Dear Friend,

There were some long faces deep into the night of Nov. 7 as the dust began to settle and the new reality — Democratic control of the House and Senate — emerged.

I confess that I didn’t share that depression. The following afternoon Rush Limbaugh would go on the radio stating he felt a great sense of relief. I don’t like lefties and liberals taking over, but that’s exactly how I felt, too.

There are some extremely important lessons we need to learn from the 2006 election.

1) The 2006 elections were not a repudiation of conservative ideas. Where conservative ideas were on the ballot — primarily as state initiatives — they won almost everywhere. The Marriage Amendment won in seven out of eight states where it was on the ballot. Nine out of 11 of the state initiatives to overturn the outrageous Supreme Court ruling on Kelo, which gives local authorities the right to confiscate private property at will, also won. So, too, did state initiatives on taxes, immigration, judges, and guns.

2) This was a repudiation of the 2006 Republican Party. The voters proclaimed what some of us in the conservative movement have been saying for quite some time: Today’s GOP is no longer the party of Ronald Reagan. The 1994 Contract with America has been long forgotten. This GOP doesn’t deserve conservatives’ support. It has abused the American taxpayer for years, spending untold billions of taxpayer money on pork barrel projects geared toward members’ re-elections while failing to pass, primarily because of Senate inaction, a slew of conservative fiscal bills.

The concerns of “values voters” were also ignored throughout the last several years. This was just plain idiotic after 2004, when “Values” came back as the No. 1 concern for the American voter. It is an absolute rule of thumb: When sincere conservative politicians distinguish themselves from liberal politicians, they win; but when the lines are blurred, they lose.

Also, Iraq was a crucial, decisive issue. This Administration has done a miserable job of putting our nation on a war footing. (Do you know of anyone who considers himself right now to be “at war”?) It has done an equally miserable job in responding to the criticisms over Iraq, so many of which are unfounded or exaggerated.

3) But the deciding factor in the 2006 elections was the left-wing national news media. At a press conference broadcast on C-SPAN, the day after the elections, MRC President Brent Bozell criticized the liberal news media for being “simply microphones” for the Democratic Party.

The concerns of “values voters” were also ignored throughout the last several years. This was just plain idiotic after 2004, when “Values” came back as the No. 1 concern for the American voter. It is an absolute rule of thumb: When sincere conservative politicians distinguish themselves from liberal politicians, they win; but when the lines are blurred, they lose.
seen before. At this year’s Trustees meeting, I repeated the same warning: The media were going to stop at nothing to see conservatives defeated in 2006. I warned everyone to prepare for an onslaught of vicious, personal attacks as the weapon of choice of the news media.

My worst fears were realized. As I stated at a national press conference the morning after the elections, and broadcast on C-SPAN, I’ve never seen the news media more determined to sway an election than they were this year. They employed every dirty trick imaginable to advance their liberal agenda, and they succeeded.

I’ll give you two examples, but there are many more. First, this business about corruption. Yes, there was corruption in Republicans ranks. But the Democrats have a far greater, established track record of corruption. Take that one congressman from Louisiana, William Jefferson, who was recently caught by the FBI with over $90,000 in payola stuffed in his office freezer. While the liberal media spent MONTHS AND MONTHS blasting Republicans for corruption, the Jefferson story was a one-day story, and they quickly dropped it. He actually won re-election!

Or this: When gas prices went through the roof during the early summer, the media found a way to blame the White House and Republicans. Night after night, story after story, they blamed the GOP. But then gas prices dropped more than 80 cents this fall. If Republicans were to blame for the increase, shouldn’t they have been congratulated for the decrease?

Instead, CNN, NBC, and CBS all ran stories promoting the Lyndon LaRouche-like conspiracy theory that Republicans were somehow manipulating prices downward in order to get their candidates elected.

On and on it went. So where do conservatives go from here? Well, we must never quit, we must never surrender. We must do all we can to ensure that the public leaders we support boldly adhere to conservative principles and work in unison with the conservative base that lives those principles every day - belief in limited government, individual freedom, traditional values, and a strong national defense.

As 2006 proved, rhetoric alone will no longer work. Public leaders who claim to support conservatism must prove it with action. They need to fight against liberal policies wherever they surface, particularly in the liberal media, and they must work hard to advance conservative ideas. In so doing, they will also rebuild good will with the American people.

