

FLASH

NEWS

www.MediaResearch.org

The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

War Against Liberal Media Bias Goes On

Dear Member,

As we predicted, the left-wing media in America threw everything, including the kitchen sink, at the Bush re-election campaign in 2004 and at the many conservative ideas and policies that gained ground last year. And as November's election showed, a majority of Americans were not fooled. The leftist media were exposed, and neutralized.

Yet while the election battle is over, the war goes on. The media have by no means surrendered, or even retreated. And neither are we letting up. At the Media Research Center, we are fighting that leftist bias – still documenting and exposing the liberal media to counter their agenda this year, in politics, the economy, in Iraq, and in the ever-constant culture war.

We do what we do because we know, as you know, that the leftist media do not quit. They are vicious, particularly now. But we should pause, just for a moment, and reflect on what we accomplished in 2004. It was our most productive year ever. And you made it possible. Here are just some of the highlights:

● Early last year, the leftist media declared war on Mel Gibson for having the audacity to produce *The Passion of the Christ*

...and then trumpeted Michael Moore's fantasy-documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11*. We exposed, for all to see, exactly what the media were doing and reported on them through our Web sites, faxes, emails, reports, and the like.



"So much progress is made and one of the reasons is Brent Bozell and the Media Research Center documenting what these people [liberal media do]. In my case, I would not be able to do what I do were it not for people like Brent."

RUSH LIMBAUGH

Most Americans today know the truth: *The Passion* was one of the greatest films ever produced. *Fahrenheit 9/11* was a dishonest, ultra-leftist piece of garbage. We succeeded.

● When John O'Neill and other patriotic Vietnam veterans heroically challenged Sen. John Kerry's veracity and his leadership through TV ads and a book, the left-wing media first deliberately ignored them. We exposed how they were spiking this important story and pushed for a full airing of the facts. When the liberal media finally decided to cover the Swift Boat vets, it was

disgraceful. They tried everything to discredit the real heroes – Ted Koppel's *Nightline* even used former Viet Cong soldiers and communist commentators to defend Kerry! We rushed to their defense, exposed that blatant bias and made it a national issue. We succeeded.

● Then the Mekong dam burst, so to speak. Dan Rather and CBS, on *60 Minutes*
Continued on page 2

INSIDE

PAGE 3

Best Notable Quotables 2004

•

PAGE 4

Bits & Pieces: Red States, Slave States? Bush-haters Move to Canada, CNN Defends CBS, and Jesus the Terrorist?

•

PAGE 6

CNSNews.com The Gospel of Global Warming

•

PAGE 7

MRC In The News

•

Page 8

In Memoriam Reed Irvine



America's Media Watchdog

Continued from page 1

II, aired a story designed to undermine President Bush's presidency based on forged documents supposedly from his days when he served in the Texas Air National Guard. The story was utterly bogus. And our staff at the MRC and our CNS News division was the first to expose the forgeries. Within one day, the CBS emperor couldn't find his clothes – nor his notes, nor his facts, nor his “expert” witnesses. Within a week, CBS was publicly apologizing for the fraud. We succeeded.

The independent report on the scandal at CBS may be released before this *FLASH* issue arrives in your mailbox. Whatever its conclusions – Rather already has announced his resignation for March – the “Memogate” story proved what we have been saying for years. And it also made liberal bias part of the national conversation. Most Americans know the score now, and we, thanks to your generous support over the years, won a great victory.

But the war is ongoing, as current coverage confirms. Everywhere you turn, the leftist Blame America crowd is attacking our country. For example, some major media, including Ceci Connolly at the *Washington Post*, have blamed America and the executive branch for failing – yes, failing – to properly watch over the U.N. Oil for Food program. In other words, the multi-billion dollar scandal that aided Saddam Hussein and some U.N. bureaucrats is ... America's fault?!

