

OMNI SPECIAL NEWSLETTER #1 ON MAINSTREAM MEDIA

BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE THROUGH FREE COMMUNICATION AND RELIABLE KNOWLEDGE

Compiled by Dick Bennett, October 13, 2007

MEDIA WATCH

Moulistsas here Oct. 24; see below.

NEED FOR CRITICAL THINKING AND KNOWLEDGE

The foundation of thinking clearly is *knowledge*. Our government leaders of both parties, which are tweedledee and tweedledum on foreign policy, employ propaganda, secrecy, language manipulation, and countless other forms of deceit to dominate the public in the service of special interests. This means that at least a minority of the citizenry must be very well-informed. This Special Newsletter 1) exposes some aspects of the US propaganda system and 2) suggests remedies in addition to an informed, critical citizenry.

MAINSTREAM MEDIA'S FAILURE TO REFUTE BIG LIES

A huge TV campaign has been waged to repeat 3 big lies:

- 1) Saddam attacked the Towers (1 in 3 in US believe it, 27% Dems, 40% GOP)
- 2) Saddam had WMD
- 3) Saddam and bin Laden were allies

Relation to militarism: 6 out of 10 in US trust Petraeus and military generals to solve the Iraq war.

US Government/Mainstream Media War Propaganda Complex:

John Pilger, *Freedom Next Time: Resisting the Empire*, 2007. And his new film, "War on Democracy." Speech at "Socialism 2007" Conference in Chicago presented by Amy Goodman on *Democracy Now* 8-7-07. US mainstream media normalizes the unthinkable US behavior: "subjugated knowledge." "Journalism is the first casualty of war." Denounces monopoly: e.g., all of Rupert Murdoch's 125 newspapers supported the invasion of Iraq.

Bill Moyers | Moyers on Murdoch

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/06/30/2208/>

Jemima Lewis | US Journalism: America Could Do With a Few Feral Beasts

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/06/30/2204/>

See DAVE LINDORFF ON INFORMATION CONTROL AND NEED FOR WORKING CLASS NEWSPAPERS, in *CounterPunch* <http://www.counterpunch.org/lindorff02082005.html>

As a long-time professional journalist and labor activist, I have watched from the inside for thirty years now the constriction of the media and of the flow of information to the public-information which is critical to the function of a democracy.....

FCC SECRECY

On 10/18/07, Skipjack3244@aol.com <Skipjack3244@aol.com> wrote:

From Mike Shay @ WRYP-----Prometheus mentioned

StopBigMedia.com Coalition Shocked by FCC's Secret Timetable

Submitted by BuzzFlash on Thu, 10/18/2007 - 3:10pm. [Alerts](#)

A BUZZFLASH NEWS ALERT

StopBigMedia.com Coalition Shocked by FCC's Secret Timetable

Dorgan, Lott tell the FCC to 'slow down'

WASHINGTON -- The [StopBigMedia.com Coalition](#) is shocked and dismayed over news that Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin is secretly pushing for a vote to relax media ownership rules by Dec. 18. The FCC is reviewing longstanding regulations that forbid a company to own both a newspaper and a television or radio station in the same city.

"We are gravely concerned that Chairman Martin would try to secretly move on such a critical issue with such a short timetable," said Josh Silver, executive director of Free Press, which coordinates the [StopBigMedia Coalition](#). "The public is being shut out of the process so that Martin can move forward with his Big Media giveaway."

Chairman Martin's secret plans were uncovered during a Commerce Committee hearing yesterday by Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), one of the most vocal critics of media consolidation. Sen. Dorgan has co-authored a letter with Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.) to the FCC calling for a more transparent and open public review of the media ownership rules.

"We do not believe the Commission has adequately studied the impact of media consolidation," wrote Sens. Dorgan and Lott. "The FCC should not rush forward and repeat mistakes of the past. The Commission is under considerable scrutiny with this proceeding. We strongly encourage you to slow down and proceed with caution."

Chairman Martin has a history of working behind closed doors on behalf of big media companies. According to a report by the Government Accountability Office, the FCC consistently leaks vital information on sensitive votes and rules to corporate lobbyists and stakeholders. In contrast, the report found that consumer and public interest groups were left in the dark.

"Chairman Martin has hosted six hearings across the country, and the overwhelming majority of public testimony opposes further consolidation," said Yolanda Hippensteele, outreach director of Free Press. "The only people who support his proposal are Rupert Murdoch, Sam Zell and a handful of other media moguls."

