

FLASH NEWS

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The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

Media Need to "Tell the Truth!" on Iraq

Dear Member,

Many are predicting that this fall election will revolve around the outcome of the war in Iraq, and not on the economy. Last year, when the economy looked bad and Iraq looked good, these same pundits said the campaign would be mostly about the economy, and not about Iraq. Keep this in mind: the media want the war in Iraq to look as bad as possible.

That might explain why the media refuse to offer anything other than a misleading and incomplete picture of the battle for Iraq. And it's making everyone who roots for this country sick and tired, and demanding that the media "Tell the Truth!"

Across the country, the MRC is already getting noticed for our efforts to demand a truth-telling media. We were as surprised as anyone when some unidentified people showed up on national TV on June 28 standing on the street behind the co-hosts of NBC's *Today* show with clearly readable signs saying "Don't Believe The Liberal Media" and featured the MRC Web address. Six million Americans saw that sign. Almost immediately, e-mails began pouring in from old supporters and new friends. "Just saw your sign on the *Today* show (don't know why I watch that trash)," wrote one. "Glad to have found you. Keep up the good work."

We've also had great local reaction from people driving by our national headquarters, where we have a massive "Tell the Truth!"



banner hanging from the roof. One local man wrote in, "I saw your 'ad' along Route 1 and thought I would check out your site – fascinating!"

In recent weeks, we've fought hard, exposing the media for pounding like propagandists on the idea that there were no – that's right, zero – connections between Saddam Hussein's regime and the al-Qaeda network. Why is this so important? Because what they're saying – over and over and over again – is just not true.

On June 16, a staff report for the 9/11 Commission documented numerous contacts between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda, but no proof Iraq joined in the 2001 attacks on America, **which is exactly what the Bush administration has been saying all along**. But all three networks instead twisted that finding into an utter rejection of the administration's case for war. CBS reporter John Roberts was the harshest: "One of President Bush's last surviving justifications for war in Iraq...took a devastating hit when the 9/11 Commission declared there was no 'collaborative relationship' between Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden....The report is yet another blow to the President's credibility." Not only does Bush lack credibility, according to CBS, but there are no "surviving justifications" for the Iraq war?

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MRC In The News



*America's Media
Watchdog*

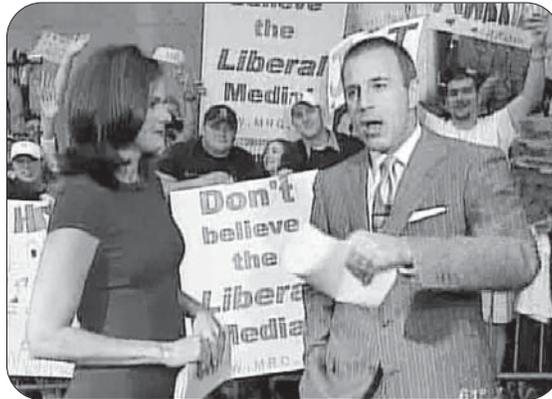
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The question of who lacks credibility was raised the next day by former Rep. Lee Hamilton, the Democratic vice chairman of the 9/11 Commission. He scolded the media for concocting the controversy: "The sharp differences that the press has drawn...are not that apparent to me." But, in typically brazen fashion, ABC and NBC buried that quote deep inside their stories the next night — and CBS spiked Hamilton's rebuke altogether.

We saw the same theme in *The Washington Post*, in one of those snotty front-page editorials they pawn off on the reader as a "news analysis." Reporter Robin Wright began with an echo of the CBS line: "The occupation of Iraq has increasingly undermined, and in some cases discredited, the core tenets of President Bush's foreign policy, according to a wide range of Republican and Democratic analysts and U.S. officials." Always be suspicious when a "wide range" of experts sound like they're finishing each other's sentences. Pre-emptive war? Failed. "Unilateral" war, defined as opposed to catering to the wishes of France and Germany? Rebuffed. Iraq, part of the War on Terror? Dismissed. Reforming Iraq will change the face of the Middle East? Ridiculous, she thought.

Forget for a moment how utterly preliminary these harsh judgments are. The media don't want to analyze Bush foreign policy. They see it as their job to undermine and discredit it.

Every new detail that would help Bush look good gets buried. In a special June 19 *CyberAlert*, MRC Vice President Brent Baker noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin disclosed in a press conference that after September 11, Russian intelligence gave the U.S. information that Saddam Hussein was planning terrorist attacks in the United States. This was huge news. It should have been a banner headline in the biggest newspapers, but *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* buried it deep inside their pages. Where were the networks breaking in? ABC's evening newscast mentioned it, but CBS and NBC utterly ignored it. Our report on the media's refusal to cover this news was cited in a prominent editorial in the *Washington Times* and on Fox's *Special Report with Brit Hume*.



On June 29, millions of Today show viewers watched as a few great men held up giant signs that read: "Don't believe the liberal media! www.MRC.org"

As optimism increases with the beginning of Iraqi sovereignty and the Iraqi trial of Saddam Hussein, the pessimism of the press corps and its blatant denial of the uncomfortable truth should be obvious to everyone. Your help gives us the chance to underline the bias in Hi-Liter yellow for all of America to see.

Until next time,


L. Brent Bozell

"Tell the TRUTH!"...with these fun new items!



Now you can help get the word out about the MRC's "Tell the TRUTH!" campaign...and have fun doing it!

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To order any of these items, simply call 1-800-672-1423 or visit the MRC's bookstore at www.MRC.org

Most items are red, white, and blue.

