

FLASH NEWS

www.MediaResearch.org

The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

Liberal Media Peddle Lies

Dear Friend,

It's a new year, and the liberal media are up to some new, and lowdown, tricks. The new tack often involves not just outright liberal bias but the promotion, or enabling, of outright falsehoods and lies. This was clearly evident in the Katrina disaster relief coverage, in which the federal government and the President himself, without a shred of evidence, were accused of racism by the radical left – and the “news” media enabled it.

The networks, the liberal media giants, ran with that reckless charge. They allowed just about anyone with a grievance to yell “racism,” and they rarely, if ever, challenged them on it. This pattern of enabling lies to be repeatedly broadcast unchallenged is rampant.

And it is another battle the MRC is waging: to get the media to tell the truth! The MRC's “Tell the Truth!” campaign is an ongoing, multi-year effort to counter the salacious actions of the media elites.

As the Katrina-racism allegations flew across the airwaves (and across the front pages), Aaron Brown, the now-former host of CNN's *News Night*, pushed the envelope. He prodded guests on his program to agree that the hurricane relief effort was slow and inefficient because, somehow, white people in Washington, D.C. wanted black people in New Orleans to suffer as much as possible

or, better, die. And we called him on it, through the MRC Web site and our *NewsBusters* Web log (blog). Brown responded by inviting me on his show.

He stressed to me that he was only asking a question, not race-baiting. He had asked Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, for instance, the following: “Do you think black America is sitting there thinking, ‘If these were middle-class white people [suffering from Katrina], there'd be cruise ships in New Orleans, not the Superdome’?”

But Brown had implied racism, and he had no facts, no evidence to support his insinuation, because there was no evidence of racism. And that's

why I chastised him on the air. For therein is the lie, the falsehood that spreads. Brown threw the reckless charge out there, knowing that if you throw something enough times, it will eventually stick. And that is how the liberal media enable lies to be presented to millions of Americans as supposed truth.

There are other examples. Louis Farrakhan went on national TV and proclaimed that the New Orleans levees probably had been bombed; it was a plot to kill blacks. Did the media elites challenge Farrakhan for evidence to back up his

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On CNN's *News Night*, Aaron Brown repeatedly implied that the Katrina relief effort was inefficient because of racism, a false charge also peddled by other major media without any evidence to back it up.

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Don't Let the Feds Tax Your Estate



America's Media Watchdog

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preposterous claim? Did they – here’s a whopper of an idea – denounce him for telling lies? Hardly. Most of the top media ran with Farrakhan’s claim, and it was repeated and re-broadcast over and over.

Jesse Jackson said that when he looked inside the New Orleans Superdome it reminded him of pictures of a “slave ship.” Did the liberal elites challenge him on that? No. Only one reporter from the Fox News Channel confronted Jackson; the other media just ran with the “slave ship” analogy.

On the Iraq war, countless stories have been broadcast quoting people saying that President Bush “lied” about Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and national security intelligence. NBC News’ Andrea Mitchell, for instance, went on MSNBC’s *Hardball* and proclaimed “it’s true” that members of Congress “were lied to, misled, however you want to characterize it,” on WMD and pre-war intelligence. CBS’s Bob Schieffer, among other media-heads, has repeatedly reported that the NSA eavesdropping is illegal. Yet this action has never been declared illegal by any court. Schieffer is peddling a falsehood.

Keith Olbermann, host of MSNBC’s *Countdown*, said – in the form of a question — that President Bush and other Administration officials “inescapably . . . lied in some way” about the Valerie Plame/CIA leak case. Olbermann also repeatedly has claimed that the White House uses the nation’s terror alert system to divert attention away from negative news about the Bush Administration. Olbermann presents no evidence, no facts. He just says it, or gets someone to say it on his show.

Lately, CNN’s Jack Cafferty has taken to promoting the terror alert-conspiracy. He also has claimed that the January Osama bin Laden tape was released through an Administration

conspiracy to divert attention from congressional hearings on NSA eavesdropping. Does Cafferty have evidence of that? Of course not. He just repeats it. The lie is out there.

