



thoughts on the news

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Essay on a News Report (67)

With the approach of the first anniversary of the tragedy
the 'corporate citizens' day was made
by the pseudo-news stories that heavily advertised
the fact that on the pseudo-holiday
they would refrain from advertising





Essay on a News Report (68)

As the reports prepare us for war I am struck
by the matter-of-fact propaganda masked as news,
the media 'watchdogs' swallowing whole
the particular pronouncements of a man
who lost his last election to a dead man,
and their eager and active participation
in the demonization

of ethnicities

and religions,

as well as of certain individuals,
with no proof required for the frequently outlandish assertions
I await any day the statement
that Saddam Hussein and/or Osama Bin Laden
are also responsible for global warming,
the spread of the AIDS virus,

and

can even be seen in the key frames of the Zapruder film



Essay on a News Report (21)

The article about the ‘controversial’ commutations of members of a group favoring Puerto Rican independence interestingly informed us that none of the people was responsible for any deaths or injuries;

it didn’t have to say what their ‘crime’ was





Essay on a News Report (22)

The coverage surrounding the return of professional football to the city contained far more than the usual number of idiot-in-the-street interviews and would have relegated the end of the world to end-of-show filler



Essay on a News Report (28)

The article announced the arrival of a new sportscaster, reporting without irony that the sportscaster received a letter of recommendation from a famous coach he (allegedly) had been covering





Essay on a News Report (30)

The local station ran endless promos showing its anchorwoman being attacked, it turning out much later to be a staged event for one of the network's pseudo-reality shows



Essay on a News Report (33)

Editorially the newspaper harrumphed hysterically
about the proposal to pay people a living wage,
par for the course for a corporation
that could consider eleven-year olds independent contractors
in order to avoid paying even the minimum wage





Essay on a News Report (34)

The story talked of hacker attacks
that vandalized various webs sites,
among them a giant news organization

It didn't say what form the vandalism took

Perhaps real news was slipped onto the site



Essay on a News Report (37)

The 'alternative' weekly offered as entertainment
an alternative brand of hypocrisy:
they editorialized for a living wage at the same time
they considered their carriers independent contractors
in order to avoid paying them even a minimum wage;
they ran articles about the public health costs of cigarettes
at the same time they accepted ads for tobacco;
they endorsed Democratic and Republican
candidates in the primary election
as an alternative to real candidates;
the yuppie editor whined about public transportation
as a salve to her 'conscience' for using a car

I guess having more ads for sex services
is enough to call yourself alternative





Essay on a News Report (38)

After decades of coming out on Thursdays,
the entertainment weekly decided to reinvent itself
as another alternative paper coming out on Wednesdays

Unfortunately for information-seekers
they also met the Recommended Daily Allowance
for sex-service ads and pretend hard news

And for more fun than one can stand,
they pretended they still came out on Thursdays



Essay on a News Report (39)

The newscaster solemnly intoned the serious story of the State Department's annual report on terrorism, mentioning several 'rogue' countries by name, though for the umpteenth year in a row, however many years the report has been issued, the United States was not mentioned





Essay on a News Report (40)

The large broadcasters public and private
aired several hysterical reports
about the potential interference
of the proposed new micro-broadcasters,
though for different reasons;
the private broadcasters were worried
that their divine right to unlimited profits
might be most minimally interfered with,
while the public broadcasters were worried
that their monopoly as pseudo-alternative voices
would be severely jeopardized
by the appearance of real alternatives
who might actually air dissenting opinions



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