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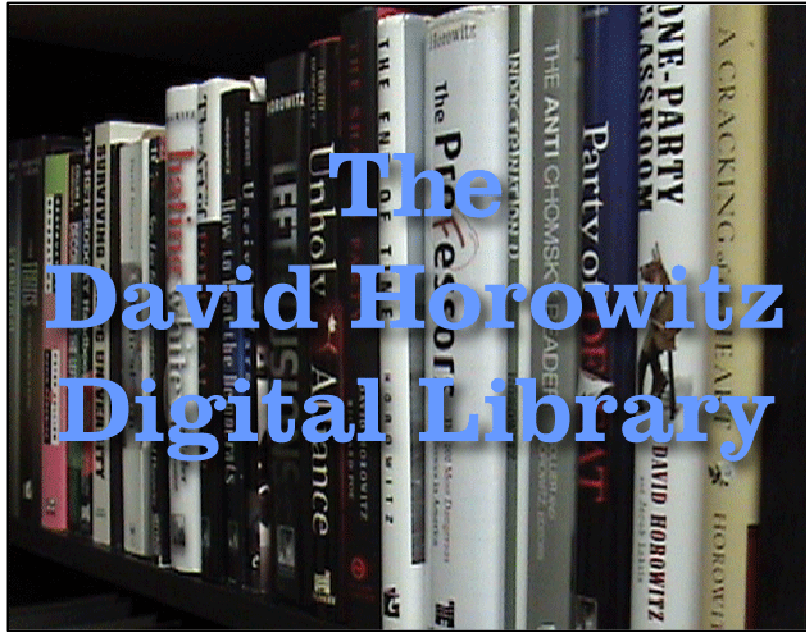
Presents...

***Meltdown with  
Keith Olbermann***

Volume 1 – 2009, Posts 1-24

By David Forsmark

With an Introduction by Peter Collier



## Intellectual Flatulence

2010 JUNE 28



BY PETER COLLIER

A couple of years ago, I was looking for someone to review books for *FrontPage Magazine*. Someone recommended a guy from Michigan named Dave Forsmark who worked as a political consultant. This occupation was not necessarily a recommendation. But I called him and we hit it off immediately. I could tell that he had a shrewd critical eye and an iconoclastic frame of mind. We assimilated to each other (as Boswell says of himself and Johnson) particularly because we both were addicted to baseball (he has a son in college who is a promising pitcher) and television. By "television," I don't mean Masterpiece Theatre. It was more like *The Sopranos* and *The Wire*, *Friday Night Lights* and *Justified* -- extended series which have made the medium far more creative and interesting (we both believe) than the tranquillized regimen of Hollywood films.

It turned out that Dave was as good a television critic as a book reviewer. He has a stiletto sense of irony and doesn't suffer fools lightly. What better subject for such a person, then, than the execrable Keith Olbermann? Forsmark has captured Olbermann-- and the cultural moment in America and his effort to provide a left counterweight to Fox News -- to a fare-the-well in "Meltdown." Here you will find laid bare the intellectual flatulence and moral imbecility of the MSNBC host, his triviality, and tongue-tied political inanities as he tries to use "liberalism" as attack therapy. These posts will make the reader smile and Olbermann blanch. Character assassin and crackpot, he is preserved here in Dave Forsmark's amber.

# The Art of Madness

2009 SEPTEMBER 5

<http://newsrealblog.com/2009/09/05/keith-olbermann-the-art-of-madness/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

Thursday, Glenn Beck used two stories — one of the [Obama Administration's misuse of the National Endowment for the Arts](#), the other of Obama's planned speech to the nation's elementary schools — to show that subtle propaganda in American culture is nothing new.

For his last *Countdown* segment of the week — the supposed “Number One Story!” — MSNBC's [Keith Olbermann](#) purported to deconstruct Glenn Beck's report on the fascist and communist roots of much of the art at Rockefeller Center, home of NBC News. Now, admittedly, Beck can get a bit emotional, but after this segment, MSNBC execs might spend their holiday weekend pondering changing the name of Olbermann's show to *Meltdown*.

While Beck was at times imprecise in his timeline, Olbermann countered with deranged free association like:

*The owl and the pussycat, you left out the owl and the pussycat... the horses Mr. Ed and Barbaro... Colonel Mustard in the library with the candle stick?... It`s all there black and white, clear as crystal, you stole fizzy lifting drinks, you bumped into the ceiling which now has to be washed and sterilized. You get nothing, you lose, good day, sir... I see it happening, they've got to tell people the ocean's dying, life is dying. "Soylent Green" it's made out of people. Next thing they'll be breeding us like cattle for food. You've got to tell them, you tell everybody. Listen to me, Beck, you've got to tell them, Soylent Green is people.... You know I love you, baby, I wouldn't leave you. It wasn't my fault, honest. I ran out of gas, I had a flat tire, I didn't have enough money for cab fair. My tux didn't come back from the cleaners. An old friend came in from out of town. Someone stole my car. There was an earthquake, terrible flood, locusts. It wasn't my fault, I swear to God...I am the fool for Christ and the Paraclete of Caborca (ph), I am the wrath of the lamb and the angel of the bottomless pit...The body snatchers are here, can't you see? Everyone, they're here already. You're next. And look what they've already done at the Fox News Building, it's part of the Rockefeller Center....We took those pictures less than 36 hours ago. An outdated hieroglyph of Alan Colmes. Look, Bill O'Reilly's bar-mitzvah picture, but not one symbol representing the Glenn Beck. Overnight, overnight, overnight they sneaked in, the Communist symbol- mongers sneaked in and magically it appears at Rockefeller Center, the symbol of the Beck. This is a travesty, a travesty of a mockery of a sham of a mockery of a travesty of two mockeries of a sham!*

But let's start from the very first words out of Keith Olbermann's mouth in this “Number One Story” segment:

**OLBERMANN:** *Last night we closed this news hour ...*

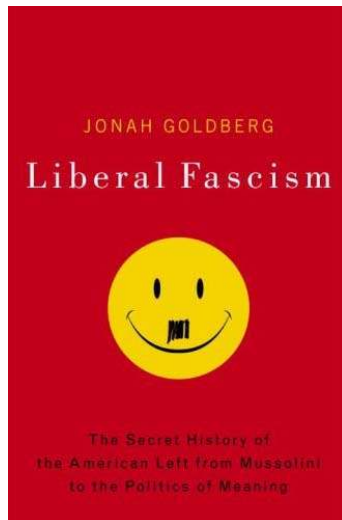
“News hour”? This night's “news hour” featured these guests: Clarence Page, [Markos Moulitsas](#) (founder of the far-left blog [Daily Kos](#)), Rep. [Maxine Waters](#) ([the Castro-loving congresswoman infamous for having justified the actions of the Los Angeles rioters](#) following the 1992 Rodney King verdict), and *Newsweek's* Jonathan Alter.

In this “news hour,” the most moderate voice was liberal columnist Clarence Page, complaining that the government might not socialize medicine all at once. This was followed by the [Daily Kos](#) founder threatening that Obama's “progressive” base won't stand for that and a conversation with [Maxine Waters](#) asserting that insurance companies are really the ones with “death panels.” And the

Keith wrapped up with Jonathan Alter stating that the Republican Party is getting “whiter, older and dumber.” (More on that, tomorrow.) Nary a discouraging—or even challenging—word from “newsman” Keith Olberman.

This from a guy who [said he's the “highest rated news program” because Fox News isn't news](#), it's—“now migrated completely over to serving propaganda to tin foil hatters, conspiracy theorists, paranoids and racists, it's not a news organization...”

But back to the serious point underlying all this—and there is one. Beck is building on the work of Jonah Goldberg, whose [Liberal Fascism](#) was the Left's least favorite bestseller of 2008.



Goldberg brilliantly proved not only that modern liberalism has its roots in the Progressive movement at the turn of the century—but also that progressives at the time were equally enamored of fascism and communism; and that fascism has much in common with the Left, but little with modern conservatism. The political discussion has never been the same, and undoubtedly influenced Beck. Back to *Countdown*:

*GLENN BECK, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: Oh, you know what? Show it. This is it. This is from Moscow; the farmer and the worker, the hammer and the sickle. This capitalist had a hammer and a sickle? Had the worker and the farmer just like Moscow on his building a progressive? (END VIDEO CLIP)*

*OLBERMANN: The owl and the pussycat, you left out the owl and the pussycat. Factual error number one — the Rockefellers, he said were progressives! John D. Rockefeller, the inventor of the oil business!...And the Rockefeller Foundation once gave Van Jones a fellowship. That's absolutely true, but that gives us factual error number 2. The Rockefeller Foundation is*

*a hot bed of communism? The Rockefeller Foundation whose past and current trustees include such notable left- wingers as retired Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The Republican nominee for president in 1916 Charles Evans Hughes...*

Ummm, Keith, would that be the Charles Evans Hughes who was ENDORSED BY THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY? The one hailed by [The Nation Magazine](#) as the harbinger of a “new statism.” *That* one?

Keith falls back on the comfort of liberal clichés: titans of industry can't have a leftist agenda (John D. Rockefeller, the inventor of the oil business!), and the word Republican has always meant evil reactionary. He no doubt considers himself an intellectual for having come up with the name of Charles Evans Hughes.

But as historian Thomas Fleming points out in his deconstruction of Woodrow Wilson, [The Illusion of Victory](#), it was Progressives in the Northeastern Republican Party who pushed anti-lynching legislation, women's suffrage, and anti-discrimination policies for federal hiring -- the latter of which were dismantled by Democrat Wilson as the fulfillment of a campaign promise (a “Southern strategy,” if you will), not long after taking office. ([A pattern later followed by FDR.](#)) (Democrat Wilson also fought a war of choice which cost the lives of over 100,000 Americans, but that's for a later topic.)

*BECK: I've showed you the NBC Building; I've been showing you some of the things from Rockefeller Plaza that have been in plain sight for all these years. (END VIDEO CLIP)*

*OLBERMANN: It's all there black and white, clear as crystal, you stole fizzy lifting drinks, you bumped into the ceiling which now has to be washed and sterilized. You get nothing, you lose, good day, sir.*

*(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BECK: First let me show you what everything means. It's going to be hard to see. But in the back, here's the crowd of Americans, in the background you see the police beating people. Angry mobs, I guess. Here's the evil army of capitalism up here with the gas mask and war planes, and everything; capitalism, army, awful. Then there's the wonderful people over here of Moscow. And here are the onion domes of Moscow. (END VIDEO CLIP)*

Here, Olbermann could have had Beck on a minor point. Beck doesn't give old John D. quite enough credit. From Wikipedia—

“In 1932, the Mexican socialist artist Diego Rivera (whose sponsor was Museum of Modern Art and whose patron at the time was Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, the wife of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.), was commissioned by their son Nelson Rockefeller to create a color fresco for the 1,071-square-foot (99 m<sup>2</sup>) wall in the lobby of the then RCA Building. This was after Nelson had been unable to secure the commissioning of either Matisse or Picasso. Previously he had painted a controversial mural in Detroit entitled Detroit Industry, commissioned by Abby and John’s friend, Edsel Ford, who later became a MoMA trustee. Thus it came as no real surprise when Rivera’s Man at the Crossroads became controversial, as it contained Moscow May Day scenes and a clear portrait of Lenin, not apparent in initial sketches. After Nelson issued a written warning to Rivera to replace the offending figure with an anonymous face, Rivera refused (after offering to counterbalance Lenin with a portrait of Lincoln), and so he was paid off and the mural papered over at the instigation of Nelson, who was to become the Center’s flamboyant president. Nine months later, after all attempts to save the fresco were explored—including relocating it to Abby’s Museum of Modern Art—it was destroyed as a last option.<sup>[16]</sup> (Rivera re-created the work later in Mexico City in modified form, from photos taken by an assistant, Lucienne Bloch.)”

Of course, this account comes closer to Beck’s point than Olbermann’s, as does the next one...

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BECK: You might define their freedom as fascism, but no, no, no. At the time that was done, the progressives thought Mussolini was a good guy. They thought that was the ultimate system of government. (END VIDEO CLIP)

OLBERMANN: You know I love you, baby, I wouldn’t leave you. It wasn’t my fault, honest. I ran out of gas, I had a flat tire, I didn’t have enough money for cab fair. My tux didn’t come back from the cleaners. An old friend came in from out of town. Someone stole my car. There was an earthquake, terrible flood, locusts. It wasn’t my fault, I swear to God.

Again, Wikipedia seems to back up Glenn, while it would take two burly guys in straightjackets to help Keith:

As a result, [Lee] Lawrie’s most recognizable work is not architectural: it is the freestanding statue on Fifth Avenue at Rockefeller Center, standing 45 feet tall, with a 15-foot figure of Atlas, supporting an armillary sphere, with a total height of 45 feet. As its unveiling, some critics were reminded of Benito Mussolini, while James Montgomery Flagg suggested that it looked as Mussolini thought he looked; the international character of Streamline Moderne, embraced by Fascism as well as corporate democracy, did not find favor during the Second World War. Featured above the entrance to 30 Rockefeller Plaza and axially behind the golden Prometheus, Lawrie’s Wisdom is one of the most visible works of art in the complex. An Art Deco piece, it echoes the statements of power shown in Atlas and Paul Manship’s Prometheus.

I guess Wikipedia is about to be named part of the Vast Right Wing Conspiracy. But buried in the middle of Olbermann’s dizzying rant is the crux of what is eating at his very core.

BECK: Oh, by the way, one other little tidbit, completely unrelated. Commissioned by Rockefeller, all the things hidden by Rockefeller; a progressive, a big leader. The Rockefeller foundation — they gave a big award an awful lot of credibility to, Van Jones, our new green jobs czar. Yes, wow, that seems weird, huh? (END VIDEO CLIP)

OLBERMANN: Weirder than the rest of your show? Not really, no. Van Jones, by the way is the guy who founded the organization that has already peeled off 57 of Beck’s advertisers. So he really doesn’t like Van Jones.

And NBC is the ONLY major news outlet that does not even have a website story today featuring the White House distancing itself from Van Jones’s lunatic communist ravings and 9/11 “truther” sympathies. This is what’s really driving Keith Olbermann crazy. Van Jones is by all indications, not long for this White House staff—even though as Byron York reports this morning, the New York

*Times*, the *Washington Post* (which finds Virginia Governor candidate Robert McDonnell's 20 year-old Master's thesis worthy of 9 front-page stories), *ABC World News* and the *CBS Evening News* had **cumulatively contributed ZERO words to the subject**. (Finally, Saturday morning the WaPo decided Jones was worth an A-3 story.)

**Glenn Beck is mostly responsible for driving the Van Jones story to national prominence;** the rest of us are along for the ride, contributing additional information to be sure, but President Obama is suffering the biggest association problem since [Jeremiah Wright](#)— and he is about to throw Van Jones under the same bus with his former spiritual mentor.

Below is a compilation of the stories in which Keith Olbermann has had a similar impact.

## Olbermann and Alter “Older, whiter, more stupid.”

2009 SEPTEMBER 7

<http://newsrealblog.com/2009/09/07/olbermann-alter-%e2%80%9colder-whiter%e2%80%a6-more-stupid-%e2%80%9d-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-2/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

If you heard the words “older, whiter and more stupid” emanate from the mouths of MSNBC’s lead hatemonger [Keith Olbermann](#) and [Newsweek’s](#) leftist reporter Jonathan Alter [Friday night](#), you might have had one of two reactions:

1. It was a weird bit of self-description
2. Move along, nothing to see here, folks, MSNBC long ago declared itself Home of the Race Card with this little bit of nonsense: Sometimes I fear this description may also apply to me, as Keith and company are keeping me plenty busy indoors and away from sunlight lately, responding to their daily rhetorical outrages; and also because as I’m watching them, I can feel brain cells deciding the pain is too great and yelling “goodbye cruel world” by the score.

But actually, Olbermann and Alter were taking out after those who protested [President Obama’s nationwide speech to the nation’s elementary schools](#). Of course, nearly every other news-talk-show host—even the liberals like [Chris Matthews](#)—mentioned the “mistake” made by the Department of Education for putting out study materials that asked kids to ponder how to “help the President achieve his goals.” Not Olbermann and Alter, though. No, as far as they were concerned, there was absolutely no reason other than paranoia and ignorance to be suspicious of the Obama speech.

Hey, maybe we should just be grateful the study guide didn’t call him “Dear Leader.”

Here’s a sample of the snarky snickering conversation that contains at least as many overreactions as were committed by the people they are mocking:

*OLBERMANN: But also it’s self-defeating, because if you think about this, the Democratic parents are going to tell their kids to stay in school that day and presumably they’ll get this message and whatever value this is. Towards keeping them in school, there’ll be more Democratic kids or kids of Democratic parent will be staying in school than getting degrees and colleges and scholarships and things, and the Republicans will be working at Burger King. It’s self-defeating, isn’t it?*

*ALTER: Well, you know, it really is. It’s something that people don’t quite understand is if you look at the 19 — the 2008 election returns, the Republican Party is not only becoming more regional, more of a Southern party, obviously an older white party, but also a much less well- educated party.*

*For the first time in many years, Democrats carried college-educated voters and of course, they’ve long carried graduate school-educated voters. So you can see scientists go overwhelmingly Democratic.*

*So they're becoming whiter, more southern and more stupid as time goes on. And I'm not sure that that helps the other party or the country.*

There is actually a grain of truth to this snide little chucklefest, and maybe Olbermann and Alter actually realize it and are whistling past the graveyard.

As anyone who has done any polling the last 4 years can tell you, independent voters have been leaning nearly 2 to 1 Democrat, disillusioned with Republicans spending like, well, Democrats, and the two years of Bush making happy talk while the Iraq War was stalemated—and media mavens like Keith Olbermann have been celebrating that fact for quite some time.

