



Campaign 2000 Media Reality Check **QUICK TAKE**

Wednesday, November 29, 2000 ☎ www.mrc.org ☎ Contact: Katie Wright (703) 683-5004

MSNBC'S BANFIELD IS EXCITED BY ALL-DEMOCRAT PHONE FEST

NETWORKS STUMPED: IS AL GORE MORE LIKE A MILITARY HERO OR TEEN CRUSH?

On Wednesday's *Good Morning America*, ABC's George Stephanopoulos tempted his audience to picture Al Gore as a general on horseback leading the charge. Really.

Stephanopoulos told Diane Sawyer: **"You know, last week, the first couple of weeks of election day, Al Gore stayed mostly in the command center of the U.S. Naval Observatory....huddled behind his computer console, e-mailing members of Congress, reporters, really directing his legal fight from behind the scenes. But now the general's decided to go out on horseback and really lead the charge himself."**

It is unclear whether Stephanopoulos was trying to get viewers to picture Gore as a latter day General Washington, or a General George Custer.

Silly as it was, Stephanopoulos's image-making was no match for MSNBC's Ashleigh Banfield. On Monday, awaiting a public conference call between Gore, Joe Lieberman, Dick Gephardt and Tom Daschle (sort of a photo-op with no photos), Banfield cracked to correspondent Norah O'Donnell: **"The last time I was this excited about a two-minute warning for a telephone call was when I was waiting for my prom date to call and invite me to the prom — and I'm not going to tell you how many years ago that was."**

Teenage girls who get a thrill out of eavesdropping while middle-aged Democrats repeat talking points to each other might want to think about a post-prom career with MSNBC.

To watch a RealPlayer video clip of Ashleigh Banfield getting excited about Al Gore, visit **www.mrc.org**. To speak with an MRC spokesperson regarding the media's coverage of Campaign 2000, call Katie Wright at (703) 683-5004.