

Notable Quotables

October 22, 2007 (Vol. Twenty; No. 22)

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



America's
Media Watchdog

MRC's 20th Anniversary Edition

Since the Media Research Center was founded in October 1987, our mission has been to document, expose and neutralize the media elite's liberal bias, and our bi-weekly *Notable Quotables*, which debuted in February 1988, has been a vital tool in pursuing this mission. After publishing more than 500 issues — more than 8,000 notable quotes — we are pleased to bring you this eight-page 20th Anniversary edition with the most outrageous quotes from the MRC's first two decades.

Useful Idiots for Communism

"The Soviet Union, draped in history, born of bloody revolution, bound together by a dream that is still being dreamt. It is the dream of a socialist nation marching towards the first communist state. The Soviet Union, a mighty union....Once, the Kremlin was the home of czars. Today, it belongs to the people....Atheist though the state may be, freedom to worship as you please is enshrined in the Soviet constitution."

— From the first night of Ted Turner's seven-hour TBS cable series *Portrait of the Soviet Union*, March 20, 1988.

"[Fidel] Castro has delivered the most to those who had the least....Education was once available to the rich and the well-connected. It is now free to all....Medical care was once for the privileged few. Today it is available to every Cuban and it is free....Health and education are the revolution's great success stories."

— Peter Jennings, *ABC's World News Tonight*, April 3, 1989.

Bring Back the Iron Curtain

"A Gulag Breeds Rage, Yes, but Also Serenity"

— *New York Times* headline over article on last Soviet political prisoners being released, February 12, 1992.

"Few tears will be shed over the demise of the East German army, but what about East Germany's eighty symphony orchestras, bound to lose some subsidies? Or the whole East German system, which covered everyone in a security blanket from day care to health care, from housing to education? Some people are beginning to express, if ever so slightly, nostalgia for that Berlin Wall."

— CBS's Bob Simon, March 16, 1990 *Evening News*.

"It's short of soap, so there are lice in the hospitals. It's short of pantyhose, so women's legs go bare. It's short of snowsuits, so babies stay home in the winter....The problem isn't communism; nobody even talked about communism this week. The problem is shortages."

— Commentator John Chancellor talking about the Soviet Union on *NBC Nightly News*, August 21, 1991.

Reviling Ronald Reagan

"After eight years of what many saw as the Reagan administration's benign neglect of the poor and studied indifference to civil rights, a lot of those who lived through this week in Overtown [rioting in a section of Miami] seemed to think the best thing about George Bush is that he is not Ronald Reagan...There is an Overtown in every big city in America — pockets of misery made even meaner and more desperate the past eight years."

— Reporter Richard Threlkeld on *ABC's World News Tonight*, January 20, 1989, Reagan's last day as President.

"The decade had its highs (Gorbachev, Bird)...and the decade had its lows (Reagan, AIDS)"

— *Boston Globe* headline over two pages of '80s reviews by the paper's columnists, December 28, 1989.

"The bottom line is more tax money is going to be needed. Just how much will be the primary issue on the agenda when congressional leaders meet with the President later today....It now seems the time has come to pay the fiddler for our costly dance of the Reagan years."

— Bryant Gumbel opening *NBC's Today*, May 9, 1990.

"The amazing thing is most people seem content to believe that almost everybody had a good time in the '80s, a real shot at the dream. But the fact is, they didn't. Did we wear blinders? Did we think the '80s left behind just the homeless? The fact is that almost nine in ten Americans actually saw their lifestyle decline."

— NBC reporter Keith Morrison, February 7, 1992 *Nightly News*. Census Bureau data shows median family income increased in all income classes from 1981 to 1989.

"In the plague years of the 1980s — that low decade of denial, indifference, hostility, opportunism and idiocy — government fiddled and medicine diddled, and the media were silent or hysterical. A gerontocratic Ronald Reagan took this [AIDS] plague less seriously than Gerald Ford had taken swine flu. After all, he didn't need the ghettos and he didn't want the gays."

— CBS's John Leonard on *Sunday Morning*, Sept. 5, 1993.

Rather: The Ambush that Failed

"You and the President were being party to sending missiles to the Ayatollah of Iran. Can you explain how — you were supposed to be the — you are — you're an anti-terrorist expert! Iran was officially a terrorist state....The question is — but — you made us hypocrites in the face of the world! How could you sign on to such a policy?!"

— Anchor Dan Rather in a live interview with Vice President George Bush, Jan. 25, 1988 *CBS Evening News*.

Touting a Tax-Hiker's "Courage"

"When he entered the race nearly a year ago, he had the courage to say that as President he would probably have to raise taxes. And he never recovered from his courage."

— Peter Jennings on Bruce Babbitt's dropping out of the presidential race, ABC's *World News Tonight*, Feb. 18, 1988.

