

## Media Matters for America: Soros-Funded Watchdog Attacks Conservatives

By Rondi Adamson

*Summary: Media Matters for America is an aggressively liberal nonprofit that claims the mainstream media deliberately promotes “conservative disinformation” and must be exposed in order to protect a gullible public. The group is headed by David Brock, a former conservative journalist who switched sides and now targets his former allies using donations from George Soros and other wealthy liberal activists and foundations.*

**M**edia Matters for America (MMFA) was created in spring 2004 in time for the presidential election campaign. Funded by an estimated \$2 million in contributions, the group promotes itself as an online watchdog protecting the public from the deceptions and errors of the mass media, which has let itself be bullied or blinded by conservatives. MMFA proclaims itself the only organization brave enough and smart enough to call out the liars, the twisters of the truth and the purveyors of “misinformation” who are leading astray a naive, foolish public.

In fact, MMFA is a cog in the growing machine of “progressive” activist and advocacy nonprofits, including the online radical agitators at MoveOn.org, the liberal policy wonks at the Center for American Progress, and the Democratic get-out-the-vote forces at America Coming Together. These groups were obsessed with defeating President George W. Bush in the 2004 election. Having failed, they have grown increasingly angry and determined to drive the Bush administration out of office.

MMFA has a staff of 59 and is headquartered at offices at 1625 Massachusetts Av-



**Turncoat: David Brock, founder of Media Matters for America, is a self-described “hit man,” confessed liar, and gossip peddler. As an investigative reporter for a conservative magazine, in the 1990s he attacked Bill Clinton and the left, but nowadays attacks George W. Bush and the right.**

enue, N.W. in Washington, D.C. MMFA employees have at various times worked for Al Gore, John Edwards, Barney Frank, Wesley Clark, the National Organization for Women (NOW), the Center for American Progress, Greenpeace, the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (recently rechristened the American Association for Justice) and the Alliance for Justice.

**July 2007**

**CONTENTS**

Media Matters for America

Page 1

Philanthropy Notes

Page 8

## **“I’m a liar. Believe what I tell you.”**

MMFA is the creation of David Brock, a self-described “hit man” and self-confessed liar and gossip peddler. Brock’s own past casts a shadow over his current self-proclaimed dedication to truth-telling. At one time or another Brock has viciously attacked the Clintons and the Bushes, Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas, Rush Limbaugh and National Public Radio, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. Each time he recants a prior assault he lunges out at a new political enemy.

Brock puts himself in the position of someone who says, “I’m a liar. Believe what I tell you.” Reviewing Brock’s 2002 memoir, *Blinded by the Right*, journalist Christopher Hitchens wrote, “I would say without any hesitation that he [Brock] is incapable of recognizing the truth, let alone of telling it. The whole book is an exercise in self-love, disguised as an exercise in self-abnegation.” Cultural critic Camille Paglia, a left-leaning Democrat, ridiculed Brock’s confession: “Behold, the writhing snake pit of amoral media ambition!”

Brock’s media career began on the right. Born in 1962, Brock was a conservative student at the University of California, Berkeley,

---

**Editor:** Matthew Vadum

**Publisher:** Terrence Scanlon

### **Foundation Watch**

is published by *Capital Research Center*, a non-partisan education and research organization, classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity.

### **Address:**

1513 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036-1480

**Phone:** (202) 483-6900

**Long-Distance:** (800) 459-3950

### **E-mail Address:**

[mvadum@capitalresearch.org](mailto:mvadum@capitalresearch.org)

### **Web Site:**

<http://www.capitalresearch.org>

**Reprints** are available for \$2.50 prepaid to Capital Research Center.

and active in conservative campus journalism. Upon graduation he entered the national conservative movement, working in the 1980s at the Heritage Foundation, Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Times. He made a name for himself in 1992 when the American



**Brock is “incapable of recognizing the truth, let alone of telling it,” wrote journalist Christopher Hitchens (shown above).**

Spectator published his article attacking the truthfulness of Anita Hill, whose allegations of sexual harassment against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas transformed his Senate confirmation hearings into what Thomas denounced as a “high-tech lynching.” A year later, Brock’s book, *The Real Anita Hill*, extended his attack on Hill’s claims and character. It stayed on the New York Times bestseller list for 14 weeks despite scathing reviews from the liberal media. Paglia, always independent, defended the book as “solidly researched” and dismissed Hill’s defenders as “the feminist establishment.”

