

Quite Frankly Family Guy: The Image of the Journalist in Fox's Popular Animated Series

By Matt Ryan

Race, sex, drugs and alcohol -- all topics normally seen or read in the news. But what happens when these are the very issues that involve the media and the journalists themselves? Fox's popular animated series *Family Guy* has explored these predicaments and more in its four seasons on the air. The show has spoofs and characters that have to do with the media, whether fictional or real-life anchors and media organizations. The focus of this study will be to examine how this image of the journalist is portrayed throughout this cartoon series.

First it is important to understand who is watching the show. *Family Guy* is one of the most popular cartoons on television despite the fact the show was originally cancelled in 2002 after three seasons when the show couldn't get a consistent time slot. The Fox network revived the show May 1, 2005, thanks to repeats on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim and DVD sales that built a cult following into a large and loyal fan base. Since its return to Sundays at 9 p.m. ET/PT, *Family Guy* has ranked No. 18 with the advertiser-coveted 18-49 age group, and No. 2 with teens 12-17.¹ Overall, it averages nearly 9 million viewers, 5.6 million of whom are ages 18-49.² And even though Fox puts a TV-14 advisory on the show, it has landed in the No. 5 spot among kids ages 2-11, averaging 900,000 viewers in that age group.³ This is especially important because kids this age are the most impressionable. In one episode, the main character Lois says, "You got to be careful what you put on your network, you know how impressionable children are." And so what is *Family Guy* putting on the Fox Network? More importantly for purposes of this study, what is the image of the journalist on the show?

The Anchors of Quahog Channel Five News Team

Family Guy is set in the small fictional town of Quahog, Rhode Island, and like most small towns, there is only one local news station, the Quahog Channel 5 News. Tom Tucker and Diane Simmons are the co-anchors for the Quahog Channel 5 Action News Team. Because they live in a small town, Tom and Diane are doing a lot more than just broadcasting the local news from the anchor desk. In one episode they are announcing the jousting matches at the Quahog Renaissance Fair; in others they are covering the Special People's Games, the 83rd Annual Quahog Harvest Festival Parade, and even a school board debate. They epitomize the image of a small town journalist who does everything.

Tom is your stereotypical news anchor: he is good looking and talks in a deep, baritone voice. He is strikingly similar to Ron Burgundy in the film "Anchorman." And like Mr. Burgundy, he obsesses over his looks. In fact, he is quite pompous and full of himself. In one episode, Tom refers to himself during a newscast: "Coming up next, a handsome, mustached man recaps the news in pleasing baritones."⁴ In another episode, two of the main characters in the show, Brian and Stewie, go to Tom's home, and he has all pictures of himself and none of his wife or kid throughout the house.⁵ In another episode, he is looking in the mirror pretending that he is talking to a girl and she is impressed: "Hey, I recognize you from the television; you are Tom Tucker."⁶ While Tucker is a lot like Burgundy, in a special DVD commentary, a few members of the show's cast compare him to local Los Angeles anchor Hal Fishman⁷.

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Like Tucker, Simmons is also good looking, and typifies many female anchors. In one episode when Quahog is experiencing a heat wave, Simmons opens her shirt and shows her cleavage.⁸ In another episode she even contemplates doing the news topless:

Diane: Tom has dared me to do the news topless. I've got the goods, but do I got the guts? Find out at 11.

Tom: The full story and maybe Diane's boobs tonight at 11.⁹

When searching for interns Diane has to make sure she is better looking than anyone else. She says she can't hire any of the girls because they're "too pretty" and their "breasts too perky."¹⁰ Diane is also very superficial. While doing a story on the main characters Peter and Lois, she describes them as such: "A fat man who is inexplicably married to an attractive redhead."¹¹ In another broadcast she announces that "Joan of Arcadia" is being interrupted for a breaking news story and adds, "We apologize to Joan of Arcadia's sanctimonious, fear-based and probably overweight viewers."¹² Diane tends to think she is better than other people in Quahog because of her celebrity status, which has even landed her a job as a talk show host for the "Diane" show. When Peter tells her about a play his wife is producing, she doesn't care: "Some two-bit community production isn't news...why should I give a damn?"¹³

