

## The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

# The Media Declare War on Bush

### Dear Member,

The liberal media have decided the war on terrorism is no longer worth fighting and are trying to convince the American public to abandon the cause.

They have another war in mind, and it's goal is the defeat of President Bush.

Negativity and defeatism are dominating the war news while opinion is presented as fact. "The postwar conflict in Iraq is not going well" the *Washington Post's* Dan Balz stated in a news "analysis" piece the day after President Bush requested \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan. That day's *New York Times* echoed the sentiment, referring to what it called "the terrible toll of the long, hot, casualty ridden summer in Iraq" in one of its front-page stories.

The negative attitude is now conventional wisdom among journalists. On the September 17 *Early Show*, former sportscaster-turned-CBS morning show host Hannah Storm referred to the war in Iraq as "that mess" during an interview with Democratic presidential candidate Wesley Clark.

Storm's "mess" is quickly becoming "another Vietnam," according to liberal reporters

and pundits. MSNBC's Chris Matthews claimed parts of the President's September 7 speech were "reminiscent of the Vietnam era"

and *U.S. News & World Report's* David Gergen thought it had "overtones of Vietnam and speeches we heard from President Johnson and President Nixon."

ABC's George Stephanopoulos was in complete agreement. He dedicated a segment on the September 14 *This Week* to the proposition "that Iraq is starting to look like Vietnam." Bill Clinton's former spokesman also trumpeted what he described as "striking similarities between the speeches of Lyndon Johnson and George Bush."

Lyndon Johnson was a consistent liar and liberals like Matthews, Gergen and Stephanopoulos are comparing the two men in an effort to tarnish President Bush's honesty. And they are receiving plenty of help with the effort.

"Do you feel the President began to level with the American people?" ABC's Diane Sawyer asked Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean the morning after

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Former Clinton aide George Stephanopoulos compared Iraq to Vietnam and colleague Diane Sawyer suggested President Bush had lied.



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the speech. CNN's Christiane Amanpour, in an appearance on CNBC's *Tina Brown's Topic A* on September 10, made an even bolder, and more insulting, claim.

Amanpour first accused the administration and "its foot soldiers at Fox News" of intimidating CNN. She then charged that the Bush administration had deceived the public and the media about weapons of mass destruction.

"It looks like this was disinformation at the highest levels," the CNN "reporter" stated. The claim astonished fellow panelist Victoria Clark, the former Defense Department spokesperson, who heatedly denied the accusation.

The truth is that no one – not Diane Sawyer, Christiane Amanpour or anyone else – has provided a shred of evidence that the Bush administration lied about anything. But that doesn't matter in this debate. The liberal media and the President's political opponents are trying to create a news cycle of baseless rumor, which they hope will undermine his credibility and lead to his defeat next November.

The Vietnam analogies are as baseless as the disinformation claims. As I pointed out in my September 9 nationally syndicated column, we lost 58,000 Americans in Vietnam, and while the

losses in Iraq are tragic, they aren't on the same planet as those horrible numbers. The two wars have nothing in common, I explained, except for the press coverage.

The media in Iraq, like their predecessors of 35 years ago, are simply trying to discredit American policy. They dwell on casualties and Iraqi complaints but ignore successes such as the opening of Iraqi newspapers, the formation of political parties and the establishment of governing councils across the country.

And our enemies know this full well. That's why the terrorists are killing our soldiers one at a time. They're playing to the U.S. press.

While the media relentlessly criticize perceived military and administrative shortcomings in Iraq, they ignore their own failures in that country. And these failures are far worse – and far more deliberate – than any mistakes the administration or military may have made.

It is now evident that the reporting from Iraq before the war, as the MRC argued at the time, was close to a complete sham. *New York Times* correspondent John Burns, in an interview in the recently released book *Embedded: The Media at War in Iraq, An Oral History*, called the coverage of Saddam Hussein's brutal regime "an absolutely disgraceful performance."

Burns, who bravely reported from Baghdad despite death threats from Saddam's thugs, has accused his fellow journalists of refusing to report the true evil of Hussein's regime, a point the *Times* correspondent called the "essential truth."

Burns also reported that television correspondents gave hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to Hussein officials and tailored reports so they wouldn't offend their Iraqi minders. In one instance, a reporter from a major American newspaper openly collaborated with Saddam's henchmen, taking copies of his stories and Burns' stories to his Iraqi handlers. "He wanted to show what a good boy he was compared to this enemy of the state," Burns said.