The conservative movement as a whole needs to realize that it also received a wake-up call on Nov. 7. In recent years, our movement has lost its punch. We’ve been too quick to compromise, too willing to remain silent when duty called for us to take a stand and fight. We have forgotten that our mission is to advance ideas, and a political party is an electoral means, not an end. We must return to those foundations, willing to challenge all who stand in our way while reaching out to all who would work with us.

I can say this about the Media Research Center: We fought our hearts out for our cause in 2006. We did our part. Now we, as a movement, are all leaner, and that’s not altogether a bad thing. The air is much cleaner now, and the battle lines have been drawn. It’s time for us to pick up the torch of Ronald Reagan and put it back in its place, on top of the shining city on the hill.

Sincerely,

L. Brent Bozell III
Founder and President
The liberal media threw everything they had at the 2006 elections, and this was especially obvious in their coverage of economic news. No matter how good the news, the liberal media found a gray cloud with a gray lining. A typical example: gas prices. When they went up, the liberal media blamed the White House; when they went down, the liberal media claimed the White House was engaged in a conspiracy with oil companies to help elect Republicans.

It was ludicrous. But that is what passes for economic “news” coverage these days. Other examples, and analysis of the liberal media’s grossly biased coverage of economic news, are documented in a recent Special Report, Bad News Bears, produced by the MRC’s Business & Media Institute.

The report looked at a year’s worth of economy coverage on the three major networks and found negative news overwhelmed positive by a more than 2-to-1 ratio. News broadcasts dwelled on one prospective cataclysm after another, yet each time the economy continued unfazed.

In the real world, unemployment dropped to a mere 4.4 percent just before the election. More than 6.6 million new jobs were created during the Bush recovery from August 2003 onward. And even the liberal New York Times admitted wages were rising. Yet journalists on ABC, CBS, and NBC reveled in stories about high gas prices, a housing “bubble” and other economic dangers. Even Labor Department news that 810,000 jobs had been added to the economy was ignored.

BMI’s assessment received widespread attention. MRC President Brent Bozell joined CNBC’s Kudlow & Company on Oct. 16 to release the study. Three days later, Fox’s Special Report with Brit Hume told viewers the disturbing results, as well. BMI staff discussed the results on nearly a dozen talk radio programs.

In the following weeks, Human Events ran an op-ed by BMI’s National Chairman Herman Cain that went into detail about the findings. Investor’s Business Daily wrote an editorial that cited BMI’s report in depth and talked about “the spell that’s again been cast over a strangely receptive public” about the economy.

IBD was exactly right. Reporting on all three broadcast networks was bad, but CBS was the worst. More than 8 percent of the full-length stories on the CBS Evening News delivered a negative view of the economy — easily the worst of the three broadcast news programs.

The June 29 Evening News was typical as anchor Bob Schieffer devoted just 43 words and a graphic to tell viewers that the economy “grew at a sizzling annual rate of 5.6 percent” in the first quarter. But he followed that with a much longer report on homeowners “losing their homes to bank foreclosures.”

MRC President Brent Bozell discusses the Special Report Bad News Bears on CNBC’s Kudlow & Company.

The Bad News Bears report from MRC’s Business & Media Institute documented the liberal media’s biased coverage of economic news and generated much national coverage, in print and on radio and TV.
Bits & Pieces

Gas Conspiracy—Again

Despite the good news of lower gas prices, NBC’s Today pushed the wacky notion that the Bush administration was somehow manipulating gas prices to help Republicans get elected. On the Oct. 25 show, co-host Matt Lauer seriously reported, “The price of a gallon of gas, the average price, is way down to about $2.21 a gallon just in time for the mid-term elections. Is it a coincidence? Some people say no.”

Reporter Carl Quintanilla then featured a variety of “experts,” ranging from far-left Air America talk show hosts to people at gas stations. There was a brief clip featuring an energy trader who notes that price is “...simply a function of supply and demand.” But that was the only sanity in the piece. Quintanilla ended the report by saying that “others see a vast right-wing conspiracy that leads right from the pump to the booth.”

Lynne Cheney Smacks Down CNN

On CNN’s The Situation Room, Second Lady Lynne Cheney turned the tables on liberal host Wolf Blitzer and asked him, given CNN’s airing of a terrorist-sniper video, if he wanted the U.S. to win in Iraq. “What is CNN doing running terrorist tape of terrorist shooting Americans? I mean, I thought Congressman Duncan Hunter asked you a very good question and you didn’t answer it. Do you want us to win?”

