

# FLASH NEWS

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The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

## Liberal Media Advance Democrats' Unproven Charges

**D**ear Member,

The liberal media are stooping to new lows in hypocrisy and partisanship in their attempt to help Democrats defeat President Bush in this year's election.

Just look at the Washington press corps' feeding frenzy over President Bush's National Guard service in 1972. An old story, it was resolved four years ago when the issue was thoroughly investigated and it was determined that there was nothing to the scurrilous charges that he was somehow "AWOL" while on duty.

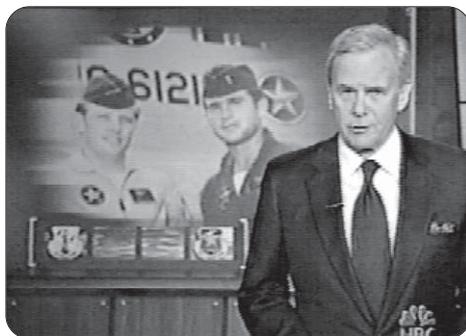
As the Democratic primaries unfolded, however, liberal Democrats decided to repackage the charge for political advantage.

Buffoonish radical film-maker Michael Moore was the first to advance the slur, calling the President a "deserter" at a late January campaign rally for Democratic candidate General Wesley Clark.

Clark, a bumbling campaigner who seemed incapable of taking a firm stand on anything, refused to distance himself from Moore's despicable lie. The General stammered and stumbled when ABC's Peter Jennings pointedly questioned him about it

during a Democratic debate and for a few days the charge seemed as dead as Clark's campaign.

Then on ABC's *This Week* on February 1, Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe massaged Moore's lie,



**NBC's Tom Brokaw maintained that the unproven Democratic charges against the President meant the party was going to play "hardball" in the 2004 election.**

claiming President Bush had been AWOL from the Alabama National Guard in 1972. McAuliffe, who produced not a shred of evidence to support his allegation, added that he couldn't wait to contrast the President with "John Kerry, a war hero with a chest full of medals."

The media frenzy – and the media hypocrisy – began immediately. Reporters repeated McAuliffe's unproven

allegation and the AWOL charge appeared on front pages across the country and led evening newscasts. No reporter asked the Democratic chairman to prove his claim. It was enough that the allegation had been made and it was up to the President to prove that he was not guilty.

What a double standard. Liberals can say anything against conservatives – without a scintilla of evidence – and get instant credibility from the press. But when

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conservatives make a charge against liberals – and provide hard proof – the same media dismiss them with ridicule, or accuse them of being haters.

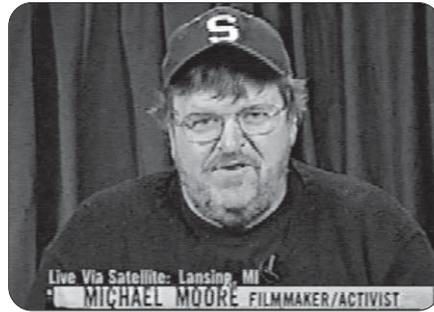
Take Bill Clinton's 1992 draft-dodging scandal, for example. The *Wall Street Journal* reported in February 6 of that year that Clinton had enrolled in the ROTC program at the University of Arkansas in order to avoid the draft and ditched the program when he was accepted as a Rhodes Scholar. Six days later, the Clinton campaign, under pressure, released a 1969 letter Clinton had written to the former ROTC commander at Arkansas, thanking the man for "saving him from the draft."



**The liberal media seized on DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe's unproven allegation that President Bush had been AWOL from the Alabama National Guard in 1972.**

And how did the media react? Dan Rather's response was typical. "Bill Clinton says President Bush's 1988 Willie Horton crowd is smearing him with new campaign dirty tricks," the CBS anchor announced in his report.

Not only did the networks defend Clinton from documented draft-dodging charges, they did their best to avoid mentioning it at all. MRC Research Director Rich Noyes compared the coverage of the two



**The AWOL charge started with radical filmmaker Michael Moore, who called President Bush a "deserter" at a Wesley Clark for President rally.**

scandals and found that from February 1-16 of this year alone, ABC, CBS and NBC aired a whopping 63 National Guard stories or interview segments on their morning and evening news programs. The evening newscasts produced 25 stories by themselves. By comparison, the three evening newscasts offered a grand total of only 10 stories on Clinton's complete evasion of service in 1992.

And get this: not once did any network anchor ever suggest that the AWOL claim was a Democratic "dirty trick." In fact, the unproven Democratic attacks were reported as a sign of liberal toughness and proof that the party means business in 2004.

"This is a warning" from the Democrats, NBC's Tim Russert enthusiastically told viewers. "If you punch we are punching back and punching again." CBS's Mark Strassman called it "a clear warning shot on the debate to come about national security" and NBC anchor Tom Brokaw maintained that the deceitful charge proved "Democrats are anxious to show they will play hardball when it comes to patriotism and national security."

