Dear Member,

The leaders of the liberal media are now coming after the Media Research Center.

NBC’s Tom Brokaw, generally considered the “least liberal” of the three broadcast network anchors, launched a broadside against the MRC in the January-February issue of the Columbia Journalism Review.

Asked specifically about the MRC’s campaign to expose liberalism in the news media, Brokaw lashed out.

“It is a little wearying,” Brokaw replied, “but you’ve got to rise above it and take it case by case. Most of the cases are pretty flimsily made.”

The NBC anchor then took a personal shot. “What I get tired of is Brent Bozell trying to make these fine legal points everywhere, every day. A lot of it just doesn’t hold up.”

Tom Brokaw’s wrong. The evidence does hold up, and I think he knows it. And to prove it, I issued a national press release challenging the anchor to a contest.

The terms were simple. NBC News and the MRC would find a mutually agreeable third-party panel of media experts and have them review a compilation of our 16 years of evidence of liberal media bias. If this panel agreed with Brokaw’s contention – that the evidence “doesn’t hold up” – the MRC would donate $1 million to the anchor’s favorite charity. If the panel agreed with us, NBC and Brokaw would make a $1 million contribution to the MRC.

To sweeten the pot, I then made an additional offer: We offered to limit our evidence only the bias of Tom Brokaw.

Frankly, for Brokaw to deny bias is, well, preposterous. A quick review of his career shows that Brokaw continually campaigned against Ronald Reagan’s conservative policies. In April 1983, Brokaw was asked by the radical Mother Jones to evaluate the Reagan presidency. He said he “thought from the outset that [Reagan’s] supply-side theory was just a disaster. I knew of no one who thought it was going to work.”

Consider both ends of that statement. First, he calls Reagan’s policies — they would lead to the largest peacetime expansion in history — a “disaster.” Then he said he knew no one who thought it would work. The year after the comment, Reagan won a 49-state landslide because most Americans, with the exception of Brokaw’s friends, thought it would.

Continued on page 2
The NBC anchor has also been blatantly biased in his abortion coverage, where he has rarely missed a chance to belittle the pro-life position as extreme or controversial. At the 2000 Republican convention, he asked pro-abortion former New Jersey Governor Christie Todd Whitman if the party was “held hostage…by its views on abortion.” In 1993, he praised Bill Clinton’s executive order that made federal funding available for overseas abortions, claiming the Democrat was keeping a campaign promise. Eight years later, when George W. Bush kept a campaign promise he had made to conservatives and rescinded that order, Brokaw characterized the move as “controversial.”

Recently, Brokaw has moved beyond simply supporting liberal positions to making outright attacks on conservatives. In mid-November, he used an awards speech at a National Press Club dinner to attack the MRC and other conservative organizations who forced CBS to pull the unfair and dishonest miniseries on Ronald Reagan.

“They suffocate vigorous discourse,” Brokaw claimed, “…by identifying those who refuse to conform and encouraging a kind of e-mail or telephonic jihad.” He later added there were in “too many quarters of commentary a tyranny of the right.”

In other words, free speech is sacred – unless we conservatives have the audacity to use it.

In Brokaw’s mind, using journalism to support liberal policies is not only acceptable, it’s a responsibility. In the very same Columbia Journalism Review in which he attacked the MRC and denied liberal bias, Brokaw said he believed that the “appropriate” role for a journalist “is to represent the views of those who are underrepresented in the social context or the political context and to make sure that their wrongs get the bright light of journalistic sunshine.”

That is the problem in a nutshell. It is not the media’s job to represent groups or individuals. They have not been elected or appointed to any position and for Brokaw to insist that the media have an obligation to insert themselves into politics on behalf of “underrepresented” groups is the height of arrogance. It also proof, from the man himself, that he comes to the table with a liberal bias.

The role of the reporter is to print news, period. Brokaw realizes this, just as he realizes that he has left a paper trail of slanted stories and anti-conservative comments over the last two decades. And it’s the reason he never responded to my challenge, which doesn’t surprise me.

I may have challenged the man’s bias, but I’ve never questioned his wisdom.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III

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Join a thousand movers and shakers of the conservative movement for “The most humorous night in Washington!”

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Photos above are from past MRC galas and represent only a handful of the personalities who have participated in or attended the annual event.
Thirty-eight college students from across the country descended on the Media Research Center on January 14 to learn about liberal media bias from MRC President L. Brent Bozell.

The group received a twenty-minute presentation from Bozell and then participated in a lively, hour-long question and answer session.