In the Senate hearings on Judge Sam Alito, Sen. Ted Kennedy read a parody about race and gender from the Princeton college group to which Alito once belonged. The article, a spoof, was not challenged by the top media. It was presented as factual and sincere. Kennedy ran with it, as did the liberal media – and it was all designed to smear Alito as a racist. To date, few of the top media have corrected the record on this issue. The lie is out there.

Now imagine if a conservative had done this to a liberal. Would the media elites pounce? Well, ask Pat Robertson. When he suggested that God gave Ariel Sharon a stroke as punishment for removing Jews from some settlements, the media blasted

Robertson and held him up for ridicule. His face and comments were on every network and top cable news show, as well as in the newspapers.

The double standard is obvious and appalling. When the Left lies or makes outrageous claims, the media elite let it ride. When the Right does the same, the media attack. But false claims, disinformation, slurs, should not be tolerated. This is why the MRC does what it does – to expose and neutralize liberal media bias, and also expose and neutralize the lies. Stay tuned in 2006. It’s getting uglier in this election year. But the MRC, America’s media watchdog, is on the prowl.

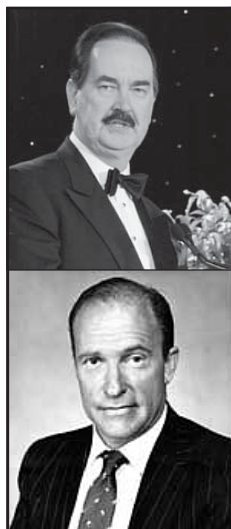
Until next time,



L. Brent Bozell
Founder and President



On several broadcasts, CBS Evening News anchor Bob Schieffer declared that President Bush’s NSA eavesdropping was “illegal,” a false claim – no court has ruled on the issue.



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

The MRC’s Annual Gala featuring the DisHonors and A Tribute to the American Soldier

“The Most Humorous Night in Washington”

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Notable Quotables



The Best of Notable Quotables 2005

The Best of Notable Quotables 2005: The 18th Annual Awards for the Year's Worst Reporting was chosen by a panel of 52 radio talk show hosts, magazine editors, columnists, editorial writers and media observers. The judges chose winners and runners-up in 15 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 some other winners. For the entire *Best of NQ 2005*, visit the MRC homepage (www.MRC.org) and click on "Notable Quotables."

QUOTE OF THE YEAR

Reporter Brian Ross: "Mary Mapes was the woman behind the scenes, the producer who researched, wrote and put together Dan Rather's *60 Minutes* report on President Bush's National Guard service, a report which Rather and CBS would later apologize for airing...."

Ross to Mapes: "Do you still think that story was true?"

Ex-CBS producer Mary Mapes: "The story? Absolutely."

Ross: "This seems remarkable to me that you would sit here now and say you still find that story to be up to your standards."

Mapes: "I'm perfectly willing to believe those documents are forgeries if there's proof that I haven't seen."

Ross: "But isn't it the other way around? Don't you have to prove they're authentic?"

Mapes: "Well, I think that's what critics of the story would say. I know more now than I did then and I think, I think they have not been proved to be false, yet."

Ross: "Have they proved to be authentic though? Isn't that really what journalists do?"

Mapes: "No, I don't think that's the standard."

— **ABC's *Good Morning America*, November 9.**



Ex-CBS producer Mary Mapes

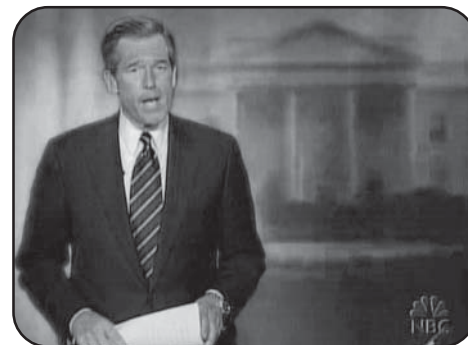
SLAM UNCLE SAM AWARD

Andrea Mitchell: "It is an iconic picture: American hostages, hands bound and blindfolded, being paraded outside the U.S. embassy in Tehran by their captors. But has one of those student radicals now become Iran's newly elected President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?...Tonight, U.S. intelligence officials say that they will continue to study this, but may never have definitive proof of what the role was of Iran's new president, Brian."

