

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at steve_bakke@comcast.net !
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

 **DON'T
CHANGE
MY
MESSAGE!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  September 3, 2017

Here's what provoked me:

I wrote a letter to the Fort Myers News-Press about the blame and shame on all sides in many of the issues of the day. Hypocrisy is rampant. The title of my letter was changed, which is fine. The title was changed in a manner which no longer reflected my message, which is not fine. Here is my response which was submitted – also as a letter to the editor. You decide if you agree with my concern.

Here's my response:

Don't Change My Message!

I thank the News-Press for publishing my editorial letter, "Trump's poor choice," on 9/2. I'm on record with the paper praising its fair and balanced treatment of editorial letters, commentary and guest opinions, and I stand by that. However, I must offer my concern about the title chosen for this letter.

My original offering was titled "Bashing Trump: Enough Shame to go around." My letter's message was, I thought, fair and balanced as I criticized Trump for certain actions following Charlottesville, and pointed out that considering the insults he casts about, he's the last person who should complain when others show him no respect.

I also criticized Obama and several others for equivalent mistakes and hypocrisy. Hence my title's emphasis on "Enough shame to go around." In this case I think the "letter editors" may have let their bias show. They changed my title to be all about my criticism of Trump, whereas my main point was to assign shame to politicians and others from all sides for their poor choices and hypocrisy.

I believe the newspaper's sincere intent is to have titles which reflect content. Wouldn't something like "There's blame all around" have better conveyed my real message?