Blitzer, a bit startled, fumbled back, “The answer, of course, is we want the United States to win. We are Americans. There’s no doubt about it. You think we want terrorists to win?” Cheney then unloaded: “But Wolf, there’s a difference between news and terrorist propaganda. Why, why are you giving the terrorists a forum?” It was good to see Mrs. Cheney challenge the liberal media at CNN, but one has to ask: Where were the White House men on this issue? Is the Second Lady the only one with a spine?

Media Bias Reconfirmed

ABC News Political Director Mark Halperin has revealed - surprise! - that most of his colleagues are liberals. In an interview on the Hugh Hewitt radio show, Halperin estimated that 70 percent of the political media are liberals and would vote Democratic, a point he also addressed in an ABC News blog posting, “How the Liberal Old Media Plans to Cover the Last Two Weeks of the Election.” Evidence strongly shows that even Halperin, however, underestimated how liberal the media are.

In a previous Hewitt interview with the Washington Post’s Thomas Edsall, Edsall estimated that 95 percent of the mediawasliberal. Halperinfirstthought that the figure was too high but when pressed about Edsall’s analysis, Halperin agreed, concluding that Edsall was “absolutely” correct. In addition, numerous studies and polls of the national public media, available at the MRC Web site, confirm the media’s liberal bias and their support for Democratic policies and candidates.

Patriot Act = Apartheid?

The ever-ridiculous Rosie O’Donnell recently added another loony remark to her long career of left-wing propagandizing. On ABC’s The View for Oct. 24, liberal actor Tim Robbins was on the show to promote his new movie, Catch a Fire, set in apartheid-era South Africa. The character Robbins plays is a white police officer who tortures a black man wrongfully accused of sabotaging an oil refinery.

On ABC’s The View, Rosie O’Donnell rants that because of the Patriot Act the U.S. is just like apartheid South Africa.

When they discussed the film, O’Donnell offered her own dubious take: “They were seeking out terrorists, which is what they called the people in South Africa who actually lived there, who were the majority. The blacks in South Africa, who were trying to fight for their own civil rights, were called terrorists and the government was allowed to arrest them at will and interrogate them, no matter what they did, just on the suspicion. Very similar today to what we have in the United States, thanks to the Patriot Act.”

Bush “Questioning Patriotism”

President Bush put liberal George Stephanopoulos in his place during an Oct. 18 interview on ABC’s This Week. Stephanopoulos tried to set Bush up with this question: “Can you name a Democrat who wants to ‘wave the white flag of surrender’?” And Bush answered, “I can name a Democrat who said there ought to be a date certain from which to withdraw from Iraq, whether or not we’ve achieved a victory or not.”

Stephanopoulos then asked if that meant surrender. “Yeah it is,” said
Bush, “if you pull the troops out before the job is done.” Stephanopoulos then suggested that Bush was questioning the patriotism of the opponents of the war. To which the President smartly replied, “No, I know it’s not questioning their patriotism. I think it’s questioning their judgment.” … Stephanopoulos moved on to other topics.

Republican Racists!

NBC’s Today couldn’t stop suggesting that the Republican Party is inherently racist as Election Day commenced. In the Nov. 7 broadcast, Today reporter Tom Costello declared about the senatorial race in Tennessee, “This has been a hard fought race. It’s been injected with advertisements viewed by many as being racist by the Republican National Committee. The Corker campaign repudiated those ads, as did the Ford campaign, of course.” “By many” who? Most likely “many” liberals and media-heads bent on swaying voters. From that report followed one by NBC’s David Shuster who, in discussing the Virginia Senate race, added, “Allen had been talked about being a presidential contender in 2008 but his campaign has been set back by a series of missteps including his use of the term macaca and allegations about his use of the N-word to describe blacks, but the key issue in this race has been the Iraq war….”

