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Romney for President

By The Editors 10/16 7:10pm

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Romney. (Rainier Ehrhardt/Getty Images)

The crisis of leadership in American government is easily explained: thanks to a flawed presidential primary system that rewards strident rhetoric and hyper-partisanship, candidates tailor their messages to fringe elements in small, unrepresentative states. The result? A nasty, shallow and expensive process that rewards sound bites rather than solutions and gamesmanship instead of ideas. This year, however, we have witnessed a rare phenomenon in American politics. A candidate has emerged from the rough and

tumble of the primaries with his dignity intact. The system has produced not a demagogue but a manager, a candidate whose experience is rooted in the pragmatism of the business world rather than the ideology of partisan politics.

That candidate is Mitt Romney.

Gov. Romney won the Republican Party's nomination precisely because he is not an ideologue—and that is no small achievement. He persuaded enough Republican primary voters that the time has come to put aside dogma and inflexibility in favor of real-world solutions to the array of problems America faces at home and abroad.

Over the last few weeks, Mr. Romney has shown that he is a moderate to his core—he is a manager, and a listener, who believes he can restore the balance between the private and public sectors that has been a hallmark of the American economy.

The Observer endorses Mr. Romney's candidacy and urges readers to support him.

Four years ago, Barack Obama captured the imagination of many Americans with his thrilling message of change. Given the challenges confronting the president—two raging wars and an unprecedented global economic collapse—the desire for a quick fix was unrealistic.

America supported that candidate (as did this newspaper), but his presidency, so filled with promise and potential, has failed to deliver the change America needs.

True, Mr. Obama deserves credit for strong, decisive action that helped prevent a catastrophic economic meltdown on Wall Street. The financial services sector, the city's most important

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industry, came very close to the unthinkable as once-unshakable entities—Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch—simply vanished. Mr. Obama's policies helped to shore up the industry and, thus, the city.

At the same time, however, the president has evinced a distaste for that very same industry, and his rhetoric has begun to erode its foundation. Class warfare might be a successful strategy for cobbling together 270 electoral votes. But it's not the way to unite a divided nation.

The president comes to town on a Monday, takes our money, shakes our hands and tells us how much he values the CEOs and innovators of New York. And then on Tuesday, he turns around and refers to business leaders as fat cat bankers whose success was created by the sweat of others. That's not a friend. That's not a leader. That's a politician.

Mitt Romney stands out because—unlike so many candidates in the past—he understands how to build businesses, create efficiencies, make tough deals and carefully consider divergent viewpoints. America needs a strong leader, a practical leader. Mr. Romney knows full well that it would be a tragic mistake to simply assume that the United States will continue to be the world's economic powerhouse simply because that's what we've been for decades. America earned its global prominence because of the nation's culture of work and individual freedom. That's why immigrants came here and continue to come here—not because they seek a handout, but because they want a chance to work and to create and to innovate. In today's competitive economy, the country needs competitors, not class-war crybabies.

Barack Obama, the candidate of change in 2008, was and will remain a significant figure in American history. His election four years ago truly was a milestone and, rightly, a cause for celebration.

While we admire Mr. Obama, we believe he squandered an opportunity to bring positive change to Washington—and what change he did bring will burden future generations. We continue to rack up debt, buy services we cannot afford and allow unfunded liabilities to continue to grow. This has to end.

Rather than reimagining government's role in society and the economy by embracing the courageous alternatives proposed by the Simpson-Bowles commission two years ago, Mr. Obama turned to neo-New Deal policies. Rather than building creative partnerships with the private sector, the president chose to demonize the successful. Rather than strengthen the nation's relationship with Israel as the Arab world imploded, Mr. Obama treated Jerusalem as less a friend than a burden.

Mr. Romney, on the other hand, promises to bring a new and refreshing attitude to Washington, one that speaks to his experience as both a successful business leader and the governor of a state not known for its affection for Republicans.

