Bet You Missed It-What do ABC, CBS, and New York have in Common?

Bruce Strauch
The Citadel, strauchb@citadel.edu
Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Column Editor: Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Editor’s Note: Hey, are you all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to Against the Grain’s attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We’re listening! — KS

BIG BROTHER’S WATCHING AND HE FEELS VIOLATED
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

ABC is about to air the reality show “Life in a Glass House,” which CBS says is a total rip-off of “Big Brother” including “plot, themes, mood, setting, pace, characters, and sequence of events.” And CBS is suing.

But isn’t taking cues from previous shows what everyone does? Is there much difference between “American Idol” and “The Voice”? As we lose what we have known to what rising generations will never come to know, we have to weigh that loss. Is the substitution better for everyone? When books were scarce a thousand years ago, those who had them knew them by heart, literally. Today, books are everywhere, but reading skills decline and illiteracy abounds. We know that young people cannot read on screens as well as they read in print. We also know that while Google may not be making us stupid (http://bit.ly/cXNeCU), it isn’t exactly increasing our collective intelligence either. Are these things—declining reading skills, weakening concentration, digital distractions—merely phenomena of change and transition, or are they indicative of something more sinister about the digital environment? We don’t know now, but we are going to find out, for better or for worse. Is a good idea to cast off the last life preserver, the last life boat for something we are sure is — must be — invincible? For those too young to remember, the last time we did that had a rather titanic and terrifying outcome.

Will the Internet successfully replace libraries? Not yet, but eventually.

Meanwhile we rush headlong to replace what has worked wonderfully well for millennia for what has yet to work as we had hoped for even half a decade.

Frankly, I’m perfectly willing for the two to exist side-by-side until we know for certain what future we really want, and the one we must have to vouchsafe our intellectual and cultural futures.

To order the “10 Reasons” poster see http://bit.ly/dnSpkS for more information.

NYC UNDERBELLY
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Five book picks if you’re into old-time gangs of New York:


An added twist has 19 former staff including producers of “Big Brother” working on “Glass House.” And there seems to be nondisclosure agreements involved.


Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

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