Multiple Media Gorbasmis

"[Soviet dictator Mikhail] Gorbachev has probably moved more quickly than any person in the history of the world. Moving faster than Jesus Christ did."

— Ted Turner as quoted in *Time*, January 22, 1990.

"By American presidential standards, Mikhail Gorbachev accomplished enough in his seven-year term to qualify for a bust on Mount Rushmore."

— NBC's Jim Maceda, December 25, 1991 *Nightly News*.

"What do you do for an encore after ending the Cold War and reversing the arms race? How about saving the planet? That's the latest assignment for Mikhail Gorbachev, having assumed the presidency of the International Green Cross, a new environmental organization..."

— *Time's* "The Week" section, May 3, 1993.

Damn Those Conservatives

"Supreme Court nominee David Souter wants the world to stop viewing him as a nerd. Senate Democrats want to know if, instead, Souter is a neanderthal — a mean-spirited conservative bent on wrecking constitutional protections for women, minorities, and accused criminals."

— Beginning of September 13, 1990 *USA Today* cover story by legal reporter Tony Mauro.

"Corporations pay public relations firms millions of dollars to contrive the kind of grass-roots response that Falwell or Pat Robertson can galvanize in a televised sermon. Their followers are largely poor, uneducated, and easy to command."

— *Washington Post* reporter Michael Weisskopf in a February 1, 1993 news story.

"I hope his wife feeds him lots of eggs and butter and he dies early like many black men do, of heart disease....He is an absolutely reprehensible person."

— *USA Today* columnist and Pacifica Radio talk show host Julianne Malveaux on Justice Clarence Thomas, November 4, 1994 PBS's *To the Contrary*.

The "Conscience of the Country"

"He [Jesse Jackson] has become here, a kind of new, he's acquired a new status. He's almost like Hubert Humphrey was, a sort of conscience of the country."

— Veteran correspondent Eric Sevareid during CBS News coverage of the Democratic convention, July 20, 1988.

Not Enough Americans Died

"Greenpeace, the public interest organization, believes that the Iraqi death toll, civilian and military, during and after the war, may be as high as 198,000. Allied military dead are counted in the low hundreds. The disparity is huge and somewhat embarrassing."

— NBC commentator John Chancellor a year after the first Gulf War ended, March 12, 1992 *Nightly News*.

Proposal to Save Planet Earth

"It's a morbid observation, but if everyone on Earth just stopped breathing for an hour, the greenhouse effect would no longer be a problem."

— *Newsweek* Senior Writer Jerry Adler, Dec. 31, 1990.

America, One Giant Mess

"The President was remarkably upbeat for a man who runs a country with a monstrous national debt, huge balance of trade problems, a crumbling infrastructure, dirty air, countless homeless people, a coast-to-coast drug epidemic, and a faltering self-image."

— *CBS This Morning* co-host Harry Smith the morning after President George H. W. Bush's State of the Union speech, February 2, 1990.

Reprehensible Republicans

"The whole week was double-ply, wall-to-wall ugly....The Republican Party reached an unimaginable slouchy, and brazen, and constant, level of mendacity last week....[President Bush] is in 'campaign mode' now, which means mendacity doesn't matter, aggression is all and wall-to-wall ugly is the order of battle for the duration."

— Senior Editor Joe Klein on the Republican convention, August 31, 1992 *Newsweek*.

"This is a party that is dominated by men, and this convention is dominated by men as well....Do you think before tonight they thought very much about what happens in America with rape?"

— NBC anchor Tom Brokaw interviewing rape victim Jan Licence after her victims-rights speech to the GOP convention, August 13, 1996.

"Over the past 18 months, while Republicans fulminated about welfare and affirmative action, more than 20 churches in Alabama and six other Southern and Border states have been torched....There is already enough evidence to indict the cynical conservatives who build their political careers, George Wallace-style, on a foundation of race-baiting. They may not start fires, but they fan the flames."

— *Time* national correspondent Jack E. White, March 18, 1996 issue.

Fawning Over Bill & Hillary

"I must say I was struck by the expanse of their chests, though. They may have to put out their stats."

— *Newsweek* reporter Eleanor Clift on Bill Clinton and Al Gore, CNN's *Inside Politics*, July 9, 1992.

"If we could be one-hundredth as great as you and Hillary Rodham Clinton have been in the White House, we'd take it right now and walk away winners....Tell Mrs. Clinton we respect her and we're pulling for her."

— Dan Rather to Bill Clinton at a May 27, 1993 CBS affiliates meeting, talking about anchoring with Connie Chung.

"As the icon of American womanhood, she is the medium through which the remaining anxieties over feminism are being played out....Hillary Rodham Clinton will define for women that magical spot where the important work of the world and love and children and an inner life all come together. Like Ginger Rogers, she will do everything her partner does, only backward and in high heels, and with what was missing in [Lee] Atwater — a lot of heart."

