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Special issue on – Racism and the Media

THE UNTOLD STORY

Reporting the Anti Racist Demos

by JO TREHARNE

ON OCTOBER 19th 1993, two large groups of people took to the streets of London in separate demonstrations united in their concern about the growth of racism – particularly organised racism – in this country.

One of the demos, organised by the Anti-Nazi League (ANL) led to violent clashes with the police as they attempted to prevent marchers from walking past the headquarters of the British National Party in Welling, South East London. There were injuries and arrests in what the media automatically and immediately termed the ensuing 'riot'.

And what of the other march held in Central London?

Well, it was smaller and peaceful. London wasn't exactly brought to a standstill, but it was certainly delayed for a while. Organised by the Anti-Racist Alliance, the demo and Trafalgar Square rally chose to focus on protests against the political system that allows parties like the BNP to exist and flourish in this country.

The speakers were eloquent and reasonable, and despite a few rather non-PC comments about 'good looking females' from the ARA compere, the crowd were united behind the demo's positive ratio-



ARA march and rally, Central London Saturday 16 November.

Photo: NIGEL TANBURN

nale. But the demo was, with the honourable exception of the *Morning Star*, almost completely ignored both by the broadcast media and the national newspapers.

WHY? It is not enough to say that there was 'no news' at the ARA demo. It may have passed off without 'incident' – but a fundamental principle of good journalism is to report the whole story – not just the bits that will look good on a full colour front page spread condemning the Socialist Workers.

The media once again failed in their duty to fully inform us of events because of their fixation with the violent cle-

ments on the left.

The story was that there were two marches. The story was that each group of demonstrators were concerned with the rise of racism in Britain. The story was that each group held a different viewpoint on how the problem could be tackled.

Dare we say that the ARA march was ignored due to the fact that it was mainly supported by the national trade unions and several prominent Labour MPs, who presented a balanced, peaceful and logical argument for tackling racism?

Surely the punters don't want to read about that.

PLATFORM FREE SPEECH FOR RACISTS?

Socialist Worker
reporter
Sam Ashman
and Tim Gopsill,
editor of the
NUJ's *The Journalist*,
debate the pros
and cons

● NO PLATFORM DEBATE ● NO PLATFORM

What is achieved by banning racist organisations from public debate? Tim Gopsill

WHO POSES the biggest threat to black people?

Derek Beackon and Nazi thugs on the streets? Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and the pin-stripe thugs in government? Do-nothing Labour leaders scared of losing the white racist vote? Or the right-wing press, perhaps?

Of course, they all do. So what is achieved by banning the BNP or other declared racist organisations from public debate, through the policy historically known as "no platform for fascists"?

You can't tune in to national TV or radio for a day without hearing the vicious xenophobic attitudes of Howard, Lilley and others given free rein. Personally, I would be quite happy not to hear any of them ever again, but this is not a justifiable media policy.

The CPBF stands for free access to the airwaves and against bans and censorship. In the last month it has reiterated its long-standing opposition to the Northern Ireland broadcasting ban.

This ban covers 11 organisations, including Sinn Fein, the PIRA, UDA, UVF, UFF and so on. Some of these could be seen as crypto-fascist, to say the least. They have gunned down dozens of innocent citizens on their doorsteps.

The CPBF does not — at least, I hope it does not — say that the ban should be lifted from Sinn Fein alone. It says, scrap the thing altogether. It says that proper reporting from Northern Ireland involves talking to the paramilitaries.

And reporting racism involves talking to racists.

One of the arguments for unbanning Sinn Fein has been that it has elected local councillors (and until last year, an MP). Well, so has the BNP, as we all know.

To ban Derek Beackon, for instance, would be an insult to the desperate people of the Isle of Dogs who voted him in. They have been abandoned by the "respectable" political parties (Labour, mainly) to the extent that they see fascism as their only hope. They spoke of their frustrations in a recent Despatches programme on Channel 4, made by Penumbra, a black-run company. Under "no platform ..." it should presumably

not have been made.

The argument runs that fascists are "outside" democracy. (I'd like to know who is "inside" this wonderful democracy of ours.)

