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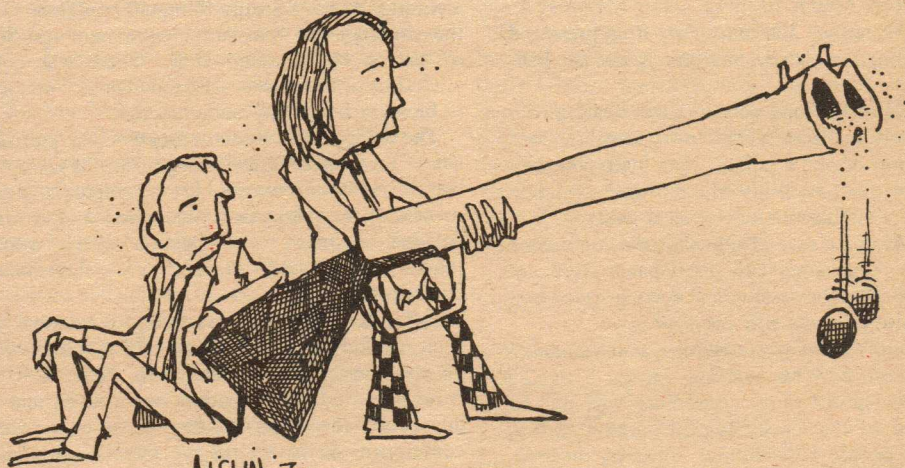
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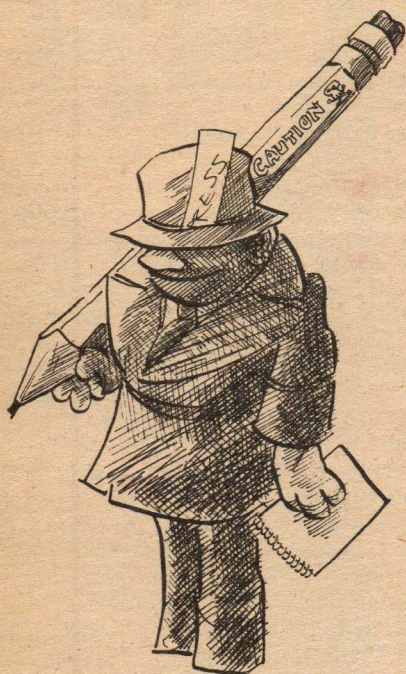
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MEDIA 72: SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

by DAN POTTIER

Fact: A conference of journalists was held in Ottawa from March 10 to 12.

Fact: More than 300 journalists from press and broadcasting attended, mainly from English-Canada.

Fact: 12 resolutions were adopted, dealing with such things as press/media ownership, reporter control over editorial policy, state intervention in the media, the possibility of a national organization, and a similar conference next year.

Fact: After the second annual media conference was over, organizers and participants were not quite sure what the session had accomplished and what positive results will come of it.

Question: Was it worthwhile; was it valuable?

Sub-question: Who cares?

The atmosphere of the conference was akin to a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce — a group of people with similar concerns meeting to talk shop. However, the similarity stops there. Businessmen are sure of themselves and their position in society. Journalists in this country seem to suffer from an inferiority complex — not quite sure if they are professionals or tradesmen, and not sure of their collective strength. There is, however, an awareness of power: The power of communications.

A motif of the conference, if one can be discerned, was a concern over how the 'power' is used by owners, by journalists, by the state. The dogma behind the concern was that the public has the right-to-know.

This year, there was no specific theme to the conference. There were no position papers and there were no advance resolutions. As a result, the three days of discussion were somewhat amorphous. There was no focal point of debate, and consequently there was no single line of force to emerge. Discussion was varied and widespread and so were the 12 resolutions adopted.

It would be grossly unfair to say the conference was worthless. It would be criminally irresponsible to analyze the meeting using the terms of reference of one drunken stranger who wandered in during Sunday's plenary session when the resolutions were being voted on. When he started creating a mild disturbance, he was asked if he was a participant to the conference. He replied, "I came in through bullshit and I'll go out through bullshit."

The amorphous state of the conference is a good indication of the amorphous nature of print and broadcast journalism in Canada. The limits and strengths of journalism are hard to define, and common concerns have variations from one area to another.

It is an accepted fact that the conference was good because it represents an infrequent reunion of journalists from across the country. It could be said that for a few days it represents a common front; but how common was it with such a meagre representation of French-language media people from Quebec.

Why such a small delegation from Quebec? It could be argued that the Québécois think the whole thing is too little, too late. Quebec already has a professional federation of journalists; it already has the roots of a press council; through certain collective agreements it already has enhanced the status of journalists; and so on.

Another conference organizer openly admitted that the rest of Canada was seven or eight years behind Quebec in terms of improving the working

conditions of journalists. Conference organizers attempted to have a truly bilingual conference — the simultaneous translation equipment testified to that — but it didn't work. There was only a handful of Québécois on hand. Quality people, to be sure, but sorely outnumbered.

The delegates — students and working journalists — took significantly strong positions vis-a-vis certain areas of concern. For example, a press ownership review board was urged and it was decided to press for legislation which would require media owners to make public their financial reports.

Delegates were far from being unanimous on such resolutions, and it is unlikely that they will be acted upon in the near future. Nevertheless, it remains that such positions were taken and it does widen the frame of reference for next year's conference. Some would say this is not worth much, that last year's conference (the first of its kind in Canada) did about the same thing with little concrete results.

Who cares? The 300 delegates, the people who were unable to attend, and most journalists. There may be disagreement over the means to attain certain goals, there even may be disagreement over the goals themselves, but gradually the base of action of widening.

As happened at Media 71, there was pressure to form a national organization. It was resolved

THE VW PRESS

"WHAT THIS COUNTRY NOW NEEDS, TO ACHIEVE THE SORT OF EDITORIAL COMPETITION THAT IS OUR BEST GUARANTEE OF A GOOD SOCIETY, IS A JOURNALISTIC EQUIVALENT OF THE VOLKSWAGEN."

Such was the way Senator Keith Davey's report on mass media described the alternative presses of the land. He and his colleagues believed that diversity in the media is highly-desirable and concluded that the main thing in common among the many VW publications of recent and current times is that *they never received a fair trial.*

Why didn't they? What, exactly, is an alternative press? What are the functions, the ideologies, the public response? What is the future for alternative-minded publications in Canada?

To answer these and other questions, a symposium was held in Ottawa just prior to Media 72, organized by *Content*, as the journalists' magazine, for the citizenship branch of the secretary of state's department. Some 30 people from across Canada attended. Proceedings were recorded and now are being transcribed. The April issue of *Content* will carry a full report.

to mandate the steering committee for next year's conference to study the possibilities for such a national body and report to Media 73.

Some would say that this is a sure way to bury the whole thing, but logically it was a wise move. There would be considerable opposition to a nation-wide body, especially from those areas already organized. Why rush head-long into an adventure that could well fail? Then it would be twice as difficult to pick up the pieces and start again.

Until the media conferences represent a permanent national organization with provincial or regional constituent members, it will continue to be somewhat haphazard. Yet, it should be (and has been to some extent) treated as a source of resource material. The last two conferences have merely been "a resource" and a stimulant — and should be recognized as such.

The organizers of Media 72 had this in mind when they invited Harry Boyle, vice-chairman of the CRTC, and Henry Bate, vice-chairman of the British Press Council, as guest speakers. They provided insight into areas related to news gathering, and this experience should be expanded for Media 73.

Just how effective the British Press Council has been was brought home rather eloquently on the Sunday morning by Henry Bate, the council's vice-chairman who retired last year after 25 years as a reporter with the *London Daily Telegraph*.

Apparently there's been a good deal of misunderstanding abroad, he said, about the effectiveness of the council; for, in fact, there is respect paid its role and rulings from the public, journalists and media owners. And changes have been wrought by the council's decisions in most instances. (*Content*, incidentally, hopes to carry a large portion of Bate's remarks in the April issue.)

If journalists think of such conferences as a source of instant miracles, they are deluding themselves. If they think of them as worthless, they are being unreasonable.

However, next year's conference should be organized according to a narrower frame of reference. Until it becomes the arm of a common front, it should act its age. It should convene people to discuss one specific theme and a few related topics, instead of offering a panorama of this, that and the other thing. Little steps for little feet.

In short, the organizers for next year's conference should keep in mind the limitations of such a conference and work within the possibilities. As such, they could make it much more meaningful.

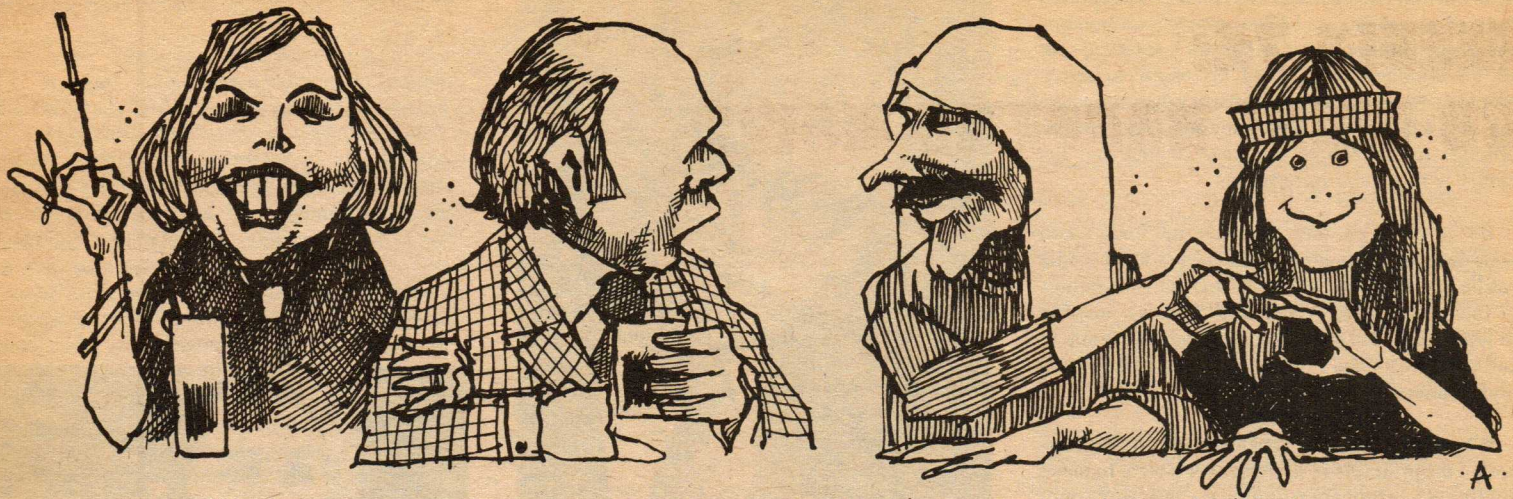
In this light, the conference mandated the steering committee to raise next year's admission fee from \$10 to \$15. The extra \$5 will go to research and documentation in preparation for Media 73.

In brief, Media 72 will be criticized in the weeks and months ahead, but its faults can and should be corrected. Media 73 should not be a replay of Media 72. The rules of the game should be changed.

Reporters in general, and media conference organizers, would do well to remember what Boileau said:

"Sitôt que sur un vice ils pensent me confondre, c'est en me corrigeant que je sais leur répondre."

Dan Pottier is with the Quebec City bureau of the *Montreal Star*.



TWO OLD 'CHESNUTS' - TWO NEW 'CHESNUTS': MEDIA '72.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED . . .

Nearly 30 resolutions arose from Media 72 workshops and individual delegates. In some cases there was duplication and overlapping and the resolutions committee, with Joseph Scanlon (chairman-on-leave from the journalism department at Carleton University) serving as chairman, used its discretion in blending motions as applicable. Finally, 17 resolutions were presented to the closing plenary session. Those which were passed follow; several incorporate amendments presented from the floor.

Whereas Media 71 and Media 72 have proven to be of value, therefore be it resolved that there be a Media 73, that this type of meeting be annual, that it be a forum aimed at improving the quality of Canadian journalism and that, specifically, a continuing committee be established by Media 72's steering committee from names submitted by the delegates to this convention.

And be it resolved that the continuing committee be mandated to promote resolutions adopted by Media 72, that individual committee members may abstain from the promotion of resolutions with which they or their organizations are in disagreement; that the committee be empowered to seek the assistance of other organizations in the furtherance of the objectives of Media 72 and also seek assistance to further these objectives through research, and further, specifically:

A- A continuing committee be created to organize Media 73.

B- This committee encourage in any way possible The Newspaper Guild, the Syndicat de journalistes, the Media Club of Canada, The Federation of Press Clubs and other existing organizations for journalists prepared to endorse the thrust of resolutions passed by this conference.

C- Collate, as far as possible, the work these groups do and what their problems and needs are.

D- Publish a report of what it has uncovered and done for all journalists prior to Media 73.

E- Propose a list of resolutions for the next conference.

F- Be funded by a \$15 registration fee for the next conference, \$5 of which can be used for the committee's work in 1972-73, and that the committee appeal to existing organizations for additional financial support.

G- That the committee shall not function as a bargaining agent for journalists but shall foster these goals through continued regional or national seminars.

H- That journalists wishing to use contractual means of achieving these goals are encouraged to use existing bargaining agents, such as The Newspaper Guild and constituent organizations of the Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec.

Resolved that part of the mandate of the steering committee be the consideration of a national association of journalists to complement the activities of existing organization and to report back on the matter to Media 73.

Que Media 72 fasse les représentations nécessaires auprès du gouvernement canadien pour qu'il amende la loi de la presse afin de reconnaître aux journaux et aux journalistes comme l'ont déjà fait une vingtaine d'états américains, le droit de refuser de divulguer leurs sources d'information lorsque l'information publiée ou recueillie pour publication:

A- Est d'intérêt public.

B- Ne met pas en péril la sécurité de l'état. Si elle pouvait mettre en péril la sécurité de l'état, la protection existerait quand même, a moins qu'il y ait impossibilité d'obtenir une preuve autre que celle que peut fournir le journal ou le journaliste.



Resolved that all political party leaders be urged to initiate and/or support legislation requiring media owners to publish annual, detailed financial reports of their operations. In the case of chain owners, these reports must be broken down to provide detailed information on a chain-wide basis and for each separate property.

Whereas the newspapers of Canada are gradually being absorbed by four owner-chains, and whereas this can mean control and almost unlimited power in the hands of a few vested interests over the dissemination of news in Canada including everything from names of polluters to free elections, be it resolved that a national press ownership review board be formed to examine proposed changes in the status of daily newspapers.

Whereas certain specific situations involving basic journalistic principles — situations such as the Ron Haggart and Brandon Sun cases — arise from time to time, and whereas it is difficult for a conference such as this to arrive at intelligent judgments regarding the merits of such cases in the absence of first-hand testimony from all the key parties involved, therefore be it resolved that Media 73 include arrangements to hear key parties involved in such situations and that where necessary they be specifically invited to Media 73 to give their versions of such disputes.

Whereas the function of news dissemination is a vital one to society, publishers and other media management must realize proprietorship of this function as a privilege, not a right, it is resolved that the responsibility for performing this function must rest with professional journalists and not professional businessmen or managers; the editorial department of any media outlet must have autonomy in the determination of news policy and content; editorial department employees must have veto power over the appointment of supervisory personnel; the editorial staff should have the right to determine the editorial resources, including manpower, and their use; and the responsibility for achieving and maintaining such newsroom autonomy must rest with journalists themselves.

