

# FLASH NEWS

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The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

## ABC's Anti-War Campaign

### Dear Member,

Peter Jennings and ABC News have been conducting an extensive anti-war, anti-Bush campaign over the last six weeks. It's making a mockery of fairness and the entire notion of news.

Despite polls and Congressional votes to the contrary, the network has presented the possible strike against Iraq as a conflict pushed on a skeptical country by the gung-ho Bush administration. ABC's constant mantra is that there just isn't enough proof to justify going to war.

When National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice said new information linked al Qaeda to Iraq, *World News Tonight* took its typically skeptical view. Jennings warned viewers on September 26 that the administration had "made a brand new accusation." Correspondent Martha Raddatz, in the follow-on story, then used an unnamed source to discount the information: "A senior intelligence official tells ABC News there is no smoking gun. There's not even a smoking unfired weapon linking al Qaeda to Iraq."

While ABC couldn't – or wouldn't – find any links, CBS did. David Martin reported "tantalizing leads" a few days later on the October 1 *Evening News*. Calling it "the clearest link so far," Martin noted "at least one senior member of al Qaeda fled to Baghdad after 9/11. He has since left Baghdad, and there is no evidence that Saddam knew about it – although in a police state like Iraq, people don't just come and go."

ABC refused to report this link because it undermines their anti-Bush offensive. To prove the point in depth, MRC analysts conducted a thorough study of all 62 Iraq stories run by ABC's *World News Tonight* in September. The study found ABC's coverage not just terribly skewed, but actually far worse than the coverage of their liberal counterparts at NBC and CBS.



Peter Jennings and ABC News have waged an anti-war, anti-Bush campaign for the last six weeks.

The study was summarized in an MRC *Media Reality Check* that was sent to outlets across the nation on October 3.

In the *Reality Check*, we noted that ABC reporters were nearly four times more likely to question the truthfulness of American and British statements than they were Iraqi claims. Three stories pointed out the deviousness of Iraq but 11 stories questioned U.S. and British statements. At the same time, ABC correspondents frequently used language that portrayed the Bush administration, not Iraq, as the aggressor. When the United States submitted a draft resolution to the United Nations on September 27, Jennings claimed the U.S. "demands are so tough and so explicit, it is hard to imagine Iraq, and for that matter, many U.S. allies, going along."

ABC also has pulled out some of the oldest tricks in the liberal bias book, choosing sources opposed to the war at a greater rate than those supporting. They're also picking story lines that focus on or highlight opposition to the war.

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**Martha Raddatz discounted Condoleezza Rice's report**

In September, *World News Tonight's* Iraq stories used 60 sound bites from different sources and almost two-thirds were anti-war statements. But it's actually even worse. Of the 24 sound bites advocating a tough line on Iraq, 17 came from Bush administration officials, meaning ABC cited only seven sources from outside the administration who supported the war. Seven.

The stories ABC chose to air also highlighted its anti-war agenda. On September 27, the network covered an anti-war protest that neither CBS nor NBC deemed worthy of coverage. Two days later, after the obnoxious, left-wing Rep. Jim McDermott had stood in Baghdad and called the President a liar, ABC sent cameras to liberal Seattle to find voters who agreed with their Congressman. "I share the view that we're, we may be being misled," one woman said. "I'm glad he has got the courage to speak out," echoed another man. Only ABC did this.

While ABC was more than happy to air McDermott's hateful, anti-American

rant, they refused to extend the same courtesy to President Bush. On the afternoon of October 7, the White House let it be known that the President would be giving a major speech on Iraq that evening. All three cable networks carried the speech. None of the broadcast networks did.

How could this happen? Especially at ABC, who had been campaigning against the Iraq policy for weeks?

Invited on Fox News Channel's *Hannity & Colmes* on October 8 to discuss the issue, I made the point that on the



**On *Hannity & Colmes* MRC President Bozell discussed the networks refusal to cover President Bush's October 7 speech on Iraq.**

eve of war, the networks are putting entertainment ahead of news. When push comes to shove, shows like *Drew Carey* and *Fear Factor* became more important to the networks than news coverage. What was even more notable in this instance was that the networks weren't interested in hearing the case for war.

"These same networks have been harping on the fact that...the president just hasn't made his case," I told the

national TV audience. "So [President Bush] gives a sober 30-minute address making his case and then no one covers it."