But independents are shifting their preference right now to the Republican Party in massive numbers. In recent years, Independents had been expressing anti-Republican sentiments by almost a 2 to 1 margin. In any poll, unaffiliated voters tend to be 50-plus and white, middle class and blue collar, often skilled tradesmen – in other words, reasonably successful in life, but not necessarily college-educated. Ethnic voters have their allegiances fairly well set.

That means that for the last 4 years or so, the Democrat party has gotten “older and whiter.” And the mainstream media has been doing a happy dance about it for the last 3 or 4 years.

Olbermann and Alter are just following their Pied Pipers.

Later, without a trace of irony or self-awareness, Olbermann and Alter had this exchange:

*OLBERMANN: Well, the conservatives also used to be conservative, go to school, listen to your teacher, shut up, respect at least the Office of the President whether you care about the President or not. What exactly is the value system they're espousing now?*

*ALTER: I think it's resistance to, you know, a political opponent. And a very doctrinaire, ideological approach to analyzing issues. And it works a lot of the times.*

*Keith, there's a hard core 20 percent, I don't think it's that much higher than that, but 20 percent of the country that listens to these programs and that takes their marching orders from clowns like, you know, Glenn and Rush.*

*OLBERMANN: No, well, I think actually they've hit one that I like. Stay home; keep your kids at home, conservative parents. Keep them at home and then watch them not get into college. Which is fine because they don't learn anything because they want to keep that evolution and other science and stuff like that.*

Twenty percent? Only 20 percent? Whenever a host at MSNBC cracks 1% of the audience, it's “buy-a-round-for-the-crowd” time and “let's talk long-term contract.” To coin a phrase, they are increasingly geared toward “serving propaganda to tin foil hatters, conspiracy theorists, paranoids and racists.”

*Newsweek* is shedding readers like a Golden Retriever loses fur in the Spring, and making an even bigger mess. Their re-invention of the magazine is an industry joke, and let's not forget the Koran in the Gitmo toilet fiasco that led to riots throughout the Muslim



world because *Newsweek* was so eager to slander its country, the story was too good to check.

Yes, *Newsweek* lied, people died.

Of course, this only cemented their staff's prominent presence on MSNBC, along with writers from the Marxist rag *The Nation*. But at least *The Nation* admits what it is.

So, go ahead, Keith, keep up the attacks on anyone who doesn't meet your elitist standard of a worthy demographic. I can't wait to see your broadcast on November 3, 2010.

# The Hustler

2009 SEPTEMBER 9

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/09/09/the-hustler-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-3/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

Yesterday, [MSNBC](#) hater-in-chief [Keith Olbermann](#) caused a minor kerfuffle in the online world with this threat posted on his blog at the [Daily Kos](#):

*Find everything you can about Glenn Beck, Stu Burguiere, and Roger Ailes. . . . Tuesday we will expand this to the television audience and have a dedicated email address to accept leads, tips, contacts, on Beck, his radio producer Burguiere, and the chief of his tv enablers, Ailes . . .*

While this would be quite an escalation in the current ideological media battles—I personally find it hard enough to wade through the darkness and bile of Keith’s public ravings, much less trying to explore the dark corners of his personal life—there was good reason for people to believe Olbermann would “go there.”

It’s no huge stretch of rhetorical flourish to point out that Keith Olbermann is aural pornography to the activist Left. On a nightly basis he spews hate, kicks the crap out of straw men, and engages in mutual... stimulation with like minds—and only like minds—and I use that last word advisedly.

So, it’s no big leap for people to assume he would have no qualms about following in the footsteps of sleaze merchant Larry Flynt publisher of the hardcore porn magazine, Hustler.

During the [Clinton](#)/Lewinski scandal Flynt took to the airwaves, offering to pay for dirt on Republicans who voted for impeachment. It was blackmail in advance, to intimidate congressmen with guilty consciences. Flynt renews his dirt trolling every so often when he wants publicity—and Larry King is always ready to oblige:

Basically, the only difference between Larry Flynt’s appeal and Keith Olbermann’s is the lack of pretentious literary references in Flynt’s. Here’s how Keith explained his actions last night.

*OLBERMANN: Next up, Beck has tweeted to his zombies, quote, “Watch Dogs: Find everything you can on Cass Sunstein, Mark Lloyd and Carol Browner. Do not link before burning to disc.” Sunstein is the Harvard law school professor whose nomination to run the office of Information and Regulatory Affairs is in limbo in the senate because of Republican obstructionism.*

*Lloyd is the FCC’s chief diversity officer and Ms. Browner is Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change.*

A quick note, [Browner](#) is a long time well-known radical with undoubtedly a good number of public utterances out there that would be far out, but probably not that surprising. [Sunstein](#) once proposed that animals should have standing to sue humans (good thing for me that my Golden Retriever is so good natured!) and [Lloyd](#) is the FCC “diversity” officer who expressed admiration for Hugo Chavez’s media strategy! Need Glenn say more?

*OLBERMANN: This in turn led me to diary at DailyKos.com to find everything you can on Glenn Beck, Stu Burguiere, his radio producer and Roger Ailes and to promise that we, on this program tonight would announce a dedicated e-mail address to send tips on them.*

But last night, Keith pulled out from this new adventure and left the insanity fetishists in his audience unsatisfied. He cited a cautionary message from David Carr, the media blogger of the *New York Times*. One could almost see Keith swell with pride as he read the post—I got mentioned in the NEW YORK FREAKIN’ TIMES!!

*OLBERMANN: Now about calling on the Baker Street irregulars to gather interesting info on Beck and his enablers. David Carr blogged something thought provoking in “The New York Times” today.*

*“While Mr. Beck,” he wrote, “may be serving as a proxy for the party of the opposition, his targets are members of the administration; a rugged game to be sure but not one that attempts to investigate journalists and commentators for having contrary opinions. What might Mr. Olbermann do if someone digs up dirt on his intended targets, who, like him in work in the infotainment industry and have been elected by no one? Once the game of oppo-research on the press begins, it’s hard to tell where it might stop, no?”*

*It’s a kind of admirable naivete about the idea that the opposition research is just dawning out there on the horizon in the news business....*

Keith then rambled on about every slight he’d endured since being fired from Fox Sports before ending with this rant:

*OLBERMANN: But Mr. Carr’s point begs a great question. Do I really want to be like Glenn Beck? Do I really want to be like Fox News and “The New York Post”? [Do I want to draw an audience, would I like to matter?]*

*I don’t mean I would stop calling them out for their inanities or for the next time Beck sounds that desperate sick dog whistle hope that somebody might blow up Rockefeller Center because it’s full of fascist, socialist, Zimbalist art, even though he works in Rockefeller Center too.*

*Now, this is about having or not having a blind lead box on these people and then vetting information that arrives there. I don’t know. I will reserve the right to summon the Baker Street irregulars, but I don’t think so. I have some things Mr. Beck does not: a conscience, respect of my colleagues and self-respect.*

*Besides which, in just the last ten weeks, Beck has fantasized about poisoning the Speaker of the House of Representatives. He has agreed with a guest who advocated a bin Laden terror attack on this country and he’s already personally called the President of the United States a racist.*

***What could we possibly find out that would be more humiliating to Glenn Beck, more embarrassing to Glenn Beck, more destructive about Glenn Beck than this one fact—HE’S GLENN BECK!!***

Wow, is anyone else surprised this didn’t end with “Na na na nah boo boo!”?

Most times when I write a post fisking Keith Olbermann, a responder in the comments section mentions Junior High school. This is elementary, my Dear Watson, purely elementary. (“Baker Street Irregulars,” get it? Never mind)

So, to sum up, Keith Olbermann— after watching Glenn Beck actually generate a national story, take down [Van Jones](#), and expose a radical reality counter to the [president’s](#) carefully coiffed reasonable image— made a threat at the Daily Kos, then got mentioned in the *New York Times* (!), and undoubtedly attracted some of Glenn Beck’s (far) larger audience so that he could call them zombies— which probably led Keith to this reaction:

Now, I can’t read minds or hearts, so I’ll leave it to you to decide why Keith backed down last night. Here are the possibilities in descending, numerical order of what I think the likely probabilities are:

- It was always just a stunt, a desperate cry for attention (ratings)
- He was talked out of it by David Carr’s post
- His better sense took over.

You be the judge.

Side note: Earlier, in his monologue before interviewing Chris Hayes of the Marxist [Nation](#) magazine about whether a Neo-communist should be forced to resign from the government, Olbermann told a blatant lie:

*OLBERMANN: The White House green jobs adviser Van Jones resigned in the middle of a storm in a tea pot over the holiday weekend. Most of the storm was about Jones' founding in 2005 of the group "Color of Change," which has thus far stripped 57 advertisers from the "Glenn Beck Show."*

*Beck retaliated, never once mentioning to his audiences that his enmity to Jones was not on behalf of the nation but merely on behalf of his own heiny. He began calling Jones a radical and unearthing video of him calling Republican's holes. And they denied this. Wow? How?*

Beck has mentioned this on the show at least once that I have seen that Jones had connections to the group calling for the boycott. Of course, Keith can claim his above statement is true, that Beck didn't admit the motive impugned to him by Olbermann. I guess that depends on what the meaning of "is" is.

## Slime Dog Millionaire

2009 SEPTEMBER 10

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/09/10/slime-dog-millionaire-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-4/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

Tuesday night, MSNBC's Hustler, [Keith Olbermann](#), announced with a flourish that he would not [follow the example of pornographer Larry Flynt](#) and ask his tiny audience to go to work digging up dirt on Glenn Beck. Gee, thanks.

Of course, that doesn't mean he's not still NBC's slime dog millionaire. Olbermann was MSNBC's anchor for the broadcast of [President Obama's](#) healthcare speech last night. (Imagine the screaming we would have heard from the whole mainstream media had Fox News used Glenn Beck or Sean Hannity in the anchor chair for an Obama speech). Olbermann began the coverage immediately after the Republican response by Louisiana Congressman and heart surgeon, Charles Boustany:

*OLBERMANN: Congressman Boustany, we should note, has been sued for malpractice three times. He is a "Birther" who believes there are questions about the [President's](#) citizenship, and, as Rachel [\[Maddow\]](#) reported last night, he is a man recorded in court papers to have fallen for a scam in which he tried to buy the British royalty title of "Lord." He gave the Republican answer tonight. Governor Jindal's epic failure after the State of the Union should have reminded all: Never write the rebuttal before you read the speech.*

What, no mention of Huey Long? He was from Louisiana too... oh, yeah, he was a Democrat.

**Slime number 1:** "[Boustany,] we should note, has been sued for malpractice three times...." Hmmm, I bet the next time [Charley Rangel](#) is on *Countdown*, "we" won't "note" that [he's being investigated for major tax fraud](#)...

But I digress. Dr. Boustany has been a heart surgeon for 20 years. He has been sued "3 times!" Let's look at those cases on which information is easily available with a simple Google search. In one, Boustany was part of a team that saved an obese diabetic woman's life by performing angioplasty on her. She ended up having to have three toes amputated — Not her leg, three toes. For that, she was compensated better than an Olympic track star.

One of the other times Boustany was sued was a "blue baby" case. Generally about 2/3 of those patients die. Boustany's patient lived, but he was sued because "complications" meant it took 2 surgeries to get the job done.

But of course, we don't need malpractice reform in the health bill, that's a useless distraction!

**Slime Number 2:** "He is a "Birther" who believes there are questions about the President's citizenship..."

The “evidence” for this is a [Huffington Post](#) video. Of course, we know it is edited fairly and completely...

HuffPo “guerrilla videographer” Mike Stark ambushed congressmen and was pretty obnoxious with his “investigation.” Mostly what he proved is that Republican congressmen are easily annoyed.

Here is the so-called “evidence” that Boustany “is a birther”

*BOUSTANY: Well, it's certainly being looked at.*

*STARK: What do you personally believe, I mean — do you think there's a question here?*

*BOUSTANY: I think there are questions, we'll have to see.*

While it was pretty dumb for the caucus not to tell its members to just affirm Obama’s citizenship and move on, this is a brush off, not an answer. Boustany later formally affirmed that he believed President Obama was born in the United States, so Keith seems to have a problem with his verb tenses...

But then he’s not the first [Democrat to have a problem with the meaning of the word “is.”](#)

**Attempted Slime Number 3:** Here’s a hoot: “as Rachel [Maddow] reported last night, he is a man recorded in court papers to have fallen for a scam in which he tried to buy the British royalty title of “Lord.”

This is the “who cares” of the night. What’s really funny is the phrase “Rachel reported.” Reported? Here is how Rachel summed up her “reporting” methods the night before:

*MADDOW: A, I don't make deals with anybody about what I cover. And, B, my position on [Van Jones](#) is irrelevant because I have never covered him at all, because I never thought that he was of interest until he resigned under pressure from what I see as the unhinged right.*

And by “reported” Keith means “repeated Democrat talking points.” That’s right, it’s far more important that “reporting” is done on how a member of Congress was defrauded before he was elected, than on [the anti-American, racist, anti-Semitic and pro-Communist rantings of a current high-ranking Administration appointee.](#)

This was how NBC Anchor Keith Olbermann summarized Obama’s rather prosaic, way-too-long speech:

*“It was, to say the least, a broad and forward-thinking speech. On the rhetoric and the phrasing and the pacing and the design of the speech itself, there seems to have been a touch of greatness.”*

Tim Russert, call your office.

## Presumed Innocent— Not for Southern White Males

2009 SEPTEMBER 16

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/09/16/presumed-innocent-not-for-southern-white-males-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

*KEITH OLBERMANN, HOST: Breaking news at this hour: Saying the inclination to racism in the country still exists, former President [Jimmy Carter](#) has tonight told NBC News that it has again bubbled up to the surface and that much of the most extreme animosity towards President Obama stems from the belief—again quoting Jimmy Carter, “that African-Americans are not qualified to lead this great country,” unquote.*

With a hilariously studied seriousness, , [Keith Olbermann](#) and [Lawrence O'Donnell](#) discussed Jimmy Carter's charges that racism was behind the opposition to Obama as though it was a brand new thought, rather than something both blabbers had been throwing against the wall and trying to make stick for weeks.

While this charge has been [common on MSNBC](#) since Chris Matthews and supposed conservative columnist [Kathleen Parker tried 2 months ago to make ALASKAN Sarah Palin the pinup girl for Southern White Male Bigots](#), the new Party Line is that Congressman Joe Wilson is the chief of the New Confederacy.

In the most coordinated attack on the South since Grant and Sherman, Democrats and liberal pundits since this last weekend have fanned out across the media conducting a scorched earth offensive designed to contain the opposition to one quarter of the country.

It has now become clear that the same people who will scream bloody murder because CIA interrogators said mean things to mass murderers captured on the battlefield, are willing to lynch a quarter of the country on the basis of no evidence.

*OLBERMANN: Good evening from New York. The theory that at least those on the fringes of the kind of political road rage against the 44th president are there because of racism or latent racism or just racial fear may not move to the center of the nation's political discourse—in our fifth story tonight: This after remarks today by former President Jimmy Carter in an interview with Brian Williams for “NBC Nightly News.”*

*The 39th president who watched his native Georgia grown from lynching and Jim Crow to comparative enlightenment, and in less than half of his lifetime, minced no words about what he sees behind the anger supposedly focused on the issue of health care.*

“Comparative enlightenment”? Wow. Nothing condescending here... Compared to what, Keith—Manhattan? Check out how your enlightened Upper West Side treats Americans they disagree with politically.

Feel enlightened yet? Wait until you read Jimmah Cahtah's racist allegations.

*JIMMY CARTER, FMR. U.S. PRESIDENT: I think an overwhelming portion of the intensely demonstrated animosity toward President Barack Obama is based on the fact that he is a black man, that he's African-American. I live in the South, and I have seen the South come a long way and I have seen the rest of the country that shared the South's attitude towards minority groups at that time, particularly African-Americans. And that racism inclination still exists. And I think it's bubbled up to the surface because of the belief among many white people—not just in the South but around the country—that African-Americans are not qualified to lead this great country. It's an abominable circumstance and grieves me and concerns me very deeply.*

Carter uses his status as a Southerner to give his statement weight. If only liberals would apply this logic to decide that Benjamin Netanyahu knows more about Palestinian terrorism than Jimmy Carter.

*OLBERMANN: I'm joined now by our own Lawrence O'Donnell, contributor of the “Huffington Post” and, of course, of MSNBC. An overwhelmingly proportion of the intensely-demonstrated animosity toward President Barack Obama is based on the fact he's a black man. Is President Carter correct?*

*LAWRENCE O'DONNELL, MSNBC POLITICAL ANALYST: Well, we have to wonder especially when we saw Joe Wilson, congressman from South Carolina. I'm not from the South. I'm from the south side of Boston, when where I grew up, that was a very racist precinct to be from. And we reveal that when school bussing came to our city in 1975.*

*When you hear someone who grew up in the Deep South, as President Carter did, who worked his way into politics in the Deep South as President Carter did, you have to take this very seriously.*

*You know, the question has been out there about Joe Wilson. You know, was it really just they need a breathalyzer to allow people onto the House floor, or was there something more serious going on? This is—and I suggested that the apology he really now needs to make is to the people of South Carolina, many of*

*whom have worked very, very hard to erase the stain of racism from that state to—starting with slavery and through segregation.*

*He was alive—he was born into segregation, born into a segregated South Carolina. And so for him to do this, for him to raise this question as he has done, requires at minimum that he apologize to the people of South Carolina who tried to put this behind them.*

The “question” was “out there” because Democrat hacks like O’Donnell and James Carville had spent the weekend and first part of the week proclaiming it to be fact.