Whereas it is self-evident that the Canadian public has the right to receive full, objective and timely information from its governments and about its governments regarding programs and policies, therefore be it resolved that research be undertaken regarding the rights of journalists to obtain information from governments, and further be it

resolved that the results of this research be reported fully to journalists and other appropriate persons and organizations; and, further, be it resolved that all governments in Canada be urged to move promptly to set out and implement policies declaring the obligation of both appointed and elected officials to serve both the news media and the public with factual information.

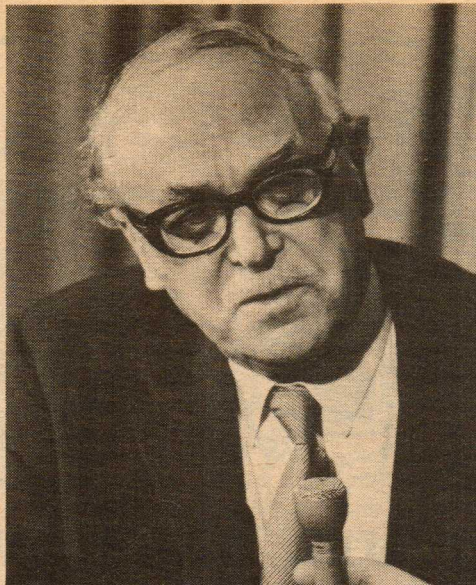
Be it resolved that research be undertaken regarding precisely how public access to all media can be realized and encouraged and that the findings of this research be reported as fully as possible to journalists, citizen groups, media management and proprietors and other appropriate persons and organizations.

Whereas journalists traditionally have supported the principle of a newspaper's right to make public such information as directly affects the public, and whereas the *Brandon Sun* made public in July 1971, a City of Brandon police department confidential report entitled *Problem Métis Families*, which singled out groups of citizens on the basis of their ethnic and racial background and contained erroneous personal information about them without their knowledge or consent, and whereas the *Brandon Sun* has become the target of constant criticism and its reporters made the subject of unfounded personal attacks by the mayor of Brandon following the July, 1971, story; therefore, be it resolved that this conference urge the immediate investigation of the situation in Brandon, Manitoba, as it relates to certain basic principles of journalism and that the report of the investigation be communicated fully to the journalistic community and other interested parties.

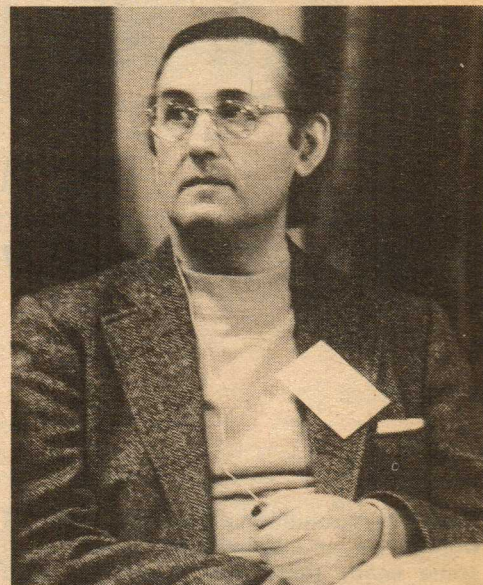
Whereas the *Toronto Star* refused to hire Ron Haggart, thereby abrogating a commitment to him; and whereas the *Star's* public reason for refusing to hire him is that he wrote a signed article supporting political candidates, and whereas Ron Haggart is an outstanding journalist and a credit to the profession, therefore be it resolved that this national conference of journalists condemns the *Toronto Star* for compromising press freedom by refusing to hire Ron Haggart on specious grounds thereby committing a disservice to responsible journalism, and be it further resolved that this conference rejects categorically the concept that political belief is a criterion for establishing achievement in journalism.

Whereas Cassandra legitimately predicted a sad, jobless fate for young Canadian journalism students, and whereas ridiculous statements have been made over the years about the dangers inherent in having the government's finger in the print media pie, and whereas television is a rather limited medium spacewise, as our yankee cousins say "for the grooming and blossoming of young journalists"; therefore, be it resolved that the delegates to Media 72 call upon the federal government to launch a fast study not to exceed one month before reporting to Parliament, of the costs involved in setting up a print media Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. (Such a chain, for example, might consist of half a dozen strategically-located newspapers linking St. John's, Newfoundland with Victoria, British Columbia. International and national news would be provided from a central point, Ottawa, with each local outlet's managing editor free to decide what he shall print and with his local news pages devoted entirely to provincial and local coverage. The possibility of making shares available to the public through the Canada Development Corporation should also be explored.)

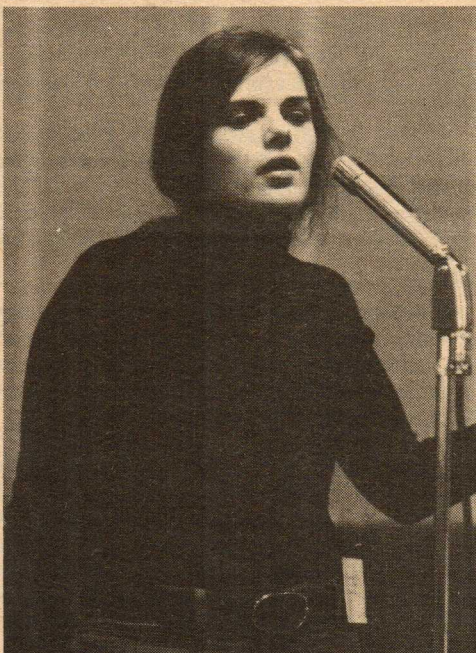
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Henry Bate, British Press Council



Anthony Westell, Toronto Star | Carleton



Joan Fraser, Financial Times



André Belliveau, La Presse

Photos: Gray Sperling

RUNNING OFFENSE FOR THE PEOPLE

by HARRY J. BOYLE

I feel it's about time we began looking at how well journalists and broadcasters are sorting out useful roles in the face of new circumstances and, particularly, new technology.

The commentators in China for Richard Nixon's visit seemed stunned that they had travelled 7,000 miles to be rewarded by an event without carnival overtones. They speculated endlessly about the cleanliness and the bareness. Not a single one found significance in the absence of a Chinese Potemkin to contrive facades of illusion, to deceive an empress, in this case a president. If, as we are so fond of saying, we are moving to a visual culture, we are doing so reluctantly!

Man walking on the moon, relayed faithfully in a picture, is a tremendous visual experience. The moon walker picks up a rock. This is a conscious experience for us on Earth, for technology permits man to go beyond the world to a constituent member of the galaxy. The viewer may receive and subconsciously store impressions and information.

We wait breathlessly to hear the participants on the moon for their reactions. We are like party-line subscribers on a rural telephone listening for the chit-chat with Houston Space Centre. But, all the time it seems deskbound commentators in New York or Toronto or Montreal broadcasting control studios keep on inserting cutlines.

Why? Why are we so intent on cluttering up communications?

It reminds me of how Noel Coward responded when he was asked his impression of television: "Good heavens," he said, "television is something you appear on, you don't watch."

I am not here to deride or belittle. This conference is a serious attempt at self-appraisal. It is not a time to be defensive about any aspects of media, but some quite harsh things are being said, both outside and inside.

Alan Brien, in 1967, drama critic of the London *Daily Telegraph* and host of a TV show, who once admitted he survived his grim industrial birth and up-bringing by denouncing everyone, made these caustic remarks about his profession:

"A newspaper or magazine is not the place to go see people actually earning a living, though journalists like to pretend they never stop sweating over a hot typewriter. It is much more like a brothel — short-rushed bouts of really rather enjoyable activity interspersed with long, lazy stretches of gossip, boasting, flirtation, drinking, telephoning, strolling about the corridors, sitting on the corners of desks, planning to start everything tomorrow. Each of the inmates has a little specialty to please the customers, the highest paid ones perform only by appointment, the poorest take on everything and anybody. The editors are like madams — soothing, flattering, disciplining their naughty, temperamental staff but rarely obliged to satisfy their clients personally between the printed sheets."

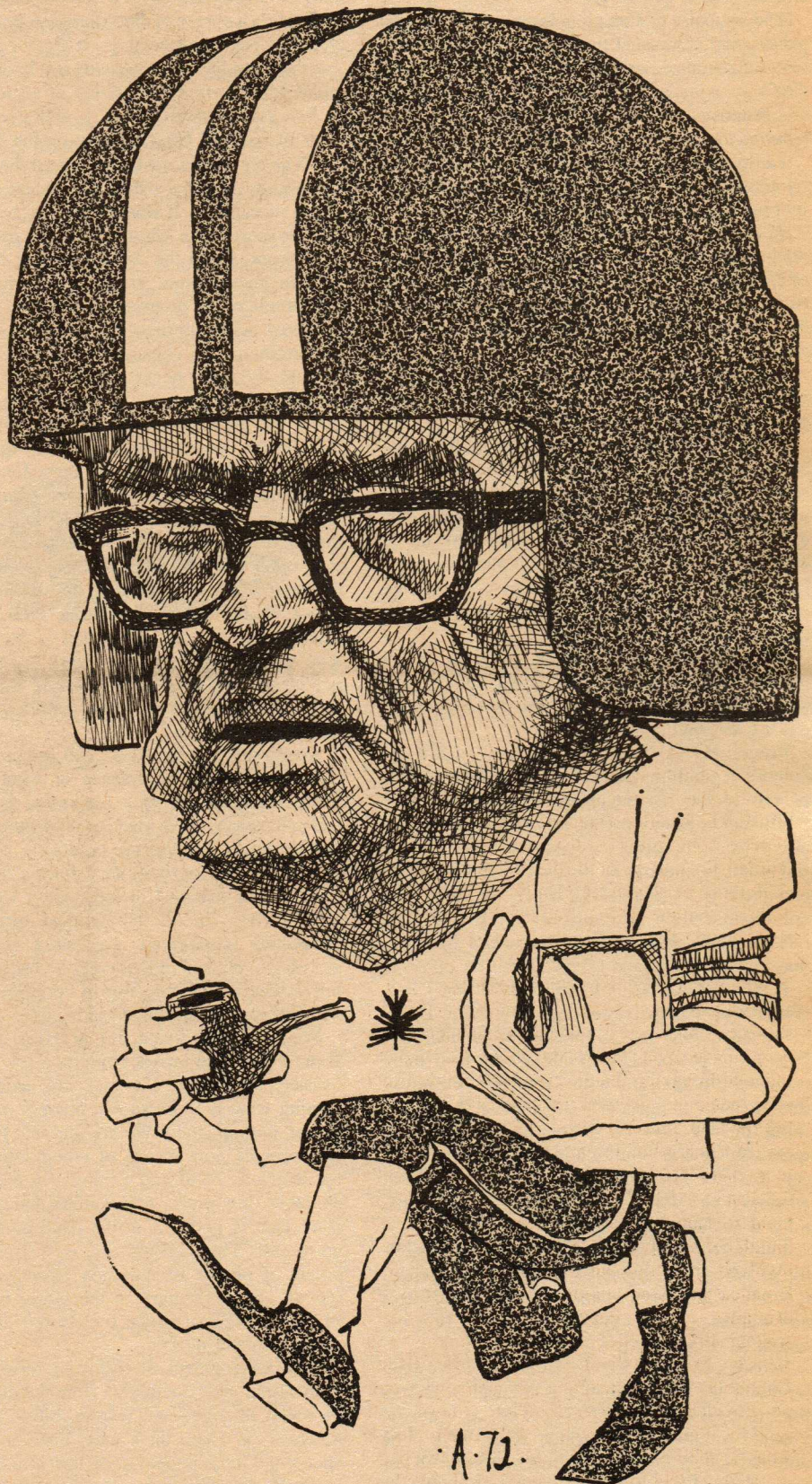
Too harsh? Are we suffering a post-Gutenbergian form of shock?

Everywhere, news — whether it comes by satellite or from a local rip-and-read newscaster — pushes into our consciousness. In totalitarian countries it booms from loudspeakers. In North America, TV and radio take over more of the news functions of the newspaper. Data transmission and technology take over other informational functions.

Are journalists dallying, as Brien suggests, because everyone — from broadcast commentators writing cutlines on satellite pictures to newspaper editors — still is bound to type, and work and live within the consciousness of print? How conscious are we of the revolution of technology, and the revolutionary consequences?

Newspapers have had 400-odd years, dating from the government-issued gazettas or broadsheets of Venice to today, to acquire habits, rules and forms.

On the other hand, in Canada the Marconi Company began radio broadcasting in the fall of 1919. Correspondingly, there has been a disproportion-



ate amount of development of all kinds — especially technological and scientific during the past fifty-three years as compared to the preceding three and a half centuries.

What about broadcasting?

The first point to be recognized is that broadcasting always has been subject to certain forms of control. This control, in Canada's case, a national legislative one, is what you might term a result of collective social concern. Examine broadcasting regulation in Canada over the past forty years and you get an analysis of our society: Its concerns, worries, fears, and so on.

The structure of Canadian broadcasting — part public, part private, at times a direct co-operation (as, for instance, private stations affiliated with CBC) — is an example of a Canadian ability to compromise — or adapt, you can accept either term — as I suppose, a *compromise in analysis*.

I am a journalist and broadcaster; I am temporarily acting as one of the regulators of broadcasting by reason of the Broadcasting Act of 1968.

In regard to ownership and control by Canadians, the CRTC was directed by the government of Canada that no broadcasting undertaking may be operated with less than 80 per cent ownership by Canadians. This has been practically accomplished.

But what about safeguarding, enriching, and controlling the cultural, political, social and economic fabric? Who determines this?

If the regulations were to go beyond anything but a fairly broad interpretation, re-enforced by reviews such as those of the parliamentary committees responsible, what concerns would you hear expressed? The phrase would be "freedom of expression", the cry would be "state control." Now, I, for one, agree about the possible tyranny of "state control," but I am also aware of the tyranny of "control by ratings."

But, what about the tyranny of habit — the tyranny of refusing to recognize that society may have changed while we have been arguing yesterday's concerns?

Private broadcasters, by and large, have not favored regulation, but as Hugh Carleton Greene of the British Broadcasting Corporation says: "Whether he likes it or not, the broadcaster, under any system, is always a public servant. In the last resort he operates by permission of the public, and there is no country in which the state does not retain certain sanctions. If the public feels it is abused by those servants, in the end the public may remove them and replace them by others."

It goes beyond this. Graham Spry, of the Canadian Broadcasting League, stated it to me as:

"Broadcasters and regulators of broadcasters have more power and, therefore, both bear more responsibility than any others who use, or control, instruments, or agencies, influencing the public mind and the flow of information which is the quintessence and condition of a functioning society. Without communication, there is no society, whether it be a hive of bees, a troop of Boy Scouts, a bar association, or a nation."

I have profound humility about the responsibility of being a member of a regulatory agency. It is not an adversary system between broadcaster and regulator; it cannot be, because it is a cooperative responsibility.

Broadcasters must have freedom — an awesome freedom; just take the matter of culture! How does the broadcaster show it? Will it be an aesthetic view of a cultivated, educated class? Will it be dominated by a constant and overwhelming obsession to provide mass consumers with programs to pacify and soothe?

