

News—A Discussion Paper for the Light-FM Board

1. Lord Northcliffe: “News is something that someone somewhere does not want reported. The rest is advertising.”
 - a. How much of our news is spin?
2. Manufactured conflict
 - a. The most overused word in news reporting is “bitter”
 - b. The second most overused word is “angry”
3. Manufactured Fear
 - a. In most countries road accidents are not reported as news. Why here? Why road accidents and not West Gate Bridge suicides?
 - b. What are the xenophobic sub-texts in the Shappelle Corby case reporting?
4. Pandering to the Populist View
 - a. Is Shappelle Corby guilty? How would we know?
5. Manufactured Myths
 - a. 10% of the population is homosexual. A number invented by a publicist.
6. Common Guilt
 - a. “Police warn motorists to take care” – because 2 people died in a fatal car accident.
7. Support for the Status Quo
 - a. Content analysis: Who gets reported? What topics get reported?

In the light of the discussion (we shall have), how should a Christian radio station approach news? [P.S. If I had a ready-made answer to this question I would write a different paper!]