

## Good News: The American Newspaper is Dying

Newspapers are dying. Let us celebrate, since in their extinction lies the only hope for journalism. In former Times (that's Times with a capital 'T') it would have been unthinkable to say such a thing, for newspapers *were* journalism and journalism *was* newspapers. But those days are long gone, and it's not just because of talk radio, and the internet. For if by "journalism" is meant the honest attempt at presenting unbiased reports of events then it's clear that most papers long ago abandoned that business. What we have in these Times are newspapers engaging in the fraud of providing propaganda in the guise of journalism so until these publications disappear, journalism as we once knew it can't make a comeback.

It would be naïve in the extreme to believe that in 'the good old days' the news columns of the dailies were free of bias since reporters, and admittedly editors, have always been human. But in a day when even a small city would have several competing papers it was unlikely that one paper could for long get away with fooling the public without a competitor doing an exposé on the attempted fraud, if not out of any sense of high mindedness, then just to beat out the other guys for circulation. Competition for business promoted diversity of opinion and thus a considerable degree of journalistic integrity; if not necessarily within individual dailies then across the industry as a whole.

In addition to facing numerous competitors eager to climb to the top over each other's factual missteps or misrepresentations, newspapers were largely owned, edited and to a considerable degree staffed by people who actually were *from* the town about which they wrote. Thus, when you got the *Sheboygan (Wis.) Press*, *The Indianapolis Star* or the *Florence (Ala.) Times-Daily* it was a pretty sure thing that when you read an editorial, the news pages, the women's page, whatever, you were reading something written or at least edited by someone who had roots in that city.

Not so today when the people writing the editorial in the *Hendersonville (N.C.) Times News* or 'reporting' about events in the *Asbury (N.J.) Park Press* are corporate gypsies who come from someplace else via some school of journalism located somewhere else, and who are all waiting to move to a bigger paper in a bigger city on the way up to starting the trip all over again back down in the small towns as assistant editor. What's worse, the gypsies who staff those papers are hired by people who are answerable to the likes of "Pinch" Sulzberger of the NY Times or whoever it is in McLean, Va. that's running Gannett these days. This guarantees that the *Hendersonville (N.C.) Times* (owned by the NY Times) no more reflects the people of Hendersonville, N.C. than does the *New York Times* itself.

Those Times are ending. Newspapers moguls have been doing to their entire industry what Kenneth Lay and Edward Fastow did to Enron. Just as that company collapsed due to fraud committed by the crooks who ran it, the newspaper industry is dying because of the dishonesty of its management in peddling propaganda pretending to be journalism.

Consider the signs. Annual double digit declines in circulation. Corporate managers, in futile attempts to stop that decline have turned editorial positions into a game of musical chairs with fewer and few seats remaining after the end of each round.

Gannett, has just announced another layoff in the hundreds, is about to close the Tuscon Citizen and perhaps the Detroit Free Press soon after, and is requiring its remaining employees to take a week off without pay. Stock prices are doing dives worthy of Enron, although over a longer term: NY Times is down 66% since Jan. '08; 88% since the beginning of '04. Gannett is down over 80% since January '08; 92.5% since January '04.

Having grown up in a family where no day was ever without the NY Times, and having watched the betrayal of the readers' trust and discarding of the paper's integrity in the last thirty years by inferior management obsessed with a far left agenda, the events marking the decline of that empire are a pleasure to observe. The Company has to sell most of its headquarter building to raise operating funds; the purchase of the Boston Globe has exposed publisher Pinch Sulzberger as a fool; the Jayson Blair fiasco and the recent publication of a fake letter to the editor from the "Mayor of Paris" reveal that the people that Sulzberger has installed to run the daily Times should be demoted back to reporting for their high school papers. And now has come utter humiliation of having to beg for a quarter billion in life support dollars from a corrupt oppressor of the Mexican worker, Carlos Slim. (Considering how skimpy the paper has become in the desperate effort to save money it's now appropriate in...more ways than...one to call it the Slim Times.)

