

Letters to the editor
Frederick News-Post
Frederick, Md. 21701

10/6/88

Michael E. G. Misulia, Jr., writes to advise me to "do some research and print a correction" of ~~what he alleges~~ factual inaccuracies in my letter published September 3.

"It's impossible to have a meaningful discussion without accuracy," ~~he says.~~ ^{he declares.}

"My letter to the editor," he says, "was published almost a week before the ACLU hit the fan in the presidential debate. You implied that my letter was published afterward." *Not so.*

What I actually said is that Mr. Misulia did not know what he was talking about and that he was parroting the cheap political McCarthyite slanders of those who by them ^{seek} political advantage. I made no reference at all to the presidential debates and I'm sorry if, despite his claim to be able to make fair and accurate comment about the major media, he was so abysmally ignorant of what had been all over all elements of the major media for weeks. As this disgraceful matter had been.

What Mr. Misulia really says is that if he doesn't know something it does not exist and he thereby is qualified to make fair and accurate comment on it. The rest of us, however, are not limited by the state of his knowledge - or lack thereof.

The American Civil Liberties Union, with whose actions I also have disagreed, is not, as he ~~said~~ says, "extreme." It is composed of Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, including some of the most prominent and distinguished Americans and lawyers from some of the most conservative law firms. It takes cases that involve basic principles of law and peoples' rights, without regard to politics. Oliver North, for example, is hardly some ^{del name} far-out liberal, yet the ACLU filed before the federal courts in Washington on his behalf - even though all his considerable lawyers' expenses had already been paid to others. Recently it ~~has~~ filed on behalf of the Catholic church, quite the opposite of the misrepresentations of those seeking political office by the ^{slanders} misrepresentations Mr. Misulia loves and adopts.

"Without accuracy there is no credibility," Mr. Misulia lectures me in asking me to "print a correction."

That shoe fits you, not me, Mr. Misulia, and it is you who owe us a correction and, I suggest, an apology because your letter was intended to influence how we vote, who we select to lead this country in these trying times.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
Harold Weisberg

*That
clanking
of the
rights*

11214 Daysville Rd.
Frederick, Md. 21701
Oct. 5, 1988

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Reference your letter to the editor-- ACLU.

Several weeks ago, a large article in the Washington Post quoted US Attorney General Thornburg saying he quit the ACLU quite a number of years ago, because the group was becoming too extreme.


Your letter implies that Thornburg remains a card-carrying ACLUer.

Mr. Weisberg, we disagree on opinions, but the facts must be presented fairly. It's impossible to have a meaningful discussion without accuracy.

In addition, my letter to the editor was published almost a week before the ACLU hit the fan in the presidential debate. You implied that my letter was published afterward.

Without accuracy there is no credibility. If you are really gutsy and authoritative-- as you would like people to think-- do some more research and print a correction.

Thank you.



Michael G. Misulia Jr.

406 Military Road
Frederick, MD 21701
October 3, 1988

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21701

Mr. Weisberg:

I read with interest your letter to the Frederick ^eNews-Post of October 3. I certainly agree that whether or not Governor Dukakis is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union should not be an election issue. The positions of the candidates on various issues (on which the ACLU has stated positions) is pertinent for many people about to vote for President. The positions of Mr. Bush, Governor Dukakis and the ACLU are well-known when it comes to abortion and capital punishment, for example. The ACLU position on child pornography has been clearly enunciated through its spokesperson, Reverend Barry Lynn. I have not read whether Governor Dukakis believes that child pornography is protected by Constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression.

Election issues should be real issues, not phony ones. What does Mr. Bush hope to do about our staggering trade and budget deficits? (Remember when it was Republicans who crowed about budget deficits of Democratic administrations?) How do we best foster good education for all children? What drastic steps are we prepared to take with respect to depletion of the atmospheric ozone layer, with respect to global warming, with respect to city after city running out of sanitary landfill area? How do we effectively combat the problem of drugs in our society without trampling on the rights of citizens? What about the homeless? These and other issues, to my way of thinking, are "real" issues. Whether or not someone says the Pledge of Allegiance is not an issue.

Neither Bush nor Governor Dukakis was my first choice for President. Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder of Colorado was. Her experience in Congress, her knowledge of defense-related issues, her concerns over "family" issues, her intelligence - all of these made her the candidate of my choice.

For your information, despite being labeled as Roy Meachum's public relations agent and his personally appointed representative, I have never met the man in my life. To my knowledge, I have never even seen him. In a letter to the editor of the News-Post on December 23rd of last year, I took him to task for his views on the problems of the Middle East. I have also had several other letters published in the News-Post with respect to education in Frederick County, to Sally Ride (following Charles Peter Goodwin's attack of her), to fraternity hazing, etc.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Ivins

Bruce E. Ivins

Dukakis; ACLU 10/3/88

Poor Michael G. Misulia Jr. His "Dukakis and his ACLU ties" letter (Sept. 19) means he has nobody to vote for! Whether from political bile and hatred or just plain ignorance, he has done himself in in his parroting of George Bush's McCarthyite slander that Dukakis is a "self-proclaimed card carrying" member of the American Civil Liberties Union.

I'm inclined to think that ignorance is at least part of the explanation because he actually says, again cribbing, this time the right political extreme, "Dukakis' ties to the ACLU have been hushed up by the national news media — until after the election." He can't have looked at local or national TV news or any major paper I know of and think for a minute that this has been suppressed. Quite the opposite is true.

"Do you want the ACLU on the Supreme Court?" he asks, adding, "The ACLU isn't liberal — it is extreme left."

Well, Supreme Court justices have for years included members of the ACLU. More, the man who now, in the Bush/Republican administration, selects those to be nominated for the Supreme Court, the new attorney general whose nomination Mr. Bush did not oppose, was more than just a member — he was a director of the Pittsburgh chapter.

For years the ACLU's backbone has included some of the most prestigious and conservative law firms and lawyers. It is so completely non-political, as Mr. Misulia would know if he even read our local papers, that it has defended the rights of the KKK and the American Nazi Party.

But, how can Mr. Misulia in good conscience vote for the party that has a "card-carrying" ACLUer as its attorney general? How can he with any vestige of self-respect vote for the present vice president who serves with him in the present administration when that vice president is lacing the land with allegations that Mr. Dukakis is some kind of wild-haired, dangerous radical subversive because he is a mere member of the ACLU when his attorney general was much more than just a member?

Mr. Misulia's present plight is typical of those who, lacking information, background and basic understanding of the Constitution and the obligations of lawyers, take at face value what they pick up from extremist literature or believe without question the political propaganda and slanders of those who, in pursuit of personal ambition, abandon our traditional concepts of decency and honesty and deliberately mislead and misrepresent for votes.

HAROLD WEISBERG
Frederick