

The Watchdog

THE MRC'S MONTHLY MEMBERS' REPORT



CREATING A MEDIA CULTURE WHERE TRUTH AND LIBERTY FLOURISH IN AMERICA

Volume 14 • Issue 3 • March 2007



MRC Headquarters • Alexandria, Virginia

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www.MRC.org

Liberal Media Bias Rages, But More Americans Wary

Dear Friend,

When the Media Research Center started in 1987 we had one immediate goal: to get Americans to understand that what they were getting was not "objective news." It was no small task. The polls showed that only about 20 percent of Americans thought the media were liberally biased. A new poll from Zogby International, just released, shows that 64 percent of Americans view the media as liberal — among Republicans, the number is 97 percent, and even 17 percent of Democrats say the media are liberal. Another survey shows that 89 percent of Americans believe what they are getting is a reporter's opinion, not objective truth.

That dramatic shift in opinion is due to the work of the MRC, made possible only because of our supporters.

No conservative organization is as effective in battling the liberal media as the MRC. We are America's Media Watchdog. That said, we cannot rest on our laurels because the liberal media do not rest — ever. They have billions of dollars and countless influential allies in Congress, in Hollywood, and in essentially every institution in America, constantly pushing their left-wing ideas.

More Americans are wary of the liberal media but it is also a fact that 40 million Americans still get their

news every day from ABC, CBS and NBC. The *New York Times* is the most influential paper in the country and it sets the news agenda for most other papers and the networks. In addition, the networks and the major papers are all online now, in Cyberspace, and some of the most powerful information sources on the Internet are left-wing, such as Wikipedia, Yahoo!, Google and YouTube.

The liberal media are everywhere, trying to destroy our movement. Here are some recent and shocking examples of gross liberal bias, and outright leftist propaganda:

On April 2, ABC's *World News* with Charles Gibson



On ABC's *World News*, anchor Charles Gibson reveals to the world that U.S. intelligence agencies are supporting a "secret war" against Iran's radical Islamic government.

led its broadcast with an "exclusive" story, detailing how Iran's plans to enrich uranium and build nuclear weapons are far more imminent and threatening than previously known. Yet knowing this, the very next day the same *World News* ran another "exclusive," exposing to the world that the United States is trying to clandestinely stop this terrorist state. ABC claimed the U.S. is advising "a militant group" in a "secret war" that has "led to the deaths or capture of Iranian soldiers and officials. The group operates out of the Baluchistan

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province of Pakistan, just across the border from Iran.” ABC further gleefully reported that this “secret war” was discussed between Vice President Dick Cheney and Pakistani President Musharraf when they met in February.

So, in other words, a covert operation backed by the U.S. to undermine radical Islamists in Iran and stunt their nuclear-weapon ambitions is “news” for ABC to report to the world! Imagine if a U.S. news outlet during WWII reported on the “secret war” to stop Nazi Germany’s drive to build a nuclear bomb. No doubt, ABC and Charles Gibson are hell-bent on undermining U.S. foreign policy.

Speaking of ABC and foreign policy: Rosie O’Donnell, co-host of *The View*, which is watched by 3.4 million Americans daily, has been pushing her far left views for weeks. On March 26, O’Donnell suggested that Iran’s taking of 15 British sailors was a British-orchestrated plot to trigger a war against Iran, akin to the “Gulf of Tonkin” incident, which helped trigger more U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

On March 29, O’Donnell all but praised the Iranian radicals leading that country, and then she prattled on about how 9/11 was somehow an inside job, a conspiracy orchestrated by the U.S. to launch the war on terror. “I do believe that it defies physics for the World Trade Center, building seven, which collapsed in on itself, it is impossible for a building to fall the way it fell without explosives being involved” O’Donnell also warned the audience to “go outside of the country” to find out what’s happening in America “because it’s frightening. ... Democracy is threatened in a way it hasn’t been in 200 years, and if America doesn’t stand up we’re in big trouble.”

O’Donnell, a hard leftist, is entitled to her kooky views, but it’s clear that ABC supports her. She has a national platform on one of the most popular daytime talk shows. And, incidentally, ABC’s Barbara Walters sits at the table with O’Donnell on the show and nary utters a peep of protest.