Even as the book earned attention and headlines, Brock whipped up another perfect storm by penning an article in the January 1994 issue of the American Spectator telling the sleazy tale of “Troopergate,” the allegation by Arkansas state troopers that they arranged sexual liaisons for then-Governor Bill Clinton. One was with a woman identified only as Paula. The story caused Paula Jones to file a lawsuit against President Bill Clinton, alleging that Clinton had sexually harassed her. Subsequently the Paula Jones story became entangled in the Whitewater investigations of Justice Department special prosecutor Kenneth Starr and led to, well, so much

more. Brock’s stories were responsible for the American Spectator’s nearly fourfold increase in circulation. Brock was riding high, observed journalist Laura Kipnis writing in Slate, and he was earning an “unheard of \$500,000 three-year contract at the [American] Spectator.”

Then came Brock’s personal Road to Damascus – the political transformation he has told—and re-told—as a sequence of vivid eye-opening events.

With a \$1 million advance from a conservative subsidiary of Simon and Schuster, Brock was commissioned to produce a biography of Hillary Clinton. What he wrote was not what the signers of the check had bargained for. Rather than a hit-piece, a la *The Real Anita Hill*, Brock offered up, in 1996, *The Seduction of Hillary Rodham*. Brock portrayed the then-First Lady as an earnest do-gooder, a hapless Middle America nerd, devastated and walked down the primrose path by her slimy, philandering husband. The book generated little controversy, and years later, Brock claimed the book was tame because he could find no evidence of wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton. Others, however, suggest he was simply not able to find sources who would speak to him and, with a tight deadline from his publishers, could not produce the spectacular revelations everyone was expecting.

Brock’s journalistic career stalled. In need of a jumpstart, he produced a series of self-dramatizing mea culpas published in Esquire magazine. The first, “Confessions of a Right-Wing Hit Man,” (July 1997), proclaimed his disillusion at conservatives’ disdainful reaction to his Clinton book: Brock confessed his feelings were hurt when the late Barbara Olson disinvited him to a dinner party she was hosting for a select group of Washington conservatives. Esquire’s cover featured a theatrical photo of a bare-breasted Brock tied to a tree awaiting burning at the stake. The second Esquire article (April 1998) apologized to Bill Clinton for the Troopergate expose, which he blamed on conservatives who had manipulated his desire for a good story. Brock, a gay man, said he regretted his attacks on Clinton’s sexual behavior, which he should have treated as a private matter. This argument enraged Paglia, a lesbian, who accused him of using the

privacy argument to excuse Clinton and disparage those who told the truth about him: “I am personally furious with David Brock’s recent slimy behavior – to apply to him the word he now uses for the working-class Arkansas state troopers he once touted as sources...”

Subsequently, Brock wrote two more works that completed his political conversion: *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*, yet another self-serving memoir, and *The Republican Noise Machine*, an anti-conservative screed that claimed the public’s support for Republican candidates was actually a brain-washed reaction to incessant conservative chatter in magazines, think-tanks, websites, and cable TV and radio talk shows. Brock said conservatives had created an intellectual infrastructure—a Republican noise machine—that was dominating the news media and overwhelming any alternative political commentary.

### The “Conservative” Mainstream Media

The arguments in *The Republican Noise Machine* inspired Brock to establish Media Matters for America (MMFA), an Internet-based watchdog project. It is dedicated to attacking the conservative media for lying—and to attacking the mainstream media for uncritically repeating conservative lies.