How nice it is to know that the Democrats and the liberal media are

willing to play hardball when it comes to politics. As I noted my nationally syndicated column on February 12, these are the same people who refuse to play hardball with Saddam Hussein, or Kim Jong Il, or France, or Germany, or Russia, or anyone else opposing the U.S. on national security. But they will play hardball – and deceitful, dishonest hardball – with conservatives and Republicans.

As you expect, the MRC has pointed out the media's unfair and biased coverage at every opportunity. In addition to my nationally syndicated column on the subject, I appeared on the February 13 *Fox & Friends* to discuss the allegations and MRC spokesmen have conducted several radio interviews where they have pointed out the media's hypocrisy and dishonesty.

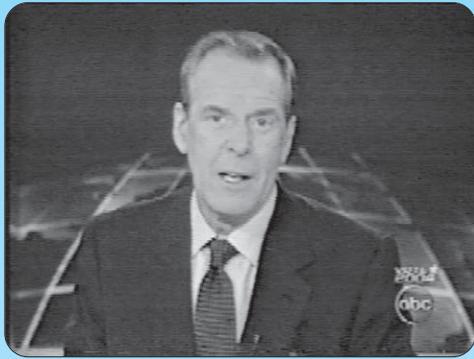
We also provided a running critique of the coverage in our daily *CyberAlert* and produced three *Media Reality Checks* on the National Guard story. The February 17 *Reality Check* compared the coverage of Clinton's draft dodging with the National Guard story and was picked up by the February 19 *Washington Times*.

As you can tell, the MRC is fully engaged in the election-year battle with the liberal press and we're doing our best to defend the President against their dishonest attacks. None of this would be possible without your support and, as always, I thank you.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III





## ABC SPIKES Pro-Bush Poll Data

Network journalists love reporting poll numbers and they seem to take special delight in reporting numbers that show President Bush's approval rating dropping.

ABC's Peter Jennings was a case in point on the February 12 *World News Tonight*. The ABC anchor highlighted an ABC-*Washington Post* poll that found President Bush's credibility dropping and Democratic Sen. John Kerry leading in a head-to-head race with the President.

Jennings also eagerly trumpeted other bad news. Fewer than half those surveyed believe the war in Iraq was worth fighting, Jennings told viewers, and most believe the Bush administration intentionally exaggerated evidence of weapons of mass destruction.

While Jennings thoroughly detailed the numbers that were bad for Bush, the Canadian-born anchor neglected to mention some other vital information: Two-thirds of those interviewed for the poll, according to the ABC News web site, think the administration "honestly believed" Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and more importantly, most of the respondents believe the war in Iraq has contributed to the long-term security of the United States.

Jennings also neglected to mention one other crucial finding that many viewers might have been interested in. Two-thirds of those polled – including 58 percent of Democrats – thought the story on the President's National Guard service was "not a legitimate issue."

Not only did Jennings not mention that fact, but ABC News continued to pound the unproven story for the next week.

# Liberal Journalist Resigns Over Brit Hume Award

Geneva Overholser, the former ombudsman of the *Washington Post* and current head of the University of Missouri's journalism school, recently resigned her seat on the National Press Foundation in protest.

And what was she protesting? The NPF had named Fox News' anchor Brit Hume Broadcaster of the Year. Hume and Fox, according to an outraged Overholser, practice "ideologically committed journalism" and it offended her so much that she quit and went home.

Overholser's sudden aversion to ideological journalism is nothing short of hypocritical. A long list of liberal mouthpieces have won the NPF award over the past few years, including CBS's Dan Rather, disgraced former *New York Times* editor Howell Raines and NPR reporter Nina Totenberg, who tried to destroy Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas with phony sexual allegations and once wished AIDS on conservative Jesse Helms.



The oh-so-sensitive and supposedly principled Overholser wasn't upset at the recognition given to any of those biased journalists. They, after all, represented the side of the political spectrum Overholser agrees with.



Overholser's sanctimonious grandstanding comes as no shock to the MRC, as President Brent Bozell noted in his nationally syndicated column on February 5. Twelve years ago, Overholser complained to *Editor & Publisher* magazine that "the objectivity god" was making news writing boring. Several years after that, she sat on a C-SPAN panel with Bozell and with a straight face, claimed the *Washington Post* presented "straight" news, while the *Washington Times* presented only a "conservative" point-of-view.

While Overholser probably hoped to embarrass Hume with the resignation, the Fox commentator should be proud. Not only did the Foundation recognize his contributions to journalism, his selection helped rid the NPF board of a biased, condescending liberal activist.

And that's definitely an achievement.

## Get the latest *CyberAlert!*

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

## CBS Obsessed with 16-Year-Old Ad

CBS News' is beginning to show signs of being obsessed with Willie Horton and the 1988 presidential election – again. Liberal Democrats have been slamming President Bush relentlessly for months, but this network is concerned about GOP “dirty tricks.”

