

STEER CLEAR WHEN NEWS MEDIA STARTS SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL

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The more I watch the media spin on world events the more exasperated and concerned I become. The reaction and acceptance of it by much of the public provides the reason for my chagrin. The total and complete lack of respect for honesty and integrity, in my humble opinion, portends my ominous future for our children.

I was brought up to believe “Honesty is the best policy,” and I still do. I am afraid, however, that is not the message our young people are receiving. It has not happened overnight, but there has been an almost imperceptible rejection of that premise. We have descended a long way from admiration for a young Lincoln walking miles to return an overcharged penny.

I checked with Webster to see if my charge of the media spin has some merit and if the definition of “honest” and “honesty” coincides with my interpretation. Honest – “Free from fraud or deception.” Honesty – “Fairness and straight forwardness of conduct, adherence to the facts.”

They do and I rest my case, as far as the media is concerned.

Every one of us is less than honest with ourselves; it's a human failing. It is a difficult time for all parents who are at least trying to instill some sense of decency in their children. The Hollywood-manipulated media outlets make their job harder. They glorify and elevate every low-life character in the world simply because they embrace their liberal political views or aberrant lifestyles.

Young people need more advice from people like Ross Perot. I caught a speech on television he was giving to an inner city high school graduating class. His advice was not to be afraid to admit it when you make a mistake. Many people today feel it's a terrible thing to admit a mistake. We all do and it's no sin. It is if you continue blundering on, blaming others or something as a scapegoat before admitting you were wrong.

One person comes to mind has slandered and lied about several other honest people to cover his own blunders.

It's never an easy thing to do and I found it especially hard in one particular instance. A local contractor was doing some work on a property I managed. He had a crew of four or five men and two of them were what I would call "high spirited lads." One day the pair drove their own vehicle to work and the next day I discovered three items missing. I was sure they were responsible and I told their boss they were not allowed back on the property. The following spring I found all three items where an absent-minded old fool had left them. Apologizing was extremely hard to do, but I could not have lived with myself if I had not. I am pleased to say the two boys are both good men today, and I am still sorry for my mistake.

In my opinion, honesty is the main requisite in any employee. I remember attending a supervisor-training course where the instructor presented a list of attributes one should look for in an employee. Ambition, punctuality, intelligence, etc., were listed, but not honesty. When I questioned his omission, he allowed that all qualities he had listed implied one with those qualities would be honest. I disagree.

Interestingly enough, the reason he was working at his present job was because of dishonesty in his last one. He was in charge of a four-man crew of baggage handlers for a major airline. Discovering one of them stealing a camera from a passenger's bag, he reported it and the handler was fired. The union threatened the company with reprisals if he was not rehired and he was. The foreman resigned rather than work under those conditions.

Sadly, many people are content to excuse or ignore dishonesty as long as they are doing well. They are much like the bar owner with the dishonest bartender. The owner noticed the bartender pocketed the proceeds of every third drink. He started to say something, but since he was making a good profit decided to remain silent. A couple days later he noticed the bartender pocketing four sales in a row. Alarmed he rushed over and blurted out, "What's the matter, aren't we partners any more?"

To make a long story short, that reminds me more and more of many of my fellow citizens.

In closing, I would like to state for the record (if you are following the latest spin); I have not done pot or cocaine in the past 25 years... or at any time in my life.