



The Republicans are reaping what they have sown.

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It was the seeds sown in the Republican party's womb eight years ago that gave birth to their presidential nominee this year. An editorial cartoon in the Irish Times this week of the Olympics portrays Donald Trump pierced through with a javelin and the caption: "US Election Javelin: Did that come

from his own party?" Although we read: "The Republican Party could be nearing a breaking point with Donald Trump; frustration abounds"(Washington Post, August 13), there seems to be an act of collective amnesia as to how the party of "no" has become the party of "no more".

The plot to obstruct and defeat the newly elected President Barack Obama began even before he took office in January of 2009. Michael Grunwald of Time magazine in his book in 2012 carefully unearthed the plot and script of how the GOP whip Eric Cantor and Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell met with their colleagues to lay out their war plan to destroy the Obama presidency. And then came the "birthers" on the cable news and radio talk shows. The war of incendiary rhetoric, reprisals, refusal to act on legislation or appointments escalated through to the re-election of Pres. Obama and continues to this day in the Republican Congress.

One of the first clear signs of the outrageous uncivil behavior that emanates daily from the current Republican nominee was evident when Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, shouted out 'you lie' to Pres. Obama as he delivered his speech to a joint session of Congress, Sept. 2009 when Obama said the Affordable Care Act did not mandate health care for illegal immigrants. (It does not). A year later, Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House laid down further precedent for racist and inflammatory attacks when he denounced the President by declaring that Obama could only be understood by people who "understand Kenyan, anti-colonial behavior."

The descent to the racist, sexist and violent attacks on political opponents paved the way for this season's invitations to shoot presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, have her locked up and hung, to ban immigrants based on religion and ethnic origin, and filthy remarks about women and mocking of handicapped citizens. Now even many Republicans reject their nominee as fears grow that Trump is headed for a landslide defeat in November that will wipe out GOP majorities in Congress.

In the classic Greek myth, Narcissus fell in love with his own reflection in the lake; but when he finally realizes that the love he sees is but his own reflection, he stabs himself and falls into the water. Trump may have stabbed himself by his own erratic behavior, but the javelin was crafted by his own party. The Republicans are reaping what they have sown.