Then there was the terrible tsunami in Southeast Asia, which has killed more than 150,000 people to date. The *New York Times* and virtually all the networks have been attacking America non-stop for supposedly being too stingy and too slow to respond with financial and material aid to the victims of the disaster. (The *Times*'s bias on this issue is thoroughly documented by our *Times Watch* division: www.TimesWatch.org.) U.S. aid to the region, by the way, equals \$500 million—so far. And when you consider the billions upon billions we are paying every year to defend ingrate “allies,” it's stunning anyone would challenge America's charity. But that's the left for you.

The *Times*, not surprisingly, isn't saying much about the fact that some 20,000 people die every day in Southeast Asia from starvation and that U.S. policy in the region is designed to boost the economic, political, and social infrastructure there, which ultimately will help the people in Southeast Asia better deal with such disasters. That side of the story is the type of political balance and responsibility in reporting that the MRC is fighting for. And it continues.

For instance, the media are already savagely attacking, on many fronts, the reform of Social Security through partial privatization. The existing program has \$26 trillion in liabilities. Even President Clinton said of Social Security's future that there are three choices: privatize, cut benefits, or raise taxes. We know which option the liberal media want. The full story

needs to be told on this vital issue. We will push the media to tell it – to provide political balance and responsibility.

Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist is ill and in his eighties. The major media are screaming that when a court vacancy occurs, President Bush may appoint – Heaven forbid! – a justice guided by what the Constitution actually says, and nothing more. Some media are livid at reports that the White House might appoint Justice Clarence Thomas as the new chief justice. We know what they tried to do to him before. They'll try again. And, once again, we'll be there to expose them.

The major media already have drawn the battle lines and are firing their artillery. It's our job to expose that agenda, overrun those battle lines, and bring balance and responsibility to the media. It is a never-ending struggle.

On other fronts, the liberal Brian Williams has replaced the liberal Tom Brokaw as anchor of the *NBC Nightly News*. Williams, as MRC supporters know, is the “journalist” who said that America's policies were responsible for the 9/11 terrorism and that our war-making in Iraq was equal to the fire-bombing of Tokyo and Dresden during World War II. Expect a liberal to replace Dan Rather in

March at the *CBS Evening News* anchor desk, too.

The war goes on. Beyond the few items mentioned above, we are writing a new book to be published this year on the leftist media's drive to kill the Bush re-election campaign in 2004. Last year's book, *Weapons of Mass Distortion: The Coming Meltdown of the Liberal Media*, continues to sell well. We have expanded our nationwide “Tell The Truth!” campaign to include radio and TV advertising, which is happening now. The MRC message is reaching tens of millions of people each week. Our Web site – and our very own *FLASH* newsletter – will undergo reader-friendly improvements this year. Our News Analysis Division, Free Market Project, and *Times Watch* will produce more Special Reports, as well as regular monthly, weekly, and daily media bias updates.

And again this year, the MRC will host its annual gala and awards dinner on April 21, to roast the most outrageously biased reporting of 2004. Rush Limbaugh, our surprise guest at last year's gala, said of our work: “So much progress is made and one of the reasons is Brent Bozell and the Media Research Center documenting what these people [liberal media do]. In my case, I would not be able to do what I do were it not for people like Brent.” ... it's a nice compliment, but ultimately the credit goes to you, who faithfully support the work of the MRC.

I thank you for your financial and moral support. We have won some battles. Let's win some more – and let us win the war.

Happy New Year,



L. Brent Bozell III, Founder and President



ABC's Diane Sawyer, the networks, and major media blamed America for being too stingy and too slow to respond to the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia.

Notable Quotables



The Best of Notable Quotables 2004

The Best of Notable Quotables 2004: The 17th Annual Awards for the Year's Worst Reporting was chosen by a panel of 43 radio talk show hosts, magazine editors, columnists, editorial writers and media observers. The judges chose winners and two runners-up in 17 categories and 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 the entire *Best of NQ 2004*, see www.mrc.org/notablequotables/bestof/2004/welcome.asp.

