The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

How We Exposed Dan Rather's Fakery

Dear Member,

The subtitle of my new book, Weapons of Mass Distortion is The Coming Meltdown of the Liberal Media.

It is now here, just as I predicted.

As I write these words the CBS News organization is in utter chaos having been caught red-handed promoting a story that was nothing but a smear on President Bush using fraudulent, forged documents. The MRC has been leading the charge since the very beginning.

In fact, it was the MRC's News operation, CNSNews.com, that first broke the story!

Let me give you the background. On Wednesday, September 8th, CBS's 60 Minutes with Dan Rather reported there was new documentation "proving" all the allegations made about George Bush and his National Guard service. Thursday morning Dan Gainor, the head of the MRC's Free Market Project,

burst into the offices of David Thibault, our CNSNews.com Managing Editor, pointing to a printout of the alleged memo and stating in his opinion this was a fake given that it

appeared to have been written using a word processing machine which wasn't in operation in 1971. The CNSNews.com staff jumped on the story and within hours staff

writer Robert Bluey had posted this story, citing three independent typography experts proclaiming the documents to be frauds. Matt Drudge picked up our story as his lead item at 2:40 pm that day – and the rest is history.

Friday morning we publicly called upon CBS and Dan Rather to apologize and retract the story. I truly felt that they would do so simply because it was a hoax, and by cleaning up the matter, CBS would ultimately look good in the process. I was amazed when Dan Rather defiantly proclaimed he was standing by the story. But by then everyone else was in

the act as well. One news outlet after another, from Fox, to CNN, to NBC, to ABC, to USA Today, to the LA Times, to the Washington Post, to the New York Times came forward with more and more evidence proclaiming and showing what a shoddy piece of journalism – at best – this was.

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The MRC's newswire, CNSNews.com exposed how CBS tried to smear the **President of the United States and** affect a presidential election.



CNSNews.com reporter Robert Bluey posted the story, citing three independent typography experts proclaiming the documents CBS used were frauds.

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Weapons of Mass Distortion: The Coming Meltdown of the Liberal Media



America's Media Watchdog

MRC's "Tell the Truth!" Campaign Wars On!

Against all conventional wisdom the Republicans got a double-digit "bounce" from their National Convention in New York City while weeks before the Democrats were helped not one bit by their gathering in Boston. Not even the Democrats' strongest allies—the liberal news media—were able to help this time around.

As part of our "Tell The Truth!" campaign, Media Research Center analysts worked around the clock monitoring and documenting the biases of ABC, CBS, CNN, FNC, MSNBC, and NBC in their coverage of the two conventions. We've done this every four years since 1988 and every time the results are the same: The leftist media serve as willing microphones to project the message of liberal Democrats while working overtime to "expose" and discredit the conservative positions of Republicans. This year was no different.

When liberals came forward in Boston the liberal media symbolically genuflected. CBS's Hannah Storm fawned all over Senator Ted Kennedy on his performance, "Senator Kennedy, a lot of people are calling you the 'Grand Marshall' of the Democratic Convention," she said. She said, "How gratifying is it for you to have your beloved

party to be here in Boston and these two men that you have been so supportive of to see their nominations come to fruition this week?" After Barack Obama's performance, CNN's Jeff Greenfield proclaimed it "one of the really great keynote speakers of the last quarter century." "He's the best argument for the American dream" said *Newsweek's* Howard Fineman on MSNBC before Andrea Mitchell celebrated how "Obama is a rock star." Chris Matthews insisted that he's "just seen the first Black president." No one seemed to think it was important to point out how this man's politics are even further to the left than those of Jesse Jackson...

After John Edwards spoke, CBS's Byron Pitts was beside himself in this "news" report: "He took this massive convention center and turned it into a court room, some 15,000 people into 12 jurors and he spoke to each one. If John Edwards put the face on the Democratic Party, youthful

and hopeful, it would be Senator John Kerry's job tomorrow night to give it its soul."

And when John Kerry finished his speech, an awed Tom Brokaw lost any semblance of impartiality. "He opened his remarks by saluting this crowd and saying 'John Kerry, reporting for duty.' And on this occasion he fulfilled his duties."