Broadcasters, all mass media, in revealing society to itself must constantly make choices. They adjust between the status quo and the advocates of change, making some kind of sense out of labels and slogans. They must sort out between educated cultivated, intellectual, middle-class, the poorly educated; in effect, act as good agents in the pursuit

of understanding, rather than reinforce inherent prejudices. This cannot be regulated into being.

It happens when those who operate and control the instruments of mass media deliberately set up a climate of freedom. This encourages talent which has a desire to explore both old and new forms and technology in the pursuit of those three terms so firmly quoted in broadcasting: Education, information and entertainment.

Regulation is a blunt instrument. But surely there's more to broadcasting in the hearts and minds of people who work in it than what can only be wrung out by rule and regulation.

There's a phrase in the Pilkington Report which you may reject out-of-hand. It argued that broadcasters must have "a constant and living engagement with the moral condition of society."

For your consideration, I will give you the reasons Richard Hoggart gave on the BBC:

"The report was not talking about the conscious promotion of some particular ethical norms, or about moralising. It was saying that broadcasters cannot settle for a wholly aesthetic definition of their work. From the day they select the subject of their first program, from the way they prepare and produce that program, they are at every step involved with, meshed in with, re-enforcing or undermining, the value systems of their society. Though they may never give the matter a passing thought, the pattern of their omissions and commissions, their repetitions and lacunae, the way they let the camera linger or switch quickly, the plays they choose and those they don't choose, the subjects they select for discussions, and the ways they produce the discussions, the clothing they give their actors and actresses, the interiors they order from the stage designers: All this will be dialectically engaged at all points with existing views of the good life within their societies. There is no way out. They will — to the extent they are powerful at their work — be disposing some people towards changes in directions they, the broadcasters, have consciously or unconsciously chosen."

Surely this is what we all call professionalism. It's a responsible acceptance of what it entails to be a broadcaster or a journalist. Our desires and enthusiasms have made us publishers or broadcast licensees, or editors or producers, or reporters or announcers. As such, we carry the responsibility of being sensitive to the society we exist in. That society, in all its manifest forms, to be adequately represented, presents a challenge to us collectively and individually — for it is changing all the time. A reflection of the surface without any probing for reason is inadequate.

We call it mass media, but, in effect, it is limited at the moment in broadcasting to a few channels. Consequently, those who make the decisions concerning what is to be shown possess tremendous power and influence. We are told that technology will provide new means of communications as, for instance, local and community broadcasting on cable, low-power transmitters and closed circuit. This is good. It is the hand-press brought up-to-date. These efforts may well strengthen the bonds of people of common interests but they remain complementary to the larger proposition of broadcasting in a total society reflecting facets of the national mosaic.

The development of localized forms of communication must not detract from the main stream of social dialogue and responsibility. If access, however, is given on a local basis it may well encourage more people to be less afraid of trying to invade the often mysterious processes by which mass media operates.

We need local interaction! We need national dialogue! But we also need international exchange. It's 53 years since that first radio station began in Montreal. Radio became a vital link in communications during the 1939-45 war. Television on a national scale came to Canada in 1953. Newspapers have moved largely to consolidate;

so has a great deal of broadcasting. The original entrepreneurs are yielding to corporate broadcast organizations, with centralized management.

How are we coping, as individuals who have chosen to spend our lives as journalists and broadcasters?

Harold Innis, forerunner of Marshall McLuhan, studied communication back to clay tablets. He said: "Writing which requires tools and training preserves traditional ideas and perspectives. Broadcasting is instant and requires no training to *perceive*. If you accept this thesis that the use of a medium of communications over a long period determines the character of the knowledge to be communicated, it's not difficult to assume that we have a revolutionary change in society after each revolutionary change in the means of communication."

How well do we recognize it? How do we adapt our habits and patterns from one form of communication to cope with a new one?

Let's refer to the instant world of satellite transmission where technology transcended national borders. Here was technology working perfectly! The Chinese and American technologists meshed! But what about the reporter-broadcaster analysts?

These were men and women seasoned in coverage of riots, political conventions, assassinations and disasters. They found a strange, new happening.

"Tell me," asked the anchor-man in New York, "is there an air of excitement in Peking today?"

"No," said the mystified veteran of Cow Palace political convention confusion, "I can't say there is."

The veterans of print, of filling dead air on radio and of talking over the dramatic fullness of Man on the Moon, were stumped by the emptiness of the Tien An Men Square in Peking.

On the other hand, I saw recently on CHO-TV and CTV a one-hour documentary with Chester Ronning, the Canadian Sinologist, returning to places he knew in China. He was speaking to old acquaintances and reporting without an interpreter. It was a lesson in reporting. Ronning didn't analyze, he simply translated what he was told and left the viewer to mull over the effects of Mao-Tse-Tung — and his philosophy on the Chinese people on screen.

There were Sinologists at all the American networks, but they were in New York. The reporter-correspondents, speaking only English, were 7,000 miles away trying to comprehend a *new* part of the world.

I am not trying to be facetious at the expense of the men and women accustomed to North American journalism, who, as someone said, ended up with hundred-year-old egg on their faces. They were in the controlled atmosphere of a Chinese reception for an American president.

The truth is, not one of the experts, observers, Sinologists went on the press plane. The question is — an important question for all of us: "Who will write the cutlines for even stranger pictures in the Instant World when those pictures are not stage-managed by our own system of communications?"

Incidentally, broadcast media has lost control before. Jerry Rubin, the Yippie leader knew this when he said: "You can't be a revolutionary today without a television set. It's as important as a gun." In October, 1970, The FLQ said: "We have achieved a victory . . . kidnappings force the media to open their doors."

I ask myself constantly how the media, which I firmly believe in Canada to have a good record, how can media be moved to encourage and nurture the ambitions of those who work in it — to give them pride in their chosen work. There must be a constant over-reach in creative and responsible tasks, and it becomes increasingly so if journalists and broadcasters are to use the tremendous opportunities which technology contains.

There was an over-reach in the concept of this

nation. It was an outsized and creative ambition to match our geography. They used means of transportation and communication, railroads, airlines and broadcasting, to help knit this country together.

It was not perfect, it was flawed, it was human, but so far it has worked remarkably well.

Those dreams and realizations are constantly under pressures. We are asked to give in and allow ourselves to be seduced into the arms of a powerful neighbor. The phrases used are frighteningly unoriginal. We hear about the efficiency of bigness. We are told we can't survive. There is a dirge about lack of identity. Most often they originate with those who subscribe to the theory of Dr. Johnson that men are seldom as happy as when they are making money.

In broadcasting, we have a heritage. It comes from the will of Parliament — irrespective of polit-

ical persuasion. It is a natural endowment of a constant and magnificent over-reach. The role of the CRTC is to administer it as best it can by regulation and definition. That can only achieve so much; the will of man cannot be regulated, it must not be regulated!

Arthur Irwin, writing in the *Vancouver Sun*, talked about newspapers in a world of galloping change. He outlined how newspapers, for instance, can't match electronic media for immediacy and can't be first with the external event, so it must seize on the known and reveal its meaning. In this way it generates new news.

"In contemporary society, the journalistic process is indispensable to the functioning of any self-government." He goes further to suggest the public understands the truth of this and senses that the health of society is directly related to the flow of information within it. Journalism must

illuminate the realities of the contemporary world.

But education and the arts are also part of the information system. So it falls to the artist, and the journalist, and the broadcaster — men and women who by desire and experience equip themselves to inform the public about the realities in an intelligent way. They must never allow truth and significance to be subordinated by pressure, force or circumstances, and they must make technology a servant of the process — not the master.

The preceding is excerpted from an address to Media 72 delegates by Harry J. Boyle, vice-chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, the title of which was "Cutlines for an Instant World."

SOME PEOPLE CAN'T BE SATISFIED ALL THE TIME

by HARVEY MAYNE

Students didn't seem to have a very pleasant experience at Media 72, if my prowling is any indication. They seemed to be disappointed, even bitter, about the proceedings. And there was talk about establishing their own national association, a grouping of journalism students.

Their complaints? Too much talk, little action. And students were not made to feel at home. Some left feeling, they said, "disgust." Some 80 journalism and communications-arts students attended Media 72.

A Ryerson student said she had the feeling "working journalists resented us. On the first night of the conference, an editor in the feature-writing workshop called us lazy and seemed to associate young reporters with yuppies and protestors. What a welcome!"

Another said some people were complaining about the hero-worship element in sports-writing, "but where were the concrete suggestions from working journalists to remedy this?" And someone found that most of the practising journalists hadn't even read the Davey Report, which was a "real let-down."

Perhaps what depressed these students most was the long-term effect the conference would have on their attitudes towards their future profession. "I feel very idealistic now, but in three years, when I graduate, I'll be so indoctrinated after going through the journalism course that I will want to retain all the old values which I don't particularly like.

"If we don't get our own conference, or at least a separate section at the media conferences, then I don't see how we are going to change anything. Right now at Ryerson, we have a course called Press and Society, where we're taught about the effects of the press on society, and the good and bad things the press does, and we learn to criticize the media.

"Then, we have another course called Reporting, where we walk in and we're told the right style to follow in writing, and we're not supposed to deviate from it. So what's the good of criticism, when you can't make use of it in practice?"

I might inject a personal note, as a journalism student myself. The dilemma this student faces is not unique to Ryerson, since we have come across it at Carleton too, and it is a problem for teachers and students alike.

Some people might think this would be better discussed at a journalism education conference instead of something such as Media 72. However, more and more journalists are being recruited from

the schools of journalism, and the difference between the ideal and practice becomes a problem not only to education people, but to professional organizations.

About 20 Ryerson students met together informally and the suggestion of establishing a national association of journalism students began to be considered there. This was very informal and they were unable to get into contact with more than a few students from the other schools at that time.

By Sunday, they had become angry about what they thought was the condescending attitude of the organizers toward them. Some were particularly burned up by a statement by Sunday's conference chairman T. Joseph Scanlon. Early in the meeting, he suggested that everyone who had paid their registration fees could vote on the resolutions, but perhaps those who felt they did not have proper qualifications (i.e. the students) could refrain at their discretion. This was resented, to say the least.

Andrew Gravely of Carleton and Richard Winter and Richard Bowness, from Ryerson, had been working with the organizers of the conference, helping to collect resolutions. Thus, they were the only "students" who felt any real involvement with the conference, and they had different — and more positive — experiences than other students.

There was some resentment about the presence of Robert Rupert from the guild. One student said it looked as if "Mr. Rupert was going to the mike every two minutes, and using the conference to expound on the platform of the Guild."

Some students thought it ironic that journalists "want to cut down on capitalism in the media, even though without this capitalism, they wouldn't be paid."

One said "a lot of them don't know half what we do, the way they're talking such nonsense."

It would be mistaken to assume that there is an easy division between students and journalists. Some delegates took on the two roles. One of these, Jim Davies, 24, is a writer at the *Ottawa Citizen*, and he studies at Carleton University's school of journalism.

He told me the conference reminded him of "a sort of ethic of bringing religion out of the woodwork on Sunday.

"Little was accomplished. They talked of having a professional association, but the only decision was to decide to put it off . . .

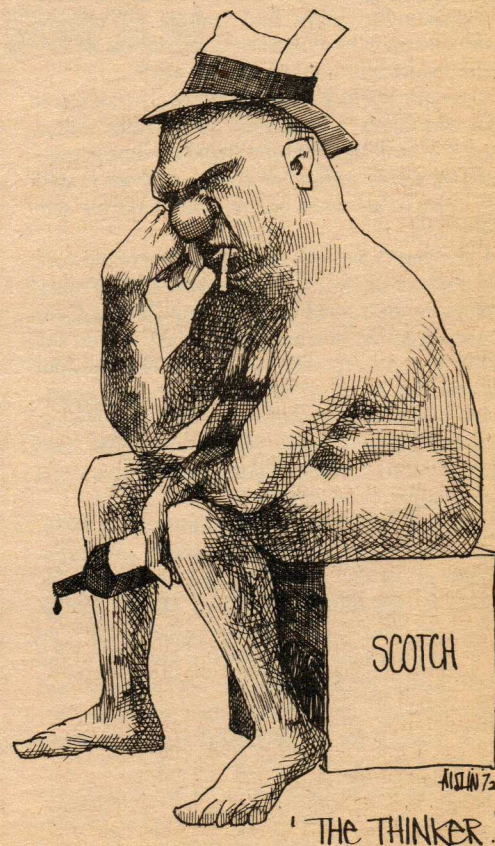
"The workshops were extremely superficial.

People were talking simply to hear themselves speak. Yet, at the Sunday afternoon session on resolutions, I could see some honest expression and attempts to resolve matters.

"I'm hoping at the next conference there will be better organization and more structure. Maybe position papers at the beginning of the plenary sessions and on the third day, the resolutions. As it is now, I don't think any resolution has any effect except giving inner satisfaction."

Bowness said, "If you didn't come with any fixed purpose, the conference was o.k. Anyway, Scanlon said he had cautioned people organizing the student end of the conference that it would not be for students — they were disappointed, because they didn't know about this. I wish there had been more people from Quebec though."

Harvey Mayne is a graduate student in journalism at Carleton University.



Media 72 sketches by Montreal caricaturist Aislin.

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

MEDIA AND THE LAW

by KELLS HOLMES

(This article, prepared by Kells Holmes of the journalism department at Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, is based on the Press and the Law thesis of the late E. U. Schrader. Prof. Schrader wrote three Media and the Law instalments before his death last August.)

Asked what to do when sued for libel, one lawyer replied: "Call a lawyer." Right on, if you please, but for journalists the three-aspirin headache nags on every day: how to avoid getting sued.

The short answer, Watch Your Language, can provoke slanderous rejoinders in the press club. It's like counselling Fred Astaire to watch his step. Yet it finds formidable company in the words of J. J. Robinette, QC, solicitor for Canadian Press and the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association. "Words are dynamite" was how he summed up a recent talk on libel for Ryerson journalism students.

Journalists disposed to shrug off the warning or to let editors do their worrying might paste these items in their heads:

- If names still make news, almost every news story and commentary may harbor libel. Newspapers and broadcasting stations stand excellent chances of getting sued.

- One group of managing editors reported that nine-tenths of all libel actions grow out of "inaccuracies of reporting, writing, typesetting or headline writing."

From which reporters and desk men might take their cue. They can save themselves or—and it usually boils down to this—their publishers a bundle. Libel can loot the treasury of any news medium. It can ruin a small one.

Writes William F. Swindler in *Problems of Law in Journalism*, "Libel is probably the most important single phase of law with which the working newspaperman comes into contact." Yet how many newsmen or broadcasters do you know with better than fuzzy notions of libel law?

Common practice is to pass the buck to an editor who may know a couple of useful rules milled in sorrow, or cling to obsolete legal maxims perpetuated by indoctrinating the young. And entire staff may learn a rule when one reporter barks his shin on the law.

Even journalists who have done their homework find libel law unclear and capricious. Almost every session of the Canadian Managing Editors Conference features seminars on the law. Could the CDNPA, in its reported new role as lobbyist, put the case for revision? Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt, in his first year as chairman of the Law Reforms Commission of Canada, has invited just such evaluations by laymen. Corresponding provincial bodies might be receptive.

