

WORST *OF THE* **WORST**™

28th ANNUAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR'S WORST REPORTING
2015



Notable Quotables™

December 21, 2015 | VOL. 28 NO. 25

WORST OF THE WORST™

Based on Notable Quotables.

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 2015 (December 2014 through November 2015).

To determine this year's winners, a panel of 39 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 2015.

The MRC's Kristine Lawrence distributed the ballots and tabulated the results. Senior news analyst Scott Whitlock rounded up the numerous 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.

For videos of every television news quote contained in this issue, visit: www.MRC.org or NewsBusters.org.

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Letter from the President

As the nation's premier media watchdog group, the Media Research Center exposes the most outrageous and biased rhetoric by members of the fourth estate so that the American public appreciates the woeful state of our nation's so-called "news" media.

To commemorate the worst of the worst in liberal bias, I'm honored to present our annual *Worst of the Worst* for 2015, a collection of the media's most outrageous quotes from the past year. Our selections are culled from our bi-weekly *Notable Quotables* compilation.

This year's edition features quotes that you will think must be satirical, including a former CBS producer breathlessly proclaiming, "Americans are lucky to have Barack Obama as president and we should wake up and appreciate it while we can." Unfortunately they're true.

And believe it or not, that's just the tip of the iceberg. In desperate defense of this leftist administration, in 2015 the left-wing media went on a rhetorical rampage, savaging the conservative Right, while effusively extolling the merits of the radical Left.

To determine the "winners," we asked 39 conservative leaders to serve as judges. Given the breadth of material to select from this year, the judges had an

extremely difficult job.

Worst of the Worst 2015 reflects the very worst in liberal activism disguised as journalism: contempt for conservatives, disdain for traditional American values, and unbridled affection for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

We compile the *Worst of the Worst* to educate Americans on just how unhinged the media can be in pursuit of their liberal agenda. When an MSNBC anchor actually scolds a guest for using the phrase "hard worker" as if it's some kind of racial epithet, it's fair to say the liberal media elite have become an abject embarrassment to their profession.

Read this compilation and you'll understand why the liberal media must be exposed to all of America.

Sincerely,



L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President



About the Media Research Center

When the MRC opened its doors in 1987, expectations were uncertain. How could this organization with only a handful of staff and with virtually no resources possibly challenge — never mind neutralize — the multi-billion dollar news media industry?

From the very beginning, Brent Bozell and his team were determined to build the MRC into the nation's premier media watchdog group and a major powerhouse within the conservative movement.

The MRC now houses the largest archive of news footage and the most sophisticated media monitoring operation in the world. The MRC has also invested in and built the leading social media operation in the conservative movement, reaching tens of millions of people each week.

A dominant mover and shaker within the conservative movement, MRC's publications, analysis, and commentary are sought out by virtually every prominent conservative in the country.

The Media Research Center's team of expert news analysts monitor all major nationally televised and print news broadcasts. MRC's News Analysis Division publishes the daily *CyberAlert* e-mail report, weekly *Media Reality Check* reports, the hugely popular NewsBusters.org blog that documents liberal media

bias in real time, and the every-other week *Notable Quotables* collection of the most biased and outrageous quotes from members of the liberal media, which is compiled into this annual *Worst of the Worst*.

MRC also publishes groundbreaking *Special Reports* on topics ranging from the media coverage of the Obama Administration's woeful response to the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi to how the media cover up the extravagant lifestyles of Hollywood liberals who chastise the U.S. for its "carbon footprint" while flying in private jets and hoarding gas guzzling sports cars.

MRC Business, our business and economics division, promotes a fair portrayal of the business community in news and entertainment media. It is the only organization dedicated to neutralizing the media's anti-free enterprise slant. MRC Business has exposed the media's dishonest "global warming" reporting and the pervasive influence of left-wing billionaires like George Soros on the media landscape, academia, and public policy.

