Dear Friend,

The news came quick: Katie Couric would leave the Today show to anchor the CBS Evening News and Meredith Vieira would leave ABC’s The View to co-anchor Today. Two liberally biased reporters would move into more influential positions, anchoring news coverage for more than 14 million Americans every day.

Liberals cheered. The Eastern Establishment liberal media corps applauded, as did their comrades on the Left Coast. Despite the hoopla, however, CBS and NBC blew it. They threw away prime opportunities to upgrade the credibility of two top anchor slots with more politically balanced reporters. CBS and NBC doused the chance to enhance their credibility with the public and improve their competitive-standing with the ever-encroaching New Media. CBS and NBC dimly chose to stick with two personalities with long track records of liberal bias.

Given the history of Couric and Vieira, the news at CBS and on Today will continue to come from left of center—in Vieira’s case, hard left; for Couric, softer left. Here at the MRC, we will stay on their trail and work ever harder to document, expose, and neutralize their liberal media bias.

The MRC has tracked Couric since she appeared on NBC’s Today as a co-host in 1991. The MRC’s Couric archive is hence extensive and was immediately updated when the news of her decision to move to CBS was announced. In addition to the lengthy Profiles in Bias on Couric (see www.MRC.org), the MRC prepared a shorter dossier called “Katie Couric’s Years of Liberal Tilt,” along with a press release and blasted the information to talk radio, TV, newspapers, Web sites and bloggers.

This information was picked up by numerous media and relayed to millions of Americans. To name a few hits, there were citations in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Times, Human Events, National Review Online, and John Leo, a syndicated columnist based at U.S. News & World Report, used MRC research for his weekly column. U.S. News has a circulation of more than 2 million people, as does the Wall Street Journal.

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Couric, as a reminder, is the perky liberal who has, over the years, told Today’s 6-million-plus audience that Ronald Reagan was “an airhead;” that Arnold Schwarzenegger’s father was a member of the Nazi Party; that Saddam Hussein was “the ultimate referee” who saved lives; that conservative talk radio is responsible for the death of Matthew Shepherd; that Rush Limbaugh is a racist; that Jimmy Carter’s Nobel Prize was “so well-deserved;” that Republicans are “too harsh” and “draconian;” that President Bush likely “knew” beforehand of the 9/11 attacks; and the list goes on and on. (See www.MRC.org, Profiles in Bias.)

When NBC announced that Meredith Vieira would replace Katie Couric at Today, the MRC’s Brent Baker quickly posted on the MRC’s blog, NewsBusters, and in the MRC CyberAlert, information about Vieira’s militant anti-war activism and other left-wing positions. This was complete with audio and video clips of Vieira explaining on ABC’s The View, for instance, that she proudly marched with her husband and daughter in an anti-Bush, anti-Iraq-war protest in August 2004. In June 2004, Vieira told America “Everything’s been built on lies. Everything! I mean the entire pretext for war.”

Vieira has also labeled Ann Coulter’s comments about liberalism as “stupid,” and criticized conservatives for “wrapping themselves in the flag” and acting like “McCarthy.” She has also publicly ranted against the death penalty, against abstinence-based sex education, in favor of Roe v. Wade and abortion, and claimed, incoherently, that wars feed off religious “bigotry.”

The MRC’s research material on Vieira – print, audio and video – was picked up quickly by countless media. The Drudge Report, with an average audience of 3 million, for instance, posted a link to the MRC’s video clip of Vieira’s anti-war comments. That single hit drove hundreds of thousands of readers to the MRC blog and the MRC Web site. This material was further cited by the Washington Post, the Associated Press, the Washington Times, the Houston Chronicle, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, CNN’s Reliable Sources, Fox & Friends and, at the news conference where NBC “officially” announced the hiring of Vieira, she was peppered by reporters with questions about her anti-war comments.