The constant threat of litigation, meanwhile, breeds caution or downright timidity and often enough as an end product a less than vigorous brand of journalism. But the Davey Senate committee said Canada deserves better. It's an open question how far a growing hostility to the news media mirrors present performance and augurs new attempts to restrict their freedom. Journalists girding for battle should arm themselves with the meaning of existing restraints.

Since the law on defamation endlessly menaces the media, how to manoeuvre? To find or fashion defences, you first define the monster. The libel and slander acts of Canada's provinces are similar,

but personnel in English-language mass media sometimes find it useful to take their footing in the common law principles of how to avoid getting sued.

Print journalism, radio and television are covered in the libel acts of Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Alberta, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The other provinces regard oral defamation as slander.

Mr. Justice Alexander Stark, for years the libel lawyer of the Toronto *Daily Star*, quoted a simple definition made by Mr. Justice Cave: "A libel is a false statement about a man to his discredit." Toronto lawyer Robinette told a legal seminar of Thomson Newspapers the "law recognizes reputation as a property value." He defined libel as "any printed words, picture, cartoon or caricature which tend to lower a person in the estimation of right-thinking men, or cause him to be shunned and avoided, or expose him to hatred, contempt or ridicule, or disparage him in his office, trade or calling."

Note "tend." Under libel law, as under contempt of court law, *tendency* can club you.

The law blesses these defences to libel:

1. Truth (justification by fact);
2. Fair Comment;
3. Qualified Privilege.

But a neat list won't disarm practicing sceptics.

The key word in Mr. Justice Cave's definition is "false," for, as Mr. Justice Stark wrote: "Truth is a complete defence." But Joseph Dean points out in *Hatred, Ridicule or Contempt* that "it is one thing to 'know' the truth of a libel, and quite another to be able to prove it in court."

The writer accepts many of his facts on faith, and it does no good to quote a source accurately on a false statement that damages a person's reputation.

"Newspapers cannot escape responsibility for defaming a man's character by showing that it was on the authority of some other individual," Mr. Justice Stark told a conference of managing editors. If a reporter correctly quotes a policeman as stating that the arrested man is guilty, "you must show that . . . the accused was in fact guilty. Indeed, the very fact that you have quoted a police officer in support of the allegation of guilt adds to the gravamen of the libel; for the reader naturally believes there must be something to it, when the police make the statement."

To prove the truth of facts correctly quoted can be so difficult that many writers pay more heed to the tail end of Mr. Justice Cave's definition: "discredit." To state falsely that a man has a communicable disease libels him by causing him to be shunned or avoided. The law presumes damage. (Similarly dangerous are words imputing lack of chastity in a woman.)

Separating this concept from mere embarrassment is not easy. You can infuriate without libelling. A church warden accused of stealing the bell ropes may have fumed but had no redress. It was established that he was custodian of the ropes and could not have swiped his own property.

In a New York case, it had been published of a woman that "She had a litter of pups." This feat was held to be impossible and the statement plainly nonsense and not libellous.

Add "incompetent" to your list of naughty words. Students are notorious for gossiping about their "incompetent" instructors, and falsely sta-

ting that a professional person is incompetent is libellous *per se*. But if students continue to attend his classes and the administrators retain their confidence in him, it might be difficult to find a jury which would conclude that the teacher had been libelled.

Assuming a jury was chosen which technically found the defendant guilty of libel, their assessment of compensatory damages for actual monetary loss could be nominal. When James Whistler sued newspaper critic John Ruskin for caustic comments regarding a Whistler exhibition of paintings, the jury awarded Whistler one farthing.

The prevailing hostile mood of juries against newspapers, however, prompts some publishers to settle out of court. Procedure calls for the judge to decide whether the words complained of are capable of causing a libel, and the jury concludes whether a libel actually occurred and how much compensation the plaintiff deserves.

The English Shawcross enquiry felt concern that "damages awarded in some recent cases have been so high as virtually to deter any publication which . . . might give rise to a successful action." The report, in 1965, said the press was "nervous" about juries for "juries might be prejudiced against the press because it had offended public taste by giving unnecessary and unjustified publicity to people's private lives; the man in the street had lost sight of the true value of money and considered newspapers could well afford to pay huge damages."

Such few libel cases reach court that it can be assumed the mass media take pains not to discredit a person, and if such happens innocently the case is settled privately. While provable truth is always a complete defence, sometimes on their face the words appear to be harmless.

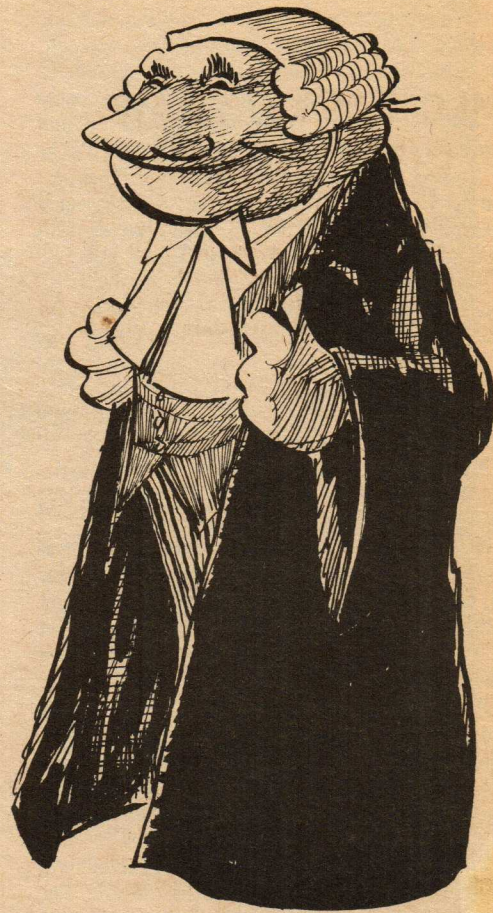
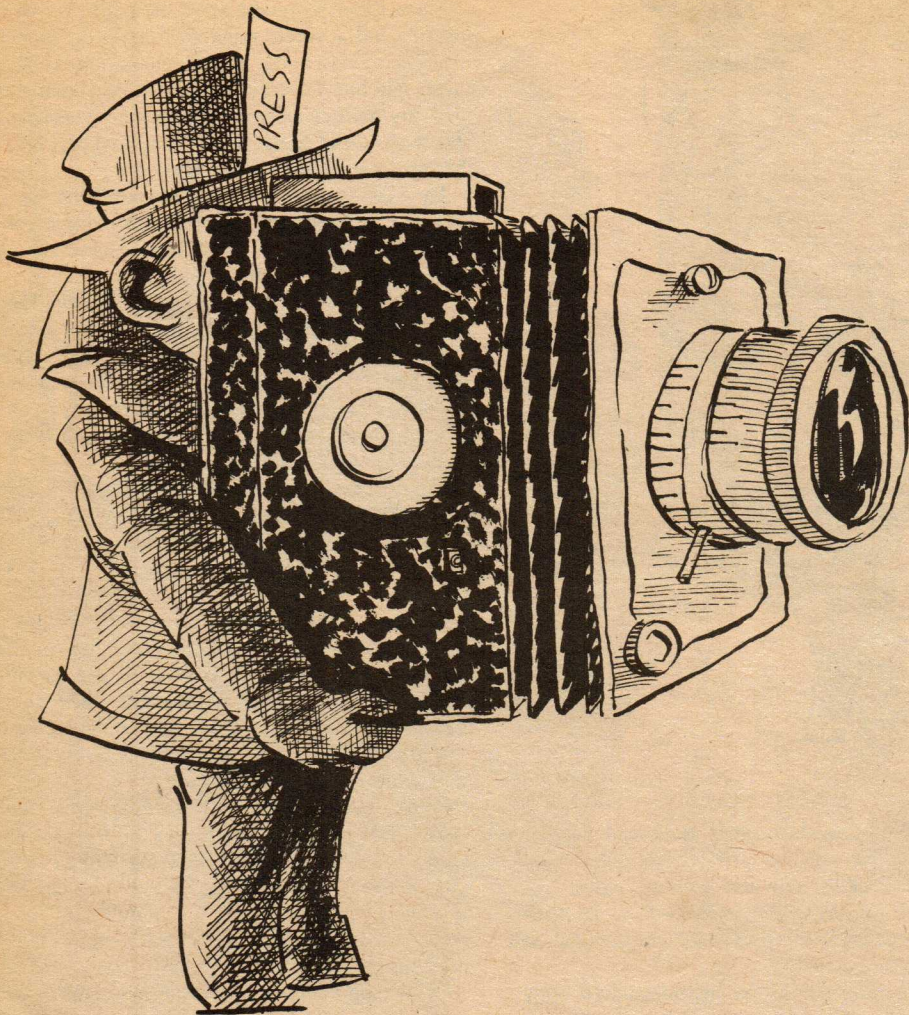
Mr. Justice Stark told managing editors that an undertaker sent an advertising card by mail to a man whose wife was critically ill. The card stated: "Bear in mind our undertaking department. Satisfaction guaranteed." The name of the business was not the undertakers's but of a competitor. The motive was to hold up the competitor in a hateful light.

While the words may be harmless, the context may include an innuendo. Mr. Justice Stark related how the Toronto *Star's* classified department accepted an advertisement which, on the surface, appeared to be innocuous. It read: "Wanted—Dealers, switch and bust-out men, card dealers to handle readers. Union wages." Then followed the name of a well-known club.

Mr. Justice Stark explained that a "switch and bust-out man" is a card manipulator who "can switch his low card and bust out with a high one." A dealer who can handle "readers" is "a crooked dealer who is used to shuffling marked cards." He presumed that some disgruntled member of the club had sought revenge by inserting the advertisement, but the *Star* was legally responsible for the libel.

The Ottawa *Journal* carried a picture of a May Day communist parade. A civil servant in a high security post of the department of external affairs had tried to beat the parade across the street, but the camera shutter snapped. In truth, she was at the front of the parade, but the innuendo indicated she was a communist leader.

Sweeping statements containing partial truth can cause difficulties. Said Mr. Justice Stark: "If



you write of a politician that 'he is a common liar', you will not succeed in your action by finding him out in a single falsehood. For the meaning of the charge that you have levelled against him is that he is addicted to lying, or that his word is quite untrustworthy; and that is quite a different charge from claiming that on some occasion he has been caught in an untruth."

Repeating a libel can be dangerous. A libel writ setting forth words complained of can inspire an additional action even if the writ is quoted accurately. Free-lance writers can court trouble by accurately quoting research material which contained libellous statements.

But the application of libel law sometimes strikes journalists as inconsistent. Newspapers have been held both guilty and not guilty for printing libellous stories disseminated by news services. It has been ruled that a headline alone is libellous and, contrarily, that the story must be judged as a whole.

The onus for proving truth rests with the defendant, and the law of libel is neither cut nor dried. The only sure thing is, Mr. Justice Stark said, that "you cannot defame a dead person. Defamatory words published of a deceased person are not deemed to inflict on their surviving relatives any such legal damage as will sustain an action, as long as their reputation is not affected."

Newspaper editors found it useful to test out hazy problems on libel lawyer Robinette at the Thomson Newspapers seminar. Some of his opinions:

To say a manager "is consistently guilty of mistaken judgment" would libel him in his occupation. Managers are expected to make occasional mistakes, but to be consistently wrong would brand him as incompetent.

It is libellous to call a Canadian a communist.

Disparaging remarks made humourously about himself by an after-dinner speaker could be libellous if reported without humor.

In a hunting accident, it would *not* be libellous

to report that Smith shot Jones, provided no criminal intent was implied.

To resurrect a truthful though disparaging statement in a "Many Long Years Ago" column would not be libellous. (The man had struck someone and had been found guilty.)

Lists of guests printed in a society page can cause trouble. The case cited involved an advance list of guests invited to a social affair. The newspaper printed the names of "those who attended." A woman called her doctor, was told he was sick, and she later read his name in the paper as having attended the party. The angry patient dropped him as a doctor.

The one exception for justification—or provable truth—seems to affect government. Mr. Justice Stark told Canadian managing editors that Canadian courts usually cite a Chicago case "as the authority for the proposition that a city or municipal corporation or government cannot itself sue for libel." The precedent deserves elaboration.

In 1921, the mayor of Chicago, Bill Thompson, was annoyed with the almost daily attacks fired at his administration by the *Chicago Tribune*. The *Tribune* said, "The city is broke," "Bankruptcy is just around the corner for the City of Chicago," "the city government has run on the rocks."

The city corporation sued for \$10,000,000, by coincidence the estimated value of the *Tribune*. The city argued that the *Tribune* had damaged its credit and prevented the sale of bonds. The *Tribune* admitted its error but won the case.

Judge Fisher of the Circuit Court of Cook County gave as his judgment: "The harm that would certainly result to the community from an officialdom unrestrained by fear of publicity is incalculable If this action is maintainable, then public officials have in their power one of the most effective instruments to intimidate the press and to silence their enemies Imposters would continue undismayed, and public office would be a rich reward for the unscrupulous demagogue."

Chief Justice Mansfield said in England almost 200 years ago that "Whatever a man publishes, he publishes at his peril" and innocence is no defence.

On July 29, 1948, the Manitoulin (Ont.) *Expositor* printed a report concerning a man charged with taking a truck and of obtaining a chattel mortgage of \$81 on a truck he did not own. The news story said he pleaded guilty. He was subsequently acquitted. He sued because the printer had omitted the word "not" before guilty.

Proving the truth of statements credited to reliable sources is so difficult that the mass media frequently resort to the second defence: Fair Comment. Mr. Justice Stark defined comment as a statement of opinion on facts. The facts must be true and the comment must be made without malice upon some matter of public interest.

When Judge Weinfeld charged the jury in the *Quentin Reynolds v. Westbrook Pegler* libel case he said "Actual malice defeats the defence of fair comment By actual malice is meant personal spite or ill-will, or culpable recklessness of culpable negligence."

Mr. Robinette told the managing editors' seminar, regarding public interest, that "you cannot justify a personal attack, even upon a public man, in his personal life."

Mr. Justice Stark said: "In commenting on a man's actions, or his writings, or his art, or his public conduct, you are as free as the wind to do it in whatever style you choose, as long as you do not reflect on his own character." Thus you can comment on the acting but not on the actor; on the writing but not the writer. You can say the acting is bad, but you cannot say he is an incompetent actor.

"The politician is a public personage, a fair matter for comment, and he must not always expect that the comments will be laudatory. A clergyman with his flock, and admiral with his fleet, a general with his army, and a judge with his jury, are all subjects of public discussion. Who-

ever fills a public position renders himself open thereto. He must accept an attack as a necessary though unpleasant appendage to his office."

It is almost impossible to libel a politician during an election campaign. In *Dennison v. Sanderson*, the defendant, an exterminator, used his advertising space in the *Globe and Mail* for a series of diatribes against candidates. Ontario Chief Justice Keiller Mackay laid down the law:

"It was plain upon the face of the pleadings that the whole matter was a by-product of a heated election campaign in which party feeling was aroused A jury is not necessarily perverse if it refuses to regard as seriously as the party assailed may do, the seemingly venomous attacks made upon such an occasion. No monetary loss is involved, and a jury is not likely to regard as serious the damage, if any, done by words applied to a political opponent, even though they may amount to gross abuse."

A more famous case which reached the Supreme Court of Canada involved the *Toronto Star* and George Drew, then premier of Ontario.

