

The Real Problem with Media Literacy is the Media

by [G. Tod Slone](#) (July 2021)



The Line, Philip Guston, 1978

Over and over we see the central truth: the corporate outlets that most loudly and shrilly denounce “disinformation” –to the point of demanding online

censorship and de-platforming in the name of combating it—are, in fact, the ones who spread disinformation most frequently and destructively. It is hard to count how many times they have [How we Navigate the News](#),” with a request: “I’d love to hear your thoughts.” And so, here are mine. But first note that The Telegram did not respond—Frampton, however, did though not at all regarding the points made—to my counter op-ed regarding a different Frampton op-ed: “[The Real Problem with ‘Hate’](#),” is now posted on The American Dissident website.

In general, “[Scott Rasmussen poll](#) found that: “Given a choice between allowing free speech even though it is sometimes offensive and inaccurate or having the government determine what speech should be allowed, 80% of voters prefer free speech.” One might wonder what such a poll would have found in Canada, where government has already limited free speech via hate speech legislation and schools have likely instilled in student minds that censorship of “hate” is good, as in “hate speech is not free speech.”

In any case, those employed by a media corporation like Saltwire Network hopefully are at least aware of their prime taboo, the same as that for teachers. In a nutshell, that taboo constitutes the prime problem with the Main Stream Media today. Far too many journalists likely fully abide by that taboo. Only rare—very rare—journalists like Glenn Greenwald (*The Intercept*) and Bari Weiss (*New York Times*) have dared break it. For them, truth was/is more important than job and sticking to the narrative.

Focusing on so-called fake news distributed by trolls or whomever on Facebook or Twitter likely takes much needed attention off the fake news distributed by the MSM itself. For me, though probably not for Frampton, more sources of news is far better than “since the days when newsprint dominated the landscape.” What Frampton seems to miss or avoid is the

often egregious blending of opinions with news in an effort to abide by the narrative. She notes, regarding the MSM (Saltwire Network): "Content is separated into categories: local news, business, sports, opinion, culture."

The fundamental problem with the news is clearly biased, career journalists, who will do anything but reflect on their deeply embedded biases that serve inevitably to corrupt the news. What is shameful is that so many of them are quite content with Big Tech's censoring and banning of a former president of the United States, which truly reveals just how much they scorn freedom of expression. Yet without the latter, how can one possibly end up with real news? Freedom of expression is the very key to freedom of information and the news, something the MSM does not like or support when it counters MSM narratives (e.g., Trump is an evil, racist, Nazi dictator). Frampton argues:

But there are things a reader can do to ensure what they are reading is credible. Click on the "About us" section of SaltWire.com, for example, and you will learn about our news organization—who we are and our mission statement. Most reputable media outlets provide similar information.

Well, I checked out "about us" and found no information regarding the money, as in follow the money. Well, almost none. The last sentence in "about us" is perhaps the key, the very crux: "The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada." And so, Big Gov is funding Saltwire Network. Sounds a bit *Pravda*-like, at least to me. The bigger a newspaper organization like Saltwire Network, the bigger the likely intellectual corruption. Moreover, "reputable" is a highly subjective term and certainly not necessarily positive. The *New York Times*, for example, is somehow simultaneously "reputable" and extremely biased in its reporting. And so who determines "reputability," if not highly-biased, faceless entities.

Finally, Frampton states regarding her op-ed: “If you’re reading this in print or on SaltWire.com, then you’re getting it straight from the horse’s mouth, as it were.” Well, perhaps one still might need to examine that mouth’s teeth carefully and determine how many cavities their just might be, including governmental ones.

[Table of Contents](#)

G. Tod Slone, PhD, lives on Cape Cod, where he was permanently banned in 2012 without warning or due process from Sturgis Library, one of the very oldest in the country. His civil rights are being denied today because he is not permitted to attend any cultural or political events held at his neighborhood library. The only stated reason for the banning was “for the safety of the staff and public.” He has no criminal record at all and has never made a threat. His real crime was that he challenged, in writing, the library’s “collection development” mission that stated “libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view.” His point of view was somehow not part of “all points of view.” He is a dissident poet/writer/cartoonist and editor of [The American Dissident](#).

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