*OLBERMANN: Back to President Carter. It is one thing if I were to conclude this and I have suggested that this might be often true in the most virulent of cases, especially the more—the less rational, the surface argument seems to be, the more likely there is that there is another explanation and unfortunately, the natural one would—given our history—would be this one. It’s one thing if you wrote about this or commented about this. What happens if it is a former president of the United States, any former president of the United States, but as you alluded to, particularly this one who gives voice to this?*

Can somebody diagram the above sentences for me?

*OLBERMANN: When it comes to the—to the town halls and the—just again, road rage may be in fact a pretty good term for it—when it comes to that and you hear people saying, “I want my America back,” ...When it’s something like that, are there other explanations for it or does the idea that there is a—that there is a racist element of the country, a fear, is that—is that the only explanation or are there other explanations for this generalized, ill-defined anger?*

*O’DONNELL: I don’t have another one when I look at the preceding model for this, which was Hillary Clinton’s crusade in the same legislative arena. Now, Hillary Clinton was despised by that side of the world as a crazy lefty. They attacked her on policy grounds.*

*They were screaming about the employer mandate. They did not say we want the country back. Or they weren’t saying these same things, those 15 years ago on exactly the same subject area. They were actually coming at the bill. Now, in a pretty crude way but they were talking about the bill.*

*These people have not been talking about what’s in the bill. I have never seen that before in opposition to legislation. You oppose legislation by talking about what’s in it. They’re not talking about that. So, what is that motivation?*

Perhaps the Clinton tax increase raising the top rate by a few percent did not generate the same reaction as taking over two of the Big 3 American car companies, bailing out Wall Street with a trillion dollars, proposing an energy tax that will cost at LEAST another trillion dollars, spending a trillion dollars on an ill-defined “stimulus package” that mostly seems to create government jobs, creating a “pay czar” in which the government can set private companies’ compensation, and a President who thinks he has the authority to fire the president of GM?

Perhaps that is not the America people grew up in? Perhaps that debt is not the legacy they want to pass on to their children? No, you’re obviously right, Keith and Larry, this is all about race!

*O’DONNELL: ... I’ve been bothered by some very quick dismissals, for example, at the notion that—oh, no, no, the Joe Wilson thing was not a racial incident in any way. There were no racial overtones to that as all.*

*And there are some columnists, like [Maureen Dowd](#), who have come out and connected those dots and they get sort of criticized as being kind of loony, imaginary, you know, imaging things...*

Umm, yeah, she imagined that Joe Wilson yelled, “You lie, boy,” which tells us more about Maureen Dowd than it does about Joe Wilson.

*O'DONNELL: ...No, I think there's something very legitimate to consider and I think it's incumbent on Joe Wilson to come out and somehow prove to us—prove to us that this son of South Carolina, born into segregation, grew up in it, that—no, no, no, he's completely clean on this. I mean, let him come to the podium now. Let him explain to Brian Williams, explain to you, explain to us how we can really be sure that that had nothing to do with that moment and why he might believe that it has nothing to do with the big protest moment we saw—the big protests we've seen out there against President Obama.*

What? No white man of a certain age from the South can oppose President Obama without trying to prove a negative—that he's not a racist?

Okay, now I'm saying it. If this is the standard—I WANT MY AMERICA BACK.

As if things weren't crazy enough in this segment, Olbermann then went to that constitutional scholar and great American historian, [Markos Moulitsas](#), founder of the website Daily Kos, who made up the following factoid:

*MOULITSAS: But ultimately, there is a kernel of a truth and I think it has to be addressed. There's a reason that these tea baggers, these conservatives are claiming that Obama was born in Kenya and not American. He's not legitimate in their eyes, he's not a real American.*

*And poll after poll had shown that two-thirds of Republicans—two-thirds—do not believe that Barack Obama was born in the United States or are not sure. They think it's open to debate.*

*So, clearly this is not an issue of policy differences. They are really angry that there's a black man in charge of this country and they're lashing out in ways such as the "You lie!"*

I'd sure like to see a legitimate poll that says that. It wasn't that long ago that two thirds of Republican voters did not even express a negative opinion of Obama.

Then Keith and Kos inadvertently reveals that he and like "minds" have been just waiting to unveil this line of attack. Oops!

*OLBERMANN: ...Did anybody foresee this as an issue of governance or an issue that would actually be even if it—with 10-foot poles exploited by the opposing party? In governance?*

*MOULITSAS: Yes. Clearly, we knew this was going to happen. Anybody who has any inkling of what the conservative movement is about and what it is capable of knew that they were going to latch on this sort of thing as a tool to try to rally their own base and try to drive Obama's favorabilities into the ground. I mean, you saw what they did to Bill Clinton, who was a white president, [not according to Tony Morrison...] obviously, but they accused him of murdering people—all sorts of horrible, horrible things.*

*So, this is not beyond them. So, it was clear when Obama became president, and as you had the Republican Party taken over by the Rush Limbaughs and Glenn Becks and Bill O'Reillys, you knew this was sort of what was going to happen. It was almost inevitable. And I think what is important now is to see how we as a nation react to those baseless and hideous attacks.*

*OLBERMANN: As if we needed an underscoring, you mentioned Bill O'Reilly's name. At this hour, as we speak, the segment he is doing is about ACORN, as if Barack Obama were its founder, president, and made million dollars a year or a week off of it. It underscores it perfectly.*

At last, Keith Olerman mentions ACORN! Maybe after this nutty conversation about a peanut farmer's ranting, the topic followed so naturally that it just slipped out.

By the way, Keith Olbermann was not the only person to [recommend America listen to Jimmy Carter](#) on this day. A new book critic has given Jimmah a rave review:



*“...Read what your former president, Carter, wrote regarding Israeli racism against our people in Palestine...”*

Think they will blurb that on the paperback?

It's not like he's a southern white male, so why not?

## Monkey Business

2009 SEPTEMBER 17

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/09/17/8551/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



Tuesday night on Meltdown—er, Countdown, Keith Olbermann and Lawrence O'Donnell pretended to ponder seriously Jimmy Carter's racist slander on the South in particular, and anyone who is angry with President Obama in general.

Well, he's given it some... thought, and after one night, Keith has a conclusion: the right is... could it be... I don't know... RACIST!

So, by Wednesday, it was time to let 'er rip. But before he went on a rant, Keith had a contest to see who is the biggest waste of money— an anchor who gets about one dollar for every viewer he attracts, or a historically illiterate professor whose rantings cost students (or parents) about \$1000 per credit hour.

Their “comparably enlightened” conversation even covered the finer points of when it's racist or not racist to compare someone to a monkey—I'm sure you were wondering how you ever got through life thus far without *this* information. (the interview starts at about the 3 minute mark in the video)

*MELISSA HARRIS-LACEWELL, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR: I think there's something very powerful whenever white men—particularly southern white men of a particular age – make this argument. In fact, you know, a big thank you to you and to President Carter, to people like the scholar Tim Wise and others who as white men have been very clear and very consistent about saying this is not about white versus blacks or browns. This is about an impulse towards racism versus an impulse towards anti-racism.*

*...It's even possible that some of the things that we see—let's take George W. Bush. **One of the most famous images that went around with Bush was an image of Bush turned into a chimpanzee and it was kind of George W. Bush is a dumb monkey, right? That was, you know, bad and awful thing to say about your president, but it wasn't racialized.***

*If you take President Obama and turn him into an ape or a monkey, then what happens as you carry the whole history of race, racism, and the things that turned and thought of black people as apes, as monkeys, as animals. So, you've got to recognize that you exist within historical framework. And you have to say, OK, I have a point to get across, but I'm not allowed to do it in a way that reduces public discourse to the ugly history of American racism.*

Whew, I'm glad we got that settled.

At last, Olbermann and Harris-Lacewell get to the crux of the matter. What all the smoke and noise is really getting at— **If you get in the way of liberal social goals you are a racist**—whether you are bigoted against other races, or not.

*HARRIS-LACEWELL: Well, I think, you know, to go back to this notion of feeling that racism is about like I have this negative feeling in my stomach and I have to have it about all black people or brown people—that's not racism, right? **Racism is about deploying particular strategies against either an individual or a group that leads to greater inequality.***

*And in this case, we have, you know, the reality that **you have an African-American president that many of those who are most critical and most vocal are white people** in a party that at one point made a choice to use race as a wedge issue in order to gain a foothold in the American South, which was the former Confederacy and which has an ugly racial history. That is the history of the Republican Party. They have a particular requirement to be careful on race because it was through race that they first gained power 40 years ago.*

Really? One can have the effrontery to bring up the Old Confederacy and say THAT is the “history” of the Republican Party? Lady, a HUNDRED and forty years ago, the Republican Party “first gained power”— and then fought a war against the breakaway country formed by the Democrat Party—the slavery party.

Then these two giant intellects recommended to President Obama that he commit political suicide, and become the most divisive President since the last President from Illinois, the REPUBLICAN President who ended slavery...

*OLBERMANN: Previously, on many topics, this president has taken a minor controversy and turned it into something worth contemplating, worth analyzing, particularly on the issue of race itself. **Is he missing an***

**opportunity to take what seems like a central controversy and turn it into the same kind of thing by reacting the way he did to President Carter? To say through a spokesman that the White House doesn't believe racism is a significant factor here?**

*HARRIS-LACEWELL: Yes, I mean, I guess I understand that the president is trying to pass health care. But there are these moments—you know, I've heard people say maybe what President Obama is doing is the rope-a-dope strategy of Muhammad Ali, laying back and taking the body blows to tire out the opposition so he can come out with a knockout.*

*But one of the things that was true about Muhammad Ali, is that when he saw racism, he always spoke to it. He always said it. It was part of what we loved about his brashness. **I wish it was a little bit more Muhammad Ali in Barack Obama today.***



Is she kidding? Perhaps the only thing worse than bringing up the Confederacy to smear the Republican Party is to bring up Muhammad Ali as a paragon of racial equality after discussing the use of monkeys in a racial context! Ali famously and constantly demeaned his humble opponent Joe Frazier in the cruelest of racial terms—“ignorant, dumb and ugly” gave way to “gorilla” before the Thrilla in Manila, as Ali even marketed Joe Frazier gorilla items.

Ali was a spokesman for the [Nation of Islam](#), which, [as it has been pointed out, had the same racial beliefs as the Klu Klux Klan](#), expressing the Nation's solidarity with the racist group about the evils of inter-racial marriage. Yep, when Ali saw racism, he “spoke to it”, all right.

After nodding in agreement at Harris-Lacewell's point, canned-sportscaster Keith went on a rant where he called it a “stretch” to find no racism in Joe Wilson's “You lie” outburst, deliberately misunderstood some Rush Limbaugh satires and took them out of context, and even found racism in investigating government corruption:

*OLBERMANN: So when Bill O'Reilly tops his show just last night with yet another segment on Acorn, he continues in the tradition of right wing pundits and politicians who have taken isolated cases of abuse to portray Acorn as a collection of criminally minded African-Americans, with the president as Acorn's poster child.*

Or in objecting to a President who found members of the (white) terrorist Weather Underground acceptable company...

*OLBERMANN: Then candidate Sarah Palin taking up the William Ayers story and turning it into this.*

*(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SARAH PALIN, FMR. GOVERNOR OF ALASKA: Our opponent is someone who sees America as imperfect enough to pal around with terrorists who targeted their own country. (END VIDEO CLIP)*

*OLBERMANN: So when calls to kill him rang out at some GOP rally, [something no one at the rally, no video or audio recording confirmed, and which only one liberal reporter insists happened, but Keith is in way too deep to care about facts now] who could legitimately claim that it had to be isolated from that context?*

Yep, Keith can find racism hiding between the lines in all these things that aren't about race, but the former sportscaster is pretty sure that race-bating Nation of Islam spokesman, Klu Klux Klan embracing, *Muhammad Ali* was a figure of racial reconciliation.

The great Chuck Berry put it best—that's “Too much monkey business.”

## The Stopped Clock— Correct Twice in One Day

2009 OCTOBER 2

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/10/02/the-stopped-clock-correct-twice-in-one-day-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-8/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

Returning from extended leave, Wednesday, [Keith Olbermann](#) was delivered a Welcome Home gift from the conservative web site [Newsmax](#)—a column which all but called for a military coup against [Barack Obama](#).

*OLBERMANN: On the heels of a survey posted on Facebook asking should Obama be killed, one right wing columnist has floated the idea of a military coup to unseat the president, as if it were not madness, incitement, un-American, disloyal, totalitarian and treasonous.*

*“There’s a remote, although gaining, possibility America’s military will intervene as a last resort to resolve the Obama problem. Don’t dismiss it as unrealistic.”*

*... In a column titled “Obama Risks a Domestic Military Intervention,” John L. Perry of the website “Newsmax” writes as well: “military intervention is what Obama’s exponentially accelerating agenda for fundamental change toward a Marxist state is inviting upon America. A coup is not an ideal option. But Obama’s radical ideal is not acceptable or reversible.”*

*Perry insisting he is only describing what may be afoot, and not actually advocating a military intervention. But then bullet points reasons why the military would stage such a coup, and proposes this twisted fantasy, “imagine a bloodless coup to restore and defend the Constitution” — yes, by overthrowing it-”through an interim administration that would do the serious business of governing and defending the nation”-by destroying the nation-”skilled, military trained nation builders would replace accountability challenged radical left commissars.”*

*After scrubbing the column from its website, “Newsmax” now claims Mr. Perry has no official relationship with “Newsmax,” other than as unpaid blogger. Curious, considering Mr. Perry’s byline at the bottom of his column, John L. Perry is a regular columnist for Newsmax.com. And in case that isn’t clear, TPM reports Perry has been a regular columnist for “Newsmax” since 1999...*

*OLBERMANN TO GUEST CHRIS HAYES: Please tell me that even the “Newsmax” crowd, with its Ann Coulter e-mail alerts and it’s ads for free handguns, millionaire patriots and trains you, even these people have to repudiate the premise of a military overthrow of a United States government.*

*HAYES: Yes, I think if there’s a silver lining in this little story, it’s the fact that they did take it down from the website. Maybe there are and it was a bloodless coup. One should know that it was a bloodless coup. It was very gentlemanly, what he proposed. [smirk]*

*But, no, I think it is a taboo, and rightfully so. This is not the sort of thing that I think should be in the normal course of our political discussions about a path forward, even amongst genuine ideologues. So I think it was actually a good sign they took it down.*

Surprisingly, Olbermann and his regular guest Chris Hayes of the Marxist magazine [The Nation](#), were fairly restrained in their comments, (mostly) not taking the opportunity it presented to tar all conservatives with this brush, and even gave Newsmax some back-handed credit for taking the piece by [John L. Perry](#) off of their website. (TPM has the column, [here](#).)

In fact, I would argue they gave Newsmax *too much* credit. There is no statement denouncing the piece to be found on the site, or to be obtained by calling Newsmax’s office— which is the minimum requirement if they are going to maintain that they hold to some kind of journalistic standard. When I asked the person who took my call if they were “just going to take it down and pretend it never

happened,” she chuckled and said, “That’s about right.” My emailed request for a response or a statement has been ignored for over a day.

Perry’s initial response was that he was not calling for a coup, just examining a lurking possibility—and the column is couched as reporting—but that’s not a defense. That’s *worse*. It’s a slander on the only military in the world that has NEVER turned its guns on its own citizenry. It’s a slander generally reserved for liberal novelists and screenwriters and the *Seven Days in May* scenarios that Olbermann and Hayes indulge in toward the end of this segment.

Newsmax is definitely a grab bag of conservative and right wing commentary. I should note that they have done a favorable story or two about me, and published my review of Jamie Glazov’s *United in Hate*. They are the web home of the great Ken Timmerman, one of our best reporters on intelligence matters, and host a blog for the invaluable Frank Gaffney.

However, Newsmax is also probably single-handedly keeping the “birther” farce alive, with staff “reporting” and commentary on the issue, which are sent out to their huge email list. They have a large stable of unpaid columnists and I can see where it would be impossible to edit all of them before they publish. That said, dropping a guy from the site few people have heard of, and who writes nearly unreadable pieces like [this](#), is the least Newsmax can do to a guy who suggested an overthrow of the United States Government might not be such a bad idea.

For once, Olbermann’s list of adjectives about someone on the right—“madness, incitement, un-American, disloyal, totalitarian and treasonous”—were about right. This was a real outrage.

On the sillier side, Republicans and commentators gave Keith a chance to be right again (or at least half right) by smacking Obama around—for all the wrong, but probably poll-tested reasons—for heading to Copenhagen to lobby on behalf of the Chicago Olympics effort...

*OLBERMANN: In our number one story, the right wing chorus ripping the president for trying to bring the Olympics back to America, it has been joined now by the House minority leader. No Republican seems to remember that the one day this president has devoted to the effort kind of pales in comparison to the four days the last president spent attending the Olympics in China as a freaking fan...President Bush, you’ll recall, took in the last Olympic Games in China last year, leaving the country fighting two wars, on the brink of economic collapse. He found time, four days of it, to enjoy the Beijing games and spank the volleyball players.*

*Still, the outrage that our president would spend less than 24 hours trying to bring the Olympics and an economic boon home to the US has been equally laughable and predictable.*

*(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GLENN BECK, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: President Obama is heading to Denmark this week to help sway the International Olympic Committee.*

*Vancouver lost-how much was it? They lost a billion dollars when they had the Olympics. How is the city of Chicago and Illinois, that is broke, going to benefit? (END VIDEO CLIP)*

*OLBERMANN: The opening ceremonies for the Vancouver Olympics are on February 12th, 2010. They can’t have lost or made anything because it hasn’t happened yet, Biff.*

Actually, only Glenn Beck raised the right point (though he used the wrong verb tense)—to question whether the Olympics really are an economic boon. Sports stadiums are a loss to cities who fund them, and are only an economic benefit when they are privately built. What is the plan for Chicago? Salt Lake City was nearly an economic disaster before Mitt Romney saved the day. My guess is Mitt wouldn’t have been asked to run the Chicago games...

