

The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

Making a Radical Into a Moderate

The Liberal Media's Love Affair with Left -Wing Howard Dean

Dear Member,

The liberal media have a new love.

He's a belligerent, Bush-bashing medical doctor and former governor of a tiny New England state who has won the support of the hard-core left, the radical Hollywood left, and for now at least, the journalistic left.

Howard Dean is a liberal's liberal whose views are on the far left of the political fringe. But that makes him just right for the left-wing media, who have already put his face on the cover of both *Newsweek* and *Time*.

But Dean's shrill criticism of the President and the radical rants of his vocal left-wing supporters – primarily from a host of Hollywood celebrities – are not what you read about in the papers or see on television. Instead the liberal media are promoting the mouthy doctor as a moderate – some even suggest he's a conservative – who repeatedly balanced the budget of his small state and supports gun rights.

"Dean remains a fiscal conservative," *New York Times* reporters Jodi Wilgoren and David Rosenbaum wrote on July 30. "He believes gun control should be left to the states and he favors the death penalty for some crimes." A few days later, the August 3 *Washington Post* reinforced the notion with screaming headlines that

proclaimed, "As Governor, Dean Was Fiscal Conservative: Presidential Candidate Imposed Discipline on Vermont Legislature's Efforts to Spend."

NBC correspondent David Shuster dutifully passed the spin along. "On many issues, Dean is a centrist," the reporter parroted on CNBC's *The News with Brian Williams* on August 4. "He supports the death penalty, gun ownership and balanced budgets."

The newsmagazines agree. *Newsweek's* left-wing Senior Editor Jonathan Alter wrote in the August 11 issue that Dean's budget-balancing record proves he is not an old-fashioned, big-spending liberal. In an online chat on the *Newsweek* web site a couple days later, Alter stuck to his fantasy, maintaining that Dean "is

quite conservative on fiscal issues" and even threw in the faint praise that on "fiscal issues, [Dean's] far to the right of [Ted] Kennedy."

"There's a lot in his record that looks, you know, not only moderate, but even conservative," *Time* reporter Karen Tumulty cheerfully added in an August 6 appearance on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*.

There's more to being a conservative, however – or moderate for that matter – than balancing the budget of a state that has 610,000

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America's Media Watchdog

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people. Or supporting gun rights in a rural state that has a large number of voting hunters. And political reporters know it.

The media have provided this orgy of “moderate” spin in an effort to gloss over the fact that Dean is nothing more than a McGovernite. Just look at his record.

For starters, Dean is a firm believer in a socialized health care system and, according to *Time*, he played an active role in the disastrous Hillary Clinton health care plan. The Burlington, Vt. *Free Press*, reported that then-Governor Dean even occupied a prized seat right behind Hillary at the 1994 State of the Union address in recognition of his zealous support for her socialist agenda.

An examination of Dean’s fiscal record also provides proof of the man’s liberal inclinations. Vermont’s budgets were balanced on the backs of their tax-paying citizens and businesses, who paid some of the highest tax rates in the nation to support their free-spending government. Cato Institute’s Fiscal Policy Report on the Nation’s Governors noted in 2002 that after “12 years of Dean’s so-called ‘fiscal conservatism,’ Vermont remains one of the highest taxing and spending states.”

Social issues are an area where Dean, in all fairness, cannot be described as a liberal. The man is a radical who supports abortion in any form. His campaign web site notes that he opposed legislation banning late-term, partial-birth abortions and is even against parents being involved

The former governor is just as far left when it comes to national security. His strong support among Democratic partisans is a result of his relentless criticism of the war in Iraq and the Bush foreign policy. But there is more to it than complaints. As *Time* reporter Cloud was

forced to admit in his article, the former governor is a “true lefty” on “the use of U.S. military power, which Dean seems to regard with a mixture of contempt and suspicion.”

