

ISSUE 16/AUTUMN 2012 £FREE (US \$FREE) EVERY COUPLE OF MONTHS OR SO

# SUNS



## AMERICA VOTES AND GOES HOME



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Vol 2 Issue 15

AUTUMN 2012

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# 2SUNS

"FROM THE WARS AGAINST DISORDER, FROM THE SIRENS NIGHT AND DAY,  
FROM THE FIRES OF THE HOMELESS, FROM THE ASHES OF THE GAY."

## COVER STORY DEMOCRACY YOUR FACE p1-90000

It's US election time again! Cool black guy who doesn't do shit versus chalky white guy who doesn't believe in shit: who's better? There's only one way to find out: decade-old pop culture references!

Including:

- Profiles of all four main candidates as if you've never heard of them!
- Every debate reviewed in non-shallow!
- Benghazi: Mitt done fucked up
- Some of the *other* candidates!
- What the fuck is the electoral college and how does it make sense?
- Broth!
- The projected result as of 2nd November, so you can stay in bed instead of watching the damn thing



## Every single page forever



## Opening Salvo

by John Wirstham-Harte  
(editor and shit yeah?)

## We're going to keep this short and sweet, because we've

become afflicted by one of the worst-timed cases of repetitive strain disorder imaginable. Imaginable by us, anyway. We're typing one-handed, and not in a good way. It makes making this magazine into a thankless chore. Instead of our scintillating prose bursting forth in spontaneous burst of fury and incoherence, we're typing this shit one letter at a time, because our left hand aches like fuck knows what. Fucking ouch. So yeah, welcome to our US election special, released just days before the actual voting day itself. OUCH. CHRIST. Mostly created one letter at a time on one hand. Ow. Unsurprisingly, we're supporting President Barack Obama, mostly by default because of the horrendously broken system America laughingly calls "democracy", in which two corporate fronts trade platitudes and chase power for its own sake while people who actually believe in shit are roundly ignored the whole time. Obama's not been perfect—GITMO'S STILL OPEN, YOU FUCKSOCK—but he's done okay, and occasionally slightly better. He ended major combat operations in Iraq, as opposed to just saying he'd done it, and he introduced what we're stuck with calling "Obamacare", which is a bullshit compromise but still better than the previous system. And he's up against a smirking android made of money and a fucking Objectivist, so there's really no other choice anyway.



THE PLAYERS

THE DEMOCRATS

# BLACK STEEL IN THE HOUR OF CHAOS

BARACK OBAMA

Surely you're familiar with this one. Young, gifted and black, TV's Mr. Charisma, colossal disappointment: Barack Obama is all these things and more. First and foremost, though, what he is is the President of the United States of America. Albeit a fairly typical example of the Democratic model of President: a massive pussy who thinks, thanks to a combination of the right-wing stranglehold on the US media, the fact that it's always fucking election season and so keeping his job is the constant #1 priority, and his own massive insecurities, that the political average in America is far to the right, and he has to pander to them if he wants to stay President. Basically, if you took Bill Clinton, removed the "sexist pig" aspect of his personality, and dyed him brown, you'd get a monstrous abomination who, politically, would have some similarities with Obama. Admittedly, Obama did get a (horribly compromised) version of quasi-universal healthcare passed, but then Clinton was the one who signed fucking NAFTA. As far as anyone to the right of the late Arlen Specter is concerned, he's the worst fucking President in the entire history of time, worse than Jimmy Carter (who at least was white) or Richard Nixon (whose misdemeanours shrivel into insignificance next to the crimes of this fiend). As far as a lot of people on the left are concerned, he also sucks, because TO EVERYONE'S MASSIVE SURPRISE he turned out to be a fucking politician and a pussy and a cock, and so they're voting Nader like they did in 1996 and 2000, as soon as the figure out what party he's running for this year. That's self-defeating, though - or rather, it's a surrender to the system, which is horrendously broken, but tactically voting for a third-party is still participating in it. So's staying at home. The only way not to participate in it is to change it, and that's just too much trouble. Therefore, everyone who respects basic human values needs to vote Obama, because he at least is aware of them and will even try to defend them once in a while, depending on his approval ratings.





# JOE BIDEN

## JOE THE LION

It's a pretty classic manoeuvre: play the clown so people underestimate you. Admittedly, it's only partially a performance; Biden's tendency to speak without thinking is part of his personality, and it makes him both a liability and a potent weapon at the same time. After several years of running off at the mouth, by the time he actually made it into Government, his reputation preceded him, and now everything he ever says, ever, even "pass the ketchup" or "looks like rain", is labelled a "gaffe". Which actually helps make the right-wing media look dumb. He's actually very sharp, not to say witty - he was the one who famously described every sentence Rudy Giuliani ever uttered as being "a noun, a verb and 9/11". At the debate with Paul Ryan, he played smiling assassin, which the right-wing media immediately leapt on in the absence of anything he'd actually said that they could effectively spin as a "gaffe". In reality, next to Ryan's rehearsed, mannered, self-conscious solemnity, he came across as a veteran politician who didn't need to reach for an effect, because he'd seen and done enough to just be himself, eating Creepy J. Objectivist alive in the process. Formerly a perennial candidate for the Presidency, he never got near it before due to his tendency to torpedo his own campaigns - in 1988 by inadvertently (and we're giving him the benefit of the doubt there) plagiarising Neil Kinnock, and twenty years later, by famously describing Barack Obama as "the first African American who's bright and articulate and clean". Somehow that didn't stop him from being named as Mr. Clan's running mate and eventual Vice-President, in which job he's enjoyed a far lower profile than his predecessor - but then again, this time it's the President that's the one actually running the country. Biden is a Roman Catholic, which is somewhat unusual for a person in his job - mind you, in this election, Barack Obama is the only Protestant out of the four of them.





