

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Networks Show Bias on Climate Change

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ABC, CBS, and NBC have shown a strong liberal bias in their coverage of climate change over the last 5 years, according to a new study by the Business and Media Institute (BMI):

“Watching the broadcast networks, you’d think there were very few people who disagree with the claims [former Vice President] Gore, ‘An Inconvenient Truth’ and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have made [about climate change]. But Climate Depot has compiled a lengthy list of more than 1,000 scientists who dissent in some

way from those claims.

“Despite that, network reporters have taken “environmental evangelist” Gore’s movie as gospel for the last five years, excluding criticism of the science of his film nearly 98 percent of the time (266 out of 272 stories) ... BMI found that in addition to mostly ignoring scientific criticism, Gore’s point of view went unopposed in more than 80 percent (222 of 272) of those stories.”

Media Spell ‘Scandal’ Without the ‘D’

The television networks have shown a clear double standard in their coverage of political scandals, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center (MRC).

A day after the announcement that the Department of Justice will indict former Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, all three network morning news programs avoided mentioning Edwards’ party affiliation. In contrast, earlier this year the same news programs each mentioned the party affiliation of former Congressman Chris Lee, a Republican, after his resignation.

The Rest of the Worst in Media Bias

- **“Paul Ryan has shown considerable guts, but you’re [Democratic Congressman Chris Van Hollen] correct that nobody on the Republican side is showing any courage on the tax front. And unless taxes are part of the mix, every grown-up knows it can’t reach a solution.”** — Correspondent Andrea Mitchell on NBC’s Meet the Press, May 22.
- **“What about raising taxes?...At some point, do you have to look at raising taxes, and do people have to pay more for what’s needed in this country?”** — Co-host Erica Hill to GOP presidential candidate Tim Pawlenty on CBS’s The Early Show, May 23.
- **“It was an incredible weekend of tornadoes, 70 of them in seven states. And so many people have been asking the same question: Is this it, this is the evidence of a kind of preview of life under global warming? ...”** — Anchor Diane Sawyer on ABC’s World News, May 23.

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
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