

Notable Quotables

April 9, 2007 (Vol. Twenty; No. 8)

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



America's
Media Watchdog

"Movie Star" Gore: "A Winner"

"Also in Washington today, a lot of excitement on Capitol Hill. A movie star showed up to testify before Congress — a movie star named Al Gore."

— Katie Couric on the March 21 *CBS Evening News*.

"The last time Gore appeared on Capitol Hill was in his official role as Vice President, certifying his own loss in the disputed 2000 election. He came back today as a winner, his popular movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, grabbing an Oscar....Americans now believe global warming is a real problem, so not as many Republicans are mocking Gore as they once did."

— National political correspondent Gloria Borger on the March 21 *CBS Evening News*.

"Here's Hoping" Liberals Prevail

"A lot of his skeptics agree that Gore makes a powerful point. The scientific consensus is clear, and Gore urged Congress to listen to scientists, not special interests.... Here's hoping Congress puts partisanship aside, and comes together to act boldly on global warming."

— CBS anchor Katie Couric writing in her "Couric & Co." blog on CBSNews.com, March 21.

Barbara Boxer's Fan Club

Co-anchor Brianna Keilar: "That was quite an exchange. And, you know, we were expecting something from Senator James Inhofe. He is a critic of global warming....We thought maybe it might be with him and former Senator, former Vice President Al Gore, but it ended up between him and Senator Barbara Boxer. She really got a stinger in there, I will say."

Co-anchor Don Lemon: "Good for her."

— Exchange on CNN's *Newsroom*, March 21, after the liberal Boxer told former GOP Chairman Inhofe, "You don't do this anymore. Elections have consequences."

Media vs. Endless, Worthless War

"Four weary and blood-soaked years on, the so-called coalition of the willing has become the coalition of those who are stuck with it: American troops who can't go home yet and Iraqi forces who have to learn to take their place. The shock and awe invasion has become slow surge and even the White House admits there's no end in sight."

— Reporter Allen Pizzey, March 19 *CBS Evening News*.

Katie Sees "Right" to Health Care

"More than 46 million Americans have no health insurance. So when it comes to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and good health, all men are not created equal."

— Katie Couric introducing a story about a doctor who cares for poor patients, March 12 *CBS Evening News*.

Pity the Poor Loveless Dictator

"Well, he was not what I expected. He was very dignified. He was warm, friendly. He likes the U.S. It's George Bush that he doesn't like. He also was very personal. He talked about how hard his life was, that he wished he could be in love but you can't be when you are heading a country."

— ABC's Barbara Walters recounting her interview with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, March 16 *Nightline*.

See, We Told You Bush Is Evil

"Good morning, Ann. A different kind of protest will follow the President today. He plans to tour Mayan ruins here in Guatemala and we're told some local priests want to purify the site afterward with a kind of ritual they say will get rid of what they call 'bad spirits.'"

— NBC's Kelly O'Donnell on *Today*, March 12.

"President Bush visits with Guatemala's leader today and then will visit a sacred Mayan ruin, where some critics jab he is likely to leave behind, quote, 'evil spirits.' They say they are going to perform a spiritual cleansing there afterwards, just in case."

— ABC's Chris Cuomo, March 12 *Good Morning America*.

"The spiritual leaders of the Guatemala's indigenous Mayan population are also worried about the President's bad vibes. They will perform a special cleansing ceremony to clear away the bad energy they say he left during his visit."

— ABC's Jessica Yellin on *Nightline*, March 12.

America's Most Biased Network

"For all the howling on the right, it's difficult to argue that mainstream news organizations operate with anything approaching Fox's partisan and ideological agenda. (E-mails: commence now.) But there's no question many conservatives feel as wronged by elements of the mainstream media as Democrats do by Fox."

— Longtime *Los Angeles Times* political reporter Ron Brownstein in a March 16 column.

America's Army of Losers

"I think a draft produces a better Army than the one we would have with all volunteers, because I think you get average Americans if you have a draft. And if it's an all-volunteer Army, you get people who join up because of some problem in their own lives. They don't have anything else to do, they don't have a job, or they can't find what they want to do, so they join the Army. And it doesn't produce the best Army."

— CBS's Andy Rooney on *Imus in the Morning*, March 14.

