The Liberal Media Character-Assassination Campaign Continues — Target: Newt Gingrich

The presidential campaign is under- way and the liberal media will do whatever it takes to help Barack Obama get re-elected. They will spin the facts, distort the truth, and stoop as low as necessary, smearing from all angles any conservative Republican who runs against the anointed one.

Character-assassination of conservatives has become a liberal media past-time. As we’ve documented, exposed, and neutralized here at the MRC, they first savaged Sarah Palin, then Michele Bachmann, then Rick Perry, and then Herman Cain. Now, it’s Newt Gingrich’s turn.

The bile spewed by the left-wing “news” media against Newt is truly stunning to observe, for they would never — ever! — attack a liberal with such hatred. The attacks are malicious because the liberal media know that, if Newt wins the GOP nomination, he will make mincemeat of Obama in the debates and humiliate the dominant news outlets in the process — live, on national TV, where millions of Americans will be watching.

The election is 10 months away. Let’s look at some of the instances we’ve documented so far of the left’s campaign against Newt.

As Gingrich started to climb in the polls in early December, MSNBC’s Chris Matthews was apoplectic. On his Dec. 12 Hardball show he railed that the former House Speaker was “nasty, brutal, ready to fight and kill politically, a man of no discernible commitments or values ... an opportunist ready to seek any route to his opponent’s heart and thereby kill it. He’s a political killer, a gun for hire.”

Matthews was just warming up, further ranting that many conservatives support Newt solely because they want to see Obama humiliated. “That’s why they’re offering up their partisan souls, why they’re ready to bow down before this false god of hatred,” he fumed. “They will give their souls to Newt, their compact with the devil to get what they most want: Pain on their enemy. ... They want the president’s head. And they’ve cut a deal with Mephistopheles to get it.”

A false god of hatred? A compact with the devil? Talk about extreme. Such language would never fly if it were aimed at a liberal. But no one on the left objected. Smearing conservatives as hateful demons is standard fare for the liberal media.

When Gingrich dared to criticize the Occupy Wall Street protestors and remarked that some of them needed to take a bath and look for a job, the news outlets took out their knives. MSNBC’s Martin Bashir, who apparently apprenticed at Chris Matthews’ knee, actually reported the following on Nov. 21: “Newt Gingrich offers a very
personal insult to the protesters, suggesting that they’re dirty and need a good wash. But if anyone’s dirty, it’s Newt Gingrich, a man whose personal morality has been drawn from the sewer. ... It is much easier to wash the body than it is to cleanse the soul of a man so deeply hypocritical as Newt Gingrich."

Newt also proposed that public schools offer some form of work opportunities to students so they could learn practical skills and work habits. CNNʼs Newsroom twisted the idea and ran headlines such as “Gingrich: Child Labor Laws ‘Truly Stupid’; Says Poor Kids Should Work as Janitors.”

CNNʼs Joy Behar agreed with leftist Whoopi Goldberg that Newtʼs comments about developing responsible work habits in young people were “racist.”

TIMEʼs Joe Klein weighed in, telling CBS that Gingrich “is a guy who cannot control his ego when heʼs riding high” and who needs to learn “to keep his head.” NBCʼs David Gregory echoed that line on Dec. 4, lecturing that Gingrich lacked “discipline” and had to struggle against the “arrogance” of the “Bad Newt.”

Gregoryʼs colleague Lisa Myers echoed the liberal talking point that unnamed GOP colleagues “question whether Gingrich has the temperament and judgment to sit in this [presidential] chair.” She also mis-reported many of the liberal distortions about Newt from the 1990s.

On Dec. 6, Myers breathlessly claimed that Gingrich was a “cry baby” who “shut down the government” because “the president made him sit in the back on Air Force One. ... He became the first Speaker ever reprimanded by the House for ethics violations, and was fined $300,000 for misusing tax exempt funds.”

But thatʼs liberal horse pucky. As I reported in my nationally syndicated column: (1) NBC ignored crooked Jim Wrightʼs resignation in that “first Speaker reprimanded” summary. (2) Eighty-three of 84 ethics complaints were dismissed and, on the final one, Gingrich made the political equivalent of a plea deal, agreeing to a fine over the college course he was teaching while he was House Speaker. Big deal. (3) Myers and every other network reporter ignored the part where the IRS was brought in to investigate Gingrich and, in 1999, cleared him unequivocally of everything. (4) Technically, Clinton shut the government down, not Newt. And (5) itʼs another media myth that the shutdown was some personal tantrum over airplane seating.