Those who use this argument go round vilifying the corruption in our "democratic" system and attacking it at every turn, and fair enough too. Then they ask us to ban the Nazis because they are "outside" it.

This is "kick their heads in" politics: ban the Nazis because they would ban us if they could. Kick their heads in because they would kick in ours.

There is a more sophisticated argument for "no platform ...", that fascism is politically distinct from, say, Orange terrorism, because it is an ideology specifically devised to split the working class and detract it from socialism.

That's what happened in the 1920s and 1930s, and it succeeded indeed in preventing the spread of Bolshevism in western Europe.

But there is no prospect of a mass fascist party here and now because there is no need for it.

What detracts the working class is not fascism but consumerism — the force that has mutilated our media with its tawdry "market" values. It would make more political sense to say, "No platform for advertisers!"

Of course people should demonstrate against the Nazis, including at the BNP HQ. We have a right to do that. We have a right to defend ourselves physically from Nazi attacks on the streets. We have a right to picket broadcasting studios if a fascist is going on a programme.

But we must be prepared to deal with their arguments politically. That malevolent old crazy, Jane Birdwood, was in Darcus Howe's studio audience for the "Devil's Advocate" discussion on "repatriation" of black people, and her arguments were dealt with.

The ANL is said to be starting up a Media Workers Against the Nazis clone, with "no platform ..." as a central point. Many will be attracted to it. But the CPBF must not get into the business of calling on them to keep fascists off the air. It's not what it's for. ■

● NO PLATFORM DEBATE ● NO PLATFORM

It is not anti-democratic to demand 'No Platform for Nazis'. It is simply to say that fascism is unacceptable Sam Ashman

SOCIALISTS are for the extension of democracy. We are, in general, against censorship, for free speech and for the widest possible airing of views.

But we do not believe Nazis should be given a platform — whether on television, radio or in the papers.

This is because there is a direct connection between what Nazis say and their policy of racial terror.

Free speech for Nazis means more racist murders. It means more harassment of black people and horrific attacks like the recent one in Ilford, east London, where a black man was attacked because he had a white girlfriend.

TV programmes which debate with Nazis inevitably give legitimacy to their views. The Nazis are not legitimate. They are against democracy and all civil liberties.

The Nazis in power did not only kill Jews, they imprisoned and murdered thousands of trade unionists, the leaders of the equivalent of the Labour party and any body else who opposed them.

The British National Party stand for the same, no matter how much they may pretend otherwise. They seek to use democratic freedoms in order to abolish democracy. They want to use free speech to destroy free speech for anyone but themselves.

The job of all anti-Nazis is to expose the Nazis for what they are. We need to organise to do everything we can to isolate and demoralise them.

Giving Nazis a platform has the opposite effect.

In France, constant media exposure has helped make Le Pen's National Front appear a legitimate political force and help the NF hide the fact they are Nazis.

It is not anti-democratic to demand No Platform for Nazis. It is simply to say that fascism is unacceptable.

That is why it was marvellous to hear that BBC workers protested at the prospect of BNP members taking part in the programme After Milwall. That sort of action is the way forward for all trade unionists across the media. ■

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

THE 1st October, 1993 edition of this programme was presented by David Rose of The Observer and researched/produced by Paul Vickers of Granada TV. It was an excellent analysis of the racist reporting which occurs in our national press. He cited examples from the Sun's Richard Littlejohn, a Telegraph column by the 'venerable Deedes' and a Sunday Express editorial which were all making the same claim: that the all powerful race relations industry had stifled debate about race relations.

The Sunday Express called it, "A conspiracy of silence about the whole issue of race among both the Establishment and the chattering classes" and on the basis of an opinion poll "smashed the conspiracy," arguing that "the worst excesses of the race relations 'industry' must be tackled as a matter of urgency."

David Rose pointed out, "... national newspapers aren't the only ones to peddle the myth of the race relations thought police." Quoting from the British Nationalist, the BNP's monthly tabloid he commented, "I'm afraid to say, that all too often the rhetoric of British Nationalist has a familiar ring. The latest issue, widely distributed in Tower Hamlets before the by-election, concentrated on the alleged breakdown of law and order, just like the ordinary tabloid press."

