

Corrections and Clarifications

Anita Di Bianco 2001

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Corrections and Clarifications is an ongoing publication, an edited compilation of daily revisions, retractions, rewordings, distinctions and apologies to print news from September 2001 to the present. A reverse-chronological catalog of lapses in naming and classification, of tangled catchphrases, patterns of mis-speech and inflection, connotation and enumeration.

With purely editorial credit to those who have provided the material for this publication by having seen fit to correct themselves, or having seen themselves fit to correct others; who have sought in some public way to offer apologies or clarifications—to redeem, reveal, revise, retract, or shift, to simultaneously claim, deny, and reattribute blame and responsibility. Credit is due for these well-documented efforts to apologize for what is being done and for what has already been done, for continuing attempts to un-say what is said, un-mean what is meant.

Credit at a variety of levels to those seekers, processors, middle managers, and ultimate regulator of public informa-

tion who take it upon themselves (or impose it upon others) to rename, reclassify, disguise, defuse or be debriefed; who find clever metaphors to obfuscate, euphemize and mystify; who disseminate information according to political structures coincident with particular economic interests, who consent to use language to dismiss, excuse, cushion, cover and obscure the consequences of actions and the submerged structures behind events. And ultimately who, regardless of stated intentions, occasionally reveal something, piece by piece through slips in language and naming systems.

This is a newspaper without headlines, allowing such doubletalk to talk to itself. Perhaps what is conveyed unintentionally, and by repetitious mistakes, is more revealing, more historically identifiable, and substantially less conciliatory than it is meant to be. This is both fortunate and inevitable.

With further acknowledgment to readers who regard these revisions, regrets, and retractions with the same skepticism they have the originals.