

FLASH

NEWS

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The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

Media Push Anti-War Agenda with Cindy Sheehan and Left-Wing Cadres

Dear Member,

Did you know that Cindy Sheehan, the mother of the slain soldier who camped-out in Crawford, Texas, has called President Bush, among other things, "the biggest terrorist in the world," a "lying bastard," an "evil maniac" guilty of "blatant genocide," and a "fuehrer" who is "waging a nuclear war in Iraq"? If you didn't know that it's largely because most of the elite liberal media aren't reporting it. Instead, they're broadcasting an image of an apolitical mom who lost a son and whose determination may spark a nationwide anti-war movement.

That's what the liberal media want you to see. The reality, however — the radical and profanity-spewing Sheehan — is not an attractive sight. Nor are her neo-Marxist friends such as Michael Moore and MoveOn.org. So the rough edges are edited out, and it's all choreographed to look like a home-grown peace movement led by "Mother Sheehan."

The entire Sheehan phenomenon, in fact, is a media creation. If the TV cameras and microphones and reporters weren't swarming around the "Sheehan Woodstock," there would be nothing much to this story. And if

this were 60 years ago during World War II, the media, according to Michael Barone of *U.S. News & World Report*, would have treated Sheehan for who she is, a grieving mom "who had gone over the bend."

But today, said Barone, "we have many in the press — not most I think, but some at

least — who do not want us to win this war and think that we don't deserve to win this war." That analysis jibes precisely with the voluminous research done by the MRC.

The top media claim they are "objective," that they are not advocating a policy or a view. This is simply not true. Let's look at some facts.

Early on, the top media, such as NBC's

Katie Couric, described Sheehan's action as "a mother's vigil." What Couric and other top media faces didn't tell Americans is that 1) President Bush had met with Sheehan in 2004; 2) that during their meeting Sheehan actually had praised the President's sincerity to bring freedom to Iraq; and 3) that Sheehan, once ensconced in Crawford, was doing a Kerryesque flip-flop, now saying that Administration officials "lied their brains out" and acted "traitorously."

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Cindy Sheehan, feted by the liberal media to push an anti-Iraq-war agenda, says the President is "the greatest terrorist in the world" and that America is "waging a nuclear war in Iraq."

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You Don't Have to Be Wealthy...



America's Media Watchdog



SAVE THE DATE

March 30, 2006

The MRC's Annual Gala featuring the DisHonors and Conservative of the Year Awards

Grand Hyatt Hotel Washington, D.C.

"The Most Humorous Night in Washington"



Continued from page 1

On and on and on went the "news" reports, with Americans told that Sheehan was just "standing her ground," and that her courage and resolve had somehow, mysteriously, turned her into "a media magnet." Of course, the liberal media created that magnet. As Fred Barnes commented on Fox News Channel's *Special Report with Brit Hume*: "You pointed to that picture of all the cameras that are there – that's why those people are there. That's why Cindy Sheehan is there. She'd go home if you didn't have all the cameras and people. ... My view is, is there any left-wing publicity hound who the media won't build up. ... This woman wants to go in and tell the President that the war is about oil because the President wants to pay off his buddies. She's a crackpot, and yet the press treats her as some important protestor."

Cindy Sheehan is a radical. Her own family members have denounced her actions. Yet this woman who says that Iraq is

"contaminated for practically eternity now" because of America's "nuclear war in Iraq" is feted by the media who want to ignite an anti-war movement.

As the *Washington Post's* Dana Milbank confirmed in his column: "In a broader sense, none of the particulars about Sheehan matters.... What matters is her ability to serve as an icon, a symbolic rallying point for an antiwar movement. And all she needs to achieve that is the moral claim she already has, being the mother of a kid who was killed in Iraq." There you have it. The truth about Sheehan – the "particulars" – doesn't matter to the liberal media.

Need more evidence? In an Aug. 22 posting, Greg Mitchell, editor of the leading newspaper industry magazine, *Editor & Publisher*, urged newspapers to editorialize about getting the U.S. out of Iraq: "At this critical moment, it's time for newspapers – many of which helped get us into this

war – to use their editorial pages as platforms to help get us out of it. So far, few have done much more than wring their hands. Now, it's literally do-or-die time."

