Several weeks back, columnist Robert Novak said that the elite media’s coverage of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama was more glowing and adulatory than their coverage of John F. Kennedy back in 1960. Novak said he had never seen anything quite like it — over the top and unashamedly partisan. The liberal media are doing everything they can to promote Obama and help get him elected president.

That gross leftist favoritism by the media has been noticed by the American people, as two recent polls by Rasmussen Reports show. Americans know what the liberal media are up to.

In addition, a new Special Report by the Media Research Center, analyzing the coverage of Obama since his emergence on the national stage in 2000, details just how fawning the liberal media have been towards him.

The numbers are staggering, and reveal how useful the MRC’s media archive and daily research are to documenting, exposing and neutralizing liberal media bias.

But first the polls.

Rasmussen polled more than 1,000 “likely voters” and reported on Sept. 4 that by a margin of 10 to 1, the American public think reporters are trying to hurt Republican VP candidate Sarah Palin through biased coverage. Among the voters, 51 percent said the media elite were gunning for Palin.

Six days later, Rasmussen released another poll showing that the public, by a 5-to-1 margin, think most journalists are spinning their coverage to help elect Barack Obama. Specifically, “50 percent of voters think most reporters are trying to help Obama win versus 11 percent who believe they are trying to help his Republican opponent John McCain.”

Those numbers serve to validate what the MRC has been documenting and publicizing for more than a year. Further, the new MRC Special Report proves that the liberal media have been in the tank for Obama for the last eight years.

The report shows how Obama could not have won the Democratic nomination without the help of ABC, CBS, and NBC and that these networks, along with other elite media are going to cheerlead Obama and Biden all the way through Election Day on Nov. 4.

The report, by MRC Research Director Rich Noyes, examined every network news story and soundbite ever uttered by the liberal lapdogs at ABC, CBS and NBC from May 2000 — when Obama made his first national TV appearance — through the end of the Democratic primaries in June 2008. A total of 1,365 stories.

Continued on page 2
Continued from page 1

In general, the majority of those stories bordered on giddy celebration of a political “rock star” as opposed to even a feeble attempt at “objective” newsgathering.

Here are some of the key findings of the report:

- ABC, CBS, and NBC gave Obama nearly seven times more good press than bad. There were 462 unmistakably positive stories on Obama vs. 70 that were critical in one way or another.
- The NBC Nightly News was the most liberally biased. It ran 179 pro-Obama stories — more than 10 times the number of anti-Obama stories. The CBS Evening News broadcast 156 positive, compared to 21 negative. ABC World News! 127 positive, 32 critical.
- Following Obama’s speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, the networks went wild — not one negative story out of 81 reports.
- ABC, CBS, and NBC have all downplayed or ignored the scandals associated with Obama, particularly his relationship with convicted influence peddler Tony Rezko and the unrepentant bomb-setting Weatherman terrorist Bill Ayers.
- Concerning Obama’s left-wing political views, the networks only found room to label him a “liberal” in 14 stories over the course of four years. At the same time, the nets referred to Obama as a “rock star” or “superstar” in 29 stories.
- And those “man on the street” interviews? ABC, CBS, and NBC talked to 147 people on-camera. Among those, 114 were pro-Obama, while only 28 were negative on Obama.

With all that adulatory coverage, and bias, and spin, and cheerleading, the liberal media did all they could to help Obama win the Democratic nomination for president. It worked. And just as quickly, the liberal networks turned on the “maverick” John McCain and continue to savage his running-mate Sarah Palin, as the Rasmussen polls confirm.

Perhaps former ABC and CBS reporter Linda Douglass put it most revealingly — and likely echoed her colleagues in the process — when in May she announced she was leaving journalism to work for the Obama campaign.

The new MRC Special Report shows that ABC, CBS, and NBC gave Barack Obama nearly seven times more good press than bad press.

To read the entire text of this special report, just visit: www.mrc.org and click on “Special Reports.”

“I see this as a moment of transformational change in the country and I have spent my lifetime sitting on the sidelines watching people attempt to make change,” Douglass said. “I just decided that I can’t sit on the sidelines anymore.”

Douglass, of course, never really was “on the sidelines.” As the MRC has also documented, she has always been a liberally biased reporter, as are the overwhelming majority of people who work in the elite media. They are political operatives with an agenda.

In the current situation, their cause is Obama and his socialist political recipes for the country.

Here at the MRC, we are fighting against that liberal agenda and our message is having an impact, especially as the new media grow and out-pace the networks. But it is a monumental task that takes hours of research and, thankfully, a dedicated staff committed to the MRC mission.

