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FEATURES

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Ken White, critic at large, puts anchors to the test

By Richard Crow YELLIN' REBEL

Ken White, media critic for the Review Journal, is a man on a mis- They want you to tune in because from anyone I've written about...I sion, which is to watch and then you like them ... they go for the fun judge the local media celebrities and tell them just how fallible they are.

Wearing a sly grin all the "They really while, armed with his trusty VCR, do not know he records each week's newscasts where they and then watches seven to eight are at," he hours of video tape to get enough said. material for one weekly column about each station's attempt to give best anchors, Las Vegas the news.

Basically, what he does is view Gary Waddell each news program as an entertain- and ment program because that is es- Ruth sentially what they are.

He said, "Just like the newspaper is interested in circulation, they [television stations] are interested in ratings."

"My basic angle when looking at a news program is how well they though they perform and do they goof up," White said, "I don't follow a lot of up once in a the critics who believe it isn't news while. at the same time, but there is a big dose of entertainment also."

One thing that he sees wrong Courvoisier is with all the local news shows is also they all have the same format: man/ good woman anchor with the blow-dried without him look, a silly weatherman, and an Channel 3's overexcited sportscaster.

If he had his way with a news-cast he would get rid of the weathrman and not use as much video of car accidents, fires, and the like, because when they cover these they do not cover other events that affect people.

depth would certainly help."

Channel 8 has the best news because they put a lot of effort and resource into their program and they tend to cover major stories very well, White concluded.

As for the worst, he said Chan-

nel 3 is not very good.

a newscast should be. They pre- sense of humor. tend to be the friendly newscast. stuff to much."

Channel 13 just has a problem with identity.

As for the thinks he Mary Carlton are pretty good because they come across very straightforward, aldo tend to trip

He added that Dave pretty and ratings would probably drop tremendously.

Overall,

Ken White is

a man who about what he wants; however his White stated, "A little more editor does suggest things now and then and is squeamish about using four-letter words.

> had in journalism where I can write in school. the way I want to and approach with a grin.

He stressed that when he criti- think his column is so funny. "They don't fit my idea of what cizes the news it is done with a

> "I never set out to draw blood always has to be critical. don't take myself that serious," adversarial point of view and White said.

FIGHTING FOR GOOD MEDIA

To some, he conceded, his due.

Courvoisier, news anchor, said he wonders why White thinks he

doesn't give credit where credit is minority," Britton concluded.

the earthquake and then UNLV. coverage, but in last Tuesday's edition all White his own. did was critize us," he said.

concluded, "I has done his homework ... his opinions are just one man's opin-

was not as nice. "He has no

face for print media," he said.

White is not is. He said the only thing White has done to him (Britton) is bring him more attention. "He won't even be a footnote

He said that White keeps a very in my career. Hes's not too bright and his opinions aren't even in the

White, 32, was born and raised "Channel 3 in Kansas City, Kansas. He came kicked ass on to Las Vegas 16 years ago in 1972. Channel 8 during He attended Western High School

> He said his education was most informal studying and reading on

He is engaged to be married in December to Kernie Robinson, Courvoisier whom he met in a film production.

White started his journalism don't think he career with the old Valley Times newspaper in 1978 as a movie critic but quickly moved up to assistant sports editor and then sports editor.

After the closing of the Valley ions and they are Times in 1984, he moved to the Henderson paper for a year and a half as a photographer and part-Rich Brit- time sportswriter and then joined ton, Channel 3 Bob Stupak at the newly formed weatherman, Bullet newspaper which he said, "was kind of crazy."

Despite the atmosphere or t a 1 e n t maybe because of it, White said he whatsoever...he's liked it there because of the freejust jealous be- dom he had in writing his own colcause he's not in umn. The Bullet went through sevthe electronic eral editors in the eight months he media and he was there. One of them was Mark definitely has the Shipper, to whom he gives credit for the idea of the local media critic

Some writers at the Bullet did "I just don't not like the idea, but White and think you have to Shipper did, and the media critic was

Soon after, the RJ picked up Britton wonders where White on his media columns and asked if

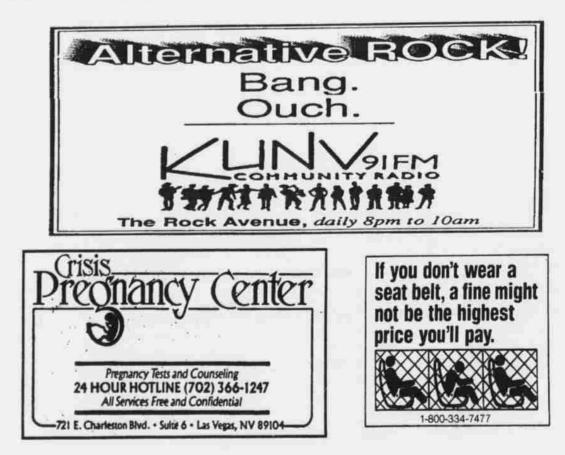
> He said that his qualifications for the job include 11 years in journalism and a built-in flak detector, something every critic should have.



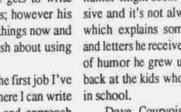
which explains some of the calls and letters he receives. It's the kind gets his motivation. He doesn't he would like his own column with of humor he grew up using to get think White is motivated by his own them. He accepted their offer. "This is really the first job I've back at the kids who bothered him Dave Courvoisier and Rich things the way I want to," he said Britton of Channel 3 news are a sense of humor too, but Las Vegas

interest and wonders where he gets

Britton also says he has a good good example of those who don't could use a legitimate critic and



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not very educated opinions."

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