

U.S. Commerce Dept.: IT IS TIME TO REJECT MERITLESS AND DAMAGING SOLAR TARIFFS SEND A MESSAGE SAVE AMERICAN SOLAR JOBS

THE BLOG

What Obama Can Learn From JFK

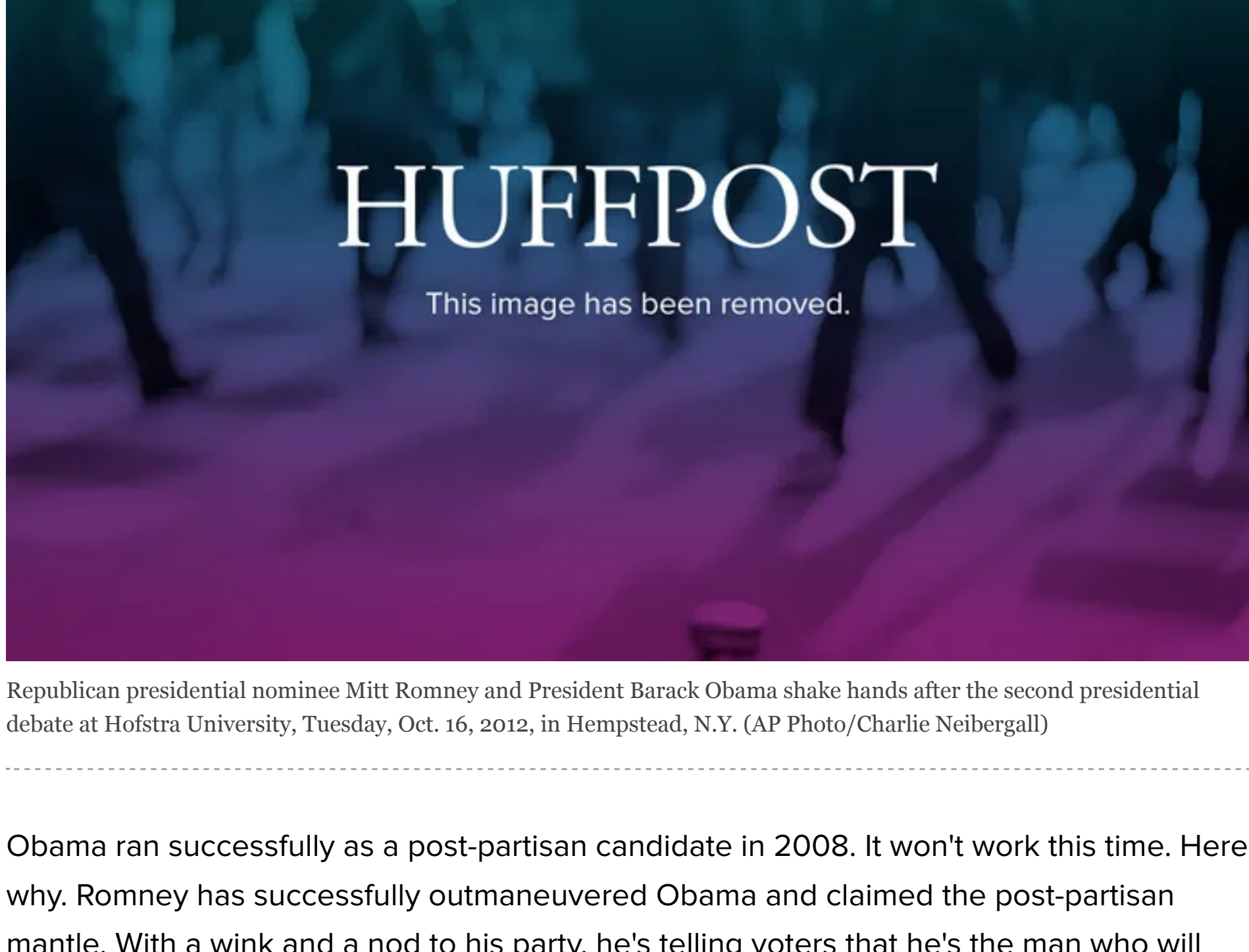
What should Obama do? Take a lesson from JFK in 1960. Be partisan. Define the differences between Democrats and Republicans.