In a powerful final section to the programme he cited cartoons, editorials and news reports after to illustrate his point that "if the race relations industry were really powerful it might do something about Fleet Street racism."

An excellent, well researched programme which should be made widely available for educational use.

ANTI-RACIST RESOURCES

CPBF Book Service

It Ain't Half Racist, Mum ed Phil Cohen and Carl Gardner £7.95

Racism and the Press in Thatcher's Britain. Two essays by Nancy Murray and Chris Searle Institute of Race Relations £1.50

Race Studs Terkel £6.99

Your Daily Dose: Racism and The Sun Chris Searle £5.00

Racism Yasmin Alibhai and Colin Brown £8.95
(Designed for GCSE with facts, figures, illustrations and questions for debate)

Orders to CPBF
(add 10% to cover p&p)
8 Cynthia Street
London N1 9JF

Addresses

The Anti-Nazi League,
PO Box 2566, London N4 2HG
produces teaching packs and information on the holocaust and right wing groups active in Britain.

The Anti-Racist Alliance,
PO Box 150, London WC1X 9AT
also produce anti-racist literature and teaching packs.

Commission for Racial Equality,
Elliot House, 10-12 Allington Street,
London SW1E 5EH

Institute of Race Relations,
2-6 Leeke Street, London WC1X 9HS.
Also publishes the journal *Race and Class*.

The Runnymede Trust,
11 Princelet Street, London E1 6QH.
Produced an excellent booklet, *Daily Racism*, on the press and black people in Britain which has unfortunately just gone out of print.

The Welner Library,
4 Devonshire Street, London W1 has extensive information on the history of right wing groups in Europe and on Jewish and other immigration to the east end of London.

WHY ARE THE MEDIA

Studies of race and the news media paint a similar picture, writes Simon Cottle. Britain's black and ethnic minorities have tended to be depicted in terms of stereotypes and/or within negative contexts involving conflict, drama, deviance and controversy.

IN THE 1960s and early 1970s studies observed how immigrants were reported in relation to public health scares, problems of 'numbers' and tensions of 'race relations'—effectively concealing the problem of endemic British racism.

In the 1970s and across the 1980s studies identified the way in which Britain's Black population were criminalised in relation to the orchestrated panic surrounding 'mugging', violent street protest and inner city riots—ignoring continuing social inequalities and growing anger at police harassment and brutality.

In the 1980s and 1990s studies have charted the virulent press attacks on anti-racist campaigns, the vilification of black representatives and the relaying and endorsement of statements of 'new racism' by prominent politicians. Black Britons are represented as outside the mainstream British society, and positioned as both the site and source of newsworthy problems.

Of course exceptions can be found but the fact remains that collectively the news media have done little to spotlight the problems of racism and continuing inequality while feeding racist sentiments, undermining the politics of anti-racism and generally contributing to a growing climate of home-grown and 'fortress' Europe racisms.

How can we account for this?

■ One assumption is that news media output can simply be explained in terms of individual journalist and/or proprietor prejudice being transferred to news copy.

While it is undoubtedly the case that some, perhaps many, journalists harbour

racist sentiments and viewpoints, the routine production of standardised news is informed by professional and organisational goals, not simply individual attitudes.

News output is shaped by a news policy and a clear journalistic understanding of the types of stories, distinctive presentational style and audience appeal which particular papers have.

■ A related explanation concerns the social composition of journalists, and their professional training and socialisation. If journalists come predominantly from white middle class homes, elite education institutions and entertain shared political values this must play a part in shaping their journalistic output.

Journalistic training appears to exercise an even more constraining and standardising influence upon journalists. Colleague esteem, successful newsroom integration and promotion and, ultimately, career moves depend upon conformity to a news policy and news organisational goals, not their disruption.

■ News organisations, for the most part, are in business to make profits and all compete for readers and audiences. Surviving in a competitive market place means seeking the maximum audience of readers and the maximum receipts from advertisers. News is produced just like any other commodity for the largest possible group of consumers.

Within a predominately white culture, it could be anticipated from such an approach that the middle ground of white opinion and interests will be catered for while marginalising minority interests, voices and opinions.