That’s impact. That’s the MRC at work. That’s how your support helps to expose and neutralize liberal media bias. Because the MRC was ready and alerted the media and public so quickly, Vieira’s liberal media bias was not swept under the rug. Erik Sorenson, a former CBS and MSNBC news executive, told CNN that because of her liberal biases, Vieira faces “a challenge” to her credibility on Today and that she will have to “modulate that voice.” Pressed about her Iraq views by the Washington Post’s Howard Kurtz, Vieira defended her liberalism but promised “you put that on a shelf when you’re a journalist.” She also confessed, “I’m going to have to be reigned in a little.”

This does not mean that Vieira or Couric will now suddenly become a politically balanced anchor. No, their liberal biases are ingrained, decades in the molding. But it does mean there is a very powerful check on their liberal leanings. There is a watchdog. America’s Media Watchdog: The MRC. Stay tuned for updates on the liberal media bias queens at CBS and NBC.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President
This year’s gala on March 31, featuring the DisHonors Awards for the Most Outrageously Biased Liberal Reporters in 2005, was an uproarious and resounding success, a festive good night enjoyed by more than 900 MRC supporters and conservative leaders from across America (see pp. 4-5 for more). The evening’s events were punctuated, and rightly so, by the program’s Second Part: the MRC’s tribute to the American military.

Given that thousands of Americans are in Afghanistan and Iraq fighting against terrorism, MRC President Brent Bozell wondered if the gala should occur this year. Why should we celebrate and have fun when America is at war? But as one recently returned Iraq veteran told Mr. Bozell, the biggest problems in Iraq are the insurgents and the media. The liberal media are trying to undermine America’s resolve and, not unlike the terrorists, sap the will of the American people and of U.S. soldiers. So, have a dinner roasting the liberal media? “Let ‘er rip!” said Mr. Bozell, intoning what our soldiers would say.

After noting the several dozen veterans and their families in the audience as MRC’s honored guests, the tribute turned to the “Salute to the Fallen Comrade,” led by Col. Robert Rust (Ret.). In this ceremony, a table set with empty chairs provided the focus for Col. Rust’s remarks. The chairs and settings represented the five military branches. The round table represented our everlasting concern for our fallen soldiers. The white table cloth symbolized the purity of the soldiers’ call to duty. A red rose on the table represented the soldiers’ lives; a ribbon around the vase symbolized our determination to never forget their sacrifice. A Bible represented the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country. The inverted glasses symbolized our soldiers’ inability to share the evening’s toast.

“The chair remains empty,” said Col. Rust. “Let us raise our glasses in a toast to honor our fallen comrades. Semper fidelis!”

Col. Rust’s very moving remarks were followed by an equally moving video tribute to America’s servicemen. Soldiers from various branches serving in Iraq and Afghanistan were shown carrying out their duty, and some of their letters, comments, and interviews were shown. The average age of U.S. soldiers in Iraq is 19. As a Sgt. Seavey, on-screen, said, “It’s very important to protect our way of life. Honor means the most to me.... This is for a greater good: so our children can grow up in a society that’s free.”

Herman Cain, national chairman of the MRC’s Business & Media Institute, gave the final remarks. He called on the veterans in the audience to stand and be recognized. After honoring their contribution to America, Mr. Cain gave some stirring remarks about the Founding Fathers, and ended by saying, “Despite the liberal media, despite those that would destroy the values that have made this country great, I am convinced that we will remain the greatest country in the world for no other reason than the fact that God is blessing America.”
AWARD #1: Slam Uncle Sam Award
(Presented by Larry Kudlow)
WINNER: Host Chris Matthews, in exchange with Jane Fonda, on MSNBC's Hardball, April 15.

Chris Matthews: Many patriotic Americans who opposed the Vietnam war “can’t imagine slipping out of their American skin, their American soul and becoming so objective, as you just were a minute ago, to put yourself above both us and the Vietnamese and saying, ‘I find the Vietnamese were objectively the good guys.’ How do you step out of being an American to make such an objective judgment?”