— *Time* correspondent Margaret Carlson, May 10, 1993.

"His sturdy jaw precedes him. He smiles from sea to shining sea. Is this President a candidate for Mt. Rushmore or what?...A single medley of expressions from Clinton may be worth much more, to much of America, than every ugly accusation Paula Jones can muster."

— *Los Angeles Times* television writer Howard Rosenberg reviewing Clinton's Inaugural Address, Jan. 22, 1997.

"I'm endlessly fascinated by her [Hillary Clinton]....She's so smart. Virtually every time I've seen her perform, she has knocked my socks off."

— CBS's Lesley Stahl, as quoted by Gail Shister in the December 8, 1999 *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Admiring a Mad Bomber's Ethics

"[Ted Kaczynski] wasn't a hypocrite. He lived as he wrote. His manifesto — and there are a lot of things in it that I would agree with and a lot of other people would, that industrialization and pollution all are terrible things — but he carried it to an extreme. And, obviously, murder is something that is far beyond any political philosophy, but he had a bike. He didn't have any plumbing; he didn't have any electricity."

— *Time* reporter Elaine Shannon talking about the Unabomber, April 7, 1996 C-SPAN *Sunday Journal*.

Happy Columbus Day

"[Columbus] sailed just as Jews and Muslims were being expelled from Spain, the persecution of those peoples and the riches robbed from them paying for his small armada of ships, the *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*, to set sail for new plunder. For Native Americans, the people who hardly felt discovered, Columbus' landing commenced a Holocaust. There's really no other word for the death delivered by settlers, as they scattered, enslaved, and obliterated Indian nations on their own sacred lands."

— Co-host Scott Simon on NBC's *Today*, Oct. 11, 1992.

Scolding Voters' Temper Tantrum

"Some thoughts on those angry voters. Ask parents of any two-year-old and they can tell you about those temper tantrums: the stomping feet, the rolling eyes, the screaming. It's clear that the anger controls the child and not the other way around. It's the job of the parent to teach the child to control the anger and channel it in a positive way. Imagine a nation full of uncontrolled two-year-old rage. The voters had a temper tantrum last week [electing a GOP Congress]....Parenting and governing don't have to be dirty words: the nation can't be run by an angry two-year-old."

— Peter Jennings in his daily ABC Radio commentary, November 14, 1994.

Newt's Deadly GOP Insurgency

"You called Gingrich and his ilk, your words, 'trickle-down terrorists who base their agenda on division, exclusion, and fear.' Do you think middle class Americans are in need of protection from that group?"

— NBC's Bryant Gumbel to House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt, January 4, 1995 *Today*.

"The new Republican majority in Congress took a big step today on its legislative agenda to demolish or damage government aid programs, many of them designed to help children and the poor."

— Dan Rather, March 16, 1995 *CBS Evening News*.

"When *NBC Nightly News* continues: In Washington, if they cut food stamps, who doesn't eat?"

— Tom Brokaw, March 22, 1995.

"Next week on ABC's *World News Tonight*, a series of reports about our environment which will tell you precisely what the new Congress has in mind: the most frontal assault on the environment in 25 years. Is this what the country wants?"

— Peter Jennings in an ABC promo during the July 9, 1995 *This Week with David Brinkley*.

"In light of the new welfare reform bill, do you think the children need more prayers than ever before?"

— Bryant Gumbel to Children's Defense Fund leader Marian Wright Edelman, September 23, 1996 *Today*.

Three Cheers for Liberalism

"I think liberalism lives — the notion that we don't have to stay where we are as a society, we have promises to keep, and it is liberalism, whether people like it or not, which has animated all the years of my life. What on Earth did conservatism ever accomplish for our country?"

— Charles Kuralt talking with Morley Safer on the CBS special, *One for the Road with Charles Kuralt*, May 4, 1994.

How Sad — Babies that Don't Die

"Sadly, many home remedies could damage a fetus instead of kill it."

— *Newsweek* Senior Editor Melinda Beck on self-performed abortions, July 17, 1989 issue.

Castigating the Competition

“[Rush Limbaugh] is, above all, a sophisticated propagandist, an avatar of the politics of meanness and envy....He must, like all demagogues, scare his listeners, get them to believe in conspiracy, rumor....Like Reagan, Limbaugh is neither curious nor brave; he would rather tell his audiences fairy tales than have them face the world; he would rather sneer at the weak than trouble the strong.”

— **Former *Washington Post* reporter David Remnick in the *Post's Outlook* section, February 20, 1994.**

“In a nation that has entertained and appalled itself for years with hot talk on the radio and the campaign trail, the inflamed rhetoric of the '90s is suddenly an unindicted co-conspirator in the [Oklahoma City federal building] blast.”

