

1 OCTOBER 1970

content

for Canadian Journalists



Senator Davey:

AN INTERVIEW
BEFORE THE REPORT

SARAH RIDDELL ON
SPIRO AGNEW:

a lesson in intimidation

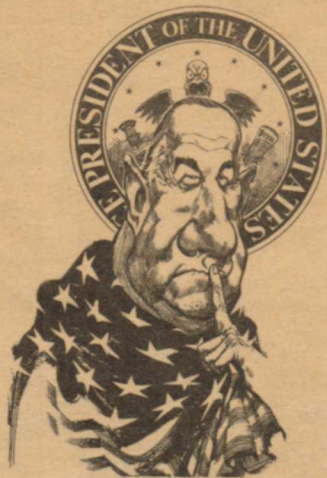


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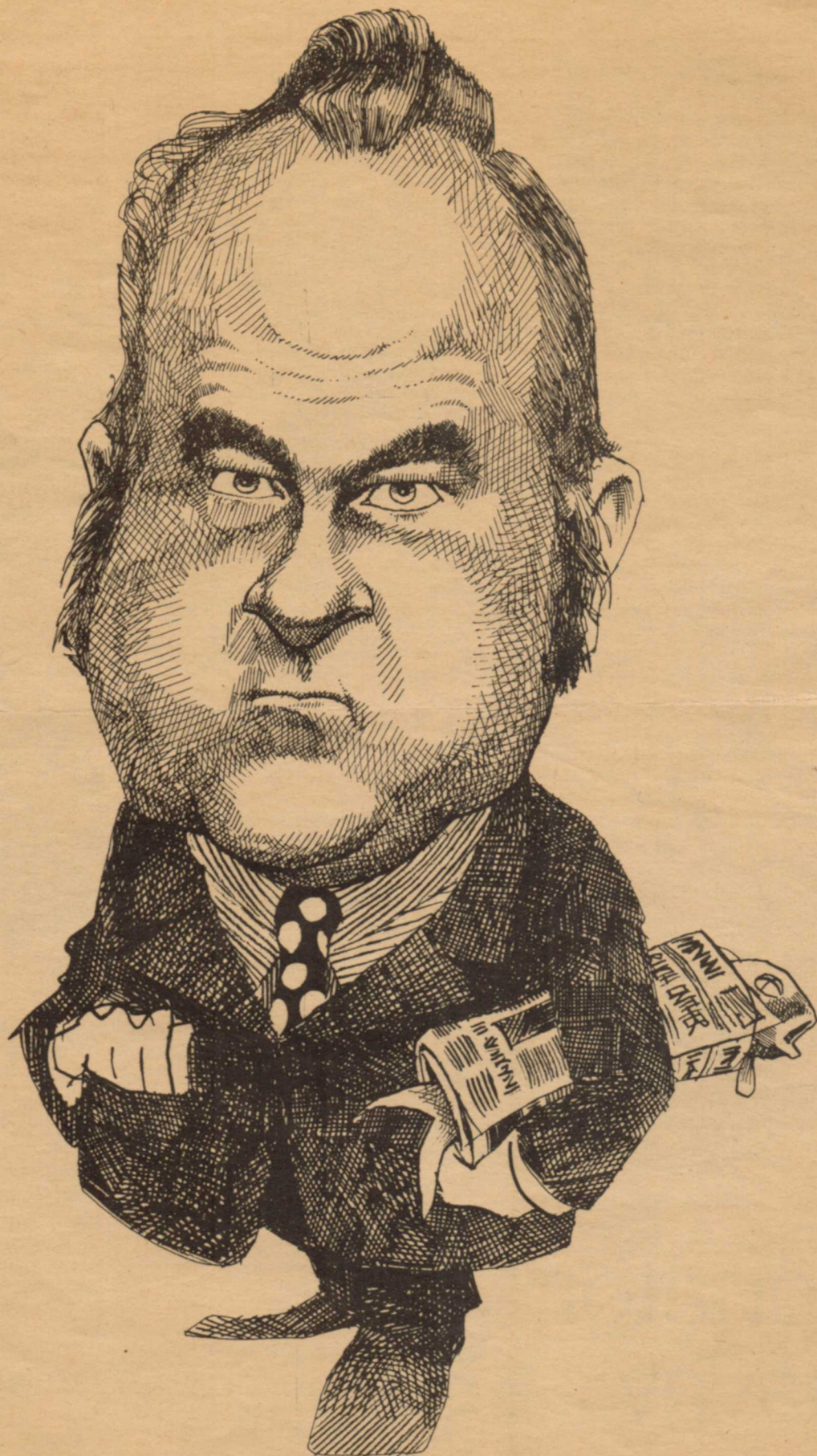
PIERRE JUNEAU ON
PIERRE JUNEAU:

Czar or Star

in broadcasting

SPECIAL REPORT:

**here a cliché
there a cliché**



AISLIN '70

Aislin is a Montreal cartoonist whose work appears regularly in the Montreal Star, Maclean's magazine and Le Magazin Maclean.

KEITH DAVEY : after the hearings, before the report

Interviewed by
Dick MacDonald and
Harry Thomas

Senator Keith Davey says he is "not by instinct or nature a guy who deals easily with inhibitions." *Content*, in the following interview, raises questions which will be considered fully in the report of the Senate Inquiry into the Mass Media. Although the imminent publication date of the report made it impossible for the senator to reply in his accustomed forthright fashion, his answers indicate that his committee has a good grasp of the issues facing the media and that the report will certainly contain some straight-from-the-shoulder explanations of what's wrong and what's right with the media in Canada. THE EDITORS

CONTENT: When the committee was established last year, there appeared to be fear and trepidation on the part of some people in the media. If anything, many of the publishers dismissed the committee as so much nonsense. Would you elaborate on the attitude the Senators themselves now have about the inquiry and also on how you sense the media has responded to it?

DAVEY: When the idea of the committee was first discussed, the reaction of the publishers, by and large, was either to scoff and ridicule or to be downright annoyed, even to regard it as an invasion of a free press. In retrospect I really have learned a great deal during the hearings of things which I guess I should have known. Let me give you a case in point. The Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association, we thought, was a logical starting place and so we asked the CDNPA to present the first brief to the hearing. That was really a silly thing to do because the CDNPA is nothing more than a commercial sales organization. So it was that when the CDNPA came before us, much of its presentation consisted of the president, Ralph Costello, reading us a lecture on press freedom and government encroachment thereupon and let the Senate beware lest it trample on the freedom of the press. Then the next day the daily newspapers across the country headlined "CDNPA Warns Senate of Encroachment on Press Freedom."

Well, that really wasn't what the Senators took out of that particular day. All of us really are far removed from encroachment upon a free press, and certainly didn't need that precious little lecture from the CDNPA. Indeed, the real news out of that session to the members of the committee, and certainly to myself, was that none of those people is concerned about standards or ethics in journalism. Those guys are interested in one thing only — advertising.

However, I have said many times that I think we will have to stay with the profit motive in journalism and if so, then somebody has got to sell advertising and the CDNPA recently has done an effective job. I gather, in soliciting national advertising for newspapers.

Then as the hearings proceeded, the pub-

lishers began to take us more and more seriously. I will always be grateful to certain people who came before the committee early on, who helped to establish its credibility. When it was apparent to the publishers across the country that people like Beland Honderich, like John Bassett, like Claude Ryan were taking the committee seriously, our credibility began to build rapidly. Also, when it became apparent that it wasn't a witchhunt or an inquisition — as had been suggested — but that it really was a thoughtful attempt to consider the role and function, purpose and scope of media, we had made the grade.

Now, all of a sudden, at about this time, another problem presented itself from the opposite direction. I began to get letters from

the New Left saying the thing is a *cop out* . . . "that you are just a front-man for the publishers . . . that we should have known better than to think this is going to be anything more than just one part of the establishment preparing a report card on another part of the establishment. Maybe you will gently tap one or two wrists, but over all you will report the media is in fine shape." Right now, however, as we are writing the report, I believe most publishers are going to be interested in what it says. I don't think they will be looking at it for laughs.

CONTENT: Did the Canadian public, as apart from publishers and the working press, show any interest in the hearings of the com-

THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Senator Keith Davey thinks of himself as a dedicated public servant. He has put together a good track record as a consistent and conspicuous champion of the little man and of causes in the interest of the Canadian people. In this regard, he has earned points from a variety of performances — as national Liberal Party organizer, as one of Prime Minister Pearson's closest advisors, as the 53-day commissioner of the Canadian Football League and currently as chairman of the special Senate committee on mass media.

Although he probably has little fondness for his memories, perhaps nothing better characterizes the Davey approach than his head-knocking bout with the team owners of the CFL. He accepted the football czar job because, in his own words, he was a "sports nut" and because he felt the fans deserved a fairer shake.

Even as commissioner-elect, Senator Davey was leading with his chin. Sports-writers loved him for his off-the-cuff comments about the way the league was being operated and, what's more, he had plenty of ideas for making improvements. He freely discussed with the press, radio and television — and anyone else who cared to listen — such long-standing fan gripes as scheduling, TV coverage, league expansion, over-stress on defensive play and the organization of the Grey Cup festivities. It quickly became evident that Senator Davey had little reverence for sacred cows, particularly within the closed shop of Canadian professional sports.

For the team owners, he was poison. He was behaving so naively as to take seriously the terms of reference outlined to him. How dare this upstart question the neat family compact which had been so carefully nurtured by his predecessors! So, exactly 53 days after accepting the appointment as foot-

ball commissioner, Senator Davey tendered his resignation. The owners had failed to give him a vote of confidence at a Montreal meeting. The nation's football fans were the big losers in the charade.

The editorial columns of *The Montreal Star* noted the passing of the senator's brief but turbulent football career with a short obituary entitled "No Ombudsman." It is worth quoting in entirety.

Senator Keith Davey must have established at least one record in holding on to his job as the supposedly all-powerful commissioner of the Canadian Football League for just 53 days. He learned something in the process, however: that there's no place for an ombudsman in the highly-organized business of modern spectacles based on sport. His big mistake, apparently, was in agreeing with complaints of people who spend a lot of money to keep the league going. He should, obviously, have ignored subscriber views and held the big-time promoters to be omnipotent — as they are where his job is, or was, concerned.

The editors of *Content* sincerely hope that Senator Davey's inquiry into the country's mass media will not meet a similar fate. There most certainly is a place for an ombudsman in the highly-organized business of gathering and disseminating news in Canada.

His all-party committee of 15 senators started public hearings in Ottawa last December; they ended in April. Dozens of briefs were presented and a research staff has been compiling additional data on the state of the media. The report now is being written and is expected to be completed this month or in November. Its length will be approximately 1,200 pages.

mittee? Did you become aware of any kind of desire among consumers to have a better press in Canada?

DAVEY: We did a consumer study as a background research paper. There are some things I would like to say now but I think I had better beg off until that particular document is released as an appendix to our report. It will say a great deal about what we believe to be public attitudes towards the media. However, I can say this. I have never received as much mail in connection with anything I have done, as in my role as chairman of this committee. That has got to mean something. Yes, I think the public was quite interested.

CONTENT: What was the tone of this mail?

DAVEY: Broadly speaking, there were really two kinds of letters. One was from individuals who had grievances against specific newspapers. In effect, the committee was almost regarded by these people as a press ombudsman and some of those letters were very strange indeed. Mind you, some were also quite serious, thoughtful and helpful. There were the usual number of anonymous letters; there were letters from people who obviously had axes to grind. On the other hand, much of the mail was from people who were thoughtfully concerned about the media, although there probably was a disproportionate amount from academics. The only organized letter-writing campaign was from Halifax. I am sure that some critics of the daily newspapers there, probably some people connected with *The 4th Estate*, were responsible. I don't know this but I suspect it.

CONTENT: Going back to the time when you came up with the idea of having this inquiry, would you have identified then with a statement of Eric Wells that "there is no intent in the Canadian newspaper industry as to why it is in the business except to sell more ads"?

DAVEY: No, I would not have.

CONTENT: You would not have?

DAVEY: Not when the inquiry started.

CONTENT: Would you now?

DAVEY: I think you had better see the report. It is a question worth reflecting upon.

CONTENT: In your earlier statement about the CDNPA, you said you didn't realize then that its major concern was really not standards but to sell advertising. It sounds like you have moved some distance towards...

DAVEY: I understand Mr. Wells went much further. He attributed that to publishers generally. And as I say, we do talk about this in the report and perhaps I should not go much further than say I can't answer as automatically as I would like to.

CONTENT: If you didn't have that concern at that time, what was your major motivation in launching the inquiry?

DAVEY: Well, the specific concern Mr. Wells spoke of, as I understand it, was that newspapers were only interested in sales of advertising. My interest was certainly much broader than that. I was interested in the role the mass media plays in the lives of individual Cana-

dians. I had become convinced that the media was playing an increasingly important role in everyone's life, not just politicians, but everybody's. I felt it was time, particularly in Canada, that there be some kind of non-partisan, objective assessment of the role and function of the media. So I framed the terms of reference, which have been repeated many times, as the ownership, control, impact, and influence of the mass media on the Canadian public.