On February 4, reporter Jim Axelrod worried that Republicans would try to use the Massachusetts Supreme Court's



**CBS reporter Byron Pitts helped to advance the notion that Jane Fonda could become 2004's “Willie Horton.”**

gay marriage decision against Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. If they do, Axelrod suggested, it would be another unfair conservative attack, just like the attack on the 1988 Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis. “Remember Willie Horton?” the reporter gravely intoned. It was an issue, he said, “that made Michael Dukakis, Massachusetts liberal and out-of-touch synonymous.”

A week later, it was CBS reporter Byron Pitts who brought up the 16-year-old political ad. According to Pitts, it was Kerry's past ties with Vietnam War protesters like Jane Fonda that Republicans might try to turn into the 2004 “Willie Horton.” The reporter interviewed Donna Brazile, Al Gore's campaign manager in 2000, who, as if on cue, wondered if Fonda would take Horton's place in this year's election.

As much as CBS News loves to rehash the Willie Horton ad, they really need to move on. Not only are most of their Horton comparisons flimsily made and overdone, but the fact is most viewers simply don't remember the Horton ad and have no idea what CBS reporters are talking about. Note also that they never discuss what was actually wrong with bringing up the issue – because there wasn't anything wrong, and they know it.

## Couric Ignores Major News Story But Highlights Anti-Bush Editorial

NBC's Katie Couric interviewed Bush-Cheney campaign adviser Mary Matalin on the February 9 *Today* and threw an editorial from that day's *New York Times* in her face.

The editorial criticized President Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq and condemned what it called the President's “moral absolutism,” Couric noted. What, she wondered, did Matalin make of that?

Matalin dismissed the *Times* criticism, but a better response might have been: Why was Couric focusing on the *Times* opinion section rather than its front page?

As MRC Vice President Brent Baker pointed out in *CyberAlert*, the *Times* had run a front page news story on that very day that provided details of a captured letter from an al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist in Iraq. The letter admitted that the U.S. forces were winning the war and begged al Qaeda for help.



**Today host Katie Couric ignored a *New York Times* front-page news story that demonstrated progress in Iraq but highlighted an anti-Bush editorial from the paper.**

Couric did not mention a word about the positive, front-page news from Iraq, nor did anyone else at *Today*.

At the very least, that was poor news judgment on the part of the *Today* staff. Even the *NBC Nightly News* felt the letter story was so important that they opened that night's newscast with it.

But there's also good reason to believe the omission was intentional, especially since *Today* didn't bother to mention the story the next day, either.

## Media CEOs Backing Kerry

So much for the mythology that media executives are all a bunch of country club Republicans.

Britain's *Guardian* newspaper ran a story on February 10 that revealed that

top executives from News Corporation – the owners of Fox News – and CBS parent Viacom are heavy contributors to Sen. John Kerry's presidential campaign.

The *Guardian* article cited Federal Election Commission figures through the end of December 2003 that showed that Peter Chernin, the Chief Operating



**Sumner Redstone, the CEO of Viacom, the parent company of CBS, gave \$1,000 to Sen. John Kerry's presidential campaign.**

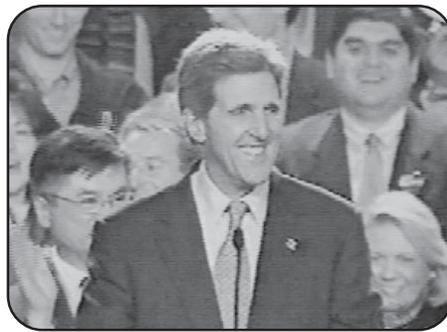
Officer at News-Corp, gave \$2,000 to Kerry's campaign. Sumner Redstone, the CEO of Viacom, the parent company of CBS, gave \$1,000 to Kerry, \$3,000 to the re-election bid of Sen. Tom Daschle, and \$5,000 to the Democratic senatorial campaign committee. Mel Karmazin, the Chief Operating Officer at Viacom, also gave \$4,000 to Daschle.

Remember these donations the next time you hear a left-wing media critic like Al Franken make the ridiculous argument that the leaders of the media corporations are all conservatives.

## Reuters: Kerry Presidency Will be an Economic Boon

The anti-American British news service Reuters – that's the outfit that refused to describe the September 11 attackers as terrorists – is pulling for John Kerry to win the November election.

"Kerry Presidency Seen as Boon for U.S. Markets," the headline over a February 6 story declared. New York-based Reuters reporter Chris Sanders then quoted one source who said Kerry's policy would be similar to Clinton's economic policy, "which would be more focused on balancing the budget." The



The liberal media are doing all they can to help Sen. John Kerry. The Reuters News Service claimed he would balance the budget and a CBS producer coached him through a sound bite.

reporter then quoted another "expert," who claimed the markets did better when the White House was with one party and the Congress with another.