— ***Time* Senior Writer Richard Lacayo, May 8, 1995.**

“The bombing in Oklahoma City has focused renewed attention on the rhetoric that's been coming from the right and those who cater to angry white men. While no one's suggesting that right-wing radio jocks approve of violence, the extent to which their approach fosters violence is being questioned by many observers, including the President.... Right-wing talk show hosts like Rush Limbaugh, Bob Grant, Oliver North, G. Gordon Liddy, Michael Reagan, and others take to the air every day with basically the same format: detail a problem, blame the government or a group, and invite invective from like-minded people....Never do most of the radio hosts encourage outright violence, but the extent to which their attitudes may embolden or encourage some extremists has clearly become an issue.”

— ***Today* co-host Bryant Gumbel, April 25, 1995.**

“What must it be like to live in Rush Limbaugh's world? A world where when anyone other than conservative, white men attempts to do anything or enter any profession, be it business, politics, art or sports, the only reason they're allowed entry or, incredibly, attain excellence is because the standard was lowered....Edgy, controversial, brilliant. What a way to shake up intelligent sports commentary. Hitler would have killed in talk radio. He was edgy, too.”

— **Nancy Giles on CBS's *Sunday Morning*, Oct. 5, 2003.**

Blame Deaths on Christian Right

“Let's talk a little bit more about the right wing because I know that's something you feel very strongly about. But this is actually not necessarily about the right wing, but perhaps a climate that some say has been established by religious zealots or Christian conservatives. There have been two recent incidents in the news I think that upset most people in this country, that is the dragging death of James Byrd, Jr., and the beating death of Matthew Shepard. I just would like you to reflect on whether you feel people in this country are increasingly intolerant, mean-spirited, et cetera, and what, if anything, can be done about that.”

— **NBC's *Today* co-host Katie Couric to former Texas Governor Ann Richards as she hosted a 92nd Street Y appearance in New York City on March 3, 1999, an event shown by C-SPAN April 3, 1999.**

Fair and Balanced Bryant Gumbel?

Tim Russert: “Is it hard holding your own views in check?”

Bryant Gumbel: “You know what? In terms of my political views, I hold them in check. I don't think that someone who watches is inclined to think that I'm one way or the other.”

— **CNBC's *Tim Russert*, October 30, 1999.**

vs.

“Largely as a result of the policies and priorities of the Reagan administration, more people are becoming poor and staying poor in this country than at any time since World War II.”

— ***Today* co-host Bryant Gumbel, July 17, 1989.**

“The boom years following World War II saw the U.S. economy take off, giving rise to the growth of the great American middle class. The rising standard of living meant homes, cars, TVs, college for the kids — all in all, a piece of the American dream. But in the Reagan years, economic erosion set in, so much so that the middle class now finds itself in ever-deepening trouble.”

— **Gumbel on NBC's *Today*, January 22, 1992.**

“You're aligned to a party which owes many of its victories to the so-called religious right and other conservative extremists who are historically insensitive to minority concerns. That doesn't bother you?”

— **Gumbel to black Republican U.S. Rep.-elect J.C. Watts on NBC's *Today*, November 9, 1994.**

“Let's not debate his presidency, but his passing. As opposed to a man like Reagan, [Richard] Nixon was highly regarded as a genuine statesman with a first-class mind.”

— **Gumbel on NBC's *Today*, April 26, 1994.**

White Games = GOP Convention

“Finally tonight, the Winter Games. Count me among those who don't like 'em and won't watch 'em. In fact, I figure when Thomas Paine said, 'These are the times that try men's souls,' he must have been talking about the start of another Winter Olympics. Because they're so trying, maybe over the next three weeks we should all try, too....Try not to laugh when someone says these are the world's greatest athletes, despite a paucity of blacks that makes the Winter Games look like a GOP convention.”

— **Bryant Gumbel on HBO's *Real Sports*, Feb. 7, 2006.**

Vive le Socialisme!

NBC News reporter Keith Miller in Paris: “Break out the band, bring on the drinks. The French are calling it a miracle. A government-mandated 35-hour work week is changing the French way of life....Sixty percent of those on the job say their lives have improved. These American women, all working in France, have time for lunch and a life.”

Katie Couric, following the end of Miller's taped piece:

“So great, that young mother being able to come home at three every day and spend that time with her child. Isn't that nice? The French, they've got it right, don't they?”

— **NBC's *Today*, August 1, 2001.**

The Clinton Defense Team

"The case is being fomented by right-wing nuts, and yes, she is not a very credible witness, and it's really not a law case at all...some sleazy woman with big hair coming out of the trailer parks...I think she's a dubious witness, I really do."

— **Newsweek** Washington Bureau Chief **Evan Thomas** discussing **Paula Jones**, **May 7, 1994** *Inside Washington*.