QUOTE OF THE YEAR

"What drives American civilians to risk death in Iraq? In this economy it may be, for some, the only job they can find."

Dan Rather teasing a report on the *CBS Evening News* on March 31, the day four American civilians were killed and mutilated in Fallujah, Iraq.

1ST RUNNER-UP

"I don't think history has any reason to be kind to him."

CBS 60 Minutes correspondent **Morley Safer** recalling Ronald Reagan on *CNN's Larry King Live*, June 14.

2ND RUNNER-UP

"Powerful and extremely well-financed forces are concentrating on questions about the documents because they can't deny the fundamental truth of the story. If you can't deny the information, then attack and seek to destroy the credibility of the messenger, the bearer of the information. And in this case, it's change the subject from the truth of the information to the truth of the documents. This is your basic fogging machine, which is set up to cloud the issue, to obscure the truth....Over the long haul, this will be consistent with our history and our traditions and reputation. We took heat during the McCarthy time, during Vietnam, during civil rights, during Watergate. We haven't always been right, but our record is damn good."

Dan Rather discussing CBS's forged memo scandal, as quoted by the *New York Observer's* Joe Hagan, Sept. 15.

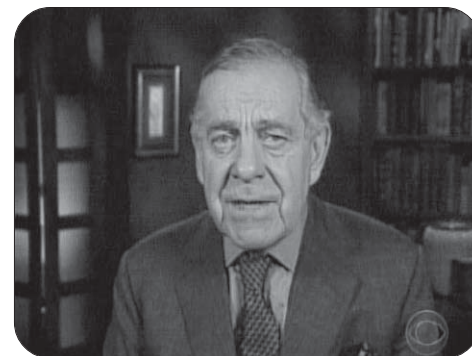
3RD RUNNER-UP

"Zell Miller's speech was a speech of hate, it was a speech of venom. This is a man who started his political career with Lester Maddox and last night he imitated Lester Maddox. Lester Maddox, as we all know, was a segregationist, but he was a man of hate. Zell Miller is not a segregationist, not that at all....[But] I grew up in the South, I've seen the face of anger, I've seen the face of hatred... There are lines in politics and that speech went over the line."

U.S. News & World Report Editor-at-Large **David Gergen** during MSNBC's live coverage following Miller's speech to the Republican National convention, September 2.



Dan Rather, *CBS Evening News*



Morley Safer, *CBS 60 Minutes*



David Gergen,
U.S. News & World Report, MSNBC

Red States, Slave States?

The November election results reflect the triumph of the “stupid,” according to former ABC *World News Tonight*/Sunday anchor Carole Simpson. On Nov. 8, while addressing high schoolers about the media, Simpson said it’s “really scary” that



Former ABC *World News Tonight* anchor Carole Simpson equated the pro-Bush red states of Election 2004 with the slave states of 19th century America.

young people consider Rush Limbaugh a news source and, on the elections, she added: “When you tell me, ‘Let the states decide,’ that scares me, okay? I’ve got a little map here of [the] pre-Civil War [United States], free versus slave states. I wish you could see it in color and large.

“But if you look at it, the red states are all down in the South, and you have the Nebraska Territories, the New Mexico Territories, and the Kansas Territories. But the Pacific Northwest and California were not slave states. The Northeast was not. It looks like the [Electoral College] map of 2004.”

Want to stay on top of media bias? Sign up for the *CyberAlert* e-mail report.

It's FREE!

To subscribe, just e-mail jbookwalter@mediaresearch.org

Mention that you read about the offer in *FLASH*.

Canada Fears Fox

Canadian journalists are outraged—outraged!—that Fox News Channel will now be available on digital cable and satellite in Canuck-land. After the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission okayed the deal, papers such as the *Globe and Mail* reported: “Fox News, the Canada-baiting house organ of the U.S. right, will come to Canadian digital television next year,” adding that FOX is “often called ‘the unofficial official voice of the Bush administration.’”

