

Sunday Talk'n Heads

2010-2014. Acrylic on canvas, four panels, 30 x 40"

by
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Meet the Press was the first Sunday Morning talk show and began in 1947 on NBC. It was a 30 minute news conference where a guest was interviewed by a panel of questioners. Face the Nation on CBS followed in 1954.

This Week began in 1981 with David Brinkley who had left NBC and joined ABC.

Fox News Sunday began in 1996, created by the right-wing Republican operative Roger Ailes and funded by right-wing trash media mogul Rupert Murdoch. FNS is designed to showcase Republican propaganda and demonize Democrats and Democratic administrations in state and federal government. The theme of the show is Republicans are right, Democrats are wrong, corporations are good, unions are bad, right-wing white guys are good, liberals bad, and minorities are an annoyance, unless they agree with right-wing white guys.

The longer these Sunday morning shows are on television, the more America keeps deteriorating. The standard of living continues to decline for average Americans. The illegal foreign wars continue. The corrupt political system keeps on corrupting, while corporate domination explodes across the society.

Obviously, the focus of these programs is to maintain the status quo. They are designed to entertain the viewer with flattery interviews, simplistic questions and answers for the members of Congress, the White House, the Pentagon and corporate America. These shows don't question power and authority. They cater to it, fawn over it, and snuggle up to it. It's the place where the promoters of torture go to justify their insanity.

These programs are pro-war, military cheerleaders. They are an extension of the military-industrial warfare state that is America. Furthermore, the political coverage on these shows is nothing more than dog races of trivia between Republicans and Democrats. It's all about American exceptionalism – we're the greatest country on earth; you're with us or against us. Minorities, the unemployed, the homeless and the poor are only mentioned when extraordinary tragedy is involved.

That's why the political class and the establishment elite can talk about change, but never change. The solution is always to look forward and ignore all the crimes, and all the social and financial disasters they have created. It's always time to move on...to more of the same. The hosts and guests say nice words but no actions follow. There is no accountability, no change, and no progress. Furthermore, the journalists who actually do question and speak truth to power are attacked and ridiculed. They are put in their place as outsiders, interlopers, and troublemakers.

This country is where it is today because the corporations and the wealthy control the message and the platform. That's why these programs remain on the air. These programs showcase the corporations and the wealthy elite's worldview which is, they deserve more and therefore take and keep more. It's an ideology uninterested in democratic, equitable solutions benefiting everyone. Therefore, it's no surprise that we're moving toward an authoritarian state of mass surveillance and brutality. After all, who benefits from that?

Who benefits from all these wars? Who benefits from political gridlock? Who benefits from high unemployment? Who benefits from racial and ethnic divide? Who

benefits off of the increasing poor? Who receives the most tax breaks? Who benefits from a poorly educated public? Who benefits from the transfer of wealth upward?
Answer: the wealthy and the corporations.

Furthermore, who owns these Sunday morning talk shows? Who pays the multi-million dollar salaries of these mediocre hosts, these shoeshine boys of the Washington elite?

The hosts and guests on these programs are cartoon characters of the American political landscape. These shows have long since passed their expiration date. They are relics of the 20th century. The past is where they belong. Say goodbye and turn them off. There is no public benefit to keep watching. Welcome to the 21st Century.

P.S. No offense to the cartoons.

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These programs are not designed to challenge, get answers, or investigate and create pressure to change all the havoc that the corporate and political establishment has created. No,

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Furthermore, the companies that are doing all they can to crown the news organizations that are stealing all they can from the country and the people as they corrupt the judicial system, privatize every institution they can get their hands on from education to the Post Office to outsourcing wars with private armies.

corporations are paying less and less in taxes while they hide even greater amounts of money behind loopholes that they themselves created through their lobbying of the corrupt political system. All while owning the very news organizations

Even the panelists and guests know their role as entertainer, all designed to "make news" for the upcoming theme of the week; the circular conventional wisdom all have agreed upon.

