

Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

## 2002 Dishonors Awards a Smashing Success

**D**EAR MRC MEMBER,

The focus of our report to you in this month's *FLASH* is going to be a bit different. I want you to know what we accomplished — and why — with our huge dinner last month, the MRC's Dishonors Awards: Roasting the Most Outrageously Biased Liberal Reporters of 2001.

The first thing I want to tell you about the Dishonors is that the event was a total success. And a lot of fun, yes, but it also had a serious, important point to make.

The ceremony's purpose is to recognize and roast those journalists who have committed the most outrageous acts of liberal bias in the past year. This year, the MRC's News Division established six categories of conservative-bashing bias and provided the five worst comments in each category to a distinguished group of 14 judges. The panel, which included such luminaries as Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Robert Novak, Michael Reagan and Ben Stein, then chose a winner and a second and third in each category to be "presented" at the Dishonors. After the winner was announced, the award was "accepted" on behalf of the offending reporter by a prominent conservative who has been maligned by the press. The "Acceptor" then had the chance in his or her remarks to...well, get even.

This year's ceremony, complete with dinner and reception, took place on January 17 at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington,

D.C. More than 800 enthusiastic conservatives attended the sold-out event and all were eager to see their favorite media stars get their just desserts. C-SPAN taped the ceremony and aired the show twice on January 26. The coast-to-coast reach of C-SPAN, with its reputation as the nation's most important public-policy network, gave us the rare

opportunity to take our message directly to hundreds of thousands of Americans.

C-SPAN also provided an opportunity for many MRC members to see the MRC in action. I know many of you who were unable to join us in Washington watched the C-SPAN presentation and got a first-

hand look at the effective, prestigious organization you've created. It is not an exaggeration when I say your support has made the MRC a force in the conservative movement.

The Dishonors Awards has become "the" event for conservatives in Washington every year. Its popularity is just one more example of our success and an indicator of the deep respect conservatives have for the MRC. Just take a look at our "Presenters" and "Accepters." It reads like a conservative "who's who."

Cal Thomas, the nationally syndicated columnist and a regular on Fox News Channel's *NewsWatch*, was the evening's emcee and the *Wall Street Journal's* John Fund; Kate O'Beirne, the Washington Editor of *National Review* and a

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See no balance. Hear no balance. Speak no balance.

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DEAR MEMBER  
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regular on CNN's *Capital Gang*; and David Limbaugh, attorney, syndicated columnist, and the brother of another famous Limbaugh, served as "Presenters."

The five "Accepters" were also conservative stalwarts. Former Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes; Talk Radio Network host Lucianne Goldberg; and former California Congressman Robert "B-1 Bob" Dornan accepted the first three awards. They were followed as "Accepters" by conservative legend and *National Review* editor-at-large William F. Buckley, Jr. and the lady who ensured the law was followed during the numerous recounts of the 2000 Presidential election, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris. Harris, fittingly enough, accepted the "Sore Losers For Refusing to Concede Bush's Florida Victory" award on behalf of Dan Rafter.



**President Bozell addresses the crowd.**

The C-SPAN coverage also provided a chance for some to see us for the first time and this can have unintended consequences. This note made my day.

*Mr. Bozell,  
...My wife was working tonight...so my 14-year-old son and I had total control of the TV.*

*I was going to watch the C-SPAN special regardless, but I'm always trying to "spark" the political intellect of my boy. To that end, I told my son that I would give him \$5 to sit and watch the MRC 2001 Media Roast with me. I explained to him what your organization does, and the valuable info I get to receive each weekday.*

*What kid wouldn't do that for \$5? Huh?*

*About 10 minutes into the show a buddy of mine comes by to search for airline flight fares on the Internet, so I get distracted...for almost the entire two hours. When I sit back down, ya'll are running the closing of all the patriotic moments that Rather, Snow, et al, are saying after 9/11. My son hasn't moved from the TV set (this is a 14-year-old mind you.)*

*After the show was over, I told my boy that he needed to get in the shower before settling down for the night. Bozell, my boy turned to me as he started up the stairs and said, "Dad, you don't have to pay me for watching that."*

*If I had false teeth, I woulda been picking them up off the floor...*

There you have it. Not only did we have a great time skewering the media, not only did thousands of our members scattered across the country get a first-hand look at their organization, we also saved a dad five bucks and helped educate a young man. Now that was a good night's work.