*OLBERMANN: Then there are the official Republican mouthpieces. Michael Steele, in a conference call with reporters yesterday.*

*(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MICHAEL STEELE, RNC CHAIRMAN: The goal should be creating, you know, not job opportunities seven years from now, but job opportunities today. If the priority is the Olympics in seven years, OK, then tell the nation that’s the priority and that’s what we should be focused on, because we’ll create jobs then, and we won’t worry about it between now and 2016. (END VIDEO CLIP)*

*OLBERMANN: See, you have jobs now building stuff for seven years from now. They don't put up the Olympics facilities over night like a circus tent. And this morning, House Minority Leader Boehner picked up on the anti-Olympic stupidity.*

*(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) REP. JOHN BOEHNER ®, MINORITY LEADER: He's the president of the United States, not the mayor of Chicago. And the problems we have here at home affect all Americans. And that's where his attention ought to be. (END VIDEO CLIP)*

DOH! Olbermann unconsciously made Glenn Beck's point by pointing out that expenditures come well before the event. Olbermann then hosted [Robert B. Reich](#), the "economist" who recently said the problem is that the federal government isn't spending enough, in a discussion that treated as fact the idea that the Olympics are always a major economic plus for the host country.

But neither Michael Steele nor John Boehner made that point. Instead, they chose to make it look like the Republican Party is also verging on Obama Derangement Syndrome. Is it possible for John Boehner, and Michael Steele to pick a dumber issue than criticizing Obama over the lobbying to get Chicago the Olympics? Do they think no one in America has seen *Air Force One*? That we don't know the President is never away from work?

This criticism is doubly counterproductive because it implies that the President's attention to economic matters is actually a *good* thing, that he does valuable work on the economy when he's here. Hey, if Barack Obama is out of town trying to bring jobs to the Midwest, he's not giving speeches that make the market drop 100 points, twisting arms for socialized medicine, or trying to cripple our energy industry.

Having Barack Obama distracted from the economy is a good thing.

If the Republicans had the good sense, like Rush Limbaugh today, *to wait until the President failed* in his over-personalized bid to obtain the Olympics, rather than taking cheap shot non-sequiturs ahead of time, there were points to be scored.

The Republicans should have wished the President well in his bid to bring a great event to the United States. Then they could have given Obama the blasting he deserves today for making the rotten point in Denmark that the Olympic Committee should reward the United States for electing him, and send the signal that the hatred America deserved from the world community the last 8 years is over.

More importantly, Obama's bungling by making it all about him, and his putting the prestige of the Presidency on the line without any expectation of success on the eve of important negotiations about Iran's nuclear program, would have had real bite.

Instead, it now looks like Republicans were rooting for their President to fail while he went overseas trying to do something good for his country. The Republican leadership in the House of Representatives has rarely missed a chance to miss a chance over the last decade or so. Their record continues.

On a side note: Keith Olbermann explained his recent absences from *Countdown* thusly: "First, briefly, a note about my attendance record here, which has been lately, anyway, pretty spotty. I mentioned a couple of times on the air here that my father is ill. The last few days have been critical to his recovery and I've been fortunate enough to be with him at the expense of not being able to be here. I expect this will happen again... I don't want to go into too much detail about dad except to say that the most recent news was very encouraging, the people working with him, from the specialists to the nurses to the X-ray techs, have been phenomenal. And later on I intend to give them a fuller thanks."

Keith, do those outstanding medical professionals know your goal is to make them all federal employees?

So, here's a prayer for Keith's dad, and a commendation to him for taking the time to care for him and for having the right priority when it comes to those he loves.

And he can be secure in the knowledge that in his absence, Laurence O'Donnell continues the gratuitous slams of Sarah Palin, Glenn Beck, and Michele Bachmann; while continuing the *Countdown* echo chamber of *The Nation's* Chris Hayes, socialist Senator Bernie Sanders (always identified as merely an "Independent"), Senator Jay Rockefeller, *Newsweek's* Howard Fineman, and the like.

The Meltdown will continue unabated, as long as Republicans and fringe conservatives stick to their principles and do not succumb to more Obama Derangement Syndrome

## This Time It's Personal

2009 OCTOBER 8

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/10/02/2009/10/08/this-time-its-personal-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-8/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

[Keith Olbermann](#) has finally discovered evil in the world, and found an enemy worth his barely controlled rage. An enemy that is “evil,” unbelievably “rapacious” and “at war with America.”

Did he finally discover how determined [radical Islam is to kill Americans and remove his talking head from his shoulders?](#) Is he outraged at [the enslavement of half a billion Muslim women?](#)

Nope. With clenched teeth and trembling jaw, Keith informed us who the evil enemy really was:

American health insurance companies. That’s right, all of them—“ the real enemy, the insurance companies. The insurance companies who are right now at war against America.”

Keith did everything but call people who work for insurance companies “[little Eichmanns.](#)”

Well, it’s not like he didn’t warn us. The night before, Olbermann teased the hour thusly:

*OLBERMANN: Tomorrow at this hour, we will devote the entire program to a “Special Comment,” “Health Care Reform: The Fight Against Death.” Why there is such hysteria? The underlying issues we’re not discussing in this equation and what we may yet be able to do to save this country from the insurance industry’s war on America.*

“The Fight Against Death”? Move along folks, no grandiosity on display, here!

In an hour rant that ranged from a complete misuse of mortality statistics, to a comparison of modern America to Dickens-era Manchester; from a pointless rhetorical battle with Winston Churchill, to an attack on the tax-exemption of life insurance benefits—and all centered around his father’s recent illness— Olbermann editorialized for a full hour, much of the time seeming on the verge of completely losing it. Here’s a sample from the beginning:

*OLBERMANN: I’ve experienced with growing amazement and with multiplying anger the true state of our hospitals, our doctor’s offices, our insurance businesses, our pharmacies. My father’s story as a patient, and mine as a secondary participant and a primary witness, has been eye-opening and jaw-dropping, and we are among the utterly lucky ones — a fact that by itself is terrifying and infuriating.*

*And thus, tonight, for all those we have met along the way, those with whom we have shared the last two months inside the valley of the beast, and for everyone in this country who will be here and right soon, tonight, COUNTDOWN will be devoted entirely to a “Special Comment” on a subject of health care reform in this country.*

*I do not want to yell. I feel like screaming but everybody is screaming. Everybody is screaming that this is about rights or freedom or socialism or the president or the future or the past or political failure or political success. We have all been screaming.*

*I have been screaming and we have all been screaming, because we do not want to face — we cannot face — what is at the heart of all of this, what is the unspoken essence of every moment of this debate. What about which we are truly driven to such intense, ineffable, inchoate, emotions? Because ultimately, in screaming about health care reform — pro or con — we are screaming about death.*

*This ultimately is about death. About preventing it, about fighting it, about resisting it, about grabbing hold of everything and anything to forestall it and postpone it even though we know that the force will overcome us all — always will, always has.*

Over the next few days, I will take apart Olbermann's specific arguments. But first, we'll look at his basic faulty premises—and the things he conspicuously left out of his hour.

The overriding premise was the evil and rapacious nature of insurance companies who are causing death in America in order to protect their 20% profits on health insurance. They are spending billions to distort the debate and to keep everyone from experiencing the utopia of universal health coverage supplied by the government. If the money spent on insurance profits could be spread around, then "your father" could be saved from death, just like Keith's father who has health insurance.

Okay, I'll bite, name one government program, just ONE, in which the overhead on the dollar doesn't amount to more than 20%?

Second, health insurance companies really make an average of 3.4%. That makes them the 86<sup>th</sup> most profitable industry in the United States. Oh, the humanity!

If insurance companies made 20%, everyone would be rushing to their broker to buy health-insurance-company stock.

Olbermann constantly raved about the "insurance cartel." What is a cartel? It's a monopoly. That implies limited or no competition. Conservatives have been fighting to allow health insurance to be allowed to be sold over state lines, to increase competition. [Democrats](#) have [voted against this at every turn](#). Why? Is it because lowering premiums would take the air out of the socialized medicine balloon?

It could also be because every state has an insurance commissioner who protects the mandates on insurance sold in his state by the state legislature. That's 50 fiefdoms fiercely protected by state governments.

A long time ago, I sold health insurance — about 4,392 government mandates ago. Every time our state passed a law requiring that something must be included in health insurance coverage, the price went up. Big mystery.

Usually, this was at the behest of an interest group with Democrat Party ties. Health insurance was started by doctors to insure regular payment of billing. That makes sense, and it also helped to expand medical coverage throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (The fact that it was needlessly tied to employment because of New Deal wage controls is another topic.)

But now everyone wants to get on the health insurance gravy train. Dental and vision coverage are examples of things that are unlikely to be catastrophic medical problems, but are considered by many to be part of their birthright.

Mandated mental health coverage was a big foot in the door. That quickly expanded beyond institutionalized care, or actual medical treatment by a doctor for chemical imbalance, to top-dollar talk therapists and social workers providing marriage counseling! How is that part of the "fight against death?" But most state governments have mandated that those items be part of every medical plan.

Every politician, Republican and Democrat, says that it is bad for insurance companies to exclude pre-existing conditions. In health insurance, anyway. We all understand why we can't buy insurance on a car we've already wrecked, but think we have a God-given right to buy health insurance after we get sick. If forbidding this is passed without some other reform, then it will drive up costs, and increase the calls for socialized medicine.

Keith spent not one minute on anything government has done to drive up costs. Government cannot be the problem, it is his final solution.

Also, missing from any part of the sermon was a mention of lawyers. Is there anyone anywhere who doesn't think that the legal system adds less than 20%— much less 3.4% — to the medical system?

“The doctors are on our side,” Keith assures us. Really, then whose side are plaintiffs’ attorneys on?

Thankfully, Keith’s father seems to be doing well, and he didn’t have to fight with an insurance company for treatment. However, that makes the whole rage act seem odd and misplaced.

But at least Keith is honest. He wants socialized medicine. Or, as he put it, three simple words. “Medicaid for everyone.” Private insurance is the enemy, government is good. Period.

## Ultimate Mismatch– Churchill vs. Olbermann

2009 OCTOBER 9

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/10/08/2009/10/09/ultimate-mismatch-churchill-vs-olbermann-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-9/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



*Winston Churchill: Inspiration for the Contemporary Tea Party Movement?*

In his angst and vanity-driven hour-long Meltdown Special Comment on Wednesday night – [Health Care Reform: The Fight Against Death](#) – [Keith Olbermann](#) chose a strange target for his opening rhetorical blast, the 20<sup>th</sup> Century’s greatest man, Sir Winston Churchill.

In an odd rhetorical choice, Keith reminded us that the Nazi comparisons to socialized medicine which the more extreme Tea Party-goers have bandied about—and which most commentators on the Right and even most of the attendees have wrinkled their nose at and tried to get distance from—have a precedent with a venerable source: Churchill, himself.

*OLBERMANN: He equated his opponents in the party that sought to introduce the national health to the Gestapo of the Germans that he and we had just beaten, just as those opposing reform now have been invoking Nazis as frequently and as falsely as if they were invoking zombies.*

*OLBERMANN: Churchill cost himself the election because he did not realize he was overplaying an issue that people were already damn serious about.*

*Irony this, because a decade earlier, Churchill had made the greatest argument ever for government intervention in health care, only he did not realize it. He was debating in parliament the notion that the British government could not increase expenditures on military defense unless the voters specifically authorized it. Just as today's opponents of reform are now claiming they speak for the voters of today, even though those voters spoke for themselves eleven months ago.*

*Churchill's argument was this, quote, "I have heard it said that the government had no mandate. Such a doctrine is wholly inadmissible. The responsibility for the public safety is absolute and requires no mandate."*

There is so much wrong with this, it's hard to know where to start.

First, Churchill did not compare his opponents to the Gestapo, nor was it a direct reference to socialized medicine. Labour leader Clement Atlee's program was a much broader socialist agenda that included the nationalization of major industry, and Churchill said that ultimately a government "would have to fall back on some form of a Gestapo" to enforce broad socialist dictates.

A true enough statement, historically—but, as they say, "Too soon!"

Second, it's just wrong to say socialized medicine was the primary reason the Conservatives lost the election. According to [Wikipedia](#), "In one opinion poll, 41% of respondents considered housing to be the most important issue that faced the country, 15% stated the Labour policy of full employment, 7% mentioned social security, 6% nationalization, and just 5% international security."

Oops! See anything missing from that list?

Saying the election was lost over Churchill's comment is like saying [Jimmy Carter](#) was defeated by the "killer rabbit," or George H. W. Bush lost over the supermarket scanner. It was, however, a symptom of an underlying problem.

In 1945, the Conservatives were thought to be running on the past, and their past wasn't all that great—outside of Winston Churchill. There had not been a general election called since 1935. Because Churchill became Prime Minister when Chamberlain stepped aside, he had not come to power as the immediate result of a general election. That he was saddled with a passel of tired, old members of Parliament who had been supportive of Chamberlain's policies during the Great Depression and, most importantly, of appeasing Hitler, was the biggest problem.

During WWII, Churchill presided over a Unity Government in which prominent Labour Party politicians were in charge of domestic social issues, including many relief programs which would be the basis for the welfare state.

Churchill himself had an approval rating of 83% but at the time he made his infamous broadcast, Labor had an 18% poll advantage over the Conservatives. His desperate personal appeal went rhetorically a bit far and backfired, but it was not the determining factor.

With fresh candidates, the Conservatives returned to power in the next election in 1951—a lesson for today's Republicans— and Churchill was Prime Minister until his health forced his retirement from that position, though he remained a back bencher in the Parliament.

The Churchill quote Keith misappropriated, is, ironically a very conservative statement about the purpose of government. Keith admitted it was about military defense policy because even Keith's most brainwashed fan would know it would be ludicrous to suggest Winston Churchill would make such a statement about a social welfare program. But Olbermann left off the important end of the quote. The full quote should be—

*"I have heard it said that the government had no mandate. Such a doctrine is wholly inadmissible. The responsibility for the public safety is absolute and requires no mandate. **It is in fact, the prime object for which governments come into existence.**"*

To sum up, even though it was not his intent, Keith Olbermann reminded us Wednesday night that Winston Churchill said that even the most well-meaning socialist government is by its nature oppressive, and that a civilized government's primary reason for existence is to protect its citizens from invading barbarians.

No wonder Keith doesn't like him much.

But Keith wasn't done with Merry Olde England in his rambling disjointed rant. Stay tuned for "Oliver Twisted: Meltdown with Keith Olbermann, Part 10."

## Oliver Twisted

2009 OCTOBER 13

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/10/09/2009/10/13/oliver-twisted-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-10/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

This will be the last report on this particular tree falling in the forest—not that we are going to end this series on Keith Olbermann, or MSNBC in general— but on Keith Olbermann's not-so-Special Comment on Health Care grandiosely entitled, *The Fight Against Death*.

Tonight, Keith reported proudly just how short a reach he has, when he got all excited that his audience had contributed just under 50 cents per viewer to provide free health care to the needy. Mocking the fact that Keith has raised a half million bucks for charity might seem, well, uncharitable, but Keith's motives are a bit unique.

He ended his health care rant last week with the challenge to his audience to provide key health care clinics in 6 states where Democrat senators are unlikely to vote for a government takeover of health care. This was somehow going to shame them into voting for the "public option." Sounds like an incentive for a senator to join the undecided ranks and get some free health care for his people to me.

Gee, Keith, even Scrooge gave to the poor houses to uh, *help the poor*....

Rush Limbaugh, for instance, raises around \$3 MILLION when he has his *annual* radio-thon for leukemia without a political motive.

And while you might will put some of the blame on Keith's less than heart-tugging appeal to use charity as a weapon, as Peter Schweizer has pointed out, [liberals generally give less than conservatives](#)—a lot less—and are much better at [demanding the rest of us pay for their charitable interests and live by their code of "ethics."](#)

What's next Sally Struthers crying for us to help the starving children of Zimbabwe "So we can show that thug Mugube a thing or two!"? *South Park* take note.

Also Tuesday, Keith blasted a study paid for by an insurance industry group that premiums were going to rise more under the Baucus health plan—because it was "*paid for by the insurance cartel!*"

Keith hit on other media outlets who didn't label like he did, saying, "It doesn't seem such a giant leap to me to say who supported this study..." That was a case of pots and kettles.

*OLBERMAN: "...my dad ... luckier than at least 45,000 Americans, because as discovered in a new study conducted by Harvard University and the Cambridge Health Alliance, that's how many of us are dying each year because we don't have insurance.*

*The number is horrible. But when it's contrasted to what faced my father that night, it is unforgivable, because as Cambridge's summary of the findings put it: deaths associated with lack of health insurance now exceed those caused by many common killers such as kidney disease."*

Hmmm. "Harvard study," and "Cambridge says," but where is the mention that the study he was basing his whole "death" claim on— along with his new competitor in the demagoguery sweepstakes Florida Rep. Alan Grayson—was commissioned by [Physicians for](#)

**a National Health Program.** PNHP is an association of doctors committed to single payer socialized medicine. Was that a “giant leap?”

But who cares who commissions a study? What about the data?

What Olbermann, Grayson, Schultz, Maddow and company are not mentioning is this was not a study of national mortality data. (which would be available) but a statistical sample of 9,000 people, (like a poll) and an awful lot of self-reporting was used to make its conclusions.

But as much of a stretch as PNHP’s projection that 45,000 Americans will die this year because of a lack of health insurance is—and we’ll talk about why, in a minute—Keith made an even bigger stretch.

He found, as the numbskull editor hilariously demanded in *The Wire*, “the Dickensian aspect” of the health care debate.