Meet the Press even prides itself on how many times they have had the same guest on over and over, and over again – to them that is success! They have listings on their website of all the same people they have on over and over. They even list the establishment, elitist couples they have on over and over as well as parent and child establishment figures they parade across their studio sets. They take pride in the trivial pursuit of the status quo.

forward, never have on members of other parties, never have economists, writers, authors, analysts with a different worldview, a forward looking worldview. The only different worldview these programs like to show are the reactionaries, the fundamentalist of the corrupt two party political system who can only look backward. Those voices are introduced to reinforce the status quo, to say look how crazy this is, you don't want that, that's backwards. Let's be happy with what we have.

Editorial Paintings announces a new round of painting at

Sunday Talk'n Heads

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With the release of the Senate Report on Torture we now more than ever know how worthless the Sunday morning talk shows really are.

The shows stopped using a panel of questioner and instead went to only the host asking the questions, which probably started around the time of Tim Russert. Perhaps the host did not want to be embarrassed the following Monday with stories about all the better questions from members of a panel. The panel instead would be news media talking-heads making stupid small talk and trying to one-up each other to be the "news maker" for Monday morning.

NBC even had to bring in a psychologist to figure out why David Gregory is such a loser.

It was a time when America was dominated by three major networks who controlled the message, the information that Americans consumed. It would be comparable to state controlled news in other countries.

However, FNS lost credibility ever since George W. Bush got in the White House and led the country to disaster internationally and financially

Gregory dancing with Karl Rove

Gregory left NBC in August 2014. NBC wouldn't even let him say goodbye. Press Reports in late August 2014 said Gregory was paid \$4 million to quietly go away.

Gregory's problem was that he just gave an open mic to status quo guests and asked a couple of softball questions. When he interviewed others, it was like he was interviewing someone's grandmother; overly polite, simplistic, unengaging.

They've become a parody of themselves.

Gregory dancing with Karl Rove

Chuck Todd another mediocre reporter that NBC pedals as some "political analyst" too over Meet the Press. In other words it will continue the parade of old, white, establishment men and women who got everything wrong over the last twenty years but still get a soap box to air their backward views and dumb policies and ideas. The show will probably be dumbed down even further with trivia questions, American

political minutia, flattery, pointless, soft questions, and more than likely the White House Sunday breakfast menu. Don't be surprised if you can eventually call-in to win something for the right answer to the trivia question!

Face the Nation, created in 1954. Bob Schieffer, a White Southerner from Forth Worth, Texas has been hosting the show since 1991, which in itself is pathetic. Obviously the point of the program is to maintain the status quo. Schieffer just recycles the same old white guys and continues the Republican agenda; bashing government, Democrats, stereo-typing minorities and women. Their Foreign Policy coverage is a 1950's good guys, bad guys mentality and always cheering on the military. As Glenn Greenwald pointed out, "one inviolable rule for establishment TV hosts like Bob Schieffer is that US military officials must be treated with the greatest reverence and must never be meaningfully challenged." **[Michael Hayden, Bob Schieffer and the media's reverence of national security officials, The Guardian, August 12, 2013, Glenn Greenwald]** The show went to a one hour format in 2012. Perhaps Schieffer just can't get enough of himself. He also does a ridiculous rant at the end of the show which he identifies as commentary though it is nothing more than his conservative, backward opinions - the dumb white guy who takes pride in his own stupidity.

This Week began in 1981 with David Brinkley who had left NBC and joined ABC. It was the post-Powell memo era and the beginning of the Ronald Reagan administration, a conservative Republican who railed against and blamed government for everything that ailed America and began the big give-aways to corporate America. Brinkley therefore gave a platform to Republican bigot George Will, a Washington Post columnist, who would continue bashing minorities, liberals, Democrats, women, social programs, affirmative action and all things government for over 30 years. He appropriately joined Fox News in 2013.

This Week Have to show Sunday Funnies, from the week's late night shows – very stupid and just another example of the entertainment part of it all. Brinkley stays on until 1996. I was not surprise that Brinkley began with three corporate sponsors – this wasn't too much later after the Powell memo about how conservatism and business had to go on the offensive.

Brinkley was another mediocre reported that became a media creation, having gained credibility from pairing up with Chet Huntley in the 1960s for the Huntley Brinkley Report. After the death of Huntley, Brinkley continued on with NBC and would be replaced with John Chancellor and then one of the most mediocre and intellectual lightweights, Tom Brokaw.

