

# WESTWORLD



## Fox News no longer legitimate

**Adriana Zalloni**  
World Editor

In an unprecedented move, the White House recently decided to exclude cable channel Fox News from the same degree of access to the West Wing as other media outlets such as CNN, NBC, ABC, CBS and MSNBC.

“As [Fox is] undertaking a war against Barack Obama and the White House, we do not need to pretend that this is the way legitimate news organizations behave,” Anita Dunn, the White House communications director, said in a telephone interview with the *New York Times*.

In explaining the ban, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said, “We render opinion based on some of their coverage and the fairness of that coverage,” the Associated Press reported.

Furthermore, On Oct. 22, the White House arranged for a round-robin interview with of the White House victim compensation special master Kenneth Feinberg. In this type of interview, the newsmaker sits in the same chair, and every five minutes, the interviewer changes. However, the White House said that Fox News would not be invited to the round robin interview, according to MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow.

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Maddow reported that the other news networks came to Fox’s defense, claiming that if Fox were not invited, they would “bow out of the interview,” Maddow said. The White House then included Fox in the interview, which Fox has been “trumpeting this as a victory over the White House,” Maddow added.

According to Maddow, Fox sees this victory as proof that although the White House may not view Fox as a news network, the media still do.

As a journalist, I am all for the First Amendment, promising the freedom of speech for all. If Fox wants to take an adversarial approach to their commentary, they have every right to say whatever they choose. However, the term “news organization” implies a certain level of objectivity in the way events are reported. In my opinion, and Maddow’s, this is where Fox News crosses the line.

In her editorial commentary on Oct. 23 episode of The Rachel Maddow Show, the host provided a compelling argument in favor of the White House ban on Fox News.

According to Maddow, the White House is justified in not regarding Fox as a news organization because unlike other news channels, even those that are highly opinionated such as MSNBC, the sole purpose of nearly every program on Fox News is to criticize the Obama administration. Even events allegedly covered as news stories include opinions that advance a conservative viewpoint, including promotion and inflated estimates of last summer’s Tea Party rallies and the 9/12 rally in Washington.

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Furthermore, just last week Daily Show host Jon Stewart caught Fox personality Sean Hannity in an act of dishonesty, charging that Hannity used footage from the 9/12 rally as video evidence of the turnout at a November Tea Party rally. Hannity was forced to apologize for the duplicity.

Maddow asserted that such actions on Fox’s part amount to “promoting a protest movement against the U.S Government.” Maddow views Fox as a political outlet for the Republican party instead of a normal news network that simply airs facts or opinions that are labeled as such. I agree.

I do not exorciate Fox for voicing an opinion. That is a right promised to them in the Constitution. This is a matter of whether or not they can be considered a news network if they do voice that opinion and call it fact.

It would be irrational to expect the White House to consider a network that organizes protests against it as a regular news organ.

## Abortion funding threatens health care bill

**Zoe Ljubic**  
Editor in Chief

“Only women should decide what women should do with their bodies,” applied science and technology teacher Kay Coughlin said regarding the current health care debate. “We should allow federal dollars to pay for unwanted pregnancies, because if we



**Sen. Conrad Kent, D-SD opposes funding for abortions in healthcare plan.**  
Photo courtesy MCT Campus

don’t, it will be horrible for women.”

Although he supports universal health care, senior Albert Kim disagrees with Coughlin’s assessment.

“More money should be spent on the government-based health

insurance, but not on funding for abortions.”

According to [www.politico.com](http://www.politico.com), public option funding for abortion threatened to derail the House health care reform bill that passed by a narrow 220-215 on Nov. 7, and now it is standing in the way of the Senate’s majority leader Harry Reid’s “attempts to get 60 votes” on the Senate version of the new health care reform bill.

Even Democrats such as Senators Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) made it clear that they “want to ensure that the Senate bill prevents federal dollars from paying for abortion,” ABC news said.

Math teacher Sean Delahanty sides with Coughlin, saying that “women should have the right to choose how [they] want to take care of [their] bodies.”

Therefore, Delahanty favors a public option that includes abortion funding.

“If the government is planning on providing [universal health care] included in that should financial support to have an abortion if [mothers] choose to do so. We are in a democracy that is supposed to offer freedom of choice in a variety of ways.”

Sophomore Stephanie Stulac disagrees. As a devout Christian, she doesn’t believe in abortions.

“The government should not fund them,” she said.

Senior Sabriah Wiedeman agrees.

“No matter what stage [the mother is in] pregnancy, [having an abortion] is killing a baby. I do not think it is right for the government to be funding to kill babies,” she said. “It is the responsibility that [mothers] would have to take for doing what they did [to get pregnant].”

English teacher Sharon Swanson disagrees, saying “I do believe it should be a part of the insurance” plan.

“Because of the impact that it would have on the laws and on women’s lives then yes, [the public should have the option to fund for abortions].”

Junior Fiona Mohan believes that abortions are acceptable in situations where the mother is put in danger. However, she does not believe the government should fund them.

Coughlin offered a different perspective.