Diane and Tom hate each other and constantly fight on and off the air. In one episode Quahog is experiencing a "freak heat wave" and Tom takes offense when Diane says "freak" because his son inexplicably has an upside down face in the show. And so Diane sneezes and in her sneeze says "freak."¹⁴ But Tom often starts the quarrels. On one show Tom turned to Diane and says, "Get used to this sight, Diane, guys running away from you." Diane fires back, "Tom,

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you're so deep in the closet, you're finding Christmas presents."¹⁵ Sometimes the abuse turns physical. After a news report Tom bashes Diane's head against the desk and in turn Diane hits him with a sledge hammer.¹⁶

Tom often takes advantage of face time on the news to take cheap shots at Diane: "Scientists announced today that if your hand is bigger than your face, then you have cancer." Diane holds up her hand to check it, and Tom smacks her hand into her face: "Hahaha, got you! That is not really even news!"¹⁷ In one episode, Diane goes on the news saying she will be playing the lead part in a local play, and Tom says, "In other news, I won't be going to the play because I am sure it will be lousy." But of course Diane doesn't back down: "Tom, I'm getting late word that you are a petty, jealous closet case." Tom replies, "Bit of breaking news, we now go live to Diane being a bitch."¹⁸ Tom also doesn't hesitate to comment on Diane's looks: "I would say it was a perfect day if you weren't reminding us all of our grandmother's cleavage,"¹⁹ or "Coming up, Diane's weight."²⁰ During one broadcast when they are doing a story about church, Diane turns to Tom and says, "Be careful the next time you are at confession telling the priest about cheating on your wife with that Filipino drag queen." Tom turns to Diane and says, "At least you are in no danger, Diane, since you only visit church to leave your self-delivered, unwashed, half-dead newborns on the back step."²¹ These moments are quite comical, but they project an image of unprofessional journalists.

The Minority Members of Quahog Channel 5 News and Issues of Race

There are other members of the Channel 5 news team: Ollie Williams the weatherman, and field reporters Tricia Takanawa and Maria Jimenez. All are non-white. According to the show's creator, Seth McFarland, the show purposely chose to have the anchors, Diane and Tom, be white and the non-anchors be of other ethnicities because that is true to real-life broadcast journalism: "That one came out of one of our writers noticing that the white people on broadcast news are always behind the anchor desk, and they send the minority reporters out into the field in danger."²²

Tricia Takanawa is the most frequently featured minority journalist on the show. She is often introduced as "Asian" reporter Tricia Takanawa by Tom and Diane, and other characters in the show also refer to her as such. She is most likely a parody of Connie Chung. In one episode Peter Griffin is being interviewed by Tricia Takanawa and calls her "Connie."²³

The show frequently uses Takanawa to portray stereotypes of Asians and makes her the butt of racist jokes. On one episode Tom and Diane are chowing down barbeque at the station after a nuclear blast has left little food in Quahog. They are eating what appear to be the ribs of Tricia Takanawa, and Diane asks, "Should we be eating her with chop sticks?"²⁴ In another episode, "Asian" reporter Tricia Takanawa is on hand for the opening of a new hotel in Manhattan, and she is standing outside because they "don't allow Asians" inside.²⁵ One episode, after Peter declares the existence of his own country "Petoria," Diane says, "We sent our own little foreigner, Asian reporter Tricia Takanawa to Petoria."²⁶ But the worst stereotype is in the *Family Guy* movie when Tricia Takanawa goes to interview David Bowie and starts to hump his leg and speak excitedly with a thick Japanese accent: "Oh, me love to meet Ziggy Stardust! I

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take you home, I make you fish bowel soup! Fish bowel!" It then cuts back to the news studio where Tom and Diane are looking on in stunned disbelief. Finally Tom says, "Thank you, Tricia, for setting your people back a thousand years". And later Diane tosses it back to Tricia Takanawa, who is doing interviews on reactions to the movie and saying that she "loved the movie long time."