As expected, the story made no mention anywhere that Kerry has hardly been a budget-balancer during his 20 years in the Senate. In fact, Kerry has been one of the more reckless spenders and has consistently received F grades from the National Taxpayers Union.

In the Reuters lexicon, it's just about as outrageous calling Kerry a liberal as it is calling Osama bin Laden a terrorist.

## CBS News Helps Kerry Refine Attacks on Bush

While some media executives are pouring money into the Kerry campaign, network journalists on the ground are making their own, special "in-kind" contributions.

One of those took place on February 18 when Kerry was in Dayton, Ohio. Asked to comment on the Bush administration's economic policies, the Democratic presidential candidate immediately launched into one of his patented, long-winded diatribes.

It was so long-winded – and so meandering and pointless – that the assembled television crews couldn't make heads or tails of it. "Kerry's remarks lasted three minutes, yet it left TV reporters without a sound bite," reported Patrick Healy of the *Boston Globe*.

The solution? "One CBS News producer asked the Massachusetts senator to try again," Healy wrote.

Given a second run at it, Kerry came up with a more succinct attack on the administration, which CBS News happily aired later that night.

Not in a million years would that opportunity ever be offered to George W. Bush.

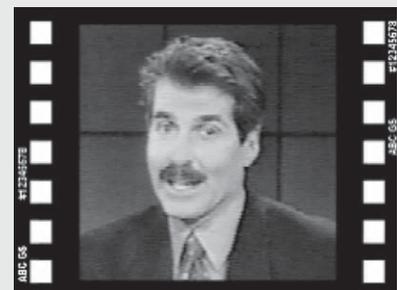
## MINIBITS

← CNN's **Walter Rodgers** critiques the State of the Union from the European

perspective: "Europeans find the President's talk about God and good and evil very scary, so there wasn't much President Bush could say to ingratiate himself to Europeans"

← ABC's **John Stossel** confirmed our worst suspicions to CNSNews.com: "Where I work at ABC, people say 'conservative' the way people say 'child molester'" ← The cover headline from the *New York Times* Review of Books: "Three years into the presidency of George W. Bush, many people here and abroad fear and loathe our country, its power, its policies, its pride. Is America an evil empire? Seven new books seem ready to think so"

← ABC's **Claire Shipman** knows Sen. John Kerry is getting a free ride from the media: "As one [Kerry] aide pointed out last night, racking up wins each week just strengthens his candidacy, plus, he added, 'you can't buy this sort of press.'"



ABC correspondent John Stossel recently told CNSNews.com what his colleagues at ABC really think of conservatives.

By David Thibault  
CNSNews.com Managing Editor



## The Grey Lady Plays Catch-Up to CNSNews.com

Comparing the *New York Times* to CNSNews.com is like stacking a skyscraper next to a one-level flat.

The *Times* boasts of “16 news bureaus in the New York region, 11 national news bureaus and 26 foreign news bureaus.” Suffice it to say, we’re smaller than that – much, much smaller. So it’s all the sweeter when we not only beat the world’s biggest and most famous newspaper to an important story, but then watch as they scramble to catch up.

That’s what happened recently when CNSNews.com’s investigative reporter Marc Morano reported on Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards’ trial attorney past. Morano’s January 20 article, headlined “Did ‘Junk Science’ Make John Edwards Rich?” focused on some of the lawsuits initiated by Edwards as a North Carolina lawyer in which he alleged medical malpractice in cases involving infants afflicted with cerebral palsy or brain damage. Legal and medical experts interviewed by Morano questioned Edwards’ strategy in blaming obstetricians for the problems and pointed to a growing body of scientific evidence indicating that the cause of cerebral palsy was almost always the result of in utero infections rather than physician malpractice.

Another source in the CNSNews.com story said it was clear why Edwards had won the cases. The Senator was “very good at managing the emotional tenor of a trial and that turns out to be at least as important as any particular skill in the sense of researching the fine points of law,” according to Walter Olson, author of the book, *The Rule of Lawyers*.

Morano didn’t stop with his initial story. Rebuffed by the Edwards presidential campaign, he went to New Hampshire for the nation’s first presidential primary and confronted Edwards about the junk science allegations. Morano offered Edwards three opportunities to respond to the criticism. Each time, Edwards refused comment, leading Marc to pen the January 28 follow-up – “Edwards Dodges ‘Junk Science’ Allegations.”

At this point, someone at the *New York Times* noticed CNSNews.com’s exclusive reporting on the issue. Editors at the *Times* were probably wondering why no one among their legion of reporters had asked the questions posed by CNSNews.com, and were instead fixated on Edwards as the fair-haired, glib alternative to John Kerry and Howard Dean.

