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## Protest Interrupts Local Broadcasts [NEWSBREAKERS: "WE ARE PUTTING TELEVISION NEWS ON NOTICE.."]

**NEWSBREAKERS** · 1 January 6-7, 2005 | staff

Posted on 1/8/2005, 10:29:26 AM by [fight\\_truth\\_decay](#)

Protest Interrupts Local Broadcasts

1/6/2005 6:45 PM (WROC-TV Rochester) CBS

The Thursday afternoon edition of News 8 Now At Noon was interrupted by protestors. The interruption occurred as reporter Elizabeth Harness broadcast live the story of the Highland Hospital power outage.

The group claimed to be a local media watchdog organization. But the group may be nothing more than pranksters intent on interrupting local news coverage.

Three men in costume -- one wearing a flesh-toned body suit, labeled "invisible suit," interrupted Harness's live report.

The man in the invisible suit jumped up and down behind the reporter, while two others approached Harness, pushing her into the side of the broadcast truck, shouting at her "What's the mood at the hospital today?"



The public did not see the assault, as video of the power outage was rolling by that time.

Minutes later, hospital security and the Rochester Police Department detained the three men for several hours. All are from Rochester, and claim to be part of a non-violent media watchdog group.

However, when confronted and asked to give more about their organization, and why they wear masks, they provided no answers.

According to police, the trio asked for representation by the American Civil Liberties Union. The A.C.L.U. said it wanted nothing to do with them.

The trio remained unclear as to what sort of gripe they have with local media.

**TOPICS:** Business/Economy; Constitution/Conservation; Crime/Corruption; Culture/Society; Extended News; Government; News/Current Events; US: New York

**KEYWORDS:** cbs; mediabias; mediaprotest; mediawatchdog; nbc; newsbreakers; wroctv

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NewsBreakers, When News Breaks We Bust It, posted on their web site: "The [video](#) WROC Channel 8 in Rochester, NY doesn't want you to see!" claims NewsBreakers.

CBS affiliate WROC Channel 8 in Rochester, NY published a story on its website January 6, 2005 accusing a member of NEWSBREAKERS of assault. A police investigation relied on video of the incident to exonerate NEWSBREAKERS. The video reveals that the WROC reporter instead pushed NEWSBREAKERS senior political correspondent Buck Owens.

Members of the group were detained for more than one hour and eventually released after producing the videotaped evidence. Police indicated that a harassment charge could be brought against Owens at a later date for "startling" the WROC reporter. A story in Rochester's [Democrat and Chronicle \(Jan.7.2005\)](#) recounted a similar version of the assault claim made by WROC management.

Group Liberates Live Television Events, Launches 'New Chapter in Media Criticism'

(Rochester, NY) - January 6, 2005 - The media watchdog group NEWSBREAKERS freed two live broadcasts today, one from CBS affiliate WROC Channel 8 and the other from NBC affiliate WHEC Channel 10.

The group temporarily reclaimed the airwaves in the name of the American people in protest of the wholesale failure of Federal Communications Commission licensees to honor their obligation to the public.

Video of the liberation event is available at <http://www.newsbreakers.org/video.htm>

"As citizens in a participatory democracy, we can no longer idly standby and let our government offer the airwaves, our common property, to the highest bidder," NEWSBREAKERS senior political correspondent Buck Owens said. "Today's event marks a new chapter in media criticism. We are putting television news on notice: We're out here, we're watching and we ain't happy with what we see."

The group attempted to provide the television news employees on the scene with copies of the Constitution of the United States.

"The gift would have served as a reminder that the guarantees outlined in that document are bestowed upon journalists not by corporate leadership, advertisers, government bureaus, ratings agencies or the lecture circuit, but by We the People of the United States," Owens said.

Security personal detained NEWSBREAKERS members before they were able to offer the employees of the television stations the copies of the Constitution. A police investigation found no wrong doing on the part of NEWSBREAKERS. Members of the group were released without charge. An investigating officer said that one of the news employees was "startled" by the event.

NEWSBREAKERS is a nonpartisan, nonviolent media watchdog group dedicated to the improvement of journalism. It offers comment and critique on the role of television news in informing the public. The group relies on parody and non-traditional media interventions.

The group is currently planning future events.

Contact: (212) 931-8548 or e-mail to: [questions@newsbreakers.org](mailto:questions@newsbreakers.org)

*"If you've got a soft spot for perfectly-coifed television types, you'll hate these guys."*

-Ann Coulter

*The corporations are stealing the airwaves from the people, NEWSBREAKERS is stealing them back."*

-Ralph Nader

1 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:29:26 AM by [fight\\_truth\\_decay](#)

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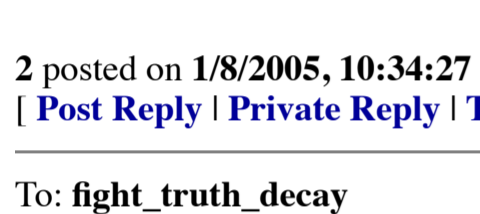
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2 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:34:27 AM by [gaijin](#)

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There should be a Tinfoil Guy in there.



