

Norah O'Donnell, Lamestream Media "Deep Thinker"

☒ From the "You Can't Make This Stuff Up" Department:

The other day, Newt Gingrich took a pot shot at President Obama. He told Republicans meeting in New Orleans that, "shooting three-point shots may be clever, but it doesn't put anybody to work." It was a reference to President Obama's televised shoot-out with CBS sports analyst and former basketball star Clark Kellogg during the network's coverage of the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship.

No big deal, right? Guess again, Sunshine.

A day later on "Morning Joe" on MSNBC, Norah O'Donnell, the cable network's chief Washington correspondent, told the other guests the following:

"But I'm not sure what he [Gingrich] means by this particular sound bite and I think it's open to some criticism because it suggests that the President is an athlete and some people may suggest, you know, because all black people are good athletes. I mean that's what it sort of sounds like to me."

No kidding. She really said that.

The good news is that the rest of the panel didn't buy it. There was a lot of scoffing at Ms. O'Donnell's expense. But she wasn't done. **"Well what's this suggestion about him playing basketball? That he's not doing his job?"** O'Donnell demanded to know.

One of the panelists defended O'Donnell's take on Gingrich's remark. Jonathan Capehart who writes editorials at the Washington Post said, **"Norah, I will back you up, because my eyebrow arched as well."**

Hey, my eyebrow is arching too. It often does when I'm about to call members of the lamestream media ... dolts!

But since exploring dopiness can be fun, let's try to answer the million dollar question: Why did Ms. O'Donnell see racism in Gingrich's pot shot. The answer, sports fans, is simple:

Because she's a liberal, that's why.

Liberals see everything through the prism of race. If someone throws garbage in the river and you complain, you're a good citizen who cares about the environment. If the guy who tossed the garbage is black and you complain, you're a racist.

On the eve of The Masters, Augusta National chairman Billy Payne delivered a public lecture to Tiger Woods, which prompted this from New York Times columnist George Vescey:

"Just asking, but would Payne have been so quick to deliver his little sermon to a white golfer who was caught straying?"

I thought the election of our first black president was going to usher in a wonderful post-racial era. Well, it hasn't. Just the opposite has transpired. Now you run the risk of being tarred a racist if you criticize President Obama for just about anything. As far as some liberals are concerned, there is no such thing as *honest disagreement* over policy. No, if you disagree with the messiah, you hate black people.

That's how the tea party protestors are caricatured. There have been at least four recent columns, all in major newspapers including the New York Times and Washington Post, that have accused tea partiers of racism. Never mind that they think President Obama is spending us into the poor house. That's just a cover to mask their bigotry – or so the narrative goes.

And if your name is Newt Gingrich and you have an eye on the White House, and you try to score political points by accusing

the president of spending time playing ball when he should be working on jobs, then you're something akin to a racist, too – at least according to the ever-vigilant Norah O'Donnell.

Liberals are doing the nation a lot of harm with their promiscuous slurs. A lot of Americans are starting to think that yelling "Racist" is just a way to shut up the opposition. And they're getting tired of it. Besides, you can cry wolf just so many times before people stop listening altogether. Something to think about, Norah.

The Latest Entry in the Slime Sweepstakes

✘ There's been a lot of hand-wringing lately, much of it from sensitive liberals, about how uncivil we've become. Just look at those white racist Neanderthals who go to tea parties, liberals will tell you – in case you need proof.

There were the columns in the Miami Herald, the Washington Post and the New York Times, to name just a few – all decrying the supposed rampant racism at the tea parties.

Proof? Well, what about those racial slurs that the tea partiers yelled out at black congressmen? Isn't that proof enough?

Well, no. The more I look into those charges the more I come away believing they never happened. (See my recent columns on this subject.)

A mere technicality, because tea party racism has become a mantra on the Left, an accepted truth that only fools,

conservative Republicans, and other bigots wouldn't see. And surely, these liberals must figure, if they say it over and over again it will become ingrained in the national conversation: tea partiers are bigots, period. The bad news is that it's working.