The network evening news shows have given hyper-coverage to the Bush Administration’s replacement of eight of 93 U.S. attorneys. But the same networks have said little (or nothing) about the Clinton Administration’s

firing of all 93 attorneys back in 1993. In fact, as Fox’s Brit Hume—apparently relying on an MRC *CyberAlert*—reported on April 2: “The controversy over the firings of those U.S. attorneys generated 45 minutes of coverage on the broadcast networks’ evening news programs during the week of March 12th through 16th,” but “back in 1993, when the new Clinton administration moved to fire all 93 U.S. attorneys, two of the networks didn’t cover it at all, and the third, NBC, gave it 20 seconds despite Republican complaints and unheeded demands for hearings.”



ABC’s Rosie O’Donnell, co-host of *The View*, suggests that the U.S. government blew up the World Trade Center during 9/11 as a conspiracy to launch the war on terror.

Concerning the attorneys’ firings, the March 20 NBC *Nightly News* ran a segment with reporter David Gregory in which someone breathlessly asks, “Does this bring back memories of Watergate?” That same day, MSNBC’s *Countdown* host Keith Olbermann commented that “the President sounded awfully like President Nixon during Watergate,” and *Newsweek*’s Jonathan Alter agreed, saying, “That is a

great point. You know if you go into executive privilege land, you do take us on a kind of a return trip to Watergate.”

These are just some of the countless examples of liberal media bias that the MRC documents and exposes every day. With our various divisions, programs, Web site, and blog, the MRC battles the liberal media on the networks, on cable, in the newspapers and on the Internet. It is, to be frank, a Herculean task. The polls on media bias and the success of alternative media, such as talk radio, Fox News Channel, and the rise of conservative activists on the Web and at the grassroots are evidence of the MRC’s influence and effectiveness. Our supporters make this all possible. The battle against the liberal media goes on, and the MRC will never quit.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President

For more stats and information on liberal media bias, just visit our “Media Bias Basics” page at: www.mrc.org/biasbasics/biasbasics1.asp

MRC Chairman Receives Ashbrook Award at CPAC 2007

William A. Rusher, chairman of the Media Research Center, publisher of *National Review* from 1957 to 1988, and a prominent leader of the conservative movement, received the prestigious Ashbrook Award on March 1. It is a well-deserved honor for a man who has worked literally decades to teach, energize, and advance the conservative movement in America.

The award was presented at the 2007 Conservative Political Action Conference by Marv Krinsky, chairman of the Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs (www.ashbrook.org). The Ashbrook Center was founded and named in honor of former Congressman John Ashbrook, a staunch defender of conservative principles.

Bill Rusher, a World War II air force veteran and Harvard Law School graduate, was one of the three men who launched the Draft Barry Goldwater for President drive in 1961. That move helped galvanize the conservative movement and led, eventually, to the election (and re-election) of Ronald Reagan.

In presenting the award, Mr. Krinsky said of Bill Rusher: "He has exemplified the principles John Ashbrook lived by: integrity, dedication to the rule of law and to the Constitution of the United States. ...

"A veteran spokesman for the conservative viewpoint on public issues, Bill Rusher has become known across the country. He has been a familiar TV and radio personality. A newspaper columnist since 1973, his syndicated weekly, 'The Conservative Advocate,' appears in newspapers all over the United States. He is a lecturer and prolific author."

Mr. Krinsky noted that it was Bill Rusher who, back in 1986, defined terrorism clearly – "Terrorism is war!"

That same year, the Ashbrook Award was given to President Ronald Reagan. "Bill Rusher continues to set the kind of example our movement needs!" concluded Mr. Krinsky.



MRC Chairman William A. Rusher



COMING NEXT MONTH...
Highlights and photos from the MRC'S 20th Anniversary Gala and DisHonors Awards

Bits & Pieces

NYT: Oops!