Editor & Publisher, of course, pretends to be the industry guidebook for good journalism, for political balance and responsible reporting. Well, its editor has just confirmed what the MRC and you, our supporters, have always known: Most journalists are liberal to the core and will do anything – "do-or-die time" – to promote their agenda.

The stakes couldn't be higher. We are fighting a war against global terror, and the American news media are doing everything in their power to break our national resolve. We will not allow that.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President

Olbermann Slams Rush Limbaugh as "Worst Person in the World!" and Tags Brent Bozell as "Worser Person in the World!"

On MSNBC's *Countdown*, a show with ratings in the root cellar, host Keith Olbermann slapped MRC President Brent Bozell with the "Worser Person in the World" label. Why? Because the MRC documented that Olbermann had distorted a point made by Rush Limbaugh. Limbaugh had argued that the liberal media were using Cindy Sheehan — as they used Bill Burkett (Dan Rather's Memogate source) — as "an opportunity" to "exploit" for political gain. What Sheehan said didn't matter; the point was that she could be used to further a liberal agenda.

Olbermann apparently didn't get it. And so he called Bozell "the wacky guy from that Media Research Center scam," and the one who was "distorting as usual." As for Rush, Olbermann went on to laughably claim that his career was over, he's "finished, credibility spent. Get lost! Rush Limbaugh, once again, today's 'Worst Person in the World!'" Rush reaches an average 3 million listeners on his daily show. Olbermann barely ekes out 300,000 viewers per day.



Rush Limbaugh On the New MRC Blog: “It’s Cool!”



The MRC’s new blog site, NewsBusters.org, made a big splash at its Aug. 9 launch and is gaining steam and ever-increasing attention as the days roll by. One day after the launch, Rush Limbaugh told his 3-million-average radio audience: “Brent Bozell and his boys have put up a new blog. They’ve got their own blog called the NewsBusters, and I’ve got an RSS feed, so I subscribed to it last night, and it’s cool!” Limbaugh also cited an item posted on NewsBusters that day by economist Noel Shepperd, one of 30 regular contributors to the blog.

In producing the unique blog, the MRC joined forces with the creators of the influential Web site RatherBiased.com, Matthew Sheffield and Greg Sheffield. The purpose of NewsBusters is to provide immediate exposure of liberal media bias, insightful analysis, constructive criticism, and timely corrections to news media reporting – to be the clearinghouse for all evidence of liberal media bias. In so doing, NewsBusters is linking the MRC’s formidable information cache with already-established media bias critics in the blogosphere and with those who want to join the Web revolution.

It’s working – and overnight has earned international coverage. As the *London Observer* reported on Aug. 14, “The

Internet firmament is littered with websites monitoring the U.S. media for evidence of impartial coverage, and NewsBusters.org, which launched quietly last week, looks set to become the most influential.”

After Rush Limbaugh cited NewsBusters on Aug. 10, he turned around and cited it the next day, and again on Aug. 19, each time reaching his 3-million-average audience with the MRC message. On a related note, MRC articles are cited on the Rush Limbaugh.com Web site every day, and the site also provides links to NewsBusters items. NewsMax.com, which reaches hundreds of thousands of Americans every day, ran a story on NewsBusters the day it was launched.

“Like the Media Research Center, in many ways the blogosphere is a reaction to the liberal bias in the media,” said MRC President Brent Bozell. “It’s impact was felt heavily in the 2004 election. We welcome the opportunity to participate, using our

experience and resources to expose and document liberal bias with the immediacy of the blogosphere. We also welcome visitors to our site to participate and contribute.”

To visit the blog, go to www.NewsBusters.org.



Lou Dobbs Hides a Fair View of Free Trade

By Dan Gainor

One of the most important duties of the Free Market Project (FMP) is making sure major economic issues are handled properly by the media. This can be a problem no matter which media are covered. But CNN’s *Lou Dobbs Tonight* raises particular problems for viewers.

Critics have complained that the show is a seamless rant against big business and free trade. The network in turn has promoted the program as “news, debate and opinion.” But it doesn’t explain that Dobbs mixes the three into something that isn’t news and economists and critics say isn’t even always accurate.

