

May 16, 2013

This is rich. **Dana Milbank**, certified WaPo liberal, calls him "president passerby." *President Passerby needs urgently to become a participant in his presidency.*

Late Monday came the breathtaking news of a full-frontal assault on the First Amendment by his administration: word that the Justice Department had gone on a fishing expedition through months of phone records of Associated Press reporters.

And yet President Obama reacted much as he did to the equally astonishing revelation on Friday that the IRS had targeted conservative groups based on their ideology: He responded as though he were just some bloke on a bar stool, getting his information from the evening news.

In the phone-snooping case, Obama didn't even stir from his stool. Instead, he had his press secretary, former Time magazine journalist Jay Carney, go before an incensed press corps Tuesday afternoon and explain why the president will not be involving himself in his Justice Department's trampling of press freedoms.

"Other than press reports, we have no knowledge of any attempt by the Justice Department to seek phone records of the Associated Press," Carney announced.

The president "found out about the news reports yesterday on the road," he added.

And now that Obama has learned about this extraordinary abuse of power, he's not doing a thing about it. "We are not involved at the White House in any decisions made in connection with ongoing criminal investigations," Carney argued. ...

Politico says the media has turned on the president and his minions.

... Obama's aloof mien and holier-than-thou rhetoric have left him with little reservoir of good will, even among Democrats. And the press, after years of being accused of being soft on Obama while being berated by West Wing aides on matters big and small, now has every incentive to be as ruthless as can be.

This White House's instinctive petulance, arrogance and defensiveness have all worked to isolate Obama at a time when he most needs a support system. "It feel like they don't know what they're here to do," a former senior Obama administration official said. "When there's no narrative, stuff like this consumes you."

Republican outrage is predictable, maybe even manageable. Democratic outrage is not.

The dam of solid Democratic solidarity has collapsed, starting with New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd's weekend scolding of the White House over Benghazi, then gushing with the news the Justice Department had sucked up an absurdly broad swath of Associated Press phone records. ...

WaPo fact checker gives him four Pinocchios - their max for a lie.

... the president's claim that he said "act of terrorism" is taking revisionist history too far, given that he repeatedly refused to commit to that phrase when asked directly by reporters in the weeks after the attack. He appears to have gone out of his way to avoid saying it was a terrorist attack, so he has little standing to make that claim now.

Indeed, the initial unedited talking points did not call it an act of terrorism. Instead of pretending the right words were uttered, it would be far better to acknowledge that he was echoing what the intelligence community believed at the time--and that the administration's phrasing could have been clearer and more forthright from the start.

Four Pinocchios

J. Christian Adams describes his experience with an IRS audit.

Franklin Graham, the Tea Party, and Larry Conners all faced the wrath of the Obama IRS.

You can add me to that list.

After Obama was elected, I faced my first IRS audit shakedown after decades of filing income tax returns. Overdue coincidence? Perhaps.

Given the headlines of the past 48 hours, perhaps not.

My audit experience was a headache, as anyone who has experienced one can attest. When it happened, a former IRS lawyer with whom I associated in private practice told me – "it's no accident you were audited."

I brushed it off. But I wonder how many left-wing election lawyers and leftist bloggers were audited. Any Media Matters drones face an audit in the last four years? Step right up and announce yourself if you did. ...

It wasn't just the IRS. The EPA did the same thing. Examiner has the story.

Conservative groups seeking information from the Environmental Protection Agency have been routinely hindered by fees normally waived for media and watchdog groups, while fees for more than 90 percent of requests from green groups were waived, according to requests reviewed by the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

CEI reviewed Freedom of Information Act requests sent between January 2012 and this spring from several environmental groups friendly to the EPA's mission, and several conservative groups, to see how equally the agency applies its fee waiver policy for media and watchdog groups. Government agencies are supposed to waive fees for groups disseminating information for public benefit.

"This is as clear an example of disparate treatment as the IRS' hurdles selectively imposed upon groups with names ominously reflecting an interest in, say, a less intrusive or biased federal government," said CEI fellow Chris Horner.

For 92 percent of requests from green groups, the EPA cooperated by waiving fees for the information. Those requests came from the Natural Resources Defense Council, EarthJustice, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, The Waterkeeper Alliance, Greenpeace, Southern Environmental Law Center and the Center for Biological Diversity.

Of the requests that were denied, the EPA said the group either didn't respond to requests for justification of a waiver, or didn't express intent to disseminate the information to the general public, according to documents obtained by The Washington Examiner. CEI, on the other hand, had its requests denied 93 percent of the time. ...