MRC Culture fights to preserve America's character, morals, and traditional values against the Left's assault by exposing the news and entertainment media's bias against our founding values. MRC Culture has documented the media's advocacy on behalf of gay marriage and provided the

best coverage of the shocking Planned Parenthood baby parts scandal, which the media grossly distorted.

A central problem of left-wing media bias is the media's sin of omission or outright censorship — that is, their failure to report the news that hurts the left-wing agenda.

MRC is relentless in exposing this alarming and unethical practice. Our news arm, CNSNews.com, leads the charge in reporting the news the liberal media refuse to cover, including the ObamaCare fiasco, the Obama Administration's unconstitutional executive orders, and the full scope of Hillary Clinton's email scandal. MRC's thorough reporting and analysis ensures that the media's censorship is exposed and neutralized. CNSNews.com stories appear almost daily on the *Drudge Report*.

Consistent with our goal to expand our reach beyond the conservative base, MRC reaches a younger, more diverse audience through its multi-video platform, MRCTV, which posts popular viral videos with mass appeal.

Launched in 2013, MRC's newest venture, MRC Latino, documents and neutralizes liberal bias in America's Spanish-language media. Despite the conservative values of our rapidly growing Latino population, America's Spanish media outlets lean

even further left than the English-language press. MRC Latino exposes the bias to ensure that Spanish-speaking Americans are getting the truth.

In 1992, the MRC founded the Youth Education and Internship Program with the mission to educate and train young conservatives in multiple disciplines. Today, the MRC trains 25-35 interns each year. Interns play an integral role in helping to advance both the mission of the MRC and the conservative cause. Upon joining the MRC, following a highly competitive selection process, interns are immersed in the strategies and best practices of journalism, research, write articles, blog, and film. They contribute data to *Special Reports*, help develop surveys and ad campaigns, or join reporters on Capitol Hill, the National Press Club, and other D.C. venues to dig up the latest scoop.

MRC's analysis is bolstered by a sophisticated, industry-leading marketing apparatus, which allows us to deliver on average 200 million impressions each week. This includes millions of visits to our websites; regular appearances on TV, radio, and in print; a massive and growing Facebook presence with over 9 million fans; and email and grassroots messaging.

MRC reaches over 20 million Americans

via social media each week with MRC content and messaging. This is pivotal to our goal of growing the conservative movement.

Our grassroots army has more than 800,000 concerned citizens enrolled. We mobilize this army of highly engaged, patriotic Americans to contact hundreds of thousands Americans each week, urging citizens to take action in neutralizing the left-wing press by signing petitions, making phone calls, and participating in email campaigns, all demanding fair and accurate reporting in the media.

There is no conservative organization in America with a greater reach than the MRC. Prominent talk radio and television hosts, including Rush Limbaugh, Mark Levin, and Sean Hannity, routinely cite our work exposing the national media's left-wing agenda.

The Obamagasm Award

WINNER



"Americans are lucky to have Barack Obama as President and we should wake up and appreciate it while we can. President Obama will go down in history as an extraordinary President, probably a great one....It would be a morale booster and a sign of civic maturity if more Americans appreciated what an exceptional President they have right now. It could be a long wait for the next one."
— Former CBS News producer Dick Meyer, now Washington Bureau Chief for Scripps News, in a July 16 Decode DC op-ed titled: "Mr. President, on behalf of an ungrateful nation, thank you." [71 points]

RUNNERS-UP



"Instead of going and grubbing the money on Wall Street, he [Barack Obama] went out to people and helped his community. ...He's done everything right. He's been immaculate in the presidency. Nobody has accused him of any corruption. His kids are perfect. His wife is perfect. He's done everything that these right-wing, white conservatives say we're supposed to be in this country. He's done everything right. And this sleazy comment, that he has no class....He has plenty of class."
— Host Chris Matthews on MSNBC's Hardball, July 22. [48]

