

# FLASH NEWS

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Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

## A Classic Case of Liberal Bias

DEAR MRC MEMBER,

A quick question: What's more likely to get you an interview on a top network news program? Write a book that zooms to the top of the *New York Times* best-seller list or write a book that nobody cares about but attacks conservatives?

You know the answer. Trashing conservatives has long been a network pastime and the recent treatment of Bernard Goldberg and David Brock is just the latest demonstration of it.

Goldberg, a CBS correspondent for 28 years, is the author of *Bias: A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News*. The book details how liberal bias influences network news and corrupts the supposedly objective information they provide to Americans every day. Released in December, *Bias* rocketed up the *Times* best seller list, reached number one in February, and remains in the top 10 as we go to print. And the TV networks are doing everything in their power to pretend this book doesn't exist.

On a recent *Alan Keyes Is Making Sense* show on MSNBC Goldberg and I were both guests. I asked him how many times he had been interviewed on network news programs.

"Before I answer that let me tell you that I've done about 400 radio shows, about 40 cable TV shows," Goldberg said. "I've been interviewed in about two dozen foreign countries including China

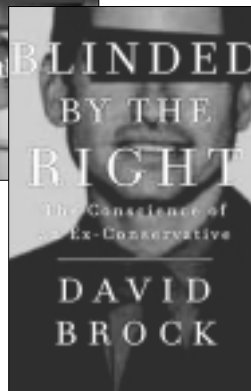
and Australia and New Zealand and England and Canada and Israel and Russia and a lot more. The only three places I have not been on with this book...are ABC News, NBC News, and CBS News."

Let's think about that for a minute. An award-winning correspondent writes a best-selling book. It becomes the most widely read book in the land and a hot topic for cable and radio news programs across the country — even the world! Yet the networks refuse to even acknowledge the book or the author's existence. Has anything ever provided better evidence of the anti-conservative prejudice, not to mention the know-it-all arrogance, of network news producers and anchors?

David Brock, on the other hand, stands in direct contrast to Goldberg. A former conservative journalist known for his investigation of Anita Hill and of Bill Clinton's Troopergate scandal — that was the one that eventually forced Clinton to pay several hundred thousand dollars to Paula Jones — Brock made a political about-face in 1997 and has since made a career trashing his former colleagues in the conservative movement. His latest effort is a book titled *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*. He now claims he was lying all along — and somehow this is conservatives' fault!

Brock's conversion to the Left has made him a honest-to-goodness media darling. It all started when he penned a 1998 *Esquire* article that was nothing more than a letter of apology to then-President

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DEAR MEMBER

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Clinton. After the *Esquire* article, the doors of the network news divisions were flung open. Brock appeared on all three network morning shows, *Meet the Press*, and *Face the Nation* in rapid succession, bad-mouthing and attacking conservatives at every stop. No conservative was allowed on the air to refute him, either.

Brock's conservative-bashing promotional cycle has started anew with *Blinded by the Right*. Just a few weeks after its release, Brock was sharing the stage with Matt Lauer on the March 14 NBC *Today* show. Lauer introduced Brock to viewers as a reformed right-wing assassin who was trying to make amends for his evil ways. "After years of lies, and some would say malicious journalism, this Washington insider wants to clear his conscience," Lauer said. How nice.



During a joint interview on *Alan Keyes*, Bozell asked Goldberg to name what network shows have interviewed him about his best-selling book. The answer? None.



Lauer and Brock were doing more than clearing consciences, however. They were blatantly attempting to spin history, as evidenced by a blanket statement from Lauer that Brock had written "things that weren't true," leaving the impression with viewers that everything Brock had done as a conservative was dishonest.

The contrast between Brock's open-armed welcome and Goldberg's silent, stiff-armed rejection is a classic case of media bias and the MRC, as always, was ready to take action. By midday on March 14, the MRC's News Analysis Division had issued a *Media Reality Check* taking both

Brock and NBC to task for their blatant unfairness.

The *Media Reality Check* noted that nothing Brock says today undermines the work he did prior to his liberal conversion. The truth is that the bulk of Brock's reporting about Hill and Clinton was thoroughly researched and footnoted. It remains unchallenged to this day, even by Brock himself.

Brock's truthfulness is another area that remained unchallenged. Lauer happily accepted the notion that since Brock is now a liberal, he's telling the truth. As I pointed out in my March 22 nationally syndicated column, if Brock is telling the truth now, he was lying then — to conservatives — and collecting handsomely for his efforts. If he was telling the truth then, he's lying now. But no one in the liberal media seems to be interested in pursuing this line of questioning.