The *Times* finally ran a story on January 31 – a full 11 days after CNSNews.com had broken details of Edwards’ alleged junk science-dominated lawyering. The *Times* even

got Edwards to respond to the allegations, which we at CNSNews.com certainly didn’t mind, fully cognizant of the fact that Edwards would rather talk to his liberal sympathizers at the *Times* than with the nonsense, hard-hitting Morano.

To their credit, the *Times* referred to the fact that Edwards had opposed legislation in North Carolina that would have aided all families with brain-damaged children rather than allow only a few families with expensive lawyers to win excessive jury awards and settlements. Otherwise, the *Times*’ article was what you might expect – a sympathetic description of a liberal superstar lawyer and the millions he made in the courtroom.

The *Times* did not care to ask Edwards if he had ever given thought to how his lawsuits damaged the careers of innocent doctors or how the excessive malpractice judgments had made insurance impossibly high for obstetricians and otherwise increased the cost of practicing medicine. Those are questions Marc Morano and his colleagues at CNSNews.com are asking, which is why, more and more, CNSNews.com is gaining the reputation of being the toughest kid on the journalism block.

Log On For Your News!

**CNSNews.com**

**Cybercast News Service**

The screenshot shows the CNSNews.com website layout. At the top, it says "CNSNEWS.COM Cybercast News Service™" and "The Right News. Right Now." Below that is a search bar and a date/time stamp: "Friday, December 10, 2003 1:17 PM EST". The main content area is titled "Top Headlines" and features a large headline: "Religious Freedom Watchdog Urges Penalty for Saudis, Others". The sub-headline reads: "Pacific Rim Bureau (CNSNews.com) - Washington's religious rights watchdog has seized on the latest State Department global survey of religious freedom to renew its longstanding calls for the administration to act firmly against Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Turkmenistan." There is a "Full Story" link. Below this, another headline reads: "AFSCME Official Endorses Socialism After Union Backed Dean (CNSNews.com) - The New York City district council president of a union that recently backed Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean has publicly endorsed socialism at a national conference of the Workers World Party." There is also a "Full Story" link. At the bottom, there is a "Viewer Poll" section with the question: "What do you think the U.S. population will be in the year 2010?" and a radio button selected for "300 million".

## ABC Political Director:

# Washington Press Corps is Liberal and Biased

The mainstream media are liberal, they're biased against conservatives and this bias will infect every political story presented this election year.

That synopsis sounds like it came from the MRC, but it didn't. It came from ABC News Political Director Mark Halperin, who explained exactly what President Bush and his reelection campaign are up against this year in *The Note*, a political notebook that's published daily on the ABC News.com web site. Halperin's February 10 article was such a damning indictment of his fellow journalists that we've decided to reprint an excerpt of his commentary in this month's *FLASH*.

While Halperin's honesty was a welcome surprise to those of us who battle liberal bias, the reaction of his bosses at ABC was exactly what we expected. ABC News has not mentioned Halperin's commentary, and all of the other major networks and newspapers have been utterly silent about his bombshell.



**“War President: Media, Darling (Part Deux),” *The Note*, February 10, 2004. By Mark Halperin and the ABC News political staff. ([www.abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/TheNote/TheNote\\_Feb1004.html](http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/politics/TheNote/TheNote_Feb1004.html))**

“Like every other institution, the Washington and political press corps operates with a good number of biases and predilections.

“They include, but are not limited to, a near-universal shared sense that liberal political positions on social issues like gun control, homosexuality, abortion, and religion are the default, while more conservative positions are ‘conservative positions.’

“They include a belief that government is a mechanism to solve the nation’s problems; that more taxes on corporations and the wealthy are good ways to cut the deficit and raise money for social spending and don’t have a negative affect on economic growth; and that emotional examples of suffering (provided by unions or consumer groups) are good ways to illustrate economic statistic stories.

“More systematically, the press believes that fluid narratives in coverage are better than static storylines; that new things are more interesting than old things; that close races are preferable to loose ones; and that incumbents are destined for dethroning, somehow.

“The press, by and large, does not accept President Bush’s justifications for the Iraq war — in any of its WMD, imminent threat, or evil-doer formulations. It does not understand how educated, sensible people could possibly be wary of multilateral institutions or friendly, sophisticated European allies.

“It does not accept the proposition that the Bush tax cuts helped the economy by stimulating summer spending.

“It remains fixated on the unemployment rate.

“It believes President Bush is ‘walking a fine line’ with regards to the gay marriage issue, choosing between ‘tolerance’ and his ‘right-wing base.’

“It still has a hard time understanding how, despite the drumbeat of conservative grass-top complaints about overspending and deficits, President Bush’s base remains extremely and loyally devoted to him – and it looks for every opportunity to find cracks in that base...”

