

Notable Quotables

April 21, 2008 (Vol. 21; No. 8)

A bi-weekly compilation of the latest outrageous, sometimes humorous, quotes in the liberal media.



America's
Media Watchdog

Welcome, Pope "Rottweiler"

"On *World News* this Sunday, who is Pope Benedict? The sometimes controversial Pope comes to America this week....Joseph Ratzinger, the so-called 'Professor Pope,' grew up in Nazi Germany, a studious boy who was unwillingly drafted into the army. At the Vatican, he developed a reputation as a brilliant theologian, and also a hard-liner, strenuously condemning divorce, homosexuality and abortion. As Pope John Paul's lieutenant, he earned nicknames like 'Cardinal No,' and 'God's Rottweiler.'...Benedict has also created controversy, like in this speech where he included a quote calling Islam evil. Afterwards, there were riots in the Muslim world. [to biographer David Gibson] Do you think, at times, he has something of a tin ear?"

— Anchor Dan Harris previewing the Pope's visit on ABC's *World News*, April 13.

"Explain the difference between the private man and the public Pope that some Americans are maybe even a little unsure or fearful of."

— Co-host Harry Smith questioning Chicago's Cardinal Francis George on CBS's *The Early Show*, April 15.

"Since becoming Pope Benedict XVI three years ago, the man who used to be the Vatican's chief hard-liner has undergone an image makeover....Benedict has made what one ambassador to the Holy See called a smooth transition from scholar to universal pastor. It may not quite fit the miracle category, but it is nonetheless an extraordinary transition for a man who was once known as 'God's Rottweiler.' As Pope, he has not gone out of his way to appease the more liberal wings of the Catholic Church in the U.S., but Benedict's chief image maker is unfazed."

— CBS's Allen Pizzey on *The Early Show*, April 14.

"Pay Up and Be Grateful!"

"It's early April, which means these are the few days of the year when Americans of almost every political stripe unite in a perennial ritual: complaining about taxes. Count me out. I'm happy to pay my fair share to the government. It's part of my patriotic duty — and it's a heckuva bargain.... There seems to be an inconsistency about people who insist on wearing flag pins in their lapels, but who grumble about paying taxes....Genuine patriots don't complain about their patriotic obligations....Pay up and be grateful!"

— Former ABC and CNN reporter Walter Rodgers writing in the *Christian Science Monitor*, April 2.

• "Bitter" Townies = Terrorists?

• CNN's Jeffrey Toobin: "What [Senator Barack] Obama said is factually accurate."

• CNN's Jack Cafferty: "Right."

• Toobin: "It's been true throughout history that people who have economic problems lash out against various others. I just think it is embarrassing for the Clinton campaign just to hang on to this as if it's some sort of gaffe by Obama."...

• Cafferty: "They call it the Rust Belt for a reason. The great jobs and the economic prosperity left that part of the country two or three decades ago. The people are frustrated. The people have no economic opportunity. What happens to folks like that in the Middle East, you ask? Well, take a look. They go to places like al Qaeda training camps."

• — Exchange on CNN's *The Situation Room*, April 11, talking about Obama's remark about how "bitter" people in small towns "cling to guns or religion...as a way to explain their frustrations."

• Racist Whites Will Sink Obama

• "He is a wonderful candidate and I'd be proud to vote for him in every regard, just about. I think he's a terrific guy. But I have no doubt in my mind, having lived through the David Dinkins-Rudy Giuliani bare-knuckled campaign for the mayor of New York, that certain people....I'm talking about white people, basically. They are gonna go into the secrecy of that polling place, they're gonna remember Reverend Wright, they are going to be affected in a negative way. And I think that it will make Barack Obama's success in the campaign for the White House extremely difficult."

• — FNC's Geraldo Rivera talking about Barack Obama's campaign prospects on his *Geraldo at Large*, March 29.

• Scolding the "Heartless" McCain

• "The first question is about the issue that Americans do seem to care about the most, and that's the economy. You've been very clear that because of your principles and because of your Republican philosophy, that you think that the government really should be limited and really should stay out, for the most part, of bailing out both homeowners and what you call irresponsible lenders. But my question is, in this time of uncertainty, when there are so many people hurting, are you concerned that there are voters out there who hear that who say, 'John McCain is heartless when it comes to this issue?'"

• — CNN's Dana Bash interviewing Republican presidential candidate John McCain on *The Situation Room*, April 1.

