

## SPEECH

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American government, he said. Reporters use the same sources and "kowtow to the same administration officials."

"Everybody puts the same spin on their stories," he said.

With reporters repeatedly using the same sources for information, Solomon said media functions as a propaganda machine.

"It's the steady downbeat of catchwords that influences public thinking, especially in a crisis situation," he said. "The term 'investigative reporter' should be a redundancy, but it's not."

Corporate ownership of the media leads to editors and reporters suppressing the news because they fear backlash from management over corporate-critical stories, Solomon said.

"With whatever issues we're concerned about, there is a blocking

through the news media that prevents change," he said. "Editors are there to keep management happy and couch corporate bias in professional terms. Most of the (media) censorship is self-censorship."

Solomon said editors and reporters do have some latitude in their reporting, but that in the end "it's a matter of who owns the media. The training (of journalists) could be better, but there would still be the corporate atmosphere."

The end result of journalists relying on the same people for information means that "while these reporters like to pretend they're outside the picture, they're actually a part of it."

Solomon said he has gotten a mixed reaction from his book from the media.

"(The book) has gotten a wide variety of responses," he said. "Everything from glowing praise to condemnation."

"We hone in own newspaper ownership, so maybe that's it," he said.



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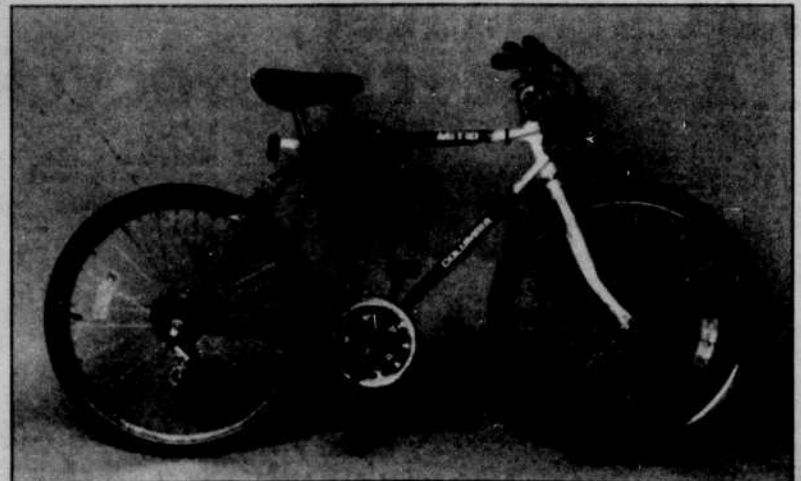
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