



Vol. 27 • Issue 5 • May 2020

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## Liberal Media Weaponize Coronavirus to Viciously Attack President Trump

When 9/11 happened, most of the liberal media rallied to help unify the country and provide generally fair and balanced news in the fight against an existential threat. With the coronavirus, which is deadlier than 9/11, the liberal media have weaponized the threat to relentlessly attack President Donald Trump, divide the country, and promote their leftist agenda in an election year.

This has been abundantly documented and exposed by the MRC's NewsBusters division, as well as MRC Business and MRCTV, and in television and radio interviews of MRC experts.

*The Washington Post*, for instance, said this is "Trump's Chernobyl" and CNN's Chris Cillizza labeled it "Trump's Katrina." *The New York Times's* Gail Collins said the pandemic should be renamed "Trumpvirus."

At what should be — what must be — a time of national unity, a biased, one-sided national media are tearing us apart. Let's look at some other examples.

In March, the liberal media pushed the lie that Trump had described the coronavirus as a "hoax." What Trump had actually said was that liberals (and Democrats) were politicizing the virus to blame him, as they did with the "Russia collusion" farce.

"I'm talking about what they're

doing, that's the hoax," said Trump.

Nonetheless, *Sunday Today's* Willie Geist declared that the president "called coronavirus a Democratic hoax." *NBC Today's* Tom Costello reported that Trump had suggested "this was all a hoax." Also, CNN's Don Lemon falsely stated that Trump had first called COVID-19 "a hoax."

This was blatantly dishonest reporting.

After the administration announced there would be a commission established to make recommendations on reopening the economy, PBS's fake conservative David Brooks told *NewsHour* that it would be staffed with Trump sycophants, using "North Korean-style loyalty tests." In the same vein, CNN's Fared Zakaria claimed

that senior administration officials were "emulating the sycophancy, incompetence and propaganda of North Korea."

In other words, Trump is a totalitarian dictator.

On MSNBC's *The Last Word*, host Lawrence O'Donnell ranted, "More people are sick in America tonight because Donald Trump is president. More people are dead and dying in America tonight because Donald Trump is president."



CNN's Anderson Cooper was furious, railing that Trump had hijacked his own press conference and was using the briefings as a "reelection platform, an opportunity to lie, to deflect, to attack, to bully, and cover up..."



CNN's Jake Tapper retweeted an item from Trump-hater George Conway that said the president is "100% insane, and nobody in the administration has the ba\*\*s to tell him that."



Like many in the liberal media, NBC Today's Tom Costello falsely reported that Trump had suggested "this was all a hoax."



The View's Sunny Hostin charged, "People are dying because of some of the information that's being disseminated from these clown press conferences."

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Also on MSNBC, Brian Williams asked former Vice President Joe Biden, "What is President Trump's culpability, what's his level of responsibility, say, toward the illness and fatalities we're witnessing every few minutes these days?" On NBC's *Meet the Press*, host Chuck Todd asked Biden, "Do you think there is blood on the president's hands, considering the slow response?"

*Washington Post* columnist Jennifer Rubin, another fake conservative, tweeted her own formula for calculating the "Trump death toll" from the virus, adding that related deaths "are victims of Trump's stupidity and narcissism."

These intrepid journalists, not surprisingly, never issued similar news reports when swine flu (H1N1) was wiping out more than 12,000 Americans during President Barack Obama's tenure. No liberal reporter asked Obama, "Is there blood on your hands?"

Hollywood, predictably, jumped on the Trump=Death bandwagon. Former *Seinfeld* actor Jason Alexander, for instance, tweeted, "This is the most despicable man to ever inhabit the Oval Office. Thousands will die needlessly for his arrogance and incompetence. ... We must remove this horror from power asap."

Actress/activist Sarah Silvermann tweeted that conservatives "are responsible for thousands of deaths" from the virus. *The View*'s Joy Behar snarked, "Tom Hanks has coronavirus and we have Forrest Gump in the White House! Isn't it a fact and obvious that Trump's party does not care about people?"

Left-wing director Spike Lee said he doesn't call Trump "by his name. I call him Agent Orange."