The Toronto Star ran a column that read: “Misinformation station OK’d at last.... Now that our broadcast regulator has approved the addition of the Fox News Network to the digital TV dial, Canadians might finally understand why so many of its American fans are convinced that weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq, that Saddam and Al Qaeda were linked, and that the world approved of the U.S.’s attack on the country.... So welcome to Canada, Fox News! Come on up and preach your Gospel according to George W. Bush — and make an all-American profit on us too...”

Humvee News Fakery

In their continual attacks against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the leftist media will stop at nothing, including feeding questions to soldiers to create “news,” as happened at a Dec. 8 Q&A between Rumsfeld and troops in Kuwait. *Chattanooga Times-Free Press* reporter Edward Lee Pitts fed a question about Humvee vehicle armor to a GI. The soldier, in turn, asked Rumsfeld why soldiers had to dig around salvage yards for armor. And that sparked the story: Regular Soldier Confronts Defense Secretary.

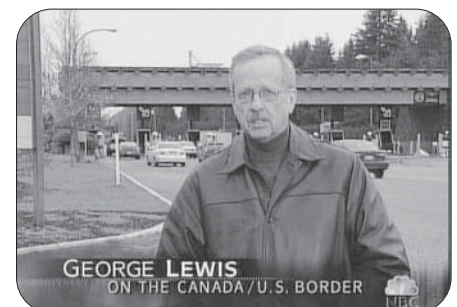
The liberal media went wild with the unarmored vehicle story and it led the news on all three networks. Yet when word leaked on Dec. 9 that the soldier had “fronted” the question for a reporter, the networks largely went

mum. ABC and NBC mentioned Pitts’ role in passing. CBS did not.

Nor did they touch the other piece of information that came out: Of the 830 vehicles in that unit, the 278th Cavalry, 800 had already been armored before Rumsfeld was questioned, and the last 30 were armored within days of that exchange.

Bush-Whackers Move North

NBC Nightly News presented an upbeat portrait of Americans moving to Canada because of President Bush’s reelection. On the Dec. 10 broadcast, reporter George Lewis highlighted how one woman “says Canada is more in tune with her liberal views than the USA.” She then touted how Canada has “gun control and universal health care and no death penalty.” To which Lewis replied: “She’s not alone. In Bellingham, Washington, Charles Key, a Vietnam veteran, is planning his move to Canada.”



NBC’s George Lewis reported favorably on how some anti-war (and anti-Bush) Americans are moving to Canada.

Key claimed that America no longer stands “for freedom and diversity and tolerance.” Without any regard for how the “pursuit of happiness” was declared in the Declaration of Independence for the United States, not Canada, Lewis relayed how the woman insisted that “all of us are entitled to the pursuit of happiness.” She added, “I found my dreams in Canada,” before Lewis jovially concluded: “And as she spots a bald eagle, she jokes that even America’s national bird is taking a serious look at Canada.”

Olbermann Who?

MSNBC's Keith Olbermann is the host of Countdown, a nutty-left "news" show with an audience about the size of ... well, its studio audience. Since the November elections, Olbermann has pushed several conspiracy theories about voter fraud and how President



MSNBC's loony leftist Keith Olbermann slammed Brent Bozell and the "crap list" *MRC CyberAlerts*.

Bush possibly stole the election... again. When we noted Olbermann's silly claims in our daily *MRC CyberAlerts*, he went into a rant:

"Brent Bozell, if the viewer is unfamiliar with him, his group puts out various daily e-mailings about purported liberal bias in the media. I made it to number four on his list today because last night I quoted the Green Party presidential candidate on the air...I

know about how Mr. Bozell is viewed within the television industry, kind of a poor man's Ted Kirkpatrick, the guy who ran Red Channels in the fifties and got the TV blacklist going I can't wait to see how far we reach on Mr. Bozell's crap list tomorrow. I'm thinking we may make number one."