Brian Williams: "Andrea, what would it all matter if proven true? Someone brought up today the first several U.S. Presidents were certainly revolutionaries and might have been called terrorists at the time by the British Crown, after all."

Mitchell: "Indeed, Brian."

— **NBC *Nightly News*, June 30.**



NBC's Brian Williams

MEDIA HERO AWARD

"I see her [Hillary Clinton] in — she's very consistent [in] what she's always believed. She's always had strong religious faith. She's been a strong Methodist. She does have conservative social values on many issues."

— **U.S. News & World Report Editor-at-Large David Gergen, on CNN's *Anderson Cooper 360*, February 9.**



USN&WP's David Gergen

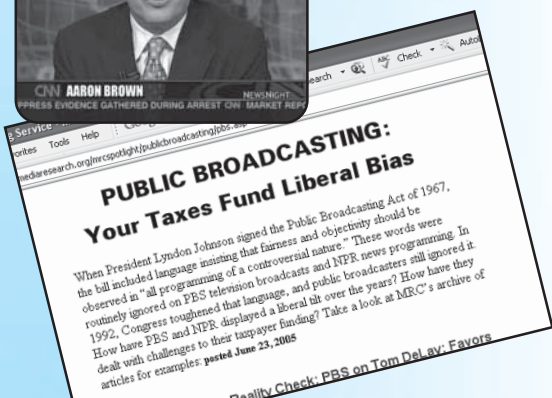
2005 A Bad Year for Liberal Media...



The year 2005 was not good for the liberal media. NBC's Tom Brokaw resigned. CNN's Aaron Brown was sacked. CBS's Dan Rather was forced into early retirement (and some of his coworkers were fired). Daily circulation at all the top newspapers, except one, declined. No one listened to Air America. And Hollywood's activist films didn't do too well either.

The liberal media still dominate America – more than 40 million Americans get their news every day from ABC, CBS and NBC – but their numbers continue to drop, as does their credibility, according to every survey done on this. At the MRC, on the other hand, 2005 was a great year. We advanced in our mission to expose and neutralize liberal media bias, and we helped till new ground for new, alternative media to flourish.

Last spring, for instance, Congress proposed to cut some of PBS's funding. The liberal media, led by the *New York Times*, went ballistic. They repeatedly claimed that there was no liberal bias on PBS and that conservatives wanted to kill Big Bird. To counter that propaganda, the MRC's Tim Graham compiled a Special Report, *Public Broadcasting: Your Taxes Fund Liberal Bias*, which documents numerous examples of liberal bias from various PBS shows. The report is available online; see www.MRC.org, "Special Report." While PBS's funding was not ultimately cut, the issue of liberal bias at PBS became national news and more Americans learned about the topic.



Around that same time of year, the MRC held its *Annual Gala and DisHonors Awards*, where the year's most biased reporting was "honored," so to speak. Nearly 1,000 conservative leaders, many of them financial supporters of the MRC, attended the event in Washington, D.C. Columnist Cal Thomas emceed, while MRC friends Sean Hannity, Ann Coulter, Midge Decter, Neal Boortz, Janet Parshall, and Zell Miller, among others, helped hand out and accept the "awards." In a serious vein, Vietnam veteran John O'Neill accepted the "Conservative of the Year Award" on behalf of the Swift Boat Vets and POWs for Truth.



As summer kicked in, the Free Market Project — the MRC division that monitors media bias against the free enterprise system – redesigned its Web site and launched a weekly newsletter, *The Balance Sheet*. National Chairman Herman Cain took FMP's message to national audiences in several TV appearances while FMP Director Dan Gainor saw his op-eds published in many newspapers, including the *Washington Times*, *San Diego Union Tribune* and *Investor's Business Daily*.



Also last year, MRC supporter Boone Pickens offered a \$1.5 million "challenge" grant over three years to help fund the FMP. The first \$500,000 has been matched and it partially funds the new Boone Pickens Free Market Fellow position. Other donors are stepping up to help match the remaining "challenge."

In August, the MRC launched NewsBusters.org. This is a Web log, also called a "blog." Examples of liberal media bias are posted by MRC experts and some outside analysts. Readers can then comment on the posts and add Web links and other items to the blog in an ongoing dialog about the issue under discussion.