As he surveys the nation's stubbornly sluggish economy, Mr. Romney isn't looking to point fingers, and he certainly isn't looking to single out chief executives, entrepreneurs and high earners for demagogic attacks and punitive tax proposals. Critics have lampooned him as out of touch; in fact, it is Mr. Obama who has lost sight of the fact that American capitalism is the greatest anti-poverty program in human history.

For that reason, New Yorkers have a special reason to embrace Mr. Romney. He has made it clear that he sees successful, high-achieving and, yes, high-earning Americans as his partners, not his enemies. New Yorkers may still have a special place in their hearts for Mr. Obama's undeniable place in American history. But it's important to remember that the president's anti-Wall Street rhetoric and his soak-the-rich tax proposals are aimed at many of us.

What's more, the city actually has fared even worse than the rest of the country over the last four years. The city's stubbornly high jobless rate of over 9.9 percent is higher than the national rate of 7.8 percent. The loss of Wall Street jobs and reigning in of pay has had a negative trickle-down effect on New York's service industry businesses as well.

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Romney’s Plan for Growth

Mr. Romney understands that Washington must work with corporate America, small businesses and individual entrepreneurs to recapture their trust and to ignite their imaginations. To that end, he proposed cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 percent, the world’s highest, to a more reasonable 25 percent. He also has proposed a permanent 20 percent reduction in marginal tax rates for individuals. Mr. Romney’s critics charge that this formula has been tried before to no avail. They have forgotten their history—tax cuts by Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Ronald Reagan helped fuel job creation, investment and prosperity.

At the macro level, Mr. Romney could not be more clear: Job creation—not what he memorably called “trickle-down government”—must be Washington’s priority. That position stands in remarkable contrast to Mr. Obama’s priorities when he took office, as he used his mandate to ram through Obamacare, the largest expansion of government since the Great Society.

But Mr. Romney knows that the key to job creation lies not in Washington, but on both Wall Street and Main Street, where the creativity of capitalism and the vision of risk-takers can chart a new course for millions who have seen their prospects dim over the last four years. Bill Clinton said that those who work hard and play by the rules should be assured of a bright future. But the last four years have seen millions of hard workers consigned to the unemployment line and some 46 million become dependent on food stamps—up from 31 million in 2008. Mr. Romney is caricatured as an unfeeling child of privilege, but it is hard to miss his outrage when he talks of the unemployed and underemployed people he has met during his campaign.

Mr. Romney also understands that government can no longer afford to spend trillions that it simply doesn’t have. Entitlement programs, including Medicare and Social Security, need to be reformed. Cultures of dependency—both at the individual and the corporate level—must be reformed. We saw that here in New York City in extreme form. The city of the late 1980s, where one in seven New Yorkers was on welfare, had essentially ceased to function. Both Rudy Giuliani and Bill Clinton applied common-sense solutions to get the city and the country off the mat, and the results are inarguable. The difference between the New York of the late 1980s and today is astonishing, although there still is work to be done.

America and the World

Credit where it is due: under President Obama, the world’s master terrorist met his demise at the business end of American weaponry.

Other than that undeniable achievement, Mr. Obama’s conduct of foreign policy and national security has been incoherent and ineffective, as the continuing and ever-changing saga of the terrorist murder of U.S. diplomats in Libya demonstrates.

But for so many New Yorkers, the most disconcerting failure of the Obama years has been the nation’s deteriorating relationship with Israel. He foolishly sought to create strategic separation between Washington and Jerusalem, believing that this would somehow impress the Arab world’s dictators and demagogues. Precisely why this would be in the national interest remains a mystery—in any case, the shift was a strategic disaster.

Israel rightly believes that Mr. Obama simply doesn’t comprehend the threats to its very existence. There is no reason to believe that the Obama administration will have Israel’s back if Israel attacks Iran’s nuclear facilities—a move that may be required to prevent the haters in Tehran from possessing and using weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Obama appears to believe that peace will come to the Middle East simply by forcing Israel, the only true democracy in the region, to return to its pre-1967 borders without even the most basic concession from the Arabs. What kind of a friend would make such a demand?

