



# Media Reality ✓ Check

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Tom Brokaw's Heir Claimed Neither Gore Nor Bradley Liberal, but Jesse Jackson Is Indispensable

## New Anchorman, Same Old Liberal Song

If only Brokaw, Jennings and Rather would loosen their grip on the anchor chairs, the liberal bias that pervades the big three broadcast network news divisions would lessen as well, right? Well, a New York press conference yesterday offered a glimpse of the *NBC Nightly News* without Tom Brokaw, and the future may look a lot like the past twenty years. MSNBC anchor Brian Williams will replace Brokaw after the 2004 presidential elections, but his past reporting indicates he'll just perpetuate the media's prevailing liberal mindset:

■ **No liberal Democrats in 2000.** Commenting on the Al Gore-Bill Bradley contest on *The News with Brian Williams* on July 15, 1999, he wistfully remarked, "there is no true liberal to be found in this race. There's no Harkin, there's no Kennedy, there are just two centrists." After Jesse Jackson returned from Serbia with three American POWs, Williams seemed awestruck. "Bottom line: No other American was able to do what Jesse Jackson did. Doesn't the American system need a Jesse Jackson?" he asked on MSNBC on March 3, 1999.

■ **Republicans are "ugly" for mentioning Democratic dirty tricks.** Remember when the Clinton White House got caught with hundreds of FBI background files? As Williams saw it, the bad guy was the Republican who dared complain: "The politics of Campaign '96 are getting very ugly, very early," he told a *Nightly News* audience on June 8, 1996. "Bob Dole accused the White House of using the FBI to wage war against its political enemies, and if that sounds like another political scandal, that's the point."

■ **The government should further regulate SUVs.** "At issue tonight, with the U.S. locked in dependence on foreign oil, is it downright unpatriotic to drive an SUV?" Williams rhetorically wondered on the January 2, 2002 edition of his MSNBC show. A few weeks later (March 13), he castigated the Senate: "Gas-guzzling SUVs and light trucks were big winners on Capitol Hill today, but there's concern tonight the environment could be the big loser."

### With Bush, Unsupported Rumors = News...

"Is there illegal drug use in his past? It got started as a rumor, it has become a rather large and nagging news story." — *Brian Williams introducing an NBC Nightly News story, August 19, 1999.*

### ...But Clinton Was a News Media "Victim"

"Can it be said that he is both the recipient of changing times, meaning news media mores, the victim of news media stories that never would have been in print or broadcast years ago, and, kind of, the recipient and a victim?" — *Williams question to liberal historian Doris Kearns Goodwin on MSNBC, January 27, 2000.*

### ■ Choosing the ABM treaty over national missile defense.

Promoting an upcoming story on the December 13, 2001 edition of *The News*, Williams summarized: "President Bush makes a major announcement. Tonight, why the U.S. is deliberately going back on its word in front of the rest of the world." In fact, Bush had exercised a provision of the ABM treaty that allows withdrawal with six months notice.

### ■ Republicans are too strident.

Following a GOP debate, Williams on MSNBC denigrated the conservative positions taken by the six candidates. "It's red meat for conservatives, the positions rather strident tonight: anti-gay, pro-Jesus, and anti-abortion and no gray matter in between," he argued on January 6, 2000.

■ **Bill Clinton was a brainy bargain.** "He's perhaps the most intellectually and physically active person to have held the job in decades," Williams gushed on CBS's *Late Late Show with Tom Snyder* on November 17, 1995, a time when he was

NBC's White House correspondent. "I've also said that if Americans were paying Presidents by the thought, we're getting a bargain in this guy because, my God, he's just always moving, his brain's moving, he hardly sleeps."

■ **Americans win with liberal laws.** "Congress went to war today, as we mentioned, over health care and the millions of people who have had it with their HMOs. Tonight, American citizens just might have emerged as the winners in at least round one," Williams exulted on MSNBC's *The News* on October 7, 1999.

During the years he's prepared for the top job, Williams has espoused the same views that pass for mainstream thinking among the media elites. The names may change, but the same old liberal song plays on. — *Rich Noyes*

L. Brent Bozell III, Publisher; Brent Baker, Rich Noyes, Editors; Jessica Anderson, Brian Boyd, Geoffrey Dickens, Patrick Gregory, Ken Shepherd, and Brad Wilmouth, Media Analysts; Kristina Sewell, Research Associate; Liz Swasey, Director of Communications. For the very latest examples of liberal media bias, visit [www.mrc.org](http://www.mrc.org).