That’s five massive distortions and falsehoods in one report. But they don’t care. Their job is to smear conservatives and canonize liberals. They are political hit squads.

On a final note, I pointed out on Foxʼs Hannity on Dec. 8 that there were 1,365 evening news stories during the 2008 Democratic primary cycle and not one mentioned then-Senator Obamaʼs connections with Weather Underground terrorist Bill Ayers. Imagine the coverage if Newt were somehow tied to terrorist Timothy McVeigh. The liberal media would have flogged it relentlessly; his campaign never would have got off the ground.

At the MRC, we track this liberal media bias 24/7. We expose and neutralize it through our various divisions: in print, online, through MRC TV, and through external radio interviews and television appearances. Mark my words, this year is going to be the worst for liberal media bias. Stay tuned and stay on guard.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President
As long as liberalism exists, there will be liberal media bias. It’s like weeds. You pull them out and it looks great for a few days, but eventually the weeds come back. The truly good news, however, is that when it comes to liberal bias, America’s media watchdog, the MRC, is there pulling out the lies and delivering the truth, and we do not rest.

We sound the alarm. We document, expose, and neutralize the left-wing news media. We’re the best in the business because we’ve been doing it now for 25 years and no one else does what we do. The liberals despise us, which means we must be doing something right. That makes this year all the more exciting.

Back in 1987, the MRC started with a handful of employees, a black-and-white TV, and a rented computer. We were the first to start recording the network news shows on VHS and building a news library. Today, our news archive is the largest in the world and we can pull up example after example of liberal media bias with a few keystrokes. We don’t just slam and expose the day’s example of liberal overreach, we provide the long view of media manipulation.

Today, we employ more than 60 full-time experts who collect, analyze, and report on liberal media bias. We have seven divisions and seven Web sites: the News Analysis Division, NewsBusters, the Business & Media Institute, Culture & Media Institute, TimesWatch, CNSNews.com and MRC TV. We also have a 500,000-plus strong grassroots army, the MRC Action Team, and it grows every month.

Each division publishes an electronic newsletter every day and tens of thousands of Americans nationwide subscribe to those reports. They read them, they learn from them, and they forward them to friends, family members, and lawmakers. The message goes viral, all the time.

Also, right now the MRC has more than 135,000 friends on Facebook and more than 15,000 on Twitter. In addition, all of our divisions are multimedia and post fresh video and audio every day providing instant examples of liberal media bias that people can watch. Those clips, along with our e-alerts, columnists, and reports, are cited by conservative talk radio and numerous organs of the new media ‘round the clock.

Within hours, even minutes, the morning or evening outrage we found isn’t just on major Web sites like the Drudge Report or Fox Nation. Limbaugh, Hannity, or Levin or countless others are playing the audio and video and exposing liberal silliness from coast to coast.

This year, the MRC message is reaching more than 103 million Americans every week. That is powerful. Just ask Dan Rather, who lost his job as anchor of the CBS Evening News a few years back precisely because the MRC exposed his George W. Bush/National Guard story as fraudulent. We also predicted Katie Couric wouldn’t last in Dan’s chair. We were right.

Now, whether Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan should recuse from judging Obamacare is a real question because of a FOIA lawsuit and news stories filed by the MRC. We’ll see what happens this spring. At 25 years, we’re young, and we’re keeping the liberal news media constantly on the run.
**Tapper’s True Colors**

ABC’s Jake Tapper, who pretends to be a just-the-facts reporter, let his liberal stripes show on the Dec. 9 *Good Morning America*. Reporting on the GOP primary race, Tapper said Obama was vulnerable “but will Republican voters pick a nominee who can beat him? It’s the latest sign [that] Mitt Romney is Elmer Fudd to Newt Gingrich’s Bugs Bunny and it’s wabbit season.”

The night before, Tapper referred to Romney in the crude terms of defecation. He prattled, “You know, in 2008, Romney was known for attacking his opponents. He has generally held back. But with the threat from Gingrich, here we have it: Mitt happens.” Tapper — no surprise — has not referred to Obama or any other prominent Democrat in such terms.

**Occupy Your Kids**

Boston Globe reporter Mark Shanahan, whose regular beat is celebrity news, took his daughter to Occupy Boston for a liberal propaganda lesson and encouraged other parents to do likewise. In the Nov. 27 “Bring the Family” section, Shanahan described how “it was time to visit Dewey Square so my 11-year-old daughter could see for herself what Occupy Boston is all about, to hear what the protesters are saying about ‘corporate greed’ and ‘income disparity.’

