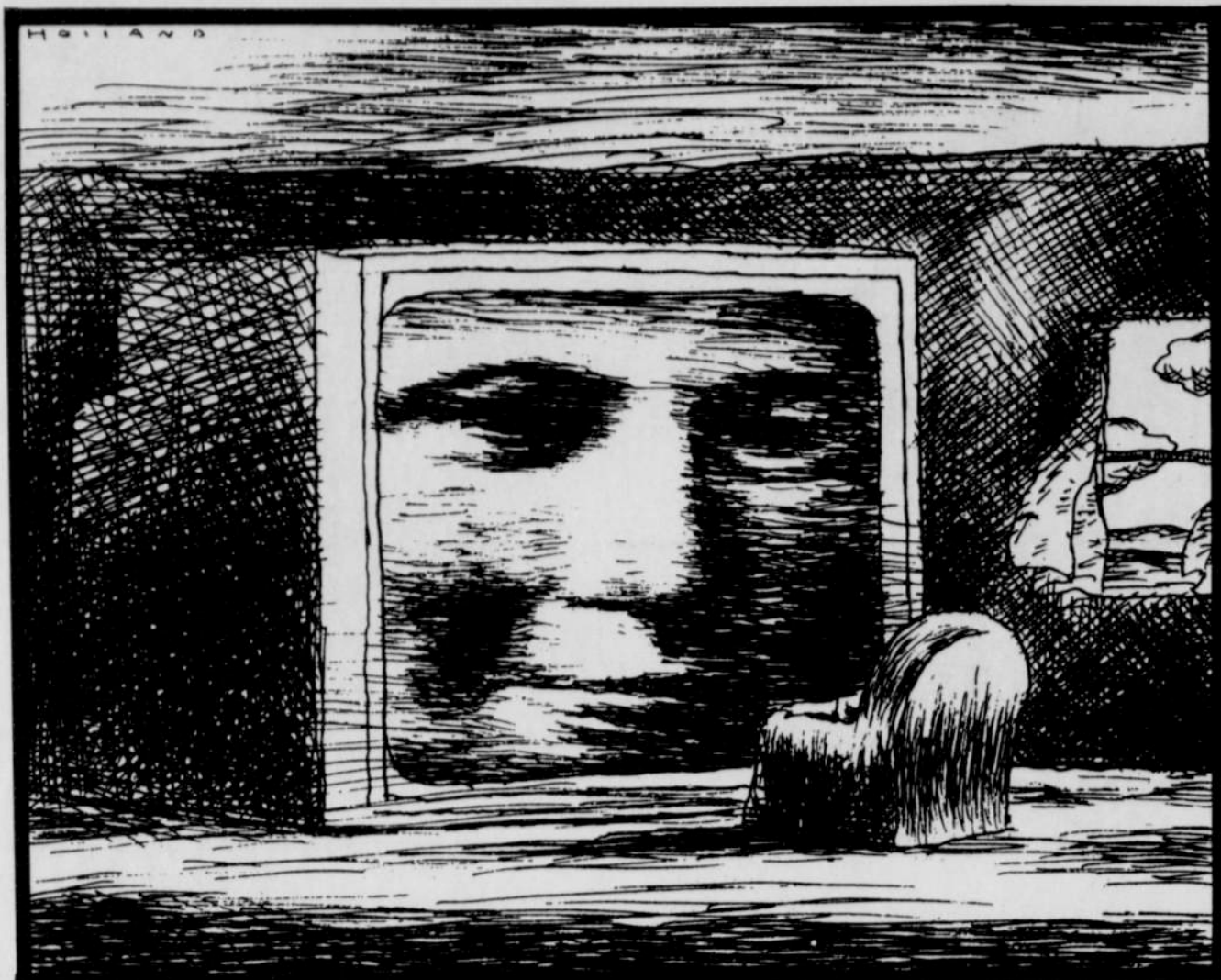




BRAD HOLLAND

WHAT ABOUT THE MEDIA?