Mark Twain once attributed to Benjamin Disraeli the remark “There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.” Here are some of each:

*OLBERMANN: My father had less to fear that night from bad kidneys than he would have if he hadn’t had insurance. And yet we let this continue. You and I, this society, our country, Democrats and Republicans, this is the study that congressman from Florida quoted, about which the Republicans demanded an apology when they should have been standing there shrieking, demanding that we fix this.*

No one demanded an apology because someone quoted a study. That’s just idiocy. They wouldn’t even let that straw man walk on the Yellow Brick Road.

But as much of a stretch as PNHP’s projection that 45,000 Americans will die this year because of a lack of health insurance is—and we’ll talk about why, in a minute—Keith made an even bigger stretch.

He found, as the numbskull editor hilariously demanded in *The Wire*, “the Dickensian aspect” of the health care debate.

*OLBERMANN: Uninsured working age Americans have a 40 percent higher risk of death than their privately insured counterparts. People, in short, are dying for lack of money.*

*Dying as surely as they did when Charles Dickens wrote about the exact same problem, a boy who couldn’t get sufficient medical care for his affliction, of the underprivileged suffering not just privation but death as an uncomfortable mode silently and unseeingly through the streets of London. The book was called “A Christmas Carol” and the boy Dickens imagined was called “Tiny Tim.” And it was published on the 19th of December, 1843.*

*It is 166 years later and the problem is not only still with us, it is getting worse. The mortality rate among Americans under the age of 65 who are uninsured is 40 percent higher than those with insurance. In 1993, a similar study found the difference was only 20 percent. We are moving backwards.*

*We are letting people die because they do not have insurance? What’s worst is that barring meaningful health care reform now, this will only grow. The difference between the surveys from 1993 and now suggest: this fatal insurance gap is growing by about 1 percent per year. Your chances of dying because you don’t have insurance are now 40 percent higher than those who have it. By extrapolation, three years from now, your chances will be 43 percent higher.*

And by extrapolation, looking at last year, gasoline would be \$7 a gallon by now. By extrapolation, next year, farmers will be paying US a buck fifty a gallon to take their milk.

*OLBERMANN: Your chances of dying because you used to smoke compared to those who never smoked, are only 42 percent higher. You heard that right! At the current rate in 2012, you will be more fortunate, more secure, more long-lived if you used to SMOKE than if you don’t have insurance!!*

Really, going without insurance is only as dangerous as smoking? Gee, instead of outlawing private insurance, why not start with outlawing smoking?

*OLBERMANN: It is mind-boggling and mindless.*

At last, a completely true statement.

*OLBERMANN: This is the country you want? This is the country you will accept? Do those other people in this country have meaning to you? Or are they just extras in your movies? Backgrounds in your painting? Choruses in your solo?*

*Without access to insurance for all of us, and the only way we get it is with the government supplying the gaps—just like it does in flood insurance for God’s sake—that fatal gap will just keep growing. The 45 percent higher likelihood of death for the uninsured compared to the insured by 2014. By 2022, the figure will be 53 percent higher — 53 percent.*

And if the trend continues, the Detroit Lions will have lost 155 more football games. And farmers will be paying us \$18.00 for every gallon of milk we will take with us...!

Calm down. If you have a 1 in 1,000,000 chance of dying this year, your chances fall to 1 in less than 600,000. That’s not the same as saying your life expectancy is 42% lower. Also, the “study” was based on a statistical sampling, like polling. It is NOT measuring the mortality rates among the whole population. Why? These figures are available.

*OLBERMANN: In the 1840s, as Dickens wrote “Christmas Carol,” in a time at which we now look back with horror, the city of Manchester in England commissioned a crude study of mortality among its residents, a doctor, P.N. Haland, categorized the sanitary conditions of the houses in the streets of Manchester into three classes. And when he compared the death rate in the first class houses in the first class streets to the death rate in the second class houses in the third class streets, he found mortality in those worst locations was 53 percent higher!*

*If we do not reverse this trend in 14 years time, we will not be living in the America of 2022. The shadows of the things that may be tell us that we will instead be living in an insurance-driven version of the Dickensian England of 1843 — again. God bless us, everyone.*

The PNHP studied 9000 people and determined by extrapolation that 45,000 people will die this year because of a lack of health insurance. This was not a scientific examination of nationwide mortality rates.

This was not even a study of why and how people died. In fact, much of the case was based on the premise that people who had health insurance were more likely to take advantage of PREVENTIVE CARE. That’s right, this number was not about people who died because they did not receive treatment while they were sick!

This is [Alan Grayson’s](#) “holocaust.”

But aren’t people who buy health insurance, for instance, also more likely to be the type of person who seeks out preventive care—the kind of person who is not going to take the risk of skipping physicals, screenings and tests?

Remember the breast implant scare? “Scientific studies” put Dow Corning into bankruptcy because supposedly the devices were harmful to women’s immune systems. But no study took into account whether a significant number of breast implants were going to women who might have a lifestyle that would put their immune system more at risk than your average working mom. That would be too puritanical. Thousands of lost jobs later someone finally asked: Gee, do you think that strippers, call girls and porn stars might have a less than healthy lifestyle?

Those are also people who might not be likely to buy health insurance... not to mention gangbangers, motorcycle gangs, drug dealers, and anyone who makes their living illegally, all who tend to bring down mortality rates.

Mortality rates are brought up far more often in this argument than the dubious PNHP study. The United States is a couple of years lower than some Western nations with socialized medicine. However, if you live to be 60 in the United States, your life expectancy is a few years *higher* than in those countries. And if you have cancer, your survival rate is *much* higher.

In other words, in the United States, in our semi-free market of health care, we fight against death and take care of our old people much better than in Britain or France.

However, a population in which the highest cause of death among the young is a gunshot wound, for instance, does not do great things for national average life expectancy. And in those places, publicly funded health insurance would not cure *that* problem.

As the hillbilly said, “Figgers lie and liars figger.” Keith Olbermann’s fundraising figures show that he’s unlikely to be an influential figure in the health insurance debate.

Thank God.

## Healthcare Reform, the Fight for the American Dream

2009 OCTOBER 17

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/10/13/2009/10/17/healthcare-reform-the-fight-for-the-american-dream-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-11/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



Friday night, Keith Olbermann replayed his hour-long “Special Comment” rant, Healthcare Reform: The Fight Against Death. For detailed commentary on his rambling and sometimes exceedingly strange commentary, look [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Keith says his commentary was prompted by his father’s recent illness and ironically, very *good* experience with the health care system. Keith gave an excruciatingly detailed account of his father’s ordeal after falling out of bed and being too stubborn to call for help. This was supposed, I guess, to show us... what? I guess it was just to batter us emotionally, tenderizing our brains for the later assault.

Keith has no criticism of his father’s ultimate care, or how it was handled, but like the many Americans who answered pollsters’ inquiries during good economic times that their situation was good but they were worried about everyone else’s, Keith seems convinced that his father’s care was somehow rare, and came about because Keith is so very, very important—and rich.

Well, I'm not that important, nor am I richer than Croesus like Keith. But that same day, I experienced the current state of privately insured health care in America, and have come away grateful and amazed— *not* enraged.

Here in Michigan we all know of Canadians who come across the border for treatment. In Canada, the average wait for an MRI is 3 months, and in some provinces, reports of *10 week waits for chemotherapy* are common.

This August, my son's doctor ordered an MRI to "rule out" ulnar collateral ligament damage on a nagging sore arm. Travis is signed with a top baseball program in our state, Jackson Community College; and while the arm did not hurt in everyday life, and he could still play second base, pitching had become impossible.

3 DAYS later, he was able to get his MRI, about a 10 minute drive from our house. His surgeon, Dr. John Samani, who is affiliated with the Minnesota Twins, is about 45 minutes away in Oakland County. The list his office gave us of available MRI facilities in and around Oakland County was roughly the same number as in all of Ontario—but there were still about a dozen choices that were closer to our Flint-area home.

(That's right, Michael Moore, even here in depressed Genesee County, after GM's flight. How many MRI machines are there in Cuba?)

In less time than it takes to get an MRI in Canada, and about the same time as it can take to get *chemotherapy* started in Saskatchewan, what is commonly known as Tommy John Surgery had been completed on my son.

Not to discount the value of his baseball dreams, but cancer, it ain't. But that's only half the story.

Our surgeon brought in "another pair of hands," another surgeon good enough to be consulted by Major League ballplayers to back him up. The procedure calls for rebuilding the elbow ligament by "harvesting" some ligament material from the wrist. While both of those doctors were capable of doing that, there was a wrist and hand specialist they admired who was available, so they brought her in for that part of the surgery.

I have a hard time believing that any government program would allow for 3 surgeons, even if it is justified for safety and the pursuit of perfection in treatment. It's hard to imagine a bureaucrat not telling Dr. Samani that he is (and he is) perfectly capable of going solo on this one, and that would have to be good enough.

But that's the difference between American doctors and government bureaucrats. Bureaucrats figure and play the odds, American doctors strive to *beat* the odds.

And very often they do. That's why if you live to be 60 in the United States, the odds that you will live to be 70 are higher than any country with public health care. And if you live to be 70 in the United States, the odds are vastly higher that you will be an octogenarian than anywhere else in the world.

But wait, there's more to this story. We won't even bother comparing the hospitals in the United States compared to what the NHS in the UK provides—when you can get in them. Rather than going to a hospital full of sick people, the surgery was done in an ultra-modern outpatient surgery facility, where the threat of infection is almost nil. The Unasource facility in Troy, Michigan, is something only private enterprise would build.

So yes, we spend more on health care than Canada. And yes it's more of our GDP than in Great Britain or France. But it is in the United States where we "fight against death," Keith, though there are some who think the elderly should learn to accept it like they are forced to in socialist health systems:

There is no doubt that there are things that should be done to lower the costs of insurance in the United States. But it is insanity to screw around with the finest health care in the history of mankind until we:

- allow increased competition across state lines,
- allow for more flexibility in benefits,
- quit loading down policies with "benefits" like paying social workers to give marriage counseling,
- get rid of the incentives for doing things like getting "prescription Motrin" when it will save a hundred bucks for your insurance company if you get it at Sam's Club for 10 bucks,

- and above all, QUIT TREATING DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS AS ATMs FOR TRIAL LAWYERS.

Come back to me with government solutions after these obvious and easy common sense reforms have been tried— especially when the examples of where it will lead are all around us. Anyone who wants to emulate Canada should have his head examined—if he has time to wait for the next available CT scanner, that is.

## Rather Clueless

2009 OCTOBER 29

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/10/29/rather-clueless-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-12/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK

It may have been the most unintentionally funny Meltdown yet—and *that* is saying something!

As [Paul Cooper noted last night](#), both [Keith Olbermann](#) and [Chris Matthews](#) mocked Rush Limbaugh for reporting a (rather lame) satire website's posting about a supposed college thesis of Barack Obama—then reported Rush's satirical comments about the piece as though it were straight commentary.

In fact, to say these two propagandists for the Left were clueless, humorless, or just plain stupid is actually the *most generous* possible interpretation of the facts. It's pretty hard to avoid the evidence that this was deliberate deception by Olbermann and Matthews. It was such an out of context cut and paste job, that it was the equivalent of blaming *Time Magazine* for the content of a ransom note in which the words were razored from their text.

While the two propagandists and their producers only played the "*But we know he thinks it...We know how he feels about distribution of wealth...so we stand by the fabricated quote because we know Obama thinks it anyway*" quote, it is simply *NOT possible* that they missed the following jab at the media—or that they could have missed its meaning.

**LIMBAUGH:** *"So we have to hold out the possibility that this is not accurate. However, I have had this happen to me recently. I have had quotes attributed to me that were made up, and when it was pointed out to the media that the quotes were made up, they said, "It doesn't matter! We know Limbaugh thinks it anyway." Sort of like Dan Rather said, "I don't care if these documents are forged. I know that Bush did what he did at the National Guard. I don't care if the documents are forged." I don't care if the Limbaugh quotes are made up. So, I can say, "I don't care if these quotes are made up. I know Obama thinks it."*

Any sentient human being researching this issue could not miss Rush's direct jab at the media's willingness to believe trumped up and obviously phony charges aimed at conservatives.



What makes this especially delicious is the reference to the Dan Rather scandal. Ironically, Matthews featured Dan Rather on his weekend show the last 2 weeks, while not 5 minutes before Olbermann's Worst Person in the Worrrrrrld rant, in his almost nightly conversation with Richard Wolffe, they positively referenced *Dan Rather*:

*OLBERMANN: The Obama administration, according to Ms. Perino, is setting a bad example for emerging democracies by being critical of Fox.*

*What-when the Bush administration bought positive stories from Iraqi journalists for publication in Iraqi newspapers, what was that? A how-to course in how to start up a democracy?*

*WOLFFE: Well, the democracy thing is something I love the best. Self-reflection, recollection has not always been the strength of the Bush administration. I just want to remind Dana Perino and all the rest of them, that there was this exchange early in the second term between Bush and this guy in Russia called Vladimir Putin. Bush was trying to teach Putin a lesson about how to deal with the press. He said, you can't go around intimidating them-quite rightly-cannot go shutting down the free press.*

*Putin turned around back to Bush and said, "Well, how come you got rid of Dan Rather, then?"*

*(LAUGHTER)*

*And you know something? When it comes down to it, Putin, Chavez-all of those dictators or, let's say, autocratic leaders-are more than adept at reading the news, interpreting the news and maybe seeing things that they want. And the Bush administration was just as forceful, if not more so, than anything we're seeing out of this White House.*

*OLBERMANN: Amen. And Dan Rather is still on the air, and George Bush is doing \$19 a ticket motivational speech ceremonies.*

The fact that Richard Wolffe and Keith Olbermann would adopt a conspiratorial view of American government that matches that of a foreign dictator, while telling, is neither news, nor a topic for this discussion. However, it is hilarious that Dan Rather, who left CBS News in disgrace, is now a martyr for Keith Olbermann.

Keith spends time in every broadcast foaming at the mouth about "Fox Noise," and has joined the White House's totalitarian move against Fox News in saying they are not a news organization—something even the rest of the MSM has stood up to the White House on.

Keith pretends his objection to Fox News is journalistic—as though he has higher standards. This is a perfect example that anyone who believes that, is more than just *rather* clueless.

One quick note: Another classic propaganda technique is that MSNBC (and a lot of the rest of the MSM) continuously uses this 100 pounds out of date picture of Limbaugh:



It's not as though it's hard to find a current picture. It takes a 5 second Google search, if they are too lazy to request a current one from Rush, himself. As a technique, it's cheap, crude and not effective. Kind of like everything on the sinking ship that is MSNBC.



## The Three Stooges: Healthy, Wealthy, and Dumb

2009 NOVEMBER 5

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/11/05/the-three-stooges-healthy-wealthy-and-dumb-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-13/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



Tuesday night, as the [Obama](#) agenda melted down in election after election, the three stooges of Countdown, Keith “Moe” Olbermann and constant cohorts Howard “Curley” Fineman and [Larry O’Donnell](#) blithely asserted “n-n-n-n-nothing to see here, folks.”

In a night when Independents went Republican in 2 to 1 margins, Moe Olbermann led his merry band of pranksters in supposing that it might have been because the Democrats in question weren’t close enough to the liberal Democrat President.

Woo-woo-woo!



*MOE OLBERMANN: In Virginia, with the Republican leading pretty much that entire race, the Democrat in this case ran to the middle, if not necessarily to the right. If you are among those who believe that the blue dogs or Senator Snowe should be heeded on health care, shouldn't the loss by Creigh Deeds tonight, the expected loss, the projected loss, frighten you that maybe, you know, running to the middle as a Democrat might not really be a very good idea at all, let alone the safest path?*

*CURLEY FINEMAN: Yes. I think that's a fair interpretation, Keith.*



Yes, Moe, I've given up all pretense of being a newsman, when I started coming on your show 3 times a week and I'd like to keep this gig, since the only thing that has more trouble attracting ad revenue than MSNBC is *Newsweek*.

Then Larry got into the act:

*MOE OLBERMANN: Let's start here. The conservative challenges to GOP candidates are expected now in a dozen more key House and Senate races in 2010. "Politico" reported that.*

Wow! What a scoop! You're a genius, Moe!

*MOE OLBERMANN:... So, no matter what the outcome is of this vote in the 23<sup>rd</sup>, is it official now—moderates under siege in the GOP?*

*LARRY O'DONNELL: It was official as of August when you saw Chuck Grassley literally under siege at his town hall meeting. I, for one, knowing Grassley, having worked in the finance committee, believe that for most of the year, Grassley was really trying to work himself toward legislating something. When he got out there in Iowa, those people intimidated him and he backed off. So, that was—that was step one. It worked in terms of affecting actual governance, which is much more important than affecting, you know, who comes out of these elections nights one way or another. So, it had already started. Now, it's really under way.*

People had the nerve to voice their opinions and demonstrate. Why that's un-democratic, isn't it? It's not like they were doing something important like demanding their country abandon an ally and lose a war to vicious barbarians!

*MOE OLBERMANN: Now, Florida, I suppose, is the next litmus test. The senatorial race which looked like it was Charlie Crist, the former governor, in kind of walk away from this conservative Mark Rubio. Crist is being cast as the next Scozzafava. I mean, is it—is that conceivable? Is it going to get ugly? Are they trying to force him out?*

*LARRY O'DONNELL: It did not seem conceivable prior to this week. It now does seem conceivable. And, you know, this is a popular governor—former governor. This is someone who Democrats have every right to fear if he ends up as the nominee. You know, I don't know the play book is for beating Charlie Crist in that state.*

*But they are absolutely going to try to keep him off the belt there, absolutely going to try to go with the right-winger.*

Omigosh! American citizens are going to argue issues in a Primary? Couldn't they just get a few people together and pick a candidate like they did in New York? We like how THAT turned out..

