

The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

Liberal Media Distort Katrina Tragedy for Political Gain

Dear Member,

The damage caused by Hurricane Katrina was truly tragic – more than 1,100 people dead and tens of thousands of homes and businesses destroyed. It will take years for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to recover. But they will — with time, prayer, help from friends and neighbors, and hard work. Americans don't quit. Knock us down and we come back stronger than ever.

Now, the government officials at the local, state, and federal levels responsible for dealing with the hurricane and its aftermath are facing criticism, as they undoubtedly should. There were failures up and down the line. But the media are taking those failures and the hurricane itself – caused by global warming? – and spinning it all as an indictment against everything from state's rights to tax cuts to the Iraq war. And for good measure they're fanning the flames of "racism."

Major media outlets are using the Katrina disaster to slam conservative policies and push for an ever-expansive, ever-spending, newer New Deal-type of government. The

liberal bias and liberal agenda are blatant. Let us count the ways.

While the waters were still flooding New Orleans, media-heads started lobbying for tax hikes. NPR's Nina Totenberg, for instance, said America needed "a Katrina tax" to pay for the rebuilding. "I want more taxes, yes,"



NPR's Nina Totenberg incredulously claimed that tax cuts were responsible for the levee breakage in News Orleans and, thus, argued for a "Katrina tax" to pay for the hurricane cleanup and to fix America's entire infrastructure.

she said. Totenberg also incredulously claimed that tax cuts were responsible for the levee breakage in New Orleans. "For years, we have cut our taxes, cut our taxes and let the infrastructure throughout the country go and this [levee] is just the first of a number of crumbling things that are going to happen to us."

Over at ABC's *Good Morning America* Diane Sawyer interviewed the President and asked, "Will you call for tax increases, in fact, if that's required?" At *Newsweek*, Eleanor Clift was ecstatic, cooing about the "upside to Katrina" – yes, the upside. Because of the hurricane, "the Republican agenda of tax cuts, Social Security privatization and slashing

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Pay Less Tax in 2005!



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

government programs is over." Now, the "environment and issues of poverty, race, and class are back on the nation's radar screen."

Newsweek's Jonathan Alter called for more neo-socialist policies that "might materially change the lives of millions." His solutions? A higher minimum wage, stronger labor unions, maintain the death tax, spend more for food stamps, and end tax cuts for "the rich."

The liberal media slammed all of America on race and poverty. Many news outlets, TV and print, pushed the sickening idea that the federal government was slow to respond to Katrina victims because many of the victims were black. If whites were stuck in New Orleans, there would have been cruise ships in the Gulf of Mexico to house, feed, and care for them, many news outlets suggested. *CBS News Sunday Morning*, which reaches millions of Americans, gave "contributor" Nancy Giles plenty of time to broadcast her neo-Marxist views. "[I]f the majority of the hardest hit victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans were white people, they would not have gone for days without food and water," she said. "[T]he real war is not in Iraq, but right here in America. It's the War on Poverty, and it's a war that's been ignored and lost. ... [W]e've repeatedly given tax cuts to the wealthiest and left our most vulnerable American citizens to basically fend for themselves."

For the record: U.S. taxpayers have spent more than \$5 trillion on the War on Poverty since the Johnson Administration. And for Katrina victims, private companies and individuals from all walks of life



Newsweek's Jonathan Alter called on President Bush to enact sweeping, nationwide policies, a la the New Deal, to address the problems caused by Hurricane Katrina. Alter's solutions included a higher minimum wage, stronger unions, higher taxes and a death tax, and more food stamps.

have donated hundreds of millions of dollars in aid.

On a note related to Giles's rant, CNN's Soledad O'Brien prattled on that "the question really, was the Administration slow to respond when pictures of mostly black people were on TV, and over days, were clearly in dire straights?"

The real question, in fact, is why anyone would take O'Brien's question seriously. And as for media responsibility, forget it. To wit, after rapper Kayne West said on NBC that "George Bush doesn't care about black people," nearly every media organ in the country replayed it, reprinted it, ran with it. That bespeaks an agenda. It's not just "reporting." It's the promotion of a political agenda.

Numerous liberal media-heads pushed, and continue to push the ridiculous idea that Hurricane Katrina was caused by global warming. And, therefore, U.S. energy policies must change and America should support the Kyoto Protocol.

As for the Iraq war, the liberal media complained that

National Guard members stationed abroad were not available to help Katrina victims. So, bring the troops home. At the same time, the liberal media advocated for less military spending and more domestic program spending to pay for the hurricane cleanup. Proposals by conservatives to cut unnecessary federal spending were largely ignored by the establishment media.