As always, this event was made possible because of your support. And for that, I thank you.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III  
President

*The Media Research Center's*

# DISHONORS AWARDS

*Roasting the Most Outrageously Biased Liberal Reporters of 2001*

January 17, 2002 • Ronald Reagan International Trade Center • Washington, D.C.

*Dishonors Awards Judges*

L. Brent Bozell III  
William F. Buckley, Jr.  
John Fund  
Lucianne Goldberg  
Sean Hannity  
Rush Limbaugh  
Marlin Maddoux

Robert Novak  
Kate O'Beirne  
Michael Reagan  
William Rusher  
Ben Stein  
Cal Thomas  
R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.

*Master of Ceremonies*

Cal Thomas

*Award Presenters*

John Fund, Kate O'Beirne, and David Limbaugh

*Award Accepters*

Steve Forbes, Lucianne Goldberg, Bob Dornan, William F. Buckley, Jr., and Katherine Harris

# The Washington Times

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2002

## Righting the Liberal News Slant

Rare is the honors ceremony in which none of the chosen are present to accept their awards.

No one expected them to turn up at the Media Research Center's second annual Dishonors Awards, of course. Excoriating the no-shows was half the fun.

Once again, the "ceremony" on Thursday at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center took aim at 2001's most outrageously biased liberal reporters.

Dan Rather, Bryant Gumbel and Diane Sawyer headed the list of those taking their lumps during an evening as unabashedly partisan to the right as its guests contend the media is to the left.

With names like "Bring Back Bubba Award" and the "Gilligan Award for Flakiest Comments of the Year," organizers pulled no punches. Neither did those assembled, who threw haymaker after haymaker at the media elite while giggling over a skein of ludicrous news clips.

All compiled by the Alexandria-based Media Research Center, which assiduously tracks left-leaning morsels doled out by traditional media outlets.

Among the winners: Margaret Carlson, who on CNN's "The Capital Gang" opined about President Bush's environmental policies — "soon we won't be able to eat, drink or breathe," all with a straight face.

Literary agent Lucianne Goldberg, the self-appointed Auntie Mame of the "vast right-wing conspiracy," slammed

White House reporter Helen Thomas for a fawning tribute to former President Bill Clinton.

"There's such a thing as a shelf life," Mrs. Goldberg said of the elderly reporter to merciless laughter.

At a boisterous pre-gala reception, Media Research Center President and Founder L.

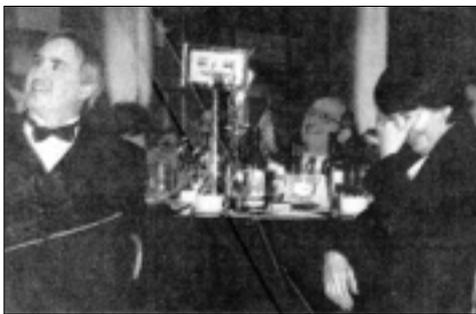
Brent Bozell III said the public's perception has grown dramatically since his organization began its work in 1987.

"You can look at all the surveys. The public believes the information it's getting is subjective opinion, not objective truth," said Mr. Bozell, sipping coffee beside friends opting for harder beverages. "They're seeing the bias. They're looking for alternative markets, hence the growth of Fox News."

The conservative confab included master of ceremonies Cal Thomas, William F. Buckley, Jr., former Rep. Robert K. Dornan, "Capital Gang" panelist Kate O'Beirne and the *Wall Street Journal's* John Fund.

Mr. Fund underscored the evening's message while announcing the nominees for several Dishonor Awards.

"There is no vast right-wing conspiracy," he said. "But there is a concentrated, focused and alert one, and it's in this room tonight."



Clockwise from above: David Limbaugh and Virginia Manheimer joined in the laughter as speakers roasted their targets at the Media Research Center's Dishonors Awards; John Fund and Cal Thomas checked a few details; L. Brent Bozell III made his point to Katherine Harris.



The sight of Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist chatting up flat tax champion Steve Forbes while The Turtles' "Happy

Together" played in the background typified the night's rambunctious spirit as did a hilarious series of songs by the Capitol Steps comedy troupe tormenting Rep. Gary Condit and Mr. Clinton.

