

The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

The Liberal Media's Double Standard

Dear Member,

Leftwing columnists and politicians, like Al Gore, have recently been complaining about a nasty "conservative" bias in the media. Yes, the media are unfair, partisan and mean-spirited. They're also liberal to the core.

Nothing quite proves this point like the contrasting coverage of liberal and conservative politicians. And no example better illustrates it than the coverage of recent comments by Senators Trent Lott and Patty Murray.

We have all heard about Lott. He ignited a firestorm in early December with his comments about Strom Thurmond and his 1948 Presidential campaign. Lott's speech was made at Thurmond's 100th birthday party, was full of the hyperbole politicians love and it was never intended to be taken as a policy pronouncement. All the same, it was a stupid thing to say and Lott's defense – if you can call it a defense – was indefensible.

But the media's coverage was truly disgusting. Rather than treat the misstep as one man's shortcoming – exactly as journalists did when Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd used the "N" word on Fox News in 2001 – liberal journalists saw the opportunity and pounced. They treated Lott's statement as the smoking gun that linked conservatives to racism.

"The modern GOP is built on a legacy of racism," *Newsweek* columnist Eleanor Clift

screamed in an MSNBC.com piece on December 13. "Richard Nixon's 'Southern Strategy' set the poisonous tone, and Republican candidates continue to exploit racial fears for political gain."

NBC's David Gregory repeated the claim on his network. "Since the days of Nixon, it's been known as the 'Southern Strategy,' an appeal to frustrated Southern whites opposed to civil rights gains," the correspondent chirped on December 23. "That strategy, perceived by some to be subtly racist, has been a big reason why the GOP enjoys a political lock on the South."

No evidence was required to prove that Republican gains were tied to racist campaigning, of course. Innuendo and opinion work just fine for the liberal media.

"Former President Bill Clinton acidly, but not inaccurately, observed that Lott had just made the mistake of saying what too many Republicans still

feel," *Newsweek* liberals Evan Thomas and Clift wrote in a tag-team article in the magazine's December 30 issue. The feeling extended all the way to the White House, according to these two judgmental journalists. "Like his father before him, George W. Bush stooped to win the GOP nomination by appealing to the Southern redneck vote in 2000 (by, for instance, declining to stand against state capitols' flying the Confederate flag.)," they wrote.

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The contrasting coverage of Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) proved once again that the media have different rules for conservatives and liberals.



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Why The

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"...please try to realize that when you see news coverage [of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba] much of the time you're not getting the whole story, but an account filtered through a liberal mindset with an agenda...It's a shame that we can't have an unbiased media who would just report the truth and let us make up our own minds..."

~ **Charlie Daniels**

Continued from page 1

How wonderful to be a journalist at *Newsweek*, where it's perfectly acceptable to make unjust accusations against an entire party (if it's the GOP) and an entire group of people can be categorized and insulted with impunity (if they're conservatives).

As I pointed out in my nationally syndicated column on this topic, liberals and Democrats never have to worry about this sort of treatment. They get a complete pass on controversial racial remarks – the lack of media outrage over Sen. Byrd's KKK past is proof – and, regardless of the issue, comments by liberals and Democrats are never used to stereotype or brand either the party or the movement.

The comments of Murray, the Democratic Senator from Washington state, provides the latest proof of this double standard. Murray spoke to students at a Vancouver, Wash. high school on December 18 and spat out this unbelievable tripe about Osama bin Laden.

If you don't know what I'm talking about, it's because the liberal press has refused to report it. What did she say?

"[Osama bin Laden] has been in many countries that are riddled with poverty... He's been out in these countries for decades building roads, building schools, building infrastructure, building day care facilities, building health care facilities, and the people are extremely grateful," Murray claimed.

Murray also compared America to the murderer and found the U.S. wanting. "We haven't been out in many of these countries helping them build infrastructure," she said.