The reason is obvious. The networks are more interested in hearing attacks on conservatives than digging for the truth.

Which is where the MRC comes in. While NBC praised Brock and ignored Goldberg, the MRC, through our *Media Reality Check*, my column, our daily *CyberAlerts*, and our appearances on TV news shows and radio talk shows kept interested columnists, conservative media outlets, and the public at large informed of this ongoing media double standard.

It's the kind of thing this organization was created to do and it's the kind of thing we can do only with your support. And, as always, I thank you.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III



No evidence, just "memoirs" about a right-wing conspiracy, and this man, who admits lying in the past, once again becomes an instant darling of the liberal media.

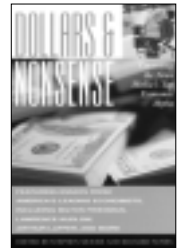
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"This easy-to-understand book destroys ten of the media's most widely reported economic myths. With chapters written by such noted economists as Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman, Lawrence Kudlow, Arthur Laffer, and several others, *Dollars and Nonsense* 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.

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## Two Papers, Two Spins

The *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* usually can be counted on to provide similar spins on the major stories of the day. On rare occasions, however, their spins are so different that a closer inspection is required.

Sunday, March 17 was one of those occasions. In front-page headlines, the two papers described the effect of the sex-abuse scandals on the Catholic Church in very different terms.

“As Scandal Keeps Growing, Church and Its Faithful Reel,” the *Times* headline screamed. The spin echoed the headline, as the story opened with a district attorney demanding to see every accusation ever made against priests in the Portland, Maine archdiocese.

In direct contrast, the *Post* carried a front-page story that emphasized the faith of Catholics. “For Catholics,

Crisis of Trust Alayed by Faith,” the headline stated. The subhead below read, “View of Hierarchy Dimmed, But Many Back Local Clergy,” and the *Post* story opened with a monsignor receiving a standing ovation after his homily. “[Catholics] are reaching out to support the clergymen they know and admire,” the article noted in its fourth paragraph, “while expressing an excruciating feeling of betrayal by the church’s more distant and opaque leadership...”

Three days later, the two prominent dailies provided contrasting spins on another subject, the Rhode Island-sized iceberg that broke free from Antarctica.

For the ultra-liberal *Times* there was only one explanation: global warming, of course. Reporter Andrew Revkin provided the typical, pro-green spin in the body of his story: “While it is too soon to say

whether the changes are warming the planet, many experts said it was getting harder to find any other explanation.”

*Post* reporter Eric Pianin, on the other hand, took pains to note that scientists weren’t blaming the event on global warming. He wrote, “Researchers and scientists who study the Antarctic peninsula cautioned that there was little evidence to directly link the ice shelf collapse to the effects of global warming.”

So what does this prove? Something we already knew. The *New York Times* is never satisfied with just reporting a story. Liberal spin permeates every edition of the nation’s paper of record and its left-wing enthusiasm is so robust that even the *Washington Post* — no shrinking violet when it comes to liberal cheerleading — often looks reasonable by comparison.

## Campaigning for Gay Adoption

ABC’s recent prime-time interview with Rosie O’Donnell combined two of the modern media’s worst traits: celebrity journalism and liberal advocacy.

On March 14, the network aired a two-hour *Prime Time Thursday* — host Diane Sawyer called it a “special event” — in which O’Donnell admitted she was gay. O’Donnell’s confession was hardly the point, however.

The real mission was to promote gay adoption and publicize a court challenge to a Florida law that bans it. O’Donnell, an adoptive parent herself, used the show as a bully pulpit and was aided and abetted at every step by ABC.

The title, “Rosie’s Story: For the Sake of the Children,” made ABC’s bias clear from the start. The program that followed featured lengthy, sympathetic interviews with O’Donnell and included interviews with the two gay men filing the lawsuit and the HIV-positive foster children they have cared for. An “expert,” a professor at the University of Southern California who favored gay adoption, was also interviewed at length. The only opponent, despite Sawyer’s claim that ABC wanted both sides



to be heard, was a Florida legislator who was on camera for five minutes and thirty seconds.