Because I've been a volunteer in the cause of secure borders and immigration reform for seven years and thus have been both witness to and victim of the appalling lies the newspaper moguls have routinely inflicted on the public I rejoice in this decline.

My thesis here is that the newspaper industry is dying because it has engaged in fraud by selling propaganda disguised as journalism; lies and half truths pretending to be fact. I will illustrate using a "news" article from the May 24, 2008 edition of the Asbury Park Press of a rally in Lakewood, NJ by citizens supporting local enforcement of immigration law (commonly known as "287g authority").

The rally was organized by local resident Diane Reaves. Among the speakers two Hispanics including well known activist Carmen Morales; Ed Kowalski, whose 17 year old niece was stalked, raped and murdered by an illegal alien; and myself, father of a young man killed by aliens admitted through the criminal negligence of State Department officials.

All of the speakers were either immigrants themselves, or were the children or grandchildren of legal immigrants to the United States and we all emphasized that in our statements. Despite that the Asbury Park Press entitled its coverage: "Anti-immigrant rally in Lakewood." As anyone with experience in this area knows, "anti-immigrant" is the standard claim made by open border and illegal alien supporters against anyone who even suggests that immigration law be enforced. Do you dare mention violent gangs prevalent among illegals? You are "anti-immigrant." Want to make sure that people coming to the USA are not a threat to our security? You are "anti-immigrant." Want to require foreign visitors to have a visa to enter the USA? You are "anti-immigrant." Lost your job to an illegal, been the victim of a crime by an alien and you dare to complain? You are anti-immigrant. Therefore, the title of the article was the least of the Asbury P-P's distortions.

Disrupting the rally was one Jared Schultz, from Trenton, NJ and his gang. Mr. Schultz does not believe in allowing people to speak if they disagree with him. His method of suppressing our speech was to utilize electronic amplification turned up to very high volume, scream "fascist," "racist," and create electronic screeches so rally attendees could not hear us speak. We could not utter a single word without their electronic interference. One of their oft repeated chants addressed to Mrs. Reaves ended with the threat: "we know where you sleep at night" and the force of this threat was made more real by the fact most Mr. Schultz's gang was wearing masks.

The article in the Asbury Park Press described that mob as a group of "hecklers" and did not mention the word "mask," did not mention the threat to Mrs. Reaves, did not mention the successful electronically amplified interference other than to mention that Schultz had a "bullhorn."

I made it in my statement as a result of the charges of "fascism" by Shultz to note that my own family had been refugees from the Nazis based on the fact that my father was Jewish and that my Protestant mother had defied the Nazis, leaving Germany literally 24 hours before the Gestapo came to arrest her. I made a point of speaking to the Park-Press's reporter to emphasize those facts as did Mrs. Morales and Mr. Kowalski about their own reasons for favoring enforcement of the law.

None of that was deemed worthy of being mentioned by the reporter for the Gannett Corporation's Asbury Park Press. What was included was a claim by Schultz that "he was approached by at least one member of a neo-Nazi group."

After the event I tried to reach the editor of the paper, but as newspapers so often say: "he did not return repeated phone calls."

This then, is what Gannett and its corporate colleagues have tried to sell as "journalism." No less than Enron, the management at the NY Times Co., Hearst, Gannett, et al. have engaged in fraud. It took a while, but the American public caught on to the scheme and as a result these companies are, it is to be hoped headed for the same fate as Enron.

It is not of Rush Limbaugh, Matt Drudge, VDare, Sean Hannity, or anyone else on the Web or talk radio. Just look at the Asbury Park Press, merely one example of the corporate fraud that is Gannett et al.

Postscript: In the Gannett Blog, run by a laid off Gannett employee, an anonymous source, speaking of the December round of Gannett layoffs reported that the art department at the Asbury Park-Press had been "decimated" and eleven people had been laid off from the news room.

Certainly, the quality of journalism in the United States will be noticeably improved if among those laid off are the reporter and editor referred to here and imagine the improvement after publications like this entirely disappear.