See Pages 2-3 for the Winners of the MRC's 2008 DisHonors Awards

The Media Research Center's 2008 DisHonors Awards

On April 10, 2008, the Media Research Center presented its annual "DisHonors Awards" for the most outrageously biased liberal reporting of the past year. More than 1,000 people attended the dinner at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Washington, D.C. Cal Thomas served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies; Ann Coulter, Larry Kudlow and Mark Levin presented the awards. The winners were chosen by the panel of 16 distinguished media observers listed on page 3. In place of the journalist who "won" each award, a conservative accepted it in jest. Following the awards ceremony, MRC President Brent Bozell presented the second annual "William F. Buckley Jr. Award for Media Excellence" to conservative journalist and former White House Press Secretary Tony Snow. Video of the entire event can be viewed at: www.MRC.org.

The Barack Obama Gives a Thrill Up My Leg Award

✓ "He's come from a white family and a black family, and he's married to a black woman, and they're cool people. They are really cool. They are Jack and Jackie Kennedy when you see them together. They are cool. And they're great-looking, and they're cool and they're young, and they're — everything seems to be great....He may not win this thing because everybody in America is not going to be in a room with him somewhere. And it doesn't quite — it worked with you on TV but, I tell you, when you're in the room, it's just like one of those things like Hillary Clinton, if you're in the room you understand what a likable person she is. If you're in with Obama, you feel the spirit. Moving."
— **MSNBC's Chris Matthews talking about Barack Obama on NBC's *Tonight Show*, January 16, 2008.**

Accepting for Chris Matthews...Rep. Mike Pence

Runners-up:

■ "Today they gathered by the thousands at American University, sensing a moment of history. John F. Kennedy gave the commencement address here five months before he was shot. And today the audacity of hope had its rendezvous with destiny: The Kennedy clan anointed Barack Obama a son of Camelot."
— **David Wright on ABC's *World News*, January 28, 2008.**

■ **Senator Barack Obama:** "Let's roll back the Bush tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans, let's make certain that those resources go to the people who need it....We're not going to solve it by pretending that issues of poverty and struggle among working families are just going to go away magically because the stock market is going up."
Moderator Chris Matthews: "So much of what you say just grabs people like me, because it sounds like Bobby Kennedy."

— **Exchange at AFSCME Democratic candidates forum shown live on MSNBC, June 19, 2007.**

Damn Those Conservatives Award

✓ "Everything you said about [withdrawing some troops from] Iraq yesterday, and everything you will say, is a deception, for the purpose of this one cynical, unacceptable, brutal goal: perpetuating this war indefinitely. War today, war tomorrow, war forever! And you are playing at it! Playing! A man with any self respect, having inadvertently revealed such an evil secret, would have already resigned and fled the country!...Mr. Bush, our presence in Iraq must end, even if it means your resignation, even if it means

your impeachment....This country cannot run the risk of what you can still do to this country in the next 500 days."
— **MSNBC *Countdown* anchor Keith Olbermann addressing President Bush in a "Special Comment," Sept. 4, 2007.**

Accepting for Keith Olbermann...Jim Gilchrist

Runners-up:

■ "This is going to result in racial profiling. If, in her America, in Michelle's America, when you look, 'Is that Hispanic guy an illegal or is he legal?' It reminds me so much of when they used to pull down the pants of Jews to see if they were circumcised or not. It is, it is so, so pathetic. It's so un-American....I want you to know, ladies and gentlemen, that what they are doing is using the police force of the United States to break up families and sow horror and pain."
— **Geraldo Rivera rejecting columnist Michelle Malkin's argument that citizens should report illegal immigrants to the authorities, FNC's *The O'Reilly Factor*, June 8, 2007.**

■ **Matt Lauer:** "He [Rush Limbaugh] makes a living poking fun at Democrats, but now some think he has gone a little too far in taking on Senator Barack Obama...."

Reporter Michael Okwu: "Weeks before the Imus controversy, Rush Limbaugh started airing this ditty about Senator Barack Obama:"

Song parody sung by Al Sharpton impersonator: "Barack the Magic Negro lives in D.C."

Okwu: "Which lead some to wonder, has Limbaugh been getting a free pass?..."

Paul Waldman, Media Matters: "This is basically the radio equivalent of a black-faced minstrel show. You're going back to *Amos and Andy* and all of those, kind of, racist shows in the past."

Okwu: "For his part, Obama says he doesn't listen to Limbaugh, but says being targeted is part of being a politician...."

Song parody: "Don't vote the Magic Negro."

Okwu: "Legitimate political satire, or something darker?"
— **NBC's *Today*, May 21, 2007. Limbaugh's parody was inspired by a black writer who used the term in a March 19 *Los Angeles Times* op-ed: "Obama the Magic Negro."**

Dan Rather Memorial Award for the Stupidest Analysis

✓ "As violence falls in Iraq, cemetery workers feel the pinch"

— **Headline over an October 16, 2007 story by McClatchy News Service reporters Jay Price and Qasim Zein.**

Accepting for McClatchy News...Kellyanne Conway

Runners-up:

■ “Do you worry at all that non-believers may feel excluded and diminished at a time when we’re so divided about so much?”