*MOE OLBERMANN: All right. Did you know that there's also another special election for Congress tonight in California 10<sup>th</sup>?*

*LARRY O'DONNELL: Well, I live in California. So, yes, I heard about this.*

*MOE OLBERMANN: You heard about this.*

*LARRY O'DONNELL: Yes.*

Abbot and Costello, this isn't. Is I Don't Know still on 2nd base?

*MOE OLBERMANN: And we needed to mention this more often. A few facts about this: the Democratic congresswoman there was the centrist who resigned to go work in the Obama State Department. The Democratic candidate is John Garamendi, very well-known in southern California circle certainly. He's not a centrist, to say the least. He supports the public option, also single payer. He's Medicare for all from the start and he supports an exit strategy in Afghanistan right now.*

*In the last polling, he was up by 10.*

*Two questions: if he wins by anywhere near 10, is that not a national story? And why hasn't this race already been a national story if New York 23 has been one?*

Gee, Moe, that's a swell idea! I can see the headline now: "Democrat Takes Democrat Seat in California!" Not exactly man bites dog. The national media would make a big deal out of a Democrat winning a seat by 10 points where Barack Obama beat John McCain by 33%— IF they wanted to sacrifice all pretence of credibility.

In other words, if they wanted to be just like Keith, Howard and Lawrence, Obama's Stooges.

## To MSNBC the Least Important Thing about Killer Army Doctor is He was a Muslim Who Lauded Suicide Bombers

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<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/11/05/to-msnbc-the-least-important-thing-about-killer-army-doctor-is-he-was-a-muslim-who-compared-suicide-bombers-to-soldiers-who-throw-themselves-on-grenades-to-protect-others-meltdown-with-keith-olberma/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



While every other news channel at the top of the hour led with the mass murders committed by Army psychiatrist **Major Malik Nadal Hasan**, **Keith Olbermann** led Countdown with a **hysterical rant** about the health care demonstration at the Capitol, implying it was treasonous, seditious activity by the Republican Party, a call to violence, racist, and reminiscent of Apartheid South Africa.

Keith Olbermann could connect the dots between one offensive sign at the anti-**socialized medicine** rally at the Capitol today, racism, and the Republican leadership; but the fact that Hasan had been in some hot water with the Army for an internet post where he said that suicide bombers were comparable to soldiers who sacrificially throw themselves on a grenade to protect their comrades in arms did not strike him as a salient point.

While MSNBC hosts **Chris Matthews**, Olbermann and **Maddow** all mentioned that Hasan was distraught over an imminent deployment to Iraq, and sometimes mentioned he was against the war, none emphasized that he was a Muslim who made statements that the Muslims should “stand up” against American forces in the **Middle East**.

NBC News Terrorism Analyst Roger Cressey pointed out to Matthews that the “pasty white kid” who is the **al Qaeda** American spokesman called for just such actions, but that was the last of that kind of talk for the night on the network.

Matthews kept going on sympathetically about PTSD, and the “horrendous things” that Hasan must have heard as an Army psychiatrist. *But in a fairly long career as an Army shrink, Hasan had never been deployed overseas.*

But that fits the liberal **media** template. Military service can drive you nuts.

I’m guessing no one on this network will EVER point out that it may be a measure of political correctness that this guy was still on active duty at all, with these danger signs. Was someone afraid to be accused of cashing in an “outspoken Muslim,” because of “profiling?”

Former FBI profiler Cliff van Zandt did mention to Olbermann that Hasan may have had a “secondary” religious motive. Of course, in van Zandt’s experience, serial or mass murderers who claim a religious motive are usually covering for something else, in many cases a psychosexual fantasy.

But this is no “God told me to purge those women” run of the mill psycho; and a not insignificant portion of his co-religionists have gone on suicide missions with religion as a PRIMARY motive.

And a half hour into Maddow’s show, the word Muslim has not come up, though his degree from Virginia Tech, scene of another mass shooting has been come up in an ironic context a few times—and Mark Benjamin of *Salon* emphasized “secondary PTSD” as the most likely motive, with no basis for that theory, followed by Christopher Smith of *Rolling Stone* saying that the military is negligent in treating PTSD, and relating lots of stories about disturbed veterans.

Once again folks, HASAN HAS NEVER BEEN DEPLOYED OVERSEAS.

But back to Countdown. Remember the format. Olbermann led with his hysterical rant about the supposed rebellion at the Capitol today, but that made it the 5<sup>th</sup> story in his top 5. Next was Cliff van Sant and an attempt at profiling Hasan.

That made Fort Hood Keith Olbermann’s NUMBER 4 STORY OF THE DAY!

Number 1? The earth shattering revelation that conservatives from Dick Army to Sarah Palin have contradictory opinions over the meaning of the Congressional race in New York 23, edging out Rush Limbaugh making the Worst Person in the World list for a joke about “anal poisoning.”

No, I'm not kidding.

Yeah, it's FOX that's not a real news organization.

## Enemy of the State, Michele Bachmann?

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<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/11/06/enemy-of-the-state—michelle-bachmann-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-15/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK

On the night of the Fort Hood massacre, Keith Olbermann was worked up. Emotional, vein throbbing, voice trembling in fury worked up. The object of his wrath? Major Hasan who walked through an Army base gunning down unarmed Americans?

No, it takes Congresswoman Michelle Bachman to get him that agitated.

Here's how Keith began his first segment as every other network was covering the events at Fort Hood:

*OLBERMANN: An elected Republican official today is leading a protest on the west steps of the Capitol that compared health care reform to Nazi death camps and encouraged mindless harassment of and possibly violence against the government. Not tea baggers anymore, not demagogic commentators, an actual congresswoman inciting a hateful rebellion against the rule of law and order. Her name is Michele Bachmann.*

Rebellion? Really Keith? Encouragement to call one's Representative? That's right Thomas Jefferson said every now and again the tree of liberty must be watered with the tears of overworked Congressional phone staff.

Well, a sign some yahoo who knew he could get on MSNBC if he carried it made the odious Dachau comparison, anyway. We don't know if he was another LaRouchie, or even someone there to make everyone else look bad. Of course, no quote from any Republican Congressperson (while some were pretty lame) made any such assertion, but hey, there was sign!

Mindless harassment? Go visit your Member of Congress and register your protest. Why that's pretty close to anarchy! Call out the well-regulated militia!

*OLBERMANN: Our fifth story on the COUNTDOWN: As if that were not bad enough, Ms. Bachmann today joined by the House minority leader as well as countless other GOP representatives. This orgy of veiled threat and not so veiled racism of white power minority rule now fully the province of the Republican Party. Welcome to the coup!*

What's next, a call for a reinstatement of the Alien and Sedition Acts?

If the racism wasn't so thinly veiled, then you should have some proof of it, right Keith? Keith? We're waiting...

*OLBERMANN: Congressman Bachmann staging what she tried to claim was a spontaneous meet-up of opponents to health care reform, in 25 buses paid for by the AstroTurf group Americans for Prosperity, could*

*be considered spontaneous. An estimated 4,000 people today answering Ms. Bachmann's call, bringing with them on those buses, not just their misunderstanding of health care reform but also their hatred of President Obama, as well as pure hatred, period.*

Again, just assume the hatred because Keith says so... and says so... and says so. And wouldn't you love to see those busses? Even if, fat chance, Keith wasn't under-estimating the crowd, that's 160 people per bus. Even Republicans don't drive vehicles that big. Think of the carbon footprint!

*OLBERMANN: Lee Fang of ThinkProgress.org taking these photographs of a sign that reads "National Socialist Health Care, Dachau, Germany, 1945," superimposed over the horrific images of the corpses from Dachau. Other signs are slightly less shameful but many in no way related to health care.*

Of course, we won't show you those signs, just trust us. All the signs we're not showing you, and all the comments we're not playing for you? Those were the racist ones. We promise. Just because there aren't any racist signs in the pictures at Thinkprogress.org doesn't mean there weren't any. The rally was huge—no wait, it was tiny, and it was racist, remember that's what really matters.



*There was ONE offensive sign at a "hate" rally?*

Then Keith played some less than scintillating clips of Bachmann and other Republican Reps shouting into the mic. Of course, John Boehner had to step all over the event...

*(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BOEHNER: I'm going to stand with you and all freedom-loving Americans against this bill. This is my copy of the Constitution. And I'm going to stand here with our Founding Fathers, who wrote in the preamble, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." (END VIDEO CLIP)*

*OLBERMANN: If Minority Leader Boehner had read his prop copy of the Constitution, perhaps he'd know that he was actually quoting the Declaration of Independence—or maybe he thinks that's the same thing as the Constitution.*

When are the Republicans going to promote some of their articulate members into leadership?

Later, with guest Eugene Robinson of the Washington Post, Olbermann exposed just how low a standard the Pulitzer Committee has now adopted. Lower than the Nobel Committee, in fact.

*OLBERMANN: Today, we saw a member of Congress encouraging harassment of the government, fomenting—her word was revolution. And her behavior was sanctioned by her colleagues, the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives. And I recall that during the previous administration, if you disagreed with policy and just said it, let alone staged some sort of protest with banners and references to the Second World War, you immediately got branded a traitor. There seems to have been some kind of a shift of terminology in these times.*

*ROBINSON: Right. Your recollection is correct. I think it was more of a shift of party and control of the White House, and both houses of Congress. And I think that the outrage that was displayed at criticism of the president of the time of war a few years ago was situational. And it seems to no longer apply when a certain party is no longer in charge.*

*OLBERMANN: Yes. Did the wars end? Did I miss that? Did I not get the memo?*

*ROBINSON: You know, I missed the memo if they did. The wars—the wars did not end. And it really was quite a spectacle.*

You know, every time you guys repeat this myth it gets just a little bigger. Soon we'll be hearing that Dick Cheney waterboarded the Dixie Chicks — not that there's anything wrong with that.

This is why Keith Olbermann only has guests who agree with him. Not *mostly* agree with him, but who will buy anything and everything he says—and that's about 10 people, the same guests over and over again. Congressmen Anthony Weiner and James Climer, Senator Jay Rockefeller, Howard Fineman of *Newsweek*, Chris Hayes of *The Nation*, Eugene Robinson, Clarence Page, Laurence O'Donnell, Democratic "strategist" Chris Kofinis, and Richard Wolffe. I challenge you to find a Countdown that doesn't include at least two of these.

Because you can only make such stupid arguments in a bubble of approval. Even a reasonably informed Junior High student would point out that no one was called a traitor for disagreeing with Bush domestic policy. People were questioned for voting to cut off funding for the war, for trying to obstruct terrorist surveillance, for making intelligence operations public. Not for opposing Social Security Reform.

Then Keith made his most ludicrous suggestion of the week:

*OLBERMANN: But it's always been appalling and it's always been Michele Bachmann, and I don't think she has any idea of what she's doing truly and its possible impact.*

*But today was when the Republicans say, "We own this." There is racism in here. There is bigotry. There's refusal to acknowledge the outcome of an election that was a pretty clear-cut decision...an associated point with this, **how did the organizers of this not realize, you know what? We had better get somehow, even if we'll have to pay them to show up, some black faces, some brown faces, some Asian people, or somebody in this crowd, other than the crowd that we've seen at every piece of videotape that looked like—that looked exactly the same. This is otherwise going to look like a pro-apartheid rally in South Africa 35 or 40 years ago.***

*ROBINSON: Well, now, this is going to sound tendentious, Keith.*

*OLBERMANN: All right.*

*ROBINSON: But I went to the Republican National Convention last year, and you did not see many minorities there. And it—look, this is a—**this is a party that has been more and more hostile to minorities**, to Latinos, to African-Americans. It certainly perceived that way and this didn't help that image at all. That—you know, that seems to be the hand they've decided to play.*

*OLBERMANN: It's terrifying.*

Be afraid, be very afraid—of the early onset of Alzheimers. Really, rent-a-black? And you are looking for signs of racism in the CROWD? Check the mirror.

## Sleazebags Talk Teabags

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<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/11/18/sleazebags-talk-teabags-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-16/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

[Keith Olbermann](#), who imperiously announces frequently that his is the number one news show in its time slot—despite drawing about 1/7 of the audience of *The O'Reilly Factor*—because he claims he is the “*only* real news program” in the schedule, sank to a new low (or revisited an old one) with his supposed “Number 1 Story of the Day” last night.

Olbermann devoted a full segment to a giggling, sleazy riff on the term “tea bagger,” with his smarmiest near-daily guest, the never-labeled corporate lobbyist Richard Wolffe. The excuse? That “tea bagger” was runner up for Word of the Year in the Oxford Dictionary. (If you don't know the obscene definition of the word, congratulations. The [Urban Dictionary](#) has the definition if you think you need to know.)

I'll save some of the scummy back and forth for the second page for those who want to “read more.” But after some pretty bad locker-room banter, as Olbermann claimed simultaneously that the protesters coined the term for themselves and that Countdown should be given credit by Oxford University Press, Olbermann and Wolffe got “serious.” Seriously. I guess...

*OLBERMANN: On a more serious note, as the news of the day becomes history, what will tea baggers become most known for? For fracturing the Republican Party or offering a welcome home to a new and ugly strain of racism? What is this word going to mean 100 years from now?*

*WOLFFE: Here is a point of similarity with Sarah Palin. There is this uncontrollable factor, undisciplined factor about the whole movement, which I think is a kind of weapon of mass destruction about the Republican Party.*

Yes, as Independents go 2 to 1 against Democrats, it's the *Republicans* who have been hurt by the Tea Party movement. Keep telling yourself that, guys, and your smirky elitism is going to do wonders for your side, too.

Olbermann “teased” the segment with a smirk and a lie:

*OLBERMANN: The Republicans have, for many months now, put on a pedestal a hard right group whose name unintentionally evokes an action that cannot be described on television. In our number one story in the countdown, the GOP has now, with a little help from us, officially co-opted the word “tea bagger.” It is runner of for Oxford's word of the year.*

*It was Republicans who embraced tea bag as their symbol with tax day protests of President Obama's agenda, **and it was Republicans who cluelessly referred to tea bagging as if it had no prior meaning.** It was they who openly used the phrase that begged for double entendres.*

*The Republican talking heads like former House Speaker Newt Gingrich have pushed their own vision of tea bagging down the throats of the original tea baggers who were in fact Libertarian supporters of Ron Paul. Cincinnati tea baggers got a Boehner endorsement from the House Minority leader.*

*And the nation's tea bagging, of course, impossible without this man, Dick Armey, at the head of it.*

Actually, all self-description by the protesters was always in terms of Tea “Party.” They sent tea bags as a symbol. It was David Shuster’s unbelievably obscene Countdown Segment on the eve of the April 15 protest that started the “tea-bagger” and “tea-bagging.”

Of course, Olbermann’s overstuffed ego can’t resist taking credit, so he immediately contradicts his just-uttered lie:

*OLBERMANN: “Tea bagger: as part of the political fabric. I think “countdown” deserves a footnote of credit, if credit is the word for it, for that particular evolution of etymology, don’t you?”*

*WOLFFE: I think my friends at Oxford may have a tea fixation, at least I hope it’s that and not the other thing.*

*(LAUGHTER) In any case, there is this tradition at the OUP, the Oxford University Press, that you can write in and claim usage, first usage, which you may or may not want to do.*

*OLBERMANN: With all due respect to Oxford University Press, its definition has scrubbed away the prior meaning of the word, and in so doing, the attendant cluelessness of those who embraced this word in its new meaning, is this going to impede future historians both of the language and of the politics of our time?*

*WOLFFE: Well, it’s a family book. I suppose there’s that consideration out there. (LAUGHTER)*

And on it went.

After the Shuster scumfest, Anderson Cooper picked up on the phrase in his coverage of the April 15 Tea Party, and apparently the sage of political propriety David Gergen not only was familiar with the term, he found the smutty joke hilarious.

Of course, part of what makes this so revealing about these smug wannabe-elite media types, is that they are so sure that any sophisticated person would know the obscure parlance of “teabagging.” They think it reveals the people in the streets as rubes.

It tells us far more about the ugly side of the perfectly coiffed talking heads that want us to invite them into our homes every day.

There is only one justification for even these depraved individuals in thinking this is appropriate under the auspices— even a spinoff— of what was the home of the Huntley and Brinkley Report, and once one of America’s proudest news brand names.

That reason? Pure blind hatred.

## The First Amendment Does Not Apply to Glenn Beck

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<http://newsrealblog.com/2009/11/23/the-first-amendment-does-not-apply-to-glenn-beck-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-17/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK

You’d think that [Keith Olbermann](#)— a guy who spent years agitating against his own country’s war effort by repeating enemy propaganda in order to discourage Americans for pure partisan advantage—and [Arianna Huffington](#)— the doyenne of a website whose comment sections are famous for particularly venomous hate speech— would tend to be First Amendment absolutists.

After all, there actually have been times in American history when wartime powers granted to the government allowed for jailing people who engaged in such things. Woodrow Wilson, for instance, jailed a man in a small town about 15 miles from where I live for speaking out against War Bonds.

But Friday night, the media's biggest hater, who spews invective on a nightly basis in barely controlled rage, and the media's oddest figure, who has argued from every side of the political fence, got together and decided that Glenn Beck is a clear and present danger to the survival of our democracy, and that he meets the "exception" to the First Amendment.

And it's "paranoid" for Beck to say the Left in this country has totalitarian tendencies?

Keith set the stage, by hilariously pretending that political rage is all on the Right, and basically all happened in the last year or so...

