal.) Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “Obama for America will spin this story by throwing Caballero under the bus and will say she is an inexperienced staffer. The problem is, Caballero is the director of the Obama for America Houston office pulling a salary. Caballero isn’t an inexperienced staffer or volunteer, not to mention, Caballero’s response to the questions about voting twice should have been, ‘You can’t do that and it’s illegal.’ Instead, Caballero giggled and encouraged double voting in Texas and the swing state of Florida.” (At PJMedia.com, J. Christian Adams notes that Caballero “is a radical’s radical. She was active in the Students for a Democratic Society in Houston. The most shocking thing about that is that the SDS still exists. The second most shocking thing is that someone from this leftover Marxist organization would be a paid staffer with the DNC. I’ll bet that didn’t happen on Bill Clinton and Don Fowler’s watch. Caballero also does photography work for the openly socialist Workers World magazine. This is the propaganda arm of the Workers World Party.”) [38229, 38261, 38310, 38328, 38329, 38330, 38331]

David Simas, polling expert for the Obama campaign, tells campaign volunteers, “Polls will go up, polls will go down. ...We have said from the beginning that this will be a very, very close race. If the election were held today, [Obama] would absolutely be reelected. ...At the end of the day, polls don’t matter. ...Work harder than you ever have. Dig in, make the calls, knock on the doors.” [38300]

Although Obama has complained mightily over the years about lack of federal aid for victims of Hurricane Katrina (despite the fact that more than \$100 billion in aid was

provided), the administration has been slow to provide assistance for victims of Hurricane Isaac. Additionally, it has made it easier for predominantly black counties than white counties to receive assistance. DailyCaller.com reports, “According to Louisiana Republican Rep. Steve Scalise, [Obama] has responded to the August landfall of Hurricane Isaac, which devastated several parishes in Louisiana, by requiring local governments to provide the maximum allowable 25 percent matching funds to receive their federal aid, instead of the 10 percent match that served as the Bush administration’s guideline in the aftermath of Katrina. Plaquemines Parish, which was particularly hard hit by Isaac and whose residents had to evacuate to escape the effects of storm surge, is one area whose Stafford Act requirements Obama has declined to waive. ...U.S. Census Bureau data show that Plaquemines’ population is 71 percent white. Scalise added that Vice President Joe Biden had promised Louisiana that the federal government would forgive the \$705 million in community disaster loans provided by the federal government after Katrina. Instead, the administration devised rules for loan forgiveness that only the mostly black Orleans parish—not surrounding parishes, which are predominately white—could meet. ...State leaders, including Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, agreed that the administration has hypocritically shirked its responsibility.” Jindal states, “It’s offensive that Barack Obama would even try to score political points using Hurricane Katrina, Jindal told TheDC through a spokesman. St. John the Baptist Parish was inundated by Isaac’s storm surge. ...Obama visited the parish, held a press conference there and toured the devastation. Yet, he is still relying on this parish, and all other impacted parishes, to pick up 25 percent of the cost and refuses to make any adjustment allowed under the Stafford Act.” (Obama’s actions are payback for what he considered mistreatment of blacks after Hurricane Katrina—and he knows Louisiana voters will give the state to Romney on November 6 so he can safely ignore their needs.) [38325]

Residents of Washington, D.C. will soon learn that Obama’s promise that under ObamaCare they can keep their insurance if they like it has been broken. DailyCaller.com reports, “The D.C. Health Benefit Exchange Authority (HBX) unanimously voted to require all businesses in the district with 50 members or less to purchase employee health insurance plans through the exchange, despite backlash from local businesses. ...The mandate will affect 7,300 District employers who provide plans to employees—more than 125,000 people, according to a 2010 report from the D.C. Department of Health Care Finance.” (In other words, if an employer provides its employees with coverage through a company that is not part of the ObamaCare exchange it will have to cancel that policy and switch to a company that participates in the exchange.) [38240]

At a congressional hearing, Charlene Lamb, deputy secretary of state for diplomatic security, states, “We had the correct number of assets in Benghazi at the time of 9/11.” (Lamb is in charge of security for all embassies and consulates.) Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) replies, “To start off by saying you had the correct number and our ambassador and three other individuals are dead and people are in the hospital recovering because it only took moments to breach that facility somehow doesn’t seem to ring true to the American people.” CNSNews.com notes that Lamb “used the word ‘attack’ five times and ‘attackers’ four times in her written testimony describing the 9/11 terrorist strike on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, but never used any derivative of the word

‘terror.’” Asked by Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN) why she did not, Lamb replies, “I’m not making any judgments on my own.” According to the Associated Press, “Eric Nordstrom, the former regional security officer in Libya, said he had requested more security but that request was blocked by a department policy to ‘normalize operations and reduce security resources.’ Under questioning, though, he said he had sought mainly to prevent any reduction in staff, rather than have a big increase.” (The day before the *Chicago Tribune* reported that Nordstrom “twice asked his State Department superiors for more security agents for the American mission in Benghazi months before an attack that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other Americans, but he got no response.”) Nordstrom also states, “Our long-term security plan in Libya was to deploy an armed, locally hired Libyan body guard unit. Due to Libyan political sensitivities, armed private security companies were not allowed to operate in Libya. That was the case under [Moammar] Khadafy and that was the case under the free Libya.” [38244, 38245, 38247, 38248, 38257, 38264, 38266, 38311, 38324, 38325, 38512]

Rush Limbaugh later comments, “So we simply said, ‘Okay, cool, we’re not allowed to have any armed American personnel protecting our ambassador at our consulate? Cool. We understand that. We’ll hire one of your people. We’ll hire a bodyguard for the ambassador.’ And that’s what they did. And you know the story now, don’t you? There was a safe house. This is part of the plan. If ever there is a threat or some unrest aimed at people in our consulate, there’s a safe house location. There’s an escape route, escape plan, and you take all the important personnel at the embassy or consulate to the safe house, which happened. The problem is that this bodyguard that we hired told the mob where they took the ambassador. ... Well, what is this private security business? Why not the Marines? ... Why can’t you just go out and position some Marines there? It was okay for the U.S. to send in US pilots to help Libya get rid of Khadafy. This is absurd. This is, right there, one of the myriad problems, the liberal worldview. ‘Oh, you don’t want us to have any? Oh, okay. Okay.’” [38264]

During the hearing Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) asks Lt. Col. Andy Wood about his frustrations in attempting to obtain additional security for U.S. personnel in Tripoli and Benghazi. Wood responds, “We were fighting a losing battle [with Washington bureaucrats]. We couldn’t even keep what [security] we had. We were not even allowed to keep what we had.” Eric Nordstrom adds, “I told the same regional director in a telephone call in Benghazi after he contacted me when I asked for 12 agents. His response to that was, ‘You’re asking for the sun, moon, and the stars.’ My response to him... I said, ‘Jim, you know what makes most frustrating about this assignment [sic]? It’s not the hardships, it’s not the gunfire, it’s not the threats. It’s dealing [with] and fighting against the people, programs, and personnel who are supposed to be supporting me. And I added... ‘For me, the Taliban is on the inside of the building.’” Nordstrom says, “It was abundantly clear we were not going to get resources until the aftermath of an incident. And the question that we would ask is again, ‘How thin does the ice need to get until someone falls through?’” Wood says it was “instantly recognizable” that it was a terrorist attack at the consulate “because of my prior knowledge there. I almost expected the attack to come. We were the last flag flying. It was a matter of time.” (By “last flag flying,” Wood means other diplomats had already had enough sense to leave the

dangerous area. The British abandoned their office in Benghazi after a June 11 attack on their ambassador's motorcade, and left their weapons in the custody of the U.S. consulate. Those weapons are now missing. The name Benghazi means "city of holy warriors." Mayberry it isn't, yet Obama accepted a Barney Fife level of security.) [38274, 38311, 38392, 38442, 38471, 38512]

Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) asks Lt. Col. Wood about the growing al-Qaeda influence in the region. Wood replies, "[T]heir presence grows every day. They are certainly more established than we are." Wood also confirms that between 10,000 and 20,000 shoulder-fired missiles are missing from Libyan arsenals. (In his eagerness to assist Libyan rebels oust Moammar Gaddafi, Obama neglected to confirm whether those rebels were America-friendly or al-Qaeda-affiliated, and never stopped to consider the consequences of Gaddafi's weapons getting into the wrong hands. The consequence could very well be the downing of a U.S. airliner.) [38471, 38472, 38473, 38474, 38498, 38512]

Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), noting "a 12-month long prologue of violence in Libya," angrily calls for U.N. ambassador Susan Rice, under oath, to come before a hearing so she can be asked, "Who told you what when? If you're going to blame the intelligence community, you come before *this* committee and you tell us who told you it was [only a] video [that prompted the consulate attack]." Gowdy also refers to White House press secretary Jay Carney statement that there was "concrete evidence" that the attack was in response to a video. "So, two representatives of this administration [Rice and Carney] gave demonstrably false statements not just to us but to our fellow citizens on national television." [38244, 38245, 38247, 38248, 38257, 38264, 38323, 38512]

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton does not testify at the hearing. Whether she will do so at a future session is not known. HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey observes, "[E]ventually the Secretary of State will have to answer—or answer for—serious questions that have arisen in the wake of the Obama administration's narrative collapse on Benghazi. First, the State Department will have to reveal who told [U.N. ambassador] Susan Rice to go out and lie on national television about the nature of the attack. Either Rice did that willingly or unwittingly, but she clearly wasn't being briefed by the State Department before those television appearances, as State now says they never believed that there were protests at the consulate before the attack. Did her superior at State—who can only be Hillary—tell her to use that story? Or did Rice take her marching orders from the White House itself? If so, who, and under what understanding: that the story was true, or that it was false? Next, and more importantly, come questions of security precautions at a consulate already under attack and located in Islamist Terrorism Central since the fall of [Moammar] Qaddafi. Hillary is ultimately responsible for that, too. Who told Benghazi and Ambassador Stevens to stop asking for more security, and who told that person to tell Stevens that? That buck either stops with Hillary or with Barack Obama himself." [38251]

Morrissey continues, “Under these circumstances in earlier and more honorable times, both Hillary Clinton and Susan Rice would have already resigned their posts. That’s especially true in Rice’s case, who got caught pushing a lie that tried to cover up the fact that the US suffered a terrorist attack. Either the lie is hers, in which case resignation is the only possible step, or someone lied to her and used her to push it out to the public, in which case a person of her rank should resign immediately in protest and reveal what happened. The fact that Rice has not resigned as of yet tells us that the latter was not the case, and also tells us all we need to know about her integrity. As for Hillary Clinton, her ‘legacy’ is about to get defined—unless she starts talking about who ordered the cover-up. If not, then we probably know all we need to know about her integrity and legacy as well.” [38251]

It is worth noting that one persistent Internet sleuth, who goes by the name Montagraph, has learned that the movie *Innocence of Muslims* has had several names over its development life, including *Desert Warriors*, *Innocence of bin Laden*, and *The Real Life of Mohammed*. Various video clips have been posted at YouTube channels called News Politics Now, News Politics 1 Now, News Politics 2 Now, News Politics 3 Now, and News Politics Leaks. According to Montagraph, the NPN avatar on those pages appears to be linked to Stanley, Inc., an information technology company based in Arlington, Virginia. The consulting company has contracts with the U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, the State Department, and the Department of Homeland Security. It is also involved with passport production. In March 2008 two employees of Stanley, Inc. were fired for illegally accessing Obama’s passport records. Also linked to the breach was an employee of The Analysis Corporation (TAC), later known as Sotera Defense. Both Stanley, Inc. and Sotera Defense, which also has contracts with the intelligence community, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security, were acquired by CGI Group. John Brennan, the head of TAC, was later named Obama’s terrorism and intelligence advisor. During the Clinton presidency, Brennan was instrumental in preventing an operation that would have killed or captured Osama bin Laden. (The relationship between NPN and Stanley, Inc. is not clear.) [807, 4199, 4200, 7759, 7760, 38496, 38497, 38500, 38502, 38503]

During his campaign speeches Mitt Romney sometimes talks about having met Jane Horton at the Republican National Convention, and how she had learned her husband Chris had been killed in Afghanistan while she was packing gifts to send to him. Horton tells ABC News, “Wow. I had no idea [Romney was mentioning me or my husband]. To be honest, I’ve been through a lot and I’m not a super emotional person but it brings me to tears. Not that he’s telling my story, but that he’s telling my husband’s story, it means the world to me. One of the last things my husband said to me before he was killed, when I would ask him, ‘Chris, what do you need over there? What can I send you?’ He said, ‘I need a new president..’” (Chris Horton had worked for the Romney campaign in 2008. When Romney learned of his death in 2011 he wrote Jane Horton, and they exchanged additional correspondence after that.) [38249, 38250]



ABC's Jake Tapper asks White House press secretary Jay Carney, "...Obama, shortly after the attack told *60 Minutes* that regarding Mitt Romney's response to the attacks, specifically in Egypt, [Obama] said that Romney has a tendency to 'shoot first and aim later.' Given the fact that so much was made out of the video that apparently had absolutely nothing to do with the attack in Benghazi, that there wasn't even a protest outside the Benghazi post, didn't ...Obama shoot first and aim later?" Carney responds, "...Your assessment about what we know now, uh, is not complete. But I would simply say that..." Tapper: "I'm just going by what the State Department said yesterday." Carney: "There is no question that in the region, including in Cairo, there were demonstrations, uh..." Tapper: "I'm talking about Benghazi." Carney: "...reacting to, uh, the, uh, release of that video. And I will leave it to, uh, those who are testifying on the Hill to talk about it... as they are..." Tapper: "They said yesterday that there was no protest." Carney: "I'm not disputing that there was a protest [sic], but what we said at the time is 'our intelligence community assessed that the attack began spontaneously following protests earlier that day at our embassy in Cairo,' okay? Again, this is a moving picture, and people who, on the night of an attack, or the day after, claim they know all the facts, uh, without making clear that what we know is based on preliminary information, uh, aren't being straight. And they're, uh, in some cases trying to, uh, politicize a situation that should not be politicized." [38252, 38266, 38275]

In a nationwide Rasmussen survey, Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–43 percent on the issue of who will better handle the economy. [38258]

The Associated Press reports, "The United States has sent military troops to the Jordan-Syria border to bolster that country's military capabilities in the event that violence escalates along its border with Syria, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Wednesday. Speaking at a NATO conference of defense ministers in Brussels, Panetta said the U.S. has been working with Jordan to monitor chemical and biological weapons sites in Syria and also to help Jordan deal with refugees pouring over the border from Syria. The troops are also building a headquarters for themselves. But the revelation of U.S. military personnel so close to the 19-month-old Syrian conflict suggests an escalation in the U.S. military involvement in the conflict, even as Washington pushes back on any suggestion of a direct intervention in Syria." NYTimes.com writes, "The United States military has secretly sent a task force of more than 150 planners and other specialists to Jordan to help the armed forces there handle a flood of Syrian refugees, prepare for the possibility that Syria will lose control of its chemical weapons and be positioned should the turmoil in Syria expand into a wider conflict." (The *Times* does not explain how the mission can still be referred to as "secret.") [38260, 38262, 38460]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–44 in an October 4–9 IBD/TIPP poll of likely voters. Obama leads in the Northeast; Romney leads in the Midwest, South, and West. Obama leads among voters age 18–44; Romney leads among voters age 45–64 and 65 and older. Romney leads 57–36 among men; Obama leads among all women, but Obama leads among single women and Romney leads with married women. Romney leads among blacks and Hispanics; Romney leads among whites. Obama leads among those who earn

less than \$30,000; Romney leads among those earning \$30,000 or more. Most significantly, Romney leads 54–34 among independents. The poll’s D/R/I is 39/31/30. (Even with a +8 Democrat advantage, Romney leads Obama by 5 points.) [38270, 38285]

A KPIX-TV CBS 5 poll in California shows Obama leading Mitt Romney 53–39. “Obama carried the Golden State by 24 points in 2008, so the poll found Obama is now running 10 points weaker than he ran 4 years ago. Among Independents, Obama led by 14 in September, but now trails by 9 in October, a 23-point right turn among the most coveted voters.” (Rush Limbaugh comments, “And now he’s down to 53 percent. Now, don’t anybody misunderstand. I’m not one of these people that thinks, ‘Oh, wow, Romney could win California.’ I’m not saying that. I’m saying [it’s remarkable that Obama is] down to 53 percent in a state where you have to call a search party to find a Republican... To be down to 53 percent there says something.”) [38298, 38339]

In a Fox News poll, Mitt Romney leads Obama 46–45, after trailing 48–43 one week earlier. (Additionally, 50 percent of those polled would trust Romney to manage their family’s money and bank accounts; 38 percent trust Obama.) [38312]

In a poll of 4,681 physicians, Mitt Romney leads Obama 53–33 percent. The lead increases to 58–28 among sole practitioners, reports WashingtonExaminer.com, “an indication that private doctors are worried about the impact Obamacare will have on their practices. By comparison, doctors working for hospitals backed [Obama] 47 percent to 37 percent.” [38315, 38316]

ThePostEmail.com reports that attorney Orly Taitz’s Indiana ballot challenge trial will be held October 22. Taitz says, “This is the first time we’ve had a trial. We will subpoena witnesses.” (According to Taitz the judge previously stated, “I believe there is a strong case here; I believe the plaintiffs provided a strong argument, but I need evidence.” The evidence that Obama is not a natural born citizen, that his birth certificate is a forgery, and that he has used stolen Social Security numbers will soon be presented.) [38318]

Reuters reports, “Russia will not renew a decades-old agreement with Washington on dismantling nuclear and chemical weapons when it expires next year, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying on Wednesday. The death of the 1991 agreement, which had been renewed twice, is the latest in a series of hitches in relations between the United States and Russia and casts doubt on the future of the much-vaunted ‘reset’ in relations between the Cold War-era foes.” [38271]

CNSNews.com reports, “In the months leading up to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, the U.S. Embassy in Libya was seeking to hire two bodyguards with ‘limited’ English language skills at salaries of about \$13,000 per year. Job descriptions for these openings that the U.S. Embassy in Libya posted online said the State Department would give preference in filling them to qualified U.S. citizens who were family members of U.S. government employees. The job descriptions explicitly

stated that this included the ‘same-sex domestic partners’ of U.S. government employees.” (Apparently it did not occur to Obama’s State Department that command of the English language might be a good idea for U.S. consulate employees, or that Libya is a Muslim country whose citizens are offended by homosexuality.) [38321]

Obama, following his campaign’s new “Romney is a liar theme,” tells Diane Sawyer of ABC News, “Governor Romney had a good [debate] night. I had a bad night. The fundamentals haven’t changed. Governor Romney went to a lot of trouble to hide what his positions are.” In the interview Sawyer does not once mention Libya—despite the congressional hearings held on the consulate attack. She does find time to ask, “What did Mrs. Obama say to you when you got home that night [after the debate]?” and “You’re going to win [reelection]” [38272, 38294, 38313]

Screenrant.com reports that singer Beyonce Knowles has declined a starring role in a remake of *A Star is Born*, to be directed by Clint Eastwood. (Whether the decision is the result of “scheduling conflicts” or “political conflicts”—both Knowles and her husband, vulgar “rapper” Jay-Z are strong Obama supporters and Eastwood endorsed Mitt Romney—is unknown, but turning down an opportunity to work with a legendary Oscar-winning director is not something most entertainers would consider.) [38279]

In *The Washington Times*, Congressman Mike Kelly (R-PA) writes, “In a May 3, 2012, email, the State Department denied a request by a group of Special Forces assigned to protect the U.S. embassy in Libya to continue their use of a DC-3 airplane for security operations throughout the country. The subject line of the email, on which slain Ambassador Chris Stevens was copied, read: ‘Termination of Tripoli DC-3 Support.’ Four days later, on May 7, the State Department authorized the U.S. embassy in Vienna to purchase a \$108,000 electric vehicle charging station for the embassy motor pool’s new Chevrolet Volts. The purchase was a part of the State Department’s ‘Energy Efficiency Sweep of Europe’ initiative, which included hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on green program expenditures at various U.S. Embassies. ... While the embassy in Vienna was going green, the consulate in Benghazi was getting bombed, and little was done to stop it.” [38407, 38408]

On *Special Report Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer says, “There are two scandals going on [with the consulate attack in Libya]. The first is the cover-up. We now know, and they knew earlier, there was no mob, there was no demonstration, there was no incentive about the video. It was all a completely false story. This was simply an attack [by men] who infiltrated and killed our people. So everything that Susan Rice said was a confection, it was an invention. And as you showed, it was repeated again and again. You had Hillary Clinton speaking about the video as the body of the ambassador was lying next to her [at Dover Air Force Base]. Then you had Susan Rice spinning the tales. You had [Obama] addressing the [U.N.] General Assembly more than two weeks later talking about the video, the insult to Islam, et cetera. You have this entire story going all along. They’re trying to sell the video, they’re trying to sell extremism and they’re trying to sell all of this at a time when they know it isn’t true. So that’s number

one. And that's a scandal and I think it has to do with the fact that they were spiking the football over the death of bin Laden and al-Qaeda a week earlier [at their convention] in Charlotte and this is a contradiction of it." [38344]

"The second scandal is the lack of security at the site before. So what happened before [the attack]? And I think that what happened was the administration—it wasn't a lack of money that they withdrew all the support and they didn't put up the required barbed wire and the fences and all of that. It was under the theory which starts with Obama at the beginning; we don't want to be intruders in the area, we don't want to be oppositional, we don't want to have a fortress in America, we don't want to look imperialist. We want to blend in with the people and help them build. That's a noble aspiration and that was the motive for having very light security, but it was a catastrophically wrong decision to do it in Benghazi in a no-man's land, in Dodge City, and it cost us the lives of the Ambassador and three other Americans." [38344]

Actress Stacy Dash is interviewed by CNN's Piers Morgan, who introduces her as, "the most controversial woman in America" for having "the audacity as a black actress to [say she will] vote for Mitt Romney." Dash, who voted for Obama in 2008, says, "I want the next four years to be different. ...I chose [Romney], not by the color of his skin but by the content of his character. ...Do your homework. Look at your country. Think about the next four years of your life. Also, look at Mitt Romney's track record. As a CEO, he has excelled. As governor of Massachusetts, he did quite well. And listen to what he says—I believe him and I believe he deserves a shot." [38278, 38552]

Morgan also interviews Democrat National Committee head Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Morgan criticizes the Obama administration for "putting out completely false statements before you know the facts" on the Benghazi attack. She replies, "Piers, it is not, it is not okay for you to be saying that the administration was putting out completely false statements. They put out information that they had at the time based on the intelligence they were given and then as the days wore on and more..." Morgan: "That turned out to be completely wrong." Wasserman Schultz: "Well, that doesn't mean it was false." Morgan: "What? Now wait a minute. If you put out a false statement, then it's false, it's wrong. It's both of those things!" [38301]

The mother of Sean Smith, the former Navy SEAL killed in the September 11 Benghazi attack, appears on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360. Pat Smith says, "Obama told me, Hillary [Clinton] promised me, Joe Biden—Joe Biden is a treasure, he was a real sweetheart but he also told me—they all, they all told me that... they promised me... I told them, 'Please, tell me what happened... just tell me what happened... Don't give me any baloney that comes through with this political stuff. I don't want political stuff, you can keep your political—just tell me the truth. What happened? And I still don't know. in fact, today I just heard something more, that he died of smoke inhalation. I don't even know that's true or not. ...I look at TV and I see bloody handprints on walls [at the consulate] and I think, 'My God, is that my son?' I don't know if he was shot. I don't know... I don't know. They haven't told me *anything*. There'll still 'studying' it. And the

things that they are telling me are just *outright lies*. That [U.N. ambassador] Susan Rice... she talked to me personally and she said, ‘This is the way it was, it was because of this film that came out...’ ...All of them did [blame it on the video]. All of them did. [Defense Secretary] Leon Panetta... said ‘Trust me. I will tell you what happened.’ And so far he’s told me *nothing*. Nothing at all. And I want to know.” [38277, 38284, 38308, 38337, 38489]

“At first I was so proud, because they were treating me nice when I went to that reception. They all came up to me and talked to me and everything. *I cried on Obama’s shoulder*. And then he kind of looked off into the distance. So, that was worthless to me. I want to know, for God’s sake... or [angrily] for Allah’s sake or whoever’s sake is there. ...I believe I [deserve answers]. I believe it. It’s my son... I told Obama personally, I said, ‘Look, I had him for his first 17 years, and then he went into the [military] service. Then you got him. And, I won’t say it [now] the way I said it [to Obama], but I said, “*You screwed up!* You didn’t do a good job. I lost my son.’ And they said, ‘We’ll get back to you. ...I promise, I promise you. I will get back to you.’” Cooper observes that she would at least like to be kept apprised of the situation. Mrs. Smith says, “That would be so nice. That would be so nice. They would... at least acknowledge that I have the right to know *something*, something other than, “Oh, we’re checking up on it,” or, “Trust me.” I like that one the best of all. ‘Trust me. I will let you know.’ Well, I don’t trust you anymore. I don’t trust you anymore. You—I’m not going to say lied to me, but you didn’t tell me... and you knew.” (It was Sean Smith who, in the hours before the attack, posted a message in a chat room: “assuming we don’t die tonight. We saw one of our ‘police’ that guard the compound taking pictures.”) [38277, 38284, 38308, 38337, 38489]

Former U.N. ambassador John Bolton appears on Greta van Susteren’s *On the Record* to discuss the Libya fiasco. Bolton states, “Look, the administration made up its mind what the reality was, whether it was engaged in a cover-up, whether it was ideology that dominated the view, whether it was incompetence—at this point we don’t know the answer to that. But we know one thing unmistakably. They were flatly wrong. They got it wrong before the attack, they got it wrong after the attack, they’re getting it wrong now. So, we can psychoanalyze them all we want, but this is a demonstration—these people [in the Obama administration] cannot be left in the same room with our national security.” Van Susteren asks why White House press secretary Jay Carney is still pushing the anti-Islam video theme. Bolton replies, “Because I think it’s [Obama’s] view that it was the video. That’s why I think it’s ideology. Look, I understand people say, ‘The administration’s lying, this is a cover-up.’ For the sake of our country I wish I could believe it were a cover-up, because then that would at least acknowledge they understood reality, [but] it was inconvenient and they were trying to obscure it. I fear it’s more the ideology.” [38338]

“Let’s ask this question: how much communication was going on from the State Department to the White House before the White House started talking through Jay Carney and through others, and through, as Carney says, an administration-wide assessment? You know how long it takes to get that? Only one person has to say what his

assessment is, and then it becomes administration-wide. ...There is a pattern here. This all comes from [Obama]. The day after the attack [State Department Under Secretary] Patrick Kennedy, who testified today, briefed [Capitol] Hill that they thought it was a terrorist attack. Everybody except [Obama] seems to be getting the point at some stage, except those who work directly for him who want to. So, when you say, 'Where is this problem coming from?' it all points to [Obama]. You could criticize Susan Rice all you want, I know some Republicans have called for her to resign—[but] it's not her fault. It's [Obama's] fault. ... 'The war on terror is over, al-Qaeda has been defeated, sweetness and light have broken out in Libya'—*that's what he thinks*. ...I don't think he can process that reality [that the evidence is against him]. ...But I think in his ideological world, as Jeane Kirkpatrick [also a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations] once said, '[It's] The blame America first mentality.' 'You know, it was that video, we provoked those poor people, blame America, don't blame them.' And once [Obama] gets in that drill, ...he can't break free from it. Here's another question though. Other than a few preliminary remarks by Hillary Clinton, also on the video point, where has she been? I still think the great unanswered question is why she wasn't on those five Sunday [talk] shows rather than Susan Rice? ...This is a tragedy and a debacle and massive administration failure." [38338]

Purported "comedian" David Letterman spends eight minutes whining on his late night television program that he has been unable to persuade Mitt Romney to appear as a guest. (Letterman, a political leftist, has spent months ridiculing Romney, calling him a felon and a tax cheat, and mocking his family and religion.) [38320]

On October 11 gunmen shoot and kill "a Yemeni security chief on his way to work at the U.S. embassy in Sanaa," according to Reuters, "in an attack a Yemeni security source said appeared to be the work of al Qaeda. ...The attackers, on a motorcycle, opened fire on Qassem Aqlan—who headed an embassy security investigation team—near his house in the centre of Yemen's capital. ...Yemen-based Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and other militant groups strengthened their grip on parts of the country during an uprising that ousted veteran President Ali Abdullah Saleh in February." According to the Associated Press, Aqlani (or Aqlan) "had been working for the U.S. Embassy for nearly 20 years." (Obama may have ordered the raid that purportedly resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden, but he certainly did not destroy al-Qaeda.) Michelle Malkin writes, "[I] Can't wait for lying liar Susan Rice to tell us this had *noooooothing* to do with jihad, either. In case you needed reminding, tomorrow is the 12th anniversary of the jihadi bombing of the USS Cole." [38276, 38305, 38306]

According to Wired.com, "The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is working on a report identifying 'policies, plans and procedures' for transferring detainees from Guantanamo Bay and exploring Defense and Justice Department 'facilities in the United States that are most likely to meet the requirements for housing Guantanamo Bay detainees.' The study seeks to detail 'the characteristics and capacity of U.S. correctional and detention facilities' as well as 'potential challenges that could affect the transfer of

the Guantanamo Bay detainees to facilities within the U.S.” (The study was requested by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).) [38499]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 47–44 in a Reuters/IPSOS national tracking poll. [38286]

Obama leads Romney 48–44 in Maine, which Obama won by 17 points in 2008. But, notes Politico, Romney leads Obama 49–44 in the state’s 2nd Congressional District. “In most states, that such a result wouldn’t mean much. But Maine is one of two states in the country [Nebraska is the other] that splits its electoral college vote by congressional district.” (Maine’s four electoral votes may therefore end up being divided between Obama and Romney.) [38450, 38451]

Townhall.com posts another undercover video from James O’Keefe’s Project Veritas that “shows volunteers in Brooklyn and an official Obama for America office in Minnesota encouraging double voting.” (It is illegal, of course, to vote twice—federal law 42 USC 1973i(e). It is also illegal to aid and abet election fraud—42 USC § 1973gg–10(2). But no one should expect Obama’s attorney general, Eric Holder, to prosecute anyone in the Obama campaign.) Meanwhile, the video released by O’Keefe the day before prompts action: DailyCaller.com reports, “The Democratic National Committee has terminated the employment of Houston, Texas, Organizing For America Regional Field Director Stephanie Caballero after she was caught on camera calling voter fraud ‘cool’ and ‘so funny’ while advising a presumably-liberal voter how to vote twice.” [38287, 38288, 38310, 38328, 38387]

Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, calls for an investigation into the Obama campaign’s failure to take adequate precautions to prevent illegal donations from non-citizens. DailyCaller.com reports, “The request follows an investigation by the Government Accountability Institute, which highlighted the campaign’s low-grade anti-fraud measures, the large amount of online traffic between the campaign’s fundraising pages and overseas Internet users, plus foreigners’ claims they had donated to the campaign. ... Few Republicans think Holder will launch an investigation, but the request may spur coverage by the established media of the fund-raising concerns, which appear to be a repeat of Obama’s fund-raising practices in 2008.”

DailyCaller.com posts a portion of an October 28, 1994 NPR interview in which Obama argued for affirmative action programs and labeled their opponents racists. [38291]

In North Dakota, Democrat U.S. Senate candidate Heidi Heitkamp addresses the Chamber of Commerce. CBS reports, “Heitkamp, who has been critical of what she says is the Obama administration’s hostility to oil and coal development, was asked what she would tell the Democratic president about energy policy. She replied that she would tell Obama: ‘You’re wrong on energy. You’re headed in the wrong direction. You made bad decisions. ... You promised that you would promote clean coal technologies, that you would be a champion of coal, and you haven’t done it.’ [Obama] should replace Energy

Secretary Steven Chu and Lisa Jackson, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Heitkamp said. She described Jackson as openly hostile to coal development.” Her Republican opponent, Rick Berg, tells the group, “If we want to ignite America’s fires again, what we need is an approach like North Dakota, an all-of-the-above approach.” [38361, 38362]

On CNN, Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter says “...the entire reason this [Libya terrorist attack] has become the political topic it is, is because of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan. It’s a big part of their stump speech. And it’s reckless and irresponsible what they’re doing.” (Congressional hearings are being held because four Americans were killed and the Obama administration lied about the cause of the attack. It would be irresponsible of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan not to question the competence of the administration.) Cutter is hit with considerable criticism over her statement, from both the political right and some on the left, and there are calls for her resignation. She responds, “I promise to resign as soon as Romney releases his taxes or gives a foreign policy speech with some policy in it.” [38336, 38405, 38529]

At a rally in Asheville, North Carolina Mitt Romney tells the crowd of 8,000, “I think today we got another indication of how ...Obama and his campaign fail to grasp the seriousness of the challenges that we face here in America.” Romney notes Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter’s comment that Libya is not an important “political topic” and responds, “...[I]t’s an issue because this is the first time in thirty-three years that a United States Ambassador has been assassinated. ...[T]his is an issue because we were attacked successfully by terrorists on the anniversary of 9/11. ...[T]his is an issue because Americans wonder why it was it took so long for you and your administration to admit that this was a terrorist attack.” [38359, 38428]

Mitt Romney visits 93-year-old evangelist Reverend Billy Graham at his home in Montreat, North Carolina. Graham’s son, Reverend Franklin Graham—who raised eyebrows earlier in the year when he declined to say whether Obama is a Christian—tells Romney he will do what he can to encourage churchgoers to vote. [38351]

Obama’s lead over Mitt Romney plummets to only 3 points, 50–47, in an October 4–9 Quinnipiac/CBS/NYT poll in Wisconsin. (Obama won the state by almost 14 points in 2008.) In Colorado, Romney leads 48–47. (Obama won Colorado by 8 points in 2008.) Obama leads 51–46 in Virginia, but trails 48–47 in an NBC poll. [38296, 38302]

Gallup finally switches from polling registered voters to focusing on likely voters in its October 2–8 national poll. The result is a 49–47 lead for Mitt Romney. On the other hand, Gallup has also recently started weighting its polls more heavily toward non-whites, from 27 percent to 32 percent. WeeklyStandard.com’s Jay Cost writes, “So, from the looks of it, the left got what it wanted: Gallup altered its methodology with a month to go until Election Day. And the result—at least on the job approval question—is a shift in Obama’s favor [from consistently below 50 percent to 53 percent]. Whether or not this has altered the Romney-Obama head-to-head numbers among likely and registered



voters, I cannot say. ...What I can say is that it's problematic to alter one's methodological approach to polling elections just five weeks before the biggest election in a generation. In fact, I think this is a highly inopportune time to make such a change; do it in the summer of 2012 or the winter of 2013, but for goodness sake not the fall of 2012!" [38297, 38319]

CNN Money reports that, according to PayScale, "which analyzes data from more than 10 million U.S. workers, ...oil and gas exploration industry have seen their pay increase by an average of 4.9% over the past 12 months and that has helped to push the average U.S. worker's paycheck 3% higher over the same period." [38303, 38304]

Obama attends an "Estamos Unido/We are One" fundraiser in Miami Beach, Florida, with actress Eva Longoria. (TheHill.com reports, "An email sent to supporters indicating that it was to be 'the final finance event' asked donors to 'make sure it is a truly national event and a culminating moment of unity that celebrates our incredible work.'") [38314]

At the University of Miami's Bank United Arena, Obama advocates more "green energy" spending by the government, telling his audience, "By the way, yes, my plan will reduce the carbon pollution that is eating our planet because climate change is not a hoax. More droughts and hurricanes and wildfires, that's not a joke. That's a threat to our children's future, and we can do something about it." [38373, 38374]

Obama also states, "We got back every dime we used to rescue the financial system, but we also passed a historic law to end taxpayer-funded Wall Street bailouts for good." (According to the Congressional Budget office, the taxpayers are still out \$65 billion from the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP loans. Further, the Dodd-Frank legislation to which Obama refers does not put an end to bailouts. In fact, it provides a process for bailing out "too big to fail" banks.) [38588, 38913]

The Department of Labor reports that weekly unemployment claims dropped by 30,000, to 339,000. The *Los Angeles Times* reports, "New jobless claims plunge to 4 1/2-year low." However, a substantial portion of California's data is *not included* in number and the eventual revised number may end up at about 360,000. Even the reported figure of 339,000 is reduced from the actual number, based on "seasonal adjustments." What was reported as a decrease may actually be an increase. (DailyCaller.com later reports, "Marty Morgenstern, the secretary of the California agency that substantially under-reported unemployment claims last week, contributed to ...Obama's 2008 presidential election campaign.") [38327, 38333, 38334, 38376, 38377, 38804]

AllAmericanBlogger.com reports, "Last night on Twitter, Charles V. Payne, a contributor to Fox News, laid out the ordeal he, his wife and a close friend and mentor were going through, all thanks to government red tape. His friend recently lost his daughter. Payne's wife needs a heart transplant. His friend offered them his daughter's heart. Overwhelmed, they accepted. Then the government got involved. (A government regulation prohibits a

heart donation if the patient lives more than five hours from the donor.) Behold, government compassion. Whatever happened to ‘my body, my choice?’ Choice only matters in abortion, I guess.” [38335]

WND.com reports, “The decision to raid Osama bin Laden’s compound in Pakistan and kill him was made without ...Obama—and actually was kept from him until after the helicopters already were in Pakistani airspace—according to a new report from a retired major general who cites a senior intelligence source. The raid was handled by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, [then-] Director of Central Intelligence Leon Panetta and others in this way because Obama had vetoed multiple earlier opportunities to attack the man behind the 9/11 terror attacks, the report said. The report comes from U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul E. Vallely, who retired in 1993 as deputy commanding general, Pacific Command, and has served as a senior military analyst for Fox News. He is now chairman of Stand Up America, which calls itself the standard bearer for the conservancy of the U.S. Constitution.” (It has been reported that it was Obama’s closest advisor, Valerie Jarrett, who persuaded him to veto previous plans.) “...Vallely said a ‘senior and sensitive intelligence community source’ affirmed to a Stand Up America research team that Obama ‘did not know of the raid in Abbottabad to kill Osama bin Laden on May 1, 2011, until after the helicopters with SEAL Team 6 had crossed into Pakistani airspace.’ The source said Obama was notified ‘at the golf course... which is why he was sitting in the strange sitting position in the picture that documented the White House operations room event.’ The source told Stand Up America that Panetta ‘was the key player who organized and supported this daring raid. He signed the ‘execute orders’ with only a few people aware: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, [then-] Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Adm. Bill Mullen and Gen. David Petraeus.” (Vallely’s statements are consistent with earlier reports from The Ulsterman Report’s unnamed White House insider.) [38340, 38494, 38993]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 51–44 in an October 8–9 Virginia poll by GOP pollster John McLaughlin. Republican George Allen leads Tim Kaine 49–46 in the state’s U.S. Senate contest. (The poll’s D/R/I is 30.3/30.5/38.2.) [38341, 38370]

For the first time, Romney leads Obama (49–46) in the UPI poll. [38406]

Unwilling to continue addressing questions from reporters about Benghazi, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland says, “Look, I’m generally dumber than most of the rest of the government. I mean, that’s what I’m paid to be. We’re not going to parse this any further. We’re just not.” (Nuland is essentially stating, “I’m not allowed to think or tell the truth. My job is simply to come out and repeat the talking points I’ve been given.”) [38449]

Obama campaign press secretary Ben LaBolt abruptly ends a radio interview with WTAM in Cleveland, Ohio after being questioned about Obama’s changing stories on the consulate attack in Libya. LaBolt says that Obama “called it an act of terror within 24 hours, he again updated the American people on the incident in Benghazi in his interview

on ABC News last night and he...” The program host asks, “So which time was he lying then, when he called it a terror attack or when he called it a video problem? Because he said two different things.” LaBolt ends the interview, saying, “Thank you for having me this morning, I’ve gotta move to my next interview.” [38434]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 51–44 in a Tampa Bay Times/Bay News 9/Miami Herald poll of likely Florida voters. TampaBay.com writes, “Obama’s once 11 point lead among likely independent voters had cascaded into a 13 point lead for Romney this week, 52 percent to 39 percent. ...Romney now has a nine point lead among voters age 35-49 and a 15 point lead among those between 50 and 64. Especially ominous were the numbers for Hispanic voters, a demographic where the Obama campaign is banking on an advantage of at least 15 percentage points. The poll showed 44 percent of likely Hispanic voters favoring Obama and 46 for Romney, though the margin of error is higher with that smaller group of voters.” Venezuelan immigrant Mary Gonzalez states, “We ran away from other countries in search of a more traditional United States. I think with [Obama], the United States moves to [the left]. And with Romney, I believe he can return the United States to its traditional course.” [38342, 38369]

Fox News anchor Bret Baier interviews Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter, and challenges her charge that the uproar about the consulate attack in Libya is only because Mitt Romney is trying to make it an issue. She refuses to budge, and continues to insist that the administration’s repeated claims that an Internet video was the cause of the attack were based on intelligence reports at the time. Baier points out that U.N. ambassador Susan Rice used the movie defense days *after* the administration knew it was a planned terrorist attack, and Obama continued to use the movie defense in his later appearance on *The David Letterman Show*. [38495, 38419]

Vice President Joe Biden and Congressman Paul Ryan have their one and only debate. Neither commits any major gaffe (if Biden’s lies are ignored), and it is unlikely that many Democrat or Republican voters will change their minds on the basis of their arguments. Biden’s remarkable ability to “lie with conviction” will encourage the Democrat base and enrage the Republicans. The impact it will have on undecideds remains to be seen, but they may be turned off by Biden’s many interruptions, smirks, and eye-rolls. Biden’s “performance” may remind some of an elementary school student making faces at another student who is answering the teacher’s question. Biden interrupts Paul Ryan more than 80 times—between 82 and 96, depending on which media report’s count is believed. Moderator Martha Raddatz does little to stop Biden. (Some will argue that Raddatz—who helped Obama by asking no questions about ObamaCare—was helping Biden by allowing his interruptions. Others will argue that by not stopping him she was inadvertently helping Ryan, by allowing Biden to look like a buffoon.) Raddatz interrupts Ryan 31 times and Biden 19 times. [38389, 38391, 38414, 38415, 38444]

The very first question from Raddatz was softened for Biden. She asks, “I would like to begin with Libya. Wasn’t this a massive intelligence failure, Mr. Biden?” Her question gives Biden the opportunity to blame the Libya fiasco on faulty intelligence, totally

shifting the issue from the administration's incompetence and the question of why it continued to lie about the cause of the attack after it *already knew* it was not an anti-Islam Internet video. Biden claims that U.N. ambassador Susan Rice was only repeating what the intelligence community told her when she claimed on five Sunday talks shows on September 16 that the consulate attack was an anti-video demonstration that turned violent: "The intelligence community told us that. As they learned more facts about exactly what happened, they changed their assessment." Biden also claims, "Well, we weren't told they wanted more security there. We did not know they wanted more security." (Both of Biden's claims are lies—or he may have been so busy practicing for the debate that he was completely unaware that State Department employees testified at a Congressional hearing the day before that there was no demonstration and additional security had been requested. Even MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell feels obligated to report that Biden's statement is a falsehood. To believe that neither Biden nor Obama were told about the deteriorating conditions in Libya, one must believe that Hillary Clinton did not read her daily intelligence briefings or did not relay the information to Obama. But the order to tell Rice to lie was far more likely to have come from Obama and Valerie Jarrett—based on advice from campaign strategist David Axelrod—than from Clinton.) [38364, 38395, 38396]

Ryan asks, "Our ambassador in Paris has a Marine detachment guarding him; shouldn't we have a Marine detachment guarding our ambassador in Benghazi?"

Ryan warns that since Obama took office, Iran is four years closer to a nuclear weapon and may now have enough fissile material for five bombs. Biden replies, "They don't have a weapon to put it into. ... When my friend talks about fissile material, they have to take this highly enriched uranium, get it from 20 percent up, then they have to be able to have something to put it in. There is no weapon that the Iranians have at this point. Both the Israelis and we know—we'll know if they start the process of building a weapon." (Biden claims he "did not know" the U.S. consulate in Benghazi needed additional security, yet he assures everyone he *will* know when Iran has a bomb. It will then, of course, be too late. Iran does not need a weapon; the bomb *is* the weapon. Biden means he does not believe Iran has an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of dropping a nuclear bomb on the United States. But Iran *does* have access to shipping containers and cargo ships—ships that can enter a U.S. or Israeli harbor with a nuclear bomb ready to be detonated. At WatchDogWire.com Dr. Richard Swier asks, "Is Vice President Biden saying that the administration's red line is when Iran has a weapon to put their enriched uranium into it [sic]? That is different than achieving 90% enrichment, which is Prime Minister Netanyahu's red line. ... Iran's leaders were surely listening to the Vice Presidential debate and looking for any daylight in the Obama administration's position on their nuclear weapons program. They may have found hope in the Vice President's comments and are smiling.") [38443]

Ryan notes that the unemployment in Biden's hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania stands at 10 percent, up from the 8.5 percent when he and Obama took office. "This is not

what a real recovery looks like,” says Ryan. “We need new reforms for a real recovery.” [38381]

On the subject of taxes, Biden says, “The middle class will pay less and people making a million dollars or more will begin to contribute slightly more. Just let taxes expire like they are supposed to on those millionaires. We can’t afford \$800 billion going to people who [are] making a minimum of \$1 million.” (Biden treats all wealth as though it belongs to the federal government, which then dispenses it as favors. Extending the current income taxes rates does not mean the government will be “giving” high-income earners \$80 billion per year; it simply means the government will not be confiscating an additional \$80 billion from them.) Interestingly, Biden’s \$1 million reference is at odds with Obama’s repeated threats to raise taxes on families earning \$250,000 or more per year. Whether Biden’s figure is a mistake or an indication of an Obama policy shift is not known. [38410]

Ryan notes that significant tax cuts by previous presidents resulted in increased tax revenue and economic growth: “Jack Kennedy lowered tax rates, increased growth. Ronald Reagan...” Biden rudely interrupts to say, “Oh, now you’re Jack Kennedy?” Ryan continues: “...Ronald Reagan. Republicans and Democrats...” Biden interrupts again: “This is amazing.” Ryan: “Republicans and Democrats have worked together on this.” (Biden was clearly coached to mimic Lloyd Bentsen’s “You’re no Jack Kennedy” takedown of Dan Quayle in the 1988 vice-presidential debate. Quayle, of course, deserved it because he was comparing his age to Kennedy’s. Ryan was simply referencing tax cuts that had proven successful in the past. Biden was apparently determined to use his attack line, regardless of whether it was appropriate—and it was not.) [38422, 38423, 38424]

Biden claims he did not vote for the war in Afghanistan. (He did, on September 14, 2001.) Biden claims he did not vote for the Iraq war. (He did, on October 11, 2001.) Biden claims he did not vote for the Medicare Part D prescription drug program. (He voted for a similar program that was no less expensive.) [38427]

Biden says, “Look, I was there when we did that with Social Security, in 1983. I was one of eight people sitting in the room, that included [House Speaker] Tip O’Neill negotiating [to “save” Social Security] with President Reagan.” (Glenn Beck later reports that ABC’s Jake Tapper investigated the issue and learned that Biden was not, in fact, in the room.) [38913]

Near the end of the debate Raddatz asks about abortion and how Catholicism affects their positions on the issue. (Both Ryan and Biden are Catholic.) Ryan expresses his pro-life views, and then states, “Look at what they are doing through ObamaCare with respect to assaulting the religious liberties of this country. They are infringing upon our first freedom, the freedom of religion by infringing on Catholic charities, Catholic churches, Catholic hospitals. Our church should not have to sue our federal government to maintain their religious liberties.” Biden responds, “With regard to the assault on the Catholic

Church, let me make it absolutely clear: No religious institution, Catholic or otherwise, including Catholic Social Services, Georgetown Hospital, Mercy Hospital—any hospital—none has to either refer contraception, none has to pay for contraception, none has to be a vehicle to get contraception in any insurance policy they provide. That is a fact.” (It is, of course, not a fact. ObamaCare forces all insurers to provide contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization procedures.) Ryan replies, “If they [the Catholic Church] agree with you, why would they keep suing you [over the ObamaCare regulations]?” (The abortion question is welcomed by Obama supporters and the Obama campaign, who wish to turn attention away from the failed economy. Moderator Raddatz’s abortion question is a way for Obama’s pro-abortion base to get re-invigorated, and to remind undecided voters who are angry about the economy that Romney and Ryan are pro-life. The unstated Obama message is, “You may not have a job, but at least we will give you a free abortion.” Raddatz’s intention is not simply to emphasize that Romney and Ryan are pro-life, but to make it clear they are anti-abortion.) Democrat consultant Kirsten Powers comments, “Biden’s ‘I accept the church’s teaching that abortion is murder’ but people should be able to do it is one of the most specious arguments ever made.” [38380, 38382, 38383, 38404]

Conservatives are quick to criticize Raddatz. Jonathan Easley writes at TheHill.com, “ABC reporter Raddatz didn’t interject to allow Ryan to finish, some conservatives noted on Twitter. ... Washington Examiner editorial writer Philip Klein said Raddatz was taking signals from Biden and cutting off Ryan, but not doing the same when Ryan tried to derail Biden.” *National Review’s* Katrina Trinko writes, “Raddatz is totally being walked all over by Biden. She’s letting him get by with murder in time of talking.” *Washington Examiner* editorial writer David Freddoso: “Ryan is outnumbered here. It’s two against one.” Author and radio talk show host Laura Ingraham: “Why does Raddatz want to ‘move on’ when Ryan is getting traction?” Glenn Beck: “The Obamas at the wedding is paying off... he must have bought Raddatz one hell of a toaster.” (Raddatz does push back a bit on one of Biden’s outrageous statements. He claims the Joint Chiefs of Staff were fully supportive of Obama’s decisions on Afghanistan and the troop surge, which she knows is total nonsense. Although she challenges Biden, he blusters his way through her objection.) [38365]

Politico quickly gathers comments from various journalists and pundits: *Weekly Standard’s* Mark Hemingway: “Joe Biden’s laughing through talking about Iran sanctions?” *Time* magazine’s Michael Scherer: “Not sure debate cameras have been light tested for Biden’s teeth. Best to watch with sunglasses.” *Washington Examiner’s* Philip Klein: “Biden’s strategy seems to be to laugh at Ryan constantly. Will it work to infantilize Ryan, or backfire like Gore sighing?” NBC’s David Gregory: “Biden’s smile is out of control.” BuzzFeed’s Ben Smith: “So did Biden practice laughing at Ryan???” ABC’s Rick Klein: “Biden on verge of breaking down in laughter when Ryan talks.” Former Eric Cantor staffer Brad Dayspring: “Joe Biden needs to realize this isn’t a Senate Foreign Relations Hearing. His laughter and condescending attitude is a disaster.” Radio host Neal Boortz: “Looking like Biden’s game plan is to laugh his way through this.” Townhall.com’s Guy Benson: “Will Biden laugh his ass off at the terrible economy, too?” MSNBC’s S.E. Cupp: “Biden needs to laugh a little less through the Libya, Middle

East, nuclear Iran segment.” *Washington Post’s* Chris Cillizza: “Ok. I have decided. I find the Biden smile slightly unsettling.” PBS’ Jeff Greenfield: “Biden has always had a smile that at times is really, really inappropriate.” *Washington Examiner’s* Paul Bedard: “Can’t tell yet if Biden’s smirking, laughs, eye-rolling, head shaking, works for him or not against the oh-so-young looking eager Ryan.” Former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer: “Biden is at risk of having his laugh come across like Gore’s sighs. He should knock it off.” *The New York Times’* Ashley Parker: “Biden’s grin is Chesire [sic] Cat caliber.” Republican strategist Ron Bonjean: “Biden laughing does not come off with the intended effect. It is actually hurting him. Looks very condescending.” Movie critic Roger Ebert: “Joe! Stop smiling and laughing!” *Washington Times’* Emily Miller: “Biden laughing when he disagrees with Ryan is so annoying. Like a child in time out.” *Washington Post’s* Jennifer Rubin: “Biden’s laughing is losing the debate- obnoxious” Comedy Central’s Indecision: “If this keeps up much longer, Joe Biden’s going to sprain his laugh muscles.” [38343]

A quick CNN/ORC poll shows Paul Ryan was considered the winner of the debate over Joe Biden by 48–44 percent—so Wolf Blitzer declares it a tie. “By a 50%-41% margin, debate watchers say that Ryan rather than Biden better expressed himself.” Ryan was considered more likable by 53–43 percent. Ryan won 56–36 in a CNBC poll. Breitbart.com’s John Nolte writes, “Obama did such a lousy job last week that the fact Ryan beat a sitting vice president tonight and met the threshold of a potential president is almost an afterthought. This is a huge win for the Romney campaign, and Biden’s behavior and gaffe about the consulate in Libya not asking for more security will all come back to haunt him.” [38363, 38367, 38379, 38409]

On Fox News, Chris Wallace says, “I think I have watched almost every presidential and vice-presidential debate since the first four Kennedy-Nixon debates in 1960 and, thinking back over the last few minutes, I don’t think I have ever seen a debate in which one participant was as openly disrespectful of the other as Biden was to Paul Ryan tonight. And that’s what it was. You can talk about the smirks, the smiles, the head shaking, the mugging. It was openly contemptuous and disrespectful. And it wasn’t just the facial gestures, it was also the words. In the course of the night he dismissed various arguments by Ryan as ‘malarkey,’ ‘bunch of stuff,’ ‘I don’t know what these guys are talking about,’ ‘loose talk,’ and ‘bluster.’ It was really quite an extraordinary and, I have to say, from my experience, unprecedented performance in a presidential or vice-presidential debate by one of the participants.” [38346, 38347]

Asked by Greta Van Susteren what he thinks “the independents and undecideds saw,” Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume replies, “Well, it all depends on what [undecided voters] think of Joe Biden and his demeanor. If you read the transcript you might well conclude that the Vice President had a very strong debate, that he had a lot to say, he was strongly critical of Governor Romney and his program, that he held his own. But that’s not all there is to it. We had the split screen, much as we did during the presidential debate. And what you saw while Paul Ryan was talking, as others have pointed out, was smirking, laughing, smiling, mugging by the vice president. My sense

about it was that it was so compelling that people probably couldn't take their eyes off it. And so it will come down to whether people thought that was attractive or not. Myself, I didn't. I thought it was unattractive. I thought it was rude, and I have a feeling it will come across to a lot of people as rude. It looked like a cranky old man, to some extent, debating a polite young man." Van Susteren adds, "...But the smiles, the spreeds, the 'my friend' stuff—I was surprised. It made Vice President Joe Biden, someone who I typically like, I thought he was very unlikable. It was... I was surprised that I didn't like him." (Van Susteren is probably not alone in expressing her reaction to Biden's condescending and repeated use of "my friend.") [38357, 38386, 38418]

Charles Krauthammer comments, "I think the debate happened at several levels. If you read the transcript, I think it's dead even. If you heard it on radio, Biden won. If you watched on television, he lost. In the transcript, if you just look at the raw arguments I think it was even because each side had points to make and made them. I think on balance, not one side was stronger than another. If you heard it on radio, what you heard was Biden being aggressive, forceful, he was sort of on the attack all the time and he pushed the argument his way. He did a lot of interrupting as well. And Ryan reacted with I thought excessive deference, allowing himself to be cut off and often just ending with a point that you might understand, for instance when he talked about the Catholic Bishops, he made a point after Biden had said, 'Oh, the Bishops of the Catholic Church are not going to be compelled to do anything under Obamacare.' Ryan said, 'Then why is that the Bishops are suing the administration?' But that is almost an aside and it was lost and then it was over by the next question. If you put them all together and you end up with television where you saw the demeanor that the Vice President had in regard to Ryan, I think that undid the advantage in rhetoric that he had in carrying the debate. It was so disrespectful. I agree with Chris Wallace, it was sort of almost unprecedented and hugely condescending. I think that undid the force of his arguments and I think in the end, if television, you lose." [38345, 38384]

"I don't [think the debate "moved the needle"] and the reason is that whether you decide that the Vice President won or lost, people don't end up in the booth voting for number two. So if you like one, he was likable, the other wasn't. I don't think it has any affect whatsoever on the vote. The question is will it affect the debates that are coming up, that's the real heavyweight stuff between Obama and Romney. And I think that the objective, perhaps the one advantage that Biden laid down is that in the actual arguments he made the points that had been left out of the first debate. What he was trying to do is set the premises for the upcoming debates by filling in the blanks, by answering the charges Romney made in Obama had left unanswered. The 47 percent. Repeating the \$5 trillion of debt. True, or untrue, it was reinforcing the Democratic arguments which had been completely undermined in the first debate. And as a result, Obama has been sinking in the polls. So I think that he might have staunched the bleeding to some extent on the substance that Romney had attacked Obama on. And now, it's all up to the heavyweights in the last two rounds of the fight." [38345, 38384]



On Al Gore's Current TV, a delusional David Shuster says, "The biggest thing that came out of [the debate] tonight, was Joe Biden made himself the frontrunner for 2016." [38352]

NBC's David Gregory comments, "The smile, the laugh—I think a lot of people maybe view that and think that he [Joe Biden] was a little too hot, too aggressive, maybe condescending." [38354]

Greg Gutfeld has the best debate description of all time: "Biden is the drunk at the bar; Martha is the unhappy bartender, and Ryan is the unfortunate salesman caught in the middle."

On MSNBC, the ever-repulsive Cenk Uyger takes pleasure in Biden's mugging and laughing at Paul Ryan and says, "The audience looked tonight and said, 'That kid? Who's that kid, Paul Ryan? I don't want that guy being president.' You know why he [opposes abortion and] likes fetuses so much? 'Cause he looked like one next to Biden." [38358]

A woman in a CNN focus group watching the debate comments, "I thought Paul Ryan had a better command of the tax figures, the explanations that he gave, he seemed to be educating us, trying to teach us, until Joe Biden would bumble in trying to distort things, by overriding him, talking, being a buffoon in general... and I was very disappointed in the Vice President acting that way. ...I think it gives very good credence to term limits." [38355, 38371]

CNN analyst David Gergen offers, "I think Joe Biden didn't do his boss a lot of help tonight. Overall on substance, I think it was a draw. Each side will draw a lot of encouragement from it. But I did want to make a point: On style, I think Paul Ryan won the debate. And that is, Biden, the dismissive laughs, the interruptions, the sort of shouting—I think that Ryan was calmer and frankly more presidential. On style, not substance, I think it was a Ryan victory. On substance, I thought it was a draw." [38385]

Pollster Frank Luntz conducts a focus group of undecided (but generally leaning to Obama) voters in Ohio that nevertheless calls Joe Biden's debate antics "disrespectful," "a huge mistake," and "very arrogant." No one in the group says the debate changed their mind either way. [38356]

Pollster and experienced debate coach Matt Towery tells Newsmax.com that Biden's "facial reactions were like that of a novice debater, who was in his first debate round—perhaps in junior varsity. I mean, continuing to make clown faces, and grimaces and smiles. That's going to be what people are talking about tomorrow. ...No one [on the Biden team] probably imagined that he would interpret a smile as being just an out and out uncontrollable sort of toothy smile that overwhelmed the camera—and the shaking of the head that seemed to be just plain disrespectful. And if anyone had any idea, that they intended to go split camera, he should have been much better prepared as to how he was

going to respond to that. ...If you noticed in the first half of the debate Ryan drank enough water to be a camel. I mean every time we looked at him he was going to that glass of water. That's generally a sign of someone who's not comfortable in their presentation. We usually take water away from people unless they're choking. So in this instance I could tell that he wasn't particularly confident in his answers. ...Ryan really comes away with more from that debate," and Biden's attempts to portray him as a right-wing lunatic failed. "For a guy who's 42 years old, to be subdued is about the only way to keep from appearing to appear almost immature. Had he been bouncing around all over the place in that debate it would not have come across as him being the aggressor. It would have come across as him being a neophyte and wet behind the ears. ...Whether they declare him the winner or not, Ryan walks away viewed as someone who can take on a vice president of the United States, hold his own, walk away with some people thinking he won, maybe some people thinking he lost. That's about all you can ask for in one of these vice presidential debates." [38411]

The Republican National Committee quickly releases an Internet ad showing Joe Biden's smirks and laughs while Paul Ryan is making serious points about the weak economy and the dangers of a nuclear Iran. The ad concludes with the words, "Vice President Biden is laughing... are you?" [38353, 38366]

Although the leftist media fact-checkers will focus on Paul Ryan's statements, Biden's debate remarks included several outright lies. Biden claimed, "We were not told" that additional security was needed in Libya, even though Congressional hearings the day before had made it clear that requests were made. Biden also claimed that the \$716 billion in planned cuts to Medicare were being applied to Medicare, when they are, in fact, being used to help offset the cost of ObamaCare. Further, Biden stated that Catholic churches and organizations would not be forced to provide birth control and other services against their wishes, when they will most certainly be required to do so under ObamaCare regulations imposed by the administration. (*The New York Times* calls Ryan's Medicare statements "misleading," but ignores Biden's blatant Libya lie. TheRightFacts.com later identifies 17 false statements by Biden and 4 by Ryan.) [38357, 38378, 38380, 38394, 38508]

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List, responds to Biden's debate statement that no Catholics will be forced to violate their principles by ObamaCare: "Vice President Biden grossly misled the viewers and brushed over legitimate objections by people of all faiths to this administration's unprecedented assault on religious organizations and individuals. The HHS preventative services mandate forces Americans of faith and conscience to violate their beliefs and be directly responsible for paying for insurance programs which cover abortion-inducing drugs. Coverage for such drugs is not preventative women's healthcare and the vice president's response tonight demonstrated a shocking disregard for our first freedom." [38380]

On October 12 NBC veteran Tom Brokaw joins MSNBC's *Morning Joe* and comments on Joe Biden's debate performance: "I just don't think you should be laughing during a

discussion about thermonuclear war with Iran.” Co-Host Mika Brzezinski comes to Biden’s defense, saying, “He was amused at [sic] some of Paul Ryan’s approaches toward the concern over Iran and quite frankly totally misrepresenting...” Brokaw interrupts: “It’s a very serious issue and however amused you are, it’s about tone as well as content.” [38368]

At Morning Jolt, Jim Geraghty writes, “Biden began by insisting that no one in the Obama administration knew that the Benghazi consulate needed additional security; that the tragic results of the attack were the result of bad intelligence; and that the American public can have faith in the administration’s handling of Iran because it’s informed by the finest available intelligence.”