Like Takanawa, Maria Jimenez is a minority reporter in the field for Quahog Channel 5 news, but she is rarely featured. Maria Jimenez is reporting live on a story and Tom Tucker tosses it to her but can't pronounce her name. He stutters over her last name and calls her "Hispanic reporter."²⁷ Diane corrects him and says it is Jimenez, but she pronounces it with a J instead of an H.

The other minority journalist in the show is the weatherman, Ollie Williams. Williams is likely a knockoff of NBC News weatherman Al Roker.²⁸ On a special DVD commentary, one of the cast members says the Williams character "looks like Al Roker."²⁹ But unlike the well-spoken Roker, Williams is portrayed stereotypically. Whenever Tom Tucker tosses it to the weather report, he says, "Now Ollie Williams with the 'blackie' weather forecast." And Williams speaks in broken English. In one episode when giving the weather, all he says is, "It's goin' rain."³⁰ In another episode Tom's son Jake is in trouble with the law and Tom tosses it to Williams for a "punishment forecast." Williams says: "He goin' get it."³¹ In still another episode, Tom kicks to Ollie Williams for a report on Hurricane Rupaul:

Tom: "Let's go live to Ollie Williams with the blackie weather report."

Ollie: "It's rainin' sideways."

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Williams then tells Tom to "Bring me some soup," and after Tom asks what kind, he yells "CHUNKY."³²

On a live report from Ollie Williams in the Channel 5 Traffic Copter, Tom asks what the scene is like, and Ollie replies, "everybody look like ants."³³ In another episode Ollie Williams is asked about "adopt a pet of the week." All he says is, "Who want this dawg???" Shortly after, Tom visits the station and complains about not being able to check his email from home. Ollie gives him assorted computer advice such as, "Did you check the TCP/IP settings?" and "Enable cookies?" But afterwards he again asks, "You want this dawg?"

Tom and Diane also make racist comments. In one episode the cable is supposedly down and Tom and Diane don't think anyone can hear them on the news. So Tom says, "Of course no one can hear us, so it doesn't matter what we say. I'm the Lord Jesus Christ. I'm going to get drunk and beat up some midgets." Diane says, "Well Tom, I just don't plain like black people." Later in the show they are still talking as though no one can hear in Quahog, and Tom says, "Those Chinese sure do like to spit, don't they?"³⁴ Outside the news, Diane refers to "all you people" while speaking to an African-American.³⁵

The Weatherman Parody

Besides Ollie Williams, the show mocks weathermen. In one episode they even have a mime doing the news. He is known as "Greg the Weather Mime," and he makes hand gestures while Tom Tucker tries to guess the weather: "People's mothers are throwing fecile matter down from their roofs: Oh, that's rain." And this isn't just any weather report; it is during a hurricane. It is as if Family Guy is saying that anyone can do the weather. In one episode they even have

the actor Sean Penn giving the weather report and all he does is cuss at the camera and break things. He is doing the news and smoking a cigarette and says, "Get that fuc#@ camera out of my face!"³⁶

Sex and Alcohol, a Journalist's Two Best Friends

Tom, who is married, frequently cheats on his wife. In one episode Tom thinks they are off the air and he says, "Well, Diane, that last report was so good I think you deserve a spanking." He bends her over and brings out a paddle. Diane replies: "Oh Tom, I don't think your wife would appreciate that." "Diane, that frigid old cow lives in Quahog; she can't hear a word I am saying," Tom retorts.³⁷ In another episode, he says on the air, "In our top story, Doreen, I lost your phone number; we met at the Sky Lounge: Please call me."³⁸ One time Tricia Takanawa is on the scene for a live report, with Tom Tucker also there in his boxers at a "sleazy motel" with a half naked black woman. Tom comes on the air and says it wasn't him, but his evil twin: "Now I am going back to have freaky sex with my prostitute with whom I still have 45 minutes."³⁹ In still another episode, Peter hits Tom and his hooker with a car. Tom tells Peter he is O.K. and not to worry about his hooker because "she was already dead."⁴⁰ He even calls his wife: "Honey, I am going to be a little late; I have a hooker coming over. I know it's late notice."⁴¹