As bad as the show’s lack of fairness was, the widespread, unhidden media support for O’Donnell’s position is even more appalling. In the days leading up to the interview, supposedly objective journalists went out of their way to speak up on behalf of gay adoption. An MRC *CyberAlert* caught *Today* co-host Matt Lauer stating on *Entertainment Tonight* that Rosie “is a good friend and I support her 100 percent.” Another *CyberAlert* noted that a couple of weeks before the O’Donnell interview, ABC icon Barbara Walters and her colleagues on the daytime show *The View* had made it clear that they don’t understand how anyone could oppose gay adoption. And, on the day of the O’Donnell interview, ABC’s

*Good Morning America* showcased actress Rene Russo, who reinforced the “normalcy” of it all by telling viewers that lesbians raised her.

Once again the network news departments have found a cause and surrendered all sense of objectivity on behalf of it. Be prepared for more stories on what wonderful parents gays make in the months to come.

How do Brit Hume, Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh, Michael Reagan, Janet Parshall, Matt Drudge, *National Review*, the *Washington Times*, *World* magazine, and thousands of others stay on top of the latest liberal media bias? They read the MRC's *CyberAlert*. And you can too...for FREE! As a member of the MRC, you can sign up to receive the MRC's near-daily e-mail report *CyberAlert*!

To subscribe, just e-mail [MRC@MediaResearch.org](mailto:MRC@MediaResearch.org) and say you want to get your FREE *CyberAlerts*! Mention that you read about it in *FLASH*.

## Beyond Fair

The latest handwringing over the Al Qaeda terrorists being held at Guantanamo Bay — and the latest evidence of some journalists' determination to criticize America from every angle — comes from *Time* magazine Editor-At-Large Michael Elliot. Appearing on CNN's *American Morning* on March 13, Elliott laid out some impossible standards for the U.S. to meet.

"(I)n Europe...I think there is still a substantial group of people who think that the conditions in Guantanamo Bay are not perfect. That the prisoners need legal representation, and that they need to be treated beyond fairly for everyone to show the Islamic world that we have right on our side as well as might on our side," Elliott said.



**Time editor-at-large believes the U.S. should follow his ridiculous plan.**

Ridiculous. (And, by the way, what does "beyond fairly" mean, anyway?) The Guantanamo detainees get three meals a day, medical treatment — several even have had surgery — and a U.S. Army Muslim chaplain has been provided for their spiritual needs. The procedures for the tribunals have been made public and they closely resemble those court-martialed American military personnel

receive. If it's good enough for American citizens, it should be good enough for the Al Qaeda terrorists, but don't expect some in the media, or some in Europe, to be satisfied with that. As the Elliot quote indicates, some will criticize the U.S. for absolutely any reason and from absolutely any angle.

## A Real Live Fetus?

The media's pro-abortion bias reached a new low last month.

The Associated Press, in a story on the Born Alive Act passed by the House of Representatives in mid-March, referred to a baby as a live fetus. *National Review Online's*



**Well, amazing. Look at that. A real live fetus!**

Kathryn Jean Lopez picked up on the story on March 13 and noted how obsessed the AP was with using pro-abortion language.

"...(I)f you get your news from the AP wire...this is what you found yesterday after the vote: **Headline: 'House OK's Fetus Protection Bill.'** First sentence: 'The House voted Tuesday to define a fetus that is fully outside a woman's body as having been born alive, which would give the fetus legal protection...'"

A note to AP editors. A live, healthy "fetus" outside a woman's body is referred to as a baby and is universally recognized as a human being. You might want to add that to the next edition of the famous AP stylebook since some of your writers and editors don't know this.

## Reporter Says Media Are Biased Against Business

Add *Washington Post* automotive reporter Warren Brown to the growing list of journalists saying there's a liberal bias in the media.

"You might have caught wind of the current debate over whether we in the media are biased. I think we are, though we are quite unwilling to admit it," Brown wrote in a March 20 *Washingtonpost.com* online chat that was caught by MRC Vice President Brent Baker and publicized in his daily *CyberAlert*.

Brown said liberal bias is demonstrated in the way reporters deal with business groups and nonprofit groups such as environmentalists. "...The general media, for instance, is skeptical of anyone who makes a profit and that idea is coupled with the erroneous notion that profit and truth are mutually exclusive commodities," Brown wrote.