Liberals Really Letting Jack Down

"Remember all the noise about how the Democrats were gonna raise the minimum wage?...Well, don't hold your breath....Before workers see any more take-home pay, a House-Senate conference committee has to reconcile the two versions of the bill. No indication that's going to happen anytime soon....They ought to make it retroactive to ten years ago. That's the last time anybody addressed these folks."

— CNN's Jack Cafferty on the March 19 *Situation Room*.

President Pinocchio?

"We have a President right now who lies constantly and gets away with it apparently."

— Actor Richard Gere during a March 14 appearance on CBS's *Late Show with David Letterman*.

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: Prefers Jokesters Over Journalists

"Comedians, such as yourself, Jon Stewart and others, are a valuable supplement, and here's why: Good journalism at its best frequently speaks truth to power. What's happened with journalists — again, I don't except myself from this criticism — in some ways we've lost our guts. We need a spine transplant. What's happened is comedians, in their own way, speak truth to power and fill that vacuum that we in journalism have too often left, particularly post 9/11."

— Dan Rather to Bill Maher on HBO's *Politically Incorrect*, March 16.

: Rosie Climbs the Grassy Knoll

"There were 15 British sailors and marines who apparently went into Iranian waters and they were seized by the Iranians. And I have one thing to say: Gulf of Tonkin. Google it!"

— Co-host Rosie O'Donnell, referring to the incident that conspiracy theorists say was a staged pretext for the U.S. to attack North Vietnam, on ABC's *The View*, March 26.

"It is the first time in history that fire has ever melted steel. I do believe that it defies physics for the World Trade Center Tower Seven, building seven, which collapsed in on itself — it is impossible for a building to fall the way it fell without explosives being involved...World Trade Center One and Two got hit by planes. Seven, miraculously, the first time in history, steel was melted by fire. It is physically impossible."

— O'Donnell discussing 9/11 on *The View*, March 29.

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The Media Research Center's 2007 DisHonors Awards

On March 29, 2007, the Media Research Center presented its annual "DisHonors Awards" for the most outrageously biased liberal reporting of 2006. 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; Neal Boortz, Herman Cain and Mary Matalin presented the awards. The winners were chosen by the panel of 13 distinguished media observers listed on page 4. 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 first annual "William F. Buckley Jr. Award for Media Excellence" to nationally syndicated radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh. Video of the entire event can be viewed at: www.mrc.org.

Puppy Love Award

✓ "For the first time in the 218-year history of the Congress, a woman was voted by her colleagues to be Speaker of the House. Nancy Pelosi, Democrat from California, took the gavel. But in a picture perhaps even more symbolic, the new Speaker was on the floor for a time, holding her 6-year-old [really 6-month-old] grandson, all the while giving directions on how events were to proceed. It seemed the ultimate in multitasking: Taking care of the children, and the country."

— ABC *World News* anchor Charles Gibson, Jan. 4, 2007.

Accepting for Charles Gibson...Ward Connerly

Runners-up:

■ "You can see it in the crowds. The thrill, the hope. How they surge toward him. You're looking at an American political phenomenon. In state after state, in the furious final days of this crucial campaign, Illinois Senator Barack Obama has been the Democrats' not-so-secret get-out-the-

vote weapon. He inspires the party faithful, and many others, like no one else on the scene today...And the question you can sense on everyone's mind, as they listen so intently to him, is he the one? Is Barack Obama the man, the black man, who could lead the Democrats back to the White House and maybe even unite the country?...Everywhere he goes, people want him to run for President, especially in Iowa, cradle of presidential contenders. Around here, they're even naming babies after him."

— Co-anchor Terry Moran on ABC's *Nightline*, Nov. 6.

■ "You know you are the equivalent of a rock star in politics....Many people, afterwards [after Obama's 2004 Democratic convention speech], they weren't sure how to pronounce your name, but they were moved by you. People were crying. You tapped into something. You touched people. What did you tap into that, that was missing?...If your party says to you, 'We need you,' and, and there's already a drumbeat out there, will you respond?"

— NBC's Meredith Vieira to Obama on *Today*, October 19.