Like Tom, Diane Simmons also has a strong sexual appetite and even pays for sex. In one episode Peter goes over to Diane's dressing room. When she opens the door and sees Peter, she thinks he is the male escort she ordered: "You don't look anything like the ad. You better be

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huge.” Diane also says she made an independent film in college. In a flashback, it looks like a low budget porn film with her having sex with a grizzly looking man.

Even Tricia Takanawa is portrayed in a sexual manner. Aside from her humping David Bowie's leg in the movie, she also does news pieces on sex. Once she is seen reporting from the bedroom while a couple is having sex.⁴² Later in a follow-up to the report, Tricia actually engages in sex herself for the purposes of her piece: “Sex. Some people have it anonymously. What kind of person would do that, you ask? Well, I am about to find out. I just picked up a complete stranger in a hotel bar and he is in the bathroom right now possibly doing drugs. Watch as I have sex with this potentially dangerous man as we take you in depth and undercover”⁴³

Besides being a sex addict, Tom also is frequently seen drinking or talking about drugs and alcohol. Many times journalists are portrayed as alcoholics. But Tom Tucker is also shown as being into drugs. When Quahog discovers that you can get high by licking certain kinds of frogs, Tom talks on the news about the phenomenon as if he had tried it himself: “When licked, these toads trigger an intense psychedelic euphoria that is just great,” he says while smiling.⁴⁴ In one episode, Tom reports wistfully on a man known for doing drugs: “In sadder news, the man who held the Guinness World Record for most drugs done by a human being died today.”⁴⁵ This would be a story that most journalists would have no emotional attachment to, but not Tom. Often he is seen consuming alcohol. When the news comes on with the story that there are lucky scrolls (as in *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*) in beer bottles, Tom pulls out a six pack on the air and starts opening and drinking beers.⁴⁶ One time he actually does the news drunk:

Tom: You know what they say, if you don't like the weather in New England, go back where you came from.

Diane: I don't think that's the expression.

Tom: Yeah, I guess I had one too many Bloody Marys this morning.

Tom then proceeds to throw up on his desk and says, "Oh God, I hope the boss isn't watching."⁴⁷

Then there is New Year's Eve. At almost midnight on the eve of the millennium, the news comes on and Diane and Tom are toasting the new year with champagne, but there are four empty bottles in front of them and they look drunk.⁴⁸ In another episode, Tom pulls out a six pack on the air while Diane is speaking and starts opening beers and drinking them on the air. Then he looks at Diane and says, "What? Don't complain; this is actually making you look attractive."

The show is also littered with sexual innuendos and jokes that make Tom and Diane look immature. For example:

Diane: Well Tom, the city of Boston is examining its conscience tonight in preparation for a visit from the Pope.

Tom: I'll tell you what else will be examined—this cock. [He reaches down and holds up a rooster.] The Rhode Island Cock Society will be sponsoring free checkups for this year's Cock

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Awareness Week. I don't know why they went with such a suggestive name; they could have just as easily went with rooster.⁴⁹

In a later episode, they are covering the 83rd annual Quahog Harvest Festival Parade and the following dialogue takes place on the air:

Diane: Tom, are you as excited as I am?