The students were mostly political science majors enrolled in the American Politics and Public Law Semester of American University’s Washington Semester program. Started in 1947, the program involves more than 150 colleges across the country and brings more than 400 students a year to Washington, D.C. for a semester of study in their chosen field. This year marked the 12th consecutive year that the MRC has participated in the program.

Dr. Jack Rossotti, the course instructor, coordinates presentations with the MRC and other organizations in the Washington area. Rossotti, a former television reporter, emphasized that he strives to achieve political balance with the presentations. “On every issue, we examine the liberal and conservative side,” the professor said.

The presentation focused on journalists’ political beliefs. Bozell cited a Freedom Forum survey of Washington bureau chiefs and reporters that found an amazing 89 percent voted for Bill Clinton in 1992 and that 61 percent considered themselves to be liberal or liberal-to-moderate. He also cited a 2001 Kaiser Family Foundation survey that found 84 percent of the journalists at the nation’s largest media outlets are liberal or moderate, while only six percent are conservative.

Bozell also covered the public’s view of the media. He noted that a 2000 Pew Research Center survey of Washington bureau chiefs that found 89 percent of the public believed the media often or sometimes allowed personal politics to influence coverage. There was also a recent McLaughlin and Associates poll, he added, that found three-quarters of Republicans and 46 percent – nearly one-half – of Democrats believe journalists are more liberal than they are. Such issues as who determines what makes news and the federal funding of the Public Broadcasting System were also briefly touched on.

Three students were interviewed after the presentation and they all mentioned the impact made by the survey numbers. “I thought the statistics about the media’s political beliefs were the most thought provoking part of the presentation,” said Kiffanie Urness, a 21-year-old political science major from Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore.

Tom Mileto, a University of Wisconsin student, said he had never considered the problem of media bias before the presentation but found the survey results and the argument that individual bias can affect news to be persuasive.

Danielle Regan, who also attends Oregon’s Linfield College, was quick to note that she didn’t agree with everything she heard, but did think the presentation was educational. “I certainly think you can learn more if you hear a diversity of opinions,” Regan said.

The American University program is one of many groups in the Washington, D.C. area that take advantage of the MRC’s expertise. In February, the State Department’s International Visitors Program is bringing a group of Armenian journalists to the MRC for a presentation on the role of the media in a democratic society.

Calling Young Conservatives

The MRC’s Youth Education and Intern Program educates and trains students to recognize media bias and to understand the importance of balanced journalism. Since 1992, the MRC has provided internships for more than 100 students – helping to prepare them for careers in journalism, mass media, public relations, marketing, and government. It is the MRC’s goal to have a positive influence on these young students so that when they become America’s future reporters, educators and leaders, they will have a proper perspective about the conservative movement. Interns receive hands-on experience in the News Analysis Division, Cybercast News Service – CNSNews.com, Free Market Project, Marketing Division or Development Department. Call Sara Causey for internship availability: (703) 683-9733. For more details and an application visit www.mrc.org/jobs/intern/welcome.asp.
In early January, NBC’s Katie Couric repeated the vicious charges of a Brazilian judge who compared an American anti-terrorist measure to Nazi atrocities. A week later, Couric hyped former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill’s “insider” book on the Bush administration.

The worst, by far, was NBC Today host Katie Couric, who relayed the most vicious charges possible in a January 5 interview with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

Couric told Ridge that some countries were “furious” over the new policy requiring foreign visitors to be photographed and fingerprinted went into effect in January, the nation’s journalists branded the move as “controversial” and joyously forwarded the complaints of the outraged.

Respond? Ridge should have ripped off his microphone and stormed off. Any person who would compare a simple picture-taking and fingerprinting system established by the United States to protect its citizens to the atrocities committed by Adolf Hitler and his henchmen doesn’t deserve an answer.

And neither does any journalist who passes on such vicious and nonsensical attacks in the form of a question.

Katie Loves O’Neill’s Anti-Bush Book

Couric’s ridiculous Nazi question wasn’t her only outrage last month. When she interviewed former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill about his “insider” account of the Bush administration, a couple of MRC staffers immediately noted that O’Neill received much better treatment than a former Clintonite who had written a similar book about his boss.

When George Stephanopoulos, now the host of ABC’s This Week, wrote an “insider” account of the Clinton White House five years ago, Couric nearly had a fit.

“When you George?” she cried when the former Clinton aide appeared on the March 12, 1999 Today. “Couldn’t this have waited until the President was out of office?” For good measure, the Today host added that “a lot of people” believed Stephanopoulos was a “turncoat” and thought his book was “creepy.”