"We tend to believe that any nonprofit group is telling the truth because the group is, well, nonprofit. We overlook the fact that nonprofit groups hustle for money just like any other organization," Brown noted. "The difference is that they don't report a net gain from income. They have not dirtied themselves with profit. They supposedly have nothing to gain by saying what they say, or doing what they do. It's time that we in the media take away that carte blanche believability from nonprofit organizations and started treating them the way we treat everybody else." Amen.



**Kudos to the Washington Post's Warren Brown.**

## Why Don't They Like You, Jane?

Historical knowledge is not a requirement for television journalists, as Star Jones, the former NBC News reporter now at ABC, recently demonstrated.

Sitting in as host of the daytime program *The View*, Jones was amazed at the depth of hostility many Vietnam veterans retained for guest Jane Fonda.

"I've been floored by the number of e-mails this show has received even now from Vietnam veterans, from their families," Jones said on the March 14 show.





**The View gave Jane Fonda yet another forum for voicing her opinions about the Vietnam war.**

For her part, Fonda, who was promoting *Necessary Targets*, an anti-war play she is producing in New York, said many veterans were still angry with her because they were buying “into the revisionist history that has been created for us about what that war was all about.”

“Revisionist history” has nothing to do with it, Jane, and you know it. The fact that you sat behind a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun and openly consorted with the enemy that was shooting at Americans or torturing their comrades-in-arms in POW camps has everything to do with it.

### Why Are These Kids on TV?

MSNBC, apparently growing desperate for sizzling stories, decided to provide a look at a small part of the anti-war movement. On a March 23 segment, correspondent Jim Bunn interviewed three Stuyvesant High School students, one male and two female, who were upset with the supposed limits on “free speech” that have taken place since September 11 and with the “bomb them” T-shirt that they’ve been seeing people wear.

The teenage boy was also disgusted because “we’re taking our God, and it’s not my God, and we’re sticking it all over the United States and that annoyed me and I didn’t like seeing huge billboards which said ‘God Bless America’ and nothing else.” And, for good measure, none likes the fact that we’re spending so much money on the military.



**MSNBC uses kids to try to dampen the country’s “fascination” with patriotism.**

While the first inclination is to slap those kids, it’s really not their fault. It’s MSNBC that’s to blame for this debacle. How and why three whining, uninformed high-school students merit airtime on an afternoon when we’re at war and suicide bombers are running amok in Israel is beyond us. But, then again, there is a reason why MSNBC is last among the cable news networks.

### So Long, Bryant

As *FLASH* was going to press, CBS broke the news that Bryant Gumbel soon would leave the network. Next month’s *FLASH* will have a section dedicated to the longtime morning show host, but until then, here’s a few recent

examples from *The Early Show* of the man’s over-the-top liberal bias.

- February 20, 2002: Ashamed of American patriotism. Gumbel agreed with the sentiment that “they shouldn’t be keeping a medal count” by nation at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics since “this is not about nationalistic efforts.”
- January 30, 2002: When Jordan’s King Abdullah refused to denounce the Bush administration for shunning Yasser Arafat and not helping the Palestinians, Gumbel repeatedly pressed him to do so. Plus, Gumbel wanted to know “how big a mistake” it would be for the U.S. to move “aggressively against Iraq.”
- November 30, 2001: Gumbel tried to link President Bush to the collapse of Enron, but the guest wouldn’t buy it. “They were George Bush’s biggest campaign contributor. Does any of this reflect on the President at all?” The guest replied: “No.” Gumbel pleaded: “No way, none, none whatsoever?”

Yeah, we’re going to miss you, Bryant... but not much.



**We’ve printed this before, and we’re happy to print it again.... “Bye, Bye, Bryant!!!”**



**Kudos to Dan for paying tribute to Americans lost in the Battle of Ghardez.**

## MRC’s Mini-Bits

Peter Jennings tells us not to worry: “One of the good things about journalists is that they recognize bias and work hard to keep it out of their coverage”...Always-dependable Helen Thomas, formerly of UPI, now with Hearst: “I don’t think it’s right to be contemplating what other country we can bomb next”...Helen strikes again: “Does the President think that the Palestinians have a right to resist 35 years of brutal military occupation and suppression?”...CBS’s Bryant Gumbel says “Texas justice is an oxymoron”...Actor Alec Baldwin claims 2000 Florida recount “has done as much damage to our country as any terrorist attack could do”...On a patriotic note, Dan Rather paid tributes to the Americans killed at the Battle of Ghardez: “They gave this country everything. We close our broadcast tonight thinking of them and their valor.”