Some in the audience had felt the sting of the media's left-leaning ways.

Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris could only laugh about the times CBS anchor Dan Rather used modifiers like "as she sees it" or "as she deems it" to explain her handling of the Florida election imbroglio.



When she came to Washington she reported, "Even some of the Democrat operative came to me and said, 'We're really glad you followed the law.'"

Mr. Buckley, who sat at a table named for ABC News anchor Peter Jennings, said the media's liberal bias is nothing new. What's different today, he said, is the imbalance is more visible to the average voter.

Now, he said, "More people wince when they do their thing." — Christian Toto

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# The Media Research Center 2002 DISHONORS AWARDS: Roast



**John Fund**

## We're All Going to Die and It's Bush's Fault Award (for Domsday Environmental Reporting)

"Remember when Ronald Reagan tried to save a few pennies on the school lunch program by classifying ketchup as a vegetable? Last week the Bush administration went further, axing a regulation that forced the meat industry to test hamburgers served in school for salmonella. Imagine, mad cow disease among children, K through 12. The day it hit the papers the proposal was quickly withdrawn. [If] the Bush administration keeps trying to kill health and safety regulations at this pace, soon we won't be able to eat, drink or breathe."

"*Outrage of the Week*" from *Time magazine's Margaret Carlson, April 7, 2001 Capital Gang on CNN.*

## Excerpt from the acceptance speech of Steve Forbes on behalf of Margaret Carlson.

"...It is a privilege to accept this award tonight on the behalf of Margaret Carlson. She wrote so many nice things about me. But she could not be here tonight as she and Tucker Carlson are rumored to be leaving CNN and replacing Regis and Kelly. They also are tied to a similar rumor



**Steve Forbes**

that they approached Roger Ailes to see if they could jump to Fox and Roger said, "We already have our token liberals. We don't need two more."

But if Margaret were here tonight, I'm sure she would tell you what made America great was taxes and regulation. That the spotted owl and the sockeye salmon should replace such minor figures as Douglas MacArthur in our history books and while she was at it she would

probably nominate Chicken Little as president, but looking at the field of potential Democratic candidates, Chicken Little might not be bad..."

## Bring Back Bubba Award (for Best Journalistic Lewinsky)

"Throughout the eight years that he was in office, President Clinton warned us that the next great menace was international terrorism..."

"He also brought unprecedented prosperity to our nation, and because of that, President Clinton [Bush] can use the surplus Mr. Clinton left behind to pay for many of the nation's needs in this time of crisis..."

"This lecture series is about the human spirit. To me and millions of others, President Clinton has always personified that. He is the man from Hope, and that is what he has given us, hope. We miss him. Thank you, Mr. President."

*Former UPI White House reporter Helen Thomas introducing Bill Clinton at an October 9, 2001 Greater Washington Society of Association Executives lecture shown on C-SPAN.*



**Lucianne Goldberg**

## Excerpt from Lucianne Goldberg's acceptance speech for Helen Thomas.

"...As the Auntie Mame of the vast right-wing conspiracy, I have to give Helen credit. She has hacked it here in this town for 50 years. I remember, I was just a baby when I first noticed her. She keeps on keepin' on and that's all we can ask — we women of an age.

"But, my darlings, there is such a thing as a shelf life. Maybe we should look at the bottom of Helen's label and check it out and say, 'It's time.' Goodbye, Helen. Stop it already. She'll go. One of these days. ...

"But the best advice I could give someone just slightly my senior and my own sex, I guess, would be, given the chance to be on stage, get off the stage as soon as you can..."

## Gilligan Award (for the Flakiest Comment of the Year)

Bill O'Reilly: "I want to ask you flat out, do you think President Clinton's an honest man?"

Dan Rather: "Yes, I think he's an honest man."

O'Reilly: "Do you, really?"

Rather: "I do."

O'Reilly: "Even though he lied to Jim Lehrer's face about the Lewinsky case?"

Rather: "Who among us has not lied about something?"



**Kate O'Beirne**

O'Reilly: "Well, I didn't lie to anybody's face on national television. I don't think you have, have you?"

Rather: "I don't think I ever have. I hope I never have. But, look, it's one thing..."