*OLBERMANN: The ugly environment was not fostered overnight, but town hall opposition to health care reform and all those tea bagger rallies gave comfort to racism and even intonations of violence. The Birther movement was nothing more than extreme and desperate attempt to delegitimize a new president. And Congressman Joe Wilson's "you lie," though a first should not have been a surprise.*

*Our third story on COUNTDOWN, a sweeping new report on anti-government rage in America not only connects the dots it refuses to let off the hook the most irresponsible voice in the mainstream media, the man it describes as the fearmonger-in-chief, Glenn Beck. Simply stated Beck creates an intersection between the mainstream and the extreme, according to the report by the Anti-Defamation League. It calls Beck, "The most important mainstream media figure who has repeatedly helped to stoke fires of anti-government anger..."*

Wait a minute. Isn't the ADL supposed to combat anti-Semitism? I don't remember its purpose being to keep people from "defaming" the government. Did they have a problem with "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?" Did they have a problem with Keith Olbermann calling Dick Cheney a war criminal?

Remind me, *which* side of the political spectrum is behind the war effort against those who have, as a primary concern, the genocidal elimination of Israel? *Which* side is arguing for tolerance of those views, and arguing the U.S. and Israel are the aggressors in the Middle East? *Which* side commended the *New York Times* for exposing a surveillance program that designed to stop the most anti-Semitic people on earth from committing violence?

The fact that Keith Olbermann only sees anger on the Right and considers himself reasonable and objective, and having made no contribution to bitter discourse in this nation is just too bizarre to comment on.

Next, Keith argues that ordinary free debate may not be enough to save us from the sinister Glenn Beck. Judging by Keith's ratings and Glenn's ratings, I can see why he might think that.

*OLBERMANN: It would be nice to think of Glenn Beck just as a joke, as fodder for this show and the "Daily Show" and others that point out how stupid some of this stuff is. But this report, you know, suggests something else, this is—fearmonger-in-chief term is frightening.*

*HUFFINGTON: It is frightening. Well, I would say the fearmonger-in-chief title should still be reserved for Dick Cheney, even in retirement. But barring that, there is something that we need to really pay attention to with Glenn Beck. We cannot just dismiss him. Because the truth of the matter is that there is a good reason why we have an **exemption to the free speech protection by the first amendment when we say you cannot shout fire in a crowded theater.***

*And he's doing that every night. He's basically using images of violence to bring together with all that he's accusing the Obama administration of, which varies from racism to communism, Nazism and everything else in between. So, all that has definitely an impact. I believe words matter, language matters and he's using it in incredibly irresponsible ways night after night.*

Yeah, like Keith Olbermann didn't spend the last 8 years screaming that the Gestapo was going to come get you for voting Democrat because of the Patriot Act. He's not saying right now that 45,000 Americans die in a "holocaust" each year because of a lack of health insurance.

Try Googling “Keith Olbermann” “war criminal” “Cheney” sometime. **Glenn Beck compares Barack Obama’s economic theories to those of socialist dictators. Keith Olbermann equates George W. Bush and Dick Cheney with the *murderous* actions of those dictators.**

*OLBERMANN: Some of Beck’s claims, according to the report from the ADL, let me quote it again, “play an important role in drawing people further out of the mainstream making them more receptive to extreme notions and conspiracy theories.” And without going into Sociology 101, isn’t the point here that people like Beck enable some of the wildest, **most paranoid notions about what the U.S. government is doing** and instead of people thinking, as they think these things, for whatever they think them, no, that’s crazy, he says, no you’re not crazy, come with me down this path?*

You mean like committing “War crimes” and supposedly listening in on the private conversations of ordinary Americans?

*OLBERMANN: Obviously, the new component to this is the race of the president. And a lot of this rage that we’re discussing here is rooted in racism, something we certainly knew before the ad put out its analysis. But Beck tried unsuccessfully to turn that one in the other direction, claiming that Mr. Obama is the racist. Is that the twist by which he and the other actual racists are rationalizing their own prejudice simply project it on to the other people?*

Obviously? What is obvious is that Keith is losing the argument—and his mind. Repeating that the opposition to Obama is largely racist without any proof doesn’t make it any more convincing—and most of the mainstream media has backed away from this, leaving MSNBC out on that limb all by itself.

So, Glenn Beck is the dangerous threat to our freedom? Or to the government’s freedom of action? Let’s see, whose free speech is Glenn Beck trying to take away? What limits to the First Amendment is *he* proposing?

Not only is our side not trying to silence the slanders and venom of crazy Keith, if I were king for a day, I would decree that everyone must watch one episode of Countdown. THAT would be the way to create Conservative voters, and double the size of the Tea Parties.

## “Stop Making our Troops Suffer in Order to Make our Generals Happy.”

2009 DECEMBER 2

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/12/02/“stop-making-our-troops-suffer-in-order-to-make-our-generals-happy-”-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-18/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK

Keith Olbermann outdid himself Monday night on the eve of President Obama—finally—announcing his strategy for the war in Afghanistan.

He told the President to “get out now,” because the General advising him is a liar, and that the generals advising him are “in the war business,” conduct “war for the sake of war,” are looking for quagmires to keep the “war business” going, and compared them to 12 year-olds who don’t want to go to bed.

Dreading just such a reaction from the fruit-loop wing of his party, President Obama has delayed sending needed reinforcements for troops in the field, and dithered away the summer season when offensive operations could have been most effective.

And it was a waste, Mr. President. The radical Left is not going to respect your “thoughtfulness” if the decision allows for even the possibility of the projection of American power, or the killing of America’s enemies.

It was predictable. Olbermann challenges Obama to live up to his “hope and change” rhetoric, deliberately ignoring the constant drumbeat from the candidate that Afghanistan was “the good war,” and the “necessary” one. Afghanistan was a hammer against George W. Bush and Iraq. Now that the focus is Afghanistan, they no longer want to fight it. It was predictable.

Because to the Left—and to Olbermann and Obama—the Afghanistan issue was NEVER about beating al Qaeda, it was about beating Republicans. *That’s* why Olbermann now thinks it’s time to “declare victory and go home.”

In a rant that was filled with ‘60s cultural and political references — and could have been subtitled, “*Everything I Know about the Pentagon I Learned at SDS Rallies and Reruns of Dr. Strangelove*” — Olbermann did everything but chant, “Hey Hey, how many kids did you kill today?”

*General McChrystal has doubtless served his country bravely and honorably and at great risk, but to date his lasting legacy will be as the great facilitator of the obscenity that was transmuting the greatest symbol of this nation’s true patriotism, of its actual willingness to sacrifice, into a distorted circus fun-house mirror version of such selflessness.*

*Friendly fire killed Pat Tillman. Mr. McChrystal killed the truth about Pat Tillman. And that willingness to stand truth on its head on behalf of “selling” a war or the generic idea of America being at war to turn a dead hero into a meaningless recruiting poster, should ring essentially relevant right now.*

Wait just a minute. *Who* is using Pat Tillman as a political tool? And in a cause directly opposed to the one he gave his life supporting?

Only the deepest recesses of the paranoid Left buys the slander that McChrystal deliberately was involved in any cover-up in the reporting of the Pat Tillman death.

But let’s examine that just for a minute. The media focus HAS robbed Pat Tillman of his heroic status and made him merely a victim. The evidence against McChrystal is that he put out the word that the fact that Tillman braved intense enemy fire to protect another soldier *should not be de-emphasized.*

Well of COURSE, it shouldn’t! Tillman got a Silver Star for braving enemy fire to save a comrade in a blistering firefight—no matter whose bullet actually killed him.

*From the very center of a part of our nation that could lie to the public, could lie to his mother, about what really happened to Pat Tillman, from the very man who was at the operational center of that plan, comes the entire series of plans to help us supposedly find the way out of Afghanistan? **We are supposed to believe General McChrystal isn’t lying about Afghanistan?***

*Didn’t he blow his credibility by lying, so obviously and so painfully, about Pat Tillman? Why are we believing the McChrystals? Their reasons might sound better than the ones they helped George Bush and Dick Cheney fabricate for Iraq, but surely they are just as transparently oblivious of the forest.*

“The McChrystals?” I’m sorry, did I miss that this is a family business? Of course, this sleazy tactic enables Olbermann to put anything he wants to in General McChrystal’s mouth, then say, “I didn’t say HE said it, I said people LIKE him said it.”

But General Stanley McChrystal is an individual, and an uncommonly distinguished servant of his country. Therefore, he must be destroyed. By any means necessary.

So, Keith implies that Stanley McChrystal is a sociopath, in the leadership of a club of sociopaths, whose only purpose in life is to send our nation’s finest into the meat grinder for no discernable purpose.

*The Pentagon... is in the War business. You were right, Mr. President, to slow the process down, once a series of exit strategies was offered to you by men whose power and in some case livelihoods are predicated on*

*making sure all exit strategies, everywhere, forever, don't really result in any service-man or woman actually exiting.*

*We cannot afford this ethically, Sir. The country has, for eight shameful years, forgotten its moral compass and its world purpose. And here is your chance to reassert that there is, in fact, American Exceptionalism. We are better. We know when to **stop making our troops suffer, in order to make our generals happy.***

Yes, the object of the Pentagon is to look for unwinnable quagmires so that they can stay in the "war business." I'm not sure [Michael Moore](#) even believes that.

Then the full moon insanity *really* manifested itself, as Keith addresses the President with the world's weirdest conspiracy theory, but tries to inoculate the inherent insanity in it, by admitting it's paranoid but putting it out there, anyway:

*And upon arrival you were greeted by a Three Mile Island of an economy, so bad that in the most paranoid recesses of the mind **one could wonder if the Republicans didn't plan it that way**, to leave you in the position of having to prove the ultimate negative, that you staved off worldwide financial collapse, that if you had not done what you so swiftly did, that this "economic cloudy day" would have otherwise been the "biblical flood of finance."*

Yes, 30 years ago, Republicans [deployed ACORN, Jesse Jackson, and Barney Frank to attack banking standards in the name of racial equality](#) in order to bankrupt the economy so that a future liberal messiah would be constrained in his spending... no wait, he's spending trillions... uh, forced to continue a war... no, can't connect that... what was I talking about again?

*You know this, Mr. President: we cannot afford this war. Nothing makes less sense to our economy than the cost of supply for 35,000 new troops. **Nothing will do more to slow economic recovery.** You might as well shoot the revived auto industry or embrace John Boehner Health Care Reform and Spray-Tan Reimbursement.*

"Nothing?" Really? Even the inflated numbers put out by antiwar activists about the cost of the war, put it at about 5% of the so-called "stimulus package," about 3% of the cost of Cap and Trade, or about 5% of the Harry Reid plan to insure another 10% of uninsured Americans.

And we in Michigan would like some evidence of this "revivified auto industry."

What does it cost to lose a war? That is incalculable. What did 9/11 cost? Keith admits it's even likely that Afghanistan will again be occupied by foreign invaders, it would just make him feel more noble if it were not us. So, create a safe haven for al Qaeda. What could *that* cost?

But as Keith reveals, the Left never believed anything Obama said about Afghanistan was more than convenient rhetoric. They supported Obama from the beginning of the primaries because they expected him to lose wars and abandon the efforts. Now, they are going to hold him to it.

## Censoring Sarah Palin

2009 DECEMBER 11

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/12/11/censoring-sarah-palin-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-19/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)

A week [after Keith Olbermann said that the First Amendment should not apply to Glen Beck](#), Olbermann and constant guest Chris Hayes of the Marxist mag [The Nation](#), excoriated the *Washington Post* for accepting an op-ed written by Sarah Palin.

*OLBERMANN: Why did “The Washington Post” let us get lectured about science and politics by someone who quit her only state office, and has a pastor who runs these precautionary exorcisms on her so she can stave off witchcraft.*

*HAYES: I thought it was a really atrocious decision on the part of “The Washington Post” to run this op-ed...*

Even for these two, this assertion is absurd. It’s impossible to imagine a time in our history when a newspaper would not accept an editorial from the immediate past VP candidate, much less a newspaper struggling for readership rejecting one from a political figure who is riding a huge wave of popularity and publicity.

But then, Keith’s plummeting ratings show him in a kamikaze death-dive, and his delusional challenge of “Follow me!” to the WaPo shouldn’t surprise anyone.

Media critics have long noted that [Keith is not a big fan of debate](#). There was more vigorous debate in the Reichstag. He doesn’t just pick guests who agree with his general ideology, they must agree with him on nearly every detail. That’s why his show is a monotonous revolving door of about 10 guests.

Try to find a Countdown that doesn’t include at least 2 of the following; Chris Hayes, Howard Fineman, Eugene Robinson, Laurence O’Donnell, Arianna Huffington, Jonathan Alter, Richard Wolffe, or left wing Senators Sharrod Brown, Ron Wyden, Jay Rockefeller, or Sheldon Whitehouse,

The show is so monotonously one sided, in fact, that Keith felt it necessary to apologetically explain, after the [President’s Afghanistan speech](#), why he would actually bring two people on his show “*who otherwise are near-perfect political matches*” to debate it. I guess dissent is now the lowest form of patriotism.

*OLBERMANN: The rift is perhaps so profound that it merits **something unusual here—a debate** of sorts involving two people who would otherwise not have much to debate about...Good evening to you both. Thanks for trying this.*

*Warning, loyal locksteppers, actual dissent from the Progressive radical party line may appear in this segment!*

Whatever substantive problems one might have with, say Bill O’Reilly or Sean Hannity, you have to look long and hard to find a program which does not contain at least 2 guests who vehemently disagree with the host, and at least one debate between guests.

Back to Hayes and Olbermann. While a mocking segment on Palin is an almost nightly staple of the show, Olbermann made a special emphasis of religious mockery in this show—something he has studiously avoided up to know.

Keith’s tactic was to tie her to a Kenyan Pentecostal preacher who happened to be speaking at a meeting she attended, who called her forward, and prayed over her. The speaker used the language of God’s protecting Palin in her efforts, including from demons. It was a one time, unplanned event, and Palin politely participated.

Not exactly the same thing as sitting [at the feet of an anti-American radical for 20 years](#) and having him baptize one’s children—but I digress.

The pattern in the show became, Keith calls Palin a religious nut, Hayes smacks the *Washington Post* for allowing the religious nut on their editorial page.

*OLBERMANN: Why did “The Washington Post” let us get lectured about science and politics by someone who quit her only state office, and has a pastor who runs these precautionary exorcisms on her so she can stave off witchcraft.*

*HAYES: I thought it was a really atrocious decision on the part of “The Washington Post” to run this op-ed... But to give over your op-ed page to someone who makes, essentially a conspiracy claim, it would be like if they turned it over to someone who wanted to argue that 9/11 was an inside job. “The Washington Post” would never, in a million years, do that and they shouldn’t be doing this.*

Non-editor’s note: I bet if ANY former VP candidate from one of the two major parties wants to send a 9/11 truther letter to this site, we will be glad to print it, and expose their insanity for the world to see...

*OLBERMANN: From Mrs. Palin’s point of view, from the GOP point of view, is this at all about getting elected anymore, or is this just kind of political cover for big business? **Keeping the country safe from polluters for another hour, another month, another year, whatever it is they can manage?** [DF: Who’re YOU callin’ a conspiracy theorist Willis?]*

*HAYES: Luckily, they go hand in hand. I actually think what’s motivating Palin-and you can actually see, she has moved, you know, in the direction of the conspiracy theorists on this issue. What’s motivating her is the fact that the polling on this is really disturbing, because it has become an article of faith among the right wing base that this is a grand socialist conspiracy to usher in state control...*

Yes, how could anyone see socialism in either a bill, or an EPA announcement that gives government absolute power to regulate energy use? That doesn’t affect every aspect of our economy– does it?

*OLBERMANN: What is the Palin explanation for polar ice melting, which she acknowledges. If it is witchcraft, why has she not sent Pastor Muthy to fix it. A slightly more serious version of that, and if this is not man-made, if it is part of the right-wing agenda, if it all should be theocratically interpreted, **if it’s all in God’s hands, how come Sister Sarah, with her direct line to God, has not instructed God to fix this?***

*HAYES: And the editors of “The Washington Post” didn’t see fit to make any kind of intervention, to at least have a logically consistent piece of work on their pages.*

But the First Amendment, healthy debate, and the like are pretty small potatoes WHEN THE WOLRD IS ABOUT TO END, and THE SKY IS FALLING!

*HAYES: You know, I don’t know what the right-wing government’s plan is. But I will say, on an extremely serious note, that this-you know, we’ve talked about this in a million different ways-and Al Gore-and there are a lot of messengers who are better at this than I am. But it’s hard to over-state the stakes right now, in Copenhagen, in the climate change legislation moving through Congress. **We are at a sort of pivotal moment in the fate of the Earth**, but also as a test of the moral fabric of American democracy. **And history is going to look extremely, extremely unkindly on this op-ed and the people that are using their platform to sort of propagate this very monstrous deception.***

Wow. You’re in trouble once the Revolution comes! Ve haff vays of making you NOT talk... No totalitarian impulse to see here, folks, just move along.

## Joe Lieberman is “Embarrassing Humanity!”

2009 DECEMBER 16

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/12/16/“embarrassing-humanity”-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-20/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



*Assuming facts not in evidence, Keith Olbermann expresses embarrassment to be in the same species with this man.*

On Monday, MSNBC was all anti-Joe Lieberman, all the time. Even “conservative” Joe Scarborough’s show, Morning Joe, had a logo for the topic, with the words “Joe Blowing Health Reform?” Classy.

But of course, no one, even Ed Schlutz, who bloviated that he couldn’t understand how Democrats could be in the same room as Liebermann without “punching him in the nose.” could not match the hysterical hyperbole hurled into the airwaves by Keith Olbermann, who screamed:

***“Senator, just resign already... You are embarrassing humanity!”***

Which prompts the obvious question—How would YOU know, Keith? When you later suggest that an appropriate response for Lieberman would be for him to commit suicide out of shame, is that what you mean by “humane?”