God, I Hate America Award

✓ "It wasn't supposed to be this way. You weren't supposed to be graduating into an America fighting a misbegotten war in a foreign land. You weren't supposed to be graduating into a world where we are still fighting for fundamental human rights, whether it's the rights of immigrants to start a new life, or the rights of gays to marry, or the rights of women to choose. You weren't supposed to be graduating into a world where oil still drove policy and environmentalists have to fight relentlessly for every gain. You weren't. But you are. And for that, I'm sorry."

— From *New York Times* Publisher Arthur Sulzberger, Jr.'s May 21 graduation address at the State University of New York at New Paltz, shown on C-SPAN May 27.

Accepting for Arthur Sulzberger...Michael Steele

Runners-up:

■ "The polite phrase for how so many of us were duped into supporting a war on the false premise that it had something to do with 9/11 is 'lying by implication.' The impolite phrase is 'impeachable offense.' ...When those who dissent are told time and time again — as we will be, if not tonight by the President, then tomorrow by his portable public chorus — that he is preserving our freedom, but that if we use any of that freedom, we are somehow un-American; when we are scolded, that if we merely question, we have 'forgotten the lessons of 9/11;' look into this empty space behind me and the bipartisanship upon which this administration also did not build, and tell me this: Who has left this hole in the ground? We have not forgotten, Mr. President. You have. May this country forgive you."

— MSNBC's Keith Olbermann on September 11, ending his *Countdown* with a commentary delivered from the site of the World Trade Center.

■ "Americans are puzzled over why so many people in the world hate us....We're trying to protect ourselves with more weapons. We have to do it, I guess, but it might be better if we figured out how to behave as a nation in a way that wouldn't make so many people in the world want to kill us."

— CBS's Andy Rooney on *60 Minutes*, September 10.

Dan Rather Memorial Award for the Stupidest Analysis

✓ **Katie Couric:** "A passionate student of history, Condi Rice believes turmoil often precedes periods of peace and stability. And she rejects the notion that the U.S. is a bully, imposing its values on the world."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice: "What's wrong with assistance so that people can have their full and complete right to the very liberties and freedoms that we enjoy?"

Couric to Rice: "To quote my daughter, 'Who made us the boss of them?'"

— CBS's *60 Minutes*, September 24.

Accepting for Katie Couric...G. Gordon Liddy

Runners-up:

■ "Finally tonight, the Winter Games. Count me among those who don't like 'em and won't watch 'em. In fact, I figure when Thomas Paine said, 'These are the times that try men's souls,' he must have been talking about the start of another Winter Olympics. Because they're so trying, maybe over the next three weeks we should all try, too. Like, try not to be incredulous when someone attempts to link these games to those of the ancient Greeks, who never heard of skating or skiing. So try not to laugh when someone says these are the world's greatest athletes, despite a paucity of blacks that makes the Winter Games look like a GOP convention."

— Bryant Gumbel on HBO's *Real Sports*, February 7.

■ "A past President, bullied and sandbagged by a monkey posing as a newscaster, finally lashed back....The nation's marketplace of ideas is being poisoned by a propaganda company so blatant that Tokyo Rose would've quit....As with all the other nefariousness and slime of this, our worst presidency since James Buchanan, he [President Bush] is having it done for him, by proxy. Thus, the sandbag effort by Fox News Friday afternoon."

— MSNBC's Keith Olbermann on *Countdown*, September 25, referring to *Fox News Sunday* host Chris Wallace's interview with ex-President Bill Clinton.

Tin Foil Hat Award for Crazy Conspiracy Theories

✓ "The last time we got a tape from Osama bin Laden was right before the 2004 presidential election. Now here we are, four days away from hearings starting in Washington into the wiretapping of America's telephones without bothering to get a court order or a warrant, and up pops another tape from Osama bin Laden. Coincidence? Who knows."

— CNN's Jack Cafferty during the 4pm EST hour of *The Situation Room*, January 19.

Accepting for Jack Cafferty..."Osama bin Laden"

Runners-up:

■ **Anchor Katie Couric:** "Gas is the lowest it's been all year, a nationwide average of \$2.23 a gallon. It hasn't been that low since last Christmas. But is this an election-year present from President Bush to fellow Republicans? Here's Anthony Mason."

Reporter Anthony Mason: "For two months now, gas prices have been in free-fall, plunging 81 cents a gallon since August and giving the President some rare good news."

