

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

HOME NEWS

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## He'd Rather Switch

To the Editor:

Your recent decision to censor William F. Buckley Jr.'s column "On the Right" as a result of National Review's secret paper "hoax" was extremely disconcerting. You regarded the episode as "irresponsible journalism of the worst sort. . . plain unadulterated lying, which is inexcusable." A superficial and myopic evaluation of Buckley's actions could easily lead one to your conclusion. But I ask now that readers not be deluded by The Home News' rather categorical condemnation of Buckley, and try to understand the intent and meaning of his actions. Buckley stated that National Review proceeded "in somewhat of an ethical vacuum," but that the "higher purposes" which they served more than justified their publication. Some of the higher purposes referred to are:

That fictitious secret documents à la New York Times would be accepted as authentic "provided their content was inherently plausible."

That the CIA and Pentagon are not composed of bumbling idiots as The New York Times is strenuously trying to prove.

To place into proper perspective the stolen secret documents so pompously exhibited by Mr. Sulzberger of The New York Times.

I cannot in one short letter aspire to vindicate Buckley from those who are predisposed to condemn him. Only history can do that. In the meantime, however, my dilemma is how do I read my favorite columnist when the paper I subscribe to is sufficiently outraged to censor him. The answer is really quite simple, switch over to a newspaper which publishes the column. As I have been becoming increasingly discontented with the quality of The Home News editorial page, the decision to censor Buckley was the straw that broke the camel's back.

In sum, your decision to delete "On the Right" in future papers was as poor as the rest of your editorial page, and as a former Home News reader, I urge all others concerned about this blunder to wake up out of the lethargy of day-to-day life (just this one time) and fight back.

ROBERT C. WINDER,  
Edison