Julia “has great empathy for have-nots,” Shanahan droned, so “strike while the iron is hot. ... I pointed out the towering and ominous-looking Federal Reserve Bank building across the street. It was no coincidence, I explained, that the protesters had pitched their tents and tarps in the shadow of this steely monolith to money.” No word on whether Julia got a Tea Party tour.

**America ‘Unjust’**

NBC’s Andrea Mitchell was all too eager to agree with liberal analyst Zbigniew Brezinski that America is at the top of the list of “socially unjust societies.” On the Dec. 2 *Morning Joe* program — where Brezinski’s leftist daughter Mika is a co-host — the former Carter adviser, citing no facts, thumped, “The United States is becoming rapidly one of the most socially unjust societies in the world.” Mitchell quickly chimed in, “I agree with just about everything that Dr. Brezinski has said.”

Mitchell — married to former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, with a $4.5 million net worth — yammered on, “The disparities between rich and poor in this country are the underlying tension. You see the exaggerated forms of it on both sides. With what we saw with the Tea Party. ... And then the emergence of the Occupy movement. That’s a real movement. There is real passion and anger there.”
Give Me 99%!

In what can only be viewed as absurd, the *NYT*'s Brian Stelter seriously claimed a parallel between today’s left-wingers railing about the 99% and Patrick Henry’s American revolutionary charge, “Give me liberty or give me death!” On the paper’s Dec. 1 front page, Stelter wrote: “Most of the biggest Occupy Wall Street camps are gone. But their slogan still stands. Whatever the long-term effects of the Occupy movement, protesters have succeeded in implanting ‘We are the 99 percent.’ ... into the cultural and political lexicon.”

Then he drew the parallel: “Slogans have emerged from American protest movements, successful and otherwise, throughout history. The American Revolution furnished the world with ‘Give me liberty or give me death’ and the still-popular ‘No taxation without representation.’ ... More recently, supporters of Mr. Obama shouted ‘Yes, we can.’”

Note to the *NYT*: Wishful thinking is still wishful thinking even if it’s published in the newspaper of record.

NYT Double Standard

The *New York Times* clearly favors leftist Occupy protestors over conservative Tea Party activists. In a Nov. 6 piece on OWS violence, the *NYT*'s Colin Moynihan wrote: “Many protesters say the lawless visitors constitute a tiny fringe and are not representative of the movement, which, they say, has espoused nonviolence and mutual aid. But there are concerns that even if the criminal and antisocial elements are a small minority, they are becoming visible enough to tarnish the image of the entire group.” So OWS isn’t responsible for trouble-makers.

But in her 2010 book, *Boiling Mad: Inside Tea Party America*, the *NYT*'s Kate Zernike wrote just the opposite about the Tea Party: “It was difficult, if not disingenuous, for the Tea Party groups to try to disown the behavior. They had organized the rally, and under their model of self-policing, they were responsible for the behavior of people who were there. And after saying for months that anybody could be a Tea Party leader, they could not suddenly dismiss as faux Tea Partiers those protesters who made them look bad.”

Minibits

- CNN’s Piers Morgan reveals his man-crush for liberal Republican Jon Huntsman: “When I hear you talk, Jon Huntsman, about foreign affairs in particular, it’s always very impressive. You’re smart about it. You’re articulate, [and you] seem so much more impressive than many of your rivals.”
- GOP primary voters are fueled by hate, lectures MSNBC’s Chris Matthews: “They hate so much they are not in the mood to fall in love with a candidate. Their brains, racked as they are by hatred, they lack the ‘like’ mode. They are in no mood to go around looking around for a politician they like. The hating is so much more satisfying.”
- As for the candidates, Matthews rails that “Rick Perry’s not even competent to be in this – on that stage. What’s her name, Bachmann, I’ve always said she’s in a trance. I mean, she looks like she’s been hypnotized.”
- On ABC’s *Good Morning America*, leftist Bill Maher mocks conservatives: “In a country with only two political parties, the Republican can always win. I mean, at least he [Mitt Romney] eats with a knife and fork. I mean, he is all that stands between us and the rise of the apes.”
- And her NBC colleague David Gregory lectures, “But the notion that tax cuts or tax increases somehow impact economic growth, we know historically that’s simply not the case. Isn’t that one of the falsehoods that’s peddled in Washington?”
- Finally, some fresh air from CBS’s Jan Crawford, “Conservatives don’t trust the media. They think there’s this huge liberal bias against conservatives. You know, the media didn’t cover Bill Clinton or Ted Kennedy like they’re doing Herman Cain.”
Loathing Conservative Christian Candidates

Time magazine didn’t mind ruffling feathers in religious America with a cover this summer that asked “Is Hell Dead?” Never mind that overwhelmingly America is Christian. Then Time found only one letter worth plucking out to feature in large, bold type, from a man in Dallas: “Hell is easy to define. It would be spending eternity with evangelicals.”