CONTENT: In an interview with Canadian Press last March, in talking about the usefulness of the report, you said that already it has had some impact, that publishers have begun to be more aware of their role. I have no doubt that the various publishers when they were preparing their briefs went through their own papers. However, I have a funny feeling that it was a short-term examination. Strictly to illustrate what I am getting at, let me use Stuart Keate as an example: Six or eight months after he presented his brief, did the Vancouver *Sun* reflect much if anything of the highly laudatory comments he had made about the newspaper business?

DAVEY: Many of the publishers were forced to sit down and look at themselves in the mirror for the first time ever. I am not able to comment as to whether it was the first time Mr. Keate had faced himself in the mirror, but I can tell you an interesting story about the *Sun*. When we were drawing up a list of newspapers to appear before the committee, we decided it would be impossible to have every one of the one hundred or more daily newspapers come before the committee. We therefore decided that we had to have all the daily newspapers from Toronto and Montreal and then a representative sample of newspapers from across the country; representative in terms of geography, in terms of circulation size, in terms of chain ownership, in terms of locale. We made up a composite list, and so it was decided, for example, that in Vancouver we would have a Southam newspaper; that we would have a morning paper, the *Province*; and in Winnipeg, on the other hand, we had an FP paper which was *The Free Press*. Of course, we asked for written briefs from a great many papers across the country, but it was impossible, and indeed pointless, to accommodate every single paper. What would have been the point of listening to every last Thomson daily newspaper? We had the Thomson corporate people here and, as I recall, we had the Prince Albert paper, the Peterborough paper, and the Sudbury paper.

So in devising the list, the Vancouver *Sun* was asked for a written brief, but they were not required to make an oral presentation. They were very upset! This was amusing to us because when we were drawing up our list at the beginning, publishers were contacting me, either directly or through friends, to say that "surely we don't have to appear." As soon as the hearings started the shoe immediately moved to the other foot.

CONTENT: Would a follow-up examination a year or two later of those who appeared — the papers, the stations and even the journalists' associations, to see if they were applying to their own surroundings and their own functions those principles they described so beautifully before the committee — be a useful continuing function of Senate?

DAVEY: As you may know better than I do, there are certain newspapers in which individual working journalists or groups of working journalists have used the committee and the presentations by their publishers to follow up pretty hard on certain of their own suggestions and requests.

CONTENT: There is a criticism of the committee along the line that it showed considerable bias in appearing to have a predetermined set of good guys and bad guys. What seemed to be happening was that the good guys came in and presented their briefs and came off as great fellows while the bad guys came off worse villains than the public ever imagined they were before. Is this something that came out of the press coverage of the hearings or is this simply a reflection of a particular awareness of situations that existed in these areas?

DAVEY: To the extent that it was humanly possible, we tried to approach the thing without any preconceived set of good guys and bad guys; as chairman of the committee I was unaware of it. I suppose the most obvious example would be Mr. Irving and the confrontation he had with Senator McElman. However, I think that situation has spoken for itself. Obviously, we will be talking of Mr. Irving in the report. Whatever the situation, whatever animosity existed between Senator McElman and Mr. Irving, I feel Mr. Irving had a fair hearing. Now, I would like you to identify who specifically were the good guys and the bad guys in this terminology — I am just assuming that Mr. Irving was one of the bad guys.

CONTENT: The bad guys who come to mind obviously include Irving, but also Dennis and Daley in Halifax and, the publishers of the London *Free Press*.

DAVEY: As far as Halifax is concerned, I certainly don't think Graham Dennis came before the committee in the guise of a "bad guy." I didn't make any reference to Halifax in my original speech in the Senate. If some people regarded Mr. Dennis as a bad guy, then I guess Mr. Dennis painted himself into that particular corner. Really, I don't think in terms of bad guys and good guys and certainly Dennis didn't come before us as a bad guy. Some people have suggested to me that he didn't fare well in his presentation, but the questioning of Mr. Dennis was certainly no tougher than that directed at the Montreal *Star*, for example.

CONTENT: Some people have suggested that the London *Free Press*, somewhat unfairly, took a heavy pounding.

DAVEY: I was particularly interested in this example of a monopoly situation and the *Free Press* hearings featured quite an extensive exchange between Mr. Blackburn (the paper's owner) and some of us. I can say right now that the London *Free Press* organization collectively was one of the most co-operative groups to appear before the committee. They were here several times for their various interests. Mr. Blackburn himself showed great interest in the committee. We asked for a great deal of confidential information from the *Free Press*, all of which we received. The co-operation we had from them was first class and our relationship was a healthy and happy one. Now having said all this, we are going to say some interesting things about these various organizations but I think it

will be apparent in the report that we weren't dealing in terms of good guys and bad guys. Some of the people who may be regarded as bad guys, in the report may look like good guys and some of the people you hadn't thought of as being bad guys may look less attractive than you imagined.

CONTENT: If Toronto and Montreal appear as the heroes in Canadian media and Halifax, Saint John and a couple of Prairie cities as villains, it is probably due to the resources available to the respective organizations.

DAVEY: This is one of the problems we will be discussing in the report. If you really want to stop and think about it for a moment, where the resources are least desperately needed, they are present in abundance.

CONTENT: This is one of our major concerns in developing our own philosophy toward the media through the various things that we are working with and this journalist's magazine is but one of them. With the tremendous centralization and concentration of resources, therefore power, the under-developed regions of the country are simply not served well by the media. I am wondering what thoughts might be gleaned at this time from the hearings without revealing too much about what your report will have to say?

DAVEY: Only to agree that they exist and we will be talking about them in the report. You have put your finger on a problem which I think is terribly important.

CONTENT: Are you satisfied with the amount of feedback you have been getting from the working journalists across the country?

DAVEY: I think we are getting adequate feedback from the working press. However, we did not find anything which was startlingly new. We didn't receive any great earth-shattering revelation. Having said that, we did find a great deal of disquiet and uneasiness and a great deal of concern about the state of journalism in Canada. There is no doubt about that.

CONTENT: Eric Wells makes a rather devastating comment about the level of professionalism within the journalism currently practised in Canada. He describes it as "one big yahoo syndrome." Would you, on the basis of your contacts so far, feel this is carrying things a bit too far? What he is getting at, I believe, is that too many desk people, and even the men and women on the beat, tend to have a very low opinion of their readership. So that in making their judgments of what the reader should be offered they tend to have a low assessment of his intelligence.

DAVEY: Honestly, at this point I feel we are moving into an area which comes awfully close to things we are saying in the report. But just to answer your question, I think Mr. Wells has really gone further than he needs to make a point. I sometimes wonder if the people the journalists have a low opinion of aren't really journalists themselves.

CONTENT: But in the everyday content of the media across this country and disregarding exceptions both ways, is there a level of mediocrity reflected in Canadian journalism

that is of deep concern to the committee? Will the report reflect this?

DAVEY: I don't want to duck your question but I will simply say read the report to get an answer concerning this subject. I should hope that it is well covered in the report.

CONTENT: I think it is of real concern to people who are interested in the quality of journalism in Canada. If you start making comparisons with the media of other countries, Britain for example, and this is often done among my friends and associates, there is much to be desired. I sometimes think we should start treating information and communications as a primary resource. We are prepared to subsidize the exploitation of other resources. However, I know that if I ask, "Are you going to recommend a subsidy for magazine publishing?" you are merely going to say, read the report. I am just wondering what thoughts you have on this in terms of philosophy. Tom McPhail of Loyola College is one person who appeared before the committee with some interesting views about subsidies for the Canadian publishing industry.

DAVEY: Tom McPhail was one of the more interesting witnesses who appeared before the committee. He wanted to do a lot of things that would cost a great deal of money. He had an elaborate scheme for saving money which began with the abolition of the Senate, an interesting idea to say the least. The basic concern with this idea, no matter how carefully it is handled, is that it brings the government directly into the publishing field, although there certainly are some pretty strong parallels between that situation and government involvement in broadcasting.

On the other hand, I would be greatly concerned about developing any scheme of subsidization without having some foolproof guarantees that the government would in no way, shape or form be involved directly in the publishing business.

CONTENT: I can envisage an independent Canada Council-type of agency which could decide what is a reasonable publishing venture to support or not.

DAVEY: I am going to go behind my retreat here and say read the report. But before I do, let me say in regard to the kind of Canada Council thing you envisage that I am also a politician who can foresee some tricky ambush questions in the House for some poor devil. It certainly is an area which is fraught with obstacles. Nevertheless, it strikes very hard at the whole core of what we have been trying to do with the hearings. I have been at pains to point out that I do not regard the hearings as in any way, shape or form tampering with the freedom of the press. Read the report because we have something to say in this area.

CONTENT: While we are speaking of the encouragement of Canadian publishing, you have probably heard a thousand and one times complaints about Time/Reader's Digest exemptions. In fact, the External Affairs committee has just recommended that they be removed. Also, you have probably already received what amounts to a petition from a number of people.

DAVEY: The Peter Gzowski and Peter Newman effort, you mean. The petition has been received.

continued

Vol. 1, No. 1

Thomas Jefferson said every man owes something to his profession. It is not sufficient to be a mere cog in the machinery, laboring the minimum number of hours and drawing salary, without concern for the trade and thereby for the individual.

A society marked by accelerating change means that lives are becoming more complex, more confusing and more independent. To the journalist falls the awesome task of helping people better understand the world they inhabit.

We in print and broadcast are at the core of the information which is flooding society. It is our responsibility to sift through and disseminate the concise facts, so people can find the truth and make informed decisions based on knowledge they have acquired.

The challenge facing us today is more demanding than ever known. A current phenomenon is the incredible amount of self-analysis by North America's news media. Testimony before a Senate committee in Ottawa indicates that too many Canadians are not receiving the probing overview of events which is necessary in an ever-changing world. Is this the fault of the journalist, or is it due to the nature of the industry within which he works?

A prerequisite for the journalist, then, is to be aware of his own capabilities, what is expected of him and what his role is in the community. Hence the need for self-criticism, conducted in a constructive fashion.

Our intention is that *content* will become a forum whereby journalists can stay abreast of trends and developments in the profession. Each month, it will talk about the aspirations, interests and problems of the Canadian journalists.

Content is a publication for reporters, photographers, producers, editors, announcers, cameramen—the men and women who practice journalism from coast to coast. It will be a listening post and a sounding board. Letters and articles and illustrations on any subject related to journalism will be welcomed.

There will be no direct cost to the journalist, because advertising revenue will support distribution. Subscription fees will be charged to people outside the profession who wish to remain in contact with the working journalist.

Vigorous newspapers, radio and television stations and magazines are fundamental to the development of an independent Canada. As journalists, we have a great deal to say to each other.

CONTENT: Would you hazard just one indication of what will be in the report aside from commenting on *Time* and *Reader's Digest*?

DAVEY: Well, I don't have to because I know what is in the report. It has been written so I won't even comment on that. I guess the only question which would interest you is are we or aren't we...

CONTENT: Another article to appear in the first issue of *Content* is an analysis and review of the impact of Spiro Agnew's criticisms of the press and broadcasting industry in the U.S. I guess you don't consider

yourself as being that kind of champion or critic in the Canadian context?

DAVEY: Not only do I not consider myself the same kind of person, I think that the mood of our committee, the direction of our work and the thrust of our report is very much in the opposite direction. Agnew (mind I have said this before) wants to remove power from the hands of journalists and publishers in New York and turn it over to the government in Washington. We don't want to do anything like that. We want to return this power to the people. The daily newspaper

act or the preservation of newspapers act which was just passed in the United States demonstrates where Mr. Agnew's sympathies lie. He is clearly in favor of concentration of the press, provided it is concentration in the right hands. That is a far cry from the position I take.

Dick MacDonald, a Montreal Star reporter who previously worked with newspapers in Moncton and Vancouver, is editor of Content. Harry Thomas, former editor of the McGill Reporter, is publisher of Content.

HERE A CLICHÉ, THERE A CLICHÉ

by DAN POTTIER

n., (kleeshay), the journalist's version of original sin.

There was a time, at the beginning of things, when language was pure. Words were original and phrases were fresh.

Then man progressed. On to new horizons. There seemed no limit. Centuries were replaced by eras—the Renaissance, the Age of Reason, the Industrial Revolution.

But time caught up. So many things to talk about, so little time. "Lo," said the sages, "the language must be made practical. The aesthetics of it we'll leave for poets."

Time had to be saved and imagination left for more important things. Words were combined, collected and annotated. Catch phrases were put together with baling wire and a meaning was implanted.

With proper care and feeding, the culture flourished. At first, the catch phrases were as appealing as daffodils. But there was a flaw—overuse shrivelled the daffodils. They took on the character of weeds and cluttered the language.

The god of expediency was placated. His servants were the gremlins of an over-worked language— clichés.

A set of new products flooded the intellectual market. The linguistic lubricants—and how the populace uses them! Why not? They come already assembled, are easy to use and don't seem to wear out.

These semantic slides come in all shapes and sizes and are immune to all but overuse. Most are old, some ancient, but they live on.