Once again, the *New York Times* has printed a falsehood. Its *New York Times Magazine* ran a cover story on March 18 about women veterans of the Iraq war, but then had to concede on March 25 that one of its primary subjects, Amorita Randall, had never even served in Iraq. In the magazine story, Randall was given a ¾-page photo and the *NYT* journalist, Sara Corbett, reported: "Her experience in Iraq ... included one notable combat incident, in which her Humvee was hit by an I.E.D., killing the soldier who was driving and leaving her with a brain injury."

Corbett further reported that Randall had been raped by a petty officer at a naval base on Guam before she was deployed to Iraq. In a March 25 "Editor's Note," the *NYT* suggested Randall might be mentally ill and concluded, "If the Times had learned these facts before publication, it would not have included Ms. Randall in the article."

Reds Honor NYT

The *New York Times* and one of its hard-left reporters were honored by Communist Cuba on Feb. 17. As reported by Fox's Brit Hume on Feb.



On Fox's *Special Report*, Brit Hume reports on Communist Cuba's honoring of *The New York Times* and its adulatory article on Fidel Castro.

19, "the *New York Times* has received a high honor ... a marble plaque honoring the interview 50 years ago by *New York Times* reporter Herbert Matthews that helped create the legend of Fidel Castro." Matthews' infamous 1957 article "made Fidel Castro an international figure overnight," said Hume.

Matthews' story, in part, read: "The personality of the man [Castro] is overpowering. It was easy to see that his men adored him and also to see why he has caught the imagination of the youth of Cuba all over the island. Here was an educated, dedicated fanatic, a man of ideals, of courage and of remarkable qualities of leadership."

Unfair on Iraq

A new poll conducted by *Investor's Business Daily* and polling firm TIPP finds that most Americans think media coverage of the war in Iraq has been too negative (57 percent), too liberal in viewpoint (55 percent) and neither fair nor objective (61 percent). And in an op-ed for *Investor's Business Daily*, TIPP President Raghavan Mayur argued that the poll's results showed the media are at risk to "lose their 'customer base' by consistently disregarding what most people believe to be true."

Mayur added: "Americans are sending a clear message: They want their news fair and honest, and if the mainstream media can't provide it, they'll take their business elsewhere." Goodbye Old Media, hello New Media: cable TV, talk radio and the Internet.

Chavez Sings

ABC's Barbara Walters couldn't find much to complain about in Hugo Chavez, the socialist thug-leader of

Venezuela, in the March 16 edition of *20/20*. She spent most of the interview discussing important topics such as whether Chavez likes coffee, marriage, and generally regurgitating the Venezuelan President's propaganda. "He was not what I expected," gushed Walters. "He was very dignified. He was warm, friendly. He likes the U.S. It's George Bush that he doesn't like. He also was very personal. He talked about how hard his life was, that he wished he could be in love but you can't be when you are heading a country."



On ABC's *20/20*, Barbara Walters asks Venezuela's Hugo Chavez tough questions, such as whether he likes coffee.

Walters insisted that what Chavez is "trying to do for all of Latin America, you know, they've been trying to do it for years, is to eliminate poverty. But this is not the crazy man that we have heard. ... By the way he sings. He sang to me."

Vieira's Bias

If a conservative political candidate hired two viciously anti-Muslim bloggers for his campaign, the NBC *Today* show would slam him hard. But when the bloggers are anti-Christian and work for liberal Democrat John Edwards, NBC gives the issue a pass. In fact, when interviewing Edwards on Feb. 22, co-host Meredith Vieira (who replaced Katie Couric on *Today*) never raised the issue.

The two female bloggers in question, Amanda Marcotte and Melissa McEwen, eventually resigned from the Edwards campaign because of public outrage over their grossly insulting comments about Christianity. But instead of asking Edwards about his judgment in hiring them in the first



NBC *Today* co-host Meredith Vieira asked candidate John Edwards many questions, but not one about his anti-Christian bloggers.

place and then defending them, Vieira wanted to know whether Edwards thought Sen. Hillary Clinton was a "decent" candidate and whether hard-left Rep. Dennis Kucinich was right to oppose the war in Iraq.

Bush Spirits?

