



Tell the Truth! 2004

Media Reality ✓ Check

Press Contact:
Katie Wright
(703) 683-5004
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Expert Documentation of the Latest Liberal Media Bias 🌟 **Thursday, July 29, 2004**

Democratic Convention, Day 3: Edwards Is So Nice, ABC's Jennings Frets, Who'll Attack Bush/Cheney?

Network Reporters Swoon Over Edwards' Speech

To document the heights (or depths) of liberal media bias during the week of the Democratic convention in Boston, the Media Research Center staff is preparing twice-daily *CyberAlerts*. For more detail, come to our Web site at www.mrc.org. The following items are a sampling of the latest findings of notable convention media coverage:

■ In Love with John Edwards.

The moment the Democratic VP nominee's speech was over, you could feel the love some network reporters have for John Edwards. On CBS, Dan Rather and Bob Schieffer glowed with satisfaction after Edwards finished, with Schieffer praising Edwards' "high road approach." Reporter Byron Pitts could not suppress his adoration of Edwards. (See box.)

■ **More Edwards Love.** "Bingo!" exclaimed MSNBC's Chris Matthews after Edwards' speech. Also on MSNBC, *Newsweek's* Jon Meacham favorably compared Edwards to Ronald Reagan: "He talks about the best and the bravest who won't be left behind. He talks about 'this great shining light.' He says, 'tomorrow is better than today.' Those are all Ronald Reagan's lines."

■ **But Who'll Bash the Bushies?** ABC's Peter Jennings had one worry after Edwards speech: "If John Edwards is going to go around the country talking enthusiastically, optimistically even blithely about the Democratic Party, who's going to attack the President and Vice President Cheney?" he asked ABC News Political Director Mark Halperin.

■ **Nasty Speech or Convention Energizer?** Even though Al Sharpton implied President Bush would have been a racist segregationist 50 years ago, Peter Jennings began

Worst of the Day: Pitts Swoons

"John Edwards has done what he came here to do. He took this massive convention center and turned it into a courtroom, some 15,000 people into 12 jurors, and he spoke to each one. Tonight, if John Edwards put the face on the Democratic Party, youthful and hopeful, it will be Senator John Kerry's job tomorrow night to give it its soul." — *Reporter Byron Pitts during CBS live convention coverage, July 28.*

ABC's 10pm EDT coverage by hailing the enthusiasm that met Sharpton's rant: "This convention hall tonight has been energized...by a truly turned-on preacher....The crowd absolutely loved it." But journalists on cable identified the speech as harsh: "Probably scared the hell out of a lot of people," MSNBC's Chris Matthews suggested.

■ Overjoyed at Obama, Tepid for Teresa.

Wednesday's morning shows continued Tuesday night's praise for Barack Obama's keynote address. ABC's Charles Gibson gushed that Obama had "brought down the house." He giddily predicted: "Last night, a political star may have been born." But as for Teresa Heinz Kerry, journalists struggled to find kind words. NBC's Tim Russert

was lukewarm: "I think they did the best they could."

■ **ABC Finds Yet Another "Rock Star."** Wednesday morning, ABC's Jake Tapper profiled the left-wing crank Michael Moore, who he said was getting a "rock star reception" at the Democratic convention. But Tapper at least labeled Moore as a "liberal," something NBC's Carl Quintanilla failed to do in his glowing profile: "Forget the flags, forget the balloons. The one thing you can't avoid at this convention sits under a green Michigan State baseball cap. Michael Moore is everywhere."

■ **More, More, More!** On Wednesday's *Inside Politics*, CNN's Judy Woodruff asked George McGovern if the GOP would "get away" with calling Democrats liberal this year. And MSNBC's Chris Matthews told Howard Dean his "happiest moment" was watching his son campaign for Dean. Like father, like son? Full details at www.mrc.org.

— Tim Graham, Brent Baker, and Rich Noyes

Read the Media Research Center's complete Conventions 2004 analysis at www.mrc.org.

To schedule an interview with an MRC spokesman, please contact Katie Wright at (703) 683-5004