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Mr. Romney will not stand by idly while vicious anti-Semites in Egypt's ruling Muslim Brotherhood threaten Israeli civilians. He will not bow to wishful thinking when terrorists hijack protest movements in the Arab world. And he will call out Israel's critics in the West for their hypocrisy and utter disregard for the Jewish state's security concerns.

Change to Move Forward

The United States simply cannot afford another four years of weak leadership. The genius of American capitalism and the moral authority of American foreign policy must be restored.

Mitt Romney has a plan to do both. He has the credentials to restore the economy and to defend American values in a hostile world. He has the skills to help create jobs and a brighter future for our country.

This election is a true turning point for the next generation. Mitt Romney is the change the nation needs. And he is the change New York needs.

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Truth Speaker · 2 days ago
 You liberals are pathetic. Too ignorant to recognize a good man when you see him. Too stupid to recognize an unqualified egomaniac like the one we currently have in office. You blindly follow a path that leads to the destruction of America, cracking your wiseass jokes about Romney, the man uniquely qualified to save us from that path and restore prosperity. What a sad bunch of fools you are.
 273 · 9 · Reply · Share

otay · 2 days ago · parent
 Obama is 'hopeless' in his lies and can not 'change' his wretched record.
 107 · 5 · Reply · Share

pajamak · 2 days ago · parent
 He's a bumbling idiot.
 58 · 4 · Reply · Share

David · 2 days ago · parent
 Oh look. you hurt a leftist tool's feelinas.....

54 ^ | 5 v · Reply · Share ›



KarenWI · 2 days ago · parent

Well said

12 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



maxdi · a day ago · parent

Romney would be OK if there were any Moderate Republicans left in that party with any power. There aren't. It's now a faith-based, corporatist organization that is spiraling into nonsense. More SC Justices of that ilk would be a disaster. More Reps/Senators like Cantor, McConnell, Kyl, Goemer, Broun, et alia, would be counterproductive. More mouthpieces like FOX, Rove, Limbaugh would be absurd. The Republicans have to lose badly and reconstitute as something sane and less racist for it to be viable again.

8 ^ | 16 v · Reply · Share ›



sgw · 18 hours ago · parent

Some 20-25% of Democrat voters are black, in contrast with the VERY small percentage of black party leaders. Democrat electoral success depends on retaining and fomenting a captive black underclass; Democrat opposition to real educational reform is a key factor in preserving black poverty and black frustration. Look beyond the activist rhetoric, and it is quite clear which political party encourages and benefits from persistent structural racism.

8 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



maxdi · 17 hours ago · parent

The racist tendencies and policies of the Rump Confederacy States (good for 100 electoral Republican votes, to be sure) are not to be ignored, glossed over, or dismissed. Voter cadging, voter suppression methods, Confederate flags on statehouses, ad nauseum, makes for Republican Party that coddles its many, many racists. Not all Republicans are racists but practically all racists are voting Republican these days. Your analysis is phony and derived from the mindlessness of Limbaugh and FOX.

0 ^ | 14 v · Reply · Share ›



RealHopeandChange · 29 minutes ago · parent

@maxdi: Have you never heard of the soft bigotry of low expectations? I was raised as a liberal, in Manhattan, I know firsthand that they want to give out food stamps, welfare, rent control, etc. to minorities because they subconsciously think that minorities cannot do it on their own. It took 20 years but I was able to see that black people, and other minorities are just as capable of taking care of themselves and being independent, and successful as whites. But having faith in the abilities of minorities today is called "racist" by the left and their unending race-baiting. The only reason I didn't want a black president was that he was a DEMOCRAT black president. Which I knew would inevitably lead to any criticism of him labeled as racist. Because liberals, progressives, democrats, whatever they want to be called these days, ALWAYS bring everything back to race. They are obsessed with it. It seems to me that if someone is incapable of looking beyond race, it is he that is the racist. In this way I find dems to be much more racist, sexist, ageist, etc. I also don't get how people can forget that the democrat party is the party of Jim Crow south. It was a republican who freed the slaves, it was republicans that gave black people the right to vote, it was republicans who brought about civil rights. Your ignorance needs to be put in check. The problem with this country these days is morons like you have the right to vote.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›

0 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



Jenny · an hour ago · parent

@maxdi: Racists are not all white.