ABC's *Good Morning America* and NBC's *Today* both found it worthwhile on March 12 to report that after President Bush's visit to Guatemala's Mayan ruins, local "priests" would purify the site in a ritual to rid the area of Bush's "bad spirits." ABC's

Chris Cuomo reported that protestors say President Bush "is likely to leave behind, quote, 'evil spirits.' They say they are going to perform a spiritual cleansing there afterwards, just in case."

NBC's Kelly O'Donnell opened her report with footage of a sign of Bush with a Hitler mustache and a man chanting, "gringo, go home." On ABC's *Nightline*, anchor Cynthia McFadden reported that "some say he's angered the gods," and ABC's Jessica Yellin, in all seriousness, reported on the President's "bad vibes."

Target: Coulter

ABC's *Good Morning America* reporter Jake Tapper made time on March 6 to report on commentator Ann Coulter's use of the word "faggot" in a joke about political correctness and presidential candidate John Edwards. But neither Tapper nor ABC took the time to criticize the controversial comments of leftists such as Bill Maher. Tapper called Coulter's remarks "vicious" and "mean-spirited," and



ABC slammed Ann Coulter for her controversial remarks, but ignored HBO's Bill Maher's suggestion that Vice President Dick Cheney should be killed.

an ABC graphic described Coulter's talk as "nasty."

Yet Maher, on his March 2 HBO show *Real Time*, suggested that the assassination of Vice President Dick Cheney would be a good thing. "I'm just saying, if he did die, other people, more people would live," cracked Maher. "That's a fact."

Minibits

■ *Huffington Post* writer and ABC radio host **Charles Karel Bouley** gives his diagnosis: "I hear about Tony Snow and say to myself, well, stand up every day, lie to the American people at the behest of your dictator-esque boss and, well, how could a cancer NOT grow in you? Work for Fox News, spinning the truth into a billion knots and how can your gut not rot?" ■ CNN's **Jack Cafferty** rants: "The most interesting part of this story will be whether or not President Bush pardons Libby on his way out the door a year and a half or so down the road. Somehow, it would be the perfect parting gesture for an administration that has come to view things like the Constitution and the nation's laws as inconveniences that only serve to get in the way of their agenda." ■ ABC's **Chris Cuomo** skewers Sen. John McCain as "arrogant and self-delusional" about Iraq, wondering, "Do you have to be looking at Iraq through rose-colored glasses to see progress?"

■ Almost giddy, *Time*'s **Karen Tumulty** ruminates, "I think the unfolding U.S. Attorneys story is a huge one, it deserves a massive commitment of journalistic resources, it is not likely to go away anytime soon." ■ ABC's *The View* co-host **Rosie O'Donnell** gets conspiratorial: "There were 15 British sailors and Marines who apparently went into Iranian waters and they were seized by the Iranians. And I have one thing to say: Gulf of Tonkin. Google it. Okay." ■ "We're reaching critical mass when it comes to" global warming, warns CBS's **Katie Couric**, "and all the experts agree. Well, almost every expert. There are a handful of scientists – many of them on the payroll of big oil companies – who wonder if global warming is a reality." ■ ABC's **Barbara Walters** admits, "I know nothing about the Bible, and I think most people don't." ■ HBO's **Bill Maher** suggests a solution to America's problems: Kill Dick Cheney – "I'm just saying if he did die, other people, more people would live. That's a fact."



CBS's Katie Couric "reports" that many scientists critical of global warming are "on the payroll of big oil."

L. Brent Bozell III's March 20, 2007, Nationally Syndicated Column

Not Your Father's Encyclopedia

Today's Internet age is putting an end to the hardcover encyclopedia business. Why spend fortunes on a massive (albeit attractive) World Book set when you can get what you need a mouse click away on the Internet? Any student preparing a research paper and searching Google will probably be handed over quickly to the "Wikipedia" on-line encyclopedia system. What's more - and here's an offer that presumably can't be beat - it's free!

Consumer beware.