He may be number one on our list, but he's dead last in the ratings. Wonder why....

CNN Defends CBS

Jonathan Klein, who recently started as the new president of CNN/U.S.—the eighth person to hold the slot since Fox News Channel debuted in 1996—is a staunch defender of the CBS elite who ran the Bush National Guard story based on forged documents. Concerning CBS's *60 Minutes* Mary Mapes, who produced the fraudulent story, Klein says: "[S]he is absolutely peerless, I'd say, in the profession. She is a crack journalist. ... They are probably the most careful news organization, certainly on television when it comes to vetting sources...."

"In contrast to *60 Minutes*, bloggers have no checks and balances and you couldn't...have a starker contrast between the multiple layers of checks and balances and a guy sitting in his living

room in his pajamas writing what he thinks." For the record, the CBS story was discredited by our own *CNSNews.com* and bloggers within hours of its airing.

Impeach Bush?

Left-wing actor Tim Robbins wants an impeachment of President Bush while left-wing author Gore Vidal says Bush should resign. The two got into a mutual Bush-bashing orgy on CBS's *Late Late Show* on Dec. 17, hosted that night by Robbins' long-time girlfriend and fellow left-winger Susan Sarandon.

In reference to Iraq, Sarandon asked, "How can they get out of this?" to which Vidal replied, "He can resign." And then Robbins chimed in: "How about a good, old-fashioned impeachment? Seems to me there was a guy that was impeached not long ago...for lying about oral sex. So it's more of a high crime and misdemeanor to lie about oral sex than it is to lie about intelligence that forces a country into war?"



Actor Tim Robbins wants to impeach President Bush.

MINIBITS

☞ Jesus The Terrorist? "Jesus was executed as a traitor He was executed by the empire in the way ... we would execute today, you know,

Timothy McVeigh or Aldrich Ames or somebody. Uh, it was for crimes against the state. It was for rebellion." — *Newsweek's* Managing Editor **Jon Meacham**. ☞ CBS's **Morley Safer** says that, for foreigners, "God bless America" is code for "God bless us and screw you!" ☞ Safer's colleague at *60 Minutes*, **Andy Rooney**, says: "I don't understand religion at all. ... I think it's all nonsense." ☞ "There is a possibility that George W. Bush did not win Ohio. If that is the case, it would be a crime against democracy for George Bush to be sworn into office." — MSNBC's **Keith Olbermann**, two months after the 2004 election. ☞ **Bill Moyers**, apparently sane: "I'm going out telling the story that I think is the biggest story of our time: how the right-wing media has become a partisan propaganda arm of the Republican National Committee. We have an ideological press that's interested in the election of Republicans." ☞ *Newsweek's* **Howard Fineman**, in a breath of fresh air: "The mainstream media has no right to complain about the [public's] lack of belief in the idea of objectivity anymore because a lot of the mainstream media abused its privilege over the last 20 years."



Newsweek's Jon Meacham equated Jesus Christ with terrorist Timothy McVeigh and spy Aldrich Ames.

By Scott Hogenson
CNSNews.com Executive Editor



Jet-Lagging Our Way to the Truth on Global Warming

Ever since our inception in 1998, the prime directive of CNSNews.com has been to report the stories the liberal media ignore. Nowhere was that journalistic philosophy more apparent than in Buenos Aires, Argentina where the United Nations held its global climate change conference last month.

One of the conference's panel discussions focused on a group of Eskimos seeking to hold the United States responsible for global warming and its results. Yet among the hundreds of reporters covering this UN event, only one news organization bothered to inquire about the science behind the Eskimo claim – CNSNews.com.

This lone question about the scientific basis for the claim – which could open the floodgates of unprecedented lawsuits against the U.S. – was more explosive than we could imagine. Donald Goldberg, the moderator of the panel discussion, declared, “This is not a scientific event,” and then decreed that, “as the moderator, I am going to put a stop to this!”