0 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



EconomicFreedomFirst · 17 hours ago · parent

You don't have to vote for either Obama or Romney. Gary Johnson is not corporatist, not faith-based, and was loved by his Democrat constituents in New Mexico.

1 ^ | 11 v · Reply · Share ›



maxdi · 16 hours ago · parent

Agreed! But in this election I'm going with the guy who won't nominate completely batshit crazy SC justices (or two or three). Scalia, Alito, Thomas, Roberts are enough.

0 ^ | 12 v · Reply · Share ›



Jenny · an hour ago · parent

@maxdi: Batshit crazy Roberts was the one that gave us Obamacare.

0 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



johnr22 · 2 hours ago · parent

@maxdi: Roberts bailed out your Buddy Obama on Obamacare. There was a clear case for striking down the entire mess as unconstitutional, but Roberts saved it for him.

And your opinion of Roberts? You call him "completely batshit crazy". I guess any SCJ nominated by a repub president gets that label regardless of what he actually does.

You are a Leftist ideologue; you, and people like you, are what's wrong with this country.

0 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



jillibrown · a day ago · parent

What exactly is romneys plan to create jobs? "I know how to create jobs" is not a credible answer. Can you supply one? Romney obviously can't.

4 ^ | 13 v · Reply · Share ›



swampland · 20 hours ago · parent

Romney seeks to

- (1) lower individual tax rates (while eliminating many tax deductions for the wealthy) to stimulate consumption and savings
- (2) lower corporate tax rates, to stimulate investment
- (3) eliminate government regulations that make it overly difficult for financially responsible people to get mortgages, to stimulate housing
- (4) get rid of and replace the Affordable Care Act, which makes employees more expensive
- (5) sign free trade agreements with Latin America, to stimulate trade
- (6) increase North American energy production (including construction of the pipeline from Canada) to lower the cost of production for business and the cost of living for consumers

15 ^ | 2 v · Reply · Share ›



Jen · 19 hours ago · parent

Many of the largest corporations have a tax rate that is effectively zero so are we now going to start paying them?

Free trade agreements with Latin America are already in place.

The pipeline from Canada is the biggest bill of goods ever sold to

people... the oil will go to China (they have admitted as much) and the pipeline will run under the largest aquifer in the US. No trouble unless it leaks... oh yeah, pipelines ALWAYS leak.

4 ^ | 11 v · Reply · Share ›



EconomicFreedomFirst · 17 hours ago · parent

Jen, this comment nearly defies belief.

Corporations are never taxed. They always pass taxes on to their customers with higher prices. Think about it.

More free trade will promote jobs and economic growth everywhere. The fastest growing economies in the world are Singapore and Hong Kong, both completely open ports where free trade is the rule, not the exception.

The Keystone pipeline (if it finally gets approval despite Obama's "killing" it) will help create jobs throughout the US by lowering gas prices. To say that it will run "under" the Ogallala aquifer disqualifies you from this debate.

14 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



But Anyway · 12 hours ago · parent

@EconomicFreedomFirst: sorry, but it won't have any impact on gas prices for several years.

0 ^ | 4 v · Reply · Share ›



Henry · 3 hours ago · parent

@EconomicFreedomFirst: Corporations are never taxed because they always pass the price on??? No, that is not correct. Reality: The rate at which corporations are taxed matters, it matters big time to federal revenues and to those grant-in-aid programs the states rely heavily on. Corporations do -not- pass every tax rate hike onto consumers, in fact the evidence shows the opposite. Corporations do not, I repeat -do not- base their pricing on how high taxes are. That's ridiculous. Companies base their product on a pricepoint, who's main criteria is a number that maintains a high level of demand. There is a ceiling for practically any product you can think of, and that ceiling isn't arbitrarily met with every new payable on the balance sheet.

You republicans need to go back to Economics 101.

This newspaper has become a joke. Romney's not a demagogue?

demagogue - A political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires and prejudices rather than by using rational argument.