In *The Wall Street Journal* Peggy Noonan writes, “There were fireworks all the way, and plenty of drama [in the debate]. Each candidate could claim a win in one area or another, but by the end it looked to me like this: For the second time in two weeks, the Democrat came out and defeated himself. In both cases the Republican was strong and the Democrat somewhat disturbing. Another way to say it is the old man tried to patronize the kid and the kid stood his ground. The old man pushed, and the kid pushed back. Last week ...Obama was weirdly passive. Last night Mr. Biden was weirdly aggressive, if that is the right word for someone who grimaces, laughs derisively, interrupts, hectors, rolls his eyes, browbeats and attempts to bully. He meant to dominate, to seem strong and non-nonsense. Sometimes he did—he had his moments. But he was also disrespectful and full of bluster. ‘Oh, now you’re Jack Kennedy!’ he snapped at one point. It was an echo of Lloyd Bentsen to Dan Quayle, in 1988. But Mr. Quayle, who had compared himself to Kennedy, had invited the insult. Mr. Ryan had not. It came from nowhere. Did Mr. Biden look good? No, he looked mean and second-rate. He meant to undercut Mr. Ryan, but he undercut himself. His grimaces and laughter were reminiscent of Al Gore’s sighs in 2000—theatrical, off-putting and in the end self-indicting. ...In terms of content—the seriousness and strength of one’s positions and the ability to argue for them—the debate was probably a draw, with both candidates having strong moments. But in terms of style, Mr. Biden was so childishly manipulative that it will be surprising if independents and undecideds liked what they saw. National Democrats keep confusing strength with aggression and command with sarcasm. Even the latter didn’t work for Mr. Biden. The things he said had the rhythm and smirk of sarcasm without the cutting substance.” [38372]

Leftists, worried that Obama may lose in a close election, start laying the groundwork for claims of Republican voter fraud in Ohio. At FreePress.org Bob Fittrakis and Harvey Wasserman write, “Electronic voting machines owned by Mitt Romney’s business buddies and set to count the votes in Cincinnati could decide the 2012 election. The narrative is already being hyped by the corporate media. As Kelly O’Donnell reported for NBC’s Today Show on Monday, October 8, Ohio’s Hamilton County is ‘ground zero’ for deciding who holds the White House come January, 2013. ...This November, much of the Ohio electorate will cast its ballots on machines again owned by close cronies of the Republican presidential candidate.” (The authors laughably claim that John Kasich stole

the Ohio gubernatorial election. He won by a 6-point margin and more than 240,000 votes, partly because incumbent Governor Ted Strickland continued to strongly support Obama.) [38619, 38620, 38690]

*The New York Times* puts its story about the Congressional hearing on the consulate attack in Libya on page A3. Managing editor Dean Baquet states, “I didn’t think there was anything significantly new in it.” (State Department officials testifying under oath that there was no anti-movie demonstration in Benghazi—despite Obama, Hillary Clinton, Susan Rice, and Jay Carney repeatedly making that claim—is not considered front-page news by the *Times*.) [38456]

In a hip-hop radio interview, Michelle Obama says the economy is doing just fine: “I mean, you’re seeing right now, that we’re in the midst of a *huge* recovery, right, because of what [my husband] has done, pulled this economy from the brink of collapse, where we were losing 800,000 jobs a month, now we’re gaining... we’ve been adding jobs to this economy because of what he’s been doing. Um, the stock market has doubled, housing prices are rising, foreclosure rate are... are lowering but in the face of that you still have people tryin’ to convince us that things aren’t better. And that just doesn’t make sense. Now, Barack of all people knows that we still have a long way to go to completely rebuild the economy. But we’re headed in the right direction. And when you see all of that truth, it’s hard to understand why are people blocking this?” [38522, 38540, 38541]

Reuters reports, “Democratic lawmakers and activists nationwide are angry about a crop of billboard signs posted in early October in the Cleveland and Milwaukee areas that warn of stiff penalties for voter fraud. ...The roughly 33 signs warn that ‘Voter Fraud is a Felony’ punishable by up to 3-1/2 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, [with] wording flanked by a large picture of a judge’s gavel. The signs will be up through the Nov. 6 election day in the Cleveland and Milwaukee areas and were paid for by an anonymous ‘Family Foundation,’ according to a spokesman for Clear Channel Outdoor, which owns the billboards and placed the signs. Legal and labor activists and community members said the signs deliberately target and seek to intimidate blacks and Hispanics, other minorities and the poor—as well as ex-convicts—groups key to Democrats’ campaign voter drives ahead of the vote.” (To leftists, reminding people not to break the law is “voter intimidation.” Their intimidation tactics work: a few weeks later the signs are removed.) [38547, 38548, 39073]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “Special Agent Vince Cefalu has worked for the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms for more than 25 years. On top of successfully placing dozens of hard criminals behind bars throughout his career, Cefalu has received promotions and consistently positive evaluations. When he started raising his voice about ATF corruption and illegal wiretapping in 2005, things changed. Tuesday evening, Cefalu was asked to meet Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Field Division Joseph Riehl at a Denny’s Restaurant near Lake Tahoe. When he arrived, he was served termination papers in the parking lot. *Classy move*. ...Cefalu was placed on administrative leave a year and a half ago after speaking out about Operation Fast and

Furious. In 2009, he launched the website CleanUpATF.org in order for agents within ATF to blow the whistle on corrupt behavior anonymously due to the agency's history of retaliation against those who 'jump their chain of command.' His website is where bloggers and news reporters first saw allegations of gunwalking. The site is heavily monitored by the Department of Justice.” [38375]

Columnist Caroline Glick writes, “Throughout the debate, Biden treated Rep. Paul Ryan with contempt. He never responded to any of Ryan's reasoned, substantive criticisms of Obama's policies. He simply called him a liar, repeatedly. With no justification. He sneered. He guffawed. And he maligned Ryan for 90 minutes. ...In last night's debate, Biden lied, flat out lied, repeatedly. He lied about what the military thinks of the sequestration policy of gutting military budgets. He lied about what the intelligence community said about the attack on the US Consulate in Benghazi. He lied about how Medicare is impacted by Obamacare. And that's just off the top of my head. A word about those lies. At least in the case of the Benghazi lie, Biden's actions show how lies are part and parcel of how the Obama administration does its business on a daily basis. ...Lies are not simply a campaigning tactic or strategy. They are the heart of how this administration does business. Steven Hayes on Fox made the important point that in the space of just a couple of minutes Biden said US intelligence misled the administration on Libya and could be totally trusted to get Iran's nuclear capabilities just right. Do you feel safe with that assessment? I was dismayed that Ryan didn't just come out and attack Biden for doing what he was doing. But he was in a tight spot. Martha Raddatz, the moderator was there playing interference for Biden the whole time. Every time Ryan started making a point, she'd interrupt him and change the subject.” [38388]

“Aside from that I felt the age disparity worked in Biden's favor because Ryan was obviously trying to be deferential to his elder who clearly did not deserve any deference from him. Ryan was playing by the old rule book, treating his opponent with respect. Biden was playing by the Obama rulebook and treated his opponent with contempt as a means of destroying him personally. Commentators all say that Ryan held his own. And that's true and good for him, as far as that goes. But that isn't the point. The point is that Romney has been warned by Biden and the campaign. He needs to stay on offense. And that doesn't just mean to defend his positions or call Obama on the failure of his policies. It means he needs to confront Obama on what he is doing in his campaign and refuse to pretend that this is business as usual. The ugliness we saw last night is just a foretaste of what will come in the next three weeks and Romney better be ready. Because if he isn't, the ugliness he will need to deal with in the next three weeks will be nothing in comparison to the ugliness that will become America in a second Obama administration.” [38388]

Campaigning at a rally in LaCrosse, Wisconsin Joe Biden says that Planned Parenthood “under law cannot perform any abortions.” (Planned Parenthood is, in fact, the nation's number one provider of abortions, performing more than 300,000 each year. Biden's lie is not covered by ABC, CBS, or NBC in their evening news broadcasts. According to

EWTN news, about 2,000 pro-life activists then called Planned Parenthood to schedule mammograms—in order to prove that they could not.) [38526, 38596, 38942, 38982]

WashingtonGuardian.com reports that the federal government has ordered new “parade limousines” from General Motors—for \$23 million. “The Secret Service squeezed in the purchase on September 28—just three days from the end of the fiscal year—and it skipped competitive bidding normally required to get taxpayers the best price, according to federal purchase records... The service is ...predictably tight-lipped about why it needed to buy \$23 million in limos this year when it dished out \$11 million for the same type of cars back in 2010, according to federal purchasing records. ...The government has been purchasing more limousines, according to a 2011 study by the non-partisan Center for Public Integrity. The federal fleet of limos increased 73 percent since Obama took office...” (It is worth noting again that Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett has Secret Service protection, an incredibly expensive perk not justified by her position.) [38390]

Media fact-checkers, including *The Washington Post*, point out Joe Biden’s erroneous debate claim, “But we weren’t told they wanted more security there [in Libya]. We did not know they wanted more security there.” At HotAirt.com Ed Morrissey writes, “Just taking Biden at his word, we’d have to believe that (a) the State Department had no special concern over personnel in eastern Libya, where the weak central government can’t even deploy a police force, (b) the White House was unaware that al-Qaeda had expanded its operations in the region, and (c) no one remembered that the anniversary of 9/11 was approaching. That’s a shocking level of incompetence to confess on national TV. Small wonder that CNN’s tracking group considered this Joe Biden’s lowest point of the debate.” [38397, 38398]

CBS political correspondent Jan Crawford says, “Biden obviously wanted to stop Romney’s momentum from last week and change the subject, but he may have some clean-up of his own to do today on Libya. He said last night the administration didn’t know about additional security requests there in Benghazi. Of course, that was the subject of a House hearing this week where State Department officials said multiple requests for additional security were denied. So you ...can expect to hear a lot more about this today.” [38398]

ForeignPolicy.com reports, “Vice President Joseph Biden speaks only for himself and ...Obama, and neither man was aware that U.S. officials in Libya had asked the State Department for more security before the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, a top White House official [Deputy National Security Advisor for Communications Ben Rhodes] told *The Cable*.” (In other words, *Obama and Biden do not know what is going on in their own administration*. HotAir.com: “So ...it’s *official* that no one at the White House had a clue what was happening in a mess Obama helped create in eastern Libya? Words fail me.”) The White House, in an attempt to survive Benghazi long enough for Obama to get beyond November 6, may be throwing the State Department—and therefore Hillary Clinton under the bus. HotAir.com again: “Normally that wouldn’t be a problem, as cabinet members are expected to take the heat for the president when

something goes badly wrong. But in this case you-know-who has her eye on running in 2016—possibly against (heh) Biden himself—and surely doesn't want Benghazi staining the foreign policy credentials she's worked hard to build. Throw Bill Clinton, official Obama campaign surrogate, into the mix and we've got the makings of a nuclear clusterfark of ego, ass-covering, presidential ambition, and Clintonian drama.” (This is a dangerous game for Obama to be playing. The more he tries to shift the blame to Clinton, the greater the odds she will retaliate with a well-placed leak of information to shift it back to Obama—and he knows it. She is certainly more concerned about her future than his—and there is no affection between Obama and the Clintons.) [38399, 38400]

At DailyCaller.com author Edward Klein (*The Amateur: Barack Obama in the White House*) writes that since the Democrat convention Bill Clinton and Obama “have had a serious falling-out over two issues: [Obama's] preparation and lamentable performance in his debate with Mitt Romney, and the question of who should be assigned blame—Obama or Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—for the intelligence and security screw-up in Benghazi, Libya.” Obama arrogantly rejected Bill Clinton's offer of debate advice—which it turns out was sorely needed. One source tells Klein, “Bill thought that he and Obama were on friendly terms after the convention. He couldn't believe that the White House didn't even extend him the courtesy of a return phone call. He concluded that Obama's arrogance knows no bounds.” Klein states, “[I]n the wake of the fatal attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, [Bill] Clinton is concerned that the White House and Obama's campaign headquarters in Chicago are moving to dump political and legal blame for the Libya mess on the State Department and, by definition, on Hillary Clinton herself. My sources tell me that Clinton is working on a strategy that will allow Hillary to avoid having Benghazi become a stain on her political fortunes should she decide to run for president in 2016. ...I'm told that Bill is playing with various doomsday scenarios, up to and including the idea that Hillary should consider resigning over the issue if the Obama team tries to use her as a scapegoat. That seems unlikely to happen. But if relations between Obama's White House and Hillary's State Department rupture publicly over the growing Benghazi scandal, that could damage the Democratic ticket and dim Obama's chances for re-election.” [38401]

The Columbus Dispatch excoriates the Obama administration over its handling of the Benghazi consulate attack, writing, “Testimony in a congressional hearing Wednesday on the Sept. 11 outrage against the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi fueled a growing suspicion: President Barack Obama's administration was more concerned about projecting the image of improving stability in Libya, to bolster his re-election chances, than it was about ensuring the security of Americans on the ground there. ...The possibility the government could have prevented [the deaths of four Americans] by responding to their pleas for greater security is devastating. ...What followed [after the consulate attack] is an astounding display either of incompetence or dishonesty, as Obama administration officials gave constantly shifting accounts of what happened. ...What is equally evident is that, despite repeated concerns by diplomats working in Libya, the administration shortchanged security. And when the worst happened, it wasn't willing to tell the truth to the American people. And as of Wednesday, administration officials continued to insist that the consulate had adequate security. ...The murder of [Ambassador Christopher]

Stevens and his colleagues raises serious questions about the administration’s priorities and competence.” (*The Columbia Dispatch* endorsed John McCain in 2008, writing, “A resume containing so little evidence of leadership and accomplishment leaves in question Obama’s ability to handle the most responsible and difficult job in the world, especially at a time when the nation faces a combination of problems so large and complex that they would challenge even the most seasoned leader.”) [38402, 38403]

Daniel Halper reports at [WeeklyStandard.com](http://WeeklyStandard.com) that debate moderator Martha Raddatz visited Joe Biden at his home on March 26, 2012, for a “reception in honor of Women’s History Month.” “On at least one other occasion,” writes Halper, “Raddatz visited the White House. According to records, that visit was on December 18, 2009. The reason for that visit is not known, though her meeting appears to have taken place in the Old Executive Office Building, and not the West Wing.” [38412]

CNSNews.com lists some of the less-than-accurate statements made by Joe Biden and Paul Ryan in the debate:

Biden: “Iran is more isolated today than when we took office. It was on the ascendancy when we took office. It is totally isolated.” (Iran is certainly not “totally isolated.” It engages in trade with a number of countries that refused to agree to the sanctions. Iran continues to sell oil.)

Biden: “The ayatollah sees the world for the first time totally united in opposition to him getting a nuclear weapon.” (The world is not “united” in opposing Iran’s efforts to obtain a nuclear weapon. A number of nations welcome it—especially if Iran uses the weapon against Israel.)

Biden: “This is the guy [Obama] who brought the entire world, including Russia and China, to bring about the most devastating, most devastating, the most devastating [sanctions] efforts on Iran...” (Russia and China are the major nations who have *not* agreed to strong sanctions.)



Biden: “[Obama] has met with Bibi [Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu] a dozen times.” (They have met nine times.)

Ryan: “How would we do things differently [from the Obama administration]? We wouldn’t refer to Bashar Assad as a reformer when he’s killing his own civilians with his Russian-provided weapons.” (Senator John Kerry has foolishly referred to Assad as a “reformer,” but Kerry is not part of the Obama administration. Hillary Clinton has, however, come close to calling Assad a reformer in the past.)

Ryan: “It took [Obama] two weeks to acknowledge that this was a terrorist attack.” (Arguably, it would be more accurate to state, “It took Obama two weeks to acknowledge that the attack was not promoted by a video.” Obama, in fact, used the words “extremists and terrorists” in his earlier statements.)

Biden: “We weren’t told they wanted more security there [at U.S. missions in Libya]. We did not know they wanted more security again.” (The statement is a lie, depending on who Biden meant by “we.” State Department officials in Libya certainly asked for more security, but Biden himself may not have been aware of it. If “we” means “the Obama administration,” he lied.)

Biden: “There have been more than two dozen cases of green-on-blue where Americans have been killed.” (Although not a lie, the statement is an understatement. There have been 69 such incidents where Afghan soldiers killed or injured 116 coalition troops.) [38413]

Breitbart.com posts several additional Biden debate lies:

Biden: “You know, I heard that death panel argument from Sarah Palin. It seems that every vice presidential debate, I hear this kind of stuff about panels.” (Ryan did not use the term “death panel.” He noted that ObamaCare includes a 15-member board, appointed by Obama, that will make health care decisions—which is a fact.)

Biden: “The congressman here cut embassy security in his budget by \$300 million below what we asked for.” (Ryan’s 2014 budget proposal calls for an overall 19 percent decrease in non-defense discretionary spending. It does not specifically address embassy security, and cuts greater than 19 percent can be made in some areas to allow for smaller or no cuts in others. Spending on embassy security can be increased and the target goal can still be met as long as other areas of spending are cut to offset those security increases.) [38459]

Biden: “No, they [the Iranians] are not four years closer to a nuclear weapon.” (Iran has been developing a nuclear weapon for years; 2012 is four years later than 2008. They are therefore four years closer.) [38417]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 51–47 in a Rasmussen poll of likely voters in Florida. [38416]

Campaigning in Richmond, Virginia, Mitt Romney says, “The vice president directly contradicted the sworn testimony of State Department officials. He’s doubling down on denial. And we need to understand exactly what happened as opposed to just having people brush this aside. When the vice president of the United States directly contradicts the testimony, sworn testimony of State Department officials, American citizens have a right to know just what’s going on. And we’re going to find out. And this is the time for us to make sure we do find out.” [38419, 38435, 38438]

In Lancaster, Ohio Romney and Paul Ryan campaign together and criticize Joe Biden’s debate claim that the M1 Abrams tank—built in Lima, Ohio—is no longer needed. Ryan tells the crowd, “When you say it’s okay to impose these devastating cuts on our military, that we don’t need any more Lima-built M1 tanks, what we are doing is we’re projecting weakness, and when we project weakness abroad our enemies become more brazen.” [38453]

A shot is fired through the window of Obama’s campaign office in Denver. FoxNews.com reports, “Police spokeswoman Raquel Lopez says people were inside the office when the shooting happened Friday afternoon, but no one was injured. A large panel of glass was left shattered at the office on West Ninth Avenue near Acoma Street. Lopez says investigators are looking at surveillance video but have not yet confirmed a description of a vehicle that might be linked to the shooting. Police didn’t immediately release other details while detectives pursue leads.” (Some might believe that the shooting was the work of Obama supporters trying to “gin up” the anti-gun liberal base—as Mitt Romney takes the lead in several Colorado polls..) [38455, 38463]

White House press secretary Jay Carney attempts to spin Joe Biden’s debate statement: “Well, we weren’t told they wanted more security there. We did not know they wanted more security.” Carney tells reporters, “The vice president was speaking about himself, and [Obama], and the White House. He was not referring to the administration.” (Carney does not explain who the administration *is* if it is *not* Obama, Biden, and the people who work in the White House. Additionally, in defending Biden and Obama, Carney is attempting to place the blame for the Benghazi misinformation campaign on the intelligence community and the State Department—neither of which is willing to accept that blame, and either of which may be more than willing to retaliate with well-placed leaks that could embarrass Biden, Carney, and Obama. The State Department has already claimed it did not tell U.N. ambassador Susan Rice to go on Sunday talk shows on September 16 and blame a video for the attack. If her marching orders did not come from Clinton, they came from Obama—or Valerie Jarrett. Obama is playing a dangerous game—but he has no choice. He has to continue blaming others for the Benghazi failure until election day. But Hillary Clinton is craftier than Obama and she and Bill Clinton have many close connections to people who can cause him a great deal of trouble if they choose to do so.) [38435]

Carney also “clarifies” Biden’s debate statement that the current income tax rates should be allowed to expire for families earning \$1 million or more. Carney tells reporters, “Our position on the Bush tax cuts has not changed.” (That is, Obama still wants to raise taxes on families that earn \$250,000 or more.) [38462]

The Associated Press posts a brief report about the Biden-Ryan debate, with the headline, “Attention shifts back to Obama and Romney after running mates’ spirited debate.” (Rush Limbaugh astutely observes, “That’s the headline to the latest AP story. You know what that means. That means that old Joey didn’t bring it off. That means the focus on the debate last night is on the negatives of old Joey. And so the AP, the Administration Press, is moving on.”) [38425, 38426]

On Miami’s Michael “Yo” Simmons radio program, Obama claims he won his debate with Mitt Romney. Asked by Yo whether he realized during the debate that he was not having a great night, Obama responds, “That’s not actually how I thought about it. I do think that on television it was clear that I was being too restrained when Mr. Romney was telling his tall tales. But the truth is, when you read the transcript, everything I said was true and a lot of what he said was not.” (Obama also weighs in on the critical national security issue of feuding judges on *American Idol*.) [38457, 38458, 38538, 38585]

In Beallsville, West Virginia coal miners at American Energy Corporation’s Century Mine call on Obama to stop his “war on coal” and, reports *The Intelligencer / Wheeling News-Register* to “stop spreading ‘mistruths’ about them. Miners gathered ...to express their opposition to Obama’s energy and environmental policies, which they believe threaten their jobs. Miner Mitch Miracle read aloud a letter the miners mailed to Obama that outlines some of their concerns. The miners said Obama’s campaign team is running ads filled with ‘blatantly false’ statements about the miners regarding their participation in Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s August campaign stop at the Century Mine. These ads assert that the miners were forced to attend the event by the mine’s owner, Robert Murray.” The miners insist that no one was forced to attend the Romney event and, in fact, they were “honored” to have him visit. “Despite the miners’ Friday statements, Ohio Democrats have requested a federal investigation regarding ...campaign contributions and practices” of the mine’s owners. [38468, 38469, 38470, 38539, 38554]

In an interview with Newsmax.TV, Mitt Romney says Americans expect “candor and transparency” from the Obama administration over the September 11 terrorist attack in Libya but “what we saw from Ambassador Rice appears to be something less than that. I think it’s a very important question and a very troubling question to understand how it was that for such a long period of time the administration continued to insist that this was the response to a video when quite clearly it was knowledge well before that there was not a demonstration, that it was instead a terrorist attack, successful attack on 9/11.” Romney points out that Joe Biden’s debate statement about the attack was “obviously in direct opposition to the testimony that was provided by the State Department to Congress in a hearing just yesterday. I think people want to understand how he said what he said

and who it was that was speaking the truth, and whether someone was not being accurate. That's a major question, a very troubling question, that's been raised by the debate." Of the debate in general, Romney comments, "I think there was one person on the stage who was respectful, who was serious, who was sober, and provided the kind of confidence that should hope to find in someone who you'd turn to in a crisis, and that was Paul Ryan. ...Paul Ryan had a response, laid out what he would do, what we would do, to get this economy going. And Vice President Biden simply attacked Paul Ryan. The Obama/Biden team can't defend the results of the last four years because we are not better off than we were four years ago. [They] don't have any proposals to make things better. The only ideas that have come forward are ideas of saying we want to hire more government workers and have another stimulus and invest in things we believe in and raise taxes on people. I don't know anyone who thinks raising taxes will encourage economic growth or encourage employers to hire people so I think it was another setting where people were very disappointed with what they heard from the Obama team." [38430]

Former U.S. Senator from Tennessee Fred Thompson writes, "Joe [Biden] can't help himself. He never has been able to. The White House told him that the debate needed to be more salty and Joe unscrewed the cap and poured it all over everybody. If Joe had been one of King Henry II's knights when the king said, 'Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?' Thomas Becket would have been just the beginning. The entire diocese would have been killed. I met Joe Biden almost 20 years ago and served in the Senate with him for eight. In private conversation among equals he can be candid, introspective and thoughtful. But when he puts on his political hat he has no inner voice that tells him, 'Joe, you're going on too long. Joe you're being a bully. You're being discourteous to your colleagues. Joe, that makes no sense. It's obviously not true. Don't say that.' He either has no idea how he comes across to normal people or he doesn't care. I've never figured it out. However he parlayed a handful of votes in Iowa into the Vice Presidency. I gotta give him that." [38431]

"...I think that Paul Ryan handled him beautifully. He made his case in his usual sincere and intelligent fashion and was unruffled by the antics of the fellow one heartbeat away from the presidency. I know that some only judge a debate performance in terms of 'aggressiveness,' but Ryan walked the fine line between standing his ground and being respectful and not being sucked into the pit by Joe. I even thought he looked at Joe with a certain amount of sympathy a time or two. Ryan's strong suit is that he has had the courage to speak the truth about our fiscal crisis and propose actual reforms. It is not his oft-mentioned intellect that separates him from others. It is his courage—the most-needed and most-lacking commodity in Washington. He represents the future if we are to have a future. Joe represents the old guard—old-style, big-government liberalism. He is 'The Music Man' meets the ice cream man. Just follow him. He'll take care of you. Something for everybody. You know, just like in Europe. Never mind the future. Get yours now." [38431]

At TheDailyBeast.com Michael Medved writes, "I watched the [debate] proceedings on a big screen together with 250 listeners from the Seattle flagship station for my radio show.

In the discussion afterward, one of the women present said that Biden made her cringe by reminding her precisely of her abusive ex-husband. Another 23-year-old came up to me afterward and emphatically agreed, saying she had just left her own abusive relationship and that watching Biden's antics gave her the creeps in the same way that her former boyfriend's dismissive snickering always made her feel inadequate. Admittedly, they watched the proceedings from a conservative perspective and wouldn't have voted for Obama-Biden anyway, but will the vice president's nasty star turn ultimately work well with undecided voters who are, after all, disproportionately female?" [38436]

Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) tells *The Washington Post's* Jennifer Rubin, "It baffles me that the vice president of the United States would continue to say things that don't square with the facts on the ground [in Libya]. There was no protest. There was no reaction to the [anti-Muslim video], and they [in the Obama administration] knew it in 24 hours. I don't understand what they are doing. What I know is our intelligence officials on the ground in real time and also in Washington within 24 hours knew what had happened." Rubin writes, "From Corker's standpoint, the explanation for the administration's public dissembling is plain. He told me, 'It is strictly my opinion but [Obama] has gone around the country spiking the football on Osama bin Laden.' Once it became clear that his boast of 'vanquishing' al-Qaeda was proven false, [Obama], according to Corker, 'panicked.' He continued, '[Obama] worried it was going to affect the election. ... When four Americans are killed, it's just not possible that [Obama] president didn't know [it was a terrorist assault]. ... There is not a cell in my body that doesn't earnestly believe that the administration [knew] within 24 or 48 hours.'" [38437]

Former CIA director Michael Hayden and former Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff issue a statement: "During the Vice Presidential debate, we were disappointed to see Vice President Biden blame the intelligence community for the inconsistent and shifting response of the Obama Administration to the terrorist attacks in Benghazi. Given what has emerged publicly about the intelligence available before, during, and after the September 11 [2012] attack, it is clear that any failure was not on the part of the intelligence community, but on the part of White House decision-makers who should have listened to, and acted on, available intelligence. Blaming those who put their lives on the line is not the kind of leadership this country needs." [38437]

At BusinessInsider.com Walter Hickey, noting actress Lindsay Lohan's endorsement of Mitt Romney, writes, "While most would, at first glance, write this off as gossip, it's the latest instance of an evolving trend that jeopardizes ... Obama's chance at winning the White House. Lohan, by all accounts, is a typical low-information voter. And low information voters, like it or not, will decide this election. ... These people don't follow politics, don't understand the issues with depth, and plan to vote based on what little information they've gleaned. ... Lohan said that the reason she was voting Romney was 'employment.' From *The Blaze*: 'I just think employment is really important right now. So, as of now, Mitt Romney. As of now.'" Here's why the Obama campaign should be worried. Lohan is a low-information voter convinced that (a) employment is really important, (b) thinks that employment is not being sufficiently handled by the White

House right now and (c) thinks that Mitt Romney is better equipped to handle employment. That arguably logical sequence is all that it takes for a low-information voter to support Mitt Romney. The thing is, there are millions of voters like her. That should terrify the Obama campaign.” [38445]

In an interview with Newsmax.TV, veteran pollster John Zogby says “the momentum is clearly with Romney” in Ohio. “Obama just doesn’t have wiggle room in Ohio. Ohio is very important, and it’s going to be very, very close. ...[Obama] starts out with a solid deficit—39 percent who rate him poorly or strongly disapprove of his job performance. That means, to be credible, he has to win over 90 percent of the rest of the voters. Right now he’s at about 47 percent overall approval, and 50 percent disapprove. But 39 percent strongly disapprove—they’re just not going to vote for him. ...Frankly if an incumbent is under 45–46 percent [among those] who feel that he deserves to be re-elected, that’s normally trouble for the incumbent. When we first started in Ohio, it was 45 percent who felt that he deserved to be re-elected.” Only 42 percent of Ohio voters now say he deserves to be reelected. The percentage who say it is “time for someone new is at 48 percent—just not good news for [Obama] at this moment.” (It is worth noting that the Republican presidential candidate virtually always performs about one point better in Ohio than he does nationally. That is, if Romney were to win 52–48 nationally, it would not be surprising if he wins Ohio 53–47. If Obama were to win the national vote 51–49, it would likely be close to 50–50 in Ohio. But if Romney wins Ohio, Obama is unlikely to win the election. A 53–47 national win for Obama might mean he wins 52–48 in Ohio. But Obama won in 2008 with 52.87 percent of the vote—and most observers assume he will not do as well in 2012.) [38475, 38616]

On *Hannity*, Liz Cheney tells host Sean Hannity, “I think this [Benghazi debacle] is... one of the worst cover-ups, probably in the history of the republic, in terms of—we’re not talking about [just] a policy that went awry here. We’re talking about an ambassador and three other Americans who were killed. We’re talking about a nation under attack. At some point, too, the American people have got to ask, ‘Who’s in charge at the State Department?’ There’s this notion out there that Secretary Clinton is competent, that Secretary Clinton is doing a good job running our diplomacy, [but] all of the facts show otherwise. And either she’s in charge of the department and she was reading her intel briefings every day and she was reading the threat reports and she was getting briefed—or she wasn’t. ...Suddenly everyone is saying, ‘We knew from day one,’ but we’ve yet to hear from Susan Rice, who was out there saying with absolute certainty... ‘This was because of a video.’ A lot of people have asked me, ‘Why would they lie about something so critically important?’ The reason they’re doing it is because they’ve got to get the American people to believe that [Obama] has been an effective national security president. But, in fact, al-Qaeda is on the rise.” [38488]

On Fox News, Greta Van Susteren discusses the Benghazi debacle with former U.N. ambassador John Bolton. Bolton says, “I think Vice President [Joe] Biden last night really crossed an important line, and it was reinforced today by the White House spokesman [Jay Carney] today. They have dug a moat around the White House, on the

one hand, and the State Department and the intelligence community on the other, basically saying that the buck stops at the State Department... Now, if that's the case, one has to ask, what's the National Security Council staff for if not to monitor what's going on at the State Department, to know where security problems around the world exist? Don't forget, ambassadors are the president's personal representatives. Obviously they work for the State Department, but the ambassador covers all of our agencies overseas and they're all presidential appointees. So to say, 'We didn't know about it' is an admission in my view of a real failure on the part of the top management of the White House." Van Susteren points out that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said everyone was working from the same information from the intelligence agencies. Bolton responds, "Well, the intelligence community has its own views and they'll get their revenge in their own ways. But for the State Department's secretary, Hillary Clinton, to be saying that it was based on the intelligence community really defies credulity. *Her own department* was in real-time communication with the diplomatic security personnel at the consulate in Benghazi when the attack was under way, and the next day obviously talking to them. So, forget what the intelligence community was saying. How about what the State Department itself was saying?" [38465]

Van Susteren and Bolton note that there was no anti-movie demonstration, and if there had been that information would immediately have been communicated to Washington from the consulate. "Business was going on as normal," states Bolton, "and they recognized that there was some security concern because ambassador Stevens did not leave the compound that day. He was meeting other people, the last person was the Turkish ambassador toward the end of the day. There had been no report of any trouble for people getting into or out of the compound up until then." Van Susteren: "Now the White House says, 'We don't know anything.' Jay Carney says today, 'Don't blame [Obama], don't blame the vice president, don't blame me, nobody told us anything. We're in the dark.'" Bolton: "Look, there's no question neither [Obama] nor the vice president are going to be involved in the nitty gritty of hundreds of security decisions around the world. But in a high threat mission where you've had evidence of al-Qaeda attacks against other missions, where for goodness sakes the Red Cross has withdrawn from Benghazi—the Red Cross that lives in the environment of war thought it was too dangerous—that's something that [Obama] and the vice president, and certainly the Secretary of State should be aware of all the time." [38465]

On October 13 The Ulsterman Report writes, "A little heads up for all of you. The Benghazi Massacre scandal is really taking root within even the Mainstream Media now—due in great part to Vice President Joe Biden's oddly phrased throw-the-State Department-under-the-bus remarks during Thursday's debate. It is my understanding some Senate DEMOCRATS pushed for more timely hearings on the issue (as in BEFORE the November election) but Reid has, for now, pushed any chance of that happening until after the election. His doing so may cost him the Majority position even if the Dems maintain control of the Senate. There is a coordinated effort now underway over the next 72 hrs to continue to place this issue on the forefront of discussion among Americans so as to have it in its rightful place for Tuesday's presidential debate. Am hopeful they will succeed in doing so." [38446]

Vice-presidential hopeful Paul Ryan campaigns at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. He says, “The [Obama] administration had its eighth chance to label China a currency manipulator. And they’ve indicated they are going to push this deadline off until after the election. That’s eight opportunities to say: ‘You know what, play fair with us, trade with us fairly.’” According to Fox News, “The Treasury Department now says the decision will come after finance ministers and central bank presidents meet Nov. 4 -5 in Mexico City.” (Criticism of China for currency manipulation, by both Republicans and Democrats, is hypocritical. The United States also manipulates the value of its currency through the Federal Reserve’s expansion of the money supply, which makes the price of American goods lower for foreign buyers and encourages exports. At the same time, however, that expansion makes imported goods more expensive for American consumers—as well as prices on all U.S. goods and services.) [38452]

Mitt Romney wishes former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher a happy 87th birthday. (It is assumed that Obama did not.)

Breitbart.com reports, “A Danish wind turbine company [Vestas] whose subsidiaries received over \$50 million in U.S. stimulus dollars announced on Friday it has cut more than 800 jobs in the United States and Canada this year and may be forced to lay off another 800 employees in North America. This is yet another green energy company that received wasteful stimulus funds and does not even have anything to show for it.” [38461]

On Fox News, Lieutenant General Tom McInerney (retired) tells Judge Jeanine Pirro the reason for an FBI investigation of the Benghazi is to stall the issue past election day. “This was an act of war against the United States. The FBI should not be involved... If it went into the military chain, we would know two days later what happened. ... We should have already attacked those people. We know where they are. We know who they are. ... They [the Obama administration] went through an elaborate cover-up process to draw this out, and I believe that it was purely to give time to their political process. They have politicized it. We knew right away that first night what happened.” Former USS Cole Commander Kirk Lippold states, “The Obama administration in this thing, just like the Clinton administration [after the Cole attack], *does not care* about what the American people think about this incident. They care about power and them getting reelected.” [39536]

NBC’s *Saturday Night Live* skewers both Joe Biden and Paul Ryan in a skit mocking their debate. Biden is ridiculed for his obnoxious behavior, and Ryan for his frequent drinks of water. [38476, 38487]

On October 14 *The New York Times* reports, “Most of the arms shipped at the behest of Saudi Arabia and Qatar to supply Syrian rebel groups fighting the government of Bashar al-Assad are going to hard-line Islamic jihadists, and not the more secular opposition groups that the West wants to bolster, according to American officials and Middle



Eastern diplomats.” (This conflicts with Joe Biden’s statement during his debate with Paul Ryan. Biden said, “We are working hand and glove with the Turks, with the Jordanians, with the Saudis, and with all the people in the region attempting to identify the people who deserve the help so that when Assad goes—and he will go—there will be a legitimate government that follows on, not an al-Qaeda-sponsored government that follows on.” Ryan responded, “The longer this has gone on, the more people, groups like al-Qaeda are going in. We could have more easily identified the Free Syrian Army, the freedom fighters, working with our allies, the Turks, the Qataris, the Saudis, had we had a better plan in place.” Ryan was right; Biden was wrong.) [38635, 38636, 38637, 38862]

Former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs appears on CNN’s *State of the Union* and says, “Obviously, [Obama] was disappointed in his own [debate] performance. He didn’t meet his expectations. He knew when he walked off that stage and he also knew as he’s watched the tape of that debate that he’s got to be more energetic. I think [in the next debate] you’ll see somebody who’s very passionate about the choice that our country faces—and putting that choice in front of voters.” Romney advisor Ed Gillespie also appears on the program and says, “Well, [Obama] can change his style. He can change his tactics. He can’t change his record. And he can’t change his policies. And that’s what this election is about.” [38477]

Also on *State of the Union*, Senator Dick “Eddie Haskell” Durbin (D-IL) again calls on Mitt Romney to release more tax records, charging he is hiding something. Host Candy Crowley asks, “Why are his income tax returns still important?” Durbin responds, “Well, he doesn’t meet his father’s standard. His father set a standard in terms of disclosure. He hasn’t met that standard, and there is something in those income tax returns he doesn’t want America to see. So he’s selectively been disclosing a few things here and there.” Crowley: “There’s nothing that suggests that there’s something illegal has gone on. I grant you we haven’t seen all of them for the past twenty years, but are you not in effect blaming the player when what you ought to do is blame the game? It is the IRS system, and he took advantage of it which I do, which I assume ...you do.” [38574]

On *Face the Nation* Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says he believes the main facts about the consulate attack were “known by the administration within 24 hours. And, quite frankly, [U.N. ambassador] Susan Rice, on your show on September 16, [Obama] on the 18th, and the 25th, kept talking about an attack inspired by a video. They’re trying to sell a narrative, quite frankly, that the Mid-East, the wars are receding and al-Qaeda’s been dismantled, and to admit that our embassy was attacked by al-Qaeda operatives and Libya leading from behind didn’t work. I think undercuts that narrative. They never believed the media would investigate. Congress was out of session. It just caught up with them.” Graham suggests the administration is either being deceptive or is “incredibly incompetent. They’re very political when it comes to foreign policy. When something goes bad, they deny, they deceive, and they delay, and the truth is, we’re not safer. Al-Qaeda is alive [even if Osama] bin Laden may be dead. ...There was never a riot [about a movie]. There was never a group of people around the embassy. It was a coordinated terrorist attack that took hours. The reason they’re trying to sell this, if it is true, it was an

al-Qaeda-inspired attack that was coordinated, involving heavy weapons that lasted six to eight hours... it's exhibit A of a failed foreign policy. ...There was no way with anybody looking at all that you could believe five days after the attack it was based on a riot that never occurred. There was no riot at all. So to say that, you're either very incompetent or misleading." [38490, 38546]

On *Meet the Press*, NBC's Tom Brokaw remarks, "The fact is, I've been working in that part of the world for a long, long time. Forty years. I don't remember when the Middle East was more unpredictable than it is right now. More fractured than it is right now. You've got the Arab Spring; young people coming up. You've got the Saudis terrified about what's going to happen next with an aging leadership. You get back to Benghazi, what has not been addressed enough, in my judgment, is where was the intel? Why was the American intelligence apparatus not tracking the possibility of that kind of a terrorist attack? The rest of it has been politicized, but that's how we ought to be, down in the weeds looking at the intel on how prepared we are in that part of the world. We're not fighting conventional wars, but we are still prepared in a way like we're going to go to war against a nation state. We've got to have a complete review of what's going on in the Middle East. Everything political, cultural, and militarily. And that has not been put in motion by either campaign." (Brokaw, like most in the mainstream, media, has received and is repeating the message: "Blame Benghazi on a failure of intelligence, not on Obama.") But Brokaw also notes, "...Obama was saying, 'Look we've got a deficit of a half of a trillion dollars. I'm gonna get that under control.' Well this week, that deficit is 1.1 trillion dollars and it happened on his watch." [38485, 38586]

On *Fox News Sunday* Ed Gillespie says, "I think the race is very close. I think the wind is at Governor Romney's back, and there's clearly momentum. You can see it on the [campaign] trail, you can see it in the [polling] data." Obama strategist David Axelrod says, "I think [Obama is] going to be aggressive in making the case for his view of where we should go as a country, a country that's built around a growing, thriving middle class, not this top-down theory that Governor Romney has. But the other thing he's going to certainly do—I mean, we saw Governor Romney sort of serially walk away from his own proposals—certainly [Obama] is going to be willing to challenge him on it as we saw the vice president challenge Paul Ryan." Axelrod also blames the intelligence community and the State Department for the Benghazi attack, saying, "we weren't told" additional security was needed. Axelrod throws Hillary Clinton under the Benghazi bus, saying the denial of requests for additional security "were judgments that were made by security folks at the State Department." [38477, 38501, 38510, 38528]

Program host Chris Wallace asks Axelrod, "How soon after the attack did [Obama] meet with the National Security Council, with people from State [Department], with people from the... the Director of National Intelligence, with all of the various people to try to sort out what happened in Benghazi?" Axelrod avoids the question, responding, "Look. We are sorting out what happened there. Understand that [Obama] the day after the attack called it an act of terror and charged everyone with responsibility for getting to the bottom of what happened..." Wallace: "Before [Obama] went to the fundraiser in Nevada, did he meet with his National Security Council to try to sort out the shifting

stories? Because State says they never said it was a spontaneous demonstration; Intel did, you are quite right, [but] did he meet with the National Security Council before he went campaigning in Nevada?” Axelrod: “Chris, I assure you that [Obama] was in contact with all those who had information and responsibility in the national security chain about this incident...” (Axelrod does not, however, say *when* Obama was in contact—which likely means it was not until after he returned from the fundraiser.) [38536]

Also on *Fox News Sunday*, *Washington Post* reporter Bob Woodward states, “There are lots of unanswered questions, and I love documents, and they released some documents in this and if you go and look at the original request for more security they say our policy, our goal here is to shift from an emergency footing to normalize the security relationship. Now, this is in March, six, seven months ago. Anyone looking at that would say, ‘Wait a minute. Read the document in which they say, oh, the situation is incredibly unstable. Well, why are you trying to normalize your security in a situation that’s visibly unstable and you even acknowledge that?’ So you’ve got a bad policy and anyone looking at that would say, wait a minute, we are screwed up. We can’t normalize here. So, that’s the first problem. The second problem is... as soon as an ambassador is killed, the president should be more proactive, and be out there. He can go, you know, five minutes in the White House briefing room and say, this is really serious, we’re gonna get to the bottom of it, we don’t have the answers [yet]... and all of this could have been nipped in the bud—and it was not.” Asked why U.N. ambassador Susan Rice was still using the “anti-movie demonstration” excuse when the State Department knew there was no demonstration, Woodward responds, “I haven’t... you know... I don’t think we know exactly why she did that or what was going on, but the key... is two weeks later [Obama is] at the U.N. citing this YouTube video, I guess half a dozen times, that, as we now know, had virtually nothing to do with what happened in Benghazi.” [38481, 38483]

Woodward adds, “But it is also a mindset, sometimes when there’s trouble in the [Obama] White House, there is too, too frequently a passivity, ‘Uh, okay let’s step back and let the State Department handle it. Let’s let somebody else handle it’ and not jump in, and realize the seriousness of the moment. ... They should have done that. But time and time again, the problem—Obama was out, saying, ‘hey look we have got al-Qaeda back on its heels.’ Well anyone in the intelligence committee... knows that, that is not true.” [38482, 38483]

Radio talk show host Laura Ingraham, another panelist on *Fox News Sunday*, comments, “I think about [Obama’s U.N. ambassador] Susan Rice going out there on this show and four other shows on Sunday [September 16] and I’d like to know, did Susan Rice have any direct or indirect contact with anyone from the Obama campaign? [Campaign strategist] David Axelrod? [Campaign manager David] Plouffe? Maybe Valerie Jarrett, she still works in the White House, but obviously [is] very close to [Obama]. [Deputy national security adviser] Tom Donilon. I would like to know that. I’d like Mr. Axelrod to answer that question. I would hope that *The New York Times*, as they camped outside of Scooter Libby’s house during the whole Valerie Plame thing—are you guys [turning to panelist Jeff Zeleny of *The New York Times*] camped outside of the Susan Rice

residence? I mean, seriously. Whether she was put out as a sacrificial lamb or not. ... We have a dead ambassador, two Navy SEALs dead, another security officer dead, [Obama] answers this the next morning by flying to Vegas for a fundraiser. I submit that if this were a Republican president and this went down this way, you'd have reporters camped outside of Hillary's house, Rice's house and demand that the president do a full-blown press conference on what happened. Maybe it's just incompetence, maybe it's a series of innocent mistakes. But, my goodness, when you have three attacks, violent attacks, inside Benghazi on the Red Cross office, the consulate, and then postings on Facebook that 'we're coming after you' on September 10. They didn't have any actionable intelligence? What? This is ridiculous. And I think that the press is partly culpable here [for the cover-up]." (Additionally, on August 27 the State Department issued a travel warning for any Americans planning to go to Libya. If the administration believed it was too dangerous for Americans to travel to Libya, it would have known that it was also unsafe for Americans already there.) [38484, 38525, 38566]

On ABC's *This Week*, Martha Raddatz, moderator of the vice-presidential debate, says, "Well, let me tell you one thing. For instance, I didn't see Paul Ryan drinking all that water, ever, because when I was asking—because you're so in the moment, and you're asking Joe Biden a question. But I think right away, you knew what the strategy was. But one of the things I think Joe Biden did was in that intimate—in that little intimate table, it was very small, he was too big. He was like he was at a campaign event. So you could even—you could feel that, especially at that table, that... that Joe Biden was so aggressive. So there were surprises there. I was surprised at Paul Ryan, that he didn't jump in more, but that was clearly the strategy. But when you walk off, you're not quite sure how it went." [38486]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–47 percent in both the nationwide Rasmussen poll of likely voters and the Gallup poll. [38478, 38479]

Newsmax.com reports that "...there are 925,000 fewer construction jobs in the United States than in February 2009, and 1,035,000 fewer than when Obama was inaugurated, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). And there are even 484,000 fewer jobs than when the last recession officially ended in June 2009. ...[I]n September 2012, according to the BLS, 5,523,000 Americans had jobs in the construction industry, down from 6,558,000 in January 2009, when Obama took office, and down from 6,448,000 in February 2009, when Obama signed the stimulus. It is also down from 5,564,000 in January of this year, when Obama started the fourth year of his term. Construction jobs in the United States peaked at 7,726,000 in April 2006." [38480]

The *Pueblo Chieftain* endorses Mitt Romney for president, writing, "[W]ith runaway debt and deficits, America is stuck in the doldrums, with the prospect of the United States looking more and more like Greece looming large. There has to be a better way, and Mitt Romney is pointing to that way. He has outlined a pro-growth package of initiatives that can get this country humming again. ...[Obama's] 'It's not my fault' rhetoric has grown

thin and shabby. It's time for true change. And that's why we urge our fellow Americans to elect Mitt Romney the 45th president of the United States of America." [38527]

At NYMag.com John Heilemann explores the strange relationship between Obama and the Clintons, and notes a comment from Neera Tanden an aide who has worked for both Bill Clinton and Obama: "Clinton, being Clinton, had plenty of advice in mind and was desperate to impart it. But for the first two years of Obama's term, the phone calls Clinton kept expecting rarely came. 'People say the reason Obama wouldn't call Clinton is because he doesn't like him,' observes Tanden. 'The truth is, Obama doesn't call anyone, and he's not close to almost anyone. It's stunning that he's in politics, because he really doesn't like people. My analogy is that it's like becoming Bill Gates without liking computers.'" [38608, 38609]

The Obama campaign holds a Muslim townhall event at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society in Sterling, Virginia, with Brian Moran, chairman of the Virginia Democrat Party, as the "surrogate" for Obama. [38697, 38698]

The Daily Pen's Dan Crosby writes, "A recent documentary about the life of Barack Obama broadcast on PBS' 'Frontline' called 'The Choice 2012' presents a variety of testimony from alleged classmates of Obama during their mutual attendance of Occidental College and Harvard University. However, when the producers attempted to film a segment about Obama's attendance at Columbia University, they were unable to locate even one of Obama's classmates from [the] New York-based University and, instead, recorded an interview with an alleged 'roommate' who shared a rundown New York apartment with Obama. Because of this lack of first hand testimony about Obama's presence at Columbia, the documentary disproportionately abbreviates its coverage of these years of Obama life, from 1981 to 1983, when compared with its coverage of Obama's other school attendance. ...Conspicuously, the PBS documentary makes no mention of Obama's travel outside the United States at this time. ...By all accounts, Obama was not a good student at Occidental [College]. His easy-going lifestyle, according to PBS, left him restless and wanting, so it's difficult to imagine that Obama attended Columbia on a merit scholarship. If Obama actually registered for classes at Columbia, there remains no documented evidence that he actually attended them, or how he paid the tuition. ...For more than five minutes of material during the "Obama in New York" segment of the documentary, appearing immediately after the quote from Moore, there is absolutely no mention of Obama's attendance at Columbia. Instead the story devolves into Obama's experiences with poverty, race, social isolation and ideology. No mention of his attendance at Columbia is made. Former Libertarian VP candidate, Wayne Allyn Root has publicly stated that he never saw Obama at Columbia from 1980 to 1983. Obama alleges that he was a classmate of Root's enrolled in the same courses and the same major but Root says if that was true, he would remember him." (Looking for evidence of Obama's past, in 2008 *Fox News* contacted 400 Columbia students from that period but *none* remembered Obama. Obama's photograph does not appear in the school's yearbook, and Obama consistently declines requests to talk about his years at Columbia, provide school records, or provide the name of any former classmates or

friends while at Columbia.) [332, 346, 1182, 38495]

Private investigator Susan Daniels responds to the Geauga County, Ohio prosecutor David Joyce's refusal to investigate Obama's use of a stolen Social Security number and identity fraud because he believes there is no "probable cause." Daniels responds, in part, by stating, "Barack Obama has used a social security number, 042-68-4425, exclusively reserved for residents of Connecticut and has done so consistently for the past twenty-five years. It is no more credible that he would have a Connecticut mailing address than that he was a Connecticut resident; When his use of that number was verified, the year 1890 also appeared as Barack Obama's date of birth; On address searches for his residence and employment, the CT number appeared along with his date of birth as August 4, 1961 and, randomly, as 1890; The number he uses was assigned on March 28, 1977, when Barack Obama was fifteen years old and a student in and resident of Hawaii; Social security numbers bracketing his number from 042-68-4415 to 4435 all were issued in Connecticut in 1977, as were all numbers beginning with 042 until the government began issuing them randomly on June 25, 2011; ...Barack Obama has fraudulently obtained, used and continues to use unlawfully a social security number which misleads the public and, per se, government officials; the improper social security number appeared on his Massachusetts driver's license, his Internal Revenue filing and Selective Service Verification; Barack Obama has violated and continues to violate ORC Sec. 2913.49, Ohio's Identity Fraud statute." (Joyce is the Republican candidate for Congress in Ohio's 14 Congressional District.) [38504, 38505, 38506]

Sportswriter Buzz Bissinger, author of *Friday Night Lights*, appears on CNN and describes the savage reaction he received after he endorsed Mitt Romney in a column at The Daily Beast. Bissinger, a lifelong Democrat, says, "I would say between the Daily Beast comments, Twitter comments, Facebook comments ...I ran about 6-1 against. And it wasn't just, you know, 'I disagree' with you. It was the f-word, it was 'you're a baby killer.' It was even friends, [although] among friends it wasn't as vitriolic. It was this sense of, 'How dare you, you're a traitor. You're a writer. You're a journalist. How can you possibly come out in favor of this man?' ...There's no doubt in my mind there's a definite liberal bias in the mainstream media. You take out Fox [News] and MSNBC, which [are] staked at the right and the left, there is a liberal bias. You are simply not expected, when you're a journalist and a writer, to endorse a Republican. And don't tell me it does not seep into the coverage. I mean, you look at *The New York Times*, you look at their editorial today on Afghanistan, you would feel it's the Republicans' fault we're still there, but that's Obama's decision. It does seep in." [38530, 38531]

*The Telegraph* reports, "A small British firm based in south Wales had secured a contract to provide security for American diplomatic facilities in Benghazi despite having only a few months experience in the country. ...[J]ust five unarmed locally hired Libyans were placed on duty at the compound on eight-hour shifts under a deal that fell outside the State Department's global security contracting system." One security source states, "We have visited the consulate in Benghazi a number of times and have an excellent relationship with the Americans. Our assessment was the unarmed Libyan guards were

extremely poor caliber. The Libyan Ministry of Interior are [sic] generally not happy with [the company] and had them on their close observation/target list.” [38507]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–48 in Florida, according to a survey of likely voters by Public Policy Polling, a Democrat-affiliated company. Romney leads among independents 51–43. [38509]

On October 15 former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani appears on a CNN morning program where he makes it clear that it was a political move for U.N. ambassador Susan Rice to appear on five Sunday talk shows five days after the Benghazi incident and insist it was the result of an anti-video demonstration when he and the administration knew it was not.” Giuliani asks, “Who put Susan Rice out? The State Department? Or the political people? It was a political appearance. So what they’re really trying to do is they’re trying to run out the clock. They’re gonna have this investigation. The investigation will be after... the election is over. So what they’re trying to do is cover up this scandal as much as possible.” Host Soledad O’Brien and her panel jump to Obama’s defense, rejecting Giuliani’s use of the term “cover-up,” and claiming Obama never blamed a video. Giuliani responds, “Man, am I debating with [Obama’s] campaign? I mean, the defense of [Obama here] is overwhelming.” [38519, 38597]

On MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, NBC’s Chuck Todd comments, “I feel like there’s been this structural shift [in the presidential campaign]. We’re not longer in this ‘it’s even, but [Obama] has these advantages.’ [situation]. The ‘but [Obama] has these advantages’ in the battleground states I think is gone.” [38520]

A Washington Post/ABC poll shows Obama leading Mitt Romney 49–46. (The poll has an utterly unjustifiable D/R/I weighting of 35/26/33. That is, the poll counted 9 percent more Democrats than Republicans—and Obama still managed only a 3-point lead. To accept the poll results as credible means the enthusiasm gap between Democrats and Republicans will be even greater in 2012 than it was in 2008: 39/32/29 and that the 2010 mid-term turnout of 35/35/30 will be reversed. HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey comments, “If you want to know how this election is heading, at least for the moment, take a look at the independent vote. Romney leads it by six points, 48/42, with just over three weeks to go. Obama won indies by eight in 2008, 52/44, on his way to a seven-point win overall. The only way Obama can be leading by three while suffering a fourteen-point reversal in the gap among indies is to have an overwhelming Democratic base turnout, which would have to be prompted by a huge enthusiasm gap favoring Democrats—which hasn’t turned up in any poll, including this one. And even with the D+9 sample advantage, Obama’s lead is stuck within the margin of error, and he still can’t get to 50%. Even in an alternate universe, Obama’s in trouble.”) [38520, 38521, 38537]

Obama leads Romney 49–48 nationally in a Politico/George Washington University Battleground Poll of likely voters. The survey’s D/R/I is 36/32/30. HotAir.com notes, “Obama has a +11 among women at 54/43, and Romney has a +11 among men with the same split. Romney has an eight-point lead among independents, 49/41... Romney also

has a huge lead among seniors at 57/40 and a ten point lead among middle-aged voters (45-64) at 54/44. ... Bottom line: if Romney's winning seniors by 17 and independents by eight, he's ...in better position than one point down nationally.”[38533]

The Cato Institute's Michael F. Cannon points out at Townhall.com that although Obama has the power to appoint all 15 members to ObamaCare's Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), there is no legal requirement for him to appoint anyone. Cannon writes that if Obama “makes no appointments, or the Senate rejects [his] appointees, then all of IPAB's considerable powers fall to one person: the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The HHS secretary [Kathleen Sebelius] would effectively become an economic dictator, with more power over the health care sector than ...Congress. If Obama wins in November, he would have zero incentive to appoint any IPAB members. ...Sebelius, on the other hand, would not need to be re-confirmed. She could assume all of IPAB's powers without the Senate examining her fitness to wield those powers. If Obama fired her, or the voters fire Obama, then the next HHS secretary would have to secure Senate confirmation. Again, bloodbath. That makes Kathleen Sebelius the only person in the universe who could assume those powers without that scrutiny. No wonder she's campaigning so hard. No wonder Obama won't fire her [for violating the Hatch Act and illegally campaigning for him on the taxpayer dime].” [38523, 38524]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that the federal government has “more than 1,900 investigations open into alleged stimulus wrongdoing. ...The government's chief spending watchdogs have already secured nearly 600 convictions and judgments against people and companies accused of misusing stimulus funds and have a whopping 1,900 investigations currently open into possible wrongdoing, officials say.” (“Sheriff Joe” Biden was Obama's “policeman” on the stimulus spending.) [38532]

The Romney campaign reports that, along with the Republican National Committee, it raised \$170.4 million in September, with 93 percent of the 1,011,773 donations in amounts less than \$250. The campaign has a whopping \$191 million cash on hand—enough to flood the airwaves with advertising in the final weeks before the election. During the first two weeks of October the campaign collected \$27 million in online donations alone—no doubt much of which was the result of Romney's good debate performance on October 3. (Obama and the Democrat National Committee raised \$181 million in September.) [38534, 38535, 38560, 38584]

In a USA Today/Gallup poll, Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–46 in swing states, and 49–47 in the remaining 38 states. Obama leads Romney among likely female voters in the swing states by a mere one point, 49–48. Romney leads 52–44 among likely male voters in the swing states. In non-swing states Obama leads 52–43 among female voters, while Romney leads 54–41 among male voters. (The Obama campaign claims there are “deep flaws” in the poll, especially with the questions that screen for likely voters—even though they are the same questions used in the 2008 USA Today/Gallup poll. A complaint about poll methodology means the Obama team is getting *very* nervous.) [38542, 38543, 38544, 38577, 38578, 38615]



Romney leads Obama 49–47 in North Carolina—in a Public Policy Polling survey that oversamples Democrats by 10 points. [38545]

At a Wisconsin campaign event, Paul Ryan says, “When ...Obama came into office, he inherited a difficult situation. Both political parties contributed to this mess, Republicans and Democrats. You see, what’s happened is decades of politicians from both political parties made lots of empty promises to people to get elected, and pretty soon, if we have a debt crisis like that which is now plaguing Europe, these empty promises become broken promises—that’s what’s happening in Europe today. ...The unemployment rate of youth in Italy and Greece is over 50 percent. They’re losing a whole generation of people. If we copy and follow European economics, we will copy and follow European results. That’s the path that ...Obama has us on, and that’s the path we’re going to get off when we elect Mitt Romney on November the 6th.” Ryan points out, “Every man, woman and child’s share of the national debt was \$36,000 when ...Obama came into office. Now, four years of failed leadership, of empty promises, it’s gone up 45 percent. It’s \$51,000.” [38569]

Campaigning in Ohio, Michelle Obama says, “Every single child in this country is worthy. We want our children to have that sense of limitless possibility; the belief that here in America, the greatest country on the planet, there is always something better out there if you’re willing to work for it.” She later states that her husband “...will always, always fight to make sure that we as women can make our own decisions about our bodies and our health care—always.” (Translation: “All children are precious—except for the ones you want to abort.”) [38682]

At [ImpeachObamaCampaign.com](http://ImpeachObamaCampaign.com) Kevin Collins wonders if Joe Biden’s strange smirks, laughs, and gestures were related to his 1988 brain aneurism surgeries. Collins writes, “Full recovery from any kind of a medical episode involving a brain aneurysm is never a sure thing. ‘Recovery to normal’ is subjective. Those who regain their physical strength and coordination can perform manual labor and might never seem the worse for the episode. Those whose occupations require mental dexterity might not be so lucky. Nevertheless, because the brain is such a complex organ the ill effects of an aneurysm might not show up immediately. They might even show up gradually over the remainder of the victim’s life. When a victim has had such an episode there is always the possibility of the sufferer falling prey to Pseudobulbar affect (PBA), which results in emotional lability or swings in emotions that can result in involuntary crying, involuntary laughing or both. PBA can sometimes occur as a result of brain damage of the kind sustained by those who have suffered an aneurysm as Joe Biden did. Those who suffer from PBA may display incongruent emotional responses. When frustrated or angry they can laugh uncontrollably. PBA sufferers may laugh at sad news or even switch from laughing to crying after a very brief interval. ...I’m not a doctor. I have no special knowledge in these matters. I do have a Master’s Degree in Rehabilitative Counseling. I do know how to do research and I do understand medical terms. My conclusion about the cause of Biden’s bizarre and incongruent behavior is that it comes from his having suffered a brain

aneurysm. The scary part is he is one heartbeat away from running our lives.” [38567, 38568]

CNN’s Candy Crowley creates a stir after suggesting she wants to be more than “a fly on the wall” during the October 16 townhall-style debate between Obama and Mitt Romney. She has stated, “Once the table is kind of set by the town hall questioner, there is then time for me to say, ‘Hey, wait a second, what about x, y, z?’ and ‘If the town hall person asks about apples, and they answer oranges, I get to say, ‘Wait a second, the question was about apples—let’s talk about that.’” The problem for Crowley—a leftist who in August called the Romney-Ryan ticket a Republican party “death wish”—is that the memorandum of understanding signed by both campaigns calls for Crowley to do little more than manage the discussion and keep track of time. According to Politico, “She is not supposed to ‘rephrase the question or open a new topic,’ ‘ask follow-up questions’ ‘or otherwise intervene in the debate except to acknowledge the questioners from the audience or enforce the time limits, and invite candidate comments during the two-minute response period.’” (Neither the Romney nor the Obama campaign want Crowley to have free rein. If their candidate answers a question with a tired talking point they do not want Crowley pushing him for more.) Politico notes, “The Commission on Presidential Debates does not want Candy Crowley, the debate moderator, to reinterpret audience members’ questions—a small but important point in this ongoing debate over what role the moderator is meant to play in the townhall-format debate.” Columnist Michelle Malkin reminds readers of the history of Democrat operatives “planting” loyal supporters in townhall debate audiences. [38549, 38550, 38555, 38558, 38570, 38571, 38581, 38600, 38601]

At WesternJournalism.com C. O. Jones relates a story from someone who is “fairly well-connected politically” and who has worked in the nation’s capitol “for years. Jones writes, “No, there is no leaked email, no concrete proof, and this article is based on ‘hearsay.’ I’m not one that usually engages in or repeats hearsay, but if this is true, it could be the biggest story in 50 years. According to her, Barack Obama, wanting an ‘October Surprise,’ had secretly arranged with the Muslim Brotherhood for a kidnapping of our ambassador. Then sometime in October before the election Obama was to orchestrate some great military action to rescue Ambassador Stevens, causing all of America to cheer Obama’s strong foreign policy and bravery and making him look like a hero. ...The election would be a lock. The Muslim Brotherhood has every reason to want Obama re-elected in November and have an American President sympathetic to their causes. Not to mention an administration filled with Muslim appeasers. Therefore, they agreed to aid in these theatrics. Unfortunately for Ambassador Stevens and three others, the Brotherhood could not control the hired thugs that were to perform the kidnapping and things escalated and four American lives were lost. Panic set in at the White House and with little time to place blame as far away from Obama as they could, they settled on a ridiculous fairy tale about an irrelevant video posted four months prior on YouTube and ran with it. Barack Obama even ran with it after evidence showed he knew better and ran with it all the way to his speech at the U.N. So now, they are admitting it was a terrorist attack. They are admitting that the State Department had denied requests for more security from Washington, but nobody told them. Blame anyone but Barack Obama. I’m

betting the White House is smirking and perfectly happy to be accused of having a breakdown in communication as opposed to the alternative. This scenario, if true, more than satisfies my common sense gland.” (*The Obama Timeline* cannot confirm the story. It is repeated here solely to keep readers informed of the various reports about Obama.) [38553]

Noting that Obama is spending the day at a golf resort in Virginia to prepare for the next debate, Rush Limbaugh comments, “[B]ut they didn’t let him take his clubs. I mean, that’s torture. That’s like taking somebody to a whorehouse and moving all the women out. They took him to a golf resort and didn’t let him take his clubs. Now, he could still go rent some if he wants to.” [38556, 38557]

Breitbart.com reports, “Jurisdictions in Vermont, Michigan, Mississippi and Wisconsin have failed to mail absentee ballots to military members by the Sept. 22, 2012, deadline established by the MOVE Act. That was 45 days before the November 6 elections, which was what was required.” [38559]

Newsmax.com reports, “The White House has put special operations strike forces on standby and moved drones into the skies above Africa, ready to strike militant targets from Libya to Mali—if investigators can find the al-Qaida-linked group responsible for the death of the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans in Libya. But officials say the administration, with weeks until the presidential election, is weighing whether the short-term payoff of exacting retribution on al-Qaida is worth the risk that such strikes could elevate the group's profile in the region, alienate governments the U.S. needs to fight it in the future and do little to slow the growing terror threat in North Africa.” [38561, 38565]

At WeeklyStandard.com Daniel Halper reports, “A new chart from the minority side of the Senate Budget Committee details the fact that, since January 2009, for every person added to the labor force, 10 have been added to those not in the labor force. ...[I]n nearly the four years, since ...Obama took office in January 2009, only 827,000 people have been added to the labor force, while during that same time period, 8,208,000 have been added to those not in the labor force.” [38562]

The Department of Justice files a court challenge against a lawsuit by the House of Representatives that demands the release of documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. [38604]

In an interview with *The Washington Post*, U.N. ambassador Susan Rice claims that her statements on September 16 talk shows that the Benghazi attack was the result of an anti-video demonstration were based on daily updates from intelligence agencies. (Rice is lying. By September 12 the intelligence agencies already knew there was no demonstration.) [38590, 38591]

Secretary of State Hillary steps forward to accept responsibility for the Benghazi fiasco—but does not offer to resign, which is what taking responsibility implies. CNN.com reports, “...Clinton said the buck stops with her when it comes to who is to blame for security ahead of a deadly assault on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya. ‘I take responsibility’ for what happened on September 11, Clinton said in an interview with CNN’s Elise Labott soon after arriving in Lima, Peru, for a visit. The interview, one of a series given to U.S. television networks Monday night, was the first she has given about the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. Clinton insisted ...Obama and Vice President Joe Biden are not involved in security decisions. ‘I want to avoid some kind of political gotcha,’ she added, noting that it is close to the election.” According to Fox News, Clinton states, “I’m responsible for the State Department, for the more than 60,000 people around the world. The decisions about security are made by security professionals. But we’re going to review everything to be sure we’re doing what needs to be done in an increasingly risky environment. ....I can’t speak to who knew what. We knew there were security breaches and problems throughout Libya. That’s something that came about as the aftermath of the revolution to topple Qaddafi, with so many militias formed, so many weapons loose. ...It was taken into account by security professionals as they made their assessments.” (In January 2008, campaigning against Obama in the 2008 primaries, Clinton said, “I believe we need a president who believed what Harry Truman believed. That buck stopped in the Oval Office.”) [38563, 38564, 38572, 38575, 38583, 38593, 38599, 38605, 38617]

Clinton appears to be partially falling on the sword—at least until after the election. Her statements do not, however, answer the question, “Who told U.N. ambassador Susan Rice to lie on five Sunday talk shows on September 16?” The odds are it was Obama and Valerie Jarrett—not Hillary Clinton. (Rice was given cabinet member status by Obama and she reports to him, although her salary comes from the State Department budget.) Clinton’s statements serve several purposes. By stepping forward and accepting at least responsibility, she portrays herself as the “grown-up” in the room, while Obama remains a child in the corner accepting no responsibility and blaming videos the State Department, the intelligence community, and Mitt Romney for the Libya calamity. Clinton is also preserving her support in the black community by shielding Obama from some criticism. She cannot afford to anger black voters if she wants the 2016 Democrat nomination for president. Additionally, Clinton’s statements give the mainstream media an excuse to say, “Okay, the Libya story is over; let’s go back to slamming Romney over her 47 percent remarks.” Lastly, Clinton will not remain as Secretary of State even if Obama is reelected. If he loses on November 6, she still has three months to start leaking information to the media that will discredit Obama.

Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) issue a statement: “We have just learned that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has claimed full responsibility for any failure to secure our people and our Consulate in Benghazi prior to the attack of September 11, 2012. This is a laudable gesture, especially when the White House is trying to avoid any responsibility whatsoever. However, we must remember that the events of September 11 were preceded by an escalating pattern of attacks this year in Benghazi, including a bomb that was thrown into our Consulate in April, another

explosive device that was detonated outside of our Consulate in June, and an assassination attempt on the British Ambassador. If [Obama] was truly not aware of this rising threat level in Benghazi, then we have lost confidence in his national security team, whose responsibility it is to keep [Obama] informed. But if [Obama] was aware of these earlier attacks in Benghazi prior to the events of September 11, 2012, then he bears full responsibility for any security failures that occurred. The security of Americans serving our nation everywhere in the world is ultimately the job of the Commander-in-Chief. The buck stops there. Furthermore, there is the separate issue of the insistence by members of the Administration, including [Obama] himself, that the attack in Benghazi was the result of a spontaneous demonstration triggered by a hateful video, long after it had become clear that the real cause was a terrorist attack. [Obama] also bears responsibility for this portrayal of the attack, and we continue to believe that the American people deserve to know why the Administration acted as it did.” [38576]

*Time* magazine’s Mark Halperin writes at Time.com, “Here’s why some Democrats are worried tonight. If Romney wins the three Southern battlegrounds (FL, NC, and VA) and OH, he is at 266 electoral votes. Leaving the other five battlegrounds unallocated, that means Obama would be at 237 and Romney would only need to win one of the remaining five states to get to 270+. ...One senior Democratic official expressed real concern tonight unlike I have heard before about Ohio potentially slipping away from Obama (the state has been trending Republican in statewide races, [Senator] Rob Portman has become a force, religious and gun groups are flooding the state with voter contacts, two of Romney’s top strategists have recently won a statewide race there, etc). This doesn’t mean Romney has the upper hand right now. But it is no longer at all implausible that he could take the three Southern battlegrounds and Ohio. If he does that, he sure as heck would have the upper hand. And that leaves at least some Democrats with the shakes.” [38579]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the White House insider, who offers some comments on the consulate attack in Benghazi, Libya. The insider writes, “Now I want to make it real clear here. America [via Obama] just helped take out a leader [Libya’s Moammar Gaddafi] who had ruled a country for over 40 years. That’s a big f-cking deal. You can’t tell me the safety of an American ambassador [moved] into the region right after that should not be a huge concern to any administration. So when they say they didn’t know about all the worries about safety that were shared in the months before the attack. BULLSH-T. THEY KNEW. So who do we believe? The on the ground guy who is risking his damn life or Barack Obama and the ass-holes surrounding him who are now saying they didn’t know? [The State Department’s Eric] Nordstrom has no reason to lie. No reason to risk his own future by speaking out against the administration. I’ll say it again. State [Department] knew. Obama knew. THEY ARE ALL LYING. Yeah. Hillary? F-ck her too. We told her to stay away from these people. 2016 huh? Good luck with that now. ...So we got sh-t like this happening and the Obama White House tried to say it wasn’t a terrorist attack that killed those Americans on September 11th? Terrorists were posting the Ambassador’s daily schedule for f-ck’s sake. ...Take this June 6th event and put it up against what the White House will say after the September 11th attack that they had no ‘actionable intelligence’ regarding a pending attack. This was clearly a test run.

We got people in the White House who are purposely ignoring threats to the United States. Their entire foreign policy is a bunch of new age talk nice bullsh-t. Period. Terrorists blew a huge hole in the wall of the consulate four months before September. ...My understanding is the [ambassador] begged them [security] to stay on. [Christopher] Stevens was afraid. Really worried. Borrowed time worried. And the Obama White House could have given a sh-t. Or, they were up to some weird save the day plan [a staged kidnapping that Obama would then “brilliantly resolve”] like you forwarded me earlier. I am not pushing away any conspiracy on this thing. It stinks all the way. Top to bottom this thing stinks like week old road kill in July.” [38573]

The insider notes that in the weeks leading up to the attack, family members of the Libyan security force warned them it was coming, and on September 8 the security forces warned the U.S. diplomats. The insider states, “That date of September 8th. So they had Libyan militia telling diplomats the sh-t was about to hit the fan. If State had been on the ball. If the administration had been on the ball, they had 48 hours to secure the safety of American personnel. Here’s a big red f-cking siren going off here. After these reports 48 hours earlier though we have the ambassador flying INTO Benghazi????????????????? When I first read that report of the Libyans telling us on the 8th that the danger level had become critical and then we have Stevens flying INTO Benghazi after those warnings, gave me chills. That means there is something way more going on here. I got no real answer as to what. Just that there was something really strange going on. The missing weapons? Maybe. But maybe more. Like I said. Gave me chills. My gut telling me there is something there and they want it buried so deep now they are willing to look like idiots doing it. Better to look like idiots than murderers?????” The insider declares that “Mitt Romney was RIGHT” to criticize the initial statements apologizing for a video. [38573]

The insider continues, “[W]ithin 24 hrs media reports indicated the Benghazi Massacre was clearly a coordinated attack while the Obama administration aggressively pushed the ‘not our fault it was the video’ excuse. The cover-up is fully engaged at this point. The question I still have is WHY????????? It’s got to be more than they just didn’t want Obama to look dumb. He does that enough all on his own. What the f-ck was going on in Libya? Why was Stevens flying into Benghazi when all the warnings were screaming to do the exact opposite? Who ordered him to go? No way he does that on his own. The guy was afraid. He was ordered in. Who made that call? And why? ...Intelligence in Libya and back to DC knew by then it was most likely terrorists. You [Ulsterman] asked if it was possibly something that had been staged by Obama operatives and it went bad? I’ve run that scenario around and around and there are some missing pieces that I can’t quite fit together. But I’m not saying it isn’t possible. With these people, not possible no longer applies. That would be a huge f-cking risk though.” With regard to White House press secretary Jay Carney’s statement that the administration had “no actionable intelligence, the insider writes, “**READ THAT STATEMENT AGAIN. THIS IS THREE DAYS AFTER THE BENGHAZI MASSACRE. THERE HAD BEEN NO LESS THAN THREE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11TH. WHY ARE THEY SO WILLING TO LIE LIKE THIS WHEN ALL THIS EVIDENCE POINTS TO A TERRORIST ATTACK???**

HAS TO BE SOMETHING BIG THEY ARE COVERING UP. BIG. BIG. BIG.”  
[38573]

“...Susan Rice was directly prepped by the Obama White House. She was told EXACTLY what to say when she went on television and repeatedly LIED to the American public. And she doesn't answer to Hillary. She answers to Obama/ Jarrett [Valerie Jarrett]. ...Obama is openly lying to the American people. I'm screaming at the TV asking why???? Why did Jarrett send him out there to lie like this? Why risk that kind of damage? Are they that stupid? That confident? And lots of people are asking these questions at this point. Talking Senators [are] starting to ask some tough questions of the administration. Behind the scenes still. But pushing for answers. Obama is looking like he really could be one and done, so some of them are willing to push them around a bit. Not as much as I would like, but it's a start. ...Within 24hrs of Barack Obama telling America the video was to blame and calling it a 'natural protest' Hillary Clinton goes on record with the term 'terrorist attack.' Clinton and Obama are now in direct opposition—though publicly still circling their own wagons against growing accusations of a cover-up. I got little to no sympathy for Hillary. But I am watching Bill's reaction to this. Real close. So far it's been very quiet and if I was Obama and Jarrett, that would make me very, very nervous. I have known very few people that can snap a leash as hard and unexpected as Bill Clinton, and he'll be smiling ear to ear and look like the nicest guy you could ever know while he does it. That first debate, BC [Bill Clinton] had a hand in some of that. How Obama was left hanging a few times. How he looked over at the moderator for help and it didn't arrive. 'He don't [sic] want to listen—he don't [sic] want to prepare? Let him be on his own then.' The only one I'd want to piss off less than BC is the Old Man [probably the Wall Street insider]. He don't [sic] snap a leash. He makes you hang yourself with it and has you thanking him for giving you the opportunity to do so.” [38573]

“...[Defense Secretary Leon] Panetta had been pretty low profile up to this point. Two days after Obama's UN speech, Panetta is using the term terrorist attack in regards to the Benghazi Massacre that pushes Obama into a corner while he comes to the defense of the intelligence community. And then we get a new report out about how Obama didn't really make the call on Bin Laden from a former military intelligence guy. Coincidence? F-ck no. That was a firm tap to the top of Obama's head reminding him there are people who KNOW things, right? We got these very powerful people all facing off against each other now. Each one of them is hoping nobody goes THERE, but each one of them is letting it be known they will go there if they have to. And all the rest of them are just scrambling for cover hoping they don't get stepped on. ...Now the rift between the Obama White House and the intelligence community is really opening up here. Some might not realize that as U.N. Ambassador, Susan Rice answers FIRST to ...Obama [and] NOT to Hillary Clinton. Rice is a cabinet member. Her loyalty is to the WH [White House,] not State. That letter she sent blaming the intelligence community was drafted and approved by high ranking Obama White House advisers... JARRETT. ... Hillary [is] now using the Obama White House tactic of blaming the U.S. intelligence operations. Possible rift now between her and Leon Panetta? If so, dangerous for her to roll that dice unless it has been agreed beforehand some poor no-namer is going to be given up as the sacrificial lamb in

this current blame game scenario. Actually, it's dangerous regardless, because if she is crossing Panetta in any way, she won't win unless Bill does a full on intervention and I don't know if he wants to go there. Don't ever underestimate Leon Panetta. He is powerful in a way that only comes from information. And information he's got. On a whole lot of them and us." [38573]

The insider asks, "Has there ever been an administration so willing to throw some of the very bravest who serve to protect the safety of American citizens right under the wheels of the f-cking bus? In all my years of being around these kinds of people I have never seen this kind of thing. Never. There's been scraps between officials. There's been firings and resignations. That's all part of the deal. But to blame the entire intelligence community when the record clearly shows people were aware of how bad the situation had gotten? When the Libyans knew but we are saying we didn't know? Bullsh-t. Barack Obama is lying. Everyone around him is lying. And that lie comes at a whole lot of risk. So what is the motivation to lie? Why do it? What are they covering up? Sorry, I got more questions than answers on there but that's what it is. ...What I can tell you is the Benghazi issue is playing out in the media much more than it was just a week ago. That took some effort, but it's reaching a closer version of critical mass. We got [sic] the debate tomorrow. The townhall thing makes me nervous and hopeful. The Obama team will try and pack the house with their people. Not sure how successful the Romney people will be able to counter that. It's [in] New York. Happy to report though that there is some serious endowment influence to be leveraged here with Hofstra [University, the site of the debate]. You know who has apparently made some friendly 'don't make me pull the plug on you' calls in our favor." (This may mean that the Wall Street insider has reminded the university that if it allows the Obama team to put "plants" in the audience, the result may be reduced endowments.) [38573]

"One last thing," writes the insider. "...Few days or so after the first debate. When it finally started to sink in just how badly Obama did and how Romney was really starting to look like he could win this thing. Jarrett went ballistic upstairs. Inside her office in West Wing 2. ...Jarrett was blaming everyone around her for Obama's performance [in] the debate. This got back to [David] Plouffe who has apparently become more and more agitated over Jarrett's influence. She's not only trying to coordinate Obama's brain but now telling the operatives how to handle the campaign and that's got Plouffe biting nails over what to do with her. ...[Jarrett] Sends staff to go get Plouffe. ...Jarrett decides to make the trip downstairs herself. Now this kind of thing with Jarrett, her pushing people around, it happens a lot these days. It's become her thing. When it gets back to her how people call her the de facto president, she likes that. A lot. Makes her smile to hear it. Like she told Obama a while back. He might not like his life but she does. And she's living it. I'm guessing she's not even sure if Plouffe is on the premises because he has been spending more time in Chicago with all the others, but down she goes. No word on if Obama was around in the version I got. ...Doesn't really matter. He has depended on the script more and more these days and that script either comes from Jarrett or is approved by her if it comes from someone else. She controls everything going to and from [Obama]." [38573]



“So down she [Valerie Jarrett] goes to West Wing 1, and she’s got that look everyone around there is so familiar with. Queen Jarrett on the warpath. Needs somebody to blame for her boy f-cking up so bad during the first debate. Got polls getting shaky. Got a fundraising red alert going out. She enters Plouffe’s office. Comes right back out. Has words with an assistant down there. Not sure who. But the assistant apparently gives as good as she gets. Then another woman steps in. From the description I’m thinking it’s [deputy campaign manager Julianna] Smoot... Now you got to know that Julianna is a good company individual. Good at what she does. Wall Street connected. ...Especially well thought of with some high profile members of Congress. A hell of a lot more thought of than Valerie Jarrett. Good at the cash box. And for those people, cash is always king. So if Jarrett was going after Smoot on that day, I can see her discovering a woman more than willing to push right back. So Jarrett is told by this other woman to step back into Plouffe’s office area. The door closes and they have it out. Jarrett is screaming at her. Now you got to understand, this is maybe 20 feet at most from the Oval [Office]. So if Obama was in there, he wasn’t coming out. And there’s security of course. But apparently they don’t intervene like they have before. Guessing these kinds of altercations have become so common they don’t bother. Just another day in paradise inside the Obama White House.” [38573]

“What I do know is that the phrase ‘He said he was one of ours! What the hell happened? He was one of ours, that’s what we were told. What the hell happened?’ was repeated at least a few times during that altercation. That was coming from Jarrett and it had to have been overheard by at least ten people in and around the West Wing at the time. It was loud enough to get [Obama chief of staff Jacob] Lew to quickly trot down to that end of the hall and into the office where the two women were still squaring off. He only made it about 30 seconds before Jarrett was heard telling him, ‘You—OUT!’ And that’s what he did. Right back down the hall and back to his office without saying a word to anyone about it. Just shook his head a bit as if to say, ‘what are you gonna do?’ Both women came back out and Jarrett made her own way back down the hallway with the other woman following her. Jarrett swung around again and the two were face to face before a male member of the staff intervened between them. Told it was an intern. Poor bastard. Also told Jarrett very clearly looked like she didn’t want to take it any further but the other woman looked like she was ready to go. You ever cross a Carolina woman when she’s pissed? [Smoot is from North Carolina.] Wouldn’t recommend it. She wasn’t giving any indication of being one bit afraid of Valerie Jarrett on that day in that hallway.” [38573]

“Now it’s not so much the argument I want to point out here but what Jarrett said to that other woman, who I believe was Julianna Smoot. When she was screaming about ‘he was one of ours’ I am thinking it was a reference to Jim Lehrer, the moderator of that first debate. I went back and re-watched that debate a few times and there are several examples where Obama looks right over at Lehrer and appears to be waiting to be bailed out. And I’m guessing Lehrer tried to do just that but Obama was so bad so often and Romney was so good nobody could have saved Obama’s ass that night. Nobody. And that means they will try to ensure they get that kind of help even more for the second debate. But just like he was prepared for the first debate, the governor will be even more

prepared the second time around. And this time we are pushing Benghazi out there hard. A whole lot of us. They [the Obama team] will try and pack the house. They will try and play out a gotcha moment. But we are prepared. The governor doesn't have to win big like he did last time. He's just got to win. We get that, we get a one and done pile of sh-t pretender out on his ass where he belongs. There's the riots though. They got some plan to have him come out and calm the f-cking racist seas after the election. Heal the country. Get the rioters to go back home and move on because 'that is what America does.' That will help secure him sainthood status in the history books and line up about a \$100 million for his United Nations One World bullsh-t Tour in 2014. You didn't think we'd be rid of this guy for good once he's out of the White House did you? They got big plans to go. And on that end of things, I don't think there's a damn thing to be done about it." [38573]

On October 16 Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is asked on CBS *This Morning*, "Who briefed Ambassador Rice that day? Did you sign off on that briefing and those speaking points [made by Rice on five September 16 talk shows]?" Clinton replies, "You would have to ask her." Reporter: "You didn't speak to her before that appearance?" Clinton: "No, but that—everybody had the same information. I mean, I'm—I have to say I know there's been a lot of attention paid to who said what when, but I think what happened is more important. We were attacked, and four brave Americans were killed. Others were injured. Dozens had to fight for their life [sic] and had to get evacuated. Everybody in the Administration had—has tried to say what we knew at the time with the caveat that we would learn more, and that's what's happened. So I think that—I've seen it before not just in respect to this. I think it's part of what the fog of war causes." [38590]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson questions the appearance of actress Eva Longoria in a MoveOn.org campaign ad promoting Obama. Benson notes that "Longoria is an official national co-chair of the Obama campaign. Is she legally permitted to coordinate with an outside group like MoveOn.org and appear in their 'independent expenditure' ads? *Hmmm.*" (Legally, the Obama campaign is prohibited from coordinating efforts with outside groups like MoveOn.org and political action committees. Longoria is officially part of the Obama campaign, and is therefore arguably prohibited from involvement with any ads that are not part of the campaign.) [38577, 38594, 38723]

Politico points out that Obama has not campaigned in North Carolina in six weeks. That is a clear indication that his campaign staff believes he will lose the state. (Obama advertising spending has also been reduced in the state.) [38726, 38727]

Mitt Romney trails Obama by only four points in Pennsylvania—a state where his campaign has spent nothing on ads. (Obama won Pennsylvania by 10 point in 2008.) [38758]

A Daily Kos/SEIU/PPP poll of likely voters conducted October 12–14 shows Mitt Romney with a 50–46 lead over Obama nationwide. Romney leads 50–47 in the swing states and 56–40 in the "red states," while Obama leads 52–45 in the "blue states." (The

50–46 result is derived from a three-day average, which includes a 55–43 lead for Romney on the third day. Laughably, the leftist web site DailyKos.com claims the poll “certainly smells like an outlier.” That is, it does not trust its own poll.) [38580, 38589, 38611]

Romney also reaches the 50 percent point in a Gallup poll, with a 50–46 lead over Obama. [38611]

CNSNews.com reports, “The Obama administration announced last week that it is setting aside 285,000 acres of public lands to be used for ‘commercial-scale solar development’—a total acreage amount that surpasses Rocky Mountain National Park, with 265,461 acres owned by the federal government.” The public land is in California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. (Obama does not want unsightly oil rigs in remote parts of Alaska, but he wants mile after mile of unsightly solar panels and wind mills in the American Southwest.) [38685]

DailyCaller.com obtains correspondence written by Obama in 1987 “...about a community organizing project whose advisory board would include his pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright; the controversial leftist Catholic priest Father Michael Pfleger; and [John Ayers] the brother of Weather Underground terrorist Bill Ayers.” As a candidate in 2008 Obama attempted to distance himself from Wright and William Ayers, but the documents make it clear that his relationships go back 25 years. (Obama has claimed that William Ayers was just “a guy in the neighborhood,” but it is difficult to believe that Obama worked with John Ayers on a project without knowing his brother. Obama most likely met William Ayers as early as 1981, when he lived near Ayers in New York City. They were probably brought together by Obama’s communist mentor, Frank Marshall Davis and Thomas Ayers—father of John and William and a close friend of Davis. While on the boards of the Joyce Foundation and the Woods fund, Obama arranged for as much as \$761,000 to be given to the Leadership for Quality Education” (LQE) organization, which was run by John Ayers. Obama was also on the board of LQE. Obama remains a neighbor of William Ayers in Chicago, and Obama has been called the “Fresh Prince of Bill Ayers.”) [59, 60, 61, 141, 142, 143, 155, 156, 201, 204, 259, 428, 1282, 2271, 38582]

NationalReview.com’s Morning Jolt points out some of the debate rules for the October 16 event: “Neither candidate is allowed to ask direct questions of the other. The candidates shall not address each other with proposed pledges. Neither candidate may point to or cite folks in the audience besides family members. Rules of tonight’s debate say no ‘speeches, statements, or comments’ by audience questioners. Good luck with that one. The rules do say that the microphone is to be cut off once the question is asked. The only audience participation is supposed to be the asking of the questions; no cheering, jeering, applause, or other response outside of the introductions. At no debate shall the moderator ask for ‘a show of hands’ or similar calls for response. No closing statement tonight; for the final debate, candidates will have a choice of either a 90-second or two-minute closing statement. No issuing challenges or ultimatums for additional debates, no appearing at other forums, and no accepting television or radio offers that involve a

debate format.” [38587]

Obama leads Mitt Romney 50–46 in a Quinnipiac poll in Pennsylvania. (Obama led 54–42 in its September 26 poll, prior to the first debate. Other polls also show Romney gaining ground in Pennsylvania. Romney may not win the state, but Obama cannot afford not to. Romney can defeat Obama without Pennsylvania, but if Obama loses Pennsylvania that likely means a Romney landslide.) [38592]

According to CNSNews.com, a \$25 million program begun under the Bush administration to help criminals re-enter society after released from prison has ballooned to \$831 million under Obama—and appears to now be limited to blacks as it is included in a budget item called, “An Economy Built to Last and Security for African American Families.” [38595]

Attorney General Eric Holder—who opposes state laws requiring photo ID for voting and calls them “poll taxes”—hosts an event to observe Disability Awareness Month. (Reporters are required to present photo ID to enter the event.) [38598]

Ross Perot, who ran as a third-party presidential candidate in 1992 and gave the election to Bill Clinton by taking votes from George H. W. Bush, endorses Mitt Romney. Perot states, “At stake is nothing less than our position in the world, our standard of living at home and our constitutional freedoms. That is why I am endorsing Mitt Romney in his quest for the presidency. We can’t afford four more years in which national debt mushrooms out of control, our government grows, and our military is weakened. Mitt has the background, experience, intelligence and integrity to turn things around. He has my absolute support. ... It is this massive deficit spending that threatens to undermine our future standard of living. To pay for our government’s massive debts, Washington’s profligacy, our children and grandchildren will be paying interest and principal on the nation’s debt for untold years into the future. That is wrong. It’s not the way America ought to be.” [38602]

On Spreecast.com Steve Malzberg interviews retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul E. Vallely, who says, “Hillary Clinton should resign because she’s inept...” Vallely confirms that the mission to go after Osama bin Laden commenced without Obama’s knowledge—because Obama had denied permission for them to do so on “two or three” prior occasions. “Obama was on the golf course. They called him in because it was a ‘go’ mission...” and the aircraft “were already in Pakistani air space.” Malzberg suggests that if Obama does not do well in the second debate, a military action will be planned and Obama will cancel the third debate, arguing he cannot take time away from the crisis that requires his full attention. Vallely believes “There will be an October surprise, one way or the other...” possibly in Syria, Libya, or supporting Israel. [38603]

Reporters encounter Obama from a distance in Williamsburg, Virginia and yell out several questions as he passes by. Reporter 1: “How do you feel about tonight [the

debate]?” Obama: “I feel fabulous. Look at this beautiful day.” Reporter 2: “Are you aware Michelle voted for you yesterday?” Obama: “Thank goodness!” Reporter 3: “Is Hillary to blame for Benghazi?” Obama keeps walking and ignores the question. (Accompanying Obama are David Plouffe, his campaign manager, and Anita “I love Chairman Mao” Dunn, Obama’s former White House communications director.) [38606, 38607, 38676]

Politico reports that Obama has scheduled an interview with the celebrity magazine *US Weekly*. (Obama has not had a full press conference since March. It can be assumed that the magazine will not ask question any more probing than, “How does it feel to know you can help millions of people?” and “With your busy campaign schedule, how do you find time to walk the dog?”) Mitt Romney has declined an interview offer from the magazine. [38677]

A123 Systems, a manufacturer of batteries for electric vehicles, files for bankruptcy. The company had received a \$249.1 million grant from the federal government. According to WashingtonGuardian.com, “The Massachusetts firm dished out nearly \$1 million to hire a powerhouse lobbying firm with close ties to ...Obama between 2007 and 2009, and two of its top executives made personal donations to several high-profile Democrats in Congress as it won federal funding for its efforts to build the next generation of lithium batteries for electric vehicles. And its president and CEO, David Vieau, an early financial backer of ...Obama, scored five invitations to the White House in 2009 and 2010, including a meeting he attended with the president, White House logs show. And when the company opened a new Michigan plant, Obama made a high-profile call to congratulate.” [38610, 38734]

Obama campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki tells Shepard Smith of Fox News that “...Obama takes responsibility for the safety and security of all diplomats serving overseas. Secretary Clinton of course has a great amount of responsibility as Secretary of State.” Smith suggests—and Psaki denies—that Clinton’s “I accept responsibility” statement was a “coordinated roll-out” timed to be released prior to the second debate. (Some might disagree with Smith. Clinton’s statement may not have been at the request of or coordinated with Obama. At CommentaryMagazine.com Alana Goodman writes, “This is nothing short of disastrous for ...Obama. After dodging responsibility for the Benghazi attack for over a month, pointing fingers at everything from the State Department to the intelligence community, the White House is outclassed by... Hillary Clinton. By taking the blame now, Hillary effectively 1.) Undermined Obama’s leadership, 2.) Put pressure on him right before a major debate to take the heat.”) [38612, 38613, 38614, 38618]

On CNN, Van Jones twice refers to Mitt Romney and Obama as “a douche and a wimp” in their first debate. (Jones, a communist who served as Obama’s “green jobs” czar until his radical past was exposed, is later forced to apologize: “I just wanted to say, listen, I want to apologize to you, the CNN audience, and to Governor Romney himself—very

poor choice of words and I regret it. I apologize.” Why CNN has Jones on its payroll is unclear.) [38621]

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar joins the list of Obama officials caught violating the Hatch Act. *The Colorado Observer* reports, “Scott Coffina, an associate for the White House counsel’s office in the George W. Bush administration, said Salazar broke the 1939 law by allowing his title to be used at a political rally in Montrose, Colo. on Oct. 5. ‘That’s a no-no. He’s allowed to do politics, but he’s not allowed to use his official title. That’s a serious violation. There’s no excuse for that.’ ...Salazar, a former state attorney general and U.S. senator from Colorado, appeared at an event sponsored by the Montrose County Democratic Party. ...The Hatch Act bars executive-branch employees except for the president and vice president from mixing their political and civil-service functions. ‘You get to wear one hat not two,’ Ann O’ Hanlon, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Office of Special Counsel said.” [38622, 38623]

The *New York Observer* endorses Mitt Romney for president, writing, “This year, ...we have witnessed a rare phenomenon in American politics. A candidate has emerged from the rough and tumble of the primaries with his dignity intact. The system has produced not a demagogue but a manager, a candidate whose experience is rooted in the pragmatism of the business world rather than the ideology of partisan politics. That candidate is Mitt Romney. ...Over the last few weeks, Mr. Romney has shown that he is a moderate to his core—he is a manager, and a listener, who believes he can restore the balance between the private and public sectors that has been a hallmark of the American economy. The *Observer* endorses Mr. Romney’s candidacy and urges readers to support him. Four years ago, Barack Obama captured the imagination of many Americans with his thrilling message of change. Given the challenges confronting [him]—two raging wars and an unprecedented global economic collapse—the desire for a quick fix was unrealistic. America supported that candidate (as did this newspaper), but his presidency, so filled with promise and potential, has failed to deliver the change America needs.” [38625]

The editorial continues, “...Class warfare might be a successful strategy for cobbling together 270 electoral votes. But it’s not the way to unite a divided nation. [Obama] comes to town on a Monday, takes our money, shakes our hands and tells us how much he values the CEOs and innovators of New York. And then on Tuesday, he turns around and refers to business leaders as fat cat bankers whose success was created by the sweat of others. That’s not a friend. That’s not a leader. That’s a politician. ...Obama, the candidate of change in 2008, was and will remain a significant figure in American history. His election four years ago truly was a milestone and, rightly, a cause for celebration. While we admire Mr. Obama, we believe he squandered an opportunity to bring positive change to Washington—and what change he did bring will burden future generations. We continue to rack up debt, buy services we cannot afford and allow unfunded liabilities to continue to grow. This has to end. ...Critics have lampooned [Romney] as out of touch; in fact, it is Mr. Obama who has lost sight of the fact that American capitalism is the greatest anti-poverty program in human history. ...The United States simply cannot afford another four years of weak leadership. The genius of

American capitalism and the moral authority of American foreign policy must be restored. Mitt Romney has a plan to do both. He has the credentials to restore the economy and to defend American values in a hostile world. He has the skills to help create jobs and a brighter future for our country. This election is a true turning point for the next generation. Mitt Romney is the change the nation needs. And he is the change New York needs.” [38625]

Obama and Mitt Romney meet for their second debate, at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York. Moderator Candy Crowley, who had promised to be more than a “fly on the wall,” did her best to assist Obama by allowing him about four minutes more talk time than Mitt Romney, interrupting Romney far more often [28 times] than Obama [9 times], selecting several softball questions from the audience to serve up to Obama, and “correcting” Romney with her own “fact-checking”—which turned out to be wrong. Despite the advantages given to Obama, he does little in the debate other than rile up his political base. He offers no information on what he would do in a second term beyond “invest in education” and raise taxes on families that earn \$250,000 or more. He rudely interrupts Romney many times—and Romney responds by doing some of the same. Obama is clearly more animated than he was in the first debate, but where Joe Biden delivered smirks and laughs in his debate with Paul Ryan, Obama delivers hateful stares toward Romney. It is obvious that Obama hates Romney—because he dares challenge his record and call it a failure. (CNN later defends allowing Obama more time for speaking because “*he speaks more slowly*” than Romney.) [38624, 38645, 38646, 38661, 38680, 38686, 38687, 38688, 38689, 38696, 38705, 38752, 38771]

Moderator Crowley calls on college student Jeremy Epstein, who asks Obama if he will be able to find a job after he graduates in 2014. Obama responds by talking about bringing manufacturing jobs back to the United States: “I want to build manufacturing jobs in this country again.” Romney speaks about creating more jobs in general. (Epstein later tells reporters he will vote for Obama. “I felt like he was saying he wanted a bright future for me, that he was talking about the youth of America.” Epstein adds, “Governor Romney went into a discussion about manufacturing jobs. I don’t think people in college like me are looking for that kind of job right now.” That is, Epstein is voting for Obama because he doesn’t like something Romney said that was in fact said by Romney. According to the Associated Press, Epstein said he was “dazzled when Obama gazed into his eyes”—which suggests that the student was hardly an “undecided” voter before the debate began.) [38808]

Crowley calls on a woman in the audience who asks a question about gender pay discrimination. (The questions had all been screened in advance; Crowley selects the woman knowing exactly what she will ask—and knowing it is an easy question.) Obama uses the question to brag about his signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, leading viewers to believe the legislation prohibits wage discrimination based on gender. It does not. (In fact, wage discrimination based on gender has been prohibited by federal law since the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.) Obama wants the voters to believe that he made illegal something that has been illegal for the last 49 years. (Any woman who believes she is paid less than her male counterparts should file a complaint with the

Department of Labor. It will be investigated and if the claim is valid, the federal hammer will come down hard on the employer—and Barack Obama will have had nothing to do with it.) The Ledbetter legislation does nothing but extend by 180 days the statute of limitations for filing a claim of pay discrimination based on gender. (Crowley knew in advance that Obama would brag about the Ledbetter legislation. She knew that female voters would be reminded by Obama that he “cares about them.” And she certainly knew that Mitt Romney would have little time to explain the truth about the legislation—if he is even aware of it. The best Romney can do is muster up a “some of my best friends are women” response. It is a shameless set-up by Crowley. Romney could have said, “Under Obama, 800,000 women now don’t even get 70 percent. They get *zero* percent because they’ve lost their jobs.”) [38652, 38653]

Obama uses the women’s pay issue to attack Romney on another issues: “When Governor Romney says that we should eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood, there are millions of women all across the country, who rely on Planned Parenthood for, not just contraceptive care—they rely on it for mammograms, for cervical cancer screenings.” (Obama is lying. Women do not “rely on” Planned Parenthood for mammograms because it does not provide mammograms. It is, however, the nation’s number one provider of abortions, performing more than 300,000 per year. WND.com points out that the Mammogram Quality Standards Act requires a license to perform mammograms—and Planned Parenthood does not have a license.) [38652, 38751, 38761, 38764]

Crowley calls on one woman who asks Romney how he is different from George W. Bush. (Crowley does not call on anyone to ask Obama how he is different from Jimmy Carter.)

Obama claims Romney’s tax proposal does not work mathematically. Romney responds, “I was someone who ran businesses for 25 years and balanced the budget. I ran the Olympics and balanced the budget. I ran the state of Massachusetts ...and balanced the budget all four years. When we’re talking about math that doesn’t add up, how about \$4 trillion in deficits over the past four years, \$5 trillion—that’s math that doesn’t add up. ...And then we have his own record, which is ...four consecutive years where he said when he was running for office [in 2008] he said he would cut the deficit in half. Instead he’s doubles it. We’ve gone from \$10 trillion of national debt to \$16 trillion of national debt. If [Obama] were reelected we’d go to almost \$20 trillion of national debt. This puts us on a road to Greece. I know what it takes to balance budgets. I’ve done it my entire life.” [38673]

Obama brags that he gave “95 percent of all Americans” a tax cut. That is incorrect. *Income* tax rates have not changed; workers are paying the same rates signed into law by President Bush. Obama and Congress did agree to a *temporary* reduction in Social Security taxes for 2010 and 2011, but that certainly did not affect 95 percent of all Americans. Additionally, the rates are scheduled to return to their normal levels on January 1, 2013; the two-year reduction has placed the Social Security system in greater



jeopardy; and the reduced taxes will result in slightly lower future retirement benefits for everyone as well—because benefit amounts are based on taxes paid into the system.

Obama says he has pursued an “all of the above” energy strategy, “and that’s what we’re gonna do during the next four years.” Romney responds, “But that’s not what you’ve done during the last four years. That’s the problem. In the last four years you’ve cut permits and license on federal lands and in federal waters in half.” Obama: “Not true, Governor Romney.” Romney: “So how much did you cut them by?” Obama: “Not true.” Romney: “By how much did you cut them by then?” Obama avoids the direct question by claiming oil production is up. (It is up on *private* land. Permits and licenses have been cut by 48 percent.) Obama argues that he has merely taken away leases that oil companies were not using. (The oil companies *bid for and paid for those leases*—and Obama canceled them for non-use. But the non-use is *not* the result of any “conspiracy.” It is simply a matter of common sense business practices. If, for example, oil is selling for \$100 per barrel and the cost of extracting oil from a particular site is \$110 per barrel, the site will be left unused until the price of oil exceeds the \$110 cost of extraction—or the company can come up with a way to extract the oil for less than the sale price. The company can certainly not lose money on each barrel it produces, or it will go out of business.) [38913]

At one point during the debate, annoyed by Obama’s interruptions, Romney tells him, “You’ll get your chance [to respond].” (MSNBC’s Chris Matthews later states, “I don’t think [Romney] understands the Constitution of the United States... He’s the president of the United States. You don’t say, ‘you’ll get your chance.’” (Matthews has perhaps never read the U.S. Constitution. Presidents are elected, temporary, civilian leaders, not kings or dictators. During such debates Obama is merely a candidate. That does not mean he should be treated rudely, but the challenger need not roll over and play dead if the incumbent is acting rudely.) [38992]

Obama states, “Under Governor Romney’s definition, there are a whole bunch of millionaires and billionaires who are small businesses. Donald Trump is a small business.” (Glenn Beck later corrects the lie: “No, Mr. [Obama], Donald Trump has upwards of 25,000 employees, or more. His revenue and his other millionaires and billionaires receive—the revenues that he receives makes him ineligible for this.”) [38913]

Obama lies about Arizona’s immigration law, saying, “Part of the Arizona law said that law enforcement officers could stop folks because they suspected maybe they looked like they might be undocumented workers and check their papers. You know what? If my daughter or yours looks to somebody like they’re not a citizen, I don’t want—I don’t want to empower somebody like that.” (Arizona’s law does *not* permit law enforcement officials to apprehend people based simply on their appearance. If an individual is stopped for a legitimate reason—such as erratic driving, no license plate, etc.—the officers are permitted to ask questions about citizenship if they have reasonable suspicions.)

Obama claims that since he entered the White House, “We have seen increases in coal production and coal employment,” and “With respect to something like coal, we made the largest investment in clean coal technology, to make sure that even as we’re producing more coal, we’re producing it cleaner and smarter.” CNSNews.com reports, “[T]he Energy Information Agency of the U.S. Department of Energy says coal production in the United States hit a peak in 2008 and has never regained that level. The EIA also says coal production decreased in the first half of this year compared to the first half of 2011.” [38754]

Audience member Kerry Ladka asks Obama, “Who was it that denied enhanced security [for the U.S. consulate in Benghazi] and why?” Obama avoids a direct answer. He states that he “takes responsibility” in general for the failures, but does not say *who* made the security decisions. Obama states, “So as soon as we found out that the Benghazi consulate was being overrun, I was on the phone with my national security team, and I gave them three instructions. Number one, beef up our security and... and... and procedures not just in Libya but every embassy and consulate in the region. Number two, investigate exactly what happened, regardless of where the facts lead us, to make sure that folks are held accountable and it doesn’t happen again. And number three, we are going to find out who did this, and we are going to hunt them down, because one of the things that I’ve said throughout my presidency is when folks mess with Americans, we go after them.” (Obama does not answer the question. He does not say which person of what office made the mistake. He essentially says, “Now that the horse is out of the barn, we’ll close the door.”) [38755]

Romney responds, “There were many days that passed before we knew whether this was a spontaneous demonstration or actually whether it was a terrorist attack. And there was no demonstration involved. It was a terrorist attack, and it took a long time for that to be told to the American people. Whether there was some misleading or instead whether we just didn’t know what happened, I think you have to ask yourself, why didn’t we know five days later, when the ambassador to the United Nations went on TV to say that this was a demonstration. How could have we not known?” Obama: “The day after the attack, Governor, I stood in the Rose Garden, and I told the American people and the world that we are going to find out exactly what happened, that this was an act of terror. And I also said that we’re going to hunt down those who committed this crime. And then a few days later, I was there greeting the caskets coming into Andrews Air Force Base and grieving with the families.” Romney: “I think it’s interesting; [Obama] just said something, which is that on the day after the attack, he went in the Rose Garden and said that this was an act of terror. You said in the Rose Garden the day after the attack it was an act of terror. It was not a spontaneous demonstration. ...I want to make sure we get that for the record, because it took [Obama] 14 days before he called the attack in Benghazi an act of terror.” [38756]

Romney’s rebuttal creates a firestorm when moderator Crowley interrupts to defend Obama on Romney’s criticism that he had blamed a video rather than calling the attack a

terrorist attack. Romney charges (correctly) that Obama had not called the consulate attack a terrorist attack. Obama claims he did, and tells Crowley to “show him the transcript” of his September 12 comments. Crowley tells Romney that Obama did, in fact, use the term “acts of terror” on September 12—which prompts Michelle Obama, sitting in the audience, to violate the debate rules and applaud. Crowley does note that the White House spent two weeks emphasizing the video. (*There is no explanation as to why Crowley had a transcript of Obama’s remarks in front of her or how Obama could know that she did.* One assumption is that the debate “gotcha” moment had been planned in advance. Although Obama had used the words “acts of terror” in his September 12 remarks, he used them only generically—*while still talking about the anniversary of September 11, 2001.* But by stating that Obama had not called the Benghazi incident a terrorist attack, Romney walked into their “semantic trap”—and both Obama and Crowley were ready. An investigation should, but will not, be conducted to determine if there was coordination between Crowley and Obama staffers prior to the debate.) [38632, 38679, 38756, 38834]

After the debate, Obama approaches Ladka and tells him he held off on calling the Benghazi incident a terrorist attack because he wanted to make sure the “intelligence he was acting on was real intelligence and not disinformation.” According to Ladka, Obama also said he didn’t want to name the individual who denied the increased security because “releasing the individual names of anyone in the State Department would really put them at risk.” HotAir.com comments, “The bit about not wanting to act on incomplete intelligence is obviously self-serving nonsense. The White House’s surrogates, like [Jay] Carney and Susan Rice, were only too happy to push the apparently phantom connection to the Mohammed movie. Obama himself, in the ‘acts of terror’ speech in the Rose Garden, linked the attack to the film by saying, ‘We reject all efforts to denigrate the religious beliefs of others. But there is absolutely no justification to this type of senseless violence.’ He was happy to jump the gun and float disinformation when it suited his purposes. Two: As Howard Portnoy notes in the Greenroom, and contra his own spin last night, Obama seems to acknowledge here that the ‘acts of terror’ quote in the Rose Garden wasn’t sufficient. He ‘delayed’ describing Benghazi specifically as a terror attack for weeks, supposedly out of an abundance of caution but in reality because it didn’t mesh with his ‘I kicked the shinola out of Bin Laden and Al Qaeda’ reelection pitch. So by his own account, his ‘check the transcript’ defense last night was misleading—and of course his pal Candy [Crowley] gave him cover on it. Perfect.”) [38654, 38655, 38674, 38707, 38708]

Using a strategy clearly well-planned by his advisors, Obama mentions Romney’s “47 percent” fundraiser comment—but not until his closing remarks, after which Romney has no chance to respond.

John Nolte writes at Breitbart.com, “We’re done with the second presidential debate, but it was apparent 45 minutes [into the debate] that between the questions Crowley chose and her handling of who was allowed to speak and when, that this debate was a total and complete setup to rehabilitate Barack Obama. If these are truly undecided voters, they’re

apparently undecided between Obama and the Green Party. Moreover, as I write this, Obama's already enjoyed four more minutes of speaking time than Romney. In a ninety-minute debate, that's a big deal. The lowest and most dishonest part of Crowley's disgraceful 'moderation' was when she actually jumped into the debate to take Obama's side when the issue of Benghazi came up. To cover for his and his administration's lying for almost two weeks about the attack coming as the result of a spontaneous protest over a YouTube video, Obama attempted to use as cover the claim that he had called the attack a 'terrorist attack' on that very first day during his Rose Garden statement. Romney correctly disputed that. Crowley, quite incorrectly, took Obama's side and the crowd exploded. Here's what Obama said that day: 'No acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation, alter that character or eclipse the light of the values that we stand for.' ...Obama was using the term generically and it would be almost two weeks before he used it again. Let's not forget that Susan Rice said declaratively on the five Sunday shows four days later that it was NOT an act of terror. And during those two weeks the Obama administration lied like a rug. For Crowley to step in and attempt to correct Romney on a statement that is at best arguable, was completely out of line. The debate over this debate has only begun." [38644, 38654]

After the debate Candy "Creepy" Crowley tells CNN's Anderson Cooper, "You know, again, I heard [Obama's September 12] speech at the time. I sort of reread a lot of stuff about Libya because I knew we'd probably get a Libya question, so I kind of wanted to be up on it. So we knew that [Obama] had said, you know, 'these acts of terror won't stand,' or whatever the whole quote was. I think actually, you know, because right after that, I did turn to Romney and said, 'you were totally correct but they spent two weeks telling us that this was about a tape and that there was this riot outside of the Benghazi consulate, which there wasn't. So he was right in the main, I just think that he picked the wrong word.'" (Tens of millions of people watch the debate and hear Crowley back up Obama. After the debate, only the few million CNN viewers hear her say Romney was essentially correct.) It is worth noting that on the September 30 broadcast of CNN's *State of the Union*, Crowley asked Obama political strategist David Axelrod, "Why did it take [the White House] until Friday [September 28], after a September 11 attack in Libya, to come to the conclusion that it was premeditated and that there was [sic] terrorists involved?" *On September 30 Crowley understood that the Obama administration was lying. On October 16 she conveniently forgot.* [38630, 38632, 38634, 38640, 38643, 38650, 38706, 38756, 38762, 38763]

In a post-debate CNN poll, Romney wins 58–40 on the issue of the economy; on health care, Romney wins 49–46; on taxes, Romney wins 51–44; on reducing the deficit, Romney wins 59–36; on leadership Romney wins 49–46. On whether Obama offers "a clear plan for solving the nation's problem," 38 percent say yes and 61 percent say no. Strangely, those polled by CNN believe Obama won the debate 46–39, even though they scored Romney better on the individual issues. A small CNN focus group of 35 people calls Romney the victor by a vote of 18–17. (CNN's Wolf Blitzer appears elated when he sees that Obama was considered the winner of the debate, 46–39. His attitude quickly changes, however, when he sees the results on specific issues—and instantly realizes the numbers are bad for Obama.) [38660, 38681, 38702, 38704]

In a CBS poll of 525 undecided voters, 56 percent say Obama “would do a better job helping the middle class” and 43 believe Romney would. Perhaps incongruously, 65 percent believe Romney would do a better job on the economy; 34 percent say Obama. Obama is considered the overall winner 37–30, with 33 percent saying it was a tie. (Romney is arguably the winner, despite the fact that 37 percent believe Obama won the debate. Obama cannot win an election with 37 percent, but Romney can win with 65 percent believing he can repair the economy.) [38660, 38678, 38702, 38704]

In a Colorado poll of independents, 37 percent said they will be more likely to vote for Obama because of the debate; 36 percent say the same of Romney. The debate boosted opinions of Obama by 40 percent and Romney by 44 percent. [38660]

On ABC, George Will says, “I think there was a winner in the sense that Barack Obama not only gained ground he lost but he cauterized some wounds that he inflicted on himself by seeming too diffident and disengaged. Both candidates tonight I think tip-toed right up to the point of rudeness, but stepped back. It was a very good fight. I have seen every presidential debate in American history since the floor of Nixon and Kennedy in 1960. This was immeasurably the best.” [38631, 38657]

Fox News hosts a debate focus group of 23 undecided voters in Las Vegas, Nevada. Twelve say they voted for Obama in 2008. Six say they will probably again vote for Obama. Six say they will likely switch from Obama to Romney. One participant says of Obama, “He’s lied about everything. He lied to get elected in 2008, that’s why I voted for him. I bought his bull. And he’s lied about everything, he hasn’t come through on anything. And he’s been bullshittin’ the public.” Another says, “I can’t take four more years of the same.” Still another says, “I was not undecided between Obama and Romney. I was undecided between Romney and not voting. ... Unfortunately, quite a number of people that I know are in that category. I was extremely favorably impressed [by Romney].” One man remarks, “I like how Romney said that ‘We don’t have to settle’ for what we’ve been going through.” By about a four-to-one ratio the group believes Romney won the debate. [38627, 38628, 38675, 38703]

On MSNBC an eight-member panel of undecided voters has one leaning toward Romney, one toward Obama, and six still undecided. [38662, 38675]

Reince Priebus, chairman of the Republican National Committee, tells Great Van Susteren of Fox News, “I’m not going to whine about the rules or the moderator. I will say, though, that tonight, point-blank, [Obama] lied to the American people about Libya. I think the moderator may have helped that along as well. ... And the other takeaway here is that the governor had a plan, he had a vision, and every single time Governor Romney went to the truth as to where we are in this economy, [Obama] had no answers. He sat quietly. He couldn’t defend the truth as to where we were on his watch, on [Obama’s] watch tonight, and I think between the lie on Libya, which I think will make his Libya headache even worse, and where we are in this economy, in the fact that he didn’t have

an answer. I think that's the story coming out of the debate tonight." [38651]

At NewsBusters.org Matthew Sheffield writes, "CNN correspondent and second presidential debate moderator Candy Crowley disgraced herself tonight, repeatedly intervening to save a floundering ...Obama and showing why many Americans were rightfully suspicious of her ability to moderate a presidential debate fairly. Her most outrageous act tonight was her incorrect seconding of Obama's statement that he declared the Libya terrorist attacks to be 'terror.' While Obama did indeed use the word, this is not what he meant by it. Instead, he was simply referring to 'acts of terror.' There was no mention of Al Qaeda or any of its affiliates with respect to the actual attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi. Crowley bungled the facts in attempting to save Obama from his administration's dreadful bungling of the Libya situation. She owes the American people an apology for inserting herself into the debate in such an inappropriate and embarrassing fashion. Obama deliberately quoted himself out of context and Crowley not only allowed him to do so, she validated his intentionally narrow reading of the facts even before he pleaded for her to come to his rescue." [38640]

Sheffield continues, "Here is the full Obama statement in reference to 'terror' in Libya. As you can see, this was purely a generic discussion of violence: 'No acts of terror will ever shake the resolve of this great nation, alter that character, or eclipse the light of the values that we stand for. Today we mourn four more Americans who represent the very best of the United States of America. We will not waver in our commitment to see that justice is done for this terrible act. And make no mistake, justice will be done.' Even liberal Washington Post 'fact checker' Glenn Kessler has admitted this. ...Candy Crowley not only inappropriately inserted herself into a presidential debate, she did so in a fashion that was so incredibly incompetent that even her CNN colleagues threw her under the bus. CNN host Anderson Cooper admitted Crowley was wrong on the facts." (Romney rightly criticized Obama for blaming the Benghazi killings on an anti-video demonstration that never happened and not calling it a terrorist attack. But Obama had used the words, "acts of terror," which was enough for Crowley and most leftists to absolve Obama of any blame for spending two weeks blaming a video. Romney erred in how he worded his criticism—which was all the left needed to defect it.) [38640, 38647]

Charles Krauthammer observes, "I think on points, if you were scoring it on points, Obama wins on points. He made a lot of counter-punches. He made a lot of accusations. He managed to get under Romney's skin a little bit by referring to his wealth. He made \$20 million a year, trying to make a point about taxes, but it's a way to say, 'you're a rich guy. How will you understand the ordinary guy?' I thought there is a point where Romney did really well. I think all of us agree that was on the larger, general issue on the failure of this administration. When Romney went large, he did well. When he went small, which he did here and there, I think Obama got the better of it. But there is one critical issue in this debate: the Libya question. Obama was completely at sea. He was asked about the security in Libya and Benghazi. He didn't even try to answer because he had no answer. Instead he went on and on about how we're going to catch these guys. Romney, I think, had a huge opening that he missed. Obama ended by saying 'I'm

offended by implication that we would mislead.’ The obvious retort was, ‘Mislead? You sent out your U.N. ambassador to mislead America on five television shows in one morning, implying it was about a video, talking about a riot. There was none. There wasn’t a video involved in this issue in Benghazi.’ [38656]

“And then, there was one tactical error Romney made, which was he kept asking [Obama] questions. Every lawyer knows you never ask a question for which you don’t already have the answer in already have the answer in hand. And that gave Obama a chance to counter-punch. We got Candy Crowley’s intervention, which is essentially incorrect, supporting Obama on the transcript. He did not call it a terror incident. There was a big opening that was missed. I think it was contaminated by the actions of the moderator. But again, on the big issue, that one where I think Romney could really have scored, he missed an opportunity. And that’s probably why, I think on points, Obama came out ahead. ...[But] I think [Libya] will be a problem for the White House. They have clearly told untruths, fictions. [Obama] perpetuated them even two weeks later on [David] Letterman, when he spoke about Libya in the context of the video when everybody knew it was not an issue at the time. So I think on the facts, on explaining Libya, yes, it’s going to be a huge problem. But it’ll be a huge problem in a few days. Right now, in the context of the debate, I think [Obama] got away with it because there was no actual response at the time on the stage and when you had the moderator intervening on behalf of Obama, that I think swung it in a way that was basically incorrect and unfair.” [38656]

By the end of the debate more Twitter messages are sent by Obama supporters threatening to kill Mitt Romney if he is elected President. The Secret Service is informed. Messages (spelling and grammar not corrected) include: “Imma KILL romney on God if he be president his white pussy ass Bitch” “If Romney be the man in the white house . I bout kill his bitch ass—” “Kick starter Campaign to assassinate Romney if he wins 2012.” “If Romney becomes pres ill assassinate him myself!—” “I swear if Mitt Romney becomes president, I’m gonna be the one to assassinate his ass!!!—” “Me: If romney win we back to the cotton field Mother: shidd , Somebody better kill that motherfucker Me: Same Thing I was saying lmao—” “Someone please kill Romney and save us all (the world) from his bullshit. Thanks.—” “Fuck Romney ima assassinate.” “i just used close 50 \$200 worth of food stamps today...Romney dont take that awat..70% of america will assassinate u.” [38663, 38664, 38665, 38699]

In a post-debate interview, Senator Dick “Eddie Haskell” Durbin (D-IL) admits that one of the problems with ObamaCare is that it will result in some employers reducing employee hours to less than 30 per week in order to not have to provide them with health insurance. (Businesses with 50 or more full-time employees are required under ObamaCare to provide health insurance. The IRS defines full-time as working 30 or more hours per week. Businesses can therefore avoid the expense of insurance coverage by getting the employee count under 50 or reducing the hours to less than 30. ObamaCare—for which Durbin voted—will therefore result in smaller paychecks for tens of thousands of Americans.) [38731]

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), the chair of the Democrat National Committee, is asked by reporter Luke Rudkowski of We Are Change about Obama's drone "kill list" and whether she is comfortable with Mitt Romney inheriting the list if he becomes president. Wasserman Schultz replies, "I... I have no idea what you're talking about. ...I'm happy to answer any serious questions." Rudkowski asks why the question is not serious, and she repeats, "Because I have no idea what you're talking about." As she turns to walk away, Rudkowski says, "Of course you don't... fucking idiot." (*The Guardian's* Glenn Greenwald notes that the 6,000-word kill list story was on the front page of *The New York Times* on May 29, 2012. That Obama has a 'kill list' has been known since January, 2010, and has been widely reported and discussed in every major American newspaper since April 2010. ...The Attorney General, Eric Holder, gave a major speech defending it. But Debbie Wasserman Schultz ...does not know about any of this. She has never heard of any of it. She has managed to remain completely ignorant about the fact that ...Obama has asserted and exercised the power to secretly place human beings, including US citizens, on his 'kill list' and then order the CIA to extinguish their lives.") Although polls show Wasserman Schultz ahead in her bid for reelection, her Republican challenger, Karen Harrington, has been gaining ground—and the number of undecideds is in double-digits. [38890, 38924, 39061]

On October 17 Andrea Mitchell comes to Obama's defense on MSNBC but says he lacks warmth and "he's not Bill Clinton." She states, "I think [Obama] missed an opportunity on contraception because he didn't challenge Mitt Romney on—Mitt Romney voted on the Blunt amendment on contraception, on more than just contraception." (Romney was governor of Massachusetts and never served as a Congressman or a Senator; he therefore could not have voted on the Blunt amendment—or any other federal legislation.) ("I've never seen a debate where the two of them were so much in each other's face. We talked about what happened with Al Gore getting in of George W.'s face in 2000, but in this case, they were like two roosters going at each other. That was so physical, that could turn off women and independent voters. I thought Romney was, of the two, I thought Mitt Romney was too aggressive in cutting off Candy. And she was making the point that these people, these undecided voters want to ask questions and you're taking up their time. Romney interrupting and grabbing time more than [Obama] did." (In fact, Obama had about four minutes more time to talk than did Obama.) [38629]

*Time* magazine's Mark Halperin comments, "I think [Obama] won, for two reasons, mostly. One is Libya, an issue the Republicans thought they had an advantage on. Instead, Romney gave an incredibly weak answer and [Obama] gave a very strong one. I think potentially taking the issue off the table effectively the rest of the way, including the national security debate. And Romney loses as a politician when his opponents get inside his head on being rich and supporting policies which would seem to favor the rich. I thought the president did it all night and Romney showed it. The guy from Denver was largely not there." (Halperin is delusional. The Libya fiasco is certainly not "off the table" and is not going away. Foreign policy will be the topic of the final debate, which will not avoid Benghazi.) [38633]



Halperin also observes that Obama “did not lay out a second term agenda. ...And if there’s an undercurrent here that could really hurt him, not in the [auditorium], because it wasn’t evident, it was absent. He didn’t lay out a second term agenda any more than he did in the first debate and that is where he’s weakest, and he didn’t address it, I thought, at all.” [38666]

At Forbes.com John Tamny expresses his dissatisfaction with both Mitt Romney and Obama in the debate. Neither has a solution for rising college costs. (Both Romney and Obama advocate federal Pell Grants, which are partly the cause of higher costs.) They both claim they will create jobs. (But neither is specific as to how he would do so.) Romney advocates an “all of the above” energy policy; Obama agrees but his actions contradict his words. Romney notes rising gas prices but does not explain why they are high (the Federal Reserve’s expansion of the money supply) or what he would do to bring them down. Although Romney talks about broad tax cuts he argues that the wealthy should continue to shoulder the high burden they already carry—as does Obama. Romney claims he is not like George W. Bush; Obama continues to blame Bush. Both blame China for “cheating” on foreign trade by devaluing its currency, and both ignore the fact that the United States, via the Federal Reserve, has been doing the same thing since its creation in 1913. Tamny is spot-on with the comment, “And then Obama, never one to let a bad, economy crippling idea go unanswered, followed up with his own bad idea, contradicting himself in the process. Specifically, he drooled that ‘Some jobs won’t come back to America because they’re low wage and low skill, and that’s why I want to bring back manufacturing jobs to the United States.’ Translated: ‘Low wage, low skilled jobs aren’t coming back to America, so I want to bring low wage, low skilled jobs back to America.’” (Obama does not understand that working on an assembly-line is not a high-paying job. Designing and building the assembly-line equipment and software is a high-paying job.) Tamny concludes, “Last night’s debate has to be considered a draw, albeit one in which both fighters punched themselves out in the first round. It was truly an embarrassing night for each candidate, and as the world was watching, an embarrassing night for the United States more broadly. It’s been said that ‘When a Democrat runs against a Democrat, a Democrat wins.’ I’ll have neither.” [38638, 38658, 38659]

The criticism of Crowley is widespread. At WashingtonTimes.com Joesph Curl writes, “[S]he alone decided the topics for the debate, picking questions from the 80 so-called ‘undecided’ voters chosen by the Gallup polling organization. Her selections were tailor-made for ...Obama—Mitt Romney’s tax plan, women’s rights and contraception, outsourcing, immigration, the Libya debacle (which gave ...Obama [a chance] to finally say that the buck stops with him, not, as Hillary Clinton said, with her). She even chose this question, directed to both men: ‘I do attribute much of America’s economic and international problems to the failings and missteps of the Bush administration. Since both of you are Republicans, I fear the return to the policies of those years should you win this election. What is the biggest difference between you and George W. Bush, and how do you differentiate yourself from George W. Bush?’” (In other words, “Governor Romney, everyone knows that Republican George W. Bush sucked, and you are a Republican, so

why should anyone believe that you will not also suck?” The leftist media calls that type of question “objective.”) [38641, 38642, 38648, 38649, 38691, 38692, 38695, 38711, 38712, 38865]

At Breitbart.com William Bigelow writes, “Candy Crowley, who was suspected of being one more liberal moderator in the tank for Barack Obama, was more than just in the tank for him; she dove in and sucked all the water out for him so he could pretend he walked on water.” [38680]

Ed Morrissey writes at HotAir.com, “...Obama never mentioned anything about a second-term agenda, and its MIA status is a big, big problem for an incumbent arguing for a second term. ...At least in the first polls taken after the debate, voters weren’t fooled. Obama won a narrow edge on overall performance of two points across these polls, ...but Romney won large margins on the issues. ...Obama and his team still believe they can win the election by simply being the anti-Romney—without putting an agenda on the table for voters to see and support. That strategy was doomed to failure in the first debate anyway, but the stark contrast two weeks ago between a very presidential Romney and a disengaged and apathetic Obama magnified that effect and impact. Obama seemed to pretend last night like that never happened, which ...could be a fatal flaw in their final three weeks. Most voters aren’t going to go into voting booths to choose the best debater. They’re going to choose the candidate that they trust more on the issues. Obama lost the first debate by virtual default, and he’s going to lose the election the same way unless he can launch a second-term agenda in less than three weeks.” [38666]

NYPost.com reports, “The National Geographic Channel has beefed up security at its Washington headquarters after being ‘bombarded’ by threats over its upcoming film, ‘SEAL Team Six: The Raid on Osama Bin Laden,’ a source said yesterday. The movie has prompted enough threats from what one source called ‘Muslim extremist groups’ that the network felt it had to take the action. ‘They have been bombarded with phone calls and blog posts, saying that anyone airing a film like this is asking for trouble,’ the source added. ‘Enough threats have come in that the network is on higher security alert. They have a huge public building, with a museum and 1,600 people working.’”