In a new study, “*Trade Secrets: ‘Lou Dobbs Tonight’ Hides Good News Behind Negative View of Free*

Market,” the Free Market Project detailed how the show covers trade issues. What we found is that viewers of “the Dan Rather of financial journalism,” as one conservative critic called Dobbs, are missing the real story behind the American economic engine – free trade. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, 94 percent of the show’s stories about trade over a four-month period blamed free trade for horrors ranging from “destroying” the U.S. middle class to leaving a “legacy of environmental degradation, lost jobs, and increased illegal immigration.”

To read more about this, visit the Free Market Project’s Web site: www.freemarketproject.org.



Jennings Wasn't Biased!?

The very liberal Aaron Brown of CNN and Ted Koppel of ABC insist that the late ABC anchor Peter Jennings was not a liberally biased reporter. On the Aug. 8 *Nightline*, Koppel commented: "Peter and I were good and close friends. I think I knew him well. So, I hope you'll believe me when I tell you how hard Peter Jennings always tried to be fair. ... Peter was no ideologue of the left or the right. ..."

On the Aug. 8 *NewsNight*, Aaron Brown, who had once worked for Jennings, crooned: "I never once saw him look at a story, treat a story with anything other than complete fairness and demand the same from us. The silly little Web sites on the left and the right



CNN's very liberal Aaron Brown claims, with a straight face, that ABC's Peter Jennings was not a liberally biased anchorman.

will spend days saying otherwise, but they are wrong." For documentation of Jennings' liberal bias, visit www.mrc.org.

Want to stay on top of media bias? Sign up for the *CyberAlert* e-mail report.

It's FREE!

To subscribe, just e-mail jbookwalter@mediaresearch.org. Mention that you read about the offer in *FLASH*.

Panda 'Baby,' Human 'Fetus'

The Associated Press ran stories on Aug. 3 about a panda bear who gave birth but whose "second baby died in the womb," and a brain-dead woman who was kept alive "to give her fetus more time to develop ..." Hmm. Bears have babies and women have fetuses? Apparently alerted to its clear bias against human babies, the AP changed both stories in subsequent reports several hours later.

In those stories, the panda's "second fetus died in the womb" and the brain-dead woman was kept alive "so she could deliver the child she was carrying." It's good to know that AP editors have such a high regard for human life, apparently.

More Media Bias Facts

A new poll conducted by Gannett's First Amendment Center in Nashville discovered that an overwhelming 64 percent disagree with the statement that "the news media try to report the news without bias." Only half as many, 33 percent, think the media are unbiased, down six percentage points from last year. And 65 percent agree that "the falsifying or making up of stories in the American news media is a widespread problem."

If you wonder how journalists can live in denial about bias and public distrust of the media, check out how the August/September *American Journalism Review* magazine headlined its story about those poll results. With a big "69%" in the background, the magazine's headline over a three-page article declared, "A Source of Encouragement: A new First Amendment Center/AJR survey finds

And 65 percent agree that "the falsifying or making up of stories in the American news media is a widespread problem."

that 69 percent of the public thinks journalists should be allowed to keep a news source confidential."

Nina 'Broken Record'

While she spent most of early August prattling on about the "very, very, very conservative" Supreme Court nominee John Roberts, NPR's Nina Totenberg couldn't seem to stop repeating the word "conservative" whenever Roberts was



Totenberg can't stop labeling John Roberts as "conservative," or "very conservative, or "hardline conservative, or "really conservative."

discussed. On the Aug. 21 *Inside Washington*, Totenberg declared that she had reviewed memos Roberts wrote while working in the Reagan White House counsel's office and it was clear that "he is much more conservative than I ever would have guessed. He is on the most conservative side of almost every issue within the Reagan administration." Then, on Aug. 28, Totenberg warned that if Roberts "is as conservative as his papers reflect, his nomination will dramatically change the direction of the court." She then added, "I have no idea what kind of justice he's going to end up being, except for the fact that I'm pretty sure he's going to be very conservative."

On previous editions of *Inside Washington*, Totenberg had described Roberts as "very conservative," "a really conservative guy," "a hardline conservative" and "a clear conservative." And, lest one forget, "a conservative Catholic."

