

MEDIAMATTERS FOR AMERICA

Fox News: Tea Party Headquarters

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Following network precedent, newest Fox hire wastes no time embracing tea party movement

Washington, D.C. - Today, *Media Matters for America* responded to an [email](#) sent by Students for Liberty (SFL) and forwarded to the Tea Party Patriots mailing list, which announced both the launch of "John Stossel's new show on the Fox Business Network" and that the show had made a "special offer" to SFL members to be "a part of the studio audience for future tapings of the show."

"These emails once again demonstrate that there is no daylight between Fox News and the tea party movement," said Ari Rabin-Havt, Vice President of Research & Communications for *Media Matters*. **"By stacking his audience with Students for Liberty members, Stossel is merely reconfirming Fox's role as an official sponsor of the radical fringe it represents."**

BACKGROUND

The message below appears to have been sent to the Tea Party Patriots mailing list after being forwarded from the Facebook group for the Students for Liberty, a 501c3 organization of students whose purported "mission is to provide a unified, student-driven forum of support for students and student organizations dedicated to liberty." SFL's [office](#) is at the Cato Institute, a conservative think tank.

From the email message:

From: **Bruce Majors**
Date: Thu, Dec 10, 2009 at 4:15 PM
Subject: {Tea Party Patriots} Stossel

Subject: John Stossel Tonight

Hi all,

John Stossel's new show on the Fox Business Network is finally beginning! The show premieres this Thursday, December 10th, at 8pm EST, and the first topic will be global warming!

The new show, simply called "Stossel," will tackle many important political and economic issues from Stossel's unique libertarian perspective. Be sure to check your local listings to see if your cable provider carries the Fox Business Network yet.

Also, if anyone in SFL is interested in being a part of the studio audience for future tapings of the show (generally filmed on Thursdays), please email Stosseltix@foxnews.com or call 877-369-8587. They have made a special offer to SFL member to be part of the audience.

Sincerely & For Liberty,
Alexander

P.S.

Don't forget to register for the 3rd Annual International SFL Conference coming up in February in Washington DC: <http://www.facebook.com//232d5;politicalconferences.org/2009/07/zow/>.

Since President Obama's inauguration, Fox News has frequently engaged in political advocacy against the Obama administration and the Democratic Congress, and in March, Fox News' vice president for programming, Bill Shine, described his network as the "voice of opposition." Indeed, as *Media Matters* has extensively documented, one of the many ways in which Fox News has embraced its advocacy role has been by heavily promoting tea party events, no matter how big or small:

- [Tea Party Express again highlights Fox News coverage to raise money](#)
- [Fox News -- home of outrageous smears, falsehoods -- promotes "tea parties" protesting "journalistic malpractice"](#)
- [Fox Nation now promoting the "Tea Party Express II"](#)
- [Fox & Friends celebrates helping get tea partier's "RIP Constitution" message on billboard](#)
- [Promoting D.C. 9/12 tea party, Hannity promises to "straighten" out the fact the "media will downplay" the event](#)
- [Fox News Tea Party report tells "the story of the America that Washington forgot and apparently doesn't want to hear from"](#)
- [Fox News "hops" aboard Tea Party Express with rampant promotions, live coverage](#)
- [Fox Nation starts "Countdown to Independence Day Tea Party!"](#)
- [Fox News now giving publicity to Republican Governors' "Tea Party 2.0"](#)
- [Hosting the party: Fox aired at least 20 segments, 73 promos on "tea party" protests -- in just 8 days](#)
- [Fox News takes ownership of tea parties, and, therefore, their extremist rhetoric](#)

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