

# CENTER FOR MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

2100 L Street, N.W. • Suite 300 • Washington, D.C. 20037 • (202) 223-2942

December 20, 2000

Contact: Matthew Felling 202-223-2942

## **Dubya Dethrones Clinton as Late-Night Laugh Target**

### Comics Decide Bush Bashing Beats Bill in 2000, Gore Trails Both

WASHINGTON, DC—President-elect George W. Bush was the number one target of late-night comics in 2000, according to a new “Laugh Tracks” study from **The Center for Media and Public Affairs (CMPA)**. Though both Bush and President Clinton easily outdistanced Al Gore, the study finds Bush’s total (771 jokes) for the year is less than half of Clinton’s record year in 1998 (1,712), and he has a long way to go to reach Clinton’s overall total (7,299) since 1992.

According to CMPA President Dr. Robert Lichter, “For the past eight years Bill Clinton has been the gold standard for late night humor. The presidential race may have been razor-thin, but the late-night verdict was a landslide for President-elect Bush.”

This tally is CMPA’s most recent “Laugh Tracks” report of Campaign 2000. CMPA provides regular updates of how the broadcast networks are covering the candidates, the issues and the campaign. “Laugh Tracks” examines “The Tonight Show,” “The Late Show with David Letterman,” “Late Night with Conan O’Brien” and “Politically Incorrect” from January 1, 2000 to December 15, 2000.

### **2000 JOKE COMPARISONS:**

Target	Jokes
1. George W. Bush	771
2. Bill Clinton	725
3. Al Gore	494
4. Dick Cheney	141
5. Hillary Clinton	139
6. Monica Lewinsky	88
7. Janet Reno	74
8. Rudolph Giuliani	72
9. O.J. Simpson	60
10. John McCain	52

*For additional tables, data and more examples please contact Matthew Felling at (202) 223-2942*