Dear Friend,

It is a political reality that Vice President Dick Cheney’s ratings are among the lowest of any political leader in recent history. But why? It’s hugely important that we conservatives address that question. It proves the leftist media’s power to destroy the reputation of a conservative leader. Yesterday it was Jesse Helms. Today it’s Dick Cheney. Who will it be tomorrow?

I remember well when the news broke that George W. Bush had chosen Cheney as his running mate in the summer of 2000. I thought it was political genius. Think back to 1991 and the first Gulf War, when Cheney served as secretary of defense. There was no one on the political scene who could communicate a message to the American people through the press better than he. Smooth, confident, knowledgeable, likeable, reassuring — he was a natural and, I thought, would be a great spokesman for the Bush administration.

But what followed instead was a relentless barrage of attack pieces, month after month, accusing Cheney of everything under the sun. Lining his pockets through Halliburton contracts. “Secretly” running the White House. The Valerie Plame leak. On and on it went. To be sure, the White House communications operation has been a disaster all along, but even had it been working correctly, it would not have salvaged Cheney’s reputation.

The leftist media were out to destroy him, and have succeeded. And they’re not done.

Newsweek’s Howard Fineman recently ratiﬁed the conventional media wisdom on the vice president. “Dick Cheney isn’t running for anything which, of course, gives Dick Cheney a lot of scary freedom in people’s eyes.”

There is a lot of scary freedom going on, of a different sort. Author Stephen Hayes has a new book out called “Cheney.” The veep gave him 30 hours of interviews. One theme that emerges is that Cheney’s opinion of the press corps has deteriorated just as much as their opinion of him. As the book documents, the professional norms of journalism have been tossed overboard by reporters out to get him.

In May 2003, Cheney spoke at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The session was ofﬁcially off the record, not to be quoted by the press. The rule established, Cheney could be more forthcoming. Among other things, he conﬁded to the gathering that he thought they had killed Saddam Hussein on the first night of the war in Iraq.

Continued on page 6
Bridge to Higher Taxes

While most saw the Minnesota bridge collapse as a tragedy, some liberal reporters are using it to champion higher taxes to feed “cash-starved” big government. “Congress only funds about 25 percent of the nation’s infrastructure. States and local governments pick up the rest of the tab, and they’re cash-starved too,” CBS’s Sharyl Atkisson insisted. “Are taxpayers ready to spend the billions, maybe trillions, it would take to fix all the pipelines, tunnels and bridges?” Katie Couric demanded.

At ABC’s Republican debate, Iowa reporter David Yepson blamed conservatives: “Is this Republican dogma against taxes now precluding the ability of you and your party to come up with the revenues that the country needs to fix its bridges?” And MSNBC’s Mike Barnicle sounded frustrated. “How are we gonna get taxes passed when you can’t get anything done in the Congress?” he fretted. “Government’s gotta get bigger!”

...$50 billion for the environmental left, vs. $19 million for “denial machine.” That’s data Senator James Inhofe handed to Newsweek’s reporter before they ran their one-sided attack.

But “it is the proponents of man-made global warming fears that enjoy a monumental funding advantage over the skeptics,” noted Senate Republican committee staffer Marc Morano — $50 billion for the environmental left, vs. $19 million for that dangerous “denial machine.” That’s data Senator James Inhofe handed to Newsweek’s reporter before they ran their one-sided attack. It never saw the light of day.

New Moral Majority?

CBS’s Early Show on July 16 touted the Democratic candidates as attracting huge new support from religious voters. Reporter Jeff Glor began by pointing out how “a large majority of voters want their candidates to have strong religious beliefs. Typically this would benefit Republicans, but this year we could be in for a change.” To bolster his claim, Glor used sound bites from Time’s Amy Sullivan — and she sounded like a Democratic campaign operative.

“...“We have never seen this many Democratic politicians who are both so sincerely religious and also very comfortable with the language of faith,” Sullivan claimed. “I don’t think Republicans can get back their monopoly on religion, if only because the only reason they had it in the first place was that they could get away with it.”
place was that Democrats ceded that ground to them. Now that Democrats have kind of turned a corner, this is a completely different game."

**Throw It Out, Do It Over**

Pollsters at the *New York Times* were scratching their heads in July when they found 42% of Americans supported the invasion of Iraq, a jump from May when 35% had that opinion. Such growing support for the Iraq war confused the *Times*, as polling writer Janet Elder explained in a July 29 column, “It was counter-intuitive…. Once in a while a poll finding doesn’t make sense.”