They anger purists, send editors into fits of frenzy and haunt pressured journalists. "What we need are new clichés," some cry. "Haven't we got enough already," reply others.

Like acne, enough is too much.

A look at these creatures can be enlightening, much like an electrical storm.

Fall in you little demons. On the double.

THE ATHLETIC CLICHES

Jumping to conclusions
Pushing his luck
Passing the buck
Huddling together
Running short

A shaky start
Ran amuck
Met his match
Touch and go
Skirting the issue

THE ACADEMIC CLICHES

School of thought
Brainstorm
It's under study
Well versed
In-depth study
Consensus of opinion
Ink a contract
Despotic ruler

THE FLORA AND FAUNA CLICHES

Turning over a new leaf
Thorny problem
Free as a bird
Scaling a mountain
Barking up the wrong tree
Apple of his eye
Can't see the forest for the trees
As old as the hills

THE MILITARY CLICHES

A battle is looming
Firing a broadside
Holding the fort
Last ditch attempt
Frontal attack
Rearguard action

THE IMPOSSIBLE CLICHES

Harbouring a grudge
Hatching a plot
Ironing out a problem
Curbing dissent
Launching a program
Beefing up
Bowling to demands
Pushing the panic button
Hammering out an agreement
The wheels of justice

THE HOURGLASS CLICHES

Time marches on
11th hour settlement
Days on end
Time is money
Up to the minute report
Killing time

THE ACTION PACKED CLICHES

Teetering on the brink
Burying the hatchet
Engineering a downfall
Pounding a beat
Wooing the electorate
Crying need
Seizing an opportunity
Wreaking vengeance
Paving the way
Grinding to a halt

THE PERSONALITY CLICHES

Of that ilk
Fiery leader
Irate citizens
Visibly shaken
Dope-crazed
Blythe spirit

THE SITUATION CLICHES

A storm is brewing
Seething discontent
Semblance of normalcy
Getting out of hand
Sense of immediacy
On the verge of collapse
Tense atmosphere
Cooler heads prevailed

THE WHATCHAMACALLITS

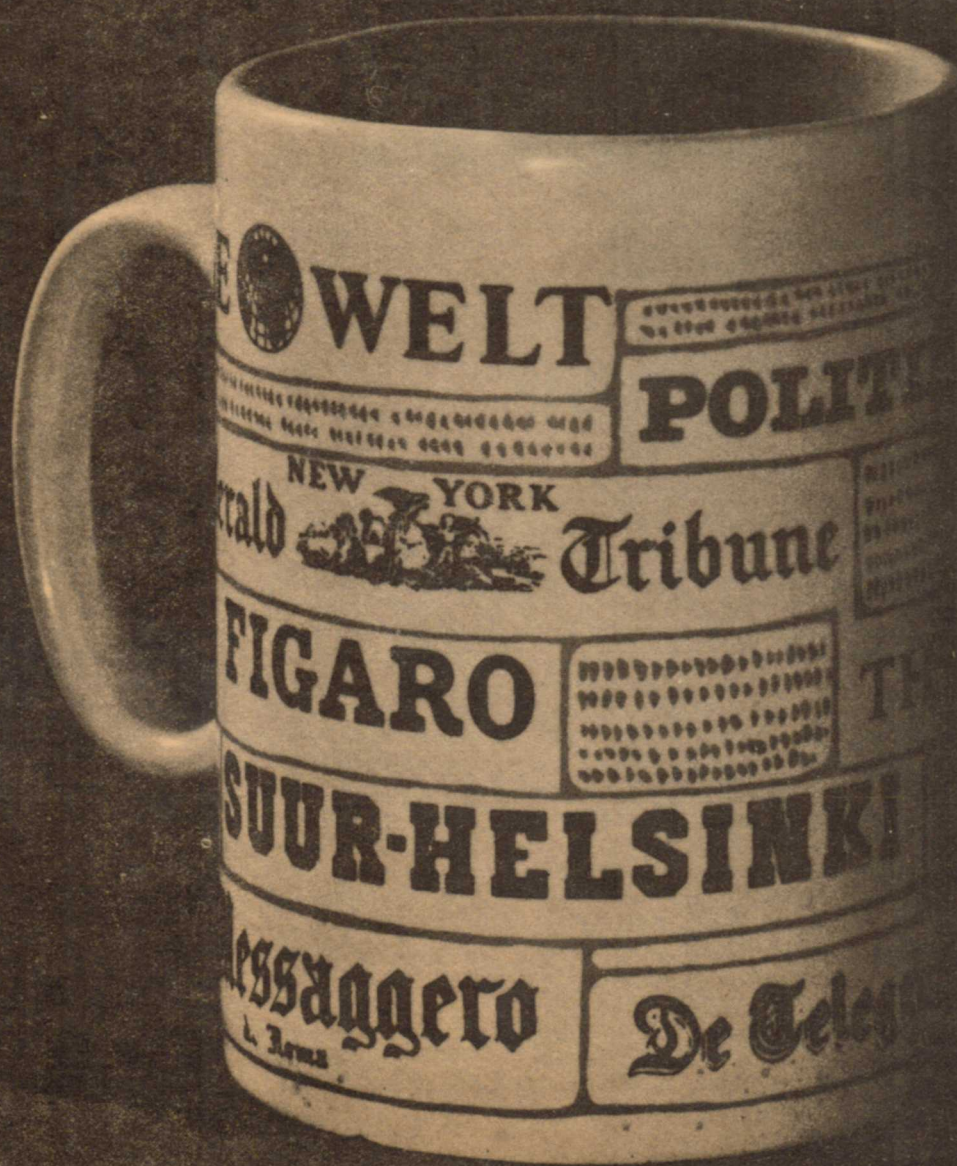
Overriding preoccupation
Stumbling block
Wholesale changes
In the offing
Parties at loggerheads
Toeing the line
Present whereabouts
Up for grabs
Milling throngs
Shot in the arm
Dire straits
Turning the tide

And for the drug culture, a definition of a pot party: A joint venture.

Dan Pottier graduated this year from Carleton University's School of Journalism and now is with the Quebec City bureau of the Montreal Star.

**Next time
you need a lift
give us a call.**

AIR CANADA 





the Royal Bank
is the helpful bank

Mary

THE LE DROIT AFFAIR

Union backs "reporter power"

by JEFF CARRUTHERS

Despite what many Canadian newsmen think, important things involving the profession can happen outside Toronto, Montreal, or even Vancouver.

Take "Le Droit incident" — a clash between Chiefs and Indians in an Ottawa newsroom that will likely be the centre of heated discussions at managing editors' conferences for many years to come.

In and out of such meetings, many will regard the reporter-prompted demotion of two senior *Le Droit* editors a giant step forward for "reporter power." An equal number will consider it an even larger step backward. Some will see it as professional journalism flexing a newly-developed muscle, viewing it as a major victory for unionism. And yet others will claim the whole gory incident is nothing more than power politics in its dirtiest and most embarrassing underwear, made all the more irresponsible by the involved reporters performing their ritual in public instead of within the confines of the *Le Droit* building on Rideau Street in downtown Ottawa.

But whatever the interpretation, the events of recent months cry out for a place in the history books of journalism in Canada.

In many ways, the dispute was a classic union-management conflict. Although some of the issues involved items like cutting and changing stories without first consulting the writer (particularly when by-lines were involved), the central flag waved by union members was the public's right to know. They alleged (and attempted to document) that important matters were being ignored at times by the newspaper's management, particularly when union affairs and political parties like the Parti Québécois were involved.

Professional issues were thus definitely involved as far as the reporters were concerned. The union was primarily being used to provide power for thrust to obtain more democracy and less "military dictatorship" in the newsroom.

The participants in the dispute were the Syndicat des Journalistes d'Ottawa and the management of the French-language daily, *Le Droit*.

The Syndicat is a company union, representing 34 employees in the newsroom. Its president is Norman Dugas, an opinionated city hall reporter and a strong advocate of mixing union and professional matters. The Syndicat's current contract expires in December and Dugas stresses that money is supposedly not involved in the dispute.

Dugas, like other union leaders, sees unionism as the protector of professionalism. He notes that the most active organizers and supporters of professional organizations such as the local l'Association professionnelle des journalistes de l'Outaouais (which supported the Syndicat throughout the lengthy dispute) are union people.

He claims that without the union, the dispute at *Le Droit* would not have gotten far. In addition, he believes unions can do more to improve newspapers than press councils.

Le Droit is the Ottawa-Hull-Western Quebec area's only French language daily and

one of two French language dailies published outside Quebec. Published in Ottawa with the primary aim of championing Franco-Ontarian rights, the paper has about 60 percent of its 40,000 total circulation on the Hull side of the river, 40 percent on the Ontario side.

The paper was founded in 1913 with a paltry \$8,700 and is now just one part of a large publishing and communications enterprise controlled by a number of religious orders. Of 2,000 shares (valued at \$100 each), the Oblats de Marie Immaculée own 72 percent of the 1,722 outstanding shares. Three other religious orders control another 99 shares and the University of Ottawa controls 31 shares.

The Syndicat d'oeuvres sociales Limitée, as the owner is officially named (a name change to *Le Droit Limitée* is in the works), also controls 100 percent of the shares of Ottawa-Hull radio station CKCH (which is being transferred to Telemedia), *Hebdo-Revue* and *L'Imprimerie Leclerc*. Publisher and company vice-president Aurèle Gratton said in testimony before the Davey committee that the company does more business with its commercial printing than with the newspaper.

Caught in the crossfire between the Syndicat and the *Le Droit* management were

More democracy and less "military dictatorship" in the newsroom

Managing Editor Christian Verdon and City Editor Robert Rattey. As far as the public was concerned, all the salvos were coming from union label guns.

The incident which touched off the first public skirmish in mid-May concerned the newspaper's failure to cover a weekend union rally involving several large Quebec unions. These unions quickly supported the Syndicat and formed the core of a citizen-union group called the "Front-Commun."

Syndicat President Dugas called a press conference May 20 to complain about the lack of coverage.

He has since claimed the union rally incident is just one example of blatant manipulation of news by Managing Editor Verdon. Contrary to Verdon's claim that reporters were not available from the weekend shift, Dugas claims staff could have been paid overtime and made available.

Dugas also claims Verdon explicitly told the skeleton weekend staff not to cover the union meeting, no matter what.

Mr. Verdon also told Dugas, the union leader says, that another reason for not covering the meeting was that Canadian Press was not covering it.

Le Droit published nothing on the Syndicat press conference. Instead, on May 22, *Le Droit* published an explanation of its own position concerning the dispute — on its front page. In effect, management said the dispute was an internal matter; that decisions to cover events and to publish stories were matters of day to day priorities of space and other events; and, perhaps just as important, that the management alone is responsible for what is covered and not covered by reporters and for what is eventually run.

To further complicate the situation, Managing Editor Verdon retaliated on May 21, the day following the first union press conference, by declaring in a newsroom notice that all by-lines would be prohibited. Columnists and reviewers were excepted from the ban, though some reviewers refused to write their by-lines on their copy as a gesture of support for the other news staff members.

The rationale for the by-line ban was simple — it would allow editors to cut or change stories without having to consult the writer, as specified in the contract.

Removal of by-lines and changes and cuts in stories without reporter consultation were some of many complaints later detailed by the union in support of its case (primarily against Verdon).

In addition, it was announced that all news stories on union activities, with the exception of stories on the federal public service, would have to be submitted to Verdon before publication.

Finally, Pierre Allard and Norman Dugas were both requested to provide management with details of time spent on May 20, the day of the first press conference. This, Dugas claims, was an obvious case of retaliation since such information is not normally requested of reporters, particularly senior beat reporters. And it was obvious where the reporters had been and what they had been doing on the day in question.

The straightforward conflict over cutting of stories and coverage of union meetings was turning into all out confrontation.

Details of the retaliation by Verdon were described publicly at a press conference held May 22. It was at this press conference that the Syndicat announced what was to become the central issue of the dispute — that it had asked *Le Droit* Publisher Aurèle Gratton to dismiss both Verdon and Robert Rattey for alleged incompetence.

In support of its case (again, it was mainly aimed at Verdon, a weakness Dugas admitted later) the union decided to make a submission to the Davey Committee on the Mass Media. The submission was given without oral support testimony and contained only details of the conflict, with more than a dozen supposed cases of suppression of news and incompetent handling of news (most from the first months of 1970), copies of the press releases from the press conferences, a copy of *Le Droit*'s statement on the affair and some details on support received from the "Front Commun."

The battle lines were formed May 22, a

scant two days after the dispute had been brought out into the open. It should be noted that the management of at least one of Ottawa's two English language newspapers agreed in principle with the *Le Droit* management's position — that the dispute was an internal matter — and the paper gave only sparse coverage to the conflict at first, most of it buried, and essentially minimum coverage even towards the end. Both papers did not seem to consider the dispute at all important, particularly when compared to the coverage given union disputes within the federal government. One Carleton University journalism professor is studying this particular aspect of the dispute.

During the next 14 weeks, union representatives talked freely with news media representatives. But management for *Le Droit* broke the official silence only once — at a Richelieu Club meeting the week after Dugas had presented the reporters' side of the dispute before the very same group.