HBO's Six Feet of Rant

HBO's season finale of *Six Feet Under*, a drama show that has frequently mocked real-life U.S. foreign policy, took a parting shot at the "corporate war" in Iraq. As the character "Claire," who is moving away, tells her boyfriend, "I want you to promise that if the corporate warmongers decide that we have to invade Iran, and they reinstate the draft, that you will move to Canada. ... [P]romise me that you won't get your head blown off so Haliburton and Bechtel can get richer."

In a previous episode, "Claire" ranted against a "Support Our Troops" sticker on an SUV, saying: "The whole world hates us for going in there in the first place! And terrorists are still going to be blowing s*** up in this country for the next hundred years! And the best thing she can think to do about it is put a sticker on that enormous s*** box!"

Rather, In Denial

Dan Rather, who resigned as anchor of the *CBS Evening News* amidst the fallout of his bogus story on George W. Bush's National Guard service — a report buttressed with forged memos — is at it again. Now he's telling SmartMoney.com that the "central facts in the story were correct, and they have not been denied."



CBS's former anchor Dan Rather still claims that his false report on George W. Bush's National Guard duty was true and that the forged documents were authentic.

Nonetheless, Rather went on to vent that "many of the people" who call his scandal "Memogate" are doing "so for their own partisan and/or ideological purposes." Still in obvious denial, Rather lamented that "whatever mistakes" were made, "real or imagined," they "were not born of political bias or of prejudice." By the way, Rather will be receive a special "emmy" award this month for "his years of outstanding work."

Finland Fantastic!

The Fabian socialist economy of Finland — high taxes, excessive regulations — is just what America should seek to emulate, says *Washington Post* Associate Editor Robert Kaiser. In an

Aug. 7 op-ed for the Outlook section — "In Finland's Footsteps: If We're So Rich and Smart, Why Aren't We More Like Them?" — Kaiser beamed: "If we Americans are so rich and so smart, why can't we treat our citizens as well as the Finns do? ... They pay nothing for education at any level, including medical school or law school. Their medical care, which contributes to an infant mortality rate that is half of ours and a life expectancy greater than ours, costs relatively little."

Pay nothing? Actually, they pay a lot in taxes: 59% of their income. Despite that, says Kaiser, Finland "can be an inspiration." Yes, for closet socialists who work at the *Washington Post* and dream of cradle-to-grave everything. Perhaps America is so rich and smart precisely because it does not try to follow Finland's example.



The *Washington Post's* Robert Kaiser believes that America should follow the neo-socialist policies of Finland.

MINIBITS

☞ "I had to take out a loan to fill up my minivan. It's crazy." — **Katie Couric**, who signed a four-

year contract with NBC for \$60 million ☞ And CBS's **John Blackstone**: "Will it get to the point that only the privileged can afford gas?" ☞ "In the 11 days Mr. Bush has been on vacation, at least 37 troops have been killed in Iraq." — ABC's **Geoff Morrell** ☞ "Stealth" is a movie for "all audiences lacking higher brain functions. Sea cucumbers, perhaps. Ones waving American flags." — Boston Globe's **Ty Burr** ☞ Run, Cheney, Run: "The day I say Dick Cheney is going to run for president, I'll kill myself." — Columnist **Helen Thomas** ☞ Hollywood's war wisdom: President Bush's "hands are covered in the blood of Cindy Sheehan's son. They are dripping with the blood of all who have died there." — actress **Christine Lahti** ☞ "You [Cindy Sheehan] sound more informed than most U.S. Congresspeople, so maybe you should run" for office. — **Chris Matthews**.



NBC's \$60-million host, Katie Couric, complains about how high gas prices are hitting her purse.

Liberal Media Not Talking About Air America Radio Scandal

BY L. BRENT BOZELL III

Which side of the talk radio wars do you suppose our “mainstream” media outlets favor? If you have to ask, then just look at the news coverage of talk radio scandals.