O'Reilly: "How can you say he's an honest guy then?"

Rather: "Well, because I think he is. I think at core he's an honest person. I know that you have a different view. I know that you consider it sort of astonishing anybody would say so, but I think you can be an honest person and lie about any number of things."

*Exchange on Fox News Channel's The O'Reilly Factor, May 15, 2001.*

## Dan Rather Talks About Winning the Gilligan Award

Kate O'Beirne asked several questions of Dan Rather in a mock "simulated interview" after the CBS anchor won the Gilligan Award. All of the answers were famous "Ratherisms" uttered by Dan on either television or radio.

O'Beirne: "Good afternoon, Mr. Rather, and thank you for making time for us. Let me ask you first, straight out: Is there or isn't there a liberal bias in the media, and where exactly do you fall in the equation?"

Rather: "I'm all news, all the time. Full power, tall tower. I want to break in when the news breaks out. That's my agenda. Now respect-



**Dan and Kate**

# ting the Most Outrageously Biased Liberal Reporters of 2001

fully, when you start talking about a liberal agenda and all the, quote, liberal bias in the media, I quite frankly, and I say this respectfully but candidly to you, I don't know what you're talking about."

O'Beirne: "Let me try another direction. What do you think about winning this year's Gilligan Award for the Flakiest Comment of the Year?"

Rather: "I wouldn't touch that line with a 12-foot pole, which as you know, is a pole I reserve for those things that I certainly wouldn't touch with an 11-foot pole."

O'Beirne: "I'll pass that along, oh yes, I will. One final question for you: most journalists are loathe to admit an error. Do YOU ever make mistakes, and if so, why?"



Cal Thomas

Rather: "Where I come out with this ...Look, we've made mistakes in the past. Somebody wrote in the paper the other day that I was, quote, 'boneheaded.' Well, of course, it's a matter of record I'm boneheaded, so I said, 'well, this is bizarre.'" —

O'Beirne: (Interrupting) "Hold it a minute. Did I hear you correctly? Are you saying you're bizarre?"

Rather: "Well, of course I'm bizarre, you know, we've known that for a long time ... Somebody, I don't know if he put it exactly this way, but he said, 'well, you know, it's a dumb-ass thing he's doing.' Well, you know, I've been a dumb-ass all my life."

O'Beirne: "Of course. Thank you for your time, Mr. Rather."

Rather: "I'll see you along the trail."

## Peter Arnett Award (for Hopelessly Foolish Wartime Reporting)

"The Pentagon as a legitimate target? I actually don't have an opinion on that and it's important I not have an opinion on that as I sit here in my capacity right now..."

"I can say the Pentagon got hit, I can say this is what their position is, this is what our position is, but for me to take a position this was right or wrong, I mean, that's perhaps for me in my private life, perhaps it's for me dealing with my loved ones, perhaps it's for my minister at



Hon. Bob Dornan

church. But as a journalist I feel strongly that's something that I should not be taking a position on. I'm supposed to figure out what is and what is not, not what ought to be."

*ABC News President David Westin to students at a Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism event on October 23, 2001, shown four days later on C-SPAN. (After the quote was publicized, Westin conceded he was wrong.)*

## Excerpt from former California Congressman Robert "B-1 Bob" Dornan accepting on behalf of David Westin.

"Suppose [Westin] was on Flight 77 with a hero of ours who would be a presenter or a receiver here if she didn't die in that kamikaze attack, that mega-massacre at the Pentagon, Barbara Olson. Suppose he watches five people stand up — and it's because of Barbara's calls and other calls like the heroes on Flight 93 that we know this is true. They stood up and they tied red bands around their heads.

"Now suppose Westin, being a good newsman, said 'Excuse me, what is this all about?' And one of the terrorists says — and I'll be PC and resist an accent — he says 'We're taking this airplane over. Those are our pilots taking over the cockpit and we are going to bomb the Pentagon. Do you think it's a legitimate military target?'"



David Limbaugh

"And Westin, these are his real words, responds to the terrorist: 'The Pentagon as a legitimate target. I actually don't have an opinion on that' as I sit here in my capacity on Flight 77 but 'as a journalist I feel strongly that that is something I should not take a position on...'"

