

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**THE FORT MYERS
NEWS-PRESS:
Unfair and unbalanced?
Not so much!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  January 7, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

A letter to the Fort Myers News-Press took the paper to task for being way too liberal and suggesting a desire to cancel the subscription altogether. While sometimes I would like to shout and scream about some of what I read in the paper, I felt compelled to come to the defense of what I understand to be the requirements of balanced journalism – even if not quite perfectly so!

Here's my response:

The Fort Myers News-Press: Unfair and Unbalanced? Not so Much!

"Paper too left" by A.T. Strong on 1-5, complains strongly that the News-Press publishes conservative guest editorials only occasionally, and that the paper isn't objective or balanced. The writer suggests a temptation to cancel the subscription. I, a wannabe conservative pundit, would like to defend the paper!

The News-Press is more balanced than most other major newspapers I have read. The paper regularly offers these conservative syndicated columnists: Cal Thomas, Kathleen Parker, Michelle Malkin, and the iconic Charles Krauthammer. Of course, there are balancing opinions, and that's the way it should be! For example, in the News-Press readers are privileged to read the liberal Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Leonard Pitts, Jr. While I would often like to shake some sense into him, he is truly sincere and one of the best. Not so much so with the unimpressive E.J. Dionne who also appears regularly in the paper; and some of those editorial cartoons don't measure up to the praise I'm otherwise inclined to give the paper.

And most importantly, while this conservative pundit would like all of his letters printed in the News-Press, the paper has been very fair in printing a generous sample of what I offer.

Is the News-Press unfair and unbalanced? Not so much! And thanks for that!