



# Media Fairness Initiative

## A Look at Bias in the News



### Where's the "D"?

1/14/09

Scandals have plagued several Democrat politicians in recent weeks, but some media outlets have forgotten to mention their party affiliations.

For example, a *USA Today* editorial from January 6 discussed a federal grand jury's investigation into whether political contributions to Gov. Bill Richardson helped a California company win a state contract. **There was no mention that Richardson is a Democrat. The editorial also referred to Gov. Rod Blagojevich's scandal, but failed mention that he is a Democrat.**



**Similarly, during a CNN report last week, anchor Kyra Phillips neglected to mention the party affiliation of Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon, a Democrat, who earlier that day had been indicted on corruption charges.**

### Journalists Silenced by Obama?

According to *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist Carol Marin, reporters at President-elect Barack Obama's press conferences have begun to realize that **certain journalists have been pre-selected to ask him questions, and the others don't even try to ask anything:**

**"The press corps, most of us, don't even bother raising our hands any more to ask questions because Obama always has before him a list of correspondents who've been advised they will be called upon that day."**

Marin also wrote that in covering Obama the journalists have been **"deferential, eager to please, prepared to keep a careful distance."**



### Quick Hits

- NBC banned conservative columnist Ann Coulter from appearing on the Today Show, according to the *Drudge Report*, but then reversed course and allowed her to come on the show.
- Telecom lobbyist Vicki Iseman is suing *The New York Times* in the amount of \$27 million for defamation, alleging that the *Times* "falsely communicated" that she had a romantic relationship with Sen. John McCain in 1999.
- Two anchors from Washington, DC's CBS affiliate, WUSA-TV, reportedly will emcee the Virginia inaugural ball for President-elect Obama, while a former reporter and anchor for Washington, DC's ABC affiliate, WJLA-TV, reportedly will produce the event.