ABC not only refused to air the speech, they refused to cover it the next day, too. The morning after the speech, as I noted on *Hannity & Colmes*, ABC's *Good Morning America* gave the 30-minute speech 46 seconds of airtime.

Two days after the Bush speech, Jennings appeared on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* and explained why the network wasn't interested. "We play a game with the White House all the time or they play the game with us," Jennings said. "They want the time on the network, but they don't want to call to ask for it."

So this is a game?

How disgraceful. A war may be in the offing, one that ABC has used its power to discourage in every way, and the network and its primary anchor are more concerned about winning "games" with the administration than covering a major policy speech on the subject.

Such unfair and unbalanced coverage – and the need to expose it for all America to see – is why you support the MRC. Your support is more important than ever because our work is important, now more than ever.

As always, I want to thank you for this support and tell you, once again, how much it means to the MRC staff and me. And America.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III, President



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# The Stephanopoulos Double Standard

ABC *This Week* host and former Clinton spin doctor George Stephanopoulos chose to ignore anti-American comments from two Democratic Congressmen but then, incredibly, found a conservative's characterization of the two "harsh" during a late-September show.

In a September 29 interview with ultra-leftist Democratic Representatives David Bonior of Michigan and Jim McDermott of Washington – the two so-called "Baghdad Boys" who were in Iraq on a "fact finding" mission at the time – Stephanopoulos dutifully asked the two liberal Congressmen about weapons inspections and the chances of meaningful Iraqi cooperation. When the two went on anti-American rants, however, Stephanopoulos did nothing to rein them in, or even challenge them.

First, the disgusting Bonior accused the U.S. of causing cancer in Iraqi children. "The only nuclear piece that we've been able to detect here – and we're not looking as inspectors because we don't know how to do that, that's not our job – but what we have seen is an incredible, unconscionable...leukemias and lymphomas for children who have been affected by this uranium that has been part of our weapon system that was dropped here during the last war."

A responsible journalist might have asked Bonior how he suddenly became a medical expert – or who was feeding him this tripe. But the uranium-cancer charge must have sounded pretty

reasonable to Boy George because Stephanopoulos just let it slide. Next up was McDermott,

Seattle's middle-aged, roly-poly answer to Jane Fonda, who recently claimed President Bush would lie to the American public to start a war with Iraq. Asked if he had any evidence that the President had lied, McDermott repeated his charge, saying "I think the President would mislead the American people."

Stephanopoulos's response? He thanked the two Congressmen for their time.

Oklahoma's senior senator, Republican Don Nickles, was in the studio with Stephanopoulos, and attacked both Congressmen for sounding "like spokespersons for the Iraqi government."

"That's a pretty harsh charge," the former Clinton aide retorted.

Amazing. Two U.S. Congressmen stand in the center of Baghdad and make outrageous accusations about their country and President and Stephanopoulos says nothing. A matter-of-fact Republican comment, meanwhile, merits a critical response.

Stephanopoulos may work for ABC but he is still a leftist political partisan. And viewers across the country, regardless of their political outlook, know it.



## Hollywood's Anti-American Left – Alive and Well

The liberal media are not the only ones who have campaigned against taking a tough stance on Iraq. Numerous leftist celebrities have blasted both President Bush and their country over the past few weeks.

While celebrities certainly have the right to participate in politics and to espouse liberal views, the hard-core anti-Americanism of the Hollywood left is nothing short of reprehensible. In addition, many of the accusations made by this group are vicious, mindless, personal attacks without any factual basis.

Take actress **Jessica Lange**. In Spain in late September to accept an award at the San Sebastian Film Festival, she slammed President Bush. "I despise him," Lange spat. "I despise his administration and everything they stand for." She went on to add that it was "an embarrassing time to be an American. It really is. It's humiliating."

The actress had plenty of company. **Ed Asner, Susan Sarandon, Jane Fonda, Ossie Davis, Oliver Stone, Marisa Tomei and Danny Glover** – he's made millions from violent movies but can't stomach necessary violence – all signed a full-page petition in the *New York Times*. Entitled "Not in Our Name," the petition called on President Bush to stop the war on terrorism and called it "unjust, immoral and illegitimate."

