**Editorial Intelligence**
*Where PR meets Journalism*
Spring 2006

*Political comment special photographic issue in association with Reuters*

# Political comment: Get the picture

Photographs don't usually illustrate political commentary. However, in this 'Political Comment' special issue of the Editorial Intelligence Journal we have undertaken a unique photographic collaboration with Reuters to challenge the traditional expectation of which images 'go with' commentary.

Firstly Reuters – under the watchful eye of Monique Villa, Managing Director Reuters Media, has allowed us to use three seminal Reuters news photographs to illustrate articles and adorn the front page. Together, we also commissioned two sets of photographs taken by Paul Hackett of Reuters. The first features political commentators who were asked to nominate a politician they find particularly admirable or challenging (we didn't ask them to confirm which) (see pages 4-7).

The result is a unique photographic study that reveals a great deal about the complex intimacy between the politicians making the headlines and the journalists analysing their every move. And then a set of lovely portraits of Peers of the Realm who, during their photoshoots, were asked to declare who they find indispensable reading among the Commentariat (see pages 10 and 11).

The photographs illustrate eight pithy pieces of journalism – ranging from the philosopher and media don, AC Grayling, to former Guardian editor and contemporary commentator, Peter Preston, to the man himself, George Orwell. Each piece is a commentary on some element of the political process and/or the media coverage it generates.

As Charles Moore, former editor of the Daily Telegraph, put it in a comment piece recently: "[journalists] spend a huge amount of time trying to influence politics: whoever voted for us?"[1] Cast your vote now on this issue of e.i.

*Sophie Radice, Editor*

## *www.editorialintelligence.com*


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REUTERS


[1] Daily Telegraph comment page, 25th February 2006

Cover image from REUTERS/Stephen Hird

REUTERS/Rick Wilking

A 'wee' note from US President George W.Bush to Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice during a Security Council meeting in 2005

## Suzanne Moore tells us why the personal is political

Today's news agenda, though we would be loathe to admit it, is increasingly governed by an old feminist slogan, 'the personal is political'. We delve into the private lives of politicians claiming that it is done in the public interest. Just ask Mark Oaten, Bill Clinton, David Blunkett or Charles Kennedy. We now know too much about their little moments of madness or indeed their entire double lives. Others, such as George Galloway, reveal themselves a little too personally, in all their feline glory, to a traumatised public.

Actually, all newspapers invade the privacy of politicians, they just go about it in different ways. This is often seen as evidence of the creeping tabloidisation of all news media. In fact, what usually happens is the tabs break a sex scandal and the broadsheets follow it up immediately with a veneer of snide, post-modern commentary. This is dishonest. It is like having your cake, eating it, regurgitating it and then saying the cake that made you sick should never have been made in the first place. Thus what politicians get up to in private is none of our business. What parts of their bodies they rub against other peoples' bodies has nothing to do with their public lives. I don't buy this argument and neither, I think, does the public. The punters, it seems to me, are good judges of what to ignore and what to take seriously. They can ignore an affair (Paddy Ashdown), early homosexual experiences (Michael Portillo), but they cannot so easily forgive politicians who have hurt others in the course of their indiscretions. A politician's judgment is called into question if they can misjudge a situation to the extent that David Blunkett appears to have done. He garnered much sympathy, of course, but was inevitably damaged professionally by his affair. Character seems an old-fashioned notion these days but we still value it and that is why the high-handed may try to make a false dichotomy between 'issues' and 'personalities'; the public sense the two are often profoundly intertwined.

The emphasis on personality is a result of collaboration between sections of the media, New Labour and now, New Tories. But it also reflects deep societal changes. Once upon a time, a prince could keep a mistress and neglect his children, and the princess was expected to put up with it. Yet we know now, what was originally reported as tittle-tattle, has seriously undermined the standing of the royal family because such behaviour is no longer seen as acceptable. As a columnist I have to decide who to kick when they are already down and, quite frankly, there are those not worth kicking while others still get away with appalling behaviour. For instance feted elder statesman, Bill Clinton, was given far too easy a ride for his serial harassment of women. Does this tell us something about his character? Unfortunately, yes. And does it tell us something about Hillary that she was prepared to support him to achieve her ends? Again, yes. It is often said that media invasion will stop the best people going into public life whereas, in truth, the boundaries of what is made public and kept private are constantly shifting. David Cameron's refusal to talk about what he did before he entered politics did him no harm. Homosexuality is no longer a bar to high office; deceiving your wife and children is. Most of us can accept that people make mistakes but the one mistake the public find hard to forgive politicians for is systematic lying. That we take extremely personally and so we should.

