

Why We Should Save Print Newspapers, Update for Musicians, 2022-May

Hi Anthony and Rich,

Thanks for the interesting discussion yesterday after our rehearsal about **staying generally informed via print newspapers**.

A Radical Concept

Our country was founded on the then radical concept that the right to govern comes from the consent of those governed, not from heredity -- as it had in most countries for thousands of years. Accordingly, **citizens of democratic governments should be informed** since decisions taken by government are done with their consent.

A Time-Efficient Way to Stay Generally Informed

Many Americans say they don't have time to stay informed on local, state, national, and international news and don't need this information for their jobs nor for their day-to-day life. I understand this point-of-view well: I do programming and statistics and don't need to know one iota about local, state, national, and international news to do my job well.

Given this reality, it is critical that the work required to be a generally informed citizen in a democracy be done in the most time-efficient way possible. Over the

decades, I have found print newspapers to be the most time-efficient way to be generally informed on local, state, national, and international news. In about a half hour, I can comprehensively read/skim the print edition of the outstanding ***East Bay Times*** which we receive daily and stay generally informed on local, state, national, and international news.

The *East Bay Times* Is Doing a Good Job.

We used to receive the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *East Bay Times*, but for several years have received only the latter. The past decades have been tough on print newspapers, with many younger people getting their “news” on their smart phones from social media such a Facebook (“news feeds”). A decade or so ago, several newspapers in the East Bay were combined to form the *East Bay Times*. **Veteran newspaper executive Sharon Ryan** was brought in to manage the new *East Bay Times*.

Ryan has a great job of maintaining a balanced newspaper that enables one to be generally informed on local, state, national, and international news in a time-efficient way. It is noteworthy that Ryan has been able to retain her staff and add to staff during a period that has been tough on print newspapers. This is in marked contrast to the *San Francisco Chronicle* which has had a marked drop in staff.

Efficient Use of Resources

Ryan does not use her reduced staff to write the *East Bay Times*’s own version of national and international news – as the *San Francisco Chronicle* has done. This

would not be a good use of her limited human resources. She wisely uses sources such as the Associated Press for national and international news. For example, AP has a stable of excellent and experienced economic and business writes such as Christopher Rugaber and Damian J. Troise and Alex Veiga for which the *East Bay Times* does not have nor could not afford counterparts.

Why We Should Save Print Newspapers

I have attached my essay “Why We Should Save Print Newspapers” which addresses these issues discussed above. I wrote it in May 2020, and it was an update of an essay originally written in August 2011 and revised in December 2012 (also attached)

Thanks again for the interesting discussion. See you on Saturday for our annual Cinco de Mayo / Tribute to Mexican Composers concert.

Bill Jackman, PhD

Statistician / SAS & SQL Programmer

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