

Local Politics Matter

Where Have All Of The Good Journalist Gone

News is no longer news



I have sat day after day for almost 18 months waiting for a real journalist to show up on my television screen. Even print journalism has gone down this suicidal path. Yes I said suicidal!!! How much longer will viewers and readers put up with this garbage? Networks and print media owners have all pushed their news enterprises to increase their profitability. Many professionals call this the "CBS 60 Minute" syndrome. Ever since "60 Minutes" aired and started to make huge profits every news organization has sought to mimic that model for their operations.

News is no longer news. Reporting is no longer reporting. It is theater. It is ratings. It is profitability. These are the only things that matter anymore. I have seen news articles published and yes even "Tweeted" that have been misleading and many times totally false from media giants like the Associated Press, the New York Times and novice upstarts like Politico. Stories or ar-

ticles that have obviously not been fully vetted by the host organization are dropped and they are immediately picked up and reported as "Breaking News" by every other organization. There is no fact checking or verification just the immediate push to the screen. Why is this you ask? They are all looking for ratings which mean profits. All too often later the same day we get something quick saying that the original story or article has been recanted or even pulled. I am not a journalist but I ask myself what could they have learned during the balance of the day that they did not know before publishing?

The best ratings grabber over this 18 month period has been anything negative on Hillary. The Press will continue to push the negative narrative whether the issues are false, partially false or just plain trivial. Listen to the language used in the verbal reporting and written articles and you see them repeated from network to network and article to article. They are like lem-

mings following each other over the cliff while trying to get "eyeballs." They all need the race to stay close so you see positive language for Trump and negative language for Hillary. Folks guess what you saw the same thing during the Democratic Primary. Positive Bernie and negative Hillary! As an example how many times have you heard how high Hillary's negatives are and no mention of the fact that Donald's negatives are higher? How many times have you heard about the emails but crickets on Donald's shaky business dealings? How many times have you heard about Donald on immigration but nothing on his modeling agency's immigration practices? How many times have you heard about the Clinton Foundation but nothing about the Trump companies' debt obligations to the Bank of China and Russian gangsters or the Trump Foundation? Have you heard anyone ask the question or report on the number of employees of color and sub-contractors that Donald has hired? Finally, how many times have you heard an obvious misstatement or lie with no follow-up challenges? What we are witnessing is the demise of journalism as we know it. Print media has decimated their investigative reporting staffs and I predict that they will soon be gone. The news net-

works will not be far behind them.

This article is not all negative. There are some consistently stellar performers like Joy-Ann Reid, Tamron Hall, and Rachel Maddow who are always prepared and will ask those pesky follow-up questions. They offer MSNBC viewers real journalism. They know the facts and don't shy away from challenging their guest who try to present lies or misleading facts or even just filibuster a segment. Hosts like these women will keep me coming back to cable news. I expect that the networks and print media will learn that viewers are looking for their anchors to have their guests stick to the facts with hard hitting interviews. We don't want to listen to talking points over and over again. I had been disappointed until I started watching these programs. They have renewed my faith in the potential of journalists and yes they are a breath of fresh air providing real old fashioned journalism in a stale industry.

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