Arianna, David and Me

by L. Brent Bozell III

Arianna Huffington has written a new book, “Fanatics and Fools: The Game Plan for Winning America Back.” It’s pointless to debate Ms. Huffington’s newfound ideology since there is no guarantee that between the time these words are typed and published she won’t have embraced yet a different cause. According to the book, however, Huffington thinks that President Bush is a fanatic. And Don Rumsfeld is a fanatic. And so is Richard Perle. And so is Dick Cheney. Karl Rove is a fanatic, too. Tom Delay as well. Who are the fools? NASCAR dads, and I’m not sure why, nor do I care.

But I do care about one thing, it’s instructive to note that when she left the conservative movement behind, Arianna Huffington forgot to pack the truth into her suitcase.

Huffington recounts a nightmare event for her, the “Conservative Summit” hosted by the National Review magazine back in early 1993. She tells how the event began “in bombastic style” when moderator Charlton Heston “smugly” announced he was “one of the most politically incorrect people” because he was “heterosexual, Anglo-Saxon, married to the same woman for forty-nine years, and not the recipient of any entitlement of any kind.” Horrors!

Yes, horrors. Huffington writes that she “listened with mounting horror to the speaker who preceded me, Brent Bozell ... As Bozell’s hard-right homilies were paraded in front of ...an adoring crowd, I asked myself... “Where is the nearest exit?”” Huffington took her turn “with trepidation” wondering how the audience that embraced the previous speakers’ “harsh brand of conservatism” would greet her message of “true conservatism ... the biblical admonition that we shall be judged by what we do for the least among us,” which I suspect means not driving SUVs.

In any event, Huffington is mystified. “The same conservative audience that gave a standing ovation to Bozell gave a standing ovation to me. We just appealed to different parts of their brains and their psyches.”

Well, to paraphrase the commercial, there’s truth and there’s Not Exactly. The panel we were on that day had nothing to do with politics; the topic was Hollywood and pop culture. There was nothing substantially different in our speeches - we both called on Tinsletown to clean up its act — which is why we both generated the same reception, and, if memory serves me right, that didn’t include a standing ovation for either of us.

And one year after the “horror” of following me to the podium, Arianna Huffington made a \$25,000 donation to my

organization. (I must have solicited a different part of her brain and psyche.)

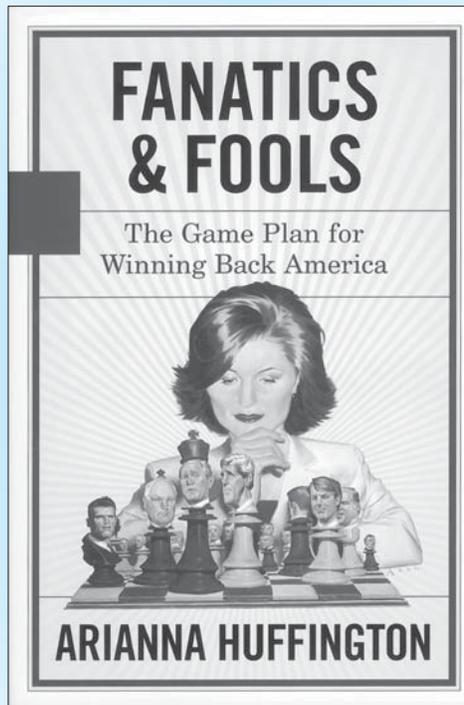
Then there’s David Brock’s new book, “The Republican Noise Machine.” A friend asked me the other day if I’d read it. No I hadn’t, I answered, and didn’t intend to. Why read the words of a man who admittedly lied to conservatives and now is trying to earn a living lying about them?

My friend’s answer: Because this book is hilarious in its untruths; and besides, there is a whole section on you. Out of curiosity I picked it up to read the section on me, but once I started reading, I couldn’t put it down. It is the worldview of a political movement that has lost its collective mind.

In his introduction Brock asserts that, “My view is that unchecked right-wing media power means that in the United States today, no issue can be honestly debated and no election can be fairly decided.” We have reached this state because a vast right wing conspiracy far more powerful than the conservative movement of yesteryear (“The Birchers and the Klan, and William Buckley and Phyllis Schlafly”) has taken control of the media. He concludes the book with, “The situation I have described in “The Republican Noise Machine” is intolerable in a democracy.”

The only thing intolerable is the book itself, a fuming, ranting, bizarre compendium of half-truths and no-truths sourced primarily by fringe radical left-wing activists to demonstrate that the Far Right (always with a capital “F” and capital “R”) and its evil agenda have taken over the world. And if you think I’m exaggerating, consider who Brock cites, with gratitude, as some of his experts: atrios.blogspot.com, BuzzFlash.com, ConWebWatch.com, DailyHowler.com, MediaWhores-Online.com, MediaTransparency.org, Poyenter.org, rittenhouse.blogspot.com, rogerailles.blogspot.com; and let’s not overlook Spinsanity.org, The-Hamster.com and scobiedavis.blogspot.com.

So why did I read this intolerable book? Because it’s just fun to learn how awful my conservative friends really are. I lost count how many times, and to how many people Brock attaches the label “racist, sexist and homophobic,” but it’s pretty safe to venture the guess he thinks everyone on the Right is. In fact, everyone on the conservative side is not just Far Right, we’re just pure evil.



Ann Coulter is “fanatical,” marked by “manifest dishonesty and racial bigotry.” Peggy Noonan “is not content simply to breach journalistic rules and stretch the truth.” Robert Novak “still churns out prodigious amounts of tendentious copy... On cable, Novak could be looser with the facts than he was in print, mischaracterizing and lying routinely.” George Will is “every bit the dishonest attack dog that Novak was.” Bill O’Reilly “misinforms his viewers with astonishing regularity,” which is better, I suppose, than Rush Limbaugh, whose “broadcasts are especially hate-filled” and who is - yup - “racist, sexist and homophobic.” David Limbaugh gets honorable mention as “Rush Limbaugh’s parasitic brother.”

