

FLASH NEWS

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The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

Liberal Media Want U.S. Retreat in Iraq

Dear Friend,

The American left is in full-fledge defeatism mode. They don't want to win the war in Iraq, and they don't want to win the war against radical Islamic terrorists. They are doing all they can to undermine the war effort and push our political leaders into voting for a hasty retreat from Iraq, with our tails tucked behind us.

Fortunately, there are some stiff spines in the Administration and among our military leaders who understand the stakes involved and who will not quit, will not cut and run. But now they are fighting on two fronts: in Iraq and against the wave of media attacks here at home. And that's what makes our job at the MRC so vital.

How are the leftist media defeatist? Let's look at some examples. Back in November, Congressman John Murtha – who had been opposed to the Iraq war for more than a year – held a press conference where he said America “cannot prevail in this war” with the current policy. The media loved it. ABC, CBS, and NBC led their evening broadcasts with the story and continued to give Murtha extensive coverage in the weeks that followed.

How selective! When Congressman Joe Lieberman, a Democrat and a 2000 vice presidential candidate, wrote an op-ed in the Nov. 29 *Wall Street Journal* defending the current Iraq policy, **the liberal media**

ignored him. Neither ABC nor CBS mentioned Lieberman's comments. Nor did the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, or *USA Today* – **not a word.**

In another example, the *CBS Evening News* cited its own poll on Dec. 7, in which 58 percent of Americans questioned agreed

that an exit-Iraq timetable should be set. However, anchor Bob Schieffer **completely ignored another poll question** showing that 61 percent of Americans “agree with President Bush's statement that removing U.S. troops from Iraq now would be ‘a recipe for disaster.’”

That media bias is defeatism. That's cut and run. And that's not

what real Americans do. General George S. Patton, in speaking to his troops prior to the invasion of Europe, said:

“Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser. Americans play to win all the time. ...That's why Americans have never lost and will never lose a war. Because the very thought of losing is hateful to Americans.”

Indeed. And it is hateful to us at the MRC. Ever Forward!

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell
Founder and President



NBC and Andrea Mitchell made much ado about Congressman Murtha's criticism of President Bush's Iraq policy but, like most media, largely ignored Democratic Senator Joe Lieberman's support of that policy.

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MRC In The News



America's Media Watchdog

Brent Bozell Interviews Mary ‘Memogate’ Mapes on C-SPAN

Ex-CBS Producer Dodges Facts, Says National Guard Memos Are Not Forgeries

Mary Mapes, the former *60 Minutes* producer whose 2004 National Guard story on President Bush clearly exposed CBS’s liberal bias for the world to see and led to Dan Rather’s early resignation, still maintains the Guard story was accurate and that the Guard memos are not forgeries. She also believes that the story was not politically biased and that CBS does a good job of weeding out bias from its news reports.

Mapes carried on about these fantasies, and more, in an interview – not a debate – about her new book, *Truth and Duty: The Press, The President, and the Privilege of Power*. MRC President Brent Bozell conducted the interview for C-SPAN’s *Book TV* show, *After Words*. People can watch the exchange on a computer by going to the *After Words* Web site (www.booktv.org/AfterWords/index.asp?segid=6510&schedID=388).

As the hour-long interview showed, Mapes rarely answers questions with clear, distinct responses. She’s ambiguous, or provides only an answer marginal enough to get by. For instance, when asked by Brent Bozell whether she did an investigative report about Bill Clinton’s Vietnam record – i.e., dodging the draft – Mapes said no. But then she claimed she and CBS were in Arkansas digging into other things about Clinton, stories that never seemed “to pan out.”

Did she investigate John Kerry’s Vietnam war record? In fact, neither she nor CBS has ever done an investigative report, but Mapes disputed this saying there was a lot of coverage about the Swift Boat veterans’ charges. This is disingenuous. For months, CBS (along with virtually everyone else in the press) ignored the vets’ charges about John Kerry, and when CBS (along with the rest of the media) finally decided to cover the story, they did so – by savaging the Swift Boat vets. And did Mapes do an investigative report about Al Gore’s Vietnam service? Nope.

When asked what she thought of President Bush, the target of her and CBS’s hit piece, Mapes gave a school-girl reply: “What I think of every president. I think he is my commander-

in-chief.” The National Guard story, said Mapes, “is about who Bush is, at his core.” The story, Mapes insisted, was “not to make a judgment, good or bad, up or down,” but to “understand him [Bush] better.”

