

# FLASH NEWS

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The Media Research Center's Monthly Members' Report

## Liberal Media Continue to Twist War News to Hurt President

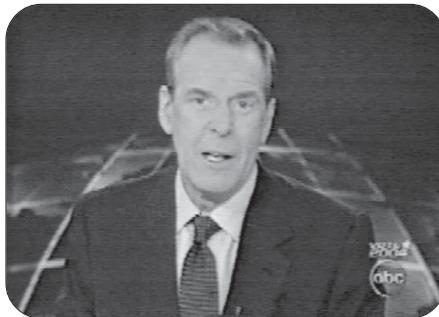
### Dear Member,

Despite good news on almost every front, many in the liberal media continue to undermine President Bush and the American military effort in Iraq.

Consider how some covered the capture of Saddam Hussein. What was ABC's reaction? Within an hour of the announcement, ABC White House reporter Terry Moran had the audacity to "report" that a public trial of the dictator could "embarrass" the United States. Later that day, even after images of cheering Iraqis had been broadcast around the world, Peter Jennings arrogantly and dishonestly tried to pour salt on the Bush administration.

"People have suggested to us today," the Canadian-born anchor said, "[that] there's not a good deal for Iraqis to be happy about at the moment." But Jennings wasn't finished. He then complained that many Iraqis said life "is not as stable for them as it was when Saddam Hussein was in power."

Iraq was "stable" under Hussein because his murdering henchmen viciously controlled every facet of life and killed anyone stepping out of line, as Jennings well knows. To say that Iraqis weren't happy over the tyrant's capture is as irresponsible comment as I've ever heard a network journalist make.



On the day Saddam Hussein was captured, ABC anchor Peter Jennings suggested that "there was not a good deal for Iraqis to be happy about at the moment."

But the ABC anchor was hardly finished. The day after the capture, ABC's *Good Morning America* reported that a new ABC News-*Washington Post* poll "shows most Americans don't believe Saddam Hussein's capture means the job is done there." What *GMA* didn't mention, and what Jennings deliberately withheld from the public on *World News Tonight* later that day, was that

the poll found that President Bush's approval ratings had jumped significantly with news of the capture. Why do we say "deliberately withheld?" Because these were the findings of ABC's own poll, which ABC kept from the public!

This deceitful reporting by ABC is just the latest in a series of stories over the past months that have been twisted to the President's detriment.

Just before Thanksgiving, a leaked, classified Defense Department memo highlighting contacts between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein's Iraq was published by the conservative *Weekly Standard* magazine. The explosive memo contained no less than 50 specific points, which if true, proves that these two monsters were working hand-in-glove. It was huge news, especially because it proves anti-war activists like Howard Dean dead wrong about the justification for going to

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*America's Media Watchdog*

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war. *The Washington Post*, *New York Times* and cable networks duly noted the story and ran articles about the leak.

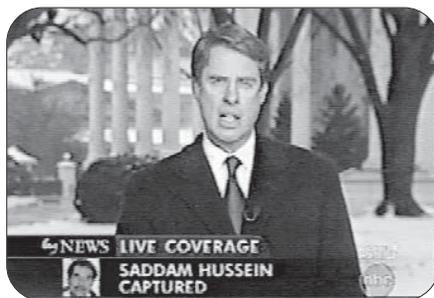
But ABC, NBC and CBS didn't report one word on this.

This reticence is stunning. When a White House staffer leaked the identity of a CIA agent in late September, the networks jumped all over it, slamming the Bush administration relentlessly. NBC, CBS and ABC ran "leak" stories for three consecutive nights. But that was a leak that could hurt the President, not help him.

The next wave of "Get Bush" stories came shortly after the President's Thanksgiving visit to Baghdad. The troops loved the fact that their Commander-in-Chief had risked life and limb to share Thanksgiving dinner with them. They greeted him, according to those present, with thunderous applause. The American people loved it, too.

All this was too much for the leftist "news" media, who thought the President received far too much credit for the trip and were determined to bring him down a notch.

The most ridiculous story was generated by *Washington Post* reporter Mike Allen. In the December 4 *Post*, Allen broke the jaw-dropping news that the turkey President Bush had been holding in a widely-distributed photograph from the visit was not a real



**Within an hour of Hussein's capture, ABC was downplaying it. White House correspondent Terry Moran even claimed that a public trial of Hussein would be "embarrassing."**

turkey after all. It was a "decorative" one.