(BareNakedIslam.com quips. “Oh goodie, so when Obama loses the election, he’ll be able to blame it on this film.”) [38859, 38860, 38861]

Ed Henry of Fox News reports, “Source confirms a Chicago Business report that Obama camp will hold Election Night at McCormick Place...” (McCormick Place is the city’s convention center; it is sandwiched between Lake Michigan, railroad tracks, and an expressway. It is *not* a place supporters can easily walk to. Obama’s 2008 victory speech was held outdoors, at the city’s much more “user-friendly” Grant Park.) [38976]

TheConservativeTreehouse.com suggests that Kerry Ladka, the audience member who asked Obama the question about the security problems at the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, was a Democrat plant. Ladka is a registered Democrat. His question to Obama began, “this question actually comes from my, err, um, a brain trust of my friends at Global

Telecom Supply in Mineola, yesterday [October 15]. We were sitting around talking about Libya...” Moderator Candy Crowley already had the questions by that point so she could select the ones she was going to use. When Crowley gave the name Kerry Ladka, Obama turned to the correct section of the audience for the question—even before Ladka stood up. That suggests that Obama knew where to look. Ladka said, “...and we were reading, and we became aware of reports that the State Department refused extra security for our embassy in Benghazi Libya prior to the attacks that killed four Americans. Who was it that denied enhanced security, and why?” The term “enhanced security” would *not* be used by an average American. Additionally, Ladka is employed by Global telecom Supply, whose vice president is Isaac Elyassoff. Elyassoff was a 2006 graduate of Hofstra University—which just happened to be the site of the debate. After the debate, Ladka started pushing heavily for television appearances, sending Twitter messages to various programs with the statement: “Have us on your show me and the brain trust. We can talk about the Presidential Debate.” Ladka’s son Chris wrote an article for Adelphi University on October 18, 2011 titled, “Occupy Wall Street Movement Gains Momentum,” in which he praises the anti-capitalist movement. (It would not be difficult to believe that Ladka had been planted in the audience to ask his question, Crowley not only knew what Ladka would ask but how Obama would react, and Crowley and Obama had pre-planned their reactions.) [38854, 38855, 38856, 38857]

Ladka appears on Greta Van Susteren’s *On the Record*, where his comments make it obvious he is not an undecided voter but a liberal. He tells Van Susteren, “I... my vote is hinging on [Obama’s] propensity for positive social change. I like his ObamaCare idea. I don’t want to see any cuts in Social Security or Medicare or Medicaid. I don’t want to see them turned into a voucher system. I don’t want to see Planned Parenthood cut or anything else. On the other hand, the governor, Governor Romney, has a very strong record of successful business practices in the course of his career. And as one old president said, the business of America is really business. So for me, it’s a toss-up between Obama’s social stances and Governor Romney’s business expertise. ...I thought Romney made a lot of good points about business and his business expertise. I thought [Obama] made a lot of good points about his protection of Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and ObamaCare, as well. I really do think we need a national health care program in this country. ...And can I just take a moment to thank my boss, Isaac Elyassoff at Global Telecom Supply in Mineola, for allowing me to take off so that I could attend the town hall. It was really a great experience. And without Isaac at Global Telecom Supply, I never would have been able to attend. ...Isaac’s actually part of our brain trust. So we have Phil and Justin, Isaac, Christian and myself and John. So—but Isaac is the boss, so he was the one who actually allowed me to attend the town hall. So it was very generous of him to do so. And I wanted to thank him publicly, so thank you for taking—giving me the time.” (Ladka is allegedly an “undecided” voter, yet supports ObamaCare, abortion, and Planned Parenthood, and wants no changes to Medicare. He’s no more undecided than Michelle Obama.) [38858]

Television ratings reports show that the Fox News Channel had 11.1 million viewers for the second Obama-Romney debate. CNN had 5.7 million; MSNBC 4.8 million; NBC 13.8 million; ABC 12.4 million; and CBS 8.9 million. The total number of viewers was

about 65.6 million. [38732, 38753]

Entertainer Gene Simmons tells a reporter, “The country is so divided, but in terms—I voted for ...Obama last time, but I’m, I have to say I’m very disappointed in his job. He’s been a piss-poor president as far as I’m concerned. And Mitt Romney has some issues I don’t like, but I will tell you that he’s much more qualified. He’s a businessman, ran the Olympics into a profit, it was a disaster until he came along. He’s run businesses, he knows how to create jobs. ...Obama is a wonderful family man, and that’s about where the resume stops.” [38765]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 51–46 in a Gallup poll of likely voters. Romney leads 48–46 among registered voters—where Obama had consistently been ahead. (The poll data precedes the October 16 debate, but does include data subsequent to the Biden-Ryan debate.) Republican political strategist Karl Rove points out, “This is the first time that Romney has hit 50 percent in the Gallup likely voter poll, and [Obama] has never hit 50 percent in the likely voter poll. And no candidate who has led in mid-October with 50 percent or more in the likely voter poll has ever gone on to lose. Every one of them has gone on to win.” [38667, 38668, 38672]

Romney leads Obama 49–48 in Rasmussen’s daily poll. [38669]

Milwaukee’s *Journal Sentinel* reports, “The Presidential race in Wisconsin is essentially tied in a new poll [of likely voters] by Marquette Law School, with ...Obama at 49% and Mitt Romney at 48%, consistent with gains Romney has made nationally since his first debate with Obama in Denver on Oct. 3. That’s a marked change since Marquette’s last poll taken Sept. 27-30, in which Obama led by 11 points. The Senate race is also virtually even in Marquette’s poll, with Republican Tommy Thompson at 46% and Democrat Tammy Baldwin at 45%.” [38670, 38831]

At NationalJournal.com Major Garrett reports that “...the electoral map has narrowed and Obama’s team, while conceding nothing publicly, is circling the wagons around Ohio, Iowa, New Hampshire, and Nevada. [Campaign manager David] Plouffe said that Obama remains strong in all four states, but he would not discuss the specifics of internal polling or voter-contact analytics, saying only that Obama has ‘significant leads’ in all four places. It is uncharacteristic of Team Obama to concede any terrain, but Plouffe offered no such assurances about Obama’s position in North Carolina, Virginia, or Florida. Romney advisers have seen big gains in all three states and now consider wins likely, although not guaranteed, in all three. They are similarly upbeat about prospects in Colorado but not confident enough to predict victory. That Plouffe left Colorado off his list of states where Obama’s leading and can withstand a Romney surge might be telling.” [38671, 38672, 38727]

Garrett continues, “According to RealClearPolitics [RCP], Obama currently has 201 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win. But that doesn’t give Obama electoral votes from

Pennsylvania (20), Michigan (16), or Wisconsin (10). Of these three, Romney advisers believe that only one, Wisconsin, is even theoretically winnable. Obama advisers believe they will win all three. That would put Obama at 247 electoral votes. If Obama wins Ohio (18), Iowa (6), Nevada (6), and New Hampshire (4) he would claim 281 electoral votes. That means he could afford to lose New Hampshire and Nevada and still eke out a razor-thin victory of 271 electoral votes. Romney, according to RCP, has 191 electoral votes. If you add Florida (29), North Carolina (15), and Virginia (13), that brings his total to 248 electoral votes. Add Colorado (9)—which neither campaign is prepared to claim or concede—and Romney's total rises to 257 electoral votes. If Romney wins Ohio (18) in addition to these states, he would have 275 electoral votes. If Romney loses Ohio, he would need to win Iowa, Nevada, and New Hampshire to reach 273 electoral votes. There is a scenario where Romney could lose Ohio and New Hampshire but win Iowa and Nevada and one electoral vote from the 2nd Congressional District in Maine (the state allocates electoral votes by district vote) and capture the bare minimum of 270 electoral votes.” [38671, 38672, 38727]

HotAir.com observes, “It’s not that Romney has insurmountable leads in FL, VA, and NC, it’s that Team O has to decide how to allocate what’s left of its campaign treasury down the stretch and there are better bets for them than those three states. Triage, in other words. Mitt’s up 4.7 points on average in North Carolina, which would be tough for O to make up, and 2.5 points in Florida, which might be doable but would be hugely expensive in terms of reserving enough ad time to make a dent. I’m a little surprised to see Virginia included—O actually leads there by eight-tenths of a point, although Romney’s (narrowly) won the last three polls, so maybe Obama’s campaign figures it’s not worth resisting that momentum in a state they don’t really need. They *do* kind of need Colorado, though, and that actually looks tougher than Virginia for them at the moment: Romney leads by seven-tenths of a point and has won six of the nine polls taken since the first debate. If I had to guess, I’d bet they’re looking at Virginia and Colorado now as an either/or situation; if Romney’s lead opens a bit in one rather than the other, that one will be written off and an investment made in the closer state.” [38672]

In an October 15–16 poll of likely voters in Washington, Obama leads Mitt Romney 50–45. The poll’s D/R/I weighting is 36/30/34. Obama won the state by almost 17 points in 2008. (For Obama to be at a mere 50 percent in Washington is an indication of the trouble he is having nationwide. Although Obama can be expected to win the state, to be down by that much since 2008 is no doubt unsettling to his campaign team.) [38683, 38684]

At Spectator.org Jay D. Homnick writes, “To put it simply, Willard ‘Mitt’ Romney, the Mormon guy, the starched-collar guy, the high-falutin’ guy, the out-of-touch guy, the too-polite guy, walked out onto a stage and delivered the best performance in the history of televised debates. Yes, he was better than my personal hero, Ronald Reagan. Better by a long shot. To say that he won the debate is to miss the point. He not only emerged victorious on the scoring card, he did it in a fashion which was creative and transformative. ...First of all, he solved the age-old conflict of how to call a president a

liar without seeming impudent. This conundrum had bedeviled challengers since the dawn of time. ...Romney solved this with an inventive linguistic approach. Instead of saying something was wrong, he said the inverse of the inverse, something on the order of 'How can this be so?' This brilliant technique gave birth to several memorable slams: 'Why the President would cancel that pipeline to Canada I cannot imagine!' 'What possible reason they could have had in Fast-and-Furious to send guns to Mexican drug lords is beyond me!' ...A variation of that was to press, press, press a challenging question, so there was no place to hide. 'Have you looked at your pension? Mister President, have you looked at your own pension, because it is invested in China as well, and in companies that outsource jobs?' ...He even came up with a good system to defang the strategic cutoffs the liberal debate moderators have long accomplished. This time, when Candy Crowley tried to change a subject after Obama had taken a shot at him, Romney simply said: 'I would like to respond to that. It was completely false.' In that way, her swerve did not prevent him from getting the message out that he had a good answer. And in self-defense, it is fair etiquette to use 'false' as an adjective. ...All in all, I stand by my assessment. Romney turned in the single greatest debate performance since such skirmishes have been recorded by the camera. Take my advice: run quickly to Intrade and bet the house on Mitt Romney to become the next President of the United States." [38693]

Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis, a 21-year-old Muslim from Bangladesh living in Long Island, is arrested by the FBI and New York City police officers after attempting to detonate a van filled with what he thought were explosives outside the New York Federal Reserve building. According to the *New York Post*, Nafis was "on a mission to 'destroy America'" and "wanted to kill scores of people, wreak havoc on the US economy and stop the presidential election when he parked on Liberty Street around 8 a.m. and repeatedly dialed into the cellphone detonator from a nearby hotel room. But all he did was set off an indicator in the van that proved he tried to set off the explosion. He was promptly arrested, with his grand plans up in smoke. ...Nafis first arrived in the US in January on a student visa, though his sole purpose was to carry out a terror attack..." [38718, 38719, 38720, 38721, 38722]

In Iowa, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* features a full-page ad signed by 13 Iowans apologizing for having voted for Obama in 2008. The text concludes, "And while we can't turn back the clock on the mistake we made four years ago, we're committed to making it up to you by casting our ballots for Mitt Romney this November." [38728]

At TheOtherMcCain.com Robert Stacy McCain lists the six public endorsements Obama has received from prominent members of the military—and the hundreds of generals and admirals who support Mitt Romney. (Obama has more fashion designer endorsements than Romney. Romney has the support of Lech Walesa, the former president of Poland. Obama has the support of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Cuba's Fidel Castro, Russia's Vladimir Putin—and California's Nancy Pelosi.) [38880, 38881, 38882, 38962]

According to NBC's Chuck Todd, the Obama campaign will start running radio ads in Minnesota and send Jill Biden there to campaign. (Obama won Minnesota by 10 points in 2008. For the campaign to spend ad money in Minnesota suggests the state is not the guaranteed victory it once believed.) At NationalReview.com's Morning Jolt, Jim Geraghty writes, "Minnesota? *Minnesota?* I have never, for a moment, thought Minnesota would be in play this cycle—literally, as Joe Biden would say." [38737]

Campaigning in Greeley, Colorado, Vice President Joe Biden says, "I want to make this clear so there no misunderstanding [by] anybody. I got [sic] a daughter, lost a daughter, got [sic] four granddaughters, and Barack has two daughters. We are absolutely—this is to our core—my daughter, and my granddaughters and Barack's daughters are entitled to every single solitary [medical] operation! EVERY SINGLE SOLITARY OPERATION!" (Whether or not Biden's daughter and granddaughters are entitled to vasectomies is unclear. But it is clear that if *everyone* is entitled to *everything*—including cosmetic surgery—the current \$1 trillion deficits will soon look like pocket change. Biden, like many leftists, is simply unable to accept—or comprehend—that there is no such thing as a right or entitlement if it comes at someone else's expense.) [38748, 38749, 38750]

At WesternJournalism.com Kris Zane writes, "Kevin DuJan, a political analyst and radio and TV host wrote an article and appeared on radio on October 8 putting forth a theory that the attack of the Libyan consulate was tied neither to a video or terrorism, but a botched kidnapping of Ambassador Stevens. That Barack Obama had arranged with the Muslim Brotherhood to kidnap the Ambassador, and through Obama's supposed affinity with the Muslim world, Obama would save the day and get the ambassador released. But the Muslim Brotherhood wanted something in return. Their beloved Blind Sheik [Omar Abdul Rahman]. Unbelievable? Western Journalism broke the news on Monday that a source connected to the White House has stated that the murder of Stevens and the other Americans was a botched kidnapping linked to one Barack Hussein Obama." (Rahman masterminded the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. Rahman allegedly issued the fatwa that condoned the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and is serving a life sentence in an American prison for his role in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. There have been rumors that the Obama administration was willing to release Rahman but he would be crucified politically if he did so. A kidnapping of Ambassador Stevens would give Obama a chance to orchestrate a trade. The Muslim Brotherhood would get the blind sheik, Stevens would be returned safely, and Obama would look like a successful, life-saving negotiator just in time for the election. ***If the story is true, Obama should be impeached and tried for treason.***) [37029, 37071, 38709, 38714, 38905, 39205]

The White House insider gives The Ulsterman Report his impressions of the second presidential debate: "Ok, I got [sic] no time to give right now but you made it more than clear you want to hear what I have to say on the debate. So here goes. Obama won. Just deal with it and move on. I'd call it a toss up until the moderator stopped the governor's momentum on Benghazi. You already did something on that yourself. That was about as blatant a moment of media bias smack in the middle of a debate that I can recall. Then

she has the nerve to go on her network right after the debate and say ‘oops, Romney was actually right!!!!’ Whatever. That’s how it happened and there isn’t anything anyone can do to change that. I’ll put it to you this way. Obama won last night but Romney didn’t lose. That isn’t me trying to doctor up what happened. It’s fact. People saw what Crowley did. Her own network was uncomfortable with it. My guess is that for the first debate the word to the moderator was to help Obama. This time it was to save Obama. That’s what she did. We expected they would try and help. We were caught maybe just a bit off guard on how aggressive she was in being so open about saving him. The questions she chose. That group of so called ‘undecideds????’ Nope. It was about 80% pro-Obama all the way. Again, I’ll say, whatever. So what. Now I know you are angry at how it went down like that. How Benghazi got shoved into the background. Hell, did you see how Crowley totally buried any discussion of Fast and Furious? Can’t help but laugh at how obvious it all was.” [38710]

“But here is some very good news. At least regarding the spine of these Romney people. After the debate, there isn’t complaining. There isn’t finger pointing. There isn’t whining. They just pick up where they left off. Upward and onward. So we got shoved around a bit by a bullshit debate scenario. Lots of people watching that debate could see how it was manipulated against the governor. Romney handled it about as well as he could. Might have missed a few opportunities here and there, but overall, he did just fine. And the campaign wasn’t rattled. Not one bit. That shows class. That shows strength. That shows a team really in its stride as we head to the finish line. And as far as Benghazi. Obama had his little canned moment speech of outrage. But we got the tapes. We got the evidence. He gets a short term reprieve. We get the much more important longer term news cycle. The guy lied. He’ll be caught. There will be some of his base who won’t give a sh-t. But the rest? Those voters will care. Any undecideds left? We win them. All of them. As for ‘Obama’s base?’ Sh-t. That base of his has been shrinking big time for months. Fire those people up all they want. Big f-cking deal. That’s only about 35% of the electorate. They can have them. This election cycle, there just isn’t enough of them to win this thing and the Obama team knows it. They are totally in the f-cking weeds right now.” [38710]

“The media is gonna try and spin the ‘comeback kid’ scenario for Obama the next few [days]. Fine. We don’t care. They were going to do that regardless what the actual outcome of this debate was. Let them high five themselves all they want. By the weekend a different tune is coming. Of course, there are lots of whispers of plans to alter this outcome. Hit Romney up with a scandal, maybe Obama bombs the f-ck out of Libya just for sh-ts and giggles. Anything is possible. But this Romney team is tough. I really like how they are running this campaign. That doesn’t mean anyone can afford to sit back and hope it happens. Everybody needs to keep the pressure on. That’s you. That’s everyone you know. Talk to people about what is really going on. Don’t let the media hijack this thing. They are trying. But if enough people stay connected and educated, the media don’t have a chance. I’m just starting to really appreciate the power of this new media thing you call it. Forget the [Candy] Crowleys of the world. She is dinosaur just like me. We are all on the way out. President Romney. Just keep saying it. Sounds good doesn’t it? Sounds like the right thing at the right time.” [38710]



The Ulsterman then immediately follows up with an update from the White House insider: “Have a heads up for you. This comes directly from the Old Man [probably the Wall Street insider]. Military intelligence may have tracked location of a guy called ‘Khattalah’ who apparently organized the Benghazi attack. Check media reports for name. Obama to order drone strikes or possible all out bombing operation. Says it appears imminent. Obama will then make claim ‘perpetrators brought to justice’ to squash Benghazi questions and play part of hero. ‘Bin Laden Version 2.’ If accurate, this scenario would fit with the earlier rescue operation scenario you had sent me earlier. That went to sh-t so now they are recalibrating the same general idea with an updated version of it. I have not heard anything resembling something this specific. Doing double time trying to confirm. Nobody in Romney camp aware of this. Or if they are, not tipping their hand. This has me worried. Old Man attempting to get in front of it be he’s got his hands full with other critical Europe related issues. Says he has source in Libya but has been unable to locate. ????? Tone of his message suggests [he is] more worried than me. And I’m pretty panicked about this. Any ideas?” [38710]

“If this scenario is in fact true, and given [Wall Street] Insider’s track record I have no reason to believe something along these lines is not being attempted (and the fact it comes from WSI—and likely then MI [military intelligence?], makes that assertion even more so) hopefully enough figures in D.C. can be made aware who will then, as Insider put it, ‘get out in front of it.’ I certainly understand Insider’s concern here—this kind of scenario, if successful, would likely diminish much if not all the current questions surrounding the administration regarding the Benghazi Massacre—at least until after the election. Therefore, it would all but halt the entire build up to make Barack Obama accountable for not only the tragedy in Libya, but the subsequent attempted cover-up form his administration that followed. In the meantime, Obama would be allowed to play the part of Commander in Chief, once again having ‘made the call’ and brought America’s enemies to justice—this time just before Election Day. Those around Barack Obama would once again have successfully created a political victory out of deception.” [38710]

At LSNewsgroup.com Lawrence Sinclair writes, “[Ambassador] Chris Stevens was NOT surprised by his killers in Benghazi, Libya as has been portrayed thus far. According to sources in the State Department Chris Stevens was in Benghazi, Libya at the specific instruction of the Obama White House to recover weapons that the U.S. supplied to Libya rebels in the over throw of Gaddafi. These sources who work in the State Department and the Obama White House say that Barack Obama was directly involved in negotiations with Libyan Rebels in an effort to recover weapons that the U.S. supplied them. Sources say that the arrangements were made between Barack Obama direct talks and that the White House directly arranged for AMB Stevens to travel to Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012 and it was by direction of Barack Obama that Stevens was to meet with the very individuals who tortured, raped and murdered him. ...1. Barack Obama personally and directly arranged for AMB Chris Stevens to travel to Benghazi, Libya for the express purpose of meeting with individuals who Barack Obama directly negotiated with in an effort to recover US Supplied weapons. 2. AMB Chris Stevens was not

ambushed because of a leak in the Libyan security as is being claimed. Chris Stevens where-a-bouts in Benghazi were determined and relayed by the Obama White House in their arranging this meeting in the first place. 3. Hillary Clinton knows that AMB Stevens was sent to Benghazi on the express direction of Barack Obama and she knew the anti-Islam YouTube video had already been picked to be used as a diversion if the weapons recovery failed. ...The fact that AMB Stevens was sent to meet with the very people he had warned the Obama administration had him on a hit list is inexcusable and the truth must be told. The continued back and forth as to when one side called it a terrorists attack or blamed some YouTube video (which now thanks to Obama has millions of views) is not going to address the truth of what really happened. Yes it was Islamic terrorists who killed these four Americans, but it was ...Obama who arranged to have these four Americans delivered to their very killers. That's the horrific truth that no one seems to want to acknowledge!" [38713]

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee, tells CBS News, "I can tell you this, I think we do know what happened now. There's no question but that it was a terrorist attack [on the consulate in Benghazi], there is no question but that the security was inadequate and I think that there is no question that we need to work on our intelligence. ...I think what happened was the director of intelligence, who is a very good individual, put out some speaking points on the initial intelligence assessment. I think that was possibly a mistake. I think we have to take a good look as to whether our intelligence—particularly in these nine middle eastern countries, very troubled from within—is what it should be. ...[T]here is no reason for us to operate an embassy or consulate without adequate protection—and if the home country can't do it, then we need to do it. You know there had been five prior attacks including one on the British ambassador in Libya. And that is something that we have to get a better grasp of, and see that that doesn't happen again." (Some might argue that there was no intelligence failure and that the intelligence was simply ignored or distorted for political purposes.) [38715]

Pubic Policy Polling, a Democrat pollster, sends a Twitter message: "Not seeing anything in our polls tonight to suggest a big shift back toward Obama—think things will go on similar to how they have been." [38739]

Appearing on NBC's *Conan*, MSNBC's Alex Wagner tells Conan O'Brien, "I think Obama is in it [politics] because he feels a higher calling, not that he likes doing it, but he really feels like he could do something better for the country. To some degree, I think Mitt Romney is the same way, but they are both kinda [sic]—they're like bosses. Obama's the guy that you wanna [sic], the boss that you'd have a drink at the water cooler with; Romney's the guy that [sic] would come to the water cooler and say, 'shouldn't you be at your desk?' You know, I don't think he has a love of the game, uh, in the same way that, you know, [Bill] Clinton did, and I'm not quite sure why he wants to be president other than the fact that it seems like the next thing he should be doing with his life. And, of course, his father's failed bid at the presidency I think is an animating factor." (Some might argue that the nation needs someone to remind federal workers to

get back to their desks and get to work. Wagner apparently has not recovered from her 2008 Obama-messiah-worship phase, and it does not occur to her that Romney may want to be president in order to save the republic from the damage done by Obama and his predecessors.) At FoxNews.com Dan Gainor notes that Wagner was previously the “cultural correspondent ...for the [George] Soros-funded Center for American Progress. She has also been a writer for Huffington Post and ran the advocacy group Not On Our Watch, which was founded by liberal Hollywood actors George Clooney, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt and Don Cheadle.” [38887, 38888]

On October 18 Gallup reports that Romney leads Obama 52–45 in its 7-day rolling average poll of likely voters, October 11–17. (No other national poll shows a lead close to seven points for Romney. The Gallup results may be a fluke, or other polls have not yet “caught up.” If the Romney campaign starts spending money in states like Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Oregon, it will be a sign that it believes he has a big victory. If the money is still being spent in Florida and Ohio, the campaign assumes the race will be close.) Democrat political strategist Joe Trippi comments, “You Democrats, it’s officially time to worry.” (In mid-October 2008, Obama led John McCain 52–41 in the Gallup poll. In mid-October 2004 George W. Bush led John Kerry 52–44.) [38716, 38757, 38903]

On *The Five*, Andrea Tantaros notes the Gallup poll results and says, “You have to admit, Bob [Beckel], there is panic... I talked to a senior Democrat in the greenroom just a couple of hours ago, and I said, ‘Shoot straight with me, how much panic is there?’ And he said, ‘A lot.’” Democrat consultant Beckel comments, “If I were looking at the numbers and managing the campaign, I would be upset... I’m not sure panicked. But if the numbers are correct, it’s over. It is over. So, I mean you’re not going to bring Romney back under 50 percent from 52 percent, not a challenging candidate. If that is correct, I don’t necessarily buy that it’s correct [because of the poll’s margin of error].” [38800, 38809, 38844]

At HillBuzz.org, Kevin DuJan writes that Obama is “not planning another big Election Night victory party in Grant Park here in Chicago like the spectacle he put on in 2008, because no one I know in the Parks Department or in the event planning community had anything on their radar for Grant Park that night. Because of the permitting and union rules that plague any event in this City... we would have known a few weeks ago if Obama expected another win and was going to celebrate in Chicago again. That massive Grant Park victory rally took a while to plan and involved far too many vendors for anything similar to be replicated this year without people already knowing. I’ve suspected for some time that Obama was going to plan for a concession speech on November 6th, but last night final confirmation arrived in the form of leaked news that the Obama election night event is being staged in private McCormick Place, not a big public setting like Grant Park. Let me put this as clearly as I can because it’s crucial: if Democrats really thought Barack Obama was going to be reelected, then they would have planned a massive rally in Grant Park again; the fact this is not happening is proof that, despite what you hear coming out of the Ministry of Truth that is the national media, the

Democrats really do not expect Obama to win this election. Campaign operatives in Chicago are, thus, making appropriate preparations for his imminent defeat.:" [38975]

"Instead of Grant Park," continues DuJan, "Obama's apparently going to have his election night event at McCormick Place... I was an event planner here in Chicago for several years before the 2008 presidential campaign. I planned events in McCormick Place for various trade shows; it's a building designed with flexibility for downsizing an audience if the need suddenly arises so that the participants do not feel lost in too much extra space. There are modular walls that achieve this, with dividers capable of cutting a space in half... and then in half again... if that's what needs to be done to make a sparse crowd seem bigger for cameras. Despite being within sight of the Museum Campus and Soldier Field, McCormick Place is a fortress-like island surrounded on most sides by freeways or railroad tracks (with the lake on the other side). ...McCormick Place is not a spot to hold a victory rally, folks...but it is the ideal spot to give a concession speech. ...[T]hey are deliberately having his Election Night party in a place that prohibits the public from congregating easily. I think this might be a way to avoid riots or other public disturbances from the Obama cult here in Chicago...because if they aren't encouraged to assemble anywhere here on November 6th, then they won't be assembled and ready to riot. That might have happened if they had the event at a hotel in the Loop ...and it would have definitely have happened if they did a big Grant Park event. But McCormick Place diffuses all this. It's isolated, remote, and pedestrian-unfriendly. The perfect place to discourage disappointed supporters from gathering with an easy escape route for Barack and Michelle to their Chicago home when it's announced he will no longer be the president." (The use of McCormack Place will keep the crowd far away from high-end Michigan Avenue stores—that are far closer to Grant Park. Anyone in the crowd who believes an Obama loss justifies ransacking a store will find himself nowhere near a store—but probably close to hundreds of Chicago police officers.) [38975]

At AmericanThinker.com Stella Paul writes of increasing support for Mitt Romney among Jewish voters: "Florida activist Alan Bergstein described his recent experience advocating for Romney in the Jewish stronghold of Delray Beach. 'Of about 100 entering and leaving the Bagel Tree eatery in that plaza, we ran into only two Democrats and loads and loads of Romney supporters. They stopped to talk to us, to congratulate us and to support us with their views of the Ryan/Biden debate. They were militant and fearless.' ...Like everyone else, Jews are singing the bad economy blues. But they're also increasingly acknowledging the uncomfortable facts about Obama's hostility towards Israel and its Jewish supporters. ...And a new boldness is entering the Jewish conversation. The Simon Wiesenthal Center just publicly requested that Obama cut off all contact with the Muslim Brotherhood and condemn its anti-Semitic calls for jihad against Israel." The center calls Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood "the most dangerous anti-Semitic organization in the world today." Paul observes, "Since Obama's foreign policy centers on courting the Muslim Brotherhood, he's more likely to leave Michelle and run off with Sarah Palin than he is to honor Wiesenthal's request. Nevertheless, a leading Jewish organization, founded by a survivor of the Nazi death camps to combat global anti-Semitism, has now publicly challenged [Obama] on his dangerous foreign policies." Jewish voters have also been angered by the Democrat National Convention's reluctance

to recognize Jerusalem as the capitol of Israel; Obama's shabby treatment of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu; his bowing to the Saudi king; his "appointment of anti-Semites [such as Susan Rice and Samantha Power] to high government positions;" his "long association with anti-Semites" like Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Louis Farrakhan, and Rashid Khalidi; and Iran's desire for a nuclear weapon to "wipe Israel off the face of the map." [38850, 38925]

The RealClearPolitics.com electoral map shows Obama with 201 electoral votes, Mitt Romney with 206, with three states leaning toward Obama (Minnesota, New Jersey, and Oregon), four states leaning toward Romney (Arizona, Missouri, Montana and North Carolina), and the following swing states likely determining the election's outcome: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin. (*The Obama Timeline* believes Romney will win Florida and Virginia, giving him 42 additional electoral votes, for a total of 248 toward the necessary 270 to defeat Obama. Ohio and any other state would give Romney the victory.) [38717]

TheHill.com reports, "Obama traveling press secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday that the campaign was 'absolutely not' giving up efforts in Florida, North Carolina and Virginia, three battleground states where [Obama] has slipped behind Mitt Romney." (For a campaign to even have to claim it is "not giving up" in a state suggests it is having significant problems there.) [38736]

On Fox News, liberal commentator Alan Colmes call on actress Eva Longoria to resign from her position as national co-chair of the Obama campaign. According to John Nolte at Breitbart.com, Longoria re-tweeted a Twitter message "that declared as 'stupid' any and all minorities and women who support a 'racist/misogynist twat' named Mitt Romney, and then attempt[ed] to cover it up Anthony Weiner-style with a bizarre tweet blaming Twitter for 'things in my timeline.' ...Essentially, Longoria's retweet looks like an endorsement of the kind of caveman-thinking that demands women only think and vote one way—the way in which they are told. ...Personally, as a partisan who loves the fact that Ms. Longoria has become a shining example of left-wing hate and intolerance this close to election day, I hope ...Obama gives her a promotion." (Longoria initially claims she did not send the message, tweeting, "Is anyone else's twitter bugging out? There are things in my timeline I didn't retweet today. Hmmm? Standby trying to fix!" After Longoria realizes no one believes her story—or that she has the computer programming savvy to "fix" a mysterious Twitter bug that affected only her messages—she tweets, "I use Twitter as a platform for all Americans and their opinions. Sorry if people were offended by retweet. Obviously not my words or my personal view. I respect all Americans." (Longoria apparently attended the "Dick Durbin School of Apology," where the blame is shifted to the offended and the offender is merely "misunderstood" but not offensive.) During the Biden-Ryan debate, Longoria re-tweeted this message: "Biden is making Paul Ryan his prison b\*\*\*\*!" [38723, 38778, 38787, 38793, 38863, 38866]

Desperate to recapture as much of the lost female vote for Obama as it can, leftist media

pundits—almost certainly following marching orders from the Obama campaign—decide to attack Mitt Romney for saying in the debate that when he sought more women to work with him as governor of Massachusetts his staff brought him “binders full of women.” Romney, of course, meant to say, “binders full of resumes of female job applicants” or something of that nature. But to the leftist mind, Romney’s statement proves he is a sexist, misogynist troglodyte no woman should vote for. Townhall.com’s Guy Benson notes that Obama has already “incorporated the word [binders] into his stump speech (while quietly dropping the part about Al Qaeda being on the run). Ridiculous and un-presidential, perhaps, but so was Big Bird. ... The Obama campaign is now aggressively promoting ‘bindergate’ online, sternly warning Americans that the throwaway sentence is damning evidence of Romney’s ‘condescending views towards women.’” Obama—who apparently believes resumes and employment applications serve no useful purpose—tells one audience, “We don’t have to collect a bunch of binders to find qualified, talented, driven young women ready to learn & teach in these fields.” (The Obama campaign has even produced an ad criticizing Romney for his statement.) DailyCaller.com’s Jim Treacher remarks, “At first I was befuddled by the ‘binders’ thing. Then I realized: These same guys said Sarah Palin wasn’t Trig’s mom. They’ll say ANYTHING.” (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller reminds readers that in 2009 Obama was given a binder with information on 45 Muslims to be considered for positions in the federal government.) [38724, 38725, 38738, 38741, 38745, 38746, 38759, 38790, 38791, 38792, 38810]

Author and radio talk show host Mark Levin, who served as “an associate director of presidential personnel for a little over a year in the Reagan administration,” tells Rush Limbaugh, “We would gather resumes of individuals interested in non-career positions throughout the administration. And we would computerize the information, we would make the names available throughout the government. We’d tell everybody throughout the government that we had people interested in work. We solicited resumes from prominent individuals who we wanted to recruit for positions in the administration, and we would process those as well. Now, most often, when President Reagan wanted to fill a senior administration position, including cabinet and sub-cabinet positions or top agency posts, even judicial positions, we put together a binder filled with qualified candidates, as well as recommendations, from which the president would select a candidate. I have a question. How exactly did and does Obama decide who to appoint to over 3,000 non-career positions in his administration, including his senior positions? How does his office of personnel recruit candidates? How does his office of personnel process and collate resumes and present options to him for selecting candidates for top posts? And if they don’t use binders of qualified candidates, exactly how does Obama make his decisions?” [38759]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–47 in Rasmussen’s Daily Presidential Tracking Poll. [38729].

DailyCaller.com reports, “The government spent approximately \$1.03 trillion on 83 means-tested federal welfare programs in fiscal year 2011 alone—a price tag that makes

welfare that year the government's largest expenditure, according to new data released by the Republican side of the Senate Budget Committee. ...The data excludes spending on Social Security, Medicare, means-tested health care for veterans without service-connected disabilities, and the means-tested veterans pension program." According to the Heritage Foundation, "Roughly 100 million people—one-third of the U.S. population—receive aid from at least one means-tested welfare program each month. Average benefits come to around \$9,000 per recipient. If converted to cash, means-tested welfare spending is more than five times the amount needed to eliminate all poverty in the United States. Despite the fact that welfare spending was already at record levels when he took office, ...Obama has increased federal means-tested welfare spending by more than a third. ...At the beginning of this year, only four of the 80-plus federal welfare programs had work requirements; the Obama Administration has now suspended the work requirements in two of these. After the Obama Administration suspended the work requirement from the food stamp program in 2009, the number of people on food stamps doubled. ...Welfare spending has long passed the amount spent on defense. In 1993, welfare spending exceeded defense spending for the first time since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In subsequent years, the ratio of welfare to defense spending averaged about \$1.33 to \$1. Obama's spending plans would inflate this disparity: By 2022, there will be \$2.33 in federal and state welfare spending for every \$1 spent on national defense." [38730, 38733]

Weekly unemployment claims increase to 388,000, an increase of 46,000 over the prior week and the largest amount in four months. [38735, 38747]

The Media Research Center reports that shortly after the debate "...Susan Katz, who had asked Mitt Romney at the debate the night before how he's different from George W. Bush, told [CNN's] Carol Costello she voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and plans to do so again this year because 'I saw in ...Obama someone who has ripened with time who deserves another four years to see his vision through.'" (In other words, Katz is not an undecided voter—even though the audience was only supposed to include undecideds.) [38740]

According to HotAir.com, a Susquehanna poll showing Mitt Romney leading Obama 49–45 in Pennsylvania "was quickly and mysteriously deleted [from the Internet] by the pollster. ...Let's put it this way: There may or may not be a poll coming soon from Susquehanna showing Romney up 49/45 on The One in the Democratic stronghold of Pennsylvania. Maybe it won't be published. Maybe it was yanked back because they spotted a flaw in the data at the last second. ...Needless to say, if Romney really does have a lead in Pennsylvania, then I'm thinking the hull has been breached on the good ship Hopenchange and there's no patching it. We'll need multiple polls from the state to know if there's been any tidal shift, but keep an eye out for Susquehanna. If it's legit, it's a big one." (If Romney wins Pennsylvania, it will be a landslide victory for the Republican.) [38742, 38767, 38835, 38995]

Kyle A. Bower, a Democrat councilman in Alburtis, Pennsylvania, is arrested and jailed

for stealing Mitt Romney campaign signs. (Bower was already on probation for prior offenses.) [38782]

Mitt Romney and Obama are tied 48–48 according to a national Public Policy Polling survey. “Obama is up 51/45 with women, 62/34 with Hispanics, 87/8 with African Americans, and 57/38 with young voters. Romney is ahead 50/45 with men, 46/41 with independents, 58/38 with whites, and 53/43 with seniors. Voters narrowly disapprove of Obama’s job performance, with 46% of voters giving him good marks to 50% unhappy with how he’s doing. ...Americans are split right down the middle in their assessments of Romney—47% see him favorably and 47% unfavorably.” [38744]

Ann Romney appears on *The View*, where she does not get anywhere near the warm reception the panel has given Obama on his visits. According to Fox News, “Whoopi Goldberg barely let Ann Romney settle into her seat... before pouncing on the first lady hopeful, asking why Mitt Romney didn’t serve in Vietnam and if the couple is prepared to console families of fallen soldiers if voted into the White House. ...[T]he show’s five hosts skipped the softball questions and got right into red meat—including military service, abortion and the Romneys’ Mormon faith.” [38779, 38796, 38823]

*US Weekly* magazine makes sure its readers know that the dress Ann Romney wore for the October 16 debate retails for \$1,690. The story also notes that Michelle Obama’s outfit sells for \$3,290, but the headline reads, “Ann Romney Wears \$1,690 Oscar de la Renta Dress to Presidential Debate.” [38780]

At Cuyahoga Community College in Parma, Ohio Bill Clinton tells an audience, “Governor Romney’s argument is, ‘We’re not fixed, so fire him and put me in.’ It is true, we’re not fixed. When ...Obama looked into the eyes of that man who said in the debate, ‘I had so much hope four years ago, and I don’t now,’ I thought he was gonna cry, because he knows that it’s not fixed.” (Some argue that Clinton is attempting to make the point that Obama cares about the people who are still suffering because of the weak economy and “feels their pain.” Others argue that Clinton is pretending to help Obama when, in fact, he is hurting him—by reminding everyone how bad things are. That is, Clinton knows he cannot sit on the sidelines and not do some campaigning without being criticized by his fellow Democrats—but he would really rather see Obama lose.) A Romney spokesman states, “We agree with former President Bill Clinton. The economy has not been fixed under ...Obama. Today, more than 23 million Americans are struggling for work, poverty has increased and food stamps are at record levels. Mitt Romney believes we can do better by creating 12 million new jobs with higher take-home pay, cutting spending to put our nation on course for a balanced budget, and actually fixing our economy.” [38760, 38776, 38788, 38797, 38824]

Rush Limbaugh points out that Obama leads Romney by only four points in Florida’s Palm Beach County and Broward County. In 2008 Obama won Palm Beach County 61–38 over John McCain, and won Broward County 67–32. (For Obama to have lost that such support in two Democrat counties is astonishing. Unless those two polls are



anomalies, Obama cannot win Florida with mere four-point leads in Democrat counties when he will lose Republican counties by far more than four points.) [38757]

Joe Biden campaigns in Naples, Florida and says, “Ryan has written a book called *The Young Guns* with two other members of the House ...Republican leaders in the House. ...[U]nfortunately, the bullets are aimed at you.” (Ryan spokesman Brendan Buck responds, “In the absence of a vision or plan to move the country forward, the vice president is left only with ugly political attacks beneath the dignity of the office he occupies.” The book’s full title is, *Young Guns: A New Generation of Conservative Leaders*. Its authors are Congressmen Ryan, Eric Cantor, and Kevin McCarthy. Needless to say, it has nothing to do with gun violence or killings.) [38772, 38773, 38774, 38803]

Biden’s opponent Paul Ryan also campaigns in Florida. Asked by an audience member about jobs for women, Ryan notes that after the failed stimulus legislation Obama “diverted his attention to ObamaCare for a year-and-a-half. ...But he took his eye off the ball of growing the economy. And as a result the poverty rate among women is at a seventeen-year high. Over five million women have just left the workforce. Fewer women are working today than when he took office [66.1 million in January 2009 versus 65.8 million in September 2012]. And so, of the people who have gotten hit the hardest... it’s women. ...Most women get their jobs from successful small businesses. Small businesses create two-thirds of the jobs we have in this country. So we’ve got to get [government] out of the way of small businesses, give people the right to rise, clear the regulatory burden from them, [reduce] their taxes, and prevent ...Obama’s big tax increase on small businesses.” (Although the Obama campaign has focused on issues like abortion and contraception, a Pew Research poll shows that 88 percent of women rank the economy as the most important issue in the election. Abortion ranks 15 and birth control 17.) [38872, 38873, 38874]

The Obama campaign releases an ad in Virginia that includes a Mitt Romney quote about abortion—but which intentionally omits the latter part of his statement in order to distort the meaning. (Romney said in a primary debate he’d be “delighted” to sign a bill outlawing abortions, but then added, “but that’s not where we are today. That’s not where America is.” The Obama ad repeats the “delighted” portion, but skips the “but.” Clearly, Romney believes abortion is wrong but he also understands no president can force cultural changes in a society. Obama, on the other had, believes it is acceptable to force those who oppose abortions to fund them—including late-term partial birth abortions.) [38781, 38794]

The Heritage Foundation lists 36 “green” energy companies that received federal loans or grants from the Obama administration that are either failing (18 companies) or have already filed for bankruptcy (18 companies). Heritage reports, “The 2009 stimulus set aside \$80 billion to subsidize politically preferred energy projects. Since that time, 1,900 investigations have been opened to look into stimulus waste, fraud, and abuse (although not all are linked to the green-energy funds), and nearly 600 convictions have been made. Of that \$80 billion in clean energy loans, grants, and tax credits, at least 10 percent has

gone to companies that have since either gone bankrupt or are circling the drain.” [38768]

At WashingtonTimes.com Jeffrey T. Kuhner writes, “...Obama’s supporters are threatening riots and violence should he be defeated in November. Mr. Obama is in deep trouble. He was trounced by his Republican rival, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, in the first presidential debate. Since then, Mr. Obama’s aura of invincibility—carefully cultivated by the establishment media—has been shattered. He has been exposed as an incompetent and arrogant socialist whose policies have failed to revive the economy. His angry second debate performance did not reverse his downward trajectory. His followers are now panicking. Some are demanding that blood flow in the streets should he lose the election. Hope and change have given way to rage and fury. ...After the second debate, there was an explosion of tweets calling for Mr. Romney to be killed if he wins in November. ...Besides Fox News and the Drudge Report, however, major media outlets have refused to even mention the story. The reason is simple: It shows—in stark, irrefutable detail—the intolerance and hatred of many liberals. ...The establishment media’s hypocrisy is stunning. Imagine if the situation were reversed: Three weeks prior to the election, thousands of Romney supporters threatened to not only riot, but also assassinate the president should their candidate lose. The national uproar would be deafening. ...Yet now, when it comes to threats against Mr. Romney, there is only silence. ...Many of Mr. Obama’s supporters are seething with racial grievances. Riots after elections happen in Guatemala or Greece—not in America, where power is transferred peacefully. By refusing to denounce these threats of violence, Democratic leaders and the mainstream press corps are jeopardizing the very sinews of our republic.” [38769]

FoxNews.com reports, “The White House confirmed Thursday that ...Obama is prepared to veto legislation that would skirt the so-called ‘fiscal cliff’—a battery of tax hikes and spending cuts—unless Republicans consent to raise taxes on top earners. The move drew renewed accusations from rival Mitt Romney that [Obama] has chosen to ‘simply ignore’ Republicans on the Hill instead of dealing with the problem. According to one account, Obama hasn’t so much as spoken with House Speaker John Boehner since July.” Romney spokesman Ryan Williams states, “His approach would let our economy sink into recession for the sake of pursuing job-killing tax increases. Rather than work in a bipartisan manner as the ‘fiscal cliff’ approaches, ...Obama prefers to issue veto threats and simply ignore the other party. We can’t afford four more years of this failed leadership. When Mitt Romney is president, he [will] work with members of both parties to cut spending, restore our AAA credit rating and get our economy growing again.” [38775]

WND.com reports, “Iranian and U.S. negotiators have reached an agreement that calls for Iran to halt part of its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of many of the U.S. sanctions against the Islamic regime, according to a highly placed source. Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, expects a letter from ...Obama in a few days guaranteeing the details of the agreement, arrived at recently during secret negotiations in Doha, Qatar. The source, who remains anonymous for security reasons and is highly

placed in Iran's regime, said that once Khamenei receives Obama's guarantees, he will authorize an announcement by Iran on a solution to the nuclear crisis before the U.S. presidential elections. The agreement calls for Iran to announce a temporary halt to partial uranium enrichment after which the U.S. will remove many of its sanctions..." (If the story is accurate, many will suspect that the agreement is an "October surprise" to help boost Obama's reelection chances—and that Iran will restart its nuclear program as soon as the election is over.) [38777]

A Pew Research Center poll suggests that Obama may have reason not to be overly confident heading into the October 22 debate with Mitt Romney simply because it will focus on foreign policy. Only 14 percent of those polled believe the "Arab Spring" will be good for the United States; 36 percent believe it will be bad; 38 percent say there will be little effect; and 12 percent "don't know." On "making wise decisions about foreign policy" Obama leads Romney by only 47–43 percent. Romney leads 49–40 on the issue of trade with China. On Obama's handling of the Libya situation, only 35 percent approve; 38 percent disapprove; and 27 percent "don't know." Among those who "followed news" on the issue, the numbers are 36/52/12. Among independent voters, "those who followed news about the Libya investigations disapprove of the administration's handling of the situation by two-to-one (59% disapprove vs. 29% approve)." (The numbers could spell trouble for Obama. Obama will win most of the Democrat voters and Romney will win most of the Republican voters. But Obama already trails Romney with independents on the economy, creation, and deficit reduction. He cannot afford to also have foreign policy working against him with the independents and undecideds.) [38822]

Columnist Caroline Glick writes, "November 5, the day before the US Presidential elections will be the third anniversary of the massacre of 13 US soldiers at Ft. Hood by Islamic terrorist, US Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan. The Obama administration has refused to acknowledge that the attack was a terrorist attack. ... Still today the Defense Department insists on defining the massacre as a case of 'workplace violence.' To advance this fiction, the Defense Department has refused to award Purple Hearts to the families of the soldiers murdered by Hasan, or to those who were wounded in his attack. It has refused to compensate the families of those murdered or the survivors who were incapacitated at the level the US military compensates the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty and soldiers wounded by enemy fire. This year Congress tried to rectify this obscenity by including Purple Heart citations for Ft. Hood casualties in the Defense Appropriations Act. Obama said he would veto the bill, (and thus deny the military funding), if they didn't remove the clause about the medals. That is how far Obama is willing to go to keep up this fiction, cover up the existence of enemy forces within the US military, deny the threat posed to the US by radical Islam, and in the process, punish and dishonor American soldiers who were killed in the line of duty in an act of war against the US by a self-proclaimed 'Soldier of Allah.' There is no precedent in US history for this sort of behavior by an American president. None. ... Think about four more years of this reckless behavior if he is reelected the day after the third anniversary of the massacre..." (On October 19 relatives of the victims release a video, "The Truth About Fort Hood.") [38798, 38877]

In an interview with Newsmax.TV, Charles Schwab, founder and CEO of the historic brokerage firm, says, “The most difficult thing I have to see and watch in the Obama administration is their almost no-growth policy. Everywhere you turn it seems as if they’re suppressing growth—on an attitudinal thing, raising taxes or regulation. It goes on and on and on. And what has happened is the Obama administration has really deferred to the Federal Reserve to do anything that might help the economy. They brought interest rates down. In fact, they brought rates down to near zero. Who took the brunt of all of that? It’s the seniors. There are 40 million seniors in the United States. Florida has a huge population of seniors and these people are suffering. They get virtually no interest on their CDs, their money market accounts, their savings accounts. These are things that people planned on 35, 40 years ago. They’ve just seen their income, their nest egg, sort of disappear. Yes, they have the principal there, and that’s safe, but none of the income that they’d planned on to supplement their Social Security. ...[Romney] won’t be raising rates or lowering them. What will happen is the economy will pick up steam, will start growing again. People will become employed. More tax revenue will come off people’s employment. It will spin on its own way as we grow out of this thing. We need about a 3 percent growth. So I would recommend to seniors, find the president that is going to make us grow faster. If you ever want to have any income from your savings account, we’ve got to get a growing economy. That’s the only way interest rates will ever go up. Get back to normal. Normal was when we had a 3 percent coupon, so to speak, on our savings account. It’s zero today.” [38802]

Schwab says the Federal Reserve will “have to increase rates because they flooded the whole world with money, the United States included. If we had growth with no increase in interest rates, we’d have massive inflation. But we have to get back to a growing economy in order for us to get some lift in interest rates for our savings accounts. ...[Romney’s tax plan] would provide a great amount of psychological incentive. It would also inspire people that hard work is rewarded by their ability to keep more of their hard-earned income. In my case, someone who’s been quite successful and lucky along the way, my rates will probably go up 10 percent, which I’m perfectly happy to do because I spend a lot of my time now with non-profit institutions and I give a lot of money away to them and I’m able to deduct that.” Schwab observes that Obama has contributed to the economic malaise: “When the leader of any organization gives suppressing notes, beats up on different sectors of the economy for being too successful, that ends up converting people to being pretty depressed about their position. Successful people work hard and you’re going to get less work, you’re going to get less rewards, you’re going to get less income, and we’re in a funk right now as an economy.” Obama’s tax plans “wouldn’t be enough, really, to accomplish a fraction of the problem we have with deficits of over a trillion dollars a year. So I don’t think anyone who’s successful is worried about paying slightly more. That’s not the issue. You want to create a system of taxes that will maximize output, maximize work, maximize incentives to do work, and then, out of the maximization of that, you get an adequate cash flow going to your federal government, your state and counties. ...But what happens is once you start [the economy] growing, there’s all kinds of new money being created. If you’re shrinking, as we have been, it gets less, the pie gets smaller and smaller and smaller. We want to turn things

around and get the pie bigger. The growth sort of begets itself.” [38802]

Obama appears on *The Daily Show*. Host Jon Stewart asks, “Is part of the investigation helping the communication between these divisions? Not just what happened in Benghazi, but what happened within. Because I would say, even you would admit, it was not the optimal response, at least to the American people, as far as all of us being on the same page.” Obama replies, “Here’s what I’ll say. If four Americans get killed, it’s not optimal. We’re going to fix it. All of it. And what happens, during the course of a presidency, is that the government is a big operation and any given time something screws up.” (Obama is not incensed about the murder of four Americans; he merely agrees it is “not optimal” and apparently just the cost of doing business because sometimes “something screws up.” If the families and friends of the four murdered men are not outraged, they should be—even though it was Stewart who first used the words “not optimal.” In the days following the Benghazi attack, Obama expressed more outrage toward the anti-Islam video and its producers than the murdering jihadist thugs—who he is afraid to even call jihadists.) AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller writes, “The slaughter of Americans in an act of war on September 11 is, according to Obama, ‘not optimal.’ But this same depraved failure and his quisling administration calls a YouTube clip unflattering to Moe [Mohammed] ‘disgusting,’ ‘vile,’ ‘reprehensible,’ and ‘crude.’” Investors.com writes, “[Obama] reveals a disturbing callousness toward our war dead on yet another talk show. When will he tell jihadists to stop clinging to their guns and religion and fearing people not like them?” [38766, 38770, 38801, 38805, 38821, 38916, 38917]

Wearing tuxedos and white ties, Obama and Mitt Romney speak at the annual Alfred E. Smith charity dinner, hosted by Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Host Al Smith IV says, “We recognize that you [Obama] have some challenges this year. It’s never good when your opponent has produced more sons than you have jobs,” and “Every year Governor Romney gives 10 percent of his income to charity. That charity is the federal government.” Romney jokes, “A campaign can require a lot of wardrobe changes—blue jeans in the morning perhaps, suits for a lunch fundraiser, sport coat for dinner—but it’s nice to finally relax and wear what Ann and I wear around the house. ...I was actually hoping [Obama] would bring Joe Biden along this evening, because he’ll laugh at anything.” “My tip for debate prep is, first, refrain from alcohol for 65 years.” Romney emphasizes how much he and Obama are both “very lucky to have one person who’s always in our corner, someone who we can lean on and someone who is a comforting presence without whom we wouldn’t be able to go another day. I have my beautiful wife, Ann; he’s got Bill Clinton.” “I have special admiration for the Apostle St. Peter to whom it is said upon this rock I will build my church. The story’s all the more the inspiring when you consider that he had so many skeptics and scoffers at the time who were heard to say, ‘If you’ve got a church, you didn’t build that.’” “Usually when I get invited to gatherings like this, it’s to be the designated driver.” “Some in the media have a certain way of looking at things. When suddenly I pulled ahead in some of the major polls, what was the headline? ‘Polls Show Obama Leading From Behind.’” “And I’ve already seen early reports from tonight’s dinner. Headline: ‘Obama Embraced by Catholics; Romney Dines With Rich People.’” “Now I never suggest the press is biased. They have a job to

do and I have my job to do. My job is to lay out a positive vision for the future of the country and their job is to make sure nobody else finds out about it.” (Ann Romney attends the event. Michelle Obama does not.) [38784, 38785, 38786, 38789, 38795, 38820, 38843]

Romney points out that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo is in attendance and is “already being talked about for higher office. A very impressive fellow, but he may be getting a little ahead of himself. I mean, let me get this straight: The man has put in one term as a governor, he has a father who happened to be a governor, and he thinks that’s enough to run for president?” “Of course,” says Romney, “we’re down to the final months of [Obama’s]. As ...Obama surveys the Waldorf banquet room with everybody in white tie and finery you have to wonder what he’s thinking: ‘So little time, so much to redistribute.’” “Speaking of Sesame Street, tonight’s dinner was brought to you by the letter ‘O’ and the number 16 trillion.” After his introduction Obama says, “please take your seats, otherwise Clint Eastwood will yell at them.” Noting that Romney uses his middle name Mitt, rather than his first name, Willard, Obama says, “I wish I could use my middle name.” “Earlier today I went shopping at some stores in Midtown. I understand Governor Romney went shopping for some stores in Midtown.” “Of course, world affairs are a challenge for every candidate. After my foreign trip in 2008, I was attacked as a celebrity because I was so popular with our allies overseas. And I have to say, I’m impressed with how well Governor Romney has avoided that problem.” “I had a lot more energy in the second debate. I was well rested after the nice long nap I had during the first debate.” “I particularly want to apologize to [MSNBC’s] Chris Matthews [for my performance in the first debate]. Four years ago I gave him a thrill up his leg; this time around I gave him a stroke.” “Monday’s debate is [going to be] a little bit different because the topic is foreign policy. Spoiler alert: we got [Osama] bin Laden.” [38784, 38785, 38786, 38789, 38795, 38820, 38843]

On October 19 Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson posts a video clip in which Obama says, “When a politician tells you, uh, he’s gonna wait until after the election [to provide details of his plan], it’s not because their plan is so good that they don’t want to spoil the secret.” the clip then shows Obama at another event at which he says, “Now, I set up a bipartisan fiscal commission that designed to start, uh, coming up with answers. And they’re supposed to report back to me right after the election. That was on purpose, by the way. [Obama smiles.] We said, ‘Don’t give us the answer before the election, ’cause nobody will have an honest conversation about it.’ ...But as soon as the election’s over, report to us and let’s see if Democrats and Republicans can come together to make some tough decisions.” [38794]

The Associated Press (AP) reports, “The CIA station chief in Libya reported to Washington within 24 hours of last month’s deadly attack on the U.S. Consulate that there was evidence it was carried out by militants, not a spontaneous mob upset about an American-made video ridiculing Islam’s Prophet Muhammad, U.S. officials have told The Associated Press. ...National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor declined comment. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence did not respond to requests

for comment. ...Intelligence officials say the leading suspected culprit is a local Benghazi militia, Ansar al-Shariah. The group denies responsibility for the attack but is known to have ties to a leading African terror group, al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. Some of its leaders and fighters were spotted by Libyan locals at the consulate during the violence, and intelligence intercepts show the militants were in contact with AQIM militants before and after the attack, one U.S. intelligence official said.” (It is clear that the White House knew within 24 hours that there was no anti-video demonstration in Benghazi and that it was an al-Qaeda attack—unless one believes that Obama learned four Americans had been killed and did not bother to ask the CIA what it knew of the incident. The anti-video stories were then hatched and continued for more than a week, their sole purpose being to cover up the truth: that al-Qaeda remains active, that Libya is out of control and a haven for terrorists, and the United States would have been better off had Obama left Moammar Gaddafi alone.) [38799, 38816, 38817, 38819, 38841]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey comments, “The AP wonders whether anyone read the CIA cable with this information. Let’s parse that out for just a moment. We suffered the death of a US Ambassador and three other Americans in the sacking of a consulate in a key area of the world. Wouldn’t one of the *first* items to check be information from the CIA’s station in the area? Given the fact that this came from the station chief and not just some lower-level scuttlebutt, either we can assume it got read immediately, or that the people running the show in Washington DC are so incompetent that it’s a wonder we have any diplomatic missions left at all. The leak of this information is very interesting indeed, too. The defense from Barack Obama himself at the last presidential debate, as well as Susan Rice in the Wall Street Journal, is that the ‘spontaneous demonstration’ story is what they were hearing from the intel community. This [AP story] makes it very clear that their excuses are false, at least in large part, let alone the fact that State watched the attack unfold in real time and has video of the event, a fact revealed at the House Oversight Committee hearings last week. Unlike Hillary Clinton, the intel community apparently has no intention of being scapegoated for the White House’s cover story. That’s a big, big problem for Barack Obama and his righteous indignation.” (According to Obama’s daily schedules at Whitehouse.gov, he attended no intelligence briefings between September 6 and September 11. Some might wonder why Obama would not be interested in security in the days leading up to the 11th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.) [38817, 38819, 38842]

Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi attends a prayer service at which cleric Futouh Abd Al-Nabi Mansour prays, “Oh Allah, absolve us of our sins, strengthen us, and grant us victory over the infidels. Oh Allah, destroy the Jews and their supporters. Oh Allah, disperse them, rend them asunder. Oh Allah, demonstrate Your might and greatness upon them. Show us Your omnipotence, oh Lord...” (Morsi, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, gained the presidency after Obama turned his back on ally Hosni Mubarak. No reporter is expected to ask Obama whether he agrees with the sentiment, “destroy the Jews and their supporters.”) [38968, 38969]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A medical doctor in the crucial swing state of Ohio is

publishing a 2,000-word letter slamming ...Obama's health care law as full-page ads in local newspapers ahead of the presidential election. Dr. Farid Naffah, a gastroenterologist in Warren, Ohio, wrote 'The Risks and Perils of Obamacare' letter that has run both twice in the Tribune Chronicle and once in the Youngstown Vindicator in Ohio over the last week. In a Thursday interview with The Daily Caller, Naffah said it's possible he'll continue to run the letter as full page ads in Ohio newspapers before the election. ...The names of more than 40 doctors are listed as supportive of the letter, which states that Obamacare 'is an administrative and fiscal disaster, bringing higher health care costs, a severe physician shortage and the rationing of medical services.'" Naffah emphasizes, "The people know us here. We are the physicians of the community. When people look at an article like this, the first thing they look at is who signed it. And when people see our names, they recognize them. People tend to trust their doctors." [38806, 38807]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "Obama For America took out a \$15 million loan from Bank of America last month, according to the campaign's October monthly FEC report. The loan was incurred on September 4 and is due November 14, eight days after the election. OFA received an interest rate of 2.5% plus the current Libor rate. ...It is unclear why the first \$1 billion campaign needed an extra \$15 million for the final two months of the campaign." [38900, 38932]

The liberal *Orlando Sentinel* and *The Nashville Tennessean* endorse Mitt Romney for president. (Between 1972 and 2008 neither newspaper had endorsed a Republican presidential candidate.) The Florida editorial states, "We have little confidence that Obama would be more successful managing the economy and the budget in the next four years. For that reason, though we endorsed him in 2008, we are recommending Romney in this race. ...This is Romney's time to lead, again. If he doesn't produce results—even with a hostile Senate—we'll be ready in 2016 to get behind someone else who will. We endorse Mitt Romney for president." The Nashville newspaper writes that "Obama's steps to get spending under control and reduce the debt are too tentative, and again hark back to his inability to possess the leadership to break the partisan gridlock in Congress. ...Obama was elected in 2008 with a call for hope and change. Perhaps the change he spoke of could only come with the help of Mitt Romney." [38813, 38814, 38815, 38871]

At WeeklyStandard.com Jeffrey H. Anderson reports that the Obama administration has not released a *legally required* quarterly report on its \$831 billion stimulus legislation spending since the second quarter of 2011. "Why would the administration not want to release these reports?" asks Anderson. "Presumably because they have shown what a colossal waste of taxpayer money Obama's 'stimulus' has been." (Each job allegedly created by the stimulus has cost the taxpayers more than \$300,000. With \$831 billion, the Obama administration could have sent a check for \$2,638 to every man, woman, and child in the United States.) [38830]

At NYDailynews.com S. E. Cupp writes, "In recent days and weeks, Romney's pulled ahead or within points of Obama among a number of demographics, including women, where a Gallup/USAToday poll had him within a point of Obama among likely female



voters in swing states. And according to the National Journal's Ron Brownstein, among white women in particular, 'several polls suggest that Obama's advantage has narrowed or vanished since his disastrous first debate. Most ominous for Obama is evidence that the slippage has occurred not only among usually Republican-leaning blue-collar white women but also their white-collar counterparts.' White voters, in fact, have eluded Obama and the Democratic Party in increasing numbers. As it currently stands, Romney is up by more than 20 points among white voters in a slew of new polls, including Gallup, Monmouth, Fox and Pew. According to the Washington Post, 'that's something no GOP presidential candidate has done since Reagan's landslide 1984 reelection win.' To put that in perspective, McCain won the white vote by a 12 point spread, and Bush won it by 17 points in 2004 and 13 points in 2000. Dole and George H.W. Bush won it by only 2 points each in 1996 and 1992 respectively." One of the reasons for the loss of white voters, suggests Cupp, is the Democrat party's increasing shift toward the far political left. The "Blue Dog Democrats" have essentially been run out of the party. [38903]

Pat Smith, the mother of Benghazi attack victim Sean Smith, responds to Obama's remark that the killings of the four Americans was "not optimal." Smith tells *The Daily Mail*, "How can you say somebody being killed is not very optimal? I don't think [Obama] has the right idea of the English language. It's insensitive to say my son is not very optimal—he is also very dead. I've not been 'optimal' since he died and the past few weeks have been pure hell. I am still waiting for the truth to come out and I still want to know the truth. I'm finally starting to get some answers but I won't give up. 'There's [sic] a lot of stupid things that have been said about my son and what happened and this is another one of them.'" [38832, 38864]

Mitt Romney's national lead over Obama falls one point in the Gallup poll, to a still significant 51–45. [38836]

Romney leads Obama 46–44 in a Gravis poll that has a generous weighting of +8 for Democrats. Romney leads independents by 8 points. [38837]

Romney leads Obama 49–48 in both Iowa and New Hampshire in Public Policy Polling surveys. [38838, 38840, 38851]

Romney leads Obama 51–46 in a Rasmussen poll in Florida. Romney leads 51–45 in the state's early voting. Romney leads 54–45 among the 88 percent who have not yet voted but who say they have made up their minds. [38839]

Obama leads Romney 46–43 in a Fox News poll in Ohio. [38885]

In a Rasmussen poll in Virginia, Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–47. (Obama won by 6 points in 2008.) In other Rasmussen polls Romney leads 54–43 in Missouri and 52–46 in North Carolina. [38825, 38826, 38827]

In a Rasmussen poll in Wisconsin, Obama leads Romney 50–48. [38878]

Mitt Romney edges Obama in “favorability” ratings in several surveys, leading 52–51 in a Gallup poll, 50–49 in a Pew Research poll, and 49–46 in a DailyKos/SEIU/PPP poll. [38828]

Campaigning on behalf of Obama in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Bill Clinton says, “This shouldn’t be a race. The only reason it is, is because Americans are impatient on things not made before yesterday and they don’t understand why the economy is not totally hunky-dory again.” Clinton claims the economy is improving but “people don’t feel it yet.” [38933]

Obama is at –14 in Rasmussen’s Approval Index. The number represents the percentage of Americans who “strongly approve” of his performance (29), minus the percentage of those who “strongly disapprove” (43). Obama’s rating was +28 (44 minus 16) on January 21, 2009. It fell below zero in July 2009 and has essentially remained in negative territory since then.) Obama’s net approval/disapproval rating is 48/51, the same rating as November 2, 2010—when Democrats were trounced by the Republicans in the mid-term elections. [38845, 38846]

YorkDispatch.com reports, “Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney’s running mate, Paul Ryan, will return to Pennsylvania on Saturday [October 20] for the first time in two months as independent polls show a narrowing race in the key Electoral College state. The Romney campaign said Ryan will appear at a morning rally in a private hangar by Pittsburgh International Airport. Tom Smith, the GOP candidate for U.S. Senate, will speak at the rally.” HotAir.com comments, “I think this is less about putting Pennsylvania in play (for now) than it is about messing with Democrats’ heads *and* making a pitch to southeastern Ohio next door, but it’s a fun little gambit.” [38852, 38853]

Attorney Orly Taitz reports that her Obama ballot challenge lawsuit in Indiana is set to go to trial on October 22. ThePostEmail.com reports, “The trial was scheduled by Judge Sherry Reid, who [will allow] witnesses to testify relative to Taitz’s claims that ...Obama’s name should not appear on the Indiana ballot because of Social Security fraud, identity fraud, and presenting fraudulent documents to the public.” Judge Reid refuses a motion by the defense to vacate the trial. [38875, 38876]

TheHill.com reports, “In 2008, Barack Obama won independents nationally, 52%-44%, on his way to a general election win. According to TPM’s Polltracker average of polls, Mitt Romney currently leads Obama among independents by 14%, nationally. That’s a 22% reversal nation-wide for Obama. So with a few weeks to go, it’s looking more and more like [Obama] will lose independents in a big way, nationally.” Obama is “falling short with independents in nearly every swing state, including Florida, Colorado, Virginia, and yes, Ohio.” [38911]

According to BusinessInsider.com, there is “growing evidence that U.S. agents—particularly murdered ambassador Chris Stevens—were at least aware of heavy weapons moving from Libya to jihadist Syrian rebels. In March 2011 Stevens became the official U.S. liaison to the al-Qaeda-linked Libyan opposition, working directly with Abdelhakim Belhadj of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group—a group that has now disbanded, with some fighters reportedly participating in the attack that took Stevens’ life. In November 2011 The Telegraph reported that Belhadj, acting as head of the Tripoli Military Council, ‘met with Free Syrian Army [FSA] leaders in Istanbul and on the border with Turkey’ in an effort by the new Libyan government to provide money and weapons to the growing insurgency in Syria. ...Ambassador Stevens had only one person—Belhadj—between himself and the Benghazi man who brought heavy weapons to Syria. Furthermore, we know that jihadists are the best fighters in the Syrian opposition, but where did they come from? Last week The Telegraph reported that a FSA commander called them ‘Libyans’ when he explained that the FSA doesn’t ‘want these extremist people here.’ And if the new Libyan government was sending seasoned Islamic fighters and 400 tons of heavy weapons to Syria through a port in southern Turkey—a deal brokered by Stevens’ primary Libyan contact during the Libyan revolution—then the governments of Turkey and the U.S. surely knew about it. ...And we know that the CIA has been funneling weapons to the rebels in southern Turkey. The question is whether the CIA has been involved in handing out the heavy weapons from Libya. In any case, the connection between Benghazi and the rise of jihadists in Syria is stronger than has been officially acknowledged.” (The suggestion is that Obama—without telling the American people or Congress—used Stevens as the facilitator to arm the Syrians with weapons that had been part of Moammar Gaddafi’s cache.) [38914]

At FoxNews.com James Rosen reports that, according to “166 pages of internal State Department documents ...released today by a pair of Republican congressmen pressing the Obama administration for more answers on the Benghazi terrorist attack... slain U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and the security officers assigned to protect him repeatedly sounded alarms to their superiors in Washington about the intensifying lawlessness and violence in Eastern Libya, where Stevens ultimately died. On September 11—the day Stevens and three other Americans were killed—the ambassador signed a three-page cable, labeled ‘sensitive,’ in which he noted ‘growing problems with security’ in Benghazi and ‘growing frustration’ on the part of local residents with Libyan police and security forces. These forces the ambassador characterized as ‘too weak to keep the country secure.’” In August, Stevens sent a cable titled “The Guns of August: Security in Eastern Libya,” with the message, “Islamist extremists are able to attack the Red Cross with relative impunity. What we have seen are not random crimes of opportunity, but rather targeted and discriminate attacks. ...Attackers are unlikely to be deterred until authorities are at least as capable. ...Islamic extremism appears to be on the rise in eastern Libya. ...[T]he Al-Qaeda flag has been spotted several times flying over government buildings and training facilities...” (Despite those messages from Stevens, the Obama administration withdrew the 16-member Site Security Team operating in Libya.) At Townhall.com, Doug Giles later writes, “From the 166 hellish pages we see a stack of warnings, via multiple cables sent to D.C. from Chris’s own laptop about which

diddly was done—and that being after prior bombings of the Red Cross and our own compound and an assassination attempt on the British ambassador. Whiskey Tango Foxtrot. This is gross and inexcusable. If what happened in Benghazi on 9/11 was not an act of terror, or an act of war, I don't know what is. What's the 'Religion of Peace' got to do to wake this administration the heck up? Destroy one of Obama's favorite golf courses? Oh, BTW: Missing from the extensive documents is any mention of a YouTube video ticking these 'peaceful protestors' off." Pamela Geller writes at AtlasShrugs.com, "If this doesn't sink Obama... America is sunk." [38922, 38923, 38970]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee is demanding answers from four senior United States military officers about whether there was advance warning of terrorist threats and the need for greater security prior to last month's terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. However, an aide to the chairman, Rep. Howard 'Buck' McKeon, (R-CA), said the office of secretary of defense Leon Panetta blocked the senior officers from providing the answers last night. 'The chairman is disappointed that the administration won't respond to this basic request for information,' the aide said. 'It is nearly unprecedented that the office of the secretary of defense would prohibit a member of the uniformed military from answering direct questions posed by the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.'" [38898]

During its broadcast of *The People's Court*, the CBS affiliate in Phoenix, Arizona shows a graphic at the bottom of the screen declaring Obama the winner of the 2012 election, with 40,237,966 votes to Romney's 38,116,216. (KPHO's Michele Wallace later tells DailyCaller.com, "The mistake was caught quickly and taken off the screen. With the election about 2 weeks away, the TV station routinely tests its equipment to ensure our viewers have the very latest's [sic] results on election night. We regret the error and apologize to any viewer who was confused by the mistake." (One might argue that *all* viewers were confused—or alarmed.) [38973, 38974]

On *Hannity*, *Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer states that the Obama administration had "had two reasons to lie [about the Benghazi attack]. The first reason was the fact that the September 11 attack occurred a week after they just spent four days [at the Democrat National Convention] in Charlotte dancing on the grave of bin Laden. Remember, this is their single foreign policy achievement. There is none other. Look at Iran. Look at Russia. Look at Israel. Look at Syria. Look at the Arab spring. It's all in collapse. They've got one thing to argue, and they sure argued it, where they made the point again and again and again with that ridiculous slogan from Vice President [Biden], 'bin Laden dead, GM alive,' because what Libya said, what it was proclaiming to the world and the reason the attack was launched in the first place was to say, 'bin Laden dead, al-Qaida alive.' That is what has happened as a result of leading from behind in Libya. ... You've got, you know, al-Qaeda has—essentially one of the jihadist factions taken over northern Mali. There are training camps throughout North Africa. And we now know about the rise of the strength of the jihadist in Syria, where Obama has again has been leading from behind. The second thing is, and I heard from this from liberal colleagues on some of the other shows I've done, is, 'Well, how could they have done

this? Why would they be lying? Wouldn't they know it would come out?' And the answer is no. They saw what the mainstream media did right after the attack. And you know what they did—they spent three days attacking Mitt Romney for a statement he issued the next day, in which he denounced what the Cairo embassy released, the apologetic statement that was made. So the media went ahead and spent three days ignoring the attack, ignoring the implications and concentrating always on that. So they [the Obama team] think they've got the media in their pocket. The election is coming up. They simply have to run out the clock, and they'll be scot-free. They'll be home free. And that is what they thought. However, it was you and others and Bret Baier and Fox which kept the story alive, because we kept finding out what really happened. And now the mainstream media had been shamed to covering it themselves." [38950]

McKeon tells Fox News, "You know, [it's been] five weeks, it seems like those commanders already now the answers to the questions that I asked. It seems to me that the American people deserve to know if the White House and the State Department were using all of the information available prior to 9-11. I'm really troubled by the way this incident is unfolding because for all [Obama's] talk about wanting to get information to the American people, they're not being responsive and I just don't see it happening." McKeon says, "The more I hear about this—and it's just coming from the media; we're not getting this [information] from the White House. We have not had any response to serious requests that we've made of the White House, and it's the first time in my service [McKeon has been in Congress since January 1993] that I've seen the Secretary of Defense prohibit the uniformed military from being able to respond to a direct question from the chairman of the Armed Services Committee. This, to me, looks like they're just trying to hush this whole thing up, hope it goes away, and wait 'til after the election. They're wrong. The American people are getting engaged in this. Everywhere I go, people talk to me about this. They're concerned." [38909]

On the Fox News Channel's *Special Report*, Brett Baier hosts a one-hour segment titled "Death and Deceit in Benghazi." The report makes it clear that security was reduced at the U.S. consulate in Benghazi; that Obama's deputy secretary of state for diplomatic security, Charlene Lamb, denied a request to keep a 16-member Site Security Team in Libya; that the team departed in August; that there was no anti-video demonstration outside the facility on September 11; and that the Obama administration lied about what had taken place. Baier suggests that the Benghazi incident prompts the question, "Is [Obama's foreign policy] smart diplomacy, or 'geo-political correctness?'" [38867, 38912, 38915]

On October 20 radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt writes at Townhall.com, "Congressman John Campbell, a frequent guest on my radio show, polled his district this week. It is California's 45[th district]. John McCain carried it by 4.7 points in 2008. Mitt Romney is almost 20 points ahead in this cycle. Campbell reports that this sort of result is showing up across the country." (Romney will not win California, but if enthusiasm to replace Obama is that strong across most of the nation, Obama stands a likely chance of losing the states where he has nowhere near the Democrat base he has in the Golden State.

