

26TH ANNUAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR'S WORST REPORTING

THE BEST

# NOTABLE QUOTABLES

2013



DECEMBER 23, 2013 | VOL. 26 NO. 25

A BI-WEEKLY COMPILATION OF THE LATEST  
OUTRAGEOUS, SOMETIMES HUMOROUS,  
QUOTES IN THE LIBERAL MEDIA.



Welcome to the Media Research Center's annual awards issue, a compilation of the most outrageous and/or humorous news media quotes from 2013 (December 2012 through November 2013).

To determine this year's winners, a panel of 42 radio talk show hosts, magazine editors, columnists, editorial writers, and expert media observers each selected their choices for the first, second and third best quote from a slate of five to seven quotes in each category. First place selections were awarded three points, second place choices two points, with one point for the third place selections. Point totals are listed alongside each quote. Each judge was also asked to choose a "Quote of the Year" denoting the most outrageous quote of 2013.

The MRC's Cassandre Durocher distributed the ballots and tabulated the results. Senior news analyst Scott Whitlock helped produce the numerous audio and video clips included in the Web-posted version. Rich Noyes and Brent Baker assembled this issue and Brad Ash posted the entire package to the MRC's Web site: [www.MRC.org](http://www.MRC.org).

## Notable Quotables

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### **Notable Quotables**

**Publisher:** L. Brent Bozell III

**Editors:** Brent H. Baker, Rich Noyes, Tim Graham

**Deputy Research Director:** Geoffrey Dickens

**News Analysts:** Scott Whitlock, Brad Wilmoth, Matthew Balan,  
Kyle Drennen and Matt Hadro

**Research Associate:** Cassandre Durocher

**Interns:** Paul Bremmer, Jeffrey Meyer

**Media Contact:** Jeremy Little (703) 683-5004

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1900 Campus Commons Drive, Suite 600, Reston, Virginia, 20191

Telephone: (571) 267-3500 - Toll Free: (800) 672-1626

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# The Ku Klux Con Job Award

for Smearing Conservatives with Phony Racism Charges

## WINNER



“What does your study tell you about the nature of the racial piece here of the Tea Party?...Is it sort of a resumption of the Old South, of the way things were before the Civil War, for example? Is it like that old dreamy nostalgia you get in the old movies, *Gone With the Wind*? Is it that kind of America they want to bring back or what? When there were no gays, where blacks were slaves, Mexicans were in Mexico? I mean, is this what they want?”

— Chris Matthews to author Christopher Parker on MSNBC's *Hardball*, March 20. [74 points]

## RUNNERS-UP

“The problem is there are people in this country — maybe 10%, I don't know what the number, maybe 20% on a bad day — who want this President to have an asterisk next to his name in the history books, that he really wasn't President....They can't stand the idea that he is President, and a piece of it is racism. Not that somebody in one racial group doesn't like somebody in another racial group. So what? It is the sense that the white race must rule. That's what racism is. And they can't stand the idea that a man who is not white is President.”

— Chris Matthews appearing as a guest on MSNBC's *PoliticsNation*, May 15. [68]

“You know, having grown up in the Deep South in the era of Jim Crow, the difference is dramatic. And the fact that Andy Young was Mayor of Atlanta and John Lewis is a member of Congress from Georgia, is a great testament to the fact that when you do something like pass a voting rights bill, that it makes a difference. Which is why, at the moment, what's going on about voting rights is downright evil, because it is something that really needs to keep going forward, not backward.”

— ABC's Cokie Roberts on *This Week*, August 25. [45]



# Let Us Fluff Your Pillow Award

for Obsequious Obama Interviews

## WINNER



“Mr. President, Mrs. Obama. There is a photograph of you [hugging] that went viral, became the most shared photograph in the history of Twitter. How do you keep the fire going?”  
— *Barbara Walters to the Obamas in an interview excerpt shown on ABC’s World News and Nightline, December 26, 2012. [76 points]*

## RUNNERS-UP

“What is more daunting to you: The prospects of protecting the free world, or dealing with a teenager and a near teen? What gives you more pause for concern?”

