

The Watchdog

THE MRC'S MONTHLY MEMBERS' REPORT



CREATING A MEDIA CULTURE IN AMERICA WHERE TRUTH AND LIBERTY FLOURISH

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www.MRC.org

Liberal Media Still Cheering for Obamacare, Still Attacking Conservatives as Racists and Nazis

Despite the endless cheerleading by the liberal media over the passage of Obamacare, the fact is that the plan continues to be highly unpopular with the public. This is why President Obama is still traveling around trying to convince Americans that his snake oil is really good – and why the liberal media are helping him.

It also reveals what the Democrats, in an election year, know well: the health care law is a political albatross rapped around their necks wobbling towards November. To help them weather the political fallout, and keep Obama on a pedestal, the liberal media are promoting this socialist takeover as some sort of a moderate adjustment to the system. At the same time, the liberals are demonizing all critics of Obamacare as racists. Or Nazis. Or just plain stupid.

At the MRC we've documented and exposed that bias through our seven divisions, with numerous examples of the slanted coverage going back to when the issue erupted in early 2009. After the plan passed (by only 7 votes) in March 2010, we published two documents detailing how the media 1) promoted Obamacare and 2) savaged its critics.

You can read the material and watch the news clips on our main Web site, www.MRC.org. But let me give you some

examples of how insidious the leftist media are in barnstorming this issue.

Back in 2009, polls showed that an overwhelming majority of Americans (84%) were happy with their health care. There was no "health care crisis." It was manufactured. The liberal media drumbeat was that 46 million Americans

were uninsured and were somewhere, somehow, needlessly suffering.

ABC, for example, marketed the crisis by hiring Dr. Timothy Johnson to be its medical editor. Johnson, as we documented, backs government-run health care. In March 2009, previewing Obama's first meeting on the issue, Johnson reported that America, unlike Europe, "doesn't

have universal coverage" and "that's a national shame."

In June, ABC hosted a "town hall meeting" at the White House where it ran graphics on Obama's "Prescription for America," and reporter David Wright openly cheered the president's plan "because something needs to be done. ... The need is obvious."

TIME's Mark Halperin also got in the act, telling CNN's *Lou Dobbs Tonight* in August that America is "the only industrialized democracy that doesn't cover every citizen. That is immoral."

Brian Williams at NBC carried water as well, telling viewers the day after



On CNN, *TIME's* Mark Halperin lectured that America is "the only industrialized democracy that doesn't cover every citizen. That is immoral."

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The liberal PROPAGANDA machine in action

“...a crazed group” engaged in “organized intimidation.”

Republicans were “stoking the anger with violent rhetoric and imagery.”

“I think some of the people are upset because we have a black president.”

“...the rising anger is now ramping up concerns over the president’s personal safety.”

“The Republicans lie! They want to see you dead! They’d rather make money off your dead corpse!”

Claimed the critics were getting “nastier,” hurling “racial epithets” and “sexual slurs.”

Republicans were inciting the violence, which could be “criminal.”

Tea party people are “goons,” and a “mob” so ignorant “it doesn’t recognize its own small-scale mimicry of Kristallnacht.”

Sen. Ted Kennedy’s (D-Mass.) death that an e-mail was circulating saying, “In lieu of flowers, pass health care reform.”

While Obamacare continued to flounder in the polls and Democrats lacked the votes to pass it (although they hold strong majorities in the House and Senate), ABC’s *This Week’s* Cokie Roberts, among others, came to its aid in December. She charged that Americans just didn’t know enough yet.

“A lot of people are going to like it a whole lot once they see what’s in it,” she chirped. “It’s just a question of understanding it.”

Well, the fact was (and is) that a lot of Americans understand exactly what’s in the health care behemoth and they don’t like it. That’s why Obama is still campaigning for it and why the liberal media are trashing anyone who opposes the plan.

As we’ve documented, the character assassination of Obamacare-critics started last spring when the liberal media attacked the tea party movement.

In the summer of 2009 as tea party activists attended town hall meetings to challenge their congressmen on the health care plan, ex-CNN reporter Bob Franken, writing for AOL’s “Politics Diary,” described these folks as “a crazed group” engaged in “organized intimidation.”

MSNBC’s Chris Matthews, pulling a card from Jesse Jackson’s deck, blamed it all on racism: “I think some of the people are upset because we have a black president.” ABC’s Bill Weir warned that “the rising anger is now ramping up concerns over the president’s personal safety.”