Maybe David Axelrod has joined the Tea Party, because this is the whole point. The government is too big. From [The Corner](#).

The government is simply too big for President Obama to keep track of all the wrongdoing taking place on his watch, his former senior adviser, David Axelrod, told MSNBC. "Part of being president is there's so much beneath you that you can't know because the government is so vast," he explained. ...

[Nile Gardiner](#) has more on Lady Thatcher's funeral and the snub delivered by our government.

*In his joint press conference yesterday (**Monday**) with David Cameron at the White House, President Obama began with warm words for the former British prime minister, who passed away on April 8. "Here in the United States," declared Obama, "we joined our British friends in mourning the passing of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, a great champion of freedom and liberty and of the alliance that we carry on today." The British Prime Minister responded by saying: "Thank you for what you said about Margaret Thatcher. It was a pleasure to welcome so many Americans to her remarkable funeral in the UK."*

Significantly, however, those Americans who attended Lady Thatcher's funeral in St Paul's Cathedral did not include a single serving member of the Obama administration in Washington. As is so often the case with President Obama, his flowery, grandiose words frequently fail to match his actions. There is a name for this kind of approach – rank hypocrisy. As I noted in [a previous piece](#): ...

BBC report on how our economy has been saved from the government of rank amateurs by fracking.

... The surge in US production will reshape the whole industry, according to the IEA, which made the prediction in its closely-watched bi-annual report examining trends in oil supply and demand over the next five years.

The IEA said it expected the US to overtake Russia as the world's biggest gas producer by 2015 and to become "all but self-sufficient" in its energy needs by about 2035.

The rise in US production means the world's reliance on oil from traditional oil producing countries in the Middle East, which make up Opec (the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), would end soon, according to the report.

US production is set to grow to a level that is some 3.9 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) higher in 2018 than it was in 2012, accounting for some two thirds of the predicted growth in traditional non-Opec production, according to the IEA. ...

Andrew Malcolm tops off the week with late night humor.

Leno: *President Obama says the IRS targeting conservatives is 'outrageous.' And he promises to get his Benghazi investigators on the case immediately.*

Leno: *Obama down in Texas on his 'Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tour.' Don't confuse that with his first term 'Jobs & Missed Opportunities Tour.' Obama also told people to 'Remember the Alamo' and forget Benghazi.*

Conan: *New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie revealed that he underwent a surgery earlier this year that restricts the amount of food he can eat. As a result, 12 animals have been removed from the endangered species list.*

Washington Post

Obama, the uninterested president

by Dana Milbank

President Passerby needs urgently to become a participant in his presidency.

Late Monday came the breathtaking news of a full-frontal assault on the First Amendment by his administration: word that the Justice Department had gone on a fishing expedition through [months of phone records of Associated Press reporters](#).

And yet President Obama reacted much as he did to the equally astonishing revelation on Friday that the [IRS had targeted conservative groups based on their ideology](#): He responded as though he were just some bloke on a bar stool, getting his information from the evening news.

In the phone-snooping case, Obama didn't even stir from his stool. Instead, he had his press secretary, former Time magazine journalist [Jay Carney, go before an incensed press corps](#) Tuesday afternoon and explain why the president will not be involving himself in his Justice Department's trampling of press freedoms.

"Other than press reports, we have no knowledge of any attempt by the Justice Department to seek phone records of the Associated Press," Carney announced.

The president "found out about the news reports yesterday on the road," he added.

And now that Obama has learned about this extraordinary abuse of power, he's not doing a thing about it. "We are not involved at the White House in any decisions made in connection with ongoing criminal investigations," Carney argued.

Reuters correspondent Jeff Mason asked how Obama felt about "being [compared to President Nixon](#) on this."

The press secretary laughed. "People who make those kinds of comparisons need to check their history," he said.

Carney had a point there. Nixon was a control freak. Obama seems to be the opposite: He wants no control over the actions of his administration. As the president distances himself from the actions of "independent" figures within his administration, he's creating a power vacuum in which lower officials behave as though anything goes. Certainly, a president can't know what everybody in his administration is up to — but he can take responsibility, he can fire people and he can call a stop to foolish actions such as wholesale snooping into reporters' phone calls.

At the start of Tuesday's briefing, the [AP's Jim Kuhn](#) pointed out that in all the controversies of the moment — the Benghazi "talking points," the IRS targeting and the journalists' phone records — "you have placed the burden of responsibility someplace else. . . . But it is the president's administration."

