

# **The New York Mets and All in the Family**

**by Phillip W. Weiss**

**The New York Mets won their last two games, yet WFAN is still complaining about the Mets. This does not surprise me. This is exactly how Fake News operates. Fake News will create controversy where none exists, will do anything to incite the public, even to the point of fabricating a story. The Mets had a rough June. They lost a lot of games. In response, WFAN began to mercilessly bash the Mets, going so far as to declare the season already over, with three months to go in the season. The last thing WFAN wants is for the Mets to start winning. That would put a dent in their efforts to continue whipping up controversy, which fuels the story.**

**Please understand that WFAN's denigration of the Mets is part of a broader attack on the white-dominated and controlled capitalist system. WFAN's complaint is that the Mets are ripping off their fan base by charging top dollar for a mediocre ball club. People are paying immense sums of money to watch a mediocre team that they were told would be a winning team. Implicit in this attack is the theme that all the Mets and their players are interested in is making money and that they couldn't care less about the fans, who are gullible suckers.**

**So, instead of expressing joy that the Mets won their last two games, by scores of 6 to 1 and 8 to 4 against the San Francisco Giants, WFAN is dismissing these victories as aberrations which prove nothing. In fact, the more the Mets win, the more WFAN will bash the Mets. WFAN's fundamental complaint is that**

the players and management just don't care about anyone except themselves. The players are just a bunch of spoiled prima donnas who fake injuries and just want to collect money. This comes down to a question of personal integrity. I mention WFAN because I have listened to that station and have called them many times to share my comments. However, WFAN is representative of the Fake News media in general. Fake News will do anything to create a story.

In the case of the Mets, for WFAN, winning is not the story. LOSING IS THE STORY. WFAN has a vested interest to continuing to promote the image of the Mets as just another craven capitalist organization that is passing off a mediocre product at the highest possible price to the consumer, which in this case are the fans who root for the Mets. However, this formula applies to every major league team in every major league sport. I am not a Mets fan. However, I follow the Mets and have attended eight games this year at Citifield. I have seen no evidence that the players on the Mets or their opponents are not putting forth their best efforts. The players want to win. They want to be successful. They are not just going through the motions and playing out the clock. This comment is based upon my DIRECT OBSERVATION of the players on the field.

For ultimately, it is the players who bear the responsibility for what happens on the field and for the quality of their play. Management provides the players with the tools, but it is solely on the players to perform. That is, the owners provide the means of production, which in the case of baseball is the ballpark and equipment, which allows the players to entertain the public by

playing a game called baseball. The same formula applies to football, basketball, hockey, and any other sports that people are willing to pay to watch.

Basically, attending a professional sports event is a waste of time. The spectator does nothing but watch other people play games, for a price. Those who play get paid for their services, which is the crux of the problem. This makes the players vulnerable to attacks on their personal integrity, especially if they lose. Then the players won't hear the end of it. The attacks become relentless, and soon the players are being mercilessly hounded, even if they start winning. Please understand that I am not empathizing with the players. They should know what they are in for the moment they accept even a penny to play. They should understand the commercial nature of their sport and their role as the provider of a service, which in this case is entertainment. The players are entertainers playing in front of paying customers who want to be entertained. What a world.

I watched four episodes of *All in the Family* with Carroll O'Connor and Jean Stapleton. These shows were made forty-nine years ago but withstand the test of time. They show Archie and Edith in all kinds of crises, trying to cope with their uncertainties and insecurities caused by changing conditions beyond their ability to control. Archie hates change because change challenges the validity of all his values. This makes Archie angry and defensive and Edith flighty and nervous. Commentators tend to focus their attention on Archie, but to me the main character is Edith, who struggles to try to muddle through while Archie hollers and rages. Edith doesn't like what is going on either, but she tries to adapt as best she can while Archie can only bluster and call people names.

When Archie was growing up, society seemed stable. People knew their roles in life, and you had a sense of security. Now, he and Edith are middle-aged, and social conditions are changing, and THEY DON'T LIKE IT. Blacks are now equal to whites, able-bodied adults don't work, the currency is de-valued, the country is attacked, and everything is more expensive. Archie and Edith are just getting by. Archie is a blue-collar worker with little formal education and Edith is a housewife who is totally devoted to Archie and shares his fundamental values. Archie and Edith have little joy in their lives. They are just trying to survive. They have a daughter Gloria who is somewhat rebellious and a son-in-law Mike who is a symbol of everything Archie hates, which is a running joke in the show.

Now, Gloria physically is very attractive and intellectually very smart. Archie cannot understand what she sees in Mike, who to Archie is a bum (which Mike isn't). Obviously, Archie was hoping that Gloria would do better than Mike. However, Edith accepts Mike without complaint. She is glad that Gloria found a husband.

As far as Archie is concerned, Mike is nothing but a moocher who is taking advantage of Archie's generosity. That Mike is attending school and is totally devoted to Gloria makes no difference to Archie. To Archie, Mike is getting free food and free sex at Archie's expense. Yet, Archie lets Mike stay in the home, which shows that despite all his bluster, he is willing to put up with Mike to keep Gloria in the home. All in the Family is a great show.