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Here's what readers are saying they want

Regina Brett Plain Dealer Columnist

I asked what you wanted in The Plain Dealer and you spoke so loudly I can't hear out of my right ear. More than 500 readers have responded so far. The most common complaint? The paper leans left. To tip the balance, let's hear from those on the right:

"This newspaper needs to be more balanced. Bring more conservative writers to balance out the ideas of the liberals."

"Stop hiring bleeding-heart, liberal journalists who want to create social change through everything they write. They don't belong in journalism, they belong in politics."

I hate to admit it, but if I had a dollar for every conservative in the newsroom, I could buy lunch, but not dinner.

What do conservative readers want? To start with, fewer stories from the New York Times.

"The PD has become a reprint of what some call the 'drive-by media.' N.Y. Times, L.A. Times, Boston Globe, etc. If you MUST use their stories, why not edit them by taking out the spin and liberal mind-control language?"

"It's liberal baloney. If I wanted to get the New York Times, I would subscribe to it."

"Stop running New York Times stories. I don't believe anything they write."

Readers want better coverage on the war:

"I have a son in Iraq. There's no coverage on our local boys. . . . A president is called names during war?"

"There must be something good our soldiers are doing in the war. Balance the constant anti-war rhetoric with something positive."

Readers want the middle covered, too.

"Whatever is published should be fair to represent all of the 300,000-plus readers you claim or else we will soon be reading all of our news on the Internet."

"Find out what the people really want, all people, not just liberals. I would subscribe in a heartbeat if The PD would be smack in the middle of everything . . . where the people are."

They want a balanced editorial page:

"How about placing an occasional Ann Coulter piece there?"

"Kevin O'Brien is our only ray of sunshine."

"If you're going to have opinions, balance them with opposing views [like USA Today]."

They dissed Dowd:

"Dump Maureen Dowd and her conservative counterparts. They think they are intellectuals but are just plain snotty."

"Replace the cutesy sniping of Maureen Dowd with someone who's more closely attuned to our Midwestern sensibilities. Red or blue, that constant carping offers nothing constructive."

They want balance:

"Even as a moderate, I see political leanings in every article. They're almost always to the left. The PD really has no business polling local people about their choice for an upcoming election and then all but calling it in favor of the Democrats in bold headlines on the front page."

"Whenever a person has more than one firearm, it is called an arsenal. I would like to see a list of every person who

receives welfare as the paper does with concealed-carry permit holders."

"It is distressing to find all bad things about Republicans trumpeted on the first page and anything remotely good buried in the middle. We conservatives pay just as much money for this paper as do the liberals."

In short, they want the same thing liberals want:

"The truth. Not my truth, your truth, or someone else's truth."

"Print the truth instead of making it up."

Stay tuned for more columns about what readers want.

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