As you expect, we’ve not been remained quiet about the liberal media’s attempt to pass Dr. Dean off as a moderate. The media’s out-of-control spin was the subject of my August 5 nationally syndicated column, where I compared the media labels of Dean with the man’s record. The Dean coverage has also been the

subject of several of our daily *CyberAlert* items and a national *Media Reality Check*. And we’ll continue to monitor both the candidate and his adoring press – and watch for their spiteful attacks on the President – in the days to the come.

None of this is possible without your support and, on behalf of the all the staff at the MRC, I thank you.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III



The media have gone out of their way to portray the left-wing Dean as a moderate.

in a daughter’s decision. The web site practically brags that as governor, Dean “stood against legislative proposals that would require parental notification.”

In addition to his support for any abortion, anytime, anywhere, Dean also supports gay marriages and signed the law that made them legal in Vermont. The media have either ignored his record on gays or spun it in Dean’s favor. An example was *Time* reporter John Cloud, who described Dean as a “moderate” on gay issues in the August 11 edition.

The screenshot shows the Media Research Center website interface. At the top, it says "Media Research Center America's Media Watchdog" with the URL "www.mrc.org". There are several navigation menus on the left side, including "Search the MRC", "Publications & Analysis", "MRC Divisions", "MRC Information", and "Studies in Bias". The main content area features an article titled "NBC Story on Lynch Rescue Disputes ABC & BBC Accounts" with a sub-headline "The British Broadcasting Corporation claimed the U.S. staged the Jessica Lynch rescue while ABC News suggested it wasn't as challenging as the military reported." There are also sections for "Support the MRC", "Celebrity Corner", and "Viewer Poll".

www.MRC.org

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Katie's Liberal Double Play



Today Host Attacks Arnold Schwarzenegger Scolds Bill Simon

NBC's Katie Couric has once again demonstrated that she cannot be fair or consistent when dealing with Republicans.

On August 7, the morning after Arnold Schwarzenegger announced he would become a Republican candidate for California governor, Couric used her *Today* show post to launch a vicious and personal attack on the movie star-turned-politician. Schwarzenegger is a hardly a conservative, but the mere fact that his name is going to appear next to an "R" on the ballot had Couric frothing.

"He's admitted smoking marijuana [and] using steroids during his body-building career. He's the son of a Nazi Party member," she snidely stated in a "question" to a Democratic operative. Couric didn't stop there, continuing on to note that the actor had been accused of infidelity and sexual harassment in a 2001 magazine article.

Four days later, Couric was interviewing conservative Republican California gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon. Couric noted that an unnamed Simon strategist had told a New York newspaper that their campaign would spotlight Schwarzenegger's "raunchy past and liberal social views," and suddenly Couric was shocked.

"How dirty will you get," the morning show host then huffily demanded of Simon.

Only a network journalist like Couric has the arrogant audacity to viciously attack a politician and then accuse one of his rivals of dirty campaigning for suggesting something far milder. The MRC caught Couric's hypocritical act on tape, however, and 14,000 *CyberAlert* readers read about it hours after it happened.



Couric set up a Democratic operative by blasting Schwarzenegger in a "question."

The story ultimately reached millions of Americans because Rush Limbaugh cited the MRC's report on his August 11 program and used the Couric "question" as a political spoof.

Does Katie Watch Her Own Network?

As former POW Jessica Lynch was returning to her West Virginia hometown on July 22, Couric interviewed the doctor who had treated Lynch at the Walter Reed Army Hospital.

"What does she make of the claim by some critics," Couric asked,

"...that the troops didn't need to storm the hospital and it was all sort of done for the cameras and, to kind of increase enthusiasm and support of the war?"

The good doctor wisely declined to answer. The man knew nothing about the military mission and never discussed the matter with Lynch.

Couric's question begs another question, however. Does the *Today* co-host, who gets paid \$15 million a year by NBC, watch the news stories her network broadcasts?