Back in the real "news" world, CNN's Jake Tapper retweeted an item from Trump-hater George Conway that said the president is "100% insane, and nobody in the administration has the ba\*\*s to tell him that."

When called out by constitutional law Prof. Jonathan Turley, who said the tweet reaffirmed the belief that the media are "campaigning against Trump rather than covering him," Tapper backpedaled and then deleted the Conway smear.

As Gallup and other polls started to show that 60% of Americans approved of Trump's handling of the virus threat, the leftist press started to call for an end to the president's coronavirus task force press briefings.

MSNBC's Rachel Maddow bemoaned, "I would stop putting those briefings on live TV. ... [A]ll of us should stop broadcasting it. Honestly, it's going to cost lives." *The View*'s Sunny Hostin charged, "People are dying because of some of the information that's being disseminated from these clown press conferences."

*Morning Joe*'s Mika Brzezinski fumed that the briefings were "a complete waste of time," they "literally have no value."

"[W]e cannot be a part of spreading disinformation, of lying to the American people," she declared. This is the same Brzezinski who peddled "Russia collusion" disinformation for two-plus years.

On CNN, Anderson Cooper was furious, railing that Trump had hijacked his own press conference and was using the briefings as a "reelection platform, an opportunity to lie, to deflect, to attack, to bully, and cover up ...." As conservative Larry O'Connor observed, "Cooper and his peers think these briefings are theirs. They think the briefing room is for them. They think they get to make the rules and if the president or his staff don't adhere to them, they are out of line."

It's the briefings as well as any other venue controlled by a conservative president that leftist journalists seek to subvert. They want to set the narrative, define what the public hears, and censor what doesn't advance their agenda. At the MRC, we document and expose that liberal media bias every day, and we've been doing it for 33 years.

You can help us in this good fight by making a donation to our non-profit organization. Use the reply card and postage-paid envelope enclosed with this newsletter to send your most generous gift today.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III  
Founder and President

# Bozell to Trump: \$75 Million for Corporation for Public Broadcasting in Coronavirus Relief Bill is Wasteful and Misguided

In an Apr. 2 letter to President Donald Trump, MRC President Brent Bozell denounced the fact that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which funds PBS and NPR programming, received \$75 million as part of the coronavirus/relief bill, the CARES Act. He then detailed how that money could have been better spent to help Americans suffering from the pandemic. Below is Bozell's letter to the president.



**L. Brent Bozell III**  
Founder and President

Dear Mr. President,

As you are aware, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) received a \$75 million grant from the Federal Government as a part of the CARES Act. We believe that was misguided. Just as Amazon, Microsoft, Ford Motor Corporation, and Starbucks have given so generously to help in the fight against COVID-19, so should the CPB give.

The CARES Act is already law and the money the government issued to the CPB is unlikely to be returned. Regardless, it is worth noting what this money could have been spent on instead. Seventy-five million dollars could have purchased:

- 300,000 Covid-19 test kits or,
- 4,166 ventilators or,
- 21,428 hospital beds or,
- 192,307,692 masks or,
- 357,483,318 pairs of medical gloves or,
- 12,500,000 bottles of hand sanitizer

At this point in our country's history, all of these things are infinitely better uses of taxpayer money than giving it to left-wing outlets like NPR and PBS, both of which attack you and your administration continuously. According to CPB's own website, it already has a bloated annual budget of \$445 million. As you have appropriately called for yet again this year, federal funding for CPB should be completely eliminated. As with any other private entity in a free society, the CPB should have to compete in the free market to convince consumers that its programming is worth their financial support.

Anything else is legalized plunder.

The CPB produces programs promoting values which many Americans just don't agree with. The federal government, by funding CPB, is forcing Americans to support values they oppose.

What could be more antithetical to a free society?

That is why your proposal to eliminate all federal funding for CPB is completely justified. There will undoubtedly be proposals for more stimulus packages going forward. When that happens, we encourage you to push back hard against funding for such entities as CPB. No amount of classical music, Ken Burns documentaries, or "Morning Editions" is worth one saved human life.

Ideally, CPB's board would do the patriotic thing and voluntarily return this money. But as that is unlikely to happen, the next best thing would be to oppose such gratuitous grants when they are proposed in the future. You can count on our support and the millions of Americans who support the principles of the free market.