"Long before he was running for President, he had written the answer [to questions about past drug use] in a book called *Dreams from My Father*. It stands today as the finest literary work ever authored by a President of the United States. The book doesn't contain the whole truth of Barack Obama's life. Books can't do that, but it is, by far, the most honest and open book, and artful book, ever written by a President."
— Host Lawrence O'Donnell on MSNBC's The Last Word, February 3. [41]

The Ku Klux Con Job Award

for Smearing Conservatives with Phony Racism Charges

WINNER



“Fueled by the mega-donations of the mega-rich, today’s Republican Party is not just far from being the party of Lincoln: It’s really the party of Jefferson Davis. It suppresses black voting; it opposes federal efforts to mitigate poverty; it objects to federal investment in infrastructure and education just as the antebellum South opposed internal improvements and rejected public education; it scorns compromise. It is nearly all white. It is the lineal descendant of Lee’s army, and the descendants of Grant’s have yet to subdue it.”

— Washington Post columnist *Harold Meyerson*, April 8. [69 points]

RUNNERS-UP



“It would be unfair, or I think dishonest of us to not be clear that part of what he’s [Trump] speaking to is a part of the American public that for the last seven years has felt outraged. They talk about taking the White House back. They’ve said, and he retweeted this, they want the White House, capital W-H-I-T-E again. You know, there is a disaffected, highly racialized, highly us-versus-them part of the American electorate that he is firing up...”

— CNN analyst *Sally Kohn* on CNN Newsroom with Carol Costello, July 21. [53]

“It [the Republican Party] is no longer the party that voted overwhelmingly for civil rights and voting rights in the mid ’60s. In fact, its most consistent ambition these recent years has been a relentless push to limit voting rights, especially for minorities, by the imposition of new voter ID requirements, and with this, it’s doing what the Jim Crow enforcers did with poll taxes and outlandish literacy tests.”

— MSNBC host *Chris Matthews* wrapping up Hardball, March 2. [37]

The “What Difference Does it Make” Award

for Denying Hillary’s Scandals

WINNER



“As you know, the Clinton campaign says you haven’t produced a shred of evidence that there was any official action as Secretary that supported the interest of donors. We’ve done investigative work here at ABC News, found no proof of any kind of direct action. And an independent government ethics expert, Bill Allison of the Sunlight Foundation, wrote this — he said: ‘There’s no smoking gun. No evidence that she changed a policy based on donations to the foundation. No smoking gun.’ Is there a smoking gun?”

— *George Stephanopoulos to Clinton Cash author Peter Schweizer on ABC’s This Week, April 26. Two weeks later, Politico revealed that Stephanopoulos had given \$75,000 in personal contributions to the Clinton Foundation, a fact he did not disclose before the interview. [63 points]*

RUNNERS-UP



“I have been utterly bored with the story to the point where I only recently began to really sort of dig into it....The more I look into it, I think it’s one of those cases where the trailer is really simple, but the movie is kind of too hard to follow.... Maybe Hillary Clinton on the cloud was actually somehow safer and more secure than the actual government e-mails? I don’t even understand it.”

— *MSNBC national correspondent Joy Reid on All In with Chris Hayes, August 20. [39]*

“This particular issue really shouldn’t have any impact on Clinton. The issue of the e-mails has been out there for a long time. This is not a criminal matter. In fact, it’s far from it. If there are any questions about trustworthiness, it comes, maybe, for the *New York Times* or the Department of Justice.”

— *Correspondent Paula Reid on CBS This Morning: Saturday, July 25, discussing the classified e-mails on Clinton’s personal server. [35]*

Ruining the Revolution Award

WINNER



Anchor Shepard Smith: “You know the fear among anybody who’s ever been there, or cares at all about the Cuban people, as so many of us do — the last thing they need is a Taco Bell and a Lowe’s. I mean, we don’t need a —”

FBN’s Gerri Willis: “Toilet paper, toothbrushes, right? Toothpaste.”

Smith: “That’s it. But you know, it’s one big idea and it all sort of comes together and, you wonder, are we about to get up in there and ruin that place?”

