

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Coverage of March for Life Slanted

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From *Washington Post* Ombudsman, Patrick Pexton...

“Abortion is an issue that evokes passion on both sides, and journalists have to be deft in covering it lest their in-boxes overflow with angry e-mails. So it was this week with the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision...The AP pointed out in one of its stories that ran on The Post’s on Jan. 23, it is ‘consistently one of the largest protests of the year in Washington.’

But no one knows how big it was. Law enforcement agencies no longer estimate crowd size, nor does The Post....you can find images of the large crowd taken by amateurs....AP took some, too. Probably Post photographers did as well. But these shots didn’t find their way into the main Web photo gallery on the march. And **I think this is where The Post fell down in its coverage of the march this year.** And that’s mostly what antiabortion readers wrote to me about....Emotional shots make better photos, yes, but **I would have chosen more from the broad expanse of the rally.**

Post Local editor, said, “**In retrospect I wish we had given readers a better sense of the overall magnitude of the march...it was far larger than 17,000.**”

CNN Falsely Labels Bush ‘Food Stamp President’

From Newsbusters...

“For the second time in two weeks, CNN’s O’Brien insisted that Bush, not Obama, is the ‘food stamp president’ – **even though data show her argument is ridiculous.** On January 19, O’Brien had opened up that ‘it was George Bush who was the food stamp president.’ Then on Tuesday, she stated that Bush oversaw a greater percent increase of food stamp recipients than Obama has, and was more deserving of the title ‘food stamp president.’ **The number of Americans on food stamps reached an all time high in September 2011 – during Obama’s tenure – over 46 million Americans, or 15% of the estimated U.S. population, received food stamps,** according Census Bureau and USDA data.

CBS Ignores Catholic Clash with Obama

From Newsbusters...

The Big Three networks continued their trend of all but ignoring the Obama administration trying to force religious institutions to include coverage of...contraceptives in their health care policies without a co-pay. The new mandate would force Catholic hospitals and schools to decide whether to submit to the new policy or follow the Church’s teachings against birth control. Instead of covering this growing dispute between the Catholic hierarchy of the United States and the federal government, CBS brought on Rev. Beck to respond to a story that might cast the Church in a bad light with regards to how it manages the donations it receives.