

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

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

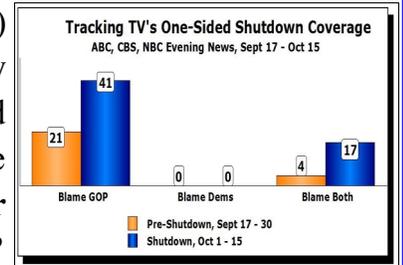
Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Co-Chair

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Networks Blame Conservatives During Shutdown

From *The Media Research Center*...

“Viewers [of NBC, ABC and CBS] heard...a version of the shutdown story that could easily have emanated from [the Administration]...Media Research Center (MRC) analysts reviewed each broadcast network evening newscast from the first day of the shutdown (Oct. 1) through the last night before a deal was announced (Oct. 15). Of the 124 full stories and brief items about the shutdown or the pending debt ceiling deadline, **41 blamed Republicans or conservatives for the impasse**, 17 blamed both sides, and **none specifically blamed Democrats.**”



SPJ Should Change Their Code of Ethics

The Society of Professional Journalists has given Americans some bad news about the state of the media. Their previous code of ethics specifically affirmed that “news reports should be free of opinion or bias and represent all sides of an issue.” This line has been removed. **In fact, the revised code makes no mention that news reports should be free of bias.**

How can we expect journalists to cover events in a fair and objective way when their own code of ethics does not discourage biased reporting? The Society of Professional Journalists should reclaim their ethics and restate their commitment to fair and balanced reporting. **The media should provide the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think.**

TruthRevolt to Expose Liberal Media Donors

From *Breitbart's Big Journalism*...

“[TruthRevolt is a] new website that will seek to...expose the donors and advertisers that enable the mainstream media to distort the truth and push their agendas with no accountability, especially when it comes to their bottom lines...[Its founder Ben Shapiro] said **TruthRevolt's goal is going to be to ‘change the nature of media’ by ‘actually making it clear that they are going to lose money if they’ continue to mislead Americans.**”

LA Times Censors Letters to the Editor

From *Accuracy in Media*

“**The Los Angeles Times has taken a firm stance on climate change, and from now on they have decreed that they won't publish letters from climate deniers.** Paul Thornton, the Letters editor, explains:

‘As for letters on climate change, we do get plenty from those who deny global warming...Simply put, I do my best to keep errors of fact off the letters page...Saying ‘there's no sign humans have caused climate change’ is not stating an opinion, it's asserting a factual inaccuracy...’

Thornton has decided that the Letters section, which is supposed to be an open forum for readers, will no longer publish letters from those who disagree with him on the issue.”