

Opinions

Liberal media is telling only one side of a story

By Richard A. Viguere

The week after the 1980 election, I was invited to be a guest at a breakfast held for some of the leading journalists in Washington.

A conservative tide had swept Democrats out of the Senate and put Ronald Reagan in the White House, and the members of the news media wanted to know what happened. They asked: why didn't we see it coming?

I told them: You didn't see it coming, but we've been telling you about it for a long time; you just didn't listen.

That's often the way it is, between conservatives and the national news media. The two groups have little in common, and that fact is reflected in the way the news covers conservative values.

On abortion, big business, national defense, taxes, and other issues, the conservative position is habitually mis-reported, and the people get only one side.

Bias in the news media rarely stems from a conscious desire to distort the news. Instead, it is the result of ignorance. Most national reporters don't know what conservatives think because they have little contact with conservatives. But there is plenty of contact with liberals.

There are many liberal political activists who have joined prestigious news organizations.

Most of them, like Ken Bode of NBC News (a former aide to Morris Udall) and Jeff Greenfield of ABC News (a former aide to John Lindsay and Robert Kennedy), do a good job.

The problem is not that there are liberals in the news media. The problem is that persons who hold traditional values are usually excluded from newsrooms in the same way that blacks and women were once excluded: editors and producers tend to hire and promote people like themselves.

The result is that basically the same attitudes are held by more than four-fifths of the most influential people in the news business. According to a 1980 survey of the decision-makers in our major national media, 91% voted for LBJ, 87% for Humphrey, 81% for McGovern, and 81% for Carter (in 1976). The picture is even worse among future journalists. A similar study of students at the nation's leading journalism school showed that 85% called themselves liberals; 59% voted for Carter in 1980, 29% for Anderson, and only four% for Reagan.

Although there are very few identifiable conservatives in important positions in the major media, there are plenty of persons who have worked for liberals. Consider these examples from the electronic media alone:

John Kennedy's press secretary is now chief diplomatic correspondent for ABC News. Lyndon Johnson's press secretary is now

the top commentator for CBS News. George McGovern's press secretary is now executive producer of ABC's evening newscast. Ted Kennedy's administrative assistant is now vice president of ABC News. The communications director for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is now political assignment editor for ABC; her husband is political director for CBS. The deputy communications director at DNC is now a researcher in the political unit of ABC News.

How many conservatives are given the chance to report the news in the nation's top media? Occasionally conservatives like Pat Buchanan will be hired as "opinion journalists," but they are almost never hired for positions that involve making judgments on what is and is not newsworthy.

In fact, when a person associated with a non-liberal politician is hired, it causes an uproar. When CBS hired Diane Sawyer, Dan Rather complained because she had helped Richard Nixon write his memoirs. When *The New York Times* hired former Nixon staffer William Safire as a columnist, there were numerous complaints from other *Times* writers. I know of no instance in which reporters complained because a new staff member was too liberal.



Time squandering preferred

By Lucien Coleman

The book was on sale for half price. It was one of those "change your life through time-management" astonishers. The sub-title was "How to Get More Done in Less Time."

What I want to know is, whoever decided that getting more done in less time was so desirable in the first place? What's wrong with getting less done in more time?

If that sounds like a stupid question, it's probably because you and I have been so brainwashed into

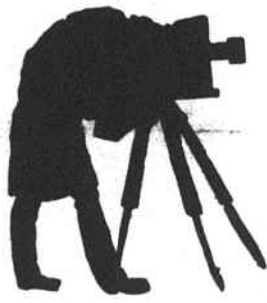
Things That Matter

believing that more is invariably better than less, and fast is always better than slow. Who says so? Maybe it's just as important to enjoy yourself along the way as it is to get more done quicker.

Let me give you an example. I changed jobs, moving to a different state, about six months ago. Back where I used to work, one of the guys was a veritable paragon of efficiency. He was a stickler for managing his time. Every minute

of every day. He even carried a clipboard around, with his schedule broken down into 15 minute intervals. If you stopped him in the hall, he'd glance nervously at his clipboard schedule, as though to say, "Sorry, I don't have a personal conversation scheduled for his hour."