"We've got an awful lot to talk about this week, including the [Paula Jones] sexual harassment suit against the President. Of course, in that one, it's a little tough to figure out who's really being harassed."

— **Today** co-host **Bryant Gumbel**, **May 10, 1994**.

"If Ken Starr is a credible prosecutor he will bring this to a conclusion and the Clintons will be exonerated."

— **Newsweek's Eleanor Clift** on independent counsel **Ken Starr's** investigation, **Feb. 10, 1996** *McLaughlin Group*.

"If there were an Ig-Nobel Peace Prize, who would win it?"

- Slobodan Milosevic
- Osama bin Laden
- Saddam Hussein
- Linda Tripp"

— "What do you think?" question of the day on the **ABCNews.com** home page, **October 15, 1998**.

"The best chance for Clinton to shine in history might be for Congress to force him to pay the price for lying about sex. In the unlikely event he is pushed from office, it would take only weeks, maybe just days, before a vast national remorse set in. We destroyed our lovable rogue prince of prosperity over this? Clinton would become a martyr to a legal system run amok."

— **Newsweek's Jonathan Alter** in the **Aug. 24, 1998** issue.

"That herd of managers from the House, I mean frankly all they were missing was white sheets. They're like night riders going over. This is bigger than Bill Clinton."

— **Eleanor Clift** on *The McLaughlin Group*, **Jan. 9, 1999**.

"Mr. President, we love you. I want to hug you, I want to hug you, please do the right thing. This is nothing, this is nothing. Thomas Jefferson did not have this in mind, I swear to God...I would give Ken Starr the Nobel Peace Prize were he to be man enough not to refer a sex lie to the House for impeachment."

— **Geraldo Rivera** urging Clinton not to cooperate, **August 6, 1998** edition of *Rivera Live* on **CNBC**.

On Her Knees for Abortion Rights

"I would be happy to give him [Bill Clinton] a blow job just to thank him for keeping abortion legal. I think American women should be lining up with their presidential kneepads on to show their gratitude for keeping the theocracy off our backs."

— **Time** contributor and ex-reporter **Nina Burleigh** recalling a quote she gave the *Washington Post's* **Howard Kurtz**, as quoted in the **July 20, 1998** *New York Observer*.

"Bully" Starr = Himmler the Nazi

"Twinkle, twinkle Kenneth Starr, now we see how crude you are / Up above your jury high, like the judge up in the sky / Twinkle, twinkle little Starr, now we see how wrong you are / When you drag the agents in, when you bully moms and kin / Then you kiss the treacherous Tripp, twinkle, twinkle DC drip / Twinkle, twinkle little Starr, now we see how small you are."

— **Geraldo Rivera** singing his version of "Twinkle Little Star," **July 21, 1998** *Rivera Live* on **CNBC**.

"Facially, it finally dawned on me that the person Ken Starr has reminded me of facially all this time was Heinrich Himmler, including the glasses. If he now pursues the President of the United States, who, however flawed his apology was, came out and invoked God, family, his daughter, a political conspiracy and everything but the kitchen sink, would not there be some sort of comparison to a persecutor as opposed to a prosecutor for Mr. Starr?"

— **Keith Olbermann** on **MSNBC's Big Show**, in a question to the *Chicago Tribune's* **James Warren**, **August 18, 1998**.

Celebrating a Fairy Tale Marriage

"She's ecumenical but prefers Italian and Mexican. The President fixes her eggs with jalapeno peppers on the weekends....Valentine's Day at the Red Sage restaurant. Even at a romantic outing, the President can be the date from hell, talking to everyone but the girl he brung.... Finally alone, they have 'painted soup' and the lamb baked in herbed bread. They exchange gifts and touch each other more in two hours than the Bushes did in four years."

— **Time** reporter **Margaret Carlson**, **June 1993** *Vanity Fair*.

"There is a simple alchemy to their relationship: she's goofy, flat-out in love with him and he with her. 'They don't kiss. They devour each other,' says one aide. He needs her — for intellectual solace, political guidance and spiritual sustenance....They see themselves in almost Messianic terms, as great leaders who have a mission to fulfill. Her friends speculate that the Bible gives her a historical context for what she's going through. 'There's a lot of consolation, guidance and refueling that comes from reading about centuries-old calamities,' says a friend. Given the storm they're in, it's a source of inspiration they'll need."

— **Matthew Cooper** and **Karen Breslau** writing in the **February 9, 1998** *Newsweek*.

Dan's Salute to "Honest" Bill

Host Bill O'Reilly: "I want to ask you flat out, do you think President Clinton's an honest man?"

Dan Rather: "Yes, I think he's an honest man....I do."

O'Reilly: "Even though he lied to Jim Lehrer's face about the Lewinsky case?"

Rather: "Who among us has not lied about something?...I know that you consider it sort of astonishing anybody would say so, but I think you can be an honest person and lie about any number of things."

