

Major Press Clearly in Pocket of Deviant Extremists

Media Ignored Homosexual Sex Murder

By L. BRENT BOZELL III

When Matthew Shepard died on Oct. 12, 1998, at the age of 21, five days after getting into a pickup truck with two goons who beat him mercilessly, he had already become a huge national news story that continues today.

It made the cover of *Time* magazine with the headline "The War Over Gays,"

with reporters predictably using the occasion to blame religious conservatives and call for hate-crime laws and other gay-left agenda items.

But when Jesse Dirkhising died on September 26 at the age of 13 from suffocation after being bound, gagged with underwear in his mouth, blindfolded, taped to the bed, and

sodomized by one gay man while another gay man watched, the national media said nothing, even after the *Washington Times* exposed the untold story.

In this modern media age, when lurid murders, especially of children, dance in the dreams of ratings-obsessed network producers (can you say JonBenet?), why would this

story go untold?

Had Jesse Dirkhising been shot inside his Arkansas school, he would have been an immediate national news story.

Had he been openly gay and his attackers heterosexual, the crime would have led all the networks.

But no liberal media outlet would dare be the first to tell a grisly murder story that has as its villains two gay men.

The primary offender in this tale of politically correct self-censorship is the Associated Press, which waved the flag of the Shepard beating on its national wire for everyone to see.

By contrast, the Dirkhising murder was never put on the national wire, and its local dispatches were 200-word puddles of colorless court reporting that suggested to editors this story was bound for Page B-17. Despite Dirkhising's death from what his killers implied was a "sex game" gone bad, AP never described them as gay men.

Major News Media Recruit Homosexuals

But you can bet that nearly every national media outlet that has now seen this story and tossed it in the garbage pail has in its newsroom a vocal caucus of gay and lesbian employees.

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Nearly every national media outlet sets up recruiting booths at the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association convention each year, and helps pay for the convention by placing cheerleading ads in the program.

The NLGJA Web site has boasted of events with network anchors like Dan Rather.

You can bet that nearly every national media outlet hears the footsteps of a gay-left activist like Cathy Renna of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, who told an early October gathering, "One of the most important things you can do is have those tough conversations with journalists about when it is completely inappropriate to run to some radical group like the Family Research Council

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because of misguided notions of 'balance.'

"We have to offer them some more moderate voices, or convince them that there is no other side to these issues . . . We are now in the position of being able to say, we have the high ground, we have the facts, and we don't have to go one-on-one with these people."

Clearly, her censorious message is winning.