There is more, much more. The liberal media are milking the Katrina tragedy in every way imaginable. And it's not going to let up anytime soon. That's why the work we do at the Media Research Center, with your support, is so vital. No one else does what we do, and we are extremely effective as the reports on pages 5 and 6 of this issue show. We will keep up the good fight.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President

Soldier Expresses Outrage at Anti-War Protests at Veterans' Hospital

Calls Upon MRC To Keep Fighting Against Liberal Media Bias

Code Pink Women for Peace is a radical anti-war group that supports mom-turned-neo-Marxist-activist Cindy Sheehan. The group regularly protests outside the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., a hospital used to treat veterans. The MRC's news service division, CNSNews.com, broke the story on Code Pink's outrageous actions, and that report was carried on *The Drudge Report*, read by Rush Limbaugh, and covered by Sean Hannity, Brit Hume, and *Fox and Friends*, among many others. In three days it had reached over 50 million Americans here at home ... and all over the world. That coverage produced a flood of responses and many Americans called on the MRC to do more to spread the truth. One letter – excerpts below – from Sgt. Mark Leach, a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan, epitomized what many were telling us.

"...I was part of the initial invasion into Iraq. ... I would like to comment on the article you wrote in reference to the Code Pink group at Walter Reed Medical Center. I first saw your article on the Sean Hannity Web site and then listened to [CNSNews.com reporter] Marc Morano's interview with Mr. Hannity via-pod cast from here in Afghanistan...."

"...I was taken aback by [Code Pink's] arrogance to what they are really doing there and who they are actually hurting. To carry the signs, heckle the troops, and to have mock caskets with an American flag over them is beyond protest. It is downright harassment of my brothers and sisters of the United States military who have been injured.

"By the end of the interview I was shaking and was even in tears for my fellow brave soldiers who not only have to endure the loss of a limb(s), loss of sight, or even worse – the loss of a battle buddy (fellow soldier serving with your team). ... Over 2,000 of my fellow soldiers have not made it. I can only imagine what my fellow injured soldiers are feeling as they look out that window and see the Code Pink group...."

"Even though I disagree with what all of these groups such as Code Pink, Moveon.org and anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan stand for, my fellow soldiers and I have fought, died, been injured and are still fighting for their right to protest and speak their mind. But what angers and hurts me as a soldier is that they parade their anti-war views in the face

of my brothers and sisters who are recovering from the same battlefield that I fought on and am still fighting on as I type this e-mail.

"Is there no honor or dignity left in the anti-war movement? Do they have no shame? ...I can answer that with a simple no! How can they say they support the troops but protest where they try to recover from war?..."



A sign held by radical anti-war protestors outside the Walter Reed Medical Center, where Iraq war veterans are treated.

"In closing, I would like to thank you for bringing their conduct to the public eye, not only in your article, but on 'The Sean Hannity Show.' I actually began to have some faith in the media again when I heard Morano stand up for us soldiers like he did. ...I am going to ask that you please do not stop speaking of these actions at Walter Reed. Please find a way to help stop the protesting at Walter Reed. Please write more articles, ask why they were

granted permission, get public officials to speak out on the record and petition people to withdraw their right to protest within a certain distance from a military hospital.

"It scares me that next will be a fellow soldier's funeral. That is the next step! Please, I ask that you continue to investigate this protest and their rights to be there! Not to stop people's freedom of speech, but protect and respect my fellow soldiers."

**Sgt. Mark Leach, U.S. Army
Afghanistan**

SPECIAL ACTION! The Media Must "Tell The Truth!"

The mainstream media continue to distort the truth of the Iraq war. The MRC's research team continues to expose this media bias. While CNSNews.com broke the "Code Pink" protest story exposing the radical nature of the anti-war movement, the mainstream media have yet to report what happened. That's why we want to deliver 75,000 petitions to the major networks and cable news stations in October demanding the media "Tell The Truth!" To sign our petition, go to www.MRCAction.org.

Sorry, ABC: Katrina Victims Praise Bush

At the Houston Astrodome, ABC News urged black evacuees of Hurricane Katrina to denounce President Bush's response to the natural disaster – to no avail. For instance, reporter Dean Reynolds asked Connie London: "Did you harbor any anger toward the President because of the slow federal response?" She said: "No, none whatsoever, because I feel like our city and our state government should have been there before the federal government was called in. ... They had RTA buses, Greyhound buses, school buses, that was just sitting there going under water when they could have been evacuating people."

Not one of the six people interviewed on camera criticized the President. Reynolds goaded: "Was there anything that you found hard to believe that he said, that you thought, well, that's nice rhetoric, but, you know, the proof is in the pudding?" Brenda Marshall answered, "No, I didn't," prompting Reynolds to marvel to anchor Ted Koppel: "Very little skepticism here."