— **Exchange** on **FNC's The O'Reilly Factor**, **May 15, 2001**.

Extolling Virtues of Fidel's Prison

"Elian [Gonzalez] might expect a nurturing life in Cuba, sheltered from the crime and social breakdown that would be part of his upbringing in Miami....The boy will nestle again in a more peaceable society that treasures its children."

— **Brook Larmer and John Leland, Apr. 17, 2000 *Newsweek*.**

"Frankly, to be a poor child in Cuba may in many instances be better than being a poor child in Miami, and I'm not going to condemn their lifestyle so gratuitously."

— **Eleanor Clift on *The McLaughlin Group*, April 8, 2000.**

"For Castro, freedom starts with education. And if literacy alone were the yardstick, Cuba would rank as one of the freest nations on Earth. The literacy rate is 96 percent."

— **Barbara Walters on ABC's *20/20*, October 11, 2002.**

Bush: Selected, Not Elected

"There is no question, or very little question, that Al Gore won the votes cast in the state of Florida. The question is: Will he win the votes counted?...If this race is counted fairly, Al Gore won more votes in Florida."

— **George Stephanopoulos on *This Week*, Nov. 12, 2000.**

"Good evening. Texas Governor George Bush tonight will assume the mantle and the honor of President-elect. This comes 24 hours after a sharply split and, some say, politically and ideologically motivated U.S. Supreme Court ended Vice President Gore's contest of the Florida election and, in effect, handed the presidency to Bush."

— **CBS's Dan Rather on the Dec. 13, 2000 *Evening News*.**

Ruing Catastrophe of Tax Cuts

"Adios, surplus. When retired boomers dine on dog food, will they say thanks for that \$600?"

— ***Newsweek's* "Conventional Wisdom" box, assigning President Bush a "down" arrow, Sept. 3, 2001 issue.**

"If you see a whole monkfish at the market, you'll find its massive mouth scarier than a shark's. Apparently it sits on the bottom of the ocean, opens its Godzilla jaws and waits for poor unsuspecting fishies to swim right into it, not unlike the latest recipients of W's capital-gains cuts."

— **Food writer Jonathan Reynolds in a July 27, 2003 *New York Times Magazine* article about Norway's seafood.**

Poisoning America's Children

"Remember when Ronald Reagan tried to save a few pennies on the school lunch program by classifying ketchup as a vegetable? Last week the Bush administration went further, axing a regulation that forced the meat industry to test hamburgers served in school for salmonella. Imagine, mad cow disease among children, K through 12. The day it hit the papers the proposal was quickly withdrawn. [If] the Bush administration keeps trying to kill health and safety regulations at this pace, soon we won't be able to eat, drink or breathe."

— **"Outrage of the Week" from *Time* magazine's Margaret Carlson, April 7, 2001 *Capital Gang* on CNN.**

9/11 = Our Fault

"Some people who hated Americans set out to kill a lot of us and they succeeded [on 9/11]....We're trying to protect ourselves with more weapons. We have to do it, I guess, but it might be better if we figured out how to behave as a nation in a way that wouldn't make so many people in the world want to kill us."

— **CBS's Andy Rooney on *60 Minutes*, Sept. 10, 2006.**

Journalists 1st, Americans 2nd

"The Pentagon as a legitimate target?...As a journalist, I feel strongly that's something that I should not be taking a position on. I'm supposed to figure out what is and what is not, not what ought to be."

— **ABC News President David Westin at a Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism event on Oct. 23, 2001 shown four days later on C-SPAN.**

"We all know that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter and that Reuters upholds the principle that we do not use the word terrorist....To be frank, it adds little to call the attack on the World Trade Center a terrorist attack."

— **Steven Jukes, global head of news for Reuters News Service, in an internal memo cited by the *Washington Post's* Howard Kurtz in a September 24, 2001 article.**

America, the Real Evil Empire

"Recovery and debris removal work continues at the site of the World Trade Center known as 'ground zero' in New York, March 25, 2002. Human rights around the world have been a casualty of the U.S. 'war on terror' since September 11."

— **Caption for a Reuters News Service photo distributed with a September 3, 2002 story by Richard Waddington headlined, "Rights the first victim of 'war on terror.'"**

"I decided to put on my flag pin tonight — first time. Until now I haven't thought it necessary to display a little metallic icon of patriotism for everyone to see....I put this on as a modest riposte to men with flags in their lapels who shoot missiles from the safety of Washington think tanks....I put it on to remind myself that not every patriot thinks we should do to the people of Baghdad what bin Laden did to us."

— **Bill Moyers on PBS's *Now*, February 28, 2003.**

"I just want to say: Who are we? We are people who have always been for inspections of prisons, for some degree of human rights, and now we're defending neither... We have now violated everything that we stand for. It is the first time in my life I have been ashamed of my country."

