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Lightning Round: People Who Know Nothing About American Politics Making Up Theories About American Politics.

- The interesting thing about political pundits flopping about trying to explain Democrats and **Obama** sinking in the polls is that it unintentionally reveals their prejudices about American political life. So, you get **Eugene Robinson** [venting](#) about "spoiled" Americans in our Vibrant Economy, or **Jonah Goldberg** [convincing](#) himself that pure salesmanship is what separates **Clinton** from Obama, or the gang at First Read [picking](#) 10 events from the year that are "shaping the midterm season." The connecting tissue here is the weak explanatory power of each theory.
- **David Frum** convincingly makes the case that the ouster of **Brink Lindsey** and **Will Wilkinson** from the Cato Institute was indeed a [purge](#) and that such action has deep implications for the "epistemic closure" debate. If I were a serious conservative like Frum, I'd start questioning the entire project of reforming the conservative movement like **E.D. Kain** has done [here](#), and begin to acknowledge that much of what [comes out](#) of conservative think tanks is light-years away from "scholarly."
- Hey, *Politico*. When you writes [ledes](#) that proclaim it will be "awkward" for President Obama to commemorate 9/11 this year because of the GZM "controversy," it might be helpful to note that no one cared about this issue until crazy right-wingers started screaming bloody murder about it. You might also note that it's a bit awkward for **Newt Gingrich** to [suddenly state](#) nine years after the attacks that Congress ought to "declare the area a national battlefield memorial." But speculating about what Obama and **Michael Bloomberg** talked about in a golf clubhouse is a *kind of* journalism.
- Reminders: House Democrats draw a line in the sand on [Social Security](#); **Haley Barbour** is counting on Americans being [ignorant](#) of their history, especially political history; Americans still don't [miss George W. Bush](#); as near I can tell, **Fred Thompson** [appeals](#) to people who aren't terribly bright; and **Sharron Angle** wants poor people to [suffer](#) needlessly.

--Mori Dinauer

Posted by Mori Dinauer on September 3, 2010 4:16 PM | [Permalink](#) | [Share](#)

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of musings, ramblings, opinions and other assorted writing on the political developments of the day. See a list of [our contributors](#).

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