Your generous support makes all this possible. There is much at stake. Regardless of who wins on Election Day, the liberal media are dangerous and aren’t going away. We are meeting their every attack head on. They despise us — and fear us — because we are effective, and we shall carry on.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III
President
The liberal media almost invariably refuse to identify a Democrat as a Democrat if that person gets involved in a scandal. But when a Republican messes up, the liberal media fall over themselves to trumpet the person’s political affiliation, over and over again. It’s all geared to protect Democrats and liberalism and paint the worst picture possible for Republicans and conservatism.

Republican Mark Foley of Florida, for example, was repeatedly slammed by the liberal media when he got caught in a sex-talk text message scandal with some congressional interns. But when Democratic Rep. Patrick Kennedy’s drug and alcohol problems got him into trouble — literally a car crash on Capitol Hill — the liberal media played it down and chattered endlessly about how wonderful it was that Kennedy was going into rehab.

It’s a double standard, and so obvious it’s sometimes laughable. Below are some selected examples of this double standard, documented by the Media Research Center.

**Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick (D)**

He’s vice president of the National Conference of Democratic Mayors and a representative to the Democratic National Committee. Kilpatrick pleaded guilty in September to perjury related to a sex scandal and will serve 120 days in jail and pay $1 million in restitution. Back on Aug. 7, when news broke of Kilpatrick violating the terms of his bail, neither ABC nor NBC mentioned that Kilpatrick is a Democrat. Nor did CBS’s Russ Mitchell, despite three teases for the story.

**Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK)**

When Stevens was indicted for perjury and for accepting $250,000 in gifts to renovate his home, all three networks pegged him as a Republican in their first words about the story. ABC’s Charles Gibson said: “Indicted. The longest-serving Republican in the U.S. Senate....” CBS’s Katie Couric ran with “a senior Republican,” and colleague Jim Axelrod declared, “the longest-serving Republican senator ever.” At NBC, Brian Williams harped: “Tonight, Senator Ted Stevens, the longest-serving Republican in U.S. Senate history is under federal indictment.”

**Gov. Eliot Spitzer (D)**

When New York’s then-Democratic governor, Eliot Spitzer, got caught in a scandal with high-priced prostitutes last March, neither ABC’s *World News* nor NBC’s *Nightly News* verbally identified Spitzer as a Democrat. Also, in a front page, 1,700-plus-word story on Spitzer, *USA Today* somehow failed to mention that he is a Democrat.

**Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho)**

After Craig was caught making signals with his foot for homosexual sex in a bathroom stall at an airport, the networks all labeled him a Republican, over and over again, in every story. As the MRC documented, the morning and evening news shows on ABC, CBS and NBC identified Craig as a GOP-er in 100 percent of their stories.

**Gov. Lester Maddox (D)**

When Maddox, a segregationist former governor of Georgia died in July 2003, neither ABC’s *Good Morning America* nor NBC’s *Today* mentioned he was a Democrat — nor did ABC’s *World News Tonight* with Peter Jennings or CNBC’s *The News with Brian Williams*.

For more examples of the liberal media double standard on labeling Democrats vs. Republicans involved in scandals, go to www.MRC.org.
Couric Chicanery

CBS Evening News anchor Katie Couric scolded Republican presidential candidate John McCain on Sept. 24 for panic-inducing rhetoric because his running mate Sarah Palin had spoken of the Great Depression in an earlier interview. That day with CBS. What Couric didn’t tell McCain, or the Evening News’ 5 million viewers, is that Couric is the one who raised the ‘Great Depression’ topic with Palin in the first place, and that’s how the words entered the conversation.

“But isn’t so much of this, Senator McCain, about consumer confidence and using rhetoric like the ‘Great Depression,’ is that the kind of language Americans need to hear right now?” Couric asked McCain. In Couric’s interview with Palin, excerpts of which were broadcast later, it was Couric herself raising the issue, asking Palin: “If this [bailout] doesn’t pass, do you think there’s a risk of another Great Depression?”

Biden’s Man

CBS Evening News’ Chip Reid — who was general counsel for Democrat Joe Biden’s presidential run in 1987 — reported on Sept. 18 that Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel was not impressed with GOP VP pick Sarah Palin, suggesting that Hagel’s views represented those of many Republicans. Concerning Hagel, Reid reported, “he’s one of a number of prominent Republicans who have questioned whether Palin has enough experience in foreign policy.”

And, Reid noted, Hagel "says it’s a 'stretch' to say 'Sarah Palin is qualified to be President,' asking, quote: ‘You get a passport for the first time in your life last year?’" In addition to his work for Biden, which Reid did not disclose in his CBS report, he also was chief investigator.

