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Letters to the Editor

Conservative bias takes over media outlets

By Jon Yuan

Fox News has long been stereotyped as the beacon of conservative opinions in American media, although it proudly declares itself as “Fair and Balanced.” But how much of that stereotype is true, and is it fair to say that Fox News reports its news with a conservative bias?

There is no denying the prevalence of conservative opinions on Fox News in its primetime lineup. After five o’clock, Fox News becomes a breeding-ground for oftentimes-radical conservative opinions, carried by the *Glenn Beck Program*, *Hannity* and the wildly popular *O’Reilly Factor*. All three gentlemen consider themselves to be conservatives or “traditionalists,” each of whom has made controversial statements that depict their conservative bias. Glenn Beck has labeled the Obama administration as “communist,” “fascist” and “socialist,” all during his eponymous afternoon news program and has recently landed in hot

water by declaring Obama a racist. His program rarely invites guests of opposing viewpoints and instead consistently asks for the opinions of far-right conservative commentators such as Michelle Malkin and Anne Coulter. The same could be said for Sean Hannity’s program, *Hannity*. His “Great American Panel” of commentators each night includes two to three conservative or Republican viewpoints and one lone liberal voice, whose views ultimately carry little weight in a conservatively-dominated panel.

One could argue that *The Glenn Beck Program*, *Hannity* and *The O’Reilly Factor* are simply opinion newsmagazines, paralleling the likes of liberal opinion programs such as *The Rachel Maddow Show* and *Countdown with Keith Olbermann* on competing news network *MSNBC*. However, *Fox News’* tendency toward conservative viewpoints can also be found in its objective news reporting. It constantly places more emphasis on right-leaning

stories like the recent Tea Parties and health-care protests than other major news networks. *Fox News’* audience also reflects its rightward-leaning coverage of the news; more than half of its audience, 52%, consider themselves as politically conservative and 35% consider themselves as Republicans, compared to the 19% who watch *CNN* and 10% who watch *MSNBC*.

It is important to note that *Fox News* recognizes the opinions of liberal ideals, being home to several prominent left-leaning voices like Geraldo Rivera, Juan Williams and Kirsten Powers. Yet, the conservative personalities on the network are more vocal and dominant on the network, consistently gaining more airtime than their liberal counterparts. After watching the network’s “objective” news reporting and opinion programs for an entire day, audiences may begin to wonder if its self-proclaimed mantra “Fair and Balanced” is accurate or even appropriate.

Liberal bias overtakes popular media outlets

By James Joseph

If you have not been living under a rock for the last few months, you know that President Obama’s plan for health care is the primary topic coming out of the mainstream news and the not-so-mainstream news. This current time and the coverage of this current issue underscores a very important topic our society faces today. Is the media corrupt? Are they really telling us the whole story?

Over the years, many have tried to dissect the media, and many have come up with differing opinions as to its fairness and relative partisanship. The network cable channels (*MSNBC*, *ABC*, *CBS*, *CNN*, *The New York Times*, *TIME*, etc.) comprise what is commonly called the mainstream media. (Oh, in case you get confused, I will be using mainstream media as a sort of substitute for what is commonly referred to as the liberal media for this article).

According to many surveys done of journalists in the mainstream media, the majority of call themselves liberal, and vote Democratic. They are also much more likely to favor liberal sides of issues. In case you doubt my assertions, please look up the media in your US Government books, because these numbers are in there.

Anyway, what does this have to do with health care coverage and coverage of politics nowadays in general? Think back to the campaign, where *MSNBC* personality Chris Matthews said of the Obama effect: “I felt this thrill going up my leg!” One can see why most people think *MSNBC* is the most in the tank for the administration.

The Center for Media and Public Affairs reported in October of last year, the height of the campaign, that the mainstream networks had evening newscasts that reflected well on Obama 65% of the time, and on McCain 31% of the time. *NBC* had 56% of their comments favor the Democrats and 16% the

Republicans. The viewers of the networks overwhelmingly identified as liberals.

In the same study, the viewers of *FOX News* identified as 52% Republicans, 17% Democrats and 30% independent. The other channels had Republicans polling in the low teens. Clearly, a divide can be seen between the networks, with viewers identifying as pro-Obama administration and liberal, and the lone *FOX News*, with viewers identifying as conservative. Obviously, commentators on *FOX* tend to be all conservative, and those on the other networks tend to be liberal to the extreme. In addition, I think we can all agree by watching *FOX* that both sides are certainly shown on the news shows.

We must just continue to grin and bear the bias. Unfortunately, it is just not possible to take out bias. But we may try and persuade the mainstream media to put in a little more of the other side, for the sake of being fair and balanced. But who am I kidding? I am never going to see Glenn Beck on *MSNBC*.

Falco’s Fury :

Where is the love?

By Chelsey Falco

“Do unto others as they would do unto you.” That short statement, known as the Golden Rule, is ingrained in the minds of elementary schoolers. The rule states that one should not treat others in a way that one would not want to be treated. It is a basic, easy to follow rule that applies to everyone.

People in the public eye should follow this rule more closely than anybody else. If someone, say a rapper, were to run onto the stage of an award show and to steal the thunder of a young country singer, it would tell the viewers at home that such actions are acceptable. In actuality such actions are reprehensible and show an extreme lack of respect.

Rude, malicious and arrogant are just some of the adjectives that describe a Golden Rule-breaker. What makes these rule-breakers so despicable is that they believe that they can get away with such actions. Tennis stars believe that they can yell at tennis officials and not lose any points or fans. Representatives believe that they can call presidents liars without losing both their support and their dignity.

Nothing can be fixed until Golden Rule-breakers begin to be reprimanded for their actions. The aforementioned rapper has committed Golden Rule numerous times in the past, but he has yet to learn his lesson. Instead the artist is encouraged by his fans to take such actions. The previously mentioned tennis player lost one crucial point on a disputed call. Despite the fact that it was her opponent’s match point, the player most likely did not realize the weight her actions hold. The state representative’s outburst during President Obama’s congressional address not only lost him respect, but it also gained millions of dollars for his future campaigns. All of these well-known figures publicly apologized to those that they hurt with the expectation of being immediately forgiven. Unfortunately, their expectations were fulfilled. Instead of being punished for such actions, they merely gained more fame and publicity.

The significance of the Golden Rule has fallen in today’s society. Elementary schoolers both learn the Golden Rule and live by it. High schoolers, on the other hand, probably cannot even say what the Golden Rule is and display very little respect for others. Society should no longer allow people to get away with Golden Rule-breaking. If five-year-olds can follow the Golden Rule, then surely adults can. Going green is important, but nothing is as important as going gold.