

HAVE WE BROKEN THE NEWS?



Imagine. You're a news junkie, maybe even an aspiring journalist. You check out Spielberg's *The Post*.

After the credits roll, you come out of the theater feeling pretty fired up about the power of great reporting even in the face of great odds.

It has been a couple of hours. You want to get your news-fix on. So you turn your phone back on.

Bam!

(*Cue inner monologue*)

"*Fire and Fury* is number one on the NYT best-seller list." What happened to all the criticism of Wolff's "It's not whether it happened but whether it could have happened" ethos?

Babe.net? What's a "babe net?" And since when does an article called "I went on a date with Aziz Ansari. It turned into the worst night of my life?" by an anonymous 23-year-old woman referred to as "Grace" get published at all, let alone get top billing on news talk shows on CNN?

Trump released his Fake News awards. You may want to take a step back. Don't know if I'm about to laugh or something else.

What? Senator Flake from Arizona just compared the current administration's treatment of the press to Stalinist Russia's? Really? Isn't Flake a Republican?

Wait! Was that the word 's---hole' on the front page of the Washington Post?

You plop down on the curb. You have absolutely no idea what's going on. You want to run back inside the theater and watch *The Post* a second time. But you know that's not the answer. You saw the last showing of the evening.

You want to run into Barnes and Noble and buy a copy of *All the President's Men* but you know that's not the answer. Barnes and Noble closed its Bethesda store mid-January.

Curse you, Amazon, and your uncanny way of always knowing what else I might like! Better keep it down, an Echo Dot might be listening.

You try to keep perspective. After all, American news media has risen up to face challenges throughout our country's history. First Amendment challenges. Financial challenges. Challenges from hostile administrations. Self inflicted wounds of bias and questionable reporting.

Yet something feels different this time around. All said challenges have coalesced into one perfect storm and (don't look now!) our chief meteorologist has been suspended for inappropriate behavior.

So you begin to panic about the future of journalism... your future... the future of the country. Then, you remember...

***Have we broken the news?
Feb 13 @ B-CC***

a distinguished panel on the state of journalism today

featuring:

Kimberly Adams
Marketplace

Michael Isikoff
Yahoo

Dana Milbank
The Washington Post

Greg Miller
The Washington Post

Elisa Muñoz
International Women's Media Foundation

Terence Samuel
NPR

Whitney Shefte
The Washington Post

Feb 13 - 7:00 PM
B-CC High School
4301 East-West Hwy
Bethesda, MD

\$10 in advance
\$15 at the door

tattlerextra.org
(for more info and advanced reservations)

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