P.J. O’Rourke is a “gay basher,” but Phyllis Schlafly trumps him as a “sexist gay basher.” She is also a “book banner” who nonetheless condemns books “for failing to include the views of Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan.” The late William Simon was a “radical free marketer” who simultaneously “did not believe in a free, unfettered, and fair press.” Paul Weyrich is a “forbidding demagogue” whose views are “rooted in a kind of populist nativism which often verges on racism.” Pat Robertson publicly “has wished for the deaths of three justices.” Anti-communist activist Jack Wheeler is a “deranged right-winger” and Grover Norquist derives his “inspirations on strategy and tactics from Communist thinkers,” while Reed Irvine was associated with “former military and intelligence officers, Latin American death squad assassins, assorted Fascist and Nazi terrorist war criminals.”

Beginning to see the picture? We really are a nasty bunch of fellows.

And conservative or conservative-leaning organizations are no better, you know. Citizens for a Sound Economy is “an antiregulation front group funded by top industrial polluters.” The “Weekly Standard” prints “scurrilous insinuations.” Accuracy In Media’s research “was sloppy; its reporting was phony; and its facts, when checked, were shown to be flat wrong.” The Drudge Report “has been at the forefront of smears.” Brock’s former employer, The Washington Times, “provides a forum for thinly veiled racism” while his other former employer, The American Spectator, was “leading anti-Clinton smear factory for the right wing.” The Institute for Educational Affairs funded - oh boy, here we go again - “racist, sexist, homophobic right wing newspapers,” one of which presumably was the “blatantly racist, sexist and homophobic [Dartmouth] Review.”

But I’m digressing. This article is supposed to be about me. Brock devotes several pages documenting why I’m the second-most “intemperate and [un] trustworthy” person on the planet (David Horowitz claims the prize), but his expose on me is a good microcosm of this book: a journalistic high dive into the shallow end of the pool.

For starters the research is just plain sloppy. Among other

things, I am not, and never have been, an “adviser” to the National Right to Life Committee. The Media Research Center doesn’t publish MediaWatch, which was discontinued in 1999. My salary is not what he states. Nelson Bunker Hunt is not a donor to the MRC. And my father married my mother Patricia, not my Aunt Priscilla, a clarification that will surely comfort them both.

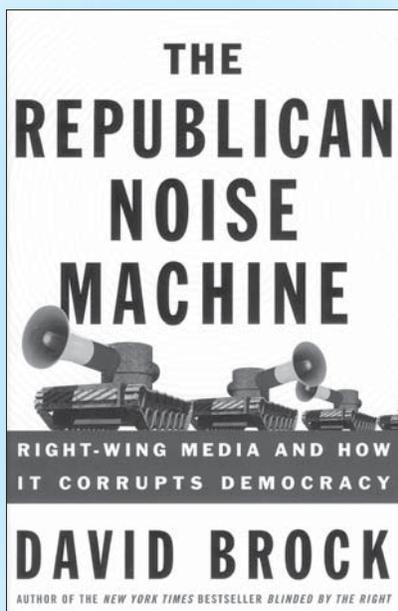
Brock wants the world to believe my organization, the Media Research Center, is a prime mover in the Vast Right Wing Conspiracy and cites at great lengths a speech I gave to the Heritage Foundation in 1992 as the Rosetta Stone of evidence. Brock claims that in this speech “Bozell loudly announced his conservative partisanship,” and “explained that the organization was not seeking to pressure the media to be objective, a standard based on facts and truth by which the conservatives could come up short. Its goal was ‘balance,’ a standard that required the reportage of different views in equal measure with no regard for their veracity.”

If it were true that I have no regard for veracity I’d be a researcher for David Brock. What exactly did I say in that speech? I urged conservatives to acknowledge their own biases: “Conservatives who denounce the liberal press in the name of objectivity are as misleading as the pundits they condemn.” Pretty radical stuff, that.

Did my speech suggest media objectivity is not a goal because “conservatives could come up short,” and that balance, “with no regard to veracity,” is? Here are my exact words (which he chose not to cite) and you can decide: “Human nature being what it is, there is no such thing as pure objectivity. To be sure, objectivity is what the media ought to strive for, but the best way to achieve it is through balanced journalism.”

A study the MRC conducted after the Columbine massacre proving the liberal media’s pro-gun control tilt is dismissed because the study was conducted after Columbine meaning - well, I don’t really know. A study we did proving the pro-Castro tilt of CNN is rejected because we didn’t include Headline News or CNN International. Studies we’ve produced showing the liberal proclivities of reporters based on their on-air pronouncements are rejected because we didn’t count politicians’ sounds bites.

On and on it goes. If a conservative finds snow in the Alps, the conservative was keeping - hiding! - from the public the heat wave in Death Valley. That’s your mindset when you rely on experts like MediaWhoresOnLine and scoobiedavis.blogspot.com, whatever that is. So what’s a conservative to do with books like “Fanatics and Fools” and “The Republican Noise Machine”? Get them and read them at Starbucks, on an airplane, in some snooty bookstore reading room - anywhere liberals can see you publicly laughing at their new heroes. But by all means don’t buy the books. Be a good conservative. Steal them.





Rather to Clinton, "If we could be one-hundredth as great as you and Hillary Rodham Clinton have been in the White House, we'd take it right now and walk away winners."

Rather's Blather: Clinton's "Five Star" Book

Even after he taped his interview with Bill Clinton, Dan Rather was praising him and his new 957-page book to the skies. "I read the book completely, and I think it compares very favorably with Ulysses S. Grant's gold standard of presidential autobiographies... I don't claim to be the best anchorman around, but I do claim to be the only one who's actually read both Ulysses S. Grant's and Bill Clinton's autobiographies." That's Rather's Clinton plug on CNN's *Larry King Live*. But wait, there's more. In his *New York Observer* review of *My Life*, Rather was equally exuberant: "As presidential memoirs go, on a five-star scale, I give it five."

