



Clear Channel's Company Culture Of Hate Profiteering

How A Corporate Conglomerate Has Grown Immune To Market Forces

The United States is more diverse than ever before – but that diversity is not reflected on our radio dials. Instead, corporate giant Clear Channel, which owns 850 radio stations in 150 cities across the country, has a full lineup of hate pundits. These pundits regularly spread vitriol against people of color, women, gays and lesbians, the poor, and others. Clear Channel is the largest radio conglomerate in the U.S. It has grown too big to fail. Even in the face of massive outcry and successful advertiser boycotts, hate pundits like Rush Limbaugh, John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou remain on air. Why? Rather than selling advertising time by station, Clear Channel regularly sells placements for multiple stations at the same time. This gives Clear Channel greater bargaining power and reduces its competition. When responsible companies call Clear Channel to explicitly request that their ads not air on hate programs, they are just shifted to a different time period or station. This negates the ability of the free market to dictate content. In other words, because Clear Channel owns so many stations, it can ignore community outcry over its programming, while still continuing to profit. And its CEO, John Hogan, is standing behind this hate speech profit model.

Here is just a small sample of hate from Clear Channel pundits:



Rush Limbaugh has commented that “some people are just born to be slaves,” and infamously referred to a Georgetown Law student a “slut” and a “prostitute.”¹

Bill Cunningham has stated that “poor people are not poor because they lack money. They’re poor because they lack values, ethics, and morals ... All that the mid-'60s and '70s did to the black community was to pay black fathers money on condition that they not be involved in the lives of their children and that black mothers were told that if you married, it would have a painful consequence.” He has also said that “Obama wants to gas the Jews,” and that women are thought to be “Democratic voters because a lot of women who are single are vulnerable; they need like a daddy government to keep an eye on them.”²



John Kobylt and **Kenneth Chiampou** referred to the late Whitney Houston a “crack ho” shortly after her death. They’ve also said that Native Americans should have been “better warriors,” that “there’s a lot of ... Korean painter scam guys,” and that “gays like bodies that remind them of 14-year-old boys.”³

Bill Handel once said that “when I look at a box of Wheaties ... I don't want to see eyes that are like all slanted and Oriental and almond shaped. I want American eyes looking at me.”⁴



¹ <http://nhmc.org/hateradio>; <http://mediamatters.org/blog/201203010012>.

² <http://mediamatters.org/mmtv/200901050010>; <http://mediamatters.org/research/200810310019>; <http://mediamatters.org/mmtv/200810300017>

³ <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/02/kfi-john-ken-whitney-houston-crack-ho-black-leaders.html>;

<http://mediamatters.org/blog/201203020003>.

⁴ http://articles.latimes.com/1996-04-10/local/me-56753_1_asian-pacific-american.



Randi Rhodes called Hillary Clinton a “big, fucking whore.”⁵

Michael Berry has remarked, “[i]f you’re against apologizing for slavery, then you gotta be against giving welfare to the American Indians because of the fact that 200 years ago, they were whipped in a war. We conquered them. That’s history. Hello!” He’s also said that Islam teaches hate and that he hopes that the mosque built near the World Trade Center would be blown up.⁶



Michael Savage has inaccurately stated that “most Latinos in this country are illegal,” and that most Arabs are “non-humans” and “racist, fascist bigots.” He has also asked why we should “care about homosexuals trying to destroy families through the mock marriage that they perform in order to mock God, the church, the family, children, the fetus, the DNA of the human species? Why should we care about it while we have a financial meltdown? Because the spiritual side of the downturn on Wall Street is directly related to the moral downturn in the United States of America.” He has also stated that Americans are “being displaced by the people of Mexico. This is an invasion. The illegal aliens come here not to work, but to work the system, sell drugs, rape and kill on contract.”⁷

Neal Boortz called welfare recipients “human parasitic garbage,” and said that low income Americans shouldn’t be allowed to vote. He has also stated that Atlanta “is starting to look like a garbage heap. And we got too damn many urban thugs, yo, ruining the quality of life for everybody. And I’ll tell you what it’s gonna take. You people, you are – you need to have a gun. You need to have training. You need to know how to use that gun. You need to get a permit to carry that gun. And you do in fact need to carry that gun and we need to see some dead thugs littering the landscape in Atlanta. We need to see the next guy that tries to carjack you shot dead right where he stands. We need more dead thugs in this city. And let their mommas say he was a good boy. He just fell in with the good crowd. And then lock her ass up.”⁸



Rose Tennent has said that “all the insects and the rodents come out for” Obama, “like they’re attracted to the devil or something.”⁹ Tennent’s co-host, **Jim Quinn**, has remarked that “originally, if you didn’t own land, you didn’t vote, and there was a good reason for it: because those without property will always vote away the property of other people unto themselves, and that’s the beginning of the end.”¹⁰

Mark Belling has said “[w]hen you think of Hillary Clinton” the word “bitches” comes to mind; has called Gloria Steinem a “grizzled old bag,” an “old witch,” and an “embittered old has-been”; and has smeared teachers as “idiot union teacher[s],” “liberal unionized hack[s],” “greedy, overpaid unionized schoolteacher[s],” and “fruitcake[s].”¹¹



⁵ <http://radioequalizer.blogspot.com/2008/04/randi-rhodes-suspended-after-calling.html>.

⁶ <http://www.ihatethemedia.com/americas-top-ten-local-talk-show-hosts-10-michael-berry-houston>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFp-olVAcQE>; <http://www.khou.com/news/local/Talk-show-host-Michael-Berry-under-fire-for-mosque-homb-remark-95129684.html>.

⁷ <http://mediamatters.org/mmtv/201106220029>; <http://mediamatters.org/research/200405140003>; <http://mediamatters.org/mmtv/200810030006>; <http://mediamatters.org/research/200603310008>.

⁸ <http://thinkprogress.org/media/2010/01/06/76128/boortz-olbermann-challenge/?mobile=nc>; <http://mediamatters.org/mmtv/201106140022>.

⁹ <http://mediamatters.org/mmtv/201006250055>.

¹⁰ <http://mediamatters.org/research/200810220012>.

¹¹ <http://mediamatters.org/research/200811060005>.