

The big lie bit the liar

Michael Costello/Lewiston Tribune

If you like your health care plan, you can keep it. Period. If by "period" you mean, "if it hasn't changed since the law passed."

This is the time of year when this column dedicates space to reminding readers of the silliest, most ignorant and dishonest utterances of the self-anointed glitterati, illuminati and cognoscenti who lecture us, rule us and tell us what we're supposed to know, what we're supposed to believe and how we're expected to live.

And this crowd has had an exceptionally bad year. And I'm not even counting the backlash against the Gaystapo who have tried to destroy Phil Robertson of the "Duck Dynasty" television show.

In a one week period this fall, the New York Times, The Washington Post and Politico magazine all arrived at the identical conclusion that Obamacare's design was never intended to improve the delivery of health care, as its proponents claimed. What they all discovered was that, after millions of Americans had their insurance policies cancelled and millions more had seen their premiums soar, Obamacare was actually just another Democrat wealth redistribution scheme.

They've had five years to figure this out. But they were all so devoted to promoting the man whom Barbara Walters declared "Messiah," that they averted their eyes from the obvious. Rather than report, they competed with each other for the honor of bearing his sedan chair on their shoulders.

Those who dared to be correct from the beginning were denounced by the same geniuses who now claim to have uncovered the Obamacare fraud. In fact, the elites equated opposition to Obamacare with racism.

As Thomas Sowell once observed, for liberals, racism is like ketchup - they can put it on everything.

One New York Times columnist went so far as to condemn those who understood the law all along and opposed Obamacare because this wealth transfer disproportionately benefitted non-whites.

So, does this mean that knuckle-dragging racists possess superior reading and comprehension skills as compared to the reporters and editors employed by The New York Times? The Times is so desperate to fling the racism accusation at opponents that they don't mind how bad it makes them look.

Character assassination of those who dare to dissent is just one way that the elites respond to their own failures - by condemning the motives of those who did get it right.

But in what has become an annual tradition, the mainstream media's so-called "fact checkers" have scrambled to their own rescue by suddenly discovering that Democrats have been lying.

The notoriously biased Politifact.com went so far as to declare Barack Obama's promise that, "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it," as it's 2013 Lie of the Year.

The Washington Post's Glenn Kessler also ranked Obama's lie as his No. 1 falsehood.

But this was not a 2013 lie. It was a lie first told in 2008 and repeated endlessly through the 2012 presidential campaign.

Years elapsed before the fact checkers got around to actually checking it. In fact, Politifact.com pronounced that exact promise "true" in 2009 when Republicans challenged it. The sole basis for Politifact's finding was Obama's promise that it would come true.

That same year Politifact declared Sarah Palin's Facebook essay, in which she coined the term "death panels," as that year's Lie of the Year. Once again, the basis for Politifact.com's finding was Obama's impeccable honesty.

A quick look at the economic foundation upon which Obamacare has been raised requires the old and sick to die quickly. And unless they voluntarily cooperate, the only way that the books balance is through health care rationing. Death panels anyone?

But lest you think that fact checkers are always careless, recall a few years ago when the Associated Press assigned 11 fact checkers to scrutinize Palin's memoirs. And then, when the state of Alaska released Palin's emails from her tenure as governor, both the Washington Post and the New York Times sent swarms of reporters and recruited scores of volunteers to pore over them.

But neither could spare a single fact checker to read Obama's memoir, "Dreams of My Father." If they had, they might have discovered a few of the 38 lies that biographer David Maraniss discovered during his research, including Obama's imaginary girlfriend.

By the way, fact checkers: Obama also promised that he would lower premiums by \$2,500 per year and that Obamacare would not add a dime to the deficit.

Costello is a research technician at Washington State University. His email address is kozmcostello@hotmail.com.