Perhaps Rather's praise isn't so surprising given his history of singing the former President's praises. Just months

into Clinton's first term, in a conference call with Clinton at a CBS affiliates meeting on May 27, 1993, Rather wished Clinton well, proclaiming: "If we could be one-hundredth as great as you and Hillary Rodham Clinton have been in the White House, we'd take it right now and walk away winners." Will Rather's praise wane as the facts turn on Clinton's self-congratulatory book of bunk? To borrow a famous Ratherism, "Don't bet the trailer money yet."

Reagan and Starr to Blame for 9/11?

Digging into their closets to find conservatives to blame for 9/11, two liberal journalists have recently blamed President Reagan and the Clinton crew's favorite man to hate, Ken Starr, for the U.S. government's failure to prevent the 9/11 attacks. On the *CBS Evening News*, reporter Bill Plante claimed that the Iran-Contra scandal in the Reagan Administration was somehow to blame: "U.S. efforts to deal with the tough issues in the Middle East went on hold, helping to set the stage for the first Iraq war and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism."

On *Meet the Press* on June 20, *Time*'s Joe Klein complained that Ken Starr had distracted Clinton from waging



Joe Klein complained that Ken Starr had distracted Clinton from waging a more aggressive fight against terrorism:

a more aggressive fight against terrorism: "He would have fired Louis Freeh as FBI Director if it hadn't been for the media, and for the fact that we would have associated that firing with

the investigation of the Lewinsky scandal. Now, that is incredibly damning, because from what I can understand, the FBI was entirely incompetent, not doing anything in terms of counter-terrorism over those years. And so in some ways, you could say that we might have had a better shot at rolling up those al-Qaeda cells if Bill Clinton had been free to fire Freeh."

Overcoming Good News with Soundbites of "Depression"

The economy has been improving recently with strong, steady growth in gross domestic product, increasing disposable income, and climbing consumer spending, but liberal TV journalists instead have chosen to highlight panic-stricken soundbites from man-on-the-street interviews about gas prices. A recent MRC *Media Reality Check* noted that the networks aired 50 stories highlighting this one negative fragment of the economy.



Carl Quintanilla relayed the exaggerated fears of uninformed laymen.

But when gas prices began to decline, reporter simply shifted their stories, looking for something else to complain about. Raising the specter of inflation, NBC reporter Carl Quintanilla relayed the exaggerated fears of uninformed laymen. He found people to state: "No, I don't have faith that the economy is stronger at all....The price of living continues to go up....I've never been in a, like, depression, but I think this is pretty close to it." After Quintanilla quickly noted the improving jobs

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picture and declining gas prices, he went right back to a teacher complaining: "The cost of food is going up. Everything is going up. I don't see prices falling." No wonder the polls show people nervous about the economy.

"Saucy, Sexy, Brilliant" Mrs. Heinz Kerry?

In a profile on John Kerry and his ketchup heiress bride Teresa Heinz Kerry on the *CBS Evening News*, correspondent Byron Pitts peddled a typical softball interview with the aspiring First Couple. She's worth hundreds of millions of dollars but she won't release her tax returns, and CBS



CBS Evening News ignored the fact that John Kerry's bride is worth hundreds of millions of dollars but she won't release her tax returns.

glossed right over that. There were more important things to discuss. Pitts asked Sen. Kerry for three words to describe his wife, and he said: "Saucy, sexy, brilliant." Then Mrs. Heinz Kerry added to the praise party: "I mean, I'm cheeky, I'm sexy, whatever. You know, I've got a lot of life inside." Pitts countered: "You don't hear many 65-year-old women say they're sexy." Heinz Kerry replied: "How many women of that age have you asked?" Pitts then wrapped up approvingly: "Teresa Heinz Kerry is her own woman. If she becomes First Lady, she says, she won't try and change the world and the world won't change her."

Early Handover Akin to Saigon Fall for Olbermann

Keith Olbermann of MSNBC can't do the easy work of distinguishing victory from defeat. When the U.S. turned over sovereignty in Iraq two days early, he saw parallels to the 1975 fall of Saigon, where the defeated U.S. military evacuating the American embassy by helicopter: "If Secretary Rumsfeld could analogize the attacks of the insurgency to the Tet offensive, I guess I can ask this question...Does anybody fear that in Iraq, where



MSNBC's Keith Olbermann tries to make Iraq victory look like Vietnam defeat.

symbolism is so important or throughout the Middle East where it's so important, that the nature of the handover today, just the behind-the-doors kind of thing and the immediate exit of Ambassador Bremer today, might look a little like the helicopters taking off out of Vietnam in 1975?"

This isn't the first time the former sportscaster has made loopy historical analogies. Six years ago Olbermann compared then-independent counsel Ken Starr to notorious Nazi war criminal Heinrich Himmler: "Facially, it finally dawned on me that the person Ken Starr has reminded me of facially all this time was Heinrich Himmler, including the glasses."

MINIBITS

Former *60 Minutes* correspondent **Meredith Vieira** screams that

President Bush is a liar: "Everything's been built on lies. Everything! I mean, the entire pre-text for war," she howls on her ABC talk show, *The View* Liberal reporters insist former President Bill Clinton tells the whole truth in his monster memoir, *My Life*. "Very candid, no question about it," former Clinton employee **George Stephanopoulos** declares on ABC. "Open and candid," **Katie Couric** agrees on NBC At Clinton's Manhattan book party, *The View*'s **Star Jones** reveals herself. "I'm a big supporter of President Clinton," she coos. "I'd vote for him for a third term." *Time* magazine writer **Joe Klein** wins the dubious honor of being the biggest Clinton stooge. "He's more sinned against than sinner," Klein piously pronounces on *Meet the Press* CBS's **Morley Safer** grumbles that reporters were too nice in their coverage of Ronald Reagan's passing. "I don't think history has any reason to be kind to him." It must be their kind of movie: NBC's **Tom Brokaw** and **Brian Williams**, CBS's **Lesley Stahl** and **Ed Bradley**, and the publisher of the *New York Times* all show up to the premiere of Michael Moore's delusional left-wing propaganda film, *Fahrenheit 9/11*.