But when the Republicans came to New York City, the tone changed dramatically. NBC's Matt Lauer interviewed President Bush and after imploring him to consider raising taxes in his second term, asserted that anti-American feelings around the world are Bush's fault. "After 9/11 it was never a greater outpouring of supporting and compassion," Lauer lectured the President. "Here we are three years later, and as I mentioned, in parts of the Arab world, we have never been more hated."

Also on that network, after uplifting speeches from Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Laura Bush, Brokaw felt it necessary to bring out a bucket of cold water: "The fact is we're required to point out here that things are not going well in many parts of the world for the United States. Despite the speeches tonight of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Laura Bush, this is a very difficult time in Iraq. The war on terrorism is an uncertain trumpet."

After Senator Zell Miller's brilliant keynote address, CNN's Bill Schneider was just warned of countless reporters beside themselves in disgust. "They're having all these moderate speakers, but the moderate speakers...aren't giving moderate speeches, they're giving



Tom Brokaw called the Republican convention a "con game."



John Roberts insisted President Bush seems to have "forgotten" Osama bin Laden.

Of course, the proof of the pudding is in the tasting, and for tasting liberal bias in journalism, no one tops the Media Research Center. Founded by conservative activist Brent Bozell in 1987, the MRC has become an indispensable resource for anyone interested in how political attitudes shape news coverage. Its most illuminating technique is the simplest: It monitors journalists' words and quotes them. What it has found time and time again is a skew to the left: a tendency to celebrate, echo, or defend Democrats, liberals, and left-of-center ideas.

~ JEFF JACOBY, THE BOSTON GLOBE, AUGUST 24,2004

speeches in which they're echoing a lot of this red meat. This is a very angry convention; it's a very belligerent convention...I've never heard such an angry speech."

After the President spoke, CBS's John Roberts flat out insulted him. "He seems to have completely forgotten about Osama bin Laden, who remains at large," he said snidely on national television. Also on CBS, Bob Schieffer, following Kerry's speech, gushed about how "this is the best speech I have ever heard John Kerry make" but was less than impressed with Bush's effort, complaining that "I think the speech, quite frankly, was too long."

But more and more these tactics, these heavy-handed biased reports, simply aren't working for the left. The MRC's "Tell The Truth" campaign is resonating. The left-wing "news media" are being exposed for the biased activists they are. Nothing these liberals are doing is going unchallenged by us; and when we challenge them we are reaching millions upon millions of Americans with our evidence of their bias.

The MRC's three websites – www.MRC.org, www.CNSNews.com, and www.TimesWatch.org – are now being accessed by nearly 450,000 every day. More importantly, the documentation we're uncovering, and which we are posting on these websites is now being used by virtually everyone in the alternative press, from Rush Limbaugh to Sean Hannity to Matt Drudge and hundreds of other outlets, thus taking our message now to millions of Americans every single day.

The goal of the MRC's Tell The Truth!" campaign is to reach a cumulative audience of 50 million Americans every single week with our evidence of the leftist bias. We can track those numbers internally and we are making our goals. In the month of April, we were reached an average of 51 million people a week. From mid-July, we averaged 68 million people a week. From mid-July to mid-August we averaged 56 million people a week.



This MRC billboard sits at the southern entrance to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. The 80 foot billboard is so massive you barely notice the standard-size billboard perched below it.

And now that we've exposed the smear campaign of CBS, the numbers in September will be off the charts. The MRC is active on many other fronts as well. Our "Don't Believe the Media/Tell The Truth!" Billboards are now running in Dallas, Boston, Atlanta, and Philadelphia. Our next cities will be San Diego, Denver, and Cleveland. We were set to go into Florida, but natural disasters keep putting a damper on things there.

MRC spokesmen are all over the air every single day on television, on radio, and in print interviews. We are continually reaching readers all over the country with our nationally syndicated column and specially placed op-eds. And when the MRC isn't exposing the bias of the liberal media, our news service, CNSNews.com is uncovering the deliberate efforts of the leftist media to smear conservatives as we did with the CBS story.

The MRC's "Tell The Truth!" Campaign wars on!