The MMFA site has no lack of political opinions. However, one of the first things that strikes you when you visit Brock’s creation is its reliance on personal attacks in lieu of substantive or fact-based arguments. Entire sections are devoted to assailing specific media personalities. What results is not fair-comment analysis of what they say or write, but personal scrutiny, including minute parsing of every comment and its presumed meaning. Conservatives such as Bill O’Reilly, winner of the 2004 MMFA “Misinformers of the Year” award, are attacked as though their opinions are inherently offensive and necessarily dangerous.

Mainstream media figures such as Katie Couric, Matt Lauer and Chris Matthews also are put on a Media Matters watchlist. Apparently their crime is not always and immediately contradicting conservative assertions in the news. Brock’s group searches out moments whenever the media says anything less than supportive of liberals and Demo-

crats. It is always on the lookout for any political offenses that a mainstream media figure may commit.

For instance, in 2005 MMFA named MSNBC commentator Chris Matthews its “Misinformers of the Year.” Matthews was once an aide to the late House Speaker Tip O’Neill, the legendary liberal Democrat from Massachusetts. He also was a speechwriter for Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale. He has been highly critical of the Iraq war and has fawned over anti-war activist

crats, including Hillary Clinton.

Then there is MMFA’s 2006 “Misinformers”: the ABC television network. MMFA points an accusing finger at ABC News political director Mark Halperin who appeared on the cable news shows “Hannity & Colmes” and “The O’Reilly Factor” and admitted that “old media” (meaning TV network news and newspapers) were “biased against conservatives; there’s no doubt about it...I think we’ve got a chance in these last two weeks [before the



**New York Times editor Bill Keller (above left) was labeled a “neoconservative” by MMFA’s Eric Alterman (above right).**

Cindy Sheehan in interviews. Anyone who regularly watches Matthews knows he is quite open about his liberal political leanings and more or less endorsed John Kerry in 2004. Yet MMFA named Matthews to succeed Bill O’Reilly for its “misinformers” award. Matthews’s offense? Well, he occasionally said nice things about George W. Bush (“Sometimes it glimmers with this man...that kind of sunny nobility” and “Everybody sort of likes the president, except for the real whack-jobs, maybe on the left. I mean, likes him personally.”) Matthews called one Bush speech “brilliant” and on occasion he has criticized Demo-

then-upcoming 2006 midterm elections] to prove to conservatives that we understand their grievances. We’re going to try to do better.” To MMFA that’s an admission of bias. MMFA endorses media fairness in theory, but in practice it treats an admission of past news media bias against conservatives as evidence of current media bias against liberals!

Another ABC crime is its airing of “The Path to 9/11,” a two-part docudrama that pointed out Clinton administration failings in dealing with the threat of Osama bin Laden

**For frequent updates on environmental groups, nonprofits, foundations, and labor unions, check out the CRC-Greenwatch Blog at**

**[www.capitalresearch.org/blog](http://www.capitalresearch.org/blog)**

and other terrorist groups. As proof of bias, MMFA observed that ABC vice president Judith Tukich was an evangelical Christian who accepted an award from the conservative Liberty Film Festival for helping to produce and promote “The Path to 9/11.”

Strange as it may seem, MMFA claims that the American mainstream media is overtly conservative. MMFA essentially agrees with radical journalist Eric Alterman, author of a 2003 book, *What Liberal Media? The Truth about Bias and the News*, who argues that

– NBC’s “Meet the Press,” “Fox News Sunday,” CBS’s “Face the Nation,” ABC’s “This Week” – which purported to analyze the political profile of their invited speakers. The studies concluded that the programs lacked gender and ethnic diversity, that Republicans and conservatives outnumbered Democrats and progressives, and that the programs lacked balance. But look at the speakers that the studies characterize as “neutral.” They include news anchors Dan Rather and Gwen Ifill, environmental writer Jeremy Rifkin (author of *The European Dream: How*

used to suggest that everything he says must be false and deserving of censure.