— *FNC’s Shepard Smith Reporting, December 17, 2014.* [64 points]

RUNNERS-UP



“On the one hand, it is great to reopen these relationships. On the other hand, I worry about American tourists and the ways that we can sometimes be a plague on the rest of the world, particularly in these nations that become high-tourist economies. And I’m wondering if there is a downside to our economic ties opening up with Cuba, for Cuba.”

— *Host Melissa Harris-Perry on her eponymous MSNBC show, April 11.* [55]

“The rest of us are all going to be rushing to get to Cuba before it turns into Miami Beach, while it’s still that unspoiled, seemingly, place with the classic cars.... People want to see Cuba as it is, before it becomes more developed.”

— *The Daily Beast’s Eleanor Clift on The McLaughlin Group, December 21, 2014.* [38]

Damn Those Conservatives Award

WINNER



"There are a few things I hate more than the NRA. I mean truly. I think they're pigs. I think they don't care about human life. I think they are a curse upon the American landscape."

— Former NBC and CBS morning news host Bryant Gumbel, who currently hosts HBO's Real Sports, in an interview with Rolling Stone posted January 20. [56 points]

RUNNERS-UP



"The police killing unarmed civilians. Horrifying income inequality. Rotting infrastructure and an unsafe 'safety net.' An inability to respond to climate, public health and environmental threats. A food system that causes disease. An occasionally dysfunctional and even cruel government. A sizable segment of the population excluded from work and subject to near-random incarceration. You get it: This is the United States, which, with the incoming Congress, might actually get worse."

— New York Times food writer Mark Bittman in a December 14, 2014 piece for the paper's "Sunday Review" section. [50]

"The entire Republican Party is controlled by climate denialists, and anti-science types more broadly. And in general, the modern GOP is basically anti-rational analysis; it's at war not just with the welfare state but with the Enlightenment."
— New York Times columnist Paul Krugman in an August 28 blog post for NYTimes.com. [50]

The Pantsuit Patrol Award for Boosting Hillary Clinton

WINNER



"The two words she needs are 'fun' and 'new.' And part of why yesterday was so successful is she looks like she's having fun and she's doing, for her, new stuff. We've never seen her get a burrito before. Fun and new."
— Mark Halperin, co-host of Bloomberg TV's *With All Due Respect*, on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* on April 14. [41 points]

RUNNERS-UP



"She does have a new message out from the last time, which is the grandmother message, and she's using it very well. On climate change for instance, when she says, 'Everybody says I'm not a scientist.' She says, 'I'm not a scientist either, I'm just a grandmother with two eyes and a brain.' Now, that's brilliant."
— ABC's Cokie Roberts talking about Hillary Clinton, *This Week*, August 2. [40]

"Hillary Clinton is not familiar. She is revolutionary. Not radical, but revolutionary: the distinction is crucial. She is one of America's greatest modern creations. Her decades in our public life must not blind us to the fact that she represents new realities and possibilities. Indeed, those same decades have conferred upon her what newness usually lacks: judgment, and even wisdom."
— Laurene Powell Jobs writing the tribute to Clinton after *Time* chose the presidential candidate as one of the world's "100 Most Influential People," April 27-May 4 double issue. [40]

The Hopeless Haters Award

for Denigrating the Conservative Candidates

WINNER



“Everybody keeps saying he’s a smart guy. This is a guy who basically is saying that climate change is not a fact...So wait, that’s not smart. That’s dumb. But that’s ignorance. That word is ignorant and that’s not smart...I think he’s the worst. I think he’s scary, I think he’s dangerous, I think he’s slimy and I think he brings no fresh ideas.”
— *Regular panelist Donny Deutsch, referring to Senator Ted Cruz, on MSNBC’s Morning Joe, March 23. [48 points]*