Now more than ever, Americans must pull together in a spirit of unity. Not in the spirit of division that CPB has advocated through its decades of biased programming.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III

# BITS & PIECES

## CNN Fails

Given CNN's left-wing and rabidly anti-Trump bias, it was no surprise to see that the news outlet's ratings in the first quarter of 2020 were so pathetic it didn't generate even one show in the top 20 list. The Fox News Channel dominated the cable ratings and even MSNBC, which hates Trump as much as CNN, was, nonetheless, "able to break into the top 20 on multiple fronts," reported *Townhall's* Matt Vespa.

"For years, CNN has been in a ratings slump," said Vespa. "If it weren't for CNN International, which isn't nearly as Trump-deranged, it's possible that this anti-Trump network would probably have to close up shop." Among the dismal ratings, "CNN managed to lose to ESPN (1.43 million compared to 1.5 million), even though sports events have been dead for weeks due to coronavirus cancellations," reported *Breitbart News*.



The liberal press chided President Trump for questioning whether a White House reporter works for Communist China, but research shows the reporter works for Phoenix TV, which is aligned with the Chinese Communist Party and produces pro-Chinese content.

## CCP TV?

A reporter with the White House Correspondents Association, which gives her access to briefings held by President Trump, works for a TV news outlet that is aligned with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). On April 7, the reporter asked a pro-China question and Trump asked her if she worked for China. She said she worked for Phoenix TV, a "privately owned company" in Hong Kong.

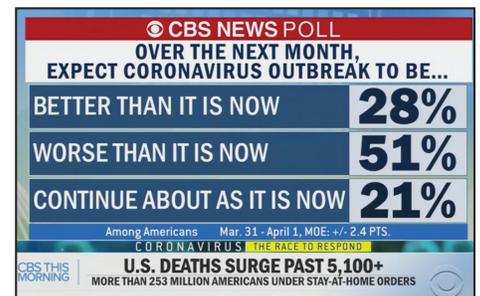
According to the Hoover Institution, Phoenix TV is a "quasi-official" news outlet with links to China's Ministry of State Security." Sen. Ted Cruz tweeted, "Phoenix TV has been waging information warfare in the US for yrs.... MSM should NEVER have given them seat at WH press conference." He later noted this was happening while "China is waging a propaganda campaign to hide their culpability & coverup of the Wuhan virus." Rep. Paul Gossar (R-Ariz.) tweeted, "Why is an outlet with such close ties to Communist China allowed in the White House briefing room?" Why, indeed?

## CBS Censors

CBS News conducted a poll that showed 51% of Americans supported President Trump's handling of the coronavirus, but the network decided not to report that fact; CBS News censored part of its own poll because it showed Trump in a positive light. Instead, *CBS This Morning* on Apr. 2 skipped the positive numbers and quickly mentioned, "A CBS News poll out this morning shows about half of Americans, 51 percent of us, believe the outbreak will get worse in the next month. Only 28 percent think it will get better."

A little later in the two-hour program, *This Morning* reported, "In the latest CBS News poll, 83 percent of Americans say our top priority should be staying home to stop the spread of the virus. Seventeen percent said getting back to work to get the economy going is more important."

That was it for the poll — another example of CBS's liberal bias.



Part of a CBS News poll showed that 51% of Americans approve of how President Trump is handling the coronavirus but CBS censored that point, further illustrating its liberal bias.

## 'Pitt-i-ful'

Byron Pitts, a co-host on ABC's *Nightline*, never asked President Obama if he prayed for the 12,000-plus Americans who died from the H1N1 virus (swine flu) because his administration was too slow to act. But Pitts had no reservation in asking Vice President Mike Pence that question in relation to the coronavirus. "I ask this not in a political way," Pitts ludicrously said to Pence on Apr. 1, but "when you talk to God in your moments alone, do you find yourself worrying at all that people you represent and care deeply about have died and will die, who did not need to, because of steps the federal government did not take soon enough?" In other words, do you pray to God with a heart of repentance for not acting swiftly enough and, as a result, killing thousands of Americans? That's a loaded question, and political to the core.