— *CNN New Day host Chris Cuomo to Obama, August 23. [45]*

“I interviewed Taylor Branch, the civil rights historian, for part of our series on the March on Washington yesterday, and one of the things he said was that you are a victim of partisan racial gridlock. That’s the way he put it. And you talked a moment ago about that a little bit. I wonder whether you think that’s true and, if so, what, if anything, the first African-American President can do to break through that kind of motivated gridlock?”

— *PBS’s Gwen Ifill to President Obama in an interview shown on NewsHour, August 28. [42]*



**The Huffington Post’s Sam Stein:** “With Speaker Boehner so far unwilling to hold a vote on a clean CR, what assurances can you give to those affected by a shutdown who are concerned about an even longer impasse? And how worried are you personally that your preferred solution to this — a clear CR at sequestration levels — may do harm to the nation’s economy and your second term agenda?”

**President Obama:** “Well, I mean, Sam, you’re making an important point....”

— *Exchange at the President’s October 8 press conference. [22]*

# The Move Along, Nothing to See Here Award

for Denying Obama's Scandals

## WINNER



**Washington Post columnist Ruth Marcus:** “This has been really — and I know people are going to call about Benghazi and other things, but this has been really a very — and the IRS — this has been a really relatively scandal-free administration, first term and second term.”...

**CNN's David Gergen:** “I particularly agree that — with Ruth that this has been a scandal-free administration by and large, and we should appreciate that.”

— *During a discussion on NPR's The Diane Rehm Show, November 4. [55 points]*

## RUNNERS-UP

“The IRS is being used in exactly the same way as they tried to use the President's birth certificate...Despite the complete lack of any evidence linking the President to the targeting of Tea Party groups, Republicans are using it as their latest weapon in the war against the black man in the White House....This afternoon, we welcome the latest phrase in the lexicon of Republican attacks on this President — the IRS. Three letters that sound so innocent, but we know what you mean.”

— *MSNBC host Martin Bashir, June 5. [52]*

“I do not believe what the IRS was reported to have been doing is an outrage. I believe that the IRS agents in this case did nothing wrong. Let me say it again. You won't hear it anywhere else. The IRS agents did nothing wrong. They were simply trying to enforce the law as the IRS has understood it since 1959.”

— *Host Lawrence O'Donnell on MSNBC's The Last Word, May 15. [42]*



# MSNBC = Mean-Spirited, Nasty, Belligerent Chris Award

## WINNER



"They are political terrorists, and like all terrorists, including those who use bombs, their number one goal — their only goal — is to blow things up. [Senators Ted] Cruz, [Rand] Paul and Mike Lee are on a mission to destroy, shut down the American government, destroy ObamaCare, drive the country into default, destroy the U.S. credit rating. Terrorists with one purpose: To bring down, not just this administration but, let's face it, the American government."

— Host Chris Matthews on MSNBC's Hardball, July 31. [89 points]

## RUNNERS-UP

"I want to say a word about this Ted Cruz guy. Not since Joe McCarthy have we seen a senator with such sinister self-assuredness. The Senator from Texas knows who and what he hates. He hates everything about President Obama. His goal is to exterminate the entire Obama record, reject everyone Obama nominates for office....Cruz wants to kill the Affordable Care Act, which was legitimately enacted into law. He wants to bring the American government to a halt, renege on the national debt in order to get it removed. This is how he wants to be known. This is a brand he wants to establish for himself, even if it tears the government apart."

— Chris Matthews on MSNBC's Hardball, September 23. [33]



"Why do we have so many know-nothings in the Congress who deny not just mankind's history, or the obvious evidence of climate change, but the fiscal arithmetic that stares us in the face? What makes them characters in some ghastly, real-life remake of the *Planet of the Apes*, where the bad guys fear nothing more than science and other evidence of human progress?... What do you call this, this dangerous zig-zagging toward the abyss, with a nervous John Boehner being driven first to the cliff, while the zealots of the right wing scream louder and louder that victory lies in catastrophe — Kool-Aid for everyone, and defeatists will be shot!"