FROM PAGE 3

LAWRENCE DECOTEAU

My opinion of the media depends on who is reporting and the publication they work for. It depends on if it's a conservative or liberal publication — and who owns it, the top stories in each of its issues, if it has all the best reporters busting their butts to the best to their ability to get good stories, the spin put on stories by editors. And what the bosses want.

TV is especially guilty of sensationalizing stories that the people in charge think we want to see and hear. It diminishes the credibility of hardworking reporters who put themselves in harm's way to dig up information that gets twisted in the spin.

Most of what we see, hear or read is twisted to achieve certain agendas of the people who own the media.

You have to pick and choose through every publication to find out what is true and necessary to read.

(Lawrence Decoteau is a bartender at the Desdemona Club in Astoria. He is also a landed farmer and once ran trap-lines.)

JESSI DUNKIN

The media is really annoying because it's always getting in your face (and) it gets on my nerves.

The 'mature themes' and 'adult situations' that children are not supposed to see on TV are watched by them anyway.

My problem with the media is that it never does enough about kids. We need stories about people who are doing good things. A lot of kids do good things for the environment and they deserve to be in the news.

(Jessi Dunkin is about to enter the 8th grade at Astoria Middle School and wishes to be a teacher. Born in Minot, N.D., she has lived a dozen of her 13 years in Astoria. She is a dancer and daughter in the 1999 production of *Shanghai'd in Astoria*, which is its 15th anniversary.)

NIKOLE ENGEL

I think the media has good and bad points.

I think TV is going way downhill and is polluting young people's minds. I think the older shows are the better ones but they are also the shows not watched very much.

Radio stations are usually clean and don't have bad things to say about young people. I think they are trying to do more for kids because they are most of the listeners.

(Nikole Engel enters 8th grade at Astoria Middle School this fall. She is a 'Can-Can' dancer this summer in *Shanghai'd in Astoria*.)

MICHAEL LINK

I think the media is very important for the general knowledge of the people, but lately it worries more about the bottom line than informing the people. It is more concerned with tragedy and spectacle rather than relaying news events because there seems to be a lot of money in sensationalism.

(Michael Link is a sculptor. He is also an office equipment field tech for Astoria Business Company. He plays the evil 'Sneak/Snake' in this season's *Shanghai'd in Astoria*.)

GARY SUNDERLAND

I went to journalism school at the University of Oregon in 1978. We had several courses that placed strong emphasis on the ethics and responsibility of the press, and it's evident to me that all of that has gone out the window.

I don't know what journalism schools teach anymore. I feel there is a real carelessness due to the fact that everybody is rushing to get a story rather than spending time and emphasis on accuracy. I find at least one error in every story I read. It's become sloppy and there seems to be less pride in the trade.

I understand the great pressure reporters are under to get stories and keep their jobs. It's not the reporters but the system they work for that's run amuck.

(Gary Sunderland is the principal of Astor and Olney Schools. He plays the master villain 'Max Krooke' in this year's *Shanghai'd in Astoria*.)

FRANK SUNDERLAND

I love the media. I have no problem with the media at large but I don't like the news media. I don't like the local media — stories in the newspaper about an investigation of a local school official were sloppy and filled with sexual innuendo that he wasn't even being investigated about.

Like professional wrestling the media tries so hard to sell a story. They don't have to try so hard. All they need to do is just report the facts and I will start watching the news again.

The media continually attacks the President. I think they should acknowledge what he's done right instead of attacking him all of the time.

The media is really turning into gossip. It's like the news media has lost its ethics and it disturbs me.



FARZAHN KAMALI, PORTRAIT OF PUBLISHER (1982)

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Otherwise the news media should basically be like the 'Daily Show' on the Comedy Central network — funny instead of disgusting fact.

(Frank Sunderland is the son of Gary Sunderland. He is to be a junior at Astoria High School. He is spending the summer as 'Jako' in *Shanghai'd in Astoria*.)

JERROLD A. FORSYTH

The media tries to form public opinion instead of report news.

A fact is impossible to express because language is limiting and every word means a different thing to every person.

Every group of people sees reality differently — a fisherman thinks differently than a banker — but media people hang out together every day and they frame everything by their own group mentality, by what they think the public wants and also by what they can sell. They should not call what they do 'News' but 'Opinion'.

