

KRISTOPHER BOYER

I think the media sucks. They typecast people too much, especially teenagers. They paint teenagers as bad and evil and GenXers. There are some bad apples but not all of us are bad.

A teenager had a benefit to help cover cancer costs but no newspaper or TV station was interested.

I don't like news media taking sides. It should be totally unbiased. Instead they give their opinion and make it seem it's the only opinion that matters.

They're a bunch of scaremongers also. They only show how hopeless a situation is and not any other point.

(Kristopher Boyer is a 1999 graduate of Warrenton High School. He plans to major in social sciences and theater arts in college. He works at the Elephant Ear in Seaside. He portrays Eric 'Sweet but Dumb' Olsen in this summer's *Shanghaied in Astoria*.)

KRISTA RUPERT

I think the media bites ass! They publicize what is bad, not what is good, because most people don't want to hear about good stuff. They like to hear bad stuff because it's more interesting to them.

School shootings are over publicized. If nobody knew about them they wouldn't happen.

The media concentrates on only one thing like war — like Kosovo. My mother and I watch news for the weather but all that's on is the Kosovo bombing. They think that's all anybody wants to see and hear. I guess they think it's more interesting than the weather, and they pound it into your head like World War 3 is starting.

(Kristen Rupert is 14 and will be in the 8th grade at Astoria Middle School this fall. She works at The Club in Warrenton and is otherwise spending her summer playing 'Merit' in *Shanghaied in Astoria*.)

JULIE BOWERS

If the media spent more time covering good things we would have a better world. The media spends most of its time covering dirty nasty things instead; conflict, war and crime. News reporters and the media have the potential to create a more positive world. Instead they focus on the negativity and therefore we have a more negative world.

(Julie Bowers is 17 and will be a sophomore at Clatsop Community College, studying to be a teacher. She is a 'Can-Can' dancer in the 1999 production of *Shanghaied in Astoria*.)

DAVID STERNS

The media seem to be giving the public what it says it wants. People complain about sensationalism but they sure eat it up. Most people don't seem to want in-depth stories any more so all they get are sound and sight bites on CNN and claim to know everything newsworthy — but they really don't know anything at all.

(David Sterns plays "Mark Castle" in this summer's *Shanghaied in Astoria* and is working on a script for a Lewis & Clark melodrama for the Astor Street Opry Company.)

ED HORTSCH

The thing that irks me about the media is when it editorializes. I like to see news reported straight — factual without the influence of reporters as opposed to editorials.

I haven't really kept up with movies of late, though they are one of my favorite mediums. I know there is a tendency to say movies influence society but I think like most art forms they tend to reflect society. There is a wide variety of movies and too much of a tendency toward violence in many.

I haven't kept up with television either. I disconnected my cable. TV gets blamed for a lot of the society's problems.

It's hard to say what really influences these kids who have become killers but I don't think the media has much to do with it.

(Ed Hortsch is lighting technician for this year's *Shanghaied in Astoria*.)

TIM MURPHY

Some of the media is really good. I like the entertainment. I don't like the news. The media as entertainment is good but when it gets into news they don't ask the public what is happening, they ask other media — and the result is they don't know anything about what they report.

(Tim Murphy starts Knappa High School as a freshman this fall. He plays 'Sailor Pat' in *Shanghaied in Astoria*.)

IRENE DRAGE

I was editor of my 7th grade newspaper and I know everything in the media is not true. People make up stories and they don't cover any real news but murder and sensationalism, which seems to make them happen more. You can't even look at a newspaper or TV without seeing something nasty. There is



ART YOUNG, 'THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS' (1912)

so much violence in the media — too much violence on regular TV shows and controversy about it — but news is always violent.

You shouldn't trust the media because even if they find a real story they will change facts and quotes to fit their own standard. I want to hear what people really say, not what the media wants them to say or us to hear.

(Irene Drage is to be an Astoria High School freshman in the fall. Her eventual goal is to be a marine biologist. She plays 'Lacey' in this summer's *Shanghaied in Astoria*.)

ANDREW MATTINGLY

I think some of the media is pretty good, but TV is sometimes kind of stupid, like spending so much time on when a cat is saved from a tree. The news media makes big deals out of things that don't matter and nobody cares about.

I think the media takes their freedom a little too far. They get into people's business — like with the President and Monica Lewinsky. They thought at first they were getting the story of the century but after awhile nobody cared even though that's all you saw on TV.

I don't think the news media really cares too much about kids because they think we're too little to pay attention — but we are interested.

(Andrew Mattingly will be in 7th grade at Astoria Middle School. He plays 'Sailor Mike' in *Shanghaied in Astoria*.)

JORDAN GUENTHER

I think the media gets a lot of information out fast, but some subjects they get hold of and don't let drop.

I think they're there to get the news. All TV news stations try to outdo each other with helicopters and stuff and claim to be the biggest and best when there's very little difference between any of them.

I think the media works both for the public interest and its own self-interest.

(Jordan Guenther is to be a freshman at Warrenton High School. He is the 'Master of Ceremonies' for the 1999 season of *Shanghaied in Astoria*.)



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JEANINE MARTIN

I think the media is a pawn of whatever political party is in fashion at the moment. I think the media has lost sight of its responsibility in our society. And I think the media wouldn't know the truth if they bit it on the ass.

Elections are won solely by the media.

Sound bites suck and should be banned. They are part of the 'Dumbing of America'. (The rule on MTV is every three seconds there has to be a change of picture no matter if it's a commercial or a program.)

The apathy of 85% of Americans has created the mass media of today. It reflects the society it was created to pacify.

(Jeanine Martin is a member of the Astor Street Opry Company and has played a number of roles in its productions, including *Shanghaied in Astoria*. Her role this season is, she says, "disciplinarian." She is a teacher and gives voice lessons.

SCOTT CARPENTER

Mind control is a delicate matter.

(Scott Carpenter is a member of the Astor Street Opry Company Board of Directors and a trustee of the Astoria Eagles, where *Shanghaied in Astoria* is produced.)

JUDITH NILAND

I think it's the media's job to tell the facts so we can know what's going on in the world. I think it's a very important part of civilization. I've noticed in the last ten years it's become something very different. While you can still find newpeople who hold the trust sacred — the reason they got into the business in the first place — I think that due to a variety of reasons a lot of the news has become facts colored by opinion. I think one of the reasons I've watched a lot of the larger media markets, newspapers and radio/TV, bought up by bigger corporations.

The real disturbing thing is when newscasters are allowed to insert subjective opinions into their stories about very sensitive situations that might blow up into war — perceptions that may or not be true. I think reporters and newscasters are trying to make a splash, win awards, and that's not what they should be doing. And their editors let them do it.

(Judith Niland is co-founder of the Astor Street Opry Company and stage manager for *Shanghaied in Astoria*. She also illustrated the two official *Shanghaied* coloring books.)

DOUG SWEET

It's hard being in the media and being a critic. But I'm also a media consumer. I agree with an observation I heard recently that the most important thing today is to be famous instead of having knowledge or ability. You can be a total dolt and be famous, and the media will hold you up as somebody notable simply because you are famous.

That is the undoing of journalistic integrity and the quality of our cultural offerings. I'm talking about both TV and print media. It has also invaded radio to some degree when you consider someone like Rush Limbaugh.

(Doug Sweet is Station Manager of 'Free Radio' KMUN broadcast at 91.9 on the lower FM band in Astoria.)

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