— CBS’s Katie Couric to *The Nativity Story*’s Catherine Hardwicke and Mike Rich in a Dec. 4, 2006 *Evening News* story about Hollywood movies based on Biblical themes.

■ MSNBC’s Chris Matthews: “Russ Feingold wants to censure the President, the Vice President, other administration officials for the way in which they talked us into Iraq. What do you make of it? Where do you stand on that kind of thing?”

Left-wing filmmaker Michael Moore: “Good idea. I think, it’s something though that, actually they should be lucky just to get censured. Personally, I’d like to see a perp walk coming out of the West Wing of the White House.”

Matthews: “Do you think they’re guilty of war crimes?”

Moore: “Absolutely.”

— MSNBC’s *Hardball*, July 23, 2007.

How We Adore Clinton-Gore Award

✓ “When I watched him [former President Bill Clinton] at Mrs. King’s funeral, I just have never seen anything like it... There are times when he sounds like Jesus in the temple. I mean, amazing ability to transcend ethnicity — race, we call it, it’s really ethnicity — in this country and, and speak to us all in this amazingly primordial way.”

— MSNBC’s Chris Matthews, February 28, 2007 *Hardball*.

Accepting for Chris Matthews... Rep. Tom Tancredo

Runners-up:

■ “There he [Bill Clinton] goes again. The man often called the most gifted politician of his generation is once again at the center of American politics, taking over the 2008 Democratic campaign. And he’s clearly loving every minute of it... He lectures and jokes around and feels your pain and implores you to believe... It’s so unprecedented, this personal and political partnership, so fraught with history and Baby Boomer melodrama. They have already made history, and they are out to do it again, together, through it all.”
— ABC’s Terry Moran after spending the day with Clinton for a report on *Nightline*, January 24, 2008.

■ Cynthia McFadden: “Last week the campaign launched and effort to showcase those people — friends, constituents, including many of them in a new Web site called ‘The Hillary I Know.’”

Woman in video: “The Hillary that I know is a compassionate woman.”

Man in video: “The Hillary I know saved my life.”...

McFadden: “As I looked at it, it’s terribly sweet in so many ways, and yet, it sort of has this Sally Field quality to it. You know, ‘They like me, they really like me.’ And I wonder if there’s not a double standard? I don’t see the guys

doing it. Are you judged differently, do you think, on the personal level?”

— ABC’s Cynthia McFadden interviewing Hillary Clinton on *Nightline*, December 19, 2007.

The I’m Not a Political Genius But I Play One on TV Award

✓ “I’m just saying if he did die, other people, more people would live. That’s a fact.”

— Host Bill Maher on his HBO show *Real Time*, March 2, 2007 discussing how a few commenters at a left-wing blog were upset that an attempt to kill Vice President Dick Cheney in Afghanistan had failed.

Accepting for Bill Maher... Ron Maxwell

Runners-up:

■ “Over the past six years we’ve had to add to the American picture: rendition, illegal wiretapping, voter suppression, no habeas corpus, the neglect of our great city New Orleans and the people, an attack on the Constitution and the loss of our best young men and women in a tragic war. And this is a song about things that shouldn’t happen here, happening here. And so right now we plan to do something about it — we plan to sing about it.”

— Bruce Springsteen introducing his song “Living in the Future” before a concert on NBC’s *Today*, Sept. 28, 2007.

■ Co-host Rosie O’Donnell: “655,000 Iraqi civilians are dead. Who are the terrorists?”

Co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck: “Who are the terrorists?”

O’Donnell: “655 Iraqis. I’m saying you have to look from, we invaded.”

Hasselbeck: “Wait, who are you calling terrorists?”

O’Donnell: “I’m saying, if you were in Iraq, and another country, the United States, the richest in the world, invaded your country and killed 655,000 of your citizens, what would you call us?”

— Rosie O’Donnell on ABC’s *The View*, May 17, 2007.

The Judges:

- **Tony Blankley**, columnist for *The Washington Times*
- **Neal Boortz**, Atlanta-based national radio talk show host
- **Brent Bozell**, Founder & President, Media Research Center
- **Steve Forbes**, President and CEO of Forbes, Inc.
- **Laura Ingraham**, nationally syndicated radio host
- **Sean Hannity**, co-host of FNC’s *Hannity & Colmes*
- **Larry Kudlow**, host of CNBC’s *Kudlow & Co.*
- **Mark Levin**, nationally syndicated radio talk show host
- **Rush Limbaugh**, host of *The Rush Limbaugh Show*
- **Mary Matalin**, Editor-in-Chief, Threshold Editions
- **Robert Novak**, *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist; FNC analyst
- **Kate O’Beirne**, Washington Editor of *National Review*
- **William Rusher**, Distinguished Fellow, Claremont Institute
- **Cal Thomas**, syndicated columnist; Fox News contributor
- **Walter E. Williams**, George Mason University professor
- **Thomas S. Winter**, Editor-in-Chief of *Human Events*

For video and audio clips of these quotes, or to watch highlights of our Gala, go to: www.MRC.org.