Since the FCC reopened its media ownership proceeding, a series of process problems have shut out the public. The agency commissioned ten ownership studies with no public input or transparency on the studies' authors, methodology or peer review -- then gave the public a paltry 60 days to review eight months of research. A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request revealed that the research agenda was crafted with a bias towards studies supporting consolidation.

"The chairman has already decided what rule changes he wants to make -- he is just going through the motions," said Dr. Mark Cooper, director of research at Consumer Federation of America. "The FCC hasn't even received all of the public comment in this proceeding, and Martin is already scheduling a vote."

Last year, FOIA requests uncovered two studies buried by the FCC under then-Chairman Michael Powell showing the negative impact of consolidation. Martin promised an independent investigation, but instead turned it over to his hand-picked inspector general, a position that reports directly to the chairman's office. Unsurprisingly, the inspector general's report found no evidence that the studies had been intentionally suppressed.

"Chairman Martin is operating with a huge credibility deficit," said Ben Scott, policy director of Free Press. "Every shred of evidence suggests that he has intentionally gamed the system to favor big media companies, at the expense of the public interest. He should be bending over backwards to show transparency -- not pushing through

disastrous rule changes with little public review."

In 2003, Martin joined then-Chairman Powell in voting to relax some of the same media ownership rules. The Senate voted to overturn the rules, which were later tossed out in federal court in the landmark *Prometheus v. FCC* decision. The FCC was ordered to justify the changes and their impact on diversity and localism.

"The FCC has no clue how consolidation impacts diversity or localism," said S. Derek Turner, research director of Free Press. "The agency's own studies missed the majority of the broadcast stations owned by women and people of color. The record is full of undeniable evidence that consolidation has a devastating impact on media diversity and localism."

The [StopBigMedia.com Coalition](#) -- representing a broad and diverse list of organizations -- is gearing for another showdown with the FCC. In 2003, millions of people contacted the FCC and Congress to oppose the media ownership rule changes.

"When we let a few giant conglomerates control so many outlets, quality journalism turns into junk media, and our democracy suffers," said Silver. "Media consolidation is a one way street and there's no turning back."

Letter from Sens. Dorgan and Lott:

http://www.freepress.net/docs/dorgan_lott_fcc_10.17.07.pdf

CONSEQUENCES OF CONCENTRATED OWNERSHIP OF TALK RADIO
(The following essay's title refers to "conservatives." That word, like "liberal," is a lazy and often obfuscating short-cut to real argument. The essay fingers the lack of ideological diversity in radio, brought about by concentration of ownership and deregulation.)

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Center for American Progress Action Fund
THE PROGRESS REPORT

JUNE 21, 2007 by Faiz Shakir, Nico Pitney, Amanda Terkel, Satyam Khanna, and Matt Corley
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MEDIA

Conservatives Dominate The Airwaves

Conservative Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS) raised a furor last week when he called out the right-wing radio hosts working to defeat comprehensive immigration reform. "[Talk radio is running America](#)," Lott said. "We have to deal with that problem." Indeed, despite the dramatic expansion of viewing and listening options for consumers today, traditional radio remains one of the [most widely used media formats in America](#), reaching an estimated 50 million listeners each week on more than 1,700 stations across the nation. More importantly, talk radio is dominated

almost exclusively by conservatives. The [Center for American Progress](#) and [Free Press](#) yesterday released the [first-of-its-kind statistical analysis](#) of the political make-up of talk radio in the United States. The results confirm the stunning lack of diversity in talk radio, and raise serious questions about whether the companies licensed to broadcast over the public airwaves are serving the listening needs of all Americans.

HOW BAD IS IT: According to the [new report](#), in the spring of 2007, [91 percent](#) of the political talk radio programming on the stations owned by the top five commercial station owners was conservative, and only 9 percent was progressive. Ninety-two percent of these stations (236 stations out of 257) [do not broadcast a single minute of progressive talk radio programming](#). In the top 10 radio markets in the country, 76 percent of the news/talk programming is conservative, while 24 percent is progressive. In four of those top 10 markets -- Philadelphia, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston -- the domination of conservative talk radio is [between 96 and 100 percent](#).