As MRC Vice President Brent Baker pointed out in his *CyberAlert*, ABC News, the *Toronto Star* and the British Broadcasting Corporation all ran stories belittling the Lynch rescue. NBC News, however, debunked their theories by sending reporter Jim Avila to the Iraqi hospital where Lynch had been held. In a lengthy story that involved interviews with numerous Iraqis, Avila reported that the truth was much closer to the U.S. military's claims than the anti-American tales spun by ABC and the BBC.

One would think that Couric would accept her own network's version of events and use that as a basis for her questions. But given her questions about Schwarzenegger, Simon and the Lynch raid, it's clear that Couric's perceptions and biases have a far greater influence than facts.

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There They Go Again

For the third time in as many months, the MRC has caught the networks passing off liberal political activists pushing a gigantic new federal entitlement as “typical” retirees.

On the July 25 *World News Tonight*, ABC's Lisa Stark interviewed Barbara Kaufman, an official in the Medicare Justice Coalition and the Minnesota



ABC's Lisa Stark passed off a woman who actively campaigns for a prescription drug entitlement as just another senior citizen.

Senior Coalition, for a story on the re-importation of prescription drugs. But ABC never told its viewers about Kaufman's affiliations. Both groups, as the MRC documented in *CyberAlert*, are actively campaigning for a costly prescription drug entitlement for all seniors.

CBS did the same thing. Reporter Joie Chen interviewed Viola Quiron, a left-wing activist who has lobbied Congress on behalf of the Alliance for Retired Persons, a seniors' group that advocates “a progressive political and social agenda.” It was the fourth time Quiron had appeared in CBS stories about prescription drugs since 1999. Yet she has never been identified as an activist in any of them.

This is nothing short of dishonest journalism. Next time you see one of those “men-on-the-street” interviews, you should wonder what leftist group is behind it.

ABC Hides Anti-Catholic Agenda of “Catholic” Spokesman

Speaking of deception by the networks....

When The Vatican issued a statement in late July that condemned gay marriage and obligated Catholic politicians to oppose laws that would allow it, ABC's Bill Blakemore set off in search of Catholic office holders who were opposed to the statement.

Catholic members of Congress refused to comment so Blakemore had to settle for Massachusetts State Sen. Cheryl Jacques. Jacques told Blakemore that the U.S. Constitution mandates that politicians “keep our principles about what's good for our country and our constituencies separate from our individual religious principles.”

That certainly sounded like a reasonably thought-out stance, albeit one that Catholics could certainly argue about.

But as MRC's August 1 *CyberAlert* documented, Jacques' concern for the Constitution is a sham. The state senator is an outspoken lesbian who actively supports gay rights. The *Boston Globe*, the major newspaper in Massachusetts, has reported this on at least two occasions. But ABC's Blakemore never told viewers about this very relevant fact.



ABC's Bill Blakemore interviewed a lesbian politician about the Vatican statement on gay marriage but hid her sexual orientation from viewers.

The story was liberal deception at its worst. By hiding Jacques' background, ABC News indicated that it supports gay rights without reservation and that it is willing to disregard facts – and hide facts – in order to advance that cause.

Networks: Episcopal Battle Pits Conservatives Against the “Inclusive”

The Episcopal Church also made news over homosexuality and the coverage of that issue was as unfair and slanted as Blakemore's interview with the lesbian state senator.



ABC's Elizabeth Vargas split the Episcopal debate over a gay bishop into those who wanted an “inclusive church” and “conservatives.”

Episcopalians who were opposed to the ordination of a gay bishop were depicted as intolerant conservatives. And those who favored breaking from the established Scriptural teaching on homosexuality were portrayed as progressive forces hoping to make their church a more understanding place. Surprised?

An August 6 ABC story is a case in point. Elizabeth Vargas, sitting in as anchor on *World News Tonight* for Peter Jennings, claimed the debate had divided Episcopalians into two sides. One camp featured “conservatives” who found homosexuality “totally unacceptable” while the other unlabeled group supported the gay bishop's ordination because they wanted a “more open and inclusive church.”