Every conversation about the tea parties comes around to race and racism. The innocent victims can deny the charges all they want, but the charges out there nonetheless.

And now comes the latest entry in the slime sweepstakes, this one from a United States congressman, no less. Steve Cohen, a Democrat from Tennessee went on a satellite radio show the other night and had this exchange with the host, Michael Shure.

Michael Shure: We'd like to just talk to you ... about sort of the pervasive feeling in Washington right now, all this vitriol, all this hate. What is being done in America about this now?

Cohen: Well, I'm not sure what's being done. The Tea Party people are kind of, without robes and hoods, they have really shown a very hardcore angry side of America that is against any type of diversity. And we saw opposition to African Americans, hostility toward gays, hostility to anybody who wasn't just, you know, a clone of George Wallace's fan club. And I'm afraid they've taken over the Republican Party."

Let's see if I have this right: tea party demonstrators are like the Ku Klux Klan, without the robes and hoods. They hate black people, but only for openers. In actuality, they hate *everybody* – at least everybody who didn't support George Wallace, the segregationist governor of Alabama.

Good thing liberals are the open-minded ones, the good ones, the civil ones, the ones who detest hateful speech with every fiber of their being.

Okay, enough of the all-too-easy sarcasm. Here's the point: unless Democrats denounce this kind of hateful talk, they will have no standing to condemn anybody else's incivility, real or imagined. They will have lost every ounce of their credibility. They will be nothing more than enablers of hateful speech, no matter how much they claim to long for a more civil time in America.

Oh yeah, Steve Cohen is a white Jewish guy who has a precarious hold on a mostly black congressional district in Tennessee and will face a black opponent in the Democratic primary – the former mayor of Memphis who says Tennessee needs a black voice in its all-white delegation, and whose African American campaign manager says, "This seat was set aside for people who look like me." Translation (as if we need a translation): kick the white guy out. Two years ago when Cohen ran against a black woman in the Democratic primary, he was targeted by a black minister who sent out fliers declaring that, "Memphis Congressman Steve Cohen and the JEWS HATE JESUS."

So how does Steve Cohen deal with black bigotry when it's aimed at him? He turns it around and aims it at white tea party folks, accusing them of bigotry. And if slandering tea partiers as George Wallace fans minus the hoods and robes is what he has to do to convince black voters he's one of the good white, Jewish guys – and win his upcoming primary, it looks like that's what he's prepared to do.

But race is way too sensitive a subject in America to play with so recklessly. Liberals ought to know that, even if they're prepared to throw liberalism under the bus just to win an election.

More Sludge from the Lamestream Media

☒ When we last met in this space, I was telling you about Frank Rich, the New York Times columnist ... about how he was pontificating on healthcare reform ... about how the anger out there isn't really a manifestation of the unhappiness with the way healthcare reform turned out, according to Mr. Rich. Instead we were angry, Frank Rich informed us – or more accurately, fearful – because a black man is president, a woman is Speaker of the House, a Latina is on the U.S. Supreme Court and a powerful congressman is gay.

Painful as it may be to read his tripe a second time, here it is, just so you may recall that either a) you are a bigot or b) Frank Rich is a shameless left-wing twit:

“That a tsunami of anger is gathering today is illogical, given that what the right calls “Obamacare” is less provocative than either the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Medicare, an epic entitlement that actually did precipitate a government takeover of a sizable chunk of American health care. But the explanation is plain: the health care bill is not the main source of this anger and never has been. It’s merely a handy excuse. The real source of the over-the-top rage of 2010 is the same kind of national existential reordering that roiled America in 1964. ...

“If Obama’s first legislative priority had been immigration or financial reform or climate change, we would have seen the same trajectory. The conjunction of a black president and a female speaker of the House – topped off by a wise Latina on the Supreme Court and a powerful gay Congressional committee chairman – would sow fears of disenfranchisement among a dwindling and threatened minority in the country no matter what policies were in play.”