Obama won California by more than 20 points in 2008. But did not win most states by anywhere near that much. He can afford to lose 15 points in California, but he cannot afford to lose 15 points in Wisconsin or Ohio—or even Minnesota and Michigan.) [38868]

Obama and Mitt Romney are tied 47–47 in a Gravis Marketing poll in Ohio. “Romney leads by 6 percentage points among men (50 to 44 percent), while Obama leads by 4 percentage points among women (49 to 45 percent). Both sides are doing well to consolidate their bases in Ohio. 87 percent of Democrats say they will vote for ...Obama and 92 percent of Republicans say they will vote for Governor Romney if the election were held today. Governor Romney leads with independents 52 to 33 percent. [Obama] has a net negative job approval rating of 6 points, 44 percent approve of ...Obama’s job performance while 50 percent do not. Ohio voters are more likely by a 6 percentage point margin to think the country is going in the wrong direction (49 percent) than in the right direction (43 percent).” (Those numbers do not bode well for Obama. Further, a 47–47 tie leaves 6 percent undecided—and the undecided voters tend to drift toward the challenger in the final days. More importantly, the poll’s D/R/I is an astounding 41/32/27—meaning that Obama managed a tie only because the poll surveyed 9 percent more Democrats than Republicans.) [38869, 38870, 39001]

Obama leads Romney 49–48 in a Public Policy Polling survey in Ohio that has a +8 Democrat weighting advantage. [39001]

Josh Jordan offers insight on the Ohio race at NationalReview.com. He notes that Obama’s margin of victory in 2008 was 4.6 percent, contradicting exit polls that suggested 7.2 percent. Additionally, “*Romney is up big with independents*: In 2008 Obama beat John McCain by 8 percent among independents in Ohio. Of the seven current RCP polls that give independent numbers, Romney is up by an average of 8.7 percent.” Jordan also points out that “*current poll samples have Democratic turnout matching or exceeding 2008 levels*: Of the seven current RCP polls in Ohio, the average Democratic advantage in party ID is 5.5 percent. That is, if we assume 2008 advantage was D+5 ...then the average poll in Ohio right now assumes a 2008-level turnout. While anything is possible on November 6, there are not many people on either side thinking Obama can match his 2008 turnout advantage. ...Obama won in 2008 largely because of a healthy lead among independents and a highly enthusiastic base’s turning out votes. Right now Romney is leading big with independents, has a more enthusiastic base, and is drawing crowds in Ohio that rival Obama’s. While he is down 2.5 points in [some] polls, the average poll is assuming 2008 turnout which is unlikely to repeat itself this year. Adding the fact that early voting is trending more Republican than in 2008, there is a lot of reason for optimism that this race is much closer than the current polls suggest. Not bad for a candidate who was declared dead in the state just a few weeks ago.” [38894]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–46 in Rasmussen’s swing state tracking poll. [38879]

Hearing a baby crying at a campaign event in St. Augustine, Florida, Joe Biden says,

“They eliminate help for middle-class families who want to send their kids to college like that beautiful baby over there. I don’t blame her for crying! I don’t blame that baby for crying! That baby, that baby, that baby knows what’s in store for him or her if Romney wins! I’m glad someone understands my speech!” (The baby entered the world owing about \$50,000 of the \$16 trillion national debt, and about \$10,000 came from the Obama administration.) [38901]

Also campaigning in Florida, Mitt Romney tells a Daytona Beach audience, “Have you been listening to the Obama camp lately? They have no agenda for the future, no agenda for America, no agenda for the second term. They’ve been reduced to petty attacks and silly word games. Just watch it—the Obama campaign has become the incredible shrinking campaign.” [38908]

*The New York Times* reports, “The United States and Iran have agreed for the first time to one-on-one negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program, according to Obama administration officials, setting the stage for what could be a last-ditch diplomatic effort to avert a military strike on Iran. Iranian officials have insisted that the talks wait until after the presidential election, a senior administration official said, telling their American counterparts that they want to know with whom they would be negotiating. News of the agreement ... comes at a critical moment in the presidential contest, just two weeks before Election Day and the weekend before the final debate, which is to focus on national security and foreign policy. It has the potential to help ... Obama make the case that he is nearing a diplomatic breakthrough in the decade-long effort by the world’s major powers to curb Tehran’s nuclear ambitions, but it could pose a risk if Iran is seen as using the prospect of the direct talks to buy time.” (If negotiations occur, Iran will use them as a delaying tactic. Iran will make promises it never intends to keep; sanctions will be lifted; Iran will drag out the process as long as it can—all the while continuing its nuclear program.) [38883, 38886, 38926, 38927, 38941]

Politico reports, “The Obama administration is denying a report that the United States and Iran have agreed to one-on-one talks that could be a last-chance opportunity to avoid war over Iran’s nuclear program. ... [N]ational Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor [who was an aide to Obama when he was a U.S. Senator] pushed back against the [New York] Times’s story. ‘It’s not true that the United States and Iran have agreed to one-on-one talks or any meeting after the American elections,’ he said in a statement.” (Regardless of whether talks will be held, the leak of the original story was certainly meant to implant in the minds of voters the thought that Obama was offering a deal that would reduce the threat of war in the region. It is worth noting that during the 2008 campaign Obama said he was willing to meet with any world leader, including Iran’s Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, *without pre-conditions*.) [38892, 38893, 38895, 38918, 38927, 38928, 38941]

At PJMedia.com Michael Ledeen points out that “One-on-one negotiations [between the United States and Iran] have been going on for years (most recently, according to my friend ‘Reza Kahlili,’ in Doha [Qatar], where, he was told, [Obama]s Iranian-born

advisor] Valerie Jarrett and other American officials recently traveled for the latest talks). The only news here is that the talks would no longer be secret. And the notion that only diplomacy can avert ‘a military strike on Iran’ is fanciful. There are at least two other ways: sanctions may compel the regime to stop its nuclear weapons program, or the Iranian people may find a way to overthrow the regime, thereby (perhaps, at least) rendering military action unnecessary. I rather suspect that you don’t have to do anything to avoid an American military strike on Iran. I can’t imagine an Obama administration authorizing a military attack. An administration that can barely bring itself to fly air cover in Libya, and can’t bring itself to take any serious action in Syria, strikes me as very unlikely to unleash our armed forces against the mullahs. ...So what is happening? The most likely explanation is that Obama is still desperately seeking his grand bargain, the one that would validate his (and the Nobel Committee’s) claim to be a talented peace maker. That deal is not available, because the Iranians don’t want it. But he wants something to show for his efforts, so he settled for a big nothingburger: an agreement to talk some more.” (Jarrett no doubt told the Iranians they would fare better in a second Obama term than under a Romney presidency because Romney would be a much stronger supporter of Israel. But if, in fact, the United States and Iran negotiate a deal on their own, it will incense Israel, France, and other nations that were involved in the sanctions process and which would have their own interests in any agreement. Saudi Arabia, for example, would not be pleased to learn that Obama gave Iran some nuclear “wiggle room.” But Jarrett would rather please Iran than Saudi Arabia if that is what it takes to allow her to retain power.) [38991]

HotAir.com comments on the Iran-U.S.-nuclear talks story: “Theory 1: The story is true, but the actors on both sides don’t want to jinx it by bringing it out in public until the plan ripens a bit, so they’re denying it for now. (Yeah, yeah... I know. But we’re trying to cover the full spectrum here.) Theory 2: The story is garbage, but the New York Times was misled by an Iranian activist trying to kick-start the process. Theory 3: The story is garbage, but the New York Times was misled by an Obama administration official who wanted to plant a seed to make it look like [Obama’s] foreign policy platform isn’t a complete shambles right before the foreign policy debate. Theory 4: The story is utter, complete, and journalistic libelous garbage created out of whole cloth by the New York Times in an effort to make [Obama] look more effective on foreign policy.” [38946]

In Belmont, Ohio, Paul Ryan tells a crowd that addressing the nation’s problems “...takes leadership. [Obama] has been ducking these issues. Romney is a man with a plan. ...It is not just enough for us to say how we oppose [Obama’s] reckless agenda.” In Orlando, Florida, Joe Biden says Romney and Ryan are “out of touch where I think this country is, where we move. They decimate education. They eliminate help for middle class families who want to send their kids to college. ...They don’t believe women have the right to control their own body [sic].” [38884]

At Breitbart.com John Nolte notes that some “media elites” are expressing disapproval of the pettiness of Obama’s campaign, describing it as “snarky, “belittling,” “kind of flailing,” “not presidential,” and “kind of peevish.” Nolte writes, “[A]ll we’ve seen from



the man who promised us hope, change, and a new kind of politics is a nakedly cynical divide and conquer crusade that's only gotten worse in its closing days. While Romney focuses his closing argument on the future, his agenda, and the realities of governing, [Obama] is literally going all in on Big Bird, contraception, Binder-gate, 'Romnesia,' and aids flanking him at rallies holding signs that read: 'Women's Health Security.' ...Probably with good reason, Barack Obama is also not acting like a winner. So bad is his behavior, in fact, that he's given Romney a massive opening to declare Obama's behavior 'unpresidential.' Wasn't it just a few weeks ago that Romney was beaten senseless for his lack of substance? The secret's out: Obama has no second-term agenda." [38889]

Cleveland's *Plain Dealer*, a liberal newspaper that endorsed Obama in 2008, endorses him again for 2012. The editorial board writes, "Today, we recommend ...Obama's re-election. He has led the nation back from the brink of depression. Ohio in particular has benefited from his bold decision to revive the domestic auto industry. Because of his determination to fulfill a decades-old dream of Democrats, 30 million more Americans will soon have health insurance. His Race to the Top initiative seeded many of the education reforms embodied in Cleveland's Transformation Plan. He ended the war in Iraq and refocused the battle to disrupt al-Qaida and its terrorist allies. He ordered the risky attack inside Pakistan that killed Osama bin Laden. And yet our endorsement this year comes with less enthusiasm or optimism. ...The unifier of 2008 now engages in relentless attacks on his Republican challenger, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. The big dreamer of 2008 offers little in the way of a second-term agenda. There is a world-weariness unseen four years ago. ...We wish ...Obama had used this campaign to showcase a more substantial vision for the many challenges that still confront America. The nation needs to get more people back to work. It needs to get its financial house in order, reform its tax code and streamline—though not gut—regulation in order to reassure business and speed recovery. It needs to invest in infrastructure, education and job training. It needs to expand exports and engage the world." The *Akron Bacon Journal* also endorses Obama. [38891, 39002]

*The Daily Mail* reports, "Republicans are bracing themselves for Gloria Allred to make a potentially damaging revelation about Mitt Romney, just weeks before the election." The Obama-supporting attorney "is rumoured to be preparing for her so-called 'October surprise' in which she will strike the Republican presidential hopeful's chances by unearthing some sort of secret or scandal. Ms. Allred has refused to comment on the rumours, which first surfaced in a tweet by the Drudge Report's Matt Drudge on Thursday." DailyCaller.com notes, "During the Republican presidential primary, Allred represented Sharon Bialek, whose claims of sexual misconduct against Herman Cain helped to push him out of the race. In 2010, Allred represented the illegal immigrant former housekeeper of then-Republican California gubernatorial nominee Meg Whitman." (Breitbart.com's John Nolte Tweets, "When your campaign is thinking maybe Gloria Allred will save us, it's pretty much over." Breitbart.com's Joel B. Pollak suggests the Allred "revelation" may be nothing more than rehashed reports that Romney, as a leader of his church in the 1980s, advised women against having abortions. But "advised" will be changed by Allred to "bullied.") [38896, 38897, 38949, 38951, 38952, 39112]

At CBSNews.com Sharyl Attkisson reports, "...hours after the attack began, an unmanned Predator drone was sent over the U.S. mission in Benghazi, and ...the drone and other reconnaissance aircraft apparently observed the final hours of the protracted battle. The State Department, White House and Pentagon declined to say what military options were available. A White House official told CBS News that, at the start of the attack, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Martin Dempsey and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta 'looked at available options, and the ones we exercised had our military forces arrive in less than 24 hours, well ahead of timelines laid out in established policies.' But it was too late to help the Americans in Benghazi. The ambassador and three others were dead. A White House official told CBS News that a 'small group of reinforcements' was sent from Tripoli to Benghazi, but declined to say how many or what time they arrived. Retired CIA officer Gary Berntsen believes help could have come much sooner. He commanded CIA counter-terrorism missions targeting Osama bin Laden and led the team that responded after bombings of the U.S. Embassy in East Africa. 'You find a way to make this happen,' Berntsen says. 'There isn't a plan for every single engagement. Sometimes you have to be able to make adjustments. They made zero adjustments in this. They stood and they watched and our people died.'" (The Benghazi attack lasted *seven hours* and was watched by intelligence officials via spy cameras in an overhead drone. Some might argue that U.S. troops could have been sent to Benghazi from a base in Sigonella, Italy—less than one hour away by air.) [38899, 38960, 38981]

On his radio talk show, Glenn Beck comments, "There was a predator drone flying over the embassy that night beaming a live feedback to the United States. Are you [Obama] really going to tell us that you didn't know that there was no protest? You didn't know exactly what this was? You had a drone. It's been verified, with a live feed showing the firefight. You knew exactly what was going on. Mr. [Obama], in the situation room, I don't know if you've ever been there, but underneath your office is a room called the situation room where you can watch those live feeds. Somebody in your office was downstairs in the basement watching the feed! Somebody was there. Now why they didn't brief you is beyond me. Some might say that they did and you had been lying. And that someone is me. They said it was a protest gone wrong. You knew it was a lie. There was no protest. You said it was about a YouTube video, unprecedented, coordinated attack. You knew that that was a lie. They said they didn't know about all the requests for extra help and security. We know that that is a lie. This is why Romney is going to win." [38913]

Retired Army General Tommy Franks, who has endorsed Mitt Romney, tells Milwaukee's *Journal-Sentinel*, "We only got [sic] two choices. We can stay with what we've got or we can make a change. ...When you find yourself in a hole stop digging. ...I think our troopers and military and veterans deserve to have the best equipment in the world, best manpower, best training in the world. They deserve respect and love at home and they deserve to be feared abroad. It seems to me that is what military leadership is all about. It seems to me leadership comes from the front, not the back. ...I'm not a fan almost anywhere of announcing to the enemy of what I'm going to do [via a withdrawal date]. If you put it in very simplistic terms that is what we have done. By announcing

date certain there is a theory that will force our friends to take their destiny. Maybe there is a value in that argument. Downside, it also tells our enemies what we'll do and allows them to plan for our intended actions." [38902]

Obama leads Mitt Romney in Ohio, 49–48, in a Public Policy Polling survey. The poll's D/R/I is 42/34/23. According to Breitbart.com, the 2008 election breakdown was 37.5/32.5/30. Ezra Dulis writes, "Despite the thumb on the scale for Obama, there's plenty of good news for Romney. Even with this sample makeup, he continues to lead on the issue of the economy (51/47) with a 15-point lead among independents (54/39). And, in a reversal from the previous week, more voters in this sample trust him over Obama on the issue of Libya (49/47). 18% of Democrats said they trusted Romney more on Libya, while independents broke narrowly for Obama (48/45). As reported previously, Romney's favorability numbers have surged 30 points since February, buoyed by a 29-point positive shift with independents. Obama's approval is negative at 48/50, with independents contributing strongly to that gap (41/54)." [38904]

According to HuffingtonPost.com, the Romney campaign has more than 60 staffers in Pennsylvania, an indication that it believes the state is in play. (Obama won Pennsylvania by 10 points in 2008. If Romney can win Pennsylvania, he will defeat Obama in an electoral landslide.) [38906, 38907]

The Obama campaign cuts prices 30 percent on its campaign merchandise, and announces, "Free shipping! Order this weekend for guaranteed delivery by election day." (At Breitbart.com Lee Stranahan writes, "But don't order yet! The commander-in-chief will ALSO give you free shipping! That's right, America; at these prices, you can't afford to NOT support reckless, failed policies! ... Operators are standing by. Everything must go! And hopefully that includes the Obama administration in just a few weeks.") [38910, 38947]

Denise Simon, with General Paul E. Vallely's Stand Up America organization, writes, "Today, Ambassador [Christopher] Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty must now be considered heroes [who] saved America from a corrupt regime, from a decidedly un-American goal of appeasing Islam and reducing America's standing across the globe. They did not just die in the line of duty in a harsh and dangerous den of evil, bravely trying to advance American interests without support and security they deserved. Their loss is now proven to have exposed an even greater evil, an enemy 'inside the wire.' We mourn the lost of these men and pray for peace and healing for their respective families, but we should also take some solace in the notion that their deaths, with the will of God, may have just altered the future of America. They may have, unknowingly, provided the first step in the restoration of our once great nation and her constitutional rule-of-law tenets. They have, through dutiful professionalism in the field; doing the right thing—exposed those who are unprofessional, self-serving, power hungry, greedy—those who will say or do anything to attain or preserve power. There is an unknown quantity of components of the terror attack in Benghazi and perhaps some components we as citizens will never know. It is submitted however, that there are a few

factual conclusions that cannot be disputed or denied. The Obama administration found no limits on people and conditions to blame or to fabricate lies. Benghazi pointed us back to a deeper, broken system of foreign policy where no associated government agency is insulated from blame, or was employed for nefarious ends. The stories changed so often, it is clear that the administration, all of them, whether by their own design or by obeying orders, practiced a ‘scorched Earth’ policy where nothing was too low or too base to employ in the cover-up.” [38912, 38929]

Simon continues, “What is even more egregious is that our standing in the community of nations is deeply harmed. Those who wish to do us harm no longer fear us. In fact, many openly defy us. Ahmen Abu Khutalla and Sulfian bin Qumu, members of the terror team that killed and destroyed the good work of so few, not only in Libya but throughout the Middle East revel in their deeds. ...Obama told us that justice will be done and yet both of these evil men and other terrorists still openly walk the streets of Libya brazenly, so much so that one even gave a two hour interview to the New York Times. In support of these heroes, people who take their jobs seriously, did not stop investigating and reporting their findings. They did this while lesser icons of the main stream media not only did not tell the truth to America, they openly tried to buoy the very people who were deceiving America. When a member of the media attempts to correct the record on live television, in a non-factual manner, in an attempt to rescue those deceiving, the contrast is even more stark. Last night, an example of true journalism appeared for all to see. In a must see Fox News expose of the nightmare in Benghazi, the deceivers were clearly brought into the disinfectant of the bright sunshine so shrouded to date. Bret Baier, Greg Palkot, and James Rosen detailed the facts, exposing just how disingenuous the evolving narrative and conspiracy was perpetrated on the American people. ...From lower ranking career employees at the State Department and Department of Defense, on through to the NSC [National Security Council], and rising all the way to the top in each area, including [Obama]—all failed at standing on principle, and defending America. They placed the sensitivities of Islam/Muslims above America’s interests, they did not do the most basic chore; provide for the protection of four Americans to mask a policy so anathema to our survival. Benghazi is one of the saddest days in American history, where Barack Obama tells us it was just not optimal in his political career. Shame on all of them. ...In Nixon’s day, his crimes did not kill anyone—here, four heroes have sacrificed all, yet the cover-up continues. If America is truly watching—this may prove to be the end for Obama’s chances on November 6th. This also exposes the mindset on all his other issues. What you are being told needs to be viewed through this new lens of clarity. Ask yourself what Joe Biden asked us all in the VP debate: ‘Look, folks, use your common sense. Who do you trust on this?’” [38912]

The Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* endorses Mitt Romney. [38954]

The Reno-Gazette-Journal, which backed Obama in 2008, endorses Mitt Romney for president. The editorial notes that “while [Obama] had to contend with a Republican Party that was determined to deny him a second term at any cost, Obama cannot avoid the consequences of poor decisions and misplaced priorities. Foremost among them was

his early focus on an overreaching health-care reform plan that wasted 12 very valuable months of his and Congress' time and cost him precious political capital. The manner in which the legislation was drafted violated Obama's pledge to govern openly, and its passage—leveraged through a supermajority—served to further galvanize the partisan divide in Congress. Fear of the impact of that reform and the costs associated with it continue to play a major role in preventing businesses from hiring new employees at a time when nearly everyone agrees that jobs must be [Obama's] foremost goal. A vote to re-elect Obama promises four more years of the same. In the two debates between the two candidates so far (a third, on foreign affairs, is scheduled for Monday), [Obama] has shown little understanding of how his failures are affecting the nation, and he hasn't offered any tangible proposals to change course." [38921]

While the city's largest-circulation newspaper endorses Mitt Romney, free-contraceptive advocate Sandra Fluke delivers a pro-Obama speech in the parking lot of a Reno supermarket—to an audience of about 10 people. (DailyCaller.com notes, "The event had been promoted in the Gazette-Journal for days in advance, though the paper did not make it clear whether Fluke would be speaking in the parking lot or the produce aisle." [38945, 38955])

Former San Francisco mayor Willie Brown writes at SFGate.com, "In 2008 [the black voter turnout was so huge] you would have thought it was Nelson Mandela coming out of jail. This time it's not going to be that easy. If Obama looks as if he's going black, he could turn off white people. So he's largely been lying low on the race issues—visibly pushing for the Latino vote, the gay vote, the women's vote, but not the black vote. But last weekend, he held a conference call with a collection of black preachers that included his old pastor, Jeremiah Wright. He wanted to talk to them about getting out the vote." (The Obama campaign denies that he contacted Wright. Either Brown or the Obama team is therefore lying.) [39966, 38967, 38978]

In early voting in North Carolina, 758 ballots have been cast by residents who are all 112 years old. Most come from three counties; 68 percent are registered Democrats; 27 percent are registered Republicans. (January 1, 1900 is apparently used as a "default" birth date the correct date is not known. Of course, no one without proof of birth or citizenship should be allowed to register to vote.) [38964, 38965]

In Egypt, Saad al-Katatny is elected chairman of the Freedom and Justice Party, the political wing of the radical Muslim Brotherhood. According to The Jerusalem Post, "Katatny was quoted as saying that 'The Muslim Brotherhood established the [FJP] to represent the Brotherhood's political project, which, in the end, will be a wise government that will institute Islamic Shari'a law.'" (Obama and his media sycophants had claimed that the Muslim Brotherhood was a minor player in Egypt and is "moderate." It now controls Egypt's presidency and 47 percent of all seats in the lower house of parliament, demands the release of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing terrorist Omar Abdul Rahman, calls for tearing up the peace treaty with Israel, threatens to "liberate" Jerusalem through Jihad, and has increased persecution of Coptic Christians

across the nation. The Muslim Brotherhood had been outlawed by President Hosni Mubarak—the U.S. ally Obama helped to remove from power.) [38963, 38968]

On October 21 *The Columbus Dispatch* endorses Mitt Romney for president. The Ohio newspaper writes, “After nearly four years of economic stagnation, massive unemployment, record-setting debt and government intrusions into the economy that have paralyzed the private sector, the United States needs a new direction. For this reason, *The Dispatch* urges voters to choose Republican Mitt Romney for president in the Nov. 6 election. ...Obama has failed. That is why Mitt Romney is the preferred choice for president. Romney’s adult life has been spent turning around troubled private and public institutions. These turnarounds include scores of companies acquired and restructured by Bain Capital, the investment firm he founded in 1984. Not all were successes, but that is because to a significant degree, many of the companies Bain took on were high-risk. In 1999, he was asked to take over the scandal-plagued and fiscally mismanaged 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. He quickly streamlined its management, fixed its finances and guaranteed its security, turning it into a success. As governor of Massachusetts, he made tough decisions to lead the state out of a budget deficit, and he did so in a state dominated by Democrats. ...In 2008, Americans made a leap of faith when they elevated the inexperienced Obama to the White House. That faith was not rewarded. This time, voters should place their hopes for change in experience, by electing Romney.” [38934, 38998]

Other newspapers endorsing Romney include *The Tampa Tribune*, the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, the *Lowell Sun* (Massachusetts), *The Arizona Republic*, the Galveston County, Texas *Daily News*, and the *Houston Chronicle*. [38998, 39002]

Mitt Romney ties Obama 47–47 in an October 17–20 WSJ/NBC poll of likely voters. The survey’s D/R/I is 32/26/39. “The poll found Mr. Romney with a wide lead among men, 53% to 43%, while ...Obama continues to maintain an advantage among women, 51% to 43%. Mr. Romney’s edge among men has grown over the past month, while...Obama’s lead among women has slightly diminished.” HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “Having an incumbent at 47% with 16 days to go before the election is bad enough news for Team Obama. The poll data has not yet been released, but NBC’s *First Read* has even more bad news in one particular area—the gender gap: ‘Looking at some of the most important demographic groups, Romney leads among men (53 percent to 43 percent), Obama is up with women (51 percent to 43 percent) and they are essentially tied among voters in the Midwest.’ In 2008, Obama won the election with a +14 gender gap over John McCain — +13 among women and +1 among men—on his way to a 7-point victory in the popular vote. That advantage has now flipped to Romney, even in the Marist poll. That’s a sixteen-point flip in the gap, and unless Obama expects a massive female turnout and massive male empathy on November 6th, it’s a very bad sign.” Additionally, 62 percent of those polled say that if Obama is reelected, they want to see “major changes.” They do not want a rerun of the last four years—which would, of course, be a good reason not to vote for him. [38919, 38920, 38935, 38996, 39063]

Romney leads Obama 49–47 in Rasmussen’s Daily Presidential Tracking Poll. Romney leads 50–46 in the Daily Swing State Tracking Poll. (Before the second debate Romney also led 49–47. Obama therefore gained no ground from his “more alert” performance.) [38930, 38931]

The *Fars News Agency* reports, “Swiss Ambassador to Tehran Livia Leu Agosti attended a meeting with senior Iranian foreign ministry officials a few days ago to submit a letter from [Obama] to Tehran leaders. Vice-Chairman of the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Hossein Ebrahimi told FNA that during the meeting, Agosti had told the Iranian officials that ...Obama recognizes Iran’s right of access and use of the nuclear technology. ‘There are a couple of points with regard to this (US) message (to Iran),’ Ebrahimi said and added, ‘Firstly, during the session to submit the message, the Swiss ambassador to Tehran quoted [Obama] as saying that ‘we (the US) recognize your nuclear rights.’ As regards the second issue, the lawmaker said that the Swiss diplomat had also quoted Obama as saying that ‘I didn’t want to impose sanctions on your central bank but I had no options but to approve it since a Congress majority had approved the decision.’” (While telling the voters he has imposed tough sanctions on Iran and will never let it become a nuclear power, behind the scenes he is *apologizing* to Iran for having been forced to impose those sanctions and says, “You want to go nuclear? *No problem if I’m reelected.*” Obama should be tried for treason.) [38936, 38937]

On NBC’s *Meet the Press*, host David Gregory suggests there would not be such an uproar over the Benghazi attack “if the administration had a consistent response to what occurred there.” Obama political strategist David Axelrod responds, “David, uh, there’s [an] investigation ongoing, uh, with the intelligence community, the FBI’s on the ground, uh, and we have reported, the administration has reported, uh, everything that we’ve been, uh, that we’ve been told, and we’ve shared it, uh, in real time. The fact is, it’s a complicated situation, uh, we’re thoroughly, uh, looking, uh, looking at what happened there and reporting to the American people on it. Uh, there’s been no inconsistency, there’s merely been, uh, reports on the data and the intelligence that we’ve been given and the intelligence community has been clear on this, uh, that, uh, they have been, uh, doing the best they can, giving us the intelligence they have; we’ve been sharing that intelligence, uh, and, uh, and we’ll continue to do so.” [38948]

On ABC’s *This Week*, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) says, “The most startling thing that has happened here the last month over this campaign is [that Obama] has completely given up on outlining any sort of agenda for the future. What’s his plan for the next four years [beyond spend money we don’t have]? ...That’s what they’ve done for the last four years. They are going to spend money on roads, bridges. But we already did that one time, that’s called the stimulus. \$800 billion and it didn’t grow the economy.” Of Obama’s focusing on things like Big Bird and “binders,” Rubio remarks, “That fires up his base, [the] folks that are going to vote for him anyway, but for the rest of Americans who are trying to make up their minds who to vote for, what they’re wondering is ‘well, that’s very cute Mr. [Obama], but what are you going to do for the future, what is your

plan to get this economy growing again?” Obama political strategist David Axelrod counters, “We have a very specific agenda about how we’d like to move forward. On the other hand what you hear from Mitt Romney are a bunch of chapter heads with no chapters and a plan to spend \$7 trillion more in tax cuts and more money for the Pentagon than they’re even asking for. So if there’s anyone whose running without a real plan here, it’s Governor Romney, and to the extent he has one it’s going back to the same policies from the last administration.” [38959]

On *Face the Nation*, Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter says, “Big Bird is important because that’s the only thing that Mitt Romney could point to as to how he’s going to reduce the deficit. Deficits are a big issue in this campaign. The governor’s running mate actually voted for two wars, two tax cuts that created these deficits.” (Aside from defense spending, Obama has outlined no budget cuts. Like Paul Ryan, Joe Biden *also* voted to authorize spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.) Cutter claims that Obama “has a detailed plan on the table to reduce those deficits.” (In fact, according to the Congressional Budget Office, Obama’s proposals would increase the national debt to about \$20 trillion if he were to be reelected.) “Now Mitt Romney could only point to binders for an accomplishment towards women. He had a binder full of women. Now that’s important because it’s really symbolic of the governor’s policies.” (Perhaps Cutter would be happier if the resumes came in folders, rather than 3-ring binders—although why she thinks the issue is anything other than ridiculous is unclear.) “You know, [Romney] wouldn’t say whether or not he believes in equal pay for women, the Lilly Ledbetter Act.” (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, gender pay discrimination has been illegal since the 1960s. The Lilly Ledbetter Act does nothing but generate income for trial lawyers, who can now file claims years after a discrimination event. The legislation actually discourages the hiring of women, because some employers will prefer to hire men—who are far less likely to file lawsuits.) “[Romney] wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which means insurance companies can go back to the days of charging women more than men just for health care.” (Insurance companies have traditionally charged women higher premiums than men because women incur more health care costs than men. That is partly due to childbirth expenses, and partly because men are less likely to seek care and treatment for illnesses. Insurance companies also charge higher premiums for smokers. That is not discrimination; it is common sense. Cutter may just as well argue that Corvette owners should not be charged more for insurance than Ford Fiesta owners. If that were made a law, Fiesta owners would simply end up paying Corvette coverage rates. Similarly, ObamaCare has not resulted in premiums for women going down; it has resulted in premiums for men going up. Cutter’s economic ignorance is stupendous.) [38980]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) calls the Benghazi fiasco “...Exhibit A of a failing national security policy. This is failed ...leadership at its worst.” Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) calls Obama a “strong, responsive leader” and says the criticism of Obama by Republicans “shows the length many will go to politicize the situation [sic].” Durbin responds to host Chris Wallace’s questions about the issue by saying, “It is a volatile situation. It is always easier the day after to say how you could have won that football game.” (Obama calls the death of four Americans “not optimal,”



and Durbin compares asking legitimate questions about the administration's failures as second-guessing a football game.) [38940, 38953]

According to DailyCaller.com, "A soon to be released report from the conservative Government Accountability Institute shows that ...Obama's re-election campaign has increasingly collected more electronic donations from non-existent ZIP codes throughout the 2012 campaign cycle. From February through June this year the GAI findings reported that the Obama campaign collected \$175,816.26 in electronic donations from non-existent ZIP codes. One month later, the campaign raised \$411,369.55 through such donations and \$197,464.59 in August. By the end of September, the Obama campaign raked in \$2,199,204.38—thanks to donations from non-existent ZIP codes." (The Obama campaign has intentionally left turned off the Address Verification System for Internet donations. That allows citizens of foreign countries to make illegal contributions to his campaign.) [38943, 38944, 38977, 38987]

IsraelNationalNews.com reports, "Most Egyptians want their country and Iran to have nuclear weapons, and they also favor renewing ties with Tehran and breaking off relations with Israel, according to a poll by The Israel Project, a pro-Israel advocacy group. Eighty-seven percent of the respondents want Egypt to have its own nuclear bomb, and Iran is more than happy to lend Cairo a hand. 'We are ready to help Egypt to build nuclear reactors and satellites,' Iran's deputy defense minister said when Muslim Brotherhood Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi visited Iran last month. Sixty-two percent of those polled agreed that 'Iran and its president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, are friends of Egypt.'" [39021]

Mitt Romney regains his 7-point lead over Obama in Gallup's 7-day rolling average poll, where he leads 52–45 among likely voters. Even among registered voters Romney leads, 49–46. [38956, 38957]

James S. Robbins writes in *The Washington Times*, "Mitt Romney continues to out-poll every winning presidential challenger since 1968. The latest Gallup daily tracking poll of likely voters has Mr. Romney leading Barack Obama by seven points, 52% to 45%. Mr. Romney's total is greater than Richard Nixon's 44% at this point in the race in 1968, Jimmy Carter's 49% in 1976, Ronald Reagan's hard to believe 39% in 1980 (Carter was ahead with 45%), George H. W. Bush's 50% in 1988, and Bill Clinton's 40% in 1992. In 2000 and 2008 George W. Bush and Barack Obama both tracked at a within-[the margin of]error 51%. The Gallup numbers have come under criticism from Obama supporters for their supposed inaccuracy, but the oldest established polling organization has done well in predicting the last three elections. In 2000, the final Gallup likely voter poll showed a neck and neck race, 47/45, which turned out to be a 50/50 outcome. In 2004 Gallup had the Bush/Kerry race at 49/47 and the result was 50/48. And in 2008 Gallup's final likely voter poll had Mr. Obama at 53% which was right on the money. Whether Mr. Romney's tracking numbers will hold over the next few weeks remains to be seen but right now he is on a better trajectory than any presidential challenger in the last 40+ years." [38961]

An IBD/TIPP poll gives Obama a 48-42 lead over Romney—but the poll’s D/R/I is a laughable 37/30/32. (The poll shows Obama trailing Romney by only one point in the South, which is close to an impossibility, and Obama leading in the Northeast, Midwest, and the West. It also shows Obama leading by one point among men, which contradicts virtually every other major poll, and capturing 9 percent of the Republican vote and 22 percent of the conservative vote.) [38958]

PRWeb.com reports that Psychologist Dr. Paul Fick “has announced a detailed report on Obama’s “psychological condition.” Fick states, “Some observers have claimed that Obama appears to be narcissistic. He’s way beyond narcissism. Yes, he has narcissistic symptoms, but he also suffers from paranoid tendencies and oppositionalism. This combination makes him a dangerous and destructive president, filled with carefully hidden anger that he is exacting upon America, which he consciously and unconsciously hates. ...Obama is filled with hate, which developed in his troubled childhood and teen years. His thinking is distorted by victim logic. When he was a teen and in his college years he used drugs and alcohol as his defense mechanism, but now the defense mechanisms he is using are far more destructive. America is at severe risk.” [38972]

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu responds to *The New York Times* story that claims the Obama administration and Iran are set to being one-on-one talks: “Israel doesn’t know about these contacts and I can’t confirm that they’ve actually taken place. I can say that Iran used the talks and negotiations with the Five Powers to drag its feet and to gain time to advance its nuclear weapons program. In the last year alone, in the course of these talks, Iran has enriched thousands of kilograms of uranium in its nuclear program. And I don’t see any reason why they wouldn’t continue in that same way if they open up talks with the US. Therefore, the international community, first of all, needs to set very clear demands to Iran: Halting uranium enrichment, removing all enriched uranium and dismantling the underground installation in Qom. I think that the best chance to succeed in halting Iran’s nuclear program diplomatically is a combination of very sharp sanctions and a credible military option. In any event, I can say that as long as I am the Prime Minister of Israel, Israel will not allow Iran to reach a military nuclear capability.” [39022]

On October 22, in Whitewater, Wisconsin, Obama-supporting thugs brutally beat Sean Kedzie, the son of State Senator Neal Kedzie, after he yells at them for removing a Romney sign from the property. Breitbart.com reports that Kedzie “...was rushed to the hospital by ambulance with possible skull and eye socket fractures. ...Kedzie said the men that attacked him were about six feet tall, 200 pounds, white, and looked like college kids.” (The Obama campaign declines to comment on the incident.) [39265, 39266]

Billionaire real estate developer Donald Trump appears on *Fox & Friends* and says he has “something very, very big [to announce] concerning [Obama]. It’s going to be very big. I know one thing—you will cover it in a very big fashion.” (Trump spokesman Michael Cohen later tells DailyCaller.com, “Mr. Trump’s announcement is substantially more important to the American people than these allegations [of selling cocaine] made

against [Obama].”) [39003, 39045, 39046, 39050]

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is asked by Jaylen Williams, a 4th-grade student in Florida, “Do you have any funny stories you can tell us about ...Obama?” Emanuel replies, “Funny stories about [Obama]? Well, let's see, I'm trying to think... there's [sic] all kinds of stories, I mean, things that we used to do that we had fun about. But I want to be respectful of him. He's got a big campaign. How about this? I'm going to make a commitment to you. After the election, I'll tell you some funny stories. I don't want to do anything that would ever be used the wrong way to jeopardize his election, okay?” [39416, 39420]

DailyCaller.com reports, “White House visitor records show that administration officials have hosted numerous White House meetings with a series of U.S.-based Muslim political groups that have close ties to jihadi groups and push to reduce anti-terrorism investigations. The visits were discovered by the Investigative Project on Terrorism, which compared the Obama White House's visitor records with its database of Islamist advocacy groups.” [38979]

Bloomberg.com reports, “Fiat SpA, majority owner of Chrysler Group LLC, plans to return Jeep output to China and may eventually make all of its models in that country, according to the head of both automakers' operations in the region. Fiat is in ‘very detailed conversations’ with its Chinese partner, Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., about making Jeeps in the world's largest auto market, said Mike Manley, chief operating officer of Fiat and Chrysler in Asia. Chrysler hasn't built Jeeps there since before Fiat took control in 2009. ...Chrysler currently builds all Jeep SUV models at plants in Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. ...Fiat and Guangzhou's plant in Changsha in central China has initial annual capacity of 140,000 cars and is capable of eventually assembling 500,000 vehicles per year. The automakers will add production of a new vehicle to the factory roughly every 12 months and began building the Fiat Viaggio compact there in June.” (Obama “saved the U.S. auto industry by selling Chrysler to Italy's Fiat for pennies on the dollar. Chrysler is now an Italian company.) [39184, 39185, 39209]

In a CBS/Quinnipiac poll in Ohio, Obama's lead drops to 50–45 over Mitt Romney. (Obama led 53–43 in the previous poll.) HotAir.com notes that the poll has “a laughable D/R/I of 35/26/34. In 2008, the D/R/I was 39/31/30, while in 2010 it was 36/37/28. We have plenty of data on enthusiasm in this election cycle, precisely none of which points to an 11-point drop in Republican participation in two years in this race. Yet, with a D+9 advantage and Republicans only at 26% of the sample, Obama can only muster a 5-point lead in the topline. That was his margin of victory in 2008 in Ohio, by the way, but Obama won Ohio independents by eight points in that election. In this poll, he's down seven points, a fifteen-point flip in the gap. That's the most telling indicator thus far, and the one that cuts through the sampling biases.” [38983, 38984, 38996]

In a Suffolk University poll in Ohio, Romney and Obama are tied 47–47. [38997, 39062]

Romney leads Obama 48–45 in a Monmouth University national poll of likely voters. (The survey’s D/R/I is 35/31/34.) [38985, 38986]

DailyCaller.com reports that the Obama administration’s insistence on increased use of ethanol fuels has raised the price of corn so high that farmers are filing for bankruptcy because they cannot afford feed corn. (The higher percentage of ethanol in gasoline also causes damage to the engines of older cars not deigned for the fuel. Auto expert Eric Peters writes “The problems arise when alcohol-laced fuel comes into contact with—and eats away at—rubber and plastic parts, including gaskets, rubber diaphragms, seals, o-rings and so on. The alcohol in the fuel also accelerates the rusting out of steel parts such as fuel lines and (in older cars) steel fuel tanks (most modern cars have composite plastic tanks). Finally, ethanol-laced ‘gas’ doesn’t keep as well—which isn’t a problem for regularly used cars but can most definitely become a problem for occasional-use older/antique cars (and motorcycles) that might not burn through a tank of fuel for several months. ...E10 (gas with 10 percent ethanol) is now the default standard “gas” almost everywhere. It’s very likely that E15 (gas with 15 percent ethanol) will be coming online within the next few years—probably replacing E10.”) [38988, 38989]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–46 in a Rasmussen poll of likely voters in Colorado. [38990]

Romney leads Obama 49–47 in a nationwide Politico/GWU/Battleground Tracking Poll of likely voters conducted October 13–18. [39004]

In Indianapolis, Judge Sherry K. Reid presides over a ballot challenge lawsuit and allows attorney Orly Taitz to present evidence showing that Obama’s long-form birth certificate is a forgery, and that Obama has used a stolen Social Security number issued in Connecticut. Taitz issues a press release that states, in part, “Over an extremely rigorous objection by the defense, Judge Reid admitted into evidence exhibits and testimony of witnesses Paul Irey and Felicito Papa. Mr. Papa testified that he graduated from the Indiana Institute of Technology had some 20 years of experience with Adobe Illustrator program. He testified that Obama’s birth certificate opened in Adobe illustrator in 9 layers, which means that this is a document which underwent computer manipulation. Mr. Papa testified that it cannot be a genuine document, as in 1961 there was no Adobe Illustrator. Birth certificates in 1961 were created not on the computer, but with a typewriter. He stated his opinion that this is a forgery. His exhibits, showing layers within the document, were admitted into evidence. Mr. Paul Irey testified that he has 57 years of experience working for NSA and later advertising, typesetting and computer graphics programs. Mr. Irey testified that Obama’s alleged birth certificate is a computer generated forgery. Mr. Irey had a large board with exhibits, where he showed enlargements of all the letters in Obama's birth certificate. He vividly demonstrated that letters came from different typesetting, which in itself is a proof of forgery. Additionally Mr. Irey testified that when a document is printed with a typewriter, the spaces between the letters are the same, however in Obama’s birth certificate the spacing varies, which is a sign of forgery. Mr. Irey also testified that there is a white halo around letters in Obama’s birth certificate,

which can exist only as a result of computer manipulation. Mr. Irely testified that Obama's birth certificate is a computer generated forgery." (The submission of evidence is a major development in the continuing Obama drama. His defense lawyers have previously succeeded in getting cases dropped on legal technicalities, avoiding decisions based on the merits of the cases. The judge now has to rule based on evidence. Although she can conceivably rule in favor of Obama, Taitz can file an appeal and present even more evidence to support her claim—and call additional witnesses.) [38994, 39049]

At FoxBusiness.com Charlie Gasparino reports that James Biden, brother of Vice president Joe Biden, stands to make a fortune from a home-building construction project in Iraq. Despite little or no experience in the construction industry, James Biden has become vice president of and partner in HillStone International, a subsidiary of Hill International. Gasparino writes, "Company officials say the Iraq project is slated to generate \$1.5 billion in revenues over the next three years, more than three times all the revenues Hill produced in 2011. ... The 100,000-unit development won by HillStone is part of a \$35 billion, 500,000-unit project deal won by TRAC Development, a South Korean company that... has close ties to the Iraqi government. ... Just months after the deal was announced, James Biden and his wife Sara were guests of ... Obama and his wife Michelle for a state dinner honoring the president of South Korea, Lee Myung-bak, according to a guest list obtained by FOX Business. Also in attendance was Vice President Joe Biden, his wife and slew of U.S. and South Korean officials, including Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and senior economic adviser Valerie Jarrett, the guest list shows." David Richter, president of Hill International, says it helps to have "the brother of the vice president as a partner." [39027, 39055]

Former CBS anchor Dan Rather joins the list of leftists setting the stage for a possible Romney victory, writing on Facebook, "The whole upper tier of Ohio state government is in the hands of the GOP now; in very close voting they have the power to influence what votes are counted and how." (If Romney wins, Democrats will charge vote fraud in Ohio—as they did in 2004.) [39051]

The Center for Security Policy's Frank Gaffney, Jr. writes, "The evidence suggests that the Obama administration has not simply been engaging, legitimating, enriching and emboldening Islamists who have now taken over or are ascendant in much of the Middle East. Starting in March 2011, when American diplomat Christopher Stevens was designated the liaison to the 'opposition' in Libya, the Obama administration has been *arming* them, including jihadists like Abdelhakim Belhadj, the leader of the al Qaeda franchise known as the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group. Once Qaddafi was overthrown, Chris Stevens was appointed as the ambassador to the new Libya run by Belhadj and his friends. Not surprisingly, one of the most important priorities for someone in that position would be to try to find and secure the immense amounts of armaments that had been cached by the dictator around the country and systematically looted during and after the revolution. One of the places in Libya most awash with such weapons in the most dangerous of hands is Benghazi." [38999, 39000]

“It now appears that Amb. Stevens was there—on a particularly risky day, with no security to speak of and despite now-copiously-documented concerns about his own safety and that of his subordinates—for another priority mission: sending arms recovered from the former regime’s stocks to the ‘opposition’ in Syria. As in Libya, the insurgents are known to include al Qaeda and other shariah-supremacist groups, including none other than Abdelhakim Belhadj. ...Last week, Center for Security Policy Senior Fellow and former career CIA officer Clare Lopez observed that there were two large warehouse-type buildings associated with the so-called ‘consulate’ whose purpose has yet to be disclosed. As their contents were raided in the course of the attack, we may never know for sure whether they housed—and were known by the local jihadis to house—arms, perhaps administered by the two former SEALs killed along with Amb. Stevens. ...In short, it seems ...Obama has been engaged in gun-walking on a massive scale. The effect has been to equip America’s enemies to wage jihad not only against regimes it once claimed were our friends, but inevitably against us and our allies, as well. That would explain his administration’s desperate, and now-failing, bid to mislead the voters through the serial deflections of Benghazi.” [38999, 39000]

At Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, Obama and Mitt Romney have their third and final debate, on foreign policy. Moderator Bob Schieffer’s first question is about Libya, but Romney does not go overboard with an attack on Obama. Instead, Romney talks generically about Obama’s failed Middle East policies, rather than challenge him by asking, “What did you know and when did you know it?” (This is arguably a good move by Romney, as it is easier for Obama to blame others for specific actions than to deny that the Middle East is a hotbed of terrorism and anti-American sentiment. Obama can blame the “intelligence community” for security lapses in Libya and some voters will accept the excuse—but they will not believe him if he declares that everything is coming up roses in the “Arab Spring.”) [39006, 39009, 39015, 39016, 39029, 39030, 39033, 39064]

Romney states, “I congratulate [Obama] on taking out Osama bin Laden and going after the leadership in al-Qaeda. But we can’t kill our way out of this mess. We’re going to have to put in place a very comprehensive and robust strategy to help the world of Islam and other parts of the world reject this radical, violent extremism... The right course for us is to make sure that we go after the... people who are leaders of these various anti-American groups and these... these jihadis, but also help the Muslim world.” (Romney’s “We can’t kill our way out of this mess” statement is arguably brilliant. It sends a message to undecided voters that he will not return to what some considered the “cowboy” foreign policy of George W. Bush. Romney is not “itching for a fight” or eager to use drones, although he does state they serve a purpose and should not be taken off the table. Romney’s message is to educate, not decimate. “We can’t kill our way out of this mess” is arguably an unexpected challenge to Obama that resonates with the political *left*. Additionally, Romney dares to say “jihadist”—the “j-word” that both Obama and George W. Bush have been afraid to utter. Romney is stating that although the United States cannot kill every jihadist, it must at least recognize that they exist.) [39014, 39086]

Romney also stresses that American military strength depends on a strong national economy and reduced reliance on imported oil, arguments that are easily understood and accepted by the voters, who care far more about finding jobs than how long it will be before Syria's president is removed from office. Romney says, "Our debt is the biggest national security threat we face. ... We have weakened our economy. We need a strong economy." [39013]

Romney charges that the nation would be less safe with the drastic military cuts sought by Obama, and notes that the U.S. Navy has not had such a small fleet in almost 100 years. Obama responds, "I think Governor Romney maybe, uh, hasn't spent enough time looking at how our military works. You... you mention the Navy, for example, and that we had fewer ships than we had in 1916. Well, Governor, we also have fewer horses and bayonets, because the nature of our military has changed. We have these things called aircraft carriers where planes land on them. We have these ships that go underwater, nuclear submarines." (The Army and the Marines, of course, still use bayonets, and the Army still uses horses. U.S. troops even rode on horses in Afghanistan in 2001, as described in the book, *Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of U.S. Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan*. Additionally, Obama should be reminded that aircraft carriers *are* ships and submarines are called *boats* by everyone in the Navy. Obama's snarky response certainly will cost him some votes in ship-building Virginia. Ships remain a vital part of the U.S. military—something Obama apparently does not understand.) [39008, 39010, 39026, 39027, 39032, 39041, 39043, 39066, 39074]

Romney warns against massive defense budget cuts proposed by Obama and required by the "sequester" he demanded in the budget agreement. Obama responds, "The sequester is not something that I proposed. It is something that Congress has proposed. It will not happen." (Obama did, in fact, request the sequester. According to *Washington Post* reporter Bob Woodward, "Then-OMB Director Jack Lew, now the White House chief of staff, and White House Legislative Affairs Director Rob Nabors pitched the idea to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.") [39038, 39044, 39118]

Obama also claims that the spending cuts from sequestration "won't happen." (Senator John McCain (R-AZ) tells Politico, "I was astonished, I almost fell out of my chair when [Obama] said, 'Don't worry, sequestration won't happen.' We've been begging [him] to sit down with us to avoid what his own secretary of defense said would be a devastating blow to our national security. He just said, 'Don't worry, sequestration won't happen.' [But] He's not a dictator yet.") [39118]

Obama repeats his false charge that Romney wants to boost defense spending by \$2 trillion over 10 years. (The Heritage Foundation explains that Obama "calculates this by assuming that his defense spending reductions already apply, and therefore serve as the basis for comparisons. In reality, Governor Romney is proposing not to let ... Obama's defense budget reduction proposal to take place." Obama has proposed a defense budget of \$566.3 billion for fiscal year 2014, far less than the \$721.3 billion spent in 2010. Obama is essentially claiming that refusing to agree to his proposed cuts constitutes an

increase. An example illustrates the absurdity of Obama's claim: Assume Jack and Jill's food budget is \$350 per month. Jack says, "Let's cut that spending to \$300 per month." Jill says, "No, we need to spend \$360 per month." Jill is proposing a small increase of \$10 per month. Jack is lying if he claims she is proposing a huge \$60 per month increase. *That is the "trick" Obama is employing with his \$2 trillion charge against Romney.*) [39044]

Obama, following Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radical* tactics, attempts several times during the debate to use ridicule to portray Romney as incapable of being commander in chief. As an example, Obama says, "I'm glad that you recognize that al-Qaeda is a threat because a few months ago when you were asked 'what's the biggest geopolitical threat facing America,' you said 'Russia.' Not al-Qaeda, you said Russia. The 1980s are now calling to ask for their foreign policy back. The Cold War has been over for 20 years." Romney responds, "Attacking me is not an agenda. Attacking me is not talking about how we're going to deal with the challenges in the Middle East... Russia, I indicated, is a geopolitical foe. and I said in the same paragraph, I said, 'Iran is the greatest national security threat we face.' Russia does continue to battle us time and time again in the U.N. time and time again. I have clear eyes on this. I'm not gonna wear rose-colored glasses when it comes to Russia, or Mr. Putin, and I'm certainly not gonna say to him, 'I'll give you more flexibility after the election.' After the election he'll get more backbone." [39011, 39012]

Obama denies that he sought a Status of Forces Agreement with Iraq which would have left some U.S. troops in the country. (Obama did, in fact, seek an agreement. The effort failed because he and Joe Biden could not come to terms with the Iraqis.) [39008]

Referring to Osama bin Laden, Obama brags, "I said when I would take the shot, I'd take the shot." (Of course, it was Navy SEALs who "took the shot," not Obama. It remains unclear why any American remains impressed by Obama's actions—unless they believe someone else in the White House would have considered telling the generals, "You found Osama bin Laden? Ah, leave him be.") [39110]

Obama says, "So across the board we are engaging them in building capacity in these countries and we have stood on the side of democracy. One thing I think Americans should be proud of: When Tunisians began to protest, this nation, me, my administration, stood with them earlier than just about any other country." (Obama's "this nation, me" remark prompts a fair amount of criticism and comparisons to "L'etat c'est moi?" ("The state is me" or "I am the state")—which has been attributed to both King Louis IV of France and Napoleon Bonaparte. Charles Krauthammer later asks, "How many democratic leaders (de Gaulle excluded) would place the word 'me' in such regal proximity to the word 'nation?'"") [39110, 39284]

Obama falsely claims that Romney argued against any federal help for the failing auto industry, and says, "If we had taken your advice, Governor Romney, about our auto industry, we'd be buying cars from China instead of selling cars to China." (In his



November 18, 2008 *New York Times* editorial, Romney argued against a no-strings attached bailout because, “With it, the automakers will stay the course—the suicidal course of declining market shares, insurmountable labor and retiree burdens, technology atrophy, product inferiority and never-ending job losses. Detroit needs a turnaround, not a check.” Romney offered suggestions for saving the industry, and concluded, “But don’t ask Washington to give shareholders and bondholders a free pass—they bet on [bad company] management and they lost. The American auto industry is vital to our national interest as an employer and as a hub for manufacturing. A managed bankruptcy may be the only path to the fundamental restructuring the industry needs. It would permit the companies to shed excess labor, pension and real estate costs. The federal government should provide guarantees for post-bankruptcy financing and assure car buyers that their warranties are not at risk.”) [39036, 39037]

Moderator Schieffer asks no questions about border security, Operation Fast and Furious, or whether Obama plans to relocate terrorist detainee from Guantanamo to Thomson Correctional Center in Illinois—an unused facility the Obama administration has purchased for \$165 million.

According to *National Review’s* Jim Geraghty, Romney used the word “peace” 12 times during the debate; Obama not at all. [39068]

Obama gets about 35 seconds more speaking time than Romney during the debate. According to DailyCaller.com, for the three debates in total Obama had a time advantage of just over 8 minutes. [39040]

At WeeklyStandard.com William Kristol comments, “Mitt Romney is more than holding his own with Barack Obama tonight. Only two other challengers have done as well debating foreign policy with an incumbent president—Ronald Reagan against Jimmy Carter in 1980 and, to a lesser degree, Bill Clinton against George H.W. Bush in 1992. Reagan and Clinton won. Romney is now on track to becoming the third challenger to win in the last 32 years—and the first in 80 years to defeat an incumbent who didn’t have a primary challenge. Tonight, Romney seems as fully capable as—probably more capable than—Barack Obama of being the next president. He probably will be.” [39007]

After the debate, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on Fox News, “I think it’s unequivocal Romney won. He didn’t just win tactically, but strategically. Strategically, all he needed to do was basically [have] a draw; he needed to continue the momentum he’s had since the first debate, and this will continue it. Tactically, he simply had to get out there and show that he’s a competent man, somebody you could trust as commander in chief, a man who knows every area of the globe—and he gave a lot of interesting extra details... which gave the impression that he knows what he’s talking about. But there’s a third level here and that is what actually happened in the debate. You can argue about the small points, or the debating points, [but] Romney went large, Obama went very, very, small—shockingly small. Romney made a strategic decision not to go after [Obama] on Libya or Syria or other areas where Obama could accuse him of

being a Bush-like warmonger. ...He decided to stay away from that and I think that actually might have worked for him. What he did concentrate on was the big picture. People don't care that much about what our policy on Syria's gonna be. They care about how America is perceived in the world and how America carries itself in the world. And the high point of that debate for Romney [was] when he devastatingly leveled the charge of Obama going around the world on an apology tour. Obama's answer was [essentially], 'ask any reporter and they will tell you it wasn't so.' That's about as weak an answer as you can get and Romney's response was to... quote Obama saying that 'we dictate to other nations' and Romney said, 'We do not dictate to other nations, we liberate them [from dictators].' And Obama was utterly speechless." [39005, 39016, 39017, 39042]

"So that's the large picture: America strong, America respected. What Obama did is he kept interrupting, interjecting, and his responses were almost all very small, petty attacks. The lowest was when he's talking about sanctions on Iran. 'When I was working on sanctions you [Romney] were investing in a company in China.' I mean, that's the kind of attack you expect from a guy who's running for city council for the first time. That's not what you expect from a president, a personal attack about an investment when you're talking about Iran. I thought Romney had the day; he looked presidential; [Obama] did not. And that's the impression I think that's gonna be left. ...I think those on the right like me who would have loved it to have been bellicose, and loved the near fisticuffs in the last [second] debate, will understand exactly why Romney did it. He stayed away from the pitfalls. He did not allow himself to be painted as a warmonger. This is what Reagan understood in 1980, he did it extremely well, Romney did, and I think this could help him to win the election." [39005, 39042]

On Fox News, a focus group consisting of a majority of Democrats concludes that Obama may have won the debate on "points" but believes that Romney will be better able to help the economy improve—and the nation cannot have a strong military with a weak economy. (Strangely, the group gives a positive response to Obama's well-rehearsed comment about "horses and bayonets"—which proves why ridicule can often be a powerful weapon.) [39023, 39041, 39043, 39066]

On MSNBC an unhinged Chris Matthews tells Rachel Maddow, "Well, I think [conservatives are] more political than either you or I. I think they hate Obama. They want him out of the White House more than they want to destroy al-Qaeda. Their number one enemy in the world right now, on the right, is their hatred, hatred for Obama. And we can go into that about the white working class in the South about looking at these numbers we've been getting the last couple days, about racial hatred, in many cases. This isn't about being a better president, they want to get rid of [Obama]. That's their number one goal and they're willing to let Romney go to the hard center, even if it's to the left on issues, as long as they get rid of this guy. Romney went in there tonight with 16 ounce gloves. He didn't want to look too ferocious, he just wanted to win. And the way he wanted to win was not making himself into the right-winger that the right wing that's supporting him really are." [39024, 39052]

On CBS, two people in a small Steubenville, Ohio focus group call Obama the winner of the debate; six declare Romney the victor. (The next day, on CBS *This Morning*, Norah O'Donnell, Charlie Rose, and Gayle King seem less than pleased with the 6–2 result.) [39025, 39067, 39119]

A CNN poll shows Obama winning the debate 48–40 over Romney—but 60 percent consider Romney capable of being commander in chief. Amazingly, only 63 percent said the same of Obama. (One would think that the person already in that position should garner the support of more than 63 percent.) About 25 percent said the debate helped them decide to vote for Romney; 24 percent said the debate makes them more inclined to vote for Obama. In a CBS poll, Obama is considered the debate winner 53–23, but 49 percent state they would trust Romney as president. In a Public Policy Polling survey, "...independents by a 55–40 percent margin felt Obama won the debate, [yet] they became more likely to vote for Romney (47 more likely—35 less likely) than Obama (32 more likely—48 less likely)." (Obama may have won the battle, but Romney may have won the war. Voters have decided that Romney is an acceptable alternative to Obama, and that he is not the mean-spirited, evil, felon depicted in \$300 million worth of Obama attack ads.) [39035, 39058, 39071, 39072]

Soledad O'Brien hosts a focus group on CNN and asks, "How many of you changed your mind based upon tonight's debate?" But O'Brien does *not* ask then who they will vote for, saying it is a "private matter." (NationalReview.com's Jonah Goldberg asks, "Why on earth have a focus group and not ask them that? Who agrees to participate in such a group without expecting that question? What kind of journalist thinks that way? It was one of the strangest things I've seen in a long while. Update: I'm being told that this is actually CNN's standard policy for focus groups, which I think is just plain crazy.") [39059, 39060]

Obama strategist David Axelrod states, "[T]his race is exactly the race we said we're in. When polls were irrationally exuberant, I said the race was going to be a close race. Anybody who's heard what I said of the last year and a half... was that, you know, we won with 53 percent of the vote last time with all the wind at our back and this was going to be a closer race. This race is basically the race that we expected. But if you look state by state, we're doing well in these battleground states. Are they close? Yes. That's why they're called battleground states." [39034]

At NationalReview.com Eliana Johnson observes, "While Governor Romney spoke, ...Obama gave him an icy stare, often for minutes on end. ...The split screen was not [Obama's] friend." (Obama had less hatred in his eyes than in the second debate, but it is clear that he cannot stand Romney—or anyone else who would dare question his actions or judgment.) [39047]

On CNN, David Gergen says, "I think Mitt Romney did something very important to his campaign tonight. He passed the commander in chief test." Journalist Judith Miller adds, "What would have killed him was gaffe-gate. One mistake, one Gerald Ford moment of

Poland not being in the Warsaw Pact. And he was not about to let that happen. ...[Romney] reassured people who fear a return to a more aggressive path. People are sick of war, and I think he did that. He reassured people that he is as steady in foreign policy as he did in domestic policy. I think he passed that test.” [39103]

Also at NationalReview.com, Francis “Bing” West, Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan, writes, “Only gradually did it become clear that the Romney strategy was not to fight, but to woo. The difference between the genders in the choice of candidates has been striking, and Romney’s performance would lead no reasonable undecided voter, female or male, to worry he was too bellicose. Neither side offered a serious foreign-policy agenda. Mr. Romney, who had much more to lose if he appeared too tough, did not lose ground in the overall presidential race. Mr. Obama did not gain ground. The debate did not make a difference; so on balance, Mr. Romney came out ahead.” [39048]

HotAir.com observes, “Another point made more than once in the national tweet scrum tonight was that it sometimes felt like Romney was the incumbent and Obama the angry, occasionally snide challenger. That’s a byproduct, I’m sure, of Team Mitt rehearsing very carefully to capture [the right tone]. Romney wanted to show the audience not just that he understands Afghanistan, Syria, and Iran, but that he’s unflappable even in a tense situation. Obama wasn’t facing that test so he could afford to be more aggressive, if only to impress his base. Because he was playing offense, I’ll bet that he wins the insta-polls. But that won’t matter; the bottom line is that Romney’s still on track.” [39059]

Conservative author and columnist Ann Coulter sends a Twitter message: “I highly approve of Romney’s decision to be kind and gentle to the retard.” (The comment immediately outrages liberals, as well as conservatives who assume it will be used against Romney. Coulter might be wise to respond, “I meant Bob Schieffer, not Obama.”) [39092, 39132]

Desperate media leftists laughably come to Obama’s defense, claiming that he did not, as Romney said in the debate, go on an “apology tour”—because Obama did not use the words, “apology” or “I’m sorry” in his speeches. (The media excuse is tantamount to saying a sportscaster is lying if he claims, “The Yankees beat the Red Sox” because the team was only defeated and not actually “beaten” with a stick or a club, or a weather forecaster is lying when she says, “The coast is getting hammered by the storm” because the storm only involved rain and wind and not hammers.) [39078, 39083, 39091]

On October 23, Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–46 in Rasmussen’s Daily Presidential Tracking Poll. Rasmussen notes, “Other than brief convention bounces, this is the first time either candidate has led by more than three points in months. ...Romney attracts support from 89% of Republican voters. [Obama] earns the vote from 82% of Democrats. Among those not affiliated with either major party, the GOP challenger leads by nine.” [39018, 39056]

On NBC's *Today*, Joe Biden says Mitt Romney is "...a good man, he's a decent man, but [in the debate] he demonstrated an overwhelming lack of understanding of the international community, he demonstrated a lack of understanding in the military. ...Barack Obama, I was chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, he was on my Foreign Relations Committee for four years. He demonstrated a grasp and a gravity, he had a worldview of where America's position should be, how we should interact in the world, how we needed to rebuild alliances, etcetera, etcetera. He's acted on those from the time he came in. Governor Romney didn't demonstrate any breadth of understanding... Gov. Romney showed absolutely no vision of what he thought America's place in the world should be. ...I would be dumbfounded if... they [the voters] thought he had demonstrated a command of the international circumstances and America's vision of the world, that he would be a credible commander-in-chief." [39120]

Obama begins a six-state campaign tour of Nevada, Colorado, Florida, Ohio, Iowa, and Virginia. [39031]

Romney leads 50–45 in Rasmussen's Daily Swing State Tracking Poll. In Iowa, moves up to tie Obama 48–48. [39019, 39020]

Romney leads Obama 49–48 in a Washington Post/ABC poll. [39113, 39114]

CNN reports, "Restore Our Future, the Super PAC supporting Mitt Romney, has reserved television airtime in Maine beginning later this week, according to a Republican source tracking media buys. The group plans to air \$300,000 worth of ads in the Bangor, Presque Isle and Portland-Auburn markets, the latter of which also covers parts of New Hampshire, from Oct. 25 through Oct. 29. The move suggests Romney allies see Maine's 2nd Congressional District, which encompasses the state's northern reaches, as fertile ground for the Republican. Maine allocates its electoral votes by congressional district, and winning a single vote there could be a factor in a tight race." [39115]

HotAir.com reports that the Romney campaign is considering running a 30-minute "infomercial" in key states. Meanwhile, "Obama's running a 30-minute ad this week too, in the guise of a half-hour MTV interview to air this Friday [October 26]. The network's also invited Romney but it's O whose chances depend upon turning out young voters. Awfully nice of Viacom to give him a pipeline right before the election." [39116, 39117]

The Fox News Channel's Megyn Kelly reports that many left-leaning journalists approved when Obama delivered his "horses and bayonets" line during the debate. Kelly states, "I was in the spin room in Boca when [Obama] made that comment and I can tell you that the media literally erupted around me—laughing and many clapping." [39053, 39054]

An estimated 53.9 million Americans watched the third debate, the reduced number of viewers likely the result of competing football and baseball games on other networks.