— Chris Matthews opening MSNBC's Hardball, October 7. [32]

# The Gunning for the Second Amendment Award

## WINNER



### **Gun Owners of America executive director Larry Pratt:**

"I honestly don't understand why you would rather have people be victims of a crime than be able to defend themselves. It's incomprehensible."

**CNN host Piers Morgan:** "You're an unbelievably stupid man, aren't you?...You have absolutely no coherent argument whatsoever... You don't give a damn, do you, about the gun murder rate in America?...I know why sales of these weapons have been soaring in the last few days. It's down to idiots like you. Mr. Pratt.... You are a dangerous man espousing dangerous nonsense. And you shame your country."

— From the imported British host's anti-gun tirade on CNN's Piers Morgan Tonight, December 18, 2012. [90 points]

## RUNNERS-UP

"It reminds me a lot of what happened in the South in the 1960s during the civil rights movement. Good people stayed in their houses and didn't speak up when there was carnage in the streets and the total violation of the fundamental rights of African-Americans as they marched in Selma, and they let Bull Connor and the redneck elements of the South and the Klan take over their culture in effect and become the face of it. And now a lot of people who I know who grew up during that time have deep regrets about not speaking out."

— Ex-NBC Nightly News anchor Tom Brokaw on MSNBC's Morning Joe, January 17, urging more restrictions on gun rights. [42]



"As the gun lobby has armed its barricades since that horrific shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, one of the arguments that they continue to use against any kind of regulation is to unashamedly invoke the name of Adolf Hitler. Supporters of the NRA say that history proves tyrannical leaders begin by robbing law-abiding citizens of their firearms....Of course, for a nation hell bent on genocide, Hitler did not allow the Jews to possess firearms, but virtually everyone else was free to do so. Which I guess turns this story on its head. Because if anyone deserves to be equated with Hitler on the issue of firearms, then it's not the President, it's the NRA."

— Host Martin Bashir on MSNBC's Martin Bashir January 14. [36]

# The Obamagasm Award

## WINNER



“The Second Coming. America Expects. Can He Deliver?”  
— *Headline for Newsweek’s “Inauguration 2013” cover, January 18. [51 points]*

## RUNNERS-UP

“Is Barack Obama going for it? Is he set on becoming one of the great presidents in history? I’m not talking about Mount Rushmore, but perhaps the level right below it. I’m talking, to use his word, ‘transformational.’... If he [Obama] were hearing us talking about him, maybe, mounting Mount Rushmore, getting up there with the great presidents, secretly, not what he would say to other people, what would he be thinking — ‘that’s exactly what I’m doing?’”

— *MSNBC host Chris Matthews on Hardball, February 18. [41]*

“This was a speech that had some music to it, as they used to say. He coined a few phrases in there, talked about the ‘unfinished task before us,’ sort of reminiscent of what Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address.”

— *Face the Nation host Bob Schieffer during CBS’s post-State of the Union coverage, February 12. [39]*



# Damn Those Conservatives Award

## WINNER



“One of the most comprehensive firstperson accounts of slavery comes from the personal diary of a man called Thomas Thistlewood, who kept copious notes for 39 years.... In 1756, he records that ‘a slave named Darby caught eating canes; had him well flogged and pickled, then made Hector, another slave, s-h-i-t in his mouth.’ This became known as ‘Darby’s Dose,’ a punishment invented by Thistlewood that spoke only of the slave owners’ savagery and inhumanity.... When Mrs. Palin invoked slavery, she doesn’t just prove her rank ignorance. She confirms that if anyone truly qualified for a dose of discipline from Thomas Thistlewood, then she would be the outstanding candidate.”

— MSNBC host Martin Bashir on November 15, reacting to Sarah Palin’s comparison of excessive debt to slavery. Bashir apologized the following Monday, but MSNBC permitted him to stay on the air that entire week. After an extended Thanksgiving “vacation,” he quit on December 4. [76 points]

## RUNNERS-UP

“Clarence Thomas’s actions here today, though consistent, though tragic to me, are even more so in light of the bulk of decisions he’s rendered in the name of a judicial vote on the Supreme Court: A symbolic Jew has invited a metaphoric Hitler to commit holocaust and genocide upon his own people.”