"And [Westin] says, 'By the way, this plane

doesn't have any bombs on it, how are you going to bomb the Pentagon?' and he (the terrorist) says 'With you, Mr. Cannonball!'"

"...What would David Westin say to that?"

## Damn Every Conservative We Can Think of to Hell Award

"Can you deny that he distorted Mr. White's record and basically engaged in what some would kindly call character assassination?"

CBS's Bryant Gumbel to John Ashcroft adviser Charles Polk, on Missouri judge Ronnie White whom Ashcroft had opposed for appointment to a federal court, January 16, 2001 Early Show.

"If he's [Ashcroft] so much of an extremist liability, as you claim, what's his nomination say about George W. Bush and his claims of compassionate conservatism?"

Gumbel to Wade Henderson of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, January 16 Early Show.

"What do you think Senator Ashcroft's distortion of your record and tarnishing of your good name says about his character?"

*Gumbel to Missouri Supreme Court judge Ronnie White, January 19 Early Show.*

## William F. Buckley is Bryant Gumbel in this excerpt from his acceptance speech.

"When the election returns came in 1994, I said the truth, didn't I, Mr. Bozell? That America is strong and can survive any catastrophe. When the first George Bush was elected president, I



William F. Buckley, Jr.

said there was a possibility the United States would survive his presidency. Well, wasn't that the truth? We did survive it.

"When John Ashcroft was named Attorney General, I didn't hide. I didn't shrink from the truth. I told the truth, which is that John Ashcroft will not succeed in imprisoning everybody who disagreed with him. And that was right, wasn't it? I'm not in prison.

"You people don't know how it can hurt to tell the truth. I tell it all the time, which is why I'm losing my audience."

## Sore Losers Award for Refusing to Concede Bush's Florida Victory

"Nineteen days after the presidential election, Florida's Republican Secretary of State [Katherine Harris] is about to announce the winner — as she sees it and she decrees it....

"The believed certification — as the Republican Secretary of State sees it — is coming



Katherine Harris

just hours after a court ordered deadline for counties to submit their hand count and recount totals....

"She will certify — as she sees it — who gets Florida's 25 electoral votes....

"What's happening here is the certification — as the Florida Secretary of State sees it and decrees it — is being signed....

"And after this, it will be, at least in the opinion of the Secretary of State, that the results will be final...."

*Dan Rather, CBS News Special Report, November 26, 2000 on the official certification of Florida's vote.*

### Excerpt from Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris's acceptance speech on behalf of Dan Rather.

"I'm honored to join the ranks of such luminaries that have earned this venerable anchor's scorn: Ronald Reagan, George Bush 41, Barry Goldwater, and Bernard Goldberg. Some of you

may know me only as Cruella de Ville, or the partisan hack, or perhaps even the lackey of the Bush Brothers who single-handedly stole the election by taking the inflexible, unfair, outrageous position that the rule of law actually mattered and that the law said what it said, and not what Dan Rather deemed it, or wished it, to be said.

"I'm pleased to certify that Dan Rather won this award and although he may ask for additional recounts before he believes it, we're here to prove it.

"Mr. Rather chooses his words carefully to report matters he sees and decrees. As a quote 'common sense moderate' the liberal Mr. Rather claims he has no, quote 'political agenda, inside, outside, upside or downside' and is, in his opinion, quote 'an honest broker of information and has no favorites.'

"Right. And I forgot to put my make-up on during the recount as well."



## CNSNews.com Exposes the Jackson-Enron Connection

By Scott Hogenson  
CNSNews.com  
Executive Editor



When liberals in Congress and the media began spinning the Enron collapse as some sort of administration scandal, it seemed inevitable that Jesse Jackson would pile on.

True to fashion, Jackson joined the fray, capitalizing on human misery to score his political points. His allies in the media dutifully reported on him calling for administration officials to come clean about their ties to the failed energy firm, and some of his more reliable acolytes eagerly reported Jackson's prayerful meeting with former Enron chief Kenneth Lay.

So where were the liberal establishment media when it came to looking into Jackson's own ties to Enron? They apparently headed for the tall grass and left the heavy lifting to someone else.

The MRC's own Internet news service, CNSNews.com, happily stepped into the breach, breaking an exclusive story Jan. 30 under Sr. Staff Writer Marc Morano's byline about Jackson's acceptance of Enron money.

