

The Press Boosted Spitzer's Power and Career

Brava to Kimberley Strassel for telling it like it is on Eliot Spitzer's journalist enablers ("Spitzer's Media Enablers," op-ed, March 12). Their enabling ways are not new. Would Hillary Clinton have avoided doing time in a federal minimum security facility if the press had characterized her cattle futures "trading" for what it really was? How about the press's failure to challenge President Clinton's characterization of the White House's possession of hundreds of FBI files as a "bureaucratic snafu"?

The press's abandonment of its responsibility to be honest and objective *always*, unfortunately, is not new. Although the press, ultimately, will suffer for its failings, the ultimate loser has been and will continue to be the information-seeking public.

JAMES MALEFAKIS
Bronx, N.Y.

The most important function of journalists, particularly those just getting into the business, is not "to see that wrongs get righted" because that's exactly what turns well-meaning people into zealots over time. If you want to be a journalist, learn to be a reporter first, not an editorialist. If you want to be a police officer or prosecutor, stick to the law. And if you want to be a politician, represent your voters, not paid lobbyists.

However, what people need to do is always ask themselves if what they want to believe is what they should believe. Don't allow subjective desire to overrule objective reason. If our school systems are failing, it is precisely because educators no longer teach children how to think objectively, which is why we get more and more hypocritical public officials like Eliot Spitzer, as well as the voters who elect them.

RICHARD REAY
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Ms. Strassel's piece on Gov. Spitzer was a breath of fresh air. I worked as a reporter and editor at five newspapers in three states during my 13-year journalism career and witnessed firsthand the media's enabling of not only the local and state government pe-

cocks, but also of leftist ideologues, environmentalists, animal-rights activists, welfare-statists, et al.

I could count on one hand the number of conservatives and independents ensconced in those newsrooms during that time. I could count on one hand the number of times that exoneration of bad conduct by a wealthy person or big business was given the same front-page play as that of an accusation of bad conduct. Note the initial front-page frenzy on the Duke lacrosse players and the subsequent middle-page yawn after the racial element was shown to be a shameless red herring. Objectivity in print journalism—with a very few exceptions—is a farce.

I'd like to think that Ms. Strassel's exquisite scolding on the Spitzer story will shame modern media handlers into objectivity, but ideologues are expert rationalists. In the coming days and weeks, we'll hear them say that the medium (Spitzer) was wrong but that his anti-capitalistic message was right on the money.

Bank on it.

DAVID ELMORE
Roswell, Ga.

Defending Ourselves Shouldn't Provoke Anyone

The only point Bret Stephens neglected to make in his spot-on analysis of the soft-on-terror crowd ("An Inordinate Fear of Terrorism?," *Global View*, March 4), is the absurd place their logic would take us. Imagine a military strategy formed on the crass premise that armed conflict be avoided because it inflames our enemies. The "traq-causes-further-terrorism" mindset is no more sophisticated or nuanced than this and, in reality, succeeds only in turning thousands of years of military history on its head.

It was a mere 14 years ago that the Clinton administration assured us North Korea had agreed to end its quest for nuclear weapons, and only a couple now since Kim Jong-il, announced, "Just kidding" when clinking champagne glasses with Madeleine Albright in October 2000. No doubt, rogues around the globe are drooling at the prospect of chatting up Obama if he lands the presidency in November.

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