Jean Robert Belanger, treasurer and personnel director of the publishing company, repeated the official stand that the dispute was internal and the news room staff should not hang its dirty laundry in public.

In a private interview almost three months after the talk, which was given June 10, he explained that it was doing neither the paper nor the journalists any good for there to be mutual criticism, as there is bound to be in such disputes. What good would it serve, he said, especially when he was himself so sure the whole thing could have been solved to everyone's satisfaction by the end of June.

Mr. Belanger tried to explain to the public the problems of space and time in decisions

to cut stories and, in some cases, not to run any at all.

While *Le Droit* is an evening paper, he later explained most, if not all, of the paper's news type is set the morning of publication. No typography crew sets news type the night before, he said.

Mr. Belanger also promised to sit down with the reporters and talk the problems out. Again, later, he criticized the union for not bringing their concerns about the competence of Verdon and Rattey to management first, but instead announcing it at a press conference before there was any chance for internal discussion and resolution. This may have in fact been one of the union's major blunders in campaign strategy (if there indeed was any strategy during the first few days of the dispute) and likely led to the prolongation of the dispute.

On the other hand, whether Verdon and Rattey would have been switched to other jobs within *Le Droit* if the dispute had been tackled internally is a question that will never be answered. By mid-summer, the union was convinced that with either or both men in the newsroom, any other solution would be unacceptable.

As Dugas argued in a private interview, "You can have the best board of directors you want, but if you have men at the news level who are no good, then the public's right to be informed will not and cannot be met."

The two editors, in the union's mind, became the vital links in the news-making process. And this was the message the union tried to sell publicly.

But the union was not an organization to be stymied by regular bureaucratic lines of

command. Instead of dealing directly with management, which would have been difficult as a result of the natural union-management relations problem, the Syndicat appealed directly to both the board of directors and ultimately to the Oblate Fathers, owners of the paper.

Dugas claims the union presented a well-supported case against the two editors and for some changes advocated by the union, l'Association (the professional organization), and the Front Commun. Both parties were impressed, he says.

The various organizations called for a number of new internal structures for the paper, including an editorial committee with representatives of the reporters, editors, management and perhaps even the public to meet and discuss news policies, as well as a more publicly-oriented board of directors.

It should be noted that the publishing company was already in the middle of adding two new members to its seven-man board. The existing board consists of two Oblate Fathers, a Hull lawyer who acts as chairman, a former international newsman, a real estate broker, an investment dealer and Publisher Gratton. There has not yet been an official announcement of the two new board members, though it is known they have already been selected. It is likely they will be laymen.

The board of directors met once in July and then again in early August. The decision to remove Verdon and Rattey temporarily from their newsroom positions was arrived at during the August meeting. But the announcement was delayed until the reporters threatened to walk off their jobs August 27.

The next day at a press conference, the

believe it or not

THE SWEDES ARE TRAINING BLIND SKIN-DIVERS FOR MURKY WATER / THE SOVIETS HAVE INVENTED A LASER DEVICE WHICH TRANSLATES JAPANESE INTO ANY LANGUAGE AT THE RATE OF ONE PAGE A MINUTE / THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS DESIGNATED 10 MARINE AREAS AS UNDERWATER PARKS / FOR CENTURIES, PERUVIAN INDIANS HAVE BEEN USING ANY OF 2000 DIFFERENT PLANTS AS ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES.

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management announced Verdon would be shifted over to co-ordinate the paper's switch to offset and to take charge of the promotion of the switch-over. The job is thought to take about five months.

City Editor Robert Rattey was demoted to copy desk, but when the union raised the issue of union membership and selection of union personnel for the job, he was given three weeks immediate vacation.

Verdon had been managing editor with *Le Droit* for two and one-half years; Rattey had been promoted to city editor last year from the desk.

Technically, the two men are merely temporarily removed from their jobs until the management can assess the claims against them. But realistically, it would be highly impractical, if not impossible, for either to resume their former positions as editors, at least in the near future.

As one company spokesman explained, both men have suffered from the experience, though both have likely learned a lot about staff relations as a result.

The board of directors is supposed to announce its final decision soon. It is not likely the board will decide in favor of any com-

mittees with public participation (as advocated by the unions supporting the Syndicat, for example) at this time, though this is likely to come in some form at some time in the future.

Mr. Belanger says the newspaper cannot bow to such union demands because as a newspaper it must retain its independence to play its role as defender of the public's right to information properly.

Both parties seemed to be concerned about protecting the public's right to information. The union admitted it was also fighting to protect its own rights. It also stressed it was trying to get the paper to include more stories about Quebec, since 60 percent of the 40,000 subscribers reside in Quebec.

The paper claims that since it must bear the responsibilities for its decisions, it must retain the right to make decisions unhampered by the reporters. At the same time, Belanger says that if the union members want to share more of the responsibilities of running a newspaper, then they will be given more say in how it is run. This could include such things as helping management decide who should be hired and promoted, as well as helping formulate day-to-day news

policy. The union, Belanger claims, has so far refused company offers for such participation. The union claims the formula for participation has not yet been to its liking.

Belanger admits the days of newsroom czars are over and the meaningful consultation and participation involving reporters is one of the changes of the times papers like *Le Droit* must accept. Decisions and policies in the near future will determine just how willing the paper is to change with the times and accept "reporter power" and more active participation in non-contract matters by the union.

At the same time, union reaction and, just as important, responsibility in these matters will indicate just how willing reporters are to accept the difficult task of trying to protect the public's right to know and to provide readers with meaningful and, as much as possible, objective news reporting.

Jeff Carruthers, a member of Sigma Delta Chi, is a staff reporter with the Ottawa Journal.

PLEASE RELEASE ME

by HARRY BRUCE

All my life, it seems, I've been getting these press releases from Ottawa, these news releases that release no news, these dusty mimeographed speeches by Cabinet ministers. Speeches that were always delivered about this time last week to a women's group in Aklavik, or somewhere, and probably did not interest even those nice ladies very much.

Other journalists I know learned years ago that in order to keep tedium from drying up the vital juices of their professional curiosity it was necessary to be quick and cruel, to hurl into the garbage every missive from every department of government. Unopened. The second its sluggish face presents itself on your desk.

I can't quite do that. I have to open it, if only long enough to read the yawn-making head — Viability of Alfalfa, or Three Indians get Scholarships in Lethbridge — and now, after years of this, the releases are beginning to creep into my very home, my castle, and something like rage is beginning to rise in me.

A year or so ago, I did some writing and editing for the Task Force on Government Information. I brought a special zest to the part of the report that attacked the proliferation of government press releases:

"Some of them wing their way, year after year, to the old addresses of editors who have long been in their graves, and the publications that no longer exist. Judging from the testimony of many journalists, the instant destiny of tons upon tons of this junk mail is the waste basket. It's good for the scrap-paper trade, and it keeps a lot of janitors busy at the incinerator . . ."

I left the task force, joined the staff of Maclean's magazine, and waited for the government's press release factories to mend their ways or, better still, to shrivel up under the task force's withering criticism. A week or two went by, and then one sunny morning the mailman left a press release at the house in Ottawa where I live with my family. The release was from the Department of Indian

Affairs and Northern Development. They'd sent it from Ottawa to Maclean's head office in Toronto, and the girls at Maclean's had sent it right back to Ottawa, to my house. And that, of course, was only the beginning.

In the months that followed, I learned about a resort village that would be developed in Banff National Park; about the setting aside for parks purposes of 2,860 square miles on the eastern arm of Great Slave Lake; about Tawow, a Cree word meaning welcome, which had been chosen as the name of a new quarterly magazine for Indian writers; and a whole lot of other vital stuff.

Ever since last November dozens of these "communiqués", as the department insists on calling them, have been travelling their futile route: from Ottawa to Toronto, from Toronto back to Ottawa, over to Bruce household on Russell Ave., upstairs to wicker wastebasket near desk in big bedroom, downstairs to green garbage bag in kitchen, outside to trash can in driveway, and off to wherever it is that Ottawa garbagemen take potato

peelings, fish-heads, coffee grounds, wet Flushabys.

One of the more irritating things about all this is that several newspapers had reported that I was the man who had written the report that included the damning indictment of government press releases. In a sense, I am not just a hater of press releases, but a public hater of press releases. Undeterred, sharp, right on the ball, Indian Affairs and Northern Development immediately began to send me scads of press releases.

I don't know exactly what is costing Canadian taxpayers to have their government send press releases to people who hate press releases, but I am beginning to think that, in my case, the government's behavior is not just stupidly wasteful. It's a fiendishly clever effort to punish me for the insults contained in the report of the Task Force on Government Information. And it's working.

Harry Bruce, currently a Southam fellow at the University of Toronto, is a journalist whose career has spanned the spectrum of Canadian media. Literally. This is reprinted by permission of The Globe and Mail Magazine.

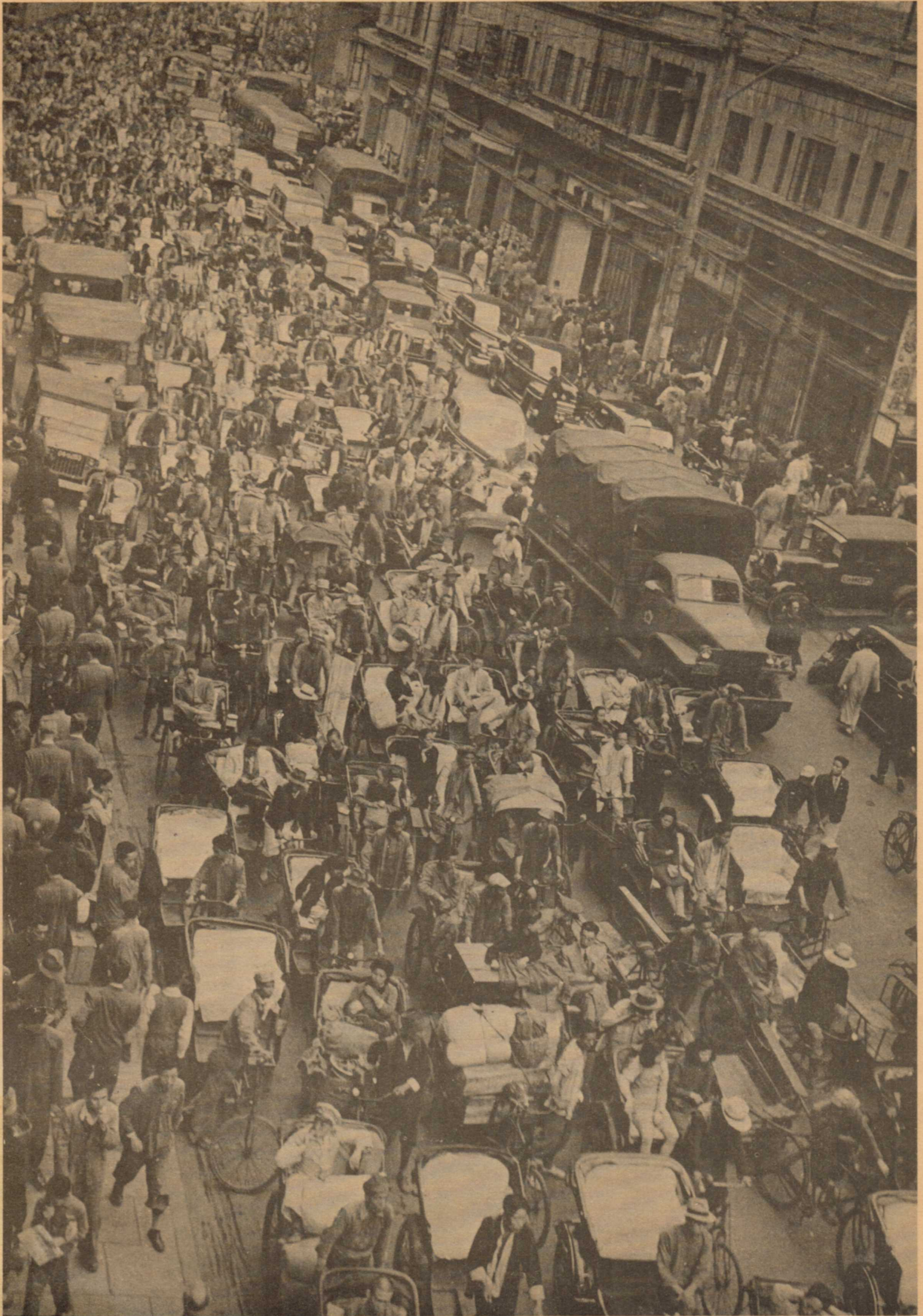
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PHOTO-JOURNALISM: SAM TATA

Photo-journalism is reportage of events, themes and moods photographically rather than verbally — radio as opposed to television, the written word compared to pictures.

That Canada is not recognized internationally as a flourishing centre of photo-journalism does not mean there are not photographers here who can, and do, produce excellent work. We simply do not see that much because it is used so seldom.

