

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**  
**THE FORT MYERS  
NEWS-PRESS:  
Unfair and unbalanced?  
Take another look!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 2, 2015

*Here's what provoked me:*

*From time to time, letters are printed which take the Fort Myers, FL newspaper to task for being either too liberal or too conservative. Recently it was a conservative complaining about the paper's unbalanced liberal bias. I'm a conservative and am quite satisfied with the paper having reasonable balance - even if not perfectly so! I decided to offer my opinion on the topic.*

*Here's my response:*

**The Fort Myers News-Press: Unfair and unbalanced? Take another look!**

The paper periodically prints reader complaints and on 11-18 one was from, Ed Yaskulka who penned "Paper needs more balance." "I cannot be but appalled at the obvious bias and partiality to liberalism..." says he. I, a wannabe conservative pundit, would like to defend the paper!

The News-Press is more balanced than most major newspapers. It regularly offers these conservative 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, News-Press readers are privileged to read liberal Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Leonard Pitts. While I would often like to shake some sense into him, he's truly sincere and a huge talent. That's doesn't apply to the unimpressively shallow E.J. Dionne. One other weakness is the consistently biased (that's OK) and unfair (not OK) political cartoons by Andy Marlette, whose offerings don't deserve the praise I'm otherwise inclined to give the paper.

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.

I think Yaskulka is being "unfair and unbalanced" in his evaluation.