When asked about the forged documents, the centerpiece of the Guard story, Mapes claimed that she and CBS’s experts “did everything we possibly could to break them, to find flaws.” They somehow couldn’t find any flaws, she said. Within 14 hours of the airing of the Guard story, the MRC’s news division, CNSNews.com, had three document experts on record stating that the memos could not be authenticated and could be forgeries.

“Do you believe the memos are forgeries?” asked Bozell.

“No, I said, if these were forgeries, we would be very quickly able to show that they were,” said Mapes. “All of those protestations to the memos have now been proved to be bunk.”

To which Bozell responded: “Within two days of your story airing, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *L.A. Times*, *USA Today*, ABC, NBC, and CNN

all ran stories producing experts who said your story was false. They aren’t part of the Bush Camp and they aren’t part of the radical right.”

How did Mapes explain this one? Incredibly, she made herself out to be the victim. “I think there’s a cannibalistic tendency in media,” she said. “There is. ...I think it made it a much more interesting story to make it about CBS rather than the Bush Guard story, which is tedious ...The media likes gotchas, and we became the subject of a gotcha.”

In her book, Mapes says that she and Rather were victims of a Joe McCarthy-like “witch hunt” – alleged “liberals” who had become the new Communists.” Ironically, it was McCarthy who was vilified and thrust from power in part because he had a list of communists that his enemies said could not be authenticated. History has vindicated McCarthy. It will not vindicate Mapes, Rather and CBS.





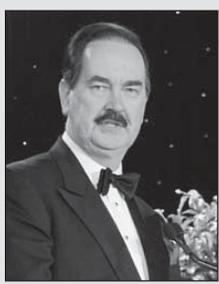
SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 30, 2006

**The MRC’s Annual Gala featuring the DisHonors
and Man of the Year Awards**

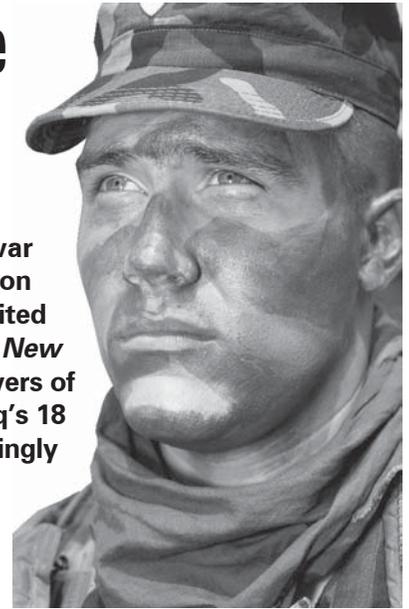
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Join the MRC,
Cal Thomas, and
more than 1,000
movers and
shakers in the
conservative
movement as we
roast the most
liberal members
of the national
news media.

MRC Study on Iraq War Coverage Bombards Capitol Hill



The MRC's new Special Report on the media's defeatist coverage of the war in Iraq, *TV's Bad News Brigade*, continues to make waves, in the news and on Capitol Hill. For example, in a lengthy lead editorial, *Investor's Business Daily* cited heavily from the study to buttress its argument that the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, and other top media are biased. How many of their readers "or viewers of the evening news know about the underreported good news – such as 14 of Iraq's 18 provinces are virtually violence-free?" asked IBD. The liberal Juan Williams, surprisingly enough, praised the thoroughness of the report on the Fox News Channel.

On another front, Congressman Jack Kingston distributed the report to his colleagues on Capitol Hill along with a "Dear Colleague" letter, explaining the importance of the study. He also cited the study on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*. The report, *TV's Bad News Brigade: ABC, CBS and NBC's Defeatist Coverage of the War in Iraq*, examined all 1,388 news stories broadcast by the evening news on ABC, CBS, and NBC between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30. The results showed that 61 percent of the stories were negative or pessimistic while only 15 percent of the stories were positive or optimistic – a four-to-one ratio. (An update, analyzing coverage on cable news stations, will be released in early 2006.)

Rep. Kingston's letter is reproduced here:

December 7, 2005

Dear Republican Colleague:

This past week I traveled to Iraq as part of a bipartisan delegation to gauge the morale of our troops, talk with the officers and soldiers about the war, and witness the progress in Iraq and that of the Iraqi people. The bottom line: The war in Iraq is a much different war than the one we read about in the major media everyday. **Progress is being made.**

As you may have read in Tuesday's *Washington Times*, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "We've arrived at a strange time in this country, where the worst about America and our military seems to so quickly be taken as truth by the press and reported and spread around the world." He continued, saying the reporting is "often with little context and little scrutiny, let alone correction or accountability after the fact."

