

Local Politics Matter

What Has Happened to MSNBC

Report the Facts — Nothing But The Facts



I have to admit, I'm a political junky. I view cable news, listen to satellite radio and surf the internet on a daily basis to make sure that I am informed about current events. I have a strong liberal leaning, so I gravitate to programming on MSNBC. I've watched this network religiously for at least 15 years. Lately however, I find myself increasingly disappointed with their programming. Some of it, especially [Morning Joe](#), has become shamefully biased editorial and commentary disguised as news. I can't say when their programming changed, but it has. I've gone from viewing or listening throughout the day to only viewing in the evening. The evening programs are of a higher quality (more fact based) than the morning programs.

When I became disenchanted I started viewing Morning Joe in snippets. I would change channels when Joe would say or do some-

thing that I found outrageously biased or patently untrue. Now don't misunderstand me, I don't have an issue with Joe Scarborough expressing his opinion, even when it's an obvious untruth. However, I do have a problem when he demagogues, ignores or berates anyone who disagrees with him. It has gotten to the point that many of the guests sit mutely with their eyes downcast, looking anywhere but at Joe or the camera (Mika included). Guests have learned not to challenge his veracity when he goes on one of his rants.

Initially I felt disloyal when I'd switch to another channel. I felt like I was abandoning an old friend. I'd actually start my morning by viewing or listening to Morning Joe, before changing to another network when I could no longer abide their inane prattle. There were too many mornings after a success on the part of President Obama or Secretary Clinton when Morning Joe's lead

story would be some silly sporting event or a discussion with or about DONALD TRUMP (talk about inane prattle).

Joe and Mika would go to great lengths to avoid discussing anything positive about the Democratic Party. To my disappointment, it just kept getting worse. Within two months, I had eliminated Morning Joe from my viewing and listening routine and began to watch [New Day on CNN](#). You see, I am more interested in the presentation of facts about the important events of the day and a discussion of those facts from different perspectives. Morning Joe no longer fits this bill. None of the media programming is perfect, but I appreciate those outlets that make an effort to leave their biases out of the discussion or at least admit to their biases.

Once I quit Morning Joe, it became easy to eliminate some other MSNBC programming from my routine, Andrea Mitchell's, and Thomas Roberts' shows (Tamron Hall and Joy Reid remain bright spots in the programming). There were too many instances when they would discuss the Democrats, usually President Obama and Secretary Clinton from a negative perspective. Some of the program hosts have even begun to use Republican phrasing like the Democrat Party instead of the Democ-

rat Party (subtle huh). I have not been able to adjust to the change in tone and direction of the morning and early afternoon programs. I am no longer a faithful viewer. It's one thing for the politicians to prevaricate; I've come to expect that. But in turn, I expect the media (with the exception of Fox News) to correct the record, to present the viewers with the facts. I don't like being manipulated either subtly or outright. Somewhere along the line, many in the media stopped reporting the facts and started directing the narrative at the behest of the highest bidder. I don't know whether I should be grateful or angry that I've been forced to expand my viewing habits. The truth be known, I think it was past time for a change. Guess what, I'm enjoying it.

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