Sounds a pretty apt description of Mr. Romney. He won the primaries by telling Tea Partiers he was "severely" conservative (after he told Massachusetts a few years ago he was a social liberal), and now he's back to being a centrist. How is a panderer not a demagogue? They're synonyms.

0 ^ | 2 v · Reply · Share ›



johnr22 · an hour ago · parent

Jen, the corporate tax rate is 35%. When you say some of them have an effective rate of zero, I assume you're saying they pay zero taxes because of all their deductions. This is exactly how Romney intends to pay for lowering the marginal rate from 35% to 25%; by eliminating the deductions.

So...no...we won't be "paying them" as you claim. How ironic though that the CHild Tax Credit (a liberal shibollith) DOES pay people for doing nothing. You can be unemployed ALL year, and you get a TAX REFUND (har har) because of the Child Tax Credit.

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·

**RealHopeandChange** · 16 minutes ago · parent

I find it extremely amusing when democrats slam Romney for not providing details. This is the party of which the majority leader told us we had to pass a massive piece of legislation to find out what's in it. Also, Romney HAS provided details! See Swampland's comment. In the last election all Obama ever offered was "hope and change." Well we've been mired in hope and change for four years. We hoped he would be a good president (he was the opposite) and we changed for the worse.

We need a president that actually understands the free market and business. Every time in history that tax rates have increased, revenues have DECREASED! Every time the tax rate was lowered (Kennedy, Reagan) the revenues have increased. Who the bleep cares if corporations pay a lower rate if we all prosper through a strong economy? Furthermore, the leaders of the largest banks (the only corporations that are really doing well in this economy) and financiers, you know the "fat cat bankers" almost all, to a man, support Obama. Jamie Dimon, George Soros, Warren Buffet, etc. This class warfare nonsense is not only counter productive but it's unnecessary, masturbatory, and irrelevant. Trickle down economics worked for 30 years. Keynesianism has NEVER worked. Not once. John Meynard Keynes even later in life admitted it didn't work. We have four years which clearly demonstrates this. 43 months of unemployment over 8%. That's more than all of the previous presidents' terms COMBINED!!!! An additional six trillion to the debt in four years. WTF? Obama

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·

**Tsunami2012** · an hour ago · parent

Oh, as opposed to the marvelous job Obama's done?

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·

**larrys** · 2 days ago · parent

Honey Boo Boo for president.

10 ^ | 37 v · Reply · Share ·

**RealHopeandChange** · 13 minutes ago · parent

Sadly, I fear that she's more qualified than the man currently holding the position. But then again so is almost EVERYONE

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·

**STOPLYING** · 2 days ago · parent

Egomaniac? Whos bragging about money with \$10,000 bets? Who's putting down the 47%? Who is falsely using deceased veterans to promote their own political agenda, with a VP barging his way into a soup kitchen (without knowing that it was an apolitical, non-profit organization)?

I could go on, but clearly we'd never agree

8 ^ | 134 v · Reply · Share ·

**edb73** · 2 days ago · parent

47%....where did I hear that number recently... hmmm, 47? oh yea! almost 47 million people are on food stamps now -- 46.68 million extending that record 0bozo set. about 15% of the U.S. population! what a feat!

72 ^ | 3 v · Reply · Share ·

**maxdi** · a day ago · parent

That's what you get from 8yrs of Bush/Cheney Economic Misfeasance...a mess that takes more than 3.7yrs to fix. History did not start Jan 2008.

4 ^ | 13 v · Reply · Share ·

slew of messes. The middle east is in complete and utter chaos under his watch and his foreign policies. His continued domestic policies of spending without paying for anything can not continue. We will be well over 20 Trillion in dept if we give him another 4 years. If Obama stays in we will NEVER recover. It is time for a CHANGE and new direction... Sound familiar?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



John Brightned · 21 minutes ago · parent

@J water: The mess was created by the housing bubble and it was remedied by Bush long before Obama was sworn in. It is amazing when people talk about mess created by Bush they cannot tell you what exactly it was. You can disagree with the Bush tax cuts or wars he initiated but those were not responsible for the recession. It was the housing bubble

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



edb73 · 21 hours ago · parent

@maxdi: P.s. it's "malfeasance" and 0zero took office in January 2009.