Make Roberts Talk!

The Democrats couldn't get Supreme Court nominee John Roberts to take their ideological litmus tests and ABC's Linda Douglass clearly felt their pain. In the Sept. 14 story, Douglass related how "Senators were visibly



ABC's Linda Douglass seemed as frustrated as liberal Senators who failed to unsettle John Roberts during his Supreme Court confirmation hearings.

frustrated as they tried to pin Roberts down on some of the country's most emotional issues." She noted how, "without mentioning Terri Schiavo by name, Democrats demanded to know if families have the right to remove a loved one from life support."

Douglass also played clips of multiple exchanges between Roberts and Senator Joe Biden, ending with Biden's lecture: "It's kind of interesting this kabuki dance we have in these hearings here, as if the public doesn't have a right to know what you think about fundamental issues facing them." Roberts was confirmed as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by the full Senate on Sept. 29.

Separation of Church and Hurricane Victims

While pastor and best-selling author Rick Warren was busy taking in victims of Hurricane Katrina and arranging for their care by church families, CBS's Harry Smith was worried that the victims might have to actually pray, attend church or – secularism forbid! – endure an actual conversation about Christianity.

On the Sept. 6 *Early Show*, Smith said to Warren: "Let me ask you this, though: Is this an opportunity for a church to witness? Or if I'm a family, am, do I need to be concerned that I'm going to go live with a church family, are they going to proselytize me, are they going to

say, 'you better come to church with me or else, I'm, you know, you're not going to get your breakfast this morning'?"

Bush is a Moron!

Actress, comedian, and apparent political analyst Kathy Griffin flew into a rage on the Sept. 10 edition of Comedy Central's *Weekends at the DL*. After host D.L. Hughley joked about Christians, Griffin said the Administration is "moronic," and went on to rant: "The President is a moron! I'm saying it. I don't care. He's an idiot. Cheney is evil. I'm sick of, impeach them, get them out! I hate them! I hate them. Get them out. They got to go!"

When Hughley mentioned Bill O'Reilly, Griffin went ballistic again, saying: "Why do you watch O'Reilly? He's a moron. He's a fool. O'Reilly's an idiot. He and [Sean] Hannity can suck it. I hate those two idiots! [applause] Those liars!"



Actress Kathy Griffin blew her top, calling President Bush a "moron" and Dick Cheney "evil."

It Rains, It Pours

Former *NYT* Editor Howell Raines reached a Category 5 Rant against President Bush in an op-ed about Hurricane Katrina. "The dilatory performance of George Bush during the past week has been outrageous," said Raines, who lost his job over a plagiarizing reporter at the *NYT*. "Almost as unbelievable as Katrina itself is the fact that the leader of the free world has been outshone by the elected leaders of a region renowned for governmental ineptitude.

"... The churchgoing cultural populism of George Bush has given the United States an administration that

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worries about the House of Saud and the welfare of oil companies while the poor drown in their attics and their sons and daughters die in foreign deserts.” Raines’s rant was downgraded to Category 3 when he ended his piece by stating that Bush seemed determined to show Americans “how to vacation through an apocalypse.”

Media Bury Sheehan Poll

An ABC News/*Washington Post* poll found that an overwhelming 79 percent

of Americans said Cindy Sheehan’s protests had no effect on their view of the Iraq war — the remaining respondents were split evenly between saying her efforts made them more or less likely to support the war. But you likely didn’t hear about that because ABC *World News Tonight* did not report on the poll, *Good Morning America* made a slight mention, and the *Washington Post* only cited it in the 24th paragraph of a

story headlined, “President’s Poll Rating Falls to a New Low.”

As the *Post* perhaps reluctantly related: “The poll found that Sheehan’s activities may have helped increase support for the war among Bush supporters. Although eight in 10 Americans said Sheehan’s protests have not changed their attitudes toward the war, one in 10 said she has made them more likely to support the conflict”

CBS Denounces the MRC

The Media Research Center threatens the liberal agenda and influence of the establishment media – and it’s having an effect. On Sept. 21, for example, CBS *Evening News* Executive Producer Jim Murphy denounced two *CyberAlert* stories written by MRC Vice President for Research and Publications Brent Baker. (*CyberAlerts* are daily e-mails that contain examples and analyses of the latest liberal media bias.) Mr. Baker had written pieces that exposed CBS’s liberal bias in 1) a story about President Bush and the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort, and 2) a story highlighting Jimmy Carter’s criticism of the Bush Administration’s management of FEMA. Mr. Baker’s critiques were first posted on the MRC blog, NewsBusters.org, and then through *CyberAlert* on the MRC homepage.

