



America's True Seat of Power  
Thank you, Veterans.

Illustration by  
KATHLEEN PARKER

# What The GOP Learned

BY KATHLEEN PARKER  
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WASHINGTON — The headline was inevitable: “What went wrong?” Seriously?

Republicans plan to commence focus groups and voter-based polls to discover the mystery behind their loss. Having sat staring into space the past couple of days, they now want to get to the bottom of it.

The bubble in which most politicians and their staffs live is not just a metaphor, apparently. The answer has been so obvious for so long and in so many ways, one has to wonder what these people read in their spare time? Old issues of *Boys’ Life*?

If nothing else, one only had to look at the two political conventions. One was colorful, vibrant, excited and happy. The other was pale, moribund, staid and restrained. If the latter sounds like something in the final stages of life, you’re not far off.

A couple of weeks before the election, I spoke to an audience of about 450 in Florida, the demographics of which were about 80 percent male, 90 percent Republican and, oh, about 99.9 percent white.

What could be more fun than *that*? Alas, the bulk of my talk was criticism of the Republican Party. If Mitt Romney loses, I told them, it will be largely the fault of the party. As I spelled out the details, nary a creature was stirring. It was painfully quiet. Even my best jokes fell flat. *Hey, guys, that was funny!*

It was hard to tell whether they resented the messenger or whether they were trying to digest the unpalatable truth. Truth is often painful and the days following President Obama’s re-election have been a salted slugfest. Amid the writhing, I rest my case.

Some Republicans stubbornly insist, of course, that the problem was that Romney wasn’t conservative enough. Really? In his heart, this may be true. I never believed Romney was passionate about social issues. He embraced them because he had to, but had no intention of pursuing a socially conservative agenda.

But the real problem is the Republican Party, which would not be recognizable to its patron saint, Ronald Reagan. The party doesn’t need a poll or a focus group. It needs a mirror.

The truth is, Romney was better than the GOP deserved. Party nitwits undermined him and the self-



Kathleen PARKER

righteous tried to bring him down. The nitwits are well-enough known at this point — those farthest-right social conservatives who couldn’t find it in their hearts to keep their traps shut. No abortion for rape or incest? Sit down. Legitimate rape? Put on your clown suit and go play in the street.

Equally damaging were the primary leeches who embarrassed the party and wouldn’t leave the stage. Nine-nine-nine, we’re talking about you, Herman Cain. And Gov. Oops? You, too. And then there were Rick Santorum and Michele Bachmann, who never had a real shot at the nomination and certainly could never win a national election, yet they refused to surrender to the certain nominee.

Did they have a right to persist in their own fantasies? Sure. But not if they were serious about getting a Republican in the White House. Thus, for months and months, Romney had to spend his energy and, importantly, his money to prevail in the primaries against opponents who had no chance and who ultimately hurt him.

During that same precious time, Obama’s campaign was busy pinpointing specific voters, practically learning the names of their dogs, and buying ads in niche markets.

More to the point, the GOP seems willfully clueless. There’s a reason there are so few minorities in the party. There’s a reason women scrambled to the other side. There’s a reason Hispanics, including even Cuban-Americans this time, went for Obama.

The way forward is about love, not war, baby. Women’s reproductive rights need to come off the table. As Haley Barbour suggested long ago, agree to disagree. Compassionate immigration reform, including a path to citizenship, should be the centerpiece of a conservative party’s agenda.

Marginalize or banish those who in any way make African-Americans, gays, single women or any other human being feel unwelcome in a party that cherishes the values of limited government, low taxes and freedom. A large swath of conservative-minded Americans are Democrats and independents by default.

Mitt Romney would have been a fine president and might have won the day but for the party he had to please.

Kathleen Parker’s email address is [kathleen-parker@washpost.com](mailto:kathleen-parker@washpost.com).

# A Note To President Obama

BY BILL O’REILLY  
Creators Syndicate

Dear Mr. President: You must be tired. Please take some time off. You worked very hard to get re-elected. As a loyal American, I want you in good health, and that means some rest and relaxation once in a while.