March 23, 1945, the Drew government was beaten and an election called for June 4. May 24, CCF leader E. B. Joliffe accused the government of having a secret police force in the nature of a "Gestapo" to spy on labor unionists and other "foes."

Joseph Atkinson, *Star* publisher, picked up the cudgels with an editorial every day until the election, on Mr. Drew's "Gestapo" which he likened to German Nazi leader Himmler. Drew issued a denial which the *Star* printed and then labelled as worthless.

The day after Premier Drew's government was re-elected, he sued the *Star* for \$100,000. The case came to trial in March, 1947, and a jury found there was no libel. Drew appealed, and five justices of the Court of Appeal ordered a new trial.

Chief Justice Robertson commented that the jury should have considered whether the *Star* went beyond fair comment when it likened the premier to Himmler. "If the defendant pleads fair comment he must establish that the facts were true." The *Star* appealed this verdict to the Supreme Court, which dismissed the appeal Oct. 5, 1948.

Three days earlier, Mr. Drew was chosen federal leader of the Progressive Conservative party, and on April 1, 1949, he announced he would not seek a new trial.

Mr. Drew, for his part, was capable of venom. He said in the legislature, March 22, 1947, that Mr. Atkinson was "an evil old man" and "an incorrigible liar."

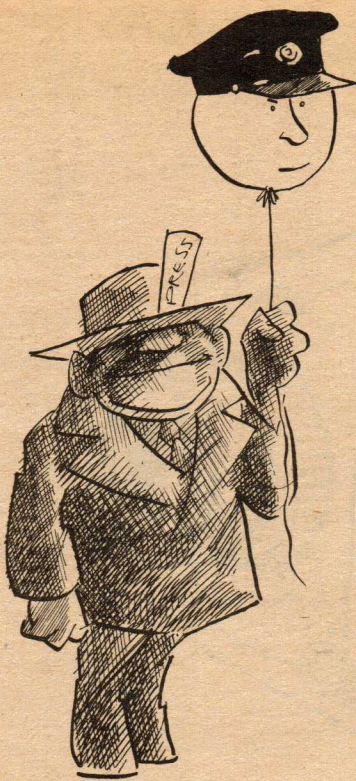
As Mr. Robinette said: "The courts do not expect a namby pamby press. You are entitled to be vigorous . . . outspoken . . . prejudiced in your comments because, after all, the distillation of truth in a democracy only comes from the conflict of outspoken and even prejudiced views."

What comment, then, is fair? Mr. Robinette quoted Lord Esher in *Merivale v. Carson* as saying: "Would any fair man, however prejudiced he may be, however exaggerated or obstinate his views, have said that which this criticism has said?"

The Shawcross report, however, feared that a jury jaundiced with the press could not be trusted to find fairly on evidence presented. "In a number of recent cases the juries have found that defamatory matters were published with malice, although the evidence on which such a finding could be based was tenuous We recommend that, whenever the defence of fair comment or qualified privilege is met with an allegation of malice, it should be the function of the judge to decide whether or not the publication was malicious."

Qualified Privilege, the third defence of concern to journalists, recognizes a wider right-to-know.

The Libel and Slander Act of Ontario, as amend-



ed in 1958—Canada's other libel and slander acts are similar—defines privilege as publication or broadcast of "a fair and accurate report" of any of the following proceedings that are open to the public, unless it is proved that the publication was made maliciously:

1. The proceedings of any legislative body or any part or committee thereof in the British Commonwealth that may exercise any sovereign power acquired by delegation or otherwise;
2. The proceedings of any commission of inquiry that is constituted by any public authority in Canada;
3. The proceedings of any commission of inquiry that is constituted by any public authority in the British Commonwealth;
4. The proceedings of any organization, whose members, in whole or in part, represent any public authority in Canada;
5. Meetings called to discuss "any matter of public concern" whether the admission is general or restricted;
6. Publicity releases of any document, report, bulletin or notice issued by any of the above groups for the information of the public;
7. Associations, or their committees, which control art, science, religion or learning; trade, business, industry or profession; sport, game or pastime;
8. Proceedings publicly heard before any court of justice, if published contemporaneously with the proceedings.

Sub-section 7 qualifies the privilege. It requires the newspaper or broadcasting station to insert a "reasonable statement of explanation or contradiction by or on behalf of the plaintiff."

Mr. Justice Pearson in *Webb v. Times Publishing Co. Ltd.* ruled that the foundation of all privilege was genuine public interest, not merely idle curiosity or a desire for gossip. A *Times* report of a Swiss trial of a British subject had included a statement in court which was defamatory of the plaintiff. Mr. Justice Pearson held that the subject matter was closely connected with the administration of justice in England and therefore of legitimate interest.

Presumably, a Canadian could be defamed by a U.S. Congressman in the Washington House and the report could be privileged in the United States but not in Canada. Until such an event is tested in a Canadian court, newspapers and broadcasting stations should be cautious.

Thus, the mass media serve the public by writing fair and accurate reports of anything spoken in any sovereign body, including committees open to the public. To verify the truth of statements made by politicians would be so time-consuming that without the protection of qualified privilege, the electorate would be uninformed.

The mass media are required to publish a rebuttal if it is offered, and according to modern concepts of balanced reporting, some observers think such information should be solicited.

Qualified privilege does not extend to anything seditious, blasphemous or obscene.

The *Calgary Herald* pointed out in its legal pamphlet, *Danger!*, that privilege does not extend to police charge sheets, detectives' reports or city council agendas that contain complaints and other libellous material from citizens.

Court documents only become privileged after the judge enters the case. Mr. Justice Stark said "there is no privilege to publishing the contents of a writ, or an affidavit, or pleadings in a court action."

Notices and reports issued for the information of the public from any government official or chief constable are privileged. Thus newspapers may publish reports, often defamatory, made by a securities commission regarding the cancellation of a broker's license. The newspaper, of course, must carry a rebuttal, if requested.

Public meetings provide a fuzzy area. Mr. Justice Stark said election meetings and rate-payers' meetings are public meetings but a church service is not. There must be some possibility of discussion, not simply a meeting such as a lecture. A meeting of shareholders is not a public meeting.

"Contemporaneous" publication of court news means within 30 days, according to the Alberta act. Mr. Robinette told editors that he thought a contemporaneous interest in a historical case is privileged.

Names of the proprietor and publisher and the address of publication must be stated at the head of the editorials or on the front page of Ontario newspapers. In broadcasting, the station must provide such information by registered letter to any person alleging a libel.

The plaintiff must start his action within six weeks after the alleged libel has come to his attention. The trial may be held in the jurisdiction of either the defendant or the plaintiff. To discourage frivolous or trivial actions, the defendant may require the plaintiff to post with the court security for the costs of the action, in case the plaintiff loses.

And that's the bundle of principal concern to the mass media. Strategy by deduction: Be accurate, accurate, accurate. And be fair.

Responsible journalists recognize libel law as a powerful weapon against sloppy or malicious reporting. But the more they study the outcomes of libel actions the more they find grounds to complain that the law is fuzzy and its application sometimes capricious. Is foggy law good law or does it unduly impede the peculiarly exposed press in the vital task of informing the people?

Perhaps a press council justice committee, including a lawyer and a civil libertarian to represent the public interest, could reasonably lobby for clearer law.

In the meantime, no matter how much care you have taken, you could get slapped with a libel writ. What to do if you have erred? "Grovel," libel lawyer Robinette told students. Compose the finest apology of your career. It might mollify all hands.

And call a lawyer.

Illustrations by Don Hawkes, former Toronto Globe and Mail entertainment writer and Windsor Star cartoonist who now teaches layout at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.



“Just doing my homework, mom.”

That's right, mom....Jeffrey is actually studying and preparing for tomorrow's social studies class. While improving his language and reading skills, he is being made aware of what goes on in the world around him with the help of the most up-to-date textbook of all -- the daily newspaper.

In the modern school environment the child is exposed to a great variety of content information including television and radio. Unfortunately, the electronic media are fleeting in their impact and the newspaper provides the ideal in-depth coverage the child needs to bridge the gap between juvenile and adult learning.

Every week our popular “Newspaper-in-the-classroom” program exposes thousands of elementary and high school students to the daily newspaper. It's our way of assisting in educating the young and assuring us of future generations of newspaper readers.

The Ottawa Citizen



a Southam newspaper

THE INCOMPLETE INTERVIEWER

by ALAN ARBUCKLE

The interview, for virtually all journalists, is a regular part of the working day, yet it is surprising how limited can be their knowledge of this tool.

A bachelor-level thesis written for the Carleton University School of Journalism last spring, under the lightly guiding hand of Joe Scanlon, explored this question and came up with some remarkable results.

In the first place, of the journalists involved in the study, 19 out of the 21 attached a high degree of importance to interviewing, while the remaining two thought it less essential but still very necessary. The need for speed and the current nature of the information with which journalists deal make them dependent on asking questions as opposed to researching documents or conducting even crude surveys.

Yet these same people, when asked if they have ever read any of the literature on the techniques and problems in interviewing, replied for the most part that they had not. One, a graduate of an American school of journalism, said he had read extensively in the area while studying and four others expressed a nodding acquaintance with an article or two. The remaining 16 said they had read absolutely nothing at all on the subject.

The 21 people interviewed in the study represented a selection of journalists from the Parliamentary Press Gallery in Ottawa and the newsroom of the *Ottawa Citizen*. They varied considerably in education, from grade 10 to masters' degrees (with eight journalism graduates); experience, from two and one-half years to 40 years, and media, including newspapers, radio and television with considerable overlap. Four were women.

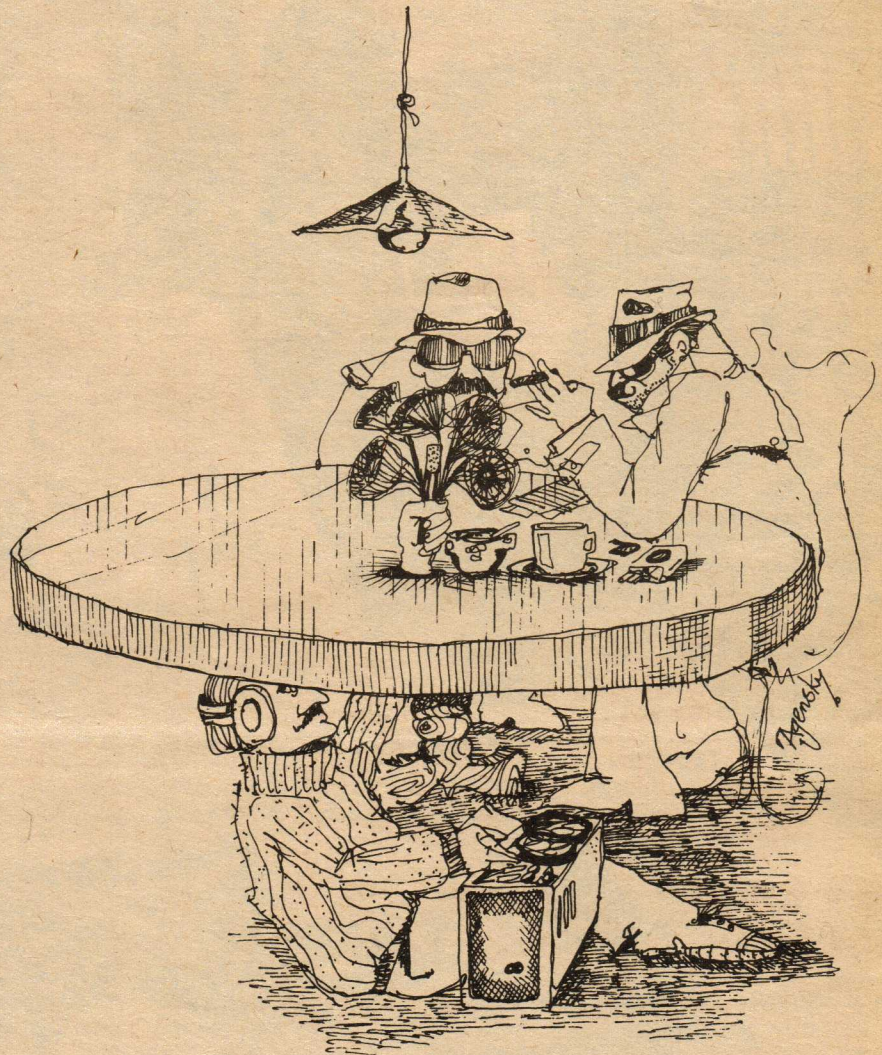
Certainly 21 journalists, even with the variations described and their apparent success in the business, do not represent a statistical sample. They were not meant to: only a reasonable mix was sought.

The point is not that these people don't know how to interview. They most assuredly do and spend a great deal of their time at it. At the same time, for people who depend so much on interviewing, it is disturbing to find so few who have given the literature any attention, much less a systematic review.

As well, the author's first real encounter with the literature came after four years at Carleton when the thesis research was begun. A lecture or two and perhaps a lab demonstration was the sum total of instruction for other students. So even in this particular institution of training, the subject is only dangled as a tid-bit suggesting further examination.

This situation does not exist for lack of material. The bibliography of the thesis is embarrassingly sparse, considering the vast number of available works, although enough was read to provide a sound basis for the paper.

It is interesting to note that this body of information exists not in works pertaining to journalism, but in the social sciences. The journalist therefore must skip over some of the material but will find much which applies to anyone who interviews. Again, it is interesting to note that resource material for the field ignores to a large extent an extensive and thorough look at how to go about an integral part of research, which must be successful before good reporting can be expected. Some



material is there, but it holds few hints for even an inexperienced interviewer.

Now, if there is debate over the value of journalism schools themselves, there is definitely room for questioning the value of reading about interviewing versus the experience of doing it. Anyone who can communicate can ask question, and that's interviewing. Crude perhaps, but the basic ingredient is there. Add this to journalists who ask questions daily of a variety of people in a variety of situations and who are astute enough to notice what works and what doesn't, and the idea of studying how to interview is thrown into considerable doubt.

In defence, the thesis points out that the research for the paper itself employed the techniques in the literature successfully. Hence, for the beginner the time required for trial and error learning is reduced, literally by years. For the more seasoned journalist, a number of benefits are available. To quote from the thesis:

"The best interviewing techniques in terms of acquired results remain inconclusive. People involved suggest that a technique is largely related to the personality of the interviewer and therefore it is difficult to construct rigid rules. An inter-

viewer to a large extent must avoid appearing artificial if he is to establish a satisfactory rapport with his source; hence, techniques he does not feel comfortable with are not useful."

"At the same time, awareness, and a review of the literature has a value. It is clear that an addition, or additions, could be made to the skills of journalists were they aware of the suggestions the literature has to make. Not all the suggestions that have been written about can be of value to all journalists. Yet certainly some could expand their battery of techniques, or at least become aware of the techniques they already use, some of which may be more harmful than productive."

The thesis proposed to test three things:

1. Journalists have acquired their skills of interviewing through experience.

2. Journalists are not aware of the skills they possess.

3. Journalists are not aware of the material available on the techniques of interviewing.

To do this, the hypotheses were set, based on what was assumed to be present knowledge and which would lead to a reasonable review of the material available. From this material, questions were designed on technique which hopefully

would answer the hypothesis set out. Practicing journalists then were interviewed about their own techniques and those described in the literature. An interview guide was used and most were taped. No attempt was made to standardize the interview as in a questionnaire survey.

