

# Eulogy to the NewStandard

Daniel Mathews

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*To the NewStandard, <http://newstandardnews.net/>:*

It's extremely sad to hear that you are shutting down. It came as quite a shock. It distresses me deeply.

I appreciated the service you all provided — so much so, I was coming to trust it and rely on it quite unlike any other hard news source. I found it relieved me of much of the burden of sifting through corporate media reports in order to figure out what is really going on in the US and the world. From your own journalism on important issues, to your filtering and skewering of corporate media coverage, I found the NewStandard an extremely valuable resource — possibly the most valuable resource for hard US-based news coverage. Nobody else would do it — but you did. Your determination in picking up the remains of honourable journalism, and tenacity in carrying it through under devastatingly adverse conditions, has been inspirational. Your commitment to principle and truth, even more so.

But this is not merely extremely sad news. It is doubly sad again to hear of the demise of a workplace based on participatory, classless, cooperative, democratic, equitable principles. Of course, while your workplace (as far as I understand) operated equitably, in the social context it was not equitable at all — it seems you all worked extremely hard and tirelessly for little material reward. Were income anything just, you would all be rich.

Ours is a system in which the search for truth is squeezed out of existence. Ours is a system in which the values of truth, equality, and solidarity are every day ruthlessly cut down. Ours is a system in which turning to better principles than greed, destructive competition and exploitation leads us not to glory, but to suffering, poverty, ridicule, demoralisation and marginalisation. Seeds of a new world are nipped in the bud; potential examples of a better way of working and living die under the pressure of market forces. Ideals are slaughtered; inspiration is massacred; commitment and courage are written out of history.

It seems that now I may have to go back to reading corporate media news on my own account, which of course is a lot more effort.

These are dark times; you have all provided a small beacon of truth, and an inspirational example. The human spirit, however, will press on regardless

indomitable, passionate, wild and free. Yet another defeat — but history is full of defeats. The world is still there to win.

Solidarity,

Daniel Mathews