But when you ramp it up again, I hope you will consider some suggestions from a citizen who’s a bit disappointed in your overall performance. Please understand that I am not looking at this from an ideological perspective, but rather from a sports point-of-view.

I want American leadership to win the game. That means improving the economy, bolstering protection for the folks and running an honest operation from the White House. At this point in history, that’s what winning means to me.

Let’s take the economy first. Apparently, you believe that massive government spending can create well-paying jobs in the private sector. But after four years and almost a trillion dollars of federal money being fed into the economy, it hasn’t worked. Unemployment is about the same as it was when you took over in 2009, and wages are down sharply.

You spent a ton of our money, Mr. President, and we didn’t even get a T-shirt.

Now, I know some of my fellow citizens see it differently and voted for you believing your economic vision is sound. But let’s be honest: The voter breakdown clearly shows that folks receiving some kind of government largesse supported you big-time, while those avidly competing in the marketplace voted for Gov. Romney.



Bill O’REILLY

It was no accident that the day after your victory, the stock market plummeted 313 points.

So I hope you’ll rethink the big spending and begin to make it easier for small-business people to make money. When they are flush, the job market surges. When they feel threatened, hiring shuts down.

I well understand that the “tax the rich” mantra got you some political currency. But we both know that strategy will do little to stimulate anything other than jealousy.

On the security front, may I suggest that you be a stand-up guy? Please hold a press conference and tell the folks what you know about the terror attack in Libya and why things are such a mess. This “we’re investigating” stuff is a ruse. Telling us what you know does not impede an investigation.

Dodging Libya hurt your honesty index. And that hurts the country. It is very important that the folks trust you even if they don’t like you. Take that from me. My television program has been top-rated for nearly 13 years, and it’s not because I’m Dale Carnegie. Most Americans respect straightforward talk even if they are annoyed by it.

In closing, congratulations on your victory. You and your guy Axelrod designed a campaign that Romney’s Boston boys could not match. But that’s not what’s important now. Fixing the economy is.

Do that, and your legacy will be assured. Fail, and all hell will break loose.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O’Reilly is host of the Fox News show “The O’Reilly Factor” and author of the book “Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama.”

sort through all the donated items from the Boy Scouts Food Drive. And for the Yankton community and surrounding areas for your donations. It was greatly appreciated and much needed.

We would also like to say a special Thank You for those of you that came in on Saturday and volunteered your time with the Food Drive.

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN



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## OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

# Can Young Americans Rescue Our Economy?

KEARNEY (Neb.) HUB (Oct. 31): Jim Clifton, CEO of the Gallup polling organization, believes young people possess the entrepreneurial energy to get the nation going again. However, they need a sound education, and the key to better classroom performance rests with some business experience, such as internships.

“There is an enormous amount of economic start-up energy in our kids, enough for America to re-win the world’s markets,” Clifton wrote in a recent op-ed he co-authored with John Hope Bryant, chairman of Operation Hope.

Bryant’s organization is dedicated to what it terms “financial dignity,” and the belief that all Americans should contribute to the nation’s prosperity.

Clifton and Bryant disagree with campaign rhetoric that the United States somehow can buy, tax or legislate its way to a sudden world-changing economic boom. That won’t happen because U.S. companies are operating cautiously. They’re not taking the risks, making the investments, or hiring people aggressively enough to create a vibrant economy.

There are 6 million small businesses in the United States, about 100,000 mid-sized companies, and only 1,000 really large enterprises. In total, they generate right around 100 million full-time jobs and just over \$15 trillion in sales and production.

The problem is that the nation’s economic engine is stalled. Although existing businesses aren’t compelled to risk capital on the expansions and hiring that could get the nation churning again, youths who lay a sound foundation in school possess the knowledge, attitude and energy to be successful in business.

Clifton’s Gallup organization learned through extensive polling that young people’s sense of hope, well-being and engagement in schools and communities is proportional to their financial literacy. They care more about succeeding because mentors and internships can show them the reasons they ought to study hard for good grades.

U.S. business leaders may not be in a growth state of mind, but regardless of the size of their company they can help lay the foundation for economic prosperity. Being mentors or hosting interns has a tremendous positive effect.