(Accepted by Major General Jack Singlaub)
Maj. Gen. Jack Singlaub (Ret.), a WWII hero and an MRC Associate, accepted the award and joked that Chris Matthews might not get a proposed job at al-Jazeera because the network is holding out for Peter Arnett.

Cal Thomas, nationally syndicated columnist and panelist on Fox Newswatch, served as master of ceremonies at the 2006 MRC Gala and DisHonors Awards. The award presenters included Larry Kudlow, host of CNBC's Kudlow & Company and the economics editor of National Review Online; Tony Blankley, editorial page editor of the Washington Times; and Mark Levin, a nationally syndicated talk radio host.

AWARD #2: Cindy Sheehan Media Hero Award
(Presented by Larry Kudlow)
WINNER: Chris Matthews, in exchange with Cindy Sheehan on MSNBC’s Hardball, Aug. 15.

Chris Matthews: “Are you considering running for Congress, Cindy?”
Cindy Sheehan: “No, not this time....”
Matthews: “Okay. Well, I have to tell you, you sound more informed than most U.S. Congresspeople, so maybe you should run.”

(Accepted by Linda Chavez)
Linda Chavez, conservative commentator and talk radio host, accepted the award and said that Chris Matthews was not there because he was visiting “the heartland of the Democratic Party” – Hollywood – to recruit people to run for Congress.

AWARD #3: Send Bush to Abu Ghraib Award
(Presented by Tony Blankley)

Jack Cafferty: “What should Karl Rove do if he is indicted?...He might want to, he might want to get measured for one of those extra large orange jump suits, Wolf, because looking at old Karl, I’m not sure that he’d, they’d be able to zip him into the regular size one.”

LARRY KUDLOW
LINDA CHAVEZ
TONY BLANKLEY
Wolf Blitzer: “...Yeah. But, you know, it’s still a big if. It’s still a big if.”

Cafferty: “Oh, I understand. I’m, I’m just hoping, you know. I love, I love to see those kinds of things happen. It does wonders for me.”

(Accepted by Ron Robinson)
Ron Robinson, president of the Young America’s Foundation, accepted the award and noted that “CNN is widely watched at hotels where you have no choice, on cheap cruise ships, and they’re probably looking to get a monopoly in our nation’s prisons.”

AWARD #4: Aaron Brown Memorial Award for the Stupidest Analysis
(Presenter Tony Blankley)
WINNER: Ted Turner on CNN’s The Situation Room, Sept. 19

Ted Turner: “I am absolutely convinced that the North Koreans are absolutely sincere. There’s really no reason for them to cheat [on nukes]...I looked them right in the eyes. And they looked like they meant the truth. ...”

Blitzer: “… But, look at the way, look at the way he’s [Kim Jong-II], look at the way he’s treating his own people.”

Turner: “Well, hey, listen. I saw a lot of people over there. They were thin and they were riding bicycles instead of driving in cars, but—”

Blitzer: “A lot of those people are starving.”

Turner: “I didn’t see any, I didn’t see any brutality....”

(Accepted by Ken Cribb)
In accepting the DisHonor on Turner’s behalf, Intercollegiate Studies Institute President Ken Cribb said, “As you may know, Ted has his ups and downs emotionally, and sometimes we’re not quite sure he’s playing with a full deck.”

AWARD #5: I’m Not a Political Genius but I Play One on TV Award
(Presenter Mark Levin)
WINNER: Rosie O’Donnell on Fox’s At Large with Geraldo Rivera, April 30.

Rosie O’Donnell: “This President invaded a sovereign nation in defiance of the UN. He is basically a war criminal. Honestly. He should be tried at The Hague. This man lied to the American public about the reasons for invading a nation that had nothing to do with 9/11.... And it’s scary in a country that you can say something against the President and then worry about your career. That Dan Rather gets taken off CBS News for writing, for saying a report that essentially was true, that George Bush did not show up—”

Geraldo Rivera: “Okay, okay, we get it, we get it!”