That sums up the secular liberal media attitude toward America’s Christian majority, and it explains why they find Republicans so objectionable when they make their religious faith part of their campaign for the presidency. Matthew Philbin and Erin Brown of the Media Research Center’s Culture and Media Institute have written a new report called “Baptism By Fire” that analyzed coverage of the presidential candidates and their religious faith. Does it surprise anyone that they found a huge difference in coverage of Republicans and Democrats?

In the first ten months of 2011, network morning and evening news stories mentioned the religious faith of GOP presidential challengers more than seven times as often (143 stories to 19 stories) than they had for Democratic challengers in the first ten months of 2007. They’ve been 13 times more likely to be critical of the Republicans’ religious beliefs than they were of Democrats just four years ago.

Did I mention Rev. Jeremiah Wright? In the first ten months of 2007, there were just six instances where stories challenged or negatively highlighted the faith of liberal White House hopefus. The networks almost entirely avoided questions about Barack Obama’s upbringing in a Muslim country and his two decades of attendance of a radical Chicago church. Likewise, audiences were reassured that Hillary Clinton’s faith was important - but only as it saved her through her husband’s reckless infidelities. Primary candidates Joe Biden and Chris Dodd were never asked about their fervent voting record in favor of abortion — even partial-birth abortion — in full opposition to their Catholic faith.

But with Republicans, to listen to these reporters is to believe there was something frightening just below the surface of their statements of faith. NBC’s Michael Isikoff exemplified this in July: “In a recent fundraising letter, presidential candidate Michele Bachmann touted her role helping to run a family counseling center. But a secret videotape, which raises questions about how the center treats patients who might be gay, is creating new controversy for Bachmann.”

Four years ago, the Democrats were so pro-gay that they all agreed to a debate on the gay-oriented cable channel Logo. That wasn’t a “controversy.” It’s only “controversial” when you oppose it.

Like Bachmann, Rick Perry has been punished for expressing his religion on the campaign trail. The networks were critical of his religious views in 63 percent of their mentions of faith. Shortly before announcing for president, Perry held a rally in Houston called “The Response.” The networks put graphics on the screen asking “Is Perry Going Too Far?” Reporters like ABC’s Aaron Katersky insisted “Perry’s open mix of faith and politics risks alienating even some Christian voters.”

Our media’s statement of faith begins with the bedrock belief that orthodox Christianity is both proof of rigid extremism and a serious threat to the First Amendment (and never mind that the amendment explicitly protects freedom to worship.) ABC’s Katersky placed Perry and his supporters on the radical right. “The sponsor of Perry’s rally, the American Family Association, opposes homosexuality, women’s rights, and religious diversity.” He’s suggesting the AFA opposes women’s right to vote? ABC also brought on leftist “Reverend” Barry Lynn of Americans United for Separation of Church and State to warn the country about Perry. “My simple message to him is don’t mess with the Constitution.”

In October, reporters hovered around Rick Perry pressing him to disavow a supporter’s claim that Mormons weren’t Christians, which he had already done. The media hyped that Republicans would accept a Mormon in the White House. As Fox News pointed out at the time, a Quinnipiac poll found 68 percent of Republicans are comfortable with a Mormon president, as are 64 percent of independents. Democrats are the least tolerant, at 49 percent.

The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life reports more than 75 percent of Americans identify themselves as Christians, and 93 percent say they believe in God. But the CMI report says “too often network reporters covering religious conservatives sound as though they’re reporting back from an encounter with remote, primitive tribes.” Network reporters need to stop sounding like “foreign correspondents” when they cover people whose faiths they don’t understand.

Liberal journalists pretend they’re open-minded, but their news coverage suggests they feel they don’t need to understand the religious right. They just need to defeat them.
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**

CBN: NewsWatch, Oct. 24
CNN: Reliable Sources, Dec. 20
FNC: Cavuto, Dec. 1
Follow the Money, Dec. 2
Fox & Friends, Nov 1
Hannity, Oct. 20, Nov. 4, 11, 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22
News Watch, Oct. 15
O’Reilly Factor, Nov. 7, 14