Frank Rich's predictable observations stem from an episode that might or might not have happened – the shouting of racial slurs at two black congressmen outside the Capitol before the vote on ObamaCare. No need to re-hash that story except to say: no audio proof has turned up to support the allegation. And as for the “spitting” episode which supposedly took place when a white Tea Party demonstrator let loose on a black congressmen – well, video shows it didn't quite happen that way.

Yes, the demonstrator was shouting at the congressman as he walked by – just as he had been shouting at white members of Congress – but from the pictures it looks like the protestor was guilty of nothing more than saying it and spraying it at the same time. Not nice, but not racist either.

So based on these *incidents* we not only got Frank Rich's two cents about racist white America, but also a dirty little piece of work by Colbert King in the Washington Post which ran under this headline:

In the faces of Tea Party shouters, images of hate and history

It gets a lot worse after that. “The angry faces at Tea Party rallies are eerily familiar. They resemble faces of protesters lining the street at the University of Alabama in 1956 as Autherine Lucy, the school's first black student, bravely tried to walk to class,” is how the column begins.

“Those same jeering faces could be seen gathered around the Arkansas National Guard troopers who blocked nine black children from entering Little Rock's Central High School in 1957.”

So the tea partiers are no different – no better – than the racist thugs who tried to block integration some 50 years ago.

King goes on. “Tea Party members, as with their forerunners who showed up at the University of Alabama and Central High

School, behave as they do because they have been culturally conditioned to believe they are entitled to do whatever they want, and to whomever they want, because they are the 'real Americans,' while all who don't think or look like them are not.

"And they are consequential. Without folks like them, there would be no Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity or Pat Buchanan. There would never have been a George Corley Wallace ...

"Hence, an explanation for the familiarity of faces: today's Tea Party adherents are George Wallace legacies. They, like Wallace's followers, smolder with anger. They fear they are being driven from their rightful place in America."

This is nothing less than slander. And shallow slander at that. Even if one or two or three – or 10 or 15 – demonstrators crossed a very bright line and shouted racial slurs, does this mean the rest of the crowd – thousands of others – were also racists? Does it mean that the entire Tea Party movement is rotten to its core? No serious person would conclude that. No serious person would write such nonsense.

But here's something that seems to have escaped Mr. King and his *sophisticated* editors at the Washington Post: Yelling racial slurs is indeed hateful, but so is yelling racism just because you feel like it. Yes, some people see a racist behind every tree. Some think it's still 1957 in America. This is their problem. They should not make it ours.

I suspect we haven't read or heard the last of this kind of journalistic sludge. Its goal, of course, is to silence critics of President Obama. Who, after all, wants to be called a racist? (By the way, if we really were a bunch of racists, we wouldn't care!) So be careful out there: if you criticize President Obama for almost anything, you run the risk of being tarred a bigot.

The election of President Obama was supposed to take us to a new better place. He was, we were repeatedly told, not the usual politician. He was The Future. With the election of the first black president in a predominantly white country, race was supposed to fade into the background.

How's that working out for you?

They Don't Call it the Lamestream Media for Nothing

Something ugly happened the other day outside the Capitol in Washington just before the vote on healthcare reform.

Or it didn't.

Angry anti-ObamaCare Tea Party demonstrators shouted racial epithets at several black members of congress.

Or they didn't.

By now, you've heard the story. As congress was about to vote on the president's healthcare plan one or more demonstrators (no one claims to know how many for sure) supposedly shouted "nigger" at two black congressmen. Upon hearing the reports, leaders of the Tea Party demonstration denounced the incident and the leader of the House Republicans, John Boehner said it was "reprehensible."

But did the incident ever really happen? It certainly is possible, that in a crowd of thousands, a few morons shouted out racial slurs. Apparently it was quite a scene. Congressman John Lewis, a Democrat from Georgia and veteran of the civil rights movement, told reporters that the angry crowd

“reminded me of some of the pictures you saw in newspapers and magazines in the 1950s and '60s when little black children were trying to integrate schools. It reminded me of Central High (Little Rock, Ark.) in 1957.”