4 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ·



Jen · 19 hours ago · parent

Oh yes... far better that they just starve rather than being on foodstamps,

Jesus, you people are heartless. Ironic given how many of you identify as Christian.

1 ^ | 9 v · Reply · Share ·



edb73 · 15 hours ago · parent

@Jen: funny -- Dems always think the only way to care for the hungry and homeless is through the federal government. guess what -- they are not the only game in town. many people including myself donate to organizations that assist those in need. i have a good friend who puts together sacked lunches about once a month -- over a hundred of them. he then gathers some friends and takes them downtown to feed the homeless. help does not have to be forced at the point of a gun (taxation imposed on everyone). ironic that you're probably not Christian, thus using the Lord's name in vain, the attempt at a slight using Christianity as your sword and your belief that the only way these people would receive help is from the federal government (your god apparently).

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



EconomicFreedomFirst · 17 hours ago · parent

Jen, so how much have you given to charity recently?

Or are you just in favor of forcing people to be taxed so some politician or bureaucrat can decide who "needs" that coercively obtained lucre?

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



Bayard S. Robinson IV · 2 hours ago · parent

@Jen: Ephesians 4:28 - #4 Bible Verses About Employment and Work- Importance of hard work

Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have [something] to share with him who has need.

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



Dan Wright · 2 days ago · parent

— 47 % are doing nothing but, laying around on their lazy asses & getting free money because their " Proctologist in Chief " makes it possible. Go look for a job you dead beats.

57 ^ | 3 v · Reply · Share ›

 **jillibrown** · a day ago · parent
Hey dan...go kick your grandma, or maybe a soldier...those lazy asses. You're a real einstein, aren't you.

3 ^ | 9 v · Reply · Share ›

 **TootlesMcgee** · 2 days ago · parent
Let me sumarrize your rant. Whaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

51 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›

 **KarenWI** · 2 days ago · parent
All this has NOTHING to do with competence and experiance in creating jobs for America.

11 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›

 **aircraftmech** · 2 days ago
Wow-you liberal retards are really upset at this endorsement!
Go Mitts and Paul!

220 ^ | 6 v · Reply · Share ›

 **otay** · 2 days ago · parent
Truthful words stand the test of time, but lies are soon exposed. Proverbs 12:19

79 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Shaen** · 2 days ago · parent
Yeah.. the lies of this administration are stunning, and we will find out so much more as time go on. This president and his administration are dishonest to the core.

85 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›

 **Jason Rahall** · 9 hours ago · parent
There is a great deal of blood on the hands of Republican neocons from the Iraq war - Iraqi civilians and US and coalition personnel. Blood spilled by GWB's lies re: non-existent WMDs. Guess it made for an easier sell than "let's bomb a country back to pre-industrial revolution conditions" to restore the petrodollar."

0 ^ | 2 v · Reply · Share ›

 **Bayard S. Robinson IV** · an hour ago · parent
@Jason Rahall: And as I remember 90% of the country was in favor of going to war, and I know a bunch of them were liberal Dems! I know, I know, Bush lied about WMD's! Hillary, Bill, Obama, Durbin, Reid, Pelosi and this band of kooks had access to the same intel the Bush administration did so bunk that!

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **liv4what** · 2 days ago · parent
you're going to get in trouble now!! You used the R word..... BUT I'm with you! Go Romney!!! It's time for REAL change! Liberal retards... ha ha.. that is so funny.. :D

62 ^ | 4 v · Reply · Share ›

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MORNING READ
More Excerpts From Goldman Sachs Tell-All; Rajat Gupta Seeks Rwandan Probation: Roundup

THE EIGHT-DAY WEEK



To Do Thursday: Gimme Moore

TROUBLING DEVELOPMENTS



Looks Like Someone Shot a Window at Obama's Denver Campaign Offices