Matthews’ colleague Keith Olbermann did what he does best: He equated opponents of Obamacare with Hamas and Hezbollah. And MSNBC propagandist Ed Schultz ranted in September, “The Republicans lie! They want to see you dead! They’d rather make money off your dead corpse!”

Now that Obamacare is the law but still unpopular, the liberal media attacks continue. On Mar. 28, 2010, for example, the *New York Times* equated opponents of the bill with The Weathermen, a left-wing domestic terrorist group from the 1960s/70s.

CBS’ Bob Schieffer reported that the critics were getting “nastier,” hurling “racial epithets” and “sexual slurs.” CBS’s *Early Show* repeated the Democrats’ talking points that Republicans were “stoking the anger with violent rhetoric and imagery.”

Frank Rich, apparently sober, described tea party people as “goons,” and a “mob” so ignorant “it doesn’t recognize its own small-scale mimicry of Kristallnacht.” (Yes, he actually wrote Kristallnacht.)

MSNBC’s Matthews continued to push the racism angle and even suggested in March that Republicans were inciting the violence, which could be “criminal.”

The smearing of Obamacare critics will not end. The legislation was pushed by left-wing ideologues who ignored the American people, and who received constant help from the liberal media.

There is more to come. Liberals cannot win in the battle of ideas — freedom trumps tyranny every time. So they must demonize their critics with smears and lies, which is why they go after Limbaugh, Hannity, Levin, Palin and even the MRC.

We are documenting and exposing the liberal media’s desperate and destructive campaign. Your support keeps us in the battle, and we are tremendously thankful for that support. Let’s take the fight to them. Let’s roll!

Sincerely,



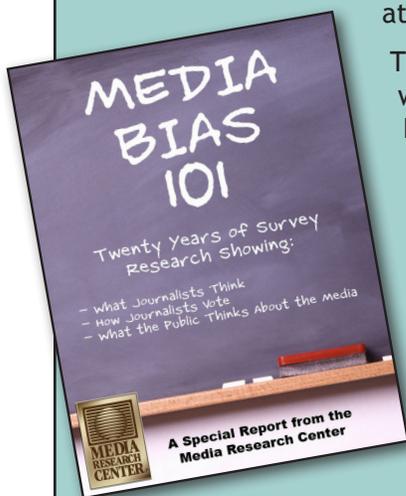
L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President

Take action and send the liberal media a message!
Get your **FREE** bumper sticker. See page 8 for details.

New MRC Report on Liberal Media Bias

REPORT • REPORT

Liberal media bias is rampant and has only become coarser over the last 20 years. At the same time, the public's knowledge of that bias has deepened and further eroded the credibility of the dominant media: the networks ABC, CBS, and NBC, and the major papers such as *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*. A new report by the Media Research Center condenses the findings of more than 40 journalism surveys from the last two decades, revealing beyond dispute most journalists' liberal opinions and the public's attitudes about bias.



The report, *Media Bias 101*, written by MRC Research Director Rich Noyes, also contains page after page of quotes from reporters about liberal bias, with most of them denying the problem but some admitting it. Among the report's hard-hitting findings are the following:

- In 2008, 96% of staffers at the online Slate magazine said they were supporting Barack Obama for president.

What the Public Says About Bias

- In every presidential election since 1992, most Americans saw the media as backing the Democrats. In 2008, 70% of Americans said journalists wanted Barack Obama to win, vs. nine percent who felt the media favored John McCain.
- Every year from 2001 through 2009, Gallup found roughly three times more Americans said the media are too liberal vs. those who claimed a pro-conservative bias.
- 55% believe media bias is more of a problem than big campaign contributions.
- Just 29% of Americans think news organizations get their facts straight, and only 18% say the media are fair.

Longtime *Washington Post* reporter Thomas Edsall tells it like it is in an Oct. 8, 2009 essay for the *Columbia Journalism Review*:

"The mainstream press is liberal. ... Since the civil rights and women's movements, the culture wars and Watergate, the press corps at such institutions as the Washington Post, ABC-NBC-CBS News, the NYT, the Wall Street Journal, Time, Newsweek, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, etc. is composed in large part of 'new' or 'creative' class members of the liberal elite – well-educated men and women who tend to favor abortion rights, women's rights, civil rights, and gay rights. In the main, they find such figures as Bill O'Reilly, Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity, Pat Robertson, or Jerry Falwell beneath contempt ... If reporters were the only ones allowed to vote, Walter Mondale, Michael Dukakis, Al Gore, and John Kerry would have won the White House by landslide margins."

