

NO NEWS IS BAD NEWS

I'm going to be a panelist on a conference in Boston a week from tomorrow (Saturday). The conference is:

No News Is Bad News

A free and independent press is essential for democracy. The press has a responsibility to inform citizens about both the policies and the actions of the government and about credible challenges to those policies and actions, to report on conditions that may require new or different government initiatives, and to raise timely questions itself about debatable policies and the rationales presented for them.

With the recent controversies over the failure of the press to fully live up to its responsibilities in the runup to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the role of the media in the outing of a covert CIA agent, the rise of the blogosphere and so-called citizen journalism, and the impact of increasing financial pressures on newspapers and magazines, public confidence in the mainstream media is at an all-time low. What are the implications of this for our democracy? How might our faith in the press be restored?

The rest of the panelists (aside from Andy Sullivan) are journalists—many of the good ones, people like John Carroll. My panel—Political Reporting—had a conference call today which got me really excited about the conference. It should be worth attending.

There is (free) registration, and I understand the room is filling up. So if you're interested, register now!

Afterwards, phred and Scarecrow and I and

hopefully some other folks from these parts will be heading out for drinks, probably to An Tua Nua. I'll post another thread closer to the event, but if you might show, leave a comment.