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# The Bin Laden Bounce

By CHARLES M. BLOW

Osama goes down. Obama ticks up. That's the narrative of the killing of Osama bin Laden and the lift in the polls for President Obama in its aftermath. In fact, a New York Times/CBS News poll conducted after Bin Laden was killed [found an 11-point jump](#) in the president's approval rating.

But the event and its effect are likely fleeting moments in our memories.

First, the same poll found that [the president's approval rating on the economy](#) dropped to its lowest level of his presidency.

It is a sobering reminder that terror for most Americans is no longer embodied in a bearded man hiding in Pakistan. It manifests daily in thoughts of not having enough to feed a family or fill a tank and in worrying about losing a job or a house.

Second, we are an America in need of Adderall. We have a hard time focusing on heady issues for long stretches. We prefer little candy-coated news nuggets to issues of substance — picking Chiclets over chowder every time.

In fact, we can't even seem to be able to focus on our distractions, according to a new study [reported on the Web site Science Daily](#) and set to appear in the journal *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social*

Networking. In the study, researchers put participants in a room with a computer and a television and gave them 30 minutes to use either. On average, participants thought that they might have looked back and forth between the two devices about 15 times. In fact, they had looked back and forth, on average, 120 times.

We think we're multitasking, but we're only mincing attention.

And, third, the right and its corporate overlords will work tirelessly and spend endlessly to ensure that Obama's accomplishment is diminished. They're already tripping over themselves to credit [George W. Bush in Bin Laden's demise](#), and Glenn Beck, that paragon of political distortion and delusion, went so far as to call the president's trip to ground zero "disgusting," "obscene" and "grotesque."

Furthermore, the Supreme Court, by turning Lady Justice into a corporate concubine in [the Citizens United ruling](#), has opened the floodgates of corporate spending on elections, and 2012 will be the first presidential test of it.

One omen for out-of-control spending by corporations is the amount donated to the Republican and Democratic Governors Associations — which could already take unlimited amounts from corporations — during the last election cycle.

According to [a report issued last week](#) by the Center for Responsive Politics, the Republican Governors Association received more than \$60 million — nearly half of all the money it raised — from businesses, lawyers and lobbyists. That was nearly twice as much as the Democratic association received from those sources. And the biggest corporate contributor to the Republicans was, you guessed it: News America, a subsidiary of the News Corporation, which owns Fox News.

Aristotle once said that "democracy is when the indigent, and not the men of property, are the rulers." We as a country are moving further and further away from that ideal.

This uptick for Obama is likely temporary. What will matter most as we enter the campaign season is the jobs picture, the public's level of engagement and an avalanche of ads.

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