President Passerby, however, was not joining the fray. Carney repeated Obama's assertion that the IRS's actions would be outrageous only "if" they are true. Never mind that the IRS has already admitted the violations and apologized.

The press secretary said repeatedly that "we have to wait" for a formal report by the agency's inspector general before the most powerful man in the world could take action. By contrast, Carney didn't think it necessary to wait to assert that nobody in the White House knew about the IRS activities until "a few weeks ago." (They apparently didn't tell the boss about the matter until Friday.) Tuesday night, Obama issued a statement saying he had seen the I.G. report and directed Treasury Secretary Jack Lew "to hold those responsible for these failures accountable."

The response to the deep-dive into AP phone records — more than 20 work, home and mobile phone lines in three cities over two months — also got the President Passerby response: "He

cannot comment specifically on an ongoing criminal investigation or actions that investigators at the Department of Justice may or may not have taken.”

It didn't matter to Carney that the Justice Department had already admitted the actions in a [letter to the AP](#). “But we know it happened, just as the IRS admitted what it had done,” Fox News's Wendell Goler protested.

“Again, it would be inappropriate to comment,” said Carney, one of the 42 times he used the words “appropriate” or “inappropriate” in his hour-long briefing. One of the few things Carney thought it appropriate to say was that Obama thinks the press should be “unfettered.”

NPR's Ari Shapiro asked Carney to square Obama's belief in an [unfettered press](#) with the fact that he has prosecuted twice as many leakers as all previous administrations combined.

Carney said Obama's love of press freedom “is backed up by his support for a media shield law.” This would be the [shield law that died in Congress](#) in 2010 because of Obama's objections.

Alexis Simendinger, from RealClearPolitics, challenged Carney to harmonize his refusal to meddle in an “ongoing investigation” with [Obama's comments on the Trayvon Martin](#) case last year, when a Justice Department investigation was ongoing.

“Come on,” Carney replied with scorn, repeating the excuse that “we have no knowledge” of the phone snooping “beyond the press reports that we've read.”

And that's just the problem.

Politico

[D.C. turns on Obama](#)

by Mike Allen and Jim VanderHei

The town is turning on President Obama — and this is very bad news for this White House.

Republicans have waited five years for the moment to put the screws to Obama — and they have one-third of all congressional committees on the case now. Establishment Democrats, never big fans of this president to begin with, are starting to speak out. And reporters are tripping over themselves to condemn lies, bullying and shadiness in the Obama administration.

Buy-in from all three D.C. stakeholders is an essential ingredient for a good old-fashioned Washington pile-on — so get ready for bad stories and public scolding to pile up.

Vernon Jordan, a close adviser to President Bill Clinton through his darkest days, told us: “It's never all right if you're the president. There is no smooth sailing. So now he has the turbulence, and this is the ultimate test of his leadership.” Jordan says Obama needs to do something dramatic on the IRS, and quick: “He needs to fire somebody. He needs action, not conversation.”

Obama's aloof mien and holier-than-thou rhetoric have left him with little reservoir of good will, even among Democrats. And the press, after years of being accused of being soft on Obama while being berated by West Wing aides on matters big and small, now has every incentive to be as ruthless as can be.

This White House's instinctive petulance, arrogance and defensiveness have all worked to isolate Obama at a time when he most needs a support system. "It feel like they don't know what they're here to do," a former senior Obama administration official said. "When there's no narrative, stuff like this consumes you."

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Democrats are privately befuddled by the White House's flat-footed handling of this P.R. and legal mess, blaming a combination of bad timing, hubris and communications ineptitude. The most charitable defense offered up on background is that Obama staffers are scandal virgins, unaccustomed to dealing with a rabid press.

Chris Lehane, who spent so much time managing scandals in the 1990s that it inspired him to write a textbook on the subject, is among the contingent of Clinton-era scandal hands that thinks the Obama team has botched its second-term image. "One cannot get caught up with chasing news cycles in a crisis, as that is a prescription for putting out inaccurate information that does not withstand scrutiny or the test of time," said Lehane, whose book is titled "Masters of Disaster."

Washington Post

Obama's claim he called Benghazi an 'act of terrorism'

by Glenn Kessler

"The day after it happened, I acknowledged that this was an act of terrorism."

— President Obama, [remarks at a news conference](#), May 13, 2013

Once again, it appears that we must parse a few presidential words. We [went through this question at length](#) during the 2012 election, but perhaps a refresher course is in order. ...