*Suzanne Moore is a columnist for the Mail on Sunday*

Jonathan Freedland, Political Commentator, with Ed Balls, Labour MP for Normanton

Photos by REUTERS/Paul Hackett

Matthew d'Ancona, editor of The Spectator with John Reid, Secretary of State for Defence

In a unique photographic collaboration with Reuters, Editorial Intelligence asked some of Britain's leading political journalists to choose a politician they found particularly interesting or challenging. Peter Preston, meanwhile, asks: 'How close do you get?'

How close do you get? The question, simply posed, seems one of straightforward principle, but the infernally difficult answer to it has to be personal. If you are an editor, political journalist or columnist, are you also a friend of your sources, an unofficial aide, and a comforter? Should you, in a way, play politics too? One rulebook, alas, doesn't fit all.

My predecessor as editor of the Guardian, Alistair Hetherington, was a fine journalist of strict probity. He also did much of his own political spadework. He was often down at Downing Street with Harold Wilson, just as several editors in the 1980s were often down there with Mrs T. They all saw the main events and heard the big arguments close up. But did Alistair hear too many authoritative lectures about the virtues of the Vietnam War on his visits? Did they cloud his judgement?

*"A political friend-in-office, an ideological soul mate you trust and who feeds you stories, is a pearl beyond price. But he (or she) is also a disaster waiting to happen."*

I course-corrected when I took over. Though I had written about politics over the years, I deliberately stepped back and left the specialists such as Peter Jenkins, David McKie and Ian Aitken to keep me informed. I de-briefed rather than was briefed. I had no friends in government, and therefore no strings, no ties. But maybe, that wasn't a complete answer either. Some of my frontline scouts had chums, absolutely inevitably: ties still potentially bound. And did I, from a seat in the back stalls, see the SDP coming as early as I should have?

The dilemmas here range partisanship against objectivity, access against independence. Mix them up in the middle and hope for the best. A political friend-in-office, an ideological soul mate you trust, who feeds you stories, is a pearl beyond price. But he (or she) is a disaster waiting to happen. Did he see David Cameron coming? Was he still too transfixed by the wonders of Thatcher to tell when the wind

*"Lord protect us all from more mountains of Gordon hates Tony, as retold by 'friends' (in a friends-of-Chantelle mode)! But, equally, don't get too sniffy."*

Photos by REUTERS/Paul Hackett

Jon Snow, Presenter, Channel 4 News with Hilary Benn, Labour MP for Leeds Central

was changing? Did you put your reputation, with your own readers, on the line to help him out of a party jam?

No rulebooks, as I say. The late Hugo Young kept himself rigorously free of entanglements, and his columns were read avidly by politicians because they knew that was so. They needed reality checks from outside the hothouse, not disguised briefings about what Cabinet rivals were saying behind their backs to pliant hacks. Lord protect us all from more mountains of Gordon hates Tony, as retold by 'friends' (in a 'friends-of-Chantelle' mode)! But, equally, don't get too sniffy.

Some things on the circuit have no real defence. Mass unattributable feedings of the Westminster lobby fell smack in that category for me (and, remember, it was Alastair Campbell, not lobby reporters, who put briefings on the record). But much of the gossiping to columnists one-on-one is inescapable, the mood music of daily journalism that other commentators like Hugo may not replicate, but have to keep tabs on. And none of this is a one-way street either. When I went to Hugo Young's memorial service in Westminster cathedral, Gordon Brown sat there quietly at the back. When I went to Peter Jenkins funeral, Michael Howard sat there beside me in a distant pew.

