

Eye on Editorials

The Wooden Spoon:

How'd Ya Find Out? Facebook.

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Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and whatever else is out there now is considered social media. Social media helps to connect people through the use and sharing of images, video, text, and other content. That was an understatement. Websites like Twitter and Facebook allow people to communicate whether they are in Poland or Kentucky. The spread of news and other information can be sent through these social media outlets, categorizing them as "new media" because of the use of newer technology to spread or share information. Other types of new media include blackberries, DVD players, laptop computers, etc. New media is rapidly becoming a way of life all across the world, even in Italy, where the government might not be so ready to accept it.

According to a Time online article, the popular Italian show, Annozero, was taken off the air on Italy's RAI network. The obvious reason: politics. The even more obvious reason: Berlusconi. If you remember from one of my earlier posts, I mentioned that he owns quite a few of Italy's television networks, RAI not being one of the exceptions. The Prime Minister probably saw the show, which features political commentary, as a threat to his People of Freedom Party (right-wing). The show appears to be back on the air now, but during the time of Italy's regional elections (which had a low turnout) the show was axed. This wasn't the first time that Berlusconi gave the boot (like my pun?) to the show which is hosted by Michele Santoro; a former parliament member, journalist, and member of Italy's "left-wing". The show was taken off of the programming line up back in 2002, when Mr. Berlusconi blamed Santoro of using the network for "criminal" activity. This time around, Santoro didn't put up with Berlusconi's antics. He filmed a show live through local television and streamed it online. To help pay for the production that wasn't being funded by RAI, Santoro spread the word on Facebook and collected \$3.33 per person who were willing to donate (which ended up being 50,000 people). This speaks volumes for the progress Italy's made in embracing social media. It's considered a secondary news source in the country where its Prime Minister acts as a dictator of pro-

gramming.

While Italy is gobbling up the new media phenomenon, usual social websites as primary new sources, they are not alone. Many United States newspapers and news organizations are now either strictly web based (meaning they cut their print version) or they also have a web edition to go along with either televised or print news. This makes the spread of news much faster. When social media is added, news travels faster than the speed of light. Alright, well, maybe I'm exaggerating but it's FAST. Not only can people check their Twitter feeds from their Palm Pilot's, BlackBerry's, and iPhone's but they can choose to follow local, national, and international news organizations for live updates. In a recent article that I co-wrote for the Lion's Eye, I discovered that while Italy's programming control is extreme, Communist China and other Asian countries have content blatantly left out programming and print. Part of the new and social media movement is a non-profit called Radio Free Asia. They enable citizens of those countries to access news and information they might not otherwise be getting. Part of China's news and information block includes RFA searches and most recently on Google who stopped censoring searches in China last month only to be retaliated against with a firewall. The potential of new media is only going to be expanding, but that doesn't mean that "leaders" around the world are going to broaden their horizons along with it. Whether it be in Italy, the States, or anywhere else social change among the citizens is always going to be presented with a firewall of sorts from less than ideal government officials. Not all countries are as Democratic as the U.S., nor do they have a President with a Facebook or Twitter page. As long as these countries show an interest in using the technology and moving along in the right direction, there's usually hope or at least a news resource waiting around the corner for them. Now only if changing a government system or impeaching a Prime Minister could be done through a Facebook fan page or a "text-in to vote". Visit the Wooden Spoon at <http://ilcucchiaiodilegno-thewoodenspoon.blogspot.com/>.

as it was once instituted. Children as young as 16 are rapidly getting engaged to their high school sweethearts. What ever happened to casual dating? Or being with more than one person throughout your entire life? I feel as though people jump into the deep end way too quickly before they test the waters. From what I see and hear, marriage is completely grueling hard work. Without the experience of even entering adulthood, how do these teenagers expect to have a happy marriage and live in harmony with their partner?

It confuses me that people treat marriage like serial dating. People just keep getting married and divorced only to put themselves through that awful cycle over and over again. Did your marital vows mean nothing? I understand that people change and that stuff happens, but do you really need to have three weddings throughout your lifetime? Either people are rage quitting marriages or they just are not experi-

enced enough to handle the work it takes to live happily with someone you once said you loved.

Lately I've noticed the girls on campus who strategically place their hands to blind each other with the refracted bragging rights of being engaged. They also make sure they mention their fiancés or their husbands three times daily with the emphasis of undignified reassurance. Contrary to the failed attempts of the bridezillas, it doesn't make me jealous-it makes me want to vomit. It is almost as if people aren't really in the marriage for its original purpose. People want the security and the self-assurance of exclaiming, "Oh, look at this beautiful diamond my fiancé gave me to prove that he'll totally love me for the three to four years of our marriage!" You can deny this if you want, but in terms of the general population this article applies to about 86% of you.

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Marriage is the New "Going Steady"

In a world where people are saying, "I do" as often as they are saying, "I don't" I find myself questioning why people even get married anymore. At this rate it's almost as if the divorce rate is higher than the actual marriage rate. Lately I have been noticing the large amount of students on campus that are engaged or married already. I have met people who decide that taking things

to the next level and getting married is the right thing to do after being in a relationship for only one month. So why do people do it? What's the hurry? What satisfaction do people get through quick and young marriage?

Marriage is the new going steady. The sanctity of marriage is virtually pointless now and people do not take marriage as seriously

The Lion's Eye



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