Devon Carlson
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Dart 449

Unbiased News

While incredibly rare and quite difficult to find, politically unbiased news is crucial for the healthy functioning of any democratic society. When I'm talking about unbiased news, here is what I am specifically referring to: News and information about current events that are reported without any sort of political slant or biased attached to it, purposefully or otherwise. Why is this so hard to find you might ask? For starters, every single human being on earth carries their own inherent biasses, from the way that we're brought up to the actions and events that we witness in our lives. These factors heavily shape our view of the world and skew our opinions in all sorts of ways that we can't even begin to imagine. Our biases act as colored lenses in goggles that we're all forced to wear, and it's incredibly difficult to witness the world from an unbiased point of view, and discern what are truly honest and unbiased facts.

It's natural for humans to form preconceived notions about others because at the end of the day we're really all just mammals. The act of witnessing the unfolding of events, storing that memory in our minds and then remembering these precious memories while observing the world is a very primal and natural defence mechanism. Without our memories we have very little to base our world view on.

How are biases formed? Let's break this down through an example. Let's say that as a child growing up, you witness 5 people dressed in clown makeup with purple

hair kicking dogs on the street. It's only natural that your brain would form an association between clowns with purple hair and the kicking of innocent dogs. The same could be said about seeing multiple news segments about clowns with purple hair kicking dogs, as that would leave the same sort of cognitive association in your memory. In this fictional world do all clowns with purple hair kick dogs? While you wouldn't know for sure, it's safe to assume that you might naturally feel inclined to think that they do. When you're eventually called for jury duty for a case involving a clown with purple hair who allegedly kicked a dog, it's going to be incredibly difficult for you to remain unbiased during the trial because of preconceived notions that are burned into your memory. An odd example, but swap out the clowns for any given group of people, and dog-kicking for any activity or lifestyle that is often associated stereotypically with that group of people, fairly or unfairly.

Fox News is an example of horribly biased news, leaning towards the right end of the political spectrum. While it might have some entertainment value, heavily politically-skewed news like this is detrimental for societies at large. The problem of fake news and misinformation plagues social media, radio, podcasts, television, and virtually every other form of public media. This is troubling to me because without our facts we have nothing. If our society's political foundations are based on lies and misinformation, then what the type of foundation is our nation built on? I am choosing to do this project on unbiased news because the sheer importance of it does not nearly equate to the number of media outlets that offer this up regularly. The New York Times,

CNN, and many other media conglomerates fail to report on current issues in an unbiased light, and rarely ever-present both arguments to any given topical debate.

The world would be a better place if more unbiased news sources were available, as it's crucial to recognize both sides of an issue to arrive at informed opinions. It has been said that speaking two different languages inherently makes you better at solving problems, and I feel like the same could be said about understanding two opposing sides to an argument. There's a reason why adolescent students are taught debate skills in school, and it's so that we can learn to understand, comprehend, and articulate the different points of view surrounding various issues. Every single war that has ever taken place between two parties has happened due in part to a fundamental failure to understand one another's point of view. The world would be a much better place if we were able to rationally analyze the opinion of the "other" side, and that is what I would like to instill in this project.