At Wikipedia you won't find a distinguished body of tweedy old professors poring over every paragraph on the Hanseatic League. It's actually on the other end of the credibility spectrum. Wikipedia is an "open-source" encyclopedia, a reference source anyone can create. The danger in this system becomes very obvious, very quickly. Recently the comedian and movie star Sinbad had to announce that he was not, in fact, dead of a heart attack at age 50 as his Wikipedia entry claimed. "Somebody vandalized the page," claimed Wikipedia spokeswoman Sandra Ordonez.

Not only can Wikipedia articles be written by anyone with Internet access, others can then edit that material by adding off-setting and consequently off-putting material whose purpose is to create intellectual mischief.

The other day Bernie Goldberg emailed me, upset. He pointed me to his Wikipedia entry. To read what was written was to conclude that apparently I must hate his guts. But we are friends. He is a man for whom I have profound respect, professional and personal. He knew there was foul play.

Right there on the screen, under the heading "Criticism," it stated that I had attacked him, "claiming that Goldberg merely lifted material he had been producing for years, and only published the book because he had an axe to grind with his former employers and was attempting to make a 'quick buck,' noting that Goldberg never mentioned the alleged liberal bias of the media until it was 'convenient' and 'profitable' for him to do so."

Where did this come from? An accompanying footnote linked to a column I wrote when Goldberg's *100 People Who Are Screwing Up America (And Al Franken is #37)* was released in 2005. Among other things I called it "a wonderful read for anyone not on that list." I'd opened my column by joking that "I hate him" - because he'd written a set of *New York Times* best-sellers I wish I'd thought to write first. There you have it.

But the author wasn't guilty of misunderstanding me. Remember how the Wikipedia entry said I charged Goldberg with opportunism, for never mentioning liberal bias until it was "convenient" and "profitable" for him? Neither those sentiments nor those words appeared anywhere in my column footnoted by Wikipedia.



In fact those words have never been uttered by me. The accusation would be false. Back in 1996, Goldberg used the op-ed pages of the *Wall Street Journal* publicly to castigate his own network for its one-sided oafish bashing of Steve Forbes. It was anything but "convenient" or "profitable" for him. It ruined his friendship with Dan Rather and put him on a path to the outer fringes of CBS News. Ultimately it ruined his newscast career.

My attorney contacted Wikipedia by email demanding the removal of this false entry. No response. So we edited out the offensive material ourselves, after which in writing counsel alerted Wikipedia to the legal action that might befall them should this be repeated. Here's full disclosure, Wikipedia-style: You can see how each article is altered, sometimes hour by hour, in its "History" section. But there is no mention of the attorney's complaints. In the Goldberg article's history, an editor simply now scolds: "Bozell's article is a mock-jealous swipe at Goldberg's opportunism. PLEASE REREAD IT." (Capitals theirs.)

Goldberg and I are not alone. The website Conservapedia.com has a long list of 41 allegations of bias and factual errors at Wikipedia. You can add to that the problem with the credentials of its staff. One of its editors, named only "Essjay" online and described on his user profile "as a tenured professor of religion at a private university with expertise in canon law," was recently exposed as a 24-year-old college kid in Kentucky. He resigned in disgrace - even though Wikipedia tried to retain him, claiming he'd edited thousands of articles with flair.

The Florida-based Wikimedia Foundation is aware of its website's reputation. Board member Erik Moller was very frank in a recent essay. One of their ten things they wanted you to know about Wikipedia is "We don't want you to trust us. It's in the nature of an ever-changing work like Wikipedia that, while some articles are of the highest quality of scholarship, others are admittedly complete rubbish. We are fully aware of this."

It's enough to make used-car salesmen cringe.

MRC in the News

The experts at the Media Research Center are interviewed almost every day on stories of national importance, often reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, in magazines, books and in newspapers, always striving to help restore political balance to the major media. Some of the MRC's latest media appearances include the following:

Television

FNC:

The Big Story with John Gibson,
Feb. 26, Mar. 1
Your World with Neil Cavuto,
Feb. 28, Mar. 2
Fox & Friends, Feb. 18, Mar. 1
Fox News Watch, Feb. 19
Hannity's America, Feb. 11
Fox News Live, Feb. 20
Fox News Sunday, Feb. 18