That's right. One of the nation's preeminent newspapers dedicated an entire story to a fake turkey. And the *Post* wasn't alone. CNN's Aaron Brown was so impressed by the charge that he dedicated eight full minutes to the "scandal" on his *Newsnight* program.

As soon as the "Turkeygate" furor passed, the media moved on to another anti-Bush story. France, Germany and Russia – those three countries that had not only opposed the war against Saddam Hussein but had actively worked against American efforts – had been excluded from Iraq reconstruction contracts by the Pentagon. And it was an absolute shame, according to the networks.

"President Bush has decided to punish some major countries by excluding them from the rebuilding of

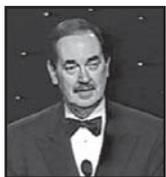
Iraq," CBS anchor Dan Rather told viewers on the December 10 Evening News. Rather then suggested, without providing a shred of evidence, that the decision might be an attempt to take care of some of the President's corporate buddies, since "American companies, especially those like Halliburton with close ties to the administration, are being paid handsomely" for their work in Iraq.

As you expect, the MRC has been exposing and documenting this spin cycle since it started. On December 16, I issued a national release that condemned ABC's coverage of Hussein's capture and it was an instant hit with talk radio – within two hours MRC spokesmen were booked on 10 talk radio programs all over the country. I also appeared on MSNBC's *Scarborough Country* to discuss the networks' refusal to cover the explosive Defense Department leak on al Qaeda-Hussein ties and on CNN's *Crossfire* to debate a viciously anti-Bush movie producer. At the same time, our daily *CyberAlerts* have highlighted – and ridiculed – the "Turkeygate" coverage of the *Washington Post* and CNN.

None of these efforts are possible without your support, and as always, I thank you for it.

Until next time,

L. Brent Bozell III



Cal Thomas



Hon. Katherine Harris



Sean Hannity



Ann Coulter



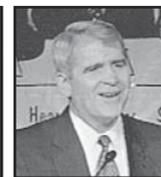
Steve Forbes



Laura Ingraham



William F. Buckley, Jr.



Oliver North

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

# The MRC's Annual Star-Studded Gala and DisHonors Awards

On Thursday, March 18, 2004, join a thousand movers and shakers of the conservative movement at the Omni Shoreham Hotel for "The most humorous night in Washington!"

**Tickets go on Sale December 15th**

**SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER FOR MRC MEMBERS:**

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**RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!**

Photos above are from past MRC galas and represent only a handful of the personalities who participate in or attend the annual event.



## Liberal Media Still Insist Dean is a *Moderate*

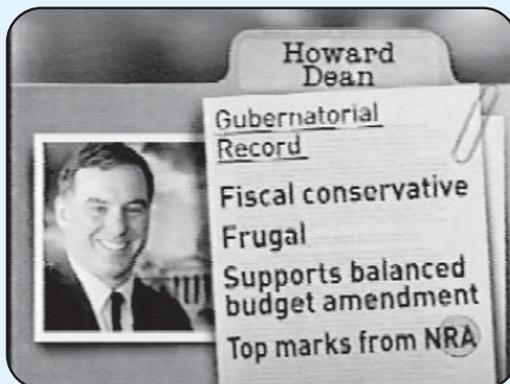
Rest easy, America. Howard Dean, the former Governor of Vermont and front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, is no radical. No, he's a political moderate who is a strong fiscal conservative.

At least that's what the news media are trying to sell to the public.

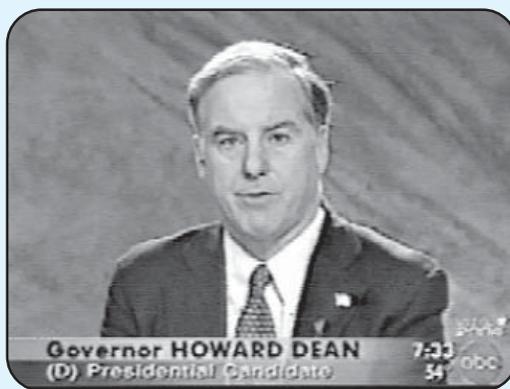
On the December 9 *CBS Evening News*, reporter Byron Pitts defended Dean against Republican charges that the former governor was a liberal. Pitts pointed out that the Democrat supported a balanced budget amendment and had received high marks from the National Rifle Association during his five terms as Vermont governor. "He was a fiscal conservative," Pitts told viewers, "well known for being frugal from budget cuts to this own bargain basement wardrobe."