(Accepted by Stan Evans)
In accepting the DisHonor on behalf of Rosie O’Donnell, author and long-time conservative activist Stan Evans gave an uproarious speech and noted, among other things, that Rosie O’Donnell “can light up a room just by leaving it.” Mr. Evans noted, concerning Rosie O’Donnell, that “just because someone is sultry and alluring, doesn’t mean she is the next Madeline Albright ... or Janet Reno, for that matter.”
A “culture of corruption,” we are told by U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and other top Democrats in Washington, currently pervades the Republican-led Congress. They point to the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal, its connections to former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and the guilty plea of former GOP Congressman Randy “Duke” Cunningham in a bribery scandal.

At CNSNews.com, we reported those stories as well. But we also wondered why the media were refusing to pay much attention to the scandalous Democratic congressman from Louisiana: William Jefferson.

Perhaps you have not heard that Jefferson is under investigation by the Justice Department for possible bribery. Jefferson’s legislative director has already pleaded guilty for his part in a scheme allegedly involving the congressman’s promise to promote telecommunications firms in two African countries in exchange for ownership stakes in the companies.

CNSNews.com conducted its own investigation of Jefferson. On Dec. 22, 2005, investigative reporter Marc Morano detailed how the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, which Jefferson chaired, was still sitting on $400,000 it had raised for Hurricane Katrina victims nearly four months after the storm. Later, CNSNews.com investigative reporters pointed out how Jefferson’s CBCF had issued a $290,000 grant to the Community of Faith for Economic Empowerment (COFFEE). COFFEE was established in 2002 to implement one of Jefferson’s pet projects.

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Once again, the establishment media demonstrated a capacity for X-ray vision when investigating even the smallest speck of possible conservative wrongdoing, but showed that it is blind as a bat when examining evidence against a liberal.

That’s why we’re here. At CNSNews.com, we examine all sides to a dispute or controversy and give the subjects involved an opportunity to explain themselves. A full-time staff of 12 provides the balanced reporting that other news organizations with thousands of employees can’t or won’t pursue. Maybe the establishment media will come around at some point. Until then, you can count on us.
MRC IN THE NEWS

The experts at the Media Research Center are interviewed almost every day on stories of national importance, often reaching millions of Americans daily. They provide analysis and commentary on radio, TV, the Internet, in magazines, books and in newspapers, always striving to help restore political balance to the major media. Some of the MRC’s latest media appearances include the following:

TELEVISION

- FNC, Fox & Friends, April 11
- MSNBC, Scarborough Country, March 22
- FNC, Hannity & Colmes, March 10

RADIO

The Right Balance, April 4
Dateline, April 5
Rush Limbaugh Show, March 13
USA Radio Network, March 31
Rightmarch, March 9
Radio Colorado Network, April 7
Tony Snow Show, April 6
NRA News, April 7
KERN – Bakersfield, April 11
KSLR – San Antonio, April 7
WGST – Atlanta, April 6
WIBA – Madison, April 5
KOGO – San Diego, April 6
WFLA – Tampa, April 6
WCRA – Effingham, April 18
KPCC – Los Angeles, April 6
WJIR – Jacksonville, April 5
KWIX – Columbia, April 5
WOWO – Ft. Wayne, April 3
WHKS – Holland, MI, April 3
WKVI – Richmond, March 31
WNPA – Rockford, March 31
KMED – Medford, March 31
WMUZ – Detroit, March 29
KLIN – Lincoln, March 28, April 7
WBAL – Baltimore, April 1, 8
WINK – Ft. Myers, March 30
KMEG – Medford, March 9
WMET – Washington, March 7, 9
WHO – Des Moines, March 10
WNRI – Rhode Island, March 13
KAHL – San Antonio, March 9, April 6
KTSX – San Antonio, March 13
WSPD – Toledo, March 14
WCHS – Charleston, March 14
WSAU – Wausau, March 9
WPHT – Philadelphia, March 11
WCHS – Charleston, March 13, 31
WIBA – Madison, March 9, April 3
WAMT – Orlando, March 8
WAFG – Ft. Lauderdale, March 9

