

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

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2014: A Year of Double Standards

From the *National Review Online*...

“Many conservatives finished the year angry about the same thing they were angry about at the beginning of the year: liberal double standards...When Republicans are in power, ‘dissent is the highest form of patriotism.’ When Democrats are in power, dissent is the racist fuming of ‘angry white men.’...When Republicans invoke God or religious faith as an inspiration for their political views, it’s threatening and creepy. When Democrats do it, it’s a sign they believe in social justice...But while examples are easy, explanations are hard...

If you work from the dogmatic assumption that liberalism is morally infallible and that liberals are, by definition, pitted against sinister and — more importantly — powerful forces, then it’s easy to explain away what seem like double standards. Any lapse, error, or transgression by conservatives is evidence of their real nature, while similar lapses, errors, and transgressions by liberals are trivial when balanced against the fact that their hearts are in the right place.

Despite controlling the commanding heights of the culture — journalism, Hollywood, the arts, academia, and vast swaths of the corporate America they denounce — liberals have convinced themselves they are pitted against deeply entrenched powerful forces...Obama, the twice-elected president of the United States, to this day speaks as if he’s some kind of underdog.”

CNN Ignores Oppressed Cubans

From *Breitbart’s Big Journalism*...

“During CNN’s 8th annual New Year’s Eve telecast from New York City...the cable newser featured a segment from Havana, Cuba, and, while the network expressed hope for renewed relations between the US and Cuba, anchors made no mention of the Castro regime’s arrests of pro-democracy activists [a week before the new year began]...

[A CNN correspondent] was on hand in Cuba, and when the cameras turned to his locale, he celebrated the fact that President Obama had reopened relations with the communist-ruled nation...But one thing [the correspondent] studiously avoided was any mention of the fact that Cuban dictator Fidel Castro recently arrested a group of political dissidents who had planned a pro-democracy rally in Havana...**Following the President’s lead, CNN was uninterested in highlighting the oppression that the Cuban people continue to suffer.**”

Fox Remains Top Cable News Channel

From the *Boston Herald*...

“[In 2014], Fox News finished on top in both total viewers and the adults 25-54 news demo for a 13th straight year, according to Nielsen’s ‘most current’ estimates through Dec. 26. Fox News was also the only cable newser up in the demo in primetime, as it opened up bigger advantages over the runner-up network in both 25-54 and total viewers. MSNBC was down across the board, including declines in the demo of nearly 20% ...**In primetime for the year, Fox News ranked second in total viewers (behind only ESPN) among all ad-supported basic cable networks.**”

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