So the *Times* and polling partner CBS News took a second survey, which produced “nearly identical” results, with 42% again saying the U.S. “did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq.” The *Wall Street Journal’s* James Taranto observed that the fiasco is at least “an acknowledgment that those at the *Times* are flummoxed that the public is not responding the way they expect to all the bad news they’ve been reporting.”

**Bush to Nuremberg?**

*MSNBC’s* Chris Matthews hosted left-wing filmmaker Michael Moore for the entire hour of his July 23 *Hardball*, oozing over Moore’s pro-socialist propaganda film *SiCKO* (“amazing film-making”). When Moore charged Bush and Cheney should be led out of the White House on a “perp walk” for the war in Iraq, Matthews grew excited. “How about put in prison for war crimes?” he eagerly suggested.

Moore liked the sound of that. “Yes, I think we need a trial, in this country, where Mr. Cheney and Mr. Bush would be brought up on charges for causing the deaths of so many people. This is absolutely something that, if this were any other country, if any other country did this, we’d be going after them.” Matthews even tried to validate Moore by comparing our policies with those of Nazi war criminals: “The Nuremberg trials weren’t about the genocide. It was about waging an aggressive war.”

**Vote of No Confidence**

More Americans see the news media as unfair, inaccurate and even immoral, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. The July poll of 1500 Americans found that most of the public thinks news organizations are liberal (52%), politically biased (55%) and often publish inaccurate stories (53%). Significant percentages also say the media are too critical of America (43%), hurt democracy (36%) and are immoral (32%).

Perhaps most wounding to journalists’ sense of self-importance, more Americans say they have confidence in official U.S. military reports (52%) than trust the accuracy of the media’s Iraq war coverage (42%). Earlier in July, a Rasmussen poll found 39% regard ABC, CBS and NBC as liberally biased, while 36% said Fox delivers the news “without a bias.”

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**Minibits**

- After the Democrats’ “gay debate,” on the gay Logo network, ABC’s *George Stephanopoulos* raves about singer/lesbian activist Melissa Etheridge’s questions to the candidates: “Melissa Etheridge is the new Ted Koppel!”
- A *Chicago Tribune* news report about the Minnesota bridge collapse: “It has some wondering if the American government has misplaced its priorities by ignoring a decaying national infrastructure in favor of its costly foreign policy.”
- *Newsweek’s* Richard Wolfe can’t recognize a liberal when he sees one, insisting that Senator Barack Obama is “basically a centrist politician….The war gives him a lot of cover to take very centrist positions.”
- ABC’s *Robin Roberts* fawns over liberal New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg: “You’re very passionate about certain issues. Is there anything that could change your mind and make you run for President?”
- The *Associated Press* on the death of Tammy Faye (Bakker) Messner: “The TV image of then-Mrs. Bakker forgiving husband Jim’s infidelities, tears streaking her cheeks with mascara, became a symbol for the wages of greed and hypocrisy in 1980s America.”
- MSNBC’s *Keith Olbermann* uses a report about Dick Cheney’s surgery for a cheap shot: “For a few hours at least, George W. Bush will actually get to be President.”
- ABC’s *Diane Sawyer* confesses how she was excused from jury duty: “The judge said to me, ‘Can you tell the truth and be fair?’ And I said, ‘That’s what journalists do.’ And everybody in the courtroom laughed! It was the most hurtful moment I think I’ve ever had!”
In Memory of David Thibault, 1958-2007

David Thibault was the managing editor of the MRC’s news service CNSNews.com from 2000 to 2005, after which he served as editor-in-chief until his death from leukemia on July 20, 2007. Following are excerpts from the eulogy given by MRC President Brent Bozell at David’s funeral.

...I’ve always had certain reservations about people who publicly claim to converse with God, especially when they tell us that “God talked to my heart last night and told me that He wants you to send a check for $25, $50, or $75, or the most you can possibly afford. And He told me to remind you that it is tax-deductible.”

But the truth, of course, is that God does talk to us, and He does want of us. Under normal circumstances I’d never dare enter this territory, but I’ve got a strong feeling that I know what God was saying to, and wanting of David Thibault.

There were a couple of themes I found in all of the tributes that were penned by so many people, and penned so spontaneously, within hours of the news of Dave’s passing. First and foremost was their sheer beauty. ...Here is one:

There aren’t any words that can adequately describe what better people we all are for having known Dave. And even if there were words that could accurately convey that positive influence he had on everyone with whom he came into contact, there just would not be enough of those words to get it right.

Every time Dave called me into his office to point out something I’d done wrong, I walked out feeling challenged to do better rather than beaten down or disheartened. Most of Dave’s time as editor-in-chief was spent praising everyone who worked for him and giving his subordinates all of the credit for accomplishments that rightfully belonged, at least in part, to him.

