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JournoList: Is 'call them racists' a liberal media tactic?

21/07/2010 11:07:00 [Christian Science Monitor](#)

Excerpts published Tuesday by a conservative online news site suggest that a group of journalists from the mainstream media discussed ways to shield Barack Obama from criticism during the 2008 presidential election.

Among the strategies put forward: call conservative critics racists.

The excerpts, published by the Daily Caller, come at [a sensitive time](#), with both the political left and right accusing each other of race-baiting.

The [NAACP recently accused the "tea party"](#) of sheltering racists in its midst. Shortly after, the National Tea Party Federation expelled Mark Williams, leader of the Tea Party Express, for writing a satirical letter about how "colored people" preferred slavery.

Now, conservative commentators are pointing to the JournoList excerpts as proof that the mainstream media collude to promote a liberal agenda, play the race card, and discredit conservative movements like the tea party.

"The [JournoList] is troubling," says Jim Campbell, a political science professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Buffalo. "At one level it could be thought of as just colleagues throwing ideas out to one another, but from another standpoint it almost looks like collusion ... where virtual talking points are shared and solidified in a group."

"That can't be healthy for the country – or for the media, for that matter," he says.