Asner also appeared on *The O'Reilly Factor* on September 26 and accused the President of "desecrating the country I grew



Jessica Lang criticized President Bush and the nation at a Spanish awards ceremony.

up in." Actor **Tim Robbins**, the husband of **Susan Sarandon**, told the *Washington Post* that the entire push to invade Iraq was part of a White House conspiracy to "change the subject from Cheney and Halliburton and keep control of the House."

For the most part – thankfully – these people are not taken seriously, not even by the news media. Lange, for instance, got ripped by none other than ABC's **Barbara Walters**. Speaking on *The View* on October 3, Walters found the "embarrassed" to be from the United States comment troubling and said an awards ceremony was no place to attack the President.

"This is still the greatest country in the world, whether you like the President and agree with him or you don't," Walters said. "It's the wrong place to do it."

When even Barbara Walters is outraged, you know how radical these anti-Americans are.

## Get the latest **CyberAlert!**

How do Brit Hume, Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh, Michael Reagan, Janet Parshall, Matt Drudge, *National Review*, the *Washington Times*, *World* magazine, and thousands of others stay on top of the latest liberal media bias? They read the MRC's *CyberAlert*. And you can too...for FREE! AS a member of the MRC, you can sign up to receive the MRC's near-daily e-mail report *CyberAlert!*

To subscribe, just e-mail [sengle@mediaresearch.org](mailto:sengle@mediaresearch.org) and say you want or get your FREE *CyberAlerts!* Mention that you read about it in **FLASH**.

## Gore's Latest Lie

It's just like old times. Al Gore's lying and the networks are ignoring it.

Reporting on Gore's speech at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, where the former Vice President ripped into President Bush's Iraq policy, ABC's Claire Shipman repeated Gore's latest lie without so much as a raised eyebrow.

"Remember, in 1991, Gore was one of the few Senate Democrats to vote for the Gulf War," she told *Good Morning America* viewers on September 24. "In fact, he noted proudly yesterday that he



If Al Gore said it...it must be true.

cast the deciding vote, and it's that fact, he says, that now gives him the credibility to criticize Bush on a number of fronts."

MRC's *CyberAlert* immediately pointed out Gore's fib. The Senate resolution on using force against Iraq in 1991 passed by a 52 to 47 margin, meaning there was no deciding vote. The January 13, 1991 *Washington Post* even reported that Gore was the last senator to

announce his position, meaning he waited to see which side would win before he voted.

In typical network style, ABC and Shipman never bothered to tell viewers the truth about the vote or the latest Gore lie. Look for more of the same as the 2004 president race gets underway.

## Taxpayer-funded Leave? What a Great Law!

ABC spent more than two minutes on September 23 praising a new California law that allows employees to take off up to six weeks off work – with 55 percent of their pay – to care for a newborn child or be with a family member during a medical emergency.



Judy Muller with another anti-business report.

"A groundbreaking plan for family leave," Peter Jennings called it at the top of *World News Tonight*. "A chance for a father to take care of children and be paid for it," Elizabeth Vargas crowed as she introduced a segment by correspondent Judy Muller.

Muller conducted interviews with a man who had a sick wife, with California Governor Gray Davis and a state senator, who all supported the law. Opponents – the business community fiercely opposed it – got one soundbite from a shop owner who said the law would put California businesses at a competitive disadvantage. That comment was immediately countered by sound bite from a National Partnership for Women and Families spokesperson, who accused business of "crying wolf."

Total time of the story? Two minutes and 25 seconds. Time given to business opposed to California's creeping socialism? Twenty seconds.

Just another fair, balanced, anti-business report from *World News Tonight*.



Couric and Lauer had a surprising answer to a question about media bias.

## It's All in Your Head

NBC *Today* hosts Katie Couric and Matt Lauer want America to know they aren't biased. It's you, the audience, that has a bias problem!

That was the explanation the morning show duo gave to MSNBC's Phil Donahue on his September 18 show. Responding to a question from Donahue about liberal bias, Lauer gave this answer.

"It's much less, I think, our point of view than it is the point of view of the person watching the interview," he said.

Couric enthusiastically agreed. "That's an excellent point, Matt," she chirped. "I think that people really see what they want...to see from their particular frame of mind or the prism from which they're watching the program or the interview," she noted.

There you have it, directly from Katie and Matt. The news you receive is not biased, it's you, the viewing audience, that's has the bias. Well, the only good thing we can say about this is that this has to be the most creative denial of media bias we've ever heard.