When pressed on the issue, Goldberg declared, “I have already put an end to this discussion! It is silly and it has nothing to do with what we are here to talk about,” and promptly called for questions that were more “productive.”

The liberal media love the whole global warming story. Global warming is much closer to theory than fact, but that hasn't stopped them from treating it as environmental gospel. It gives them a great peg – worldwide catastrophe! – and ever more opportunities to ping away on American commerce and industry, a Republican administration and conservatives who aren't yet ready to surrender American sovereignty to a concept whose basis in fact is little more than a crap shoot.

That's why CNSNews.com, the Internet newswire of the Media Research Center, goes to great lengths and expense to provide accurate, comprehensive news coverage on important events from such far away places as Argentina.

It's no small undertaking to staff a news event in South America. The logistics and costs involved in such journalism are daunting. But we feel strongly the high expenditures connected to providing this brand of investigative reporting are critically important because the question of global warming has broad implications involving virtually every aspect of American life.

The results of our coverage were striking. Rush Limbaugh read verbatim from a number of our Buenos Aires dispatches, providing the truth to tens of millions of Americans. Sean Hannity and The Washington Times did the same, along with other national and local broadcasters and publications. All told, our UN climate change reports were heard or read by some 50,000,000 people.

Mind you, we at CNSNews.com are not scientists or scholars. We don't know whether global warming is genuine or phony. We don't know whether the climate is more affected by mankind or natural forces. We don't know if the predicted impact of climate change is reasonable or overblown.

We're simple newsmen and newswomen who ask questions. But the simplest questions can reveal the largest truths. The response of those involved in this global warming conference – that questions about the science girding a legal and environmental argument are “silly” – speaks volumes.

The following day, other attendees at the Buenos Aires conference told CNSNews.com that the Kyoto Protocol, which has led to repeated condemnation by liberals of the U.S. for its steadfast

refusal to ratify it, will have no impact on staving off the dire environmental consequences predicted by many on the Left. The liberal establishment that attacked the Bush administration for being “immoral” for not wishing to ratify Kyoto now calls that same treaty merely “symbolic.”

Perhaps not surprisingly, news of this repudiation of the Kyoto Protocol – by liberal activists no less – was conspicuously absent from the pages of the establishment media. For years, liberal reporters heralded the Kyoto treaty as an environmental panacea and glowered on those who opposed it as greedy troglodytes who care not for humanity. Yet when Kyoto is diminished by environmentalists as “symbolic,” there's hardly a peep.

We don't know what the rest of the media will do regarding future coverage of the global warming debate, but our course is clear. CNSNews.com will continue providing insightful, investigative reporting of events wherever they occur. A little jet lag is a small price to pay for getting closer to the truth.

The liberal media love the whole global warming story. Global warming is much closer to theory than fact, but that hasn't stopped them from treating it as environmental gospel. It gives them a great peg – worldwide catastrophe! – and ever more opportunities to ping away on American commerce and industry, a Republican administration and conservatives who aren't yet ready to surrender American sovereignty to a concept whose basis in fact is little more than a crap shoot.

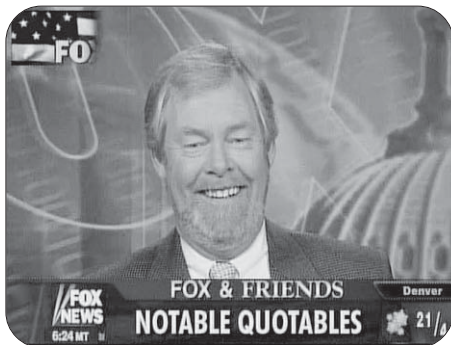


AMERICA'S MEDIA WATCHDOG

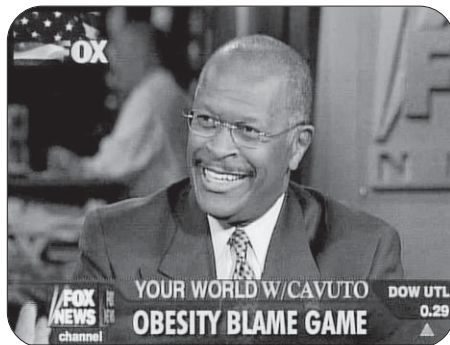
Documenting, Exposing and Fighting Media Bias