Neither of them had to be there. Both were hugely busy ministers. But they came, I think, out of something beyond chumminess or calculation. They were spontaneously saluting writers they followed with admiration and some reverence. And they were hinting at the most elusive message of the lot: that writing or editing, governing or opposing, the business of politics is the biggest tent going and we're all in it together.

*Peter Preston, a former editor of the Guardian, is a writer and columnist with the Guardian and a media commentator for the Observer*

Jane Moore, Columnist, The Sun with Kenneth Clarke Conservative MP for Rushcliffe

*"Much of the gossiping to columnists one-on-one is inescapable, the mood music of daily journalism that other commentators like Hugo may not replicate, but have to keep tabs on."*

## Colin Byrne, CEO of Weber Shandwick and ex-Labour chief press officer, looks back at how he sometimes had to go above and beyond the call of duty

For over a decade, since the term 'spin doctor' was imported here from the USA (I reckon by Michael White, political editor of the Guardian), I have been amused at the irony of PRs being cast as spin-meisters by journalists who themselves have to increasingly line up their stories with the world view or editorial slant of their editor, proprietor or marketing department.

If you take a straw poll of any group of reasonably media-literate citizens and ask them to name a well known PR person – or spin doctor – Alistair Campbell (or publicist Max Clifford), will usually come high up the list. Yet I found myself nodding in agreement when, in an interview given on standing down from his Downing Street role, Alistair said that the journalists always 'spun' much more than he did.

As Labour's chief press officer in the early 1990s I would routinely wake up and find my party's policies and my party leader distorted and downright lied about in the print media. Yet it was the likes of me, Peter Mandelson, Alistair Campbell and our colleagues, who were derided (usually by the very same journalists), as 'spin doctors'.

Indeed my old boss, Peter Mandelson, dating back from his time as Labour's communications director and one of the key, four architects of what became New Labour (along with Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Phillip Gould), is still viewed – despite going on to be an influential national and now, international politician – as the grandfather of the UK spin doctors. Yet during all the press briefings and the many off-the-record conversations with lobby journalists that I witnessed or took part in with him, I honestly never heard him utter a lie or a deliberate deception. Sure, he was at pains to put a positive gloss on Labour policies and issues – that was his job as communications director in the face of overwhelming press hostility to his party and its efforts to break free of a past rendering it unelectable – but never to tell a lie.

> *"Just as people pledge to die for their country, I effectively declared that I would lie – or at least be economical with the truth – for my party."*

I must admit that occasionally I did try to cover up the facts. Politics – one of the main culprits in the widespread view that PRs distort and deceive – is one of the areas where professional PR is subjugated to the battle for influence. When I was interviewed by a panel that included Mandelson, for the job of Labour's chief press officer I declared that we (Labour) were in a war with the media. A number of the panel nodded enthusiastically (Peter just smiled affectionately), because that was their experience. Just as people pledge to die for their country, I effectively declared that I would lie – or at least be economical with the truth – for my party. But in that stage of my career I was, in truth, more a politician than a PR. It was a war and in wars, as the saying goes, truth is frequently the first casualty. But then, if we had an unbiased press that reported the facts, would I have had to make that pitch?

*This is an extract from 'Where The Truth lies – Trust and Morality in PR and Journalism' edited by Editorial Intelligence founder and chief executive, Julia Hobsbawm (published by Atlantic on 11 May 2006)*



## Columnist and former editor of Radio 4's The World Tonight, Jenni Russell, reveals the influence of comment on broadcasting

Ten years ago the commentator Steve Richards decided to leave his job as a BBC political correspondent to join the New Statesman as political editor. His one concern was that he would miss broadcasting. He need not have worried. Within months he was being heard on the airwaves far more often than he had been as a BBC employee. The demand for his opinions was, it turned out, far greater than for his fair and balanced reporting.

Every day, programmes from Today to Channel 4 News and Newsnight have to decide what is significant and interesting from the point of view of the news agenda, and which stories should be pursued from what angles. The goal of such programmes is to illuminate. To achieve this, they are constantly a critical provider of them; as one ex-Newsnight producer said, she would no more go into the morning meeting without having read all the broadsheet columnists than she would turn up to the office without being dressed.

