



THE O'REILLY FACTOR

Interview **LATE-NIGHT COMICS LAYING INTO MCCAIN BUT GIVING OBAMA FREE PASS**

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**LAURA INGRAHAM, GUEST HOST:** In the "Impact" segment tonight: A new study shows that when it comes to poking fun at politicians, late-night comedians may not be fair and balanced. That's a shock.

So far in 2008, President Bush, Hillary Clinton and John McCain have been the butt of most of the jokes, followed far behind by Barack Obama.

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**JAMES HIRSEN, AUTHOR OF "HOLLYWOOD NATION":** Well, they're out of touch with middle America. And to some extent, they're in this cocoon where everyone believes the same thing. And so, you know, and so the numbers speak for themselves.

This is an empirical study from the Center for Media and Public Affairs. It shows that the broadcast network late-night shows have almost twice as many McCain jokes as it did Obama jokes.

And look, Jon Stewart proved that you can, in fact, have a reservoir of material and have good jokes about Obama. He actually had 24 more Obama jokes. So he actually — because his show is triggered somewhat from the headlines, he showed that it's possible.

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You know, one of the key things here is that this isn't just a frivolous study, because it's been shown that young voters derive a significant part of their news information from watching these late-night shows. A study last year, they asked people who the most admired journalist was. Jon Stewart placed fourth, tied with Brian Williams...

**INGRAHAM:** Yes, well...

**HIRSEN:** ...Tom Brokaw, etc. So there's a serious aspect to this. It does influence, you know, the elections and societal attitudes and beliefs.

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