MRC IN THE NEWS

The experts at the Media Research Center are interviewed almost every day on stories of national importance. 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:



L. Brent Bozell III on Fox's *Fox & Friends*



Herman Cain, National Chairman of the MRC's Free Market Project



L. Brent Bozell III on Fox's *The Big Story with John Gibson*

Television

- FNC, *The Big Story w/John Gibson*, December 28, 31
- CNN, *Crossfire*, December 20
- FNC, *Your World w/Neil Cavuto*, December 16
- Canadian Broadcasting Company, December 15
- FNC, *Fox & Friends*, December 14, 22
- CNNFN, *Dolans Unscripted*, December 15
- FNC, *Hannity & Colmes*, December 10
- FNC, *Fox News Live*, December 10
- MSNBC, *Countdown*, December 8

Radio

KKLA, Los Angeles – December 30
 The Right Balance – December 23
Janet Parshall's America – December 17
Linda Chavez Show – December 16
 NRA News – December 15
 WMAL – December 10
G. Gordon Liddy Show – December 6

Appearances by MRC Research Director Rich Noyes

Chuck Harder Show – December 21
 WGST, Atlanta – December 21
 KSGF, Springfield – December 20
 KDKA, Pittsburgh – December 20
Jane Silk Show – December 17
 American Family Radio – December 15

WIBC, Indianapolis – December 9, 16
 KMED, Medford, Ore. – December 16
 KLO, Salt Lake City – December 16
 American Family Radio, December 15

Appearances by MRC Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham

KWIX, Moberly, Mo. – December 27
 NRA News – December 8, 10
 WGST, Atlanta – December 7, 14
 WBAP, Dallas – December 10, 17, 31
 NRA News – December 8
 KOGO, San Diego – December 8, 15, 29
 Family News in Focus – December 6

Appearances by Free Market Project Director Dan Gainor

KLO, Salt Lake City – December 24, 30
Right Balance w/Greg Allen – December 20
Battleline w/Alan Nathan – December 15
 KONP, Port Angeles – December 14
 WCHS, Charleston – December 10
Chuck Harder Show – December 10
Live w/Mike McConnell – December 6

Print

Columbia Journalism Review – January 2005
New York Post – December 31
Rocky Mountain News – December 24
The Washington Times – December 15, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24
Human Events – December 16, 20
Pittsburgh Tribune Review – December 6, 13, 20, 27 – January 3

Ventura County Star – December 19
Los Angeles Times – December 17
Hartford Courant – December 16
New York Times – December 15, 17
Asahi Shimbun – December 15
 Agence France Press – December 10
Chicago Tribune – December 10
Seattle Times – December 10
Detroit Free Press – December 10
Washington Post – December 9
Investor's Business Daily – December 9

Internet

Dissident Voice.org – December 24
 The Ledger.com – December 22
 Media Matters.org – December 21
 FrontPageMagazine.com – December 13
 World Net Daily – December 9
 Rush Limbaugh.com – December 6
 Fox News.com – December 3
 National Review.com – December 2
 RushLimbaugh.com – December 1
 ChronWatch – December 2, 19
 Agape Press – December 17, 23
 Family News in Focus – December 6, 7, 15
 Toronto Free Press.com – December 9, 15
 News Max.com – November 27, 28
 Human Events Online – November 24
 Sierra News.com – December 10

This represents only a partial listing for all media coverage of MRC material or research.

Reed Irvine, R.I.P.