By Kiku Adatto, Contributor

Author "Picture Perfect: Life in the Age of the Photo Op," Scholar in Residence, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University

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Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama shake hands after the second presidential debate at Hofstra University, Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012, in Hempstead, N.Y. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

Obama ran successfully as a post-partisan candidate in 2008. It won't work this time. Here's why. Romney has successfully outmaneuvered Obama and claimed the post-partisan mantle.

Forget about the so-called body bumping, manning up and fighting stances in the last debate. That's a distraction. What matters is that Romney has captured the center. He has distanced himself from the policies of George W. Bush.

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What should Obama do? Take a lesson from JFK in 1960. Be partisan. Define the differences between Democrats and Republicans.

I come out of the Democratic party, which in this century has produced Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, and which supported and sustained these programs which I've discussed tonight. Mr. Nixon comes out of the Republican Party. He was nominated by it.

It is hard to imagine President Obama saying something similar. Presidential campaigns these days are more about the candidates than their parties.

It can also be a way of asking voters what should be a defining question in the campaign: Who's on your side? Romney now claims he's all about helping the middle class.

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It is the Democratic Party that has historically fought for the middle class. Try this thought experiment, Obama might say. Can you imagine FDR, John Kennedy, or Bill Clinton saying behind closed doors that 47 percent of the American voters consider themselves victims?

Obama would do well to remind the country of this difference. Doing so may not fit comfortably with his post-partisan identity.