MORE CONSOLIDATION, LESS DIVERSITY, LESS ACCOUNTABILITY: The increasing imbalance in talk radio has paralleled significant shifts in the media ownership landscape. Since the Telecommunications Act of 1996, there has been a [dramatic decline \(34 percent\) in the number of radio station owners](#), meaning a sharp increase in media ownership concentration. This trend has occurred because Congress eliminated restrictions on the total ownership of radio stations by any one media entity. Now, in the largest markets with 45 or more commercial radio stations, one entity may own or control up to eight commercial radio stations. As a result, women and minorities "have largely been [shut out of radio ownership in this country](#)," owning [just 6 and 7.7 percent respectively](#) of the nation's full power radio stations. Also, due to increasing deregulation, local accountability over the public airwaves has been sharply limited. Radio stations are licensed by the government and are meant to operate in the public interest. Yet stations no longer have to inform the community of their obligations as a federal licensee, and the needs and interests of local communities are being ignored. [See below for remedies.]

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NEW EXPOSES OF MEDIA CONTROL

Nordenson, Bree. "The Uncle Sam Solution." *Columbia Journalism R* (Sept.-Oct. 2007). A multiple review of books and essays and support for government assistance of news reporting because market

forces are destroying news reporting: newsroom cutbacks for the bottom line are “the journalistic equivalent of a scorched earth.”

Boehlert, Eric. *Lapdogs*. Exposes newspaper subservience to established government power. Studies local newspapers—e.g. editorials before and after 9-11; articles by Saffire promoting the invasion of Iraq; editorials by the *Washington Post* supporting the war.

Klinenberg, Eric. *Fighting for Air: The Battle to Control America's Media*. Metropolitan, 2007. Rev. *Columbia JR* (Jan.-Feb. 2007) by Michael Schudson.

Hallock, Steven. *Editorial and Opinion: The Dwindling Marketplace of Ideas in Today's News*. Praeger, 2007. Investigates effects of newspaper competition, or lack thereof, on the range and content of editorials. As competition decreases, so do editorial agendas.

--Bennett, W. Lance. *When the Press Fails: Political Power and the News Media from Iraq to Katrina*.

U of Chicago P, 2007. Rev. *Columbia Journalism R* (July-Aug. 2007). Mainstream press record for wars has been “mostly one of aiding and abetting the war-makers, or at best muted resistance.” The book wrestles with the perplexity of a press constitutionally commissioned to serve as a watchdog of government becoming a conduit.

--Nichols, John, and Robert W. McChesney. *Tragedy and Farce: How the American Media Sell Wars, Spin Elections, and Destroy Democracy*.

Rivers, Caryl. *Selling Anxiety: How the News Media Scare Women*. UP of New England, 2007. Rev. *Columbia Journalism R* (July-Aug. 2007). “...news media employ dubious pop sociology to make women feel uneasy about their lives and careers,” to make them consume and bring profit to media corporations.

ALTERNATIVES TO MAINSTREAM MEDIA CONCENTRATION AND IDEOLOGY, PROTESTING CORPORATE-WHITE HOUSE-PENTAGON-MAINSTREAM MEDIA COMPLEX

MEDIA CONCENTRATION AND LPR

Are you planning to file comments against media consolidation? How about anyone else on this list? Remember -- low power FM radio and community radio advocates led the way back in 2002 and 2003, when Michael Powell tried to ram through a set of rules that would hurt LPFM radio stations as well as many diverse communities around the nation.

This time around, media consolidation is just as dangerous. If one company can buy up radio stations, TV stations, and newspapers in our communities, it not only impacts the health of our local media and democracy, but triggers an orgy of consolidation on the FM dial -- speeding up encroachment, and crowding out new potential community radio voices.

You can file a comment about low power FM radio, about the impact that new stations have had in your communities, or about why you think it's a bad idea for a few companies to own all the media across the US.

If you're ready to go now, check out the rules that the FCC will be deciding on here:

<http://www.fcc.gov/ownership/rules.html>

Or read the studies the FCC has conducted that analyze America's media system here:

<http://www.fcc.gov/ownership/studies.html>

Or file your comment here -- input docket number 06-121 as the docket you use here:

http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/upload_v2.cgi

We're going to be working up some suggested issues to think about and some other resources that you can read, consider, and use in your comments here at PRP -- but you can start at the FCC site --

<http://www.fcc.gov/ownership/> -- or at <http://www.stopbigmedia.com>.