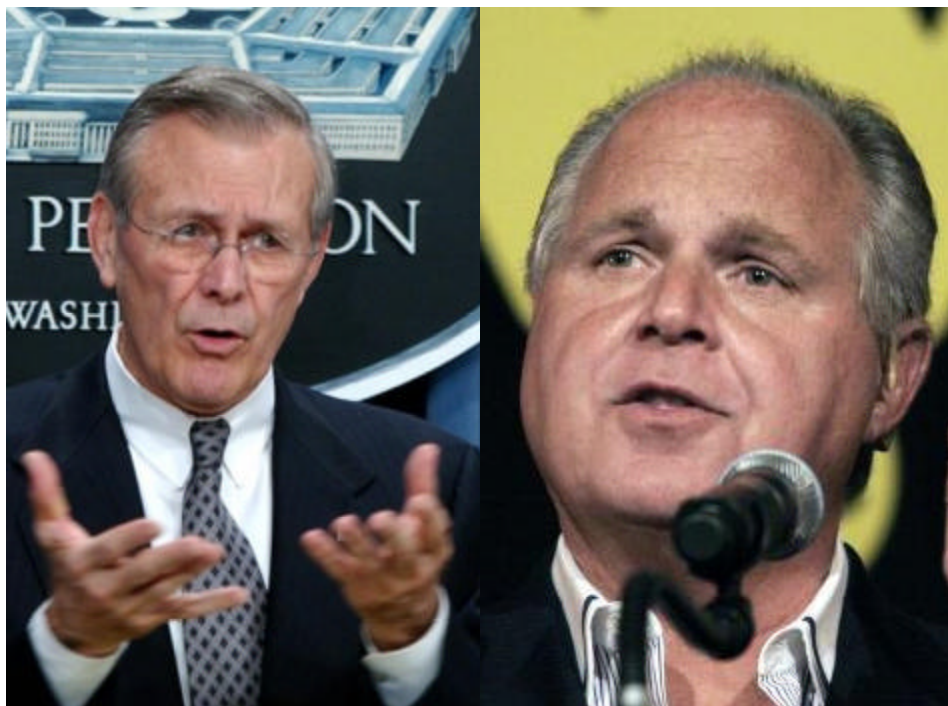
### Targeting Conservatives: Rush Limbaugh, Sinclair Broadcasting

One of the earliest targets for MMFA was talk-radio host Rush Limbaugh. Radio’s most listened-to talker, Limbaugh is a predictable object of attack. In the aftermath of the initial Abu Ghraib revelations, Limbaugh made unfortunate comments comparing the behavior of the soldiers at the prison to fraternity initiations. He suggested that military personnel were merely “blowing off steam,” and that their actions were all-too-understandable.

These comments became a pretext for Brock and MMFA to launch an anti-Limbaugh campaign. They spent \$100,000 to broadcast anti-Limbaugh ads on Fox, CNN, MSNBC, CNBC and ESPN. Brock wrote to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, asking that Limbaugh’s program be removed from the American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS), the Defense Department’s broadcasting service to American forces overseas. Limbaugh had “condoned torture,” argued Brock, and American troops needed to be shielded from his ideas. Brock concluded that Limbaugh’s program “divides rather than unites Americans.”

In challenging the Defense Department to remove Limbaugh’s show from its broadcast line-up, Brock and MMFA showed they were not afraid to create controversy or stage a major confrontation. Brock and MMFA pronounced AFRTS guilty of leaning politically to the right. In reality, most of the AFRTS broadcast programming is music. AFRTS does offer a standard sampling of radio and television programs from back home. A soldier can hear pretty much the same sort of news broadcast in Baghdad, the Korean DMZ, Okinawa or Kabul as he would hear in Ohio or Hawaii. National Public Radio (NPR) is well-represented, but so is Limbaugh.