**We couldn’t have said this better ourselves.**



## Documenting, Exposing and *Fighting* Media Bias

### MRC IN THE NEWS

Media Research Center personnel are interviewed on an almost daily basis on stories of national importance. In the last month, MRC spokesmen appeared on, or were interviewed or cited, in the following television, radio, newspaper and internet news stories.

#### National Television

- **Fox & Friends**, Fox News Channel, February 13. MRC President Bozell discussed the media's infatuation with the Bush National Guard story and the Janet Jackson Super Bowl fiasco.
- **Capital Report**, CNBC, January 30. MRC President Brent Bozell discussed CBS's decision not to air MoveOn.org's advertisement during the Super Bowl.

#### Radio

- **KKAR, Omaha, Nebr.**, Feb. 23. MRC Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham discussed the media's coverage of the National Guard story and other aspects of this year's presidential campaign. Graham also discussed the National Guard story and election issues on:
- **WWBA, Tampa, Fla.** – Feb. 20.
- **Accent Radio** – Feb. 20.
- **KFAX, Fremont, Calif.** – Feb. 19.
- **KMED, Medford, Ore.** – Feb. 10.

#### Newspapers & Magazines

- **U.S. News & World Report**, February 23. CNN's Lou Dobbs quoted MRC President Brent Bozell in his column on the "tabloidization" of the news.

- **Washington Times**, February 19. Carried a lengthy segment from MRC Research Director Rich Noyes' *Media Reality Check* that compared the coverage of the National Guard story to Bill Clinton's draft-dodging scandal.
- **Investors Business Daily**, February 18. Ran President Bozell's nationally syndicated column on the media's eagerness to smear President Bush with the unsubstantiated AWOL charge.
- **Washington Times**, February 13. Ran a *CyberAlert* item by Vice President of Research and Publications Brent Baker that noted the media were obsessed with advancing the liberal Democratic arguments about President Bush's National Guard service.
- **Denver Post**, February 12. Interviewed and cited MRC Research Director Rich Noyes in an article about the primary predictions of journalists and pundits.
- **Washington Times**, February 5. Highlighted a *CyberAlert* item on CBS's Bob Schieffer and NBC's Tim Russert's unusual preoccupation with exit polls that showed Democratic primary voters did not like President Bush.

#### The Denver Post

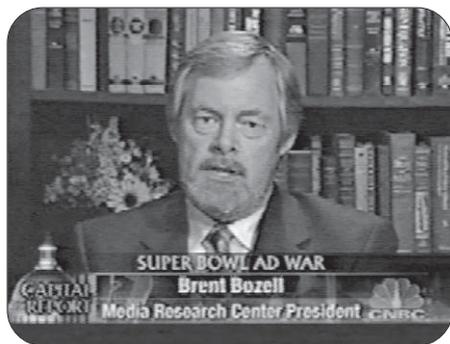
#### Investor's Business Daily

#### The Washington Times

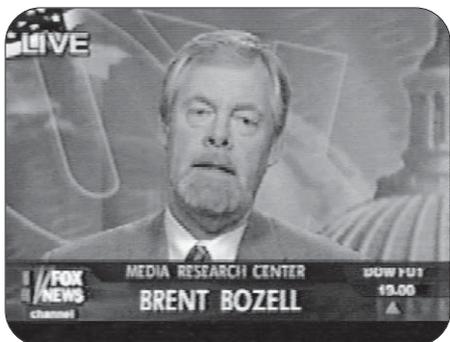
- **Yale Daily News**, February 3. Highlighted a Media Research Center report on CBS's Dan Rather's liberal bias.
- **Detroit News**, January 25, 2004. Ran an Associated Press that included comments from MRC President Bozell on left-wing filmmaker Michael Moore. The story also ran on MichiganLive.com on January 24 and AzCentral.com on February 3.
- **Jacksonville Daily Progress (Texas)**, January 24. Cited MRC Research Director Rich Noyes's study that determined that Democratic presidential candidates received nearly twice as much airtime in 2003 as Republicans had in 1999.

#### Internet News Sites

- **FrontPageMag.com**, February 18. Quoted MRC Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham on MSNBC's hiring of long-time Clinton friend Rick Kaplan.

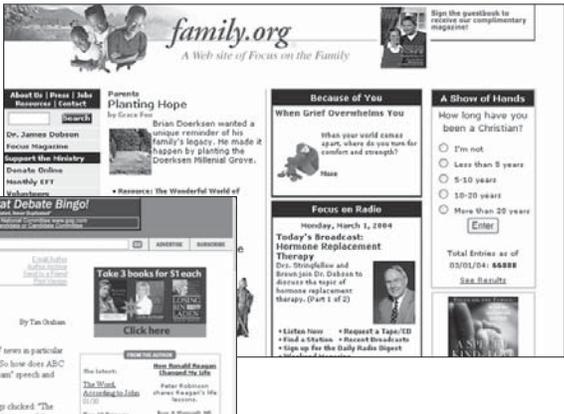


MRC President Brent Bozell appeared on CNBC's *Capital Report* to discuss CBS's decision not to air MoveOn.org's Super Bowl advertisement.