Attached is a report prepared by the Media Research Center, which studied the networks' coverage of the war in Iraq in 2005 and found that, in fact, the networks HAVE BEEN biased.

For instance, the data show that the coverage has been:

- **Overwhelmingly pessimistic;**
- **Increasingly negative over time;**
- **Highlighting terrorist attacks as centerpieces of the nightly news;**
- **Downbeat on the Iraqi political process; and**
- **Limited to only eight stories of heroism or valor by U.S. troops — out of 1,388 news reports!**

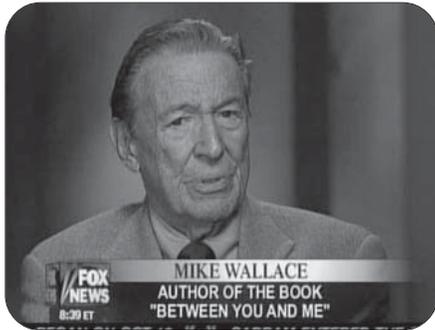
This new study confirms what our troops told me in Iraq, that they wondered why only the bad news seemed to be getting reported to Americans through the media. **Our nation's media can do better.** Journalists have an obligation and responsibility to report in a fair and balanced manner.

Unfortunately, for the story about the war in Iraq, that's not happening.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston

Member of Congress



Mike Wallace concedes that the National Guard memos should not have been used in the Bush hit piece produced by Mary Mapes and reported by Dan Rather.

60 Minutes 'Chaos'

The day before the *60 Minutes* broadcast of the National Guard forged memo story – Memogate – the CBS office was in “chaos,” said Mike Wallace, who also revealed that Dan Rather had not even seen the final version of the report before it aired on Sept. 8, 2004. In a Nov. 28 interview for *The O'Reilly Factor*, Wallace agreed that the forged memos should not have been used unless CBS was satisfied beyond a “reasonable doubt” that they were accurate – a threshold that neither Rather nor his producer, Mary Mapes, sought to attain.

“I didn't know what they were doing,” said Wallace, and “they didn't want us to know what they were doing” with the memo story. Further, Wallace told Rather, “everybody who was

involved with you in this thing, everybody got fired. Why didn't you go with them? Or did it never occur to you along the way? ... Everybody, everybody got fired. And Dan didn't.”

North Korea's Mouthpiece

ABC *World News Tonight's* new co-anchor, Bob Woodruff, has a history of liberal bias. Not surprisingly, even ABC's honchos boosted Woodruff's resume by noting his coverage from communist North Korea as “unprecedented access” in a “secretive country.” Yet as the MRC reported about that June 10 story, his coverage served as little more than an international soapbox for communist propaganda.



ABC and *World News Tonight* co-anchor Bob Woodruff are proud of relaying Communist North Korean propaganda to an American audience of more than 6 million people.

From Pyongyang, accompanied by state “minders,” Woodruff went aboard the captured U.S.S. Pueblo and relayed how the “officer who gave us a tour today said the ship's an example of American crimes and another reason Koreans don't like Americans.” Woodruff then went to a collective farm where an 11-year-old girl said of Americans: “They killed Korean people.” Only two days later did Woodruff concede that “because we were not allowed to bring in our own translator, we had to rely on our minders to tell us what people were saying.” So, for all we know, they could have been praising Americans?

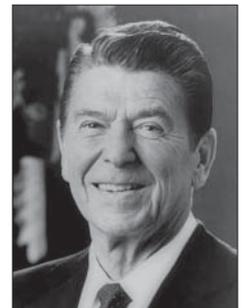
Bias Confirmed, Again

The media elite are way left of the public when it comes to the war on terrorism, confirms a poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. For instance, 56 percent of the public believes “efforts to establish a stable democracy” in Iraq will succeed, while 63 percent of the media think it will fail. Also, 48 percent of the public thinks going to war in Iraq was correct, but 71 percent of the media consider it a bad decision.

The public is split at 44 percent on whether the Iraq war has helped or hurt the war on terrorism. But 68 percent of the media elite say it has hurt. And 46 percent of the public believe torture of terrorist suspects is often or sometimes “justified,” while 78 percent of the media contend it's “rarely” or “never” justified. The media's approval of Bush's job performance — 21 percent — is half that of the public's.

