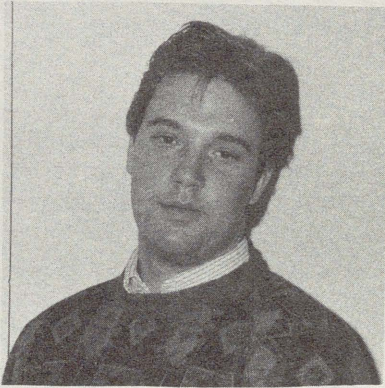


Let's Focus On Something Else



Why is it that people, especially journalists, are so cynical of anyone or anything in the public eye? Also why do we so intently focus on the negative aspects of what is going on around us.

Politicians take a position and they are instantly accused of jumping on the bandwagon, be it pro or con,

and they are accused of merely attempting to garner more votes. Why is it we only here about bad cops and sports heroes that supposedly bet on games? How many of us have bet a few bucks on the Monday Night Baseball or Football game. I think it is grossly unfair that people who are in the public eye to be scrutinized for their every action. Even heroes make mistakes.

I really can not believe that our society is that bad. Our ears are continuously filled with the turmoil of declining education, a deteriorating environment and people in power that don't care about those they serve. Why does the news

always focus on the negative? I say enough is enough.

I am tired of turning on the news and hearing nothing but turmoil until that left over three or four minutes where they focus on vacation getaways. Most of us don't have the resources to get there anyway, but they think that ending with something light will tone down the previous thirty minutes of strife. It turns out that I just get more upset because I can't afford to go.

I openly admit that racism is still a great problem and homelessness is something we just stay abreast of. I can not understand why we don't focus on the people who are

trying to help and turn our attention away from the bureaucracy that slows the process.

We shouldn't attack these issues from the negative standpoint, instead showing concern and compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves. The point is that we are all just people including: Pete Rose, Gary Hart and Dan Rather. The point is that we are just people and we should be helping, not lying in the woodwork waiting for something not exactly in the scheme of things.

We should take some time and examine our heritage. Some of us came as slaves

some of us came with money in our pockets. The bottom line is that for some reason we are here now and all in the same boat, regardless of class, color, creed or status.

I think it's time that we focus on what is positive as opposed to having to hear 60 minutes of what a bad world we live in and how the people we look to have failed. Give us a break Rather, Brokaw and Jennings. We all deserve it.

by John Pines

Where Is George?

Remember when Edward Kennedy, John Glenn, and other democrats asked the question "Where was George?" during their national convention in 1988? Well after one year of having George Bush as our President I think it's time to start asking where is George? Can anyone name one major accomplishment Bush has accomplished this Past year? It appears that George wanted to be President but

doesn't know what to do now that he is. He is more concerned with how he looks then with what he can accomplish.

Even though he has done little or nothing, Bush has been able to maintain a very high approval rating by the general public. Over 70% of the general public give Bush a favorable rating. This is a higher approval rating then Ronald Reagan ever received. Exactly how has

Bush been able to be so well received by the public? The answer is very disturbing. People like him because he hasn't done anything to upset them yet. Whenever the time comes for George to take a stand he chooses to sit on the fence, in the middle of the issue. By doing this he doesn't offend either side because he hasn't actually opposed either position.

During his campaign for president, Bush stated that he

wanted to help protect and clean up the environment, improve the educational system, and put an end to the drug problem that has engulfed this nation. If these are his true intentions, why hasn't he acted as the leader in achieving these goals? Instead he has acted like a president of a high school student council, worried more about his popularity then the issues facing him.

My question is why do

we let him get away with doing nothing? I think that it is time that we start taking our right to vote seriously. When we vote we should vote for those who not only have ideas we like but for those who have enough nerve to stand up and fight to achieve them too.

by Juergen Thusat

There's Nothing To Do In Alpena

Hardly a day goes by without me hearing someone complain about there being nothing to do in Alpena. At first I thought that this was a justifiable complaint, but after firther thought I've come to a different conclusion.

When one takes note of those who do the most complaining, one realizes that this is all they really want to do. Complain. It's so easy for everyone to complain, especially if they get to put the blame on someone else.

Well I think it's time for someone to speak to those

who keep complaining. Quit your crying and stop living in a fantasy world. First of all, you don't really believe that anyone would seriously consider allowing you to break the law, do you? There is no way anyone will give you a place to go where you can sit around, drink alcohol, and do as you please.

It's time for you to grow up. There are a number of things for you to do in this town. First of all we have a choice of four movies to choose from every week. There are college sporting

events and college sponsored social events if one wants to attend those. There are also high school hockey games one could go to. Just because you're not in high school anymore doesn't mean you can't enjoy a good hockey game. There are also two theatre groups in town that perform plays which one can enjoy, usually at a student discount. If none of this sounds fun to you and you still want to complain, don't start yet.

Before anyone has a right to complain that those in charge aren't doing enough

for the young adults in this area, one must first choose to become involved. What I mean is that if you want those in charge to really listen to you, the most effective way to get there attention is through voting. Those who vote get results. I always hear the young people in the area complain about how the senior citizens in the area seem to get special treatment. Did you ever wonder why? Maybe, just maybe it's because they don't just complain but they also follow up by voting.

Maybe the next time you

start to complain you should stop and ask yourself what you could do to solve this problem. The answer might be easier than you think. First, you must register to vote. Then after you register you must take the time to actually go out and vote. If the young adults in this area would band together and start voting, they could become a force to be reckoned with. However, until that time comes just shut up and stop complaining.

by Juergen Thusat

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