

You can quote me

Let's take a break. Instead of another column on design issues this month, I thought you would enjoy a look at what some of the brightest and wittiest figures in America have had to say about newspapers.

You'll recognize the names—but you may be a bit surprised at what they say.

'I am not the editor of a newspaper, and I shall always try to do right and be good—so that God will not make me one.'— **Mark Twain**

'Even the editorial writers of newspapers seem unable to understand the plainest sentence.' — **H. L. Mencken**

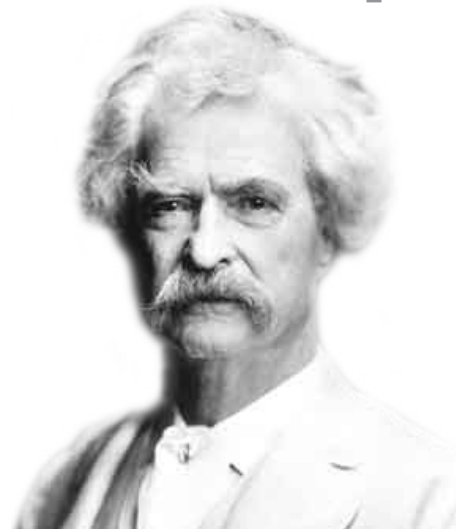
'Newspaper editors are men who separate the wheat from the chaff—and print the chaff.' — **Adlai Stevenson**

'Were it left to me to decide between a government without newspapers—or newspapers without government—I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.' — **Thomas Jefferson**

'The press is free—to the man who owns the press.' — **Benjamin Franklin**

'Early in life I had noticed that no event is ever correctly reported in a newspaper.' — **George Orwell**

'Half of the American people never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half.' — **Gore Vidal**



Mark Twain, who cut his writing teeth in the newsroom, had a few things to say about newspapers.

'If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed. If you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed.' — **Mark Twain**

'My doctors told me this morning my blood pressure is down so low that I can start reading the newspapers.' — **Ronald Reagan**

'The industry is littered with self-styled purists who believe the business of media...the requirement to make a profit...somehow corrupts the craft.' — **Lachlan Murdoch**

'A newspaper is a business. It used to be a fabulous business that made extraordinary margins. It's now a very good business with appropriate margins.' — **Sam Zell**

'There is no such thing as public opinion. There is only published opinion.' — **Winston Churchill**

'A newspaper is a device for making the ignorant more ignorant—and the crazy crazier.' — **H. L. Mencken**

'It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.' — **Jerry Seinfeld**

'Once a newspaper touches a story, the facts are lost forever— even to the protagonists.' — **Norman Mailer**

'No American newspaper will print anything contrary to its own interests.' — **George Bernard Shaw**

'If you lose your temper at a newspaper columnist, he'll get rich or famous—or both.' — **James C. Hagerty**

'Far more thought and care go into the composition of any prominent ad in a newspaper or magazine than go into the writing of their features and editorials.' — **Marshall McLuhan**

'America is a country of inventors, and the greatest of inventors are the newspaper men.' — **Alexander Graham Bell**

'The volume of mail that comes into a newspaper is no index of anything—except that you happen to attract a lot of idiots.' — **H. L. Mencken**

'A good newspaper is never nearly good enough—but a bad newspaper is a joy forever.' — **Garrison Keillor**



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Kevin Slimp
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