Iraq War Causes U.S. Crime

The war in Iraq is the reason why the crime rate in the U.S. rose in 2005, claims reporter Byron Pitts of the CBS Evening News. In an Oct. 16 report, “Eye on Crime: The Crisis,” CBS noted that violent crime in the U.S. went up 2.5% in 2005 and that it had risen 9.2% in mid-sized cities. Pitts then found a Minneapolis police officer who said, “We have probably 30 to 40 officers that are serving in Iraq right now,” and therefore aren’t on the streets in Minneapolis fighting crime. Pitts further reported, “Since 2004, the Feds have cut funding for state and local police departments by nearly 50 percent.” Of course, Pitts downplayed a few important facts. There are about 900 members of the Minneapolis Police Department, meaning that those 30 to 40 officers in Iraq equal about 3% to 4% of the force. Also, the alleged “cut” in federal funding to state and local police departments is marginal because most of their entire budgets comes from state and local revenue.
The Pelosi News Networks

L. Brent Bozell III’s November 9, 2006, Nationally Syndicated Column

If we rigidly applied truth-in-advertising laws to the national media in their coverage of the 2006 campaign, we would have first declared that the stuff between the commercials wasn’t “news” as much as a boatload of free infomercial advertising for the Democrats. The news reports should have led with the sentence, “I’m Nancy Pelosi, and I approved this newscast.”

Republicans made a lot of mistakes, and caused themselves a pile of problems. Their house is a mess; it’s time to tear down and start over. But I will say this unequivocally: In 25 years of looking at the national media, I have never seen a more one-sided, distorted, vicious presentation of news — and non-news — by the national media. They ought to be collectively ashamed. They have made a mockery out of the term “objective journalism” and a laughingstock of themselves at the idea that they should be considered objective journalists.

They distorted the record time and again with a blame-everything-on-Republican misrule formula. When gas prices approached historic highs over the summer, the media couldn’t stop talking about the inept Republicans and failed Bush administration policies. Then gas prices plummeted. Celebratory coverage? Nah. Any credit to the Republican party or this administration? None whatsoever. Instead, they — yes, you CNN; and you, NBC, and you, CBS — shamelessly advanced Lyndon LaRouche-style conspiracy theories about how Republicans somehow were manipulating gas prices downward in order to get themselves elected. I’d laugh — except it worked. If I believed a fraction of what I heard from the national news media, I’d vote against Republicans too.

This was not an election campaign like 1994, when the networks spent weeks exploring how “bombastic and ruthless” Newt Gingrich would burn Washington down with the Contract with America should the GOP capture the House. As horrified as I am by the left-wing agenda of Pelosi, Conyers, Rangel and Co., I certainly wouldn’t want the press to treat them the way they mistreated Republicans a dozen years ago. I would have been happy, and America would have been the grateful beneficiary, had the anchors given us an educational exploration of the issues of the day, and the parties’ and candidates’ stances, instead of the silly dramatics.

Did the Democrats have a program beyond their daily carpet-bombing of President Bush? What would happen to -- name the issue -- were they elected?

Not on your life. This was a campaign that presented Republicans as the tired, failed, corrupted party that had to go, while viewing Democrats through a rose-colored lens as an intoxicating bouquet of historic firsts for diversity: the first female Speaker of the House, the first Muslim American in the House, the first black Senator in the South since Reconstruction.

The last one, the prospect of Senator Harold Ford, Jr., didn’t happen, but that was miraculous, considering the national press viciously insisting that cheeky Republican ads with a brief joke about his trip to a Playboy party were exploiting every last vestige of racism in America when, in fact, they were cleverly and powerfully exposing Ford’s church-poser hypocrisy.

You think their coverage of Speaker-to-be Nancy Pelosi was fair and balanced? Then consider this jaw-dropping fact. Since Pelosi was elected as the House Democratic leader in November of 2002, all the way through to late October of 2006, the networks have not once described her as a “liberal.” You read that correctly. Not once. That’s not news coverage. That’s a four-year masquerade party. In 1994, Gingrich was the “national poster boy for resentment and rage.” In 2006, Pelosi was “a mother and a grandmother” who was “known for her trademark smile.”

The dominant issue of the fall campaign on network television wasn’t the issues, unless you consider Mark Foley’s creepy Internet messages an “issue,” in which case, boy howdy, did the news media agree with you. Nearly 200 network stories on Foley, and by extension, the allegedly page-abusing Republican House, dominated the coverage in the last weeks of the campaign. “Off Message,” screamed a Newsweek cover with a large picture of Foley. But that was some kind of joke: the news media were very much “on message” with that scandal.