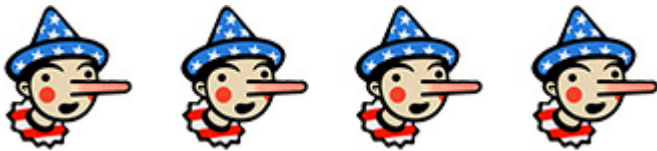
... The Pinocchio Test

During the campaign, the president could just get away with claiming he said "act of terror," since he did use those words — though not in the way he often claimed. It seemed like a bit of after-the-fact spin, but those were his actual words — to the surprise of Mitt Romney in the debate.

But the president's claim that he said "act of terrorism" is taking revisionist history too far, given that he repeatedly refused to commit to that phrase when asked directly by reporters in the weeks after the attack. He appears to have gone out of his way to avoid saying it was a terrorist attack, so he has little standing to make that claim now.

Indeed, the [initial unedited talking points](#) did not call it an act of terrorism. Instead of pretending the right words were uttered, it would be far better to acknowledge that he was echoing what the intelligence community believed at the time--and that the administration's phrasing could have been clearer and more forthright from the start.

Four Pinocchios



([About our rating scale](#))

PJ Media

[Add Me to the List of IRS Targets](#)

J. Christian Adams

Franklin Graham, the Tea Party, and [Larry Conners](#) all faced the wrath of the Obama IRS.

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Now we are learning that IRS employees committed [crimes](#) to aid the Left – shaking down conservative groups for information, and leaking the results to the Left.

I saw the IRS letters to Tea Party groups years ago. They read like an opposition researcher's fantasy: demands for the names of volunteers, money, content of speeches, donors, offices, on and on and on.

Last week President Obama [addressed](#) Ohio State University students. He told them to ignore the voices warning them of big intrusive government. In doing so, he gave the middle finger to the philosophy and people who launched this nation.

Ronald Reagan was the better of Obama in so many ways, including his understanding of human history. He rightly warned us of a danger as old as time – that “freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.”

This wild, disturbing and dishonest week makes clear which of the two presidents was right.

And about that IRS shakedown — after the audit and many hours of wasted time, the IRS ended up *owing me* \$100.

(Thumbnail on PJM homepage based on a modified [Shutterstock.com](#) image.)

Related: [Emails Show Holder Justice Department Colludes with Lefist Outfit to Attack PJM Writer](#)

Update: To read how a Philly area Tea Party eventually shut down because of the IRS abuse, [read this](#).

Examiner

[EPA waives fee requests for friendly groups, denies conservative groups](#)

by Michal Conger

Conservative groups seeking information from the Environmental Protection Agency have been routinely hindered by fees normally waived for media and watchdog groups, while fees for more than 90 percent of requests from green groups were waived, according to requests reviewed by the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

CEI reviewed Freedom of Information Act requests sent between January 2012 and this spring from several environmental groups friendly to the EPA’s mission, and several conservative groups, to see how equally the agency applies its fee waiver policy for media and watchdog groups. Government agencies are supposed to waive fees for groups disseminating information for public benefit.

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For 92 percent of requests from green groups, the EPA cooperated by waiving fees for the information. Those requests came from the Natural Resources Defense Council, EarthJustice, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, The Waterkeeper Alliance, Greenpeace, Southern Environmental Law Center and the Center for Biological Diversity.

Of the requests that were denied, the EPA said the group either didn't respond to requests for justification of a waiver, or didn't express intent to disseminate the information to the general public, according to documents obtained by *The Washington Examiner*. CEI, on the other hand, had its requests denied 93 percent of the time. One request was denied because CEI failed to express its intent to disseminate the information to the general public. The rest were denied because the agency said CEI "failed to demonstrate that the release of the information requested significantly increases the public understanding of government operations or activities." Similarly, requests from conservative groups Judicial Watch and National Center for Public Policy Research were approved half the time, and all requests from Franklin Center and the Institute for Energy Research were denied. "Their practice is to take care of their friends and impose ridiculous obstacles to deny problematic parties' requests for information," said Horner. Freedom of Information Act requests from CEI forced the EPA to release emails under the the "Richard Windsor" alias former EPA administrator Lisa Jackson used to conduct government business. CEI has also filed FOIA requests for emails, text messages and instant messages from Jackson and EPA nominee Gina McCarthy. Horner said he believes the EPA has denied CEI's requests because his think tank is the most active group seeking to hold the agency accountable. "This is a clear pattern of favoritism for allied groups and a concerted campaign to make life more difficult for those deemed unfriendly," he said. "The left hand of big government reaches out to give a boost to its far-left hand at every turn. Argue against more of the same, however, and prepare to be treated as if you have fewer rights."