ABC's Byron Pitts asks Vice President Mike Pence if, when "you talk to God," he worries about the deceased Americans he could have saved had the Trump administration acted sooner to battle the coronavirus.

## Spiked!

Although a liberal Democrat lawmaker from Detroit credited the drug hydroxychloroquine – and President Trump touting the anti-malarial drug on TV – for saving her life from a coronavirus infection, the liberal media completely ignored her story, spiked it. However, Fox News reported the case. State Rep. Karen Whitsett told *The Ingraham Angle* on Apr. 6, "I knew that this medication will possibly save me.... I had to really beg and plead and go through a whole lot to try to get the medication. My husband was able to pick that prescription up that night and I was better within a couple hours."

ABC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC, NBC, NPR, and PBS reported nothing on the case. The Associated Press, *New York Times*, and *Washington Post* were also AWOL. FNC's Tucker Carlson commented that the liberal media are "fanatically wedded to the idea that hydroxychloroquine is useless, even dangerous. Why do they think this? Because the president hoped otherwise. We're not exaggerating."

## MINIBITS

■ CNN's **Brooke Baldwin** spoon-feeds Joe Biden, "Mr. Vice President, do you think President Trump is responsible for the deaths of Americans?" ■ ABC's **Jimmy Kimmel** fires another whiffle ball at Biden, "Is it possible that Trump could postpone the presidential election?" ■ MSNBC's **Mika Brzezinski** goes overboard, again: "Republicans let it go when he [Trump] chipped away at our democracy, undermining the media. When he chipped away at our democracy and cozied up to dictators.... Are we going to find out the hard way that it is not okay to let a president run roughshod over our democracy and go completely unchecked?" ■ CNN's **Fareed Zakaria** yearns for bigger government: "America is paying the price today for decades of de-funding government, politicizing independent agencies, fetishizing local control and demeaning and disparaging government workers and bureaucrats." ■ MSNBC's **Joy Reid** reveals her political acuity, "It's hardly news that Trump has always had designs on reigning as a monarch with unlimited power." ■ Actress **Patricia Arquette** discusses climate change, "Say no to mass extinction and the destruction of our planet. Vote Democrat." ■ *Avengers* director **Joss Whedon** dissects the GOP, "Republican Party: treasonous, poisonous, murderous, racist, misogynist." ■ Hollywood director **Ridley Scott** imparts his political "wisdom": "This orange-headed fellow that's running us, he's a nutcase, isn't he?" ■ Not to be outdone, *Ellen Degeneres Show* producer **Andy Lassner** tweets, "The president is an evil, dangerous and narcissistic motherf\*\*\*er who refused to act in time ... now, hundreds of thousands of Americans are gonna' die because he's an evil, dangerous and narcissistic motherf\*\*\*er."



CNN's Fareed Zakaria yearns for bigger government: "America is paying the price today for decades of de-funding government, politicizing independent agencies, fetishizing local control and demeaning and disparaging government workers and bureaucrats."

# The Kavanaugh Roasters Hide Biden's Accuser

TIM GRAHAM — EXECUTIVE EDITOR, MRC NEWSBUSTERS

On March 25, Tara Reade, a former employee of Senator Joe Biden, made a disturbing accusation about her old boss. She claimed in a podcast with Katie Halper of *Rolling Stone* that Biden sexually assaulted her in a secluded area of the Capitol in 1993, pushing her against a wall, kissing her and penetrating her with his fingers.

Like many accusers, Reade cannot prove this happened. The Biden campaign quickly denied it. “Women have a right to tell their story, and reporters have an obligation to rigorously vet those claims,” deputy campaign manager Kate Bedingfield said in a statement. “We encourage them to do so, because these accusations are false.”

But are those obligated reporters rigorously vetting these claims? Are there reporters pounding the pavement and droning incessantly on their cellphones over this? There's no sign of that.

The networks haven't said a single word about them....even as Biden did an hour-long town hall on CNN, as well as interviews on NBC and MSNBC, then on CNN and MSNBC again. So in the week after the allegations emerged, there were 55 questions to Biden, and not one on this accusation. But NBC's Chuck Todd asked Biden if President Trump has “blood on his hands” in the coronavirus response.

