

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), Co-Chair

Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Co-Chair

Networks, Blogs Blame Conservatives for Rhetoric 1/25/11



A new analysis by the Pew Research Center reveals some interesting facts about the debate regarding heightened political rhetoric. The analysis shows that liberals accused conservatives of fostering a “climate of hate” more frequently than the other way around.

The Pew study also showed that the three television news networks were even more likely to blame conservatives for the tone of the national debate than were liberal bloggers and those on Twitter. **The networks singled out conservatives over liberals by an 8-to-1 margin, according to a Media Research Center study.**

ABC Says Global Warming to Blame for Cold Weather

Last Friday’s ABC World News featured a one-sided report that mentioned the opinions of climate scientists who say global warming is to blame for the recent cold temperatures and heavy snowfall:

“If this winter seems especially brutal, scientists say you’re right. ABC News contacted 10 climate scientists to ask their take, if an extreme winter like the one we’re having is the way of the future. The consensus? Global warming is playing a role by shifting weather patterns in unpredictable ways.”



The report failed to mention the opinion of any climate scientists with different opinions. It also failed to acknowledge that seemingly all weather patterns – both cold and warm – have recently been attributed to global warming.

Post Gives Large Amount of Coverage to Liberal Ron Reagan

Although the Washington Post had no mention on Monday of the annual March for Life rally in Washington D.C., the paper still found time to devote 48 paragraphs and 2850 words to profiling Ron Reagan and his controversial claim in a new book that his father had symptoms of Alzheimer’s while in the White House.

Staff writer Manuel Roig-Franzia made sure to highlight in the fifth paragraph, “The son, now 52, can’t muster enthusiasm for present-day Reagan worship, either. He disdains the communal gushing and deifying, ‘the fetishistic veneration,’ while nurturing a private, though complicated, affection.”

The journalist added, “Ron’s mother, Nancy Reagan, is always after him to attend this or that commemoration or unveiling. He always has the same reaction: ‘Oh, no. Not another aircraft carrier. Not another bridge. Not another highway!’”

However, Roig-Franzia waited until paragraph 30 to note, “[Ron Reagan] worked as a television political commentator and radio host, but his show on Air America, on which he tended toward liberal flame-throwing, ended a year ago amid the talk radio network’s bankruptcy.” (*Media Research Center*)

Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
For more information please contact Dan Rosso at 202-225-4236 or dan.rosso@mail.house.gov