This is nonsense. Howard Dean is liberal to the core. He opposed the war in Iraq, favors a rollback of President Bush's tax cuts, enthusiastically supports gay marriage, and once called partial-birth abortion a "phony" issue. CBS knows all this, but it doesn't change their view of Dean's "moderation."

CBS is not only network going soft on Dean. On the December 1 *Good Morning America*, ABC's Charles Gibson asked Dean about his sealed gubernatorial records. "Is there something in those records that you don't want public?" Gibson inquired.



**Howard Dean's pro-gay marriage, pro-abortion and anti-war and anti-tax cuts, but CBS News still insists he's not a liberal.**



Instead of answering the question, Dean attacked President Bush, claiming the President had sent his Texas gubernatorial records to his father's presidential library, where they are under a 50-year seal. "I'll unseal mine if he'll unseal his," Dean haughtily snapped.

Gibson didn't press Dean to explain his stand – but he should have. As MRC Vice President Brent Baker noted in his December 4 *CyberAlert*, the Associated Press reported that President Bush's gubernatorial records aren't at his father's library at all. They're at the Texas

State Library and Archives Commission and are open under Texas public record laws.

Will ABC, or any other network, follow up and demand Dean open his records? We'll be watching to see.

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## Newsweek Editor: Public Needs "Education" on Gay Marriage

*Newsweek* assistant managing editor Evan Thomas admitted he was stumped.

"I really don't get this whole [gay marriage] debate," Thomas said on the November 22 *Inside Washington*. "I'm pro-marriage. I don't care whether it's gays, straights. Anything that promotes commitment between couples and helps the institution of the family is a positive thing. Why aren't we for that?"

What's needed, the *Newsweek* editor added, is for Democrats to stop being "cowards" and help "educate the public" about gay marriage.

According to polls, an overwhelming majority of Americans oppose gay marriage, but Thomas thinks so little of our convictions that he believes a couple



**Newsweek editor Evan Thomas just doesn't understand why Americans are upset about gay marriage.**

of statements from a few political leaders will change our minds. If that isn't proof that the *Newsweek* editor is woefully out-of-touch with the American mainstream – and terribly contemptuous of it as well – then we don't what is.

## MRC Battles Hollywood's Bush Bashers

When a group of left-wing Hollywood activists held a "Bush haters" rally in Los Angeles on December 2, the MRC took to the airwaves to defend President Bush.

Appearing on CNN's *Crossfire*, MRC President Brent Bozell debated liberal host Paul Begala and left-wing Hollywood director Robert Greenwald, who both insisted that "Bush haters" are perfectly in tune with public sentiment.

"We've got widespread agreement among Republicans, Democrats and independents that [President Bush] is



**On CNN's *Crossfire*, MRC President Brent Bozell debated the effectiveness of a Hollywood "Bush haters" rally.**

betraying the values of our country," Greenwald claimed. The leftist producer added that he had traveled across America and had found that "regular citizens" were terribly upset with Bush and the war in Iraq.

President Bozell countered that the actions of Greenwald and his elitist, Bush-hating friends actually help the President.

"There's nothing more that the Bush administration should want than this group of lunatic-fringe leftists out there campaigning against him, because he'll win in a landslide," Bozell noted.

## And We Were Right About *The Reagans!*

After the MRC forced CBS to cancel its dishonest miniseries *The Reagans*, Viacom, CBS' corporate parent, decided



**Liberal journalist Lou Cannon had the same reaction to *The Reagans* as the MRC: it was horrible and unfair.**

the movie had to be shown somewhere and foisted it off on its pay cable network Showtime.

Showtime aired the movie on November 30 and followed it with commentary from several former journalists. And they were not impressed.

"It's hard to imagine a cartoon could be that bad," Reagan biographer and former *Washington Post* reporter Lou Cannon said during the panel discussion. "It's so bad that I don't even know how they got there," the respected biographer added.

Even the quite liberal former NBC correspondent Marvin Kalb was upset. The movie was "insensitive" and "hostile" to Reagan, Kalb noted. "When one realizes that President Reagan is in California in the tail end of a deep siege with Alzheimer's, this is not the time to do this kind of movie," he added.

Fox's Chris Wallace, an ABC and NBC News veteran who covered the Reagan White House, voiced his disgust with the movie to the *New York Daily News*. The Fox correspondent noted that the 40th president was "nobody's fool" but the "portrayal of him was as a laughable character."

