

Ferdie J. Deering

MAY 13 1982

'Nobody Screams the Good News!'

A READER telephoned a few days ago to complain that "Everybody screams the bad news. Nobody screams the good news!"

He was one of a number who have expressed unhappy thoughts lately either about the news or the way it is reported. President Reagan stirred up a row with his comments on TV network news. Others joined the chorus and some disagreed.

A public affairs panel put together by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce concluded that the press falls short in reporting economic news, contributing to lack of economic understanding. Complaints also have been voiced about coverage of sports, society and farm news.

It seems debate goes on endlessly about what constitutes censorship. Nearly everybody wants his own freedom of expression but there are many who would be willing to limit what others say.

That applies to news. The amount of space devoted to good news in almost any newspaper exceeds considerably the amount given to bad news, but the worst news often is the

biggest news.

If 250,000 husbands spend a quiet evening at home with their wives and children it usually doesn't make exciting reading material. If one husband shoots his wife and threatens neighbors, police or passersby, that has to be reported.

The shooting husband might prefer otherwise. If all of the reports someone objected to were omitted from publication there might not be much left. Even good news finds objectors.

Most of the advertisements published would have to be counted as good news. The fact that you have so many choices available for better living is good news not enjoyed everywhere.

As individuals, we don't always recognize good news when we see it and few of us do all we might to "scream the good news." We don't always say kind things that would be good news to others. We don't always smile when we have much to be happy about. We don't spread cheer as we should.

A longtime friend who holds a po-

sition of leadership in soil and water conservation has adopted a personal policy of taking time each Monday to write a letter of appreciation to some person who he feels has been instrumental in helping him to attain success.

Such thoughtfulness costs little but is worth much. It could offset some of the bad news we encounter. As the old song advised, "Accentuate the positive!"

A magazine reported recently that an individual in another state is arranging, for a fee, for living persons to send messages to deceased relatives or friends via terminally ill patients. If urgent, messages might be dispatched by several patients.

How much better it would be if we would be as diligent in delivering messages of good news to those we love and respect here and now!

While we are at it, we might be more attentive, too. Bad news may be obscuring our perception of good news around us!

Lavenia K. Gambill
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May 13, 1982

Mr. Ferdie J. Deering
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Deering:

Thank you for your article, "Nobody Screams the Good News!" which was published in the May 13 Daily Oklahoman.

Lately, I have been so guilty of complaining about the lack of "good news!" Thanks to your article, I now know what to look for.

Thanks to you, by accentuating the positive, I can even create additional good news and pass it on to loved ones and friends who are desperately in need of "good news!"

Thanks again for "Nobody Screams the Good News!"
"I NEEDED THAT!"

Sincerely,

Lavenia K. Gambill
LAVENIA K. GAMBILL