3 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:35:53 AM by [martin\\_fierro](#) (</pith>)

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Idiots.

4 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:37:29 AM by [Psycho\\_Bunny](#) ("I know a great deal about the Middle East because I've been raising Arabian horses" Patrick Swazey)

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Rather lame....

5 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:37:43 AM by [Drango](#) (A liberal's compassion is limited only by the size of someone else's wallet.)

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*...two others approached Harness, pushing her into the side of the broadcast truck, shouting at her "What's the mood at the hospital today?"*

Reporter, Elizabeth Harness, responded "It seems to be getting a little surly."

6 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:37:49 AM by [TigersEye](#) (Are your parents Pro-Choice? I guess you got lucky!)

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Bwahahahahahaha!!

They look like an old WWF Tag team from the 1980's!

What a bunch of jokers. Id just have a very large man near with a bat... smacking it on his hands, in plain view of these idiots. I think that would make them think twice. My camera man would have a sign on his back "When the bat comes out, the camera goes off".

7 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:38:30 AM by [Next\\_Time\\_NJ](#) (NJ demorat exterminator)

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...watch the video..as the police did to make their call..

8 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:39:48 AM by [fight\\_truth\\_decay](#)

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*These NEWSBREAKERS guys are pranksters who took up valuable air time during which WROC could have brought you important news and information. So now, instead of bringing you, the viewer, important news and information, WROC is bringing you the story of pranksters who took up valuable air time during which WROC could have brought you...*

AWESOME! Are they willing to do some live reporting from Florida? I love the live shots we get here, like, "We have just arrived on the scene. There was police here a hour ago but the area is getting back to normal, this is Liz Urd, reporting live from..."

GO GO Invisible suit!

9 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:40:45 AM by [Dominick](#) ("Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." - JP II)

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To: [Psycho\\_Bunny](#)

I think it's kind of funny.

10 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:41:43 AM by [AD from SpringBay](#) (We have the government we allow and deserve.)

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*The video reveals that the WROC reporter instead pushed NEWSBREAKERS*

This, buried in the story, *after* it's categorically stated 2X that *the reporter* was assaulted! (in the beginning of the report)!

Now I think they could probably be less cryptic in their remarks to be more effective - I'm reminded of "what's the frequency, Kenneth" ....

11 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:42:06 AM by [Ijohn23and4](#)

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[?](#)

*According to police, the trio asked for representation by the American Civil Liberties Union. The A.C.L.U. said it wanted nothing to do with them.*

Sheesh if the ACLU will support NAMBLA but wants nothing to do with these guys they must be low lifes.

[?](#)

12 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:43:06 AM by [SandRat](#) (Duty, Honor, Country. What else needs to be said?)

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Or maybe a Woody Alan movie character.

13 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:44:01 AM by [SandRat](#) (Duty, Honor, Country. What else needs to be said?)

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They aren't "protesting" in the sense that you can tell what it is they are against during the protest. They're just trying to get attention.

The local media types think they're just nutjobs.

There is a question about how they know when and where to show up for their antics.

14 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:47:11 AM by [irv](#)

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As citizens in a participatory democracy, we can no longer idly standby and let our government offer the airwaves, our common property, to the highest bidder," NEWSBREAKERS senior political correspondent Buck Owens said.

isn't Buck too old for this kind of stuff?

15 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:47:33 AM by [AlbertWang](#)

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To: [SandRat](#)

*According to police, the trio asked for representation by the American Civil Liberties Union. The A.C.L.U. said it wanted nothing to do with them...but wants nothing to do with these guys they must be low lifes.*

You must be referring to the A.C.L.U. as lowlifes?[?](#)

16 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:48:09 AM by [fight\\_truth\\_decay](#)

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*two others approached Harness, pushing her into the side of the broadcast truck*

Yep. That's assault and battery.

17 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:52:12 AM by [GVnana](#) (If I had a Buckhead moment would I know it?)

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>**Police** indicated that a **harassment charge** could be brought against Owens at a later date for "**startling**" the WROC reporter

Wow. Just *imagine*

what will happen to **Freepers**

for the stuff we *said*

we'd like to happen

to **Dan Rather!** *Now* such talk

might be a **hate** crime . . .

18 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:52:55 AM by [theFIRMbss](#)

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Sounds like a bunch of DUm mies to me.

19 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:53:14 AM by [PokeyJoe](#) (Unvarnished Truth - Your Milage May Vary)

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I watched three videos from your links in #1. They're idiots but I didn't see them push her into the side of the van. She freaked out a bit and moved sideways towards the van. (I don't blame her) Give the reporters some good pepper spray and we could have some video that's really entertaining.

20 posted on 1/8/2005, 10:53:42 AM by [TigersEye](#) (Are your parents Pro-Choice? I guess you got lucky!)

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