More soon! Hannah Sassaman Prometheus Radio Project

A BUZZFLASH NEWS ALERT

Free Press is a national, nonpartisan organization working to reform the media. Through education, organizing and advocacy, we promote diverse and independent media ownership, strong public media, and universal access to communications. Learn more at www.freepress.net.

Stubblefield mailing list

Stubblefield@lists.prometheusradio.org

<http://lists.prometheusradio.org/listinfo.cgi/stubblefield-prometheusradio.org>

hannah sassaman

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CORPORATIONS TO CONTROL INTERNET AND DESKTOP PUBLISHING?

“A Revolution is Just Below the Surface” [from Larry W]

September 28th 2007, by Eva Golinger, Noam Chomsky

excerpt:

The major newspaper in England that had the largest circulation, more than any other, was The Daily Herald, which was a kind of social-democratic labor-based paper giving a very different picture of the world. It collapsed, not because of lack of reader interest, in fact it had probably the largest reader interest of any, but because it couldn't get advertisers and couldn't bring in capital. So what you're describing today is part of the history of the west, which has been overcome slowly by the standard processes of concentration of capital and of course advertiser reliance is another form of it. But it's beginning to revive in the west as well through the Internet and through cheap publishing techniques. **Computers, desktop publishing is now much cheaper than big publishing, and of course the internet.** So the new technologies are giving opportunities to overcome the effects of capital concentration, which has a severe impact on the nature of media and ! the nature of schools and everything else. So, there's revival, and actually the major battle that's going on right now is crucial, as to who is going to control the Internet. The Internet was developed in places like this, MIT, that's the state sector of the economy, most of the new economy comes out of the state sector, it's not a free market economy. The Internet is a case in point; it was developed in the state sector like

here, actually with Pentagon funding, and it was in the state sector for about 30 years before it was handed over to private corporations in 1995 under Clinton. **And right now there's a struggle going on as to whether it will be free or not. So there's a major effort being made by the major corporate centers to figure out some ways to control it, to prevent the wrong kinds of things from their point of view from being accessible**, and there are now grassroots movements, significant ones struggling against it, so these are ongoing live battles. There is nothing inherent in capitalist democracy to the idea that the media have to be run by corporations. It would have shocked the founding fathers of the United States. They believed that the media had to be publicly run. If you go back to the...it's hard to believe now <http://www.venezuelanalysis.com/new/analysis/2659>

REMEDIES TO RADIO CONCENTRATION AND UNIFORMITY

HOW TO SOLVE IT: The primary goals of policy proposals to reduce the gap should be to encourage more speech on the airwaves, not less, and to ensure that local needs are being met and diverse opinions are being aired. First, the CAP/Free Press report recommends that Congress [promote ownership diversity](#) by restoring the local and national caps on the ownership of commercial radio stations. For instance, no one entity should control more than 10 percent of the total commercial radio stations in a given market. Second, the report recommends that steps be taken [ensure greater local accountability over radio licensing](#). Radio broadcast licensees should regularly show that they are operating on behalf of the public interest, and provide public documentation showing how they are meeting these obligations. Finally, if commercial radio broadcasters are unwilling to abide by these regulatory standards or the FCC is unable to effectively regulate in the public interest, a [spectrum use fee should be levied on owners to directly support local, regional, and national public broadcasting](#). (For far more detailed explanations of the policy proposals, [read the full report](#).)

Markos Moulitsas, my favorite national political blogger and founder of the [Daily Kos](#), is coming to **Fayetteville on October 24th**, speaking up on the UA campus at 7:00 p.m. in the J.B Hunt Building, across Dickson Street from the Greek Theater. It is free and open to the public.



Markos Moulitsas:
*Founder of Daily Kos,
The Most-Read Political Blog in The World*

MARKOS MOULITSAS

Daily Kos, the most-read political blog in the world, has struck a nerve with millions of Americans and revitalized political awareness in this country. In record numbers, previously disillusioned voters are once again engaged in and excited about the political process. Daily Kos has, quite literally, changed the rules of the game in American political life.