## Sure That's Not the Times Staff?

The *New York Times* stereotype is that it's an elitist newspaper put together by a group of arrogant reporters and editors. True?

Based on *High and Mighty*, a just-released book by *Times* Tokyo reporter Keith Bradsher, there's a lot of the truth to the stereotype. In the book, Bradsher, former Detroit bureau chief for the *Times*, makes the extraordinary claim that sports utility vehicles (SUVs) are killing thousands of people. And the people that drive them? They're problems, too.

“[SUV drivers] tend to be people who are insecure and vain. They are frequently nervous about their driving skills. Above all, they are apt to be self-centered and self-absorbed, with little interest in their neighbors or communities,” Bradsher wrote.

That wide-ranging insult went right over the head of *Today*'s Ann Curry when she interviewed Bradsher on the October 4 show. Curry didn't bring the comment up nor did she ask the author to prove his charges about the thousands of deaths. Instead, Bradsher was given



**Today gave free rein to an author who claims SUV owners are “self-centered and self-absorbed” and not interested in their communities.**

free-rein and the interview ended with Curry asking Bradsher where families could buy a safe, fuel-efficient car.

Come to think of it, it appears the stereotype of *Today* being a lightweight show when it comes to news also has some truth to it, don't you think?

### That's Why You're in Last Place, Phil!

MSNBC's Phil Donahue just doesn't understand how anyone could doubt the



**Donahue touts Hillary's old claim about a “vast right wing conspiracy.”**

existence of a “vast right wing conspiracy” during the Clinton years.

On the September 18 *Donahue*, the same show that featured his interviews with Katie Couric and Matt Laurer, the talk show host brought up the ridiculous “vast right wing conspiracy” claim that Hillary Clinton originally made on *Today* in January 1998, just after the Monica Lewinsky scandal has exploded.

After showing a clip of the former First Lady's comments, Donahue said: “I never understood the uproar in the nation over her point.” He then added, “I thought she was right.”

That kind of comment, as much as anything else, might explain why Donahue is dead last in the cable news ratings. And why he is destined to remain there.

### Live from Baghdad, Again

The network news divisions are up to an old trick – the man on the street interview in an anti-American dictatorship – that should have ended when the Soviet Union fell apart or, at the very least, when CNN told Peter Arnett to hit the road.

NBC's Ron Allen filed one such report from Baghdad on September 17. Allen warned “many Iraqis believe America's true motive is to remove Saddam Hussein from power, install a puppet government and seize Iraq's vast oil wealth.” The “man on the street” he interviewed then dutifully praised Saddam Hussein's decision to allow inspectors into the country, saying “it will stop America's intent to hurt Iraq”.

ABC's *World News Tonight* also has a man in Baghdad and included interviews with Iraqis in an October 8 report. David Wright, ABC's Baghdad reporter, ran sound bites from a student and a teacher in his story, even though he acknowledged that the two were aware of an Iraqi government official lurking nearby.



**NBC's Ron Allen does a “man on the street” interview in a country where they kill people for criticizing the leader.**

“Lurking nearby”? It's actually a bit more dramatic than that – and the networks know it. Any criticism of Saddam Hussein is against the law – and punishable by death. So much for the “man on the street” opinion.

## mini-bits

Hearst Newspapers **Helen Thomas** on Iraq: “Why is a family grudge included in the official paper that states our position on war and peace”...One more from Helen: “Are you going to kill all these people to get democracy?”...*Newsweek*'s **Eleanor Clift** is still defending Bill Clinton: “You can argue the Clinton administration didn't do enough [to fight terrorism] but they did a heck of a lot more than the Bush administration did in their first nine months in office”...NBC anchor-in-waiting **Brian Williams** belittles American “military swagger”: “Isn't that worldview part of what got the United States in trouble on September 11?”...Speaking of September 11, **Walter Cronkite** thinks “very definitely that foreign policy could have caused what has happened”...On the other hand, conservative columnist **Cal Thomas** on the rumored ABC and CNN merger: “What you would get if you crossed Peter Jennings and Judy Woodruff is a younger liberal”...Pro-life, Emmy Award winning actress and *Everybody Loves Raymond* co-star **Patricia Heaton**: “As a Christian it will not be Barbra Streisand I'm standing in front of when I have to make an accounting of my life.”



**Brian Williams thinks “military swagger” helped cause 9-11**

By Scott Hogenson  
CNSNews.com Executive Editor



# CNSNews.com Going Radioactive

I receive mail more often than one might think asking ‘Why doesn’t CNSNews.com start a cable network?’