Other networks used the same language. On the August 6 *Today*, Ann Curry called opponents of gay ordination “conservatives” no less than four times and

reporter Jim Avila also used the term at least once in his story. Nowhere, however, were the pro-gay forces labeled as liberal.

U.S. Military = Always Wrong

When the 101st Airborne Division cornered and killed Uday and Qusay Hussein, most Americans saw it as a sign of progress.

But not the media, who continue to act as if everything the American forces do in Iraq is wrong. The soldiers had used too many guns, and too many big ones at that, was the media's criticism of this action.

"There are questions today why the U.S. military used such heavy firepower to take down a few lightly armed men," NBC Pentagon reporter Jim Miklaszewski intoned at the end of his July 23 *Nightly News* report.

Had Miklaszewski thought about the situation, he might not have signed off with such an inane question. According to his own report, the Husseins' fortification was "surrounded by double-thick bullet proof glass" and three American soldiers were wounded before the "heavy firepower" was brought in.

When it comes to combat, there's no such thing as too many guns and our



NBC's Jim Miklaszewski suggested that U.S. soldiers used too much "heavy firepower" during the fight with Saddam Hussein's sons.

young soldiers know that. Now if only the press had the sense to realize it...and were willing to report it without the negative spin.

Where's the Outrage?

The August 8 *Washington Post* reported that left-wing billionaire George Soros is joining forces with abortion groups, unions and other left-wing outfits in an all-out effort to defeat President Bush in 2004. And to get the ball rolling, he's giving the group – it's called ACT for Americans Coming Together – a whopping \$10 million.

Six other wealthy liberals – the *Post* didn't name them – are kicking in \$2 million apiece. Throw in a million here and million there from unions and other

special interests and the group has commitments of more than \$30 million.

And what did the *Post* and the rest of the national media have to say about this?

Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Now compare that to the late 90s when Richard Mellon Scaife was routinely vilified by the networks, *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today* and the *Los Angeles Times* for giving money to conservative groups. Robert Kaiser, the former Managing Editor of the *Washington Post*, once went so far as to claim that Scaife's contributions to conservative causes was "perhaps the biggest story in American politics in the last quarter of the 20th century."

But there is no outrage from the media about Soros's huge donations. It's only when money falls into the hands of conservatives that it turns evil.



Billionaire George Soros gave \$10 million to an anti-Bush group and the media haven't said a word.

mini-bits

➤ **Sen. Hillary Clinton** tells HBO's **Bob Costas**: "Probably my worse quality is that I get very passionate about what I think is right"...In return, **Costas** asks, "How...have you maintained your dignity, and how can you be so controlled under circumstances that would be trying for the best of us?" ➤ ABC's **John Cochran** is just as infatuated with New York's junior senator: "Remember the \$8 million advance Hillary Clinton's publisher gave her? She has earned every penny – and then some" ➤ ABC's **Ted Koppel** begs former Clinton Chief-of-Staff Leon Panetta to enter the California gubernatorial contest: "Why not have...a good, strong, sensible politician like yourself to say, well, let's make the best of a bad deal?" ➤ NBC's **Brian Williams** claims he's drained of bias before every show: "Every word I write, before it goes on air, goes through all kinds of traps and filters and it's read by all kinds of different people who point out bias" ➤ From the Stupid Comparison Department, CBS's **Byron Pitts** claims that "if looks could kill, the death toll [in Iraq] would be so much higher" ➤ The liberal media see right-wing politics *everywhere*: "[A monkfish] opens its Godzilla jaws and waits for poor unsuspecting fishies to swim right into it, not unlike the latest recipients of W's capital gains cuts," **Jonathan Reynolds** writes in the *New York Times Magazine*.



More fawning interviews for Hillary

By Scott Hogenson
CNSNews.com Executive Editor



Story on NASCAR – Jesse Jackson Relationship Makes National Headlines

Sometimes, the impact of journalism is virtually immediate.

For instance, CNSNews.com reported some years ago on the plight of a Michigan homemaker who was being forced by the municipal government to remove from her property an “Impeach Clinton” sign. Within hours of our report on the woman’s plight, the government relented and allowed her to exercise her First Amendment rights.