The Corner

[Axelrod: Government 'So Vast,' Obama Can't Know About Wrongdoing](#)

by Andrew Johnson

The government is simply too big for President Obama to keep track of all the wrongdoing taking place on his watch, his former senior adviser, David Axelrod, told MSNBC. "Part of being president is there's so much beneath you that you can't know because the government is so vast," he explained.

Telegraph, UK

[Barack Obama's rank hypocrisy over his shameful snubbing of Lady Thatcher's funeral](#)

by Nlle Gardiner

In his joint press conference yesterday with David Cameron at the White House, President Obama began [with warm words](#) for the former British prime minister, who passed away on April 8. "Here in the United States," declared Obama, "we joined our British friends in mourning the passing of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, a great champion of freedom and liberty and of the alliance that we carry on today." The British Prime Minister [responded by saying](#): "Thank you for what you said about Margaret Thatcher. It was a pleasure to welcome so many Americans to her remarkable funeral in the UK."

Significantly, however, those Americans who attended Lady Thatcher's funeral in St Paul's Cathedral did not include a single serving member of the Obama administration in Washington. As is so often the case with President Obama, his flowery, grandiose words frequently fail to match his actions. There is a name for this kind of approach – rank hypocrisy. As I noted in [a previous piece](#):

Incredibly, the Obama presidency declined to send a single serving official from Washington to attend the Iron Lady's funeral in St. Paul's Cathedral in April. While the United States was represented by former Secretaries of State George Schultz and James A. Baker III, the only American official present was Barbara Stephenson, charges d'affaires and acting ambassador at the US Embassy in London. To put this in context, the US sent a similar level of representation, in terms of serving officials, to attend the funeral in March of Venezuelan despot Hugo Chavez.

To say this was a huge insult to the memory of the greatest peacetime prime minister of the 20th Century would be an understatement. It was an act of tremendous rudeness towards the British people, who turned out in large numbers to bid farewell to Lady Thatcher as her coffin was carried through central London on its way to St. Paul's. Vice President Joe Biden usually represents the president at such occasions, but was a no-show despite receiving an invitation. Also absent were First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was also nowhere to be seen.

In sharp contrast, former Vice President Dick Cheney made the journey across the Atlantic, despite suffering from ill-health in recent years. So did Edwin Meese III, President Reagan's stoic Attorney General, who organised the first White House meeting between Margaret Thatcher and the new US president in February 1981. Politicians came from across the world to pay their respects, from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Lech Walesa, hero of the Polish Solidarity movement.

To their credit, several Republican Members of the House of Representatives traveled to London for the funeral, including Congresswomen Marsha Blackburn and Michelle Bachmann, as did former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. No members of President Obama's ruling party were present, and Senate Democrats even held up a resolution honoring Lady Thatcher for an entire week until the day before the funeral itself.

I spoke to several Americans who attended the funeral who expressed their outrage over their own president's disdainful approach to the event, which they viewed as utterly shameful and disrespectful. Downing Street was quick to deny this was a snub by the White House. But the Obama administration came [under heavy fire](#) from several prominent Conservative MPs, including former Secretary of Defence Liam Fox, and chairman of the Thatcherite Conservative Way Forward group, Sir Gerald Howarth. A number of senior British officials have also been privately critical of the White House's shoddy treatment of Lady Thatcher's funeral, including some at the very heart of government.

Perhaps it is not surprising that Mrs Clinton did not attend the service, after she assiduously backed a series of Organisation of American States (OAS) resolutions sympathetic to Argentina's stance on the Falklands. Under Clinton, and now Kerry, the Obama administration has been deeply unhelpful towards Britain over the Falklands issue, preferring instead to appease a left-wing Latin American regime that isn't even an ally of the United States. It would have been awkward for Hillary Clinton to have attended the funeral of a true conviction politician

whose defence of the Falkland Islanders stands in marked contrast to the Obama administration's kowtowing towards Buenos Aires.

President Obama has been a disaster for US-British relations, and his government's conspicuous absence from St. Paul's was further confirmation of it. Fortunately, the Iron Lady and Great Britain itself, remain firmly in the hearts of the American people, who overwhelmingly look upon Britain's great prime minister as an inspiration. Americans today badly need the leadership of a figure like Margaret Thatcher, but are finding that the kind of courage, loyalty and conviction she exemplified are in short supply in the Obama White House.

