

Gail Collins on Romney, sentence by excruciating sentence

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I don't have much to add about Mitt Romney's [assertion](#) that he doesn't need to worry about the very poor on account of the safety net he aims to dismantle and the Democrats he aims to unseat. Except that you really should read Gail Collins [on this](#) (and [everything else](#)):

*My focus is on middle-income Americans: Retirees living on Social Security. People who can't find work. ...*

Whoa! Do you think he's suggesting that the very poor do not have a problem finding work? That they're too lazy to look? Or does he just figure that they're all disabled, or children, or old people who don't get Social Security? That would be pretty harsh. And weird, if he's trying to say: "I only care about the elderly if they made enough money to qualify for Social Security. The rest are doing fine under government programs."

*Folks that have kids that are getting ready to go to college. These are the people who have been most badly hurt during the Obama years. We have a very ample safety net, and we can talk about whether it needs to be strengthened or whether there are holes in it. But we have food stamps. We have Medicaid. We have housing vouchers. We have programs to help the poor. ...*

Romney seems obsessed with the idea that his enemies are spreading rumors that he's going to be devoting his presidential campaign to proposing new programs to help the poor. Really, I do not think this is going to be a problem.

[Read it all.](#)