

YORK COUNTY COAST STAR



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Friday August 24, 2018

Letters to editor important to Democracy

The York County Coast Star in its defense of a free and independent press noted: "Our readers have a sense of ownership of these papers. Letters to the editor pour in every day like manna from heaven." ([The president and the press, August 17](#)).

Ronald D. Clark, distinguished editor of the St. Paul Pioneer Press advised: "Consider letters as a barometer of how well (you are) engaging readers or viewers. The more you receive, the more you're connecting. The fewer you receive, the stronger the sign that you're putting the masses to sleep."

Bashing the press began when President George Washington complained of being "buffeted in the public prints by a set of infamous scribblers" according to Eric Burns in, "Infamous Scribblers: The Founding Father and the Rowdy Beginnings of American Journalism."

We live in an era when the President of the United States has learned that the best way to keep his name constantly in the news is to transform himself into a daily cartoon character through his ever-ready bully tweets on the press to the delight of his fans and angst of his critics.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's "State of the Union Address in 1941 said in bold plain language that all humans in the world ought to have access to: freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship God in his own way, freedom from want and freedom from fear. Norman Rockwell's oil paintings of the Four Freedoms were reproduced on keepsake covers of The Saturday Evening Post.

It is a good exercise of freedom for citizens to express their views in letters for, as Dante allegedly observed: "The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality."

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