BBC News

US shale oil supply shock shifts global power balance

A steeper-than-expected rise in US shale oil reserves is about to change the global balance of power between new and existing producers, a report says.

Over the next five years, the US will account for a third of new oil supplies, according to [the International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#).

The US will change from the world's leading importer of oil to a net exporter.

Demand for oil from Middle-East oil producers is set to slow as a result.

"North America has set off a supply shock that is sending ripples throughout the world," said IEA executive director Maria van der Hoeven.

Canadian oil sands production is also contributing to the "supply shock", the IEA said.

The surge in US production will reshape the whole industry, according to the IEA, which made the prediction in its closely-watched bi-annual report examining trends in oil supply and demand over the next five years.

The IEA said it expected the US to overtake Russia as the world's biggest gas producer by 2015 and to become "all but self-sufficient" in its energy needs by about 2035.

The rise in US production means the world's reliance on oil from traditional oil producing countries in the Middle East, which make up Opec (the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), would end soon, according to the report.

US production is set to grow to a level that is some 3.9 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) higher in 2018 than it was in 2012, accounting for some two thirds of the predicted growth in traditional non-Opec production, according to the IEA.

Meanwhile, global oil demand is set to increase by 8% which would be met mainly by non-Opec supplies, the report said

The IEA still expects production capacity among traditional Opec suppliers in the Middle East to continue to grow over the next five years, but at a slower rate.

Opec capacity, which counts for 35% of today's global oil output, is expected to rise by 1.75 million bpd to 36.75 million bpd in 2018, about 750,000 bpd less than predicted in the IEA's 2012 forecast.

The IEA cites the "growing insecurity in North and Sub-Saharan Africa" in the wake of the Arab Spring uprisings as a key reason for the slowdown.

"The regional fallout from the 'Arab Spring' is taking a toll on investment and capacity growth," the IEA said.

The sharp rise in US oil production is largely thanks to shale oil, a product many have hailed as the saviour of the US energy market.

Fracking, the process of blasting water at high pressure into shale rock to release oil (or gas) held within it, has become widespread in the US.

But critics of shale oil point to environmental concerns such as high water use and possible water contamination, the release of methane and, to a lesser extent, earth tremors caused by drilling.

The process has been banned in France, while the UK recently lifted a moratorium on drilling for shale gas.

Investors.com

Late Night

by Andrew Malcolm

Letterman: Barbara Walters announced her retirement on 'The View.' She was smiling. Had a little cake. Seemed to know where she was.

Fallon: Joe Biden met with South Korean President Park Geun-hye and gave her advice on avoiding war with North Korea. In other words, we're going to war with North Korea.

Leno: A CNN reporter was robbed right in downtown Atlanta. But because it was on CNN, there were no witnesses.

Fallon: Obama tells Ohio State grads they need to make the world a better place. Awkward! Students yelled back, "That's your responsibility?" You're the president!"

Fallon: E! network's Twitter account was hacked, tweeting fake stories about real celebrities. Instead of what E! normally does, which is tweet real stories about fake celebrities.

Leno: President Obama says the IRS targeting conservatives is 'outrageous.' And he promises to get his Benghazi investigators on the case immediately.

Fallon: The 2016 Democrat presidential primary could be between Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. Biden calls her a worthy opponent, while Hillary calls him "practice."

Conan: A company is coming out with a beer drone to deliver beer to crowd members at music festivals. In a related story, everyone is now fine with drones.

Fallon: President Obama is saying a number of the nation's economic sectors are doing better. Pressed for details, Obama said, "Uh, the 'Iron Man' Sequel sector?"

Fallon: Whole Foods is apologizing for switching the labels on some salads, which caused vegans to accidentally eat chicken. So if you're a vegan who mistakenly ate one of the salads, that's why it was so delicious.

Conan: A recent survey found the first thing a man notices about a woman is her hair. The survey was conducted by The Institute of Lies.

Conan: In a recent poll, Red Lobster was voted one of the top 10 places that cheaters like to take their dates. Which explains Red Lobster's new slogan "A Shameful Act Calls for a Shameful Meal."

Conan: PETA is upset at Chris Christie for killing a spider in front of a group of school children. Gov. Christie said, "If PETA's upset by that, they do not want to know what I had for lunch today."

Leno: Obama tells Ohio State's commencement crowd, "I dare you to do better" To which the students yelled back, "No, we dare you to do better! We need jobs."

Letterman: Did you celebrate Cinco de Mayo? I did too. As I understand it, we're honoring people we're trying to keep out of the country.