The columnists' influence is obvious when they appear on air, as they so often do, to take up two sides of an argument. Behind the scenes, that influence is even greater. Their opinions always inform, and frequently frame the debates that take place in editorial meetings. People sometimes end up saying 'I'm more Matthew Parris on this', or 'I think we should explore the Toynbee line'. The commentators' value is twofold: both that they have a perspective, and that they have taken the time to work through and distill their arguments. One editor says he feels columnists save him from his own blind spots: 'It's like having an extra person on the editorial team, only they're extra-articulate.' Another points out that it is reading a range of commentators which is invaluable. It is only then that journalists feel reassured that they understand the intellectual currents in which they swim.

Ideas are at a premium in daily current affairs journalism. Today will run with a story which is developed differently by World At One, and will be given fresh angles again by Channel 4 News and The World Tonight. Developing that fresh thinking is a challenge. Broadcast editors spend most of their time in remote offices, without the time or the opportunity to discuss current issues with anyone but their peers. As one said, he feels limited by his own daily experience: 'We're not really in touch with the society around us. So this range of opinions that commentators have – it's immensely valuable. I couldn't get it any other way.'

Another put it even more succinctly: 'News is a monologue. Columnists give us the opportunity to understand where conflict and dialogue lie.'

> *"As one ex-Newsnight producer said, she would no more go into the morning meeting without having read all the broadsheet columnists than she would turn up to the office without being dressed."*

# Which commentators do these Hons and Rebels of the Upper House read?

Lord Maurice Saatchi:
"When Jon Snow leaves Channel 4 I will find an island in the Outer Hebrides and go and live there for the rest of my days"

Lord John Eatwell:
John Lloyd and Michael White

Baroness Tessa Blackstone:
Polly Toynbee and Jackie Ashley

Baroness Valerie Amos:
"No Comment"

Baroness Julia Cumberledge:
Matthew Parris, Simon Jenkins and Libby Purves

Top Lord Victor Adebowale:
Will Hutton, Melanie Phillips and Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

Left Lord David Puttnam:
Matthew d'Ancona, Andrew Rawnsley and Jackie Ashley

Baroness Helena Kennedy:
Jackie Ashley, Will Hutton and Seymour Hersch

All Photos by REUTERS/Paul Hackett

# Why I write by George Orwell

In the words of the great man himself

I think there are four great motives for writing, at any rate for writing prose. They exist in different degrees in every writer, and in any one writer the proportions will vary from time to time, according to the atmosphere in which he is living. They are: Sheer egoism. Desire to seem clever, to be talked about, to be remembered after death, to get your own back on grown-ups who snubbed you in childhood, etc. etc. It is humbug to pretend that this is not a motive, and a strong one. Writers share this characteristic with scientists, artists, politicians, lawyers, soldiers, successful businessmen – in short, with the whole top crust of humanity. The great mass of human beings are not acutely selfish. After the age of about thirty they abandon individual ambition – in many cases, indeed, they almost abandon the sense of being individuals at all – and live chiefly for others, or are simply smothered under drudgery. But there is also the minority of gifted, wilful people who are determined to live their own lives to the end, and writers belong in this class. Serious writers, I should say, are on the whole more vain and self-centered than journalists, though less interested in money.

Aesthetic enthusiasm. Perception of beauty in the external world, or, on the other hand in words and their right arrangement. Pleasure in the impact of one sound on another, in the firmness of good prose or the rhythm of a good story. Desire to share an experience which one feels is valuable and ought not to be missed. The aesthetic motive is very feeble in a lot of writers, but even a pamphleteer or a writer of textbooks will have pet words and phrases, which appeal to him for non-utilitarian reasons; or he may feel strongly about typography, width of margins, etc. Above the level of a railway guide, no book is quite free from aesthetic considerations.

Historical impulse. Desire to see things as they are, to find out true facts and store them up for the use of posterity.

Political purpose – using the word 'political' in the widest possible sense. Desire to push the world in a certain direction, to alter other people's idea of the kind of society that they should strive after. Once again, no book is genuinely free from political bias. The opinion that art should have nothing to do with politics is itself a political attitude.