PRINT

- National Review, April 10
- Wall Street Journal, April 7
- Knight Ridder Newspapers, April 8
- Reuters, April 6
- Washington Times, April 3, 4, 6, 7, 11
- Washington Times, March 7, 8, 24, 29, 30
- Washington Post, March 8, 29, 31, April 7
- Associated Press, April 6
- Seattle Post-Intelligencer, April 7
- Charlotte Observer, April 8
- San Diego Union-Tribune, April 7
- Centre Daily Times, April 7
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, March 26, April 7
- Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, April 5
- The Weekly Standard, April 1
- Newsday, April 2
- Philadelphia Inquirer, April 9
- Akron Beacon-Journal, April 6
- Commercial Appeal, April 6
- Times Union, April 6
- Toronto Star, April 6
- Baltimore Sun, April 5
- Chattanooga Times-Free Press, April 5
- Cal Thomas, Tribune Media Services, April 5
- Sun Sentinel, April 5
- Monterey County Herald, April 4
- New York Post, March 31
- Houston Chronicle, March 31, April 2
- Broadcasting & Cable, March 27
- Investor’s Business Daily, March 13, 20
- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, March 5, 12, 19, 26
- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, April 9, 10
- Editor & Publisher, March 8
- Simi Valley Acorn, March 10
- Tampa Tribune, April 10
- Human Events, March 10, 31
- Baltimore Sun, March 14
- Palm Beach Post, March 29
- Federal News Service, March 28, 29, 30
- St. Petersburg Times (Florida), March 23
- Wyoming Tribune-Eagle (Cheyenne), March 5
- Wilkes Barre Times Leader, Feb. 28
- The Courier, March 6
- New York Observer, March 8

INTERNET

- The Drudge Report, April 6
- CBS News Public Eye blog, April 3
- ABCNews.go.com, April 6

On MSNBC’s Scarborough Country, MRC President Brent Bozell discussed how liberally biased coverage of the Iraq war was undermining the war against terrorism.

USNews.com, April 6
The Hotline (National Journal.com), April 6
Mediabistro.com, April 6
Human Events Online, March 31, April 3, 5, 6
Townhall.com, April 4
GetReligion.org, April 5, 7
American Daily, April 7
Conservative voice, April 7
Redstate, April 5
Frontpagemagazine.com, April 4
Wizbangblog.com, April 1
Enterstageright.com, April 3
ChronWatch, April 13
Right Wing Watch, April 3
National Ledger, March 15, 28
Wonkette blog, March 30
Expose the Left blog, March 31
Manufacturer’s blog, March 31
Hugh Hewitt blog, March 31
Mediachannel.org, March 27
Human Events Online, March 3, 7, 15, 17, 21, 24
Public Eye, CBS News.com, March 24, 27
WorldNetDaily, Larry Elder column, March 23
ChronWatch, March 10, 24, 25
TV Newser, March 24
Townhall.com, Larry Elder column March 23
PipeLineNews.org, March 22
Frontpagemag.com, March 24
LifeNews.com, March 17
New Media Journal.us, March 17
GetReligion.org, March 12
NCPA Daily Policy Digest, March 15
Media Matters for America, March 2, 8
AlterNet, March 8
Power Line, March 8
MediaBistro.com, March 7
GOPUSA, March 2
POST-TAX ANALYSIS

Did you pay too much tax in 2005?

Looking for more deductions in 2006?

How about some tax-free income?

If so, consider donating cash or appreciated stock to establish an MRC charitable gift annuity and receive the following benefits:

• immediate income tax deduction;
• lifetime, guaranteed, partially tax-free income stream;
• capital gain tax savings for gifts of appreciated stock;
• ability to leave a lasting legacy to the MRC.

Including the Media Research Center in your financial plans guarantees that America’s Media Watchdog will continue to document, expose, and neutralize the liberal media for years to come—a fine legacy indeed!

For more information and a free proposal, please call Thom Golab at (800) 672-1423 or visit us online at www.mrc.gift-planning.org.