Always a revolving door of the same panelists – mostly conservative and status quo

George Will and his polite bigotry and coded racism, as well as the other stupid, pointless things he has to say.

"In both the Clinton and Bush administrations, conservative journalists were far more likely to appear on the Sunday shows than were progressive journalists. In Clinton's second term, 61 percent of the ideologically identifiable journalists were conservative; in Bush's first term, that figure rose to 69 percent. [***If It's Sunday, It's Conservative, An analysis of the Sunday talk show guests on ABC, CBS, and NBC, 1997 – 2005, Media Matter for America report, February 14, 2006***]. That continues today with a parade of Republicans and conservative Democrats reciting the same old talking points that can be traced back twenty years. And the hosts continue to allow these politicians and pundits to repeat the same old political, financial, and foreign policy ideas and policies that have been proven not only wrong but disastrous for the United States.

"The most frequent Sunday show guest during this nine-year period is Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), who has appeared 124 times. Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) has been the most frequent guest since 2003." [***If It's Sunday, It's Conservative, An analysis of the Sunday talk show guests on ABC, CBS, and NBC, 1997 – 2005, Media Matter for America report, February 14, 2006***]

In a 2006 report by Media Matters for America, Media Matters noted that "[McCain] is often interviewed alone even when he is not at the center of a particular news event. It appears as though the shows regard him as an entity unto himself, a "maverick" who stands above partisanship -- despite the fact that he is a Republican senator with an extremely conservative voting record." [***If It's Sunday, It's Conservative, An analysis of the Sunday talk show guests on ABC, CBS, and NBC, 1997 – 2005, Media Matter for America report, February 14, 2006***] Even today these programs continue to showcase McCain who has proven to not only be wrong on EVERYTHING, but was also thoroughly rejected by the American people for President in 2008, being defeated by Barack Obama. But then again, that's what these programs are, showcases of caricatures of American politics.

When it came to Bush's war on Iraq, Media Matters noted, "Congressional opponents of the Iraq war were largely absent from the Sunday shows, particularly during the period just before the war began." [***If It's Sunday, It's Conservative, An analysis of the Sunday talk show guests on ABC, CBS, and NBC, 1997 – 2005, Media Matter for America report, February 14, 2006***]

These programs have become game shows. They entertain rather than question power and authority.

“Face the Nation featured Hayden as the premiere guest to speak authoritatively about how trustworthy the NSA is, how safe it keeps us, and how wise President Obama is for insisting that all of its programs continue. As usual, no mention was made of the role he played in secretly implementing an illegal warrantless spying program aimed directly at the American people.” **[Michael Hayden, Bob Schieffer and the media's reverence of national security officials, The Guardian, August 12, 2013, Glenn Greenwald]**

“That's because one inviolable rule for establishment TV hosts like Bob Schieffer is that US military officials must be treated with the greatest reverence and must never be meaningfully challenged (contrast that with what actual journalist David Halberstam described as” **[Michael Hayden, Bob Schieffer and the media's reverence of national security officials, The Guardian, August 12, 2013, Glenn Greenwald]**

Schieffer rants like the one on Snowden, which Glenn Greenwald asks “How come you're allowed to have *that* opinion and be an "objective journalist"?” **[Michael Hayden, Bob Schieffer and the media's reverence of national security officials, The Guardian, August 12, 2013, Glenn Greenwald]**

A parade of retired military officials that sit on boards of defense contractors.

The programs only average about 3 million viewers each week, probably even less in 2014.

NBC appears to have an odd, unhealthy obsession with the late Tim Russert's only son, as if somehow he has to be part of NBC news or Meet the Press. Young Russert is terrible at his job, but then, it's all entertainment anyway, so what's the difference.

a collection of establishment news idiots who spend more time blowing themselves up than actually having anything of substance to say. The show is

“When a guest is interviewed alone by the host of a Sunday show, the networks send a message that what this person says is so important that it can't be cluttered up with someone from the other party weighing in.” **[If It's Sunday, It's Conservative, An**

***analysis of the Sunday talk show guests on ABC, CBS, and NBC, 1997 – 2005,
Media Matter for America report, February 14, 2006]***