# BETTE DAVIS EYES

PAUL  
RYAN

Paul Ryan was a rising star of the American Right before he was running for Vice-President of the United States, thanks to the Ryan Plan, wherein he, with his typical terrifying placidity, explained his plan to destroy Medicare in order to save it. Or was it the other way around? Whichever it was, he very reasonably explained how moving the qualifying age up every year until it practically looped around to include foetuses was actually perfectly reasonable and quite clearly for the good of the elderly. Then he fluttered his big blue eyes and gave a simpering little smile and everyone immediately loved him, except of course for those with an iota of humanity left in our bodies. But those people are very much part of the past. This creepy motherfucker's the wave of the future. He's been compared to Dan Quayle, and insanely enough by his own side, because apparently like Quayle he's young, handsome and dynamic, offsetting the frontrunner's robotic (or leathery and disappointed, in Quayle's case) un-charisma. But while Quayle did at least have the bland, technically good looks of a daytime gameshow host, Ryan looks like a black market knock-off of a 1990s celebrity doctor, with his suspiciously black hair and empty cobalt eyes. His party have tried to market him as some sort of young, thrusting man of action, which has famously led to a terrifying and hilarious photoshoot depicting Ryan in a fucking *backwards baseball cap*, with a pair of in-ear headphones, lifting a dumb-bell and looking like a profoundly ill-at-ease Fabio Capello undergoing a strangely creative punishment from the FA. He stares at the camera like a man who has literally just come into being, baseball cap, vest and all, and has no idea whatsoever what's going on. For a shoot that's supposed to emphasise his youth, he looks 900 years old. You almost feel sorry for him, but then you remember he's that Ayn Rand reading fuck who only just managed to stop short of advocating the chemical reduction of old people into their basic minerals, so instead you just laugh and laugh and laugh.

MITT  
ROMNEY

## BABY, YOU'RE A RICH MAN

Mitt was manufactured by the same company that built the Gorebot for the 2000 election, only more expensive and with slightly more charisma. Tipped for the top throughout the last decade, Romney finally made the nomination this year after the false start of 2008. Looking back, it's hard to see why they didn't pick him that time - especially in the light of the fact that they actually picked a 900-year old man they already rejected once in favour of a smirking, drooling frat boy. Rejects seem to be all the GOP have at this point, although there's a new generation on the rise who should be ready by 2016. Of course, this time they really didn't have any choice: Mitt (why doesn't he just call himself Will? That's a good human name) was the only viable option in a field containing a hysterical, deflated Sarah Palin doll, animatronic cowboy, a black Jimmy Saville, Satan, and Rick Santorum. Romney's main points, apart from being a cyborg, are the fact that he's unfathomably, unthinkable wealthy. Almost half as rich again as George W. Bush, who was and remains offensively loaded. He makes David Cameron look like Keir Hardie. He's so rich, Uncle Pennybags covets. He's so rich, in short, that he has no idea whatsoever what real people, with only one bank account, which has never required the ITM to display more than four digits, look like, let alone how they live. He's only dimly aware that they exist. He's not equipped to comprehend them. In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy he blithely compared the rebuilding process to picking up litter. It's not his fault. He just doesn't understand that real people just like him live and work inside those buildings.





THE DEBATES

#1: DOMESTIC POLICY

# NADIR'S BIG CHANCE

**THE LOCATION:** Denver, Colorado.

**THE SUBJECT:** Domestic policy, ie the stupid economy.

**THE HOST:** PBS' Jim Lehrer, the human equivalent of a big hunk of cornbread, but also (with the deaths of Pat Jennings and Walter Cronkite and the retirement of Dan Rather) a good candidate the closest America has to a David Dimbleby; his first debate was Dukakis vs. Bush. He barely showed up to this debate, sitting around like a damp rag as the candidates flagrantly interrupted him and each other, ignored time limits and basically treated him like he wasn't there, which he might as well not have been. If you get our meaning.

**THE PRE-GAME ANALYSIS:** With Romney's campaign having spent the past few weeks finding new ways to implode, and Obama a proven debater, everyone was expecting this to go the way of the President. Romney was no slouch, however; he was probably the only Republican candidate not to disgrace himself in the various primary and pre-primary and pre-pre-primary debates.

**THE RESULT:** An upset victory for Romney, albeit one earned via a blatant swan-dive in the penalty-box. Romney, startlingly for a man who hitherto had demonstrated the charisma of a shed rattlesnake skin, was easily the more confident of the two, trim and demonstrative, speaking like a man who wasn't facing Mondale-level polling at all. Obama hesitated, and his tendency to um and er (ie think before he speaks), while statistically speaking no more pronounced than usual, was thrown into sharp relief by his opponent's unexpected slickness.

Of course, there's a reason for this: Obama was telling the truth. Romney was rattling off bollocks, platitudes, carefully rehearsed ad-libs and lie upon lie upon lie. In fact, other than his name, mentioning in passing that Obama was President was probably the only true thing he said all night. The result was that he was freer and looked slicker and smarter. He successfully positioned himself in the minds of a large chunk of America as, effectively, his own complete ideological opposite. He talked so much bollocks that the entire Denver University campus was practically filled with testicles by the end of the night, but he did it much more confidently and entertainingly than Obama told the truth. Therefore, he won.

