

Letter to the Editor in response to the location and content of the September 12th March on Capitol

I was one of the hundreds of thousands of people that transcended Washington on September 12th to peacefully protest the out-of-control spending by our government. I talked to many people from across this great country and asked them if they ever demonstrated before and the vast majority said no. Most of them went on to say that the current political agenda in Washington is clearly pushing the country toward financial instability and our government is undermining our security. As patriots it was time for them to stand up and take a position even though they are way out of their comfort zone. This was a great human interest story. I was very proud that I took the time to be part of this historic day. When I woke up on Sunday I couldn't wait to read what was said about the 9.12.09 March on Washington.

To my surprise the article was buried on page 25 of Section A and what made matters worse it was an associated press article. Did you even know that two buses from Monmouth County went to the March? Did you consider sending a reporter on the bus to get the inside story? However, you found it important enough to run an article about Monmouth University's new Multipurpose Activities Center on the front-page, clearly an article that should have run on page one of the Sport's Section.

It is fairly obvious that the people that own the Asbury Park Press have liberal views. Frankly, I don't care what your ownership or your reporter's views are; I want the news reported in an accurate and balanced way. Even if you support the current political views you are doing a disservice to our government officials and country by not challenging them, the country will be way better off if you do! In case you're wondering, I continue to buy your paper because I need one of the sections you publish for my business.

Media organizations like you are quick to blame circulation being down because of the internet. Circulation is down because your philosophical views have clouded your journalistic responsibility. On the Liberal Conservative spectrum, most of your readers likely fall right of center in terms of their political and religious views. Do you really think it is an accident that conservative radio and TV viewership is off the charts. And to put a crimp in your thinking that nobody reads anymore, than why is every conservative author's books on the New York Time's Best Seller's List.

There are a ton of great stories to write about. Just imagine if your paper sent out two reporters to investigate ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) and broke the stories about the Baltimore and Washington DC offices. The FOX News Network any many other news outlets would have mentioned your paper numerous times – what would that have done for your circulation?

In closing, I thought it was appropriate to include the definition of journalism:

The style of writing characteristic of material in newspapers and magazines, consisting of direct presentation of facts or occurrences with little attempt at analysis or interpretation. ¹

Maybe if you practice journalism more often, your circulation might increase!

Sincerely,

Charlie Bacon
Brick

¹ journalism. Dictionary.com. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition.* Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/journalism> (accessed: September 13, 2009).