— Georgetown professor and MSNBC analyst Michael Eric Dyson on MSNBC’s Martin Bashir, June 25, talking about the Supreme Court ruling on the Voting Rights Act. [65]

“She most certainly punished communities. She punished branches of government. She punished industries, she took a brutal, brutal look at what industries were working and just said, ‘We’re going to close it down.’...Margaret Thatcher, no question, she stood up to communism. As I said before though, she had an attitude to her domestic enemies that, frankly, was the antithesis of freedom.”

— MSNBC.com editor and exNewsweek correspondent Richard Wolffe on Now with Alex Wagner, April 8, a few hours after news of Thatcher’s death was announced. [29]



# The Tea Party Terrorists Award

## WINNER



"We have elected an ungovernable collection of snake-handlers, Biblebangers, ignorami, bagmen and outright frauds, a collection so ungovernable that it insists the nation be ungovernable, too....We have elected a national legislature in which the true power resides in a cabal of vandals, a nihilistic brigade....We looked at our great legacy of selfgovernment and we handed ourselves over to the reign of morons."

— Ex-Boston Globe Magazine writer *Charles Pierce* in a post on *Esquire.com's "The Politics Blog,"* October 1. [62 points]

## RUNNERS-UP

"The New Confederacy, as schurlish toward President Obama as the Old Confederacy was to Lincoln, has accomplished what its predecessor could not: It has shut down the federal government, and without even firing a weapon or taking 620,000 lives, as did the Old Confederacy's instigated Civil War....But don't go looking for a group by the name of New Confederacy. They earned that handle from me because of their visceral animosity toward the federal government and their aversion to compassion for those unlike themselves. They respond, however, to the label 'tea party.' By thought, word and deed, they must be making Jefferson Davis proud today."

— Washington Post columnist *Colbert I. King* in an October 5 piece, "The rise of the New Confederacy." [46]



**MSNBC political analyst Jonathan Alter:** "It's like negotiating with terrorists...."

**Host Alex Wagner:** "Hostage takers, sure."

**Alter:** "...They [Republicans] must understand that they will pay a price with patriotic Americans who understand that shutting down the government, which is what the Republicans are talking about, is an unpatriotic act....They have to feel the heat over and over again that they are acting against the best interests of the United States. That's not happening, yet."

**MSNBC contributor Joy Reid:** "To put it another way, when somebody is threatening to bomb the stadium, you don't go out and make a speech about how you're willing to dismantle the stadium in order to appease them."

— Panel discussion on MSNBC's *Now with Alex Wagner*, July 25. [42]

# The Pantsuit Patrol Award

for Boosting Hillary Clinton

## WINNER



— Newsweek/Daily Beast editor Tina Brown in a January 2 Web article. [68 points]

“The idea of losing Hillary has seemed especially unbearable at this political moment. It’s as if she has become, literally, the ship of state. She stands for maturity, tenacity, and self-discipline at a time when everyone else in Washington seems to be, in more senses than one, going off a cliff — a parade of bickering, blustering, smallballed hacks bollixing up the nation’s business. She’s a caring executive too, and that takes its own emotional toll. What a disgrace that John Bolton and his goaty Republican ilk accused Her Magnificence of inventing a concussion to get out of testifying at the Benghazi hearings. Bolton is not fit to wipe her floor with his mustache.”

## RUNNERS-UP

**Salon’s Joan Walsh:** “I think if she [Hillary Clinton] runs again, she really can’t run as that front-runner. It cannot be that inevitability campaign that she ran in 2007, and she knows that. She’s got to be about the future.”

**Host Chris Matthews:** “If you’re watching, Madam Secretary, all three of us have brilliant ideas. All of us have great ideas. And I especially put myself in that group with Joan and David [Corn]. We know how to do this, we’ll get you in there.”