[39054]

Obama releases yet another fundraising email: “I don’t want to lose this election. Not because of what losing would mean for me—Michelle and I will be fine no matter what happens. But because of what it would mean for our country and middle-class families. This race is very close. I’m not willing to watch the progress you and I worked so hard to achieve be undone. Time is running out to make an impact—please don’t wait any longer. Donate \$5 or more today... I believe in you. If you stick with me, and if we fight harder than ever for the next two weeks, I truly believe we can’t lose. Thank you, Barack P.S.—I don’t know what Election Night will hold, but I’d like you to be a part of the event here in Chicago. Any donation you make today automatically enters you for a chance to meet me—airfare and hotel for you and a guest are covered.” [39057, 39058]

The Associated Press reports, “The vice president is midway through a three-day tour of uber-battleground Ohio, and Obama’s team contends it’s best way of ensuring victory is a win there. The campaign says internal polling gives Obama a lead in the Midwestern battleground state, in large part because of the popularity of [Obama’s] bailout of the auto industry. But even if Obama loses Ohio, his campaign sees another pathway to the presidency by nailing New Hampshire, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nevada and Colorado.” (At NationalReview.com Michael Know Beran observes, “That the Obama camp is even talking about losing Ohio is a stunning turn of events. No wonder, then, that Romney seemed like the man who was winning last night. When he spoke, you thought ‘energy in the executive.’ When Obama spoke, the words that came to mind were ‘fatigue,’ ‘apathy,’ ‘frustration.’ In his closing statement [Obama] was clearly rattled, lamely reciting talking points we’ve heard too often before, not even pretending to care about what he was saying—simply wanting it to be over. It was as though a light had gone out. Was he disconcerted by the smoothness of Romney’s performance? Or is his campaign’s internal polling in Ohio less pretty than his people are letting on?”) [39069]

Also at NationalReview.com, Yuval Levin writes, “It was absolutely clear that both candidates understood that this debate was entirely about Mitt Romney. Romney’s only goal was to seem presidential, and Obama’s only goal was to make Romney seem not presidential. By that measure, Romney clearly achieved his aim and Obama clearly did not. Romney did this by treating this debate very differently than the other two. He didn’t really try to score points, and he wasn’t afraid to express agreement with Obama, which he did remarkably often. His goal was to answer every question with a calm, responsible attitude and convey sobriety and level-headedness. The calculation must have been pretty simple: voters are not greatly concerned with foreign policy this year, but they wouldn’t elect someone they don’t trust on foreign policy. So having clearly conveyed his differences with Obama on domestic issues and his own domestic agenda, Romney merely needed to be a plausible commander in chief—to convey deep knowledge and the right attitude, to avoid getting rattled, to deny Obama the chance to label him a war monger or an amateur, and to waive off attacks on himself by returning to his core domestic message and reminding voters that [Obama] is running on nothing.” [39070]

Former CIA Director and retired four-star general Michael Hayden agrees with Mitt Romney's debate statement that a nuclear Iran is the greatest threat to America's national security—not a terrorist attack. Hayden tells Newsmax.TV, "I have been giving speeches now for three and a half years since I left the government. The general theme of the speech is what things keep you awake at night, and for three and a half years I have begun with Iran, a nuclear Iran, and pointed out that of all the things I left when I left the government, the one that has gotten increasingly dark, increasingly problematic, has been Iran. The governor's choice was the one that I have been saying since I left government, and I frankly think it is the most destabilizing trend out there, should it come to fruition and the Iranians get the nuclear capability. ...What I think the governor pointed out, what I know Congressman Ryan pointed out in his debate with the vice president, is granted that the sanctions are hard, granted the isolation of Iran is greater, but granted they have more centrifuges spinning now than they ever had and they have been able to produce four years' worth of fissile material while we are lining all these things up. One thing that shocked me in the debate last night was a thought I believe should have been mentioned, that the goal is not to punish Iran, the goal is to make Iran change its mind. If you understand that is your goal, you are no closer to that than you were a week, a month, a year, or four years ago. Yes they are suffering, but they have not changed their minds. That's the only relevant measure." [39075]

At NorCalBlogs.com, blogger Gate speculates that Obama was wearing an earpiece in both the second and third debates with Romney—prompted by his poor performance in the first. Gate writes, "It's not a secret that Obama uses ear pieces, because there are numerous photos that show him wearing one at various functions. ...Looking at Obama last night showed how he seemed attentive to something at his side but his eyes weren't moving or focused on anything. In other words, he wasn't trying to read something, but he was definitely paying attention to something to his side. I suppose listening to an earpiece would do that, since one's response might be to turn towards the sound. As I watched the debate, I almost expected him to adjust the ear piece for better hearing as he does often..." [39128]

According to RadarOnline.com, "Famed civil rights attorney Gloria Allred will be in a Boston area courtroom Wednesday in an attempt to unseal the sworn testimony given by Republican Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, in a prior court case..." A "source close to the situation" states, "The Boston Globe is headed to court tomorrow morning for an emergency hearing in an attempt to obtain a court order to unseal the sworn testimony given by Mitt Romney in a prior court case and to lift a gag order so that the parties can speak about Romney. Gloria Allred will be in court representing one of the parties in the case." (Romney's testimony was in the 1991 divorce proceedings of Staples founder Tom Stemberg. The testimony was non-controversial—it related only to the value of stock that was part of the divorce settlement. Allred is now representing Maureen Sullivan Stemberg—who received 250,000 shares of Staples stock in the settlement. According to Fox News, Allred met with Obama after an October 7 fundraiser. In addition to being an ambulance-chasing, self-promoting, celebrity hound, Allred was also a delegate to the Democrat National Convention—and an attorney for the plaintiff in *Roe v. Wade* in the early 1970s.) The judge allows Romney's 1991 testimony to be released but refuses to

remove the confidentiality agreement in the divorce case. That leaves Allred with nothing but bland testimony about the differences between Bain Venture Capital, Bain Capital Partners, and Bain & Company, Inc. [39076, 39136, 39140, 39142, 39164, 39226, 39362]

According to the State Journal-Register in Springfield, Illinois, the Obama campaign still owes the city \$55,457 for police protection (160 officers and nine civilians) for a 2008 campaign visit. [39131]

Yahoo News reports, “In a new TV ad, ...Obama makes an inflated claim to have added 5.2 million new jobs. The total added during his time in office is actually about 325,000. In the ad, [Obama] says ‘over 5 million new jobs’ while the figure ‘5.2 million’ appears on screen. But that’s a doubly misleading figure. Viewers would need to pay close attention to the on-screen graphic to know that the ad refers only to employment gains starting in March 2010, omitting the 4.3 million jobs that were lost in the first year of Obama’s term. And there’s no way a viewer would know that the total counts only private-sector jobs, omitting continuing losses in government employment. According to the most recent employment figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the economy has eked out a net gain of 325,000 jobs since January 2009, when Obama took office.” (Although the ad’s message is *intended* to be uplifting—“There’s just no quit in America, and you’re seeing that right now”—Obama appears somber, weary, and almost dejected.) [39077, 39058]

Although Obama has a big lead over Mitt Romney among Hispanic voters nationally, DailyCaller.com reports that in Florida Romney leads Obama “49 percent to 46 percent among Latino voters.” [39100]

Some early voters in Guilford County, North Carolina complain that when they tried to vote for Mitt Romney the electronic voting machine defaulted to Obama’s name. The county’s Board of Elections Director, George Gilbert, says, “It’s not a conspiracy it’s just a machine that needs to be corrected.” (A similar situation was reported in Las Vegas.) [39093, 39126, 39166, 39167]

At an Obama campaign event in Delray Beach, Florida, CNN’s Jessica Yellin comments on Obama’s “new plan.” “[H]e put this out before; he’s just never put it out in a booklet like this. We heard these same details at the democratic convention. We’ve heard them from his mouth on the campaign stump for days and months and weeks and so my point is there is not anything significantly new in here. It’s just all compiled in a nice booklet now, so we get the point that there is something...” (NationalReview.com’s editors call it “...a ridiculous little 20-page pamphlet—20 pages with lots of pictures... Apparently, Obama’s second term is to be a more or less precise repeat of his first term. In fact, the sixth item on his seven-point list merely touts Obamacare, which, if memory serves, already has been passed. He also wants to add six-figure numbers to the headcounts of the public-sector unions that finance and staff his campaign. And build batteries. There’s no picture of the batteries, but there are 17 photographs of [Obama], most of them centerfolds. In fact, photographs of [Obama] gazing down benevolently upon children,



doctors, oldsters, and one guy with a baseball cap on sideways account for about 80 percent of the space in the booklet. That is appropriate, inasmuch as the Obama campaign, like the Obama presidency, is not about jobs or economic growth: It is about Barack Obama.” Two weeks before the election Obama finally spells out his second-term agenda—and there is nothing in it but tax increases on small businesses and families that earn at least \$250,000, more spending on bridges and roads, hiring more teachers, and more “investment” in “green” energy—and photos of him. Immigration and entitlement reform are not mentioned.) [39090, 39133, 39154, 39170, 39201, 39204, 39289]

Obama criticizes Romney’s changing policy stances: “Now, we’ve come up with a name for this condition. It’s called Romnesia. Obama: We had a severe outbreak last night [in the debate]. It was at least stage three Romnesia. And I just want to go over with you some of the symptoms, Delray, because I want to make sure nobody in the surrounding area catches it. If you say that you love American cars during a debate, but you wrote an article titled, ‘Let Detroit Go Bankrupt,’ you might have Romnesia.” (How well Obama’s childish ridicule will go over with cancer patients who do not want to be reminded of “stages” is not known.) [39177]

At Colorado’s Red Rocks amphitheatre, 25,000 supporters show up at a Romney-Ryan event. The facility can only hold about 10,000. DenverPost.com reports, “Traffic leading into Red Rocks [was] gridlocked in the hours before the event. The lines to go through security and enter the venue wound through the parking lots. It was the Romney campaign’s biggest rally in Colorado by far...” Supporter Terri Miller says, “I think even the Republicans in the state have underestimated support for Romney.” Obama campaign spokeswoman Lis Smith releases a statement: “The Mitt Romney we saw tonight in Colorado was dour, defensive, and dishonest—and it’s no surprise why. Last night, he was exposed as reckless and wrong on foreign policy and failed to present any specific plans for what he’d do as president.” [39088, 39089, 39097, 39183, 39211]

NWDailyMarker.com reports, “Democrats on the bottom of the ticket in Washington state all the way to the very top are caught in a pickle. Stand against religious bigotry or give back some \$60,000 in state campaign cash contributed by world-famous spiritual channeler JZ Knight after videos showing Knight preaching hatred of Catholics became public. ...Knight is seen and heard on video to let loose a profanity-strewn rant against Catholics and has been a frequent and generous contributor to Democrats here in Washington and at the national level. Knight’s contributions to Democrat at all levels total more than \$120,000 for the current election cycle. ...According to Federal Election Commission records, Knight personally gave a total of \$60,800 to the Democratic National Committee in the 2012 election cycle, gave \$5,800 to the Obama Victory Fund and has maxed out on individual donations (\$5,000) to ...Obama’s re-election campaign.” A photo accompanying the article shows Obama greeting Knight at a September 25, 2011 event in Seattle, Washington. Knight’s statements include, “Fuck you, you Catholics! ... We will come on you in a terror. ... We will bring... St. Peter’s temple down and we will swallow it in the sea.” (A spokesman for Knight says her statements were “taken out of context and not meant to disparage Catholics.” Her vile

anti-Jew statements were perhaps also “taken out of context.”) [39223, 39224]

In *The Telegraph*, historian Dr. Tim Stanley writes that Obama’s debate “performance was rude and un-presidential. Obama seemed to have a touch of the Bidens, wriggling about in his chair, waving his hands dismissively and always—always—smirking in Romney’s direction. By contrast, Romney sucked up the abuse and retained a rigid poker face all night. He looked like a Commander in Chief; Obama looked like a lawyer. Who would you rather vote for? ... We also have to judge this debate as part of the narrative arc of this season. Romney won the first debate by a mile. Because Romney’s win was so decisive, it sparked an image change: Americans started to think of him as presidential material. That’s why Obama winning the second debate by an inch made little impact – people were watching Romney not to see him land punches but to see how well he could take them. He won the third debate because, by the end of the night, his and Obama’s positions in the narrative arc had switched. Romney now looks like the President and Obama looks like the challenger.” [39084]

At CBSNews.com Sharyl Attkisson reports, “CBS News has obtained email alerts that were put out by the State Department as the attack [in Benghazi] unfolded. ... These emails contain the earliest description so far of what happened at Benghazi the night of the attack. At 4:05 p.m. Eastern time, on September 11, an alert from the State Department Operations Center was issued to a number of government and intelligence agencies. Included were the White House Situation Room, the office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the FBI. ‘US Diplomatic Mission in Benghazi Under Attack’—‘approximately 20 armed people fired shots; explosions have been heard as well. Ambassador Stevens, who is currently in Benghazi, and four COM (Chief of Mission/embassy) personnel are in the compound safe haven.’ At 4:54 p.m., less than an hour later, another alert: ‘the firing... in Benghazi... has stopped... A response team is on site attempting to locate COM (embassy) personnel.’ Then, at 6:07 p.m., State sent out another alert saying the embassy in Tripoli reported the Islamic military group ‘Ansar al-Sharia Claims Responsibility for Benghazi Attack’ ... on Facebook and Twitter and has called for an attack on Embassy Tripoli.’ The emails are just a few in what are likely a large number traded throughout the night. They are likely to become part of the ongoing political debate over whether the administration attempted to mislead in saying the assault was an outgrowth of a protest, rather than a planned attack by terrorists.” [39082, 39205]

Reuters reports, “Officials at the White House and State Department were advised two hours after attackers assaulted the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11 that an Islamic militant group had claimed credit for the attack, official emails show. The emails, obtained by Reuters from government sources not connected with U.S. spy agencies or the State Department and who requested anonymity, specifically mention that the Libyan group called Ansar al-Sharia had asserted responsibility for the attacks.” (The Obama administration knew from the beginning it was a terrorist attack—even while the attack was taking place—yet spent almost two weeks blaming an anti-video demonstration that had escalated. Obama lied to the

American people for purely political purposes. At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reminds readers of Obama's October 16 debate comment: "The suggestion that anybody on my team would play politics or mislead when we've lost four of our own, Governor, is offensive... That's not what I do... That's not what I do as commander-in-chief." It is, of course, *exactly* what he did.) [39080, 39087, 39099, 39111, 39121, 39125, 39205]

At Gretawire, Greta Van Susteren adds to the Reuters story: "Ansar al Sharia has been declared by the State Department to be an al Qaeda affiliated group. The emails were sent by the State Department to ...a variety of redacted national security platforms including the White House Situation Room, the Pentagon, the FBI, the Director of National Intelligence and the State Department. Fox is told that approximately 300-400 national security figures received these emails in real time almost as the raid was playing out and concluding. Fox is told that figures directly receiving these emails work directly underneath the nation's top national security, military and diplomatic officials. The first email indicates that Ambassador Chris Stevens and other personnel were 'in the compound safe haven.'" At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller calls the emails "More damning evidence of Obama's impeachable crimes." [39081, 39085]

At PJMedia.com, Bryan Preston writes, "It's not just that the White House Situation Room received these emails. The military or the CIA deployed a drone [reportedly an armed Predator drone] to monitor the battle from above, and the evidence strongly suggests that Obama himself and probably the vice president and some of his top intel lieutenants were watching that feed. Eli Lake reported that the drone monitored at least the last hour of the battle. So Obama was in the Situation Room, with those emails on his screen, and that video feed on the monitor. The ambassador was missing. This was the heaviest night of Obama's presidency since the mission that killed Osama bin Laden, but with the added twist of the missing Americans and the huge known known—we had no military on the ground or on the way to help them. And Obama went to bed to get some shut-eye. Then the next day, he learned that Stevens and three others had been killed. He may have seen one or more of the defenders die. But that next day he blamed a movie for what he had seen the night before. And then he skipped his intelligence briefing, again, and went to Vegas." [39125]

On *The David Letterman Show*, host David Letterman—an obvious Obama supporter—nevertheless expresses disappointment that Obama had "taken liberties" with his debate comments about Mitt Romney's 2008 New York times editorial about bankruptcy proceedings for the auto industry. "Here's what upset me last night," Letterman tells guest Rachel Maddow of MSNBC, "this playing fast and loose with facts. And ...Obama cites the op-ed piece that Romney wrote about Detroit... Now, I don't care whether you're Republican or Democrat, you want your president to be telling the truth; you want the contender to be lying. And so what we found out today or soon thereafter that, in fact, that ...Obama was not telling the truth about what was excerpted from that op-ed piece. I felt discouraged. ...[T]he fact [that Obama] is invoking it and swearing that he was right and that Romney was wrong and I thought, well, he's the president of course he's right. Well, it turned out no, he was taking liberties with that." (Why Letterman believed

Obama had previously always been telling the truth is not known.) [39107, 39151]

On October 24 Donald Trump releases a video in which he states, “I have a deal for [Obama], a deal that I don’t believe he can refuse, and I hope he doesn’t. If Barack Obama opens up and gives his college records and applications, and if he gives his passport applications and records, I will give to a charity of his choice—inner city children in Chicago, American Cancer Society, AIDS research, anything he wants—a check immediately for \$5 million. ...Once caveat: the records must be given by October 31 at 5 o’clock in the afternoon. ...not only will I be happy, and totally satisfied, but the American people will be happy.” (The \$5 million offer—which Obama will certainly ignore and ridicule—is apparently the “big announcement” Trump had promised. Some have speculated that the announcement would relate to evidence that Obama had sold cocaine while in college, or that Obama and his wife had begun divorce proceeding before he ran for public office. Neither of those stories is new.) [39094, 39109, 39112]

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton responds to questions about the release of September 11 emails that show the Obama administration knew almost immediately what was happening in Benghazi: “Look, I’ve said it, and I’ll say it one more time, uh, no one wants to find out what happened more than I do. We are holding ourselves accountable, uh, to the American people, um, because not only they but our brave diplomats, uh, and development experts serving in dangerous places around the world deserve, uh, no less. The Independent Accountability, uh Review Board is already hard at work looking at everything—not cherry-picking, you know, one story here, or one document there, but looking at everything, which I [laughing] *highly* recommend as the appropriate approach to something as complex as, uh, an attack like this.” (What Clinton found amusing is not known, although some may assume she knows that a fair amount of cherry-picking will, in fact, take place.) “Um, you now, posting something on Facebook, uh, is not in and of itself evidence. Uh, and I think it just underscores how fluid the reporting, uh, was at the time and continued for some time to be.” (Technically, a terrorist group taking credit for the Benghazi attack via a posting on Facebook is, in fact, *evidence*—although it may not be conclusive *proof*. The administration is arguing that it is inappropriate to blame the attack on terrorists in al-Qaeda or Ansar al-Sharia until “all the facts are known.” Yet the administration was eager to blame the attack on an anti-video demonstration and have a movie producer arrested long before it had assembled all the facts—and continued to blame the video even after the facts showed that to be wrong.) [39143, 39144, 39145, 39178]

White House press secretary Jay Carney responds to the news that emails from Benghazi show the intelligence agencies immediately knew it was a terrorist attack by telling reporters, “There was a variety of information coming in. The whole point of an intelligence community and what they do is to assess strands of information and make judgments about what happened and who was responsible.” (ABC’s Jake Tapper notes that on September 14 Carney stated, “[W]e have no information to suggest that it was a preplanned attack.” In fact, the White House knew almost immediately. With the lies now being exposed, Carney’s response is essentially, “We get a lot of emails.”) [39095,

39096]

HotAir.com translates the White House spin on the Reuters email report: “If I understand the White House’s Benghazi narrative in its current form, it boils down to this. There was no protest, but the attack was still kinda sorta spontaneous insofar as it was inspired by what was happening at the embassy in Cairo. And it wasn’t an official Al Qaeda or Ansar al-Sharia operation, even though members of AQIM and Ansar al-Sharia—including the founder of the latter group—were on the scene and/or participating. Essentially, the White House wants you to believe that members of two prominent jihadist paramilitary groups were kicking around on September 11 when one of them turned on the TV, heard about the Mohammed movie from coverage of the Egyptian embassy assault, and decided to quickly pull together a complex, heavily-armed attack on the local U.S. consulate involving 20 or so people. Never mind that there had been harassment of, and attacks on, western interests in the city for months; these guys apparently had no serious designs on [Ambassador] Chris Stevens or his compatriots until they heard about the YouTube video and hulked out in the form of an organized armed raid. The only thing that makes this story plausible is that security for Stevens at the compound was so disgracefully poor that hardened jihadis probably could have drawn up a play in the dirt outside the building and gotten to the ambassador. That’s Obama’s defense here, essentially—that the consulate was so easily breached thanks to threadbare protection for Stevens that it’s quite possible the whole thing was put together by amateurs, without planning.” [39111]

At PJMedia.com Bryan Preston reports “Despite the fact that the emails show clearly that knowledge of Ansar al-Sharia’s claim to have launched the attack reached the highest levels of the government, the White House is insisting that that was but one piece of information obtained that night. The emails reached the very top of the Obama administration. ...CBS has previously reported that not only was there a Predator drone monitoring the battle as it played out, but that there were multiple reconnaissance aircraft on the scene. Any Predators on the scene were probably armed with Hellfire missiles, as Predators have been used in the Libya conflict and around the Middle East to eliminate terrorist leaders and suspects as the opportunities to do so have arisen. Additionally, there were AC-130 gunships and other military assets within reasonable striking distance, but none were ordered in to relieve the besieged consulate. So far there is no indication that a fire order was ever given for the Predator(s). Fox reported Tuesday that the attackers used accurate mortar fire to support their infantry assault of the compound, indicating a high level of organization, scouting and other pre-planning and pre-positioning prior to the attack. ...The Obama administration has floated a claim that it ordered no relief ...because it did not have the permission of the Libyan government to send aircraft to the scene. The Libyan government, such as it is in the post-Gaddafi chaos, has said that it did grant permission to enter its airspace. Then there is the matter of the recon aircraft which were reportedly already on the scene.” [39144]

Sarah Palin writes at Facebook: “As I mentioned on ‘On the Record’ last night, there is breaking news that just two hours after the September 11th attacks on our consulate in Benghazi, the White House and State Department knew that an Islamic terrorist group

with ties to al Qaeda claimed credit for the attack. We now know that the State Department sent an email to the White House, the Pentagon, the FBI and others in the intelligence community about this Islamist group claiming responsibility. And yet for days afterwards the White House and State Department led everyone to believe that the attack was the result of a spontaneous protest over an obscure YouTube video that had been uploaded months prior. Anywhere from 300 to 400 people from the administration and our intelligence community would have seen that email. Why the lies? Why the cover up? Why the dissembling about the cause of the murder of our ambassador on the anniversary of the worst terrorist attacks on American soil? We deserve answers to this. ...Obama's shuck and jive shtick with these Benghazi lies must end." (On MSNBC, Chris Matthews predictably defends Obama and calls Palin's remarks racist. Palin responds that Matthews himself, as well as New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and White House press secretary Jay Carney have used the term "shuck and jive." Palin adds, "I would appreciate it if the media refrained from using words and phrases like igloo, Eskimo Pie, and 'when hell freezes over,' as they might be considered offensive by my extended Alaska Native family." Palin concludes, "Mr. Matthews, let me share with you my favorite Irish toast: 'May we always be happy, and may our enemies always know it.')" [39146, 39153, 39165]

The Ulsterman Report interviews the White House insider, who states, "Benghazi story now breaking out even bigger [with reports of emails showing almost immediate White House understanding that it was a terrorist attack and not an anti-video demonstration]. As promised. I was pissed the governor [Romney] did not push the issue during last debate. Now I understand. I was not in the loop on that but that's okay. Very smart move by the campaign. Don't count on media falling over themselves to make this a headline though. That will be done with them kicking and screaming. And read that first report carefully. [The CBS report by Sharyl Attkisson appears to be the first report of the emails, although the Reuters report has the more provocative headline.] And then smile. The Old Man [probably the Wall Street insider] made this happen. At least some of it. It's pretty much spelled out in first report. He's got to have logged about 30,000 miles in the last month alone. Don't know how he's doing it health-wise. But he is. Thank God. ...Let the roll-out complete itself. Then we watch and wait. Need enough in media to confirm, question, and then demand WH [White House] response. That will take about 48 [hours] to complete. Cannot guarantee success, but like our odds. It's the timeline that is so offensive. Security could have been deployed within 3 hours. At the most is what I was told. Three hours. There was a seven hour gunfight. With a break in between. Simple math. The ambassador and the other three could have been saved. Obama let them die. And I go back to why. What the f-ck were they covering up out there in Libya? That's the info I really wish I had but for now, the emails are what we got and they sure as hell pin the Obama WH to the wall on this thing." (The leaked emails will further erode Obama's chances of winning reelection, and are clearly retaliation for his efforts to blame everyone but himself for the Benghazi fiasco. *The Obama Timeline* assumes that Ambassador Stevens was in Benghazi to facilitate the location of weapons from the Gaddafi regime so that they could be transferred to Syria to fight the Assad regime. That meant Stevens was dealing with members of al-Qaeda or one of its affiliates, as well as other jihadists. Obama clearly placed Stevens in danger—and had to concoct the anti-Islam video story

to hide the truth.) [39098, 39080]

On the status of the election, the White House insider says, “Momentum. Momentum. Momentum. We got it. They don’t. There is some feedback circling the drain from the Obama side. Operatives saying they are going to lose this thing. When people in the campaign start to voice that stuff enough that the other side is hearing it, that gives you a snapshot of where the campaigns are really at. I put the governor’s chances at 70 percent right now. Did you notice the Oregon news? I told you the internals on that about two weeks ago, right? Nobody in the media saw that coming. Now they are confirming Oregon is in play. Oregon! [Note: In August 2011 *The Obama Timeline* suggested that Oregon was moving away from Obama.] And there is a ton more like that on the map. And the Obama campaign knows it. We’re feeding it to them. A little here and there. Pissing in their cheerios every morning. Hey look guys! Now Pennsylvania is trending Romney. Enjoy the rest of your day now. They don’t know where to go from here. Having to borrow money. Obama has about seven maybe eight states locked up. That is it. And now whole ton of leaners in play. If the momentum holds for Romney I’m calling it now. LANDSLIDE. ...The only way Obama wins this election is to steal it. Period. ...Fraud. Intimidation. All that foreign money I know is coming in. Anything they can think of.” [39098]

The White House insider notes stories of voting machine fraud and remarks, “Not only did he [the Old Man] review that information it lit a fire under his ass. There was a meeting. Five of them. Five of the biggest motherf-ckers on the planet. Talking old school sh-t here. Old World sh-t. Planets colliding. You get the picture. ...[George] Soros. ...Just picture it in your head. Five fingers pointing down at Soros and telling him to sit the f-ck down. That there wouldn’t be any of that bullsh-t this time. This time he just shuts the f-ck up and counts the money they let him keep. [In other words, Wall Street honchos told Soros not to interfere with the election or engineer a last-minute financial crisis, as some believe he did in 2008.] ...Just keep watching for the Benghazi roll out-over the next 48. Should damage Obama big time. All of it together. Momentum. Momentum. Momentum. We got it. They don’t. Don’t forget about the riots after the election. They got that in the bin. A little legacy salvage campaign. Got it confirmed a few more times since I told you about it before. Watch Obama call for calm. Unite the country. All that bullsh-t. Hopefully someone will catch sense enough to call it off because people will get hurt. People will die. But with this administration, they don’t give a f-ck about any of that.” [39098]

Obama and Mitt Romney are tied 48–48 in a Rasmussen poll in Ohio. HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “Overall, there are a few key indicators. Romney has a slight edge on favorability at +6 (51/46) while Obama’s at zero (49/49). Romney is up seven for trust on the economy (51/44), with the exact same numbers on energy. Obama has a slight edge on national security at 50/46, but that’s within the margin of error—a big problem for an incumbent... More people say that the economy is getting worse rather than better (41/35), and they are more pessimistic about a second Obama term than a first Romney term in that regard. If Obama gets re-elected, slightly more people expect the economy to

worsen rather than improve (37/40), but Romney optimism prevails by 10 points (46/36). I'd say that this state looks ready to break narrowly into Romney's column. Voters are clearly not sold on Obamanomics, and a final push by Team Romney on the issues of the economy and energy policy could win the state this week and next. One thing is for sure: Obama's debate performance didn't provide him any lift the next day in Ohio." [39101, 39108]

At Ricochet.com Rick Wilson writes, "Romney is drawing astounding crowds at event after event... This story is repeated almost daily: Romney is drawing the kind of crowds Barack Obama pulled in 2008. ...Obama is largely reduced to trawling college campuses for political jailbait, stroking the shreds of his coalition in the increasingly desperate hope of getting at least a few salvageable video clips out of each day. Big Bird, binders, and bayonets don't comprise a sweeping vision of a second Obama term and it shows. Vice-President Malaprop wanders Ohio diners, touching people's food and getting biker chicks to sit in his lap. It's a campaign in trouble, and they know it." [39290]

James O'Keefe of Project Veritas releases undercover video showing Patrick Moran, field director of the reelection campaign for his father, Congressman James Moran (D-VA), discussing how fake utility bills could be used to enable Democrat operatives to vote under someone else's name. In the video Moran says, "So, if they just have the utility bill or bank statement—bank statement would obviously be tough... but faking a utility bill would be easy enough." Moran cautions that the forged documents "gotta look good." (Moran later claims, "At no point did I take this person seriously. He struck me as being unstable and joking, and for only that reason did I humor him. In hindsight, I should have immediately walked away, making it clear that there is no place in the electoral process for even the suggestion of illegal behavior, joking or not." Before the end of the day he resigns from his position in order to avoid "distraction during this year's critical election. Whether he will be rehired on November 7 is not known.) [39102, 39127, 39134, 39135, 39152, 39162, 39181, 39275]

Campaigning in Iowa, Obama criticizes Mitt Romney for changing his opinions on issues and says, "There's no more serious issue on [sic] a presidential campaign than trust. Trust matters. And... and... and here's the thing. I was... you know me. You know, you know that I, I say what I mean. And I mean what I say. There... there're some folks in this crowd who [sic] probably been following me since I was running for the United States Senate. ...And... and... you know, you can take a video tape of things I said 10 years ago, 12 year ago, and you can say, 'Hey, this is the same guy.' Has the same values. Cares about the same people. Doesn't forget where he came from. Knows who he's fighting for." (BuzzFeed.com quickly assembles a list of issues on which Obama has changed positions, including weapons bans, gay marriage, decriminalizing marijuana, ending the embargo of Cuba, cracking down on businesses that hire illegal immigrants, hiding behind Executive Privilege, and an individual mandate to buy health insurance. *Timeline* readers can certainly think of many others.) [39245, 39246]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–46 in the Rasmussen Daily Presidential Tracking Poll.



Romney leads 50–47 in Gallup’s 7-day rolling average poll covering October 17–23). [39104, 39105]

Romney leads Obama 50–48 in a Rasmussen poll in New Hampshire. Obama leads 51–46 in Minnesota—a state he won by 10 points in 2008. Obama leads 52–45 in Connecticut, which he won 60–38 in 2008. Also in Connecticut, U.S. Senate candidates Linda McMahon (R) and Chris Murphy (D) are tied 44–44 in a Mason-Dixon poll of likely voters. [39122, 39123, 39124, 39148]

The American Crossroads political action committee releases a pro-Romney ad featuring actor Clint Eastwood saying, “In the last few years America’s been knocked down. Twenty-three million people can’t find full-time work, and we borrow \$4 billion every single day—much of it from China. If someone doesn’t get the job done, you’ve got to hold him accountable. Obama’s second term would be a re-run of the first and our country just couldn’t survive that. We need someone who could turn it around fast, and that man is Mitt Romney. There’s not much time left, and the future of our country is at stake.” The ad will run in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Virginia.” [39106, 39130]

Norma McCorvey, better known as the “Jane Roe” of *Roe v. Wade*, appears in an anti-Obama ad in Florida. McCorvey says in the ad, “I was persuaded by feminist attorneys to lie; to say that I was raped, and needed an abortion. It was all a lie. Since then, over 50 million babies have been murdered. I will take this burden to my grave. Please, don’t follow in my mistakes. Do not vote for Barack Obama. He murders babies.” (The ad includes images of aborted babies.) McCorvey was represented by attorneys Sarah Weddington, Linda Coffee, and Gloria Allred—who led the pro-abortion public relations efforts, pushing McCorvey to agree to interviews, press conferences, and other public appearances. (McCorvey later reversed her positions, embraced religion, and started speaking out against abortion.) [39186, 39187, 39188]

A poll in Michigan by Foster McCollum White Baydoun shows Obama and Mitt Romney tied 47–47. [39137]

Congressional sources tell Fox News that “a top administration counterterrorism official was reprimanded by the White House last month after he testified that the Sept. 11 attack in Libya was terrorism.” Matt Olsen, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, told a Senate committee the four Americans in Benghazi “...were killed in the course of a terrorist attack on our embassy.” Olsen was then told to “tone it down.” The White House denies the charge. [39138]

CNSNews.com asks the White House, “When did [Obama] first meet with the National Security Council after the Benghazi attack on 9/11/12?” and “When did White House staff first discuss the substance of the e-mails that went to the White House with the President or with the National Security Advisor?” National Security Staff aide Debbie

Bird responds, “I have been asked by one of our spokespeople to relay ‘that we decline to comment.’” [39141, 39198]

According to CanadaFreePress.com, the Obama administration has placed off-limits half of the 23 million acre Naval Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) established by President Warren G. Harding in 1923 for the purpose of providing oil for U.S. Navy ships. “In December 2011, the Obama Administration provided 3 million acres for lease and intends to provide a total of 11.8 million acres in the NPR-A to future leasing. But, the administration’s plan only allows about half of the NPR-A to be available to new oil development. ...Placing half of the NPR-A off limits to future oil and gas development is a continuation of [Obama’s] energy policies that continue to impede domestic energy exploration and production. The administration has already put 85 percent of offshore acreage off limits through its 2012-2017 OCS leasing plan, placed Federal lands in the west off limits, imposed and proposed more regulation on energy production, and called for more taxation of the domestic oil and natural gas industry.” [39147, 39355]

Breitbart.com reports, “The Obama campaign has finally released the transcript of his endorsement interview with the *Des Moines Register*—and it is clear why they were reluctant to do so: [Obama] says he has ‘absolutely’ no regrets about ignoring the economy during the first two years of his term, when Democrats controlled Congress.” [39139, 39149, 39171, 39172, 39173]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Byron York reports on the Obama campaign’s focus on early voting in Ohio. York notes, “In the latest Rasmussen poll, released Wednesday, which showed the race in Ohio locked in a 48–48 tie, Obama led among early voters by ten percentage points. The problem is, that’s less of a lead than Obama had among early voters in 2008. So now, [Obama] is frantically pursuing all those sporadic voters out there, begging them to cast a ballot early. [Obama won Ohio by four points in 2008.] That’s the essence of the Obama re-election effort less than two weeks from Election Day. Team Obama knows the campaign doesn’t have the magic it had in 2008. Crowds are enthusiastic, but not over-the-top enthusiastic. Obama’s strategy is to make up the excitement gap by just grinding it out, doing the organizational work of getting the people most likely to support [Obama]—blacks, Latinos, women, the young—to vote early. By doing so, he hopes to build up a sufficient bank of votes to prevail over Romney on November 6. ...But the Romney campaign says it’s a bet Obama will lose. Scott Jennings, who is running the Romney campaign’s on-the-ground operations in Ohio, said Team Romney is matching or exceeding the Obama early-voting operation. ...The Romney campaign’s thinking is not that it has to beat, or even match, Obama in early voting here. The way they see it is that Obama won by a 20-point margin among early voters in 2008. Right now, according to Romney officials, Obama is well off his ’08 pace, and Romney is ahead of John McCain’s ’08 pace. If the early voting remains close, then Romney will win [Ohio] on November 6, when he will have a big lead among voters who actually go to the polls on the appointed day. ‘I think as mail-in ballots come in, we are going to continue to close the early-voting gap, and we are going to blow them out on Election Day,’ said Jennings.” (The Obama campaign also encourages early voting to

protect against additional Benghazi information that may harm Obama.) [39213]

In a radio interview, actor Rob Schneider says, “I’ve come around, and I’m a liberal, and I... there’s no way that I can support Obama for a second [term]... and I’ve come around to this. As a liberal, as a Democrat, there is no way that I can support Obama for a second term.” The hosts note that Obama will not be the last black president, that there will be female and Jewish presidents in our future, and that there have been “a lot of crappy white presidents in our history.” Schneider adds, “It’s a testament to this great nation that we’ve had a crappy black president.” [39160]

At Breitbart.com Joel B. Pollak reports, “CBS News has released a clip of an interview by Steve Kroft of *60 Minutes* on Sep. 12... that indicates Obama knew the assault on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya was a premeditated terror attack—and suggests the White House later deceived the public by blaming protests against an anti-Islam video. CBS chose not to air the clip for over a month—but did air Obama’s attack on Romney that same night. Obama told Kroft that the attack in Benghazi was different from the violent protest at the U.S. embassy in Cairo: ‘You’re right that this is not a situation that was exactly the same as what happened in Egypt, and my suspicion is, is that there are folks involved in this who were looking to target Americans from the start.’ Obama’s remarks pointed towards a premeditated attack, in contrast to the story the White House went on to tell for weeks. CBS chose not to air that portion of the interview with ...Obama—not even in the days and weeks that followed, when it was highly relevant—first to the question of the nature of the Benghazi attack, then to the question of whether [Obama] had in fact called it an act of terror from the start.” (CBS did air the portion of the interview in which Obama said that Mitt Romney “...seems to have a tendency to shoot first and aim later.”) Whether the White House directly influenced the editing of the *60 Minutes* program is not known, but Obama’s claim that an anti-Islam video was the cause of the Benghazi attack was *certainly made easier* by the removal of his “targeted by folks” remark from the broadcast. (*The Obama Timeline* believes that the protests in Cairo were not primarily about the anti-Islam video; they were about demanding the release of the “blind sheik,” Omar Abdul Rahman.) [39203, 39645, 39646]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on the mainstream media’s near-refusal to cover the story of emails showing the White House knew from the beginning what was happening in Benghazi: “This is really a journalistic scandal. I mean, the fact that there was not a word about any of this in the [*New York Times*] or the [*Washington Post*] today. And there was one thing that was very new and very interesting. You know, the White House has been trying to insulate itself on this the whole time. You get Joe Biden saying in his debate... ‘we didn’t know.’ And then, of course, since everybody knew, they said, ‘Well, the White House didn’t know.’ These emails went to the Situation Room [in the White House]. What this story does is it punctures the myth that everybody might have known, the intelligence guys, the State Department, but the White House did not. It was *in the Situation Room*. ...The last email speaks of the mortar attack. Now, there are people in the Situation Room who know about how operations are conducted in

the field, and the mortar attack is not a bunch of guys who hop off the back of a truck and start attacking with AK-47s. This has to be a plan. You have to have a lot of skill. You have to be trained. And when you do it at night, you gotta have a spotter—I mean, there are all kinds of stuff that goes into this. And that’s on the first day. This is the fourth email at midnight essentially of that day. So, immediately in the White House it is known that this is a serious attack. So the myth, I think, of the White House being out of the loop, which is what they were hiding with—and this all has echoes of Watergate. ...It wasn’t as complex and sort of long-term as the Watergate scandal. However, the timeline is the same—election year, basically ignored by most of the news outlets, president is re-elected, and then the scandal erupts. And that’s what I think the administration is hoping will happen, and they expect it will be tamped down afterwards. But that’s all they want to do is get past the finish line.” [39163]

In an interview with Charlie Rose, Obama’s former national security advisor James Jones explains how he and Obama faced national security issues when they first took office: “Well, uh, the, uh, the whole, uh, setup for analyzing the world that we face was based on, uh, an initial premise that, uh, we needed to take, size up, uh, uh, the problems, talk to the people that, uh, historically were causing us difficulties, and see if there was some, uh, some way to proceed ahead. As we now know, in some cases, uh, we made some progress. I, I would cite the START Treaty as an example of, uh, of a successful couple of years of hard work with the Russians. Um, on the other hand, uh, with, uh, the Middle East and, uh, um, uh, and Iran, uh, we’re probably right back where we were, uh, you know, three or four years ago. So, uh, it is, uh, it, it is great to be able to come in and try to, uh, think strategically, but you’re really many times driven by the tactics of the moment and you respond, you find yourself responding to the, uh, to the tactical, uh, impulses that, uh, that face us. Uh, and that’s, and that’s very hard to keep that strategic focus.” (Obama’s own former national security advisor claims that with regard to the Middle East and Iran “we’re probably right back where we were... three or four years ago”—except that Iran is much closer to having nuclear weapons.) [39182]

Obama appears on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno—for the fifth time in 2012. Leno quips. “We’re honored tonight to have ...Obama on the show. As you know, he only does these shows once or twice a week now.” Asked if he helps his daughters with their homework, Obama replies, “Well, the math stuff I was fine with up until about seventh grade. But Malia is now a freshman in high school and—I’m pretty lost.” (Some might argue that Obama’s lack of math skills partly explain the \$16 trillion deficit—and why he somehow believes he can use “war savings” to “pay down the deficit” when the war itself was paid for with borrowed money.) Obama also repeats the lie that Planned Parenthood provides mammograms, saying, “[T]hat organization provides millions of women with cervical cancer screenings, mammograms, all kinds of basic health care...” (Planned Parenthood does *not* provide mammograms. Its main business is providing abortions: more than 300,000 per year.) [39159, 39233, 39249, 39259]

On October 25 former Secretary of State Colin Powell joins Vladimir Putin, Hugo Chavez, and Fidel Castro in endorsing Obama for president over Mitt Romney. On *CBS*

*This Morning* Powell—who is not asked to comment on the Benghazi debacle—says, “I voted for him in 2008 and I plan to stick with him in 2012 and I’ll be voting for he [sic] and for Vice President Joe Biden next month.” Reciting predictable Democrat talking points—even though Powell claims to be a Republican—Powell states, “When [Obama] took over, the country was in very, very difficult straits. We were in the one of the worst recessions we had seen in recent times, close to a depression. The fiscal system was collapsing. Wall Street was in chaos, we had 800,000 jobs lost in that first month of the Obama administration and unemployment peaked a few months later at 10 percent. So we were in real trouble. The auto industry was collapsing, the housing was start[ing] to collapse and we were in very difficult straits. And I saw over the next several years, stabilization come back in the financial community, housing is now starting to pick up after four years, it’s starting to pick up. Consumer confidence is rising. Generally we’ve come out of the dive and we’re starting to gain altitude. ...The unemployment rate is [still] too high, people are still hurting in housing, but I see that we’re starting to rise up.” Powell also gives Obama credit for ending the war in Iraq—even though it was winding down and the troops would also have been withdrawn had John McCain been elected. (Powell does not mention that if he had had the wisdom and courage to oust Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War of 1991 there would have been no Iraq War in 2003. His political correctness in 1991 cost the nation lives a decade later. The endorsement from Powell essentially means nothing—except to media liberals who believe his opinion is still relevant. In 2008 Powell’s endorsement meant, “You can trust Obama.” In 2012 Powell’s endorsement means, “He’s black and I’m black.”) [39150, 39176, 39207, 39264]

Examiner.com reports, “Last night, it was revealed that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had ordered more security at the U.S. mission in Benghazi before it was attacked where four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens were murdered by Al-Qaeda, but ...Obama denied the request. The news broke on TheBlazeTV’s ‘Wilkow!’ hosted by Andrew Wilkow, by best-selling author Ed Klein, who said the legal counsel to Clinton had informed him of this information. Klein also said that those same sources said that former President Bill Clinton has been ‘urging’ his wife [Hillary] to release official State Department documents that prove she called for additional security at the compound in Libya, which would almost certainly result in ...Obama losing the election. Klein explained that everyone knew what was happening in Benghazi from the CIA to the National Security Agency and that there’s intelligence cables that have not been released.” [39409]

LibertyNewsOnline.com reports, “According to recently published reports, the new chairman of a State Department’s ‘Accountability Review Board,’ which is heading the federal investigation into the Benghazi terror attacks, has been accused of being an ‘apologist for Islamic terrorism who has a cozy relationship with Iran.’ What’s more, the man in question—former Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering—has documented ties with the controversial group, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). CAIR, of course, is a documented Muslim Brotherhood affiliate and was named unindicted co-conspirators in the Holy Land Foundation trial—the largest terror-funding trial in U.S. history. To make matters worse, Pickering is also co-chairman of the board of George

Soros' International Crisis Group who has ties to other Islamic organizations as well, including the National Iranian American Council (NIAC), which has been described as pro-Iran 'front group.'" [39489]

The front page of *The Des Moines Register* shows side-by-side photographs of Obama and Romney campaigning. Obama's face is stern, and the accompanying story is titled, "Obama Sharpens Criticism." Romney is smiling and shaking hands, and the accompanying story is titled, "Romney Expresses Optimism." [39156, 39157, 39171, 39172, 39173]

In an interview with *Rolling Stone* magazine, Obama refers to Mitt Romney with the remark, "Kids have good instincts. They look at the other guy and say, 'Well, that's a bull-shitter, I can tell.'" (From Obama's perspective, his 2008 promise to lower ocean levels and cut the deficit in half does not fall into that category.) [39158, 39208]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Conservative radio talk show host Mark Levin's legal group is suing the Environmental Protection Agency to obtain documents pertaining to the regulations the agency plans to implement after the election. Levin's law firm, the Landmark Legal Foundation, filed the lawsuit in federal court this week, seeking a court order directing the EPA to preserve and produce all records related to the agency's regulatory plans after the presidential election. The suit argues that news stories and political observers have indicated the EPA is 'intentionally delaying the issuance of controversial new regulations until after the November election' with the possibility that 'a) the Obama Administration is improperly politicizing EPA activities; b) EPA officials are attempting to shield their true policy goals from the public; and/or c) EPA officials themselves are putting partisan interests above the public welfare.'" (The information was requested in August. the lawsuit was prompted by the EPA's refusal to comply.) [39161]

On MSNBC's *Daily Rundown*, NBC's Brian Williams—traveling with the Obama campaign—tells Chuck Todd, "What we're doin' out here is basically devoting half of our *Rock Center* broadcast tonight to a minute-by-minute what-it's-like [on the campaign trail]. We have asked the Romney campaign for the same access, to do the same thing with them. And one of the points I'm gonna make, palpably obvious to you, this is not '08. These are not the crowds, this is not the candidate. He's an incumbent looking for re-election. The country's been through a financial shock. And ...we're in a kind of outdoor park courtyard. It's hard to say any of this with clarity, with surety. But last time this could have been 50,000 people and today I think we're pushin' five. So it's just a different time, a different campaign. They're slugging it out. It really will be hand-to-hand combat in the battlegrounds." [39212]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 47–45 in an AP/GfK poll. (Without "leaners," Romney leads 45–42.) The poll's D/R/I is 34/30/27 which, notes HotAir.com, "presumes a lower Republican turnout than either 2008 or 2010." Obama leads 51–45 among women, while Romney leads 52–42 among men. On the economy, Romney leads 51–44. Romney also

leads on deficit reduction, 51–43, and on protecting the nation, 47–46. [39168]

A Survey USA poll in Ohio gives Obama a 47–44 lead, but its 39/32/25 D/R/I weighting gives Democrats an edge they are not likely to have on election day. [39169]

Obama leads Romney 49–44 in Ohio in a *Time* magazine poll no one takes seriously because of its extreme D+9 weighting. [39169]

The Romney campaign and the Republican National Committee announce that they raised “over \$111.8 million from October 1 to October 17. The campaign, RNC and state party participants have approximately \$169 million cash on hand.” (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “Normally we’d have to wait until sometime in November to see how fundraising went for candidates in the last full month of the campaign. The Romney campaign couldn’t quite contain their excitement over their numbers for October, however, and released the data earlier this morning. ...I’d be surprised if Obama wasn’t pulling in a lot of money in the first part of the month, too, but I doubt it was *this* much. ...In seventeen days, though, Team Romney/RNC raised nearly as much as they did in all of September—and it’s difficult to believe that Romney’s dominating performance in the October 3rd debate didn’t have an impact on fundraising. In more ways than one, Romney won the debate season, and now he has a big enough infusion of cash to dominate the airwaves in swing states if he so chooses.” The release of the numbers is also, of course, meant as in “in your face” message to the Obama campaign: “We’ve got the momentum now.”) The Obama campaign later announces that it raised \$90.5 million during the same 17-day period. [39174, 39175, 39248]

CNN.com reports, “Mitt Romney will deliver a significant speech on the economy Friday, according to a top campaign aide, when just 11 days remain in the presidential race. His speech will be delivered in Ames, Iowa, and is aimed at ‘reinforcing the big choice in November,’ a top campaign adviser told CNN.” [39179, 39180]

Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, calls on the Obama administration to release documents related to the auto bailout that allowed union workers of the Delphi auto parts supplier to retain their pensions while 20,000 salaried employees lost theirs. Camp tells DailyCaller.com, “The White House is withholding documents and has failed to provide a legitimate reason. [Obama] and his lawyers should either claim executive privilege and be prepared to defend it for each and every document or turn over the documents without further delay.” [39236, 39241, 39741]

According to a national Rasmussen poll conducted October 23–24, Mitt Romney bested Obama in the debates 49–41 percent. [39189]

Romney leads Obama 50–47 in a Washington Post/ABC poll of likely voters; the poll’s weighting is +4 for Democrats. On trusting the candidate on economic issues, Romney

leads 52–43. Romney leads Obama among independents by a whopping 19 points, a lead not seen since Ronald Reagan’s 63–36 in 1984—and a reversal from Obama’s 8-point lead among independents in 2008. Obama has the support of 79 percent of non-white voters; Romney leads among white voters, 59–38 percent. (Obama lost white voters by 12 points in 2008. Republicans won the white vote 60–37 in the 2010 Congressional mid-term elections.) [39229, 39231, 39234, 39388]

Romney leads Obama 50–47 in the Gallup poll. Romney leads Obama 50–47 in Rasmussen’s Daily Presidential Tracking Poll. Romney leads 50–46 in the Swing State Tracking Poll. In Arizona, Republican Congressman Jeff Flake leads Democrat Richard Carmona 50–44 in their U.S. Senate contest. Republican Senator Dean Heller leads challenger Shelley Berkley in Nevada, 50–45, while Obama leads Romney 50–48. In Ohio, Democrat Senator Sherrod Brown leads Republican challenger Josh Mandel 48–44. [39190, 39191, 39192, 39194, 39251]

Romney leads Obama 50–48 in a Rasmussen poll in Virginia. A Fox news poll shows Romney with a 47–45 lead in the state. [39202, 39216, 39250]

A DailyCaller.com analysis of Obama campaign rally videos “reveals that [Obama] and his surrogates have an affinity for speaking exclusively where cameras can see women and minorities gathered behind them.” [39235]

The *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, which endorsed Obama in 2008, endorses neither Obama nor Mitt Romney for 2012. [39304]

CNSNews.com reports, “The head of an international body that will monitor the U.S. elections next month protested to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Wednesday after Texas’ attorney-general warned that any international observer who approaches a polling station in the state risks criminal prosecution.” (Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott wrote, “The OSCE’s [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe] representatives are not authorized by Texas law to enter a polling place. It may be a criminal offense for OSCE’s representatives to maintain a presence within 100 feet of a polling place’s entrance. Failure to comply with these requirements could subject the OSCE’s representatives to criminal prosecution for violating state law.”) Obama’s State Department later declares that United Nations election observers have “full immunity” from arrest and prosecution. [39196, 39199, 39238, 39348]

At HillBuzz.org, Kevin DuJan reports, “Three separate sources have confirmed to me that a ‘blind trust’ or a ‘family trust’ set up for the Obamas with the help of wealthy Chicago banker Penny Pritzker has purchased a property for Barack and Michelle and their family to move into when they depart the White House in January 2013. I’ve been chasing this story since late-August of this year when it came to my attention through sources in the Chicago black community that Michelle Obama’s mother, Marian Robinson... had been bragging to chums back home that she’d soon be living the rest of



her days in tropical paradise on the island of Oahu. ...It appears the Obamas will, however, be moving into a different estate than the one we all at first believed they were purchasing... I believe our coverage of this purchase may have spoiled that deal and forced Pritzker and other Obama backers to locate another post-presidential home for the Obamas since it's clear to all in Chicago that he is not going to win reelection." [39361]

"Additionally," writes DuJan, "I have been receiving reports that many of the young staffers that Obama took with him to Washington are actively seeking jobs for February 2013 or sooner. One of my contacts is a headhunter here in Chicago who has already fielded calls from '10 or 15' Chicago-native Obama White House staffers who are moving back to the Illinois in January of this year; they are clearly looking to get a jump start on the search in the job market that Barack Obama helped tank and they do not want to be unemployed or allow too much time to pass between working in the White House and scoring a high paying position in a corporate setting (if they can find one). My headhunter source tells me some of these people are already having interviews and might actually leave before Mitt Romney's inauguration on January 21st, 2013. 'They need to get out before the investigations start and suddenly saying you worked for Barack Obama becomes a red flag on your resume instead of a prestige listing.' The reason for the push to find jobs immediately is pure supply and demand in a tough job market and also the fact that once Obama's defeated the Democrat Civil War will begin, where Clinton loyalists will start work purging all the Obama operatives from the party and attempting to restore the public's faith in the Democrat brand by eliminating all traces of Obama from the DNC. This means that once they leave their White House positions the young Obama staffers will have a hard time finding new jobs in Washington DC because the Clintons will punish anyone who hires them. The Clintons want all the Obama acolytes gone so that in the next four years the Party can try to pretend that 'The Golden Age of Hope and Change' never happened at all... Obama's young staffers (many of whom are under 30) are thus facing a situation where they will be out of work when Bathhouse Barry leaves office... the usual places that White House staffers land after a failed administration will be closed off to them due to the Democrat Civil War that Hillary Clinton is going to orchestrate... and corporations looking to curry favor with the new Romney White House will be reluctant to hire Obama staffers into their ranks." [39361]

"Penny Pritzker is being personally blamed for the fact that Democrats will now be out of office for many years, because if not for her early money and pressure on wealthy Chicagoans then Obama would not have been able to eclipse the Clintons for the nomination. After November 7th, when the Democrat Civil War really kicks into gear you should expect to hear people talking about how Penny personally threatened people back in 2008 that if they did not raise large sums for Obama that she'd call them racists and would 'blackball them' in Chicago social circles. All of this will come out once the Obamas are out of power. One source in Chicago's development community told me that Penny's 'going to be run out of town on a rail for what she did to get that early money for Obama.' No one has forgotten the threats and hard sell she made... 'memories are long but the knives are longer' is how this was put to me." [39361]

DuJan continues, “[Y]ou need to watch closely what happens between November 7th and January 21st because the Obamas have made it clear that everything is for sale in terms of appointments, pardons, flights on Air Force One, etc. while they still have the ability to make these things happen. Look for there to be nonstop activity in terms of appointing all sorts of people to various prestigious positions even if they only get to serve in them for a few months (or even weeks... or days). What you need to remember is that once someone is an ambassador, for instance, for the rest of that person’s life he or she will be called Ambassador So-and-So. In many cases, these positions also carry automatic pensions so if the Obamas appoint someone to a high post and the person serves there for only a single day... that person might be entitled to draw a lifetime pension from taxpayers for that ‘service.’ It’s really the honorifics that are truly for sale, though. Pritzker appears to be the one in charge of coordinating all of this... with her office promising that if wealthy donors help fund the post-presidential trust and start the funding for the library and ‘Social Justice Center’ that the reward will be a position of ‘great importance’ that will then afford them a fabulous title for their business cards or tombstone. And then there are, of course, those who will be getting full pardons before Obama leaves office; keep your eye on Conrad Black and see if you can figure out what’s going to happen with his felony conviction before twelve noon on January 21st, 2013. Black is just the tip of the iceberg, too. An entire rogues’ gallery will be pardoned... and a great deal of them will be Muslims convicted through the years on terror-related charges. THIS will be Obama’s parting gift to the Clintons and the Democrat Party... the pardoning of Muslims connected to terror who will then be released as he leaves office. This is payment to the Saudis for all they did to bring Barack Obama to the Oval Office.” [39361]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the White House insider, who relays information about the Romney-Ryan rally at Red Rocks, Colorado: “Got this feedback earlier today and thought you’d like to hear it. You know, I’ve gone from just trying to defeat Obama to really trying to help Governor Romney be this country’s next president. I’m really starting to believe there might be something very special about this man. This took place out in Colorado. Just a couple days ago. Probably my favorite campaign trail story that’s come back my way so far this election. Wish I had been there. I’m going to try and get a little poetic on you here. Hope I pull it off okay and do this story justice. Feel free to help me out a bit in the telling. I would be embarrassed for people to know just how bad my spelling really is. And sadly, that’s not a joke. As the governor was en route to the amphitheatre they were told the crowd was showing ‘strong numbers.’ What greeted him was a lot more than just ‘strong numbers’ though. It was a massive wave of thousands and thousands of supporters. Before going on the governor apparently peeked out a few times and was shaking his head in disbelief at just how many people were there to see him. He was told by organizers up to a thousand more were turned away because there simply wasn’t any room left. People said you could feel the size of the crowd under your feet backstage. Somebody had passed out a ton of ‘thundersticks’ and the people were banging them together and making this amazing rumbling noise. There were some real veteran campaigners backstage and I’m told they were all blown away by this crowd in Colorado. It really was like some big time rock show. Just a huge response for the governor.” [39206, 39211]

“So Governor Romney goes onstage and gives his speech. The crowd just totally embraces him. From beginning to end. Every word. They are fired up. Loud. Positive. Cheering. Just an amazing moment for the campaign. Everybody backstage [was] all smiles and peeking out at all those people and shaking their heads. This is the kind of moment in a campaign you never forget. Ever. Nobody who hasn’t experienced it can really understand this feeling. You’re looking at a candidate being transformed right in front of your eyes into the next Leader of the Free World. They go from being human into something just a bit more. It’s all those people. That energy. It kind of fills the candidate up and makes them bigger than life. And you are watching it happen in real time. Right then. The governor returns backstage and he is smiling and shaking hands, taking congratulations from everybody around him. He’s saying how great it was. Somebody yells out he’s going to win Colorado and the governor laughs and says he thinks so too.” [39206]

“And then something very interesting happens. He moves away from the group of people just a bit. Maybe ten or fifteen feet or so. Just enough to have a little space to himself. And enough people notice that the area gets a lot more quiet, and they are trying to watch the governor without looking like they are watching the governor. They can all kind of tell something is happening right then. It was described as something very peaceful and powerful that came over that backstage area for a moment. And the governor, he lowers his head and his eyes shut tight and you could see him take a slow deep breath and then he lets it out and says quietly, but just loud enough for some to hear, ‘Lord, if this is your will, please help to make me worthy. Please give me the strength Lord.’ And then his eyes open up, and he’s back to smiling and laughing and shaking hands and being the candidate once again. I’m one hundred percent convinced Mitt Romney was shaken to his soul right then and there. I think at that moment it was sinking in he might really be the next American president, and it humbled him right to his core, in every nerve of his body. And as he was saying that little prayer, you could hear the sound of thunder from all those thundersticks outside. Like this huge low rumble that just surrounded all of them at once. A quiet little prayer, and the sound of thunder. The sound of God.” [39206]

Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, reports that Obama has yet to comply with a 1994 federal law signed by Bill Clinton that requires that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) “issue annual reports on the degree to which Americans are dependent on various welfare benefits.” The last report was issued by the Bush administration in December 2008. Camp notes, “If issued, this report would reveal that dependence on government benefits has risen sharply during the Obama Administration. All the more troubling is the fact that, while suppressing this annual report on welfare dependence for nearly four years, HHS recently took action to illegally waive work requirements for welfare recipients, which will result in even more welfare dependence. In their letter to Secretary Sebelius, the Chairmen and Ranking Members wrote, ‘HHS has failed to issue even one of these annual reports required by law during the nearly four years you have been Secretary. It also means that the 2009 annual report is now more than 1,000 days overdue.’” According to Camp, “Previous Administrations faithfully complied with this annual report requirement, with annual reports being issued each year from 2000 through 2008. Only the Obama Administration

has failed to issue this report—in 2009, 2010, and 2011.” [39210]

Politico posts several quotes from *The Payoff*, a book about working in the nation’s capital by former Joe Biden aide Jeff Connaughton. He calls both Biden and Obama “financially illiterate.” Noting a time when Biden disappointed him, Connaughton says he was told by his chief of staff, “Jeff, don’t take this personally. Biden disappoints everyone. He’s an equal-opportunity disappointer.” [39214, 39303]

Obama casts his ballot in Chicago, where he is asked to show his drivers license. (Strangely, Illinois requires photo ID for early voting but not on election day. Chicago Democrats apparently believe they need only the final day to guarantee their desired results.) [39240]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Richard Pollock reports that “...Obama has spent far more lavishly on White House state dinners than previous chief executives, including nearly \$1 million on a 2010 dinner for Mexico’s president, according to documents obtained by The Washington Examiner. ...[C]urrent and former government officials said the documents... point to an unprecedented upsurge in White House spending on such events. The Obama extravaganza two years ago for Mexican President Felipe Calderon, which included a performance by pop star Beyonce, cost \$969,793, or more than \$4,700 per attendee, the documents show. ...Gary Walters, who ran presidential household operations for 21 years during Democratic and Republican administrations, before retiring in 2007, told The Examiner the costs reflected in the documents were ‘excessive. They are high.’ The chief usher of the White House from the Reagan to George W. Bush presidencies, Walters consulted a former White House colleague and said neither of them could recall entertainment costs anywhere near those revealed in the documents provided to The Examiner. ...The documents also reveal that the Obama White House retained an outside planner for the dinners. Bryan Rafanelli, a Boston-based celebrity event planner who was retained last year, managed former first daughter Chelsea Clinton’s 2010 nuptials. ...Rafanelli’s business partner, Mark Walsh, is deputy chief of the State Department’s Office of Protocol, which reimburses the White House executive residence for the events.” (The White House spends lavishly for parties planned by a business partner of an administration employee.) [39285]

The *New York Post* endorses Mitt Romney for president, stating, “Four frustratingly long years ago, a war-weary and economically battered America took a flier on a savior. It didn’t work out. Now, in 12 days, the nation will return to the polls—to reject, or to ratify, the results of the great Barack Obama experiment. That is, to reject or to ratify the notion that hoping for change is a sound footing for productive national policy. But, by the evidence, it is not. ...America needs more than hope. It needs leadership. That is why The Post today endorses the candidacy of Mitt Romney for president of the United States. Scrape it down to bedrock, and Mitt Romney knows that there is but one issue in this campaign: America’s woeful economy, and the demonstrated inability of ...Obama to cope with it. Obama says he inherited the mess, but he’s done nothing to fix it. Borrow, spend, regulate and redistribute is not a prescription for sustainable growth, yet that has

been the totality of his program. ...Obama proposes massive tax increases aimed not so much at the rich, as he claims, but squarely at the middle class and small business, which is insane: Small business—the real engine of American job creation—needs to be nurtured, not squeezed dry. ...For four more years? We think not. Mitt Romney for president.” [39215]

*The Detroit News* endorses Mitt Romney, writing, “We anticipate that Romney will govern in the same manner as Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a practical leader who shares his background as a business executive. Snyder has rapidly set Michigan on the path to revival by applying sound business practices and accountability to government operations. We expect that Romney will also employ a results-oriented approach and be ever mindful of his customer, the taxpayer. Also like Snyder, we find Romney to be less partisan than the typical politician, and not bound by rigid ideology. The nation will be best served if the entrenched disagreements of the past four years give way to cooperation and achievement. We are confident that Romney will be focused on the bottom line, and will divert the United States from "the road to Greece," as he's said on the campaign trail. ...Aside from his sterling resume, we also see in Romney a strength of character. He's his own man. We doubt he will be led off course by those who place party ahead of the good of the country. ...Romney would replace the heavy hand of government with the invisible hand of a rational marketplace working to produce broad prosperity. ...Romney's goal is to help all Americans live independent and productive lives, free to rise to the extent of their personal capabilities. He would not shield them from risk or the consequences of their decisions, but neither would he deny them their earned rewards. Our hope is that Mitt Romney would restore faith in the core principles of free men and women, free minds and free markets that made America great, and will keep it so.” [39230, 39252]

To the surprise of no one, *The Washington Post* endorses Obama for another four years: “MUCH OF THE 2012 presidential campaign has dwelt on the past, but the key questions are who could better lead the country during the next four years—and, most urgently, who is likelier to put the government on a more sound financial footing. That second question will come rushing at the winner as soon as the votes are tallied. Absent any action, a series of tax hikes and spending cuts will take effect Jan. 1 that might well knock the country back into recession. This will be a moment of peril but also of opportunity. How the president-elect navigates it will go a long way toward determining the success of his presidency and the health of the nation. ...Obama is better positioned to be that navigator than is his Republican challenger, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney. We come to that judgment with eyes open to the disappointments of Mr. Obama's time in office. He did not end, as he promised he would, ‘our chronic avoidance of tough decisions’ on fiscal matters. But Mr. Obama is committed to the only approach that can succeed: a balance of entitlement reform and revenue increases.” (The *Post* is apparently unaware that Obama has offered no plan whatsoever for entitlement reform. Inasmuch as the national debt increased by \$5 trillion under Obama, why the *Post* believes Obama can “put the government on a more sound financial footing” is unclear.) [39253]

News Ninja reports, “Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ordered additional security for the U.S. mission in Benghazi ahead of the terrorist attack but the orders were never carried out, according to ‘legal counsel’ to Clinton who spoke to best-selling author Ed Klein. Those same sources also say former President Bill Clinton has been ‘urging’ his wife to release official State Department documents that prove she called for additional security at the compound in Libya, which would almost certainly result in ...Obama losing the election. Appearing on TheBlazeTV’s ‘Wilkow!’ on Wednesday night, Klein told host Andrew Wilkow that Bill and Hillary Clinton have been having ‘big fights’ for ‘two or three weeks’ about the issue, according to his two sources on Clinton’s legal counsel. While Bill Clinton wishes his wife would ‘exonerate’ herself by releasing the documents that show she wasn’t at fault for the tragic security failure in Libya, the secretary of state refuses to do so because she doesn’t want to be viewed as a traitor to the Democratic party.” [39217, 39218]

Glenn Beck interviews Charles Woods, whose son Tyrone Woods was one of the four Americans killed in Benghazi on September 11. Woods tells Beck of his meeting Obama when his son’s remains were returned from Libya: “I’m a retired attorney. For six years I was an administrative law judge and in the several thousands cases I heard my job was to tell who was telling the truth and who wasn’t. There were four pods at Andrews Air Force Base and when [Obama] came over to where we were I could tell he was very conflicted person who was not at peace with himself. Shaking hands with him quite frankly was like shaking hands with a dead fish. His face was pointed towards me but he would not look me in the eye. His eyes were over my shoulder and not in a forceful voice said ‘I’m really sorry Mr. Woods.’ And I could tell he was not sorry. He had no remorse. The Vice President was also there. He said ‘I’m Joe Biden.’ He said he had received one of these ‘damn phone calls’ when he had lost a family member. [Biden is making the brief encounter about himself, rather than the Wood family’s loss.] And then about a half hour later he approached me and said—and these are the exact words he said I don’t speak like this—quote and in an extremely loud and boisterous voice he said: ‘Did your sons always have balls the size of cue balls?’ I will ask you the question: Is that the voice of someone who is truly sorry? ...I do appreciate [Hillary Clinton] taking the time from her schedule to meet with the four families. While we were in the pod over there with our family she came over shook my hand and I reached out and hugged her shoulder. Her countenance was not good. And she made the statement to me that first of all she was sorry and then she said ‘We will make sure the person who made that film is arrested and prosecuted.’ [At that point, September 14, Clinton *already knew* it was a terrorist attack that had nothing to do with a video, yet told Woods the filmmaker would be arrested and prosecuted. Standing next to the coffin of his son, Hillary Clinton lied to Charles Woods.] And when she said that I could tell that she was not telling me the truth. She’s more intelligent than I am, and she had to also know she was not telling me the truth. ...I’m totally transparent in my life. I have nothing to hide. Why are they not transparent?” (Woods had previously described the events on Lars Larsen’s KXL radio program in Oregon.) [39219, 39221, 39222, 39239, 39276, 39283, 39414]

Charles Woods also writes, “I want to honor my son, Ty Woods, who responded to the cries for help and voluntarily sacrificed his life to protect the lives of other Americans. In

the last few days it has become public knowledge that within minutes of the first bullet being fired the White House knew that these heroes would be slaughtered if immediate air support was denied. Apparently C-130s were ready to respond immediately. In less than an hour the perimeters could have been secured and American lives could have been saved. After seven hours of fighting numerically superior forces, my son's life was sacrificed because of the White House's decision. This has nothing to do with politics. This has to do with integrity and honor. My son was a true American hero. We need more heroes today. My son showed moral courage. This is an opportunity for the person or persons who made the decision to sacrifice my son's life to stand up." [39219]

DenverPost.com reports, "Abound Solar, the defunct solar-panel manufacturer, is under criminal investigation for possible securities fraud, consumer fraud and financial misrepresentation, the Weld County district attorney's office said Thursday. Loveland-based Abound closed its Colorado plant in July and filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy liquidation in a move that left 125 workers without jobs and taxpayers holding the bag for up to \$60 million in defaulted loans. ...The securities-fraud investigation stems from allegations that 'officials at Abound Solar knew products the company was selling were defective, and then asked investors to invest in the company without telling them about the defective products,' the DA's office said in a news release. ...The DOE has estimated that U.S. taxpayers will be on the hook for about \$40 million to \$60 million after Abound's liquidation." In 2009 Obama promised that the taxpayer "investment" in Abound Solar—up to \$400 million in loan guarantees—would create "more than 2,000 construction jobs and 1,500 permanent jobs. ...When fully operational, these plants will produce millions of state-of-the-art solar panels each year." [39280, 39281]

The Obama campaign releases an ad that essentially calls on women to "vote with their vaginas." In the ad, a chubby, tattooed young woman says, "Your first time shouldn't be with just anybody. You want to do it with a great guy. It should be with a guy with beautiful... somebody who really cares about and understands women. A guy who cares about whether you get health insurance, and specifically whether you get birth control. The consequences are huge. You want to do it with a guy who brought the troops out of Iraq. You don't want a guy who says, 'Oh hey, I'm at the library studying,' when he's really out not signing the Lilly Ledbetter Act. Or who thinks that gay people should never have beautiful, complicated weddings of the kind we see on Bravo or TLC all the time. It's a fun game to say, 'Who are you voting for?' and they say 'I don't want to tell you,' and you say, 'No, who are you voting for,' and they go, 'Guess!' Think about how you want to spend those four years. In college age time, that's 150 years. Also, it's super uncool to be out and about and someone says, 'Did you vote,' and 'No, I didn't vote, I wasn't ready.' My first time voting was amazing. It was this line in the sand. Before I was a girl. Now I was a woman. I went to the polling station and pulled back the curtain. I voted for Barack Obama." (National Review's Jim Geraghty quips, "So if voting for Obama is like sex, when he voted [for himself] early today in Chicago, was it masturbation?") [39220, 39237]

Twitter comments criticizing the ad include, Amanda Carpenter: "This ad, suggesting

women should want to sleep with Obama, is disgusting.” Dana Perino: “Who approved that new Obama campaign message? AND who pushed the video?” Michelle Ray: “Between Julia and this new freaking ad, ... Obama portrays women as giddy, helpless, impressionable morons.” Biased Girl: “Is that what this administration thinks Real women are like?” Kathryn Lopez: “It’s as if every day the Obama campaign gives me another reason to see how clearly we need a new president—for the sake of our politics and our culture.” Adrian Gray: “That ... ad was a very risky move for any campaign. And even more surprising it was approved by the father of two girls.” Liz Mair: “So voting for Obama is like losing your virginity? A dude cooked that one up, right? Because for us girls, that means you’re saying it’s painful.” Andrea Chapman: “You don’t want your first time to be with Obama because his stimulus package didn’t deliver as promised.” Kristina Ribali: Be careful ladies... You don’t want to be punished with an Obama.” Kevin Eder: “I’ve now watched it four times. I refuse to believe that it’s a real, actual thing” and “Dear college kids: trust me on this, having a job when you graduate is WAY more ‘cool’ than voting for Barack Obama. I PROMISE.” Moe Lane: ‘I know I’m supposed to be shocked by Obama’s new... ad, but instead I’m embarrassed. It’s like walking in on my parents having sex. I mean, you know that your parents [are] aware of sex. You just don’t need to VISUALIZE it.” NY Dem49: “Word of advice for Obama, don’t create an ad you wouldn’t be comfortable with your daughter reciting.” Tim Carney: “‘Voting is like sex,’ Romney’s a ‘bull\*\*\*\*\*er,’ ‘Romnesia,’ ‘Big Bird.’ I thought you had to be older than 15 to be President.” Cameron Gray: “Shorter... Obama campaign ad: ‘Labia, not Libya.’” John Podhoretz: "BREAKING: ROMNEY TO AIR... AD NATIONWIDE 200 TIMES A DAY UNTIL ELECTION DAY" and “I’m Barack Obama and I appro... wait, what the hell IS this? Are you CRAZY????” Rusty Weiss: “If you’ll excuse me, I have to go bleach my eyes” and “Word of advice libs—if voting for Obama is like having sex... you’re doing it wrong!” S.M: “Unlike losing your virginity, Obama’s second term is going to hurt way more than the first.”