BOZELL JOINS "BOOKS DONE RIGHT"

As part of his media tour during the Republican convention week in New York, MRC President Brent Bozell took part in a Manhattan forum of conservative authors organized by American Compass, a new conservative book club. The *New York Times* reported on the session, including quoting Brent: "For years and years and years it was really just one publisher of conservative books, Regnery," he said of the publishing house, which began in 1947. "Others had gotten into it on a smaller scale, but the big boys didn't find it, for whatever reason, acceptable or didn't find it noteworthy or just didn't see the commercial value in conservative books." Thankfully, more and more publishers are realizing that conservatives love books, and moving to meet that hunger for ideas.



Convention "Con Games"?

On the eve of the GOP convention in New York, Tom Brokaw ended his special Sunday night anchoring duties with a little commentary charging that the Republicans' decision to feature "middle of the road" speakers, in contrast to the party's "hard right" positions, was "the political equivalent of a popular con game in this tough town, three-card monte."

Brokaw wasn't alone in his disdain for the "quote, moderate side." As Dan Rather put it, "Will voters buy it?" On CNN, Judy Woodruff worried out loud: "Can the Republicans get away with putting these moderate speakers up there?" NBC's David Gregory eagerly relayed that Democrats think Bush is trying "to pull a fast one on middle-of-the-road voters."

Night and Day on Thursday

You cannot get any more of a lovehate contrast – love Kerry, hate Bush – than CBS gave on Thursday nights of the political conventions. As President Bush prepared to speak, White House reporter John Roberts fussed, "He hopes to rekindle his year 2000 mantra of compassionate conservatism, a goal his critics say would be a stunning feat given his record of the past three years." Roberts repeated the line in live coverage. After the speech, Roberts added snippily, "He seems to have completely forgotten about Osama bin Laden who remains at large" and had no talk about "the problems

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with nuclear programs in both Iran and North Korea."

But at the Democratic convention, Byron Pitts oozed to CBS viewers about John Kerry and how "inside his left jacket pocket are...the Vietnam dog tags he wore in Vietnam, still wrapped in the black gaffer's tape he used in Vietnam to keep those dog tags quiet as he went on patrol....Often in his life John Kerry has been down, but he always finds a way to get up." After the speech, Pitts was even more treacly, noting "as the family was preparing to leave John Kerry's home in Boston, I'm told he whispered to his



Byron Pitts passed on glowing Kerry talking points about his life story.

sister, 'remember the words of our mother on her deathbed when she said, 'John,' knowing he would run for President some day, 'remember, John, integrity, that's what matters.' Tonight, John Kerry tried to show that integrity."

Zig-Zagging on Zell

Republicans might have been thrilled by Democratic Sen. Zell Miller's keynote speech lashing into John Kerry's remarkable weakness on defense issues, but the media reviewers were aghast. The next morning, ABC's George Stephanopoulos complained, "Zell Miller was on a tirade, I mean, he was red-faced, red meat for the red states."

But when Miller gave a sharply anti-Bush keynote speech for the Democratic convention back in 1992, charging "If the Education President gets another term, even our kids won't even be able to spell potato," ABC's news reader Mike



Stephanopoulos: "Zell Miller was on a tirade, I mean, he was red-faced, red meat for the red states."

Schneider noted the next morning that Miller "engaged in the time-honored tradition of attacking the opposition."

Stuck on Band-Aids

Liberal reporters just don't have a sense of humor. When a handful of GOP convention delegates wore Band-Aids with a purple heart on them to joke about John Kerry's quite minor war wounds (which is only a joke after a year of his war hero boasting), the media were upset. ABC's George Stephanopoulos asked one delegate: "John McCain has talked about these ads raising allegations about John Kerry's military service. He's called it 'dishonest and dishonorable.' Why do you think it's okay to wear a bandage like that?"



TV pundits hated mockery of Kerry's Purple Heart medals.

CNN's Candy Crowley fussed at another: "This is a man who went and served his country. Do you feel as though you're making fun of him?" *Wall Street Journal* editor Al Hunt used that same line, calling the Band-Aids "another saga in a despicable Republican-led effort which, as Senator John McCain says, smears the

Pieces

medals, ribbons and service of all those who fought in that tragic war."