Where were all those national media outlets that used the Lott comment to attack all conservatives? If the same standard were applied to liberals, one would think the magazines and news programs would have been full of stories claiming Democrats were unpatriotic, hateful "blame America first" types.

But ABC, CBS, and NBC reported nothing on Murray's remarks. Nothing. Nor was there anything in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, or *USA Today*. They could devote their covers and countless pages to Trent Lott, but *Time* and *Newsweek* had no room anywhere for a story on the

Murray gaffe? The same goes for *U.S. News and World Report*.

Internet sites, Rush Limbaugh, the *Washington Times* and Fox News picked up the Murray story as expected. The only mainstream media outlet that even noticed or commented was the *Washington Post*, which ran a short piece and an editorial on it. The long and short of the coverage was simple, a politician made up facts and praised America's worst enemy but because she's a liberal, the media yawned and ignored it.

The unfair treatment of conservatives is why we exist and why you support us. We are increasingly making headway in the long and constant struggle against liberal bias and I want to thank you for your consistent support.

It is simply not possible without you.

Until next month,

L. Brent Bozell III



MRC Cited by Limbaugh and Ingraham

An MRC item about *CBS Evening News*' use of a Democratic CPA as an "objective" source on the Bush tax cuts got nationwide play from Rush Limbaugh in early January.

A January 6 CBS News story by Byron Pitts featured CPA Avery Neumark pounding away on an adding machine and delivering an almost perfect, anti-tax cut soundbite: "If you want to summarize this tax proposal as we see it today, the winners are the wealthy." Neumark, as a check of the campaign contribution website OpenSecrets.org revealed, has given money to both the Democratic National Committee and liberal Democratic Congressman Jerrold Nadler of New York.

On January 9, Limbaugh told his audience of 14 million listeners about the CBS misstep and credited "our old buddies at the Media Research Center" for the information.

Limbaugh wasn't the only conservative personality to recently cite the work of the MRC. Radio talk show host Laura Ingraham, in a January 4 discussion with liberal *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne on CNN's *Reliable Sources*, suggested to Dionne that "you've got to read MRC's reports" on media bias.

The continuing use of MRC information by such leading conservatives is yet another indication of how we continue to serve as a valuable tool for the entire conservative movement.



Best Notable Quotables A Media Hit

The *Best Notable Quotables of 2002*, the MRC's 15th Annual Awards for the Year's Worst Reporting, was released in late December. Again, it's a hit.

As of the first week of January, several major media outlets had showcased the awards. The *New York Post* dedicated its December 31 editorial "Hoist on Their Own Petard" to this year's edition and stories or columns appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *National Review Online*, *Washington Times*, FNC's *After Hours with Cal Thomas*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *TulsaToday.com*, *World* magazine, Mona Charen dedicated her *TownHall.com* column to the subject, as did several others.

The *Best NQ* is an annual compilation of the worst statements made by supposedly objective journalists over the past year. A panel of 52 judges from around the country selected the "winners." The panel included prominent journalists and commentators such as Kate O'Beirne, Robert Novak, Michael Reagan, William Rusher and Cal Thomas. The "Quote of the Year" came from former Lyndon Johnson aide and current PBS host Bill Moyers, who delivered this angry – and taxpayer funded – diatribe after the Republican victory in November.



PBS's Bill Moyers won the "Quote of the Year" for a hateful, long-winded blast at conservatives.

"The entire federal government – the Congress, the executive, the courts – is united behind a right-wing agenda for which George W. Bush believes he now has a mandate," Moyers claimed. "That agenda includes the power of the state to force pregnant women to surrender control over their own lives. It includes using the taxing power to transfer wealth from working people to the rich. It includes giving corporations a free hand to eviscerate the environment and control the regulatory agencies meant to hold them accountable. And it includes secrecy on a scale you cannot imagine.

Above all, it means judges with a political agenda appointed for life. If you like the Supreme Court that put George W. Bush in the White House, you will swoon over what's coming. And if you like God in government, get ready for the Rapture...."