NewsBusters is proving to be enormously popular and successful. Rush Limbaugh was one of the very first people to register and he cites the blog frequently on his radio show, which reaches an average 3.3. million people. *The Drudge Report* also has linked to *NewsBusters*' items, driving thousands of readers to the site and to the MRC. In addition, even CBS News has commented on several *NewsBusters* posts.

NewsBusters is a new medium that is in many ways still evolving. It helps to get the MRC message to new markets and especially to the many younger

A Great Year for the MRC!

conservatives who populate the “blogosphere.” At the same time, it introduces those people to the MRC and to the variety of products and services the MRC provides.

In the fall, MRC Research Director Rich Noyes completed his landmark Special Report, *TV’s Bad News Brigade: ABC, CBS and NBC’s Defeatist Coverage of the War in Iraq*. This report documented the overwhelmingly negative and increasingly pessimistic coverage of the Iraq war by the three networks. The report received much media attention, with praise, for instance, from Fred Barnes and an article in *The Weekly Standard*. Even liberal Juan Williams, with NPR, also praised the solid research in the report during a roundtable discussion on the Fox News Channel.

Also in the fall, MRC President Brent Bozell interviewed Mary Mapes, the former *60 Minutes* producer fired over the George Bush-National Guard memo scandal, on C-SPAN’s *Book TV* program, *After Words*. In the interview, Mapes criticized the influence of new media, such as bloggers and conservative talk radio. She also incredulously claimed that, unless proven otherwise, she believes the National Guard memos are indeed real, not forgeries.

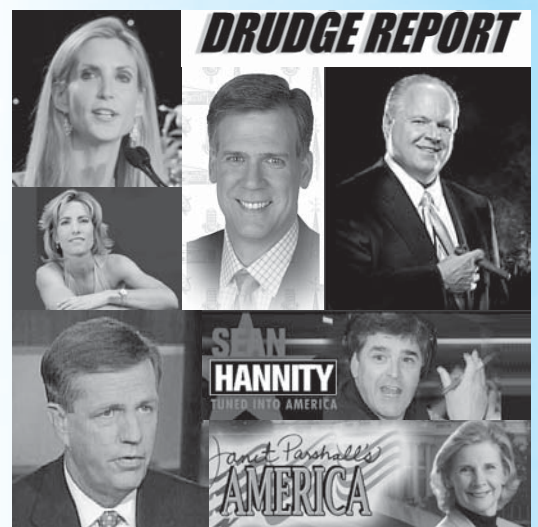
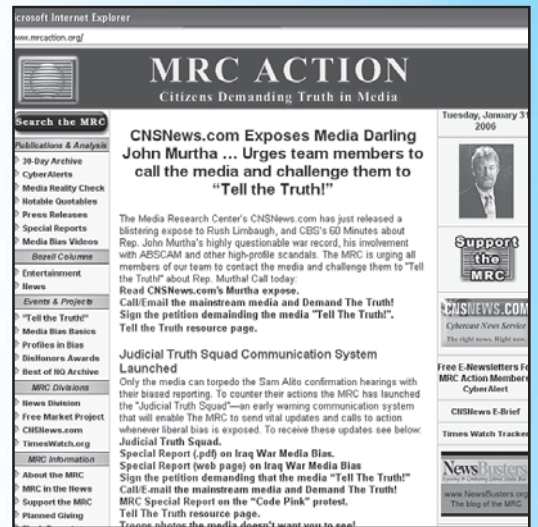
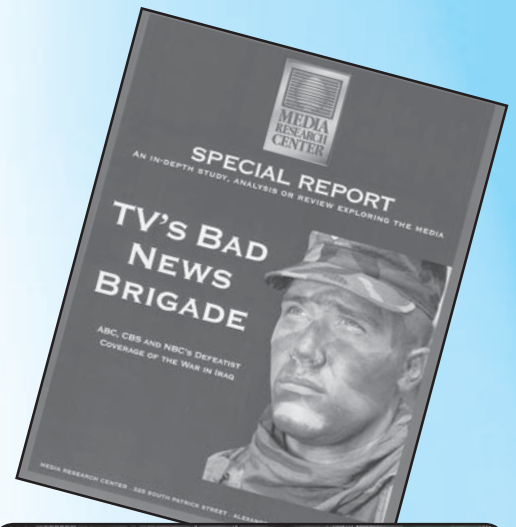
In its most aggressive effort yet to mobilize conservatives about liberal media bias and bring in more financial supporters, the MRC entered into a strategic partnership with Grassfire.net in mid-summer. Grassfire has 1.7 million conservative activist members nationwide. The MRC’s goal for 2005 was to get at least 100,000 people to sign-on as MRC Action members: people who take action against liberal media bias at the grassroots and who express an interest in learning more about the MRC and receiving MRC products. It worked – and it’s still working.

