

gone much further in their efforts to cover up atrocities. Propaganda by nations is an extreme example of media manipulation, which can get out of hand in a closed society such as China. I am all for a free worldwide press.

(Paul Thorsness holds a Master's ticket for 1600-ton oceangoing vessels, and 2nd Mate for many gross tons, also ocean. He is from Norway and has been living in Astoria.)

BRIAN SHAFFER

I think the media is something we need. We need the news reports of the world. But the media needs to take more responsibility for the way it covers stories and issues, such as a standoff situation with news helicopters and 20,000 cops to cover somebody possibly getting killed. I don't think we as a society need to see people get killed on TV.

I think over the years the way the media reports news is trash journalism — like with the Bill Clinton/Monica Lewinsky overkill.

Overall I think the media is necessary and I don't believe in any suppression of the media. But I believe it should show restraint. I don't think children should watch graphic examples of police taking out bodies because it serves no purpose unless someone gets off on seeing death. I think the media gives children a doom & gloom and despairing view of life and society. We don't need to see actual pictures of violence such as the Colorado school shootings blasted over TV every day forever.

I think the media tends to take a little too much advantage of the freedom of speech amendment. The reason I think they take too much advantage is they tend to not use constraint and only report the stories that sell newspapers and TV advertising. Unfortunately the stories that sell are the bad things that happen. I think the stories they could cover should be of sensitivity instead of just boggling shock and scandal of the week.

I also think the restraint the news media should use must also be applied to movies and the Internet.

I think if the media used a little more restraint and sensitivity in the way they cover stories they would have more readers and viewers. Unfortunately they deluge us with sleaze and scandal, which perhaps is a result of a free society in which you can say and report what you want without interference.

Too many good stories that can benefit and help people and which could bring awareness to society are passed by and ignored.

(Brian Shaffer is a cook at the Ship Inn.)

JOHN NELSON

Harry Lundberg, head of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, used to say the media is the prostitute of the Fourth Estate.

I think Lundberg's opinion applies most especially to TV news. A good example is the story of the *New Carissa*, the ship that foundered on the southern Oregon coast in February. There were a lot of knowledgeable people the media reporters could have talked to but instead they printed or telecast whatever was handed to them by the very people most interested in covering up or playing down the incident.

The other problem I have is the merger of media which is controlled by a very small group that will not antagonize advertisers. So much of the media today reflects the single party politics the country has become and all members of the media have become the same thing.

All over the country there are one-newspaper cities and towns, and along with TV, none will criticize GM or Disneyland because of advertising revenues and shareholder profits. In the past every city had three or four newspapers and they were printed mornings and afternoons. Now there are only one or none.

We need more diversity in media and politics to keep the public better informed and better governed, and especially to make better decisions than we have lately.

(John Nelson spent 49 years in the U.S. Merchant Marine, which includes the Sea School at Tongue Point Job Corps Center for 13 years. Now retired and living in Astoria with his wife, he is a world traveler as a passenger and guest rather than seafaring mariner.)

ANTHONY SALES

There's no such thing as a free press in this country. It's a controlled press and it's no fun anymore. It's utter horse-shit. No such thing as an independent press. No H.L. Mencken (*Baltimore Sun* and *Mercury* magazine). No Robert McCormack (*Chicago Tribune*).

I don't ever look at it anymore. It's all garbage. Handmaiden to the federal government. No way is it a servant to the people.