When Rush Limbaugh acknowledged an addiction to painkillers in 2003, the news media couldn't get enough of his misfortune. The *Newsweek* cover story by Evan Thomas called Rush “a childless, twice-divorced, thrice-married schlub whose idea of a good time is to lie on his couch and watch football endlessly.” CNN anchorman Aaron Brown confessed that “the subject is Rush, made worse no doubt by the permanent smirk that seems to be attached to my face.”

Or what about radio and TV talker Bill O'Reilly? When ex-producer Andrea Mackris sued him for sexual harassment last fall, the networks and other media outlets pounced with glee. ABC and NBC were so excited to put O'Reilly's accuser on the air with her lawyer that they gave them seven- and eight-minute interviews – an eternity in TV land – almost as many minutes as those networks devoted to covering and analyzing the final presidential debate that morning.

On July 26, bloggers busted open a brand-new talk radio scandal, and the hypocrisy was juicy: the ultraliberal Air America radio network, the folks who would call themselves Compassion for the Poor Radio, had taken \$875,000 from a children's charity as a “loan” that it hasn't paid back. An Air America executive that also served as development director for the Gloria Wise Boys and Girls Club of the Bronx made a “diversion” of funds for the struggling leftists.

Air America is no small potato in the eyes of “mainstream” media outlets. After all, when the network launched last year with its six paltry stations, the coverage was massive. Al Franken was its rock star. So with Air America embroiled in scandal, there would be a media feeding frenzy, right? All I can hear are the crickets. Let's compare the coverage, then and now.

The *New York Times* put Air America's debut on the front page, and published a huge cover story on Al Franken in the *New York Times Magazine*. In June, they promoted Al Franken for the U.S. Senate. And this is a New York City scandal, right?

But it took the *Times* two and a half weeks to publish one bland story, inside the local-news section with a lead that focused on the troubled charity, not Air America's scandalous participation. That's still better than nothing – which was what the *Times* national edition carried.

The *Washington Post* published a breezy front-page article plugging Air America's 2004 debut, not to mention an even larger profile on the front of the *Sunday Style* section. They lavished more than 7,000 words on Air America host Randi Rhodes last September in a *Washington Post Magazine* cover story. Current scandal coverage? *Post*-watching blogger Christopher Fotos found an AP dispatch (also two weeks delayed) on the *Post* website, but noted it didn't make the actual newspaper.

Newsweek hyped the debut in a big three-page spread, featuring a Bush-mocking “photo illustration” of Franken standing on an aircraft carrier in a flight suit. Scandal coverage? Nada.

Time writer Richard Corliss could only give a page to the network's debut, ending with the plea: “America needs Air America.” In April of 2005, Corliss hyped the network's first anniversary: “The story has a happy ending for liberals—or at least a promising second act.” Scandal coverage? No way.

ABC gave the Air America debut a morning news story, an evening news story, and an entire broadcast of *Nightline*. Coverage of their scandal? None.

CBS promoted the launch in brief anchor mentions, and then aired a long profile of Air America star Al Franken on *Sunday Morning*. Scandal coverage? Zip.

NBC highlighted the launch with a Franken interview in the morning, and an evening news story? Scandal coverage? Nothing.

NPR promoted the launch on their talk show *Talk of the Nation*, as well as their evening news show *All Things Considered*, but then aired a critique of their programming on the same show a few weeks later from Michael Harrison. Scandal coverage? Zero.

Then there's CNN, which aired Air America start-up stories in heavy rotation on the weekend before the network debut, as well as promotional stories across their prime-time lineup on Debut Day. A few days after the scandal broke, CNN's blog reporter noted in the afternoon that bloggers Brian Maloney and Michelle Malkin were pushing this story. But CNN has had no story of its own.

That's rich, because in October of 2003, when *NewsNight* anchor Aaron Brown was announcing his smirk over Rush's troubles, he brought on his guest – ready for this? – Al Franken, who sneered Limbaugh could never recover, because then he'd have “nothing left” for radio.

Al Franken will never need to recover from media scrutiny.