# CNSNews.com Exclusive Prompts Boycott of 'Sex Bash' Hotel

By Scott Hogenson  
CNSNews.com  
Executive Editor



One of the rotten things about being in the news business is that, after reporting on certain stories, one sometimes feels the need to take a shower.

That was my initial reaction when we began exploring an article about how a Howard Johnson hotel in St. Louis was shutting its doors to the public in order to host an "educational, pansexual event." In plain English, it was a sex party, featuring sadism and masochism. The event was named "Beat Me in St. Louis."

A sample of the events promoted by the organizers includes "demos, seminars, and workshops covering caning, flogging (and) single-tail whips," all of which is ostensibly "dedicated to the free expression of alternative lifestyles and forms of loving."

Some news is distasteful and it's difficult to write about some subjects for that reason. But I wonder sometimes if certain elements of the Left understand this and use it as a means of pressing an increasingly audacious agenda.

So we decided to pursue the Howard Johnson story, with Editorial Assistant Mike Betsch pulling the assignment.

His article ran on March 28 and generated a ton of correspondence from readers, the first of which came from people who were aghast that this heretofore family-friendly hotel (kids stay free at HoJos) could host an event that included, among other things, "dungeon parties" with medieval torture devices.

The next ton of correspondence came from people who apparently have a greater appreciation for medieval torture than I, explaining how "most of Middle America may not be into whips and bondage, [but] doesn't have a problem with folks that are."

A third ton of mail came from people expressing devotion to the Constitution, the right to assemble, freedom of association, and free-market capitalism.

Then, free-market capitalism spoke — loud and clear.

On April 4, the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S., announced it would boycott Howard Johnson hotels during the church's annual meeting, canceling its reservations with the hotel for its June conference in St. Louis.

The Associated Press moved the story almost immediately. ABC Radio ran it in its evening newscasts. The story was carried in newspapers across North America, including *Newsday*, the *Ottawa Citizen*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and the *Calgary Herald*, to name just a few.

How did all this start? According to Baptist Press News, "The Southern Baptist Convention and Howard Johnson Hotels are parting ways after it was revealed that the hotel chain is hosting a private sex bash in one of its St. Louis hotels."

It was CNSNews.com that did the revealing, and the Baptist Press dispatch exclusively cited our reporting in its statement, with six direct citations to Betsch's article.

Mind you, we weren't trying to start a fight between Howard Johnson and the Baptists or anyone else. We didn't even contact the Baptist Church for comment in our original article. The facts simply spoke for themselves and the Southern Baptist Convention took what it considered appropriate action. The free market had spoken.

This is the definition of impact journalism: news that's properly written and accurately reported, widely read and distributed, and so compelling it prompts people to act.

This is and always has been the hallmark of CNSNews.com. And with your continued support, it always will be.

And if we have to shower from time to time after covering certain stories, so be it. We've got plenty of soap and water.

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# Guilty As Charged!

The MRC has become so successful in identifying and neutralizing liberal bias that even some of our occasional opponents admit we're doing an effective job.

In its March-April 2002 issue, the *Columbia Journalism Review* notes how the MRC's post-September 11 challenges to anti-war attitudes and comments in the media have produced results. Here are a few excerpts from the article, written by Michael Scherer:

"...In terms of mainstream media exposure, the [Media Research] Center has enjoyed significant success in its new role [post-September 11], often framing the discussions of journalistic objectivity. Between September 11 and December 31, MRC reports and staff members were quoted 80 separate times by major news outlets in the Nexis database. This included 11 interviews and citations on Fox News, CNN and CNNfn. [MRC President Brent] Bozell even made it onto *Imus in the Morning* in February..."

"...Senior network executives tend to dismiss the [Media Research] Center a bit too reflexively,' said Howard Kurtz, media reporter for CNN and the *Washington Post*. 'This is clearly because the organization has such a conservative agenda, but that doesn't mean their barbs aren't hitting the mark sometimes...'"

"...The [Media Research] Center also spread the word about ABC News president David Westin's equivocation over whether the Pentagon had been a 'legitimate military target,' eliciting a prompt apology from the network chief and a flurry of embarrassing press coverage. 'They put stuff out there and it either speaks for itself or it doesn't,' said [Brit] Hume, who worked at ABC News for twenty-three years before joining Fox. 'The value of these people is their research...'"



