



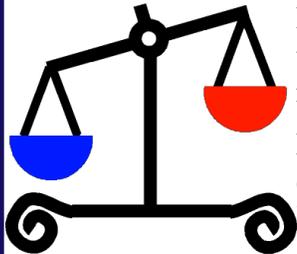
Media Fairness Initiative

A Look at Bias in the News



Networks Treat Obama Better Than Bush

4/28/09



Network news programs gave President Obama over three times more coverage than President Bush received at the same point in his presidency, according to a new study by George Mason and Chapman Universities.

During his first 50 days in office, the three network evening news programs devoted over one thousand stories lasting almost 28 hours to President Obama – about half of their entire newscasts.

By contrast, President Bush received less than eight hours of network news coverage at the same point in his presidency – one-third as much.

In addition, **58 percent of all network news evaluations of President Obama and his policies were favorable, while only 33 percent of evaluations of President Bush were favorable after 50 days.**

Media Dismiss, Ridicule TEA Party Protests

Recently, tens of thousands of Americans expressed their opposition to out-of-control government spending by participating in hundreds of TEA party protests around the country on Tax Day.

The national media responded by ignoring, dismissing, or blatantly ridiculing the protests.

There was no mention of the TEA parties the next day on the front pages of the Washington Post or New York Times, even though the Times found space on its front page for a story about protests in Afghanistan.

Time magazine's April 27 issue carried fewer than 100 words on the TEA parties. A CNN reporter angrily labeled the TEA parties "anti-government," "anti-CNN," and "not really family viewing."

In contrast, the media covered liberal protests during President Bush's term frequently – and without criticism.

Obama Family Dog Tops Foreign News Coverage

The Obama family's new dog, Bo, received more news coverage than several major news events around the world during the week of April 13-19, according to the Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ).

There were a total of 24 stories about Bo during the week, more than the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, or North Korea's decision to ask nuclear inspectors to leave the country, according to PEJ.