CBN

NewsWatch, Mar. 1
700 Club, Feb. 13

Radio

Sean Hannity Show, Mar. 2
Steve Gill Show, Mar. 1
Mike Gallagher Show, Feb. 28
Thom Hartman Show, Feb. 14, 23, Mar. 1
G. Gordon Liddy, Mar. 1
Jerry Doyle Show, Feb. 14
NRA News, Mar. 15
Faith 2 Action, Feb. 28
Jay Thomas Show (Sirius), Mar. 2
Talk Radio News Service, Mar. 2
KCBI, Dallas, TX, Feb. 26
KIDO, Boise, ID, Feb. 27
KOGO, San Diego, Feb. 13, 28
KDKA, Pittsburgh, PA, Feb. 26, Mar. 2
KSLR, San Antonio, TX, Mar. 1
WTKF, Greenville, NC, Feb. 16, Mar. 2
WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Feb. 15, Mar. 1
WMT, Cedar Rapids, IA, Feb. 28
WAVA, Arlington, VA, Mar. 1
KSAL, Salina, KS, Feb. 28
KSYE, Frederick, OK, Feb. 28
WWII, Harrisburg, PA, Feb. 27
KGNW, Seattle, WA, Feb. 26
WIBA, Madison, WI, Mar. 1
WBAL, Baltimore, MD, Feb. 17, Mar. 3
WJLA, D.C., Mar. 11



On *Fox & Friends*, MRC President Brent Bozell is interviewed about the anti-Christian documentary, *The Lost Tomb of Jesus*.



MRC Research Director Rich Noyes is interviewed about bias at *The New York Times* on Fox's *Big Story with John Gibson*.



On *Hannity & Colmes*, Brent Bozell discusses coverage of the firing of eight U.S. attorneys.



BMI Director Dan Gainor is interviewed on Fox's *Your World with Neil Cavuto* about liberal media coverage of the economy.

WRHL, Rockford, IL, Feb. 16
KTEM, Temple, TX, Feb. 19
KLPW, St. Louis, MO, Feb. 15
KCOL, Ft. Collins, CO, Feb. 16
WIBA, Madison, WI, Feb. 19
KKZZ, Ventura, CA, Feb. 14
KFFF, Des Moines, IA, Feb. 14
WDUN, Gainesville, GA, Feb. 14
WIZM, La Crosse, WI, Feb. 14
KLPW, St. Louis, MO, Feb. 16

Print

USA Today, Mar. 7, 2007
Los Angeles Times, Feb. 18, Mar. 11
Boston Herald, Mar. 11
National Review, March 5
Washington Times, Feb. 8, 13, 14, 20, 24, 26, Mar. 1, 4, 6, 8, 15
The Politico, Mar. 7
Associated Press, Mar. 11
Investor's Business Daily, Feb. 15, 22, Mar. 9, 13, 14
Human Events, Feb. 28
Forbes, Mar. 11
Newsweek, Feb. 28
Daily Herald, Mar. 6
Daily Tarheel, Mar. 1
Multichannel News, Mar. 1
Variety, Feb. 27
Newsday, Feb. 28
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Feb. 28
Newsweek, Mar. 1
Columbus Dispatch, Mar. 13
The Coloradoan, Mar. 13
Buffalo News, Mar. 13
Orange County Register, Mar. 13
International News Service, Mar. 12
San Bernardino Sun, Mar. 12
Los Angeles Daily News, Mar. 12
The Advocate, Mar. 12
Montreal Gazette, Mar. 12
Vancouver Sun, Mar. 12
Star Phoenix, Mar. 12
Ottawa Citizen, Mar. 12
Wyoming News, Mar. 12
Rutland Herald, Mar. 12
The State, Mar. 11
Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Mar. 11
The Times and Democrat, Mar. 11
Sioux City Journal, Mar. 11
Akron Beacon Journal, Mar. 11
Pioneer Press, Mar. 11
Contra Costa Times, Mar. 11
San Jose Mercury News, Mar. 11
San Luis Obispo Tribune, Mar. 11
Denver Post, Mar. 11
Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Mar. 11
Tucson Citizen, Mar. 1

~ PARTIAL LISTING