Funny. Wasn't it John Kerry who came home and smeared everyone who fought in Vietnam as part of a "monster" committing war crimes, then threw those Purple Hearts away in protest?

NBC's Revisionist History

Reviewing John Kerry's weird midnight rebuttal speech to the Bush convention address, NBC's Tim Russert noted, "This Swift Boat controversy, the attacks on John Kerry's military record, started one month ago, and Senator Kerry was silent through the month of August."

Russert must have forgotten that on August 19, his very own NBC *Nightly News* began: "Decision 2004: John Kerry, stung by attacks by pro-Bush Vietnam vets, accuses the President of letting them do his 'dirty work."

Pleading With Laura to Stop Ads

When network anchors gained interviews with the First Lady during the convention, they urged her to denounce the Swift Vet ads. Peter Jennings asked "As one of the country's leaders, do you, don't you have a role in trying to damp it down?"

Dan Rather's interview was even more interesting, in retrospect. He raised the idea of liberal payback: "Now



Dan Rather warned Laura Bush that Vietnam attacks were coming.

that friends and supporters of the President have raised the issue of John Kerry's combat record in Vietnam, do you or do you not think it's fair now for the Kerry people to come back and dig anew into your husband's military service record?" Is Dan one of the "Kerry people" in that question? He also asked in his typical lingo: "Are you worried about a campaign descending into something so nasty that it'd drive the prairie dogs in your home in West Texas back in their holes?"

Maybe We're All Biased

Taking a momentary break from decrying the "intolerance" of the Republican platform and the "harsh" tone of GOP speakers on August 30, MSNBC's Chris Matthews and Newsweek Editor Jon Meacham admitted how the New York Times and the rest of the media disdain President

Bush's strong defense policies.

Meacham told Matthews that Republicans planned to present President Bush as among "the great war leaders of the modern era. You're going to hear about Churchill projecting power against public opinion." The liberal Matthews snorted that presenting Bush as another Churchill was preposterous. "Iraq was a popular cause when he first started it. It wasn't like Churchill speaking against the Nazis," he griped.

But Meacham reminded Matthews that the President's efforts to keep America secure put him in constant conflict with the liberal media elite.



Jon Meacham admitted media disdain for Bush on defense.

Republicans, Meacham noted, "think that all of us and the *New York Times* are against them.""Well, they're right about the *New York Times*," Matthews grudgingly admitted, "and they may be right about all of us."

MINIBITS

The investigative team at the CBS Evening News now assures us that John Kerry never flip-flopped. "Kerry has consistently said holding

Saddam accountable was and remains the right thing to do," correspondent **John Roberts** claimed, "and he's been just as consistent in his opposition to the way President Bush went to war." Newsweek's **Eleanor Clift** takes a condescending approach to voters. "If you want a President who...rarely uses his brain and boasts about not reading anything," she sniffs, "then vote for George Bush." Campaign journalists simply hate talking about the anti-Kerry charges raised by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. "We wish someone would put a stake in this vampire," the *Chicago Tribune's* Frank James confesses. CNN anchor **Aaron Brown** doesn't see the need to investigate anything. "The available official record is unambiguous: John Kerry was a war hero," he lectures his audience.



Roberts: Kerry never flip-flopped on Iraq.

Andrea Mitchell argues that professional soldiers adore liberal Democratic Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton: "I've got to tell you, the rank-and-file military are really happy with her." The Pan Rather can't see his own bias, but he finds it elsewhere. After the Fox News Channel drew a bigger Republican convention audience than CBS, Rather told the New York Times, "I tip my cap to Fox....but the wise ones know that this is preaching to the converted."

fraudulent documents

Continued from page 1

They too had egg all over their faces having bitten and reported the CBS story themselves.

The more the evidence came flying out the more two things became apparent: These memos were fraudulent and with the slightest bit of due diligence CBS would have known this.