— MSNBC’s Hardball, February 25. [45]



“They’re nimble politicians. Also I think that they represent a style of honesty that the public craves right now.”

— Newly-hired MSNBC host Ronan Farrow talking about Bill and Hillary Clinton on The Cycle, October 29. [35]

“Last stand. Secretary Hillary Clinton, filled with fiery emotion in her last appearance before Congress....The indignation. And then, the tears in her eyes....It was a valedictory that showed her indignation and emotion as she ends this tenure on the public stage.”

— Anchor Diane Sawyer opening ABC’s World News on January 23 with a story on Clinton’s Benghazi testimony. [33]

# The Kamikaze Award

for Disparaging Conservatives During the Shutdown

## WINNER



“Question: If Ted Cruz and John Boehner were both on a sinking ship, who would be saved? Answer: America.”  
— Politico’s chief political columnist Roger Simon in an October 14 column. [48 points]

## RUNNERS-UP

“Congresswoman, let me ask you though, when it comes to ObamaCare, do you hate ObamaCare more than you love your country?...Because you’ve taken the government hostage through a shutdown, and all the American people — you’re walking them to a cliff, the economy, and you’re going to push them over onebyone, based on the fact that you don’t like the ACA. That’s all it is. You don’t like the Affordable Care Act.”

— Anchor Thomas Roberts scolding Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) on MSNBC Live, October 15. [46]

“The story of this political crisis is really, you know, the culpability not just of the Republican crazies, but of the Republican noncrazies. I mean, how did we get to the point where Mitch McConnell is Rand Paul’s bitch?... Where’s the heroism in your own party? I mean, why aren’t the moderate Republicans, you know, fighting back? We’re always saying why don’t, you know, the moderate Muslims fight jihad, but, you know, this is jihad.”

— The Daily Beast editor-in-chief Tina Brown interviewing Senator John McCain on October 10 for her Web site’s annual “Hero Summit,” a clip of which was shown later that day on MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reports. [39]



# Let Them Eat Dog Food Award

for Freaking Out Over the Sequester's Puny Cuts

## WINNER



"Now you've got a budget of three and a half trillion dollars in this fiscal year. This will take \$85 billion out of it. That's damn near a third....You can't take 30, you can't take 30 percent of operational money out and expect to have the same product. You can't do it! It's impossible!"

— Radio host and MSNBC anchor Ed Schultz on his February 25 radio show. In fact, \$85 billion is a puny 2 percent of the \$3.5 trillion annual federal budget, not 30 percent. [64]

## RUNNERS-UP

"Deadline day. Hours, now, until massive government cuts go into effect that could impact every American: jobs vaporizing, flights delayed, even criminals walking free."

— Fill-in co-host Josh Elliott at the top of ABC's Good Morning America, March 1. [59 points]

"It sounds like a disaster movie: Childcare canceled for tens of thousands of kids, long airport security lines, flight delays with a shortage of controllers, and military cuts that will leave us 'second rate,' according to the Defense Secretary."

— ABC's David Kerley on World News, February 24. [37]



**MSNBC's Rachel Maddow:** "In Prohibition, the government came up with the brilliant idea that to stop people from drinking, they would put poison in industrial alcohol. They didn't do anything to stop the underlying problem of people wanting to drink, and so what they did was poison a lot of people. This [the sequester] is the same kind of thing. It's supposed to be aversion therapy. It's supposed to be so awful we won't do it. But we've gone and done it anyway. It's self-imposed crisis."

**Co-host Savannah Guthrie:** "And part of the effect though is this poison, to borrow your metaphor, it's not a poison that kills you overnight. Apparently it's a slow, rolling poison."

— Exchange on NBC's Today, March 5. [34]

# The Obama's Orderlies Award

for Championing ObamaCare

## WINNER



"This is the Web site folks, HealthCare.gov. If you go to this Web site, you will find out how easy it is to read, how easy it is to navigate all the information, all the basic questions, and all the direction you need to take to get involved, to get health care. This is a great guide, if I may say, for any of you out there who feel so confused by all of these rightwing commercials that are just permeating through your television screen."