To date, the major media have ignored Burns' charges, but not the MRC. The September 16 *CyberAlert* picked up an excerpt of the interview and told the story.

The MRC is fighting to ensure that Americans hear the truth about the war in Iraq and that the President is treated fairly. None of this would be possible without your support, and as always, I thank you.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III

**www.MRC.org**

The MRC's website is updated daily and loaded with our latest research and publications. Log on every day for these great features:

- CyberAlert
- Media Reality Check
- Notable Quotables
- Media Bias Videos
- Bozell Columns
- Media Profiles in Bias
- Special Reports
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- And MUCH More!

# MRC Uses Jennings and Brokaw's 20th ANNIVERSARIES to Highlight Bias

The MRC celebrated Tom Brokaw and Peter Jennings 20th anniversaries (both happened on the same day) as network anchors by shining the national spotlight on their two decades of biased reporting.

MRC President L. Brent Bozell wrote a September 10 *Wall Street Journal* article about Brokaw, Jennings and their counterpart Dan Rather, who celebrated his 20th year at CBS in 2001, and the power they wield as network news anchors. President Bozell reminded readers that the three men do far more than just sit behind a desk reading tele-prompters. All three serve as senior or managing editors of their programs, meaning that not a single news story gets network air time without their consent.

The article laid out specific patterns of the anchors' liberal bias for the *Journal's* 1.8 million readers. Brokaw has consistently complained of too much military spending and not enough social program spending. Jennings repeatedly used *World News Tonight's* American Agenda segment to praise government bureaucrats and massive European-style social programs, while Rather has unfairly railed against conservative Republicans time after time.

Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham and Director of Research Rich Noyes were also busy, issuing two *Media Reality Checks* and a special Internet report on September 5, the anchors' anniversary date.

The *Media Reality Check* on Brokaw briefed radio talk show hosts and conservative journalists around the country on the NBC anchor's consistent lobbying for campaign finance reform and the partisan double standard he has shown on political scandals. The *Reality Check* also exposed Brokaw's ardently pro-abortion stance and gave concrete examples of how he has consistently depicted pro-life Republicans as extremists.



As bad as Brokaw has been, Jennings has been worse, as the *Reality Check* on the ABC anchor documented. The Canadian-born journalist has denigrated Republicans as the party of "zero tolerance" on abortion and has accused the GOP Congress assaulting the environment. After the 1994

Congressional elections, Jennings even belittled the voting public, comparing them to a fit-throwing two-year-old for electing a Republican House and Senate.

Jennings' liberal bias is so widespread that an additional 17-page Internet report was put together to detail his anti-conservative, and occasionally anti-American, remarks.

FLASH readers with internet access can read President Bozell's *Wall Street Journal* article, the *Media Reality Checks* and the special web report on Jennings at [www.mrc.org](http://www.mrc.org).

## Media Ignore Majority View in Story About Ten Commandments

According to a recent Gallup poll, 77 percent of Americans disapproved of the removal of the Ten Commandments monument Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore installed in that state's Supreme Court building. But that's not the story the liberal media covered.

Instead, journalists centered their coverage on Alabama lawyer Melinda Maddox, attempting to make a heroine out of the woman who demanded the removal of "Roy's Rock." *Newsweek.com's* Eleanor Clift portrayed the attorney as a defender of the Constitution who was standing up to the state's intolerant religious forces. CBS reporter Mark Strassmann went ever further, depicting the attorney as a religious woman, who was offended by the monument "as a Catholic and as a lawyer."

If Strassman had spent any time on Maddox's testimony, as MRC President Brent Bozell pointed out in his nationally syndicated column, he would not have confused Maddox with a Catholic. Maddox testified that "my perception is that since I don't subscribe to those beliefs, myself and my clients may not get a fair shake." She later added that "religion is a very personal and private and to thrust it onto the public is almost profane."

These comments were left out of the media profiles on Maddox but it's clear that the nation's journalists agreed wholeheartedly with her. Like Maddox, they do not believe religion should play any role in public life and find even a casual reminder such as a monument or a classroom posting to be intolerable.

Seventy-seven percent of America disagrees. But that's a story the Clifts and Strassmans of the world will never tell.