Ketchup is Great!

Remember how back in the 1980s, the liberal media took a non-adopted bureaucratic rule that said ketchup qualified as a vegetable and mocked the Reagan Administration continuously about it? Back in 1981, a White House reporter asked President Reagan, “The style of your administration is being called millionaires on parade. Do you feel that you are being sensitive enough to the symbolism of Republican mink coats, limousines, thousand-dollar-a-plate china at the White House, when ghetto kids are being told they can eat ketchup as a vegetable?”



CBS, which ridiculed Ronald Reagan and the “ketchup is a vegetable” rule, now says ketchup is as nutritious “as a ripe tomato.”

Want to stay on top of media bias? Sign up for the *CyberAlert* e-mail report.

It's FREE!

To subscribe, just e-mail jbookwalter@mediaresearch.org Mention that you read about the offer in *FLASH*.

That ridicule apparently only applies to attacks on conservatives. For in its Dec. 6 “Inside Scoop” email, CBS reported, “DID YOU KNOW? 4 tablespoons of ketchup has about the same amount of nutrition as a ripe tomato.”

U.S. Like China?

NBC’s Matt Lauer has ludicrously implied that the way U.S. troops allegedly treated some terrorist prisoners is equal to the way that communist China treats its political prisoners. On the Nov. 14 *Today* show, Lauer asked Bush counselor Dan Bartlett: “The President and the administration have been tough on the Chinese over the subject of human rights. Now the administration itself is under the spotlight over the subject of torture of prisoners in U.S. custody. Does this make it any trickier for the President to go and address this issue with the Chinese?”

Bartlett rejected the premise and pointed out how the U.S. follows international treaties. For the record: Communist China has killed more than 60 million of its own people; more than 1,000 laogai prison labor camps are in operation today; and, the communist



NBC’s Matt Lauer, a *Today* co-host and apparent geo-political human rights expert, suggests that the U.S. treats Iraqi prisoners like the Communist Chinese treat their prisoners.

Chinese government recently admitted that it sells the body organs of executed prisoners on the open market. But that’s just the record.

No Bias at CBS!

New CBS President Sean McManus revealed on Nov. 8 that he doesn’t see any liberal bias at CBS. As recounted by “Public Eye” blog editor Vaughn Ververs on CBSNews.com: “Asked if he feels the need to address perceptions that CBS has a left-wing bias, McManus said no, adding, ‘it’s

very difficult for any reporter or producer to completely and totally shut out his political opinions, but what I’ve seen at CBS News, people do a darned good job at doing that.

“I guess if I saw that creeping into our coverage I would have to address it. But I don’t see that in our coverage. I think we have been falsely accused of that at times.” McManus’s predecessor, Andrew Heyward, considered liberal bias a fantasy of “extremists of the right,” and claimed, “Our job is to communicate the truth to people.”

DeLay What?

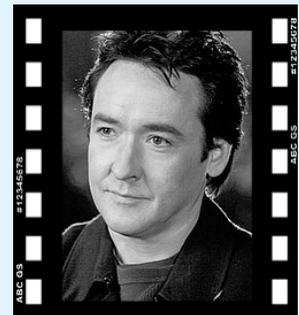
When Congressman Tom DeLay was indicted on a conspiracy charge on Sept. 28, the networks played up the story incessantly, giving it lead coverage and extensive analysis. ABC, CBS, and NBC all aired two segments each on the topic. Yet when a Texas judge dismissed the conspiracy charge on Dec. 5, ABC gave the story only 16 seconds of coverage while NBC gave it 20 seconds. CBS showed some consistency by devoting significant time – but not the lead story.

MINIBITS

Newsweek’s **Christopher Dickey**.

☛ CNN gives **Michael Moore** “exclusive” time to rant: “The President doesn’t understand that it is mainstream middle America who has turned against him and his immoral war, and that it is I and the Democrats who represent the mainstream. It is Mr. Bush who is the extremist.” ☛ Political genius **Rob Reiner**, a.k.a. Meathead, declares “if we had just one house of Congress, this man [Bush] would be impeached.” ☛ Another Hollywood Von Clausewitz, **John Cusack**, agrees, saying of the Bush Administration, “This is indeed a league of bastards — these men are human scum.” ☛ Keith “Ratings in the Cellar” Olbermann lets Air America lefty **Janeane Garofalo** rip: “Bob Novak, spiritually, like a lot of other right-wing partisan hacks, are [sic] always on the verge of punching somebody or always, they always behave as if they’ve just been cut off in traffic. ...[T]hey have an anger management problem There is definitely a right-wing bias in the media that protects these bullies”

☛ Amazing! **Mike Wallace** asks a fair question: “I had a pleasant, sensible discussion with Dan [Rather]. I said everybody who was involved with you in this [Memogate], everybody got fired. Why didn’t you go with them? Or did it never occur to you along the way?”