By December’s end, more than 2 million MRC Action e-mails were distributed. When you consider the pass-along rate to family and friends (the “grassfire effect”), the total audience reach is well above 10 million Americans. Each group of e-mails was tailored to a specific example of media bias, such as related to the Iraq war or Judge Samuel Alito. On the Iraq war coverage alone, more than 65,000 people responded to our call to action. They phoned the networks. They signed online petitions to the media. They wrote letters and they e-mailed, each time identifying themselves as MRCAction team members. As of late January 2006, 115,452 conservative activists had officially become members or were in the process of becoming MRCAction Team members.

In conjunction with Grassfire, the MRC continued its “Tell the Truth!” campaign in 2005. This \$3.1 million project is designed to spread the MRC message, through its myriad products, to as many Americans as possible. Nearly every opportunity to promote (and further promote) MRC’s *CyberAlerts*, *Notable Quotables*, *Media Reality Checks*, Special Reports, the products from FMP and the Cybercast News Service was exploited. And it paid off. “Tell the Truth!” 2005 got off the ground in July, and from August through December the campaign reached 50 million Americans on average each week.

Overall, the MRC’s impact in 2005 was phenomenal. MRC experts were cited or interviewed in 667 newspapers, including *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Times*. MRC experts were interviewed or cited on nearly 1,000 radio shows, local and nationally syndicated, including multiple times on the *Rush Limbaugh Show*, Sean Hannity’s *Tuned Into America* and the *Laura Ingraham Show*. MRC experts also made numerous appearances on TV, including programs such as *Hannity & Colmes*, the *O’Reilly Factor*, *NBC Today* and *Meet the Press*. In all, MRC experts were cited more than 1,500 times in about 750 different media outlets in 2005.

Not bad for an outfit that started in 1987 with one TV and one VCR. Thanks to our donors, we’ve come a long way, and the liberal media are feeling the heat from America’s media watchdog, the MRC.



By David Thibault
CNSNews.com Editor-in-Chief



CNSNews.com Scoops and Enrages the Liberal Media on Murtha

Every successful organization has moments or incidents that they can cite as crucial to their development or progress. In the case of Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com), the New Year delivered perhaps the most important development in the organization's seven-and-a-half year history. Curiously, we need to thank the establishment media, which is always hostile to our efforts, for that development.

In publishing a two-part exposé on the political and military record of anti-war zealot U.S. Rep. John Murtha on Jan. 13, we not only informed our hundreds of thousands of readers about important elements in Murtha's past, we triggered a tsunami of liberal elite media outrage.

The Cybercast News Service investigation by Marc Morano and Randy Hall revealed that three different accounts have been given over the years for the injuries that earned Murtha his two Purple Hearts in the late 1960s. The first described lacerations to his right cheek and above his left eye. The second explained that the injuries earning Murtha the Purple Hearts were to an arm and a knee. Yet a third account described injuries to an ankle.

One of Murtha's former Democratic congressional colleagues from Pennsylvania told Cybercast News Service that Murtha admitted to him on the House floor that he, Murtha, did not deserve his Purple Hearts. The same colleague, Don Bailey, also recounted how, as a member of the House Ethics Committee, he had been instrumental in convincing the panel not to charge Murtha with ethics violations stemming from Murtha's role in the Abscam scandal of 1980-1981.

Although given ample opportunity to defend his record and the allegations made in the Cybercast News Service articles, Murtha issued a two-paragraph response, concluding with the statement, "My record is clear." He refused to answer any specific questions that Morano and Hall were ready to pose.