Tom: Are you kidding, Diane? I've got wood [he holds up a clipboard], and attached to this piece of wood...⁵⁰

One time Diane is doing a story on a hurricane, but the audience doesn't know it, and all you hear is, "She has consumed a record amount of seamen." Tom says, "Sounds like some hurricane, Diane!"⁵¹ Another story is about school children washing cars to raise money for charity, and Tom says, "Is there anything more arousing?"⁵² After Peter runs a campaign ad showing a suggestive picture of Lois that she gave him for her anniversary, Tom comes on the news with a graphic saying "erection day" instead of election day.⁵³

Portrayals of Real-life Journalists

Family Guy is unique from a cartoon standpoint because aside from the fictional journalists in the show, it also often parodies real-life journalists. One episode has Dan Rather doing the CBS news with a whistling voice every time he uses the letter S: "Tonight on CBS News seven Saudi soldiers sodomize several of Saddam's southern settlement squadron squatters." And steam comes out of his ear like a tea kettle.⁵⁴ In a later episode, Peter calls Dan Rather an "insane anchorman." Even Hugh Downs makes a comment about Rather. After being

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kidnapped, Downs says, "By the way, Rather is an O.K. guy in small doses."⁵⁵ Other journalists mentioned in the show include Al Roker. Peter brings home a cake with a naked man on it and says, "Trust me, you did not want the one with Al Roker and Hershey Kiss nipples."⁵⁶ The show even talks about Walter Cronkite:

Meg: Thanks to you, I can put on my transcript I am a big fat liar who makes up stories about people.

Peter: Hey, it worked for Walter Cronkite. Remember that whole Vietnam thing? It never happened.⁵⁷

Joan Rivers is also featured a few times. They have her covering the Adult Movie Awards: "I was asked to star in a porno once."⁵⁸ In another episode, Tom announces, "Coming up next, Joan Rivers speaks to us from beyond the grave."⁵⁹ The show makes fun of the always serious CNN anchor Bernard Shaw⁶⁰ and has him anchoring the news from Spring Break: "...leaving thousands injured. For CNN, I'm Bernard Shaw, keepin' it real and kicking ass on Spring Break!" He strips off his dress shirt and pants and jumps into the ocean.⁶¹ And speaking of CNN, the founder himself, Ted Turner, shows up to play cards with Peter and Lois's dad. The show makes him out to be a greedy, money hungry tyrant, saying, "I see your bet and raise you CNN." He then loses and says, "You sold me out ... I could use a man like you. How's one million a year sound? You disgust me, get out of my face." Lois's dad asks Peter how he beat Turner in cards, and Peter says, "I first noticed it when he did that Barbara Walters interview and said he would be with Jane Fonda forever."⁶²

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Family Guy also creates fictional shows involving real journalists. One such show is a parody of "60 Minutes," called "60 Minutes After Dark." The show comes on and features four reporters in bed together: Morley Safer, Mike Wallace, Ed Bradley, and Lesley Stahl. They all say their names and Stahl says, "And one of you is hung like an elf." They all then look at Morley Safer.⁶³ *Family Guy* also created a fictional show for journalists Greg and Bryant Gumble called "Gumble 2 Gumble Beach Justice." On the show, the two play bike cops instead of journalists. But they criticize other journalists on the show:

Greg: You talk to Matt Lauer lately?

Bryant: Yeah, played 18 holes with him on Saturday, told him he was soft on the Arafat interview.

But then Greg throws in "I like men," and Bryant says, "Me too," as if both are gay. After a commercial, it cuts back to Gumble 2 Gumble and they are interviewing a purse snatcher and analyzing the story as they would as journalists: "Purse snatcher: society's problem or one man's cry for help?"⁶⁴

Family Guy also pokes fun at real media companies and organizations like the *New Yorker*. Peter picks up a copy of the magazine and reads the headline, "I would be more apathetic if I weren't so lethargic," and it takes him hours to get the joke. In a later episode, Brian writes an article in the "Daily Shopper" and then receives a call from the *New Yorker* inviting him for a job interview. The man who calls him on the phone is a sophisticated English fellow who says he was "using a Daily Shopper to shoo away a homeless person." All the writers at the *New Yorker* are highbrow people with names like "Livingston Winsterford" and "James William

Bottomtooth.” They offer Brian some tea, brandy and cigars. Brian asks to use the bathroom and it has only sinks and couches. He asks where the toilets are and is told that “no one at the *New Yorker* has an anus.” When Brian reveals he dropped out of Brown, he is told, “Brian, the *New Yorker* does not employ your kind.”⁶⁵

What Happened to Journalistic Integrity and Ethics?