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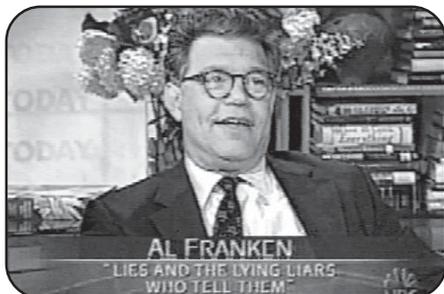
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## Today Promotes Franken But Ignores Best-Selling Conservatives

Left-wing satirist Al Franken was the center of attention on NBC's *Today* in late August, appearing twice in less than a week to promote his just-published, hate-filled, anti-conservative screed, *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*.

This open-armed welcome of Franken stands in stark contrast to the program's treatment of conservative authors. As MRC President Brent Bozell pointed out in his August 29 nationally syndicated news column, Bernard Goldberg's groundbreaking book *Bias* was on the *New York Times* bestsellers list for 19 weeks before he appeared on *Today*. When Goldberg did show up, he was not even given the courtesy of a one-on-one interview but was part of a three-way gabfest with left-wing filmmaker Michael Moore and host Matt Lauer.

Ann Coulter is another case in point. The conservative writer's book *Treason* has been a bestseller for almost two months and she has yet to appear on the *Today* program.



The former comedian appeared on *Today* twice in a week to promote his new anti-conservative book.

A liberal hatchet man writes a new book and he's on *Today* twice before the ink can dry. Conservative authors sell hundreds of thousands of books and they can't get an appearance. That's *Today's* idea of "fair and balanced."

## Olbermann Slams Fox and Highlights Obscure Bush-Bashing Obituary

MSNBC *Countdown* host Keith Olbermann, who once claimed that former special prosecutor Kenneth Starr reminded him of Hitler henchmen Heinrich Himmler, is once again lacing his supposed news reports with anti-conservative cheap shots.

Olbermann played host to NBC favorite Al Franken in early September and used his guest's legal battle with Fox News as a prop to attack the rival network. Olbermann first compared Fox to Joseph McCarthy and then said the rival network was staffed with "demagogues" who were starting to self-destruct.

Lashing out at Fox News wasn't Olbermann's only bit of liberal lunacy.



MSNBC's Olbermann highlighted an obscure, anti-Bush obituary.

A couple of weeks before the Franken interview, MRC's *CyberAlert* caught the MSNBC host turning an obscure obituary from Wisconsin into a national news item. An ardent liberal had passed away and Olbermann highlighted her desire that memorial donations be made "to any organization working for the removal of President Bush".

MSNBC is last in the cable ratings race. As long as it employs journalists with the anti-conservative prejudice and

poor news sense of Olbermann, it's going to stay there.

## CNN Provides a Stage for Left-Wing Garofalo

Another also-ran in the cable news battles attempted to lift its sagging ratings by turning one of its news programs over to a radical actress.

Janeane Garofalo, whose only qualification is a burning hatred of President Bush, co-hosted CNN's *Crossfire* for an entire week in late August. Her performance was exactly what one would expect from an anti-American, Hollywood elitist.

Iraqi saboteurs were not pro-Saddam loyalists, according to Garofalo.



Radical actress Janeane Garofalo compared the Bush administration to Nazis and belittled the American military effort in Iraq.

They were "the anti-occupation resistance," she claimed without offering a bit of evidence. This resistance was occurring, she added, because American soldiers were now viewed as "occupiers and trespassers" rather than liberators.

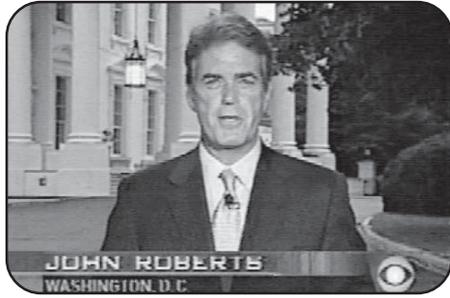
Garofalo also blamed the Bush administration for the terrorist attack on the United Nations office in Baghdad. "It is the Bush-Cheney cartel's fault for this," she snarled. She later referred to the Bush administration as "the 43rd Reich" and claimed it was "more radically corrupt than Richard Nixon ever tried to be."

In her short time on *Crossfire*, the left-wing actress accomplished the impossible. She made the regular vacationing host, former Clinton aide James Carville, seem reasonable.

