

The New Criterion

Features

September 2008

Killing talk radio

by [Brian C. Anderson](#), [Adam D. Thierer](#)

On the lurking threat to the freedom of the airwaves.

The Left has watched uneasily as power drains away daily from the CBS Newses and the *Time* magazines of the liberal mainstream media and flows toward a more politically pluralistic array of new media alternatives that range from (mostly) conservative talk radio to (Fox-dominated) cable news to the ceaselessly expanding (thoroughly bi-partisan) Internet. And make no mistake: liberals want to snuff out this exciting, democratic world of analysis and debate and return to the good old days, when you got up in the morning with *The New York Times* and had dinner with Dan Rather—and basically kept quiet while your elite betters told you what to think. Impossible, you say. But the Left means business on the media front, and lawmakers are cooking up a host of new regulations to drive incorrect (right-of-center) opinions from the public sphere. In its highest-profile effort to shut down the political speech it doesn't like ...

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This article originally appeared in The New Criterion, Volume 27 September 2008, on page 18

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