Ethics and integrity from journalists is virtually thrown out the window in *Family Guy*. In one episode Meg is writing an article for her school paper about how the mayor is squandering away taxpayers' money and Peter thinks Meg's story is going to put readers to sleep, so he takes it upon himself to make a better story. He switches Meg's story with one that has a headline that says, “Luke Perry is gay.” Luke Perry sees this as libelous and wants to sue. Brian tells Peter: “You just can't print lies about people,” and Peter says, “So what? A lot of these famous types lead secret lives that we don't even know about.”⁶⁶

The professional journalists in the show like Tom Tucker also lie and misinform the public. When the last scroll for the beer contest is supposedly found, Tom says on the news, “I am sure you are all with me when I say congratulations, you son of a bitch.” Later, Tom comes on the news and admits he “made it up” to try to find the scroll himself. He lied on the news for his own gain.⁶⁷ Often, Tom does not pay attention to the news that is being read. While Diane Simmons talks about a tragic accident with a family of four that died in a car crash, Tom laughs. When Diane looks at him, he says, “I remembered I accidentally put my shirt on inside out. So what were you saying about, uh. uh, a fashion show?”⁶⁸ Or he will say something inappropriate, such as at the Special People's Games:

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Tom: Today we'll see some of Quahog's finest athletes struggle valiantly against God's twisted designs. You'll cheer, you'll cry, you might even get a cheap laugh or two.

Diane: I know I will, Tom. In fact, there is the distinct possibility by the end of the day we will all be going to hell.

Tom: I will see you there, Diane.⁶⁹

But while he may not care about the news he is covering, Tom certainly cares about ratings. According to Leonard Downie, Jr. and Robert Kaiser in their book *The News About the News*, local news stations suffer severely from a preoccupation with ratings and profits.⁷⁰ Tom certainly reflects this image. In one episode when a boy is suicidal and threatening to jump off a building, Tom tells the cameraman to cue up cartoon-like sound effects for when he jumps. Meg tells him that all he cares about is "your stupid ratings," and when the boy jumps, Tom says, "Good stuff, good stuff."⁷¹

Tom even fabricates news interviews. In an interview supposedly with the actor Dustin Hoffman, Tom uses lines from film clips of old movies like *The Graduate* and *Hook* as responses.⁷² When there is a scandal at the Griffin house in the episode in which Peter has declared his own country and is in a standoff with the U.S. military, Tom is on the scene like a good journalist during breaking news. But when Diane goes live to Tom, he talks about it as though there is an actual war going on, and when he thinks the camera is off, he pops a bunch of bubble wrap to make it sound like gunfire and missiles.

Making up the news seems to be something that is promoted at Quahog Channel 5 news. Tricia Takanawa is on the scene after a bar burns down and says, "Is Quahog in the grip of a serial arsonist? Police say no, but our producers say yes." Then the news shows an artist's depiction of what the suspect might look like: a giant bug breathing fire.⁷³

Often the journalists put themselves in the story. There is nothing wrong with a reporter placing him- or herself in the story, as long as it adds relevance to the piece without taking away from it. But reporters like Tricia Takanawa often become the story. When Peter claims that he is immortal, Tricia pulls out a "Channel 5" pistol and shoots Peter in the head to see if it is true that he can't die. When a candidate drops out of the race for the school board, Tricia is live with the candidate in the bathroom, where her underwear hangs by her ankles while she is on the toilet.⁷⁴