Newspapers provide a fine opportunity for its use, but few take advantage of it. Individual photographs of a high calibre appear sporadically, but there is no consistent attempt to utilize this powerful medium as a primary method of communication. *Photographs* now serve a useful purpose as illustration or decoration to relieve the monotony of columns of type or as an editorial alternative to display advertising. *Photography* as

a creative and alternative medium of expression is used rarely.

The press obviously is in the hands of writers who usually have a vested interest in words and not in pictures. When the chips are down and it comes to a choice between an entire page of photographs or an extra page of words, most editors go with the words — their “stock-in-trade” — and compromise with a photograph or two somewhere on the page to “liven it up”.

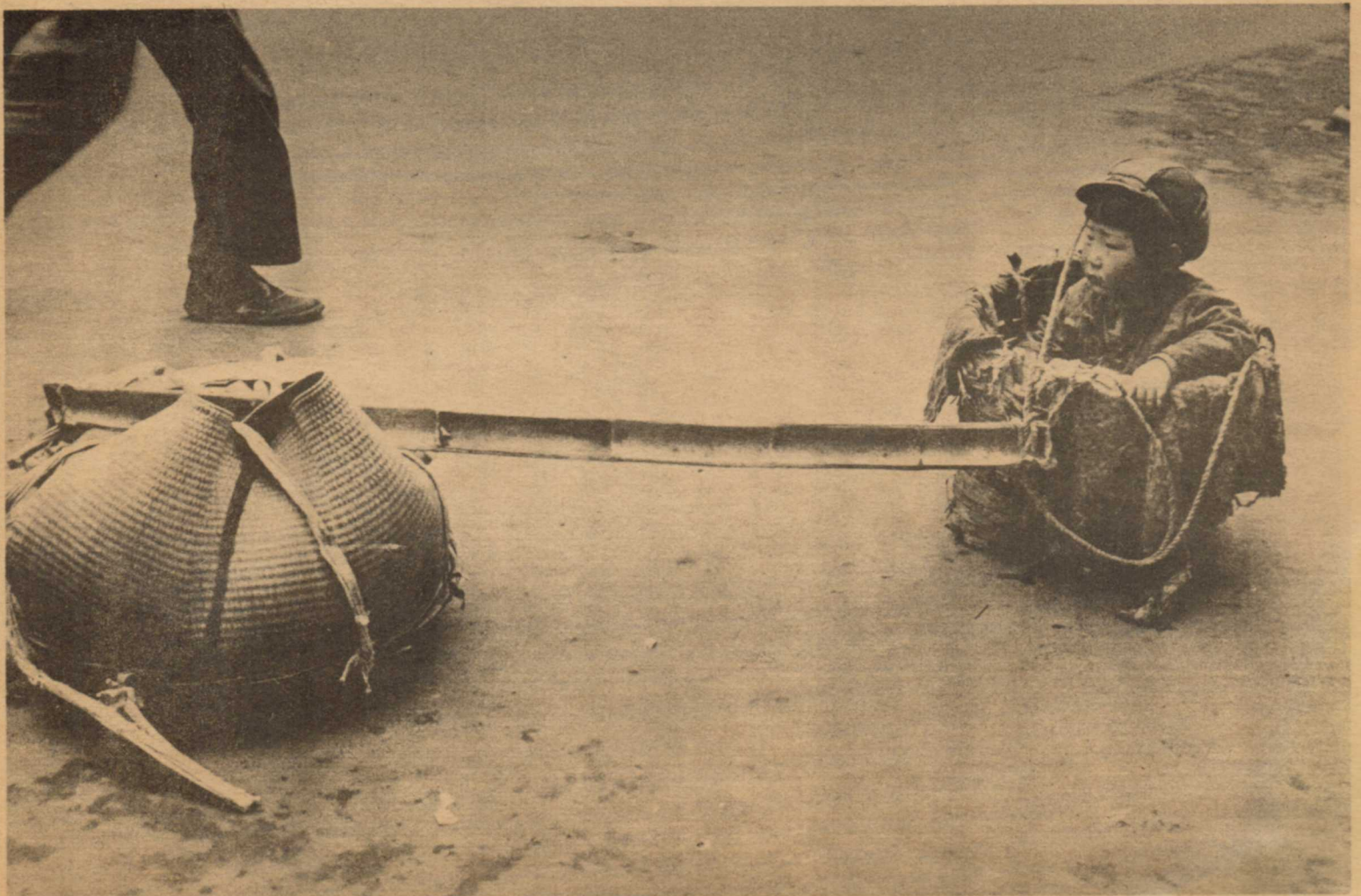
This inability to recognize the value and interest photography can hold for the “reader” (who sometimes is not a reader at all, but a “looker”) has, of course, needlessly driven many still photographers into film, where there is, at least, an opportunity for making a career of photo-journalism in television.

Although *content* will include, in time,

good photo-journalism as it appears on television, the first few issues will show the work of those photographers who continue to work in the “still” medium.

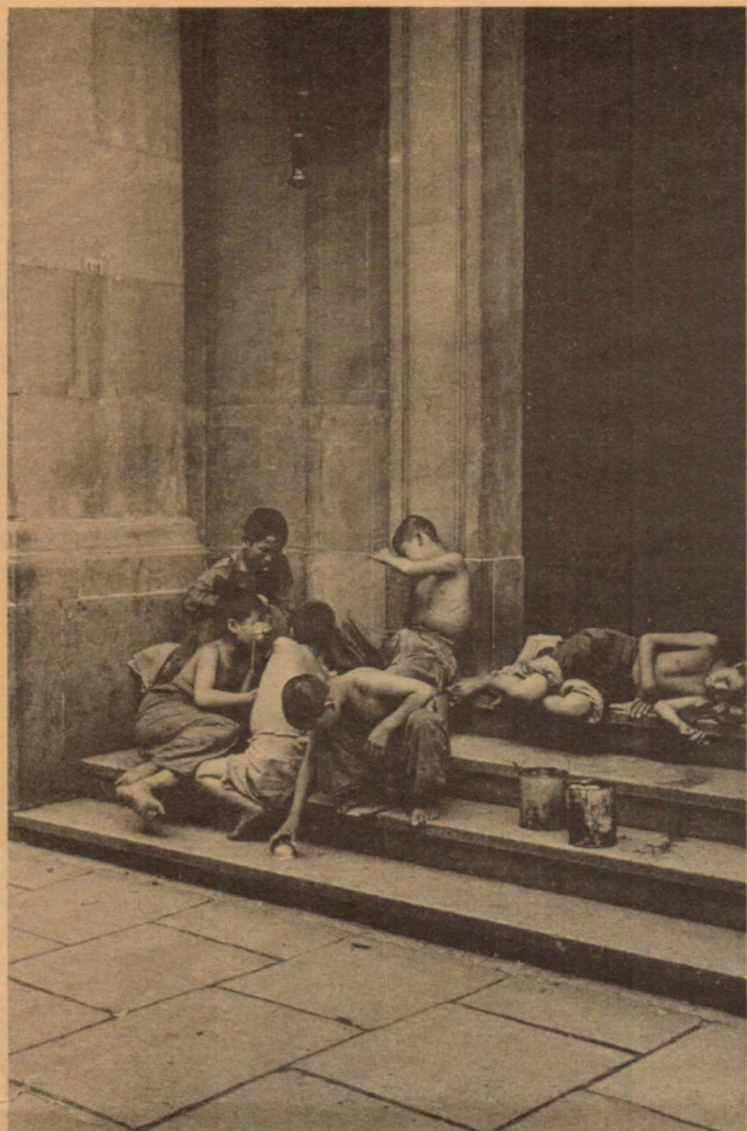
Sam Tata

Montreal photographer Sam Tata took these photographs as Mao Tse Tung's armies were approaching Shanghai in 1949. Born and raised there, Mr. Tata has a collection of several hundred photographs covering the period from 1949-52, when he left. He will be exhibiting 70 of them this year at Sir George Williams University Gallery beginning the end of November. Some are currently on exhibition in Ottawa at the National Film Board Photo Gallery until October 29.









The People's Liberation Army was now at the edge of the city and Koumintang troops were disappearing southwards. Already overcrowded, Shanghai now had the added burden of refugees. The clogged streets echoed with shrill cries as people rushed and pushed, while behind their walls of privilege, the foreign population continued idly on its decorous way.







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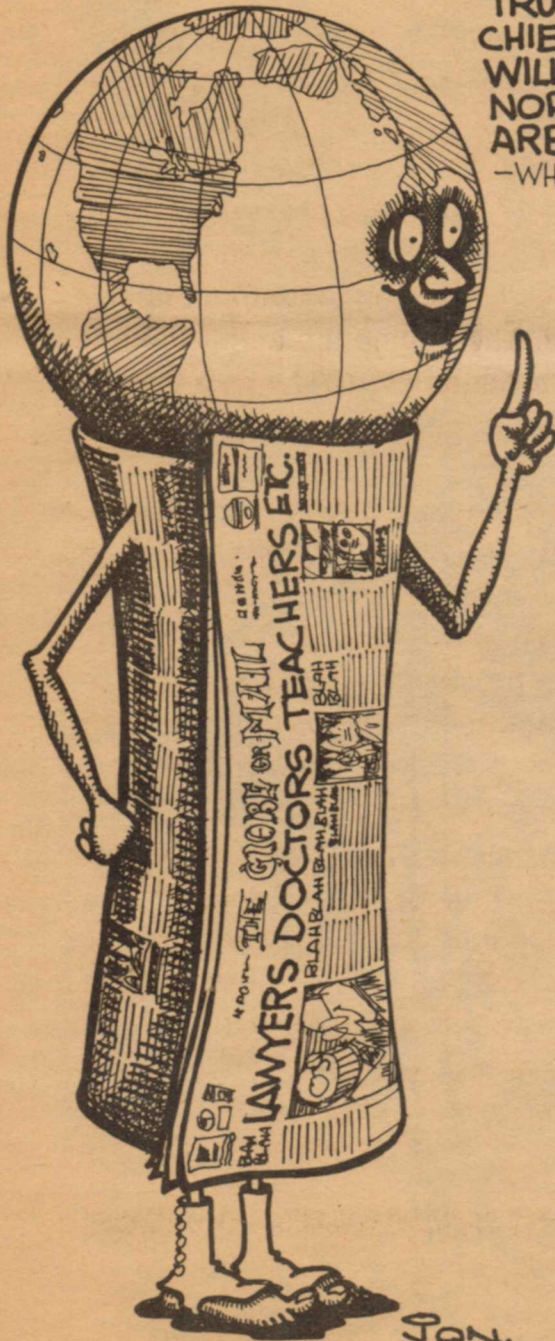
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Spiro Agnew: A LESSON IN INTIMIDATION

by SARAH RIDDELL

Last fall, while making the rounds of the southern and mid-western GOP regional committees to drum up funds for the party, Vice-President Spiro Agnew literally declared war on the news media.

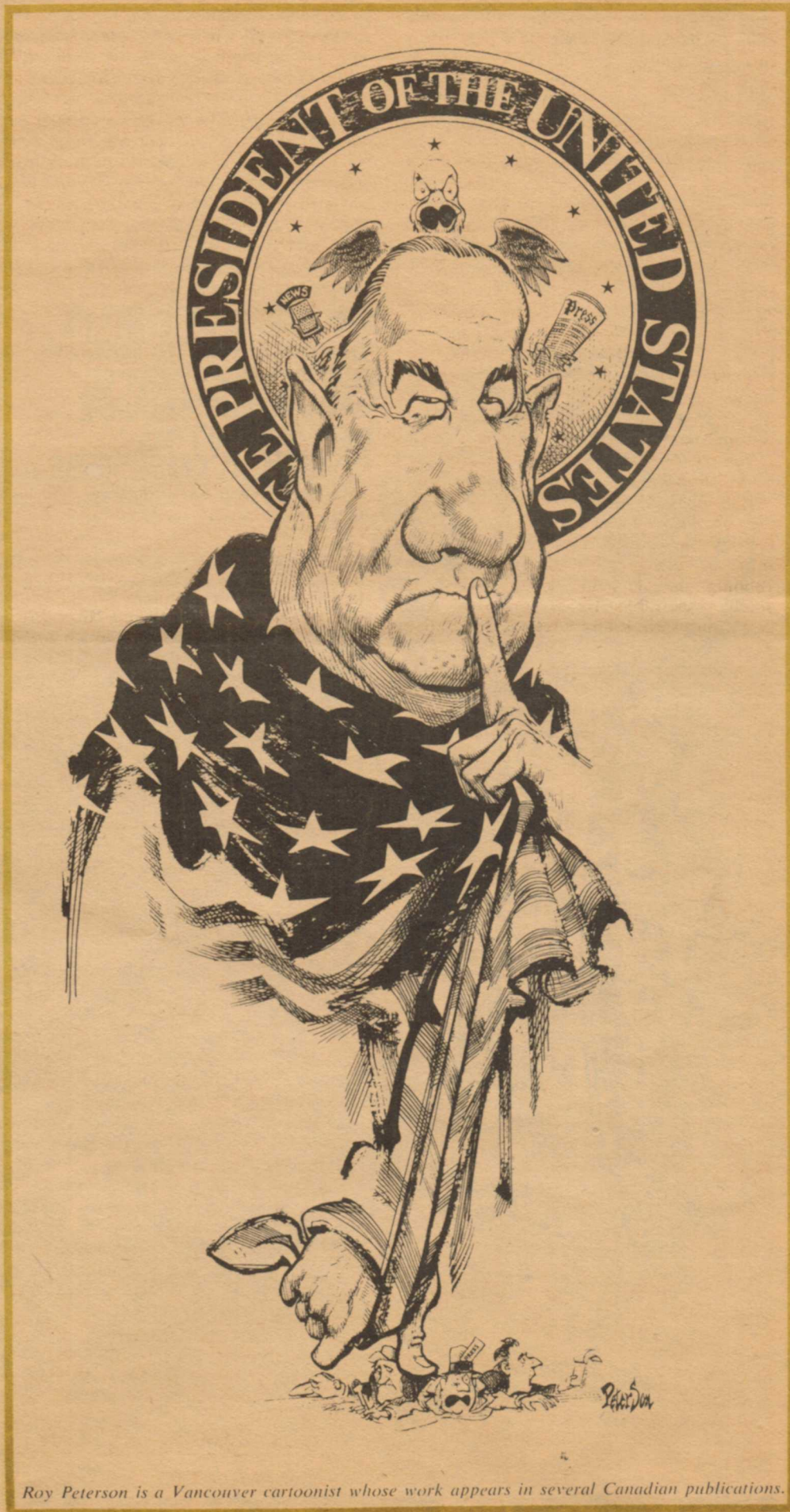
In his now-celebrated speech in Des Moines, Iowa, on November 13, he attacked the three national television networks for "hostile" bias in their news coverage, for their "instant analysis and querulous criticism" and spoke of a "tiny and closed fraternity of privileged men, elected by no one and enjoying a monopoly sanctioned and licensed by government." One week later, in Montgomery, Alabama, he broadened the attack to include the newspapers, aiming special shots at the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