"I hated it," he added. So did we. So did America.

## Run, Hillary, Please Run!

Sen. Hillary Clinton's trip to Iraq in late November was overshadowed by President Bush's surprise visit to the troops in Baghdad. But the networks were quick to make it up to the junior

senator from New York, booking her on all three broadcast network Sunday news shows on December 7.

And what did NBC's Tim Russert, ABC's George Stephanopoulos and CBS' John Roberts want to know? Would the former first lady, despite her numerous statements to the contrary, jump into the 2004 race for the Democratic presidential nomination?

Russert was the most persistent, asking the question in one form or another ten times. The biggest softballs, as expected, came from her former White House colleague Stephanopoulos.



The networks rolled the red carpet out for Sen. Hillary Clinton when she returned from a visit to Iraq. The former First Lady appeared on all three network morning shows on Dec. 7.

The former Clinton aide-turned-"nonpartisan"-ABC-journalist wondered if Saint Hillary would take the second slot in order to save the party. The *This Week* host fantasized that a pollster would approach the former First Lady and say "Senator Clinton, if you join the ticket the Democrats can win this race, if you don't they can't." Will you accept?"

Hillary laughed the question off – does anyone seriously think she wants to be Vice President? – but Stephanopoulos still wasn't buying. "That's not a no," he happily yelped.

The fawning treatment Clinton received during the Sunday show "triple play," makes it clear that she is the elite media's favorite politician. And you can bet she will use that to her advantage, whenever she decides to run.

### Anti-War Equals "Centrist"

Former Vice President Al Gore endorsed Howard Dean for the Democratic nomination on December 9 and listed the former Vermont governor's opposition to the liberation of Iraq as the primary reason. "He was the only major candidate to make the correct judgment about the Iraq war," Gore claimed



Al Gore endorsed Howard Dean because of his anti-war stance and reporters still described the former Vice President as a "centrist."

And how did the networks characterize the man who based his support for Dean on the candidate's anti-war stance? Why, it made him a tried and true "centrist."

CBS' David Axelrod called the former Vice President a "centrist Southerner" in his December 9 *Evening News* report and NBC's Katie Couric used even stronger language on the next morning's *Today*, describing Gore as a "hardcore centrist."

It appears that no matter how far left Al Gore goes, whether on the war or on the environment, network journalists are still going to insist that he's a moderate.

## mini-bits

☞ "There are some American Indians who feel that Thanksgiving should be a day of mourning, not a day of celebration, because of what happened to their people," NBC's **Ann Curry** claims ☞ Is **Tom Brokaw** mad at the MRC? "[Some conservative groups] suffocate vigorous discourse by identifying those who refuse to conform and encouraging a kind of e-mail or telephonic jihad which is happily carried out by the well-funded organizations operating under the guise of promoting fair press coverage" ☞ **Katie Couric** says former President Clinton made Democrats "more centrist. Did he sell his soul to the Devil in order to get more votes, and was that a massive mistake?" ☞ CBS' **Leslie Stahl** worries about Saddam's comfort, asking Donald Rumsfeld: "Would we deprive him of sleep, would we make it very cold where he is, or very hot?"



Couric wonders if Bill Clinton sold his soul.

By David Thibault  
CNSNews.com Managing Editor



# Dean's Record on Abortion. Who Cares? We Do.

You might be wondering what has happened to Scott Hogenson, the executive editor for CNSNews.com. Rest assured, he's fine, currently off on a one-year sabbatical in the political trenches of the Republican National Committee. The good news is he'll be back following the November 2004 election. In the meantime, I'll keep you up to date on our efforts at CNSNews.com, which have recently been rededicated to a more investigative style of Internet journalism.

We've always looked at the stories that go unreported or under-reported, but now we'll try to pack more punch in each of those stories, even if it means devoting more time than to which we're accustomed. We'll be looking for the hidden motives, behind the scenes strategies and money trails of the political/cultural left, which as you know, continues its relentless push of a liberal agenda on American households.

With this new mission in mind, we recently set out to look at the abortion record of the currently anointed frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination – Howard Dean.

It's no secret that Dean is aggressively pro-abortion. When President Bush recently signed the partial birth abortion ban into law (now on hold pending the results of three federal lawsuits) Dean called it a "dark day for American women."

