### **OFFICIAL NAPFN NEWSLETTER**



If you own the press you can print what you want

Vol.21, ~~~ No.09 ~~~ 21 Aug 1968

## What does "Freedom of the Press" mean?

It means this, and nothing more: If you own the press you can print what you like.

This isn't new.

If I submit this essay to the NY Times do you think they'll print it? Probably not. But, that's their prerogative: it's their newspaper.

The date, today is Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2018. During the month or so there has developed an increasing concern over censorship being applied in "Social Media" outlets such a Facebook, Google, Youtube, Twitter, – et.al.

A good essay discussing this problem appeared today on WND:

## SOCIAL-MEDIA CENSORSHIP PLAN

Source: Art Moore: Plotted with Google, Facebook to eliminate 'right wing propaganda'

The essay goes into the issue in some detail; it's a good read.

Other sources have also mentioned the issue,-- Canada Free Press, Act for America, ... I may have others; I'll update this if I find more.

**IMPORTANT:** They can censor anything they want: It's their "newspaper".

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## **Back in the Day**

Some years ago, back in the '90s, before the World Wide Web became popular and the Internet was a sort of mystery used by education, government, and military we used dial-up modems to access "Bulletin Board Services" (BBS) such as America Online, CompuServe, Fido Net, et.al.

The process was pretty good, really, as most of the documents were plain ASCII text, and a V.32 (9600 baud) modem could handle such documents quite well. Particularly when the traffic was compressed, using PKZIP – as was done in FidoNet. Later modem speed increased to V.32bis (14.4 k/bbs) and then to V.34 (28.8 k/bbs and 33.6k/bps).

These were Telephone Modems. They worked using ordinary dial-up phone lines, now known as "plain old telephone service" (POTS) lines.

The critical point here – and in fact the critical point of this essay is: using dial-up service meant – you could dial up any BBS service that you pleased. There were big services like America Online and CompuServe, and there were message services like FidoNet and many small boards that covered every topic you could think of.

It truly was a giant "Rabbit Hole": Each service that you linked into would likely have phone numbers for other interesting places.

And information spread, Easily. And the grip of the Big Money News Business started to slip.

The development of the Internet continued during this time, and roughly around the turn of the century the Internet became commercialized as the .com suffix was added to the existing .edu, .gov, and .mil domains.

Web pages use a lot more data than text pages, and, fortunately, POTS service was gradually replaced with Broadband during the same period – adding Internet access to existing "Cable TV" service.

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All of which brings us to the Hilltop from whence we can survey our position.

The dial up networks based on POTS service offered a lot of freedom of choice regarding connections and services to be used.

Although POTS was discontinued and Cable TV came to provide Internet/Broadband – there still remains a great deal of Freedom of Choice – regarding connections and services to be used.

At the same time we also notice that access to the dial-up POTS network – was controlled by the telephone companies. Today access to the Broadband/Internet system – is controlled by the Cable TV networks – Comcast, Charter, Time-Warner – etc.

They can terminate customer access anytime they like – based on their End User License Agreements (EULA).

# **Networking in the Broadband Era**

Things havn't changed all that much. In the Broadband Era, instead of a POTS Line and a Dial-Up modem – you need a Cable-TV Broadband connection and an Internet Modem. These must be leased and licensed from a Service Provider and this will require a signature on the EULA.

Once a computer is properly provisioned it can be used to "Surf the Web": read web pages that are published on the Web. There is a huge number of sites and pages available covering every topic imaginable.

And there are search engines available to help find pages of particular interest.

### Or not find them.

The search engines are commercial and political. They are used to direct readers to sites that

(a) present advertisements on behalf of marketing and advertising firms – which pay the makers of the Search engines for sending business their way; and

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(b) which present "suitable" content where "Suitable Content",...... Is in the judgment of the owners of the search engine.

"Social Media" – act in the same manner as Search Engines: They are manipulated by their owners so as to direct customers to content which the Social Media Owners want customers to see – and away from content the owners deem "unsuitable" – often called "fake news" in today's slang.

Always remember: MONEY TALKS.

## **Circumventing Commercial Control of the Net**

Access is Essential to Free Speech. Information is only effective – when it is available – and discovered – by those who need to see it.

The World Wide Web is highly adaptable to this need. The HYPERLINK can be used to faclitate "clicking" from one page to another. It works in seconds; there is no need to log off and dial up another long distance connection to access another BBS system – as we used to have to do,…. "Back in the Day".

You won't see this essay published in the New York Times. And you won't see it on Social Media. The owners of those media – control their own content. They always have.

To publish this I license my own Internet Domain and lease service from an Internet Service Provider. My own Website. One of the most important things that I present here are HYPERLINKS – to – other Web Pages – that I think offer important content.

Some of these links lead to sites I agree with; others to sites I would classify as "opposition". I'm a Free Speech kind of guy.

Not everyone does this. They should, but - they don't.

Suppression of Free Speech is the Signature of the Tyrant.

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He probably doesn't want me telling you that.

"If you sacrifice your values because you're afraid, you don't care about those values very much."

Edward Snowden

# **Help Dig the Rabbit Hole**

Set up a web page if you don't have one.

Add links to Good Places.

This will help information to find its way to Freedom. And hopefully, also, to The People.

NAPFN Homepage

NAPFN: Firearms and Freedom Index

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