Reaction came swiftly and vigorously. Some were reminded of Senator Joe McCarthy's 1949 speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, in which he accused the state department of being riddled with "communists." Some saw it as an attempted assault on the First Amendment and its guarantee of freedom of the press. There were shouts of "intimidation" and "suppression." Others welcomed the opportunity for an open debate on the shortcomings of the communications media. Still others seized the moment to clap hands and voice the widespread traditional prejudices against the Eastern Establishment and its "liberal" manifestations in the media. The most grotesque aspect (unforeseen by the vice-president and quickly denounced by him) was the barrage of anti-Semitic obscenities and threats received in the mail by newspaper and television companies.

Judging from the subsequent polls, Agnew was batting on a sound political wicket. He had exposed a raw nerve. The media were on the defensive. Until then, they had enjoyed a remarkable immunity from public or official scrutiny. But, recently, they had become increasingly aware that they were losing credibility and public trust. A study conducted for the television industry in 1968 revealed that a significant minority favored government control over television news. Like so many other American institutions, the media are being challenged from the right and from the left, from the inside and from the outside.

While the right feels alienated and out of sympathy with the so-called "liberal" establishment, the left feels that its activities and views are not being represented sufficiently. The commercial machines are failing to provide what the public wants. This is reflected in the new crop of underground newspapers and in the growth of television networks putting out "educational" programs to compete with the commercial networks. So, even before Agnew exploded it, it had been a subject for fitful internal debate and self-analysis. As one newspaper editor said: "It was almost as if he stumbled on the issue by accident."

What has caused such alarm and concern in the news media is that the invective and context of his attacks have so twisted and



Roy Peterson is a Vancouver cartoonist whose work appears in several Canadian publications.

distorted much that is valid and proper in his arguments that rational debate is becoming almost impossible. The media also have been made uneasy by the fact that such an attack should come from the office of the vice-president.

Despite President Nixon's general appeal "to keep the rhetoric cool," Agnew's periodic blasts against newsmen in recent months confirm his determination to make himself "heard above the din." On May 23, in Houston, Texas, he referred to the liberal press as "those really illiberal, self-appointed guardians of our destiny who would like to run this country without ever submitting to the elective process." He went on to name the most offensive, including the editorial writers of the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *New Republic*, I.F. Stone, James Reston, cartoonist Herblock ("master of sick invective"), Tom Wicker ("soft-spoken boy wonder of the opinion-moulders") and many other of the most prominent of the Washington commentators.

Insofar as it is possible to follow the thread in Agnew's speeches, his complaints against the media seem to be as follows: The centre of power for most of "the great public information vehicles" exists geographically and politically in the east and mainly in that most parochial and incestuous of cities, New York; the media are out of touch with that over-exposed body of men—Middle America—and do not reflect their views. Furthermore, his conspiracy theory of the make-up of news and the promulgation of opinions leads him to believe that a handful of "verbose men who refer to each other as intellectuals" and pass their days rubbing shoulders in "ivory towers" are solely responsible. He is concerned about news monopolies, and cites the *Washington Post* conglomerate. The disappearance of competing newspapers has meant that those which remain have become "fat and irresponsible." News judgment is affected by the networks' bias and their endless pursuit of controversy. They abuse the immense power and influence at their disposal by emphasizing all that is wrong in America and neglecting all that is right.

Certainly, some truth can be recognized in all this, and the media have been anxious to identify and isolate those criticisms considered justifiable. However, the response by no means has been uniform.

The television networks, on the whole, reacted more vehemently than the newspapers. There also is a belief that Agnew has had more effect on their performance than on the printed word.

There is good reason for this. Television is more vulnerable in several ways. Whereas the national networks need no licence (although this comes up for sporadic review in Congress), their 15 money-spinning owned and operated stations and 604 affiliated stations around the country do. Licences are granted by the Federal Communications Commission—a government body. Thus, when the vice-president said, "It is time for the networks to be made more responsive to the views of the nation," the reaction was both defensive and alarmist. Frank Stanton, president of CBS, called it "an unprecedented attempt to intimidate the news media." Julian Goodman of NBC called it "an appeal to prejudice" and charged Agnew with "using his high office to criticize government-licensed news which

covers the activities of government itself." Leonard Goldenson of the smallest network, ABC, simply said that ABC "has been and will continue to be fair."

Since the FCC is known to be well-disposed towards the industry, the fear of revocation of licences as a direct result of Agnew's campaign is only part of the story. "More serious," one CBS news editor explained, "is what happens when people in the industry are afraid that he may be right. They may then operate sub-consciously some form of self-censorship."

In an industry in which jobs are notoriously unstable, if there is felt to be some truth in allegations of bias, the atmosphere can certainly become inhibiting, if not intimidating. People are not going to stick their necks out if they are worried about getting their heads chopped. Although it is denied officially, there are some newsmen who believe that a policy of editorial caution has led to a distortion of the news. More than one commentator has said privately that he has felt constrained in his criticisms of the administration. It plainly was over-caution which led to the failure on the part of the networks to give any prominence to the huge November Vietnam Moratorium in Washington.

While some people believe that the atmosphere generated is unhealthy, there are others who welcome the shake-up. One of them is Howard K. Smith, the respected ABC commentator. "It has been good for the business to have criticism stimulated," he said in an interview. He believes that television news is often "biased, oversimplified and falsified." Too much attention is paid to sensational and negative news. To illustrate his point, he quoted the Sherlock Holmes story of the stolen race-horse and the guard dog. A baffled Watson finally asked Holmes if there was any point which he had overlooked. "The curious incident of the dog in the night," replied Holmes. "But the dog did nothing in the night," protested Watson. "That was the curious incident," remarked Holmes.

Mr. Smith wishes there could be a wider appreciation in television of Holmes' remarkable news judgment. He would like to see television news investigating the absence of riots in one city as much as covering the riots in other cities. He also would welcome any moves to break up the stranglehold of power which the communications media have on the east coast. Other television men also have expressed this concern and are sensitive about their relations with large chunks of Middle America.

Although Smith may, in general, speak only for a minority of his profession, various congressional committees and commissions before him which have looked into television performance have revealed occasional network malpractices. It is inevitable that, with so many critical eyes on them, the networks now will be more circumspect, particularly in defining the standards of what is and what is not news.

If the newspapers think they are less directly threatened by Agnew's attacks, it is largely due to the fact that they need no government licence to publish and ultimately are answerable to their consumer readership. However, it also is due to the

Sarah Riddell is a free-lance journalist in Washington, D.C.

distortions and inaccuracies of the attacks against the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. Philip Geyelin, editorial page editor of the *Washington Post*, said: "If he had really wanted to attack news monopolies, he could have made a fairly devastating job of it." Instead, he chose the *Washington Post* Company as his example, on the grounds that it owned television and radio stations and a national news magazine, *Newsweek*. He overlooked the strong competition from other newspapers and broadcasting outlets in Washington—competition which exists in few other towns in America.

As Geyelin pointed out, if he had displayed any real interest in, or understanding of, the issue, he would have examined the role of the two wire services, Associated Press and United Press International, not to mention the *Washington Post*-Los Angeles *Times* wire service link-up. Why did he not mention the large news monopolies, Scripps-Howard, Newhouse or Hearst? Why was he not worried by towns with only one or two newspaper voices? Perhaps his main bone of contention with these two newspapers is that they both opposed the Nixon-Agnew ticket in the 1968 presidential election and are the administration's most influential critics. It should not be forgotten that newspaper ownership has a long-standing pro-Republican tradition in the United States, and that the vice-president has avoided criticizing any of the Republican newspapers.

Nonetheless, the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* have done their share of soul-searching in the wake of Agnew's speeches. Both have announced changes in their editorial pages, which will give more space to readers' letters and to columns from outside experts with differing points of view. In June, the *New York Times* even printed an editorial from the vice-president himself. These plans and others already were on the drawing boards before last November, but the editors have acknowledged the push given to them as an exercise in public relations.

Apart from trying to regain the public's trust, the newspapers also are having to grapple with their own internal problems, among them a wave of dissenters and proponents of the "new journalism" in the newsrooms. It is not helpful, to say the least, to have the vice-president compounding and confusing these problems with ones of his own making.

When the vice-president's remarks about mass media in the United States are considered alongside his general strategy of attacking respected public figures, college students and "the whole damn zoo of dissent," the pattern becomes clear. He is not so much concerned with genuine reforms in the media as with silencing and discrediting all criticism of the government and its policies. At a time when acceptance of the fundamental freedoms, particularly those mentioned in the First Amendment, is being called into question, the maintenance of a healthy and independent press is more important than ever.

In the present situation, Thomas Jefferson's memorable words should be recalled: "Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate for a moment to prefer the latter."

CZAR OR STAR IN BROADCASTING

From
Pierre Juneau,
chairman of
the Canadian
Radio-Television
Commission,
these excerpts
from speeches and
addresses

CANADIAN BROADCASTING has always been faced by a greater challenge than any other system of broadcasting in the world. The same applies to Canadian publishing and all the other parts of ... the "knowledge industry." According to studies made by the CRTC, not more than 25 per cent of the circulation in English and in French of all magazines sold in Canada—which is approximately 260,000,000 copies a year—represents Canadian publications. We have no figures yet concerning the record industry but it is safe to say that the overwhelming majority of records sold in Canada are not Canadian. We have also long ago let the film industry in Canada become completely dominated by the American film industry.

In the face of the considerable challenge faced by Canadian broadcasting, the policy of all governments, eventually supported by Parliament and the people, has been the same for the last 35 years or so; namely, to maintain a system of broadcasting which would be an east-west neutral communications system expressing the social, cultural, economic and political vitality of this country and keeping Canadians in touch with the rest of the world—much in the same manner as we developed physical means of communication by railroad and air.

A DISTINCT, HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE broadcasting system has always appeared essential if the people composing Canada are to continue sharing and developing a way of life of their own and playing a role of their own in the world. It is essential to preserve and develop the personality of this country and the personality of each part of the country. Obviously, the personality of each part of the country is important.

I AM ASKED OCCASIONALLY whether I agree or not with the section of the Broadcasting Act which says that the national broadcasting service "should contribute to the national unity of the country and provide for a continuing expression of Canadian identity."

...as a matter of fact, I can't think of a more basic reason for having a national broadcasting system. That is why all countries have a national broadcasting system. Otherwise, why should we not have had all our stations affiliated with CBS or NBC or ABC as some of our radio stations used to be? Would it be reasonable to maintain that the national broadcasting service *should not even* "contribute to the development of national unity"?

WE THINK THAT OUR MANDATE requires that we supervise the development of the broadcasting system so that it will be able to reflect for Quebecers and for other Canadians the reality of Quebec and what seems—according to the results of normal democratic processes—to be the will of the people of Quebec; namely, to develop a strong province, unified around a certain number of basic objectives. We, of course, interpret our mandate the same way for all other parts of Canada and for Canada as a whole.

WHAT IMAGE OF CANADA does our television bring into our homes each night? What's life like in Newfoundland, or the Prairies, or the Arctic? What changes have been taking place in the villages of Quebec since the Plouffe Family pulled down the blinds? What's it like to be a Metis, an Acadian, an immigrant in a northern mining town? If the occasional features or public affairs program, the occasional National Film Board or Vancouver Film Unit team gives us a glance at the Canadian personality in its natural habitat, it is all but lost in the torrent of plastic studio shows from Toronto, Montreal, Hollywood and New York City.