The “Infamous” Charlton Heston

“As President of the National Rifle Association, he became one of the most-polarizing figures in American politics.”

— **ABC’s Dan Harris reporting on the death of actor Charlton Heston, April 6 *World News*.**

“Once the quintessential big screen hero, in his later years he drew as much attention for his controversial politics.”

— **Anchor Russ Mitchell on the April 6 *CBS Evening News*.**

“In the 1950s and ‘60s, the era of the movie epic — those three-hour extravaganzas with a cast of thousands and the passionate enunciation of high ideals — he was the epic hero....He became a villain to many in his later life, when he took up the strident support of conservative causes, most notably that of the National Rifle Association....Heston supported restrictions on abortion; he campaigned for Reagan (possible bumper sticker: ‘God Likes the Gipper’) and both Bushes; he inappropriately posed for a photo with a white supremacist leader. He spoke at any conservative function that would have him, and what group wouldn’t?”

— ***Time* magazine movie critic Richard Corliss in an April 6 appreciation posted on *Time.com*.**

“In his later years, Heston was known for his Republican views, but when he first became politically active, he voted Democratic — for Kennedy and then Johnson. He was also an early supporter of civil rights, and marched on Washington....As famous as he was for his film roles, he became infamous for his politics, including his belief that the Bill of Rights is built upon the bedrock of the Second Amendment.”

— **Former Fox News Channel entertainment reporter Bill McCuddy in a taped report shown on FNC’s *Fox & Friends Weekend*, April 6.**

Free Markets Are a “False Idol”

“Joblessness is growing. Millions of homes are sliding into foreclosure. The financial system continues to choke on the toxic leftovers of the mortgage crisis. The downward spiral of the economy is challenging a notion that has underpinned American economic policy for a quarter-century — the idea that prosperity springs from markets left free of government interference....With market forces now seemingly gone feral, disenchantment with regulation has given way to demands for fresh oversight, placing Mr. [Milton] Friedman’s intellectual legacy under fresh scrutiny.”

— ***New York Times* economics reporter Peter Goodman in an April 13 “Week in Review” piece headlined: “The Free Market: A False Idol After All?”**

Tough Enough for Right Wing?

“How do we know that you’re tough enough to take the heat from the right — from the radio address, from the right wing radio, from the right wing columnists — if you begin to pull our troops out of Iraq and they start screaming, ‘Who lost Iraq?’ How do we know you’re as tough as Dick Cheney to ignore public opinion and do what you believe in? Because he’s certainly tough enough to do it.”

— **MSNBC’s Chris Matthews to Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama on *Hardball*, April 2.**

Impugning “Racist” Director

Reporter Nick Watt: “The 17-minute movie [from Dutch director Geert Wilders] shows terrorist attacks and quotes lines from the Koran: ‘Where ye meet the unbelievers, smite at their necks and fight them until there is no dissension.’... Wilders wants Holland to ban all Muslim immigration and he wants Muslims to change their ideology, which he likens to Nazism. [to Wilders] You believe the Western Judeo-Christian culture is superior. You believe immigration should be stopped. I mean, you’re a racist, no?”

Director Geert Wilders: “No. I’m nothing. Once again, I am not a racist because I have nothing against any race.”

— **ABC’s *Good Morning America*, March 29.**

Rebuking Anti-Roe McCain

Co-host Joy Behar: “I said to [Senator John McCain] off the camera, I said to him ‘Listen, how can you be against *Roe v. Wade*? You can not turn on women like that.’”

Co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck: “Why is that turning on women?”

Behar: “Because it’s against women and you know it.”

— **Exchange on ABC’s *The View*, April 14.**

The “Bear Stearns of Pedophilia”

“I’d like to tip off law enforcement to an even larger child-abusing religious cult. Its leader also has a compound, and this guy not only operates outside the bounds of the law, but he used to be a Nazi and he wears funny hats. That’s right, the Pope is coming to America....If you have a few hundred followers, and you let some of them molest children, they call you a cult leader. If have a billion, they call you ‘Pope.’ It’s like, if you can’t pay your mortgage, you’re deadbeat. But if you can’t pay a million mortgages, you’re Bear Stearns and we bail you out. And that is who the Catholic Church is: the Bear Stearns of organized pedophilia.... The Church’s attitude: ‘We’re here, we’re queer, get used to it,’ which is fine. Far be it for me to criticize religion.”

— **Bill Maher on HBO’s *Real Time*, April 11.**

Notable Quotables

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