By Monday, September 13th, CBS was in a total meltdown. Numerous witnesses had come forward announcing the allegations of the memos and by Tuesday, more evidence was showing the documents to be fraudulent and the signatures to be forgeries. Still Rather and Company stood by the story. By Wednesday all doubt was erased. Three experts that CBS had proclaimed were authenticating the story all came forward publicly distancing themselves from that very thing. And then two told ABC News they had told CBS just the opposite!

This was a smear and the longer CBS stood by the smear the more complicit they became in that smear. By Wednesday afternoon, California Congressman Chris Cox

had called for a Congressional investigation and we had called for a full independent investigation as well as for the suspension of Dan Rather.

But the most important demand was and is: Who was behind the smear? What did CBS have to hide? The hesitancy suggested that if the source of the smear was either the Democratic National Committee or the Kerry Campaign, directly or indirectly, the Presidential campaign is over. I believe that. I also believe that for CBS to come forward and admit the mistake would also require CBS to reveal the author of the smear. Perhaps that is why, as of this writing, they have not done so.

On Wednesday morning, September 15th, CBS announced it would release a statement at noon. Noon came and went, and nothing. Then we were told 3:30, then 5:30, and both times nothing. Finally, at 6:30 pm on the evening news, Rather came forward with what can only be described as the pitiful defense of a

network in sheer panic. After conceding there might – might – be some truth to what the critics were saying, he attacked the critics as being "politically motivated." (ABC News, *The New York Times?* – to my knowledge they are not yet members of the vast right wing conspiracy). It was quintessentially Clintonian. Just as Clinton did when he was caught committing perjury, Rather was now attacking the



Did you ever think you'd see this day?

CNN and other media outlets picked up the CNSNews.com report and confronted Dan Rather about the fraudulent documents.

integrity of those who had caught him in a lie. Then to make matters worse he then put on the air the 86-year-old secretary of the purported author of these memos, now deceased Lt. Col. Killian. A self-professed Bush opponent ("he was selected not elected"). This secretary first declared the documents to be fakes but then, amazingly, suggested that it was her belief that it was Killian's belief 30-some years ago that the sentiments in these fraudulent memos was correct.

CBS's defense had been reduced to this preposterous position: Never mind that we lied, putting on the air fake documents that smeared the President – we have someone who says she believes the sentiments contained in the fraudulent copies were real! This was preposterous on two counts. If the sentiments of that memo are important, why didn't CBS put on the air the widow of Lt. Col. Killian or her son, both of whom a) knew Lt. Col. Killian better than his secretary, and b) have stated unequivocally that he did not believe

this about then-Lt. Bush? CBS knows all this because Killian's family has been very public, on-the-record saying this. And yet CBS deliberately ignored them in their new report. If this isn't dishonest, what is?

But more important, it's all beside the point. Sentiments about fraudulent documents are irrelevant. CBS can obfuscate all day long but can't avoid the truth: It's been caught trying to smear the

President of the United States and affect a presidential election in the meantime.

It is precisely what I've put forward in my book, Weapons of Mass Distortion: The Coming Meltdown of the Liberal Media: The political Left is out of ideological ammunition. It's agenda has been tested and is a documented failure. It has only one bullet left in its chamber: Character assassination. As I predicted in the book, we would see this again and again this year coming from the leftist media to derail the conservative movement. We saw it with Michael Moore and the media's fawning treatment of his slimy movie. We see it now in CBS. And by the time you read

these words you will have seen it in the media's fawning coverage of the incredibly ugly, vicious smears being perpetrated by Kitty Kelley, a woman who has been discredited again, and again, and again, and again.

Consider this: NBC's *Today Show* gave Kitty Kelley three consecutive days of airtime to promote her scurrilous accusations against the Bush family. John O'Neill, the head of the Swift Boat Vets for Truth, a man who has no less than sixty corroborating witnesses for his charges and a *New York Times* Number One bestselling book for several weeks now, has yet to be interviewed once by the same program.

This, my friends, is the angry, leftist news media at work.

Until next month.

Buns

L. Brent Bozell III Founder and President



AMERICA'S MEDIA WATCHDOG

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 election season winds down, 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 spokemen have appeared on, or have been cited in, more than 100 television, newspaper, radio, and Internet news stories. The highlights of the month included a round of Brent Bozell TV interviews holding Dan Rather accountable for his forgery scandal and Rush Limbaugh touting Brent's book and its theory of "the coming meltdown of the liberal media" on his radio show.