It's also no secret that Dean, who is a physician, once served on the board of trustees for the Northern New England chapter of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. He even brags about it on his presidential campaign website.

But what CNSNews.com revealed this month was the extent to which Dean was involved with the nation's top abortion provider. With most members of the media trying to figure out what Dean hid when he had his gubernatorial records sealed for ten years, they missed or didn't care about the fact that Dean had served as an intern and a contract obstetrician/gynecologist for a Planned Parenthood clinic in Burlington, Vt., in the late 1970s. It is now appropriate to ask: Was Howard Dean an abortionist?

The CNSNews.com disclosures prompted one pro-life activist to call Dean's involvement with Planned Parenthood, "quite thick." Another said it was unprecedented for a presidential candidate to have been so actively involved with Planned Parenthood.

"People in the medical community know that people that provide abortions are the scum, the washouts and the losers of medicine. What these people know is that abortion is the red light district of medicine," Mark Crutcher, founder and president of the Texas-based pro-life group, Life Dynamics, told CNSNews.com.

Because of his extensive involvement with Planned Parenthood, it's going to be more difficult for Dean to distance himself from that "red light district." He will claim, as he already has, that he never performed an abortion because he is a medical doctor. But try telling that to the millions of Americans who live in what Democrats derisively call "red fly-over" country and who believe in the sanctity of life.

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The screenshot shows the CNSNews.com website layout. At the top, it says "CNSNEWS.COM Cybercast News Service" and "The Right News. Right Now." Below that is a search bar and a date/time stamp: "Friday, December 10, 2003 1:17 PM EST". The main content area features a "Top Headlines" section with the headline: "Religious Freedom Watchdog Urges Penalty for Saudis, Others". Below this is a brief article snippet: "Pacific Rim Bureau (CNSNews.com) - Washington's religious rights watchdog has seized on the latest State Department global survey of religious freedom to renew its longstanding calls for the administration to act firmly against Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Turkmenistan. Full Story". Another headline reads: "AFSCME Official Endorses Socialism After Union Backed Dean (CNSNews.com) - The New York City district council president of a union that recently backed Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean has publicly endorsed socialism at a national conference of the Workers World Party. Full Story". At the bottom, there is a "Viewer Poll" section with the question: "What do you think the U.S. population will be in the year 2010?" and a radio button selected for "300 million".

## Documenting, Exposing and *Fighting* Media Bias

### MRC IN THE NEWS

The MRC is having a greater influence on the national debate than ever before. In the last month, MRC spokesmen appeared on numerous television and radio programs. Our publications and staff also continue to be widely cited in newspapers, magazines and Internet news sites.

#### National Television

- ☛ *Crossfire*, CNN, December 2. MRC President Brent Bozell participated in a debate on the Hollywood "Bush haters" meeting.
- ☛ *Hardball with Chris Matthews*, MSNBC, December 4. MRC President Bozell discussed reports that Rush Limbaugh's medical records had been subpoenaed by investigators.
- ☛ *Scarborough Country*, MSNBC, December 5. President Bozell commented on the network's refusal to cover the leaked Defense Department memo that highlighted al Qaeda-Saddam Hussein connections.
- ☛ *The 700 Club*, CBN, December 9. President Bozell was interviewed about the Defense Department memo.

#### Newspapers

- ☛ *Washington Times*, November 21. Cited a *CyberAlert* report on the network's refusal to cover the leaked Defense Department memo.
- ☛ *Jacksonville (Fla.) Business Journal*, November 24. Noted that Felix Livingston, a professor of economics and business at Flagler College, was recently appointed to the board of the MRC's Free Market Project.
- ☛ *Washington Times*, November 28. Director of Media Analysis Tim Graham commented on the leaked DoD memo.
- ☛ *Baltimore Sun*, November 30. Mentioned the MRC's role in CBS' decision to cancel *The Reagans* miniseries.
- ☛ *Insight Magazine*, December 3. MRC President Bozell wrote an

article discussing where the conservative movement is heading.

