

Mainstream vs. Fair and Balanced

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We would like to make an analogy, which we believe fairly well depicts the economic and market news sources available to the investing public. The main stream investor information comes from the huge, primarily eastern based, firms such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Wire Houses such as Merrill Lynch, Investment Banking firms such as Goldman Sachs and of more recent vintage CNBC and Bloomberg T.V. programs. Either overtly or covertly they represent sell side Wall Street with enormous conflicts of interest.

On the other side of the fence is the Internet, which is, in our mind, the greatest invention since sliced bread. It can be used literally as “going to the library” every day. We would be the first to admit however, that chaff over wheat predominates, but there are a huge number of web sites available that can bring to everyone the real economic and market news that makes a difference. The keys, of course, are several. One needs to know (1) the “right” web sites and (2) learn to quit relying on the biased sell side proponents and maybe the most important of all (3) stop watching the market day to day which is always dramatized in order to sell papers, T.V. time, common stocks and bonds.

Several years ago we read a book entitled “News and the Culture of Lying”. It is a fascinating book on the history of reporting news to advocating public policy by way of sensationalism. The father of such was none other than a man named Joseph Pulitzer of Pulitzer Prize fame. Do you remember another high and mighty prize called Nobel – as you may recall Yassar Arafat was a recipient of a Nobel Peace Prize, also Jimmie Carter for the North Korean Nuclear Deal of the mid 1990’s. Oh what a web we do weave. How many Pulitzer Prizes have been won by journalists that just plain made up stories? Ask the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Profits are scarce, jobs are limited, financial institutions are making money in a zero game arena and the stock market is hopelessly overvalued. Bonds, other than governments are suspect. Look out below. Find better sources of information.

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