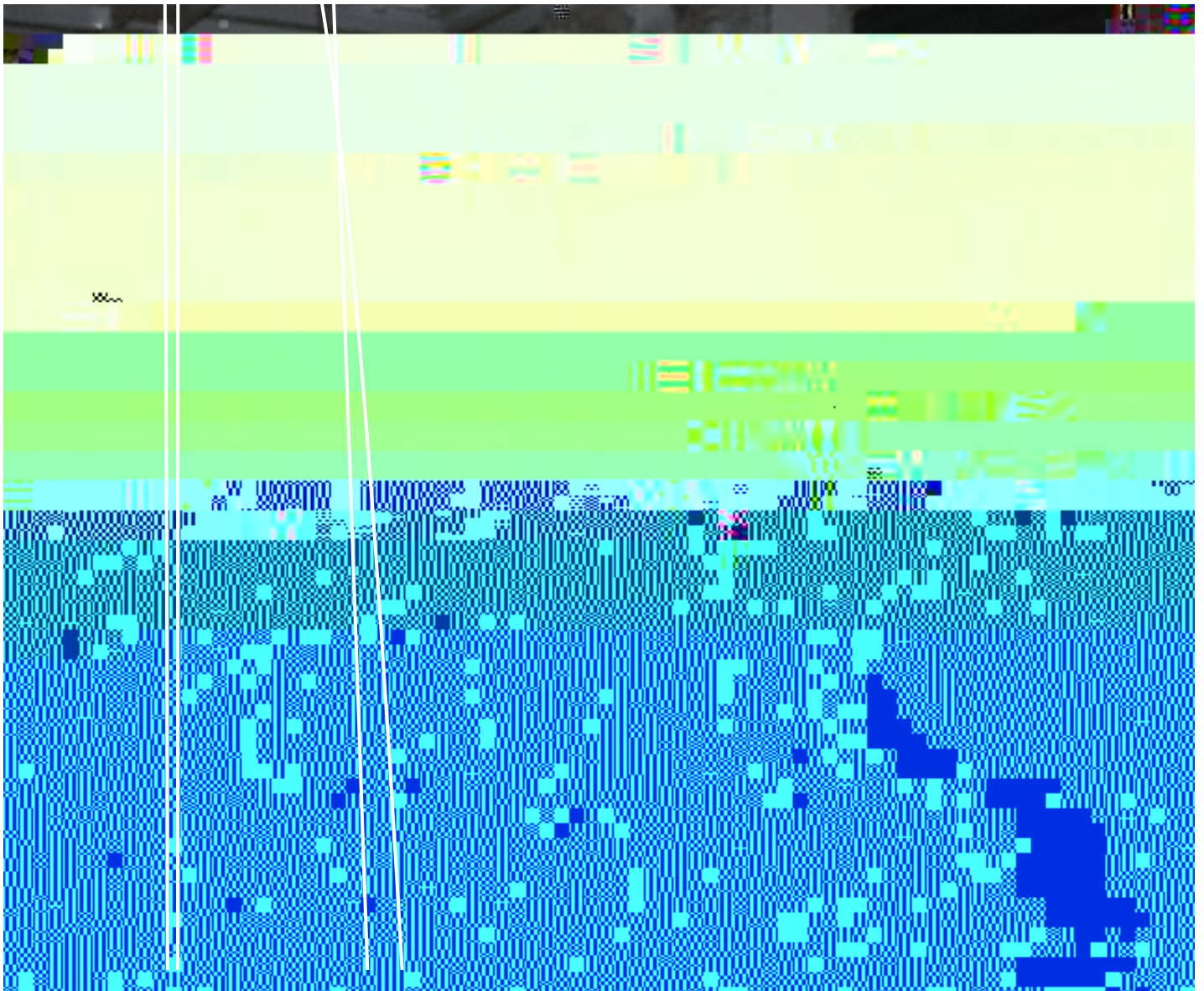


EDWARD EDWARDS

The Wild West Plight of the Media

By Carl Golden | October 21, 2022, 12:33 pm | in **Edward Edwards**
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A good many years
at the local supermarket
business (euhem)

Early on, a veteran
summoned me to his
newly chosen voca-

It went as follows:

“Two former class-
small talk, one asked

“I’m a news reporter
and on the whole

Back in the day, re-
creatures, wear n-

The second layer st-
the release of two

A New York Times/

“mainstream media” constituted a major threat to democracy and another 25 percent felt it was a minor threat.

A Gallup poll showed seven percent of Americans hold a great deal of trust in the media; 27 percent a fair amount; 28 percent not much trust, and 38 percent none at all.

It was, the Gallup report noted, the first time that the percentage of Americans with no trust at all in the media was greater than the percentage with a great deal or fair amount of trust.

How is it that an institution that’s been a part of American life since the foundation of the Republic – one whose protection from government censorship was written into the constitution by the foundation fathers – is today considered less trustworthy than the second layer in the brothel

It’s easy and tempting to place blame for the low esteem in which the media is held on the rise of social media. And, to a degree, it’s also accurate.

The tsunami of news produced on internet sites has overwhelmed traditional outlets, driving thousands of small news publishers out of business and many others to teeter on the brink of bankruptcy as advertising revenue streams ran dry and circulation plummeted.

Since the rise of news publishers struggled to remain economically viable in the face of technological competition, electronic platforms accessed without cost to the consumer and capable of delivering news around the globe in an instant.

It opened the way as well to anyone with a keyboard to become a news and opinion source, literally unfettered, without restraint and no regard for truth or accuracy.

That emergence, perhaps, reflects of the deep polarization in the country, a reaction to the political and social upheaval that has led us into bitterly opposing factions.

Trust in any institution — once lost — is exceedingly difficult to restore. Data suggests further that the lack of trust has become a self-reinforcing cycle that the process of restoration will be a long and difficult one.

It is, though, critical that the process begin. We must have public acceptance — goals the media should strive to help achieve.

As for me, I spent 11 years as a news anchor in New Jersey, and I look to the future in an endeavor that was equally challenging. I am proud to be a resident of New Jersey politics.

I didn't stray too far from a connection to the public — as press secretary to two governors (over a period of more than three years) and dealing on a daily basis with the public. I met outdoors who parachuted into the area and I was able to help them sufficiently as a result of my experience.

I've never forgotten, though, the importance of the media in the town of Pennsylvania and the role of the news anchor in reporting on the events of the day.

I am glad, though, that I can help the nation.

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