OTHER LINKS

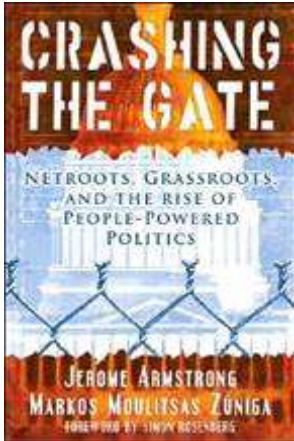
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BOOKS



Crashing The Gate: Netroots, Grassroots, and The Rise of People-Powered Politics (co-authored with Jerome Armstrong)

By mining the democratic potential of the internet and fusing it to a grassroots activism, Markos Moulitsas, the man behind Daily Kos, has single-handedly changed political discourse in America: Rather than the usual spin-doctoring, deceit and corruption put forth by politicians, he emphasizes the voice of the individual, and the power of that voice, when joined by others, to be heard and to usher in real change. America's most provocative political website, Daily Kos attracts a staggering one million unique visitors a month and is one of the top five most linked blogs on the web.

Moulitsas' brash, probing and accessible writing takes us behind the scenes of the modern political machine in a way few others have attempted. Tackling vital political topics by tracking key races, exposing corruption, and holding politicians accountable, he brings an unprecedented level of political awareness to the general public. And politicians are also listening: the site is regularly visited by congressmen, senators, governors, and other political luminaries, and many have pointed to the transformative effect Moulitsas and Daily Kos have had on the resurgent Democratic Party, especially their recent return to power in both the House and The Senate.

Born on September 11, 1971, in Chicago, Markos Moulitsas was raised in El Salvador, where he lived until 1980 when civil war forced his family back to America. At the age of 17, he enrolled in the US Army, serving as an artilleryman. Daily Kos (rhymes with "dose," his army nickname) was launched in 2002. Moulitsas' critically acclaimed book, *Crashing The Gate*, co-authored with Jerome Armstrong, which examines the movement toward a more authentic and populist democracy, was released to great acclaim in 2006.

What does Markos Moulitsas talk about?

Daily Kos: The State of the Nation

With a renewed sense of purpose, and using the latest technologies, a new generation of activists has emerged. They are revitalizing the democratic process and re-engaging in political advocacy. Markos Moulitsas's live presentations are infused with the kinetic energy and political acumen of this movement, drawing listeners into a conversation about what democracy is, and how they can be a part of it. His unprecedented role as the online voice of liberal America gives his analysis depth, sophistication and clarity.

Even if they disagree with his political stance, listeners will still emerge with a greater understanding of the current state of American political life, and where it is going. With an unmatched passion, he talks about holding party and government officials to account and how to

get out the vote. In person, audiences will see what makes Daily Kos the highest-trafficked blog in the world, and one of the finest examples, in our information age, of bringing the voice of the people to those in power.

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OUR AIRWAVES

Michael Copps | The Price of Free Airwaves

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/06/02/1611/> Michael Copps | The Price of Free Airwaves

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/06/02/1611/>

[Black and White and Re\(a\)d All Over: The Conservative Advantage in Syndicated Op-Ed Columns](#)

[READ THE REPORT](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)

Executive Summary

This project did something that has never been done before: It amassed data on the syndicated columnists published by nearly every daily newspaper in the country. While a few publications, most notably *Editor & Publisher*, cover the syndicated newspaper industry, no one has attempted to comprehensively assemble this information prior to now. Because the syndicates refuse to reveal to the public exactly where their columnists are published, when *Media Matters for America* set out to make a systematic assessment of the syndicated columnist landscape, we had no choice but to contact each paper individually and ask which syndicated columnists are published on their op-ed pages.

.....

Though papers may be "willing to consider" progressive syndicated columnists, this unprecedented study reveals the true extent of the dominance of conservatives:

- Sixty percent of the nation's daily newspapers print more conservative syndicated columnists every week than progressive syndicated columnists. Only 20 percent run more progressives than conservatives, while the remaining 20 percent are evenly balanced.
- In a given week, nationally syndicated progressive columnists are published in newspapers with a combined total circulation of 125 million. Conservative columnists, on the other hand, are published in newspapers with a combined total circulation of more than 152 million.[2](#)

- The top 10 columnists as ranked by the number of papers in which they are carried include five conservatives, two centrists, and only three progressives.

whole story at: http://mediamatters.org/reports/oped/?f=h_top (from Larry W)

ALTERNATIVE NEWS ONLINE

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MEDIA WATCH AND CRITICAL THINKING

In addition to knowledge, nothing has helped me more in recognizing flawed thinking, and in writing more accurately myself, than the study of logical fallacies—band wagon, false analogy, begging the question, post hoc, ergo propter hoc, vague definition, etc.