Of course, he was called on it, but the response was "Heh, fact-checkers." That's right, facts are now officially equal, if not superior, to the candidate's opinions and/or what he wants you to believe. Reality itself can be laughed off. Welcome to Karl Rove's America.

Not that Obama was blameless: his performance was listless, rusty, jaded even: either he was under the weather at the time, or else he got complacent. Either way, Romney suddenly surged ahead – even pushing in front of Obama in some polls. The pressure was now on the President at the second debate. But before that, it was time for the running mates to clash...









THE DUMB SYSTEM

# COLLEGE RULES

The Electoral College was a good idea at the time. We swear. The time being the late eighteenth century, when the United States of America consisted of a few counties in the east. It was all part of Jefferson's notions of Democracy, which also involved your three equal branches of Government (federal, judicial and legislative), and no political parties: just ideologies, and men representing those ideologies. The latter part, being a really good idea, is obviously the one that fell by the wayside almost instantaneously, whereas the Electoral College, being a really bad idea, has endured through the centuries and will probably never be removed.

It was originally created as a compromise between having a directly elected President and having Congress select him. Basically, although 300 million people can vote in this election (and around 753 people probably will altogether), only 538 people actually have the votes that matter in the Presidential Election. They're called the Electors. Their job is to translate the votes of the actual people into electoral votes, which is what the Presidential Election is judged on. If the majority of votes in, say, Iowa (main export, population and topic of conversation: corn) go to Romney, then rather than just counting those votes, which is what would happen in a democracy, the Electors cast their Electoral Votes accordingly. If the people say Romney, the Electors also vote for Romney. Usually. They don't actually HAVE to. They can actually vote for whoever the fuck they feel like. Occasionally one or two will vote for a running mate instead, either out of some sort of unclear protest, or just to confuse you. John Edwards ended up with an Electoral Vote in 2004, for example. But 99 times out of a hundred, the Electors will vote for whoever the people appear to have voted for. Making them a completely pointless and needless complication in the whole system.

Without the Electoral College, everything would be much more straightforward. Just count the damn votes and see who's got the most. (In a two-party system, First Past the Post actually makes sense.) If that had been the method, the whole headache over the 2000 election might have been avoided. Al Gore would have won. Which he fucking *did anyway*, not that anyone cares. The "Popular Vote", as they call it, sits there every election day, a constant reminder to America that YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG.

So why do it at all? Well, the main argument is that the College is a buffer, that it somehow levels the playing field. In practise, it makes states like Ohio into national battlegrounds by dint of their seemingly arbitrarily huge number of electoral votes. Actually, it's not arbitrary; it's based on how many senators plus how many congresspersons they have, which in turn is based on population. So the most populous states, like California and Texas, have the most electoral votes, whereas somewhere like Alaska, which is massively vast and empty, only has three. While CA and TX are pretty consistently going to go blue and red respectively (except in extreme cases like 1984), Ohio, with a significant 18 votes, and Florida, which with 29 can often spell the difference all by itself, are usually up for grabs. Hence Obama and Romney having spent so long in the two states they might as well have rented a fucking honeymoon suite.

Essentially, the Electoral College is an ancient compromise between two ideas which are irrelevant in the real world three centuries later, where its only use is as a hindrance to democracy and justice. Not entirely unlike America itself.



A ballot box, yesterday. (Since the Electoral College isn't an actual thing, it's hard to illustrate an article about it)





Dear Poor People,

Well shucks, never thought I'd have so much support from you guys! That's just peachy. I just want to say - and I mean this, I'm not like some of those shysters you get in Congress, I mean every word I say. Even when I contradict myself, I'm that honest - I want to say how proud I am of you. How you're willing to put aside what's best for you and instead work in the interests of people who matter. That's what makes this country Republican. That's what makes this country great.

See, I know how hard it can get. When I was growing up, my family barely had \$5million to their name. Sure, we had staff, but not many. Pop couldn't even afford a third house. But from these low beginnings I pulled myself up by my bootstraps, and I want to give the same opportunity to every other American millionaire.

So I want to thank you for your votes. Frankly it's a crazy situation where you should have to vote at all, but since we have to put up with the socialist lie that you need to have some say in how this so-called government is run, rather than leaving it to people who have proved they're capable, I'm afraid you'll have to give up your valuable time forming opinions.

But I don't want you to think I'm taking your votes for granted. So I wanted to let you know exactly what I'm going to do when they install me as President Mitt, so that when I'm pulling down all the socialist trappings blighting this great state, so when you know no more of your tax dollars are being spent sending out 'socialist' security cheques, and when you're paying me a six-figure salary I frankly won't even notice to do it, you can look at each other with pride and say "I did this."

First up, Obamacare. This abomination must end. Health is not a right. Like respect, health must be earned. If a man is not free to die of the influenza in his own home, that man is not free at all. And why should you, hard working folks, have to pay for your neighbour's doctor? If he's that interested in being healthy, he can pay for it himself like an honest man.

That's why my first act as President will be to remove Obamacare - or Satancare, as we call it at Chateau Mitt - from the statute books. From the day I am in office, you get the healthcare you can pay for and not a drop more. If your neighbour breaks his leg in the street, he won't be crawling to your door no more!

Now, girls. I got some real special things for you too.

Take abortion. In fact, take it right out that door. That shit is not going down in Romneytopia. See now, when there's the issue of abortion you've got to think, do you have the right to take a life? That little guy in your belly could grow up to be anything, including a man. And to think one woman's life is more important than the potential for that kid to grow into a man, I think that's just wrong.

Now, there's a flip side here, I get that. What if the initial conception was non-consensual? Well, was that the fault of the little guy? Or was it the fault of the woman who allowed it to happen? We could argue about that all day, but I know who had most influence on the situation.