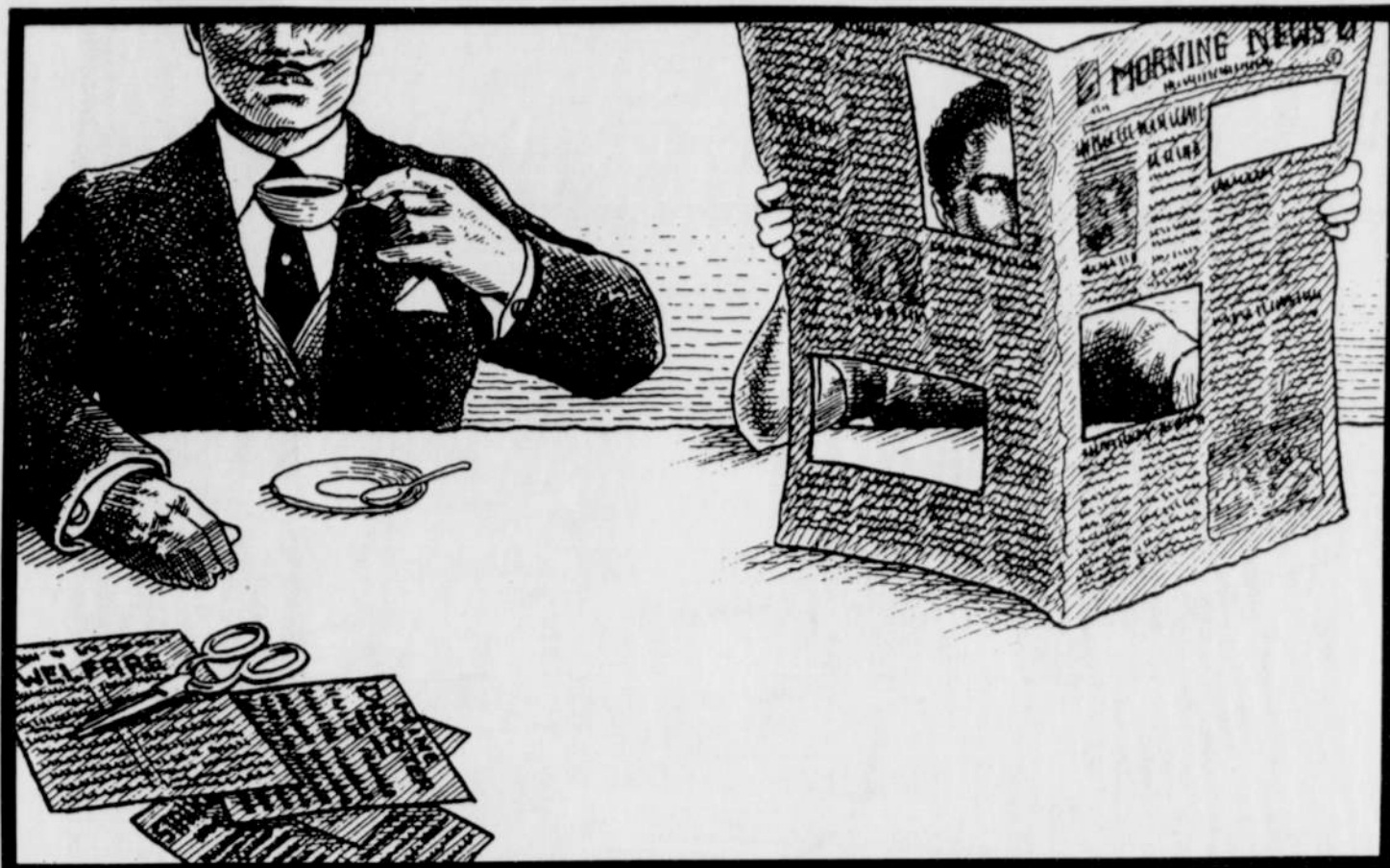
Is there anyone out there who likes the media?

It can't be reformed because it's owned. You print the truth, you're out of business.

New York City used to have 12 dailies — now it's got only three.

Corporations and press barons own radio and TV. Foreign policy is made by the movies. People quote movies as historical fact. They are all forced to take advertising and they do what the advertisers tell them what to do.

(Anthony Sales is owner of Tony's Tavern in Astoria.)



JEAN FRANCOIS ALLAUX

HAMPTON SCUDDER

The media is the basis of freedom. Without it we would not explore all the questions, issues and problems necessary to think and talk about to sustain freedom.

(Hampton Scudder is Exhibit Specialist of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.)

URIAH HULSEY

It would be very hard to get any information without the media.

I love it that we have so much media, but when a story breaks it's like dropping a recent amputee into a pool of sharks. Like everything else, you should think about the weight a story should have.

I would rather have to put up with the media for all of its problems instead of it not being there.

(Uriah Hulsey is owner & cook of the Columbian Cafe in Astoria.)

CHRIS CORBELL

The only good thing about the media is the vintage car classifieds.

(Chris Corbell is a musician, a member of the "The Swaggers", opera programmer at KMUN and bartender at Tony's Tavern.)

KEITH MATTESON

On a national level I don't trust the media or what it reports. By and large media events are created by the media because the media exists. The media should report what is happening, not stage it. You wonder how many stories are engineered and massaged by the media to influence and manipulate the people.

On the local level I think the media can be trusted — with a grain of salt. By and large it is much more difficult to disguise deceit and dog & pony shows from people who have lived locally for a long time. Local people can see through shady journalism practices that slant stories or make somebody look good.

The media can be a positive instrument for change on a local level — in the local sense, local media can educate the public about the right things to do.

The local media can present facts, let the people know about the political process and get them out to meetings and involved and motivated.

When I think of local media I think of newspapers not TV. In Newport TV comes out of Portland; it's regional at best. I will watch regional weather reports but not regional news. I want local news or national and international news.

(Keith Matteson is a former Astorian who now lives in Newport. He works for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.)

THE EAGLE & THE TIMES

To light a match in a darkening wind,
that's all he wanted to do,
(20) years ago. That,
and let the community
have its voice,
keep the condos at bay,
and let real democracy
have a chance.
Did he do it?
Is he doing it?
Read the papers.
Article after article,
year after year
lighting the match,
keeping the mind open and
the fist raised
against
prejudice, ignorance,
intolerance,
cruelty, and just plain
existential pain.
Is the wind still dark?
Did one more decommissioned sub
carry poison up the river? Did one more
black suffer one more wrong? Are
women still pushed around? Did one
more child get beat up? Did one more
tree fall under the saw?
Then one more month has sleepless nights,
And one more North Coast Times Eagle hits the press.