## CBS Hides Another Liberal "Expert"

The MRC's ever-alert analysts have once again caught CBS News passing off a liberal activist as a nonpartisan source in a national news story.

The day after President Bush told the nation that he would ask Congress for



**CBS's John Roberts used a liberal budget analyst to criticize the proposed \$87 billion for Iraq but didn't inform viewers of the man's background.**

\$87 billion for the war on terrorism, CBS's John Roberts worried that the spending would force cuts in other government programs. For proof, Roberts turned to one Robert Greenstein, who was identified simply as a "budget analyst." Greenstein told Roberts the nation could not afford tax cuts "for the wealthiest people in the country," a prescription drug benefit and the war.

Greenstein, as MRC Vice President Brent Baker reported in *CyberAlert*, is not just any "budget analyst," he's the founder and director of the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

This is the third time in the last five months the MRC has caught CBS hiding the identity of partisan sources. As noted in last month's *FLASH*, CBS has passed off senior health care activists as average senior citizens with regularity, interviewing one senior activist four times since 1999 without identifying her political leanings.

## Networks Ignore Unprecedented Filibuster Against Estrada

Miguel Estrada, President Bush's nominee for the Washington, D.C. federal appeals court, withdrew his name from consideration on September 5. Estrada's confirmation had been held up for more than two years by Senate Democrats, who lacked the votes to defeat him but threatened a filibuster to keep his nomination from coming before the entire Senate.

None of the broadcast networks explained that a filibuster against a judicial nominee below the Supreme Court level had never occurred, nor did they inform viewers that a majority of the Senate supported Estrada.

CBS barely mentioned his withdrawal and ABC chalked it up to partisan politics. NBC's David Gregory stated that "Democrats said Estrada's refusal to state his view on important issues such as abortion rights, made him unacceptable," as if Estrada had done something wrong.

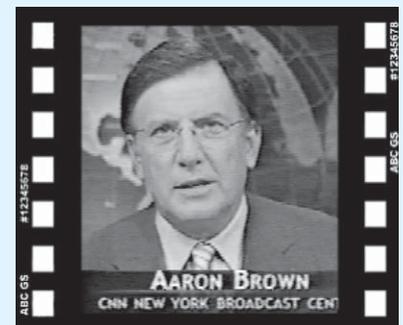


**NBC's David Gregory was the only network correspondent to note that Senate Democrats filibustered Miguel Estrada because he wouldn't state his views on abortion.**

The truth of the matter is that Senate liberals – at the insistence of the abortion lobby – used the filibuster to keep a probable pro-life judge off the bench and media liberals, out of sympathy for the pro-abortion cause, refused to report their actions which make a mockery out of the Senate's "advice and consent" role. Does anyone think for a second that if a Republican minority filibustered a liberal judge that it wouldn't be on the network news every night?

## mini-bits

← Peter Jennings manages a straight face in appraising his performance after 20 years: "I don't think anybody who looks carefully at us thinks that we are a left-wing or a right-wing organization" ← Tom Brokaw pats himself on the back: "I think that we've gotten mostly right on the big and complex issues of our time" ← Brokaw thinks Jennings and Rather have gotten it right, too: "These three aging white guys have been at this for a while now, and for the most part I think that we've served this country well" ← CNN's Aaron Brown compares Roy Moore's action to defending segregation: "Can you tell me why you view this as different, if in fact you view it as different, from what Governor [George] Wallace did?" ← Newsweek's Brian Braiker asks author Tom Clancy "Do you ever worry about patriotism or national pride being mistaken abroad for hubris?"



**The CNN anchor compared Judge Roy Moore to segregationist George Wallace.**

By Scott Hogenson  
CNSNews.com Executive Editor



# Major Media Chase CNSNews.com on Coverage of Controversial Issues

The mission of CNSNews.com – Cybercast News Service is and always has been a simple and straightforward one – to report news of interest to conservatives, which are ignored by the liberal establishment media.

Sometimes, it deals with a specific event or the activities of particular organizations. Other times, it involves broader issues and the debate surrounding them. Such is the case of Terri Schindler Schiavo.

Terri is a 39-year-old Florida woman who suffered brain damage many years ago, relies on feeding and hydration tubes to stay alive and until recently, had lived in relative obscurity. She is at the center of a growing dispute over whether those tubes keeping her alive may be removed and, if so, by whom. In journalistic parlance, this is a simple “local news” story, but its implications are more far reaching.