Leftists react to the outrage over Obama’s crude “first time” ad by noting a joke told by Ronald Reagan in November, 1980: “I know what it’s like to pull the Republican lever for the first time, because I used to be a Democrat myself, and I can tell you it only hurts for a minute and then it feels just great.” [39254]

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta tells reporters no military assistance was sent to rescue the Americans in Benghazi because of a lack of intelligence: “There’s a basic principle here, and the basic principle is that you don’t deploy forces into harm’s way without knowing what’s going on, without having some real-time information about what’s taking place.” (Panetta’s statement will be news to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, who often go into harm’s way without knowing what’s going on.) “And as a result of not having that kind of information, the commander who’s ...in that area, General [Carter] Ham, General [Martin] Dempsey [chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] and I felt very strongly that we could not put forces at risk in that situation. This happened within a few hours and it was really over before, you know, we had the opportunity to really know what was happening.” (Panetta *did*, however, have real-time information—including live video feed from the consulate and live images for the overhead drone.) HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey asks, “[I]sn’t there a more basic principle at



stake? Consulates and embassies are considered American territory. When they are under attack, the US is under attack in a very real way. When we are under attack, do we not defend ourselves and our people from attack, or do we only do that when the intel is solid?" (Panetta's statement may mean, "The basic principle is that Obama prefers four dead Americans whose deaths can be blamed on an Internet video than a rescue operation that might fail and cause him to be compared to Jimmy Carter.") [39243, 39244, 39257, 39293, 39294]

In a letter to Obama, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) states, "No one in your administration can substitute for your authority and voice to explain to the American people strategy and policies you directed during and in the aftermath of the terrorist attack. The American public is increasingly reading information contradicting early accounts by your administration of the causes of the events of the day." Boehner asks Obama to answer several questions: "When was the last time you were briefed by Ambassador Stevens about the evolving political and security situation in Libya? Did he make any direct observations or raise any concerns to you or your staff about the security situation in country? ... There are reports that military options and assets were offered to and considered by the White House during and in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attack. Can you explain what options were presented to you or your staff, and why it appears assets were not allowed to be pre-positioned, let alone utilized? If these reports are accurate, the artificial constraint on the range of options at your disposal would be deeply troubling. ... Why did the administration fail to account for facts that were known at the time?" [39258]

At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson writes, "Veterans in select areas of the country may soon be hit with a reduction in health care coverage, a proposal that has sparked outcry from lawmakers representing affected regions. It looks like the announcement of the controversial move to discontinue TRICARE Prime for military members and their families in certain states, though, will wait until after Election Day. As first reported by Military Times, starting April 1 TRICARE Prime services would be offered only to those living within 40 miles of a Military Treatment Facility as a result of the incoming contractor, United Healthcare, not planning on covering the services. This would affect as many as 30,000 veterans and their families in Nevada, Oregon, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. While those outside of an acceptable distance from an MTF wouldn't lose coverage, they would be reduced to the standard plan that carries higher out-of-pocket costs. ... Reports citing Pentagon sources indicated that discussions have included delaying a formal announcement until after Nov. 6." [39274]

CNSNews.com reports, "The number of American workers collecting federal disability insurance benefits hit yet another record high in October, according to the Social Security Administration. This month 8,803,335 disabled workers are collecting benefits, up from the previous record of 8,786,049 set in September. In February 2009, the first full month after ... Obama took office, there were 7,469,240 workers collecting federal disability insurance. Thus, so far in Obama's term, the number of workers collecting disability has increased by 1,334,095. That works out to a net increase of about 29,646 per month

(1,334,095 divided by 45 months), or an average increase of about 975 per day (1,334,095 divided by 1,369 days).” (Many of the newly-disabled Americans are not, in fact, totally and permanently disabled. Unable to find unemployment, some no doubt suddenly develop “bad backs” and other difficult-to-disprove ailments—ailments they would not find so debilitating if they could find a job.) [39256]

MarketWatch.com reports, “For the first quarter since late 2009, shipments of U.S.-made capital investment goods declined in the third quarter, falling at a 4.9% annual rate, according to Census Bureau data released on Thursday. That means the economy likely grew at less than a 2% annual pace in the third quarter, and probably won’t do much better in the final three months of the year. Following the release of the durables report, economists in the MarketWatch survey downgraded their estimates for third-quarter gross domestic product from a consensus of 1.8% to 1.7%, and they lowered their estimate for fourth-quarter growth by a tenth to 1.5%.” (Banks and businesses have money to lend and spend—but they are afraid to do so because of concerns about the election and what the tax and regulatory burdens will be if Obama is reelected. At PJMedia.com David P. Goldman writes, “There’s no textbook description for this condition, so we’ll give it a name: the Obonomy. The anti-business toxicity in Washington is so intense that that no-one will take risks. The investors’ strike is especially onerous given that the average profit margin for the nearly 4,000 exchange-traded public companies for whom data are available was over 18% during the second quarter of 2012. Why wouldn’t investors put more money into businesses earning 18% year, rather than buy safe securities yielding the rate of inflation or less? The answer is that they are terrified of the anti-business environment. If Obama is re-elected, business will hit a wall of tax increases and face a regulatory reign of terror. The great American profit machine has stalled. If Obama is re-elected, we are all going to be poorer.”) [39272]

Joe Biden campaigns at Oshkosh Corporation, a truck manufacturer with defense contracts and the largest employer in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Alan Blinder reports at WashingtonExaminer.com that just a few hours before Biden’s arrival, the company “announced that it will lay off 450 employees in January.” About 3,500 employees will remain. Biden tells the crowd, “[T]hey’ve voted to extend tax cuts for the very wealthy, giving a \$500 trillion dollar tax cut to 120,000 families.” (Romney, of course, has not voted for anything; he is a private citizen and not a member of Congress. Additionally, no one has proposed a “\$500 trillion tax cut.”) [39225, 39287]

Mitt Romney campaigns to an overflow crowd of about 12,000 at a high school football field in Defiance, Ohio. [39227, 39228, 39232]

On *Rock Center*, NBC’s Brian Williams interviews Obama with a succession of softball questions that clearly show the network to be in the tank for the current temporary occupant of the Oval Office. Williams asks, “Have you been happy with the intelligence, especially in our post 9-11 world? The assessment of your intelligence community, as we stand here, is that it still was a spontaneous terrorist attack and were you happy with what you were able to learn as this unfolded? It went on for several hours.” (Covering for

Obama, Williams—who served as an intern in the Jimmy Carter administration—is stating that the attack in Benghazi was spontaneous, when, in fact, it is obvious to everyone who is moderately informed that it was a well-planned terrorist attack.) Williams notes Colin Powell’s endorsement of Obama; whines about excessive campaign spending in 2012 (ignoring Obama’s massive spending in 2008); asks, “Which would you do most urgently if you had unlimited powers?” (That is, “Don’t you wish the nation would simply allow you to be a dictator?”), and asks, “Aides report you’ve been verging on wistful. Has it come up within your family, the possibility of a post-presidency as a young man?” Williams expresses surprise that Obama isn’t dominating Mitt Romney in the polls: “How is it that with—what, 13 days to go—you’re fighting for your life in a 47/47 race? ...So after the excitement of '08, given the power of incumbency, you got Bin Laden, you did not expect to be sitting on a more substantial race than we are as we sit here today?” (Williams apparently believes that having Navy SEALs take out Osama bin Laden makes up for 23 million unemployed Americans, four successive years of trillion dollar deficits, and businesses afraid to expand operations because of the unknown costs of ObamaCare.) According to the Media Research Center, during the 20-minute interview “...Williams devoted a total of 1 minute 36 seconds to the subject of the terrorist attack in Libya”—but made sure to discuss Jay Leno, Katy Perry, and Krispy Kreme donuts. Also during the debate, Obama declares, “Keep in mind there wasn’t anything I said in that debate that wasn’t true.” (The compliant Williams does not challenge Obama’s clearly inaccurate statement.) [39261, 39262, 39263, 39309]

An Obama fundraiser in Miami, Florida is cancelled because of a power outage caused by strong winds from the still-offshore Hurricane Sandy. (Obama was not scheduled to attend the event. The hurricane is expected to strike somewhere along the East Coast of the United States on October 30, possibly as far north as Maryland and Delaware—or even New York City.) [39270]

On October 26 the government reports third quarter Gross Domestic Product growth of 2.0 percent, annualized. (Although that is an improvement over the second quarter’s 1.3 percent, it is still too low to make any significant dent in the unemployment rate—and *much of the increase is the result of additional defense spending by the federal government, rather than an improving private sector.* In 2009, Obama predicted that GDP growth in 2012 would be 4.6 percent.) [39242, 39273]

The White House insider tells The Ulsterman Report: “Got word an all-call went out at the WH [White House] A.M. today. That means they are doing what’s called ‘huddling.’ Has to be related to the Benghazi news now hitting. Have good source in Chicago saying their office is acting very odd today as well. Can’t say if this will break out all the way now, but we are getting very close to an all out WH red alert scenario. Not there yet but very close. Significant activity from [White House counsel Kathryn] Ruemmler’s office over the last 24. Highly controlled briefing response. Attempt explanation, then hope story gets buried over weekend and race to election day. Announced resignation of someone inside administration. [Obama] apologizes for mistakes by some in his administration. That deal could be under negotiation at this very moment. In this situation

there will likely be 1 of 2 responses from WH. Second scenario not as likely. Not yet. But the Ruumler activity makes me believe there's more damaging information out there to the administration on Benghazi than has already come out today. They are trying to assess what will and will not get out to determine response. To have a potential scandal of this magnitude so close to an election is unprecedented. Priority for them will be to insulate [Obama]. Got to try and cut that off. Get someone inside go public and point the finger at Obama. Now I do what I do best." (Obama realizes he cannot keep ignoring the Benghazi situation until after the election, so he is arranging for someone to take the blame. Whether that scheme will succeed remains to be seen.) [39260]

Obama issues a statement: "Michelle and I extend our best wishes for a joyful Eid al-Adha to Muslims in the United States and around the world. We also congratulate the millions of peaceful pilgrims who are performing the Hajj, including thousands of American Muslims. Throughout the year, Muslims join members of many faiths in serving those suffering from hunger, disease, and conflict. Muslim communities will continue this practice as they celebrate Eid by distributing food and charity to those in need. Such acts of compassion underscore the shared values of the Abrahamic religions and people of all faiths. On behalf of the American people, we extend our warmest greetings on this holiday. Eid Mubarak." (Essayist William Frederick Dame points out that Muslims believe in charitable acts from non-Muslims to Muslims and from Muslims to Muslims, but never from Muslims to non-Muslims. "Furthermore, Muslims do not believe in disaster relief because they believe that disasters are caused by Allah as a form of punishment.) [39334, 39505]

At BlackFive.net, a former member of the Delta Force states, "Having spent a good bit of time nursing a GLD (ground Laser Designator) in several garden spots around the world, something from the [Benghazi] report jumped out at me. One of the former SEALs was actively painting the target. That means that Specter WAS ON STATION! Probably an AC130U [aircraft]. A ground laser designator is not a briefing pointer laser. You do not 'paint' a target until the weapons system/designator is synched; which means that the AC130 was on station. Only two places could have called off the attack at that point; the WH [White House] situation command (based on POTUS direction) or AFRICOM commander based on information directly from the target area. If the AC130 never left Sigonella (as Panetta says) that means that the Predator that was filming the whole thing was armed. If that SEAL was actively 'painting' a target; something was on station to engage! And the decision to stand down goes directly to POTUS [Obama]!" [39426, 39493]

Mitt Romney ties Obama 49–49 in a Rasmussen poll in Wisconsin—a state Obama won by almost 14 points in 2008. [39255, 39288]

Obama leads Mitt Romney 51–46 in a Rasmussen poll in Pennsylvania. Romney leads Obama 50–48 in Virginia, and 52–44 in Arizona. [39267, 39268, 39269]

Obama increases his nationwide lead over Obama to 51–46 in Gallup's 7-day rolling

average poll (October 19–25). [39271]

More than 800 prominent Jews in Michigan take out an ad in the *Detroit Jewish News* in support of Mitt Romney for president. The ad reads, “Four years ago many of us voted for Barack Obama. Today we are voting for Mitt Romney. Four years of failed economic and anti-Israeli policies demand we choose a new direction for our country.” [39277, 39278, 39279]

Romney leads Obama 51–46 in a Voter Survey Service poll in Florida. [39286]

Mitt Romney delivers an address on the economy in Ames, Iowa. He states, “We need real change, big change. Our campaign is about that kind of change—confronting the problems that politicians have avoided for over a decade, revitalizing our competitive economy, modernizing education, restoring our founding principles. ...The problem with the Obama economy is not what he inherited; it is with the misguided policies that slowed the recovery, and caused millions of Americans to endure lengthy unemployment and poverty. ...Slow economic growth means slow job growth and declining take home pay. That’s what four years of ...Obama’s policies have produced.” [39301]

While Obama continues to claim that Mitt Romney has “Romnesia” and forgets the positions he once held, Kimberly Strassel lists some of Obama’s position flip-flops in *The Wall Street Journal*, on the topics of single-payer health care (supported and then said he opposed); raising the debt ceiling (opposed and then supported); same-sex marriage (opposed and then supported); sequestration in the budget deal (was his idea and then wasn’t); public financing of his campaign (supported in 2008 and then changed his mind); questioning the patriotism of opponents (opposed, then did just that); health insurance mandate (opposed, then supported); apology tour (apologizing for America’s past and then claiming he did not); spending freeze (opposed, then supported); war on oil and gas (engaged in one, then said he did not); fix the economy in three years (promised to do so, then asked for a second term). [39322]

At WesternJournalism.com Kevin Collins writes that Obama may be “bleeding African-American support, whether anyone wants to believe it or not.” Collins notes, “A Public Policy Polling survey of North Carolina voters in mid-May gave the first indication of the problems Obama had bought for himself when he shunned the black clergy for a few million dollars from the gay community. It found that 20% of North Carolina’s African-American voters intended to vote for Mitt Romney. A few days later, a Gallup survey of Georgia voters found the same 20% of blacks intending to vote for Romney. ...In late August, a Mitchell Research & Communications survey of Michigan found that 26% of black Michiganders declared that they were going to vote for Romney. Mitchell reported a drop in Obama’s support among Michigan’s black voters from 92/5 to 73/26 in a ten day period. ...Two days ago, a SurveyUSA poll of Ohio voters found that 22% of black likely voters they spoke with intended to vote for Mitt Romney.” [39300]

The Obama campaign web site posts a photograph of Mitt Romney wearing a dunce cap. [39296]

Campaigning in Las Vegas, Nevada, Michelle Obama tells an audience her husband "...inherited an economy in rapid decline. But instead of pointing fingers, instead of placing blame, [he] got to work because he was thinking about folks like my dad and like his grandmother." (Whether anyone laughed at the absurd claim that Obama has not placed blame is not known.) [39473]

On the campaign trail for Obama in Lake Worth, Florida, Bill Clinton tells his audience, "I hear all these people say, 'Oh, I was so enthusiastic four years ago. I had so much hope for change. And I'm disappointed in this, that, and the other thing.' Let me tell you something: I may be the only person in America, but I am far more enthusiastic about ...Obama this time than I was four years ago." (More than a few people believe Clinton has been working against Obama with his public appearances, paying compliments which, on second thought, don't sound so much like compliments. Clinton here says he is more enthusiastic about Obama in 2012 than in 2008—but only after first reminding everyone that Obama has disappointed them.) [39653, 39654, 39655, 39699]

In an interview with KRNV in Reno, Nevada, Obama is asked, "What did you mean when you said you will have more flexibility after the election when you thought you were off-mic with [then-Russian president] Dmitri Medvedev? Why is having more latitude after the elections significant?" Obama responds, "This was specifically about how we deal with Russia and nuclear arms. We've been able to negotiate a nuclear arms deal that reduced levels of nuclear arms both in Russia and in the United States and that's something that was ratified on a bipartisan basis in the United States Senate. The discussion there very much just had to do with the fact that it's hard to negotiate additional treaties when I'm off campaigning and doing all kinds of stuff. At the time, Mr. Putin was still putting together a new government because he had just been reelected. And so, when you're negotiating between major nuclear powers about something of so much importance you want to make sure that everybody's focused." (Obama is too busy campaigning and "doing all kinds of stuff" to do his job.) [39415]

Fort Lauderdale's *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* endorses Mitt Romney, writing, "Brush away all the rhetoric, all the vitriol, all the divisiveness from the presidential campaign. To most Americans, only one thing matters—the economy. Four years into Barack Obama's presidency, economic growth is sputtering. Family incomes are down. Poverty is up. Business owners are reluctant to assume risk in the face of unending uncertainty. Many are holding on by their fingernails, desperate for signs of an economic recovery that will help them provide for themselves, their employees, their customers and their communities. When ...Obama came into office in 2009, the economy was in freefall and though untested, he inspired us with his promise of hope and change. Now, four years later, we have little reason to believe he can turn things around. So while we endorsed Obama in 2008, we recommend voters choose Republican Mitt Romney on Nov. 6. ...The greatest threat to our national defense is not the size of our military, but the ever-

escalating size of our national debt. We must get government spending under control, across the board. ...Obama is a decent man who took office with the nation facing an economic precipice. But even he predicted he would be a one-term president if he failed to turn things around. We believe the best chance to get America back working again is to elect Mitt Romney. That's why we endorse him for president." [39282, 39310]

At RedState.com Neil Stevens notes the changing party identification over the last four years: "In 2008, the Democrats had a 39–29 (D+10) advantage in hard party ID, and a 54–42 (D+12) advantage with leaners. In 2012 though, we're in the post-TEA party era. Republicans now show a 36–35 (R+1) hard party ID advantage, and a 49–46 (R+3) lead with leaners. This gives us a range of party ID swings from 2008, from R+11 to R+15. ...The takeaway here is that Mitt Romney has many paths to victory. He's solidified enough states (Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Indiana, and probably Colorado) that he has his chances elsewhere (Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin + Iowa or New Hampshire, Nevada + New Hampshire + Maine 2). This election is winnable for Mitt Romney as long as his people vote and get out the vote on election day." [39291]

WND.com reports, "In a unanimous vote at a rare emergency meeting held late Friday afternoon, Virginia's State Board of Elections asked state Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli to investigate a video report that caught the field director for Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Moran's campaign in an apparent conspiracy to commit election fraud. The video sting by James O'Keefe's Project Veritas, first reported by WND, prompted the resignation of Patrick Moran, who is also Jim Moran's son, and a criminal investigation by the Arlington County Police Department in Northern Virginia, near Washington, D.C. ...Patrick Moran is also the nephew of Virginia Democratic Party Chairman Brian Moran, Jim Moran's brother. In a statement, Brian Moran said his nephew made 'a mistake' and called him 'a good kid.'" (Moran apparently defines "good kid" as someone who dispense advice on how to commit voter fraud.) [39307]

At HumanEvents.com Sara Marie Brenner reports that "van loads of Ohio residents born in Somalia" have been reported by poll workers "being driven to the voting station and guided by Democratic interpreters on the voting process. No Republican interpreters were present, according to these volunteers. ...A source, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a volunteer outside the Morse Road polling center. She has witnessed Somalis who cannot speak English come to the polling center. They are brought in groups, by van or bus. The Democrats hand them a slate card and say, 'vote Brown all the way down.' Given that Sherrod Brown is the incumbent Democrat Senator in Ohio, one can assume that this is the reference. ...The logical follow-up question is whether a non-English speaking person is an American citizen. ...According to the Somali Community Association of Ohio's web site, over 45,000 Somalis live in Ohio. Only 40 percent have become citizens of the United States, and only 25 percent speak English well enough to get a job. ...A Mitt Romney bus stopped near the voting center, approximately 30 Democrats who were outside handing out the slate cards rushed over to the bus. They yelled at the bus, and swarmed around its door when anyone attempted to exit the bus. This, from the 'tolerant left.'" [39316, 39333]

In an interview with Denver's NBC affiliate, KUSA, Obama is asked by Kyle Clark, "Were the Americans under attack at the consulate in Benghazi Libya denied requests for help during that attack? And is it fair to tell Americans that what happened is under investigation and we'll all find out after the election?" Obama responds, "Well, the election has nothing to do with, uh, four, uh, brave Americans getting killed and us wanting to find out exactly what happened. These are, uh, folks who served, uh, under me that [sic] I had sent, uh, to some very dangerous places. Nobody wants to find out more what happened [sic] than I do. But we want to make sure that we get it right, particularly because, uh, I have made a commitment, uh, to the families impacted as well as the American people. We're gonna bring those folks to justice. So, we're gonna gather all the facts, find out exactly what happened, uh, and make sure that it doesn't happen again but we're also gonna make sure that we bring, uh, to justice those who carried out these attacks." Clark: "Were they denied requests for help during the attack?" Obama: "Well, we are finding out exactly what happened. I can tell you, as I've said, uh, over the last uh, uh, couple of months since this happened, the minute I found out what was happening, I gave three very clear directives. Number one, make sure that we are securing our personnel and doing whatever we need to. Number two, we're gonna investigate exactly what happened to make sure it doesn't happen again. Number three, find out who did this so we can bring them to justice. And, you know, I guarantee you that everybody in the State Department, our military, uh, CIA, you name it, uh, had number one priority making sure that people were safe. These were our folks, uh, and we're gonna find out exactly what happened, uh, but what we're also gonna do is make sure that, uh, we are identifying those who carried out these terrible attacks." [39298, 39299]

Clark also asks, "In a national address, you touted the stimulus money going to Abound Solar—a Colorado company connected to one of your billionaire fundraisers. Now, as you may know, Abound Solar is out of business and under criminal investigation. The jobs are gone and taxpayers are out about 60 million dollars. How do you answer critics who see Abound Solar as Colorado's Solyndra—a politically connected clean energy company that went under and took our money with it?" Obama laughs and says, "Well, Kyle, eh, I think that if you look at our record, uh, that these loans that are given out by the Department of Energy for clean energy, uh, have created jobs all across the country and only about four percent, uh, of these loans, uh, were going to, to some very, uh, cutting-edge industries that are gonna allow us to figure out how to produce energy in a clean, renewable way in the future and create jobs in Colorado and all across the country. And some of them have failed but, uh, the vast majority of them are pushing us forward into a clean energy direction. And that's good for Colorado; that's good for the country. These are decisions, by the way, that are made by the Department of Energy, they have nothing to do with politics." (Obama is lying. [Dailycaller.com](http://Dailycaller.com) later reports that "...emails obtained by [CompleteColorado.com](http://CompleteColorado.com) suggest that the White House was involved in the Energy Department's decision to award Abound Solar a \$400 million loan guarantee. The emails also indicate that the loan guarantee was political payback to Democratic benefactor Pat Stryker. In one email, Energy Department loan executive Jonathan Silver tells credit adviser Jim McCrea that, 'You better [let] him know the [White House] wants to move Abound forward,' referring to Treasury adviser Ian Samuels, who apparently



wasn't moving fast enough to schedule calls regarding Abound.") [39298, 39317, 39336, 39442]

On the Michael Smerconish program Obama says, "I was not personally aware of any request" for requests for increased security in Benghazi. ...Ultimately, though, any time there is a death of an American overseas, I want to find out what happened because my most important job... is keeping the American people safe, and we will get to the bottom of what happened. ...My biggest priority right now is bringing those folks to justice and I think the American people have seen that's a commitment I always keep." (Jihadists are now "folks.") [39302, 39311]

Writer Doug Ross asks, "Did two heroic SEALs ruin Obama's October Surprise?" Ross starts with the assumption that the "October Surprise" may have been a scheme engineered by Obama and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood president, Mohammed Morsi to allow for the release of Omar Abdul Rahman, the "blind sheik," from a U.S. prison. Security at the U.S. consulate in Benghazi would be intentionally reduced. That would allow operatives to storm the compound and kidnap Ambassador Christopher Stevens. Obama would then exchange Rahman for Stevens. "Had all gone according to plan," writes Ross, "Stevens would be released just before the election; Obama would take credit for that and a newly strengthened relationship with Egypt and Morsi. But what wasn't planned: two ex-SEALs named [Glen] Doherty and [Tyrone] Woods. They only happened to be in Benghazi because they were on a separate intel mission to locate surface-to-air missiles. So the terrorists launch their attack believing that there is no security whatsoever. And they are surprised to find that two SEALs are not only fighting back, but killing them left and right. The resulting firefight transforms the terrorists' assault from a simple kidnapping into a murderous onslaught that cost all four Americans their lives." (It is worth noting that Doherty and Woods were not stationed at the consulate. They were at the CIA annex about one mile away. There was essentially no one "protecting" Stevens but local Libyans.) [39292]

Ross admits, "it's a crazy, right-wing conspiracy theory. But add in the following observations: Repeated denials for more security in Benghazi, despite requests from multiple quarters. No credible explanation has been offered for the removal of security by the White House or the State Department. Leading up to 9/11—of all dates—there was no special security posture ordered in diplomatic installations around the Middle East. After the attack, a series of conflicting and morphing stories were offered by, among others, Ambassador Susan Rice, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Jay Carney, David Axelrod, Joe Biden, etc. Not only did [Obama] go to sleep after getting word of the attack, but it appears he also refused security briefings in the aftermath of the attack, instead simply departing for a fundraiser in Las Vegas. The theory being: [Obama] didn't need to stay awake after hearing of the attack. He didn't need any briefings. He knew exactly what had happened." Additionally, in one of the videos taken during the attack one gunman can be overheard saying, in Arabic, "Don't Shoot us! We were sent by Morsi!" (There is no explanation for such a statement other than Morsi's involvement in the plan. Morsi likely also engineered the anti-video demonstrations in Cairo as a cover

for the attacks. *The Obama Timeline* would not be surprised to learn that the anti-Islam video was the work of either the CIA or Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood operatives in the United States.) [39292, 39293, 39294, 39295, 39305]

Further, Fox News reports that “an urgent request from the CIA annex for military back-up during the attack on the U.S. Consulate and subsequent attack several hours later was denied by officials in the CIA chain of command—who also told the CIA operators twice to ‘stand down’ rather than help the ambassador’s team when shots were heard at approximately 9:40 p.m. in Benghazi on Sept. 11...” Doherty and Woods may have been told to remain at the annex *because the Obama operatives knew they would disrupt the kidnapping plan*. Had Doherty and Woods remained at the CIA annex they may not have been killed; Stevens and Sean Smith might have been kidnapped and exchanged; the Blind Sheik would be free to plan additional terrorist attacks; and Obama would be sailing to an easy reelection victory. Instead, despite orders to “stand down,” their courage and devotion to their fellow Americans prompted Doherty and Woods to rush to defend Stevens. They lost their lives in the process. *But they also disrupted the treasonous Obama-Morsi scheme—and may have saved the United States of America in the process.* [39292, 39293, 39294, 39295, 39305]

CIA spokesperson Jennifer Youngblood states, “No one at any level in the CIA told anybody not to help those in need [in Benghazi]; claims to the contrary are simply inaccurate.” At [WeeklyStandard.com](http://WeeklyStandard.com) William Kristol asks, “So who in the government did tell ‘anybody’ not to help those in need? Someone decided not to send in military assets to help those Agency operators. Would the secretary of defense make such a decision on his own? No. It would have been a presidential decision. There was presumably a rationale for such a decision. What was it? When and why—and based on whose counsel obtained in what meetings or conversations—did ...Obama decide against sending in military assets to help the Americans in need?” (It is worth noting that in Youngblood’s lawyerly statement she does *not* claim that anyone was ordered *to* offer help. She claims only that no one was told *not* to help.) [39297, 39306, 39311]

Aside from those at Fox News, ABC’s Jake Tapper is one of only a few reporters in the national mainstream media reporting on the failure of the Obama administration to provide assistance to Ambassador Stevens in Benghazi and its orders for CIA operatives to “stand down.” At [ABCNews.com](http://ABCNews.com) Tapper writes, “In an interview with a Denver TV reporter Friday, ...Obama twice refused to answer questions as to whether the Americans under siege in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012, were denied requests for help, saying he’s waiting for the results of investigations before making any conclusions about what went wrong. After being asked about possible denials of requests for aid, and whether it’s fair to tell Americans that what happened is under investigation and won’t be released until after the election, [Obama] said, ‘the election has nothing to do with four brave Americans getting killed and us wanting to find out exactly what happened.’ ...Earlier today, Fox News’ Jennifer Griffin reported that CIA agents in the second U.S. compound in Benghazi were denied requests for help. In response, CIA spokesperson Jennifer Youngblood said, ‘We can say with confidence that the Agency reacted quickly

to aid our colleagues during that terrible evening in Benghazi. Moreover, no one at any level in the CIA told anybody not to help those in need; claims to the contrary are simply inaccurate.’” (Tapper sheds no new light on the story. He merely repeats what Clark and Griffin had already reported.) [39319]

Rumors surface that General Carter Ham, head of the U.S. Africa Command, “...immediately had a rapid response unit ready and communicated to the Pentagon that he had a unit ready [to head to Benghazi to rescue Ambassador Stevens]. General Ham then received the order to stand down. His response was to screw it, he was going to help anyhow. Within 30 seconds to a minute after making the move to respond, his second in command apprehended General Ham and told him that he was now relieved of his command.” (*Stars and Stripes* reported on October 18 that Ham was to be replaced by General David Rodriguez as head of the Africa Command. Whether Ham was relieved of his duties because of his refusal to “stand down” is not yet known.) [39324, 39325, 39326, 39327, 39359]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the unnamed *Wall Street* insider: “I apologize for my lack of communication of late. So much to be done with what time is left to me. Each day I feel stronger though, which of course contradicts what was told to me mere months ago. Perhaps true purpose has given me the strength to do what must be done? I like to think so as the ledger of my soul leaves much yet to be accounted for. Decades of arrogance and character malpractice have left very deep and regrettable bruising. But enough of that. Enough of the many failings of an old man who fears the inevitable mortal end and what judgment awaits him beyond. That is not what I wish to speak to you now of. I was so pleased to read the words of our mutual friend [the White House insider] yesterday! To think upon Mitt Romney as a man who truly recognizes that God’s will is what must be done if this country is to be saved, how long has it been such a person has occupied the People’s House? And how much do so many of us now yearn for such a man to lead America? I did not actually realize the depth of that yearning until I read that story of Mr. Romney’s quiet prayer amidst the sound of thunder. What a beautiful and powerful telling, and I am left to now wonder how many, like me, are so hopeful to have a humble and dedicated servant of God in the White House once again. In my heart I now know God’s hand now guides this election, and that certainty gives me great peace at this critical moment, and for that I cannot adequately express my gratitude to you, but hope my words give you at least some recognition of how moved I was in reading that story yesterday.” [39344]

“You questioned my work in Europe. I cannot publicly disclose the specifics of those doings, but will simply say much danger remains, but for now, the patient, if you will, has been stabilized. Italy’s condition is not nearly so dire as it was, and some who helped to manufacture its demise are now being held accountable for their action or inaction. Germany remains resolute in its determination to push back against the demands of the Socialists. How odd is it for me to be working so closely now with a country [Germany] whose people once destroyed so many of my own [Jews]? God does indeed work in mysterious ways. The opportunity of redemption is always provided, is it not? Now I

conclude this letter to you by now answering, in as much detail as I can, the meeting with Mr. [George] Soros that took place some time ago. I would not consider it as dramatic as our friend put it to you, but perhaps there was just a hint of former glory on display, though I had, as the kids today like to say, 'backup' that I am certain added a significant bit of authority to my own demands, though, to be honest, I was far from the most aggressive participant. George has always been a bit of a bouffon [sic; buffoon]. He is new money, you know. I, and others like me, are old money. And while the currency he has amassed now dwarfs my own personal fortunes, currency is in itself not power, nor influence, particularly given its rapid inflationary decline over the years. He is keenly aware of that fact, and increasingly resents the very condition he himself helped manufacture. There is power and there is POWER. In that regard, George has always stood on the outside looking in. Much like the Man Calling Himself Obama, George's own life has been motivated by resentment. Such resentment cannot help but poison over time, and poison lacking either sensibility or courtesy is what he has been for a very long time now." [39344]

"So yes, there was a meeting. I will tell you that much. It is a meeting none there will ever speak the particulars of, most notably George himself. Directives were given to one whose existence has for the most part held little interest to us. But at this time, the future is truly at stake. The dangers have not been this great to so many for a very long time. Society does now, at this moment, truly sit upon the precipice, and manipulators such as George will not be allowed at such a moment, to freely practice their particularly foolish and offensive brand of avarice. Beyond that simple telling, I tell you no more. You do not wish to hold such information, for that kind of knowing often comes at far too high a cost, and I would not corrupt you in that way. I will share but one physical observation. George appears very, very tired. [Soros is 82 years old.] Perhaps more so than even me. Continue to do your work, and those others like you who are doing the same. I continue to marvel at this new media that has so recently manifested. What a remarkable thing it is. This battle of Romney and the Man Calling Himself Obama, this election of Good and Evil, now comes to its inevitable conclusion. I cannot guarantee victory, but I do believe I have, in my own way, helped to assure its very real possibility. That final conclusion, be it righteous or wrong, now rests with the people, as it always has in the history of this incredible and magnificent experiment that is America. P.S. I shall tease you with a hint here. I apologize for doing so, but it is the imp in me that requires it. One among many of my projects is to be the following, and it does relate directly to the political interpretations of this time. Where I am happy to report the written word now faces justifiable challenge, I now turn to the visual medium to shake the confidence of those who helped manufacture the disaster of these last four years, as well as those who continue to cover up the Benghazi tragedy. That blood upon those hands will not wash off: COMCAST." (Cable television, telephone, and Internet giant Comcast Corporation is majority owner of NBC and MSNBC. What the Wall Street insider is suggesting is not clear, but his hint may mean a "shake-up" at some media outlets will take place after the election. The networks' existence is based on advertising revenue, and a threat by major corporations to pull the plug on ads can force changes in programming and personnel. Chris Matthews may want to update his resume.) [39344]

Despite cold and rainy weather, Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan are greeted by thousands of supporters at Hoover High School in North Canton, Ohio, Friday evening. [39318]

On *Hannity*, *Washington Examiner* columnist and political pundit Michael Barone tells Sean Hannity that Mitt Romney will win the election. [39339]

Obama is interviewed on MTV. [39533]

On *The Tonight Show*, Jay Leno says, “Here is a very inexpensive Halloween costume idea if you don’t have money: Wear a ‘Re-Elect Obama’ button and go out as a journalist.” [39378]

On October 27 Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–46 in Rasmussen’s Daily Presidential Tracking poll. Romney leads 52–46 in North Carolina and 50–48 in Florida. In Rasmussen’s Swing State Tracking Poll, Romney leads 51–45. [39312, 39313, 39314, 39315]

Comedian/political commentator Steven Crowder makes a video mocking the Obama campaign’s virginity-losing “My First Time” ad. Crowder says, “My first time was AMAZING! There was a line in the sand and I was a girl and now I am a woman. A woman who can stay on my parents’ insurance till 26, ruin countless generations to come with my debt and not even pay for my own birth control!” “Free birth control... free healthcare... free phones... free abortion...” Another video mocking the Obama ad appears on PJMedia.com. [39320, 39329]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A new video from the founders of a celebrated [San Francisco] advertising agency features children ‘of the future’ singing about the aftermath of a Mitt Romney presidency: A world where sick people are required to ‘just die,’ the atmosphere is ‘frying,’ gays can be ‘fixed’ and ‘oil fills the sea.’ The children, who stare blankly at the camera throughout the video, even take pains to explicitly mention that they blame ‘mom and dad’ for all those horrors. ...The video ...asks viewers, ‘What Would The Children Of The Future Say If We Let Them Down This November?’” [39377, 39431, 39432]

Campaigning in New Hampshire, Obama continues his class warfare divide-and-conquer strategy, complaining about “folks at the very top” who “get to play by a different set of rules than you do,” and letting “Wall Street run wild and make reckless bets with other folks’ money.” (It is Obama’s ill-advised loans to companies like Solyndra that are “reckless bets” with tax dollars. Unlike income taxes, Wall Street investments are voluntary. No one is forced to invest in the stock market, but Obama forced Americans to put \$535 million into Solyndra without their permission.) Obama says of Mitt Romney, “As President Clinton said, [Romney] does have a lot of brass because he’s not talking about big change, but all he’s offering is a big rerun of the same policies that created so much hardship for so many Americans.” [39321]

Mitt Romney campaigns in Pensacola, Florida, and says, “It’s extraordinary that [Obama’s] agenda keeps getting smaller and smaller and smaller. Not just for our military, but for Medicare, for jobs. [Obama has not] been able to stand up to the challenge of the times.” [39328]

In Wisconsin, the *Mount Pleasant Patch* reports, “The Tea Party faithful gathered Saturday for a loud and enthusiastic rally aimed at getting out the vote on Nov. 6 and putting Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan in the White House. ... Before the event could get under way, though, organizers say a truck affixed with ‘Obama’ stickers drove through the parking lot and dumped quantities of nails. ... Inside the venue, a crowd of around 1,000 grew to about 2,500, many of them waving signs or wearing t-shirts proclaiming their support for candidates on the Republican ticket.” [39358]

Reverend Joseph Lowery addresses an audience of about 300 blacks at a get-out-the-vote event in Forsyth, Georgia. According to the *Monroe County Reporter*, Lowery said “that when he was a young militant, he used to say all white folks were going to hell. Then he mellowed and just said most of them were. Now, he said, he is back to where he was.” He also told the crowd, “I don’t know what kind of a n— wouldn’t vote with a black man running.” (Lowery was invited by Obama to deliver a prayer at his 2009 inauguration. In his prayer, the anti-Semitic, then-87-year-old civil rights leader asked God to help humanity work for a day “when white would embrace what is right.” Lowery also asked for help in working for the day when “black will not be asked to get back.” White Americans had just elected Obama—and Obama invited a black preacher to insult them.) [858, 39540]

On Fox News, Lieutenant General Tom McInerney, former U.S. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, comments, “If they [the Obama administration] would tell us more, we’d quit our Monday morning quarterbacking” of the events in Benghazi. “He [Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta] had the situational awareness ... that the consulate was being attacked in Benghazi and we should have had aircraft over there as soon as possible. ... We should have done that. We didn’t even try. We didn’t do anything. And that’s the very disturbing thing... We should have had a Global Hawk over both Benghazi and Tripoli on 9/11, the anniversary... We should have had ISR, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets right over Libya. ... Are we brain-dead? We’ve been fighting this war for 11 years. ... Whoever gave that term ‘stand down’—it wasn’t part of my vernacular in the Air Force for 35 years nor our military—our term was, ‘go to the sound of the cannons, go where the action is.’ And so whoever gave that stand down order, I think, is responsible for killing Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith.” McInerney says the Obama administration’s “narrative is, ‘We killed Osama bin Laden; the global war against radical Islam, the global war on terror is over. We’ve defeated them.’ ... In this particular case he’s [Panetta’s] gonna say, ‘Well, I never got guidance from the White House or from State [Department] to go commit forces in support of the consulate.’ That’s not good enough, Mr. Secretary. When you hear people are in trouble, you send them [help]. And so, this is the disturbing thing. Where was the chairman [of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff], General [Martin] Dempsey? Where was General Carter Ham? Why weren't they involved, and say[ing], 'Look, boss, we can get aircraft down there...' We had a lot of situational awareness, even though we didn't plan for it." [39323]

In the daily Rasmussen poll, Obama's approval rating drops to 47 percent and his disapproval number climbs to 52 percent. In the Gallup poll, his approval/disapproval numbers are 46/49. (The Rasmussen poll is of likely voters, while Gallup's is of all adults. At Breitbart.com John Nolte points out, "Generally, the looser the screen the better Democrats poll. If Obama is cratering with 'all adults,' his numbers are likely worse among the tighter screen of registered and likely voters. Today, Gallup has Obama upside down, 46-49% with all adults. Three days ago, Obama was above water, 51-44%. That's a huge swing. Again, this might just be statistical noise. But when you look at the news coming out of Libya and the small, mean-spirited pettiness we're seeing from [Obama] and his campaign, there's reason to believe this shift might be real." [39330, 39331, 39332, 39349]

*The New York Times*—which has not endorsed a Republican since Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956—endorses Obama for reelection. (In other news, the Pope endorses Catholicism and Lindsay Lohan endorses sleeping late.) [39335]

The *Des Moines Register*—which has not endorsed a Republican since 1972—endorses Mitt Romney for president, writing, "American voters are deeply divided about this race. The Register's editorial board, as it should, had a vigorous debate over this endorsement. Our discussion repeatedly circled back to the nation's single most important challenge: pulling the economy out of the doldrums, getting more Americans back in the workforce in meaningful jobs with promising futures, and getting the federal government on a track to balance the budget in a bipartisan manner that the country demands. Which candidate could forge the compromises in Congress to achieve these goals? When the question is framed in those terms, Mitt Romney emerges the stronger candidate. ...Romney has made rebuilding the economy his No. 1 campaign priority—and rightly so." (Iowa voters will notice that the state's largest-circulation newspaper was willing to endorse Jimmy Carter in 1980 and Walter Mondale in 1984 but unwilling to endorse Obama in 2012.) [39341, 39342, 39343, 39349]

The Associated Press plays the race card in the campaign, citing a poll that it argues proves a majority of Americans "harbor prejudice against blacks. Racial attitudes have not improved in the four years since the United States elected [Obama]... as a slight majority of Americans now express prejudice toward blacks whether they recognize those feelings or not. Those views could cost ...Obama votes as he tries for re-election, the survey found, though the effects are mitigated by some Americans' more favorable views of blacks. ...Overall, the survey found that by virtue of racial prejudice, Obama could lose 5 percentage points off his share of the popular vote in his Nov. 6 contest against Republican challenger Mitt Romney. However, Obama also stands to benefit from a 3 percentage point gain due to pro-black sentiment, researchers said. Overall, that means an estimated net loss of 2 percentage points due to anti-black attitudes." (The

Associated Press apparently believes that voters were not racist when they elected Obama in 2008 but have become racist since then—and Obama’s performance in office is irrelevant. The purpose of the article is two-fold: to get readers to vote for Obama based on race-guilt, and to provide an “explanation” if Obama loses to Romney on November 6.) [39429]

On PBS, Bill Moyers interviews Neil Barofsky, former inspector general for the Troubled Assts Relief Program (TARP). Barofsky, who has been critical of both the federal government’s actions and Wall Street, says he was essentially told to “lighten up” on his criticism if he did not want to damage his career: “Well, what I saw when I was in Washington was this real pressure on myself, on other regulators to essentially keep their tone down. And I was told point blank by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury that, this is about in 2010. And he said to me, he said, ‘Neil, you’re a smart guy. You’re a young guy. You’re a talented guy. You got [sic] your whole future in front of you. You’ve got a young family that’s starting out. But you’re doing yourself real harm.’ And the reason why you’re doing yourself real harm is the harsh tone that I had towards the government as well as to Wall Street, based on what I was seeing down in Washington. And he told me that if I wanted to get a job out on the [Wall] Street afterwards, it was going to really be hard for me. And I explained to him that I wasn’t really interested in that. And he said, “Well, maybe a judgeship. Maybe an appointment from the Obama administration for a federal judgeship. ...And I said, ‘Well, again, that would be great. But I don’t really think that’s going to happen with my criticisms.’ And he said it didn’t have to be that way. ‘If all you do is soften your tone, be a little bit more upbeat, all this stuff can happen for you.’ And that’s what I meant by playing ball. I was essentially told, play ball, soften your tone, and all of these good things can happen to you. But if you stay harsh that was going to cause me real harm in those words. ...When I had my incident with the assistant secretary that my deputy, who had come down from—who’s another former federal prosecutor, who did narcotics work, said to me, Kevin Puvalowski. And he said to me, ‘Neil, you were just offered the bullet or the bribe, the gold or the lead.’” [39364, 39365]

The Associated Press reports that according to eyewitness reports from the scene in Benghazi on September 11 there was no anti-video demonstration and as many as “150 bearded gunmen, some wearing the Afghan-style tunics favored by Islamic militants, seal[ed] off the streets leading to the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. They set up roadblocks with pick-up trucks mounted with heavy machine guns, according to witnesses. The trucks bore the logo of Ansar al-Shariah... There was no sign of a spontaneous protest against an American-made movie denigrating Islam’s Prophet Muhammad. But a lawyer passing by the scene said he saw the militants gathering around 20 youths from nearby to chant against the film. Within an hour or so, the assault began, guns blazing as the militants blasted into the compound.” The lawyer, Khaled al-Haddard, states, “I am certain they had planned to do something like this, I don’t know if it was hours or days, but it was definitely planned. From the way they set up the checkpoints and gathered people, it was very professional.” (The eyewitness accounts support the theory that the attack was not only planned, the anti-Islam movie was a cover to fool the media and the American people, and the plan may have been to kidnap Ambassador Christopher Stevens for later exchange with “Blind Sheik” Omar Abdul Rahman. If the plan was not a



kidnap-and-exchange scheme, it was about Obama's gunrunning.) [39337, 39338, 39340, 39346, 39351]

According to the eyewitness reports, "A precision mortar hit the compound's building at 4 a.m., killing two other Americans." The attack on the consulate began at about 9:40 p.m. but Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods were killed in a mortar attack *more than seven hours later*. By refusing to provide support—which most certainly would not have taken seven hours—Obama caused their deaths. [39346, 39351]

Outspoken conservative Ann Barnhardt writes, "Let's quit the chickensh\*t dancing around here. The Obama regime has been running guns and BIGTIME armaments and munitions, including MANPADS, which are shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles designed to shoot down commercial jetliners, to the Muslim Brotherhood. This is just Fast-and-Furious except that the people being armed are musloids tasked with reforming the Islamic Caliphate instead of the drug cartels. But it is exactly the same thing. Ghadaffi was overthrown because the Obama regime wanted to use a chaotic, destabilized 'wild west' Libya as the doorway to the Caliphate to get the arms in for distribution to Syria, Yemen, Jordan, Egypt and eventually Saudi Arabia. Egypt would have been too risky. Ambassador Chris Stevens and the CIA were somehow, some way running or heavily involved this armament pipeline. The Obama regime wanted and 'needed' Chris Stevens dead, probably to cover the gun and armament running, so they killed him. Word was sent to the Muslim Brotherhood to attack the Benghazi facility. The Obama regime promised that there would be no retaliation and that a cover story about 'slandering the prophet' would be provided. The Muslim Brotherhood wins all around. They get to keep all of the arms and MANPADS supplied by Obama with no whistleblowers AND they get their bullshit sharia law agenda advanced and explicitly ratified by the government of the United States." [39347]

"Get used to this business of the Oligarch class using the Muslim Brotherhood to do their dirty work for them. This has been the plan all along, and it will only escalate from here. As I have been saying since 2008, Barack Obama is the explicit enemy of what used to be the First American Republic, and of Western Civilization in general. EXPLICIT ENEMY. As in traitor. As in treason. As in murderer. As in should be arrested as a non-state, non-uniformed enemy belligerent, tried in a military tribunal, and upon conviction be put against a wall and shot by a firing squad, and then have his dead body publicly displayed so that there will be no future doubt or bullshit conspiracy theory crap that the son of a bitch wasn't executed. No shit. And the same goes for dozens of people in his 'administration' right along with him, except that the U.S. citizens, like Hillary Clinton, should be tried for treason. But like Obama, upon conviction (which should take all of five minutes to deliberate) these people should be executed by firing squad without delay. They are traitors and they are murderers. After almost four years of this shit, you people are still trying to parse these events as if these people are just misguided or inept. These people are the declared enemy of what used to be the United States (they put the last nail in the coffin—the Republic is already dead) and of Western civilization. They are attempting to bring about a global tyrannical oligarchy and are in a close, explicit alliance

with islam in order to consolidate control of the oil producing areas of the Muslim world and eliminate Israel, and eventually to use the Caliphate as the army which will totally overrun and overthrow Europe.” [39347]

“Clinton, Obama, Panetta, Axelrod and THEIR HANDLERS, all of these people are coming straight out of Communism, which is really nothing more than a push for a global tyrannical oligarchy. It has little to do with any sort of economic theory per se, its only goal is to put a cadre of oligarchs in power, and to enrich them by any means necessary. We should probably stop calling it Communism and just call it neo-Stalinism. Chris Stevens was tortured, gang ass raped, killed, and his dead body was gang ass raped again because the initial order came from Washington D.C. to kill him. The details really didn’t concern the murderers sitting in Washington watching it happen via drone-cam, nor did the collateral damage in the form of the other three men killed. Stevens thought he was ‘in the club,’ but the poor fool was just another ‘stupid faggot’ in the eyes of the Obama regime who was used and then killed because he was worth less than nothing to them. But then, all human life is worth less than nothing to these people. One of the SEALs was on the roof of the building painting a target with a laser expecting a drone or a gunship to engage. What the SEAL failed to understand is that the drone he knew was flying above him was in fact the asset of the very people who ordered the strike, and that they were back in Washington watching via that drone-cam, coolly waiting for him, the ambassador and the other assets there present to die. You people need to wake the hell up. Prepare for war. These people are killers and will stop at nothing until someone stops them.” [39347]

On The Fox News Channel’s *Justice with Judge Jeanine*, Pat Caddell, Democrat strategist and former pollster for Jimmy Carter, expresses outrage at the mainstream media’s refusal to properly cover the Benghazi cover-up. An emotional Caddell states, “They [in the media] have been in the tank on this in a way I have never seen. ...I am appalled right now. This White House. This president. This vice president. The Secretary of State—all of them, are willing apparently to dishonor themselves and this country for the cheap prospect of getting reelected, willing to cover up and lie, and the worst thing is, the very people who are supposed to protect the American people and the truth, the leading mainstream media... and I said in a speech a week ago, because I’m stunned, I’ve never seen on an issue of national security like this, but I will tell you this, I said it then, they [in the media] have become a threat, a fundamental threat to American democracy and the enemies of the American people. [Caddell becomes almost teary-eyed.] What we saw tonight, what I saw with Ty Woods’ father and family, and the outrage I feel for my country, and the shame that these people have no honor. And when will people finally say it? ‘Cover-up’ is too nice a word. And the media is the one that is worst on this. ...If any president, Democrat or Republican, prior to this had [gone to a Las Vegas fundraiser], while the consulate was smoldering, would have been crucified. And yet they are in the tank... I am so, not politically but personally, nauseated by this.” [39373, 39386]

Aging “immaterial girl” Madonna gets booed by an audience in New Orleans after saying, “Who’s registered to vote? I don’t care who you vote for as long as you vote for

Obama.” [39371, 39391]

On October 28 Obama, down six points in the Gallup poll, attends church—one of the few times he has done so in four years. (He is accompanied by his daughters, but not his wife.)

FoxNews.com reports, “A late surge by Mitt Romney has made the contest between him and ...Obama to win Ohio too close to call, according to a poll released Sunday. Romney and Obama are tied at 49 percent among likely voters, according to an Ohio News Organization poll. The margin of error in the poll is 3.1 percentage points. The biggest movement since the group’s poll in September is Romney’s lead with male voters—from 1 percentage point to 12 points.” [39345, 39350]

TheBlaze.com reports, “Retired Army Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer said Saturday he has sources saying ...Obama was in the room at the White House watching the assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya unfold. Two unarmed U.S. drones were dispatched to the consulate and recorded the final hours of the attack, which killed U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and three other Americans. ‘This was in the middle of the business day in Washington, so everybody at the White House, CIA, Pentagon, everybody was watching this go down,’ Shaffer said on Fox News’ ‘Justice with Judge Jeanine.’ ‘According to my sources, yes, [Obama] was one of those in the White House Situation Room in real-time watching this.’ ...Shaffer said the question now is what precisely Obama did or didn’t do in the moments he saw the attack unfolding. The CIA reportedly made three urgent requests for military backup that were each denied. ‘He, only he, could issue a directive to Secretary of Defense Panetta to do something. That’s the only place it could be done,’ Shaffer said. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said last week the military did not intervene because they did not have enough information about what was happening on the ground. Col. David Hunt, a Fox News military analyst, said the military could have had jets in the air within 20 minutes and forces on the ground within two hours. ‘The issue is always political with the White House, but the secretary of defense gives the order, has to be approved by the White House, they wouldn’t pull the trigger, and it’s disgraceful,’ Hunt said. ‘We’ve got guys dead.’” [39352, 39353, 39354, 39366, 39367, 39538]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 51–47 in its Daily Presidential Tracking Poll. Romney leads 50–47 in the Swing State Tracking Poll. [39356, 39357]

At Breitbart.com Joel B. Pollak reports, “The mainstream media’s silence on the Benghazi disaster reached deafening levels on Sunday, as hosts of four out of the five major news shows—with the exception of Fox News Sunday—failed to raise the issue. Only Bob Schieffer of CBS gave it serious consideration, and only after it was raised by Sen. John McCain. When the Benghazi issue did surface, other than on Fox, it was invariably brought up by Republican guests, and then deflected by the hosts, who largely ignored new stories this week that implicated the White House in the decision not to intervene to save the life of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and other American staff.”