Conan: A cleric in Iran predicts a major earthquake is on the way and blames it on women in revealing clothes. So, yet another setback for the Tehran Hooters.

Conan: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie revealed that he underwent a surgery earlier this year that restricts the amount of food he can eat. As a result, 12 animals have been removed from the endangered species list.

Fallon: Joe Biden met with South Korean President Park, known back home as "The Iron Lady." Biden asked if she could introduce him to Iron Man.

Letterman: Gov. Christie says his stomach surgery has nothing to do with 2016. Which, by the way, is his cholesterol.

Letterman: The stock market is at an all-time high. People at home saying that would be really great, if I had a job.

Letterman: Did you see you can now get mail-order Viagra? This may be the thing that saves the Postal Service.

Letterman: Cicadas are back this year. Every 17 years they come out, mate and return underground. Where the hell is Iron Man when you need him?

Letterman: Yeah, cicadas are back. But this time many of them are openly gay.

Conan: In South Carolina, former Gov. Mark Sanford won a congressional seat after dragging around and debating a cardboard cut-out of Nancy Pelosi. Then someone explained that was Nancy Pelosi.

Conan: The Minnesota legislature voted on a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. However, many in Minnesota still believe that marriage is "a sacred union between a man and a plate of cheese fries."

Conan: According to a new poll, Americans trust Judge Judy more than they trust Supreme Court Justices. Americans say Judge Judy won their trust after her landmark decision in the case of "Drunk Lady vs Other Drunk Lady."

Letterman: OJ Simpson is back in court. He's seeking a new trial on his prison sentence for stealing his own sports memorabilia. This time he wants an LA jury.

Conan: A 105-year-old woman in Texas claims the secret to her long life is eating bacon every day. Then she admitted that she's actually just 37.

Fallon: The White House was evacuated the other day for an overheated transformer. Joe Biden said, "OMG, was it Optimus Prime?"

Letterman: Secy. of State John Kerry met with evil Vladimir Putin in Russia. Putin kept him waiting three hours. Putin's first words: "Why the long face, John?"

Conan: This Mother's Day, Hooters let mothers eat for free. What better way to tell your mom that she raised a cheapskate and a perv?

Conan: Bill Clinton is sick and tired of people asking if Hillary's running for president. The other question he's tired of hearing is, "Where are your pants?"

Fallon: Just announced that a movie version of "Dungeons & Dragons" is in the works. It's expected to set all-time records for people saying, "Ticket for one, please."

Fallon: New study says women find men holding a guitar more attractive, even if not playing it. In a related story, guys with an accordion will die alone.

Fallon: This is the 10th anniversary of the professional networking site, LinkedIn. Weird, because on LinkedIn it says it has 15 years of experience.

Fallon: The San Francisco 49ers are close to a deal to name their new stadium for Levi's jeans. It'll be great until it rains and the stadium shrinks a size.

Leno: Obama down in Texas on his 'Middle Class Jobs & Opportunity Tour.' Don't confuse that with his first term 'Jobs & Missed Opportunities Tour.' Obama also told people to 'Remember the Alamo' and forget Benghazi.

Letterman: OJ Simpson is going for a new trial on stealing his own sports memorabilia. Double homicide nothing. Theft 30 years to life.



'NO THERE THERE'



EAGAN SALUTES **ANGELINA'S** BRAVE CHOICE

AS SCANDALS SWIRL, WHITE HOUSE
CLAIMS OBAMA WAS CLUELESS ...

I KNOW NOTHING

(Coincidentally, that's what Nixon said)