While Moyers may have had the worst quote, he certainly wasn't alone. The *Best NQ* had 16 categories and 68 quotes. It included comments from media stars like Phil Donahue, who told Tom Brokaw that he was proud the NBC anchor wasn't wearing a flag, and from the often insufferable White House reporter Helen Thomas, who admitted that she often awakens in the morning and asks "who do I hate today?"

Members with Internet access can view the *Best NQ* on the MRC web site at www.mrc.org/notablequotables/bestof/2002/welcome.asp.

Best Notable Quotables of 2002

The 15th Annual Awards for the Year's Worst Reporting

EDITOR'S NOTE: We couldn't fit all 16 categories into this issue, but we wanted to share as many of these outrageous quotes as possible. So here are 10 of this year's "winners." (To read the rest of the winners and some of the nominees, just log onto www.MediaResearch.org)

Media Hero Award

"For Castro, freedom starts with education. And if literacy alone were the yardstick, Cuba would rank as one of the freest nations on Earth. The literacy rate is 96 percent."

— **Barbara Walters** narrating her interview with Fidel Castro on ABC's *20/20*, October 11.



General Phil "Cheap Shot" Donahue Award (for Swipes at the War on Terrorism)

"This is interesting news that we get now, and it may put the President under a lot of heat today as the public learns that he knew, through his daily CIA intelligence briefings, that bin Laden had potential terror attack plans under way....It also calls into question what happened when Andy Card, Andrew Card, the White House chief of staff, that morning went and whisper-ed in the President's ear, as the President was talking to a group of school students in Florida [on September 11, 2001]. Was the President really surprised?"

— **Charles Gibson's** question to White House correspondent Terry Moran on ABC's *Good Morning America*, May 16.



Ashamed of the Red, White & Blue Award

"Let me tell you what is impressive. You're not wearing a flag. Well, I don't want to damn you with my praise, but I say hip-hip-hooray for that..."

— **Phil Donahue** to Tom Brokaw on MSNBC's *Donahue*, July 25.



Blame America First Award

"I think very definitely that foreign policy could have caused what has happened [September 11, 2001]....It certainly should be apparent now – it should be, for goodness sakes understood now, but it is not – that the problem is this great division between the rich and the poor in the world. We represent the rich....Most of these other nations of Africa, Asia and South America and Central America are very, very poor....This is a revolution in effect around the world. A revolution is in place today. We are suffering from a revolution of the poor and have-nots against the rich and haves and that's us."

— **Former CBS Evening News anchor Walter Cronkite** on CNN's *Larry King Live*, September 9.



Barbra Streisand Political IQ Award for Celebrity Pontificating

"I despise him [President George W. Bush]. I despise his administration and everything they stand for....To my mind the election was stolen by George Bush and we have been suffering ever since under this man's leadership... And I think this latest thing with Iraq is absolute madness and I'm stunned that there is not opposition on a much more global scale



to what he's talking about....There has to be a movement now to really oppose what he is proposing because it's unconstitutional, it's immoral and basically illegal....It is an embarrassing time to be an American. It really is. It's humiliating."

— **Actress Jessica Lange** at a September 25 press conference in San Sebastian, Spain. Her remarks were shown in the U.S. on the syndicated show *Inside Edition* on October 4.

Politics of Meaninglessness Award for the Silliest Analysis

"Seven years ago, when the last referendum took place, Saddam Hussein won 99.96 percent of the vote. Of course, it is impossible to say whether that's a true measure of the Iraqi people's feelings."

— **ABC's David Wright**, *World News Tonight*, October 15.



See No Liberal Media Bias Award

"If I were biased, I don't believe I would have gotten the job."

—George Stephanopoulos to *Newsday's* Verne Gay, June 19.



Begala & Carville War Room Award for Bush Bashing

"I mean, let's face it. ExxonMobil – I think this is a real group of bad guys, considering that they have funded all the anti-global-warming propaganda out there in the world. And Bush is just not going to go against guys like that. They are bad, bad guys – because of what they are doing in fighting the science of global warming."

