

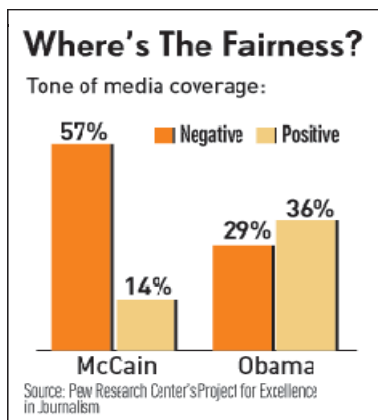
OBAMA'S PUBLICISTS

By INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY | Posted Thursday, October 23, 2008 4:20 PM PT

Journalism: Have the feeling Barack Obama gets more favorable coverage than John McCain? It's not just a perception, it's a reality, according to yet another study confirming media bias.

The right-of-center sector of the blogosphere has for months maintained that the mainstream media are "in the tank" for Obama. The observant bloggers were right.

"Coverage of McCain has been heavily unfavorable — and has become more so over time," says a Pew Research Center Project for Excellence in Journalism study that looked at newspapers and cable news shows from the end of the conventions to the last presidential debate. Coverage of Obama, naturally, was much more positive than negative or neutral. His ratio of favorable stories to overall stories was more than 2 1/2 times as large as McCain's.



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Such bias against Republicans is institutional. The Media Research Center found that between the end of the primaries and Tuesday, network news broadcast 84 stories criticizing McCain ads while only 32 had a negative tone toward Obama ads. And the Center for Media and Public Affairs notes that the GOP ticket is the butt of late-night comic jokes seven times as often as the Democratic pair.

Despite the one-sided coverage in favor of their party, some Democrats won't be happy until they have shut down any opposition and shredded the First Amendment. Among them is Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, who shares his party's eagerness to reinstate the clearly unconstitutional Fairness Doctrine. This is the Federal Communications Commission rule that once required broadcasters to give equal time to all sides on public issues.

"My thought is that radio and media generally should have a higher calling than just to reflect a particular point of view," Bingaman recently told an Albuquerque radio station, apparently forgetting that the rule of law and America's foundational documents are our guiding principles, not what he thinks.

Should Obama be elected and the Democrats gain large majorities in both congressional chambers, we expect the Fairness Doctrine, scrapped in 1987, to be resurrected.

To paraphrase a note from one of our contributors: Who knew the Democrats were closet totalitarians? We'll all know, however, when constitutionally guaranteed free speech is snuffed out.

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