By L. Brent Bozell III

Reed Irvine, the founder and central figure of Accuracy in Media, the first conservative media watchdog group, died on November 16 at the age of 82. For inventing the field of professional conservative media criticism — to fight not just the liberal bias within the media but also its attendant arrogance — the entire conservative movement, and American journalism in general, owe him a debt of gratitude.

Reed Irvine was a pioneer. His courageous example showed that the American news consumer was just as intelligent and qualified to judge the coverage of news as those hired to report it.

When he started in 1969, the time for media watchdogs was ripe. That November, Vice President Spiro Agnew had delivered his famous speech in Des Moines decrying “a small group of men” at the networks settling on the 20 minutes of film and commentary the American people would see, with the result that “a narrow and distorted picture of America often emerges from the television news.”

For the next 35 years, Irvine’s Accuracy in Media organization would document, relentlessly, that truth.

Reed Irvine was the pit bull of modern conservatism, dogged in his pursuit to correct the historical record if distorted by the press. His most important battleground was their skewed and long-lasting take on the subject of Soviet communism, right down to the last day of the USSR, and even beyond.

All this is part of the public record about Reed Irvine. But what is less known, and deserves underscoring, is that he was also one of the most selfless warriors in the modern conservative movement.

As the head of another organization critiquing the media, oftentimes

I’ve been asked if there wasn’t some form of competition between our organizations, “competition” being a euphemism for the contentious relations between those vying for finite funding dollars. That question required me always to recount a story.

The day the Media Research Center opened its doors, one of the very first calls I received came from Reed Irvine. He first welcomed me to the battle, then shocked me by offering me the use of his donor file to help the MRC get off the ground, a gesture I eagerly accepted.

If Reed Irvine were the calculating sort, the intent would have been to buy my everlasting appreciation. But Reed didn’t have a Machiavellian bone in his body, and didn’t need one to achieve the same result.



Reed Irvine was the pit bull of modern conservatism, dogged in his pursuit to correct the historical record if distorted by the press.



President

L. Brent Bozell III

Executive Director

Douglas Mills

Exec. Assist. to the President

Darlene Nelson

Assist. to the President

Danette Williams

Assist. to the Executive Director and Youth Education & Intern Program Coordinator

Anne Ellerbrock

Director of Financial Oprrtns.

Cheryl Michener

Development

Director of Development

Thom Golab

Director of Foundations

Heather Madden

Assistant Finance Director

Lawrence Gourlay

Development Associate

David Bozell

Development Assistant

Katie Malone

Receptionist / Development Asst.

Courtney Cunningham

Marketing

Director of Marketing

Michelle O'Halloran

Circulation Manager

Jennifer Bookwalter

Information Systems

Director of Info. Systems

Eric Pairel

Webmaster/Systems Admin.

Mez Djouadi

News Analysis Division

V.P. of Research & Publications

Brent Baker

Director of Media Analysis

Tim Graham

Director of Research

Rich Noyes

Director of Communications

Michael Chapman

News Media Analysts

Geoff Dickens, Jessica Anderson

Brian Boyd, Brad Wilmouth,

Ken Shepherd, Megan McCormack

Research Associate

Kristina Sewell

Free Market Project

Director

Dan Gainor

Research Assistant

Charles Simpson, IV

TimesWatch.org

Director

Clay Waters



CNSNews.com

Executive Editor

Scott Hogenson

Managing Editor

David Thibault

Deputy Managing Editor

Melanie Hunter

Morning Editor

Susan Jones

Foreign Editor

Patrick Goodenough

Investigative Reporters

Marc Morano

Webmaster

Eric Pairel

Jerusalem Bureau

Julie Stahl

Interns

Nathan Burchfiel and

Kathleen Rhodes

FLASH

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

Media Research Center
325 S. Patrick Street
Alexandria, VA
22314-3580

Telephone:
(703) 683-9733

Toll free:
(800) 672-1423

Fax:
(703) 683-9736

www.MRC.org