Stephanopoulos chimes in to promote his former boss's book.

By David Thibault
CNSNews.com Managing Editor



Why CNSNews.com Lets the Left Lash Out

Since June 3, the political Left has been accusing the Bush administration and Republicans in Congress of promoting the “Confederate Swastika,” appealing to the “Taliban wing” of American politics, and wanting to “write bigotry back into the Constitution.” Callers to conservative radio talk shows have been branded “drunks.”

But you would have had a hard time finding those remarks, especially with attribution, in America’s largest newspapers or on the major television news networks. That’s where CNSNews.com enters the picture, determined to expose the truth, warts and all.

On June 3, CNSNews.com staff writer Robert B. Bluey covered NAACP Chairman Julian Bond’s remarks at the opening of the Take Back America conference, a three-day event for more than 2,000 liberals from across the country.

“[The Republican] idea of equal rights is the American flag and the Confederate swastika flying side by side,” Bond told a cheering audience. “They’ve written a new constitution for Iraq and ignore the Constitution here at home. They draw their most rabid supporters from the Taliban wing of American politics. Now they want to write bigotry back into the Constitution.”

Any similar insults uttered by a prominent conservative would have resulted in front page news and follow-up commentary calling for that person’s ouster or resignation. While he stopped just short of accusing Republicans of manning Hitler’s gas chambers during World War II, Bond wasn’t even second-guessed by most of the rest of the media. He let it fly and the media let him get away with it.

On June 6, CNSNews.com senior staff writer Marc Morano reported on the comments of Jeff Faux from the liberal Economic Policy Institute, on the culture of talk radio. “I turn on the radio, and I hear these talk shows with right-wing drunks calling in, and I ask myself, where are our drunks?” Faux said. Checking himself, Faux added that, “the advantage of being a progressive is that you don’t have to get drunk to make your speech.”

In the same June 6 article, Morano quoted Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, who blamed “ideological extremism on the right” for making bipartisanship “impossible.”

When Morano covered Jesse Jackson’s comments at the 33rd annual Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Conference in Chicago on July 1, he heard the civil rights legend refer to the need for more African Americans on the NASCAR circuit. “Negroes can drive cars fast,” Jackson said. “I mean, we go through red lights, even [drive] at night with our lights off. We can drive cars fast.”

Jackson’s audience laughed. But we couldn’t help wonder what would have happened if a white political leader like Rush Limbaugh had made a generalization half as blatant and insulting. The establishment media let Jackson get away unscathed, but CNSNews.com published Jackson’s remarks in a 1,066 word article headlined, “Jesse Jackson to NASCAR: ‘Negroes Can Drive Cars Fast.’”

At CNSNews.com, we’ll keep exposing the left-wing rhetoric, even when it disparages conservatives, for it’s during those moments that the Left seems most adept at demonstrating who they really are and what they really believe.

For many years Ben Stein has written a biweekly column for the online website called "Monday Night At Morton's". Now, Ben is terminating the column to move on to other things in his life. Reading his final column to our military is worth a few minutes of your time because it praises the most unselfish among us; our military personnel, others who protect us daily and portrays a valuable lesson learned in his life. Below...Ben Stein's Last Column.

How Can Someone Who Lives in Insane Luxury Be a Star in Today's World?

As I begin to write this, I "slug" it, as we writers say, which means I put a heading on top of the document to identify it. This heading is "onlineFINAL," and it gives me a shiver to write it. I have been doing this column for so long that I cannot even recall when I started. I loved writing this column so much for so long I came to believe it would never end. It worked well for a long time, but gradually, my changing as a person and the world's change have overtaken it.

On a small scale, Morton's, while better than ever, no longer attracts as many stars as it used to. It still brings in the rich people in droves and definitely some stars. I saw Samuel L. Jackson there a few days ago, and we had a nice visit, and right before that, I saw and had a splendid talk with Warren Beatty in an elevator, in which we agreed that *Splendor in the Grass* was a super movie. But Morton's is not the star galaxy it once was, though it probably will be again.

Beyond that, a bigger change has happened. I no longer think Hollywood stars are terribly important. They are uniformly pleasant, friendly people, and they treat me better than I deserve to be treated. But a man or woman who makes a huge wage for memorizing lines and reciting them in front of a camera is no longer my idea of a shining star we should all look up to.

How can a man or woman who makes an eight-figure wage and lives in insane luxury really be a star in today's world, if by a "star" we mean someone bright and powerful and

attractive as a role model? Real stars are not riding around in the backs of limousines or in Porsches or getting trained in yoga or Pilates and eating only raw fruit while they have Vietnamese girls do their nails. They can be interesting, nice people, but they are not heroes to me any longer.

A real star is the soldier of the 4th Infantry Division who poked his head into a hole on a farm near Tikrit, Iraq. He could have been met by a bomb or a hail of AK-47 bullets. Instead, he faced an abject Saddam Hussein and the gratitude of all of the decent people of the world. A real star is the U.S. soldier who was sent to disarm a bomb next to a road north of Baghdad. He approached it, and the bomb went off and killed him. A real star, the kind who haunts my memory night and day, is the U.S. soldier in Baghdad who saw a little girl playing with a piece of unexploded ordnance on a street near where he was guarding a station. He pushed her aside and threw himself on it just as it exploded. He left a family desolate in California and a little girl alive in Baghdad.