It’s a fascinating albeit fabulously expensive proposition; a large pie in the sky, so to speak. But we have been thinking about the world of broadcasting, specifically, radio.

After considerable thought, planning and testing, CNSNews.com, the Internet Newswire of the Media Research Center, is preparing to launch its newest product, one that will allow broadcasters to use pre-recorded radio news stories from CNSNews.com on their local stations.

This latest move represents our continued commitment to expanding our reach. For the uninitiated, CNSNews.com began with four journalists and half a dozen news sections in 1998. Since then, we’ve steadily grown into a global organization with our innovative Cybercast system delivering our news to dozens of other Internet sites around the world.

The latest example of our growing reach was in September when Orange, the wireless unit of France Telecom, incorporated CNSNews.com into the news and information service available to their millions of subscribers around the globe.

Our efforts to exploit new and emerging technology have proved successful, and we’re hoping to replicate that success with the more traditional medium of radio.

Always sensitive to the need for wise stewardship of your support, we’ve found ways to harness the same computer and Internet technology that’s allowed us to expand to hundreds of

thousands of readers worldwide to deliver high fidelity radio news at virtually no cost.

Advances in desktop computer audio editing provide the ability to edit audio news with a precision unheard of in the radio industry in which I and many on the CNSNews.com staff cut their teeth as young news hounds.

Improvements in Internet audio allow us to turn audio into computer files that can be transmitted to any corner of the planet at the speed of light with no costs involved. Those same improvements mean broadcasters can download CNSNews.com radio stories with the click of a mouse and hear crisp, clean audio that’s ready for broadcast in the largest and most discriminating markets.

While our plans are still in their infancy and the success of our new venture remains to be seen, our data on radio stations and plans to promote this service to broadcasters give us cause for optimism.

There are about 12,055 licensed radio stations in the United States, with news, talk and religious format radio stations - which are most prone to include news in their programming - comprising more than 25% of all radio stations in the country.

As we prepare to launch this radio enterprise over the next few weeks, I’ll make sure to keep you apprised of our efforts and progress.

Showing your support has never been so fun....or hot!

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# Audit the Media Campaign Getting Results

MRC's Audit the Media (ATM) project, designed to expose and neutralize the liberal media's anti-free market bias, is already having an impact.

How do we know? Because a network executive told us.

Walter Isaacson, the chief of CNN's news division, wrote MRC President Brent Bozell in early October to tell him he had read the Audit the Media Special Report and that his network was taking pains to present balanced economic news.

"Thanks for sending The Special Report," Isaacson wrote. "The critiques are very careful."

Isaacson noted that he felt CNN reporters Jonathan Karl and John King, both cited for their fairness in the MRC report, also did good work. "By pointing this out, it gave me ammunition to encourage such open-minded coverage," Isaacson noted. "I think we are trying hard to be honest and fair."



Such a response is encouraging since the ATM project was less than a month old at the time. The project kicked off on September 19, when copies of the MRC's latest Special Report, *A Summer of Skewed News: The Liberal Tilt in*

*TV's Economic Reporting*, were mailed to the presidents of the network news divisions, Fox News Channel and CNN. A letter from President Bozell also urged the news executives to give equal weight to market-based

economic solutions as they do to government-based solutions. A press release was issued on the same day to media outlets across the nation.

Talk-show hosts from around the country have used ATM material and Director of Media Analysis Rich Noyes, the author of the Special Report, has been a guest on the nationally syndicated Ken Hamblin show along with other radio programs in Texas, Florida and Ohio.

## Inside The MRC

*Kevin Kauffman*



Kevin Kauffman is a development associate at the MRC with the primary duty of raising funds for the day-to-day operations of the organization while also looking for ways to expand current programs.

A native of Avon Lake, Ohio, Kevin is a graduate of Kent State University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Long Term Care Administration in December 1999.

Kevin worked at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia before coming to the MRC in November 2001. He initially worked as a development associate for Regent and then as Director of Alumni Relations.

Kevin enjoys his work at the MRC and is thoroughly supportive of the cause. "Through 15 years of hard work the MRC has become the dominant force in combating one of the most frustrating aspects on the political scene today, liberal bias in the media," Kevin says. "From Dan Rather's reporting of the Katherine Harris certification of the Florida vote to Tim Russert's weekly "unbiased" call for repeal of the tax cut, my job here is never dull and everyday brings a sense of fulfillment knowing that we're doing the right thing."