...The first time Dave was diagnosed with cancer he knew the odds were against him but he simply refused to accept it. Instead, he announced to anyone who visited him in the hospital that he was going to defeat the monster — and not only that, he was going to run another Boston marathon. It wasn’t braggadocio, nor was he trying to give himself positive reinforcement. It was a simple statement of fact.

All throughout that ordeal, that hell, there were no complaints, no invitations for sympathy. ...What sustained him was his pure love affair with life itself. And no one was happier when, after that grueling ordeal, he reported back to work, and several months later, against all odds, completed his promised run.

But then came the horrific news, with that dreadful word: leukemia.

I visited with Dave the day after he was admitted last August....

...He said he was prepared to fight the new cancer with the same, or even greater effort. But Dave was also a realist. He knew the odds, and this time added a new affirmation: “But if God wants me to die, I’m ready for that, too. I have no doubt I’ll be with Him.” We talked some more, I kissed his forehead goodbye, and told him I’d be back. As I got to the door he called me. “Look,” he said, and showed me the rosary he was clutching in his hand. “I really am ready.” It was Dave who was comforting me.

And so it went with every subsequent visit or phone conversation. The news was never good, only occasionally better, and oftentimes frightfully bad. And yet no matter what the condition, Dave remained peaceful, accepting God’s will.

...Some time around December ...when still there was no bone transplant available and already there had been two near-death events, we were visiting and he made me a promise. He told me he’d make it to the MRC Gala in March. Of course you will! I said to him, because that’s what says even if consumed with doubts. On the appointed evening, there he was. Diminutive, so frail, the ravages of cancer so obvious. But so handsome in his tuxedo. I been-lined through the crowd to give him a hug. He gave me a tender smile — another indelible memory — and said softly, just to me, “Brent, I told you I’d be here.” Again re-assuring me.

Eventually he was well enough to come to the office a few times. But each visit caused a setback, his body was so weak. Several weeks ago, after several days on the road, I’d returned in time for a senior staff meeting and I knew something was wrong. Dave was there but he just wasn’t himself. He was silent throughout the entire meeting, speaking only to give his report, a listless, robotic report.

...At Doug’s urging I rushed to his office, closed the door, and we talked. When I asked him for a report on his condition I was shocked by what I learned. It seemed like from head to toe he was in physical agony. How he’d even managed to get out of bed was and continues to...
be a mystery. And then he buried his head in his hands, and for once (in front of me, anyway) he wept. He was tired — so, so very tired from his suffering and of his suffering.

I pleaded with him to think otherwise. I reminded him of the road he’d traveled already, going so far, and through so much — and did he want to stop now?...

And in response he comforted me. He confessed to me what perhaps he’d told others but hadn’t wanted me to know. He told me that twice over the past few months, when he was in critical condition at the hospital, that he knew, he just knew, that all he needed to do was simply close his eyes and in minutes the suffering would be gone — forever. But, he stressed, his eyes piercing mine, he hadn’t allowed himself to do that, nor would he now. The reasons were unspoken, but understood: For Lisa and the children; for his friends and co-workers; but most important, for God.

...On Friday morning [a week later] we spoke for what would be the last time. He had regressed dramatically. He couldn’t carry on the conversation, he was so weak. He could only listen, occasionally saying in a voice little more than a whisper, “Okay,” as I tried to offer him encouragement.

By Saturday he was back in the hospital and placed on the sedation from which he’d never awake.

Last Thursday afternoon I got the call I’d hoped never to receive, but had resigned myself to expect, and knew I would dread. ...It was time to take him off the machines, and let him go. Throughout the night we talked, Lisa and her family friend Janet and I, listening to Dave’s quiet breathing, watching the monitors.

Lisa spoke of Dave’s youth and his love of sports — of his Red Sox and Patriots, his golfing in St. Andrews, and, of course, his love of running. She spoke of his early days in radio and his love of journalism, most especially his devotion to CNSNews and his colleagues there. She spoke of his love for his children Alex, Katey and Daria. She spoke of his love for his country.

She spoke of his love for God and the Catholic faith. “Little did he know,” Lisa laughed softly, “that when he met me he’d go from a lapsed Catholic to an Extraordinary Minister!” And she spoke of their love, how they’d attended the same grade school and high school and yet didn’t meet until 1986. And how just three and a half weeks later they were engaged.

All I could add to the conversation was that David Thibault was the strongest, and bravest, and toughest man I have ever known.

Several times during that lonely night Lisa urged me to go home, thanking me for the time I’d spent. I was emphatic in my refusal, but my refusal wasn’t borne out of a sense of altruism. In fact, it was precisely the opposite.