Bozell also appeared on *Fox & Friends*, where he discussed the Bush National Guard story and Janet Jackson Super Bowl fiasco.

- **Family.org Family News in Focus**, February 13. Cited Graham in a story on Geneva Overholser, who resigned from the National Press Foundation to protest an award given to Fox News' Brit Hume.
- **Townhall.com**, February 13. Ran MRC President Brent Bozell's nationally syndicated column about how the media are advancing the arguments of Democrats and Sen. John Kerry.
- **National Review Online**, February 9. Ran an article by Director of Media Analysis Graham on the media's coverage of gay marriage.
- **Tech Central Station**, February 6. Syndicated columnist James Pinkerton, a regular on the Fox News Channel's *NewsWatch* program, cited a *CyberAlert* item on *Today* host Katie Couric's praise of Sen. John Edwards' "Two Americas" speech.
- **Town Hall.com**, February 6. Ran MRC President Bozell's nationally syndicated column on former *Washington Post* ombudsman Geneva Overholser's resignation from the National Press Foundation in protest of an award being given to Fox News' Brit Hume.
- **Rush Limbaugh.com**, February 2. The homepage for *The Rush Limbaugh Show* spotlighted items from both *CyberAlert* and the February 2 issue of *Notable Quotables*.
- **Rush Limbaugh.com**, January 30. The Rush Limbaugh Show's home page linked to two *CyberAlert* items. The first was CBS's deletion of anchor Dan Rather's description of John Kerry as "another McGovern" and the second was ABC *Nightline*'s flattering five-minute segment on the left-wing group MoveOn.org.
- **National Review Online**, January 30. The MRC's Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham wrote an article on ABC's apologizing to former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean for continually playing his "scream."
- **LifeSiteNews.com**, January 27. Interviewed the MRC's Graham for a story on the media's pro-abortion bias.
- **ChronWatch.com**, January 24. Cited MRC President Bozell's column on Howard Dean's dismal finish in the Iowa caucuses.
- **TownHall.com**, January 23. Carried MRC President Bozell's nationally syndicated column on Howard Dean's disappointing finish in Iowa.
- **LifeNews.com**, January 23. Cited MRC news analyst Jessica Anderson's item in *CyberAlert* that documented ABC's negative slant in its coverage of the 31st anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and the annual March for Life.
- **Townhall.com**, January 22. Cited a MRC *CyberAlert* item on *Time*'s Joe Klein, who described the President's State of the Union speech as "remarkably combative."



# MRC's Free Market Project To Target Obesity Reporting

The MRC re-established its Free Market Project in July 2003. Focused on fighting anti-free market bias in business and economic reporting, the project issues reports, studies and commentaries and maintains a web site at [www.freemarketproject.org](http://www.freemarketproject.org).

FMP Director Paul Stifflemire, Jr. has recently produced two commentaries. In "Some Kids Eat Fast Food; Some Kids Are Fat...The Media Connect The Dots," Stifflemire documented a "perfect obesity storm" of early January stories about children's weight from CBS, NBC, CNN, the Associated Press and several major newspapers. The commentary was distributed to conservative media outlets and then posted on the project web site.

Stifflemire's commentary noted that the media require little encouragement and even less evidence to reach astounding conclusions regarding obesity and specifically disputed their claims that scientific evidence links "fast food" and childhood obesity.

A second FMP commentary – it was featured on CNSNews.com on January 12 – exposed the media's role in advancing fears of "environmental Armageddon." The exaggerated media reports were based on a *Nature* magazine article that claimed up to one million species of plants and animals would become extinct in the next 50 years due to global warming. Although there was abundant expert criticism of the author's claims behind the "study," the commentary demonstrated that the media coverage was overwhelmingly sympathetic to the unproven claim.

The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and tagline "Educating America by Educating the Media". Below the header, there is a "Welcome" message, a "Commentary" section with the title "Some Kids Eat Fast Food, Some Kids Are Fat... The Media Connects The Dots", and a "Publications" section. A "Resources" sidebar lists various links like "About FMP", "Advisors", "Links", "Books", "Support FMP", "Planned Giving", "Contact Us", and "Site Search". There is also a "Send this page to a friend!" button.

To read the commentaries and other publications and research of the Free Market Project's visit the website at [www.FreeMarketProject.org](http://www.FreeMarketProject.org)

The Free Market Project is currently working on *A Study of Media Coverage of the Food Industry*, the first of four Special Reports slated for 2004. Due for release at the end of March, this study has been accorded priority due to the extraordinary bias in coverage of issues such as obesity, fast food and the "mad cow" scare. Journalists have advanced the notion that the food industry requires far stricter regulation, and downplayed the ability of informed individual decisions expressed through the free market to deliver useful outcomes where health and safety are concerned.