Spokesman Says Nixon
Unaware of Enemy List

Congress to Probe
HERALD
'Enemy' Tax Audits

From the Herald's 1973 archives



'I DRIVE HIS TRUCK' MOVING TRIBUTE TO HIS HERO SON INSPIRES HIT SONG

OBAMAGATE GRIPS WHITE HOUSE

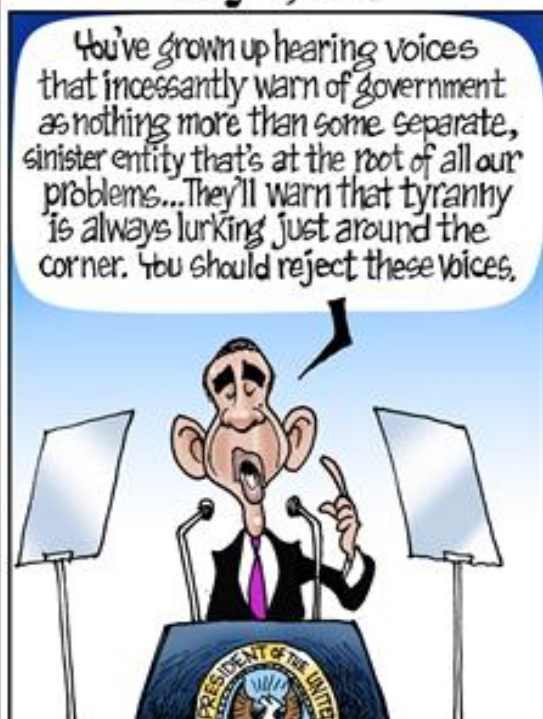
PANIC TIME

- **FALLOUT:** IRS CHIEF OUT
AS OBAMA VOWS FIXES
- **BATTENFELD:** NOT GOOD
ENOUGH, MR. PRESIDENT
- **EAGAN:** EVEN DIE-HARD
DEMS ARE DISGUSTED





May 5, 2013

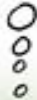


One week later

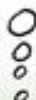


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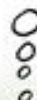
AT LEAST NOBODY'S
TALKING ABOUT
OBAMACARE
FAILURES
ANYMORE...

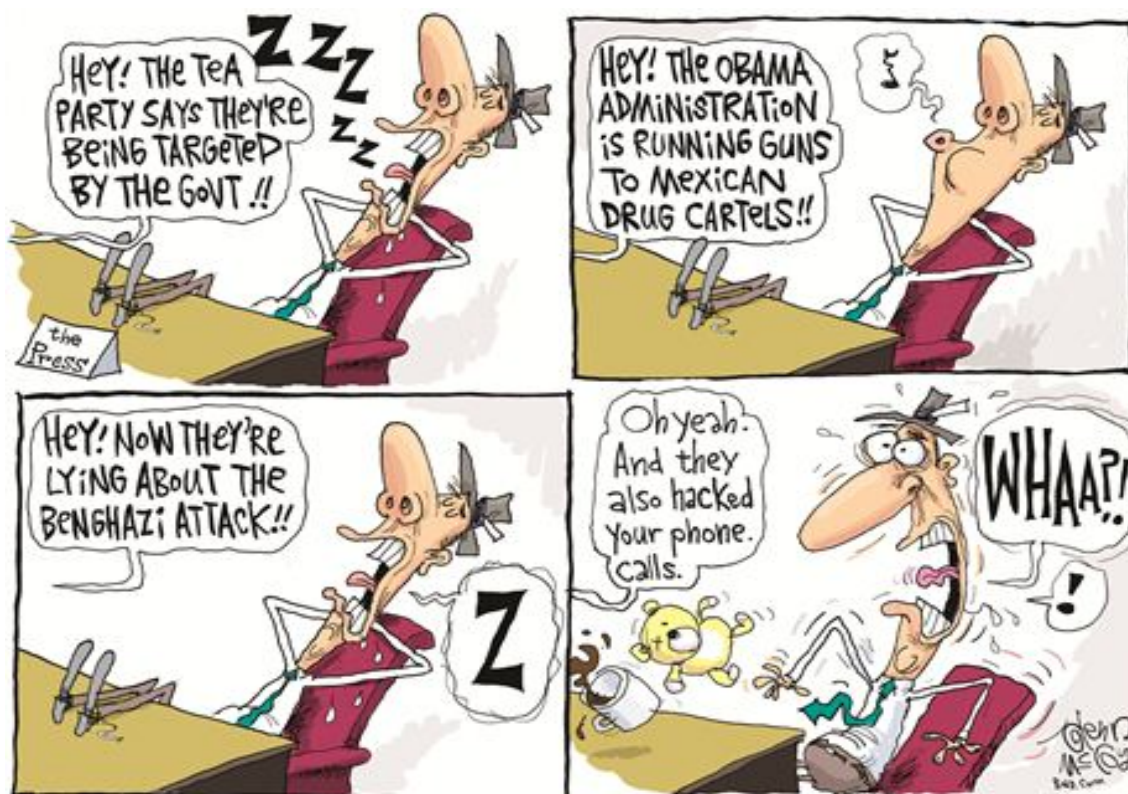


AT LEAST NOBODY'S
TALKING ABOUT
BENGHAZI
ANYMORE...



AT LEAST NOBODY'S
TALKING ABOUT
THE IRS SCANDAL
ANYMORE...





AMASSED and FURIOUS