Actor John Cusack rants that the Bush Administration is “a league of bastards” and “human scum.”

By David Thibault
CNSNews.com Editor-in-Chief



MoveOn.org Sets a New Standard for the Bizarre

It's gotten so easy to pick apart the work of the liberal political activists at MoveOn.org that sometimes I wonder if the group isn't producing skits for "Saturday Night Live." It won't surprise you to learn that CNSNews.com played a major part in busting up MoveOn's latest skit.

Once again railing about the war in Iraq, MoveOn.org produced a 30-second television ad, lambasting the Bush administration and using video of a family gathered around Thanksgiving dinner to note that "some folks won't be home this holiday season."

Following this sickening bit of exploitation, the ad provided some comic relief. While showing video of soldiers standing in front of a tent, the narrator intoned: "A hundred and fifty thousand American men and women are stuck in Iraq."

Apparently, the only ones "stuck" were the producers of the ad, since the video they used purportedly of American soldiers was actually that of . . . British soldiers. This raised

the question of whether MoveOn.org tried to slip one past America, hoping the country wouldn't notice, or whether "the idiots from MoveOn.org . . . don't even know what an American soldier looks like!" as one U.S. Army captain later wrote to OpinionJournal.com columnist James Taranto.

But the merely stupid became absurd when MoveOn.org also tried to doctor one of the images on a storyboard accompanying the video on the group's website. The American – I mean British – soldier standing in front of the tent wearing shorts in the original television ad was now mysteriously wearing long pants for the website depiction without having moved an inch.

Once conservative bloggers outed MoveOn.org, CNSNews.com's Randy Hall was the first to notice that the group had yanked the ad from its website. Among the sources Randy used for his Nov. 30 article, entitled "MoveOn.org Pulls

Anti-War Ad Following Criticism" was Todd Vician, a spokesman with the U.S. Defense Department. Vician confirmed that none of the men featured in the storyboard photograph was wearing U.S. uniforms. "We don't have that style of desert camouflage," Vician told Randy.

Since MoveOn.org ignored several requests by Randy for comment to be used in his article, he was unable to ask the group about the logic of putting long pants on a British soldier and trying to represent him as an American.

When the *Drudge Report* picked up Randy's story the same afternoon of its publication, our readership soared and so, it would seem, did the level of embarrassment at MoveOn.org headquarters. Matt Drudge's millions of readers all over the world were now given instant access to the CNSNews.com article entailing how a group devoted to criticizing the U.S. war effort couldn't tell the difference between an American and a British soldier.

We wondered whether the quirky billionaire activist George Soros, one of MoveOn's biggest financial benefactors in the past, might want a refund. But a quick reminder of how Soros' millions were used to assist John Kerry's presidential campaign in 2004 made the latest MoveOn.org tactics seem perfectly consistent.

Hours after the Web site version of the MoveOn.org ad was removed, the group posted a fund-raising appeal as a replacement. "Help Put A New Ad on TV," the pitch declared, alongside a photo of a turkey on a Thanksgiving table and the superimposed words, "Where Are The Republicans?"

We're pretty sure that Americans were once again amused when they saw the picture of a turkey right next to a MoveOn.org fundraising pitch. Do you think MoveOn officials recognized the opportunity they had just served up to their critics? No, I guess not.





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

- ☛ C-SPAN, Washington Journal, Dec. 8
- ☛ Hearst Argyle TV, Oct. 14
- ☛ MSNBC, *Scarborough Country*, Nov. 28
- ☛ C-SPAN2, *After Words*, Dec. 3-4
- ☛ FNC, *Fox News Watch*, Nov. 5

RADIO

- Janet Parshall's America, Dec. 7
- WHO, Des Moines, Nov. 15
- KMED, Medford, Nov. 15, Dec. 5
- WMUZ, Detroit, Nov. 16
- Ringside Politics, Nov. 16
- KAHL, San Antonio, Nov. 16
- WAAM, Ann Arbor, Nov. 19
- KOGO, San Diego, Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 2
- WBAL, Baltimore, Nov. 19
- Family News in Focus, Nov. 7
- WTWB, Nov. 3
- WAFG, Ft. Lauderdale, Dec. 1
- WIBC, Indianapolis, Dec. 1
- The Right Balance, Dec. 6
- WLPP, Parkersburg, WV., Dec. 8