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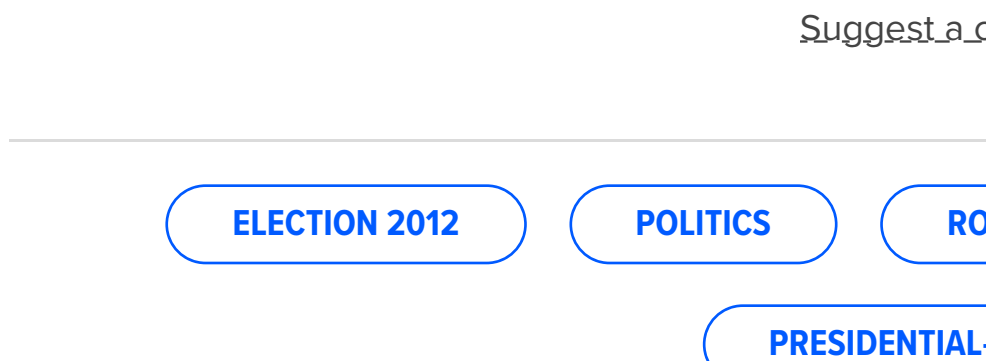
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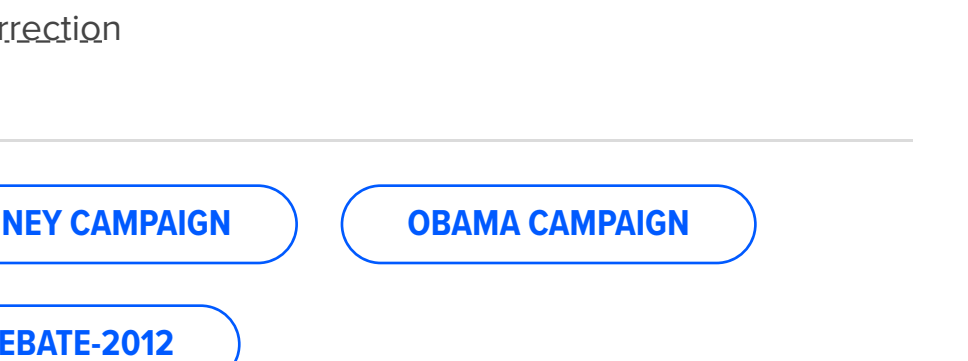
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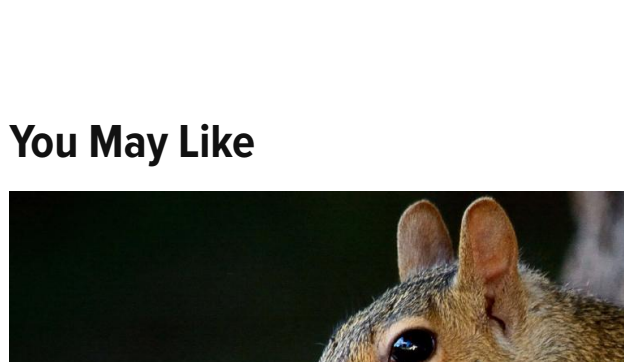
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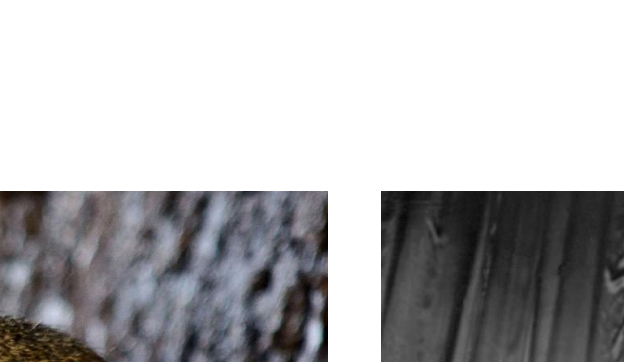
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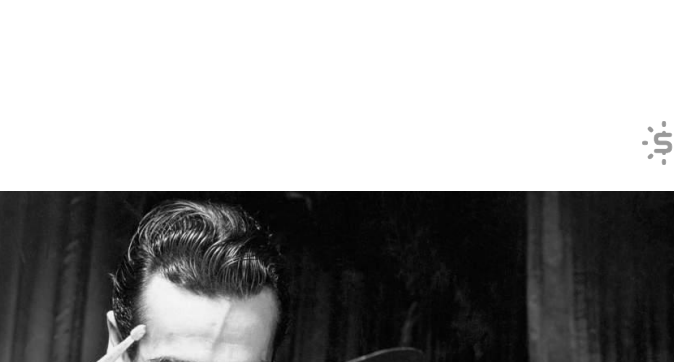
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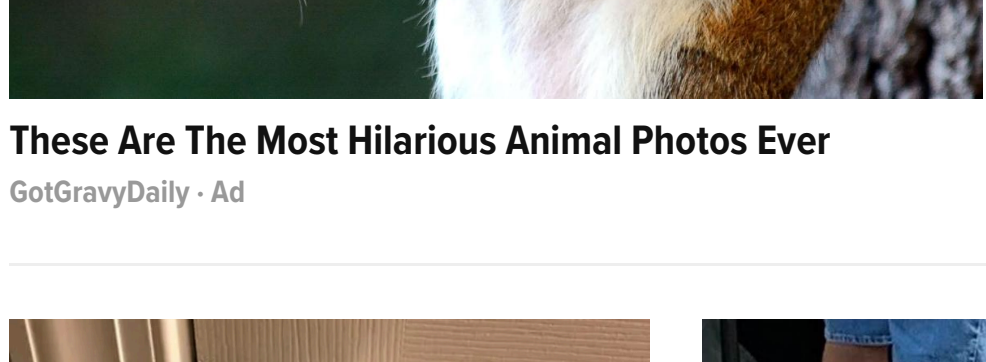