RUNNERS-UP



“There is no longer a Republican center-right that would have no problem raising the gas tax for something as fundamental as infrastructure. Sure, there are center-right candidates — like Jeb Bush and John Kasich. But can they run, win and govern from the center-right when the base of their party and so many of its billionaire donors reflect the angry anti-science, anti-tax, anti-government, anti-minorities, anti-gay rights and anti-immigration views of the Tea Party and its media enforcer, Fox News?”
— *New York Times writer Thomas Friedman in an August 5 column. [34]*

“You’ve been a young man in a hurry ever since you won your first election in your 20s...Now, you’re skipping more votes than any senator to run for President. Why not slow down, get a few more things done first, or least finish what you start?...So when the *Sun-Sentinel* says Rubio should resign, not rip us off, when they say Floridians sent you to Washington to do a job, when they say you act like you hate your job, do you?”
— *CNBC Squawk on the Street co-host Carl Quintanilla’s questions to GOP Senator Marco Rubio at the CNBC Republican debate, October 28. [30]*

Harsh to the Huddled Masses Award

WINNER



"I know you staunchly oppose President Obama's executive actions on immigration. You've worked to block every legislative effort to allow undocumented immigrants to remain legally in this country. So, given the fact that your father immigrated here from Cuba, do you have any empathy for people who come here looking for a better way of life?"

— *Yahoo! News anchor Katie Couric to Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz in a June 29 interview.* [59 points]

RUNNERS-UP



"Are you aware that the term 'anchor baby,' that's an offensive term? People find that hurtful....Look it up in the dictionary. It's offensive!"

— *ABC correspondent Tom Llamas to Donald Trump at an August 19 press conference, a clip of which was shown the next day on Good Morning America.* [48]

Clip of Donald Trump: "I don't blame the Mexicans. I respect Mexico. I don't blame the Mexican government. I just wish our people were smart. They're really smart doing that. They're sending them to us and we're either putting them in jails, or letting them go free — which is even worse."...

Bloomberg's AI Hunt: "This is George Corley Wallace, 40 years later."
— *MSNBC's Morning Joe, July 13.* [42]

The Audacity of Dopes Award

for the Wackiest Analysis of the Year

WINNER



“American independence in 1776 was a monumental mistake....I’m reasonably confident a world in which the revolution never happened would be better than the one we live in now, for three main reasons: Slavery would’ve been abolished earlier, American Indians would’ve faced rampant persecution but not the outright ethnic cleansing Andrew Jackson and other American leaders perpetrated, and America would have a parliamentary system of government....Government spending in parliamentary countries is about 5 percent of GDP higher.”

— *Dylan Matthews in a July 2 post on Vox.com: “3 reasons the American Revolution was a mistake.” [51]*

RUNNERS-UP



“As a *Times* columnist, I can’t do endorsements, so you have no idea which party I favor in general elections.”
— *Left-wing New York Times columnist Paul Krugman in a December 29, 2014 interview with Vox.com’s Ezra Klein. [46]*

“Right now, thousands of Americans are marching in New York and Washington and across the country, demanding a justice system that applies the same to everybody and honors our values. We want you to know that our hearts are out there marching with them.”

— *CNN political analyst Sally Kohn wrapping up an hour of live coverage on December 13, 2014 as she, CNN analyst Margaret Hoover and CNN legal analyst Mel Robbins raised their hands, while CNN legal analyst Sunny Hostin held up a piece of paper with “I can’t breathe” written on it. [28]*

The Barbra Streisand Political IQ Award for Celebrity Vapidity

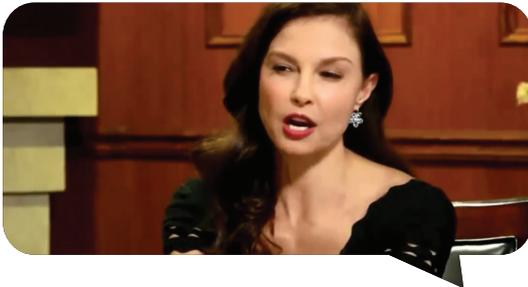
WINNER



"He is a clown in blackface sitting on the Supreme Court. He gets me that angry. He doesn't belong there....This man does not belong on the Supreme Court. He is an embarrassment. He is a disgrace to America."