—*New York Times* columnist

Thomas Friedman in an interview in the October 17 *Rolling Stone*.



Mount St. Helen Award for Helen Thomas Eruptions

"I censored myself for 50 years....Now I wake up and ask myself, 'Who do I hate today?'...I have never covered a President who actually wanted to go to war. Bush's policy of pre-emptive war is immoral – such a policy would legitimize Pearl Harbor. It's as if they learned none of the lessons from Vietnam.... Where is the outrage?"

—Helen Thomas, *Hearst Newspapers* columnist and former UPI reporter, speaking at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on November 4 and quoted on MIT's Web site two days later.



Fourth Reich Award (for Portraying John Ashcroft as a Fascist)



"They were leaving trails and clues all over the place – if we'd really been watching and paying attention we could have headed off 9/11. But the German prosecutorial system was pretty laid back and didn't want to be John

Ashcroft, you know, they didn't want to be the SS, they had that worry there, no Gestapos. And so it was a great place for terrorists to operate."

—*Newsweek* Assistant Managing Editor Evan Thomas on the August 31 *Inside Washington*.

Give Appeasement a Chance Award

"The President disclosed that he has been reading *Supreme Command*, a new book by Eliot A. Cohen, a neoconservative hardliner on Iraq....

"In his reading choice, Bush seems to be following the advice of Bill Kristol, the arch-neoconservative who has been using his *Weekly Standard* magazine to chide Bush for being too soft on Saddam Hussein....Kristol, suspected of playing puppeteer to a number of hawkish officials in the Bush Pentagon and National Security Council, appears to have added the marionette-in-chief to his act."

—*Washington Post* reporter Dana Milbank in his "White House Notebook" column, August 20.



Damn Those Conservatives Award

"The [President's Council on Bioethics] will be navigating a scientific and ethical landscape significantly more complex than the one that existed...last summer. In November, researchers announced that they had made the first human embryo clones, giving immediacy to warnings by religious conservatives and others that science is no longer serving the nation's moral will. At the same time, the United States was fighting a war to free a faraway nation from the grip of religious conservatives who were denounced for imposing their moral code on others." —*Washington Post* reporter Rick Weiss in a January 17 "Federal Page" article.

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Subscribe to *Notable Quotables* and receive a FREE video of the Decades Most Outrageous Liberal Media Bias! It's the hilarious video that started it all. Watch as the MRC roasts the most liberal members of the national "news" media. Join the audience in booing Bryant Gumbel as he blamed Rush Limbaugh and other conservatives for the bombing in Oklahoma City, and as columnist Julianne Malveaux says she wished Clarence Thomas would die of heart disease.

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By Scott Hogenson
CNSNews.com Executive Editor



CNSNews.com Radio: Ask For It!

Aside from reporting 'The Right News, Right Now,' one of the prime directives for CNSNews.com has always been to find new ways of expanding our reach to more people across the country and around the world.

Beginning with a single website less than five years ago, CNSNews.com, the Internet newswire of the Media Research Center, greatly expanded its reach last year with our Cybercast Service, a unique process that automatically sends our news to other websites around the world.

This harnessing of the Internet means that every single weekday, hundreds of thousands of people worldwide are able to read CNSNews.com via our Cybercast subscribers.

This month, we further harnessed the power of the World Wide Web by launching our most recent effort to expand our reach with **Cybercast Radio**, a new broadcast service offering radio station news directors an alternative to more liberal radio news services.

Cybercast Radio includes pre-recorded radio news stories and radio news sound bites that broadcasters can use in their local and network radio newscasts.

Before the dawn of the Internet, delivering news stories to radio stations was a costly proposition requiring satellite uplink and downlink facilities, leasing time on orbiting satellites, and intricate electronic routing equipment to get radio news from Point A to Point B.