Let those who want to fidget away at conserving time do so. It's a nice hobby. As for me, I'd rather squander it on worthwhile things, like having coffee with shiftless friends.



PICTURE NORTH CAROLINA 1984

A Juried Black and White Photography Show

Sponsored by The News-Journal

Picture North Carolina will be held May 5 in conjunction with the Hoke County Heritage Hobnob Festival. The event will be open to both professional and amateur photographers who are residents of North Carolina.

- The contest will include five categories: Landscape (includes Seascapes), Historical North Carolina, Wildlife, Creative and People.
- All photographs must include, on the back, the name, address and phone number of the maker, and must be signed by the maker and titled. No photographs will be accepted which have been signed and titled on the front of the print.
- All historical category photographs must give the location and description of the subject.
- All prints must have been exposed by the maker, but can be processed either personally or commercially.
- All prints must be matted, but not framed. Mat boards should be no larger than 16x20 and not smaller than 8x10. Photographers are limited to six prints. A fee of \$1 per print should accompany each entry.
- All entries must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with enough postage to cover the return of the prints.
- A purchase prize of \$150 will be awarded to the photograph judged to be the best entry in the show.
- Prizes of \$50 each will be awarded to photographers judged to have the best print in each of the categories. A photographer may win the purchase award and a category award for the same print.
- Honorable Mention awards of \$10 will also be given.
- All entries must be received by April 30.
- Judging, by three members of The Photographic Society of America or other qualified judges, will be conducted May 5. Winners will be announced May 5.
- All entries will be displayed at the Hoke County Library, May 6 to June 1.
- The News-Journal assumes no liability for prints which are lost or damaged.
- The News-Journal also reserves the right to publish any or all of the winning or honorable mention prints. Maker's name will be included in that publication.

For further information, write or call

The News-Journal
P.O. Box 550
Raeford, N.C. 28376
919-875-2121

Letters To The Editor

Candidates should coordinate calls to fit commercials

Dear editor:

As everybody with a telephone knows, a recent development in political campaigning is the phone bank.

A candidate lines up hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people to sit at phones and call voters during the evening hours asking them to vote for him, or get out to a caucus, or donate some money.

This seems to work, although I don't know why, unless there are lots of people out there lonesome for a telephone call. I have never been that lonesome.

With eight candidates running for the Democratic nomination for President, each with his own phone bank, you can see some peo-

ple's phones were ringing off the hook.

One woman in New Hampshire said she was getting five or six calls every night.

I have never run for office, nor have I ever been indicted, but I got to wondering which phone bank works best. If I were running, I'd instruct my phone bank people to be sure to call only during commercials. Nothing will make more people mad or lose more votes than having their phone ring during a gripping TV drama.

Obviously with eight phone bank candidates, there aren't enough commercials to go around, which opens up an unfairness situation which I have no solution for.

The TV stations do their best, but you can cram just so many toothpaste and headache remedy ads into one hour's program.

If the phone bank idea continues to spread and is taken up by all congressmen, governors, state legislators, county officials and a justice of the peace here and there, there'll be more phones left off the hook than the phone company can handle.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

PHONE FOR FOOD
Fish, Shrimp, BBQ, Chicken ...
SPECIALS DAILY
875-5752
Wagon Wheel Restaurant

ATTENTION!!

ROCKFISH REGISTRANTS

This is to advise that properly registered voters in Rockfish precinct will vote at Rockfish Community House on SR 1418 on May 8, 1984 and all subsequent elections.


CUSTOMER SERVICE
Dundarrach, N.C.
COMPLETE INSECT CONTROL
FROM THE HOME TO THE FARM
•Federal Crop Insurance

Route 1, Box 251-A Shannon, N.C.
Phone 875-8912

Richard McMillan 875-2493 Nights 875-5614

COMPARE and SAVE with

E/Z ACCESS MONEY MARKET	8.65% APR
6 MONTH CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	9.60% APR



HERITAGE FEDERAL
Savings & Loan Association

RAEFORD
113 Campus Avenue
875-5061