See, this comes down to personal responsibility. We all got to take it. If you didn't want a kid, well, you shouldn't have got pregnant. At all. Because you know I voted against the morning-after pill too - murder's murder whatever time of day you do it. And I will not sanction death pills over the counter. Unless it's to criminals. We might force-feed them.

Afghanistan. Tricky one. Now, I fully admit I do not have full possession of the facts, but Obama's doing it wrong. And that's all I've got to say about that.

And taxes. I know how important it is to you that the country gets richer, so the wealth can trickle down to you. I figure we've got to concentrate our efforts on those people who've proved to be good at making money. That's why I will be cutting taxes for all high-worth individuals, so they can make more money. And when they make more money, the country makes more money. Of course, that'll leave a bit of a gap in the coffers. Which is why I'm so grateful y'all have stepped up to the plate. Once we're taking more cash from you, we'll be able to give a whole load of tax relief to the high earners. You'll never have to worry about making money again - just leave it to the guys who've got talent. Clearly, you're not in a union, and we don't have any truck with those that are. Demanding higher wages is just going to force your boss to take his wages down, and if that's going to happen eh may as well just get out of business altogether. So no sir, we will be making it far tougher for unions to organise. Some of you are probably worried about China. You should be. China's up there with the Russians as a hive of pure, absolute evil. We will stand up to China in the strongest possible terms. And yes, maybe that will involve some military action. But let me be clear, I will allow no high net worth people to be harmed. Only those of below average worth will be used as soldiers, allowing us to remove a competitor and increase our GDP. All education budgets will be devolved to state level. So if you're living in Texas, Kansas, or any of those other places where they insist scientists don't know shit, you can devolve too! Because if a man is not free to teach his kids whatever nonsense got drilled in to him when he was 3 rather than something based on actual facts, that man is not free at all.

I was going to write something about the environment here too, but my guys at Exxon haven't given me the line yet. Guantanamo Bay, as the only good thing about Cuba, is staying open. It's vital for our national security that I can lock up who the hell I feel like for no reason. Also, we'll be cool with torture as long as it's not called torture, because that's an ugly word and gives people the wrong idea. I'm in favour of immigration. I'm also in favour of a fuck-off big wall with guns and landmines right across the border with Mexico. Anyone who gets past that, they're going to be the kind of go-getter self-starter we want in this country. Either that or they're rich enough to buy off the guards, which is also good. Military spending will be increasing to 4%, because nothing says international respect like some fuck-off big guns. We'll get this money by diverting funds from subsidies on poorness like social security. Nothing says international disrespect like a load of poor folks hanging around. If they really loved this country, they'd put more effort into getting rich. I support gay rights. Except the right to get married. Or be treated like people. That way the apocalypse lies. This is what you're voting for, and this is why you're voting for me. And I just want to let you know, I appreciate every one of you, even if you're poor. For now.

Welcome to the 47%. Hope y'all like it here!

Love and kisses,

Mitt



WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE  
FUCK WE'RE DOING ANYMORE

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO GET A FUCKING WHITE PRESIDENT BACK. DISAPPROVED BY MITT ROMNEY. A MERCURY PRODUCTION.









# IF I GIVE YOU A SMILE

**THE LOCATION:** Danville, Kentucky.

**THE SUBJECT:** It's just the Vice-Presidential debate, so anything short of underwear colour really.

**THE HOST:** Martha Raddatz of ABC. If Jim Lehrer is America's (incorrect) answer to David Dimbleby, Raddatz is their much more accurate impersonation of Kate Adie. After spending more time in both Iraq and Afghanistan than President Bush – not that that's hard – she rose to become ABC's Senior Foreign Correspondent. A minor controversy was attempted to be whipped up when last-relevant-in-2002 fedora-ruining twat Matt Drudge pointed out that Obama had attended her first wedding. In 1991. But a woman who has, multiple times, trundled through the desert in massive lumbering trucks, never knowing for sure that there isn't a landmine underneath, isn't going to be intimidated by an ugly bloke in a stupid hat who desperately wants to replace the news media.

**THE PRE-GAME ANALYSIS:** Youth v. Experience. Old Pro Biden, a senator since 1973, who'd probably still be there if he hadn't got a new job, versus the increasingly eerie Paul Ryan, with his youth and apparently good looks and new ideas and eyes like soulless blue disks of death. Ryan was unproven; Biden famous for his sharp wit, or if you're right wing and/or pathologically credulous, tendency to put his foot in his mouth.

**THE RESULT:** Wolf Blitzer called it a draw, which almost certainly means a clear Biden victory. Ryan was calmer and slicker, but Biden was righter and more entertaining, grinning his way through a cavalcade of lies and irrelevant prepared anecdotes – one of which backfired somewhat: at one point, Ryan, apropos of nothing, blithely ran through a rehearsed sob story about a family who had suffered a massive car crash, like a man reading off cue-cards printed on the inside of his retinas, only to be gently reminded by both the moderator and his opponent that Biden's first wife and daughter had both been killed, and his two sons critically injured, in a car accident that temporarily turned him into a man hell-bent on punching God in the face, and actively seeking out pimps, muggers and streetwalkers to stand in for Him. Biden managed to keep his cool and call Ryan an asshole in just roundabout enough fashion to get away with it. Much right-wing analysis afterward concentrated on Biden's "blustering" performance, as opposed to Ryan's "statesmanlikeness" or whatever. Blustering, in this sense, meaning not just rolling over and letting Handsome B. Wonderful spout an endless stream of bullshit without being challenged.