Sensationalism

Often the news in *Family Guy* is sensationalized, and over-the-top headlines and stories flood the news. For example, Tom reads one story as "teacher caught molesting children ... [long pause] ... with crackpot theories."⁷⁵ He talks about a failed robbery, but the background screen reads, "Pit Bull Attacks Single Engine Cessna."⁷⁶ Or he promotes upcoming stories with, "Coming up next, can bees think?"⁷⁷ or, "A pig who refuses to eat Jews!"⁷⁸ "Top stories" are like the following: "Beloved entertainer Bob Hope briefly came back to life today, only to die in a tragic motorcycle accident."⁷⁹ Or: "President Bush stuck his finger in an electrical socket. . . . Bush [said], 'That's where Dick Cheney told me the Leprechauns hide their gold.'"⁸⁰ Even the Quahog newspaper, the Quahog Informant, uses tabloid-like headlines such as "Scientists mystified by paper rain."⁸¹

Positive Portrayals of Journalists?

For all the negatives, the show does have extremely rare positive portrayals of journalists. Peter tries to fake being handicapped by getting Tom Tucker to play a made-up video of him getting hit by a car. To Tom's credit, he says they can't possibly run it because "it didn't happen." He said it was obvious that the video tape showed that a scarecrow and not Peter was hit by the car.⁸² The Luke Perry episode also carried with it a positive message because it showed newspapers can't get away with making up stories.

Conclusion

Funny, entertaining, original and clever all describe the show *Family Guy*. Being a cartoon, the point is to make the viewer laugh. Unfortunately, we the audience do not get a positive impression of the journalist. It is apparent that the show, while extremely humorous, mostly portrays journalists in a negative light. Sensationalism runs rampant in Quahog news, whether in print or broadcast form; real-life reporters are the butt of many of the show's jokes; and many racial stereotypes are projected by the show's journalists.

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Books

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Episodes

Season 1

Episode 1: Death Has a Shadow

Episode 2: I Never Met the Dead

Episode 3: Chitty Chitty Death Bang

Episode 4: Mind over Murder

Episode 5: A Hero Lives Next Door

Episode 6: A Son Also Draws

Episode 7: Portrait of a Dog

Season 2

Episode 8: Peter, Peter Caviar Eater

Episode 9: Holy Crap

Episode 10: Da Boom

Episode 11: Brian in Love

Episode 12: Love Thy Trophy

Episode 13: Death Is a Bitch

Episode 14: The King is Dead

Episode 15: I Am Peter, Hear Me Roar

Episode 16: If I'm Dyin', I'm Lyin

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Episode 17: Running Mates

Episode 18: A Picture is Worth 1000 Bucks

Episode 19: Fifteen Minutes of Shame

Episode 20: Road to Rhode Island

Episode 21: Let's Go to the Hop

Episode 22: Dammit, Janet

Episode 23: There's Something About Paulie

Episode 24: He's Too Sexy For His Fat

Episode 25: E. Peterbus Enum

Episode 26: The Story on Page One

Episode 27: Wasted Talent

Episode 28: Forefather

Season 3

Episode 29: The Thin White Line

Episode 30: Brian Does Hollywood

Episode 31: Mr. Griffin Goes to Washington

Episode 32: One If by Clam, Two If by Sea

Episode 33: And the Weiner is ...

Episode 34: Death Lives

Episode 35: Lethal Weapons

Episode 36: The Kiss Seen Round the World

Episode 37: Mr. Saturday Knight

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Episode 38: Fish out of Water

Episode 39: Emission Impossible

Episode 40: To Love and Die in Dixie

Episode 41: Screwed the Pooch

Episode 42: Peter Griffin: Husband, Father, ... Brother?

Episode 43: Ready, Willing, and Disabled

Episode 44: A Special Family Guy Freakin' Christmas

Episode 45: Brian Wallows and Peter Swallows

Episode 46: From Method to Madness

Episode 47: Stuck Together, Torn Apart

Episode 48: Road to Europe

Episode 49: Viewer Mail #1

Episode 50: When You Wish upon a Wienstein

Season 4

Episode 51: North by North Quahog

Episode 52: Fast Times at Buddy Cianci Jr. High

Episode 53: Blind Ambition

Episode 54: Don't Make Me Over

Episode 55: The Cleveland-Loretta Quagmire

Episode 56: Petarded

Episode 57: Brian the Bachelor

Episode 58: 8 Simple Rules for Buying My Teenage Daughter

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Episode 59: Breaking Out is Hard to Do