What Journalists Think

- The American Society of Newspaper Editors found self-identified liberals outnumbered conservatives in newsrooms by a four-to-one margin, 61% vs. 15%.
- Most newspaper editors (71%) admit journalists' opinions "sometimes" or "often" influence coverage, vs. just one percent who say that "never" happens.
- Nearly all of the media elite (97%) agree "it is a woman's right to decide whether or not to have an abortion," with five out of six (84%) strongly agreeing with this statement.

How Journalists Vote

- An informal survey of Washington-based journalists in the summer of 2004 found them backing John Kerry over George W. Bush by a 12-to-1 margin.

MORE ONLINE

To read the new MRC study, *Media Bias 101*, visit www.MRC.org and click on *Media Reality Check*.

Bits & Pieces

Tea Party Racists

The *Washington Post's* Pulitzer-winning columnist Colbert King let his left-wing rhetoric fly in a Mar. 27 column, railing that “today’s Tea Party adherents are George Wallace legacies,” and that “without folks like them, there would be no Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity or Pat Buchanan.” In other words, conservatives are racists. King further warned that “the angry faces at Tea Party rallies are eerily familiar.

“... Those were the faces I saw at a David Duke rally in Metairie, La., in 1991: sullen with resentment, wallowing in victimhood, then exploding with yells of excitement as the ex-Klansman and Republican gubernatorial candidate spewed vitriolic white-power rhetoric. ... The mobs of yesteryear were on the wrong side of history. Tea Party supporters and their right-wing fellow travelers are on the wrong side now. It shows up in their faces.” King, no surprise, didn’t mention that Wallace was a Democrat.

Obama Mandela

The liberal media glorify President Barack Obama to no end and the latest example comes from *TIME* Managing Editor Richard Stengel, who is peddling his new book, *Mandela’s Way*. NBC’s *Meet the Press* gave Stengel lots of time on Apr. 4 to flak his tome, which in its Introduction reads: “While it took twenty-seven years in prison to mold the Nelson Mandela we know, the forty-eight-year-old American President seems to have achieved a Mandela-like temperament without the long years of sacrifice.

“Obama’s self-discipline, his willingness to listen and to share credit, his inclusion of his rivals in his administration, and his belief that people want things explained, all seem like a twenty-first century version of Mandela’s values and persona.” While Stengel did not mention that Mandela was a long-time Marxist and supporter of the communist ANC, he did remark, “Whatever Mandela may or may not think of the new American President, Obama is in many ways his true successor on the world stage.”



Frum Spin

It’s no surprise that ABC’s *Nightline* turned to the liberals’ favorite “conservative” David Frum on Mar. 23 to explain how the Democrats, with a 78-seat majority in the House, were able to pass Obamacare by only 7 votes: It was Rush Limbaugh’s fault. ABC’s Terry Moran cribbed from Frum’s blog that anger on the airwaves set the GOP strategy and that killed any chance of a deal on socialized medicine.



Moran asked if Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh had “hijacked the Republican Party and drove it to defeat?” and Frum dutifully answered that rough rhetoric on talk radio and on Fox News “undermines a strong Republican Party.” That week, Frum had also blogged that Obamacare was a “huge win for the conservative entertainment industry” because it taps into the disappointed listeners of talk radio who will then buy more products advertised on talk radio. Frum, of course, has no radio show with millions of listeners daily — but ABC likes him.



Norman Leboon

What Death Threat?

While ABC, CBS, and NBC ran endless propaganda stories about threats against Democrats following the passage of Obamacare, CBS and NBC ignored and ABC only briefly mentioned on Mar. 30 the arrest of Norman Leboon, who was plotting to kill Republican House Whip Eric Cantor (Va.). And even in its 8AM news brief on Leboon, ABC’s *Good Morning America* did not mention what they knew, namely that he was a financial contributor to the Obama campaign in 2008.

For comparison, CBS’s *Early Show* on Mar. 25 had fretted that the GOP was using “violent rhetoric and imagery,” and the *Good Morning America* show itself reported that “the fear is that all this angry talk could push a deranged person over the edge.” While CBS ignored Leboon’s plan to kill Cantor on Mar. 30, it did report — that day — that “a white supremacist has pleaded guilty to plotting a 2008 killing spree against blacks, including then presidential candidate Barack Obama.”