It was I who owed, and continue to owe Lisa the debt of gratitude. Because it was only during that night that I finally understood, fully, what it was God was saying, and wanting all along.

At around 3:00 that morning Lisa took from a bag Dave’s beloved Red Sox blanket and wrapped it around him. Shortly thereafter she lay down with him and cradled him in her arms for his final hours. So thoroughly exhausted, she too slept, even if just for a bit.

Sitting in that quiet room, looking at these two so peacefully, I finally understand what it was God was saying, not just to me but to all of us who knew Dave.

David Thibault’s very life was testimony to the second greatest commandment: “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” God lives in eternity, so these are not words Jesus brought but which Jesus brings, now and until the end of natural time, to all who will listen.

And what did God want? At the end of the day, God wanted — wanted — Dave, with Him. And there Dave’s own field of dreams awaits him. There will be rolling hills for his early morning run, his limbs once again rippling with muscles, his heart once more beating strongly and his lungs once again filled with fresh air as he covers mile after mile with ease; there will be wind-swept Scottish plains for the afternoon golf, with the warm sun on his body and all the beauty of God’s natural wonder surrounding him; and in the twilight his Fenway Park, the grass stains and infield dust on his trousers, as he pounds his mitt and playfully needles the Yankee batter at the plate.

David Thibault is where he deserves to be, and where a merciful Lord wanted him to be: in Paradise.

In memory of David Thibault, donations may be made to John Hopkins Medicine for its Blood Cancer Research Fund. Please indicate the donation is in memory of David Thibault.

Johns Hopkins Medicine
c/o Michael Hibler
401 North Broadway, Suite 1210
Baltimore, MD 21231

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You can only imagine his reaction the next day when the Dallas Morning News, which co-sponsored the SMU event, ran a story quoting Cheney, blatantly violating the off-the-record rules established. The reporter even acknowledged in his piece that: “Before Mr. Cheney’s remarks, university officials announced late Tuesday afternoon that the session would be considered off the record.” But that sacred rule was violated — because it was Cheney.

In pursuit of their Great White Whale, the Republican menace of the moment, it’s quite clear the liberal media don’t feel a responsibility to observe the niceties of their own profession. It’s their own version of “scary freedom.”

Hayes also reminds us of Washington bigfoot Bob Woodward, another report-er who makes up the rules as he goes along. Cheney refused to grant an interview for Woodward’s Bush-bashing book State of Denial. But then former president Gerald Ford called Cheney in his last months to ask him to cooperate with Woodward for another book on the Ford administration. Cheney obliged his old boss and friend.

Cheney granted two hours of time, and then, voila, a month before the 2006 mid-terms, up popped Woodward on CBS’s 60 Minutes running tapes of the Cheney conversation for the Ford book as if he’d given his consent to being interviewed for State of Denial.

Hayes reports Cheney said he called Woodward and unleashed a “low-volume tirade,” to which Woodward just responded, “It’s on the record. It’s on the record. It’s on the record. Everything is on the record.” Woodward would concede nothing, so Cheney hung up on him.

Woodward weaseled around it by establishing the rule in his own mind that unless Cheney used the words “Jerry Ford” in the sentence, it was all usable. His lust for fame and fortune came first.

And he would milk it for all he could. A week after 60 Minutes, Woodward went on Meet the Press to insist that Cheney’s anger at Woodward’s ethics-schmactics behavior was symptomatic of Cheney’s state of denial: “It’s a metaphor for what’s going on. Hang up when somebody with a different point of view or information you don’t want to deal with.”

Perhaps the most amusing media anecdote in the Hayes book is an e-mail sent to Cheney aide Kevin Kellems by Bill Keller, the executive editor of The New York Times. In his quest for access, Keller acknowledged the “liberal assumptions” of most journalists, but then claimed liberal bias in The Times was “relatively rare.” (Break here for laughter.) Keller insisted that Cheney wouldn’t want to be like Attorney General John Ashcroft and refuse interviews. Ashcroft, he warned, “still lives in the land of the stereotype.”

To suggest to Dick Cheney that he wouldn’t be stereotyped by liberals if he merely granted access to an unethical media that hates his conservative guts isn’t helpful. It’s a threat, a form of political blackmail. No wonder the vice president, and so many other conservative leaders, don’t care for the press. Scary freedoms, indeed.