*The George Orwell Memorial fund and the Editors of The Political Quarterly award an annual prize to encourage good, accessible political writing. The 2005 award is sponsored by Reuters*

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# How I learned to stop worrying and love my own opinions

Martin Bright, political editor of the New Statesman writes about how he morphed from hack to commentator

My initiation into the world of the commentator came shortly after my first appearance as a columnist, when one of Labour's big beasts decided to tear me off a strip. Leaning against a pillar at the New Statesman party at last year's Labour Party conference, armed with what was possibly not his first glass of wine, Charles Clarke told me he didn't much like what I had written about his predecessor as Home Secretary, David Blunkett (I had said he was a liar and a bully). 'Saw your first column,' said Charles. My delight was short lived, he added: 'Call that political journalism. I call it crap.'

During nine years as a reporter on education and home affairs issues, no politician had ever had such a violent reaction to anything I had written. I felt I had ruffled a few feathers with some of my better stories about shenanigans in high places, but for some reason people sign up to the idea that investigative reporters are objective miners of truth at the coalface of sleaze and corruption. Expose an A-level marking scandal here or a leaked intelligence memo there and, most of the time, it is assumed that you are not ideologically driven and the story is permitted an independent life of its own.

It is at once the scariest and the most exciting thing about making the leap from reporter to columnist that I can no longer hide behind my byline. It is now part of my job description to have opinions at least once a week and sometimes more, if other media outlets come looking for a punter.

This means that people rightly feel justified in pulling me up for things I say in print. What were once dinner-party asides are now officially the opinions of the New Statesman's political editor.

I was reminded of this when one of Labour's former attack dogs from Millbank's 'special ops' department (now working in business, naturally) called to tell me he was about to write a letter to the editor taking issue with my description of the Iraq war as an 'ill-fated adventure'. Had I really said that? At the time, I thought my position on the Iraq war was still undecided, supremely agnostic. But there it was in black-and-white. I had to stick by it and argue my corner. But the attack dog's call made me think hard about what I really thought about the war and, I have to say that, 'ill-fated adventure' is about right, whatever you think about the moral case for intervention.

Having to 'call' the political situation at any given time has proved instructive and taught me that it is the futurology aspect of comment journalism that is fraught with the most danger. Less than six months into the job now, I have already tipped David Davis as a cert for the next leader of the Conservative Party and suggested that the only way forward for the Tories is chasing the working-class Thatcherite vote. I have also said that the Conservatives have everything to learn from the Lib Dems as a mean, disciplined opposition party and that the Government's white papers on education and health were largely cosmetic exercises that would be unlikely to prove controversial. I may have been right about the war, but I have been wrong about a whole lot else.

*Martin Bright is freelance*
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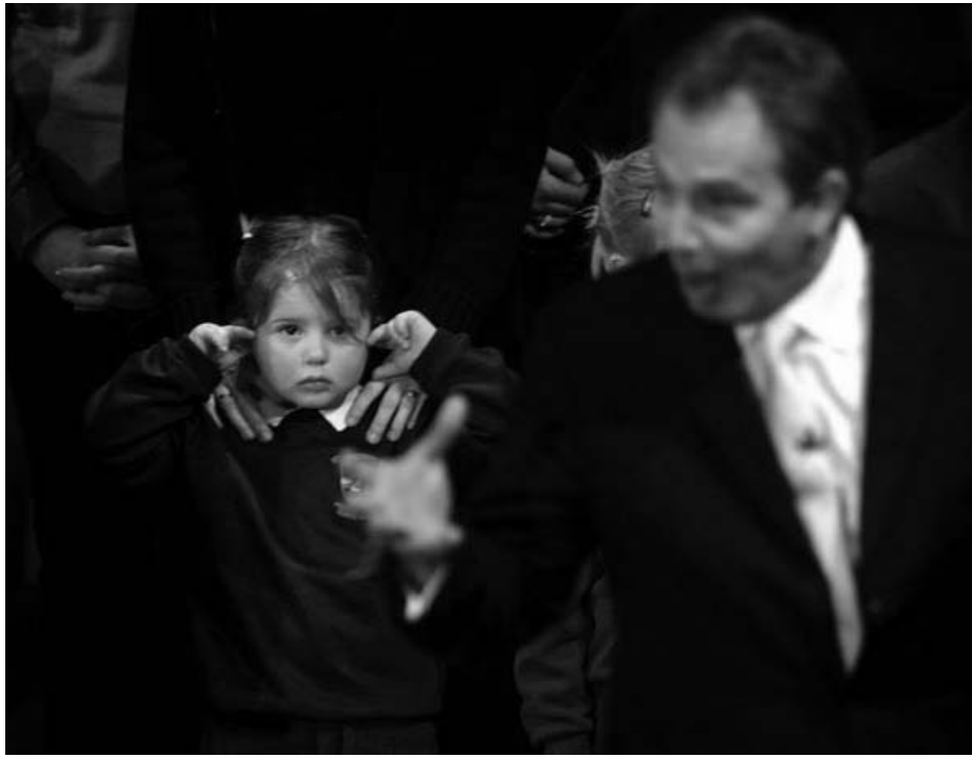