PRINT

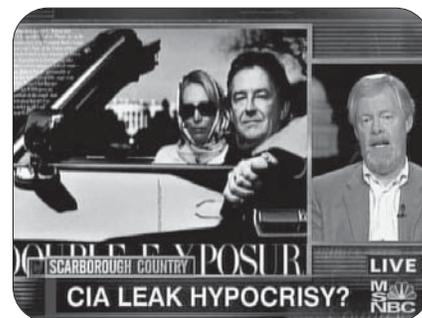
- Baltimore Sun*, Nov. 2
- Washington Times*, Nov. 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 21, 25
- Washington Times*, Dec. 5, 6, 9
- Investor's Business Daily*, Nov. 1, 4, 7, 23, 25, 29
- Investor's Business Daily*, Dec. 5
- Seattle Times*, Nov. 30
- Chicago Tribune*, Dec. 7
- PR Web*, Nov. 14, 22
- Chicago Sun-times*, Dec. 3
- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, Nov. 6, 7, 21, Dec. 4
- United Press International, Nov. 16
- Charlotte Observer*, Nov. 15
- Austin American-Statesman*, Nov. 20

- Minnesota Daily*, Nov. 17
- Gallatin News Examiner*, Nov. 16
- Human Events*, Nov. 4, 16
- Monterey County Herald*, Dec. 6
- Centre Daily Times*, Nov. 2
- Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*, Dec. 7
- Orlando Sentinel*, Dec. 7
- Philadelphia Inquirer*, Dec. 7
- Sun-Sentinel*, Dec. 7
- Ventura County Star*, Dec. 7
- Winnipeg Sun*, Dec. 6
- Hartford Courant*, Nov. 27
- Chattanooga Times Free Press*, Nov. 7
- Tulsa World*, Nov. 3
- Ventura County Star*, Dec. 6
- Augusta Chronicle*, Nov. 2
- Wichita Eagle*, Nov. 2

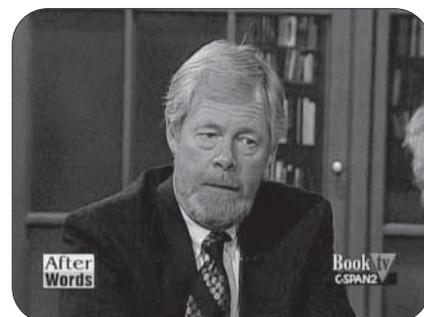
INTERNET

- CBS News: Public Eye, Nov. 3
- American Thinker, Nov. 7, 21, Dec. 5
- Rush Limbaugh.com, November
- American Spectator Online, Nov. 18
- Nat. Assoc. of Manufacturers blog, Dec. 1
- Media Matters for America, Nov. 29, Dec. 7
- NCPA, Nov. 3
- TPM Café, Nov. 28
- The Thing Is, Nov. 28
- Townhall.com, Nov. 4, 11, 16, 19, 24, 29
- Human Events Online, Nov. 23, Dec. 2, 7
- The Rant.us, Dec. 7
- The American Thinker, Nov. 23
- ChronWatch, Nov. 21, Dec. 3
- theOne Republic, Nov. 15, Dec. 5
- The Reality Check, Nov. 19
- National Ledger, Nov. 2, 19
- Agape Press, Nov. 18
- News Hounds, Nov. 1, 2
- PowerLine blog, Dec. 8
- Agape Press, Dec. 6

PARTIAL LISTING FOR ALL MEDIA



MRC President Brent Bozell explains on *Scarborough Country* why the liberal media love the Valerie Plame "leak" story but are ignoring the leak-angle about CIA prisons in Europe.



Brent Bozell challenges Mary Mapes to explain why nearly all the major news outlets reported that her George Bush-National Guard memos were fakes, on C-SPAN's *Book TV*.



MRC Research Director Rich Noyes discusses media criticism of President Bush's talk-by-satellite with U.S. troops in Iraq, with Hearst-Argyle Television Producer Sally Kidd.

POST-TAX ANALYSIS

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Including the Media Research Center in your financial 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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Age	Rate
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65.....	6.0%
70.....	6.5%
75.....	7.1%
80.....	8.0%
85.....	9.5%
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