Fast forward to January 13, 2004 and there was Couric, conducting a softball interview of O’Neill and author Ron Suskind, who had teamed up with O’Neill to produce his critical inside look at the Bush administration.

This time around, the Today host was not concerned at all that President Bush had been betrayed. The book “raises serious concerns about the Bush administration,” Couric claimed and she later prompted Suskind to highlight the book’s “bombshells.”

The reason for the differing responses is obvious. Clinton was a liberal Democrat who journalists like Couric supported. Bush is a conservative Republican, who she not only doesn’t support, but is eager to hurt.

ABC Hypes O’Neill’s Interview on CBS

Couric wasn’t the only prominent journalist determined to promote the former Treasury Secretary and his book.

O’Neill’s sensational charge that the President was like “a blind man in a room full of deaf people” during Cabinet meetings was a major topic on the cable channels for several days. The Washington Post and New York Times both ran stories, as did the January 9 NBC Nightly News.

But none of those outlets could match ABC News, which was so anxious to take a swing at President Bush that it took the unusual step of plugging a rival network’s interview before it aired.

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Has ABC News become so anti-Bush that it will even promote the competition if it thinks it will hurt the President? Based on this story, it certainly appears that way.

CNN Claims Dean is Not a Liberal….Again.

By the time you read this, Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, the ranting, raving former governor of
Vermont, may be out of the race altogether. If he is, he certainly can’t blame it on the media, who have done their best to hide the man’s liberal inclinations.

CNN’s Kelly Wallace provided one of the worst “Dean’s no liberal” stories on the January 7 Paul Zahn Now. Concerned about the “misperception” that Dean was being portrayed as a liberal, Wallace traveled to Vermont and interviewed several long-time acquaintances of the former governor. All of them assured her the man was never a liberal.

And who were the sources Wallace used to “prove” Dean was not a liberal? All of them, including the Republican, came from the far left of the political spectrum.

The first source was a radical editor of a left-wing alternative newspaper, who claimed that Dean represented “the Republican wing of the Democratic Party.” The second source was a liberal Democratic state senator who said there were times when he and Dean were far apart on policy. The third source was a Republican state senator, who praised Dean’s decision on gay civil unions as “the right thing to do.”

Wallace may be right. To a radical leftist and a pro-gay marriage liberal Republican – and the reporters and producers at CNN – Dean may not be a liberal. But he sure is to the rest of America.

**Morning Donations to Democrats**

A new MRC study proves that the network morning programs overwhelmingly favor Democratic candidates. Conducted by Research Director Rich Noyes, the study examined the coverage of Democratic presidential candidates from July 1 through December 31, 2003. The number of stories, amount of air time, and questions asked was then compared to what the Republican candidates received during the same time period in 1999.

To no one’s surprise, the Democratic candidates received nearly twice as much airtime as their Republican counterparts, appearing for four solid hours of airtime (240 minutes) as opposed to just over two hours (136 minutes) for the GOP.

The study also found that the morning hosts encouraged the Democratic candidates to attack President Bush. Of the 319 questions asked of the Democrats, almost one-fifth (58) were structured to get them to repeat criticisms of President Bush. By contrast, only four of 179 questions in 1999 had asked Republicans to disagree with Bill Clinton or Al Gore.

The 1999 and 2003 coverage was consistent in one area: the morning show hosts asked far more questions from a liberal angle than from a conservative one. Of the 54 questions asked in 2003 that offered a viewpoint, 87 percent (47) came from a liberal point of view. In 1999, nearly three-quarters (71 percent) came from the left side.

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**mini-bits**

“...As everybody in the country knows, the Bush administration has struggled with its economic policy,” ABC’s Peter Jennings proclaims. “[Ted] Kennedy looked great [at the State of the Union speech], like he was ready to take his place next to Jefferson on Mt. Rushmore,” the Washington Post’s Tom Shales writes. CNN political analyst Jeffrey Toobin is still bitter about Florida: “It is an absolute certainty that if Palm Beach had designed a ballot that correctly reflected the views of the voters Al Gore would be President of the United States today.” On Inside Washington, Washington Post editorial writer Colbert King says he can’t bring himself to view the timber industry or utilities as evil. “I could,” NPR’s Nina Totenberg retorts. The State of the Union address worried CNN’s Judy Woodruff: “For the last three years, the President has dominated the news. Don’t the Democrats deserve a few days in the sunshine?”
CNSNews.com Exposes Liberal Shenanigans

It didn’t take long for CNSNews.com’s new emphasis on investigative reporting to produce stories with real impact. One story reported this month may force Congress to take action while another has a Democratic presidential hopeful backpedaling.