Market driven pressures contribute to both press sensationalism and the pursuit of 'race' controversy, as well as the marginalisation of ethnic minority programming to the quiet backwaters of the TV schedules.

■ Bureaucratic pressures in the news room also produce standardised and routine forms of 'race' reporting. Confronted with the daily pressures of deadlines and the uncertainty of tomorrow's news events, news teams seek, as far as possible, to 'tame the news envi-



RACIST?

ronment' and 'routinise the unexpected'.

One way of doing this is to rely on key institutional sources of news, the police or government press releases for example. The implication here is that little energy or resources are devoted, as a matter of routine, to the search for non-institutional voices and viewpoints.

When coupled with a journalistic claim to impartiality which, ironically, is achieved via the accessing of authoritative voices, so the bureaucratic nature of news production is geared to privilege the voices and viewpoints of social powerholders, and not those excluded from Britain's powerful institutions. Once again, the voices of white Britain and those institutions with a stake in preserving the status quo are likely to monopolise the opportunities for news access.

■ News values also lead to the forefronting of images of 'race' in terms of conflict, drama, controversy, deviance and violence. The question here is not whether they are exclusive to 'race' reporting because clearly they inform other news stories as well. Rather the point is to inquire to what extent they appear to figure in a disproportionate number of race related stories.

It is also important to question to what extent such 'news values' can really be assumed to be universal. If they are found to vary across different cultures, time periods or even different news medium, they most certainly are not beyond criticism and change.

■ Journalists, like the rest of us, inhabit a social world which, for the most part, is made sense of through language and culture. Culture in this sense refers to the taken for granted assumptions, values and ways of life which give meaning, sense and identity to individuals and social groups.

Journalists inevitably give expression to the surrounding cultural terrain which, in the case of Britain, carries the traces on imperialism, colonialism and a deeply ingrained sense of white superiority. From this approach, it is unsurprising that news language and news texts should become a site for racialised



meanings and reproduce the wider cultural field in which ideas of 'race' and difference are played out and, to some degree, contested.

Each of the above goes some way in helping to explain the lamentable tale of the British news media and its reporting of 'race'. Each tells us something of importance and each points to a partial strategy of engagement for news access and representation.

While challenging individual racist journalists and their proprietors, the following policies are necessary:

● improved ethnic minority access to positions of responsibility and power within news organisations

● enhanced professional training and continuing on-the-job monitoring of professional practice

● increased resources for community representation and news media access

● a system of financial support and subsidy for at least some minority and mainstream news media outlets

● engagement at the wider level of culture and economy where patterns of racialised inequality are allowed to persist

Simon Cottle is the author of *TV News, Urban Conflict and the Inner City* (1993) Leicester University Press

Getting the policy wrong

THE SPENBOROUGH Guardian (paid for circulation 10,000) is a family run paper sold in the West Yorkshire mill towns Batley, Cleckheaton and Heckmondwike and its owner/editor John Hirst has some distinctly odd views about what should and shouldn't go into the letters page.

Some weeks 2 to 3 pages of the tabloid are devoted to letters, a good proportion from Roger Barden of the British National Party and people signing themselves A Civil Servant, Country Lover, 'Le Balafre' (English translation The Slasher), Kirklees resident or WACIAN (an acronym - you can work out what it stands for).

They are given space for their unexpurgated letters to expound racist views. All the familiar themes are rehearsed: casting doubt on the Holocaust, placing the ills of society (unemployment, crime, low educational standards, inner city deprivation) at the door of immigrants and tilting at the 'liberal conspiracy' which smothers racists who want to air their views.

A letter from Resurgem gives the flavour: "...we are poised on the brink of cataclysmic changes. Our social security system has been wrecked by indiscriminate immigration and we borrow billions weekly to keep going.

Now is the time for leaders to emerge, both politically and religiously, if we are not to be overwhelmed."

This blatant use of the letters pages to expound racist views, and particularly the views of the British National Party, has

RACISTS GET FREE REIN ON THE LETTERS PAGES

by Granville Williams

concerned local people and they have asked MPs for action. Barry Sheerman (Lab. Huddersfield) responded saying he would work with Ann Taylor (Lab. Dewsbury) "to expose this ghastly correspondence. I hope we can work together to stop this poisonous kind of letter and the publication of such letters."