It is a story involving various family members and their respective lawyers and medical experts, all arguing over who shall decide this woman’s fate. Setting aside the legal and emotional arguments in this case – along with their relative merit – it is fundamentally a story about life and one that had been largely ignored by the establishment media until CNSNews.com got involved in covering the story.

CNSNews.com, the Internet newswire of the Media Research Center, first began reporting on this case August 5. At that time, the story had been covered by a few local newspapers in south Florida, along with the local AP wire, based on a search of the LexisNexis news database.

Regardless of one’s opinion on euthanasia or various ‘right to die’ issues (my wife and I both have living wills regarding such circumstances), it’s a compelling story. Over the first two weeks of August, CNSNews.com published four items on the case, launching some of the most comprehensive coverage by a national news service. By August 13, the issue had been seized upon by Sean Hannity of the Fox News Network. Six days later, the *San Francisco Chronicle* weighed in with an editorial on the case.

In the meantime, CNSNews.com maintained its coverage of this continuing story, publishing reports on the involvement of the Catholic Church, changes in the woman’s medical

treatment, the intensifying court battles, and the involvement of Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

The *New York Times* and the *Chicago Tribune* found the issue newsworthy August 24, publishing 80 – 150 word ‘news briefs’ after CNSNews.com had published seven articles.

Over the next week, CNSNews.com carried five more articles on the controversy, which were followed by further coverage in the well-regarded political newsletter *The Frontrunner*, and ABC News.

The *Washington Times* began its coverage September 1, and *National Review* became interested on September 5. During this time, CNSNews.com broke new ground covering the escalating legal battle, publishing three more articles over the next two weeks and beating such recognized news giants as the *Philadelphia Enquirer* and *Agence France Presse*, not to mention smaller newspapers like Salt Lake City’s *Deseret News*, the *Seattle Times*, the *Vancouver Province* and *The Guardian* of London.

As of this writing, a total of 17 articles examining this case and its implications had by published by CNSNews.com – more than any other national news service – and all with our hallmark style of reporting on all sides of the issue.

Why all the attention on a young, brain damaged woman in Florida? We hear a lot these days about a growing ‘culture of death’ in America and elsewhere in the world. It invokes passionate debate regarding abortion, euthanasia, death with dignity, the ‘right-to-die’ and elements of personal and medical ethics.

The media are supposed to play an important role in these debates and have an obligation to provide responsible, comprehensive news coverage. This is precisely what CNSNews.com does every day. We pledged to report on issues ignored by the establishment press and this is just another example of how we keep our promise to you.

Terri Schindler Schiavo’s case remains in limbo today, as do many of the issues that touch on her circumstances. As this and other important stories evolve, you can count on CNSNews.com to provide the comprehensive news coverage you’ve come to expect.



# AMERICA'S MEDIA WATCHDOG

## MRC Impact

MRC President Brent Bozell's opinion piece on the three network anchors was published in the *Wall Street Journal*, the nation's second largest newspaper with a circulation of 1.8 million, on September 10. MRC spokesmen and information was also cited by the following outlets:



- ☛ *Washington Times*, August 28. The paper cited a *CyberAlert* item on Al Franken's appearance on *Today*, where the left-wing comedian admitted he had fraudulently used Harvard University stationery in a plan to embarrass conservatives.
- ☛ The *Chuck Harder Show*, September 5. Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham appeared on the nationally syndication radio program and discussed the biased reporting of NBC's Tom Brokaw and ABC's Peter Jennings.
- ☛ *National Review Online*, September 9. Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham reviewed an essay by *Newsweek* editor Jonathan Alter. Graham used Ronald Reagan's foreign policy success to rebut Alter's argument that "enlightened internationalism" was the best form of patriotism.
- ☛ *Rush Limbaugh.com*, September 10 and 11. "Rush's Total Stack of Stuff" cited six items from each day's *CyberAlert*.
- ☛ *Boston Globe*, September 10. Media writer Mark Jurkowitz quoted MRC Vice President of Publications Brent Baker in a story on CBS anchor Dan Rather's war coverage. Jurkowitz also cited the MRC's April 23 *Special Report Grading TV's War News*.
- ☛ *The Ken Hamblin Show*, September 24. Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham discussed the media's coverage of Iraq.