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Joe Wilkens ~ December 2009

Hateful Words?

While HBO's Bill Maher likes to paint himself as a live-and-let-live libertarian, his true left-wing colors came shining through after Obamacare passed.

On Mar. 26, Maher urged Democrats to treat Republicans like the character sodomized in *Deliverance* or like one of Tiger Woods' mistresses. As Maher railed, when Republicans lose, “they squeal like a pig,” and now Democrats should say to them, “Shut the f*** up while I slap your face for making noise!

“Now pass the cap-and-trade law, you stupid b****, and repeat after me, ‘global warming is real!’ The Democrats need to push the rest of their agenda while their boot is on the neck of the greedy, poisonous old reptile. ... We need to regulate the banks, we need to overhaul immigration ... and we need to put terrorists and other human rights violators on trial in civilian courts – starting with Dick Cheney!”

McVeigh Tea Party

In its campaign of smears against conservatives in the tea party movement, MSNBC dispatched lefty Rachel Maddow to host an Apr. 19 retrospective on domestic terrorist Timothy McVeigh linking his words with – you guessed it – “today's anti-government extremists.” It's no coincidence that this show was broadcast on the 15th anniversary of McVeigh's terrorist attack, but it also occurred four days after Tax Day, which is associated with the birth of the tea party movement.

In its ad previewing the show – “The McVeigh Tapes: Confessions of an American Terrorist” – MSNBC intoned, “From decorated soldier to domestic terrorist. 15 years later, can McVeigh's words help us understand today's anti-government extremists?” When McVeigh was arrested in 1995, the liberal media quickly linked his views with conservative talk radio. Typical was *TIME*, lecturing on May 8, “the inflamed rhetoric of the '90s is suddenly an unindicted co-conspirator in the blast.”



“From decorated soldier to domestic terrorist. 15 years later, can McVeigh's words help us understand today's anti-government extremists?”

L. Brent Bozell III • March 30, 2010 • Nationally Syndicated Column

Liberals In Vitriol Denial

When the Republicans shocked the liberal media elite by winning back Congress in 1994, they had been demonized for months. But it took the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995 for Bill Clinton and all of his “objective” media devotees to really pull the violence card and smear that mass murder all over Newt Gingrich and conservative Republicans, blaming it on their “anti-government” rhetoric.

In 2010, our partisan liberal media aren’t waiting for the elections to arrive. An arrest of “Christian militia” activists in southern Michigan led *Washington Post* columnist (and former reporter) Eugene Robinson to proclaim implausibly on March 30: “The danger of political violence in this country comes overwhelmingly from one direction – the right, not the left. The vitriolic, anti-government hate speech that is spewed on talk radio every day – and, quite regularly, at Tea Party rallies – is calibrated not to inform but to incite.”

Robinson wrote this in the very same edition of the newspaper where on page A-8 – not on page A-1, but A-8 – the *Post* reported a Philadelphia man was charged with threatening to kill House Minority Leader Eric Cantor and his family. Norman Leboon posted a YouTube video in which he said Cantor was “pure evil” and “you and your children are Lucifer’s abominations.”

In an online chat later in the day, Robinson dismissed the threat: “A crazy, anti-Semitic wacko can do terrible things. That said, I don’t think that’s the same thing as heavily armed militia groups training for war against the state.”

A few days before on NBC’s *Meet the Press*, *Newsweek* editor Jon Meacham denied reality by claiming there is no gap in political passion: “I would say it’s a pretty close call.” Liberals, after all, succeeded in ramrodding the bill through to passage, and conservatives only stood out because their passion was “raw, and tragically unfortunate. When John Lewis can’t walk across Capitol Hill without being spit on and called the worst thing he can be called, a man who helped change America, then we’re out of whack.”

That was a pretty shoddy charge for such a prestigious journalist to make. First, John Lewis was not the man who claimed he was spit upon. That was Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, and he later told *Washington Post* columnist Courtland Milloy that he felt a man angrily yelling at him didn’t so much spit as “allowed saliva to hit my face.” In other words – and video confirms it – this conscious spitting never happened.

Milloy should be better known as the ranter that doubly ruined Robinson’s claim that today’s leftists never incite. Here’s how Milloy responded to the tea party protests on Capitol Hill: “I want to spit on them, take one of their ‘Obama Plan White Slavery’ signs and knock every racist and homophobic tooth out of their Cro-Magnon heads.”