The guide covered such areas as problems in interviewing over the phone, or with a tape recorder; what preparation was done in advance of the interview; different ways of using broad general questions as opposed to specific ones; how the topic of an interview could be shifted smoothly; how to ask embarrassing questions and elicit more information from a self-conscious comment; what non-verbal techniques were used, and so on.

Without repeating the whole report, a few results will provide an indication of what was discovered.

Methods for asking embarrassing questions drew suggestions such as forewarning and being blunt from thirteen sources, while seven had no technique, and one did not reply. Only one suggested one of the techniques mentioned in the literature.

The use of alternative answers in a question (e.g. Do you write with a pen or a pencil?) was split with ten using and eleven avoiding. However, only three suggested from their comments that they use alternatives as the literature described while eighteen made no such suggestion. As for being aware of the biasing affect of alternatives (the source may write with a crayon or be unable

to write at all), and here the figures are subjective, ten were aware, eight were not and the others did not make themselves clear.

A majority of sixteen used leading questions as a technique, while five did not. Eight claimed an awareness of the problem of bias with leading questions, thirteen did not. Yet only one used leading questions as the literature suggests. The literature suggests a number of possibilities. The leading question can be used to avoid ego-defence by placing the responsibility of denial on the source. As well, the leading question can be used for provocation.

Double-barrelled questions (two questions at the same time) were avoided by five and used by fifteen with one not replying. As for an awareness of the problems involved in using double-barrelled questions, twelve realized the limitations, six did not, while three did not give a clear indication. Again the figures are subjective.

The thesis concludes with an answer to two of the questions — journalists have not read the literature but have learned through experience — and skirts the third.

There probably is enough evidence to suggest that journalists aren't aware of the very techniques they use everyday. However, the extent of subjective conclusion, the variations in interviews, and the often unsatisfactory structure of the research, demands caution and the hypothesis remains unproven.

Despite the limitations, the message is clear. Practicing journalists dependent on interviewing are largely ignoring the chance to broaden their skills by taking advantage of the codified material available.

Alan Arbuckle, a Carleton University graduate, spent last summer with the Calgary Herald before becoming labor reporter for the Regina Leader-Post.

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THE CAMPUS PRESS: WHAT IT WAS, IS, MAY BE

by TOM SORELL

1. Quotations from the Medium-sized Red Book

I don't know who exactly Barbara Sullivan is, but let us suppose that her credentials were in order when she wrote the section on the student press in Senator Davey's report on the mass media. To be sure, there are mistakes in her story, but these do not get in the way of a liberal assessment of New Left newspapering. Miss Sullivan, after all, presents a sympathetic picture of the radical papers of the sixties and, what's more, in just twenty eight pages.

Punctuated by the 'on the one hand ... on the other hand' style congenial to liberal pamphleteers, Miss Sullivan's account is downright effusive in its introductory remarks: "The student press across Canada is for the most part a dynamic press, a vibrant press, a press which is readily open to change ..."

In a no less breathless paragraph a little later on she continues, "For the student press can be, and is, a stubborn dandelion on administrations' collective green lawns. It is equally unimpressed by rank and verbiage and is often delightfully on-target with its criticisms of administrations' decisions."

But Miss Sullivan does dispense, eventually, with those endearing metaphors of hers, moving in short order to what I'm sure she would call the "nitty gritty" of the campus rag. It is here that she makes most of her mistakes, and, coincidentally, it is here also that Keith Davey's Medium-sized Red Book is most interesting. There are two pertinent sections, one on "Non-objective Reporting" and another entitled "The Growth of Radicalism". (Doubtless owing to an insight which Miss Sullivan has kept to herself, these sections are broken up with three paragraphs on "Financial Growth.")

In the section on non-objectivity, we are told that student journalists have eschewed the "standards of journalistic proficiency exacted by the daily press". Started in 1967 at the *Chevron* (University of Waterloo), the "non-objective" approach spread hither and yon: "Experiments with non-objective newspapers continued at the *McGill Daily*, the *Ontarion* (Guelph University), the *Ubyyssey* (University of British Columbia), and the *Carillon* (University of Saskatchewan at Regina). Though Miss Sullivan notes that some editors rejected the "non-objective" technique as a propaganda method, she says in her conclusions concerning university newspapers "that the student press can be expected to continue the non-objective reporting technique."

The point in all of this is that non-objective reporting is presented as an experiment, as something one can "objectively" choose to adopt or reject. It is not described as "interpretive" or even "advocacy" journalism, but simply as "non-objective", much as we might call black "non-white". This is Miss Sullivan's first boner. It is easy, after all, to shrug off an experiment, to reduce an attitude or a political premise to an example of the "change" to which the university press is "open."

Experiment and change are doing well on the journalism market, and if things get a little rough, well, you can always trade in a technique. But this suggests that committed political journalism is a whim and that student journalists are dille-

tantes, and by and by, Miss Sullivan just ceases to be endearing.

This probably explains why Miss Sullivan is so alarmingly persistent in her use of inverted commas whenever she employs the words radical or radicalism. But we should not lose patience. Does she not devote three whole pages to the growth of radicalism? And is she not the first person in this century to sum up Marxist thought in one paragraph? Yes to both questions.

This leads us to consider Miss Sullivan's second mistake. It is the kind of error often made by apologists for the student press and it has nothing to do with a lack of exposure to the great political theorists whose analyses are sometimes adopted by student journalists.

Miss Sullivan's second mistake consists in studying the student press without really believing that student journalists are prepared to do any more than adopt unconventional attitudes. The student press may strike Miss Sullivan as faintly exotic, perhaps a bit eccentric, but not really that different from what you would expect. Because the stance of the university press is made to seem predictable, because it is thus easy to place intellectually, Miss Sullivan's assessment of it appears singularly reassuring.



the chevron

So when Miss Sullivan misinterprets Herbert Marcuse, who must count as one of the "biggies", guru-wise, of New Leftism, this is of little consequence. Marcuse, anyhow, is no longer revered as a revolutionary, if indeed he ever was. He is now the star of the United States salon circuit and, according to the most reliable accounts, he is eminently successful at discussing revolution over cocktails. Notwithstanding this behavior, his analysis of objectivity is still the one to which a lot of university journalists would subscribe, and somehow it has always escaped the writers of the CP style manual:

"In a democracy with a totalitarian organization, objectivity may ... foster a mental attitude which tends to obliterate the difference between true and false, information and indoctrination, right and wrong. In fact, the decision between opposed opinions has been made before the presentation and discussion get under way ..."

"The decision asserts itself, without any open violation of objectivity, in such things as the make-up of a newspaper (with the breaking up of vital information into bits interspersed between extraneous material, irrelevant items, relegating of some radically negative news to an obscure place), in the juxtaposition of gorgeous ads with unmitigated horrors, in the introduction and interruption of

the broadcast of facts by overwhelming commercials. The result is a *neutralization* of opposites

....

"If a newscaster reports the torture and murder of civil rights workers in the same unemotional tone he uses to describe the stock market or the weather, or with the same great emotion with which he says his commercials, then such objectivity is spurious—more, it offends against humanity and truth by being calm where one should be enraged, by refraining from accusation where accusation is in the facts themselves."

Barbara Sullivan does not say whether Marcuse's ideas are right or wrong; doubtless she was not paid to. What she does do is sum up *What It All Means*:

"This radical philosophy, coupled with a genuine and humanistic hatred and fear of war and its manifestations, (indicated, for instance, by wide-spread opposition to the Vietnam war), merges with most liberal, committed student demands that they be allowed to participate in the decisions which affect their lives and the development of society and to make those changes which they feel are necessary to eliminate inequality and oppression."

All this seems reasonable enough, but in fact it is quite unobjective. For one thing, Miss Sullivan has opposed "radical philosophy" which she fails to explain anywhere in her discussion, to the "genuine and humanistic" liberal view. On the one hand the radicals, on the other hand "liberal, committed student demands".

What is more disconcerting than the fact that Miss Sullivan has loaded her discussion is her presentation of student views as exactly the same as those anybody might hold. This is all right, of course. Most people *do* want to end war and eliminate inequality, but not everybody is willing to leave it at wanting or wishing, or even "participation."

The students Miss Sullivan writes about were people who wanted control of the decisions affecting their lives, rather than just a say in them. Most of these students were, in liberal terms, downright unreasonable and this is not reassuring at all.

Miss Sullivan does everything she can to soft-peddle the demand for control and so her account suffers from some pretty startling omissions. For example, she makes no mention of that veritable household word of the late 60's, "student power."

This is surprising, since the liberal faculty members and students whom she tries so very hard to promote took the slogan seriously. Its meaning was both straightforward and downright implausible, coming to the premise that students formed a special revolutionary group whose arena was the university and whose goals suggested that the overthrow of imperialism was somehow to get its impetus from the universities in the form of radical student actions.

Student power, of course, meant more than that, depending on the university and depending on the students, but its most tangible actions and those which counted as successes were the occupations, the accessions to student demands for participation in university committees or the running of departments. From this involvement, students were supposed to go on to support workers' struggles, to build a movement aimed at revolutionary action in the "real world."

PRO
TEM

THE PEAK

For reasons that still are not clear, it was assumed in all of this that a credential of the revolutionary was youth or youthfulness and along with some genuinely progressive ideas, New Leftism swallowed whole the idolatry of the young promoted by liberal "sympathisers", many of whom were in the commercial media.

Nevertheless, there is a point after which liberal sympathisers cease to sympathise and Barbara Sullivan is no exception. The Sir George Williams computer burning, the McGill Français demonstration, the unpleasantness in the political science, sociology and anthropology department at Simon Fraser—all these actions are referred to only elliptically in her discussion. Notwithstanding the rôle played by campus newspapers to bring about and sustain support for these protests, Miss Sullivan goes out of her way to emphasize in the very first sentence of her study that "the student press cannot be described as monolithic". Throughout her account, she appears called upon to remind her readers that radicals are a minority dependent on liberals for success.

In fact, for Barbara Sullivan at least, radicals are just liberals with different names: "The aims of the radical student . . . cannot be distinguished from the aims of the moderate or the liberal and in many cases there follows a supportive sympathy."

The oversights made by Miss Sullivan are not unlike those you find on the op-ed pages of the leading Canadian dailies when "youth" or "radicals" are under discussion. But "think-pieces" on these subjects are appearing less and less frequently and this is supposed to be because campuses have "quieted down."

Indeed, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since Miss Sullivan put the researcher's pencil to paper. New Leftism is alive and well at very few Canadian universities and this has had important consequences for the student press.

2. Bringing the phenomenon to you first

When the Davey Report first made its appearance, it was generally agreed that it was readable and entertaining, succeeding as it did in combining maddeningly trivial data with whimsy and substance. The Davey Report, in short, is a slick three-volume package and when it remonstrates Canadian journalists for being inferior to those in the U.S. and Britain, these criticisms are taken as exhortations to adopt "more professional" standards.

I wonder whether Senator Davey has not identified professionalism with slickness and whether his exhortations are not just those of the P.R. man who never made it as far as Madison Avenue, but who happened to find himself in the Canadian Senate.

It has been noted far too often that this frustrated attitude is just the problem with Canadian journalism; that *Maclean's*, for example, comes off like the committed Little League Guidebook. Despite its slickness, it is unceasingly apologetic and if there were an American spelling of 'success,' it would be the form demanded by its editors.

It is noteworthy that *Time* Canada has much the same approach, occasionally devoting a cover to a Canadian success story, and, more often than not, suggesting that Canadian politics, whether at the federal or provincial level, is really going places. Underneath the \$50 Eaton's suit is the Canadian superman and the problem is to make him understand that he doesn't have to wait in line to get into the telephone booth to change his clothes.

Lately, *Maclean's* has taken to reporting the phenomena attending the Canadian coming-

of-age, giving over whole sections to the "fledgling" (it's always fledgling in Canada) film industry, casting the circumspect Upper Canadian eye at the revolutionary situation in Quebec, even cashing in on *Time's* nostalgia fetish with Christina Newman's recent tear-jerking reminiscences of her U of T days in the fifties.

I think Senator Davey must be pleased: this is his Big Picture coming to life, not only in *Maclean's* and *Saturday Night*, but also in the puckish "radicalism" of the "delightfully on-target" *Last Post*.

3. Smudges on the Big Picture

So far the college press as a whole has steered clear of this trendy, slick image. The university newspaper still runs, in large quantity, the kind of writing that is unabashedly plain and honest and there are many student journalists who know what slickness is and who find it suspect. This is one of the consequences of the passing of New Leftism in the university press.

This passing has not been easy, nor has the change of style been consistent. But the change is, at least, clearly imprinted on the editorial pages of most of the university newspapers. Unlike the coy throwing down of the gauntlet which characterized the editorial stands of the late sixties, editorials this year appear less frequently, are more concise, and deal for the most part with issues that are close to the campus.

the muse

Recent editorials in the *Varsity* (University of Toronto), for example, concern a sit-in protesting regulations in the new university library which would limit undergraduate access. The *Ubyssy's* editorial pages have been devoted almost exclusively this year to tenure disputes at the University of British Columbia.

And more than ever before, Student Councils are coming under attack. An editorial in Fredericton's *Brunswickian* concerns a dispute over a jesting picture they ran of a carnival princess, which prompted reprisals from the University of New Brunswick Student Council.

In a surprisingly large number of instances, Student Councils across Canada have taken actions to stifle campus papers. In an issue of the *Peak* (Simon Fraser University) which appeared before Christmas, almost two pages were devoted to an unprecedented impeachment of the Student Council executive which followed Council efforts to harass the newspaper. Ironically, the *Peak* was to be discussed at the same meeting at which the impeachment was made official. The *Peak* had been accused of "lack of leadership."

Student Council actions in opposition to campus papers and their editors have also taken place at the University of Waterloo, the University of Alberta and at the University of Toronto, when the Students Administrative Council took steps to eliminate the *Varsity* board of directors.

At McGill, a council meeting which was to see the resignation of the Student Council president climaxed a week of steady pressure from the *Daily* which had called for his resignation. The Student Council president retaliated by calling for a cut-back in the newspaper's budget and the firing of its editor.

Student Councils themselves have been in trouble all over Canada this year. At Sir George Williams, an administration take-over took place after charges of financial incompetence against the Student Association executive.

Student Council resignations or outright overthrows have also hit the University of Waterloo,

The Athenaeum

Waterloo Lutheran University, and Memorial University in St. John's.

Not all or even a majority of these resignations resulted from pressure applied by campus newspapers. But the friction between student government and newspapers at Canadian universities has been undeniable. Staffers from the *Carillon* (University of Saskatchewan at Regina) told me that management students had tried earlier this year to shut down the newspaper through administrative and other means. At McGill, commerce students attempted to promote a petition in early October which called for the resignation of the *Daily* editor. Both attempts failed.

Bob Beal, editor of the *Gateway* (University of Alberta at Edmonton), was threatened with dismissal earlier this year for refusing to print a weekly "gazette" of Student Council decisions and actions. A Canadian University Press commission of inquiry set up to investigate the case cleared Beal of the charges. But as late as mid-February, the same Student Council tried to impose an appointed editor on the *Gateway* staff after voting down the staff's candidate.