MMFA also took on Republican-leaning Sinclair Broadcasting, which broadcast a film called “Stolen Honor: Wounds that Never Heal” on its 62 stations during the 2004 election cycle. The documentary featured Vietnam veterans who had been prisoners of war. They said their captors’ cruelty was fuelled by John Kerry’s anti-war posturing



**MMFA’s Brock wrote to then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld urging the removal of Rush Limbaugh’s radio talk show from the armed forces broadcasting service.**

the mainstream media is biased in favor of the right. Alterman, a columnist for the Nation magazine and “senior fellow” at both MMFA and the Center for American Progress, writes the media watchdog blog, “Altercation,” which appears on the MMFA website. From Alterman’s perspective, New York Times editor Bill Keller is a “neoconservative” and the New Republic magazine is right-wing. This would likely come as news to both Keller and the New Republic.

MMFA’s definition of politically correct thought is as narrow as its definition of “right-wing” or “conservative” thought is broad. Three times in 2006, MMFA produced studies of the Sunday morning news shows

*Europe’s Vision of the Future is Quietly Eclipsing the American Dream?*), historians Doris Kearns Goodwin and Douglas Brinkley, writers Carl Bernstein and Michael Scheuer (author of *Imperial Hubris*), New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman and Washington Post staff writer Ceci Connolly. If they are “neutral,” who’s “progressive”?

If you add Brock’s slippery hold on the truth to Alterman’s radical political outlook, you get MMFA’s unique contribution to American journalism. MMFA’s typical mode of operation is to isolate a small facet of a media story that can be twisted in such a way as to suggest that the reporter or news commentator is a liar or hypocrite. That is then

after he had served his tour of duty. MMFA called Sinclair unfair and said the film lacked “balance.” In December 2004, a mysterious website appeared that criticized the film and provided email addresses and phone numbers for Sinclair’s biggest advertisers—Staples, Kraft Foods Inc., Target, Geico, Sprint and McDonald’s. One month later, in January 2005, Staples pulled its advertising from Sinclair news broadcasts and “The Point,” a daily conservative commentary. Staples said it received “numerous” email complaints about Sinclair. Though the office supply chain did not mention the website, MMFA was happy to take “partial” credit for the outcome, saying that while it had not intended a boycott, it was happy to raise advertiser awareness of Sinclair’s actions.

MMFA’s triumph was brief, however. A few weeks later as the story got out among conservative websites and talk radio, the backlash Staples experienced compelled the company to restore the advertising. Cliff

Kincaid (of Accuracy in Media) was another victim of MMFA mendacity. In the summer of 2005, the group accused him of having



Cliff Kincaid of Accuracy in Media

fabricated a letter from an Afghan ambassador concerning Newsweek’s “Koran in the toilet” story that sparked riots in Afghanistan, killing 17 people. MediaMatters claimed the document “bears all the hallmarks of a do-it-yourself, cut and paste job.” Kincaid responded by posting a scanned image of the

envelope, as well as the letter in question. MMFA issued a backpedal of sorts — *anon-apology apology* — saying that it had only “pointed out that the letter as posted on the America’s Survival website consisted of separate elements cobbled together from various sources.” Kincaid’s website, [usasurvival.org](http://usasurvival.org), concluded the dispute with the following: “MMFA published the defamatory article against Kincaid without making any elementary effort to obtain the facts. MMFA never contacted Kincaid to see if the letter in question was in fact authentic. A simple call could have resulted in obtaining a copy of the original letter, showing that it is completely legitimate and genuine, and that the petition campaign is authentic as well.”

Brock’s work as a conservative at the American Spectator discredited the liberalism of the mainstream media. At MMFA, he now aims to undermine what he considers the conservatism of the mainstream media. Brock’s work as a journalist is always gos-

## GOOD DEEDS, SQUANDERED LEGACIES

A cautionary tale first published in 1994, this third edition by Martin Morse Wooster testifies to the continuing importance of the issue of donor intent. It contains new material focused on the ongoing *Robertson Foundation v. Princeton University* case and an update on the tragic battle over the Barnes Foundation. An Executive Summary is also included.