Episode 60: Model Misbehavior

Episode 61: Peter's Got Woods

Episode 62: Perfect Castaway

Episode 63: Jungle Love

Episode 64: PTV

Episode 65: Brian Goes Back to College

Episode 66: The Courtship of Stewie's Father

Episode 67: Fat Guy Strangler

Episode 68: The Father, the Son, the Holy Fonz

Episode 69: Brian Sings and Swings

Episode 70: Patriot Games

Movies

Family Guy Movie: Stewie Griffin, the Untold Story

¹ USA TODAY March 11, 2005 issue. Writer Ann Oldenburg

² ibid

³ ibid

⁴ Episode 51

⁵ Episode 51

⁶ Episode 14

⁷ Hal Fishman, a 45-year news veteran, first joined KTLA/WB in 1965, and has anchored the station's #1-rated "KTLA Prime News" continuously since 1975, bringing the show to prime time dominance and making it competitive with network affiliate late newscasts.

⁸ Episode 7

⁹ Episode 16

¹⁰ Episode 36

¹¹ Episode 22

¹² Episode 52

¹³ Episode 14

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- ¹⁴ Episode 7
- ¹⁵ Episode 49
- ¹⁶ Episode 13
- ¹⁷ Episode 59
- ¹⁸ Episode 14
- ¹⁹ Episode 37
- ²⁰ Episode 31
- ²¹ Episode 68
- ²² Interview with U.S. News and Weekly Report
- ²³ Episode 17, also from the official Family Guy web site
- ²⁴ Episode 10
- ²⁵ Episode 51
- ²⁶ Episode 25
- ²⁷ Episode 32
- ²⁸ Al Roker has been the weather and feature reporter on NBC News' Today since January 1996. Until January of 2000, Roker also served as the weekday weather forecaster for News Channel 4's early evening newscast Live at 5 on WNBC-TV, NBC's flagship owned and operated station in New York City.
- ²⁹ Episode 37 DVD commentary
- ³⁰ Episode 37
- ³¹ Episode 51
- ³² Episode 61
- ³³ Episode 66
- ³⁴ Episode 2
- ³⁵ Episode 14
- ³⁶ Episode 14
- ³⁷ Episode 2
- ³⁸ Episode 37
- ³⁹ Episode 41
- ⁴⁰ Episode 56
- ⁴¹ Episode 43
- ⁴² Episode 11
- ⁴³ Episode 11
- ⁴⁴ Episode 21
- ⁴⁵ Episode 53
- ⁴⁶ Episode 27
- ⁴⁷ Episode 7
- ⁴⁸ Episode 10
- ⁴⁹ Episode 9
- ⁵⁰ Episode 12
- ⁵¹ Episode 38
- ⁵² Episode 36
- ⁵³ Episode 17
- ⁵⁴ Episode 16
- ⁵⁵ Episode 36
- ⁵⁶ Episode 3
- ⁵⁷ Episode 26
- ⁵⁸ Episode 30

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⁵⁹ Episode 54

⁶⁰ Bernard Shaw, the now-retired anchor who has been the face of countless major stories throughout the cable network's 20-year history.

⁶¹ Episode 38

⁶² Episode 41

⁶³ Episode 13

⁶⁴ Episode 16

⁶⁵ Episode 65

⁶⁶ Episode 26

⁶⁷ Episode 27

⁶⁸ Episode 34

⁶⁹ Episode 43

⁷⁰ Downie & Kaiser, pg. 159

⁷¹ Episode 36

⁷² Episode 36

⁷³ Episode 32

⁷⁴ Episode 17

⁷⁵ Episode 36

⁷⁶ Episode 5

⁷⁷ Episode 49

⁷⁸ Episode 61

⁷⁹ Episode 64

⁸⁰ Episode 36

⁸¹ Episode 29

⁸² Episode 43