Hours after this item hit the street, Fox talk show host Bill O'Reilly picked up on the news, interviewing Marc on his show later that evening. National Journal's Political Hotline picked up on Marc's article the next day.

Fox News began fuller pursuit of the story, but it was beginning to morph. In his interview with CNSNews.com, Jackson referred to the amount of money received from Enron as "miniscule," but that amount, which remains the subject of investigation, escalated to "modest" in his Fox interview.

You may not be surprised to learn that, as of this writing, none of our journalistic brethren at ABC, CBS, NBC or CNN

have seen fit to cover this little tidbit of information.

The reasons for this bias of omission are speculative at best, but consideration of what the original CNSNews.com report accomplished and a quick read between the lines is telling.

While taking administration officials to task for not disclosing their relationship with Enron, Jackson went to considerable lengths to hide his own ties to the company, an effort that was exposed by CNSNews.com.

And while some politicians were returning Enron political contributions that were then rolled into an Enron employee relief fund, CNSNews.com also reported that Jackson deemed it best to not return his Enron money. We presume Jackson and his cronies required the money more than those laid-off Enron workers who watched their pension funds shrink to near zero.

While the acceptance of corporate cash by a liberal activist like Jackson may not necessarily be news of an Earth-shaking nature, it is illustrative of a trait many on the Left prefer remain unreported, that being the incredibly self-centered duplicity of Jackson and his organizations.

Further, as Jackson was organizing bus trips to bring out-of-work Enron employees to Washington, D.C. in an effort to put their plight on public display, he was refusing to return his own Enron contributions so they could be used to help pay the bills of unemployed workers.

As we have seen so often among liberals and their causes, what is good for the goose is obviously not good for the gander, and the work of CNSNews.com exposing Jackson's ties to Enron is only the latest illustration of this hypocrisy.

Now Available from MRC...

# Dollars and Nonsense: Correcting the News Media's Top Economic Myths

Journalistic ignorance of the American economy is an ongoing problem that results in biased and hostile economic coverage, as the MRC's Free Market Project has thoroughly documented over the past decade. This short, powerful book, edited by the MRC's Rich Noyes, in collaboration with economist Stephen Moore, a scholar with the Cato Institute and President of the Club for Growth, is designed to give journalists a primer in free-market economics. Crammed with facts, charts, and useful stats, the arguments and credentials of the ten experts who contributed chapters makes it impossible to ignore.

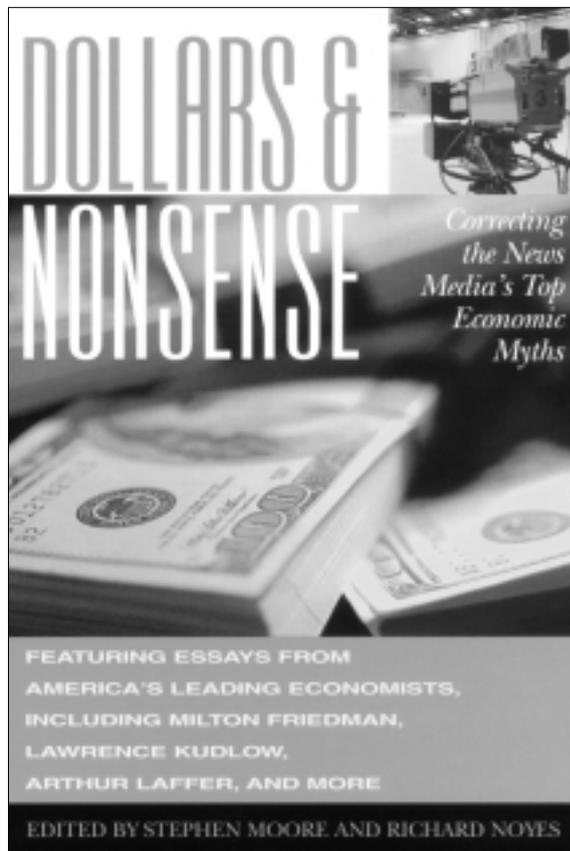
An example of the book's value is its chapter on tax cuts. The liberal media are always arguing that cutting tax rates will wind up "costing" the government money. That's not true — and Moore and supply-side economist Arthur Laffer prove it. They show that the U.S. government collected more, not less, revenue after all three of the 20th century's biggest tax cuts. The reason is simple: lowering tax rates encourages and rewards working, saving and investing; increased economic activity means more wealth for the private sector, and more tax receipts for any government that's smart enough to just get out of the way.