To get the latest update on the MRC's ATM project, log on to:

[www.mediaresearch.org/projects/atm/welcome.asp](http://www.mediaresearch.org/projects/atm/welcome.asp)

## MAILBAG

*Mailbag* is a new feature that shares some of the comments we receive about MRC products and activities. *FLASH* readers may e-mail us at [mrc@mediaresearch.org](mailto:mrc@mediaresearch.org) or send a letter to:

**MRC Mailbag, 325 South Patrick Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314**

A limited number of comments will be reprinted in *FLASH* and posted on the MRC web site ([www.mrc.org](http://www.mrc.org)). This month's responses refer to two of MRC President L. Brent Bozell's nationally syndicated columns.

### **ABC's Anti-American Anchor – 9/10/02**

"The major networks have been steadily losing viewership for years...I am, proudly, one who has long ago abandoned the ilk of Jennings and Rather. Shine the light!

~ *Glen from California*

"Mr. Bozell, I read your column often and it warms the cockles of me heart. I was taken aback,

however, by the sarcasm cast toward Canada as "an experienced military power"...Slap the lackadaisical pols running our government, but our military experience merits respect. Cordially,"

~ *Tom from Ontario, Canada*

"Great column! I have felt the same way about Jennings, Rather, etc. for a long, long time. It's just a shame that most Americans who hear this trash night after night don't just turn off the TV...Please keep up the good work."

~ *John from Louisiana*

### **Liberal Guilt, Still A Media Trait – 9/17/02**

"I very much enjoyed reading your "Liberal Guilt" article. As journalism major on a liberal campus, I daily need doses of conservatism and common sense to keep me grounded. Thanks!"

~ *Angela from Hawaii*

"I tried at one point in my life to embrace the conservative viewpoint. Live for myself, work for a company, climb the corporate ladder...If I believed in Hell, I'd really wish you'd go there now."

~ *Unsigned*



# EDITOR'S CORNER

TIM JONES

## *Just Like I Remember It*

George Stephanopoulos's *This Week* had a gimmick going in September that was supposed to provide an "outside the beltway" voice to the show. Unfortunately, all it did was reinforce the fact that liberals dominate the "news" media in almost every section of the country.

The September 15 show included a segment with the editor of the Lexington, Ky. *Herald-Leader*, Amanda Bennett, who got to ask one question of the day's guest, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. That caught my attention because I was raised 25 miles from Lexington and grew up reading the *Herald-Leader*.

I didn't have real high expectations of the *Herald-Leader*. The paper has always had a liberal approach to news and I doubted things had changed much since I left. In addition, I always found the paper's coverage of tobacco, the major economic force in the area for years, to be clueless, but that's another story altogether.

Editor Bennett certainly met my low expectations, asking a question right out of the liberal journalist handbook. Like most of these questions, it needed a paragraph or two to set up. Bennett started framing the question by explaining that Kentucky was the home of Ft. Campbell and that a dozen soldiers stationed there had died in the war on terrorism. (For the record, Ft. Campbell is in Kentucky but nowhere near Lexington. It's 200 miles to the west and four hours away by

car.) After mentioning this, Bennett then told Rice that four "ordinary, middle-aged" readers showed up in her office and asked her "how they could stop the President from forcing us into Iraq."

"What should I tell them?" she asked.

What should you tell them? For starters, how about telling them you're a newspaper editor and it's your job to report the news in as fair and as accurate a manner as possible and, because of that, you don't get involved in political causes.

If Bennett had thought along these lines, perhaps she could have asked a more intelligent question of Rice, something in a neutral, objective manner. She simply could have said - "Some of my readers have concerns about a war in Iraq. Can you tell me why the administration feels its necessary to go to war?" - and that would have been perfectly fair. And it wouldn't have had the stench of a political agenda attached.

But that just wouldn't do. Instead, Bennett went with a loaded question that had her own agenda written all over it. What's worse, I'm sure she didn't see a thing wrong with it.

It's common practice for editors, reporters and news anchors to slant the news through their choice of questions and sources, giving their audience biased opinion instead of objective information.

And, unfortunately, it happens just as often in places like Lexington as it does in New York City or Washington, D.C.



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