

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Networks Ignore Alleged Leak of Classified Materials

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From Newsbusters...

“CBS This Morning stood out as the **only Big Three network morning show to cover...** an allegation that the Obama administration gave a movie director and writer ‘special access to government officials involved in the commando operation that killed Osama bin Laden.’ **ABC’s Good Morning America and NBC’s Today ignored the story.** Correspondent Chip Reid outlined that ‘the documents...obtained by Judicial Watch, a conservative government watchdog group...reveal that director Kathryn Bigelow and screenwriter Mark Boal...met with top national security officials; gained access to Seal Team 6; and visited the CIA.’

Anchor Charlie Rose pointed out in his introduction to Reid’s report that there was ‘new information this morning on an alleged security leak by the Obama administration. Officials are accused of telling Hollywood filmmakers too much about the raid that killed Osama bin Laden.’ The CBS journalist continued that **‘it’s no surprise that the Obama administration would enthusiastically welcome a movie about the killing of bin Laden. But some critics say what is surprising is how far the White House was willing to go to get that movie made.’**

Reid provided some corroboration to the Judicial Watch allegation during his report: ‘Sources tell CBS News the White House put the movie on the fast track, aggressively looking for ways to help.’**Near the end of his report, the correspondent noted how ‘many officials, including former defense secretary Robert Gates in an interview with Charlie Rose, have expressed frustration over how much of the bin Laden mission has been leaked.’**”

CNN hits 20-year monthly ratings low

From Politico...

“**The bad news just keeps coming for CNN, and it couldn’t be happening at a worse time.** Just one day after Donald Trump criticized the network’s low ratings during a highly contentious interview with host Wolf Blitzer, **CNN has registered its worst monthly primetime ratings in over 20 years. An average of 389,000 viewers watched CNN primetime between April 30 and May 27, a 51 percent drop from May 2011.** By comparison, Fox News averaged **1,692,000** total viewers (a 9 percent drop), while MSNBC averaged **674,000** total viewers (a 19 percent drop).”

Piers Morgan also delivered the worst ratings for his time slot in two decades (in both total and 25-54), while Erin Burnett delivered the worst ratings for the 25-54 demo in two decades. The network has made to high-profile hires in recent days, snatching John Berman from ABC News and signing food writer and chef Anthony Bourdain for a new weekend program, but it has yet to show any signs of course correction in its primetime lineup.”

Politico Lets Obama Off Unemployment Hook

From Newsbusters...

“**If between now and Election Day unemployment numbers improve, particularly if they dip below the 8% barrier, you know President Obama, with an mainstream media assist, will be out there pounding his chest about the number of jobs ‘he created.’**”

But when the unemployment numbers remain weak? Well, that’s not Obama’s fault. Just ask Mike Allen of Politico. On Morning Joe, trying to explain Obama’s early campaign stumbles, **Allen declared that certain factors, including the bleak job numbers, were ‘beyond the control’ of Obama.**

.... Allen let Obama, in the fourth year of his presidency, off the hook for his miserable performance on the economy.

MIKE ALLEN: ‘It was three weeks ago that the president formally unveiled his campaign with those rallies in Ohio and Virginia. And he’s been on the defensive, been on the back foot, as the Brits would say, ever since. Right before the break you were talking about the Biden comments. Some of the events are beyond their control: job numbers which looked good during the winter are now looking bleak again, Europe is looking like it might blow up again.’”

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