

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

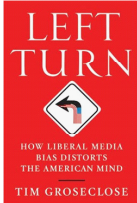
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Media's Liberal Bias Distorts Fair Coverage

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From *U.S. News & World Report*:

“The liberal bias of the mainstream media tilts so far left that any outlets not in that political lane, like the Drudge Report and Fox News Channel, look far more conservative than they really are, according to a UCLA professor’s new book out next month.

“In a crushing body blow to the pushers of the so-called ‘Fox Effect,’ which claims the conservative media is dragging the left into the center, UCLA political science professor Tim Groseclose in *Left Turn* claims that ‘all’ mainstream news outlets have a liberal bias in their reporting that makes even moderate organizations appear out of the mainstream and decidedly right-wing to news consumers who are influenced by the slant.”

In the book, Groseclose writes: “Fox News is clearly more conservative than ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and National Public Radio. Some will conclude that ‘therefore, this means that Fox News has a conservative bias.’ **Instead, maybe it is centrist, and possibly even left-leaning, while all the others are far left. It’s like concluding that six-three is short just because it is short compared to professional basketball players.”**

Americans See Media as Biased, Liberal

Two-thirds of Americans believe that reporters try to help the candidate they want to win an election, according to a recent Rasmussen public opinion poll. Only 2 in 10 think reporters try to offer unbiased coverage.

The survey also found that almost half of Americans think reporters would hide any damaging information about the candidate they wanted to win. **And by more than two-to-one, Americans say the average reporter is more liberal than they are, rather than more conservative.**

If the national media want to earn Americans’ trust, they should give them the facts, not tell them what to think.

First Lady Thanks Media for “Support” and “Kindness”

During a recent interview on CNN, First Lady Michelle Obama thanked the national media for their “support” and “kindness.” Below is an excerpt from the interview:

CNN reporter: “How’s the family ready for this [the election]? It’s going to be quite vicious, isn’t it? How do you prepare for that?”

First Lady Michelle Obama: “You know, it’s ... we’re ready, you know. Our children, you know, could care less about what we’re doing. We work hard to do that. **Fortunately, we have help from the media. I have to say this: I’m very grateful for the support and kindness that we’ve gotten.** People have respected their privacy and in that way, I think, you know, no matter what people may feel about my husband’s policies or what have you, they care about children and that’s been good to see.”

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