# THE THIRD MEN (ALSO WOMEN)

America might be a two-party nation, but that's not stopping people from trying! **Sampford Courtenay** picks the relative best of the rest.



## JILL STEIN/CHERI HONKALA GREEN PARTY

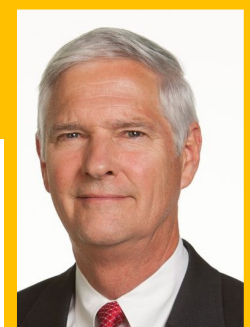


The Green Party have been around two decades now, but their real heyday, relatively speaking, was the latter half of the nineties, when seatbelt-advocate Ralph Nader was their candidate twice in a row. After he was made scapegoat for Bush's 2000 coup d'état, he's gone ahead and run as an independent ever since, with the Greens preferring, this time around,

schoolteacher small-town Jewish Doctor Jill Stein of Lexington, Massachusetts. Her choice of running mate is the improbably named Cheri Honkala, whose son was Stephen Stills in the Scott Pilgrim movie, so that's nice. Being Greens, they're basically right about everything, if somewhat touchy-feely and naïve, but no-one will ever listen to them because with the best will in the world, it's next to impossible not to seem sanctimonious when you're an environmentalist. Still, they have some notable endorsements: Noam Chomsky, Camille Paglia, and oddly enough Professor Griff of Public Enemy. Got over his issues with Jews, then.

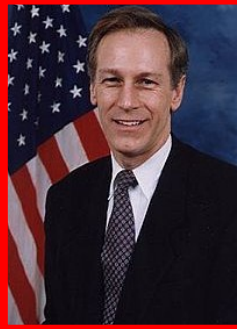


## GARY JOHNSON/JIM GRAY LIBERTARIAN PARTY



The Libertarian Party is officially the third largest party in the United States, which is a shame as being capital-L Libertarians their platform basically consists of twats complaining when people tell them not to smoke around them because they're on the point of coughing their entire digestive systems all over their nice pressed suits, and that would surely infringe on their

freedoms of sartorial elegance. Johnson, of course, started out as a Republican candidate for President—at the debates, he was the one standing around like a melting waxwork of a worried Tim Robbins, and not saying anything. When he made the expected zero impact on the Republican race, he instead turned to the Libertarian Party and was roundly embraced as someone who at least held elected office for a time. Jim Gray is a dot-eyed judge who looks like he'd be perfectly at home bellowing into a quivering private's face the day before the My Lai massacre. They have the vote of entertaining douchebag Penn Jillette, inexplicable former Governor Jesse Ventura, and almost no-one else.



## VIRGIL GOODE/JIM CLYMER CONSTITUTION PARTY



The Constitution Party is basically the Libertarian Party for people who think Libertarians are too soft. And tasteful. From its gaudy, stars-stripes-eagles-and-let's-throw-in-a-picture-of-the-fucking-Congress-building-for-the-sheer-hell-of-it logo downwards, it's like being trapped on a cruise ship hosting a convention of American exceptionalists circa 1915. Their main

focus is on worshipping the Constitution like an infallible screed from God himself, and also on keeping those damn immigrants out of America. They're America's equivalent of UKIP, in other words. Their candidate, Virgil Goode, has belonged to almost every party in America short of the Nazis, finally landing in the Constitution Party as an organisation right-wing and backwards enough to suit him. His running mate, Jim Clymer, is a former party chairman played by Larry Miller, so you know he's a bad guy. Their main platform seems to be anything Ron Paul ever said, in a desperate attempt to get SOMETHING resembling an actual movement going, even if they have to appropriate Ron's.



## MERLIN MILLER/VIRGINIA ABERNATHY AMERICAN THIRD POSITION PARTY



The "Third Position" is a confusing fusion of communism and fascism — equal distribution of goods, but some animals are more equal than others — which, delightfully enough, inspired the original National Front. And now they've got a party for it in America. Hooray. The ATP was formed in 2010, so this is their first Presidential election, and hopefully also the last. Their

platform is basically "niggers", and their candidate is filmmaker Merlin L. Miller. Yes, that's his real name. You may remember him from such written-and-directed-by productions as "A Place to Grow" or "Jericho", or maybe you won't because no bugger watched them. After much thought, he decided this was because of Jews. From there it was a short bus to full-blown White Supremacism, via a sort of working-class, mass-action form of Nazism. Which is nice. His running mate, the deceptively nice-looking Virginia Abernathy, is basically your racist grandma. We probably shouldn't publicise them, but then only forty people read this magazine, so we doubt it will make any difference.



## ANDRE BARNETT/ANYONE REFORM PARTY



And the Democrats thought they had a young, cut black man. Meet Andre Barnett, a former model and bodybuilder and potentially the sexiest President since Teddy Roosevelt. At 36, he's only just old enough to run at all. One thing he's missing is a running mate, but that's his fault for running with the Reform Party. You remember those guys, right? The outfit formed

by shortarsed egoist Ross Perot so he could run again in 1996? Perot, who is sort of what Donald Trump wants to be, had very nearly got into a potential winning position four years earlier, before panicking and running away for a month, destroying all his momentum and probably making all third parties a joke forever. He came back in '96 with an actual party, but no-one was interested anymore, and he eventually got bored and wandered off. They did notably manage to get Jesse Ventura elected, but basically their entire platform was Ross Perot's ego, and since he's left they've had no coherent message: just several factions running the entire political gamut sniping at each other. Ross Perot is 82.