On January 15, CNSNews.com Senior Staff Writer Jeff Johnson reported allegations by airline pilots that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has sought to undermine the congressionally mandated program designed to arm pilots in their cockpits.

Congress passed the program in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. But according to Jeff’s report, pilots with knowledge of the Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program alleged that TSA’s implementation of the program was not only discouraging the pilots’ participation, but also forcing them to lock up their guns during their most vulnerable moments – when they were exiting the cockpits to go to the restroom or to get something to eat.

“The TSA has designed the program to deter participation and they’re being successful,” one FFDO told Jeff.

When Jeff filed a follow-up report on January 26, revealing exclusively that TSA had sent an e-mail to all FFDOs threatening them with the loss of their jobs and civil fines if they disclosed any information about the program to Members of Congress, lawmakers from both the House and Senate expressed outrage and promised legislation to crack down on the TSA.

“We’ll continue to monitor this story – legislative efforts are being undertaken by Rep. Wilson and Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky – as well as any efforts independently taken by the Transportation Security Administration to change the way it implements the armed pilots program.”

As this story was unfolding, CNSNews.com’s Marc Morano was busy looking into the past of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina. The day Edwards shocked the nation by finishing second in the Iowa caucuses, CNSNews.com was publishing Marc’s story alleging that Edwards had amassed a personal fortune as a trial attorney in part by relying on “junk science” to successfully argue medical malpractice cases.

Marc’s report quoted several legal and medical professionals who questioned the validity of Edwards’ claims that obstetricians were to blame for the brain damage or cerebral palsy afflicting infants the doctors had delivered. Other critics of the North Carolina senator told Morano that Edwards was much more focused on his courtroom verbal skills than on the science behind his claims of medical malpractice. One source added that Edwards only chose cases “that were going to make him richer.”

On the night of January 27, after finishing fourth in the New Hampshire Democratic presidential primary, Marc confronted Edwards with the “junk science” accusations, giving him three opportunities to refute the charges or explain his side of the story. Each time, the Senator refused to comment.

CNSNews.com also produced other important investigative pieces in the last month. Staff writer Robert Bluey provided a look at the atheism that partially drives the anti-Bush political agenda of billionaire financier George Soros and reported that the National Education Association has launched an expensive campaign to infiltrate charter schools, unionize teachers and allegedly limit the competition coming from educational systems other than the public schools.
**The Best of Notable Quotables 2003: The 16th Annual Awards for the Year’s Worst Reporting** was chosen by a panel of 46 radio talk show hosts, magazine editors, columnists, editorial writers and media observers. The judges chose winners and two runners-up in 17 separate categories, including a Quote of the Year. Space prevents us from sharing every category with FLASH readers but we can provide the Quote of the Year and the runners-up for you. For those with internet access, the entire Best of NQ 2003 can be viewed at www.mrc.org/notablequotables/bestof/2003/welcome.asp

### Quote of the Year

“If she had lived, Mary Jo Kopechne would be 62 years old. Through his tireless work as a legislator, Edward Kennedy would have brought comfort to her in her old age.”

~ This was written by journalist Charles Pierce in a January 5 *Boston Globe* Magazine article. Kopechne drowned while trapped in Kennedy’s submerged car off Chappaquiddick Island in July 1969, an accident Kennedy did not report for several hours.

### 1st Runner-up

“...The American war planners misjudged the determination of the Iraqi forces...I personally do not understand how that happened, because I’ve been here many times and in my commentaries on television I would tell the Americans about the determination of the Iraqi forces, the determination of the government, and the willingness to fight for their country. But me, and others who felt the same way, were not listened to by the Bush administration.

“Now America is re-appraising the battlefield, delaying the war, maybe a week, and re-writing the war plan. The first war plan has failed because of Iraqi resistance; now they are trying to write another war plan.”

~ Former NBC/MSNBC/National Geographic Explorer correspondent Peter Arnett’s comments on Iraq’s state-controlled television network on March 30. NBC fired Arnett shortly after he made the comments.