Wooster, senior fellow at Capital Research Center, tells a cautionary tale of what has gone wrong with many of this country's preeminent foundations. But he also shows that other foundations, such as those established by Lynde and Harry Bradley, James Duke, and Conrad Hilton, safeguard their founders' values and honor their intentions.

**\$14.95**  
 To order, call 202-483-6900  
 or visit [http://www.myezshop.com/capital\\_research/](http://www.myezshop.com/capital_research/)  
 or mail your check and book order to:  
 Capital Research Center  
 1513 16th Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20036

sipy and unctuous, but at MMFA it is something worse: unoriginal, petty and vindictive.

In recent days MMFA has congratulated itself for helping instigate the firing of radio personality Don Imus and has prepared a blacklist of other talk-radio hosts who merit dismissal. According to the Wall Street Journal, MMFA researcher Ryan Chiachiere was “assigned to monitor Imus’ program.” Watching “Imus in the Morning” as the host made his “nappy-headed hos” comment, Chiachiere promptly posted online a transcript and video of the remark and sent emails to the press and activist contacts. Soon after, MSNBC began fielding angry calls and messages. When CBS radio announced it had fired Imus, MMFA helpfully posted – under the title “It’s not just Imus” – a list of pundits who should meet a similar fate. The list included Glenn Beck, Neal Boortz, Rush Limbaugh, Bill O’Reilly, Michael Savage, Michael Smerconish and John Gibson.

### Following the Money

David Brock’s confessional writings make clear that he yearns to schmooze. Deeply wounded when the conservative A-list turned against him, he now associates with Hollywood glitterati, champagne socialists and establishment movers and shakers who are financing his online mud-wrestling at MMFA. According to the New York Times,

MMFA received “more than \$2 million from wealthy liberals” as start-up money in 2004. Initial donors included cable executive Leo Hindery Jr., philanthropist James Hormel, shopping mall magnate Bren Simon, and Susie Tompkins Buell, who with her husband Douglas co-founded the Esprit clothing chain. Buell, who met Brock at a get-together of Hillary Clinton supporters, held a fundraiser for him at her San Francisco home.

Brock has been less than open – there’s a temptation to use that word “slippery” – over MMFA’s financing. At first Media Matters spokeswoman Sally Aman insisted that “neither Media Matters nor its president and CEO David Brock has received any money from Soros or from any organization with which he is affiliated.” But George Soros has been a major force in funding MMFA – indirectly perhaps, but powerfully, nonetheless. In early 2005, MMFA, through a spokeswoman, allowed that “the group is no longer disavowing any connection” with groups “affiliated” with Soros.

The decision to come clean, more or less, was preceded – or perhaps, expedited – by Cybercast News Service, which looked into MMFA’s financial ties. According to a CNS article (March 3, 2005), “there were numerous and extensive links between Media Matters and several Soros ‘affiliates’ like MoveOn.org, the Center for American Progress and Soros ally Peter Lewis.”

And in an email to CNS regarding MMFA’s financial backers, spokeswoman Sally Aman wrote: “In response to your query regarding donor funding Media Matters for America has never received funding directly from George Soros.” Aman acknowledged support from MoveOn.org and the New Democrat Network. She also named as a donor Soros’s friend Peter Lewis, the insurance tycoon who founded Progressive Corporation. Soros and Lewis were the top two donors to anti-Bush “527” political pressure groups during the 2004 election campaign. Each gave more than \$20 million to the ostensibly independent organizations.

Regarding the dissembling and waffling around the Soros relationship, conservative activist David Horowitz said, “This is typical of Brock’s operation. They split hairs to present an untruth...Once you have the names of donors, once you know Peter Lewis is involved, you can’t deny it [the Soros affiliation].” Another Soros-backed think tank, the Center for American Progress (CAP), has also supported MMFA. John Podesta, CAP’s president and Bill Clinton’s former chief of staff, told the New York Sun that in 2004 CAP aided Brock by offering office space and administrative assistance.