THE DEBATES

#2: QUESTION TIME

# RETURN OF THE MACK

**THE LOCATION:** Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York.

**THE SUBJECT:** This is the “town hall”-format debate: ie, it’s like Question Time, with an audience of Hofstra U students bellowing questions directly into the candidate’s faces.

**THE HOST:** Candy Crowley, Chief Political Correspondent at CNN. Imagine Delta Burke circa 1990 with a Jennifer Aniston haircut circa 1996, and the resulting chimera could almost be mistaken for Candy Crowley on a dark night by an idiot. She’s the first woman to take charge of a proper Presidential debate in twenty years, with the likes of Raddatz and Gwen Ifill usually having to content themselves with the Vice Presidential Debate. Inevitably, the likes of NewsBusters are questioning her impartiality and such, desperately hoping for some kind of scandal so they can replace her with Rush Limbaugh or someone. This only intensified afterwards when Romney turned out to suck, as usual.

**THE PRE-GAME ANALYSIS:** Big, big debate this. Obama’s lacklustre performance in the first one, compared with Romney’s slick, professionally-presented brand of evil, had brought Romney to within sight of Obama’s poll ratings, because people are idiots. Obama needed to absolutely kill this one, or suddenly he was in a contest. And if he performed as badly as he had the first time around, he was in a contest he’d already lost.

**THE RESULT:** Much more like it from Obama. If he didn’t totally beat the debate to death with his nine-foot cock, as certain wide-eyed zealots were actively expecting, he didn’t need to go that far even if he’d had the capacity. It was Romney’s turn to be complacent, emboldened by his opponent’s failure to turn up to the first debate, and somehow not seeming to have considered the possibility that it wouldn’t happen the second time around. To no-one’s surprise but his own, Obama turned up this time.

The most memorable part of this debate was probably “binders full of women”, Romney’s unintentionally-creepy (we’re giving him the benefit of the doubt there) riposte to Obama challenging the Republican sausagefest. Fortunately for Romney, and unfortunately for anyone who respects basic human values, he (or more specifically his alien, reptilian spinbastards) managed to turn this around as if Obama was the one who’d said it, thereby negating any actual damage caused by the mark. They said some things about policy and the economy and such, but no-one gives a flying fuck about that boring shit. You can’t make an Internet Meme about quantitative easing.



# TERRORVISION

**The middle of an election cycle: a good time for a terrorist atrocity? Humphrey Jaylynn examines the candidates' reactions, both in actual reality and in the media's reality.**

Sometimes it takes really big events to have an impact on the Presidential race. Natural disasters. Criminal acts. Sex scandals.

But sometimes, all it needs is for some cunt to think making a video mocking Islam and then posting it to YouTube would be, like, the best idea EVER. Seriously, let's just take the belief system that's at the centre of a billion people's lives and take a great big shit in the middle of it, because that's always going to turn out well.

To be fair, for the crew behind the video it probably did turn out far better than they expected. They became global news. Your Dashing Correspondent is going to make an assumption that the people behind the video will be voting Romney, if only because pointless racial hatred is rather more in line with the GOP's modus operandi than with the Democrats'. It is, therefore, with some sense of smugness that we have cause to thank them, because thanks to them Romney has been made to look like an absolute tool.

And let's face it, after Obama's "yes sir thank you sir please spank me again sir" performance in the first debate, the Democrats kinda needed it.

The events that kicked off terrorgate, as we will not be calling it for the remainder of this article or our lives, were a tragedy. The video (that was SO FUNNY guys, seriously, AWESOME IDEA! Cunts) sparked demonstrations across the whole of the middle east - much the same reaction, in fact, as you could expect if you took out billboards reading 'Jesus was a worthless gay fucktard' across the American Deep South. These demonstrations quickly turned to riots, which in turn led to opportunistic acts of terror from pro-am dickmules, often using the video as a pretext, one of which resulted in the death of some American personnel in Libya, including their diplomat J Christopher Stevens.

See what we did there? Calling them 'acts of terror'? That's a direct quote from Obama. That'll matter later.

(By the way, for anyone reading this as if it's an apologist piece, that's the point where our sympathy ends. We fully support the right to demonstrate against idiocy like this video - as soon as those demonstrations start to hurt innocent people, that shit needs to get shut down)

The reaction to this was one of widespread condemnation. Not just Obama's 12th September address in the Rose Garden, where he said "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." Even in Libya itself, the government, public figures and hardline clerics called this out as the act of dickery it was.

One voice was missing in the chorus, though. Mitt Romney did not choose to condemn the attacks. Instead, he chose to condemn the President.

You can just imagine it. In the newsrooms across the country, in the campaign headquarters of both sides, there is silence. In their corner, the Fox News team wave their fists in the air and yell "Yeah, go Mitt! Lay it on him! Leverage those deaths!" Meanwhile, the rest of the journalists and pundits, the rest of the country, go "Did he... did he just... what... did he really?"

The fact that this wasn't quite the knock-out blow Romney clearly expected seemed to pass him by, right up until the second debate, when he attempted to deliver it again. This time, an Obama who had clearly woken up at some point since his first somnambulist performance, knocked Romney's wind away with three words: "Read the transcript."





**Mitt Romney solemnly walks away from his press conference about the Benghazi attacks yesterday. Photo credit: AP.**

The debate moderator, Candy Crowley, had to confirm that Obama had in fact done exactly what Mitt said he did not do - refer to the deaths as the act of terror that they were.

It was at about that point that the Republican spin machine realised that the nation wasn't following the line they were meant to like good little plebs. This would be the time when most decent people would admit they were wrong. Instead, they sharpened their knives and kicked into overdrive.