Why does the editor do it? He was on holiday when I phoned, so I spoke to the Assistant Editor, Margaret Cordingley. "This is an odd paper, to say the least," she explained. "Whenever letters come in the editor always prints them. He believes in publishing what people's views are."

The result of the editor's 'freedom of expression' policy, admirable in the abstract, is that a concerted, organised campaign of letter writing by racists, gets their views publicity which would otherwise be denied.

David Hirst should think again, and apply point 4 of the NUJ guidelines on reporting racist organisations.

NUJ GUIDELINES ON REPORTING RACIST ORGANISATIONS

1 When interviewing representatives of racist organisations or reporting meetings or statements or claims, journalists should carefully check all reports for accuracy and seek rebutting or opposing comment. The anti-social nature of such views should be exposed.

2 Do not sensationalise by reports, photographs, film or presentation, the activities of racist organisations.

3 Seek to publish or broadcast material exposing the myths and lies of racist organisations and their anti-social behaviour.

4 Do not allow the letters column or 'phone in' programmes to be used to spread racial hatred in whatever guise.

Letter

Figuring it out!

There were some astounding statistics in the anonymous centre-page article on Channel 4 (last issue)

I nearly fell off my stool when I read in the third paragraph that "in the first six months of 1993 only 311 C4 programmes attracted audiences of more than 3 million."

I fear that I am not up to appreciating the true significance of this. Compared with what, and when? And ... so what?

I found it hard to "read" this article. It seemed to be saying that C4's audiences are both too small and (for Brookside) too large.

What was it trying to say? And what do people who produce this sort of thing want to see on TV?

Recent programmes in C4's Despatches and Critical Eye series have been absolutely brilliant. If Brookside is subsidising them I've no complaint.

You can castigate it for sensationalism if you like — Brookside seems to me to handle these issues rather well — but what sort of soap do you want? Politically correct (God help us!) ... or none at all?

Game shows? Quiz programmes? Talkshows? Sitcoms? Are they all to be PC, or banned? Or what?

I think everyone who joins the CPBF should be required to produce a hypothetical week's scheduling. Let's see what people have in mind.

Even as a member, I suppose, of the writer's "chattering classes", I don't think I could face 24 hours a day of community videos, Despatches and reruns of Ken Loach dramas.

TIM GOPSILL
National Council

APOLOGIES

Sorry Mike,

In FREE PRESS 76 we inadvertently missed Mike Jempon's name off the article, THE COUCH POTATO

NORTHERN STAR

Target for racists

by Tina Jackson

"ARE YOU listening carefully? This is a warning. Owing to your anti-racist, left-wing stance, your offices and staff are being targeted for attack by Combat 18. Zeig Heil." That was the BNP's way of letting us know that we'd fallen into their sights for another session of target practice.

Northern Star, one of Britain's last surviving independent papers, evolved over two years ago from the radical Leeds Other Paper. It's a local news and what's on magazine which consistently campaigns against oppression and discrimination.

There's always been a small fascist contingent in Leeds and over the years LOP and Northern Star have been a focus for their hatred. Right wing graffiti and spray painted swastikas have decorated the office and attached printshop. Staff have been harassed and intimidated outside the office and once a woman was assaulted as she sat at her desk inside.

The latest spate of incidents began about six months ago when two men, imprisoned for crimes of violence, were released from jail and, apparently, kickstarted local fascist groups into action. On the same day as we were informed that our address was in the BNP handbook, we received the first telephone threat.

After that we didn't hear anything for a while, although they backed up their threat by decorating the outside of the office every weekend. 'Red Scum Your Time Will Come' said one sticker, crudely lettered with a child's printing press. Others gave a PO Box address for the BNP. Cleaning up the stickers and graffiti became part of the Monday morning routine: "like cleaning the toilets," one worker said. The next incident was the theft of the News Editor's contacts book, followed by another menacing phone call. "This is a warning. Have you noticed the notebook's gone? Now we've got your names and addresses and things are going to start happening. This is Combat 18. Zeig Heil!"