KOLE - Beaumont, Texas, August 26 Metronews Radio - West Virginia, August 25

Television

- ABC Family Channel, The 700 Club, September 17. MRC President Brent Bozell discussed his book Weapons of Mass Distortion: The Coming Meltdown of the Liberal Media
- Fox, Hannity & Colmes, September 14
- Fox News Live, September 14
- Fox, Hannity & Colmes, September 10
- CNBC, Capital Report, September 7
- Fox, Special Report with Brit Hume, September 3
- SBS Television (Australia), August 31
- Fox, After Hours with Cal Thomas, August 21
- Fox, Hannity & Colmes, August 20

Radio

The Sean Hannity Show, August 31. MRC President Brent Bozell discussed convention coverage during his visit to New York. Other radio appearances during convention week included:

The G. Gordon Liddy Show The Michael Medved Show The Tony Snow Show The Geoff Metcalf Show The Mike Gallagher Show NewsBeat with Blanquita Cullum KLIF - Dallas, Texas KTBB - Tyler, Texas KVI – Seattle WCHS - Charleston, W. Va. WNTK - Keene, NH WWTN - Nashville

Appearances by MRC Research Director Rich Noves

Accent Radio Network, September 16 WAIC - Springfield, Mass., September 16 WIBC - Indianapolis, September 15 WYDE - Birmingham, September 14 Radio America, NewsBeat with Blanquita Cullum, September 14 WMUZ - Detroit, Mich., September 14 WAIC - Springfield, Mass., September 9

WIBC - Indianapolis, September 8

WAIC - Springfield, Mass., September 2

WIBC - Indianapolis, September 1 Accent Radio Network, August 27

KION - Salinas, Calif., August 25

Appearances by MRC Director of Media **Analysis Tim Graham**

Chuck Harder Show, September 17 KCOL - Fort Collins, Colo., September 16 Radio America, Battleline with Alan Nathan, September 16

WKY - Oklahoma City, September 15

WOR - New York City, September 15

KOGO - San Diego, September 15

Catholic Connection, September 15

WDUN – Gainesville, Ga., September 13

WHTC - Holland, Mich., September 9

WBAL - Baltimore, September 9 WBAL - Baltimore, September 4

KLO - Ogden, Utah, September 3

WGL - Fort Wayne, Ind., August 31

KSFO - San Francisco, August 30

WHYY - Philadelphia, August 31

The Linda Chavez Show, August 27

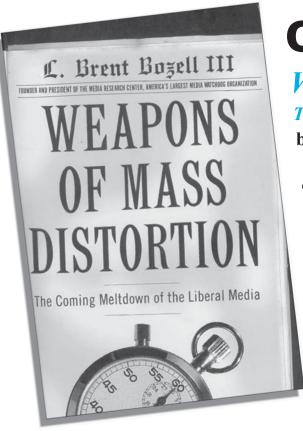
KOGO - San Diego, August 26

Print

The New York Times, September 17 The Philadelphia Inquirer, September 17 The Baltimore Sun, September 17 The Washington Times, September 17 Associated Press, September 16 The Washington Post, September 14 World Magazine, September 11 issue Atlanta Journal-Constitution, September 7 The Weekly Standard, September 6 issue The New York Post, September 2 The New York Times, September 2 USA Today, September 1 The Boston Globe, August 30 Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, August 29 World Magazine, August 28 issue Cox News Service, August 26 The Boston Globe, August 24 Investors' Business Daily, August 23 The Washington Times, August 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, and September 2 Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 20

Internet

National Review Online, September 15 MotherJones.com, September 1 New Republic Online, August 30 National Review Online, daily convention coverage, August 30-September 3 Slate.com, August 25



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.

"L. Brent Bozell III is, as has been frequently noted, a national treasure; the work his Media Research Center does in compiling evidence of the media's flagrant bias is invaluable. Bozell's new book, Weapons of Mass Distortion: The Coming Meltdown of the Liberal Media, provides example after hilarious example of the press allowing its biases to obscure the truth." — National Review

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