— Host Ed Schultz on MSNBC's The Ed Show, September 30. [60 points]

## RUNNERS-UP

"The GOP is saying to young people, 'We would like to have the government stick an unnecessary transvaginal probe in you if you want an abortion, but when it comes to health insurance, don't take any government help. Don't go to the state or federal government-operated insurance exchanges to buy private insurance. Stay away. Stay uninsured. Skip that pap smear. Skip that tetanus shot. Skip that prenatal care. Skip that cholesterol test. And if you die an agonizing and unnecessary death, one that could have been prevented by the health insurance reform that bears the President's name, at least you know your death will have not been in vain. You will have died to serve the noble and patriotic cause not of conservatism, but of hurting this President and denying him a victory.'...That is not conservative. It is a national disgrace."

— Co-host Krystal Ball on MSNBC's The Cycle, September 24. [52]



**Correspondent Jim Avila:** "Why is this happening? Because insurance companies, which offered cheap insurance like Julie's, left out basics now required by ObamaCare, like hospital coverage, maternity, mental health or prescription drugs and are now forced to cancel those plans and replace them....Julie tells us that she doesn't have hospital care on this cheap insurance plan. Is that dangerous?"

**Consumers Union's Lynn Quincy:** "Absolutely. That's an enormous hole in her coverage."

— Talking about millions of insurance cancellations, ABC's World News, October 29. [34]

# The Twisted Tweets Award

## WINNER



"Go to dictionary,& look up The 'C'Word,.....next 2 the definition... you'll see a Pic of Sarah PALIN ! NO...WAIT ...SHES UNDER DUMB C WORD"

— *Singer/actress Cher in a November 15 posting to Twitter. [71 points]*

## RUNNERS-UP

"An idea @Dloesch @benfergusonshow > you guys stand at the end of a range and I'll get 100 blind people to fire away at targets around you."

— *September 12 tweet from CNN's Piers Morgan directed at conservative radio hosts Ben Ferguson and Dana Loesch. [50]*

"I knew some whites would have difficulty w/ a browner America but didn't know they'd wanna destroy the country over it"

— *Atlanta Journal-Constitution columnist and longtime editorial page editor Cynthia Tucker in an October 15 tweet. [45]*

"Hey kids! Rush Limbaugh wrote a book that's just for you....Um. Oh. Seriously?"

"I'm a little sick now."

— *Pair of tweets posted by CNN anchor Carol Costello, September 5, reacting to a Huffington Post story about Limbaugh's new book, Rush Revere and the Brave Pilgrims. [21]*



# The Audacity of Dopes Award

for the Wackiest Analysis of the Year

## WINNER



“We have never invested as much in public education as we should have, because we’ve always had kind of a private notion of children....We haven’t had a very collective notion of these are our children....We have to break through our kind of private idea that kids belong to their parents, or kids belong to their families, and recognize that kids belong to whole communities.”

— MSNBC weekend host Melissa Harris-Perry in an early April “Lean Forward” spot. [53 points]

## RUNNERS-UP

“Until we fully understand what turned two brothers who allegedly perpetrated the Boston Marathon bombings into murderers, it is hard to make any policy recommendation other than this: We need to redouble our efforts to make America stronger and healthier so it remains a vibrant counterexample to whatever bigoted ideology may have gripped these young men....And the best place to start is with a carbon tax.”

— New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, April 21. [42]

“It’s silly that there’s a liberal bias in media. Obviously, there are liberal voices and there are conservative voices. But overwhelmingly, media in the United States — television, newspapers, and that sort of thing — the bias shifts towards the right. It’s a center-right media in this country.”