Using the Obama administration's somewhat inept communication over the week or so after the attack as a starting point, Fox News ran a series of expose pieces, treating a contradicting brief (actually caused by a civil servant misreading his notes) as evidence for the greatest conspiracy since the Muslims covered up their killing of Santa Claus. Candy Crowley was treated to a torrent of invective by right-wing bloggers, all of whom were horrified that she should dare speak the truth. Romney aides issued briefs in which Obama's 'terror attack' statement was desperately parsed to try and convince people he was actually referring to something else entirely, despite mentioning Benghazi immediately before and after. As this article is being written, Fox are currently trying to convince the world that this was a premeditated terror assault (probably premeditated by Obama, the un-American bastard) and actually had nothing to do with the video as the Democrats are claiming. The fact that the CIA - not known as a bastion of liberalism - has issued several reports citing the video as the catalyst has not dimmed their enthusiasm. Never let it be said they let the truth get in the way of good spin.

And this was where Romney really fell down. He clearly honestly thought that Obama had not called out these attacks as terrorism. If he had known the truth, he never would have been so stupid as to bring it up on live TV in front of 100 million viewers. He listened to the conservative spin, and mistook it for the truth.

Bit ironic that the lies told to convince the populace actually ended up convincing the candidate.

But this should be about more than political point scoring. The issue itself is trivial - because the issue, let's not forget, is not that people died. That's been largely brushed under the carpet. The issue is one of semantics - how an act was described and when it was described as such.

Why is that the issue? Because that's what Romney made it. Because as the Republican candidate in one of the most rabidly hard-line GOPs ever, when the President saw people as people, he saw them as an exploitable resource.





# SWORDS OF A THOUSAND MEN

**THE LOCATION:** Boca Raton, Florida (home of Boca Raton Barbara, the orneriest dame in the West, and the East as well come to think of it)

**THE SUBJECT:** Foreign policy! Whoever can spell Benghazi wins.

**THE HOST:** Bob Schieffer of CBS, leaving NBC and Fox unrepresented this time around. Schieffer is another candidate for the American Dimbleby, having spent 23 of his 75 years at CBS, anchoring the likes of the CBS Saturday Evening News, Meet the Nation, and even their flagship Evening News for a year after Karl Rove got Dan Rather the sack. He looks a little like the Mayor of the Tortoises.

**THE PRE-GAME ANALYSIS:** As usual, everyone's basically sick of debates by now, so no-one really cared either way, but with the score at 1-1 and Obama back in the ascendancy, the pressure was very much on Romney.

**THE RESULT:** Probably a win for Obama, in that he made sense and said mostly non-lies. But that's not important, obviously. What matters – as this debate cycle has made perfectly clear – is what you look like, what you speak like and whatever “zingers” (in Romney's words) you manage to get out. That's how Romney managed to consistently present himself as almost literally the opposite of his actual self in these debates, with little more than a resigned shrug in reply.

Obama won, not because of any policy statement he made, but because it was him who made the funniest and most memorable statement: “You mentioned...that we have fewer ships than we did in 1916. Well, Governor, we also have fewer horses and bayonets.” Highly witty, I'm sure you'll agree. No, really, it is, and it's also nearly making a good point, which is optional with these things and demonstrates a real commitment on President Obama's part to his rhetoric. Romney just came across as a sort of stranded puppy.

So what have we learned from these debates? Mostly that American democracy is a load of old bollocks, a dog and pony show where the one who has the nicest hair and the biggest smile and the best-pressed suit and the funniest comebacks is handed the keys to the free world and effective command over the biggest nuclear arsenal the world has ever seen. But we knew that already.





# THE ISSUES BLAME IT ON THE WEATHERMAN



Stop us if you've heard this one: a major hurricane rips through a major American city, killing dozens and levelling countless homes and businesses in what becomes a watershed moment for a sitting President. When it happened in 2005, it was the straw that broke the Bush voter's back, although by then they were stuck with him, having handed him the keys to the White House for a second term AGAINST ALL REASON AND HUMAN FUCKING INTELLIGENCE no we will never get over this, deal with it.

This time, the hurricane was further north. Despite intermittently changing classification, and seeming to settle on "Storm Sandy" just before making landfall, it had hurricane-level winds, so it was a fucking hurricane, alright? "Great Storm" our collective arse. Anyway, Hurricane Sandy isn't actually very funny, having killed 170 people altogether and flattened what was left of Haiti on its way to the right hand side of America. Thank God climate change isn't real, or it might have been even worse.

As soon as it became clear that this colossal hurricane (the biggest seen in the Atlantic since they started measuring these things), it turned into an election story, in that it was suddenly going to become a "swing issue" (what with the massive property damage and death), and in that it brought the election to a screeching halt for a couple of days while it basically kicked New York, New Jersey and Atlantic City to death.

It was immediately good news for John McCain, we mean bad for Romney, because he'd alluded to abolishing FEMA in the debates, and now here they were saving people's lives and cleaning up behind a massive natural disaster and basically justifying their existence in a way that pointedly underlined how many people would be dead without it. It undoubtedly helped that this time around they're headed by a former firefighter with decades of experience in emergency response, and not a former head of the International Arabian Horse Association. A very bad one.

And then Obama arrived. And the natural disaster that claimed dozens of lives got even worse for Mitt Romney's presidential campaign. Obama strode through the battered eastern seaboard looking like a man hell-bent on punching the Earth's atmospheric pressure in the face. He got there *immediately*, before the storm had even fully subsided, instead of two days later, as his predecessor did when an entire city was all but destroyed on his watch. And he pitched in to help. For all Obama's faults as a President, he genuinely gives a fuck about things, that suffering genuinely makes him sad (fortunately, he can grit his teeth and bear the guilt when it's soldiers or blameless brown people in Gitmo). Romney, on the other hand, wrote off almost half the population of the United States as arseholes.