The phone calls increased in frequency, and so did the graffiti. Suspected BNP members visited the office and wanted to open post held for anti-fascist groups. We noticed that the phone threats were aimed at female members of staff and male workers took to answering the phone in gruff, assertive voices. We worked with a continual undercurrent of menace, which was stepped up just before the Isle of Dogs council elections. The paper's plate glass door was smashed in on the Sunday. On Monday it was mended.

On Wednesday, a member of C18 visit-

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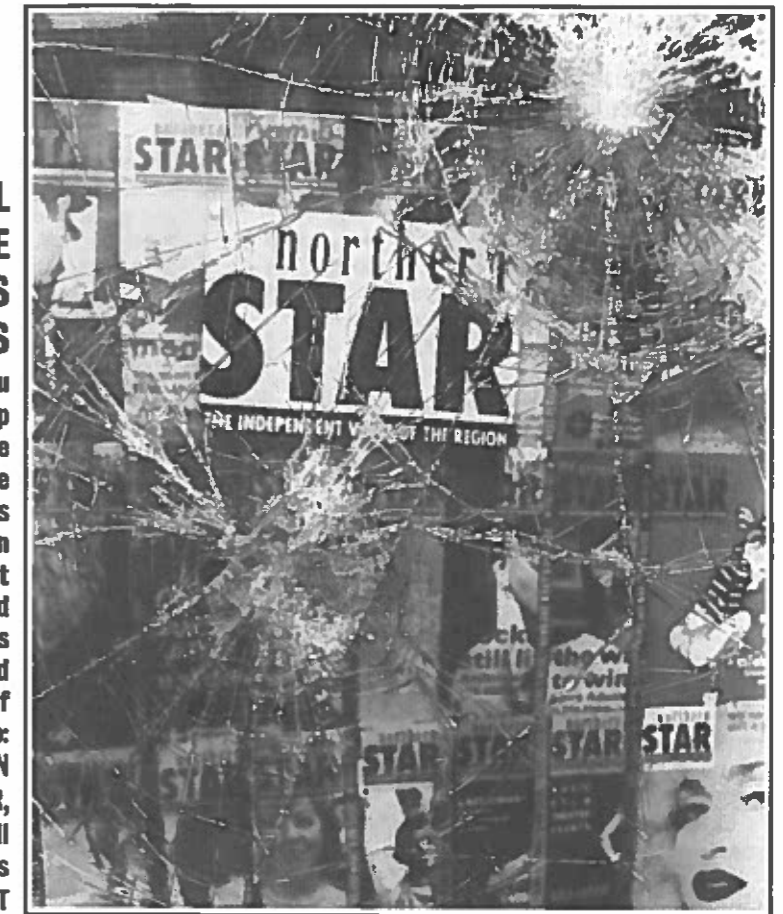


Photo: PAUL SOLLOWAY

ed the office. It was Sean Smith, the What's On editor, whom he confronted. "He couldn't have been more obviously a fascist if he'd been zeig-heiling and goosestepping round the office," Sean remembers. "I let him in and he stood there, having a good look round. I asked him if he wanted anything, to which he replied, 'Do you know who I am?' Then he said, 'Combat 18, we're gonna burn this fucking place to the ground.' I'll remember that as long as I live." The C18 supporter belatedly, "Fucking lesbian I'm gonna kill you" at a female worker. Then he went to leave, but the door was jammed and he couldn't move it. Sean Smith had to let him out. As he exited it, he turned round and kicked out the glass.

The door was boarded up, and a trace put on the phone. The following weekend all the offices ceiling-height doors and windows were smashed in. They're boarded up now and will cost thousands to replace; it's almost irrelevant how many because the paper's funds won't stretch that far. Demoralised workers have left. A shoestring staff work until midnight on production days to get the paper out. It feels as though work is being conducted

under siege, in a bunker.

The latest activity from the BNP faction came on 6th October. BNP members visited the office several times, whilst other members acted as sentries, posted around Leeds. Word on the streets was that about twenty of them had planned to rally and visit Northern Star en masse to cause as much damage as they could. The only reason it didn't happen was because one of them was cautioned by the police - about something else.