### 2nd Runner-up

“Our greatest accomplishment as a profession is the development since World War II of a news reporting craft that is truly non-partisan, and non-ideological, and that strives to be independent of undue commercial or governmental influence...We must be aware of the energetic effort that is now underway to convince our readers that we are ideologues. It is an exercise of, in disinformation, of alarming proportions, this attempt to convince the audience of the world’s most ideology-free newspapers that they’re being subjected to agenda-driven news reflecting a liberal bias. I don’t believe our viewers and readers will be, in the long-run, misled by those who advocate biased journalism.”

~ Former New York Times Executive Editor Howell Raines, after accepting the George Beveridge Editor of the Year Award at a National Press Foundation dinner on February 20. In June, Raines was forced to resign from the Times for his role in the Jayson Blair plagiarism scandal.

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**Best of Notable Quotables 2003 Reaches Millions**

The MRC’s special year-end edition of Notable Quotables generated a score of news stories, columns and editorials that helped the MRC’s annual compilation of liberally biased quotes reach millions of Americans. More than 200,000 internet visitors read the publication on the MRC web site and the *New York Post* dedicated an editorial to it. The Post editorial was picked up by the Yahoo News Service, the news arm of Yahoo.com, which highlighted the article on its site for an entire day, providing an opportunity for millions of Americans to read about the Best of NQ. According to Yahoo, their site receives 1.9 billion page views per day. Below is a partial list of the media outlets that covered the Best of NQ.

- *Human Events*, Jan. 13
- *Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times Free Press*, Jan. 5
- *ChronWatch.com*, Jan. 3
- *Townhall.com*, Jan. 2
- *New York Post*, Dec. 31
- *Yahoo News* (Yahoo.com), Dec. 31
- *National Review Online*, Dec. 31
- *Investors Business Daily*, Dec. 30
- *WAAM-Ann Arbor, Mich.*, Dec. 31
- *Judicial Watch radio report*, Dec. 30
- *Radio America*, Dec. 30
- *Human Events*, Dec. 29
- *ArkansasNews.com*, Dec. 28
- *Rocky Mountain News*, Dec. 26
- *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Dec. 26
- *TownHall.com*, Dec. 24
- *Duluth (Minn.) News Tribune*, Dec. 19
- *Las Vegas Review Journal*, Dec. 18
MRC IN THE NEWS

MRC research and spokesmen are interviewed on news programs and cited in news stories on a regular basis. The following newspapers, internet news sites, radio and television programs used MRC research or hosted MRC spokesmen – on issues other than the Best of NQ – during the last month.

National Television

- Special Report with Brit Hume, Fox News Channel, Jan. 8 – Anchor Brit Hume cited a CyberAlert item on CBS News refusal to report that defense contractor Halliburton had been cleared of wrongdoing.
- Scarborough Country, MSNBC, Jan. 5 – MRC President L. Brent Bozell discussed the New York Times story that charged CBS’ with agreeing to run a Michael Jackson special in return for a 60 Minutes interview.
- Special Report with Brit Hume, Fox News Channel, Dec. 17 – Hume cited an MRC item on ABC’s refusal to carry its own poll results that showed improving numbers for President Bush.

MRC personnel or research were also interviewed or cited on the following radio programs, newspapers and internet news sites.

Radio

- What’s the Story with Fred Barnes, Radio America, Jan. 22
- The Blanquita Collum Show, Radio America, Jan. 22
- The Rush Limbaugh Show, Jan. 21
- The Michael Reagan Show, Jan. 19
- The Steve Gill Show, WWTN, Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 15
- WSPD, Toledo, Ohio, Jan. 14
- WFLA, Tampa, Fla., Jan. 13
- KEV, Houston, Texas, Jan. 13
- The Phil Duncan Show, KFNX, Providence, R.I., Jan. 13
- The Bill Meyer Show, KMED, Medford, Ore., Jan. 12
- The Karen Grant Show, Jan. 12
- The Ed Foxmire Show, KRMS, Osage Beach, Mo., Jan. 12
- The Greg Russell Show, Talk Radio News Service, Jan. 9
- The Rush Limbaugh Show, Dec. 22
- The Tony Gill Show, WAIC-Springfield, Mass., Dec. 17

Newspapers & Magazines

- Columbia Journalism Review, Jan.-Feb. 2004
- Washington Times, Jan. 8
- Washington Times, Jan. 3
- Washington Times, Jan. 2
- The Wilmington (N.C.) Journal, Dec. 29
- Detroit Free Press, Dec. 23
- Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville, Fla.), Dec. 20
- Investor’s Business Daily, Dec. 18

On January 5, MRC President Brent Bozell discussed a New York Times’ story about CBS’ Michael Jackson interview with MSNBC’s Joe Scarborough.