On NBC's *Meet the Press*, "The Benghazi issue was not raised at all, save by panelist Carly Fiorina, who was interrupted by [host David] Gregory. He promised, 'We'll get to that a little bit later,' but did not return to the issue..." On ABC's *This Week*, "The Benghazi issue was raised by Newt Gingrich, in response to a question about the Romney campaign's prospects in Ohio. [Host George] Stephanopoulos failed to ask a follow-up and steered the conversation back to polls." On CNN's *State of the Union*, "The Benghazi issue was raised twice, once by Republican National Committee chair Reince Priebus in response to a question about U.S. Senate candidate Richard Mourdock's views on abortion, and once by Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell in response to a question about whether Romney would win the state in November. [Host Candy] Crowley did not raise the issue independently in a show largely focused on polls and voting." [39360, 39386, 39389, 39399, 39500]

On CBS' *Face the Nation*, "The Benghazi issue," reports Pollak, "was raised in an exchange between Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel, Obama's former chief of staff. After McCain brought up the issue, [host Bob] Schieffer asked a follow-up question about whether the administration had engaged in a 'deliberate cover-up.' McCain said it had either been a cover-up or 'the worst kind of incompetence.' Schieffer responded with another question about whether drones had produced images of the attacks. Emanuel responded with the Obama campaign's standard talking points, and Schieffer followed up with a question about what he would have done in the White House. Emanuel ducked the question, instead praising Obama's foreign policy record in general." On *Fox News Sunday*, Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) complains that the situation has been "politicized" and says, "We're going to get to the bottom of this. The intelligence is going to hold hearings when we return, right after the election." [39360, 39386, 39389, 39399]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) says, "You know, this administration is very good at touting and giving all the details like when they got [Osama] bin Laden. But now, we know that there were tapes, recordings inside the consulate during this fight, and they've gotten—they came—and the F.B.I. finally got in and took those, and now they're classified as 'top secret.' Why would they be top secret? So [Obama] went on various shows, despite what he says he said in the Rose Garden about terrorist acts, he went on several programs, including *The View*, including *Letterman*, including before the U.N., where he continued to refer, days later, many days later, to this as a spontaneous demonstration because of a hateful video. We know that is patently false. What did [Obama] know? When did he know it? And what did he do about it?" [39399]

On ABC's *This Week*, Obama's deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter says the *Des Moines Register's* endorsement of Mitt Romney "is not much of a surprise" and it didn't seem to be based at all in reality." (Cutter does not mention the Romney endorsements from Iowa's *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, *Quad City Times*, or *Sioux City Journal*. Other newspapers that have flipped from endorsing Obama in 2008 to Romney in 2012 include the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, *Florida Today*, the *Orlando Sentinel*, the *Pensacola News Journal*, *Naples Daily News*, the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, *The Daily Tribune* (Royal

Oak, Michigan), *The Daily Herald* (Chicago, Illinois and suburbs), *Houston Chronicle*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *The Tennessean*, *Los Angeles Daily News*, *Long-Beach Press-Telegram*, *The Reporter* (Vacaville, California), *The New York Observer*, *The Vancouver Columbian*, *Billings Gazette*, *Pasadena Star-News*, *Casper Star-Tribune*, Virginia's *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*, *Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise* (Fitchburg, Massachusetts), *Journal and Courier* (Lafayette, Indiana), *The Joplin Globe*, *The Shreveport Times*, *Cape Cod Times*, and the *Worcester Telegram*.) [39374, 39375, 39384, 39390, 39403, 39411, 39419, 39424, 39438]

Also on *This Week*, leftist blogger Andrew Sullivan, who spent much of the 2008 campaign claiming that Sarah Palin was not the mother of Trig Palin, remarks, "If Virginia and Florida go back to the Republicans, it's the Confederacy. Entirely. You put a map of the Civil War over this electoral map, you've got the Civil War." George Will responds to Sullivan's absurd statement, "Democrats have been losing the white vote constantly since 1964, so that's not new. Here's what we're trying to talk about: 2008, Obama gets that many white votes [Will holds his hand out]. This time the polls indicate he may get this many [he lowers his hand somewhat]. We're trying to explain this difference. Now, two possible explanations—a lot of white people that voted for Obama in 2008 watched him govern for four years and said, 'Not so good, let's try someone else.' The alternative—the Confederacy hypothesis is those people for some reason somehow the last four years became racists." (Sullivan is setting the stage for an Obama defeat, blaming it on white racists. He conveniently forgets that white voters elected Obama in 2008, and that Democrat Jimmy Carter was elected president in 1976 by "winning the Confederacy.") [39376, 39428]

Former Obama administration economist Austan Goolsbee says on *This Week*, "We've seen over the last year-and-a-half that unless there are unbelievable outliers, one month's [job and unemployment] numbers don't seem to crack through the shell that much. Now, that said, we had a probably artificially too-optimistic number last time, so there'll probably be some rebound [in the October numbers]..." (That is, the decline in the unemployment rate in September, from 8.1 to 7.8 percent, was a statistical fluke or outlier and the October number, scheduled to be reported on November 2, may show an increase in the unemployment rate.) [39398]

On *Fox News Sunday*, senior political analyst Brit Hume comments, "One of the problems we're having here is, that it has fallen to this news organization, Fox News, and a couple of others, to do all the heavy lifting on this [Benghazi] story, and the mainstream organs of the media that would be after this like a pack of hounds, if this were a Republican president have been remarkably reticent. And there's been some good reporting, but nothing like on the scale and to the degree of specificity that you would expect by now. Normally, you know, the big news organizations would have this thing out there. And we would know a lot more than we do, about what the President did, what he knew, when he knew it and what order he made, on what basis. We still don't know that and to some extent a lot of the media, who are a combined potent force, have not done their job." [39389]

Romney is endorsed by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. [39375]

Robert “Bud” McFarlane, former National Security Advisor, tells Fox News, “You don’t just passively allow Americans to remain under attack for eight hours at a time when you have forces within range—and do nothing. The Secretary of Defense was in the White House at five o’clock within an hour of when the attacks started. He could have told him, ‘Yes, we have special operations people and F18 aircraft that could be deployed right away.’ To have known what he had available, to have known that Americans were under fire, and to have done nothing, is dereliction of duty that I have never seen in a Commander in Chief from a president of any party. Outrageous.” [39368]

On *Meet the Press*, Governor John Kasich says that, based on internal polling he has seen, Mitt Romney will win Ohio on November 6. [39369]

A Star Tribune/Mason-Dixon poll of likely voters in Minnesota shows Obama leading Mitt Romney by a mere three points, 47–44. [39363]

Obama gets a “criticism reprieve” as Hurricane Sandy heads toward the Northeastern United States. With the mainstream media focusing in hurricane preparedness, it has a natural excuse for not focusing on the fallout from the Benghazi fiasco. FoxNews.com reports, “...Obama canceled appearances in Northern Virginia on Monday and in Colorado on Tuesday to monitor the massive storm, which, according to the most recent models, is expected to make landfall along the mid-Atlantic coast Monday evening [October 29]. The White House said that [Obama], after attending church, will visit the National Response Coordination Center at FEMA headquarters.” (More than a few voters may wonder why Obama can “monitor the massive storm” but left the White House during the Benghazi situation to attend a fundraiser in Las Vegas.) [39370]

The Romney campaign announces that it will use its campaign bus to assist with hurricane relief efforts. [39372]

Reuters reports, “Hurricane forces Obama to balance governing, campaigning. ...Obama faced the delicate task on Sunday of balancing his response to a potentially huge natural disaster with his own tough re-election effort as Hurricane Sandy bore down on the U.S. East Coast nine days before Election Day. Trying to demonstrate that he had learned the lessons of White House predecessor George W. Bush’s botched handling of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Obama sought to project the image of a president fully engaged in marshaling resources to deal with a looming national emergency.” (Reuters is inadvertently correct: Obama’s actions during the hurricane *are* about his image—and nothing more.) [39423]

According to Americac2c.com, “Fox News correspondent Jennifer Griffin is now reporting: ‘on the ground annex sources are telling her directly’ when SEALs Tyrone

Woods and Glen Doherty disobeyed orders to ‘stand down’ they instead ‘walked’ while under fire [from] the [CIA] Annex compound. They walked there, approximately a half mile, retrieved the consulate employees, and walked them back to the annex. Woods and Doherty were not in an armored SUV as previously reported. They were on foot and they were taking fire while doing so.” [39379]

Michael Hancock, mayor of Denver, campaigns for Obama in Wisconsin. He says, “If the election was held today, ...Obama would lose the state of Wisconsin because where his base is, we have not turned out the vote early. The suburbs and rural parts of Wisconsin—the Republican base—are voting. ...Obama’s base has yet to go vote. We’ve got to get our people to go vote.” (An Obama campaign spokesman later engages in damage control, stating, “We are very grateful that Mayor Hancock came and did what we need to do, which is keep people enthused. He is absolutely right that we have to get our base out. But the numbers we are seeing do not back up his assessment that our base is not turning out.” [39543, 39544, 39545]

StarTribune.com reports, “As the presidential race tightens across the country, a new Star Tribune Minnesota Poll has found that it is narrowing here as well, with ...Obama holding a 3-point lead and Republican Mitt Romney making gains in the state. The poll shows Obama with support from 47 percent of likely voters and Romney earning backing from 44 percent—a lead within the poll’s margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Last month, Obama had an 8-percentage point advantage in the Minnesota Poll. Romney has apparently cut into the Democrat’s advantage among women since then and picked up support from Minnesotans who were previously undecided or said they would vote for a third-party candidate.” (Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, “[HotAir.com’s] Ed Morrissey—a Minnesotan—says that the Trib’s polls are notoriously left-leaning, which folds another wrinkle into the mix. Does Romney legitimately have a shot in the land of 10,000 lakes? I’m highly, highly skeptical, but Team Obama isn’t buying airtime up there for no reason. Just south of Minnesota lies Iowa, a bona fide battleground state this year.” The Star Tribune poll, in which Obama leads in Minneapolis/St. Paul but Romney leads in the suburbs and almost everywhere else, has a D/R/I of 38/33/29, or D+5. In 2008 the turnout was 40/36/22, or D+4. The odds that Obama will outperform 2008 in Minnesota—or almost anywhere else—are minimal. Additionally, having the support of only 47 percent of the voters in a liberal state should make the Obama team nervous. If the majority of the undecideds vote for Romney, Obama may be giving a concession speech before midnight on November 6.) [39382, 39383, 39404, 39405]

The Associated Press reports, “A senior Republican official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to disclose private deliberations, said Sunday that the Romney team was seriously discussing sending Romney, Ryan or both to Minnesota during the final week [of the campaign] The state hasn’t gone Republican in the presidential race since 1972, but recent polling shows a tighter race there than most anticipated. In a flashback to the 2008 race, Obama’s campaign announced that Biden will campaign Thursday in Pennsylvania, reprising a visit to his hometown of Scranton that he made during the final

week four years ago. Pennsylvania, too, has been Democratic territory in recent years, but Romney has continued to contest the state with an advertising assist from the Republican Party.” [39380, 39381, 39382]

Campaigning in Connecticut on behalf of Obama and U.S. Senate candidate Chris Murphy, Bill Clinton says, “We’re coming down to the 11th hour. We’re facing a violent storm[ Hurricane Sandy]. [But] It’s nothing compared to the storm we’ll face if you don’t make the right decision in this election.” (That is, “A few hundred deaths and billions of dollars in property damage means little compared to politics.” If a Republican had made such a statement during Hurricane Katrina he would have been mercilessly attacked by the mainstream media.) [39385, 39422]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Internal Treasury Department documents described as ‘highly confidential’ and obtained by The Daily Caller show a greater level of involvement in the Delphi pension scandal from senior officials in the Obama administration than has been previously acknowledged. A July 2009 document prepared by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) titled ‘Treasury Talking Points re: Delphi’ shows coordination between high-level players inside the PBGC and Treasury Department. ...The talking points show that the PBGC thought the ‘[v]ast majority of individual’s [sic] covered by Delphi [pension] Plans’ were ‘career GM ‘brethren’ distinguishable only by the 1999 spin-out’ of Delphi from its former parent company, General Motors. Only those ‘brethren’ who were union members, however, saw their pensions preserved in the 2009 auto bailout. Nonunion Delphi retirees lost theirs.” [39392]

Charles Woods, father of Tyrone Woods, one of the four Americans killed in Benghazi, is interviewed by Geraldo Rivera on Fox News. Woods indirectly asks Obama; “[I]f this attack on American citizens, on American soil, happened 2,000 miles away from Washington, D.C.—say in Los Angeles or in Seattle—would you have waited seven hours before you sent the first airplane? Would you have waited seven hours until the attack was over? Would you have waited a couple of days until you had all of the videos and all the information before you responded in a responsible military way?” Rivera says he understands Woods’ anger. Woods replies, “ First of all, I am not angry at all. In fact, Mr. [Obama], if I had the opportunity of speaking to you face to face, and I would really love to, I would say this: ‘Mr. [Obama], I respect your office. However, if you are responsible for the death of my son, I totally forgive you. This is about honor, courage and about love for America. And remember this... My son and the others died heroes and it’s better to die the death of a hero than it is to live the life of a coward. If you are responsible for the death of my son, I forgive you, I love you. I also love America.’” [39393]

At WashingtonTimes.com Admiral James A. Lyons, former commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and senior U.S. military representative to the United Nations, writes, “There is an urgent need for full disclosure of what has become the ‘Benghazi Betrayal and Cover-up.’ The Obama national security team, including CIA, DNI [Director of National Intelligence] and the Pentagon, apparently watched and listened to the assault on



the U.S. consulate and cries for help but did nothing. ...According to various reports, one of Stevens' main missions in Libya was to facilitate the transfer of much of Gadhafi's military equipment, including the deadly SA-7—portable SAMs—to Islamists and other al Qaeda-affiliated groups fighting the Assad Regime in Syria. ...Once the attack commenced... we know the mission security staff immediately contacted Washington and our embassy in Tripoli. It now appears the White House, Pentagon, State Department, CIA, NDI, JCS [Joint Chiefs of Staff] and various other military commands monitored the entire battle in real time via frantic phone calls from our compound and video from an overhead drone. The cries for help and support went unanswered. Our Benghazi mission personnel, including our two former Navy SEALs, fought for seven hours without any assistance other than help from our embassy in Tripoli, which launched within 30 minutes an aircraft carrying six Americans and 16 Libyan security guards. It is understood they were instrumental in helping 22 of our Benghazi mission personnel escape the attack." [39463, 39464, 39471]

Lyons continues, "...The Obama national security team, including CIA, DNI, State Department and the Pentagon, watched and listened to the assault but did nothing to answer repeated calls for assistance. ...At our military base in Sigonella, Sicily, which is slightly over 400 miles from Benghazi, we had a fully equipped Special Forces unit with both transport and jet strike aircraft prepositioned. Certainly this was a force much more capable than the 22-man force from our embassy in Tripoli. I know those Special Forces personnel were ready to leap at the opportunity. There is no doubt in my mind they would have wiped out the terrorists attackers. Also I have no doubt that Admiral William McRaven, Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, would have had his local commander at Sigonella ready to launch; however, apparently he was countermanded—by whom? We need to know. I also understand we had a C-130 gunship available, which would have quickly disposed of the terrorist attackers. This attack went on for seven hours. Our fighter jets could have been at our Benghazi mission within an hour. Our Special Forces out of Sigonella could have been there within a few hours. There is not any doubt that action on our part could have saved the lives of our two former Navy SEALs and possibly the ambassador." [39463, 39464]

"Having been in a number of similar situations, I know you have to have the courage to do what's right and take immediate action. Obviously, that courage was lacking for Benghazi. The safety of your personnel always remains paramount. With all the technology and military capability we had in theater, for our leadership to have deliberately ignored the pleas for assistance is not only incomprehensible, it is un-American. Somebody high up in the administration made the decision that no assistance (outside our Tripoli embassy) would be provided, and let our people be killed. The person who made that callous decision needs to be brought to light and held accountable. According to a CIA spokesperson, 'No one at any level in the CIA told anybody not to help those in need.' We also need to know whether the director of CIA and the director of National Intelligence were facilitators in the fabricated video lie and the overall cover-up. Their creditability is on the line. A congressional committee should be immediately formed to get the facts out to the American people. Nothing less is acceptable." [39463, 39464]

On October 29 attorneys for Obama, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and Obama for America file a joint response in the Obama ballot challenge lawsuit *Taitz et al v. Democrat Party of Mississippi et al*. According to attorney Orly Taitz, that “means that they are not even attempting to file a 12b motion to dismiss. This allows me to subpoena all of them for testimony at deposition and subpoena records.” (Meanwhile, attorney Taitz’s web site is again hacked by Obama supporters who prevent it from being accessed. Taitz receives an email from Hentran@aol.com that reads, “Didn’t you know that Netsol Technologies is owned by 3 Pakistanis who owe allegiance to Brother Barack? Sucker! Your web site is probably not coming back on line until November 7.”) [39417, 39418]

In *The Washington Times*, Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, a former adviser to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, offers \$64,000 for Michelle Obama’s favorite charity if her husband permits the state of Hawaii to show “Just two records to deputies acting for Sheriff [Joe] Arpaio of Maricopa County, AZ.” Lord Monckton states, “The two records his posse want[s] to see are the original bound volumes of Hawaiian birth certificates for 1961 and the Kapi’olani Hospital’s 1961 birth record bound records. That’s all.” Lord Monckton explains the \$64,000 amount: “I notice that although you said you would cut the deficit you inherited in half by the end of your first term, it has risen from \$10 trillion to \$17 trillion. By coincidence, this full increase amounts to \$64,000 per taxpayer, according to CNS News. So I am offering to pay your increase of the national debt.” [39494]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–47 in Rasmussen’s daily poll, and 50–46 in the swing state poll. Obama leads Romney 49–48 in the Washington Post/ABC poll—a survey with what Townhall.com calls “an indefensible D+7” weighting and a Republican turnout that is absurdly assumed lower than in 2008. (The poll used a D+4 sampling in a poll two days earlier; switching to D+7 yields an Obama lead.) Romney leads 55–40 among independents; Obama won them by eight points in 2008. Romney is +10 among men and –2 among women, for a net +8. In 2008, Obama was +13 among women and +1 among men, for a net +14. (HotAir.com asks, “If Romney wins independents by 15, and the gender gap by 2, how can he only be leading by one overall? Simple—the Post/ABC sample has a declining number of Republicans in its sample. Today’s rolling three-day average has a D/R/I of 35/28/34, which would put Republicans at seven points below their 2010 turnout and five points below their 2008 turnout.”) [39387, 39395, 39402, 39406]

The WaPo/ABC poll also shows that 36 percent of likely Romney voters are voting for him primarily because he is not Obama, while 58 percent are “pro-Romney.” In July, the numbers were essentially reversed—with 59 percent of Romney’s support based primarily on anti-Obama sentiment. RedState.com observes, “This represents a dramatic positive shift in the enthusiasm, motivation, and energy found in base Republican voters in the remaining nine days or so of the election. This means that Republican voters are now more likely to vote, more likely to volunteer, more likely to donate, and more likely

to shrug off hindrances to doing any of the previous three things than they were several months ago. The Obama campaign was not, and is not, prepared for this development.” [39430]

A Politico/GWU Battleground poll—with a 35/31/33 D/R/I—shows Obama ahead 49–48, but Romney holds a 10-point lead among independents, and 13-point lead among those who are “extremely likely” to vote. The poll suggests a 52–47 Romney edge *when taking voter enthusiasm and other factors into account*. Gallup believes the current D/R/I party breakdown is 35/36/29, which means the polls that oversample Democrats by several points are doing just that: oversampling. Rasmussen’s polls show the party breakdown to be 34/37/29. (Despite reporting that the D/R/I has shifted from 39/29/31 in 2008 to 35/36/29 in 2012, Gallup uses the headline, “2012 U.S. Electorate Looks Like 2008.” A shift from +10 Democrat to +1 Republican apparently is not considered by Gallup to be a significant change.) [39387, 39395, 39402, 39425]

Fred Barnes reports at WeeklyStandard.com: “The bipartisan Battleground Poll, in its “vote election model,” is projecting that Mitt Romney will defeat ...Obama 52 percent to 47 percent. The poll also found that Romney has an even greater advantage among middle class voters, 52 percent to 45 percent. While Obama can close the gap with a strong voter turnout effort, ‘reports from the field would indicate that not to be the case, and Mitt Romney may well be heading to a decisive victory,’ says pollster Ed Goetas. Should Romney win by 5 percentage points, it would increase Republican chances of gaining control of the Senate. His coattails would help elect GOP Senate candidates in Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida. ‘Republicans are now certain to hold the House,’ Goetas said, ‘regardless of how the presidential race turns out.’ The poll’s election model takes into account variables including voter intensity, age, and education, and voters who are certain in their vote. The race ‘remains very close on the surface, but the political environment and the composition of the likely electorate favor Governor Romney.’” [39394, 39395, 39447]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 50–48 in a Rasmussen poll of likely voters in Ohio. [39407]

WSJ.com reports, “The U.S. Labor Department on Monday said it is ‘working hard to ensure the timely release’ of the October jobs report, saying it intends to released the report on schedule Friday [November 2] despite Hurricane Sandy.” (An earlier report suggested the report would be delayed until after the election. If that were to happen, critics would immediately assume the report contains numbers that do not help Obama.) Census Bureau reports on construction (due November 1) and factory orders (due November 2) may also be delayed.) [39396, 39397, 39398, 39516, 39551]

Politico reports, “The Federal Emergency Management Agency is preparing for Hurricane Sandy to disrupt next week’s elections, agency Administrator Craig Fugate said Monday afternoon. ‘We are anticipating that, based on the storm, there could be impacts that would linger into next week and have impacts on the federal election,’ Fugate said on a conference call with reporters. But any potential tinkering with Election

Day would bring a bevy of legal issues. ‘Our chief counsel’s been working on making sure that we have the proper guidance,’ he added. ‘We’re going through the regulatory policy and making sure all that’s in place and we can support it.’” [39541]

Obama urges people to go to FEMA’s Ready.gov web site for storm information—which is useless advice to those who lose power and Internet service because of the weather. (Additionally, the web site is arguably not very helpful.) [39624, 39625]

Catherine Herridge reports at FoxNews.com, “Two days after the deadly Libya terror attack, representatives of the FBI and National Counterterrorism Center [NCTC] gave Capitol Hill briefings in which they said the evidence supported an Al Qaeda or Al Qaeda-affiliated attack... The description of the attack by those in the Sept. 13 briefings stands in stark contrast to the now controversial briefing on Capitol Hill by CIA Director David Petraeus the following day—and raises even more questions about why Petraeus described the attack as tied to a demonstration. The Sept. 13 assessment was based on intercepts that included individuals, believed to have participated in the attack, who were celebratory—as well as a claim of responsibility. FBI and NCTC also briefed that there were a series of Al Qaeda training camps just outside of Benghazi, where the attack occurred and resulted in the deaths of four Americans. The area was described as a hotbed for the militant Ansar al-Sharia as well as Al Qaeda in North Africa.” (On September 13 the FBI and NCTC told members of Congress that it was a planned terrorist attack. Yet U.N. ambassador Susan Rice appeared on five Sunday talk shows on September 16 and stated that the attack was the result of an anti-video demonstration that simply got out of hand. Petraeus lied on September 14; Rice lied on September 16; and Obama and Hillary Clinton lied for almost two weeks.) [39400, 39401, 39488]

*The New York Times* prints *no* stories about the Benghazi cover-up on October 27, 28, or 29. But, notes Forbes.com, it “devoted two pages to migrating birds flying into skyscrapers.” [39408]

CBSNews.com does its best to reduce the impact of newspaper endorsements from Mitt Romney with an article suggesting that they mean little. [39426]

At PJMedia.com Roger Simon uses the “t-word,” writing, “Is it treason when you put your own reelection above the good of your country and the lives of its citizens? If so, Barack Obama committed treason in leaving the four Americans to die in Benghazi. Our Constitution defines it this way: ‘Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.’ Aid and comfort to the enemy—what is that? When you ascribe an action to the protest of a video when it is actuality a planned terror attack by Ansar al-Shariah, an established offshoot of al-Qaeda (if that’s not your ‘enemy,’ then who)—and you knew that all along, you watched it live without doing anything, and then you told those who wanted to help to ‘stand down?’ Meanwhile, our government may have been conspiring to arm another offshoot of al-Qaeda in Syria. How much more treasonous can you get? Benedict Arnold was a piker. Indeed, the discussion of Benghazi has just begun. And

don't be surprised if the conversation escalates from impeachment to treason very quickly. In fact, if Obama wins reelection you can bet on it. The cries of treason will be unstoppable. Not even if the mainstream media will be able to deny them." [39410]

Politico's Katie Glueck reports on a new book by filmmaker Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick. *The Untold History of the United States*, on sale October 30, "slams Republicans and Democrats alike, and the authors' assessment of Obama's presidency is tinged with disappointment." Stone and Kuznick write, "The country Obama inherited was indeed in shambles, but Obama took a bad situation and, in certain ways, made it worse. ...[R]ather than repudiating the policies of Bush and his predecessors, Obama has perpetuated them. ...Obama asserted presidential power in ways that must have made Dick Cheney jealous." "The biggest winner under Obama was Wall Street." "Obama's failure to articulate a progressive vision was also apparent in the fight over health reform, which was to have been his signature initiative... Obama's health care reform effort, marked by the inability to even refute Republican charges of death panels, was so unpopular that it became an albatross around the necks of Democrats in the 2010 election." "When it finally came down to decision time, Obama didn't have the courage or integrity of a post-Cuban Missile Crisis John F. Kennedy. He settled on a 30,000-troop increase [in Afghanistan], giving the military leaders almost everything they wanted and more than they expected." "Among the greatest disappointments to his followers was Obama's refusal to roll back the expanding national security state that so egregiously encroached on American civil liberties." [39412, 39413]

Campaigning for Obama in Youngstown, Ohio, Bill Clinton says, "I saw the reports of Governor Romney's latest ad saying that [Obama] had allowed Jeep to move to China. And this morning, before he left Florida and went back to Washington, he said, 'You know, of all the things Governor Romney has said that probably hurts my feelings the most,' he said, 'You know, I never had any money when I was a kid, and the first new car I ever owned I was 30 years old it was a Jeep.'" (Obama has claimed that his first car was a Ford Granada. He allegedly had a red Fiat while at Occidental College, and a blue Honda Civic while at Columbia University. At one point Obama had a Jeep Grand Cherokee, but he purchased it in the year 2000, when he was 39 years old. During the time he was a U.S. Senator from Illinois, Obama drove a channeled, pimp-wheeled, Chrysler 300 with a gas-guzzling Hemi V-8 engine rated at 13/15 miles per gallon.) The Romney ad states, "Obama took GM and Chrysler into bankruptcy, and sold Chrysler to Italians, who are going to build Jeeps in China." (Although the Romney ad arguably engages in some fear-mongering, its statements are correct. General Motors and Chrysler did go through bankruptcy proceedings, with the Obama administration breaking laws to affect the outcome; Chrysler was sold to Italy's Fiat; and Bloomberg.com reported that "Fiat is in 'very detailed conversations' with its Chinese partner, Guangzhou Automobile Group Co., about making Jeeps in the world's largest auto market, said Mike Manley, chief operating officer of Fiat and Chrysler in Asia." *The Washington Post* calls Romney's ad "factually defensible" and "technically correct"—but doesn't like the ad and gives it "four Pinocchios" anyway.) [353, 39184, 39185, 39209, 39434, 39435, 39436, 39468, 39474, 39510]

After flying to Florida the night before, Obama cancels an Orlando campaign fundraiser appearance and returns to Washington D.C. before Hurricane Sandy prevents him from doing so. (Bill Clinton attends in his place.) Obama also cancels a Wisconsin event scheduled for October 30. Romney also cancels events—if only to keep the media from criticizing him for not doing so. [39421, 39422]

In an MSNBC interview, Obama says, “We should have one Secretary of Business, instead of nine different departments that are dealing with things like giving loans to SBA [sic] or helping companies with exports. There should be a one-stop shop.” (Many business owners would argue that the government should get out of interfering with their operations altogether. But eight days before the election Obama is struggling to find another gimmick that will get him votes—and apparently does not realize that the Department of Commerce already exists and could absorb all the existing duplicate departments.) [39433, 39469, 39514, 39561]

Senator Scott Brown (R-MA) leads challenger Elizabeth Warren 45–43 in a *Boston Globe* poll. Obama leads Mitt Romney 52–36 in Massachusetts. (Obama won the state with 62 percent of the vote in 2008.) [39439, 39440]

The unnamed military insider provides the Ulsterman Report with information about the Benghazi attack: “How soon could we have gotten to Benghazi? All that was needed to send those [expletive deleted terrorists] scattering was one single F-18 [jet fighter aircraft]. Range of app. 2k [range approximately 2,000 miles]. TS [top speed] of over 1000 mph. Do the math. We had that capability less than 500 miles away. NASSIG [the Naval Air Station in Sigonella, Italy] would have had full armed deployment inside of 20 [minutes]. From time of initial report to arming, to takeoff. I’ve seen it done in less. ETA [estimate time of arrival] to consulate in less than hour. Would have ripped a hole in the sky to get there. This is exactly what we are trained for. Just one flyer would have lit those [expletive deleted] up inside of 10. Coordinates known. That’s all our guys need. Would have been precision termination. Clean. In/out. Instead, left on own to die out there. Not the first time. WHC [White House Counsel] coordinating with State [Department], others to TS [top secret] classify everything. EVERYTHING. Shutting it all down. Significant activity out of NLSO [Navy Legal Service Office] on this as well. Have eyes. Have ears. Need mouths. F-cking politicians.” (In other words, Obama is ordering everything related to Benghazi top secret so that the truth will never be known. A future president can, of course, order the release of any documents.) [39437]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, “House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa [R-CA] and Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee Charles Grassley [R-IA] have just released another report, in a series of three, about Operation Fast and Furious. The latest report details failures by and knowledge of Department of Justice [DOJ] officials involved in the fatal scandal. The first report was released in July and a third report is expected in the next few weeks. The most recent report contains damning information and documentation showing Attorney General Eric Holder’s Deputy Chief of Staff Monty Wilkinson and DOJ Official Patrick Cunningham discussing plans for

Holder to participate in a press conference announcing the ‘take-down’ or the end of Operation Fast and Furious before Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was killed on December 15, 2010. Guns from the Fast and Furious program were left at Terry’s murder scene. Holder claims he didn’t know about Operation Fast and Furious until May of 2011.” (In other words, Holder was preparing to hold a press conference about Operation Fast and Furious—a program he later told Congress he knew nothing about until months later. Twelve hours after the December 14, 2010 email, Border Agent Brian Terry is killed with a gun from the scheme and Holder quickly decides to cancel any press conference.) [39441]

WND.com reports, “Using a Pakistani Internet Protocol, or IP address, a disposable credit card and a fake address, ‘Osama bin Laden’ has successfully donated twice to Barack Obama’s presidential re-election campaign. The ‘Bin Laden’ donations, actually made by WND staff, included a listed occupation of ‘deceased terror chief’ and a stated employer of ‘al-Qaida.’ ... The apparently foreign-based contributions were conducted as a test after a flurry of media reports described the ability of foreigners to donate to the Obama campaign but not to Mitt Romney’s site, which has placed safeguards against such efforts. The acceptance of foreign contributions is strictly illegal under U.S. campaign finance law. One \$15 donation was made at BarackObama.com using a confirmed Pakistani IP address. In other words, as far as the campaign website was concerned, the donation was openly identified electronically as coming from Pakistan. ... The information submitted was: ‘Osama bin Laden, 911 Jihad Way, Abbottabad, CA 91101.’ ... The campaign website immediately accepted the contribution even though it was made from a Pakistani IP address and despite the nonexistent street name and city information. ... As of today, the \$15 was debited from the disposable card.” ... Cleta Mitchell, a Republican campaign finance attorney, told WND there were many documented cases of illegal foreign contributions to the Obama campaign in 2008 that were ‘wholly ignored by the Federal Election Commission and the Obama Department of Justice. I have been hearing the same stories from many sources during this campaign as well. Every other campaign has safeguards against these illegal transactions—every campaign except the Obama campaign. [It is] abundantly clear that the Obama campaign is raising and accepting illegal contributions – and is being protected from investigation by his politicized Department of Justice.” [39443, 39454, 39490]

Gallup reports, “15% of Registered Voters Have Already Cast Ballots.” Buried in the middle of the story is the statement: “Romney currently leads Obama 52% to 45% among voters [in a poll of 3,312] who say they have already cast their ballots.” (A reasonable person might expect that statement should have been the headline.) In 2008, Obama had the early voting edge over John McCain, 55–40 percent and had only a 3-point edge with those who voted election day. [39444, 39445, 39451, 39458, 39462]

GOP.com reports, “In 2008 the GOP edged the Democrats by just 2% in absentee returns [in Pennsylvania]. As of today the GOP’s lead is 18.8%—a 16.9% bump in a state Obama won by 10% in 2008. Republicans have turned in 55.2% of the absentee ballots to date while the Democrats have returned just 36.4%. (A nervous Obama campaign decides

to start running ads in Pennsylvania—a state it had assumed would be an easy win. The pro-Romney Crossroads GPS PAC is running ads in the state as well.) [39459, 39460, 39465]

Breitbart.com reports, “According to the latest Rasmussen state polls, Mitt Romney is in position to win the presidency; he should win at least 279 electoral votes. Romney leads in Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Colorado, and New Hampshire; Obama leads in Nevada. Wisconsin and Iowa are tied. Were Romney to win both Wisconsin and Iowa, he’d secure another 16 electoral votes, putting him at 295 electoral votes. By way of contrast, George W. Bush won 286 electoral votes in 2004. [39446]

Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, writes a letter to Obama asking several questions about his responses to the attack in Benghazi: “(1) To whom did you issue this first directive and how was this directive communicated to the military and other agencies—verbally or in writing?” (Obama has publicly stated, “the minute I found out what was happening, I gave three very clear directives... Number one, make sure that we are securing our personnel and doing whatever we need to.”) “(2) At any time on September 11, 2012, did you specifically direct the military to move available assets into Libya to ensure the safety of U.S. personnel in Benghazi? If so, which assets did you order to Libya?” “(3) At any time on September 11, 2012, other than ISR [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance] assets, did you provide the authority for the military to take any and all necessary measures to secure U.S. personnel, including specifically the authority to enter Libyan airspace?” “(4) Did you have any communication with the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or any Commanders of regional Combatant Commands regarding military support to U.S. personnel in Benghazi on September 11th? If so could you please describe any recommendations provided to you regarding available military support and any orders you gave them?” McKeon concludes, “Members of the Committee on Armed Services are keenly concerned that any breakdown in communication that may have occurred not be repeated. Given your stated interest in transparency and sharing all relevant information with the American people and the families of our fallen, I am hopeful you can promptly address these questions.” (The odds of McKeon receiving a response prior to election day—if at all—are close to zero.) [39472]

Joel Gilbert, director of the film *Dreams From My Real Father*, reports that people sympathetic to Obama have illegally accessed his bank records. According to WND.com, “Gilbert says unknown parties appear to have illegally acquired ‘private company bank information’ and supplied it to journalist Seth Rosenfeld, who in turn has been using the information to ply answers from customers who purchased large quantities of his DVD, as well as a limited partner. ‘The only way our banking information could have been obtained would have been through illegal hacking into our private company bank accounts,’ Gilbert claimed in a statement. ‘The information was not public.’ Rosenfeld is a former reporter with the San Francisco Chronicle and is listed as a correspondent with the Center for Investigative Reporting, an organization funded in part by left-wing



activist and billionaire George Soros. Gilbert asserts that Rosenfeld is using information from his bank's online servers that can only be accessed with a confidential user ID and password. 'Rosenfeld called me and referred to bank deposit amounts that he purported to be bank wire transfers received in my company bank account, and asked what they were used for,' Gilbert asserts. 'I was so shocked that he claimed to have confidential bank information, I told him to send an email and hung up, but no email was received.' Gilbert claims Rosenfeld also called a company limited partner on a private number and fraudulently introduced himself as being with the Romney campaign. 'When the partner said he wasn't interested in discussing anything, Rosenfeld admitted to being a reporter and began citing the partner's confidential bank wiring history,' Gilbert says. 'The partner hung up.'" [39448]

MoveOn.org—another leftist organization funded in part by Obama's billionaire buddy George Soros—releases a disgusting campaign ad, produced by portly propagandist Michael Moore, featuring foul-mouthed nursing home residents urging viewers to vote for Obama. One actress in the ad pretends to be a 97-year-old patient, Marie, who "has not missed an election" since voting for Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940. "Marie" states, "And I want the Republican Party to know, if your voter suppression throughout this beautiful country enables Romney to oust Barack Obama—we will burn this motherfucker down." An elderly man affirms, "Si se puede" ("Yes we can"). Another woman says, "If the Republicans steal this election, I'm gonna track down Mitt Romney and give him the world's biggest cock-punch... right in the nut-sack." (MoveOn.org apparently believes Obama can lose only through vote fraud and that threatening violence is a good idea.) [39499, 39450, 39457, 39518]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer comments, "It is a little odd that [Obama] shows up in the briefing room, where he hasn't shown up in the briefing room for about, what, a month and a half on Libya, or for anything else for that matter. Then you get the photo-ops of him in the situation room deploying, I guess, the utility crews who will restore power all over America [after Hurricane Sandy]. Whereas you would think he might want to use the situation room and have convened high-level people during the nine hours our people were under attack in Benghazi. It's hard to look at this, playing the president, playing the commander-in-chief in what's a natural disaster that really doesn't require a lot of leadership from the White House. It's up to the governors mostly. The White House and the governors release money. That's about all that they do. And he's really good at releasing money and pretending it isn't about politics. He wants to use this to show himself in command and I think he might actually be the beneficiary of the fact that all national attention is drawn away for three days. Romney clearly had the momentum, and it slowed down but it was still heading in his direction. It's not clear what happens when the country sort of wakes up out of this in three days and restarts attention on the campaign, whether the momentum will be gone or not. I mean, that's an open question." [39453]

Obama leads Mitt Romney by only six points, 47–41, in a poll conducted for *The Oregonian*. (Obama won the state by more than 16 points in 2008. To be under 50

percent in a liberal state just days before the election is an indication of how unpopular Obama has become nationwide. Romney may be helped in Oregon by voter opposition to ballot measures relating to casino gambling and legalizing marijuana.) [39455, 39456, 39461]

In *The Washington Post*, Richard Cohen writes that in Obama, “I see a failure to embrace all sorts of people, even members of Congress and the business community. I see diffidence, a reluctance to close. I see a [person] for whom Afghanistan is not just a war but a metaphor for his approach to politics: He approved a surge but also an exit date. Heads I win, tails you lose. ...History was draped over Obama like a cape. His bona fides in that sense were as unimpeachable as Bobby Kennedy’s. The crowd adored Obama, although not as much as I think he adored himself. Liberals were intolerant of anyone who had doubts. Obama was not a man, but a totem. A single critical column from me during the campaign triggered a fusillade of invective. The famous and esteemed told me off. I was the tool of right-wing haters, a dope of a dupe. ...[S]omewhere between the [2008] campaign and the White House itself, Obama got lost. It turned out he had no cause at all. Expanding health insurance was Hillary Clinton’s longtime goal, and even after Obama adopted it, he never argued for it with any fervor. In an unfairly mocked campaign speech, he promised to slow the rise of the oceans and begin to heal the planet. But when he took office, climate change was abandoned—too much trouble, too much opposition. His eloquence, it turned out, was reserved for campaigning. Obama never espoused a cause bigger than his own political survival. This is the gravamen of the indictment from the left, particularly certain African Americans. They are right. Young black men fill the jails and the morgues, yet Obama says nothing. Bobby Kennedy showed his anger, his impatience, his stunned incredulity at the state of black America. Obama shows nothing. ...Robert F. Kennedy’s appeal [was] obvious: authenticity. He cared. He showed it. People saw that and cared about him in return. With Obama, the process is reversed. It’s hard to care about someone who seems not to care in return. I will vote for him for his good things, and I will vote for him to keep Republican vandals from sacking the government. But after watching Bobby Kennedy, I will vote for Obama with regret. I wish he was the man I once mistook him for.” [39475]

Forbes.com reports, “One of Obama’s key health-care advisers, Jonathan Gruber, found that by 2016, individual premiums in Wisconsin will increase by an average of 30 percent. In addition, Obamacare will deeply cut Medicare Advantage for more than 300,000 Wisconsin seniors enrolled in the program. And 27 percent of Wisconsin physicians say that they will place new or additional limits on accepting Medicare patients.” In Ohio, premiums are expected to increase “as much as 85 percent” by 2017, and 700,000 senior citizens will be affected by cuts in Medicare Advantage. [39476, 39477]

On October 30 Bill Clinton campaigns for Obama in Minnesota. On MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, Mike Barnacle comments, “You don’t have to be a genius... to realize they [members of the Obama campaign team] are looking at some internals [poll numbers] that are causing them some concern.” (Prior to the debates virtually every political observer would have considered Minnesota and Pennsylvania safely in Obama’s win

column. Clinton is not going to Minnesota for no reason.) Clinton also campaigns in Commerce City and Denver, Colorado. Obama is scheduled to campaign at the University of Colorado in Boulder on November 1. [39460, 39481]

Clinton tells his Minnesota audience, “I was actually listening closely to what the candidates said in these debates. In the first debate, the triumph of the moderate Mitt Romney. You remember what he did? He ridiculed [Obama]. Ridiculed [Obama] for his efforts to fight global warming in economically beneficial ways. He said, ‘Oh, you’re going to turn back the seas.’ In my part of America, we would like it if someone could’ve done that yesterday. . . . In the real world, Barack Obama’s policies work better.” (Neither Romney nor Obama mentioned climate change during the debates. During his convention speech Romney said, “President Obama promised to begin to slow the rise of the oceans and heal the planet. [audience laughter]. My promise... is to help you and your family.” Some might argue that Clinton’s comments hurt rather than help Obama. When replayed on the evening news, they will remind undecided voters that Romney’s goals are more down to earth and helpful to them. Clinton’s words will also remind global-warming believers that Obama said nothing about the issue in his convention speech.) [36311, 36323, 36339, 36345, 36349, 39517]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey reports that Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–48 in a national NPR/Democracy Corps (James Carville) poll. On the other hand, their survey in battleground states (a subgroup of the overall sample) shows Obama up four, 50/46. So what gives? The national sample has a D+4 tilt, with a D/R/I of 35/31/34. The battleground sample, however, has a D+9 tilt at 40/31/27. In what reality does the Democratic advantage increase in battleground states to a margin wider than the 2008 turnout advantage? I’m guessing only in NPR/Carville World. The internals have more bad news for Team Obama. Independents break hard nationally for Romney, 51/39. In fact, only 29% of independents are certain to vote for Obama, a disastrously low number for the incumbent in any election cycle, especially with just seven days to go. Independents are harshly critical of Obama’s job performance, with a 42/54 approval rating that consists of only 17% strongly approving and 44% strongly disapproving. They’re even tougher on his economic performance at 39/60.” [39466, 39467]

Breitbart.com reports that the Obama campaign “is offering Illinois residents tickets to the campaign’s election night party in Chicago in exchange for two volunteer get-out-the-vote shifts in Wisconsin. In 2008, the Obama campaign issued nearly 240,000 tickets for the campaign’s election night party, and Obama carried Wisconsin by 14 points. In 2012, Obama is on defense in Wisconsin, which is now a crucial battleground state, and the campaign’s election night party will be held at a venue that holds approximately 10,000. . . . The *Chicago Sun-Times* notes the ‘Illinois Victory Volunteers’ canvass in Wisconsin will take place Nov. 3–5, but it may backfire on Democrats because it ‘could drain a pool of motivated volunteers from the big Chicago area House races in the closing days of the campaign—when Tammy Duckworth, Bill Foster and Brad Schneider will also need GOTV [get out the vote] help.’” [39546]

The White House insider updates The Ulsterman Report with comments on the hurricane's impact on the election: "The impact of this g-damn storm could be a hell of a lot greater than just cleaning up the mess over the next few weeks. It might leave us all with a real mess for the next four years. Obama team very happy this storm hit when it did. Media coverage 24/7 on the storm. Romney campaign has to halt movement for 48 hours. All that momentum we had on our side has been compromised. Can't say it any other way than that. The storm bailed Obama out. He has more of a chance of winning now than he did just a few days ago. Not saying that is going to happen, but saying this latest 72 hour news cycle favors Obama over Romney and it has got me f-cking furious right now. Benghazi is getting buried and I'm worried the attention span of the voters is already passing on that issue. I know this because the attention span of some high profile names that were promising to make some real noise on the issue last week are now not returning messages. They don't want anything to do with it since the storm hit. Where are the f-cking leaders on the Hill? I am so godd-amn tired of dealing with these gutless pukers who can't see past their own f-ucking political well being and stand up for once and do what is right. Selling me down the godd-amn river again. And again. And again. One of these days." [39470]

"And you want to know just how sick the Obama people are on the storm issue? It's party hats and cake over in Chicago [campaign headquarters]. High f-cking fives for them. Heard [Obama campaign manager Ben] LaBolt is telling them all 'We're gonna shove this storm right up Romney's ass.' They already got scripts out to their media support. Gonna hammer the governor on earlier statements he made about the role of the federal government, FEMA, take things out of context and try and paint him as some uncaring assh-le at a time when the Romney campaign is limited in its ability to respond due to the temporary downtime during the recovery from the storm. Media is already pushing the governor on it right now. That means these scripts, the plan, went out yesterday while the storm was hitting. They were prepping this thing to turn it into something politically useful to Obama as people were dying. These are the motherf-ckers who want another four years to burn American to the ground. F-ck LaBolt. F-ck Obama. F-ck all those pricks over at 3A and that c-cks-cker Phil Griffin [head of MSNBC]. F-ck the hurricane. F-ck [Valerie] Jarrett and her threats. And f-ck Rahm [Emanuel] too. He knows better. They all do. Hillary. Bill. All of them. You don't try and manage evil. These Obama motherf-ckers are evil. So the governor [Romney] can do his little sit quiet routine today. But he better come out swinging hard tomorrow. He better be ready to push back against this bullsh-t. These Obama motherf-ckers are gonna steal this thing. They think they got a shot now. And if the voters aren't paying attention and they get fooled again. Well f-ck them too. Obama and them deserve each other. Stupid mother-f-ckers all of them. Am I pissed? Yeah, I'm pissed. You should be too. The whole f-cking country should be pissed at these pukers running America into the f-cking dirt." [39470]

In Kettering, Ohio, Mitt Romney converts a campaign event into a collection effort for assistance items for victims of Hurricane Sandy. Rather than gather to hear a speech, supporters are asked to bring food donations. Obama remains in the White House, to make occasional storm statements: "We look out for our friends, we look out for our neighbors and we set aside whatever issues we may have otherwise to make sure that we

respond appropriately and with swiftness and that's exactly what I anticipate is going to happen here.” (On MSNBC, Martin Bashir and guests Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and Lehigh professor James Peterson criticize Romney for his efforts to collect food and other relief supplies—because the Red Cross prefers cash. Peterson praises Obama for storm statements that show “compassion” and “humanity.”) Another guest later says, “I found that sort of fake, relief rally, whatever it is, to be pretty offensive, and also wrong-headed.” According to Newsbusters.org, at the Romney event “Two large TV screens at the front of the venue bore the logo of the American Red Cross and the message: ‘Sandy: Support the Relief Effort. Text ’REDCROSS’ to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.’” MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell whines that some people at the Romney event may have donated clothes or blankets that “have to be cleaned.” (On November 2 electrical power is still out on Staten Island. Resident Jodi Hannula tells local CBS reporter Jessica Schneider, “[The] Red Cross is here with hot chocolate and cookies. We need blankets! ... We need help! ... You hope that the government does the right thing and steps in and helps us out. We have been looking for FEMA, [but] FEMA has not been here.”) [39478, 39479, 39481, 39483, 39491, 39492, 39498, 39658]

Before Romney makes a brief statement to the crowd thanking them for helping hurricane victims, an “objective journalist” from BuzzFeed.com, McKay Coppins is heard telling other reporters on an open microphone there would be “at least a 40 percent chance” that Romney would “say something stupid.”[39486]

At Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C., Obama says of hurricane assistance efforts, “So my instruction to the federal agency, has been: do not figure out why we can’t do something, I want you to figure out how we do something. I want you to cut through red tape. I want you to cut through bureaucracy.” (Obama is admitting that the federal government is plagued with red tape and bureaucracy. Federal employees should not have to be ordered to be efficient and responsible.) “There’s no excuse for inaction at this point. I want every agency to lean forward, and to make sure we are getting the resources where they’re needed, as quickly as possible.” (With his “lean forward” remark, Obama shamelessly includes his “forward” campaign theme—and MSNBC’s “lean forward” slogan.) Obama also says, “This is a tough time for a lot of people—millions of folks all across the Eastern Seaboard. But America is tougher, and we’re tougher because we pull together. We leave nobody behind. We make sure that we respond as a nation and remind ourselves that whenever an American is in need, all of us stand together to make sure that we’re providing the help that’s necessary.” (Obama may regret his choice of words. His “We leave nobody behind” comment will be used as a reminder that he left behind Americans in Benghazi.) [39485, 39525, 39557]

In Nashua, New Hampshire, *The Telegraph* endorses Mitt Romney. (The newspaper endorsed Obama in 2008.) The editorial states, “[T]he basic question facing The Telegraph editorial board when it met last week came down to this: Did the former Illinois senator [Obama] do enough to live up to those admittedly high expectations to warrant a second term? After several hours of spirited debate, not unlike conversations taking place in kitchens and living rooms across America, we reached a consensus that he

had not. Perhaps more importantly, when we identified the key challenges facing the nation—jobs, the economy and the national debt—we concluded he was not the best candidate to meet them. That person is former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, and we hereby endorse him to become the 45th president of the United States.” [39482, 39502]

Breitbart.com reports that the film *2016: Obama’s America* is the number four best-selling DVD in the nation and “the second highest grossing political documentary in history.” But although it has ranked “as high as no. 7 of all movies sold on iTunes,” the web site has not listed the movie in its “new and notables” section. [39487]

TheBlaze.com posts a photograph of Michelle LaVaughan Robinson attending a 1984 “Black Solidarity” event at Princeton University “for guest lecturer Manning Marable, who was, according to Cornel West, probably ‘the best known black Marxist in the country.’ The event is the work of the Third World Center (TWC), a campus group whose board membership is exclusively reserved for minorities. ...Michelle Obama (Robinson at the time) was one of those 19 [TWC] board members and a leader of the organization. She helped to dispense what was, in today’s dollars, a \$30,000 budget. Of the 19 elected positions on the board, there were two reserved spots for each of the five ethnic groups TWC purported to represent: Asian, Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Native American.” Charles C. Johnson writes, “If ever there was an example of the TWC governing board’s obsession with race, an editorial from October 21, 1981 is it. The members took great offense to an op-ed titled ‘Rebuilding Race Relations,’ calling the article ‘racist, offensive, and inaccurate’ for daring to question the group’s true commitment and to present a thesis on race relations counter to its own. ‘The word RE-building implies that race relations once existed and, for some mysterious reasons, fell apart...,’ the board wrote in a scathing letter to the editor. ‘We, on the other hand, believe that race relations have never been and still are not at a satisfactory level. We are not RE-building. We cannot RE-build something that never existed in the first place. Don’t hide behind excuses such as a lack of effort [to integrate with the Princeton campus] on our part,’ the revealing letter added. ‘The bottom line is that white students on this campus are racist, but they may not realize it.’” [39530, 39531, 39532]

Among the events hosted or promoted by the TWC during Michelle Obama’s time at Princeton: “In November 1981, Hassan Rahman, the Palestinian Liberation Organization’s deputy observer to the U.N., came to campus. At this remarkable event, sponsors... segregated the audience along racial lines and had students serving as security guards and searching bags.” “In February 1982, the Center sponsored David Johnson, a representative of El Salvador’s Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), the political wing of the terrorist group FMLN.” “In April, the Daily Princetonian reported, the Organization of Black Unity sent two representatives to Yale for a weekend symposium on the problems of black Ivy League students. Kwame Toure, a.k.a. Stokely Carmichael, a member of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party and a leader of the Black Panthers in the 1960s, gave a presentation emphasizing ‘the need for the organization of the black masses and the active participation required from black students,’ said Janette Payne, ’84, who attended the conference.” “On November 19, the TWC honored the anti-American Julia de Burgos, a Puerto Rican poet and Puerto Rican nationalist.” “On

February 10, 1984, TWC brought the pro-Sandinista, pro-Che Guevara poet Roberto Vargas.” [39530, 39531, 39532]

ObamaBallotChallenge.com reports, “Larry Klayman, the founder and chairman of Freedom Watch today announced that ...Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden have been criminally indicted for having willfully released classified national security information concerning the raid on Osama bin Laden’s compound, U.S. and Israeli war plans concerning Iran and their cyber-attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities. The release of this information, among other harm to U.S. national security, resulted in the killing of members of Seal Team Six by terrorists and the arrest and imprisonment of American covert agents by Pakistan, such as the doctor who aided the CIA with regard to the bin Laden assassination. U.S.-Israeli war plans with Iran have also been compromised. A true bill of indictment was issued by a Citizens’ Grand Jury in Ocala, Florida, who reviewed evidence and voted unanimously to indict Obama and Biden at 6:02 pm on October 29, 2012. The authority for a Citizens’ Grand Jury can be found at [www.citizensgrandjury.com](http://www.citizensgrandjury.com). The criminal defendants, Obama and Biden, will now be given notice of their indictment, arraigned and then tried for their alleged crimes.” [39495, 39496, 39497]

“Mr. Klayman, the Citizens’ Prosecutor, issued the following statement: ‘The Citizens’ Grand Jury, after having deliberated, yesterday issued a true bill of indictment. See [www.citizensgrandjury.com](http://www.citizensgrandjury.com). It did the work that the government should have done, but does not have the integrity to do; that is hold these public officials accountable under the law. For far too long, government prosecutors, who are put in place by politicians, have looked the other way as high public officials like Obama and Biden violate the law to further their political agendas. Now, as a result, the people must therefore exercise the rights given to them by the framers of the Constitution, and themselves take legitimate measures to restore the nation to some semblance of legality. This indictment ...of Obama and Biden is just the first step in a legal revolution to reclaim the nation from establishment politicians, government officials and judges who have represented only their own political and other interests at the expense of ‘We the People.’ Obama and Biden will now be tried in a court of law and I am confident that they will be convicted of these alleged crimes.” [39495, 39496, 39497]

A *Detroit News* poll of likely voters in Michigan shows Obama leading Romney 48–45. (The poll’s margin of error is 3.8 points.) [39512, 39527]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The latest Pennsylvania absentee ballot returns are in and show Republicans opening up a 19-point lead over the Democrats—a 17-point swing from the 2008 absentee results. Romney continues to demonstrate momentum in Ohio, with the latest absentee returns showing a nine-point swing to Republicans compared to 2008. This spells trouble for the Obama campaign, even if Obama is leading the early voting in Ohio (which isn’t necessarily true). In 2008, Obama trailed McCain by 1.9 percent among the 295,000 absentee voters in Pennsylvania. In 2012, Obama trails Governor Romney by 18.8 percent among the 115,000 absentee voters (assuming Democrats vote for Obama, Republicans vote for Romney). Obama won the state by 10 percent overall in

2008. (The figures are based on the number of absentee ballots requested and returned *based on voter registration*. That is, it is generally assumed that registered Democrats who requested and returned absentee ballots voted for Obama, and registered Republicans voted for Romney. Some Democrats, of course, may have voted for Romney, and some Republicans may have voted for Obama.) [39526, 39528]

The Associated Press (AP) whines, “Mitt Romney is suddenly plunging into traditionally Democratic-leaning Minnesota and Pennsylvania, and his GOP allies are trying to put Michigan into play. It’s forcing ...Obama to defend his own turf—he’s pouring money into television ads in the states and dispatching top backers—in the campaign’s final week.” (The “Obama’s own turf” statement is reminiscent of Democrats using the term “Kennedy’s seat” for the Senate seat vacated with the death of Edward Kennedy. The Kennedy family does not “own” it—although many Massachusetts voters may believe so—and neither Obama nor any other Democrat “owns” Minnesota, Michigan, or Pennsylvania.) “The question is: Why this Republican move? GOP efforts in the trio of Rust Belt states could indicate that Romney is desperately searching for a last-minute path to the needed 270 Electoral College votes—without all-important Ohio. Or just the opposite, that he’s so confident in the most competitive battlegrounds that he’s pressing for insurance against Obama in what’s expected to be a close race. Or perhaps the Republican simply has money to burn. Use it now or never.” (The AP misses a fourth option: Romney is confident of victory, does not need “insurance,” and wants a large enough margin of victory to make it easier to deal with Congressional Democrats.) Laughably, Obama campaign manager Jim Messina states, “Let’s be very clear, the Romney campaign and its allies decision to go up with advertising in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Minnesota is a decision made out of weakness, not strength.” [39529]

*Time* magazine’s Mark Halperin reports that the Restore Our Future Republican PAC is spending \$2 million on ads in support of Mitt Romney in Michigan, and a “top Obama aide” responds, “We’re matching states where they go up. We’re not going to let them make a play anywhere.” (Obama won Michigan by more than 16 percentage points in 2008.) HotAir.com observes, “Seems like maybe the Romney Super PAC’s ad buy is less about stealing Michigan to capture the presidency even if Ohio falls through than it is (a) forcing Obama to divert money to a formerly ‘safe’ state, and (b) increasing the odds of a big red wave if there’s a final small tilt towards Romney nationally (or regionally) over the next seven days. In that case, he wouldn’t ‘need’ Michigan to win but it’d be lovely to have it as proof of a mandate to govern, and that’ll come in handy in twisting Democratic arms during those fiscal cliff/deficit reduction negotiations.” (The Romney campaign is also running ads in Pennsylvania and Minnesota, two states that ABC News has moved from its “safe Democrat” column to “leans Democrat.” Washington and Oregon also appear to be less safe for Obama than may previously have been thought.) [39508, 39509, 39511]

According to Jalopnik.com, “Approximately 16 of the \$100,000+ Fisker Karma extended-range luxury hybrids were parked in Port Newark, New Jersey last night when water from Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge apparently breached the port and submerged



the vehicles. As Jalopnik has exclusively learned, the cars then caught fire and burned to the ground. Our source tells us they were ‘first submerged in a storm surge and then caught fire, exploded.’ This wouldn’t be the first time the vehicles, which use a small gasoline engine to charge batteries that provide energy to two electric motors, had an issue with sudden combustion.” (The Obama administration loaned \$529 million in taxpayer money to the company to make electric cars in Finland. Many of Fisker’s investors are Democrat campaign donors.) [5047, 5054, 39564, 39578]

CNSNews.com reports, “The Department of Interior (DOI) is requiring private oil companies to hire marine mammal and sea turtle monitors if the companies are granted a lease to drill offshore. A marine mammal observer’s job is to watch for whales, dolphins, and similar sea creatures and to advise on minimizing the underwater noise created by offshore drilling, which can affect the sea mammals.” [39565]

CNSNews.com reports, “...Obama met with Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Vice President Joe Biden at the White House on Sept. 11, 2012 at 5:00 PM—just 55 minutes after the State Department notified the White House and the Pentagon that the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi was under attack. The meeting between Obama, Panetta and Biden had been scheduled before the attack took place, and the Department of Defense is not commenting now on whether the three men were aware when they met that day of the ongoing attack or whether Obama used that meeting to discuss with his defense secretary what should be done to defend the U.S. personnel who at that very moment were fighting for their lives in Benghazi. ‘Secretary Panetta met with ...Obama, as the White House-provided scheduled indicates,’ Lt. Col. Todd Brasseale, a Defense Department spokesman, told CNSNews.com on Tuesday. ‘However, neither the content nor the subject of discussions between [Obama] and his advisors are appropriate for disclosure.’” [39524]

On Greta Van Susteren’s *On the Record*, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich says, “There is a rumor—I want to be clear, it’s a rumor—that at least two networks have emails from the National Security Adviser’s office telling a counterterrorist group to stand down, that there were [sic] a group in real-time trying to mobilize the Marines and the C-130s and the fighter aircraft, and they were told explicitly by the White House. ‘stand down and do nothing, this is not a terrorist action.’ If that’s true, and I’ve been told this by a fairly reliable U.S. senator, if that’s true and then that comes out in the next day or two, I think it raises enormous questions about [Obama’s] role, Tom Donilon, the National Security Adviser’s role, the Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, who has taken it on his own shoulders, that he said don’t go. And I think that’s very dubious, given that [Obama] has said he issued instructions that they are supposed to do anything they could to secure American personnel. Now, which is it? Is the Secretary of Defense usurping the [power of the] commander in chief? Or, in fact, did not Obama not issue that order? I think you are going to see this come back tomorrow and the next day; it was suspended two days by the storm coverage, which dominated everything, but I think tomorrow, as the storm begins to recede you’ll see Benghazi come back. The other big story, I think, that is going to break is on corruption and extraordinary waste in the solar power grants

and the direct involvement by the Obama White House, including [Obama], in the solar power grants involving billions of dollars, and I suspect that's going to break Wednesday and Thursday of this week." [39501, 39537]

On *The Tonight Show*, Jay Leno jokes, "Well, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is back—not for gays in the military, it's ...Obama's new policy for questions about Libya: don't ask, don't tell. ...The Republicans are accusing the White House of successfully engineering a massive cover-up of the Libyan attack. But on the plus side, it's the first time in four years the Republicans have given credit to Obama for doing anything successfully." Leno also comments on the Obama campaign's "first time" ad: "Have you seen that new Obama campaign ad that equates voting with sex? It's kind of clever. It uses innuendo to try and woo young female voters. Like one line says, 'Your first time shouldn't be with just anybody. It should be with a great guy who really understands women.' But, on the other hand, if it is your first time, you might want to do it with someone who doesn't need eight years to get the job done. That's all I'm saying. That's all I'm saying." [39507, 39523, 39567]

On October 31 Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, disputes polls that show Mitt Romney is gaining momentum, and I will come on *Morning Joe* and I will shave off my mustache of 40 years if we lose any of those three states [Minnesota, Michigan, or Pennsylvania]." [39499]

Obama—who was one of only 14 Senators who voted against the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007—spends about an hour touring storm damage in New Jersey, then returns to the White House. In Brigantine, New Jersey, Obama says, "We are here for you and we will not forget, we will follow up to make sure you get all the help you need until you rebuild." (The name ROMNEY is spelled out in large letters in the sand at the north end of Point Pleasant Beach. Whether Obama sees the name is not known—but his press pool photographers capture the picture.) [39503, 39515, 39560, 39566, 39573, 39580]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 49–44 in a Roanoke College poll of likely voters in Virginia. According to the pollster, "Employing a more stringent screen for likely voters... increases Romney's lead to 54 percent to 41 percent." The poll's D/R/I is 35/31/30. or D+4. A CBS/NYT/Quinnipiac poll in Virginia shows Obama leading Romney by two points—with an unjustifiable D+8 weighting. (The poll also has a questionable screening for likely voters, labeling 96 percent of registered voters it contacted as likely voters—a percentage outside the realm of believability.) [39504, 39506, 39513, 39591]

The CBS/NYT/Quinnipiac poll also shows Obama ahead by one point in Florida—using a 37/30/29 weighting. (The 2008 turnout was 37/34/29.) Its Ohio poll shows Obama leading by five points—using a D/R/I of 37/29/30. (The 2008 turnout was 39/31/30.) One can believe the Florida and Ohio poll results only if one also believes Obama will perform as well as or better than he did in 2008; but the odds of that are close to zero. [39513, 39591]

Campaigning in Florida, Joe Biden tells a Republican voter, “After it’s all over, when your [health] insurance rates go down then you’ll vote for me in 2016.” (Biden is making two arguably absurd assumptions: that ObamaCare will result in lower insurance premiums and that he will be the Democrat Party’s 2016 nominee for president.) [39519, 39520, 38552]

Biden also refers to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* as one of the major newspapers “in this state,” and “All of a sudden, I found out [Mitt Romney’s] new best buddy is [Vladimir] Putin. Man, I tell you. It’s amazing.” (Cleveland has, of course, not been moved from Ohio to Florida. With regard to Romney being a “buddy” of the Russian president, it is certain that not one person in the audience has any idea what Biden is talking about—and he probably does not either.) [39520]

Author (*Moment of Truth in Iraq*) and Afghanistan war correspondent Michael Yon writes, “I cannot speak about the economy, education or healthcare, but I can speak about Afghanistan. Obama cannot be faulted that Afghanistan is stone-aged, or that our military strategy was wrecked when he took office. It was. The bus was in a ditch. Obama showed up with a wrecker, promising to yank it out. Today the wrecker is in the ditch atop the bus. ...Obama did fire General [Stanley] McChrystal and send General [David] Petraeus to Afghanistan, which was smart. But now Director Petraeus is at the CIA, and not where we most need him, which is in the military. ...Obama’s mishandling of the war has left many of us disillusioned. ...This year, the casualties continue. In March, at Sangesar, three Afghan insiders turned their guns on Americans, killing Staff Sergeant Jordan Bear from Denver, and Specialist Payton Jones from Marble Falls, Texas. Another Soldier was wounded. That is the payment we can expect for appeasing Islamic-narco-terrorists. I was in the general area last year, and in previous years, and it was mostly about combat. Our young troops are something to be proud of, and if you saw them in action you would be amazed at their courage and professionalism. The mess we shoved them into is a national shame. We provided about half the troops required for the stated strategy, then began pulling them out against a domestic political deadline that has nothing to do with the war. The surge has been a wasted effort. ...At least 30% of Afghan trainees must be replaced annually due to desertions and endemic corruption. Training Afghans to replace Coalition forces is not working. As we draw down, the enemy will be able to focus on fewer troops. Hollow Afghan units will collapse, and corrupt Afghan politicians will finally abscond to Dubai. We should cut our losses and remove the bulk of our force. Although Obama needs to go home, this is no guarantee that Romney will do better. If Romney is elected, he will need a bigger wrecker. He is guaranteed the same honest chance that Obama received. Nothing less, nothing more.” [39521, 39522]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee release emails showing that Obama was personally involved in the approval of some Department of Energy “green energy” loans for Nevada that boosted Senator Harry Reid’s chances of winning reelection in 2010. [39534, 39563]

According to an October 24–28 Pew Research Center poll, “...19% of likely voters say they have already voted; that is unchanged from the same week in the 2008 campaign (Oct. 23-26, 2008). Currently, Romney holds a seven-point edge among early voters (50% to 43%)... At this point four years ago, Obama led John McCain by 19 points (53% to 34%) among early voters.” [39542]

McClatchyDC.com reports, “Peoria [Illinois] Bishop Daniel Jenky ordered priests to read a letter to parishioners on Sunday before the presidential election, explaining that politicians who support abortion rights also reject Jesus. ‘By virtue of your vow of obedience to me as your Bishop, I require that this letter be personally read by each celebrating priest at each Weekend Mass,’ Jenky wrote in a letter circulated to clergy in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. In the letter, Jenky cautions parishioners that Obama and a majority of U.S. senators will not reconsider the mandate that would require employers, including religious groups, to provide free birth control coverage in their health care plans. ‘This assault upon our religious freedom is simply without precedent in the American political and legal system. Today, Catholic politicians, bureaucrats, and their electoral supporters who callously enable the destruction of innocent human life in the womb also thereby reject Jesus as their Lord. They are objectively guilty of grave sin.’” [39572]

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo asks Obama to have the federal government pay 100 percent of the cost of his state’s hurricane clean-up efforts. [39576]

HumanEvents.com reports that Attorney General Eric Holder’s wife and sister-in-law own a Georgia building in which an abortion clinic operates. Holder is “moving fast and furiously to bury [his] ties to one of Georgia’s most notorious abortion doctors. ...[Holder] faces allegations that his connection to Dr. Tyrone Cecil Malloy is a conflict of interest that helps explain Holder’s failure to prosecute abortion providers who run afoul of federal law. Critics say it may also explain why Holder has been eager to prosecute pro-life advocates who counsel women outside abortion clinics. Documents obtained by Watchdog show that Holder’s wife and sister-in-law co-own, through a family trust, the building where Malloy operated. A Georgia grand jury indicted Malloy on Medicaid fraud charges in 2011. A state medical board twice reprimanded the doctor.” Although the Holder family claims it no longer owns the building, “...public documents reviewed by Watchdog.org show that the family transferred ownership to a family trust in 2009, eight months after ...Obama’s inauguration. But even the new deed directly names Holder’s wife and sister-in-law as trustees.” [39993, 39994, 39995, 39996, 39997]

At FoxNews.com Catherine Herridge reports, “The U.S. Mission in Benghazi convened an ‘emergency meeting’ less than a month before the assault that killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans, because Al Qaeda had training camps in Benghazi and the consulate could not defend against a ‘coordinated attack,’ according to a classified cable reviewed by Fox News. Summarizing an Aug. 15 emergency meeting convened by the U.S. Mission in Benghazi, the Aug. 16 cable marked ‘SECRET’ said that the State Department’s senior security officer, also known as the RSO, did not

believe the consulate could be protected. ‘RSO (Regional Security Officer) expressed concerns with the ability to defend Post in the event of a coordinated attack due to limited manpower, security measures, weapons capabilities, host nation support, and the overall size of the compound,’ the cable said.” [39535, 39562, 39627]

On *Lou Dobbs Tonight* former Congressman Artur Davis—who after leaving office switched parties and became a Republican—says the Democrats are “panicked” because they aren’t getting the early voting numbers they had in 2008. “One of the reasons why Democrats are trying to furiously spin every possible tea leaf and discredit every national poll is because they’re looking at hard data from the early vote numbers, and, in almost every state, they’re way behind their early vote numbers...” [39595]

On *The Tonight Show*, Jay Leno says, “Economists say rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy will give the ailing construction industry a huge boost. In fact, the storm has already created more jobs than ...Obama has.” [39539]