The question, of course, is why. The answers aren't the same everywhere, but it seems that the outright reprisals against, and even the more guarded opposition to campus papers are themselves the result of the passing of New Leftism on Student Councils across Canada. There is no mistaking the move in policy away from political stands, not only of the New Left variety, but of any kind at all. What has replaced policies based on political stands is a so-called service orientation. The new entrepreneurial influence, however, does not seem to be permanent. If anything, it is downright weak, but the fact that it has emerged is not accidental.

The reason is simply economic. Students now are more than ever conscious of a shrinking job market and a corresponding limitation on the kinds of academic options which were moderately promising at the end of the sixties. For the same reasons, the temporary jobs, which used to provide supplementary student income, have disappeared. The promise of a service orientation, of commercial but cheap student services, seemed a tangible response to the money shortage among students on Canadian campuses. Conservative or business-oriented Student Councils were thus elected in many universities.

In almost all Canadian campuses, it is the Student Councils which control the financing of college papers and while financial reprisals are hardly new, they are taking a different form this year. For many entrepreneurial Councils the campus paper is not only expected to fulfil a news reporting function and provide a forum for student opinion, but also is required to promote Student Council policies, and the form best suited to this, for many Councils, comes very close to a shareholders' report. When editors refuse to see their newspapers reduced to corporation bulletins, reprisals are the natural consequence.

Again, conflicts of this sort have not been universal. At U.B.C., for example, the relations between council and newspaper have been strong ones, there being general agreement on what was to be done politically. Even in colleges which are not normally associated with activist images, such as Conestoga College in Waterloo, the *Spoke* has been actively supporting student government. At Memorial University in Newfoundland the *Muse* began to explore military-oriented research and has been consistent in its coverage of provincial politics.

The passing of New Leftism in Canadian university newspapers should not be confused with the passing of activism or even with the death

of the issues on which New Leftism built its strength. It is for the most part a passing of a kind of style of newspapering and, of course, the affluence which sustained it.

So while such topics as representation in university government and military research were standard concerns of the *Chevron*, *Varsity*, *Carillon* and *Daily* in the late sixties, they are still important on many campuses this year but in a far different context.

Significantly, actions which center on "campus politics" in its traditional administration v. student sense, are taking place at smaller colleges—Conestoga, Red Deer College in Alberta, and Halifax's Mount Saint Vincent University. These are not the ivied halls of Toronto or Montreal or Vancouver, and by New Left standards, which put a premium on finesse, the student actions there are muddled and quite unglamorous.

the sheaf

4. Doing without flair and flourish

In 1968, as a freshman staffer on the *Daily* at the height of New Leftism, I remember the ten or twelve radical leaders who carried out one of the first, and one of the most successful, strikes at any Canadian campus. These were people to be respected for their sophisticated intellects, and articulateness, but also for their knowledge of how to do things properly. The idea that there was an attractive way of handling a demonstration, the notion that we were in good hands, and the fact that actions like our own were occurring virtually everywhere in North America; these ideas, I think, were central to the confidence we had when we reported what these students did.

It was easy to be represented and to be led by the expert leftists on campus and there was something so obviously impressive about them that even the alumni magazine at McGill was led to feature their pictures on its cover.

The much-vaunted "cooling of America" theory popular with *Time*, and whose adherents include several Canadian newspapers, records the passing of this image and not, as is often suggested, the death of revolutionary movements.

Similarly, the passing of New Left journalism should not signify anything like the death knell of radical journalism. It is true that the lack of dramatis personae, that the absence of heavies, has not made things easy. It has led in fact to a minor identity crisis among some of the larger university newspapers which seem to have found themselves in the predicament of having a tough act to follow. Indicative of this perplexity is a candid aside in the January 6 issue of the *Varsity*. Commenting parenthetically on the National Conference of Canadian University Press which was held in late December, the *Varsity* writer describes the delegates as "200 agents of social change (aspiring young leftist-inclined journalists-cum-freedom-fighters)."

But as for the more down-to-earth business of putting out newspapers, the insecurity simply is not in evidence. Despite the absence of the apocalyptic activism of the late sixties, Canadian college newspapers have not turned inward nor become subdued in their news or feature coverage.

Tenure disputes have won heavy coverage throughout Canada, again as a result of a tightening economic situation which refuses to stop short of campuses.

The *Ubyssy* has devoted the heaviest coverage in Canada to threatened and actual firings of professors, reprinting on several occasions secret administration memoranda and letters concerning appointments and considered dismissals. Critical coverage of academic appointments also has been undertaken by the *Dalhousie Gazette*. Even the University of Western Ontario *Gazette*, which is

not known for its radical tendencies, has given sympathetic coverage to faculty efforts to gain more control over hiring and firing.

Almost every campus paper has run a good deal of material on employment prospects for students. A lead story in a January issue of the *St. Mary's Journal* (St. Mary's University, Halifax) could apply to essentially any Canadian university. The Manpower official quoted in the article said this: "The methods of recruiting are changing among companies. They are no longer going out looking for graduates because first of all they don't need them and secondly because students are coming to them". A *Chevron* article reported the expansion of the University of Waterloo's history program to accept doctoral candidates despite an Ontario government embargo on such expansion in the face of the PhD glut.

Because the slowdown of the Canadian economy is so severe, a number of college papers have undertaken detailed investigation of the economic situation in general, applying Marxist analysis more often than would suit, say, the editor of the *Hamilton Spectator*.

The *Sheaf* (University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon) featured one such piece on Saskatchewan oil in its February 1 edition. In its February 4 edition, the *Carillon* went a step further, devoting the entire editorial space to a reprint of a petition calling for a Convention of the Canadian People's United Front Against U.S. Imperialism. In its very first issue of this year, the McGill *Daily* featured a lengthy analysis of the effects of Nixon economics which was subsequently reprinted in about a half dozen other papers.

The *Pro Tem* at Glendon College near Toronto devoted a full page to a feature on Trudeau's economic policies and their relation to Canadian capitalism.

A campaign in support of the boycott of Kraft's policies regarding Canadian farmers received national coverage in the university press.

The Amchitka demonstrations, which took place across Canada, were covered and promoted by virtually every college newspaper in Canada.

The *Gateway* put out a sixteen-page supplement on Women's Liberation, an issue which received wide play from coast to coast.

Through the Canadian University Press news service, virtually every newspaper in Canada has given heavy coverage to Quebec, especially the labor actions of last October and November. A number of newspapers, notably the *Varsity* in Toronto and college papers in the Prairies have run lengthy historical pieces on the Quebec situation prepared by the *Daily*. More recently, several newspapers, *St. Mary's Journal* to name one, have included feature material from the Last Post News Service concerning Pierre Vallieres' recent defection to the Parti Quebecois.

Dalhousie Gazette

5. Mixed feelings and Wolfville

It's impossible, of course, to go through all fifty Canadian campus papers. But it is safe to say that they would leave nobody with a coherent impression of the Canadian university press, and in saying this I am not remotely concerned with the Wonders of Diversity nor do I hear the faint strains of "This Land of Ours" in the background.

As a rule, campus newspapers in Canada have limited contact with one another, with the rather obvious consequence that very few papers know what the others are doing or whether they should ask for, or offer, help. The national student press organization in Canada is Canadian University Press and it is supposed to sort out such problems through a national office based, for some reason or other, in Ottawa.

This year, CUP ran into its usual financial difficulties, which were aggravated by a not so

usual backlog of bureaucratic problems in the national office toward the beginning of the academic year.

Canadian University Press, as a good many people will point out, is nothing but its membership. The national office depends on its members to file news for the news service mailing and for the telex network (about a dozen newspapers are on the net) and it also relies on newspapers throughout Canada for a general direction.

As general directions go, CUP's is vague, leaning to the left more than any other, but at any rate just leaning. There are good reasons for this, since the CUP membership is not homogeneous, and since there are sometimes drastic political changes in the editorial policy of individual newspapers from year to year.

Matters pertaining to a CUP's political stance are sorted out at national conferences hosted by different member papers every year. This year's conference, the thirty-fourth, was held at Acadia University in Wolfville and it was enough of a happening to attract even the attention of the *Halifax Chronicle Herald*.

I suppose there were times when CUP conferences were orgies of one sort or another, but Acadia's was not. Nor was it a particularly intimate conference, centering as it did on the business at hand: seminars dealing with reporting, layout, communications theory, the alternate press à la *Prairie Fire* and *Last Post*, as well as talks on the economics of the Maritimes and political events in Quebec.

THE BRUNSWICKAN

It was the first national conference I've attended, but staffers from other papers tell me it was somewhat similar to previous meetings. Most of the important discussion, that concerning the future and direction of CUP, took place toward the end of the meeting but it resulted in no substantive recommendations for a political definition of the organization.

A number of important measures were made official, however. Several alternate newspapers were admitted to CUP as full members, on the premise that an interchange of ideas could prove fruitful. It was also agreed that CUP would direct its priorities toward field work with member newspapers so as to lessen the distance (frequently and literally) between the national office and the member papers. And, of course, the membership chose the national executive for the coming year.

The fact that there was insufficient time for political discussions was a disappointment, I think, to most of the 200 delegates at the conference. But it seems to me that the hope for a political consensus, or at least specific agreement on goals, was misdirected. The discussions which did take place reflected a wide range of political experiences and, in some cases to be sure, political inexperience.

Because the political seminars themselves were conducted at a fairly sophisticated political level, some of the talks precluded active discussion among all delegates. But I left the conference with the impression that most of the delegates had involved themselves enough to return to their papers with fresh ideas some of which have indeed materialized since January.

This is not to whitewash the Old 34th. Canadian University Press is not an old organization, but it has been around long enough to pick up a few in-jokes, several seemingly permanent hangers-on, and a lot of bad habits.

Since the 1966 dissolution of the Canadian Union of Students, which resulted from disputes over its radical leanings, CUP conferences have attracted a few CUS old-timers and have tried to fill the "gap" left by an absence of a national union of students. Thus, there have been attempts

to inject a certain political urgency into CUP meetings.

This year, there was open opposition to the CUP "groupies" and assorted hangers-on and this is a good trend. While there is general agreement on CUP's role as an "agent of social change", delegates to this year's conference, who by and large were younger than those at previous meetings, made it clear that the assumptions made concerning the political awareness of CUP members were mistaken.

One of those assumptions was that CUP papers are turning more conservative. And another, implicit at the conference, was that delegates were similar with respect to political experience.

The first assumption is exploded by investigation of the material appearing in CUP papers. The second was proved wrong in discussions at the conference when certain delegates admitted that they did not understand many of the proceedings.

MCGILL DAILY

Inevitably, there are consequences in all these things. The first, I think, will be a reaction against hangers-on in CUP and the disappearance of CUS reminiscences. More important, I think, CUP will begin to function as a genuine co-operative. New Leftist in-joke rivalries between the large newspapers are on the way out, as the smaller newspapers, it seems, will be looking for help from other CUP members. The resolution adopted at the national conference in favor of increased field work was indicative of a general agreement on the need for closer constructive ties between member papers.

A worsening economic situation in Canada inevitably will produce an increasingly radical college press. Students are closer than ever to the situation in which they will have as little to lose as anyone else regarding economic privilege.

And a further consequence of this is the long over-due disposal of the myth that the university is somehow excluded from the "real world". In the days of New Leftism, college newspapers needed some sort of reason for "elbowing into" the community. The standard justifications appealed to "social awareness" or some intellectualized version of the slogan "the university in the service of the people".

Now the gross economic disparities of Canadian capitalism are no longer mere curiosities which stir some abstract, collective student conscience. The Marxist schema becomes not just intellectually appealing, but true.

There is a slogan from Mao-tse-tung to which, I think, more and more college papers will subscribe: "So long as the world is divided into classes, the press will remain an instrument of class struggle."

Tom Sorell is editor-in-chief of the McGill Daily, McGill University, Montreal.

STARS AND STRIPES (AND A MAPLE LEAF?)

Increased Canadian identity for The Newspaper Guild in Canada, coupled with a plan for improved servicing of guild members and an intensified organizing program, are likely results of hearings held in early March in four Canadian cities.

The hearings were initiated by the guild's international executive board in response to a 1971 convention directive to study the feasibility of electing a Canadian director to oversee the operation of a more autonomous Canadian region. Submissions to the five-member panel appointed by the IEB focussed light on the predictably-marked division of opinion among guild members in eastern Canada and on the west coast.

All briefs presented to the two-day sessions in Montreal and Toronto were in support of an elected Canadian director and increased decision-making in Canada.

The Montreal Newspaper Guild recommended the task force endorse the principle and left it up to the panel to work out the details within the framework of an international structure. A brief from the Ottawa Newspaper Guild took a more nationalistic stance, criticized some facets of the guild's operations in Canada as too moderate, but chided Washington-based international president Charles A. Perlik, Jr. for delegating Canadian guildsmen to present the guild's brief to Senator Keith Davey's mass media committee rather than coming to Canada to present the brief himself.

Among others who strongly supported a more Canadian look for the guild were Carleton University journalism chairman Joseph Scanlon (currently on leave from the faculty) and Professor Francis Bairstow of the McGill University department of industrial relations. Scanlon, whose sharp but good-humored exchanges with guild president Perlik were a highlight of the Montreal sessions, challenged anyone based in Washington to have a sensitive understanding of the current nationalistic mood of Canadians.

Submissions, both written and verbal, of the Toronto Newspaper Guild (Canada's largest guild local) were among the most critical received during the seven days of hearings.

The brief, presented by former Toronto local president Mark Zwelling, ex-labor reporter of the late Toronto *Telegram*, chastised the guild for fail-

ing to respond quickly and aggressively to organizing possibilities in Canada. Zwelling, who was interrogated by the panel for more than three hours following his presentation, was also challenged by Canadian guild representative Bob Rupert when he said the guild's collective bargaining performance in Canada and response to the crisis of the *Telegram's* closure had been unsatisfactory.

Rupert cited the guild's successful search for a buyer, even after publisher John Bassett had "inflicted the fatal wound by announcing on page one that the publication was doomed before first consulting with his employees or their representatives", and argued this represented the maximum any union could have achieved under the circumstances.

Weakest eastern endorsement of the elected Canadian director and increased Canadian autonomy was the Canadian Wire Service Guild, which represents Canadian Broadcasting Corporation news service employees outside Montreal and Quebec City and UPI Canada staffers.

Wire Service Guild president Phil Calder apologized for his local's failure to present a written brief and added that guild response to rotating strikes against the CBC by members of the National Association of Broadcasting Employees and Technicians had preoccupied his organization for weeks. In emphasizing that the guild's support of NABET is unmatched by other unions within the CBC structure, Calder said his members had never been prouder of themselves and their union and would support increased Canadian autonomy for the guild only if there is assurance that the relationship between the Canadian locals and international leadership would remain unimpaired.

At the outset of the one-day session in Winnipeg, the guild announced publicly that it had chosen that city because of a need to "remind Winnipeg newspaper employees that the guild views Winnipeg as the possible key to organizing the Prairies."

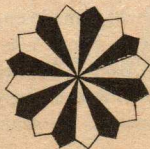
NABET Canadian president Ron Pambrum presented the only official submission to the panel in Winnipeg. He said the Canadian component of his international union has almost total autonomy in Canada and that the arrangement appears to work well. Pambrum sparked the inter-

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est of newsmen covering the hearings when he suggested that, in view of the solid fraternal position taken by CBC guildsmen in support of his union's dispute with the corporation, NABET and the Canadian Wire Service Guild sign a mutual assistance pact to strengthen the bargaining hand of both organizations in the future.