SNN: Sun News Network (Canada ), Nov. 18

**Radio**

America Tonight, Nov. 14
American Family Radio, Oct. 17
Cable Radio Network, Nov. 16
Fox News Radio, Oct. 18
Information Radio Network, Nov. 16
IRN/USA News, Nov. 17
Lars Larson Show, Nov. 28, Dec. 1
Lou Dobbs Show, Oct. 19
Mark Levin Show, Dec. 9, 15, 16
Martha Zoller Show, Dec. 12
Neal Boortz Show, Nov. 4, 9, Dec. 14
Phil Valentine Show, Oct. 18, Nov. 15
Rush Limbaugh Show, Dec. 5, 6, 15, 16
Sean Hannity Show, Nov. 5, 14, 15, 17
KABC, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 23
KCBQ, San Diego, CA, Nov. 15, Dec. 1
KFKA, Greeley, CO, Nov. 28
KGLO, Mason City, IA, Dec. 1
KIT-AM, Yakima, WA, Oct. 26
KMED, Medford, OR, Oct. 19
KOA, Denver, CO, Oct. 17, 24
WCHS, Charleston, WVa., Oct. 19
WHO, Des Moines, IA, Nov. 16
WIBA, Madison, WI, Nov. 29
WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Nov. 17, Dec. 1
WMUZ, Detroit, MI, Nov. 28
WNJN, Franklin, NJ, Nov. 18
WOR, New York, NY, Oct. 24, Nov. 29
WTWF, Greenville, NC, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 2

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**Internet**

ABCNews.com, Nov. 22
American Spectator blog, Dec. 1
American Thinker, Dec. 6
BigJournalism.com, Dec. 6
BusinessInsider, Nov. 22
CBN.org, Dec. 2
Christianity.com, Dec. 6
CNN.com, Dec. 9
Daily Beast, Nov. 18
Daily Caller, Nov. 21, 23, Dec. 16
Drudge Report, Dec. 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 19, 20
EOnline, Dec. 2
Entertainment Weekly, Dec. 1
Fox Nation, Dec. 9, 10
FoxNews.com, Nov. 11, 14, 29, Dec. 1, 2
Hollywood Reporter, Dec. 2
Mediaite, Nov. 14
NationalReviewOnline, Dec. 7
Politico, Nov. 3, 9, 14
Slate.com, Nov. 30
UPI.com, Dec. 6
Washington Examiner, Dec. 7
WashingtonPost.com, Nov. 22, Dec. 6, 7
WSJ.com, Dec. 2

- PARTIAL LISTING

On the Dec. 9 Hannity, MRC President Bozell exposed the liberal media’s fear and loathing of Newt Gingrich and regular attempts to trip him up politically.

On Fox’s Hannity, Dec. 16, MRC President Brent Bozell exposed the liberal media’s fear and loathing of Newt Gingrich and regular attempts to trip him up politically.

On Fox’s Cavuto, MRC’s Tim Graham noted how the liberal media “loves the idea of being able to push someone out of the race by saying they’re dead.”

On Fox News’ Special Report, Dec. 7, highlighted the MRC’s Culture & Media Institute report on the liberal media’s slanted coverage of and attacks against the religious beliefs of Republicans while praising the faith of left-wing Democrats.
Dear Friend,

I’d like to thank everyone who made my first year as Chairman of the Media Research Center’s new Legacy Society a tremendous success. Thanks to you, the MRC received more than $1,000,000 in planned gifts and commitments — an increase of more than 600% over 2010!

The media are, by far, the most powerful weapons in the Left’s arsenal and they’ll continue to be for decades to come. The MRC is the only organization with the credibility and the expertise to successfully neutralize the liberal media agenda. It’s absolutely vital that they have the resources to continue their work long after we all are gone.

That’s why I’d like to ask those of you who are not yet Legacy Society members to strongly consider supplementing your annual support by making a planned gift or commitment in 2012. There are lots of ways to become a member:

- You can set up a Charitable Gift Annuity (I’ve set up two with the MRC). A CGA allows you to take a partial up front tax deduction on your gift and it allows you to receive a partially-tax free income stream for the rest of your life.
- You can include the MRC in your will. It’s easy to do: it takes less than 15 minutes and is a great way to make a difference without affecting your lifestyle today.
- You can name the MRC as a beneficiary of a charitable trust or a life insurance policy.
- You can donate property or other assets. You can even donate your home and continue to live in it for the rest of your life.

If you have questions about these or any of the other ways you can join the MRC Legacy Society, please call my friend — and fellow Legacy Society member! — MRC Development Associate James Nolan at 1-800-672-1423, ext. 125. I know he’s looking forward to your call.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Wilkens
Chairman, MRC Legacy Society

P.S. Legacy Society members receive complimentary invitations to attend special events, such as the upcoming 25th Anniversary Gala and DisHonors Awards to be held in September.