George W. Bush: "Gas prices are down."

Mason, over "GOP: Grand Oil Party" bumper sticker laying on a dashboard: "Gas started going down just as the fall campaign started heating up. Coincidence? Some drivers don't think so."

Man in a car: "And I think it's basically a ploy to sort of get the American people to think, well, the economy is going good, let's vote Republican."

— CBS *Evening News*, October 16.

■ “There is an extraordinary amount of academic work that you quote in the book [Dean’s book, *Conservatives Without Conscience*]. A lot of it is very unsettling, it deals with psychological principles that are frightening and that may have faced other nations at other times in — Germany and Italy in the ‘30s coming to mind in particular. How does it apply now? And to what degree should it scare us?...This whole edifice requires an enemy — communism, al-Qaeda, Democrats, me, whoever — for the Two-Minute Hate....Are you actually saying here they [conservative Republicans] would set up, encourage, terrorism from other countries to set them up as a bogeyman to have again that group to hate here, that group to more importantly be afraid of here?...You’ve been at one of the central moments of history in the 20th century. What kind of danger — are we facing a legitimate threat to the concept of democracy in this country?”

— **MSNBC’s Keith Olbermann to ex-Nixon White House lawyer John Dean, who claimed in his book that modern conservatives are moving the Republican Party toward “authoritarianism,” July 10 Countdown.**

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

✓ **Co-host Rosie O’Donnell:** “As a result of the [9/11] attack and the killing of nearly 3,000 innocent people, we invaded two countries and killed innocent people in their countries.”

Co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck: “But do you understand that, that the belief funding those attacks, okay, that is widespread. And if you take radical Islam and if you want to talk about what’s going on there, you have to—”

O’Donnell, interrupting: “Wait just one second. Radical Christianity is just as threatening as radical Islam in a country like America [loud applause].”

— **Exchange on ABC’s *The View*, September 12.**

Accepting for Rosie O’Donnell...Pat Sajak

Runners-up:

■ “The election is four days away, and I’m through dicking around with you. Here are the leads, here are your talking points: One, when they say ‘Democrats will raise taxes,’ you say, ‘We have to because someone spent all the money in the world cutting Paris Hilton’s taxes and not killing Osama bin Laden.’ [applause]....

“Two, when they say the ‘terrorists want the Democrats to win,’ you say, ‘Are you insane? George Bush has been a

terrorist’s wet dream.’ He inflames radical hatred against America and then runs on offering to protect us from it. It’s like a guy throwing shit on you and then selling you relief from the flies. [laughter and applause]

“Three, when they say ‘cut and run’ or ‘defeatocrat,’ you say, ‘Bush lost the war, period.’ [applause] All this nonsense about the violence is getting worse over there because they’re trying to influence the election, no, it’s getting worse because you drew up the post-war plans on the back of a cocktail napkin at Applebee’s. [applause] And of course Democrats want to win, but that’s impossible now that you’ve ethnically-cleansed the place by making it unlivable — just like you did with New Orleans. [applause]....

“There’s your talking points. Vote Republican and you vote to enable George Bush to keep ruling as an emperor — a retarded child emperor [laughter], but an emperor.”

— **Bill Maher on his HBO program *Real Time with Bill Maher* November 3, offering his suggested “talking points” for Democratic candidates.**

■ “I think President George W. Bush, I think Cheney, I think Rumsfeld, I think all of these people have lost any moral integrity. I find what we are doing is hugely immoral....Al-Qaeda tortures. We torture. Al-Qaeda’s killed innocent people. We kill innocent people....We have no business doing what we do.”

— **Singer/activist Harry Belafonte on CNN’s *The Situation Room*, January 23.**

The Judges:

Tony Blankley, Editorial Page Editor, *The Washington Times*
Neal Boortz, Atlanta-based national radio talk show host
Ann Coulter, syndicated columnist and author of *Godless: The Church of Liberalism*
Steve Forbes, President and CEO of Forbes, Inc.
John Fund, columnist for OpinionJournal.com
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, nationally syndicated columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*; Fox News contributor
Kate O’Beirne, Washington Editor of *National Review*
Cal Thomas, syndicated columnist; Fox News contributor
Walter E. Williams, professor of economics, George Mason University
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.

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