REUTERS/Jeff J Mitchell

'Mummy make it stop' Labour Party Spring conference 2005

# Does a hounding press force politicians to distort the truth, asks philosopher A.C. Grayling?

There might be more difficult jobs than being a politician in government in a liberal democracy, but not many. No matter what ideals politicians begin with, once they have persuaded electors to give them the keys to the corridors of power, realities of office bring them hard to earth. Everyone else, by contrast, has the luxury of having no responsibilities other than to criticise and complain.

This latter easy task is shared by opposition parties and the press alike, whereas the office-holding politician finds himself or herself being pulled fiercely in many directions at once, by competing claims and interests, amidst the intractabilities of events. It must be very tempting for such a one to say to critics and carpers, 'You try it.' But they cannot; for people who put themselves forward for office have contracted to expose themselves to exactly that test – fair or unfair – and to withstand it or conquer it.

Of course, the hounds of the press know how hampered politicians are. Perhaps – though these are the cases, by definition, we never hear about – they sometimes give them quarter. But they have a responsibility too, the easy and pleasant one of reporting the mistakes, castigating the errors of judgement, forcing politicians to eat their words, and generally making their lives difficult in the name of holding them to account.

In general that is exactly as it should be. But there is one major drawback with the current nature of the relationship between the press and politicians – even honest difficulties in government can be given a severely negative interpretation by *parti pris* newspapers, which, in turn, encourages ministers to try to spin problems or conceal them or sometimes even to mislead or deceive when challenged about them. And at best, even when a wolf-pack press does not force politicians in the direction of dishonesty, it means serious public debate about difficult questions is hampered.

Nor can politicians change their minds without being hounded for doing so – accused of weakness or breaking pledges. The stock expressions 'climb down', 'U-turn', 'defeat', and other negative descriptions of a change of mind or a withdrawal of policy after debate, make it almost impossible for a government to drop proposed legislation. For salient examples, the extremely ill-advised, illiberal and costly proposal to introduce identity cards has been thoroughly discredited in Parliament and the country, but the government has to bulldoze onward lest it invite a chorus of 'climb down' and 'U-turn'. What if the headlines said: 'Government rationally accepts the outcome of detailed debate on ID cards and says the proper course is now to withdraw the Bill', and gets praised for it?

So the press does not, in this sense, help public debate but stifles it by forcing politicians in office to do everything in their power to avoid imputations of weakness and prevarication, making them entrenched and bull-headed once they have started on a given course, however unwise.

While print media can distort the process of public debate by putting the wrong kind of pressure on politicians, the broadcast media can distort it in quite another direction by bending over backwards to observe putative 'balance' in reporting and debate. The BBC provides the classic example: for every contested question it has voices from both sides of the argument, no matter whether one voice represents 90 per cent of the case and the other voice 10 per cent. By giving equal time to opinions, it distortingly represents views in the country at large.