There are also times when that impact takes months to manifest itself. Beginning in April, CNSNews.com, the Internet newswire of the Media Research Center, began reporting on the relationship between the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing and Jesse Jackson’s enterprises, which are the subject of an Internal Revenue Service complaint about questionable financial activities.

It began with an April 3 report about criticism of NASCAR’s financial backing of Jackson, who was a vocal critic of the war to remove Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein from power.

Jackson has also been accused of using shakedown tactics against American corporations, and that prospect regarding NASCAR was raised in June when CNSNews.com reported on the remarks of Bill Shack, who serves on the board of Jackson’s Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

Shack took it upon himself in late June to call NASCAR “the last bastion of white supremacy” in professional sports. He made this offensive remark at an obscure meeting during the Rainbow/PUSH Conference in Chicago, and it would have gone entirely ignored had not a CNSNews.com reporter been in the room at the time.

In fact, a LexisNexis search of American news articles indicated absolutely zero mentions of the utterance – until CNSNews.com broke the story on June 25.

On June 26, the *Washington Times* picked up on the report, crediting CNSNews.com for his coverage of the meeting.

Four days later, the conservative Project 21 picked up on the slur and called on NASCAR to sever its ties with Jackson.

By July 5, the *Orlando Sentinel* started reporting on the controversy, noting that an increasing number of people wanted NASCAR to end its relationship with Jackson’s enterprises.

Two days later, CNSNews.com struck again, this time reporting that Charles Farrell, the head of Jackson’s Rainbow Sports subsidiary, referred to NASCAR as “a good ole’ boy’s southern redneck cracker sport.”

This report, in turn, led to Project 21’s demand that Rainbow/PUSH apologize for the racist remark. Within days, the story had grown legs and was being reported in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Sun-Sentinel* of Fort Lauderdale, the *Houston Chronicle* and other papers around the country.

On July 16, CNSNews.com continued its enterprise reporting and published an article in which former Green Bay Packer star Reggie White was raising his own criticism of the Jackson/NASCAR relationship.

It was on July 29 that *USA Today* – the most read newspaper in America – finally picked up on the story broken months earlier by CNSNews.com and reported that NASCAR had severed its ties with Jackson and his enterprises.

How did all this come to pass? It happened because of one reporter in one room in one city at one meeting who had the instincts to report what no one else would, and CNSNews.com was the only news agency in America that had the guts to publish it.

It also happened because of you. Your support was the only thing that made it possible for CNSNews.com to send that one reporter to cover Jackson’s Chicago meeting and bring home the news nobody else would report.

It’s our pledge to you and one we hope to continue fulfilling every day for many years to come.



AMERICA'S MEDIA WATCHDOG

MRC in the News

Over the past month, the Media Research Center defended conservative values on television and reached millions of Americans with our efforts exposing the liberals in the media.

On August 5, MRC Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham appeared on CNBC's *Capital Report* and debated gay issues with the director of Human Rights Campaign, a gay advocacy group. Graham was also a guest on MSNBC's July 31 *Scarborough Country*, where he and a representative from the left-wing *Nation* magazine discussed President Bush's poll numbers.



The MRC's expose on Katie Couric's unfair treatment of Republicans, as described on page three, reached **Rush Limbaugh's** 20 million listeners on August 11 and Rush himself cited the MRC's work. Several other MRC items were included on the Limbaugh website on July 23 and July 31.

MRC information was also cited in the *Wall Street Journal*, the nation's second largest newspaper with a daily circulation of 1.8 million. Former *Wall Street Journal* Editorial Page Editor Robert Bartley wrote a July 28 opinion piece about Bill Keller, the newly appointed Executive Editor of the *New York Times*, and noted that the MRC had compiled a collection of Keller's over-the-top liberal comments.