— Former NBC reporter and New York Times columnist Bob Herbert on MSNBC’s Melissa Harris-Perry, April 27. [29]

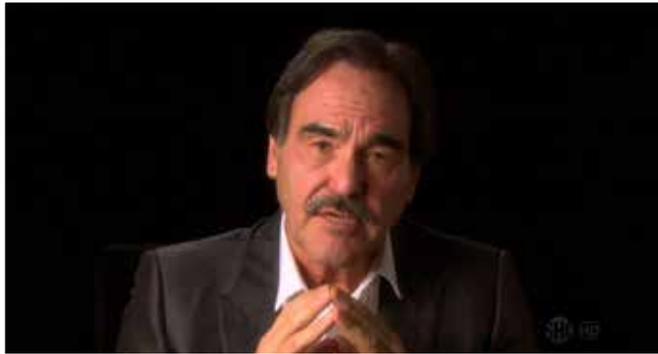
“I don’t like the religion part. I think religion is what mucks the whole thing up....I don’t like the religion part. I think that’s what makes the holidays so stressful and — I don’t.”

— NBC chief medical editor Nancy Snyderman talking about Christmas during a “Today’s Professionals” panel segment on Today, December 11, 2012. [27]



# The Barbra Streisand Political IQ Award for Celebrity Vapidity

## WINNER



“What is Reagan’s real legacy?...He deregulated industries, eroded environmental standards, defiantly ripping down the solar panels that Jimmy Carter had put on the White House roof, weakened the middle class, busted unions, heightened the racial divides, widened the gap between rich and poor.... As far as Reagan’s much-vaunted role in winning the Cold War, the lion’s share of credit goes to Mikhail Gorbachev — a true visionary and, it turns out, the real democrat.”  
— *Oliver Stone narrating the December 31, 2012 installment of Showtime’s tenpart Oliver Stone’s Untold History of the United States. [45 points]*

## RUNNERS-UP

“Stop saying, ‘I support the troops.’ I don’t. I used to....But at some point all individuals must answer for their actions, and now that we know our military leaders do things that have nothing to do with defending our lives, why would anyone sign up for this rogue organization?”  
— *Leftwing filmmaker Michael Moore announcing his New Year’s resolutions in a December 31, 2012 article published by the Huffington Post. [43]*

“George Bush, over the Memorial Day weekend, held the Wounded Warrior 100K [bike ride], which was a kind of a celebration for wounded warriors who came back from Iraq, and I guess they walked or ran or something on their prosthetic limbs. And I found this to be nauseating. I mean, first he sends them off to war to get their limbs blown off, and then he has them over for a barbecue. This is like the Cleveland guy having a pizza party for those girls he had in his basement.”

— *HBO’s Bill Maher on Real Time, May 31. [39]*



# Quote of the Year

## WINNER

“One of the most comprehensive firstperson accounts of slavery comes from the personal diary of a man called Thomas Thistlewood, who kept copious notes for 39 years....In 1756, he records that ‘a slave named Darby caught eating canes; had him well flogged and pickled, then made Hector, another slave, s-h-i-t in his mouth.’ This became known as ‘Darby’s Dose,’ a punishment invented by Thistlewood that spoke only of the slave owners’ savagery and inhumanity....

When Mrs. Palin invoked slavery, she doesn’t just prove her rank ignorance. She confirms that if anyone truly qualified for a dose of discipline from Thomas Thistlewood, then she would be the outstanding candidate.”

— *MSNBC host Martin Bashir on November 15, reacting to Sarah Palin’s comparison of excessive debt to slavery. Bashir apologized the following Monday, but MSNBC permitted him to stay on the air that entire week. After an extended Thanksgiving “vacation,” he quit on December 4.*



## RUNNERS-UP

“This is the Web site folks, HealthCare.gov. If you go to this Web site, you will find out how easy it is to read, how easy it is to navigate all the information, all the basic questions, and all the direction you need to take to get involved, to get health care. This is a great guide, if I may say, for any of you out there who feel so confused by all of these rightwing commercials that are just permeating through your television screen.”

— *Host Ed Schultz on MSNBC’s The Ed Show, September 30.*

“Until we fully understand what turned two brothers who allegedly perpetrated the Boston Marathon bombings into murderers, it is hard to make any policy recommendation other than this: We need to redouble our efforts to make America stronger and healthier so it remains a vibrant counterexample to whatever bigoted ideology may have gripped these young men....And the best place to start is with a carbon tax.”