— **NPR's Nina Totenberg discussing secret CIA prisons for captured terrorists, *Inside Washington*, Nov. 4, 2005.**

"I don't support our troops....When you volunteer for the U.S. military...you're willingly signing up to be a fighting tool of American imperialism....I'm not advocating that we spit on returning veterans like they did after the Vietnam War, but we shouldn't be celebrating people for doing something we don't think was a good idea."

— ***Los Angeles Times* columnist and former *Time* staff writer Joel Stein in a January 24, 2006 column.**

Hugs for Liberal Heroes

"If she had lived, Mary Jo Kopechne would be 62 years old. Through his tireless work as a legislator, Edward Kennedy would have brought comfort to her in her old age."

— **Charles Pierce** in a **Jan. 5, 2003 *Boston Globe Magazine* article. Kopechne drowned while trapped in Kennedy's submerged car off Chappaquiddick Island in July 1969, an accident Kennedy did not report for several hours.**

Brian Williams: "Is it fair to call him [Jimmy Carter] the best former President in, at minimum, modern American history, and perhaps, well, I guess, the last 200 years?"

Historian Marshall Frady: "Which embraces all presidencies. I think absolutely."

— **CNBC's *The News with Brian Williams*, Oct. 11, 2002.**

"For Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, tonight's acceptance of the Democratic nomination is more than merely a day. It's his destiny....A gifted athlete and captain of the debate team at Yale, Kerry followed his idol's [John F. Kennedy's] lead and enlisted in the Navy in 1966. In Vietnam, Lieutenant John F. Kerry rescued a comrade in combat, killed an enemy soldier, won three Purple Hearts and one Bronze Star....Tonight, the loner will stand alone here in his hometown one more time and look to do what John F. Kerry has nearly always done — find a way to win."

— **CBS's Byron Pitts on *The Early Show*, July 29, 2004.**

Sinister, Racist & Insensitive

"I have a feeling that it [Osama bin Laden's new videotape] could tilt the election a bit. In fact, I'm a little inclined to think that Karl Rove, the political manager at the White House, who is a very clever man, that he probably set up bin Laden to this thing."

— **Former CBS *Evening News* anchor Walter Cronkite on CNN's *Larry King Live*, October 29, 2004.**

"I think that anyone who's not going to vote for Barack Obama because he is black isn't going to vote for a Democrat anyway."

— **George Stephanopoulos, *This Week*, May 13, 2007.**

"You have made so many offensive comments over the years. Do you regret any of them?...You seem indifferent to suffering. Have you ever suffered yourself?"

— **Two of the questions posed to *National Review* founder William F. Buckley by the *New York Times Magazine*'s Deborah Solomon, July 11, 2004.**

Just Like George Washington

Andrea Mitchell: "It is an iconic picture: American hostages, hands bound and blindfolded, being paraded outside the U.S. embassy in Tehran by their captors. But has one of those student radicals now become Iran's newly elected President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?..."

Brian Williams: "Andrea, what would it all matter if proven true? Someone brought up today the first several U.S. Presidents were certainly revolutionaries and might have been called terrorists at the time by the British Crown, after all."

— **NBC *Nightly News*, June 30, 2005.**

Bracing for the End of the World

"The entire federal government — the Congress, the executive, the courts — is united behind a right-wing agenda for which George W. Bush believes he now has a mandate. That agenda includes the power of the state to force pregnant women to surrender control over their own lives. It includes using the taxing power to transfer wealth from working people to the rich. It includes giving corporations a free hand to eviscerate the environment and control the regulatory agencies meant to hold them accountable. And it includes secrecy on a scale you cannot imagine. Above all, it means judges with a political agenda appointed for life. If you like the Supreme Court that put George W. Bush in the White House, you will swoon over what's coming. And if you like God in government, get ready for the Rapture."

— **Bill Moyers' commentary on PBS's *Now November 8, 2002*, a few days after Republicans won the midterm congressional elections.**

Apologizing for Awful America

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

— **From *New York Times* Publisher Arthur Sulzberger, Jr.'s May 21 graduation address at the State University of New York at New Paltz, shown on C-SPAN May 27, 2006.**

Apocalypse Now

"Today, life on Earth is disappearing faster than the days when dinosaurs breathed their last, but for a very different reason....Us *homo sapiens* are turning out to be as destructive a force as any asteroid. Earth's intricate web of ecosystems thrived for millions of years as natural paradises, until we came along, paved paradise, and put up a parking lot. Our assault on nature is killing off the very things we depend on for our own lives....The stark reality is that there are simply too many of us, and we consume way too much, especially here at home."