Today, we utilize a single page at CNSNews.com to deliver broadcast-quality audio to radio stations with the click of a

mouse. From individual radio newsrooms, broadcasters can record news stories from CNSNews.com and re-broadcast them to their local listeners in minutes.

Even though this project is in its infancy, we're already getting a remarkable response from broadcasters around the country expressing their thanks for finally having a source of quality radio news without the liberal bias.

There are more than 12,000 radio stations across the country, and reaching every one of them is no small task. We're doing our best to accomplish this while being frugal with your contributions, but we hope to get some help on this front from a secret weapon: you.

You and the tens of thousands of MRC supporters can help us propel this new effort with something as quick and simple as a phone call or e-mail to your local radio station.

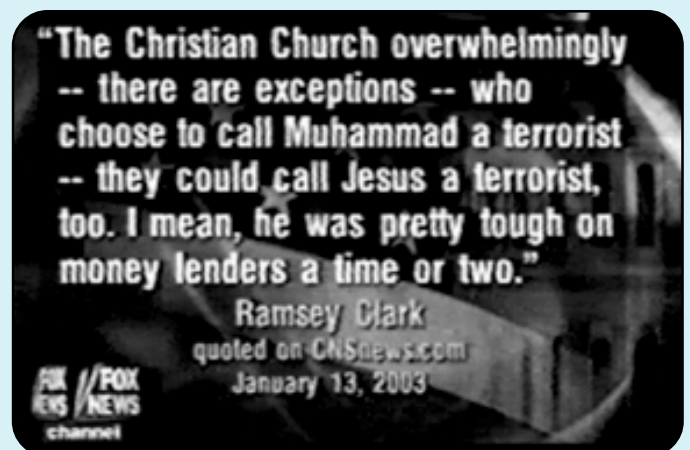
Wherever you live, contact your local radio station by telephone and by e-mail; tell them you listen and tell them you want CNSNews.com on the air.

Just think what you and your fellow MRC supporters could do: tens of thousands of phone calls and e-mails to radio stations around the country, asking for radio news without the liberal bias. Think that would have an impact?

Call it a hunch, but I suspect you are part of a force to be reckoned with. With your help, we can get CNSNews.com on the air coast-to-coast.

CNS.com Exposes Ramsey Clark's Anti-Christian Statements

When radical, America-bashing Ramsey Clark – hard to believe the man was once Attorney General – made a speech at the National Press Club and claimed Muslims could call Jesus Christ a terrorist because "he was pretty tough on money lenders a time or two," the mainstream media ignored it. But CNSNews.com didn't. Staff writer Mike Betsch wrote a story highlighting Clark's insulting comment and it was picked up by both Fox News and the *Wall Street Journal*. The *Journal* even praised CNSNews.com for reporting news that the major media ignored. "Though representatives from a number of major media all heard the remark, the only one to report it was the Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com)," the *Journal* noted in an editorial in its January 17 issue.



Fox News and the *Wall Street Journal* cited the MRC's newswire, CNSNews.com

THE MRC: Always On Their Mind

The Media Research Center is having an impact on the liberal media. We know this because they're saying so.

The latest example took place on the December 14 Fox *NewsWatch* when panelist Jim Pinkerton of *Newsday* claimed a left-wing group had pressured the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* into covering anti-war protests. Former *Los Angeles Times* reporter and current American University professor Jane Hall, a fellow panelist on the show, claimed these groups were not the only ones applying pressure.

"Wait a minute," Hall said. "They [the *Times* and the *Post*] misreported the facts. You don't think the Media Research Center has mau-mau'd people into stuff?" Pinkerton maintained that the *Time* and the *Post* don't respond to MRC criticism. "Oh, baloney," Hall retorted.



Add former *Los Angeles Times* reporter Jane Hall to the list of commentators who say the MRC is successfully countering the liberal media. Thanks, Jane, but we're just doing our job...and there's a lot left to do!