Sincerely,

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

**Television**

FNC:
- The Big Story w/John Gibson, July 3, 5
- Hannity & Colmes, July 9, 24
- FOX News Watch, July 14
- America’s Newsroom, July 23
- Special Report w/Brit Hume, Aug. 6, 7
- The Live Desk, August 8
- Fox and Friends, August 10

Radio

- Rush Limbaugh Show, July 19, August 8
- G. Gordon Liddy Show, July 12
- Thom Hartmann Show, August 2
- USA Radio Network, July 6, 9, 23
- Voice of America, July 27
- American Family Radio, July 25, 31
- Danny Fontana Show, August 2
- Family News in Focus, July 14, 18
- George Putnam Show, July 5, 9, 31, August 2, 6, 7
- Greg Allen’s The Right Balance, July 6, 11, 19, 27
- Information Radio Network, July 13, 17, August 9
- Lee and Terry Show, TN, July 24, August 13
- Mancow’s Morning Madhouse, July 31, August 2, 8, 18
- Money Matters Radio Network, August 8
- National Pro Life Radio, July 13, 28
- Radio America, August 10
- Steve Gill Show, July 1, 3
- KCBI, Dallas, TX, July 1, 3
- KDKA, Pittsburgh, PA, Aug. 10
- KFBN, Sacramento, CA, July 9
- KGNW, Seattle, WA, July 26, Aug. 13
- KIDO, Boise, ID, July 18, Aug. 1
- KKZZ, Ventura, CA, July 31
- KMED, Medford, OR, July 9, 10
- KNST, Tucson, AZ, July 26
- KONP, Port Angeles, WA, Aug. 9
- KSLR, San Antonio, TX, July 30
- KTLK, Minneapolis, MN, July 3, Aug. 14
- WATR, Waterbury, CT, July 3, Aug. 1

Internet

- AnnCoulter.com, June 28
- CitizenLink.org, July 2
- MichaelMedved.com, June 12
- FoxNews.com, June 22, July 3
- National Review Online, July 5
- FrontPageMag.com, June 13, July 3, 6, 13
- Media Bistro Fishbowl, July 4
- National Journal Blog, July 5
- MediaBistro.com, June 19
- TV Newser, June 12
- Salon.com, June 27, Aug. 7
- Accuracy in Media, July 3
- TV Watch, June 8
- Clerical Whispers, May 25
- CBSNews.com Public Eye Blog, July 27
- FoxNews.com, July 24
- Michelle Malkin, July 19
- RushLimbaugh.com, Aug. 6
- The Drudge Report, July 17
- Voice of America, July 27
- American Chronicle, July 23
- American Conservative Daily, July 27, Aug. 4
- Americans For Truth, July 2
- Arkansas Republican Assemblies Blog, July 3
- Baptist Press, July 5, 25, Aug. 8
- Blogger News Network, July 31, Aug 5
- Cafe Theology, July 6
- Campaigns & Elections, Aug. 13
- Catholic News Agency, July 18
- Citizen Link, July 2, 24, Aug. 10
- Crosswalk.com, July 4, Aug. 6, 13
- Free Market News Network, Aug. 9
- FreeRepublic.com, July 2, Aug. 7, 8
- Gateway Pundit Blog, July 6, Aug. 9
- GeoSciBlog, Aug. 1, 3
- GOPUSA, July 11
- Hot Air Blog, July 11, 16, 30
- Human Events.com, July 2, 18, Aug. 10
- LifeNews.com, July 16
- MediaBistro.com, July 4, Aug. 3, 8
- National Ledger, July 26
- National Review Online, July 19
- NewsMax.com, Aug. 3
- Newt.org, August 3
- NPR News Blog, July 12
- Olympia Business Watch, July 27
- On Deadline Blog/USA Today, July 17, July 23
- Right Voices, Aug. 9
- The Daily Standard, July 26
- Townhall.com, July 6, 13, 26
- WorldNetDaily.com, July 19, 25, 30
- Partial Listing

On the Aug. 10 Fox & Friends, BMI Director Dan Gainor discusses the liberal media attacks against publisher Rupert Murdoch.

CNSNews.com reporter Jeff Golimowski details the violent actions of eco-terrorists on Fox’s America’s Newsroom, July 23.

On Fox’s The Live Desk, Aug. 8, CNSNews.com reporter Nathan Burchfield explains how Christian firefighters were forced to march in a pro-homosexual parade.

WBAL, Baltimore, MD, July 13, Aug. 9
- WDTV 1220 AM, Charlotte, NC, July 9
- WFLA, Tampa, FL, July 12, 27
- WHJJ, Providence, RI, Aug. 9
- WIBA, Madison, WI, July 5, 13, 19
- WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, July 12, 19, 25, Aug. 2
- WPWT, Tri-Cities, TN, July 8, 31, 7, 8
- WSUS, Franklin, NJ, July 3
- WVOM, Bangor, ME, July 24
- Partial Listing
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