— **NBC's Matt Lauer hosting *Countdown to Doomsday*, a two-hour June 14, 2006 Sci-Fi Channel special.**

Good Riddance to the Gipper

CBS's Morley Safer: "You talk about a vision, and it's some kind of abstract, vague idea. Did his [Ronald Reagan's] vision include extraordinary deficits? Did his vision include cutting of the budgets for education and a back of the hand in terms of public education?"

Larry King: "History will not be kind to him?"

Safer: "No, I don't think history particularly will be kind....I don't think history has any reason to be kind to him."

— **CNN's *Larry King Live*, June 14, 2004.**

Typical Liberal Compassion

Host Tina Gulland: "I don't think I have any Jesse Helms defenders here. Nina?"

NPR's Nina Totenberg: "Not me. I think he ought to be worried about what's going on in the Good Lord's mind, because if there is retributive justice, he'll get AIDS from a transfusion, or one of his grandchildren will get it."

— Exchange on the July 8, 1995 *Inside Washington*, after Helms said the government spends too much on AIDS.

Run, Dick, Run

"The day I say Dick Cheney is going to run for President, I'll kill myself. All we need is one more liar."

— **Hearst White House columnist Helen Thomas**, as quoted in *The Hill* newspaper, July 28, 2005.

Just a Baffling Coincidence

"Crime Keeps On Falling; but Prisons Keep On Filling."

— **September 28, 1997 *New York Times* headline over Week in Review article.**

Ted Turner's Bicycle Paradise

Ted Turner: "I am absolutely convinced that the North Koreans are absolutely sincere....I looked them right in the eyes. And they looked like they meant the truth. You know, just because somebody's done something wrong in the past doesn't mean they can't do right in the future or the present. That happens all the, all the time."

Wolf Blitzer: "But this is one of the most despotic regimes and [North Korean dictator] Kim Jong-il is one of the worst men on Earth. Isn't that a fair assessment?"

Turner: "Well, I didn't get to meet him, but he didn't look — in the pictures that I've seen of him on CNN, he didn't look too much different than most other people."

Blitzer: "But look at the way he's treating his own people."

Turner: "Well, hey, listen. I saw a lot of people over there. They were thin and they were riding bicycles instead of driving in cars, but—"

Blitzer: "A lot of those people are starving."

Turner: "I didn't see any, I didn't see any brutality...."

— **CNN's *The Situation Room*, September 19, 2005.**

Real Terrorists Here at Home

"Since September 11, the word 'terrorist' has come to mean someone who is radical, Islamic and foreign. But many believe we have as much to fear from a home-grown group of anti-abortion crusaders."

— **Reporter Jami Floyd on ABC's *20/20*, Nov. 28, 2001.**

Just a Tad Self-Absorbed

"I have to bask in this moment, for a moment, because I am here talking to the most powerful man on the planet, who was a poor boy from Arkansas....I am an African-American woman, grew up working class on the south side of Chicago, and this is a pretty special moment for me, to be here talking to you. How does it feel talking to me?"

— **ABC's Carole Simpson interviewing Bill Clinton on ABC's *World News Tonight/Sunday*, November 7, 1999.**

Could Be More, Could Be Less

"Seven years ago, when the last referendum took place, Saddam Hussein won 99.96 percent of the vote. Of course, it is impossible to say whether that's a true measure of the Iraqi people's feelings."

— **ABC's David Wright in Baghdad, on *World News Tonight*, October 15, 2002.**

Rosie Rants Against America

"As a result of the [9/11] attack and the killing of nearly 3,000 innocent people, we invaded two countries and killed innocent people in their countries....Radical Christianity is just as threatening as radical Islam in a country like America."

— **Rosie O'Donnell on ABC's *The View*, Sept. 12, 2006.**

"I just want to say something: 655,000 Iraqi civilians are dead. Who are the terrorists?...If you were in Iraq, and the other country, the United States, the richest in the world, invaded your country and killed 655,000 of your citizens, what would you call us?"

— **O'Donnell on ABC's *The View*, May 17, 2007.**

Good Morning Morons

"In a macro-political sense, do you think the Gore preoccupation with morality is a frightening turn for the party?"

— **Bryant Gumbel to *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner on the August 15, 2000 *The Early Show*.**

"So, I'm getting less chips, paying the same amount of money. Is that legal for them to do this?"

— **CBS's Julie Chen questioning Carol Foreman Tucker of the Consumer Federation of America about companies charging the same price for smaller snack food packages, January 3, 2001 *Early Show*.**

"After pepperoni pizza and banana milkshakes once, I dreamed about Bill Clinton."

— **ABC's Diane Sawyer talking with her *Good Morning America* co-host Charles Gibson, July 10, 2001.**

For video and audio clips of the broadcast quotes in this issue, go to: www.MRC.org

20th Anniversary Notable Quotables

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October 22, 2007 (Volume 20; No. 22)

Published bi-weekly by the
Media Research Center
325 South Patrick Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (800) 672-1423

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