Hall was third prominent liberal media personality to trumpet the MRC's impact. As reported in last month's *FLASH*, *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne and *Time.com* columnist Jack White both credited the MRC with neutralizing liberal bias during the November elections. White claimed the MRC should declare victory over liberal bias, while Dionne claimed the MRC and other conservative organizations have been so successful that the media now have a conservative bias.

While we appreciate the vote of confidence from these liberal journalists, it's clear that there's still much more work to be done. But we are moving the ball, and they do have every reason to be nervous. And sorry, Messrs. White and Dionne, but we're not stopping.

Inside The MRC

Mike Betsch



Mike Betsch is a staff writer at CNSNews.com with the responsibility for tracking down and reporting those stories the mainstream media either underreport or choose to ignore. As part of Mike's work, he conducts a daily review of the web sites of national newspapers, interest groups and political organizations to find news that is of interest to CNSNews.com's worldwide readership. Mike posts the most interesting stories on CNSNews.com's News on the Web site.

A native of Long Island, N.Y., Mike attended Villanova University in Pennsylvania and graduated with a degree in political science. He started his professional career in advertising, working for Young & Rubicam in New York City before migrating to Los Angeles, where he worked for Petry Television. Mike also worked for President Bush's Broward County, Fla. recount team during the 2000 election before coming to the MRC.

Mike enjoys his work at CNSNews.com. "Combating the scourge of liberal media bias by providing conservative leaders and groups with an opportunity to have their voices heard," is especially fulfilling, according to Mike.

Mike was married in November 2002. He and his wife Stacey enjoy spending time with their two dogs, POTUS and Rummy.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

TIM JONES

A Few Things The Media Didn't Tell Us

Here's some shocking news. The liberal media are concerned that President Bush's plan to allow Americans to keep more of their own money is going to "cost" government.

According to a January 8 ABC *World News Tonight* story by correspondent Betsy Stark, the states are facing "their worst fiscal crisis in more than 50 years" and the Bush economic stimulus plan isn't going to help them a bit. "In fact, the centerpiece of the President's plan, the elimination of the tax on stock dividends, could cost the states several billion dollars," Stark said.

The segment mentioned Kentucky, which let 500 prisoners out of jail early in a budget-cutting move, and claimed that several other states are considering doing the same. States, according to an "expert" from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities – it's a liberal budget group Stark didn't bother to label – also suggested that states might have to close health clinics. Cuts alone won't be enough to balance the budgets, Stark added.

As often occurs, it was what wasn't mentioned that was important. What ABC neglected to point out is that states have drastically increased their spending and *that's* why they have budget messes. According to a study from the Cato Institute, a free market think tank, state spending rose 39 percent from 1996 to 2001. If that sounds ridiculous, it is.

Cato also pointed out that the federal government, an entity that's never been known for tight-fisted management, increased its spending by 19 percent during that same five-year period, meaning the states were increasing their budgets more than twice as fast as the feds. Kentucky, where the prisoners were freed, increased its spending by 44 percent during the 90s. California, another state

facing significant budget problems, increased its spending by 32 percent during the decade.

It would have been a much better story if ABC had included a few of these facts, but their agenda was attacking the Bush tax cut proposal, not grilling state officials as to why they had been irresponsible with the public's money.

The state spending story wasn't the only January story where a few facts were left out, however. When Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) announced his presidential candidacy, the media claimed he had all the requirements to be a strong candidate. The youthful looking Edwards has brains, money, political savvy and looks, we're told. And a press corps that refuses to accurately identify him as a liberal.

Time online made Edwards its "Person of the Week" after his announcement and stated he has "built a reputation for moderate political views." Fox News Channel reporter James Rosen also called him a moderate in a January 2 story.

Moderate? The North Carolinian received a 95 rating from the liberal Americans for Democratic Action in 2001 - the same score the group gave Sen. Hillary Clinton. Edwards lifetime rating from the American Conservative Union, meanwhile, is a measly 12.

So John Edwards might be good-looking, articulate and bright. But he's as liberal as they come and that's another thing the media didn't bother to tell us.



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