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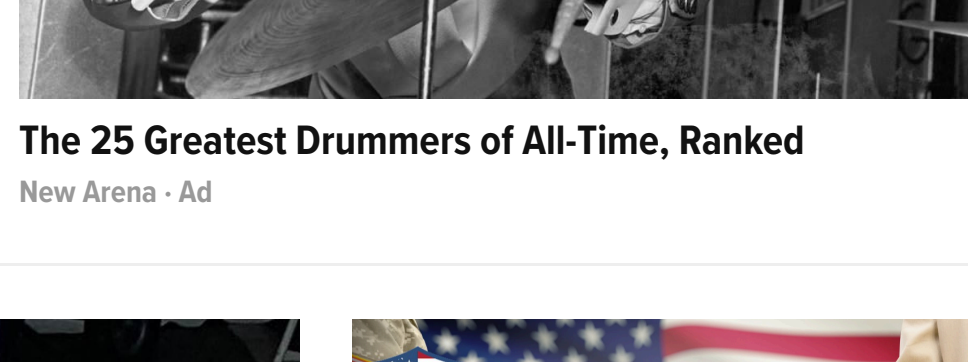
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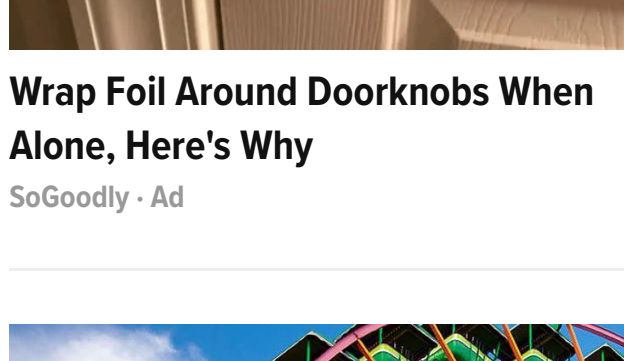
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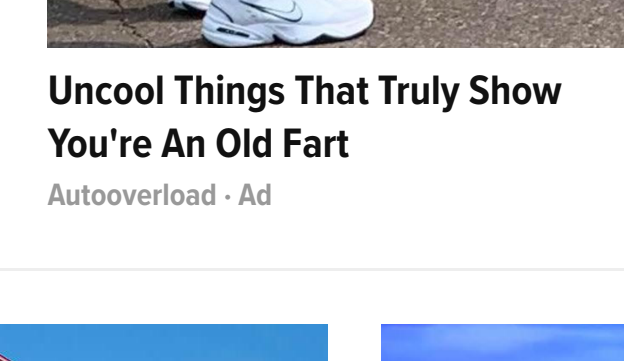
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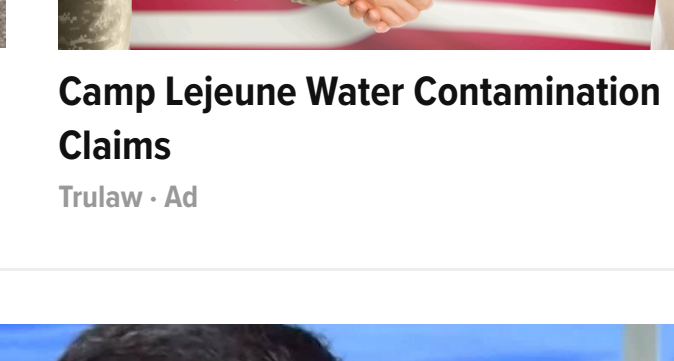
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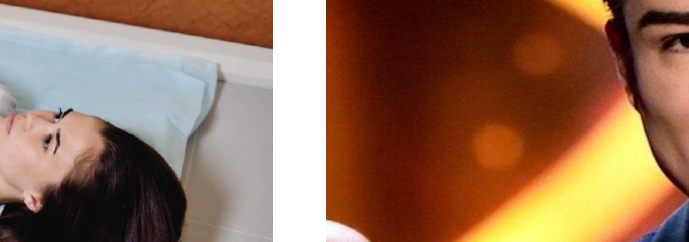