~CAROLYN DUNN

AUGUST FUNKHOUSER

The media has its nose in everything and once in a while they turn up dirt, which is good. It's when the media is regulated like it was in the Persian Gulf War that the government threatens the freedom of the press. It is important to have access to be anywhere.

All in all, I think our media is a good thing. It's a set of checks and balances against our crooked government. I don't know much about the media but I do know when it's used properly it's a very good thing.

(August Funkhouser is a former eastern Oregon farmer who lives now in Nasselle, Washington.)

RICHARD GOOSEY

Mostly I don't think of the media. Which is exactly what they want me to do. *Are you obsessed with the brightness of your smile? What brand of beer do you like?* I look at the cover of Life Magazine every day at the library. Does it have anything to do with me? I doubt it but I look anyway.

The media reflects the human comedy and everything humans do cracks me up in both senses of the term.

Media content is usually uncensored bull.

There is more disinformation on the Internet because it is absolutely unregulated. There is also more good stuff because everything is there.

The media is so interrelated. The difference between TV, radio and newspapers seems narrower than when I was a child. You remember old Walter Cronkite? — you could believe him, the "Most Trusted Man in America." *Goodnight David. Goodnight Chet.* They were so pervasive that when I was league bowling my teammate had "Chet" engraved on his bowling ball. His name was David and I was supposed to say "*Goodnight David!*" And there hasn't been an Arthur Godfrey since Arthur Godfrey.

The media has pumped up things so much I no longer believe in love. I was watching TV the other night and a little girl watching a phonics commercial said, "Oh, hooked on products!" Which I suppose is the ultimate point of it all.

(Richard Goosey lives in Astoria.)

MYRIAH CUSHING

The media suck. They blow everything out of proportion. (Myriah Cushing is an Astoria transplant from Reno, Nevada. She is a cook at the Wet Dog Cafe & Pacific Rim Brewery.)

RICHARD T. CARRUTHERS

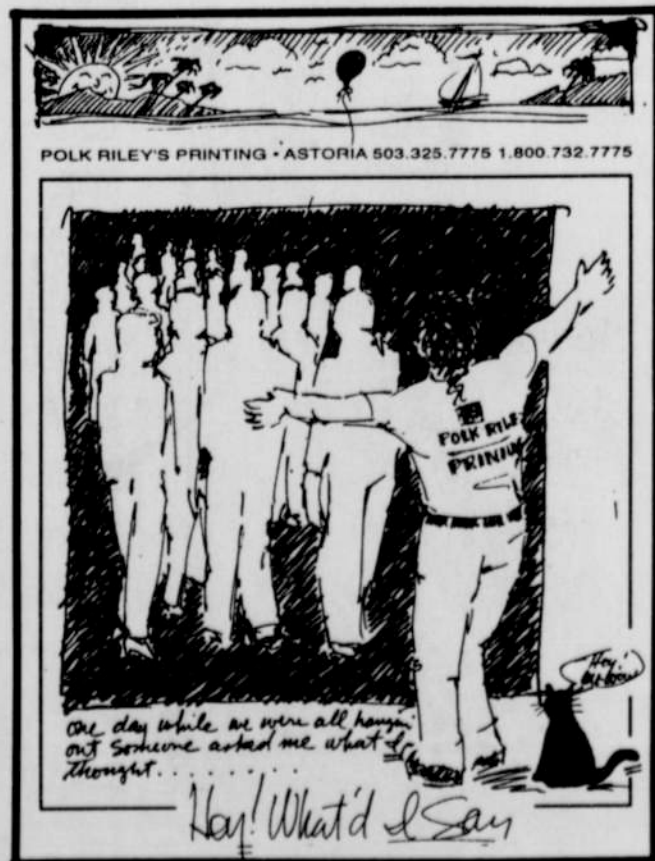
In one of the stage plays of the 1930s a city editor shouts across the newsroom to the 12 year old copyboy, "Jimmy, do you know what a sex maniac does?" and then answers his own question, "He sells newspapers!"

If it bleeds, it leads, and if it bleeds it sells newspapers, TV ads and radio spots.

Thomas Jefferson said something to the effect that — "The man who reads nothing is better educated than the man who reads nothing but the newspaper." I wonder what he would have to say about television, radio and the Internet?

(Richard Carruthers lives in Hammond. He is a former Clatsop County Commissioner.)

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NORTH COAST TIMES EAGLE

A JOURNAL OF ART & OPINION
PUBLISHED IN ASTORIA, OREGON
757 27TH STREET 97103
MICHAEL PAUL McCUSKER
EDITOR & PUBLISHER