— *New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, April 21.*

## 2013 AWARD JUDGES

**Brent H. Baker**, MRC's Vice President for Research & Publications; Editor of *CyberAlert* and MRC's NewsBusters blog

**Mark Belling**, radio talk show host, WISN-AM in Milwaukee

**Robert Bluey**, Editor of the Heritage Foundation's The Foundry blog

**Neal Boortz**, retired nationally syndicated radio talk show host

**L. Brent Bozell III**, Founder and President of the Media Research Center

**Monica Crowley**, news analyst for the Fox News Channel and nationally syndicated talk radio host

**Mark Davis**, talk host on KSKY (660 AM The Answer) in Dallas-Ft. Worth and Salem Radio Network; *Dallas Morning News* columnist

**Midge Decter**, author; Heritage Foundation Board of Trustees

**Bob Dutko**, nationally syndicated radio talk show host, WMUZ in Detroit

**Jim Eason**, retired radio talk show host

**Eric Fettmann**, Associate Editorial Page Editor, *New York Post*

**Lucianne Goldberg**, publisher of Lucianne.com news forum

**Tim Graham**, Director of Media Analysis, Media Research Center; Senior Editor of the MRC's NewsBusters blog

**Stephen Hayes**, Senior Writer for *The Weekly Standard*; Fox News contributor

**Quin Hillyer**, contributing editor to *National Review*

**Mark Hyman**, host, *Behind the Headlines* for the Sinclair Broadcast Group

**Cliff Kincaid**, Director, Accuracy in Media's Center for Investigative Journalism

**Lars Larson**, nationally syndicated talk radio host, Compass Media Networks

**Mark Larson**, radio talk show host, KCBQ-AM 1170 and KUSI-TV in San Diego

**Mark Levin**, nationally syndicated radio talk show host; President, Landmark Legal Foundation

**Matt Lewis**, senior contributor to The Daily Caller

**Jeffrey Lord**, contributing editor to *The American Spectator*

**Steve Malzberg**, host of *The Steve Malzberg Show* on NewsmaxTV

**Patrick McGuigan**, Editor of CapitolBeatOK.com and Oklahoma Bureau Chief for Watchdog.org

**Colin McNickle**, Editorial Page Editor for the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

**Jan Mickelson**, radio talk show host, WHO in Des Moines

**Emily Miller**, Senior Editor of opinion at the Washington Times; author of *Emily Gets Her Gun...But Obama Wants to Take Yours*

**Rich Noyes**, Director of Research, Media Research Center; Senior Editor of the MRC's NewsBusters blog

**Kate O'Beirne**, former Washington Editor of *National Review*

**Marvin Olasky**, Editor-in-Chief of World News Group; professor at Patrick Henry College

**James Pinkerton**, Fox News contributor

**Wladyslaw Pleszczynski**, Editorial Director, *The American Spectator*

**Dan Rea**, host of Nightside, on WBZ Radio in Boston

**Chris Reed**, editorial writer, *San Diego Union-Tribune*

**Mike Rosen**, radio host at KOA; columnist for the *Denver Post*

**Tron Simpson**, host of *Tron in the Morning* on I-25 talk radio in Colorado Springs

**James Taranto**, editorial board member, *The Wall Street Journal* and Editor of "Best of the Web Today"

**Cal Thomas**, syndicated and *USA Today* columnist and Fox News contributor

**David Webb**, SiriusXM radio talk host; Fox News contributor

**Walter E. Williams**, Professor of economics, George Mason University

**Thomas S. Winter**, Editor-in-Chief emeritus of Human Events

**Martha Zoller**, Editor-in-Chief of zpolitics and co-host of *Georgia's Morning News*



1900 Campus Commons Drive, Suite 600

Reston, Virginia, 20191

(800) 672-1626 | (571) 267-3500

[www.MRC.org](http://www.MRC.org)

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