

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Gallup Finds All-Time Low in Public Confidence in TV News 07.10.12

Gallup's latest Confidence in Institutions Survey found that only 21 percent of Americans have a "great deal or quite a lot" of confidence in television news. In comparison, 38 percent of Americans stated they have "very little or no" confidence in television news.

This "no confidence" in television news is a record low found by Gallup since it began the Confidence in Institutions Survey in 1973.

Media Double Standard on Environmental Conference Attendance

From the *Media Research Center*:

"[There was a] **non-existent response by ABC and a muted comment by the *New York Times* about Obama's refusal to attend a major environmental conference, contrasted with their fury 10 years earlier over a similar decision by President Bush.**

President Obama is not attending the United Nations Environmental Conference on Sustainable Development, informally known as Rio+20.

The American media has ignored the issue of Obama's non-attendance. None of the three major networks mentioned the 2012 summit once, and the *New York Times* only briefly raised the issue.

However, 10 years earlier, when George W. Bush was president, the media slammed Bush for his refusal to attend the World Summit on Sustainable Development, popularly called Rio+10. In 2002, the *New York Times* featured Democratic politicians' criticisms of Bush for his refusal to attend Rio+10, and published articles on its editorial page bashing Bush - written both by the Times' editorial board and by guests.

ABC provided a platform to an environmental activist, who complained that the U.S., Canada and Australia were 'taking an isolationist approach to this whole summit' without allowing any supporters of the president to defend him."

Former CBS Producer: 'I'm Done' Denying Liberal Media Bias

From *Mediaite*:

"Former CBS writer/producer Greg Kandra...took to his website to criticize MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell for her non-apology over controversial editing [aired on MSNBC]...**The edits and the subsequent non-apology, Kandra wrote, have led him to no longer wish to defend his former colleagues from allegations of 'liberal bias.'** In a post, Kandra wrote:

'I'm tired. Truly. I've grown weary of trying to defend the indefensible and explain the inexplicable. **For years, people have stomped their feet and pounded their fists and snorted 'Liberal media bias!'** and I've always tut-tutted and shooshed them and said, 'No, no. Calm down. They meant well. It was just a misunderstanding. A mistake. These things happen...'

Forget it. I'm done. **You deserve what they're saying about you. It's earned.** You have worked long and hard to merit the suspicion, acrimony, mistrust and revulsion that the media-buying public increasingly heaps upon you. **You have successfully eroded any confidence,** dispelled any trust, and driven your audience into the arms of the Internet and the blogosphere...**You have done a superlative job of diminishing what was once a great profession and undermining one of the vital underpinnings of democracy, a free press.**"

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