

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Media Shill for Occupy Wall Street



From the *Investor's Business Daily* Editorial page:

“A cache of new Occupy Wall Street emails shows several press types offering advice to the protesters. We’d be shocked, except the mainstream media have been openly helping the Occupy movement all along.....

In any case, the real crime here isn’t a few emails from left-wing journalists, but the fact that the rest of the “unbiased” mainstream press has been overtly helping the protesters as well.

Don’t think so? Try to find press accounts of speakers at Occupy rallies who have overtly called for violence. Or coverage of the rising incidents of anti-Semitism, expressed in verbal abuse of Jews and signs..... Nothing to see here, folks.

And when not busy covering up for the protesters, the media have been gamely trying to magnify their significance. NBC’s Brian Williams enthused that ‘it could well turn out to be the protest of this current era.’

These are the same people, remember, who first ignored the Tea Party, then tried to portray it as ‘AstroTurf’ — fake grass roots — then looked for every chance to cast it as full of racists, extremists and hate-mongers.....The mainstream press is already showing its wholehearted support.”

Washington Post Admits Errors in Koch Story

The *Washington Post* recently republished a story from Bloomberg regarding illegal or questionable business practices by Koch subsidiaries dating back to the 1990s and earlier. The *Post* received criticism for the unbalanced and incomplete story on Koch Industries.

Patrick B. Pexton, Washington Post Ombudsman, states “I think The Post erred in republishing this story, or at least in the way it did. And when the Kochs complained to The Post after publication, The Post’s response wasn’t handled well. Now, I couldn’t find any outright falsehoods in the story that would warrant corrections. Bloomberg, too, has published no corrections. But I think the story lacked context, was tendentious and was unfair in not reporting some of the exculpatory and contextual information Koch provided to Bloomberg..... I think newspapers should always be provocative. But they should also be fair and provide context..... The Post could have included a sidebar summarizing and linking to the rebuttals that ran between Oct. 3 and 9. It could have called Koch directly — it didn’t — and put its comments in the sidebar.”

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