

I Must Admit

*By Howie Flomberg*

I read Drudge.com. I watch Fox. Other people must also because Drudge and Fox exist but that is not the reason for this essay, I just want to get all of the vituperation out there.

When I was a kid, about fifty years ago, we had little choice in our source of news. There were three networks, ABC, CBS and NBC. Their slant on news was quite similar. If you disagree with me then google "TET 1968." In New York City we had a choice of newspapers. We had the New York Times and everything else. The Times leaned left. The Post had fallen over to the left. The News and the Mirror carried magazine and comic sections for mom and the kids. If you cared to read the News, they were, and still quite far to the right.

New York State is 59% Democrat, 33.6% Republican and the remainder scattered amongst the other left leaning parties. The lack of a strong Republican voice in New York State probably has a degree of responsibility for this. But getting back to the point, there was no exposure to other points of view.

On the Internet I have access to Drudge, Hot Air and Lucianne. On the other side I have access to 9-News, CNN.Com and nbcnews.com. Drudge says that government spying is 'the nature of our society' while CNN tells me that Government violates phone rules. Everyone repeat after me – "huh?"

Gore Vidal said: "Half of American People never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half." Uninformed voters elected Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. In my opinion, we have not done so well lately. We are influenced by what we see and read in our news. Today we have many options and sources for information.

The major turning point in the Vietnam War was the 1968 Tet offensive. The "Most trusted man in America," Walter Cronkite pronounced the war unwinnable. Major military professionals as well as those of us who were there believe Cronkite was wrong. The peace movement, egged on by John Kerry lying to congress during the "winter soldier" investigation in 1971 and Jane Fonda's poorly chosen actions split the nation in half. Returning GI's like me were vocally abused and pelted with saliva and trash.

In 1971, we had one major source of news, Walter Cronkite. If he said it, it is true. LBJ said, "If I've lost Cronkite, I've lost the nation." Today we have Facebook, Fox, the Internet, and Drudge as well as NBCnews.com. We have the ability to research and dig out the truth. If only we do.