OVERGENERALIZATION and AD HOMINEM

John Terry, *TMN* (2-26-05), column “Trouble Brings Us Closer.” “...the pitiful gadfly, Ward Churchill, is just one of **countless** college professors all over the nation who not only reject **everything** the nation stands for, but is teaching students to do the same....I have a simple suggestion for people like Churchill who hate American and all it stands for....” (Terry has been the recipient of many rebuttals of his errors, biases, and libels by our Rapid Response Writers. Contact Larry Woodall.)

HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS ON REASONING AND CRITICAL THINKING

Corbett, Edward, and Rosa Eberly. *The Elements of Reasoning*. 2nd ed. Longman, 2000.
Patten, Bernard. *Truth, Knowledge, or Just Plain Bull: How to Tell the Difference*. Prometheus, 2004.

GENERAL MEDIA ANALYSIS MAGAZINES

Extra! Magazine published by FAIR and *Extra! Update* the newsletter of FAIR. The Feb. *Extra! Update* contains short articles on the CBS report on Bush’s National Guard service; Pentagon disinformation; MSNBC more like Fox; NPR reporting of Palestine.
Columbia Journalism Review.

TV AND RADIO SOURCES OF MEDIA ANALYSIS

Free Speech TV

Free Speech Radio News/Pacifica Radio. www.fsrn.org

MEDIA ANALYSIS ARTICLES

Kaminski, John. “The Plot to Kill Us All.” *Little Rock Free Press* (Jan. 1-31, 2005) 9-13.

Bush's Advertising Pushes His Programs

McFeatters, Ann. "Bush Has Lean, Mean PR Machine." *TMN* (2-19-05). The lies and harms of Bush's Clear Skies Initiative, Energy Policy Act of 2005, privatizing Social Security, gay marriage ban, "death tax," No Child Left Behind Act, and Patriot Act, which are promoted by millions of dollars of public funds.

Network TV

Rich, Frank. "On Television, Torture Takes a Holiday." *New York Times*
Network TV suppressed or underreported the US torture story.

Bush's Inaugural Address and RW mainstream media.

Eric Alterman, "Fantasy Island." *The Nation* (Feb. 14, 2005). The huge discrepancy between what Bush claimed and what his admin. is doing, with much of mainstream media going along.

Nuclear Weapons

Norman Solomon, "News Media in the 60th Year of the Nuclear Age." *Peacework* (Dec. 2004-Jan. 2005, p. 27). Bush deception and hypocrisy continue US gov't. narrow, nationalistic practice since 1945 backed up by mainstream media.

LOCAL ISSUES TO WATCH

CAT: Cox cutting CAT off from cities surrounding Fayetteville. Richard Drake, "The Inconvenience of Free Speech." *Little Rock Free Press* (Feb. 1-2005) p. 12.

NATIONAL ISSUES TO WATCH

Discrepancies in Bush's words and deeds. Don't miss Jon Stewart's ridicule of the twists and turns of Bush's statements about torture.

Myths perpetuated by mainstream media: U.S. is No. 1,

Myth of superiority of U. S. health care system. Molly Ivins, "Republicans Planning...." (*MN* 1-6-05). Bartlett and Steele, *Critical Condition: How Health Care in America Became Big Business—and Bad Medicine*.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES TO WATCH

Iraq: a thousand issues!

The language describing the enemy by US media—terrorist, gunman, insurgent. (See Dick Bennett's Letter to Editor in *TMN*.) US control of new Iraq news media ("Official Claims U.S. Steered Iraq News," *TMN* 2-15-05).

Palestine and Israel:

Media emphasizing Israeli reactions to P. atrocities, instead of other way around re Israeli occupation oppression and killings. Absence of full dimensions of peace negotiations in the news (East Jerusalem, control of water, settlements, the wall, roads, road blocks, control of air space, etc.).

POSSIBLE APPROACHES FOR OUR MEDIA WATCH on NEWS REPORTING

--Expose errors and distortions in the reporting.

--Reveal the facts and consequences of media monopoly.

--Show the facts and consequences of media control by the corporate state—the corporate-White House-Pentagon-Media Complex.

- Expose the mainstream media news spokespersons bought and sold by the corporate state.
- Make known the reliable media, researchers, and writers.
- Publicize the analysts of media—books, magazines, tv, and radio.

IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORY TO CHALLENGE POWER

Our mainstream newspeople ought all to be doing what Lyons does here, right?

One job of Media Watch is to educate the mainstream editors and reporters.

(The job of our Boozman, et al. watches is to educate the congresspeople and their staff.) Dick 3-4-05 to Richard, Kirby, John G, Carl B, Gladys

Dick

Sent: Friday, March 04, 2005 12:38 AM

Subject: Gene Lyons excerpt

- > If the AARP wanted to fight fire with fire, it might
- > respond with an ad showing Bush
- > himself pledging to protect the Social Security Trust
- > Fund during the 2000 campaign,
- > vowing in 2001 to devote the entire \$2.6 trillion
- > budget surplus to shoring it up, then
- > recently telling one of his captive, GOP-only
- > "town-hall" audiences, in characteristically
- > ungrammatical fashion, that no trust fund exists. "The
- > money, payroll taxes going into
- > the Social Security, are spent," Bush said. "They're
- > spent on benefits and they're spent
- > on government programs. There is no trust." Geezers
- > being geezers, many also know
- > that they've paid sharply increased payroll taxes
- > since 1983 specifically to pay for the
- > Baby Boomers' retirement. So if the money was spent,
- > Bush himself spent it. Howard
- > Dean puts it bluntly: "The truth is not one Republican
- > president has balanced the budget
- > in almost 40 years. You cannot trust Republicans with
- > your money."
- >
- >
- >
- >

Dear Media Rights Organizer,

This year corporate media plan to step up efforts to further consolidate their control of American media. Well-paid lobbyists are ready to push their agenda as Congress plans to reopen the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The '96 Act paved the way for unprecedented corporate media consolidation giving rise to media giants such as Clear Channel Communications and Sinclair Broadcasting Group.

In 2005 we cannot allow for more of the same. The new Telecom Act has the power to

shape our entire media system for decades to come. Unless we pull together and act now on behalf of citizen's media rights the very future of our democracy is at risk.

Any organization's efforts to repair our nation must rank media reform as a priority. That's why organizations representing millions of Americans have put forward the [Bill of Citizens' Media Rights](#). The Bill is a milestone in the media reform movement that presents a positive and unified vision for a competitive, diverse, and independent media to better serve our nation's democracy and culture, today and tomorrow.

Over the past two years, millions of citizens have demonstrated their willingness to join together and organize behind efforts to build a better, more diverse and democratic American media. This effort now needs the organizing and outreach muscle provided by groups such as yours. Please join this national effort by pledging your support to the Bill. <http://www.citizensmediarights.org/>

By signing onto the "[Bill of Citizens' Media Rights](#)," organizations are joining the multitude of individuals and organizations that believe a free and vibrant media, full of diverse and competing voices, is the lifeblood of America's democracy and culture, as well as an engine of growth for its economy.

Signing this Bill is just the beginning. After several organizations take the pledge we will ask them to reach out to their constituents to sign a petition in support of the Bill. Our goal is to enlist millions of Americans behind the Bill. And, when the time comes to fight industry lobbyists at the local, state and federal levels, we will have sufficient popular support to force legislators to listen to our side of the story.

Media reform will only happen if we organize across party lines and communities and commit to building a system that will serve our nation for generations to come. The time to act is now.

Thank you for taking part in this movement! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have either by email at jerenberg@verizon.net or phone at 212-691-6421.

Best,
Joanna

Joanna Erenberg
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AN EXCERPT FROM AN ESSAY ON INFORMATION CONTROL AND NEED FOR WORKING CLASS NEWSPAPERS, by DAVE LINDORFF in *CounterPunch*
<http://www.counterpunch.org/lindorff02082005.html>

As a long-time professional journalist and labor activist, I have watched from the inside for thirty years now the constriction of the media and of the flow of information to the public-information which is critical to the function of a democracy.

We have reached a point today that half the people in this virtual Land of the Free think that it was Iraqis who attacked the World Trade Center, when in fact not one Iraqi was among the suicidal terrorists on those planes, where half the people in America believe not only that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, but that the U.S. has found such weapons, when in fact there are none and were none, where half of American young people think that Social Security will be bankrupt before they reach retirement, where in fact no such thing will happen.