Each chapter is written by an economic heavyweight with impeccable credentials. Nobel Prize winner Milton Friedman, CNBC economic commentator Lawrence Kudlow, Harvard University's Nicholas Eberstadt, former Reagan economic advisers William A. Niskanen and Arthur Laffer have written chapters. Other authors include W. Michael Cox, Brian Wesbury and David Hale, who all serve as chief economists for financial institutions or corporations, and Robert W. Crandall and William G. Gale of the Brookings Institution and Stephen Moore of the Cato Institute. These experts assure us that economic growth doesn't cause inflation, our planet isn't running out of resources, deregulation is actually good for consumers, and the middle class isn't shrinking. For audiences who have been steeped in the liberal media's pessimism for years, these economic gurus offer welcome insight into the way our free economy really works.

## Take It From a Member of the MRC Board of Trustees

**"This easy-to-understand book destroys ten of the media's most widely reported economic myths. With chapters written by such noted economists as Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman, Lawrence Kudlow, Arthur Laffer, and several others, *Dollars and Nonsense* illustrates how the media's poor economic coverage helps create bad public policies that limit our free-enterprise system. This unpretentious book — if read by editors, reporters, columnists, policy makers and academics — has the potential to change the world for the better."**

— Mr. John Garvey, President, CEO, and Chairman of Petroleum, Inc. in Wichita, Kansas, serves on the MRC's Board of Trustees. He is also President and Trustee of the Garvey Kansas Foundation.



### Order the book today!

Order *Dollars & Nonsense* using the enclosed business reply envelope, or cut out and mail this form to the MRC at 325 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. You may also call Donna at (800) 672-1423. Say you read about it in *FLASH!*

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# An MRC Tribute to Media Coverage of 9/11

At the end of the Dishonors Awards the MRC saluted the media's coverage of the September 11 attacks with a video tribute. The following are excerpts from President Bozell's introductory comments.



...We have commented tonight on some of the unsavory moments from the media's coverage of the war. But these were the exceptions, as always there will be exceptions. To focus on the negative by the few is to do a tremendous injustice to the vast majority.

How did they come through in those awful hours and days following the 9/11 attacks? Let us acknowledge it, and acknowledge it loudly: They performed magnificently...

...There are many examples of this but the most striking to me was Brit Hume of Fox around 10 a.m. on September 11, when all hell was breaking loose and no one knew what might happen next.

He was calmly transmitting a report from the Capitol Hill police that an airplane had just been sighted coming up the Potomac River at a high rate of speed. Had the threat been real, the target of that terrorist attack would have been the White House or the U.S. Capitol; and if the U.S. Capitol, that would have been right across the street from where Brit was seated at that very moment. And he knew it.

On the personal level ... words simply will not do the feelings justice. Gone suddenly for most was the ridiculous notion that a journalist is a reporter first, an American second. Most journalists wanted it known, loudly, unambiguously, unapologetically their outrage, their sorrow, their love of country.

The one-word headline in the September 12 *San Francisco Examiner* echoed a nation's anger: "Bastards!"

Those journalists who, whether from exhaustion or just simple emotion, lost their grip as tears began to flow — they were only reflecting America's grief.

Those reporters proudly placing American flags on their lapels, appearing on sets proudly decorated with American flags, on networks proudly displaying the American flag at every opportunity, weren't just sensing a national mood, they were leading the nation in the rekindling of patriotism.

Yes, if 2001 was two very distinct years, then there were two very distinct media, too. We've covered, and hammered, the one. But let us end our program this year on an altogether different note.

Winston Churchill was once asked what he thought of democracy and replied that it was the worst form of government in the world except for all the rest.

Let us recognize the same about the American press. At a time of national crisis, they delivered. Perhaps it was only for the moment, but it is a moment to be bottled, and treasured...



To view the video online, visit: <http://www.mrc.org/news/nq/dishonor2002/dishonor2002a.html>



**PRESIDENT**  
L. Brent Bozell III

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
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