Robinson somehow missed that article in his own newspaper, too.

This absolute tunnel vision about which side is ferocious was almost comical on NBC. John McCain came on NBC’s *Today* on March 25 and was assaulted by Ann Curry about the “incendiary” language of his old running mate, Sarah Palin. But when Barack Obama showed up five days later, Matt Lauer “balanced” it – by talking about the ferocity of the Republicans. “The vitriol, the rhetoric, the sniping, the threats. How are you possibly going to continue with any kind of legislative agenda when your opponents have said to you, ‘I’m not gonna cooperate with this president, with these Democrats, unless it’s a matter of national security.’ How do you move on?”

This allowed Obama to joke that “no asteroid had hit the planet” since he signed his health care bill. But Lauer never raised the Cantor death threats with Obama, and they didn’t appear anywhere else on *Today*.

This anti-“vitriol” stance is most comical for this network because MSNBC churns out vitriol and ferocity against conservatives and Republicans on a daily and nightly basis. Do Curry and Lauer never watch it?

All these people – from Robinson and Meacham to Curry and Lauer – are knowledgeable people who cannot deny that the left is deeply stocked with rabid bloggers, talk-radio hosts and cable-TV shouters. Their ability to pretend that these voices do not exist is quite an acting job.

How one-sided is their reporting? Imagine the media reaction if Rep. Steny Hoyer, the second most powerful Democrat in the House, were targeted for death by a tea partier. Eric Cantor is the No. 2 House Republican. When the arrest of his would-be killer was made, how much coverage did it receive? A brief mention on NBC on the evening of March 29, a brief mention on ABC on the morning of March 30, and CBS never touched it.



MRC in the News

The experts at the Media Research Center are interviewed almost every day on stories of national importance, often reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, in magazines, books and in newspapers, always striving to help restore political balance to the major media. Some of the MRC's latest media appearances include the following:

Television

- ABC:** ABC News Channel 8, Mar. 11
NewsWatch, Jan. 29
The 700 Club, Jan. 29
- CNN:** The Situation Room, Mar. 31
- FNC:** America's Newsroom, Jan. 26
Fox & Friends, Mar. 19
Glenn Beck Show, Apr. 12
Hannity, Mar. 18

Radio

- Sean Hannity Show, Apr. 12
- Rush Limbaugh Show, Apr. 5
- Mark Levin Show, Apr. 12
- Lou Dobbs Show, Mar. 30
- Lars Larson Show, Mar. 11, 18, 25
- American Family Radio, Mar. 23, 26
- G. Gordon Liddy Show, Mar. 25
- NRA News, Mar. 17, 24
- Thom Hartmann Show, Mar. 16, 23
- Cable Radio Network, Mar. 23
- Jody Hice Show, Mar. 22
- Rosie O'Donnell Show, Mar. 18
- USA Radio Network, Mar. 26
- WMAL, Washington, DC, Mar. 30
- WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Mar. 17, 24
- WMUZ, Detroit, MI, Mar. 19
- WIBA, Madison, WI, Mar. 17, 24
- KKTX, Corpus Christi, TX, Mar. 15, 22, 24
- WBAL, Baltimore, MD, Mar. 11, 24, 26
- WTKF, Greenville, SC, Mar. 19, 26
- WTAN, Clearwater, FL, Mar. 15, 22, 24
- WDRG, Hartford, CT, Mar. 26
- KPDQ, Portland, OR, Mar. 26
- WENY, Corning, NY, Mar. 17

- PARTIAL LISTING

On Fox's *Hannity* program, Mar. 18, host Sean Hannity cited MRC research about how the liberal media were spinning the facts to promote passage of the health care bill.