IF IT IS TRUE THAT WE'RE in for an even greater psychological battering than we have already experienced over the past 30 years, it will be a great challenge to explain and encompass this otherwise frightening prospect, to ease the terror of the unknown. The broadcaster's task is, of course, to report the destruction of a computer, the nuclear warhead tests,

the anarchy of city without police, plus the daily demonstrations of a disturbed society. These are the symptoms of the psychic anguish of change.

But should we not go further than this, and examine the forces beneath the earthquakes and hurricanes that make up the 11 o'clock news. In other words, given the disturbing and mounting role of change in our society, can broadcasting make a growing contribution to analyze and explain this change, or will it admit failure and impotence in spite of the fact that it possesses the most powerful communications medium yet developed; in spite of the fact that its electronic gadgetry is the most flexible and ingenious that we have known; in spite of the fact that it combines the traditions and the skills of show business, theatre, design, journalism, photography, film-making, animation and pedagogy; in spite of the fact that it can now call on the limitless memory and analytical and diagrammatic ability of the computer?

TELEVISION, WITH ITS longstanding tradition of black and white, good and bad, horse-opera hero and villain, has tended to become an outlet for the narrow spectrum, for the corporations who sponsor the programs or buy advertising space; for the men elected to power, and, opposing them on occasion, the spokesmen of the extreme. The wide middle ground lacks a forum for its concerns.

I'M WONDERING WHETHER we have not beaten the technique of interviews and confrontations to near death. It's an interesting technique and I'm sure it will recover and stay with us. But will not television have to develop more sophisticated techniques to deal with facts and opinions. A lot of emphasis has been put on the capacity of television to deal with events as they are happening. This was a discovery. But it's not a discovery anymore. Newspapers and magazines have been making a great effort to synthesize and summarize, to give more context, more context, more background. Could not television with all the visual devices it possesses and all the resources of electronic technology develop techniques in this direction?

LET ME QUOTE A DECLARATION from a U.S. congressman: "Television has an important role in moving products from the factories into American homes. If people lose faith in TV news, how long will it be before they lose confidence in TV advertising?"



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ACRYLICS
peter ohlmacher

INVERT THE PYRAMID

with a little help from the media

by Carole Clifford

That the male is in crisis in this era of women's liberation is a startling revelation leaving the impression that not seeing the forest for the trees is all too true.

Who is to blame, however, is not quite as startling when a reader cleanses his thought process, which generally alleges a matriarchal society as the villain.

Karl Bednarik, an eminent Austrian sociologist, lays the blame for the emasculation of man on the male himself, developed by the technotronic society and superstate which man has created.

Means to thwart a further inroad into the strangulated state of man are legion: education by the mass media, despite its own bureaucracy, perhaps is the most important.

Bednarik's answers to the crisis are not pat, packaged and saleable but they are a guideline from which to work, based on the author's ideas of the fundamental male role.

"Because of man's attitude (tendency to stake out and defend, and possibly to expand his own territory) man is the more active social being and it is this tendency which is the origin of man's striving for superior status; linked with the struggle are man's order-seeking tendencies, and his need to communicate intellectually with 'the whole', with the general public, with the past and the future..."

But, in his role man created the bomb and the pill. The pill, he suggests, has helped remove the traditional right of the male to feel responsible for his actions. This slowly emasculates the male, intensifying the feeling of impotence.

The bomb "is responsible for the impotent anger prevalent today—an aggression against something which the male can't identify."

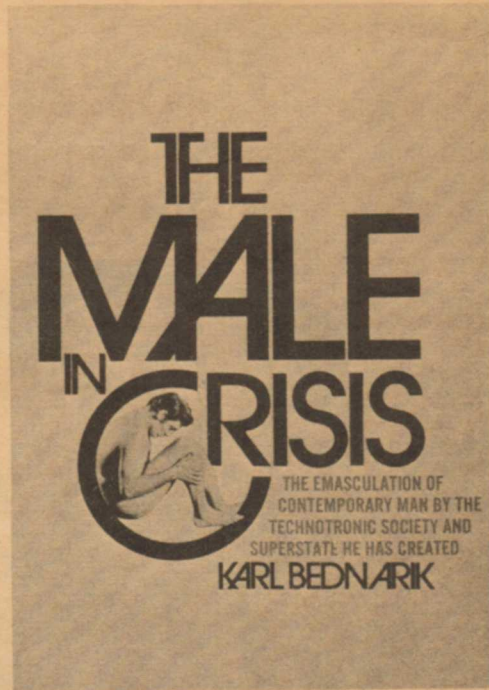
As Bednarik sees it, whenever the male's fundamental role is thwarted, society arms itself with the literature and arts of anger aimed in random fashion. "Today the Americans are the scapegoats; tomorrow it will be the Russians."

The mass media stimulates the anger. "Catastrophe cannot be averted by warnings and moral lectures alone," says Bednarik, "not by some verbal formula that will suppress the term 'aggressiveness' and thereby give aggressiveness itself the freedom to assume any form it pleases, including even the guise of peacefulness."

"Instead of denying aggression we would do well to acknowledge that it is always present, regardless of circumstances, in every individual and in all human societies, emerging now from hypocritical masks, now in positive sublimation. We should therefore realize that conscious control over it must be continually re-established."

How the male managed to develop his own prison is due partly to his order-seeking tendencies.

"The male world has manoeuvred itself into this fix by creating political, economic, scientific and technological institutions that bring a few men to the top, to usurp all powers of decision and action from the ma-



THE MALE IN CRISIS:
The emasculation of contemporary man by the technotronic society and superstate he has created;
Karl Bednarik. Random House.
188 pages. \$7.50

jority. These few are not necessarily 'great' men; they are more often highly-adaptable careerists, 'operators,' 'organization men'."

Bednarik says the effect of their dominance infantilizes and feminizes the male, who surrenders independence for a promise of security—a security which may turn out to be the greatest illusion of all.

Part of the answer, according to Bednarik, lies in a democratic penetration of the superstructures everywhere, both in the East and the West. That can be attained by utilizing man's elemental capacity to develop group activity.

"If man can be democratically activated at all, it can only be from below, through formation of primary groups... In both East and West, authority must be distributed on a wider basis in order to restore the petrified machinery of government to flexibility and vigor by opening it to group influence."

The course? Universal awareness, deep-

Carole Clifford writes for and edits the television-radio supplement of the Montreal Star's Entertainments section.

ening and widening our knowledge of the laws of human nature and human coexistence: better schools: educating the educators. Above all, he calls for self-education, mass education in the broadest sense with the help of the media.

"The mass media will have to ask themselves whether they can in good conscience continue to gratify and simultaneously stimulate the unconscious aggressive tendencies of the

masses. Unless they want to be accessories to catastrophe, they must decide to deepen their inherent potentiality for enlightenment and the dissemination of knowledge."

But that alone, Bednarik says, is not enough. "It can be meaningful only if man acquires, together with his wider perception, a greater measure of responsibility, only if the authority due to a mature human being is restored to him as an individual."

AND THE IDOLS HE SHALL UTTERLY ABOLISH

ISAIAH 2:18

THE JOCKS by Leonard Schecter,
Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. \$6.95

There must be an "ology" prefixed by a word which describes the studies of someone who's dedicated to examining and analyzing the evolution of literature—what becomes great, what flops dismally, what is enduring, and what is simply lurid. One of the associated "ologies" must, of necessity, be sociology because the reading tastes of the masses are reflections of those same masses—their fantasies, their real desires, their appetites.

The tapestry woven through history needs little elaboration. The advance of Arthur Miller from an expatriate smut writer in Paris to an accepted author of realism is a modern example. That Shakespeare was something of a hack in his own time, and considered a genius now, is an other.

So who, really, is to judge what is happening today. For those of us within the community of sport—an ever-broadening social escape as leisure activity comes to the masses—the avalanche of exposé-type books is a source of wonder. Like the post mortem Hollywood "life" stories of Jean Harlow and Marilyn Munroe, the locker-room variety leads many of us to believe that the authors have an eye for the quick dollar and the reader is indulging in a form of voyeurism.

The one heading our list here is *The Jocks*, the broadest sports exposé to roll off the presses in the past year. Written by Leonard Schecter—a former daily sports writer in New York and, at last check, sports editor of *Look Magazine*—it is a windmill-tilter and myth-destroyer on the grand scale.

Schecter's first chapter deals with sports writers, whom he dismisses with the chapter title: "To Hell with Sportswriters, You Can Buy Them With a Steak." After systematically scuttling his colleagues, he swings on an *Alice in Wonderland* trip through the major "hero" athletes and just as caustically destroys their images with the effectiveness of Raid hitting bugs in the TV commercials.

Schecter writes well; what he discusses is a veritable banquet for the reader who wants to take it all in at surface value. Possibly most of them do: nothing is juicier than to build idols and then feverishly unearth all the bad things about them.

Many, however, should disagree with Schecter on several points. One, if he

spent 20 years in the field he attacks so viciously, he either is prostituting himself or his thinking process is extremely sluggish—discovering so many deficiencies and cads this late along the road. Two, there is sweeping generalization. He makes some wonderfully valid points about sports writers which most of us in the field discuss and decry whenever we sit down to talk shop. Many hope that we are generating, as are the general newsroom people, a new breed of better educated, less fannish, more professional people. Schecter passes over this without notice.

For every "bad" athlete he exposes, he fails to mention one of the innumerable good ones—family men who invest wisely and who do like the kids who, with glazed idolization in their eyes, ask for autographs.

So, the question emerges: How valid and how morally justified is such a work? Is the public at large ready for it?

The sports community is large and is populated by the same cross-section as any other. Are there not good, bad, indifferent, scholarly, humble, proud, egomaniacal, money-grubbing doctors, lawyers, politicians, bricklayers?

One guesses that the guy on the street savors the "in" scandals, picks and chooses the ones which best suit his own purposes and dwells upon them. This isn't entirely healthy, so why should anyone feed it with half-truths?

Anyone in the news writing business is only too familiar with the syndrome—the person who sidles up at a cocktail party and asks, "What is 'x' really like?" And then you see the look of disgust, disappointment and disbelief when you reply, "... a nice guy, really. Good family man, quiet, moderate.

The point is, this guy doesn't want to know the good side because he can't gossip about that in the men's room or can't become a tavern hero with the "good" word. The same principle applies throughout the spectrum of human relations. Jacqueline Onassis? Bobby Kennedy? Howard Hughes? Who wants to know their good sides?

Few of us, given the strictures of society today and the morality imposed upon it, are without some guilt. Does not a book of this nature really become a more widely circulated (and more authoritative) variety of housewives' gossip over the back fence?

George Hanson is a sportswriter for the *Montreal Star*, previously with the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* and *Mail-Star*.

BOOKS FOR JOURNALISTS

HEADLINES AND DEADLINES: A Manual for Copy Editors by Robert E. Garst and Theodore M. Bernstein. The aim of this third edition of a classic in its field is to explain the techniques of copy editing for both practising and aspiring journalists. 1961, 237 pages, illustrated. Cloth \$8.25, Paper \$1.95

EDITING THE SMALL MAGAZINE by Rowena Ferguson. This book is intended to provide a practical guide for persons editing journals directed toward a particular audience and limited in its circulation to that audience. 1958, 271 pages, illustrated. Cloth \$8.25, Paper \$2.15

SCIENCE WRITER'S GUIDE by John Foster. The primary purpose of this book is to help writers get science stories into print or on the air with the greatest possible interest and accuracy and the best possible background and interpretation, and to do it quickly. 1963, 253 pages, \$7.45

ELECTRONIC JOURNALISM by William Almon Wood. In this book William Wood takes a long look at the complicated business of electronic journalism and particularly television, which has become the most important single news source for the general public. 1967, 186 pages, \$5.50

Books by John Hohenberg

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE: The Great Reporters and Their Times. A lively account of the rise of the independent foreign correspondent in the Western world from the Crimea to Vietnam. 1964, 520 pages. Cloth \$11.00, Paper \$3.25

THE NEW FRONT PAGE. Devoted to an examination of the change in national policies reflected in modern newspaper writing and photography culled from the files of the Pulitzer Prizes, as well as an exhaustive examination of newspapers from all parts of the nation. 1966, 380 pages, \$8.75

THE PULITZER PRIZE: News Stories, Editorials, Cartoons, and Pictures from the Pulitzer Prize Collection at Columbia University. John Hohenberg has culled from subjects that have figured most frequently in the award of the Prizes, and has compiled what is, in effect, a graphic history of the United States in the twentieth century. 1959, 375 pages, illustrated, \$9.85

IN PREPARATION BY THE SAME AUTHOR
FREE PRESS, FREE PEOPLE: The Best Cause. Man has struggled since earliest times for freedom of expression, and in this book is recorded the history of this great world-wide battle—a moral issue of great significance in our time: January 1971, 325 pages, \$8.75

In Preparation

THE MEDIUM IS THE REAR VIEW MIRROR: Understanding McLuhan by Donald F. Theall. A comprehensive critique of the work and thought of H. Marshall McLuhan, it is neither a simple accolade nor a frantic attack on the more spectacular aspects of McLuhan, but a systematic study of all his work from his thesis on Nashe to his latest book. January 1970, 280 pages; Cloth \$8.75, Paper \$2.95

MCGILL-QUEEN'S
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THE STRIKING TALE OF AN UNINFORMED CITY

by ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

Violence in name of peace

THREE-YEAR PACT ENDS PRESS DISPUTE



Smaller in smaller: Canadian demonstrators march down Howe street

Canadian mob invades Blaine

Blaine, Ore., has been the scene of a riotous invasion by a mob of Canadians who descended on the town...

