



The Paradox of the Internet: More speech, less freedom.

BY: Mindy Rader, Rockland Post Contributor

There was a time when cities had multiple newspapers. Reporting was factual and consisted of who, what, where, when, why, and how. Opinions were confined to editorial pages and columns. People took these stories and editorials and formed their own opinions. It only reasoned that if you had an open internet with unlimited free speech, you would enhance your knowledge and you would move towards freedom. This is not what has occurred.

The concept of a free and open dialogue has been corrupted by our current internet. Free discussion has been taken over by groups which want to control the narrative. Modern journalism schools have produced a group of journalists who feel that they must throw their opinion into the story. They use venues like, X to promulgate their opinions and not the news. But it gets even worse. Tik Tok has led to crimes which they call pranks.

Witnessed recently in California, a man was kicked in the head in a hot tub and had his belongings stolen to get views. And worse than that, look at Tik Tok if you haven't seen it, full of propaganda and false news stories that ignorant people buy as the truth, because they have no other source of news.

Look at court trials. People judge innocence and guilt based on what they read and see on the internet. They line up outside courtrooms demanding guilt or innocence based on their limited knowledge given to them on the internet. They demand jury's and courts gear their verdict towards their beliefs so that mob rule wins rather than justice. How is that freedom? It seems just the opposite.

The internet has led to a rise in antisemitism. It has led to people believing what has been in the past considered evil, to be good. Showing the police are horrific. But the truth does not bear that out. And then people hate the police for false stories promulgated on the internet.

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If you don't like somebody's ideas, boycott them. Two people kissing in a park used to be innocent. But now it meets the internet, and people lose their jobs because they committed what some people consider immoral at a Cold Play concert. Why should somebody's private moments or future be decided because of what somebody posted on the internet.

The internet has become full of parasites. People record people just to annoy them and to start trouble and it brings the worst behavior in people. And I have to question why? What are they doing except click baiting? We have formed a new class of parasites who make their money by stirring trouble where no trouble exists. And then they get their followers after doxing people to harass those they oppose. That is not freedom.

The modern internet would serve propagandists well. One does not have to work hard to plant stories and propaganda. The internet does it instantly and you don't even have to be an expert. You can get a crowd of anybody to do anything within minutes. A Flash Mob of music or dancing may be innocent but an organized takeover or looting of stores or demonstrations blocking the streets threatens our freedom. You don't have to be smart or have any intellect or knowledge of history to make a ridiculous statement on the internet and people consider you to be an expert. Hassan Piker is the obvious example. Tucker Carlson is another one. Yet people follow and believe fools and therefore do things in their name and we end up with a society much less free than it was. We end up with a world that is much more dangerous than it needs to be. We get political leaders who are ignorant bully's and fools. Because a normal person doesn't want to be subjected to the wrath of the internet.

So, we are not freer because of the free speech on the internet. Many years ago, the courts upheld free speech does not include yelling fire in a crowded theatre when there is no fire. Well, every day on the internet people yell fire with no consequences and no stopping their actions. It used to be said that the constitution was not a suicide pact. Just look at the internet, the constitution has turned the constitution into one.