There should be a presumption of innocence, and the mere launch of these charges can sully an image unfairly. This accusation

emerging from a sketchy source like *Rolling Stone* underlines that. Journalists appear to be very sensitive...when the target is a Democrat. How can they fail to see the double standard?

This was not the standard for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. The broadcast networks offered more than 300 minutes on several accusers who told wild stories of teenaged

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**Where are all these  
people now, with  
Biden in the dock?  
Absent.  
Apathetic.  
Callously indifferent.  
Out to lunch,  
never to return?  
#MeToo dies in  
darkness.**

---

sexual assaults that could not be proved in any way. Accusers like Christine Blasey Ford couldn't manage to offer a time or a place for her alleged assault — less than Reade did. But she instantly became a profile in courage, “cemented” as a “historic figure.”

During the Kavanaugh hearings, his accusers were warmly embraced (metaphorically) by one Joe Biden: “For a woman to come forward in the glaring lights

of focus, nationally, you've got to start off with the presumption that at least the essence of what she's talking about is real.”

There's nothing on the Biden story on NPR — the proud purveyor of the unproven Anita Hill accusations against Clarence Thomas — and nothing from *The New York Times*. They somehow found space two years ago for a front-page story claiming Kavanaugh threw ice cubes in a bar scuffle at Yale.

There's no evidence of investigative journalism from *The Washington Post*, which first published Blasey Ford's incredibly vague accusations. At the time, as they aggressively prosecuted the nominee, *Post* executive editor Martin Baron protested “the conspiracy theories are pure nonsense” that the *Post* was cooperating with a Democratic plot to derail Kavanaugh. As the late Wes Pruden used to say, there wasn't a conspiracy, just a consensus.

*The Post* was also first to jump on the *Access Hollywood* tape recording in 2016, in which Donald Trump assaulted no one, but bragged about how he could assault women, because he was a TV star. They took about four whole hours in one afternoon before they published. It seemed like the entire political elite — Republican and Democrat — were demanding Trump drop out immediately.

Where are all these people now, with Biden in the dock? Absent. Apathetic. Callously indifferent. Out to lunch, never to return? #MeToo dies in darkness.

# MRC IN THE NEWS

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Media Research Center experts are frequently interviewed on stories of national importance, reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, social media, and in print. Some of the MRC's latest media appearances include the following:

## Television

### FNC

Hannity, Mar. 23, Apr. 16

### OANN

Daily Ledger, Mar. 2, 9, 12, 13, 16, 19, 23, 24, 30, Apr. 6, 9, 13, 16

### NEWSMAX TV

The Howie Carr Show, Apr. 1, 13, 18

- PARTIAL LISTING

## Radio

Alan Nathan Show, Mar. 14, 19, 26, Apr. 1, 2, 6, 9, 14

American Family Radio, Mar. 27, Apr. 6

Ben Shapiro Show, Apr. 2

Bill Martinez Show, Mar. 19, 24, Apr. 14

Breitbart News Daily, SiriusXM, Mar. 16, 23, 30, Apr. 6

Chosen Generation, Mar. 18, 25, Apr. 1, 8

Chris Plante Show, Mar. 31

Mark Levin Show, Mar. 20

Mike Hayes Show, Mar. 26, Apr. 3

Morning Show with Charlie James, Mar. 11, 25

Red Eye Radio, Mar. 22, Apr. 10

KFMB, San Diego, CA, Mar. 18, 25, Apr. 1, 8

KNSS, Wichita, KS, Mar. 12, Apr. 3

KNTH, Houston, TX, Mar. 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, Apr. 1, 6, 8

KVOR, Colorado Springs, CO, Mar. 24, 26, 31, Apr. 2, 7, 9

KWEL, Midland, TX, Mar. 16, 23, 30, Apr. 6

KXFN, St. Louis, MO, Apr. 6

KZIM, Cape Girardeau, MO, Mar. 27, Apr. 2, 6

WGMD, Lewes, DE, Mar. 16, 23, 30, Apr. 6

WICH, Norwich, CT, Apr. 9

WIND, Chicago, IL, Apr. 1

WTKF, Morehead City, NC, Mar. 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9