The stars who deserve media attention are not the ones who have lavish weddings on TV but the ones who patrol the streets of Mosul even after two of their buddies were murdered and their bodies battered and stripped for the sin of trying to protect Iraqis from terrorists.



We put couples with incomes of \$100 million a year on the covers of our magazines. The noncoms and officers who barely scrape by on military pay but stand on guard in Afghanistan and Iraq and on ships and in submarines and near the Arctic Circle are anonymous as they live and

die. I am no longer comfortable being a part of the system that has such poor values, and I do not want to perpetuate those values by pretending that who is eating at Morton's is a big subject. There are plenty of other stars in the American firmament... the policemen and women who go off on patrol in South Central and have no idea if they will return alive, The orderlies and paramedics who bring in people who have been in terrible accidents and prepare them for surgery, the teachers and nurses who throw their whole spirits into caring for autistic children, the kind men and women who work in hospices and in cancer wards. Think of each and every fireman who was running up the stairs at the World Trade Center as the towers began to collapse.

Now you have my idea of a real hero. We are not responsible for the operation of the universe, and what happens to us is not terribly important. God is real, not a fiction, and when we turn over our lives to Him, he takes far better care of

us than we could ever do for ourselves. In word, we make ourselves sane when we fire ourselves as the directors of the movie of our lives and turn the power over to Him. I came to realize that life lived to help others is the only one that matters. This is my highest and best use as a human.

I can put it another way. Years ago, I realized I could never be as great an actor as Olivier or as good a comic as Steve Martin...or Martin Mull or Fred Willard – or as good an economist as Samuelson or Friedman or as good a writer as Fitzgerald. Or even remotely close to any of them. But I could be a devoted father to my son, husband to my wife and, above all, a good son to the parents who had done so much for me. This came to be my main task in life. I did it moderately well with my son, pretty well with my wife and well indeed with my parents (with my sister's help). I cared for and paid attention to them in their declining years. I stayed with my father as he got sick, went into extremis and then into a coma and then entered immortality with my sister and me reading him the Psalms.

This was the only point at which my life touched the lives of the soldiers in Iraq or the firefighters in New York. I came to realize that life lived to help others is the only one that matters and that it is my duty, in return for the lavish life God has devolved upon me, to help others He has placed in my path. This is my highest and best use as a human.

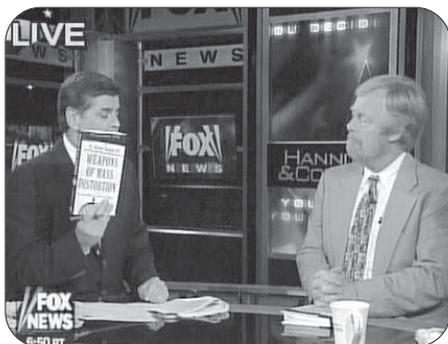
~ Ben Stein



Documenting, Exposing and *Fighting* Media Bias

MRC IN THE NEWS

Media Research Center personnel are interviewed almost every day on stories of national importance. As the general election campaign gets under way, MRC spokesmen will be crucial in discussing the media filter that will try to bash Bush and protect John Kerry. In the last month, MRC spokesmen have appeared on, or have been cited in, more than 100 television, newspaper, radio and Internet news stories. The highlights of the month were seven national television appearances and a quotation in *U.S. News & World Report*.



segment included a mention of MRC's reporting on how the networks ignored Russian President Putin's statement that Russian intelligence had evidence of Saddam planning terror attacks on the United States.

- Fox News Channel, *The O'Reilly Factor*, June 22. Host Bill O'Reilly discussed a CNSNews.com article on the liberal "Take Back America" conference and replayed a snippet of an interview featuring MRC's Tim Graham.
- Fox News Channel, *Your World with Neal Cavuto*, June 22. MRC President Brent Bozell discussed the airing of terrorist Internet videos on television.
- Fox News Channel, *Special Report with Brit Hume*, June 17. Substitute host Jim Angle mentioned media coverage of the 9-11 Commission's evidence of Saddam's ties to terror, using MRC research.
- CNBC, *Capital Report*, June 8. MRC's Tim Graham debated coverage of the Reagan presidency and funeral with New York magazine writer Michael Wolff.

- Accent Radio Network, July 12.
- Salem Radio Network, July 12.
- WHTC – Holland, Mich, July 12.
- KARM – Little Rock, July 12.
- WOWO – Ft. Wayne, Indiana, July 12.
- WTAQ – Green Bay, July 12.
- Wisconsin Public Radio, July 12.
- WPTT – Pittsburgh, July 12.
- WFLA – Tampa Bay, July 12.
- Laura Ingraham Show* (national), July 9.
- G. Gordon Liddy Show* (national), July 9.
- Talk One Radio Network, July 9.
- KNRC – Denver, July 9.
- KLTT – Denver, July 9.
- KCRN – Denver, July 9.
- Liberty Broadcasting, July 9.
- WDUN – Atlanta, July 9.
- WTVN – Columbus, Ohio, July 9.
- WGST – Atlanta, July 9.
- KTSA – San Antonio, July 9.

- KCBQ-San Diego, June 30. Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham discussed the media's coverage of Iraq and Michael Moore. Graham also discussed this and other issues on:

- Wisconsin Public Radio (statewide), June 29.
- WGST – Atlanta, June 29.
- WHK – Cleveland, June 28.
- KTSA – San Antonio, June 23.
- KCBQ – San Diego, June 23.
- WOWO – Ft. Wayne, Indiana, June 23.
- WGST – Atlanta, June 22.
- NRAnews.com (Sirius satellite radio), June 21.
- Talk Radio Network, June 21.
- KOLE – Beaumont, Texas, June 18.
- KCBQ – San Diego, June 16.
- WGST – Atlanta, June 15.
- KSLR – San Antonio, June 14.
- KCBQ – San Diego, June 9.
- WGST – Atlanta, June 8.