In both cases, Mr. Murphy, on the *CBS News Public Eye* blog, argued that CBS was just reporting what happened and what was said by others, and that this was not bias, just “good, colorful, pointed writing.” But as Mr. Baker responded, the bias is not in what happened or necessarily who said what, but, rather, in CBS’s judgment about what is news. For instance, in its President Bush story, CBS felt it important to emphasize that the President spoke from an air-conditioned tent and then contrasted that with

a New Orleans restaurant owner who had no electricity for refrigeration and who then urged the President to get out of the A/C, eat some MREs and suffer like her.

No other networks mentioned the A/C or featured an anti-Bush soundbite. That was entirely an editorial decision made by CBS – proving Baker’s point. As for the Jimmy Carter story, again it was a CBS judgment call based on a liberal bias. Carter makes comments almost every day, yet CBS chose that day, the day Bush spoke in Louisiana, to broadcast Carter’s FEMA criticism. Both stories reflected an agenda.

CBS’s *Public Eye* Editor Vaughn Ververs conceded, by the way, that for the Bush story, the MRC had a point about the network’s “attitude.” The MRC is “a centerpiece in what has become an entire industry of partisan media criticism,” said Ververs, but “that’s not to say there isn’t occasionally some validity to their gripes.”

For a full report on CBS’s denunciation of the MRC, visit: www.mrc.org/cyberalerts/2005/cyb20050923.asp#1.





T. Boone Pickens

MRC Trustee Offers \$1.5 MILLION CHALLENGE to Help Fund the Free Market Project



Wonderful news! MRC Trustee Boone Pickens has pledged \$1.5 million to help fund the MRC's Free Market Project, in three \$500,000 annual installments, on the condition that others match

involved in countless other efforts. The work of the Free Market Project is now being cited, and its spokesmen interviewed regularly on programs such as the Fox News Channel's *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, in *Investors Business Daily*, in *The Wall Street Journal*, and numerous other media outlets.

Mr. Pickens' \$1.5 million "Boone Pickens Challenge" donation will take the Free Market Project to the next level, to not only defend the culture of free enterprise from liberal media attacks but, in the process, more effectively promote the virtues of the entrepreneurial spirit at the national level and across a spectrum of media: print, radio, TV and the Internet. The MRC is extremely grateful to Mr. Pickens and encouraged by his commitment and confidence in us.

If you are interested in helping meet the "Challenge," with any size donation, please contact MRC Development Director Thom Golab at (703) 683-9733 ext. 154, e-mail: tgolab@mediaresearch.org, or write: MRC, 325 S. Patrick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. All gifts are, of course, tax-deductible.

him. This "Challenge" donation, if matched, will help finance the Free Market Project's operations and fund the new Boone Pickens Free Market Fellow. The Free Market Fellow will take a leading role in documenting, exposing, and neutralizing the anti-free enterprise culture of the major media.

The MRC launched the Free Market Project in 1992 to combat the liberal media's outright bias against America's free enterprise system and to defend the business community from the attacks waged against them by the liberal press. The Free Market Project has assembled a blue-ribbon Advisory Committee comprised of leading economic scholars to participate directly in this effort. It has undertaken a number of significant projects with studies exposing the anti-business agenda of environmental extremists; it has documented exactly how the liberal media are distorting tax issues; and it has proven how journalists are ignoring tort reform while promoting lawsuit excesses against the business community. These are but some endeavors; the Free Market Project is

NOTE: In the July issue of *Flash* we reported that five MRC Trustees had offered a \$1 million "Challenge" grant to help fund the MRC's "Tell the Truth!" campaign. To date, supporters have graciously donated \$782,644 toward that \$1 million goal.

"Tell the Truth!" 2005 Marches On

The MRC's "Tell the Truth!" campaign is an all-fronts effort to educate Americans about left-wing media bias and to demand that the media tell the truth. Our goal has been to reach 50 million people every week with our message. It is a daunting challenge, but we are succeeding. This year, the battle is raging, and in August the campaign reached an average 68 million Americans every week. We are breaking records because this year's campaign includes a strong, focused offensive to get grassroots activists involved.

Last year's campaign informed millions about liberal media bias through a wide array of methods, like reports, newsletters, books, faxes, e-mails, and Web alerts produced by the MRC, as well as by advertising and the countless radio interviews and TV appearances by MRC experts. This year, the MRC has followed a similar battle plan, but also marshaled the stupendous power and reach of the Internet.