We had become accustomed to the media elite dismissing our breakthrough investigative journalism in the past as "Internet reports." However, following publication of the Murtha articles, there was nothing vague about the target of the liberal attack.

Washington Post media critic Howard Kurtz was first to spread details of our investigation on Murtha, and to his credit, Kurtz did a fair job. But in the ensuing days, E. J. Dionne of the *Post*, Helen Thomas of Hearst Newspapers, Keith Olberman of MSNBC, Dotty Lynch of CBS News and Frank Rich of the *New York Times* blasted CNSNews.com for the articles.

They couldn't point to deficiencies or erroneous material in the articles. They just hated the fact that we had dared to tell the truth about a man they had foisted up on a pedestal and labeled a war hero beyond reproach. Instead of recognizing our work as legitimate journalism, they concocted all kinds of conspiracy-fueled theories about how the idea for the articles originated.

As one by one these and other media titans took their best shots at CNSNews.com, they could not admit the simple truth that an Internet news organization with a full-time staff of 12 had scooped them and their organizations armed with thousands of employees.

But as they say in show business, any publicity is good publicity. So, here is where I have to thank E. J. Dionne, *et al*, for generating a buzz far greater than we could have created on our own, and for delivering a huge boost in our readership.

The articles themselves are a prototype of how we conduct our business at CNSNews.com. We have no favorites. But we are not afraid to ask tough questions

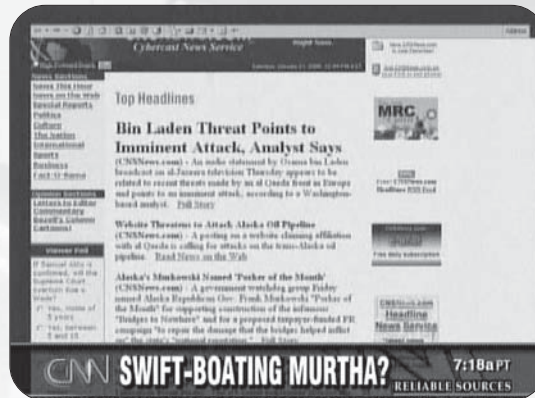
of individuals or groups that the establishment media have deemed off-limits. We substantiate, corroborate and document to the extent possible, our investigative news articles.

We do not accept suspicious documents from individuals with an axe to grind and then publish them without authentication, as CBS News' *60 Minutes* did in 2004 in its attempt to derail the re-election of President Bush. That scandal resulted in the firings or forced resignations of four people.

We do not fabricate quotes, interviews and entire articles, as Jayson Blair famously did at the *New York Times* a few years ago in a scandal that ended up costing the newspaper's top two editors their jobs because of their lack of due diligence.

Instead, we practice old-fashioned, hard-boiled Journalism 101. We're a small group of dedicated individuals, who see the media elite for what they are – lazy, partisan members of a club, to which they jealously limit membership. If you have an independent or original thought in your head, you can't belong to the media elite. You must march lock-step with the others or you can't march at all.

Their reaction to our coverage of Murtha's record was remarkable, but predictable, as Dionne, Thomas, Olberman, Lynch and Rich acted like a pack of lemmings. They're not happy with CNSNews.com right about now. But they better get used to the aggravation, because we're here to stay.



CNSNews.com's story on Congressman John Murtha's war record and medals enraged liberal commentators and led to a discussion of the topic on CNN's *Reliable Sources*.



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, 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

- ☛ CNN, *Reliable Sources*, Jan. 22
- ☛ FNC, *Hannity & Colmes*, Dec. 19, Jan. 17
- ☛ FNC, *Fox & Friends*, Dec. 19
- ☛ CBN, Dec. 19