When young people understand why school and community service are important, the effort level rises dramatically because they are excited about learning what they’ll need to become — hopefully the next generation of U.S. entrepreneurs.

## OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer’s full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to [views@yankton.net](mailto:views@yankton.net).

## TODAY IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 12, the 317th day of 2012. There are 49 days left in the year.

**Today’s Highlight in History:** On Nov. 12, 1942, the World War II naval Battle of Guadalcanal began. (The Allies ended up winning a major victory over Japanese forces.)

**On this date:** In 1787, severe flooding struck Dublin, Ireland, as the River Liffey rose.

In 1815, American suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, N.Y.

In 1918, the short-lived Republic of German-Austria was declared.

In 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

In 1936, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opened as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a telegraph key in Washington, D.C., giving the green light to traffic.

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war crimes tribunal.

In 1969, news of the My Lai Massacre in South Vietnam in March 1968 was broken by investigative reporter Seymour Hersh.

In 1977, the city of New Orleans elected its first black mayor, Ernest “Dutch” Morial, the winner of a runoff.

In 1982, Yuri V. Andropov was elected to succeed the late Leonid I. Brezhnev as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party’s Central Committee.

In 1987, the American Medical Association issued a policy statement saying it was unethical for a doctor to refuse to treat someone solely because that person had AIDS or was HIV-positive.

In 1990, Japanese Emperor Akihito formally assumed the Chrysanthemum Throne. Actress Eve Arden died in Beverly Hills, Calif. at age 82.

In 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300 headed to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff from New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

**Ten years ago:** In an audiotaped message, a voice purported to be that of Osama bin Laden praised terrorist strikes in Bali and Moscow and threatened Western nations over any attack on Iraq. Former FBI Director William Webster resigned

under pressure as head of a special accounting oversight board created by Congress to rebuild public confidence shaken by a cascade of business scandals.

**Five years ago:** Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was placed under house arrest for the second time in four days ahead of a planned march to protest emergency rule. The Dow Jones industrial average closed below 13,000 for first time since August 2007. Ryan Braun won the NL Rookie of the Year award in one of the closest votes, while Dustin Pedroia ran away with the AL honor.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama declared the Asia-Pacific region the heart of explosive growth for years to come as he courted Asian powers in Hawaii, the site of a regional economic summit. Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi resigned, ending a political era and setting in motion a transition aimed at bringing the country back from the brink of economic crisis. In a surprisingly sharp move, the Arab League voted to suspend Syria over the country’s bloody crackdown on protesters and stepped up calls on the army to stop killing civilians.

**Today’s Birthdays:** Rhythm-and-blues singer Ruby Nash Curtis (Ruby and the Romantics) is 73. Actor-playwright Wallace Shawn is 69. Singer Brian Hyland is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jimmy Hanks (Persuasions) is 69. Rock musician Booker T. Jones (Booker T. & the MGs) is 68. Sportscaster Al Michaels is 68. Singer-songwriter Neil Young is 67. Rock musician Donald “Buck Dharma” Roesser (Blue Oyster Cult) is 65. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., is 63. Country/gospel singer Barbara Fairchild is 62. Actress Megan Mullally is 54. Actor Vincent Irizarry is 53. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nadia Comaneci is 51. Actor Sam Lloyd is 49. Rock musician David Ellefson is 48. Former MLB player Sammy Sosa is 44. Figure skater Tonya Harding is 42. Actress Radha Mitchell is 39. Actress Lourdes Benedicto is 38. Actress Tamala Jones is 38. Actress Angela Watson is 38. Singer Tevin Campbell is 36. Actress Ashley Williams is 34. Actress Cote de Pablo is 33. Actor Ryan Gosling is 32. Contemporary Christian musician Chris Huffman is 32. Actress Anne Hathaway is 30. Pop singer Omarion is 28. Actress Macey Cruthird is 20.

**Thought for Today:** “This is the lesson that history teaches: repetition.” — Gertrude Stein, American author (1874-1946).

## FROM THE BIBLE

As she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy. Genesis 21:16-17. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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The Contact Center would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the Yankton Cub and Boy Scouts for all their help in picking up, delivering and helping the staff

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