CAC agenda,” which "flowed from Mr. Ayers’s educational philosophy, which called for infusing students and their parents with a radical political commitment, and which downplayed achievement tests in favor of activism.”

Bits & Pieces

Revolving Door

Former CNN international correspondent Aneesh Raman left the cable news station in June, saying he wanted to "try something different.” As the online newsletter MediaBistro subsequently reported, Raman’s “different” gig now involves working for Barack Obama’s presidential bid — in this case handling e-mail alerts for the campaign. Raman is just the latest in a long-line of liberals who have moved from journalism to Democratic political operative jobs. ABC reporter Linda Douglass joined the Obama campaign in May. Former CNN producer Kate Albright-Hanna also went to work for Obama back in 1999, and ABC’s Carole Simpson signed up with the Hillary Clinton campaign during the Democratic primaries.

Revolutionizing Ayers

The networks have all but ignored Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama’s close ties to American Weatherman terrorist Bill Ayers, particularly when the two men worked together for five years (1995-2000) for the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, a multi-million dollar charity that doled money to schools and left-wing projects. CBS, ABC, and NBC have blacked out coverage, with two exceptions — one brief reference on the ABC World News and one on ABC’s World News Sunday.

Beyond that, there have been 1,365 network news reports on Obama since the end of the primaries, but only 2 brief passing mentions of Ayers. Meanwhile, analyst Stanley Kurtz, after reviewing Chicago Annenberg Challenge documents publicly available, has reported in the Wall Street Journal that Obama and the bomb-setting Ayers "worked as a team to advance the

Russert Apologizes

While most of the top liberal media blowhards never admit a mistake or confess their biases, NBC’s
kids will vote for John McCain from UVA." Maybe Dan "National Guard-gate" Rather could learn a thing or two from Luke Russert?

60 Loaded Minutes

CBS's Scott Pelley interviewed John McCain on 60 Minutes on Sept. 21, telling him, "the criticism of Governor Palin is that she was a brilliant marketing choice for the campaign, but she's not well-versed on the economy or foreign affairs," and then Pelley demanded to know, "In your judgment, can you see her as president of the United States?" When McCain replied, "Absolutely," Pelley's voice betrayed astonishment as he fired back: "As President of the United States?"

Meanwhile, CBS's Steve Kroft had earlier interviewed Barack Obama, coaxing him with this softball: "Does the fact that he [McCain] chose as his vice president someone who has less experience than you take that weapon out of his arsenal?" There's not much McCain and Palin can do when 60 Minutes plays with a loaded deck.

Ignoring Fannie

While economists and conservatives, in and out of government, warned over the last five years of the huge financial risk inherent in the mortgage lending practices of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the network news programs largely ignored the problem. In fact, ABC, CBS, and NBC — prior to this year when Fannie and Freddie nearly went bankrupt — ran only 10 stories on the government-backed enterprises, according to an MRC analysis.

Yet with the Enron scandal, the networks went overtime in coverage. For example, a LexisNexis search of the term "Enron" on ABC, CBS, NBC, and the cable station CNN between Oct. 1, 2001 to July 1, 2002 -when the Enron scandal was breaking—produced 3,017 hits, which includes any reference to Enron, not just complete news stories. A similar search of "Fannie Mae" between June 1, 2004 and March 1, 2005 —when accounting scandals at Fannie were breaking—produced only 37 hits. Fannie and Freddie are liberal government-supported housing programs and therefore taboo from media scrutiny, and the coverage numbers prove it.

Minibits

■ ABC’s Cokie Roberts tars John McCain, "He’s a Republican and whenever Republicans get into this kind of mess, everybody, even people who were not born or close to being born, the specter of Herbert Hoover comes out to haunt them." ... Then Cokie trumpets: "I mean, the Obama advisers, with, looking at Bob Rubin and Warren Buffett and Paul Volcker in there, you know, you do feel a sense of security there." ■ TIME’s Andrew Sullivan rips on Sarah Palin: "She is a farce. This nomination, the nomination of this person to be potentially president of the United States next January is a joke. It is absurd! It is something that should be dismissed out of hand as the most irresponsible act any candidate has ever made, ever!" ■ ABC Nightline’s Cynthia McFadden whines: "Make no mistake, John McCain very well may defeat Barack Obama. But to do so, has he compromised principles in the style that got him this far? With just 47 days to the election, is the Straight Talk Express shifting course? Will the real John McCain please stand up?" ■ Newsweek’s Eleanor Clift drones that Palin as VP "is not a serious choice. It makes it look like a made for TV movie. If the media reaction is anything, it’s been literally laughter in many places — in very, very many newsrooms." ■ And Newsweek’s Howard Fineman adds: "Sarah Palin makes Barack Obama look like John Adams. I mean, it’s just, it’s no contest." ■ CNN’s David Gergen views Obama’s convention speech as metaphor: "In many ways it was less a speech than a symphony. It moved quickly, it had high tempo, at times inspiring, then it became more intimate, slower, all along sort of interweaving a main theme about America’s promise, echoes of Lincoln, of King, even of Reagan and of Kennedy. It was a masterpiece." ■ HBO’s Bill Maher actually says something reasonable about “the media gushing over” Obama at the Democratic Convention: "I mean, the coverage after, that I was watching, from MSNBC, I mean these guys were ready to have sex with him.”
Obama Tries To Flush Rush