When a shell-shocked Mitt got there, he made it worse by blithely telling a story comparing it to the safe collection of litter. Then, pro-am conspiracy theorist and gargantuan bell-end Donald Trump showed up to brag about how "unlike others, [Trump Tower] stayed open", before launching into an astonishing tirade about how Obama was a shit: "Hurricane is good luck for Obama again – he will buy the election by handing out billions of dollars. Not only giving out money, but Obama will be seen today standing in water and rain like he is a real president —don't fall for it." Even the Daily Mail —the *Daily Mail* — had to ask, "has he no shame?" The *DAILY. MAIL*.

The final humiliation came when sexist gelatinous mass and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie — a constant tip for the next Republican President — praised Obama for his help in cleaning up his state. Obama's once massive lead was narrowing as the election entered the home straight; but Sandy and his response thereunto helped close it back up again. And all it took was property damage heading into the billions of dollars and the deaths of nearly a hundred people. Small price to pay, really.





THE RESULT?

# THE LIGHT IS ALWAYS GREEN

So here's the state of the electoral college battle thing whatever as it stands on November 2nd, four days before Election Day.

It's closer than it really ought to be — to the extent that Romney might end up winning at least the popular vote — but in the electoral college, the edge belongs to President Obama. As things stand, he takes the election with 281 electoral votes to Romney's 215, with 42 votes unassigned. The threshold is 270. Let's see how this could pan out.

The big, populous states, like California and Texas, are behaving as expected. The crucial swing state of Ohio, last anyone heard, was leaning very slightly Democratic, albeit well within the margin of error. Of course, Paul Ryan is from Ohio — and since VPs are supposed to bring in their home state, that explains his selection more than any number of breezblock-sized Ayn Rand novels buckling his bookshelf. But it doesn't seem to be working for Romney. The state has leant that tiny tad to the Democratic side for almost the entire campaign, and Ryan's selection did nothing whatsoever to change that. Mind you, Ryan's not a statewide figure, he's a congressman. Maybe he'll carry his district.

The other big one, Florida, is even tighter — at last count, it was a dead heat. It's always close, of course: Obama won it in 2008 by a single percent, and was the first Democrat to win it since Clinton, if you don't count Al Gore, which history doesn't. More significantly, the last President to win the election without winning Florida was Clinton, twenty years ago, unless you count George W. Bush, *which history doesn't*. We're talking about 29 electoral votes up for grabs. No wonder the embattled GOP selected Florida for their convention this year.

If we assume Romney wins Florida, it brings his total up to 244 against Obama's 281. The other state that's currently tied is Virginia, which has a not-insignificant 13 votes. Give those to Romney and he's on 257. At this point, he'd only need to take Ohio to sit pretty on 275 to Obama's 263, and then we're all fucked.

The other significant near-deadlocked states are Colorado, currently slightly leaning Romney, and Wisconsin, currently slightly leaning Obama. Wisconsin traditionally goes blue, but just barely, with the biggest margin in recent memory coming in 1996—Clinton 49%, Dole 39%. Obama is marginally ahead, but those ten electoral votes could prove very attractive to Romney. Colorado, meanwhile, has nine. Take those nineteen away from Obama and give them to Romney and it's 262 to 234 and it's up for grabs again, with Obama the wrong side of the winning number. Romney would still really need to win Florida, and their big chunk of electoral votes, to hurl himself closer to the finish line.

Ultimately, as things stand, it's Obama's to lose: it's much harder for Romney to win than the President. But not impossible. That's the nature of the electoral college: massive chunks of votes being allocated this way and that; in a tight race, the game can change in an instant. The task for Obama — and his campaign — is to keep it from being that tight. During that week in September when the 47% tape was followed up by Romney's Smirky McSmirkerson press conference on Benghazi before Ambassador Stevens was even cold, it looked for a time like a walkover, but then Obama failed to show up to the first debate, and Romney managed to present himself as his own ideological opposite, and suddenly the election was back on. (Certain Obama diehards have tried to convince themselves that the Grandmaster did it deliberately to make things interesting. Er, no. He's just dumb).

As usual, it all hinges on Ohio and Florida. If Romney wins one of those, it's squeaky bum time. If he wins both — and as it stands that would leave him on 262 votes to Obama's 239 — then we suggest you start applying for Canadian passports. A Romney win would be an upset, but it's also all too plausible.

While there's nothing we at this magazine can do to prevent this from happening, being based in Britain, there is something people in the United States and its territories can do. FUCKING VOTE, YOU IDIOTS. Take a hint from the British General Election of 1970, when a popular if divisive Labour Government, polling very high, unexpectedly lost to Ted Heath's Conservatives because no bugger went out and voted for them, figuring they had it in the bag anyway. Well, Obama doesn't have it in the bag. So go out and fucking vote for him, or at least see how far you get before the voting machine changes it into 87 votes for Romney instead. Do it. And if it's Tuesday already, STOP READING AND DO IT. VOTE. VOTE YOU COCKSUCKERS. VOTE OR I SWEAR TO GOD I WILL KILL EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU WITH MY BARE FUCKING HANDS.





Chairman: M.H.

**NEXT ISSUE: 2012's CUNT OF THE YEAR**



VOTE, YOU FUCKERS, VOTE **2SUNS**

2SUNS #15, November 2012.

we are bad at photoshop