So it's especially interesting that despite all the cameras and microphones at the scene, not one picked up the nasty remarks, even though they supposedly were being *shouted*, and even though another congressman, Andre Carson, a Democrat from Indiana, said that the demonstrators yelled “nigger” at least 15 times.

This, of course, doesn't mean it *didn't* happen. As I say, it may have. Would I be shocked if it did. Honestly? No! So, let's just assume the worst. And let's see how the so-called mainstream media handled the story.

Even though journalists are normally skeptical of what politicians say – and pride themselves on accepting nothing without proof – there was no nuance, no hint that they might not know the whole story, in the headlines which shouted “Racism.” Never mind that not a single reporter actually heard the slurs that supposedly were being yelled out – repeatedly.

There was this, from a newspaper in Sydney, Australia no less: **“Black congressmen run gauntlet of racist slurs”**

And this closer to home, from the Atlanta Journal Constitution: **“Republican Party is stained by the racism of its fringe”**

At least the Journal Constitution included the word “fringe” – a word missing from the Chicago Sun Times headline: **“Racism simmers below surface on health care”**

The most irresponsible headline ran over an opinion piece in the Baltimore Examiner (and other publications in the Examiner family): **“Tea party turns into Klan rally”**

The (New York) Daily News said, "They might want to think about renaming it the Nastea Party."

But why tar so many angry but peaceful demonstrators with such a broad brush? Why link them to a small group – it if existed at all – that was out of line?

Simple. It fits the storyline that liberal journalists like to pursue. These are news people (not all, of course, but way too many) who believe conservatives in general and tea partiers in particular, are bigots. Simple as that, friends.

Yet these same *fair-minded* journalists would never tar the entire environmental movement because a few angry screwballs burn down an SUV dealership in the dark of night. Or link peaceful environmentalists to the maniacs who put nails in trees that are about to be cut down hoping to maim the tree cutters. Nor would they tar the entire anti-war movement because Bill Ayers and a relatively few other radicals tried to blow things up to protest the Vietnam War.

But the tea partiers can't catch a break. Twenty bigots at a rally, or maybe only two or three, or maybe just *one* ... is enough to give tens of thousands of peaceful demonstrators a bad name. As Keith Olbermann, the *fearless* and *courageous* Howard Beale (without the charm) of MSNBC said: "If racism is not the whole of the Tea Party, it is in its heart."

And when it comes to hatefulness of the heart, there is no one more expert than Keith Olbermann.

Backfire!

✘ The media did Barack Obama no favors when they deified him, when they tried to turn him into a saint during the presidential campaign. Now the American people are seeing that he's not transformational, not post-partisan, not post-political – all the wonderful things he claimed to be, with hardly a raised eyebrow by his pals in the slobbering media.

He has repeatedly told us, with great eloquence, that for big issues to become law, 50-plus-one isn't good enough. Big ideas need big coalitions. They need consensus. They need Democrats and Republicans. Now the same Barack Obama tells us that 50-plus-one is just fine with him. Forgive me for stating the obvious: Barack Obama is nothing more than an old-fashioned politician, the kind we've seen a million times before. The kind that gives hypocrisy a bad name. There is nothing transformational about him, nothing post-partisan, nothing post-political. What we got in Mr. Obama is an old pol who reeks of hack.

Nobody, and certainly not Barack Obama, could possibly live up to the media hype. The fools in the press thought they were helping their guy. They weren't content merely being eyewitnesses to history. They wanted to shape history. This was no mere liberal Democrat running for president. This was not Mondale or Dukakis or Gore or Kerry. This was the Great Obama. This was history in the making.

And now, the Anointed One is paying the price for all that embarrassing adulation. Democrats still love him, Republicans still don't. But independents are leaving him by the truckload. And make no mistake, they are the ones who decide elections in America.

This is not what the Lamestream media had in mind when they elevated a mere Chicago politician to the status of messiah.