Now that staff have been physically threatened the police in Leeds are taking the BNP's activities seriously. Sean Smith says, "We've been really, really upset by what's happened, but it's only inconvenience, even if it's to the tune of three and a half grand. This has been a walk in the park compared with what a lot of black and Asian people have to put up with."

It's the threat to freedom of speech which is the real issue, though. A paper has been brought to the brink of closure. If the activities of a few of the BNP's extremist thugs can threaten the existence of a paper which asserts the right of everyone to be heard, then everyone's freedom is at stake.

GETTING THE POLICY WRONG: RACE, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE

The L.A. Upheaval and the Media

Mark Shubb

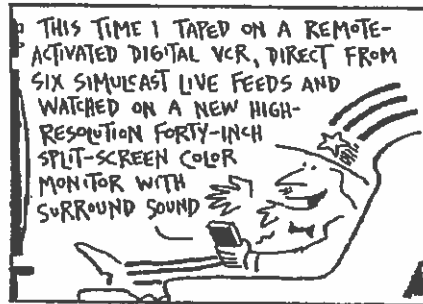
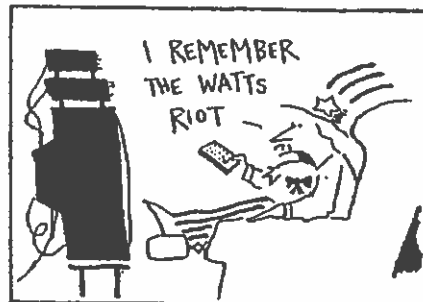
MOST AMERICANS get their news from television, and today's expanded local newscasts are fast becoming the dominant force in broadcast news. When Los Angeles erupted after hearing the not guilty verdict in the Rodney King beating, the glossy facade of "live at five" journalism was stripped away. Suddenly local anchors and reporters were broadcasting live, round-the-clock, unedited and without the aid of teleprompters.

News divisions spared no expense in providing the most riveting, provocative and violent images cameras could find. On the first afternoon 13 newscopters circled the intersection of Florence and Normandie, beaming live images of mayhem. In a TV news world that is virtually all white what did viewers see in this upsurge of faces with colour? Did television finally address racism and the rage of the over-stressed underclass? For the most part it was broadcasting business as usual. Viewers got distorted images of non-white communities, whose own voices were rarely heard, and an overpowering media spin that denied the reality of the unfolding events.

In the first two days of the uprising, the media consensus became clear. KABC's Christine Lund summed up the news elite's point of view: "These are people that are peripheral..gang members, thugs and hoodlums, no question about it."

The "R" Word

Perhaps seriously addressing the issues that led to the rage - years of persistent police abuse, slashed social programmes and community services, and an economic blight hitting those at the bottom most severely - was too difficult for this genera-



tion of news readers to even attempt. Still it was surprising how studiously the talking heads avoided the dreaded word "racism."

Attempts at perspective were often specious, as when Jess Marlowe explained on KNBC that the uprising was especially tragic because now, 25 years after the Watts Riots, "we were just getting to a point where companies were willing to reinvest in South Central Los Angeles and this will set it back another decade." In fact, 70,000 South Central manufacturing jobs moved overseas or to Mexico in the last decade alone.

As arson and violence stopped, so did live coverage, and some striking events were relegated to quick sound-bites and cut-aways. On May 2, a massive rally for peace and unity was sponsored by the Korean community and attended by 100,000 people. Unlike looting, this was not deemed worthy of live coverage by most stations.

The coverage exposed the racism that

lurks beneath the gloss of local news and highlighted the collapse of the infrastructure of local broadcast journalism over the last decade.

Reagan-era deregulation - FCC abandonment of community service obligations, affirmative action, etc. - has led to the virtual demise of local public affairs programming. Ties that once connected newsrooms to the communities they serve have simply rotted so that most stations were void of any "sources" with ties to the communities in turmoil.

More serious was the complete lack of perspective on events and the forces behind them. As Richard Schickel wrote in Time magazine, (11 May, 1992), "Los Angeles television just kept pouring raw footage onto the screen. It was roughly the equivalent of dumping raw sewage into Santa Monica Bay."

■ This is an edited version of an article in EXTRA! which is published by FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting), a US pressure group.

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