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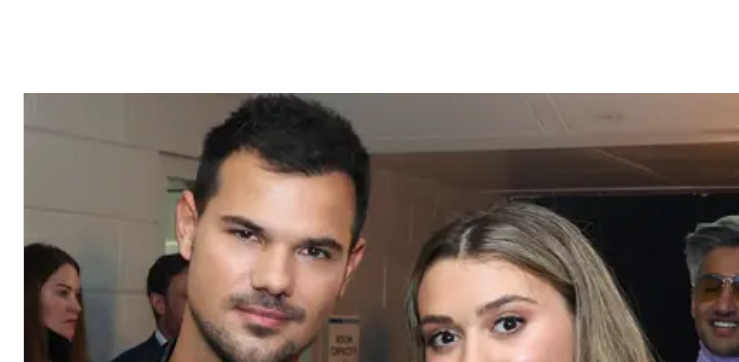
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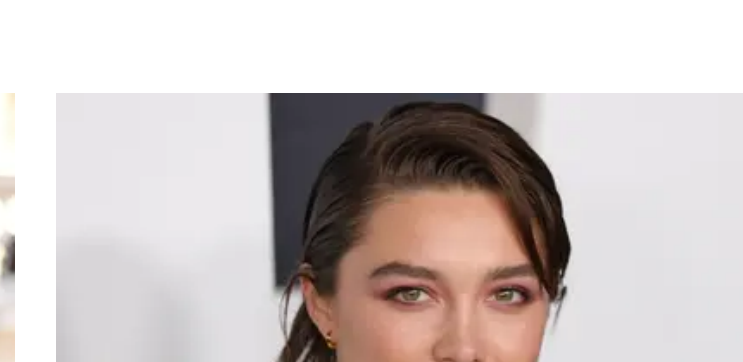
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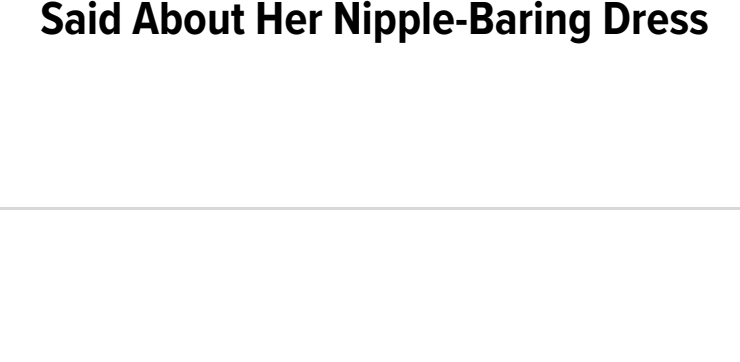
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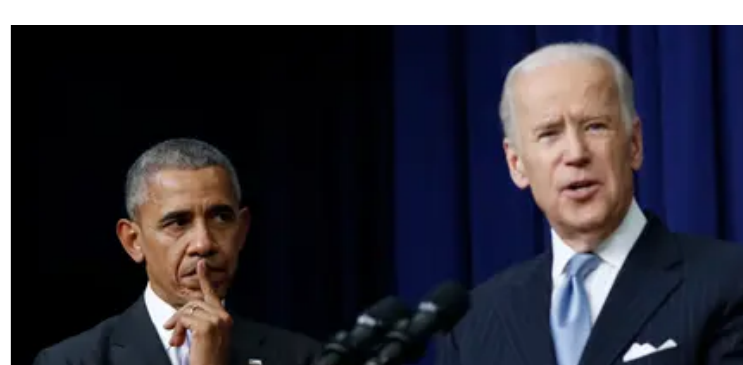
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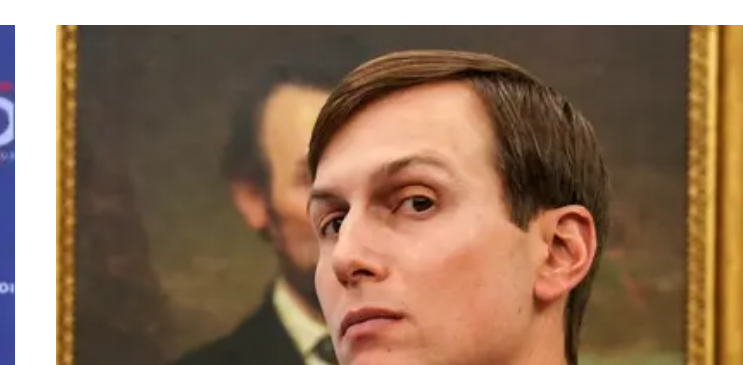