For two decades, going back to the Willie Horton ads of 1988, we’ve heard liberals accuse Republicans of race-baiting. Throughout this campaign, there have been endless whispers, suggestions and outright accusations that the GOP could/would play the race card because Obama is half-black. Now Barack Obama has found his bizarre version of Willie Horton, and it’s Rush Limbaugh.

Obama sneakily tried to air a Spanish-language TV ad telling Latinos that Limbaugh thinks all Mexicans are stupid, Mexican immigrants should all shut up and go home, and that Limbaugh and John McCain are identical twins on immigration.

None of it is true. Now when Obama talks about reaching across the aisle and healing a divided Washington, we’ll fall to the ground laughing.

How far we’ve come since January, when moderate McCain won in South Carolina, and the liberal media were declaring that this showed that Limbaugh and his right-wing views were politically dead. Tom Brokaw huffily declared on Meet the Press that Limbaugh thinks all Mexicans are stupid, Mexican immigrants should all shut up and go home, and that Limbaugh and John McCain are identical twins on immigration.

None of it is true. Now when Obama talks about reaching across the aisle and healing a divided Washington, we’ll fall to the ground laughing.

What Obama was trying to do in this ad, obviously, was to play to racial fears. “They want us to forget the insults we’ve put up with, the intolerance,” the ad announcer proclaimed in Spanish as a picture of Rush Limbaugh appeared on screen with quotes of him allegedly saying, “Mexicans are stupid and unqualified” and “Shut your mouth or get out.” The announcer added: “They made us feel marginalized in a country we love so much.”

From there, the Democrats turned to tie this phony cartoon of Limbaugh to McCain: “John McCain and his Republican friends have two faces. One that says lies just to get our vote, and another, even worse, that continues the failed policies of George Bush that put special interests ahead of working families.”

The script first broke into the national media on a Washington Post blog called The Trail. It was first corrected on an ABC News blog by political reporter Jake Tapper. The mangled “Mexicans are stupid” quote came from 1993, during debate over the NAFTA trade agreement, when Rush suggested that America shouldn’t worry about losing low-skill jobs: “let the unskilled jobs that take absolutely no knowledge whatsoever to do -- let stupid and unskilled Mexicans do that work.”

Tapper suggested the second quote was “totally unfair,” since Limbaugh was suggesting in one of his morning radio commentaries in 2006 that the “Limbaugh Laws” of immigration would include not letting immigrants offer any criticism of the government or the president. “You’re a foreigner, shut your mouth, or get out.” At the end, he craftily noted that this and other laws are the immigration policy of Mexico.

But here’s where it gets fascinating. The Washington Post offered no “fact check” debunking Obama’s lies about Limbaugh in the news section of the paper. To her credit, liberal columnist Ruth Marcus slammed it five days later, but the news section did not. ABC News somehow allowed Tapper to blog everything that was wrong about the Obama ad, but never put him on television explaining it. ABC skipped it. So did CBS. So did NBC.

It gets worse. A day after Tapper’s online fact check, “Nightline” host Terry Moran put together a real hatchet job on McCain, accusing him of not only flip-flopping on the issues, but also flip-flopping on campaign decency. “The old John McCain repeatedly promised voters a different kind of campaign. Nobler, less nasty, better. … That was then. This is now.”

Moran reported that McCain mocked Obama’s vote in the Illinois Senate to allow “age-appropriate” sex education for kindergarteners. McCain was wrong to say in the ad that this vote was an “accomplishment,” since the bill never passed, even though Obama’s vote for this crucial place him against most parents and solidly on the libertine left. And his subsequent statement that he shouldn’t be tagged for that bill because he only voted for it, but didn’t sponsor it, is far more disingenuous.

