

On the New ABC News

Walters' Presence Brings Changes

There is change in the winds. ABC seems to be the one network feeling the effect of those breezes, at least when concerning the nightly network newscast. After one of the most intense and expansive advertising and promotional campaigns for any event on the television screen, ABC has launched its new news format. A new set, more in-depth reporting and a wide range of news features and reviews have been added (along with a sizable increase in the ABC news budget). But there is one new feature that stands out above the glittering lights and detailed reports. No longer is Harry Reasoner co-anchoring with his newspartner Howard K. Smith, but now has a quite different partner. Often called "the million dollar lady" because of the salary ABC is paying her, Barbara Walters now graces the ABC News studio instead of the hallowed halls of the NBC *Today* show.

Much talk and discussion was offered by all concerned when Ms. Walters left NBC to assume the role as the first anchorwoman on a national newscast. Critics of Walters said she just wouldn't be able to cut it as a news-woman; anchorlady of a national newscast was quite a bit different from the syrupy, early-morning coffee chat Ms. Walters was so used to on the *Today* show. But those who made those comments blatantly disregarded the intense, first-rate interviewing that Ms. Walters had so ably demonstrated throughout her career at NBC. Her interviews with various personalities have surpassed many nationally known interviewers and newspapermen simply because Ms. Walters has tried to get to the core of the matter quickly and decisively. This trait of hers for aggressive

reporting and interviewing has gained for her a reputation by many as uncouth, brash, and insensitive. The same traits that bring condemnation by her critics bring praise by her "fans" as being qualities all first-rate reporters should possess.

Now Ms. Walters brings her special kind of reporting to ABC. The news format of ABC has long needed revamping, and Ms. Walters seems to be the touch they needed. (Hopefully, too, her presence will boost the sagging ABC ratings which have always been third behind CBS and NBC respectively.) Mr. Reasoner, in this opening week of the new format, seemed a bit disconcerted by Walters, however. One could certainly see why. Mr. Reasoner has openly expressed (especially when ABC brass announced their decision to pair Mr. Reasoner up with Walters) that he felt he should have been given more time by himself to try and build an audience. At one point it looked as if Reasoner might quit the ABC news business altogether. But a compromise was worked out (and probably a salary increase) that helped sooth Mr. Reasoner's "savage soul."

Whether Ms. Walter's presence will help boost ABC's news ratings remains to yet unpublished Nielsen ratings to determine. However, with her expertise as a reporter and news journalist, even Walter Cronkite must sit back and take notice. For not only is Ms. Walter's an excellent newscaster, she is one heck of a lady. Like it or not, one has to admire and respect someone who makes it to the top of her field. Ms. Walters has done that, and upon her own merits. If it were up to us, we'd like to see a lot more like her make the climb. Congratulations ABC. You're making the climb, too!



Poetry Corner

*When fall came and
leaves fell it reminded
me of how winter comes
and snow falls 'cause
there were white streaks
on the road - like snow,
but it had only rained.
And it was cold.*

*Today when the wind was
blowing I saw the clouds
running. The only way to
tell is to watch the
shadows.
And the sun was peeping
through.*

*I wished it hadn't rained
quite so hard. Some of the
leaves who wanted to show
off
fell . . .
before they got their turn;*

*And I almost fell down
the bank, too.
'Cause they mowed the
grass . . .
. . . and left a green carpet
sidewalk.*

- Becky Robinson

*Any student interested in submitting poetry to the
Hilltop's 'Poetry Corner' should do so by sending
his/her poetry selections to Post Office Box 1148.*

Mars H

Edito

Aroun

Trave

Peopl

Sport

Featu

Spina

Telev

Eno

\$1

With

all me

Communi

Conserv

called

nesday

members

ment As

tions n

ity and

attende

concert

nomical

back

energy

With