(Jerry Forsyth lives in Astoria by way of Southeast Asia, the son of missionaries. He designs jewelry and 'power pieces' and is helping set up a lapidary/rock shop, The Crystal Habit in Astoria. He plays 'Eino' in *Shanghai'd in Astoria*.)

JON LINGEL

The media is narrow and liberally biased. If one wants a well rounded picture of what is happening in the world, get a shortwave radio and listen to the BBC (British Broadcasting Company).

(Jon Lingel is a technical illustrator and radio electronics technician as well as a meteorological technician. A resident of Astoria, he spent time in Antarctica where he said the only communication with the outside world was through Armed Forces Radio & Television [AFARTS] which he says in these days of E-mail has probably changed since he was last down there. He has played a sailor in past seasons of *Shanghai'd in Astoria*, acting this year as a technical advisor.)

RHONDA ALDERMAN

I think you need to be wary of the media in any form — anything you read, hear or see — because it's only as good as the people who produce it because human beings are imperfect at best. All forms of bias, preference and coloring of whatever they are writing or producing are evident. People too easily accept what they read or hear — everything they are given because it takes no work.

In addition I have a problem of what is true and what is truth. Ten persons can witness the same event and tell ten different stories about it, all of which can be true but there is really only one truth. The challenge is to find out what it is. What is true is what we perceive it to be — but what the truth is we rarely know. The more perspectives we get the more likely we are to approach the truth if we give it a little thought and analysis.

(Rhonda Alderman just received a Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences Degree from Western Oregon University. "As scientists we operate on certain agreed upon premises and try to explain what we have observed to be true, but science is unable to explain the truth," she says. She is a dancer and is this season's choreographer for *Shanghai'd in Astoria*. She was the play's heroine during the 1988 season.)

ANGELA VAN CLEVE

I think the media is too snoop and pesters celebrities too much. If I was a stage or movie star I wouldn't put up with any of that stuff because I don't want flashes going off in my face every second.

The media doesn't cover the good stuff teenagers do. I just got back from a Lutheran convention in Seattle. More than 4000 kids were there but it was only mentioned once on TV. Ten separate groups did public beautification projects while we were there but only one was reported about.

The media seems to look for the bad in teenagers and so many people think teenagers are bad these days, but we're really not.

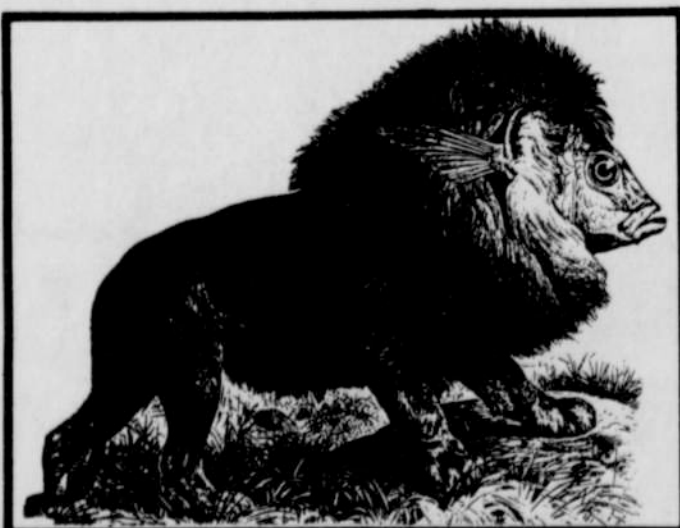
(Angela Van Cleve is a senior at Astoria High School this fall. She is a dancer in *Shanghai'd in Astoria* this summer, which is her fourth year as a member of the cast.)

LORETTA CHRISTIANSEN

I think the media is way too negative because they always blow stuff out of proportion and you never see anything good. They focus on disaster and that's what catches people's attention.

I would like the media to present something interesting to talk about that doesn't have anything to do with tragedy or disaster.

(Loretta Christiansen is a 1999 graduate of Astoria High School. She is 'Grete' in this year's *Shanghai'd in Astoria*.)



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