AMERICA'S MEDIA WATCHDOG

Documenting, Exposing and Fighting Media Bias

MRC IN THE NEWS

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

Television

- MSNBC, Countdown, Aug. 19
- FNC, After Hours with Cal Thomas, Aug. 6
- FNC, Hannity & Colmes, Aug. 3, 5, 25

Radio

- The CORE Hour, Aug. 23
- Sean Hannity, Tuned Into America, Aug. 5, 8, 19
- Rush Limbaugh Show, Aug. 10, 19
- Right Balance, Aug. 4, 12, 24
- Family News in Focus, Aug. 3, 5
- The World Tonight, Calgary, Aug. 11
- American Family Radio, Aug. 22
- Ringside Politics, Aug. 23
- Citizen Link, Aug. 24
- WMET, Washington, D.C., Aug. 25
- KTSA, San Antonio, Aug. 8
- KUDO, Anchorage, Aug. 5
- WMET, Washington, DC, Aug. 5
- WIBC, Indianapolis, Aug. 3
- KOGO, San Diego, Aug. 2, 17, 24
- NRA News, Aug. 5
- WHO, Des Moines, Aug. 4
- WINK, Ft. Myers, Aug. 17
- KMED, Medford, Ore., Aug. 19, 24
- WFLA, Tampa, Aug. 15
- WLNI, Lynchburg, Aug. 22
- WGST, Atlanta, Aug. 25
- WSAU, Wausau, Aug. 19
- WIBC, Indianapolis, Aug. 18, 25
- NRA News, Aug. 5, 12, 19
- WSBA, York, Penn., Aug. 22, 24, 27
- WBAL, Aug. 24
- WAAM, Ann Arbor, Aug. 27
- KTEM, Temple, Tex., Aug. 31
- KVI, Seattle, Aug. 25
- WYMM, Jacksonville, Aug. 30
- KLVI, Houston, Aug. 30

Print

- San Jose Mercury News*, Aug. 20
- Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 19
- Globe and Mail*, Aug. 19
- The Observer*, Aug. 14
- Kansas City Star*, Aug. 22
- Chattanooga Times-Free Press*, Aug. 21
- Knight Ridder*, Aug. 21
- Miami Herald*, Aug. 21
- Philadelphia Inquirer*, Aug. 21
- Broadcasting & Cable*, Aug. 11
- Washington Times*, Aug. 2, 5, 9, 11, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26
- Dallas Morning News*, Aug. 6
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Aug. 8, 10, 14
- Buffalo News*, Aug. 17
- Boston Globe*, Aug. 9, 28
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Aug. 9
- Boston Phoenix*, July 27
- The American Prospect*, Aug. 3
- New York Sun*, Aug. 26
- Brandenton Herald*, Aug. 24
- Gary Post-Tribune*, Aug. 21
- Gwinnett Daily Post*, Aug. 27
- Montgomery Advertiser*, Aug. 27
- Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Aug. 3
- The New Yorker*, Aug. 1

Internet

- Townhall.com, Aug. 4, 11, 12, 19, 20, 24, 27
- NewsMax.com, Aug. 9, 11
- Rush Limbaugh.com, daily
- National Review Online, Aug. 8, 19
- Human Events Online, July 28, 29, Aug. 12, 16, 17, 24
- Paradise Post, Aug. 10
- National Association of Manufacturers' Blog, Aug. 26
- American Thinker, July 28, Aug. 10, 18
- CNSNews.com, Aug. 9
- IsraelNN.com, Aug. 10
- Jewish World Review, Aug. 10
- Media Matters for America, Aug. 3, 8, 9, 19
- American Spectator Online, Aug. 9
- Petroleumworld.com, Aug. 25
- Dissident Voice, Aug. 27
- DetNews.com, Aug. 9
- NewsHounds, Aug. 6
- Uruknet.info, Italy, Aug. 8
- Sitnews, Aug. 9
- MichNews.com, Aug. 4
- National Ledger, Aug. 2, 4, 10, 17
- Blogger News Network, Aug. 4, 5
- ChronWatch, Aug. 12
- News-Leader.com, Aug. 24
- The One Republic, Aug. 29
- Agape Press, Aug. 25, 26

PARTIAL LISTING FOR ALL MEDIA



On Hannity & Colmes, MRC President Brent Bozell discussed the liberal media bias against Supreme Court nominee John Roberts.



On Fox's "After Hours with Cal Thomas," Brent Bozell commented on how the liberal media are turning to character assassination to push their agenda.

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