Express Papers get ready after 3 months

The Vancouver Express and its sister papers are preparing for their return after a three-month hiatus during the newspaper strike.

Grits win PEI

The Progressive Conservative Party has secured a majority in the province of Prince Edward Island.

Reuther leaves big void

The death of Walter Reuther leaves a significant void in the leadership of the United Auto Workers union.

Abortion row halts parliament

Parliamentary proceedings have been suspended in Ottawa due to a heated debate over the issue of abortion.

We miss you, too...!



Express

Long, hot summer

The summer season has been marked by record-breaking temperatures and a long, hot period of weather.

Facing westward

Attention is now being directed westward in the news as significant events unfold in the Pacific region.

Franco foes aim bombs at planes

Supporters of General Franco have targeted the aircraft of his opponents with bombs and gunfire.

REUTHER



'His death leaves a tremendous void'

The passing of Walter Reuther is widely regarded as a tremendous loss to the labor movement.

The hospitalized

The article discusses the conditions of individuals who have been hospitalized, likely related to the labor dispute.



The Vancouver newspaper shutdown last spring was a perfect example of the dilemma of Canada as a whole. Management control rests elsewhere—in Toronto and on the Prairies. Headquarters of the unions involved is elsewhere—in the United States.

In short, a branch-plant economy with a branch-plant outlook. Who won? No one, of course, ever "wins" when people are out on a picket line, but if "face" and "pride" are the real issues—as sometimes happens in labor disputes—the five unions clearly bested Pacific Press.

They achieved, as the union leaders say, "all we went after" and probably a little more than they expected. (Aided, perhaps, by two volunteer mediation commissioners, eager to win some labor respect.) To do it, employees lost one-quarter of their annual salary; for a good reporter, that would amount to \$2,500. (Thanks to the hunger of advertisers for the Vancouver Express, published during the strike by American Newspaper Guild members, strike benefits could have returned to that reporter perhaps \$1,200.)

The company? Sun Publishing's 1969 annual report announced a net income of \$2.6 million. One-quarter of that presumably has disappeared. Even taking in strike insurance of \$30,000 per day for 50 days, total Pacific Press losses topped \$3 million.

The city itself? Incalculable millions, if we want to talk about plain, filthy money (the daily retail loss in a 1966 Boston newspaper shutdown was \$400,000), but even more serious was the gradual unbinding of the seams which hold a city together.

This is why first prize as Funny Man goes to Bill Hughes, boss of KKNW. The executive vice-president of Western Broadcasting went to Ottawa to tell the Davey committee on mass media that radio filled the news gap created by the shutdown of the two Vancouver dailies and that the public was not suffering from lack of news.

Sweet, flaming William! What cave has he been hiding in? As a matter of fact, the one clear lesson to the public was how inept are radio and TV. It was a disgrace to their profits how feebly they attempted to fill the gap.

Years back in a New York newspaper strike, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia went on TV to read the comics. Did any radio or TV station in Vancouver even attempt anything? What would be a more natural double than Tom Terrific Campbell and the comics?

Was there any attempt at a newspaper-of-the-air with features, reviews, background information? (CHQM was the only one that even bothered to run movie reviews.) It was Ben Wosk, dismissing his own business losses, who wisely said, "What is really important is that Vancouver is rapidly becoming a city of uninformed people."

Stations larded their newscasts with buckets of foreign news never before contemplated. To give the poor reader a world perspective? Of course not. It was because

the stations could no longer scalp the daily papers and pass it off as their own—which is their usual way of faking local news coverage...people are print freaks. The superficial radio-TV coverage couldn't satisfy.

Wilson's news-stand at Granville and Pender had a 50 per cent boost in sales of Time and Newsweek. London Sunday Times, at \$1 per copy, sold out. Sales of TV Guide went from 80 to 500 per week. Hotel Van news-stand said "at one stage we could have sold Eaton's catalog." Small news-stands quadrupled sales of the Toronto Globe and Mail and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. (Seattle papers at least had the initiative to run two columns of our news in their "Canada Edition" each morning. Complacent Victoria papers couldn't even bother to hire a Vancouver reporter or two to cover Vancouver's news.)

Even sales of paperback spy novels were up, as print-starved readers tried to pass the evenings away. Time, which pretends to put out a Canadian edition, could not in three months manage a mention that the second-largest paper in the country was shut down.

There are hundreds of hidden aspects. Attendance at funerals was down by 20 per cent. Three employment agencies closed because of the failure of communication. Children's Aid had a backlog of children for adoption; so did Catholic Children's Aid. In both cases, because the papers could not run the usual pictures and appeals.

Mr. Hughes, meet Mr. Wosk.

Allan Fotheringham is a regular feature columnist in the Vancouver Sun. This article, slightly edited for time elements, appeared May 15, the day the Sun and the Province resumed publishing.

Science breeds suns in bottles



Express

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EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITORIAL STAFF

THE ACADEMIC AS JOURNALIST

by DONALD CAMERON

ful of academics, civil servants, and students has researched, and published a monthly from Fredericton for a year now. Commitment—to peer critically into life—has been successful.

The Mysterious East—I am co-editor with Bob Campbell—has taken on pollution, police practices, drugs and the law, censorship, Indian problems, theatre, politics, prisons, music, the Acadians in Saint John (bulwark of the United Empire Loyalists) and the death of a Newfoundland outpost.

We filed a brief with the Special Senate Committee on Mass Media, petitioned the New Brunswick government to permit liquor advertising and initiated the Rubber Duck award for numbskulduggery.

We've carried articles describing how to set up tenants' associations, what citizens' rights are before the courts, how to minimize the risk of a bad drug experience. We've even tried to buy K.C. Irving's interest in *The Fredericton Gleaner*. Unsuccessfully, I should add.

Praise, thankfully, has come from Health and Welfare Minister John Munro; the *Toronto Star*; *Maclean's Magazine*; writer Robert Fulford. We've interviewed novelist Ernest Buckler; Irish politician Conor Cruise O'Brien; Indian leader Noel Doucette; and film-maker Allan King.

An average press run now goes more than 5,000. *The Mysterious East* is sold throughout the Atlantic Provinces, by subscription and on news-stands, and we have readers in provinces west of New Brunswick.

The Mysterious East revealed a conflict of interest in the work of E.S. Fellows, Chairman of the New Brunswick Water Authority, and reviewed the record of the incumbent New Brunswick and Nova Scotia governments. The autumn book supplement includes such Maritime contributors as critic Desmond Pacey; poets Milton Acorn, Fred Cogswell and Alden Nowlan—as well as other Canadians: John Newlove, Eric Nicol, Melville Watkins, Margaret Laurence—plus a couple of international figures, including writer Nat Hentoff.

"Well," chuckles an amiable colleague, "that's all very well, but Campbell isn't getting a Ph.D. for that!"

Exactly.

As far as universities are concerned—Fredericton's are no worse than others and considerably more tolerant in some ways—"all this is irrelevant, a self-indulgence, a distraction from the real job of teaching and passing courses, getting degrees, making grades, publishing scholarly articles, making trips to arcane conferences."

"I see Campbell's been doing a good deal of zeroing. I hope it wasn't for *The Mysterious East*," chides yet another.

Subtle pressure. (In this role, you are not part of the university.) Then, what in hell is the university for? The "Honest Liberal's Guide" states that the university is devoted to the free play of intellect, to

the mysterious east 35c
an independent atlantic magazine

LIBERALISM
CIBERALISM
CEBERALISM
CENERALISM
CENSRALISM
CENSOALISM
CENSORISM
CENSORSISM
CENSORSHSM
CENSORSHIM
CENSORSHIP

Newfoundland: Relocation equals Dislocation	Moments with the Musical Raiders	Saint John's Murky Waters
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the search for truth however heretical and unpalatable, to the dissemination of knowledge through teaching and research.

"I am especially impressed," writes Jack McAndrew, journalist and producer at the Charlottetown Summer Festival, "by the depth of research in your articles."

So are we not doing exactly what the universities claim they're doing? Why the tension?

I contend it is because the universities really are for certifying people fit for middle-class jobs. They're for compartmentalizing intelligent people, detaching them from the community and putting them in watertight boxes, remote from important decisions.

You go worry about Shakespeare, I argue, and we'll take care of the newspapers most people probably want and need. You develop atomic fission; never mind the practical implications.

Universities classify people through grades and degrees, house them in barracks, and deal out ranks and promotions much as an army might do. Though they contain many splendid people, their environment too often is authoritarian.

Bob Campbell takes academic goals seriously. He believes that the truth matters, that you arrive at some approach to it by doing a lot of reading and listening, by digging out the available facts and by putting them together in a comprehensible way.

Russell Hunt, a contributing editor, believes that precise thinking should imply precise language.

I believe Campbell is learning, is developing his research skills in practice and putting them to use, in the interests of the community which helps pay for his education.

University officers can say he is not learning because they can't figure out which department he should be in, which degree he should be seeking and how he should be examined.

Should every academic be doing something similar to *The Mysterious East*?

Obviously not. But they could be pursuing ideas and causes which have relevance outside the confines of the Ivory Tower.

Some academics should be doing things such as *The Mysterious East* because it is a legitimate academic activity. If the universities can't understand that, then I contend they are too rigid, too simple-minded about learning, too status-conscious and responsible to too-limited a segment of the general community.

Bob Campbell thinks the academic goals are overwhelmingly important. Will striving for them wreck his academic career?

Donald Cameron, co-editor of *The Mysterious East*, is associate professor of English at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. A short-story writer, he contributes frequently to CBC public affairs programs.

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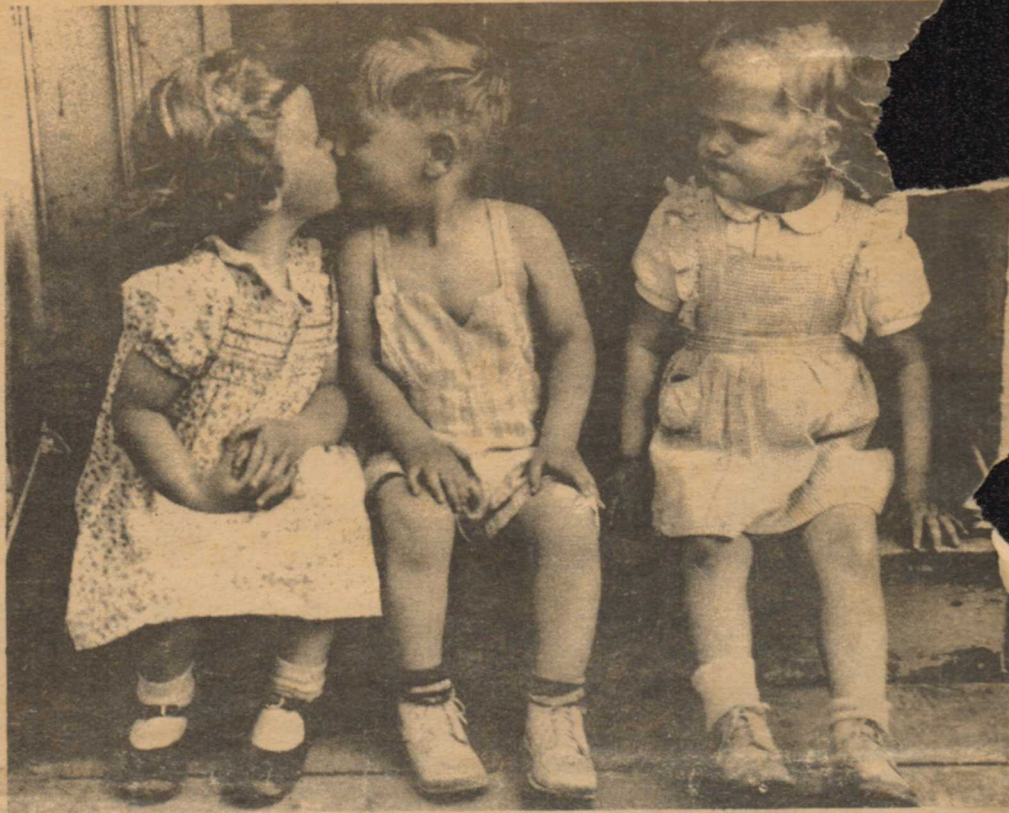
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Published monthly by
Reporter Publications
(president: Harry E. Thomas)
at Suite 1501, 550 Sherbrooke
Street West, Montreal 111, P.Q.
Canada.

Subscription rate: \$5.00 per year.
Distributed free to journalists
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