

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

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“Media Buzz” Debut Starts “with a Roar”

From *Capital New York*...

“Howard Kurtz debuted his new Sunday show, ‘Media Buzz,’ on Fox News, marking the veteran media critic's first big moment back in the spotlight... ‘All in all, a strong premiere,’ wrote Gail Shister on the industry blog TV Newser, while *Washington Post* media blogger Erik Wemple said ‘Media Buzz’ has started ‘with a roar.’

‘We're going to hold the media accountable in a fair, aggressive and unbiased way,’ Kurtz said during his opening remarks at the top of the hour. ‘We won't be shy about calling people out for mistakes, conflicts, sensationalism, or acknowledging our own errors when they happen.’”

Liberal Media Distorts the Gun Debate

Excerpted from the new book *Emily Gets Her Gun but Obama Wants to Take Yours* by Emily Miller...

“I am a member of the mainstream media, but I'm also pro-Second Amendment. There are few in the journalism profession who share my beliefs. The public, therefore, gets a heavily biased view of firearm ownership and gun violence in America.

The anti-gun media bias has had a serious impact on the public's understanding of the issues. Most tellingly, the majority of Americans don't know that gun violence has been going down every year...according to a recent Pew Research poll...The media are largely to blame for this misconception...

But the media distortion goes beyond the fact that shootings and grisly deaths interest viewers and boost ratings. **Anti-gun bias also plays a role.** Mainstream media outlets are based in New York, Washington and Los Angeles. Few reporters are gun owners or have any familiarity with firearms. As a result, they are constantly making mistakes about simple gun terminology and functionality.”

Fox News is More Balanced than MSNBC

From *Townhall*...

“*The New Yorker's* Kelefa Sanneh, who for 8 years was a critic at the *New York Times*, profiled MSNBC and found that ‘Conservatives are far less visible on MSNBC than liberals are on Fox News.’ And the ‘right-leaning guests who do appear [on MSNBC] are typically critics of the conservative movement.’”

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