With this worldwide technology, the MRC sends "media bias alerts" to millions of people with just a keystroke, through the MRC Web site and by e-mail. The MRC presents activists with solid examples of media bias – instantaneously – which they can then forward to their families and friends. And then many reconnect with the MRC – and join us! It's a two-way

cyber street. By the end of this year, we expect more than 100,000 conservative activists to join our "Tell the Truth!" campaign and the overall mission of the MRC.

When we find bias, we pounce — immediately. For example, the MRC notified tens of thousands of people about the Air America scandal, in which the co-founder of the touted "liberal radio" show apparently absconded with close to \$900,000 in children's charities money (with nary a peep from the mainstream media). Ultimately it

became a scandal of national importance. Also, the MRC hit grassroots Americans with our explosive



CNSNews.com story on the anti-war protests outside Walter Reed Medical Center, where wounded soldiers were being treated. These messages resulted in more than 40,000 people signing aboard as MRC Action team members who signed petitions that were delivered to ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN on September 2.

This month, "Tell the Truth!" will focus on a new Special Report about media coverage of the Iraq war. To see more about our grassroots campaign or to sign the ongoing petitions demanding the media "Tell the Truth!" log on to www.MRCAction.org or call (800) 672-1423



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

- ☛ Christian Broadcasting Network, Sept. 16, Aug. 31
- ☛ FNC, *Hannity & Colmes*, Aug. 25

RADIO

- Sean Hannity, *Tuned Into America*, Oct. 4
- Rush Limbaugh Show, Sept. 16, 29, 30
- Sean Hannity, *Tuned Into America*, Sept. 14
- Dateline*, Sept. 8
- The Right Balance*, Sept. 22
- Dennis Prager Show*, Sept. 8
- American Family Radio, Sept. 29
- Family News in Focus, Sept. 9, 13
- Battleline with Alan Nathan*, Aug. 30
- WOIA, San Antonio, Sept. 21
- WMET, Washington, D.C., Sept. 8, 23, 29
- KMED, Medford, Ore., Sept. 22
- Evansville, Ind., Sept. 23
- KDKA, Pittsburgh, Sept. 23
- WBAL, Baltimore, Sept. 10, 24
- WTN, Nashville, Sept. 27, 28
- WLS, Chicago, Sept. 9
- WLW, Cincinnati, Sept. 8, 9
- KTSA, San Antonio, Sept. 9, 12, 28
- WGN, Sept. 6
- KGAB, Cheyenne, Sept. 1
- KTEM, Temple, Tex., Aug. 31
- WYMM, Jacksonville, Aug. 30
- KLVI, Houston, Aug. 30
- KABC, Los Angeles, Sept. 3
- WVOM, Bangor, Sept. 7
- WIBC, Indianapolis, Sept. 1
- KSLR, San Antonio, Aug. 29
- WYMM, Jacksonville, Aug. 30

PRINT

- Investor's Business Daily*, Sept. 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 22
- Washington Times*, Sept. 5, 7, 14, 16, 19, 22, 28

- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 24, 25, 27, Oct. 2
- National Review Online*, Sept. 16
- Human Events*, Sept. 8, 16, Oct. 3
- Broadcasting & Cable*, Sept. 13
- Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sept. 13
- Sacramento Bee*, Aug. 29
- Boston Globe*, Aug. 28
- Associated Press, Aug. 26
- Winston-Salem Journal*, Aug. 31
- The Common Voice*, Oct. 3
- Daytona Beach News-Journal*, Sept. 1

INTERNET

- RushLimbaugh.com (sourced daily)
- CBS News.com, Sept. 30
- Media Matters for America, Sept. 23, 20
- CBSNews.com, Sept. 23
- FOX News.com, Sept. 10
- National Center for Public Policy Research, Sept. 20
- ProLife Blogs, Sept. 20



CNSNews.com Investigative Reporter Marc Morano appeared on *Hannity & Colmes* to discuss his special report on Code Pink.

- WorldNetDaily, Sept. 16
- National Ledger, Sept. 9, 15, 29
- FrontPageMagazine.com, Sept. 15, Oct. 3
- NewsHounds, Sept. 14
- TheOneRepublic, September 14
- Townhall, Sept. 8, 17, 20, Aug. 31
- American Spectator Online, Sept. 12, Aug. 31
- IPS-InterPress Service, Sept. 1
- Working for Change, Sept. 1
- The Moderate Voice, Sept. 4
- Agape Press, Oct. 4
- RedState.org, Oct. 1
- American Thinker, Oct. 2
- MichNews.com, Sept. 30

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For more information and a free proposal, please call Thom Golab at (800) 672-1423 or visit us online at www.mrc.gift-planning.org

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