“I am not interested in going backwards for women,” she said. “I am not interested in going back to 1973,” the year the Supreme Court ruled in favor of abortion in the famous *Roe v. Wade* decision.

“I knew women that had illegal, backstreet abortions and knew women that had horrible things happen to them in 1973,” Coughlin said, adding that she strongly believes this is a “privacy issue that [for which the] federal government should pay.”

## School community reacts to Maine gay marriage repeal

**Morgan Quilici**  
Copy Editor

“I think it is fine that [the state of Maine] repealed the law because [the state government] asked the people for their opinions,” junior Nikola Stankovic said, weighing in on the Pine Tree State voters’ decision to overturn last June’s legalization of gay marriage.

“If most of the people in Maine think that it should not be allowed then it is okay. I believe that laws should be chosen by the people not by the legislature,” Stankovic added.

As reported in last June’s issue of *West World*, in May 2009, Maine governor John Baldacci signed a bill to legalize gay marriage in Maine. According to *Yahoo! News*, enactment of the law was put on hold, the result of a petition launched by conservatives to repeal the law in a referendum.

On Nov. 3, the state law was officially repealed, with 53 percent of the state’s voters making Maine the 31st state to reject gay marriage through popular vote, according to *Yahoo! News*.

West students’ responses to the repeal were mixed.

“I think gay marriage should be allowed everywhere. I think it is crazy that people would deny true love. The fact that [the referendum] took rights away is absurd,” sophomore Courtney Berghoff said.

Senior Jeremy Berman agrees.

“Same sex couples are no different than any other kind of couple. They have every right to be married in Maine or anywhere else,” Berman said.

Others find the issue more complicated.

“Coming from someone who is against gay marriage, the fact that the voters’ rejecting the law was morally right. However, giving someone a right and then taking it away from them is not right,” senior Summer Samano said.

Freshman Sirene Ramahi agrees with Samano’s latter contention if not the former.

“I am not against gay marriage, and I think it is unjust [that Maine] would take away the right for gays to marry based on a majority,” Ramahi said.

Sophomore Andrew Martias concurs.

“I disagree with the Maine repeal. I understand that everyone has [his/her] own religious beliefs but I think that everyone should be able to marry [whomever (s)he wants],” Martias said.

Social studies teacher Dana Kanwischer suggested an alternate referendum policy that would make a repeal more fair for the majority of voters.



**Unions such as this one will no longer be legal in Maine after November’s referendum.**  
Photo courtesy MCT Campus

“Maybe a referendum should be a two-thirds vote. That way it is harder for a bill to get passed, and therefore, it ensures that the minority can rally enough votes to keep their right,” Kanwischer said. “[Fifty-three percent] is such a small majority. A two-thirds vote would make sure it is what the people really want,” Kanwischer added.

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## Flashback: month of November

### November is...

*Adoption Awareness Month  
Novel Writing Month  
Family Stories Month*

*Drum (Percussion) Month  
Native American Heritage Month  
Inspirational Role Models Month*

### November's Birthstone



**Topaz**

### November's Flower



**Chrysanthemum**

### November's Astrological signs:

*Scorpio: October 23-November 21  
Sagittarius: November 22- December 21*

#### Fun Fact:

**The ancient Roman calendar listed November as the ninth month.**

### History

- Nov. 20, 1789:** *New Jersey was the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights*
- Nov. 17, 1800:** *first session of the U.S. Congress was held at the U.S. Capital building in Washington D.C.*
- Nov. 24, 1859:** *Charles Darwin published his theory on evolution*
- Nov.16,1907:** *Oklahoma became the 46th U.S. State*
- Nov, 2, 1922:** *King Tut's tomb was discovered*
- Nov. 9, 1927:** *Giant Pandas were discovered in China*

### Sports Highlights

- Nov. 6, 1869:** *first intercollegiate football game was played*
- Nov. 15, 1950:** *Arthur Dorrington became the first African-American to play in an organized hockey league*
- Nov. 5, 1960:** *American Football League was formed*

### Entertainment

- Nov. 18, 1928:** *Mickey Mouse premiered at the Colony Theater in New York*
- Nov. 6, 1947:** *Meet the Press premiered*
- Nov. 9, 1967:** *Rolling Stone Magazine preimered*
- Nov. 26, 1956:** *The Price is Right premiered*
- Nov. 10, 1969:** *Sesame Street premiered*
- Nov. 8, 1972:** *HBO premiered*
- Nov. 3,1975:** *Good Morning America premiered*
- Nov. 30,1982:** *Michael Jackson's Thriller was released*

### November Babies

- Nov. 30, 1835:** *Mark Twain (author)*
- Nov. 29, 1898:** *C.S. Lewis (author)*
- Nov. 19, 1933:** *Larry King (TV personality)*
- Nov. 27, 1942:** *Jimi Hendrix (musician)*
- Nov. 17, 1944:** *Danny Devito (actor, director, writer and producer)*
- Nov. 19, 1962:** *Jodie Foster (actress and director)*
- Nov. 11, 1974:** *Leonardo DiCaprio (actor, producer and writer)*
- Nov. 23, 1992:** *Miley Cyrus (actress and singer)*