☛ **MSNBC's Joe Scarborough** used President L. Brent Bozell's column about DC Comics left-wing propaganda as a basis for his "Rat of the Week" award. A recent DC-produced comic book depicted Superman and Wonder Woman as thinly disguised anti-Bush activists, upset that a fictional, evil President had attacked another country without UN support.

## ABC Refuses to Label Terrorists...Again

Another Peter Jennings bias was plainly evident after a Jerusalem bus bombing killed 14 adults and six children in late August.

The terrorist group Hamas claimed responsibility but ABC's Mike Lee refused to describe the group not as terrorists. Instead they are a "political and social welfare organization with a military wing that has launched terror attacks against Israel." This view of Hamas as a sort of bomb-throwing Red Cross can be traced directly to Jennings.

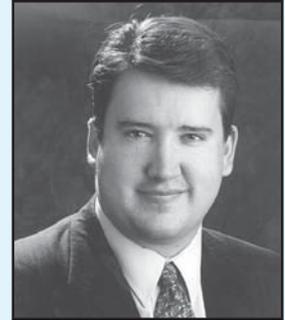
MRC Vice President Brent Baker detailed several instances in his August 22 *CyberAlert* where Jennings has refused to use the word terrorists. In December of 2001, CBS, CNN, Fox News and NBC all directly or indirectly identified Hamas as terrorists in a

story about a Texas charity charged with funneling money to the group. But not Jennings, who chose to call Hamas a "militant Islamic group." On another occasion that same month, the anchor simply referred to Hamas just as an... "organization."

Baker also documented that Jennings has used the same practice in stories about Hezbollah, a Middle Eastern terrorist group that killed more than 240 U.S. Marines in a bombing attack in 1983.

This is not coincidental. It now appears that Jennings refusal to call Arab terrorism by its name has become the official policy of ABC News.

## Inside The MRC Tim Graham



Tim Graham is the MRC's Director of Media Analysis and is responsible for supervising the news analysts and researching and writing regular special reports. He also serves as the associate editor of the weekly *Media Reality Check* and assists with *CyberAlert*.

A Wisconsin native, Tim graduated from Bemidji (Minn.) State University with a B.A. in political science. He worked as an editor at the Capital Research Center in Washington, D.C. and as a press secretary in a Congressional campaign before coming to the MRC in 1989. From 1989 to 2000, Tim worked at the MRC where he conducted studies and wrote and edited several publications. Tim left the MRC in 2000 to serve as the White House correspondent for *World*, a national weekly Christian magazine.

Tim was happy to return to the MRC. "I love providing the conservative movement with the gory details about how the national media skew, distort, and ignore their agenda and promote liberal causes and leaders," he says.

Tim and his wife Laura have two children, Ben and Abby, and they live in Bristow, Va., where Tim currently serves as a catechist for eighth-graders at his local church.

# MRC Exposes CBS's "Religious" Double Standard

## CBS's Bob Schieffer issued an apology on the August 24 Face the Nation.

"To all of you who took offense, I can only say that none was intended and I regret a poor choice of words," Schieffer sincerely said.

And to whom was Schieffer so delicately apologizing? Atheists.

The veteran CBS newsman had used the old cliché that

"there are no atheists in foxholes" in a conversation about Iraq and was immediately set upon by disbelievers. And he practically jumped at the opportunity to soothe their ruffled feathers.

Contrast this almost instant apology to the actions of Bryant Gumbel, Schieffer's former colleague at CBS. After a contentious discussion about the morality of homosexuality with Robert Knight of the Family Research Council on the June 30, 2000 *Early Show* had concluded, Gumbel was caught on



**CBS's Bob Schieffer offended atheists and quickly apologized. Too bad his network doesn't do the same for believers.**

camera calling Knight "a f\*\*\*ing idiot."

Did Gumbel apologize to Knight or the Family Research Center for this ugly and offensive remark? No. He angrily refused to say he was sorry and his bosses at the network stood behind him, also refusing to apologize.

MRC exposed this anti-Christian bigotry in full-page newspaper ads that ran in New York and Washington and President L. Brent Bozell took both Gumbel and the network to task in his nationally syndicated column.

The MRC is committed to ensuring that conservative religious groups are treated fairly by the media. We've taken note of Schieffer's apology to those who don't believe and can assure you that we'll demand his network extend the same courtesy to those who do.

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