Some examples of other newspapers and magazines that cited MRC publications include:

- The August 11 edition of *Broadcasting & Cable*, a television industry magazine, credited our *Media Bias Alert* for a short item on PBS officials who complained about a day-laborer site being built near their Washington, D.C. affiliate. **Fox News Channel** also ran a short piece on the PBS item on August 7. For a more detailed account, see the story on page eight.
- The Manchester, N.H. *Union-Leader*, July 25. The paper's editorial on Dan Rather cited several examples from the MRC's archives.
- Charleston, W.Va. *Daily Mail*, July 23. Director of Media Research Tim Graham was quoted in a story about the coverage of former POW Jessica Lynch.
- *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, July 13. An editorial on the AmeriCorps program cited a *CyberAlert* item about the favorable media coverage the program has received.
- *Washington Times*. The paper interviewed Graham for an August 13 story on the California election and cited MRC Vice President Brent Baker's comments on Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean in an August 7 piece. The *Times* also ran the MRC expose on the liberal political activists being passed off as typical retirees on July 30 and quoted Graham in a July 29 story on gay issues.

Inside The MRC Jack Walsh



Jack Walsh is an MRC Development Associate and is responsible for raising funds for day-to-day operations while also seeking to develop ways to expand current programs.

Jack came to the MRC in June from the Republican National Committee, where he worked for the last four years and was one of their top fundraisers. Jack was also Vice President for Media Relations and co-founder of the National Retail Sales Tax Alliance, a lobbying group working on fundamental tax reform, from the 1999 to 2002. Prior to his work at the RNC, Jack served as the Vice President and Media Relations Director at Citizens for an Alternative Tax System from 1992 to 1999.

Jack hails from the South Shore of Massachusetts and has degrees in finance and banking from Suffolk University in Boston. He likes working with the friendly, dedicated staff at the MRC and enjoys the daily fight against liberal media bias.

Jack lives in Fairfax, Va. and will marry Susan Erickson in September.

Working Poor Not Welcome at PBS

Next time you hear a liberal on PBS whining about conservatives and their lack of compassion, remember this story.

When the Arlington County, Va. Board of Supervisors decided to build a day laborer center near the PBS station WETA in Shirlington, Va. – it's located just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. – they got an earful from the station's Chief Executive Officer.

WETA, you see, is not just any PBS station. It's the flagship station of the taxpayer-supported network, the place where *NewsHour* and *Washington Week* are filmed. And its CEO is not just any CEO, it's Sharon Percy Rockefeller, the wife of Democratic Sen. Jay Rockefeller, the liberal millionaire from West Virginia.

According to the *Northern Virginia Journal*, Mrs. Rockefeller made an unusual appearance at a Board of Supervisors meeting and chastised the local governing body for building such a center so close to her station. "You've been wonderful to work with – until recently," she snapped haughtily.

Rockefeller claimed that new day laborer center – it's a building where the mostly Hispanic manual laborers of the



The wife of wealthy, liberal Sen. Jay Rockefeller chastised a county commission for building a day laborers center near the PBS station she runs.

area can congregate and meet their employers – would create a "pretty hostile environment" for those tender WETA employees, since many of them have to walk between the several buildings the station owns. Rockefeller also claimed the center would inconvenience the high-profile guests who appear on *NewsHour*. "I don't think it's going to be a very open and welcoming environment for very high office holders in the United States," the wealthy senator's wife claimed.

PBS, long a leader in liberal sanctimony and arrogance, has now added utter hypocrisy to their list of character

traits. Fortunately, the MRC was on top of this development and able to publicize it in a way that it reached millions of Americans.

Vice President for Research and Publications Brent Baker noticed the original *Northern Virginia Journal* article and ran a *CyberAlert* item on it. Fox News Channel then picked the piece up and ran a feature on the August 7 *Special Report with Brit Hume* about the controversy, complete with the local cable video of Rockefeller's arrogant address to the Board of Supervisors.



Fox News Channel's *Special Report with Brit Hume* picked up MRC's *CyberAlert* item and informed millions of PBS's hypocrisy.



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