— Actor George Takei, who played Mr. Sulu on Star Trek, talking about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in a June 30 interview with Fox 10 in Phoenix, Arizona. [46 points]

RUNNERS-UP



"I mean, obviously, I love Hillary Rodham Clinton....And so seeing her talk about early childhood vulnerability and brain development. Man, that woman is stout. She is stout. So yes, I will be all in when the time comes....I think she might be the most overqualified candidate we've had since, you know, Thomas Jefferson or George Washington."

— Actress/activist Ashley Judd on Larry King Now, an Ora.TV show also carried on Hulu and broadcast on RT, the Russian TV channel, January 30. [37]

"I actually am aroused by him [Bernie Sanders]. I'm serious. I find him to be eye candy, not ear candy, eye candy....I like an old Jewish guy who's a socialist. That's my type of guy. Everybody is talking about [former Maryland Governor Martin] O'Malley and how hot he was. But to me, Bernie is hot."

— Co-host Joy Behar on ABC's The View, October 14. [34]

QUOTE of the YEAR

WINNER



Alfonso Aguilar, Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles: "If there's somebody who is a hard worker when he goes to Washington, it's Paul Ryan..."
Host Melissa Harris-Perry: "I want us to be super careful when we use the language 'hard worker,' because I actually keep an image of folks working in cotton fields on my office wall, because it is a reminder about what hard work looks like. So, I feel you that he's a hard worker, I do, but in the context of relative privilege."
— *Exchange on MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry, October 24.*

RUNNER-UP



— *June 20 Associated Press photo of presidential candidate Ted Cruz, speaking at a 'Celebrate the 2nd Amendment' event that day in Johnston, Iowa.*

2015 AWARD JUDGES

Brent H. Baker, MRC's Vice President for Research & Publications; Editor at Large of the MRC's NewsBusters blog

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

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

Monica Crowley, Ph.D., political and foreign affairs analyst for Fox News; columnist and Online Opinion Editor, *Washington Times*

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; Society of Emeritus Trustees for the Heritage Foundation

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

Jim Eason, retired radio talk show host

Erick Erickson, Editor-in-Chief RedState.com; radio talk show host on WSB in Atlanta

Lucianne Goldberg, publisher of Lucianne.com media forum

Tim Graham, Executive Editor of the MRC's NewsBusters blog and Director of Media Analysis for the MRC

Stephen Hayes, senior writer at *The Weekly Standard* and panelist on FNC's *Special Report with Bret Baier*

Mollie Ziegler Hemingway, senior editor of *The Federalist*

Quin Hillyer, contributing editor to *National Review*

Mark Hyman, commentator, Behind the Headlines, for the Sinclair Broadcast Group

Jeff Jacoby, op-ed columnist for the *Boston Globe*

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

Lars Larson, Portland, Oregon-based talk radio host for Compass Media

Mark Larson, radio talk show host, KCBQ-AM 1170 ; news analyst for KUSI-TV in San Diego

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

Jeffrey Lord, blogger for NewsBusters and contributing editor to *The American Spectator*

Seth Mandel, op-ed editor for the *New York Post*

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

Thomas McArdle, senior writer for *Investor's Business Daily*

Patrick McGuigan, Editor of CapitolBeatOK.com and *The City Sentinel* in Oklahoma City

Vicki McKenna, host, *The Vicki McKenna Show* on WIBA in Madison and WISN in Milwaukee

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* magazine

Wladyslaw Pleszczynski, Editorial Director, *The American Spectator*

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

Tron Simpson, radio host on KVOR 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

Walter E. Williams, professor of economics, George Mason University

David Webb, SiriusXM radio talk host; Fox News contributor

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

Genevieve Wood, Senior Contributor to *The Daily Signal*

Martha Zoller, former radio talk show host in Georgia



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