Important news is routinely blacked out or buried, while administration lies, such as Bush's latest whopper that "research" shows that children do better being raised in families where there is a mother and a father than in a gay household, or his much bigger whopper that the Social Security system is going "bankrupt," are simply run as fact, with no effort to evaluate their veracity,

I've been witness to this collapse of mainstream American journalism. When I broke a story (in Salon Magazine and Mother Jones) definitively proving that President Bush had a device hidden under his jacket during the three presidential debates, it was because both the New York Times and the Washington Post, as well as the Los Angeles Times, had first rejected that story when it was brought to them by my source, a respected senior NASA photo analyst and astronomer.

When it comes to reporting on critical issues facing working people--the flight of jobs overseas, the security of the national retirement system, the destruction of the right to organize and join a union, declining job safety, environmental destruction, a safety net for the unemployed or underemployed--the situation is even worse. When the media do report on these topics, it is almost always from a management perspective. Attacks on Social Security are called "reform," just as the destruction of welfare was called "reform." The obvious mega-crisis of global warming is covered "even-handedly," giving know-nothing critics (including our president) equal billing with the

overwhelming scientific community's warning of disaster as if it was commentary at a football game. As for covering workers' views during labor disputes-forget it. There is hardly a labor reporter left in America, so most labor stories are now covered by the business desk, which takes management's perspective as a given.....

WIKIPEDIA

Subject: Everman's Encyclopedia

Wikipedia.org -- Many of you have heard of it, some of you use it routinely, but talking to Web people, some are not familiar with it. The two articles below, tell of a Wikipedia conference to be held at Harvard's law school this weekend.

Together the two articles describe Wikipedia -- what it is and what it is not. How it came to be, and how it continues to grow. Interesting reading. -- MT

EVERYMAN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2006608020435>

Common Knowledge

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200608u/poe-interview>

Excerpt:

"On any particular detail, the experts are probably better at answering specific questions. But it would have been impossible economically to put together a group of experts to assemble an encyclopedia that has 4.5 million entries and exists in 200 languages. There was no way to do that except this way."

As a bonus, this appears to be the full history of Wikipedia::

The Hive

by Marshall Poe

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200609/wikipedia>



ANNOUNCING THE **FALL 2007** ISSUE OF THE

Global Media Journal
(American Edition)

Guest Editors:

Karin Gwinn Wilkins, University of Texas at Austin

Debra Merskin, University of Oregon

The Fall 2007 issue of *Global Media Journal-American Edition*, with focus on *Media, Religion, and Politics in the Age of Globalization*, contains a selected number of refereed and non-refereed papers, including:

- ***“Saving” Muslim Women and Fighting Muslim Men: Analysis of Representations in the New York Times***, Smeeta Mishra, Bowling Green State University, USA
- ***The Complete Story: Religion and Race in Global Non-Fiction Programming***
Barbara Selznick, University of Arizona, USA
- ***The Abortion Debate in a Mexican Online Forum: Globalization, Religion, and Politics***, Eileen A. Yam, Abt Associates Inc., & Emily Vala-Haynes, USA
- ***Remembering the Rwandan Genocide: Reconsidering the Role of Local and Global Media***, Jolyon Mitchell, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
- ***An historical perspective on fundamentalist media: The case of Al-Manar Television***, Assem Nasr, University of Texas at Austin, USA
- ***And more...***

Global Media Journal (Indexed in CSA) publishes works that assess existing media structures and practices, such as global media concentration, globalization of media, global consumer culture, the role of media in democratic governance and global justice, propaganda, media reception and representation, commercialization, new media technologies, media regulations, regional media, alternative media, and other timely issues.

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Global Media Journal, an official publication of the [Global Communication Association](#) and [Global Fusion Consortium](#), is sponsored by the [Department of Communication and Creative Arts](#), Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, Indiana, USA, and its editions are sponsored by major universities throughout the world.

[Yahya R. Kamalipour](#)

Founder and Managing Editor

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The Union for Democratic Communications is a group of communications researchers, theorists, educators, journalists, media producers, policy analysts, and activists. The UDC is dedicated to the critical study of communications establishments and its policies; the production and distribution of democratically controlled media; the fostering of alternative, oppositional, independent, and experimental production; and the development of democratic communications systems at local, regional, national and international levels.

The purpose of this listserv is to provide a forum for announcements relating to the organization's goals and objectives. There is no charge for posting announcements, but they will be posted one time only. Send submissions to UDC-L@lists.psu.edu.

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