According to its tax records, MMFA took in \$155,100 in grants in 2003 and \$3,564,471 in grants in 2004. Its tax return dated December 31, 2005, lists income of \$8,489,663 and assets of \$6,344,165.

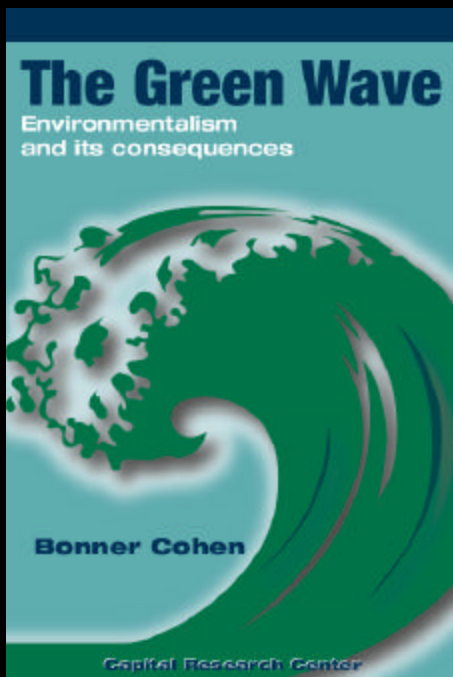
### MUST READING from Capital Research Center...

Today’s environmental activists are well-established Washington insiders determined to impose their ideals on the rest of us. In this groundbreaking new book, Bonner R. Cohen, a longtime observer of green do-gooders, traces the rise of environmentalism in America, a movement so thoroughly ingrained in DC culture that the installation of one of its own as Treasury Secretary was barely noticed. Cohen describes how activists created an ideology that now dominates public debate, along with a movement of nonprofit groups that is well-organized and well-funded.

\$14.95

To order, call 202-483-6900  
or visit [http://www.myezshop.com/capital\\_research/](http://www.myezshop.com/capital_research/)  
or mail your check and book order to:

Capital Research Center, 1513 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036



Major funders of MMFA include the Schumann Center for Media and Democracy, whose president is PBS pundit Bill Moyers (\$500,000 in 2005), the Gruber Family Foundation (\$200,000 in 2004-5), the Barbra Streisand Foundation \$25,000 (\$35,000 in 2004-5), the Arca Foundation (\$100,000 in 2004), and the Bernard & Audre Rapoport Foundation (\$50,000 in 2005). The Bohemian Foundation gave \$475,000 in 2004-5. Its president is Colorado heir Patricia Stryker, the 278th richest American (on the 2006 Forbes 400 list). The Glaser Progress Foundation, whose president is RealNetworks media software creator Rob Glaser, gave \$100,000 in 2005. At least two funders—the Stephen M. Silberstein Foundation (\$100,000 in 2003) and the Susie Tompkins Buell Foundation (\$200,000 in 2004)—gave money to MMFA through the Tides Foundation, which serves as a financial intermediary for left-wing nonprofits and foundations.

The press also reports that the Democracy Alliance, the Soros-inspired consortium of extremely wealthy liberal donors, has committed to give \$50 million to selected left-wing think tanks and advocacy organizations. MMFA and John Podesta's Center for American Progress were among the first beneficiaries. (For more information, see "George Soros's Democracy Alliance: In Search of a Permanent Democratic Majority," by James Dellinger and Matthew Vadum, *Foundation Watch*, December 2006.)

While purporting to hold the media to high standards, Media Matters for America traffics in gossip and finger-pointing. It's striking that so many wealthy liberal donors and foundations have committed major sums to this online start-up operation created by a discredited political operative. That they are prepared to get down and dirty testifies to the anger and desperation they must feel.

