

Politicians: a world which soaks up the worst surrounded by people who feel the finger pointing at them

DANIEL ARASA

The article in question contemplates the absolute necessity to check the sources of any kind of news, and particularly news which a journalist receives through a tip-off. This procedure is especially advisable when the news refers to possible corruption, a subject which, according to the author, “seems to have become the top news priority” in the 90s.

The journalist Arasa considers that the Deontological Code approved in the II Congress of Journalists of Catalonia is “timely and healthy”. Its content is something which is “both elementary and common sense, which anyone with minimum criteria and goodwill who wants to practice honest journalism should comply with spontaneously”. Nevertheless, this Code, as the Dean of the College of Journalists Josep Pernau has pointed out, “is not respected by everyone”. The recent avalanche of information on subjects which affect minors, or the failure to recognise the presupposition of innocence, are clear examples which prove that the Code is not being fulfilled. Furthermore, adds the author, application of the Code will obviously help society to recover its trust in the world of information without affecting the principles of freedom of expression, pluralism and independence.

Ethics, in the world of communication today, involves being able to assess political information properly; to separate opinions from information, never repeat falsehoods, take care with gossipmongering, avoid the forced

politisation which at times affects even the legal power. This author comes straight out and says: "Generally speaking, Catalan journalists politicisation who cover political information are clean people. I believe that the figure of the corrupt journalist does not exist nowadays in Catalonia.

64 **The sports journalist in Orwell's jungle**

JOSEP MARIA ARTELLS

The journalist Artells analyses the role of sport in our society and its important repercussion in the world of communication. "What role does the sports journalist play in this jungle observation which George Orwell made with regard to sport elevated to the status of a spectacle?, he wonders. "Can this definition be extrapolated to other areas of information?"

The situation is as follows: the headlines of sports newspapers magnify events. They exaggerate the significance of the facts. They use the news to create an impact through scandal, controversy, or otherwise by exaggerating the triumphs of a particular club or personality. The headlines contain connotations which easily attract the general public's attention. That's what sells. According to the OJD.

In this environment the professional has to use his own code of ethics. Assume his commitment to the reader after adapting to this informative rhetoric. But the journalist is not a machine. He must be allowed to work in the world in which technicians, directors and companies move, where they live in a permanent state of tension.

The author recalls some of his experiences and recommends that sources of information be checked thoroughly. In the world of sports, news about the multi-million signing of a football player may be spread by the footballer himself, who is seeking to renew his contract. The spreading of rumours is to a certain extent institutionalised. The same is true of other sports where the

177