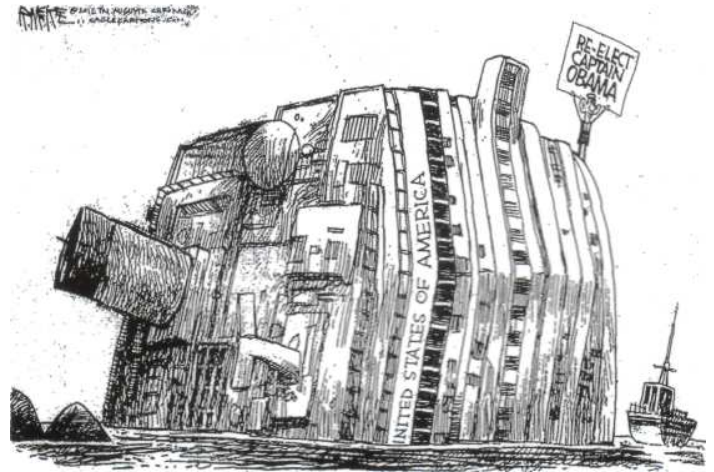


- The editorial-page editor of the *New York Times*, Andrew Rosenthal, recently wrote that "there has been a racist undertone to many of the Republican attacks leveled against President Obama for the last three years." Exhibit A was Rep. Joe Wilson's shouting at the president, "You lie!" Exhibit B was Speaker John Boehner's asking the president to address a joint session of Congress a day later than he, the president, wanted. If you thought these things had nothing to do with the color of Obama's skin, you're unfit to edit the *New York Times*. Rosenthal wrote, "Mr. Obama's election in 2008 was a triumph of American democracy and tolerance." So what would Obama's defeat in 2012 be? You got it.



"No, I didn't dye the mayo green for St. Patrick's Day. Why?"

- There is a school of thought on the left, exemplified by Paul Krugman, that the "Bush tax cuts" are what is mainly responsible for the fiscal straits of the United States, and that they represent the triumph of plutocratic interests over those of the middle class. Recent studies from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Congressional Budget Office put paid to that theory: After the Bush tax cuts, federal income taxes became, in the CBO study's words, "slightly more progressive." U.S. taxes are about as redistributive as those of Sweden or Denmark. As NATIONAL REVIEW has reported, tax rates on millionaires could be raised to 100 percent without generating revenue sufficient to balance the federal budget. Those who are concerned about deficits should be looking mainly at entitlement spending. Those who are concerned about economic inequality should be looking at primary and secondary education, health-care costs, trade policy, and the investment climate. What the poor lack is good jobs, and raising taxes on the rich will not provide them.

- Alabama's new state law aimed at illegal immigrants—those parts of it not placed under injunction by federal judge Sharon Blackburn—went into effect October 1. Schools may now verify students' immigration status and police may inquire about the citizenship of those they stop, detain, or arrest. Over 2,000 Hispanic students were absent from class the following Monday (though absentee numbers declined somewhat through the week). The exodus occasioned much weeping and wailing, most of it from the usual suspects, but Alabama state representative Mo Brooks is fine with it. "Those are the intended consequences" of the legislation, Brooks told Politico.com. "We don't have the money in America to keep paying for the education of everybody else's children from around the world." Meanwhile, Alabama recorded the first arrest under the new law. Mohamed Ali Muflahi, a Yemeni national, was apprehended during a drug raid. He later produced a valid visa and was released, but his arrest at least put a dent in charges that the law is directed against Hispanics.

"Who do you think is the greatest person who ever lived—Barack or Michelle?"