- ☛ *Washington Post*, December 8. MRC President Bozell was interviewed in a story on Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Joe Lieberman.
- ☛ *Investor's Business Daily*, December 11. Reprinted the Bozell weekly column on Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's Sunday news program appearances.
- ☛ *Biloxi (Miss.) Sun-Herald*, December 14. Interviewed Research Director Noyes on the media coverage of Saddam Hussein's capture.
- ☛ *San Antonio News-Express*, December 15. Cited Noyes comments on the coverage of Hussein's capture.
- ☛ *Investor's Business Daily*, December 15. Cited a *CyberAlert* item noting that the major broadcast networks had ignored an anti-terrorist rally in Baghdad.
- ☛ *The Sun-Sentinel* (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.), December 15. Research director Rich Noyes commented on Saddam Hussein's capture.
- ☛ *Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald*, December 15. Carried Noyes comments on Hussein's capture.
- ☛ *Hartford (Conn.) Courant*, December 16. Graham commented on the coverage of Hussein's capture.
- ☛ *Investor's Business Daily*, December 18. Reprinted the Bozell weekly column on the media coverage of Saddam Hussein's capture.

#### Radio

- ☛ *The Mitch Albom Show*, WJR-Detroit, Mich., December 1. MRC Director of Research Rich Noyes commented on *The Reagans* miniseries.
- ☛ *Focus on the Family*, Focus on the Family Radio Network, December 1. MRC Research Director Noyes discussed the proposed liberal radio network.
- ☛ The MRC's Rich Noyes, Tim Graham, Tim Jones and President Bozell discussed ABC's coverage of Saddam Hussein's capture on the following radio programs:
  - *The Doug Kellet Show*, KNRC-Denver, Colo., December 16.
  - *The Warren Korff Show*, WGBF-Evansville, Ind., December 17.
  - *The Harry Hurley Show*, WKXW-Atlantic City, NJ, December 17.
  - *The John Stockes Show*, KGEZ-Kalispell, Mont., December 17.
  - *The Bill Meyer Show*, KMED-Medford, Ore., December 17.
  - WIBC, Indianapolis, Ind., December 17.
  - *The Chuck Harder Show*, Talk America Network, December 17.
  - *The Lockwood Phillips Show*, WTKF-Morehead City, N.C., December 18.
  - *The Janet Parshall Show*, December 18



#### INTERNET NEWS SITES

MRC staffers or the Bozell column were also carried or cited by at least nine Internet news sites.

# MRC President Bozell Condemns ABC Coverage of Hussein Capture

**Editor's Note:** MRC President L. Brent Bozell issued this statement on December 16, criticizing ABC News for their blatantly anti-Bush bias in news reports on Saddam Hussein's capture.

"ABC News – both TV and radio – is stooping to new lows of ridiculous pessimism in the aftermath of Saddam Hussein's capture by American forces. This network sounds like a homegrown version of al-Jazeera, highlighting every negative development and submerging every positive development in waves of yes-buts, so-whats, and blatant omissions.

"Within an hour of the Saddam story breaking, ABC's Terry Moran was emphasizing how a trial of the Iraqi dictator would be 'embarrassing' for America.



**ABC's Claire Shipman and Peter Jennings suppressed their network's poll numbers.**

Yesterday, Charles Gibson repeated the U.S. embarrassment line, since 'we supported him for so long' and 'gave him some of the instruments that he used to terrorize his people.'

"On Sunday night, Peter Jennings made a statement that's absolutely amazing in its self-delusion. After viewers saw Iraqis cheering and waving banners in the streets all day, Jennings said: 'People have suggested to us today, there's

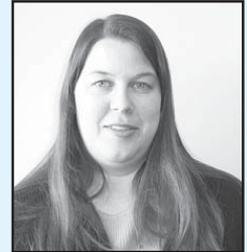
not a good deal for Iraqis to be happy about at the moment.' That's not just biased. It's an absolute failure to report the truth.

"ABC is so anti-Bush, it actually suppressed news about its own poll, showing improving approval ratings for the President. Instead, it emphasized that 'most Americans don't believe Saddam's capture means the job is done there.' ABC is not reporting honestly, objectively, and in good faith."

## Inside The MRC

*Helen Fullinwider*

Helen Fullinwider is the Assistant to the President. Her responsibilities include correspondence, helping with travel arrangements and handling visitors and phone calls.



Helen was born in New York City and has lived in Northern Virginia for most of her life. She is a graduate of George Mason University and holds a B.A. in history.

Prior to working at the MRC, Helen worked at The American Cause for three years. Prior to that, she was a retail clothing shop manager for Group USA and a department manager at Nordstrom's from 1991 to 1998.

Helen started at the MRC in August and finds her work to be enjoyable. "I fully support the MRC's important work and really enjoy working with such a dedicated staff," she says.

Helen was married in April to Eric Fullinwider and couple currently lives in Woodbridge, Va.



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