"...At CNN, NBC, MSNBC, and ABC, reporters and producers said that while they are aware of the [Media Research] Center's criticisms, they keep partisan assaults from influencing their news judgment. Still, says Tom Nagorski, the foreign news editor at ABC, 'I suppose in a subtle way, it's in the back of your mind...'"

## Notes of Appreciation from CNN and Newsweek

As many of you are aware, the MRC produced a tribute saluting the media for their coverage of 9-11. That video was shown at the Dishonors Awards in January. As a way of thanking the media and making them aware of the tribute, the MRC sent a special copy of the video to each network appearing in the tribute. In late March, the MRC received some telephone calls and letters from many in the media thanking us for the tribute.

### Walter Isaacson, President, CNN

"I read the remarks he [President Bozell] made at the MRC annual dinner and saw the tape and I truly appreciate it. ...All of us have changed since 9-11, especially those of us in the media, and I thought it was a nice recognition of the role some journalists played."

### Richard M. Smith, Chairman and Editor-In-Chief, Newsweek

"Many thanks for your kind note and the copy of your dinner remarks. We are humbled by your praise and will do our best to earn more positive comments in the future."

## Rush Uses MRC Research to Prove Media's Bias for "Environmental Wackos"

Excerpt from the Rush Limbaugh Show on March 28, 2002.

**RUSH LIMBAUGH:** "...Who do [the media] believe? The lying environmentalist wackos. They don't challenge a thing they're told by those people. They just run to press with it..."

"...most media accounts continue to reinforce the idea that the administration had ignored conservationists and consumers [but]..."

"...Energy Department spokeswoman Judith Schraeder said that other Energy Department officials met five environmental wacko and consumer groups..."

"CNN, the Associated Press ignored that angle. The *Wall Street Journal* characterized it as evidence of a stark contrast between Bush administration dealings with energy and environmental groups.

News organizations had pounced upon the situation as if providing some kind of smoking gun demonstrating underhanded administration policy-making.



Broadcasters also shaded their coverage, this according to the Media Research Center, that's Brent Bozell's bunch.

"One CNN account began with a question: 'Do these documents confirm the worst suspi-

cions of influence peddling?' I mean it was, it's profound here, it's breathtaking, the scope of these lies..."



# Editor's Corner

TIM JONES

## A Little Help for Hezbollah?

The Party of God has a devil of a public relations man.

He should be, though, since he's also the anchor of ABC's *World News Tonight*.

Peter Jennings, long accused of pro-Arab Middle East coverage by media critics and fellow journalists alike, delivered an unusual spin on a well-known terrorist group on March 27. Reporting from Beirut, Jennings provided a positive portrayal of Hezbollah, the terrorist group whose name means the Party of God.

The first thing Jennings told viewers about Hezbollah was that it fought against invaders and is part of the political mainstream in Lebanon. "In the middle of [the Lebanese civil war], the Israelis invaded and were not forced out until 2000. It is Hezbollah, which means the party of God that gets credit for liberating Lebanon from the long Israeli occupation. Its 38-year-old leader, Hassan Nasrallah, [is] a popular member of the political establishment," Jennings said.

The anchor then noted that the Bush administration has declared Hezbollah to be a terrorist group, but Nasrallah, through an interpreter, said that was all wrong. "Hezbollah was proud to resist the Israeli occupation," Nasrallah said. "...We gave our lives. We are not terrorists," he added.



Jennings took Nasrallah at his word and never mentioned Hezbollah's part in attacks against Americans, even when visiting the sites of their dirty work. At the old American embassy, Jennings told viewers that "this is where the U.S. experienced the first suicide bomber. In 1983 a man simply drove his truck to the front door and blew himself up. Sixty-three people died. Later that year, the Marine barracks here were destroyed in much the same way. 241 Marines died."

Men "simply drove" themselves to the front doors and blew up the buildings? A Hezbollah suicide bomber drove 12,000 pounds of explosives into the Marine compound and blew it apart. Nineteen years after the attack, the group still brags about it on its website and Jennings clearly knows they were involved. But he didn't say a word about it in his "objective" story.

"Today the Lebanese prefer not to focus on the past," Jennings said in closing and apparently neither does he. To file a story, from Beirut of all places, that discusses both Hezbollah and the 1983 suicide bombings while neglecting to mention the group's role in the attacks crosses the line from normal bias to public-relations spin. With most anchors, it's the things they say that have to be monitored and followed. With Jennings, it appears it's the things he doesn't say.



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