For example: in a recent debate about religious identity in Britain, I found myself as the token atheist on a panel of five, the others being a Muslim, a Jew, a Protestant Christian and a Catholic Christian. Between them, my four co-panelists represented a constituency of regular mosque, synagogue and church-goers of about 10 per cent of the British population. My secularist view that religion should be kept out of public affairs – the church-state separation principle – is supported by more than 70 per cent of the population (whether or not they are 'Christmas and Easter' laodiceans). Yet anyone listening to the debate would get the impression that matters were significantly otherwise. The striving for balance, in short, sometimes gives rise to major imbalance.

In both these ways – giving politicians no room for responsible changes of mind, and misrepresenting the true balance of opinion in the country – the various media do a disservice. Given the immense service they otherwise do – of informing, scrutinising, holding to account – the question might be thought to be: is the disservice a price worth paying for the service? But a better question is: why should the price be paid at all? For surely we can have the real service without the disservice. What would be so hard about that?



# Are bloggers ranters in pyjamas or the unfettered voices of the world? e.i asks Steve Moore, founding director of Policy Unplugged, why he reads his morning blogs before he opens his papers

Blogs have taken off just about everywhere except for Britain. Maybe it's because we have such a big choice of commentary in the media, or because people trust the BBC. Blogs are massively popular in the US and Iran. Blogs are fascinating because of the interaction between people and the way that ideas connect strangers. It's a huge unedited conversation and that's what I find interesting. Commentators in the press are more and more restrained by their paper's need to be competitive or to keep to a certain stance about something and so the idea of people being able to speak freely becomes more and more appealing. It's interesting too that some commentators who write for well known newspapers have also set up their own blogs. They say things that they would never be able to say in print.

## Top ten political blogs:

hurryupharry.bloghouse.net

adamsmith.org/blog

sluggerotoole.com

rightforscotland.blogspot.com

epolitix.com/EN/Blog

mostsincerelyfolks.blogspot.com

demosgreenhouse.co.uk

time.blogs.com/daily_dish

samizdata.net/blog

blogs.bbc.co.uk/nickrobinson

# Name, rank, serial number

## Editorial Intelligence offers members a profile data bank. Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

Signed columnists plus a silent army of commissioning editors deliver and dominate opinion seven days a week across the national press. This opinion often passes, by osmosis, into the public bloodstream of policy and common view.

e.i captures that media and digests it for you. The profile below is an example of the 1,000 to be featured on the e.i members only section of our website.

| Commentator information | |
|---|---|
| Full name | Yasmin Alibhai-Brown |
| Organisations | The Independent (+ Standard) |
| Email | y.alibhai-brown@independent.co.uk |
| Commissioning Editor | Adrian Hamilton |
| Time in job | 6 Years |

| Topics | |
|---|---|
| | Race and Religion, Human Rights, Cultural Integration, Justice, Family, Feminism, Arts, Politics. |

| Modus operandi | |
|---|---|
| Type | Multiple topics |
| Frequency of publication | Weekly |
| Days published | Monday |
| Length | 1000 words |
| Photo by-lined | In the journalists own words 'I mix the personal and anecdotal with hard facts and government policy. I can be confrontational and tough and am often called upon to give my opinions across the media. I am the outsider looking in.' |

| Intelligence | |
|---|---|
| Primary remit | Far reaching commentary on Current Affairs, Home Affairs, Government Policy. |
| Key issues | Racism, Mixed Race Relationships, Cultural Integration, Cultural Identity, Education, British Muslims, Foreign Policy, Iraq, Welfare. |
| Additional Information | Writes a column for Evening Standard. Writes for New Statesman, Time, New York Times, Daily Mail. Vice President of the United Nations Assoc. U.K, Special Ambassador for the Samaritans, Board of The Royal Shakespeare Company. Publications include: Mixed Feelings: The complex lives of mixed race Britons (Women's Press Ltd) – 2001, After Multiculturalism (Foreign Policy Centre) Who do we think we are? (Penguin books Ltd), Some of my Best friends are… (Portico's publishing) – 2004. |
| Previous positions | Senior Researcher at the Foreign Policy Centre, Institute for Public Policy. Research Fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research |
| Conferences/ speaking | A regular speaker for organisations as diverse as Merrill Lynch, Malaysian Universities, Hospice Movement, Tate Britain, Human Rights Centres in Geneva. |


*"e.i is superb" Matthew d'Ancona, Editor, Spectator*

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