The reason for all this outrage is that Joe Lieberman, a lifelong and reliable liberal on domestic policy, is standing in the breach against a total government takeover of health care in the United States.

The “basis” Keith eventually used for his over the top outrage on behalf of “humanity” Monday night was a completely bogus “statistic” cited by frequent guest and socialized medicine advocate Ezra Klein of the *Washington Post*. Klein wrote that 150,000 people have died because of our private health system in the last 10 years, and that the Harry Reid bill would “save” that number in the next 10.

At least Keith stopped short of repeating the “holocaust” terminology of Alan Grayson when it came to Lieberman, whose wife Hadassah, (who has been herself personally attacked by the Left this week in retaliation for her husband’s good work) is the child of Holocaust survivors.

Here’s Klein’s main point as he expressed it to Olbermann, after which Keith takes Schultz’s rhetoric a fatal step further:

***EZRA KLEIN: WASHINGTON POST: ...But, you know, one thing that I think we should be very clear on, and I was hammering Lieberman on this earlier, and it goes in the opposite direction, too—we don’t have a tendency to talk about this the right way, right? **That if you look at the number of people without*****

**insurance that die every year, you're looking at this bill saving about 150,000 lives in its first 10 years.** Whether or not you're talking public option, Medicare buy-in? That's cost stuff, 150,000 lives....

**OLBERMANN:** And meantime, Joe Lieberman continues to spit in the face of this country's desires and need. It's not about retribution as much as it is about right now. **You and I might hope that were we ever guilty of such lying, such betrayal, such humiliation, we would flee office or go hide in a monastery or go jump off a bridge.**

Yes, Keith, you are a *fine* representative of "humanity." Thanks for sticking up for us, you've made us all proud.

## Kill Bill, Vol. 1

2009 DECEMBER 17

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/12/17/kill-bill-vol-1-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-21/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



*The Left is out for blood and turning against President Obama.*

Wednesday night, Keith Olbermann delivered "as promised" (to the one half of one percent of the nation that was no doubt breathlessly awaiting) his verdict on the Democrat health "reform" as it currently is constituted.

It was So Important, that Keith dubbed it the Number One Story of the Day. This is interesting, as the intro to every Countdown begins with "Which of these stories will YOU be talking about tomorrow."

I was out and about today, and the world was hardly abuzz with talk of Keith Olbermann. In fact, when I mentioned to one fairly politically active friend at a meeting that Olbermann had come out against Harry Reid's bill, he looked at me and said, "Really, he said THAT on Sunday Night Football?"

In a rambling rant to wrap up the show, Olbermann questioned [President Obama's](#) courage, threatened him with a primary, held himself forth as the leader of a movement of future civil disobedience, and bizarrely recounted the exact place and time 5 YEARS ago of someone calling him a... liberal!

More on that in future segments. First, the bottom line. Olbermann joined [Howard Dean](#) in saying, "Kill the bill."

But he went much farther (rhetorically, at least) than even ultra-liberal Dean in stating his reason for not being satisfied with the Democrats' most recent efforts to shape by force major corporations and employers in this country to meet their social agenda.

***OLBERMANN: The American Insurance Cartel is the Death Panel, and this Senate bill does nothing to destroy it... the implacable enemy of American society, the insurance cartel.***

The ironic thing is that the bill he opposes so vociferously, is apt to do just that—by inches.

The proposed law requires that everyone buy health insurance, or pay a fine to the federal government. The fine is far less than premiums would cost, so it's basically a tax to help with Congressional Budget Office deficit scoring.

At the same time, the bill outlaws turning someone down for a "pre-existing condition." This sets up the painfully obvious — to all but the most dense among us—incentive: Wait until you're sick — heck, wait until you're in the HOSPITAL — and buy insurance. You can't be turned down.

So, the feds have created the ultimate DIS-incentive to purchase health insurance while you're healthy. Premiums will either skyrocket, or the companies will go under. Either way, the proponents of socialized medicine have created a way to flood the system, or create a politically untenable situation for insurers.

If this bill is passed—and eventually kicks in down the road (in another weird twist) it will kill private insurance.

This is the same thing [community activists and their lackeys in Congress did to the banking system](#).

- Make good business practices illegal
- Create incentives for everyone to abuse the system
- Institute a government takeover when the bubble bursts

But you have to admire Keith for the purity of his socialist convictions. He can't wait, and checks and balances and democratic processes are just *too* frustrating. We need dictatorial action on health insurance and we need it now!

*Mr. Grassley of Iowa has lied, and fomented panic and fear. Mr. DeMint of South Carolina has forgotten he represents people, and not just a political party. Mr. Baucus of Montana has operated as a virtual agent for the industry he is charged with regulating. Mr. Nelson of Nebraska has not only derailed reform, he has tried to exploit it to overturn a Supreme Court decision that is, in this context, frankly none of his goddamned business.*

*They say they have done what they have done for the most important, the most fiscally prudent, the most gloriously phrased, the most inescapable of reasons. **But mostly they have done it for the money. Lots and lots of money from the insurance companies and the pharmacological companies and the other health care companies who have slowly, deliberately and effectively taken this country over.***

*Which brings us to **Mr. Lieberman** ... he has sold untold hundreds of thousands of us into pain and fear and privation and slavery, for money. He has been bought and sold by the insurance lobby. He has become a Senatorial prostitute.*

*And sadly, the President of the United States has not provided the leadership his office demands. He has badly misjudged the country's mood at all ends of the spectrum.*

*There is no middle to coalesce here, sir. **There are only the uninformed, the bought-off, and the vast suffering majority** for whom the urgency of now is a call from a collection agency or a threat of rescission of policy or a warning of expiration of services.*

*Sir, your hands-off approach, while nobly intended and perhaps yet some day applicable to the reality of an improved version of our nation, enabled the national humiliation that was the Town Halls and the insufferable Neanderthalian stupidity of Congressman Wilson and the street-walking of Mr. Lieberman.*

*Instead of continuing this snipe-hunt for the endangered and possibly extinct creature “bipartisanship,” you need to push the Republicans around or cut them out or both. You need to threaten Democrats like Baucus and the others with the ends of their careers in the party. Instead, those Democrats have threatened you, and the Republicans have pushed you and cut you out.*

*Mr. President, the line between “compromise” and “compromised” is an incredibly fine one. Any reform bill enrages the right, and provides it with the war cry around which it will rally its mindless legions in the midterms and in ‘12.*

Interestingly, Olbermann, the \$7 million dollar a year man, euphemistically calls himself “Self-insured.” Translation: I’m rich enough to pay for my own health care.

Then Keith makes the ultimate empty gesture:

*And I hereby pledge that I will not buy this perversion of health care reform. Pass this at your peril, Senators, and sign it at yours, Mr. President. I will not buy this insurance. Brand me a lawbreaker, if you choose. Fine me, if you will. Jail me, if you must.*

Whoopee! A thousand-dollar, or so, extra tax for mega-rich Keith. They don’t make martyrs—or prophets for that matter—like they used to.

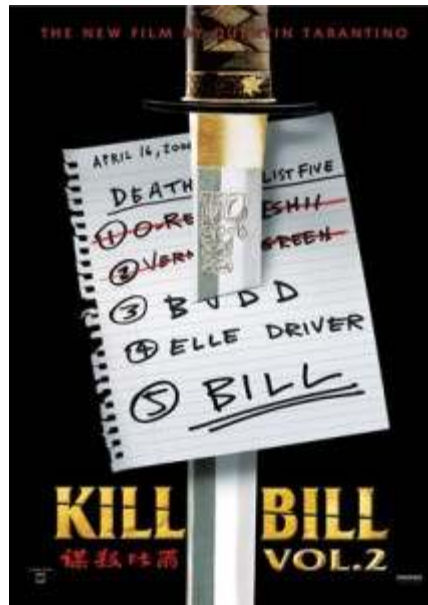
## Kill Bill, Vol. 2

2009 DECEMBER 18

<http://newsrealblog.com/2009/12/18/kill-bill-vol-2-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-22/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



In his [“Kill the bill” special comment](#) Wednesday night, [Keith Olbermann](#) followed [Howard Dean](#), socialist Senator Bernie Sanders, and the increasing chorus on the Left to kill the current health care “reform” package as insufficiently socialistic.

Olbermann’s primary reason was that it did not immediately and forever “destroy” the private health insurance industry.

But in his rant, he directly challenged the President’s manhood on this issue by relating an exceedingly strange and egocentric anecdote—even by Keith’s standards. This one should give the armchair shrinks in the audience, plenty of fodder:

*OLBERMANN: On April 6<sup>th</sup> 2003, I was approached by two drunken young men at a baseball game. One of them started to ask for an autograph. The other stopped him by shouting “screw him, he’s a liberal.” This program had been on the air for three weeks...I could not fathom on what factual basis I was being called a “liberal,” let alone being sworn at for being such.*

Now, how many of you can put an exact date to a 6 ½ year-old incident THIS innocuous? And to find it significant enough to include it in a personal challenge to the President of the United States to “man up? There’s just a screw loose in there somewhere.

Here’s the full quote in context. Olbermann taunts [President Obama](#), as though the reason that the President has not been more forceful in pushing immediate full socialization of American medicine is that he’s afraid of being called names by protesters—not that the polls are against him and his Party will suffer a bloodbath if he goes that far (of course, they are on the [“precipice,”](#) to coin a phrase, of that *now*.)

*OLBERMANN: On April 6<sup>th</sup> 2003, I was approached by two drunken young men at a baseball game. One of them started to ask for an autograph. The other stopped him by shouting “screw him, he’s a liberal.” This program had been on the air for three weeks. It had, to that point, consisted entirely of brief introductions to correspondents in Iraq or to military analysts. There had been no criticism, no political analysis, no commentary. I had not covered news full-time for more than four years. I could not fathom on what factual basis I was being called a “liberal,” let alone being sworn at for being such.*

*Only later did it dawn on me that it didn’t matter why, and it didn’t matter that they were doing it. It only mattered that if I was going to be mindlessly criticized for anything, the reaction would be identical whether I did nothing that engendered it, or whether I stood for something that engendered it.*

*Mr. President, they are calling you a socialist, a communist, a Marxist. You could be further to the right on this than Reagan—and this health care bill, as Howard Dean put it here last night, this bailout for the insurance industry, that sure invites the comparison. And they will still call you names.*

***Sir, if they are going to call you a socialist no matter what you do, you have been given full, unfettered freedom to do what you know is just. The bill may be the ultimate political manifesto, or it may be the most delicate of compromises. The firestorm will be the same. So why not give the haters, as the cliché goes, something to cry about.***

While I, for one, am willing to concede that calling Keith Olbermann a liberal and calling Barack Obama a socialist are equally accurate, this is a truly bizarre formulation for an argument. The Left's biggest mouth drags out an example of 2 people accurately (charitably, actually) labeling him for what he is and says, "Mr. President if I can take that, so can you."

Forget anything Rush Limbaugh or Glenn Beck has said about Barack Obama. Keith Olbermann has just relegated Barack Obama's political strategy to Junior High lunch hour name-calling.

And just for the record, in 1998, 5 years before his traumatic confrontation at the ball game, Keith made quite a stir on his MSNBC program, *The Big Show with Keith Olbermann*, when the network was still searching for an identity with the following rant:

***Keith Olbermann on MSNBC's Big Show, to Chicago Tribune Washington Bureau Chief James Warren, Aug. 18, 1998: Can Ken Starr ignore the apparent breadth of the sympathetic response to the President's speech? 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?"***

For Olbermann to claim that his leftward slant never surfaced before 2003 is just delusional. For him to make this a basis for changing the mind of the President of the United States, may just signal some kind of psychotic break.

## Kill Bill Vol.3

2009 DECEMBER 19

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/12/19/kill-bill-vol-3-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-23/>



BY DAVID FORSMARK



In his “Special Comment” urging “progressive” lawmakers to vote against the Obama/Reid health care plan and “kill the bill” because it does not immediately “destroy” private insurance in America, Keith Olbermann went over the top—even by Meltdown standards.

He not only challenged Barack Obama’s manhood in school playground terms, he also threatened the President with a primary challenge from the Left if he continued to push the current plan.

*OLBERMANN TO OBAMA: Nothing short of your re-election and the re-election of dozens of Democrats in the House and the Senate hinges in large part on this bill. Make it palatable or make it go away or make yourself ready, not merely for a horrifying campaign in 2012, but for the distinct possibility also of a primary challenge.*

To paraphrase Robert Duvall’s famous line in *True Grit*, “I call that bold talk from a one-share gnat, man.”

Of course. If the President wants advice about his political future from someone with his finger on the pulse, where *else* would he go but to a guy who attracts just under one half of one per cent of the country on a nightly basis?

So, it’s worth briefly considering this threat. Where would this challenge from the Left come from? What giant of the Democratic Party would emerge to take on the first black President in his own party primary?

Keith listed his heroes in the “fight against death,” as he once called the health care debate:

*“I bless the Sherrod Browns and Ron Wydens and Jay Rockefeller and Sheldon Whitehouses and Anthony Weiners and all the others who have fought for real reform. And I bleed for the pain inflicted upon them and their hopes. They have done their jobs and served their nation.”*

And they are each on Countdown at least once a week. And none of them has anywhere near the political muscle or charisma to take on Barack Obama.

Howard Dean? To that, the Republicans say, YEEEEAAAAHHHHH!

Remember, Jimmy Carter was as weak as an incumbent President could be, and the Lion of the Left, Ted Kennedy, could not dislodge him from the top spot on his party’s ticket.

That brings us to the obvious alternative, Hillary Clinton. After all, the term “Hillarycare” predates “Obamacare” by 15 years, and had the primary season lasted another month, she probably would have been the nominee.

But despite her radical background in Chicago politics that reads like the feminist version of Obama's own, there is one major problem with this—in the 2008 Primaries, Hillary ran to Obama's RIGHT. It was the “bitter gunners” who flocked to her in reaction to [Bill Ayers'](#) pal and [Jeremiah Wright's](#) prize parishioner.

The Clinton Legacy has changed to a “centrist” one; and the Clinton's are nothing if not politically canny. They know they lost the nomination that last time because they had a general election message that was not liberal enough for the Democrat base.

The only way to win the Democrat Primary would be a massive challenge from the Left. However, that would doom the candidate in the General Election. That would be fine with *me*, but that is *not* how the Clintons are going out.

Maybe the time is finally right for [Dennis “UFO” Kucinich](#) to finally break into double digits.

## NewsReal Sunday Matinee—Made for Each Other, Levi and Keith

2009 DECEMBER 27

<http://www.newsrealblog.com/2009/12/27/newsreal-sunday-matinee-made-for-each-other-levi-and-keith-meltdown-with-keith-olbermann-part-24/>



BY [DAVID FORSMARK](#)



**“Levi Johnston, a Sarah Palin whistleblower!” Keith Olbermann, MSNBC**

Tomorrow night, Countdown with [Keith Olbermann](#) will air a not-so “special,” entitled “Countdown Favorites 2009.” Taking up 5 minutes of wasted space in this unrecoverable hour of a too short life, is a segment on an essential public figure.

Levi Johnston.

That's right, the high school hockey player whose *only* accomplishment in life is knocking up Sarah Palin's oldest daughter. Someone who would not be a media figure, no matter how hard he tried, if he had fathered a son with anyone *else* on the planet's daughter.

And in fact, even in a media world of Palin-haters, Levi really only got about 15 seconds of fame. *Vanity Fair* extensively used him in their Palin hit piece, but not as their centerfold. Those hard-hitting journalists Larry King and Tyra Banks gave him respectful air time, but Dylan Rattigan on MSNBC dismissed him as a “hockey stud,” and even celebrity tabloid shows mocked Levi’s various attempts to get attention.

But on Countdown, he was a *truthteller*. and worthy of his own segment on a “best of the year” show.

On the last Countdown segment before breaking for Christmas, snarky regular guest host [Laurence O’Donnell](#) made a lame, transparent attempt to make the clip segment relevant and worth of the “Number One Story of the Day” ranking by bring up singer Tori Amos as the latest “A-list celebrity” to attempt to seem relevant by taking a Sarah Palin cheap shot.

Yes, the world is abuzz now that we finally know what Tori Amos (half the audience just asked, “Who?”) thinks (to use a word carelessly) about Sarah Palin.

What Levi Johnston thinks was given not given credibility anywhere more than on Countdown with Keith Olbermann, who breathlessly repeated each charge as though it actually reflected on the most hated woman on his long list of hated people.

Here are a sampling of Countdown reviews of Levi’s performances:

***“The A-list smackdowns will come and go, Levi Johnston is forever”—Lawrence O’Donnell, Huffington Post***

***“Levi Johnston, a Sarah Palin whistleblower!” Keith Olbermann, MSNBC***

It may be headache-inducing, but the video is instructive. For as it plays, Levi Johnston does not gain in credibility—except in comparison to Keith Olbermann. By the end of the four minutes, it becomes obvious. These two anger-driven and arrogant attentions seekers are *muy simpatico*. One of them just gets nightly airtime.

When Olbermann says things like, ***“Whether the engagement was real, or just a stunt to spare her from having to run for Vice President as the mother of an unwed mother...”*** it’s really hard to make the case that Levi Johnston is any more outrageously sleazy—or less personally credible -- than Keith Olbermann. Each takes pleasure in using the troubles of a teenager for personal gain and out of sheer spite.

In short, Levi Johnston and Keith Olbermann are made for each other. And Olbermann’s end of the year love letter to the former “hockey stud” proves it.

*Note: With all due apologies to James Stewart and Carole Lombard, two of my all time favorites.*

***Editor’s Note: Stay tuned for Meltdown with Keith Olbermann, Volume 2 collecting posts 25-50 from spring of 2010***