



Tell the Truth! 2004

Media Reality ✓ Check

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Expert Documentation of the Latest Liberal Media Bias 🌐 **Thursday, October 21, 2004**

Paper Smears Its Front Page With Bad News for Bush, Editor Worries Press Is Too Nice to the President

The *Times*: All the News That Fits Our Spin

The *New York Times* officially endorsed John Kerry on Sunday, but the newspaper's efforts to eject George W. Bush from the White House began months, if not years, earlier. The *Times* knows the stories it promotes are often recycled as ABC, CBS and NBC reports reaching tens of millions, so its agenda-driven journalism has been a huge gift to Democrats. MRC's Times Watch project has documented the bias at the *New York Times* all year. Recent highlights:

■ **Page One Priorities.** On October 13, the *Times* ran a front-page story about how Bush-backers in Texas are unhappy with the Crawford newspaper's endorsement of Kerry. Page One even included a large picture of the editor, who is "paying dearly, in lost sales and hate mail, for endorsing John Kerry." On October 19 the *Times'* front-page showed off the results of the paper's own "weeklong effort to tally Iraqi casualties," this time printing a photo of a coffin with an Iraqi flag. The *Times* final count of 208 dead included as "victims" the insurgents who attack U.S. soldiers and Iraqi civilians.

■ **Bush's Deceitful Campaign.** On October 8, Adam Nagourney and Richard Stevenson wrote a "Political Memo" accusing Bush of engaging in a deceitful campaign. After recounting "blistering attacks" the GOP had supposedly launched Kerry's way, the political reporters cried foul: "Several analysts say Mr. Bush pushed the limits of subjective interpretation and offered exaggerated or what some Democrats said were distorted accounts of Mr. Kerry's positions." ABC News Political Director Mark Halperin cited

the *Times* article as evidence in his own memo to ABC News staffers.

■ **The Intolerant President.** On October 17, the *New York Times Magazine* ran a long profile of Bush by Ron Suskind, a liberal author who worked with ex-Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill on an anti-Bush book earlier this

year. In his *Times* piece, Suskind had Bush claiming he was for "privatization" of Social Security in a second term, a loaded charge that jazzed network newscasts for two days. He also portrayed Bush as a religious extremist who was intolerant of dissent. (See box.)

■ **Preferring Kitty Kelley Over Swift Vets.** After ignoring the best-selling anti-Kerry book *Unfit for Command*, the *Times* on October 10 printed a brief, shallow, 100 percent negative review, courtesy of Susannah Meadows, who covers Kerry for *Newsweek*. Meadows scolded how co-authors John O'Neill and Jerome R. Corsi "refuse to back down, even in the face of

logic or history." That same day, the *Times* printed Ted Widmer's favorable review of Bush-hating Kitty Kelley's thinly-sourced diatribe, *The Family*.

■ **Bush Bullies the Press.** On October 14, Arts section editor and columnist Frank Rich whined how the press has been cowed by a White House that "has moved from Agnew-style press baiting to outright assault." Is he really suggesting that the *New York Times* is holding back?

— Clay Waters and Rich Noyes

Infallible Bush Despises Doubters

"The disdainful smirks and grimaces that many viewers were surprised to see in the first presidential debate are familiar expressions to those in the administration or in Congress who have simply asked the President to explain his positions. Since 9/11, those requests have grown scarce; Bush's intolerance of doubters has, if anything, increased, and few dare to question him now. A writ of infallibility — a premise beneath the powerful Bushian certainty that has, in many ways, moved mountains — is not just for public consumption: it has guided the inner life of the White House."

— Liberal author Ron Suskind writing in the *New York Times Magazine*, October 17.

For daily analysis of the New York Times' liberal skew, please visit www.timeswatch.org

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