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Photos above are from past MRC galas and represent only a handful of the personalities who have participated in or attended the annual event.

# Clinton Crony Named MSNBC President



**MSNBC has made a new hire that all but ensures its 2004 election coverage will be biased and one-sided.**

Rick Kaplan, a veteran news executive who was Vice President of News at ABC for the last year and CNN President from 1997-2000, was named to the top spot at MSNBC on February 17.

A long-time friend of former President Bill Clinton, Kaplan is a political partisan who has a long history of using his influence to help liberals and hurt conservatives. Here's a quick review of some of Kaplan's biased work over the past dozen years.

☛ While executive producer of ABC's *Prime Time Live* in 1992, Kaplan advised candidate Clinton on how to deal with the Gennifer Flowers affair and coached Clinton for a *60 Minutes* interview on the subject.



**As CNN President, Kaplan helped produced specials that attacked Clinton critics, including one that "asked what the hell are you people doing" investigating Bill Clinton's sex life.**

☛ In 1993, while the Executive Producer at ABC's *World News Tonight*, Kaplan stayed overnight in the Lincoln Bedroom at Clinton's invitation. He also played golf with Clinton shortly before the inauguration.

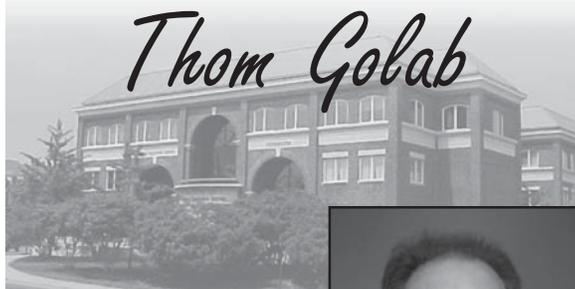
☛ In the late 90s, Kaplan single-handedly turned CNN into the "Clinton News Network." He once demanded that staffers not use the word "scandal" during a special on Clinton's campaign fund-raising scandals and personally assisted in the production of "news" specials that attacked Clinton critics. The programs included *Media Madness*, which asked "what the hell are you people doing" probing Bill Clinton's sex life? and *Investigating the Investigator*, a special that described Ken Starr as "suspect" because of his "religious and Republican roots."

☛ In 2000, Kaplan stayed overnight in the White House for a second time and told *USA Today* that he did "not feel embarrassed, ashamed or compromised in any way, shape or form." Later that year, *Newsweek* reported Kaplan had helped Al Gore prepare for a debate against Bill Bradley.

In addition to his penchant for partisanship, Kaplan also brings a reputation for shoddy workmanship to MSNBC. He was at the helm of ABC's *Prime Time Live* in 1991 when they aired an expose against the Food Lion supermarket chain using undercover producers who falsified their resumes and staged events. Food Lion sued, and a jury fined Kaplan \$35,000, which a judge later overturned. As CNN president in 1998, Kaplan was responsible for approving the quickly-retracted "Tailwind" expose that charged that U.S. soldiers had gassed "dissidents" and children in Laos during the Vietnam War.

## INSIDE THE MRC

*Thom Golab*



Thom Golab became the MRC's Director of Development in September 2003. As Director, he is responsible for supervising the development staff and ensuring the organization has the necessary funding to expose, counter and neutralize liberal media bias.

Born in Washington, D.C., Thom was raised in College Park, Md. and graduated from the University of Maryland in 1982.

With the exception of a short stint as a researcher for syndicated columnists Don Lambro and Stan Evans immediately after graduation, Thom has worked in development for conservative public policy organizations for the last 20 years. He has held positions at the Heritage Foundation, the Capital Research Center, Citizens for a Sound Economy and the Cato Institute. Prior to coming to the MRC, he served as the Vice President of Development and Administration at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Thom has always had a passion for journalism and a free press and enjoys working at an organization that promotes those ideas. "I have watched the Media Research Center grow into a valuable part of the conservative movement and the ideals I have cherished," Thom says. "The MRC understands far better than most of the liberal journalists that freedom of the press — like so many of the freedoms this great country has through our Constitution — requires responsibility and vigilance."

Thom and his wife, Irene, live in Silver Spring, Md and he teaches the Old Testament to 6th graders at his local church.

# Who Is The Beneficiary of Your Estate?

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Without a will and proper estate planning, the government (both state and federal) could be the primary beneficiary of your estate.

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Media Watchdog will continue to document, expose, and neutralize the liberal media for years to come. That would be a gift for future generations.

If you have already included us in your will or living trust, please let us know so that we may thank you properly.

**For more information, please call Director of Development Thom Golab at (800) 672-1423 or visit us online at [www.mrc.gift-planning.org](http://www.mrc.gift-planning.org).**

## Sample Bequest Language

(To be reviewed by your attorney):

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