Moran highlighted how the site Factcheck.org declared the McCain ad “simply false,” but never noticed that the same Factcheck.org also declared Obama’s Limbaugh ad “doubly misleading.”

Former Bush pollster Matthew Dowd completely sold out whatever soul he still possessed by singing harmony to Moran’s melody: “And I think the Obama campaign wants to have this as a campaign in the clouds. I think the McCain campaign wants to have a campaign that lives in the mud.”

So even as ABC’s website reports that Obama is gravely misleading Latinos about the alleged Mexican-hating Rush Limbaugh, El Gringo Maximo, ABC is airing ridiculous claims from its own “experts” proclaiming Obama wants to campaign “in the clouds.” Which camp is abandoning fair-play principles for political gain?
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
CBN: Newswatch, Sept. 25
CNN: The Situation Room, Sept. 16, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 10
EWTN: The World Over, Sept. 19, Oct. 10
FNC: America’s Election HQ, Oct. 3
America’s Newsroom, Sept. 23
Hannity & Colmes, Sept. 29
Fox & Friends, Sept. 9, 11, 25, Oct. 3, 8
Fox News Live, Sept. 8
Special Report with Brit Hume, Sept. 9
The O’Reilly Factor, Sept. 18

On Fox & Friends, MRC President Brent Bozell discusses the weak and liberally biased debate-moderator performance of NBC’s Tom Brokaw in the second presidential debate.

On Fox’s The O’Reilly Factor, Sept. 19, MRC Media Analysis Director Tim Graham documents NBC’s liberal bias against McCain/Palin and for Obama-Biden.

CNSNews.com Editor-in-Chief Terry Jeffrey details how the liberal media are downplaying Barack Obama’s radical record on cultural issues, on CNN’s The Situation Room, Oct. 6.

Radio
Sean Hannity Show, Sept. 9, 11
Lars Larson Show, Sept. 23
Thom Hartmann Show, Sept. 20
Faith2Action, Sept. 29
USA Radio Network, Oct. 3, 8
G. Gordon Liddy, Sept. 26
The Right Balance, Sept. 30, Oct. 3
American Family Radio, Sept. 29
Dateline America, Sept. 24
Coral Ridge Radio, Sept. 26
San Diego 1700, San Diego, CA, Oct. 1
Janet Parshall’s America, Sept. 30, Oct. 7
Clash Radio, Sept. 25
Vocal Point, Sept. 12
BizRadio Network, Sept. 10
Catholic Connections, Sept. 15
KNUS, Denver, CO, Sept. 13
KBAR, Burley, ID, Sept. 15
KAAY, Little Rock, AR, Sept. 8, 29
KFKA, Ft. Collins, CO, Sept. 18
Intenet Radio, Austin, TX, Sept. 29

Print
American Spectator, Sept. 22
The Hill, Oct. 1
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Sept. 1, 15, 22, 29
Star-Tribune, Sept. 29
Capitalism Magazine, Sept. 27
Associated Press, Sept. 25, 27
Deseret News, Sept. 25
Times Union, Sept. 24
Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sept. 24
Dakota Voice, Sept. 3
St. Petersburg Times, Sept. 9, 14, 25
The Heraldo, Aug. 29
Columbia Journalism Review, Sept./Oct.
Seattle Times, Sept. 25
National Post, Sept. 17
Star-Ledger, Sept. 16
Post Standard, Sept. 21

Internet
Drudge Report, Oct. 3
Rush Limbaugh.com, Sept. 25
Politico, Sept. 24
CBN.com, Sept. 19
FoxNews.com, Oct. 3
National Review Online, Oct. 2
The Hotline, Sept. 25, Oct. 2
Newsmax, Sept. 24, 28
Wizbang blog, Sept. 28
OneNewsNow.com, Sept. 30
Townhall.com, Sept. 15, Oct. 1
American Thinker, Sept. 9, 17
Get Religion.org, Sept. 15
Frontrunner, Sept. 24
U.S. News & World Report, Sept. 24

MRC Tim Graham’s report that NBC’s Luke Russert apologized about pro-Obama comments was picked up by the Associated Press.
Let Us Pay YOU for Supporting the MRC!

A Media Research Center charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a popular alternative to low-yielding fixed income and stock investments. CGAs offer a guaranteed, partially tax-free, lifetime income stream (with payout rates as high as 10.5%) along with current income tax savings.

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Including the Media Research Center in your estate plans guarantees that America’s Media Watchdog will continue to document, expose, and neutralize the liberal media for years to come — a fine legacy indeed!

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