

The News Cycle: An Analysis: An Analysis

Modern news is a great equaliser. It brings the earth-shattering tragedy and inane trivia onto a level field. All neatly packaged and delivered without emotion by the slightly British newsreader. Typical news items include thinly veiled ads, weakly hidden political agendas, or just simply nothing. The small minority of actual news is rushed out with little regard to accuracy so that the station can claim exclusivity. This all creates an environment that is toxic to real journalism.

This issue persists across all news mediums. Newspapers (may they rest in peace) and online news (which post everything not good enough to be actually published) both experience the cycle.

Stories with no actual content are what's known as "filler" in the business. They are used to pad out a news publication or broadcast. An alternative to entire filler stories is to include extraneous but informed sounding tangents in each story. In practice both techniques are often used in combination. As a demonstration I've included one completely asinine and useless paragraph in this article. This is in no way an attempt to cover-up any shortcomings in my writing.

Society has established the 24 hour news cycle as a major problem. Countless articles have been written bemoaning it's sorry state. Journalists are always ready to betray their colleagues, much like the politicians they write about. These other articles expose all the issues I talked about above, in great detail. The real problem with them is that they are contributing to the issue. By publishing article after article they are only feeding the fire. To prevent my own article from contributing to this vicious cycle I'd like to ask that no one reprints it. I've checked and I'm definitely the only person to publish an article on this and it should stay that way.

I asked my computer geek friend to create an app that uses Siri or Google or synergistic integration to filter out stories that are actually quality journalism. After a short while of them bashing away I was sent a link. I excitedly open it and was presented with a blank white page. I messaged my friend back, to tell them that it was broken. They replied with "It works, that is all the stories worth reading". This was accompanied by a rather smug emoticon. I was deeply hurt that none of my stories were included.

Nevertheless, I have set aside my personal pain in the hope of making the world a better place. That is the true purpose of this article. So, I implore everyone reading this to just stop. Only make an article if you are really sure that it is important. Get someone else to read through your work before you post it. Ask yourself if you would consider your article worthwhile. Ask yourself if you honestly think that your article is a valuable contribution to society. It's so simple that it can't fail. I've made my sacrifice, now its time to make yours.

- Jack Robbers
Senior Opinion Columnist