Print

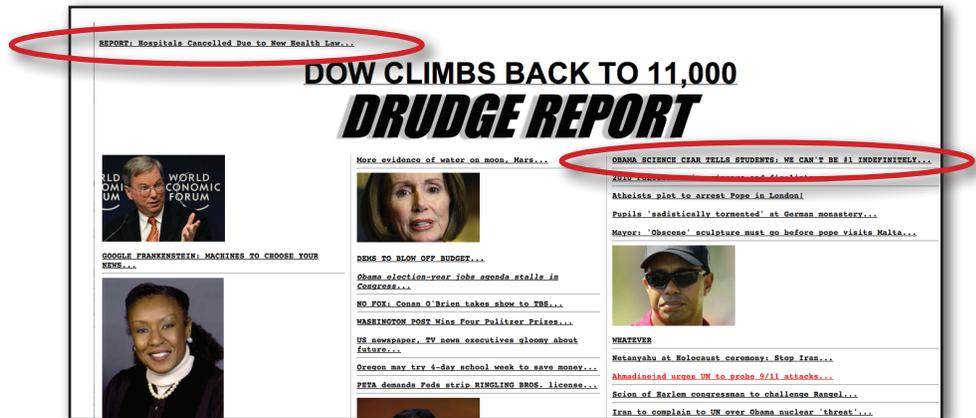
- Washington Times, Mar. 17, 25
- Washington Post, Mar. 7, 17, 26
- National Post, Mar. 20
- Citizen Magazine, Mar. 26
- TV Guide, Mar. 26
- The Advocate, Mar. 21
- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Mar. 15
- Human Events, Mar. 18
- Wall Street Journal, Mar. 16
- Drudge Report, Mar. 29, Apr. 2
- The Politico, Mar. 8

- PARTIAL LISTING

Internet

- Drudge Report, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 6, 8
- National Journal, Hotline, Mar. 23
- Salon.com, Mar. 23
- LifeNews.com, Mar. 23
- MediaBistro, Mar. 24
- PhillyBurbs.com, Mar. 25
- Daily Mail blog, Mar. 21
- BigGovernment.com, Mar. 15
- OneNewsNow.com, Mar. 18
- Daily Caller, Mar. 15
- BigJournalism.com, Mar. 7
- Mediaite.com, Mar. 8
- FoxNews.com, Mar. 8, 10, 12
- WorldNetDaily, Mar. 9, 11
- Philadelphia Bulletin, Mar. 12
- Propeller.com, Mar. 23
- National Review Corner, Mar. 26
- Daily Radar, Mar. 26
- NPR.org, Apr. 1
- Townhall.com, Mar. 31, Apr. 2
- Humanevents.com, Mar. 31
- Yahoo.com, Mar. 26
- New York Times blog, Mar. 25
- Wizbang blog, Apr. 1

- PARTIAL LISTING



Two of CNSNews.com's stories were featured on Apr. 12 on *Drudge Report*, "Hospitals Cancelled Due to New Health Law..." and "Obama Science Czar Tells Students: We Can't Be #1 Indefinitely." *Drudge Report* is the most popular news aggregator site, reaching 14 million people a day.



On Fox & Friends, MRC President Brent Bozell discussed how the liberal media propogandized for the new health care law.



On CNN's *Situation Room*, CNSNews.com Editor Terry Jeffrey analyzed how much of the media are mis-reporting the federal deficit and national debt.

Minibits



HBO's Bill Maher:

“You know what, Sarah, if we were killing off useless people, you'd be the first to know.”

■ NPR's **Juan Williams** smears tea party folks for waving the “Don't Tread on Me” flag, “the same imagery that was on (terrorist) Timothy McVeigh.” ■ HBO's **Bill Maher** rails, “Democrats in America were put on earth to do one thing: Drag the ignorant hillbilly half of this country into the next century, which in their case is the 19th.” ■ CBS's **Maggie Rodriguez** cheers, “the Democrats have rescued health care reform, once on death's door, after putting the final touches, finally, on the sweeping legislation yesterday.” ■ After the health care vote, NBC's **Ann Curry** lectures John McCain that “these are very dangerous times” and “do you now recommend that your party use less incendiary language?” ■ MSNBC's **David Shuster** rants over the “controversial venom” of Rush Limbaugh whose language “creates this picture of fascism and Nazism on the march.” ■ CBS's **Allen Pizzey** intones that sex-abuse charges against Catholic priests are “a scandal that's threatening to become a plague of biblical proportions.” ■ MSNBC's **Chris Matthews** bemoans that the GOP is now “a party of this narrow, little, nasty, don't-do-anything party.” ... And Matthews slams criticism of Obama by GOP's John Boehner: “the hard-ass Republican guy who won't give an inch on anything, who has to pee on this guy's parade no matter what he says.” ■ **Kirstie Ally** surprises ABC's George Stephanopoulos in opposing Obamacare, explaining, “We don't have one trillion dollars! We can pretend like we do. But, we're in this huge debt and we don't have a trillion dollars.” ■ HBO's **Bill Maher** mocks Sarah Palin's remarks about death panels in the health care bill, “You know what, Sarah, if we were killing off useless people, you'd be the first to know.”

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