What about William Jefferson, the Democrat caught by the feds stuffing some 90 grand in payola in his House office freezer? It was a one-day story, quickly forgotten. He was re-elected, by the way, and nobody cares.

Then there was the gay prostitute in Colorado who accused evangelical pastor Ted Haggard of paying him for sex and methamphetamines. Sure, it was a story that deserved coverage. But he prostitute also was explicit in admitting he was letting this scoop out as an October Surprise to defeat a defense-of-marriage amendment in Colorado. Any interest in that angle? Of course not.

The 2006 campaigns are over. It will go down as the year it was almost impossible to discern where the negative political commercials against Republicans ended, and the news coverage began.
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 — Fox News Live, Nov. 15
C-SPAN — Nov. 8
MSNBC — Countdown, Nov. 3
FNC — The O’Reilly Factor, Nov. 2
FNC — Hannity & Colmes, Oct. 10, 23
FNC — Special Report with Brit Hume, Oct. 19, 20
CNBC — Kudlow & Co., Oct. 16
FNC — Fox News Watch, Oct. 14

**Radio**

American Family Radio, Oct. 23, 29
Faith2Action with Janet Folger, Oct. 10
USA Radio Network, Nov. 3
The Right Balance, Oct. 16, 30, Nov. 3
Talk Radio Network, Oct. 5
Thom Hartmann show, Oct. 23, 27, 30
Dateline, Oct. 27
NPR All Things Considered, Oct. 20
Ave Maria Radio, Nov. 7
Faith Broadcasting, Oct. 13
Steve Gill Show, Oct. 23
NRA News, Oct. 20, 27
WLW, Cincinnati, OH, Nov. 2
WMET, Washington, D.C., Nov. 1, 6
WIBA, Madison, WI, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 3
KLPLW, St. Louis, MO, Nov. 6
WIOJ, Jacksonville, FL, Nov. 2
WSAU, Wausau, WI, Nov. 2
KWTY, Las Vegas, NV, Oct. 1
KDKA, Pittsburgh, PA, Nov. 6
KWEI, Midland, TX, Nov. 1
KCOL, Denver, CO, Oct. 24, Nov. 1
KAHL, San Antonio, TX, Oct. 19, 23, Nov. 2
WTWF, Greenville, NC, Oct. 20, Nov. 3
WCBS, Charleston, WV, Oct. 11
WKRC, Cincinnati, OH, Oct. 11
KOGO, San Diego, CA, Oct. 11, 19, 25
WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Oct. 12, 18
KFIV, Modesto, CA, Oct. 17
WLW, Cincinnati, OH, Oct. 25, 30
WIBC, Indianapolis, IN, Oct. 26
WFIA, Tampa, FL, Oct. 25
WBAL, Baltimore, MD, Oct. 26

**Internet**

CNSNews.com, Nov. 8
Detroitnews.com, Nov. 7
Rush Limbaugh.com, Nov. 6
NRO, The Corner, Oct. 12, 24, Nov. 7
WorldNetDaily, Oct. 19, 20, 21, Nov. 3
Wall Street Journal Online, Oct. 27
Townhall.com, Oct. 11, 25, 27, Nov. 3, 8
Yahoo! News, Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 7
Antiwar.com, Oct. 13, Nov. 6
Agape Press, Oct. 26, 27
Real Clear Polictics.com, Oct. 20
Cable Game blog, Nov. 1
Five Minute Report, Oct. 6
Newstex, Oct. 9
BP News, Oct. 6
USA Religious News, Oct. 6
American Thinker blog, Oct. 10
TPM Café, Oct. 11
AlterNet, Oct. 9
NRO Media blog, Oct. 9, 24
Human Events Online, Oct. 24, 26, 27, Nov. 3, 6
Northern Star Online, Oct. 25
Red State blog, Oct. 25
Nat. Assoc. of Manufacturers blog, Oct. 26
WDC Media News, Oct. 13
National Ledger, Oct. 13, 30, Nov. 4
NewsMax.com, Oct. 11, Nov. 3
ProgressiveU.org, Oct. 31
NCPA Daily Policy Digest, Oct. 26
LifeSite.net, Oct. 20
The Right Angle, Oct. 20
Say Anything blog, Oct. 10
College Hill Independent, Oct. 10
LifeNews.com, Oct. 10
TCV News, Oct. 10

- Partial listing of all media
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(Lower two-life rates available)

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