WTMA, Charleston, SC, Mar. 10, Apr. 1, 2, 8

- PARTIAL LISTING

## Internet

American Military News, Mar. 23

BizPac Review, Mar. 13, 20, 21, Apr. 2, 5, 7

Breitbart News, Mar. 12, Apr. 2, 13

Campus Reform, Apr. 1

CBN News, Apr. 1

Christian Post, Apr. 1

Christian Research Network, Apr. 9

Columbia Journal Review, Mar. 31

Conservative HQ, Mar. 17, 20, 25, Apr. 6

Daily Caller, Mar. 19

Daily Wire, Mar. 16, 31

Deneen Borelli, Mar. 13

Fox News, Mar. 13, 17, 21, 24, 25, 27, 31,

Apr. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

GOPUSA, Mar. 16, 30, Apr. 9

Heritage.org, Apr. 1

Hot Air, Mar. 17, 22, Apr. 14

Independent Women Forum, Apr. 2

Lars Larson Show, Mar. 24, Apr. 6, 10

Life News, Mar. 10, Apr. 8

LifeSite News, Mar. 24, 27, Apr. 6

Newsmax, Mar. 16, 21, 23, 30, Apr. 6, 13, 16

NewsOne, Apr. 8

PJ Media, Mar. 17, Apr. 7, 13

Politico, Apr. 8

Powerline, Mar. 13

RealClear Politics, Apr. 6

The Hill, Apr. 6

The Union Journal, Mar. 22, 23, 25, Apr. 7

Townhall, Mar. 12, 17, 18, 25, 27, Apr. 3,

7, 13, 17

TV News Check, Mar. 10

Washington Examiner, Mar. 13, 16, 17, 23,

30, 31, Apr. 6

Washington Monthly, Apr. 5

Washington Post, Mar. 10

Washington Times, Mar. 17, 18, 20, 24, 25,

29, 30, 31, Apr. 2, 4, 9, 15, 16

- PARTIAL LISTING



On Apr. 16, Sean Hannity highlighted an MRC study by Brent Baker noting, "CNN, according to a study on NewsBusters, they tuned out more of the briefings than any other network... skipping seven hours in the last two weeks."



Fox News cites both MRC news analyst Nicholas Fondacaro and MRC vice president of TechWatch, Dan Gainor.



# Grassroots Campaign Update

In March and April, a grassroots campaign was promoted asking the MRC Grassroots Army to tell CNN and MSNBC to stop using COVID-19 for political gain. The MRC Grassroots Army was quick to email discontent, call in, and to tweet messages to CNN and MSNBC to voice their thoughts. So far, over 17,000 actions have been taken. The campaign will continue onward as new, actionable information arises.

In April, non-essential PBS and NPR stations received \$75 million from the emergency \$2 trillion Coronavirus "stimulus" bill. (See page 3.) The MRC Grassroots Army was asked to jump in to email, call, and tweet to Pelosi and McConnell to tell them it's time to federally defund PBS and NPR. Over 4,000 actions have been taken so far. The campaign continues!



**COMING SOON!**

## **Patriot Fund Virtual Meet and Greet**

Members of the *Patriot Fund*, we're pleased to announce a new virtual Meet and Greet coming to your computer. Hosted by the MRC, the Meet and Greet is your opportunity to meet and talk with MRC experts, such as Dan Gainor and Eric Scheiner, and other Patriots like yourself.

**Call or email Rachel O'Rourke at (571) 267-3452 or [rorourke@mrc.org](mailto:rorourke@mrc.org) for more information about how to participate.**

If you're not a *Patriot Fund* member, now is the perfect time to join. Just ask Rachel for details.

As you know, the media are weaponizing their COVID-19 coverage and the MRC needs your support now more than ever. **There's a lot to discuss and you don't want to miss this opportunity.**



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*We're all going to want to get away by next February!*

PLEASE JOIN US! | [MRCCRUISE.COM](http://MRCCRUISE.COM) | 1-844-763-2175 | [MILA@TCAVA.COM](mailto:MILA@TCAVA.COM)

THE WATCHDOG (ISSN #1087-5077) is published monthly by the Media Research Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit research and education organization.

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