

**BARNES & NOBLE**  
BOOKSELLERS

Steve Riggio  
Chief Executive Officer

August 26, 2004

Mr. David Brock  
President and CEO  
Media Matters for America  
1627 K Street NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Brock:

Thank you for your letter of August 20<sup>th</sup> regarding *Unfit for Command* by John E. O'Neill and Jerome R. Corsi. I can understand and appreciate your concern about this controversial book. Let me assure you that it is not our intent to push a political position, liberal or conservative.

You ask in your letter about "the responsibility of a bookseller." Barnes & Noble's mission, our responsibility, we believe, is to offer our customers every book in and out of print. We also believe in a fair and accurate description of the books we sell, and you seem to agree that we have done so with *Unfit for Command*. Today, your Web site, [www.mediamatters.org](http://www.mediamatters.org), quotes from Barnes & Noble.com's account of the book. In your "Letter to Booksellers" column, you write, "Barnes & Noble editors acknowledge 'maelstrom of countercharges' and 'assertions that none of the damning testimony comes from men who served on the Swift Boat commanded by Kerry.'" We seem to have done a good job not only describing the charges that the book makes, but also your viewpoint as well.

We do not intend to pull *Unfit for Command* from our shelves. The question of whether the book is a fraud or hoax belongs in a court of law, not in a bookstore. If we pulled all the controversial books that customers have at one time or another asked us not to sell, our shelves would be pretty bare.

Sincerely,



Steve Riggio