RADIO

- Michael Reagan Show, Jan. 18
- Janet Parshall's America, Dec. 27, 29
- American Family Radio, Jan. 17
- Right Balance, Jan. 3, 18
- Dateline, Jan. 16
- Righttalk Radio Network, Jan. 12
- John Batchelor Show, Dec. 30
- NRA News, Jan. 20
- MI Talk Radio Network, Dec. 28
- WMAL, Mark Levine Show, Jan. 20
- WCHS, Charlestown, Jan. 18
- KPDQ, Portland, Jan. 19
- WAMT, Orlando, Jan. 17, 25
- WIBA, Madison, Dec. 26, Jan. 13, 20
- WGIR, Manchester, Jan. 20
- KTSA, San Antonio, Jan. 17, 20
- KDKA, Pittsburgh, Jan. 16, 19, 20
- WMET, Washington, Jan. 16, 17, 20
- KOGO, San Diego, Jan. 11, 18
- WNRI, Jan. 20
- KCBI, Dallas, Jan. 25
- KWIX, Columbia, Jan. 24
- WIBC, Indianapolis, Jan. 19
- WDRG, Bloomfield, Jan. 19
- WCNM, WTME, WKTQ, WOXO, WTBM (Maine Syndicate), Jan. 19
- WHO, Des Moines, Jan. 18
- WLW, Cincinnati, Jan. 18
- KSTE, Sacramento, Jan. 13
- KGAB, Cheyenne, Jan. 19
- WHAS, Louisville, Jan. 12
- WERC, Birmingham, Dec. 29
- KSFO, San Francisco, Dec. 30
- WBAL, Baltimore, Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 14
- KCOL, Colorado Springs, Dec. 28

PRINT

- New York Post*, Dec. 31
- The Weekly Standard*, Dec. 26
- Washington Post*, Jan. 18
- New York Times*, Jan. 22
- Chronicle of Philanthropy*, Dec. 8
- Washington Times*, Dec. 23, 29, Jan. 1, 13, 14, 17, 19
- Investor's Business Daily*, Jan. 13
- South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, Jan. 20
- Hearst Newspapers*, Jan. 20
- Charlotte Observer*, Jan. 19
- Rocky Mountain News*, Dec. 30, Jan. 12, 14
- Seattle News*, Jan. 14
- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, Dec. 25, Jan. 8, 16
- San Jose Mercury News*, Jan. 14
- High Point Enterprise*, Jan. 5
- China Daily*, Jan. 13
- American Spectator*, Jan. 12
- New York Sun*, Jan. 12
- Chattanooga Times Free Press*, Jan. 10
- Tulsa World*, Jan. 5
- Assyrian Intl. News Agency, Jan. 6
- St. Petersburg Times*, Jan. 2
- St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Jan. 6
- Philadelphia Inquirer*, Dec. 25
- Contra Costa Times*, Dec. 23
- Miami Herald*, Dec. 23
- Arkansas News Bureau*, Dec. 28

INTERNET

- Town Hall, Dec. 30, Jan. 11, 14, 20
- CNN.com, Jan. 19
- CBSNews.com, Jan. 18
- CNSNews.com, Dec. 28, Jan. 17
- Human Events Online, Dec. 28, Jan. 5, 6, 11
- NewsMax.com, Jan. 5
- WorldNetDaily, Dec. 29
- AZ Central.com, Jan. 14
- Washington Post.com, Jan. 18
- Media Blog (NRO), Jan. 13
- TV Technology, Jan. 13
- Get Religion blog, Jan. 20



MRC President Brent Bozell discussed the NYT's use of a staged photograph of a bomb in Iraq with Sean Hannity on Fox's *Hannity & Colmes*.



On CNN's *Reliable Sources*, Marc Morano, an investigative reporter with CNSNews.com, explained how the liberal media glossed over Congressman John Murtha's war record and medals to buttress their anti-war agenda.

- One Republic.com, Jan. 3
- Blogger News Network, Dec. 28
- RedState.org, Dec. 28
- Free Market News Network, Jan. 15
- The Christian Century, Jan. 16
- Democratic Underground, Jan. 16
- Consortium News.com, Jan. 16
- News Corpse blog, Jan. 3
- BuzzFlash, Jan. 13
- Political Cortex, Jan. 23
- Media Matters, Jan. 7, 21
- News Hounds, Jan. 21
- ChronWatch, Dec. 28, Jan. 19
- HomeTownChannel.com, Jan. 18
- American Politics, Journal, Jan. 15
- OhMyNews, Jan. 10
- National Ledger, Dec. 28, Jan. 11
- Los Angeles City Beat, Jan. 5
- Agape Press, Dec. 29
- FrontPageMagazine.com, Dec. 30, Jan. 3
- Omega Letter, Dec. 30

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