- WIBC-Indianapolis, July 8. Research Director Rich Noyes discussed the media's coverage of the John Edwards pick. Noyes also commented on the campaign coverage and other issues on:

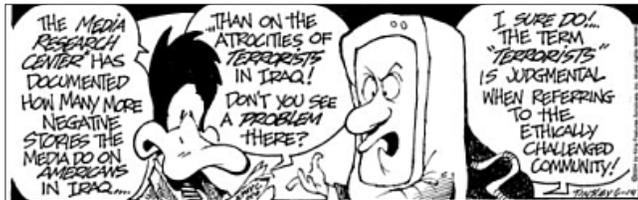
Television

- ABC Family channel and syndicated to other TV stations, *The 700 Club*, July 13. MRC President Brent Bozell discussed his new book *Weapons of Mass Distortion*, preceded by a news story on the issue of liberal media bias featuring commentary from MRC Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham.
- Fox News Channel, *Fox & Friends*, July 8. MRC President Brent Bozell discussed his new book *Weapons of Mass Distortion*.
- Fox News Channel, *Hannity & Colmes*, July 7. MRC President Brent Bozell discussed his new book *Weapons of Mass Distortion*.
- Fox News Channel, *Special Report with Brit Hume*, June 23. Hume's "Grapevine"

Radio

- "Michael Reagan Show" on Radio America, July 13. Brent Bozell discussed his new book, *Weapons of Mass Distortion*. Other radio stations on the book tour included:
 - KKMC – Salinas, Calif., July 13.
 - KXEM – Phoenix, July 13.
 - WBAP – Dallas, July 13.
 - WOON – Woonsocket, RI, July 13.
 - KFAX – San Francisco, July 12.
 - KCBQ – San Diego, July 12.
 - KFTK – St. Louis, July 12.
 - WDEO – Detroit, July 12.
 - KXAM – Scottsdale, Ariz., July 12.
 - KMSR – Dallas, July 12.

- KION – Monterey, Calif., July 8.
- WAIC – Springfield, Mass., July 7.
- WIBC – Indianapolis, July 1
- KION – Monterey, Calif., July 1.
- KION – Monterey, Calif., June 24.
- WMUZ – Detroit, June 24.
- WIBC – Indianapolis, June 24.
- WAIC – Springfield, Mass., June 23.
- Accent Radio Network, June 22.
- KCRN – Denver, June 22.
- KION – Monterey, Calif., June 17.
- WIBC – Indianapolis, June 17.
- WAIC – Springfield, Mass., June 16.



Newspapers/Magazines

- *U.S. News & World Report*, July 19 issue (which hit news stands on July 12). MRC's Brent Bozell is quoted on a new anti-Fox News documentary in the popular "Washington Whispers" section.
- *The New York Times*, July 11. MRC President Bozell's book, *Weapons of Mass Distortion*, is briefly reviewed in a long article reviewing the comparative harshness of newly released liberal and conservative political books.
- *St. Petersburg Times*, July 9. Story on radical-left Pacifica Radio featured a critical quote from MRC Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham.
- *Editor and Publisher*, July 8. MRC's Rich Noyes discussed the liberal bias of legendary White House correspondent Helen Thomas. It also appeared in the *Indianapolis Star*.
- *Miami Herald*, July 7. The Knight-Ridder wire service reported on the MRC's "Tell the Truth!" campaign. Stories also appeared in:
 - Contra Costa Times*, July 5.
 - Chattanooga Times-Free Press*, July 4.
 - Detroit Free Press*, July 4.
 - San Jose-Mercury News*, July 4.
 - Tallahassee Democrat*, July 4.
 - Charlotte Observer*, July 1.
 - Duluth (Minn.) News Tribune & Herald*, June 30.
- *Washington Times*, July 5. A column on fast-food fat featured Paul Stifflemire, Director of the MRC's Free Market Project.
- *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 4. MRC's Brent Baker discussed the decline of

ABC's *Nightline* program due to the liberal bias of Ted Koppel.

- *Los Angeles Times*, July 4. MRC's Tim Graham analyzed the coverage of Bill Clinton's book tour, criticizing the fawning quality instead of the heavy quantity.
- *Investor's Business Daily*, July 1. The national newspaper published Bozell's nationally syndicated column on the news coverage of Illinois Republican Jack Ryan and how allegations of dragging his wife to sex clubs in contentious divorce proceedings quickly became national news, as opposed to the usual foot-dragging on Clinton sex scandals. It also appeared in the July 3 *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.
- *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 28. Freelance writer Adam Sparks wrote an article about the media coverage of the 9-11 Commission and ties between Saddam Hussein and terrorist groups mentioning the MRC and its findings.
- *Washington Post*, June 28. Media reporter Howard Kurtz had a story on the MRC's new "Tell the Truth!" campaign which featured MRC President Brent Bozell and quoted a *Media Reality Check*.
- *Washington Times*, June 22. MRC Vice President of Research and Publications Brent Baker commented on coverage of the 9-11 Commission and Saddam's ties to terrorist groups.
- *Washington Times*, June 21. A report on the new MRC "Tell the Truth!" campaign.
- *Washington Times*, June 21. MRC's Brent Baker on the huge contributions being made to the National Public Radio Endowment.