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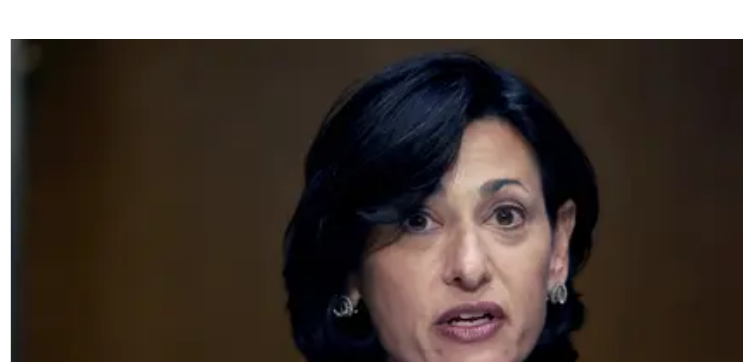
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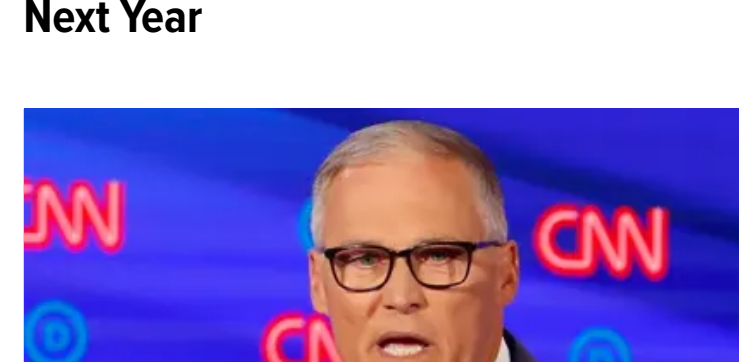
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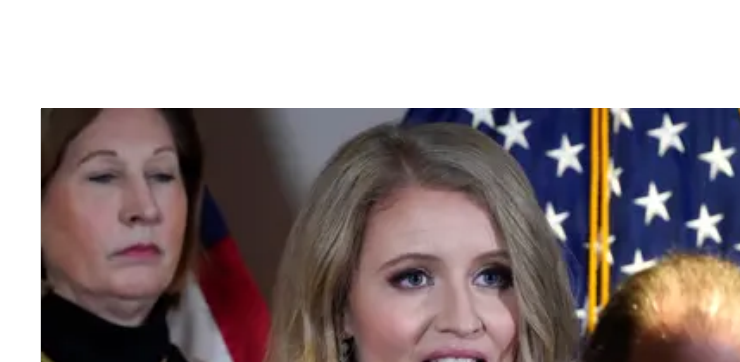
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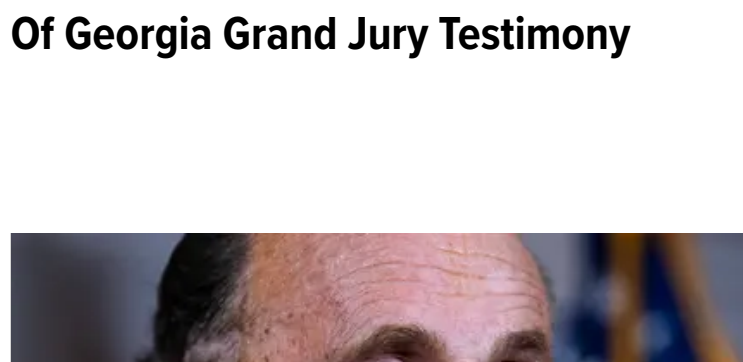
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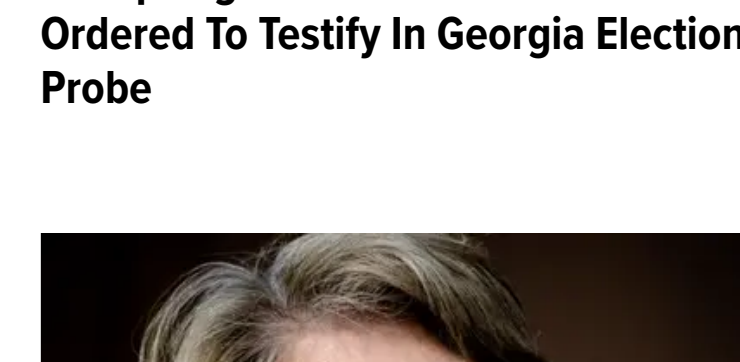
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