*Rondi Adamson is a Canadian journalist who has been published in the Jerusalem Post, Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, Globe and Mail, Toronto Star and many other publications. She may be reached at rondi.adamson@gmail.com.*

FW

You can probe the  
backgrounds of many of the organizations profiled in  
*Foundation Watch*  
by visiting our  
online database at  
[www.capitalresearch.org](http://www.capitalresearch.org)

You can also retrieve past issues of CRC newsletters, including

*Organization Trends*  
*Foundation Watch*  
*Labor Watch*  
*Compassion and Culture*

Past issues may be ordered for \$2.50 each. Orders must be prepaid. For information or credit card orders, call (202) 483-6900

Or mail your check to:

Capital Research Center,  
1513 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Please  
remember  
Capital  
Research  
Center  
in your will  
and estate  
planning.  
Thank you  
for your  
support.

*Terrence Scanlon,  
President*



Capital Research  
Center's  
next online radio  
shows air live on  
July 3, 3:05 p.m.  
July 31, 3:05 p.m.  
August 28, 3:05 p.m.  
(Eastern time)  
at [http://  
www.righttalk.com](http://www.righttalk.com)  
(replays follow at 5  
minutes past the  
hour for the follow-  
ing 23 hours)

# PhilanthropyNotes

**Phil Kent's** new book, *Foundations of Betrayal: How the Liberal Super-Rich Undermine America*, is receiving positive early reviews. Kent's look at the world of big liberal tax-exempt foundations will "appall supporters of free enterprise and other American traditions," writes **Rich Lowry**, editor of National Review. Kent, a former president of the **Southeastern Legal Foundation**, writes in the book that secretive left-wing foundations, the advocacy groups they fund, and the politicians who fawn over them attack free markets, help radical Muslims, and bankroll radical environmentalists. The book is published by **Zoe Publications**.

Donor intent scored a rare legal victory when Tennessee judge **Ellen Hobbs Lyle** ruled that **Fisk University** in Nashville may not sell two paintings worth millions of dollars and devote the proceeds to academic and financial improvements, reports The Chronicle of Higher Education. Such expenditures would violate the wishes of the late artist **Georgia O'Keeffe** who donated the art to the university for its use in art education. Lyle based her decision in part on archived correspondence between O'Keeffe and the school.

**University of Oregon** researchers found that donating money to charity makes donors feel good by activating sections of the brain associated with pleasure, the Chicago Tribune reported. The new study constitutes a significant advance in the discipline of neuroeconomics, which combines economics and psychology to study how the brain directs the way individuals handle money. Using magnetic resonance imaging, researchers observed that pleasure centers were more intensely stimulated in those test subjects who voluntarily gave money to a food bank than in those who had money taken from them and given to the same charity. Economic models would suggest "only **Bill Gates** or **Warren Buffett** should be making contributions, and everyone else should just free-ride," said economics professor **William Harbaugh**, a co-author of the study. "But that doesn't happen; there's high participation, where even low-income people are giving away a portion of their income."

The new edition of Capital Research Center's book *The Great Philanthropists and the Problem of Donor Intent* by **Martin Morse Wooster** chronicles the ongoing struggle over control over the famous **Barnes Foundation** art museum. Here's the latest news: Commissioners of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where the museum is located, are considering a proposal to issue bonds to buy the museum building and rent it back to the foundation, saving state taxpayers about \$100-million and giving the museum a \$50-million endowment, reports the Philadelphia Inquirer. The forces eager to overturn the bequest of Dr. **Albert Barnes** and move his art collection to Philadelphia are decidedly cool to the proposal.

Online gifts to charities climbed by a median of 37% last year, a Chronicle of Philanthropy survey of 187 large groups revealed. The charities raised \$1.2 billion in total in 2006, marking the first time Internet-based donations exceeded the \$1 billion mark in a one-year period.

The **Pew Charitable Trusts** and the **National Environmental Trust** (NET) announced that by December they intend to merge the staff and operations of NET and Pew's Environment Program into a new entity to be called the **Pew Environment Group**. The new green group will have a staff of more than 80 and estimated annual operating revenue of about approximately \$70 million, which would make it one of the nation's largest environmental scientific and advocacy organizations. Dr. **Joshua S. Reichert**, who has directed Pew's Environment Program since 1990, will serve as managing director of the new group.