- *World Magazine*, June 18 issue. MRC's Tim Graham discussed how the news media have been looking for tabloid-detective stories since the O.J. Simpson double-murder trial first showed ratings potential ten years ago.
- *Washington Times*, June 16. Featured MRC's relaying of new data from the Center for Media and Public Affairs showing the overwhelmingly favorable coverage John Kerry received during the primary season.
- *Washington Times*, June 11. MRC's Brent Baker on the coverage of Ronald Reagan's funeral and memorial services.

Internet News Sites

- *WeeklyStandard.com*, July 8. Article discussed MRC's analysis of the liberal voting record of Sen. John Edwards and how the media obscured it.
- *National Review Online*, June 16. TimesWatch project director Clay Waters wrote an article on the history of Ronald Reagan coverage in the *New York Times*.
- *National Review Online*, June 10. MRC's Tim Graham wrote an article on the history of Ronald Reagan coverage in the national media.
- *Human Events Online*, July 9. Brent Bozell's nationally syndicated column on Kerry's problems with the Catholic Church appeared. Other column appearances in the internet edition of that conservative newspaper:
 - Michael Moore, July 6.
 - Bill Clinton's Book of Bunk, June 23.
 - New Myths on Reagan Record, June 23.
- *RushLimbaugh.com*, June 17. Limbaugh praised CNSNews.com.
- *Family News in Focus*, June 15. Report on MRC's fax report on hyped gas price coverage.



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June 10, 2004, 9:52 a.m.

Reagan vs. the Media

Bitterness wouldn't be Reaganesque.

By Tim Graham

At the passing of Ronald Wilson Reagan, everyone remembers stories about the man and the president — his leadership and vision, his humanity and optimism, his deep love of country and belief in the power of freedom. But any measure of his accomplishments has to begin by noting his unique placement in history as a firmly conservative president arriving at the end of an era dominated by liberalism — in both parties. Everything he accomplished he did by the force of his personality and words, often having to drag along a number of embarrassed moderate Republicans as well as out-persuade Democrats. Everything he changed he managed to do against a daily wave of media hostility to his agenda.

Don't Be without NATIONAL REVIEW during this crucial election year.

Think of everything Reagan did, and then add: He did it all before Fox News. He did it all before the Rush Limbaugh phenomenon. He did it all before the instant battle cry of his defenders could hit the Internet. He did it all before C-SPAN caught on and people could enjoy the game of watching entire speeches and debates and then observing how the network tricksters discomobulated them into liberal hatchet jobs. He did it all when (well, eventually) the only conservative regular on the big networks was ABC's George Will, and at that time Will was still fashionably fussing about Americans being "taxophobic" and spurning Reagan's "Morning in America goo."

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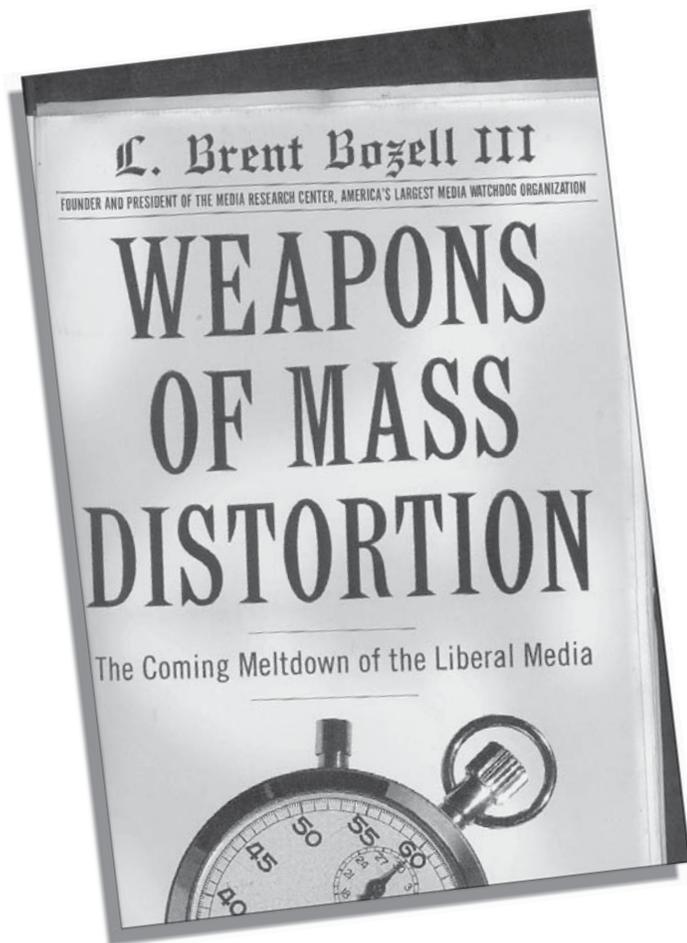
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FROM THE AUTHOR

The latest: **How Ronald Reagan Changed My Life**

Bitters Bit 07/14 Peter Robinson shares Reagan's life



ON SALE NOW!

Weapons of Mass Distortion *The Coming Meltdown of the Liberal Media* by L. Brent Bozell III

The leading expert on media bias makes the most substantive case yet for the leftward bias of America's mainstream news organizations, and reveals why the days of the liberal media's dominance are numbered.

As Founder and President of the Media Research Center, L. Brent Bozell III is a leading expert on the issue of media bias. In *Weapons of Mass Distortion*, he presents the definitive account of the current prevalence and future vulnerability of the liberal media.

With a wealth of facts and evidence at his command, Bozell reveals exactly how the major TV, radio, and print news outlets not only distort the news but try to dictate the national agenda as well. Bozell also explains why the liberal media's audience will continue to defect to the emerging alternative news

outlets – outlets more in tune with their perspective on the world – and how this defection will change the slant of mainstream news.

Published by CrownForum, a member of the Crown Publishing Group. To purchase the book visit www.MRC.org



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