On the west coast, it was a different story. Briefs from the Vancouver-New Westminster Newspaper Guild and the Victoria local were vigorously opposed to any alteration of the guild's current structure. Both locals saw no advantage in an eastern-based Canadian directorate for their members and urged the panel to abandon the idea.

The prospect of an elected Canadian director with more Canadian autonomy was viewed by both west coast locals as the antithesis of the fraternal spirit of international unionism. There was concern that such a move might be the first step to a breakaway move by guildsmen in eastern Canada and that, in the interim, only eastern locals

would reap any benefits of improved servicing and more distinctively-Canadian research.

Following presentation of the final brief in British Columbia, panelists Eleanor Dunn of Ottawa, Glen Ogilvie of Toronto, Roger Stonebanks of Victoria, Harry Ryan of New York and president Perlik weighed the evidence, considered structural problems posed by the matter, and decided on the rough outline of recommendations to be made to the May meeting of the guild's international executive board.

If endorsed by the international executive board, constitutional amendments will be considered by the guild's 1972 international convention this summer in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The tone of the hearings indicated that a Canadian director for the guild, either elected or appointed, is a desirable development, as is the creation of a Canadian office, possibly in Ottawa; it would be responsible for co-ordinating communications among locals and increased research,

lobbying and organizing activities.

As well, there were suggestions for officially referring to the guild's jurisdiction here as the Canadian Region, rather than the existing Region 6. There could well be a recommendation for a stronger Canadian guild voice on the international executive board, as there could be for an annual guild Canadian policy convention, with autonomy on social and political issues and some advisory influence on constitutional matters, in advance of the international convention.

Another suggestion which came before the task force was for an improved serving arrangement, whereby the Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal and wire service locals in eastern Canada would share a servicing agent and necessary related costs.

These are preliminary thoughts, for the task force has not yet filed its report. When the recommendations are known, *Content* will carry complete details.

A DREAMER IS GONE

by GARY EVANS

John Grierson, a Niagara of ideas whose spirit was alive with a rough-hewn intensity, died last month in Bath, England. He was 73. Through five decades, he left his mark on the film industry in Canada and abroad. Grierson was, in effect, the father of the National Film Board, and the following story, while written before his death, details part of the Grierson philosophy and what the charming Scot had in mind for the NFB. Grierson came to Canada in 1938 to advise the Canadian government on creating a film branch; it was Mackenzie King who told him it was fine to be a radical, but if he was serious about achieving goals it would be expedient to start using liberal language as a means to an end. No one is quite sure whether he did; to the end, his views may well have been considered radical. His intellectual capacity was profound and it was that, partly, which drew him to education and the university in later years, including UNESCO under Julian Huxley. Most recently, until ill health kept him in the United

Kingdom, John Grierson spent his hours challenging students, and they challenged him. Wrote Prof. Donald Theall of McGill University's English department after Grierson's death: "Life itself to such a person is an important experience in which every second, every hour, is of value. This he tried to communicate to all he knew. He was sad that with many students he so frequently failed, and that for so many colleagues in film, government and in the university, this basic truth was not realized. This has close links with what he did contribute to film, to the documentary and to the organization of film production activity. With all of these, every moment, every aspect of life mattered. The ghost of Grierson will not only remain a part of the National Film Board, but of the new communications program at McGill, as well as a constant reminder of the fact that for the greatest teachers, learning and life are not ever separate." Obviously, then, Grierson was a teacher most of his life. Many people have been affected, and more will be, for his mental stamina and legacy are not soon forgotten.

1945 marked a year of decision for the National Film Board, a year when plans to link the board to the external affairs department evaporated with the coming of peace and the Cold War. John Grierson, the film board's first commissioner and author of the legislation creating the organization, had conceptualized what today might be considered an unorthodox marriage. He hoped to use the National Film Board's war-time propaganda machine to enunciate and to interpret post-war Canadian foreign policy.

Why this dream never materialized is partly due to what Grierson in 1945 called the 'unimaginative and isolationist quarters' within government and perhaps more significantly to both the political swing right, linked with a growing anti-communist attitude. Grierson was unable to persuade external affairs to use the film board to implement and interpret an internationalist Canadian foreign policy. Perhaps he realized too late that the vision of the international community linked arm in arm astride the corpse of fascism was not to be the theme of post-war politics. He resigned as commissioner to pursue his objective of internationalist themes elsewhere.

As early as 1943, Grierson was discussing the role information would play following the war. He had noted that the differences between war-time and peace-time information were in degree only. Information makes its moral weight tell through information and in the last analysis "on having a morality of sufficient human significance to command the loyalty of other men."

To Grierson, public information involved a philosophy of education in a world which was articulating the future and driving with great intensity and sacrifice toward it. He believed that the essence of the educational process had been taken

over by governments and industry in the name of propaganda. Power had been placed in the hands of government and in the hands of the private educational systems obtained by the big corporations. "One might say that we had removed the church influence from education only to hand it to the bureaucrats of public and private enterprise." He warned, however, that this power should be shared with professional educators and constitutional authorities. In practical terms, he was planning to unite the National Film Board with external affairs.

Perhaps Grierson was being too much of an idealist; it is not in the nature of human beings or of big corporations to share their power. Grierson's intellectual outlook was linked directly to the Fabian ideal of perfectibility of mankind through education. If education was the key to understanding the twentieth century, he wanted to shift from the narrow individualistic nineteenth-century emphasis on the individual to a broader twentieth-century conception of man as a socialized instrument of the democratic idea.

As a public servant Grierson was far above partisan politics. The theme of total responsibility and loyalty to the government alone took dominance in his public career. Yet, as a war-time propagandist he enjoyed the rare, if unheard of, status of total freedom. As commissioner of the National Film Board, he promoted the policy of presenting images of a committed Canada engaged in total effort against the Axis enemy; as head of the War-time Information Board, he acted as the administrative agent of inter-departmental committees dealing with special informational needs.

In short, he was very nearly a cabinet minister and considered himself directly responsible to

Prime Minister Mackenzie King, a fellow Scot with whom he enjoyed a special relationship. It was rare indeed for any minister or department to try to exercise control over Grierson. When he appointed Ross McLean to the position of assistant film commissioner in 1940, he ignored the objection of external affairs, which in 1945 would have the last word when it blocked Grierson's heir-apparent. (McLean had been responsible for starting the machinery to bring Grierson from Britain to Canada.)

Grierson built the foundation of the documentary movement upon the notion that all art is related to society. He borrowed from Marx who provided the economic background as a setting to art and from Lenin who used 'art as a hammer'. Grierson unabashedly linked William Randolph Hearst to these two men because it was through Hearst's introduction of the concept of the 'active verb' that life was made to speak dramatically. The use of the dramatic became a recognizable feature of the documentary movement and of war-time propaganda. Grierson believed the search for the active verb and the aesthetic pattern would lead to a comprehension of modern society.

War-time propaganda/education had to operate on a large number of specialized levels. If the world of man was one in which all men are interested in the same things, yet are divided into groups of specialized interests, Grierson concluded: "The real internationalism is the manias we have with each other."

He modelled his propaganda machine after the educational system of the church; he avoided a national education system that had no faith to give. The faith was fairly simple to convey through film; Grierson wanted "to give visual significance to the words of Mr. King when he said that the

spirit of mutual tolerance and the respect for fundamental human rights are the foundation of national unity of Canada." He developed this idea most fully in the war-time propaganda battle against Joseph Goebbels.

Grierson wrote, in 1942, that if the documentary idea was to be the conscience of propaganda, its job at times was to be uncomfortable; yet he confidently predicted, "so long as the service of the State remains its first interest, only the devious will wish to resent it."

He had the fullest faith that civilization (equated with the rule of law) could be saved if totalitarian methods would be applied toward the creation of "co-operative and the more profoundly democratic ways of the future." Goebbels's techniques could just as easily be used to build a brave new world as to destroy the tired old one.

War-time propaganda tried to encourage the individual to contribute to national effort while communicating to him his relationship to the total social picture. The *Canada Carries On* series dealt with these themes. More difficult was the task of relating the war effort toward the post-war period and to appreciate the potentialities of a new social order.

The *World in Action* series, produced mainly by Stuart Legg, dealt with these as well as themes revolving around 'geopolitics' (Grierson's favorite political term), especially in such numbers as *War for Men's Minds*, *Our Northern Neighbor* and *Now the Peace*.

If the Cold War had already begun in 1945, Grierson at the National Film Board was either unaware of events or was trying to stem the tide by creating an image of peace and brotherhood in the public mind. A promise of a lesser apocalyptic vision was the least Canadians expected after five years of total war.

Pursuing this theme, narrator Lorne Greene concluded *Our Northern Neighbor* in stentorian tones:

"And as together with our Russian neighbors we face the coming years, we say, as it was said at Teheran: 'We seek the corroboration of all nations, large and small, for the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance, we meet in determination, we march on, friends in fact, in spirit and in purpose.'"

Grierson was planning to retire as commissioner at the war's end but hoped to have the National Film Board assume the role of interpreting Canada's post-war policy to the rest of the world by being linked to external affairs. He envisioned leaving to his successor the war-time propaganda machinery to implement post-war foreign policy themes. To make the marriage a smooth one, he tapped young James A. Beveridge as his successor. Besides being well qualified for this task, the 27-year-old Beveridge was cousin to Norman Robinson, minister for external affairs.

But the merger was not to occur and Grierson's plans were to come to naught in perhaps the greatest setback of his public career. Robinson, who had entered politics at the age of 32, blocked the appointment ostensibly because of Beveridge's young age. But something else was amiss. Shortly after the atom bomb attack on Japan in August, the RCMP began investigations related to Soviet spy activity in Canada and apparent collaboration of certain government employees in espionage activities which were alleged to have been linked to atom bomb secrets.

Grierson was far above suspicion in this matter, but he probably sensed that his hopes for a post-war internationalist policy would come to be viewed with some distrust. Equally important was the fact that in the course of the war he had made many enemies. One does not enjoy a special relationship with the prime minister without stirring up jealousy and resentment among other government officials. He gave notice of his resignation late in August and left the National Film Board in October. Two years later he would try to pursue internationalist themes at UNESCO. Deputy Film Commissioner Ross McLean replaced Grierson in an acting capacity until 1950 when W. Arthur Irwin, ex-editor of *Maclean's* magazine, became commissioner under the new National Film Act.

In February, 1946, the famous Gousenko case exploded into the headlines and among those arrested was Captain Gordon Lunan, a member of the War-time Information Board. The government undertook an anti-communist purge in all departments and later discovered that one National Film Board employee was a card-carrying communist and at least several others were communist sympathizers. Any plans for the attachment of the National Film Board to external affairs dissipated into thin air.

The immediate post-war period became one of contraction, with the number of production units reduced to four. Offices in Sydney, Australia, Washington, D.C. and Mexico City were closed. Though much of this contraction can be seen as a readjustment to peace-time needs (the number of film projects undertaken in 1952-53 was 214 compared to 310 in 1945), it cannot be denied that the machinery Grierson had planned to use to implement his scheme was being dismantled gradually.

It would be interesting to speculate what image Canada might have projected to the world if Grierson's plan to unite the National Film Board with external affairs had come to fruition. A new phase in international affairs could have been initiated with war-time propaganda machinery being put to peace-time use.

But the world was not ready then (or now) to forget partisan politics for a vision of international solidarity; war, either hot or cold, was the *modus operandi* of the world. The Cold War was to dominate world politics and Canada was to ride in the wake of the United States' world domination; Canadian foreign policy stood in the shadow of the behemoth's hulk.

Grierson had hoped to 'make peace exciting' in the post-war world; he may be criticized for the broadness, hence unpractically, of his conception as well as his failure to come to grips with political reality and the ideological baggage necessary for change.

Gary Evans teaches at John Abbott College, St. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

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The National Press Club honored Cameron Graham, visiting professor of journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa, for his distinguished contribution to Canadian journalism during 1971. Graham produced *The Tenth Decade*, an examination of the Diefenbaker-Pearson years, for CBC-TV . . . funeral services were held in Summerside, P.E.I. for Beverley Owen, newspaperman and playwright who died in New York after a brief illness. He was 80. A native of Ottawa, his career included work as a columnist and editor with the *Toronto Star* and *Globe and Mail*. He was editor for British United Press during World War II and once was editor of the Canadian edition of *Liberty* magazine. He also worked for the *London Daily Mail*, *New York Times* and *Montreal Gazette* . . . University of Calgary field worker Anton Karch has described his experiences using videotape as a tool for community organizing in Alberta's Drumheller Valley. After several unsuccessful experiments in local towns, the citizens of Rosedale made and edited tapes on their community. Discussions followed viewing of the tapes, citizens' committees were formed and a new sense of the ability to achieve social change developed. The project involved the Challenge for Change section of the National Film Board . . . *Today*, a daily paper in Cocoa, Florida, is the first newspaper to use electronic equipment for all steps of publication. Apart from using phototypesetting to replace hot-type printing and introducing TV terminals for editorial corrections, *Today* is letting reporters use video display typewriters which use no paper. The news story appears on a screen on the typewriter . . . The Newspaper Guild had a dart thrown at it by the *Columbia Journalism Review* for calling on the U.S. Congress to continue funding *Radio Free Europe* and *Radio Liberty*. A guild resolution said the two projects "seek to lessen tensions between the peoples of the East and West." In fact, they are official propaganda agencies, and the guild's continuing interest appears to the *CJR* to be a hangover from the days when the guild itself was involved in Central Intelligence Agency funding. *Radio Free Europe* employs nearly 300 guild members . . . Parti Quebecois National Assembly member Marcel Leger proposed that a provincial government news agency and provincially-operated broadcasting system be created as ways to strengthen information links among Quebec residents. He also said Bell Canada should be chartered provincially and that part of its equipment, including computers, be nationalized . . . the *National Enquirer*, a U.S. tabloid which used to deal with sadism and sex, has changed its image, if you haven't noticed. It now provides gossip on the occult and the quasi-scientific. Circulation was stalled at one million several years ago, but

since the switch has climbed to 2.6 million. The paper now sells mainly in supermarkets to housewives . . . Matsushita Graphic Communication Systems and Matsushita Research Institute of Tokyo have developed a page facsimile using a laser beam as a light source. It is the first application of laser beam to a facsimile process. With the system, a page of a newspaper can be transmitted in about 60 seconds (conventionally, it takes from three to seven minutes using a discharge tube) with 25 times higher contrast. Matsushita Graphic Communication Systems started selling Japan's first page-fax system in 1965 . . . Martin Goodman now is editor-in-chief of the *Toronto Star*, officially moving into the slot vacated by Peter Newman when he moved to *Maclean's* magazine last year. New managing editor of the *Star* is Borden Spears. If you check the masthead, you'll see the *Toronto* afternoon daily has a Monday-Friday circulation of more than a half million; on Saturday, sales are close to 700,000 . . . a reminder: the annual Canadian Managing Editor's Conference is set for May 24-27 at the Admiral Beatty Inn in Saint John. Speaker on

editorial quality control will be Richard Horwood, national news editor of the *Washington Post*. There'll be sessions on circulation, libel and slander and on the proposal for a closer liaison with the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association . . . Paul Clifford has been appointed general sales manager of Wide World Photos Inc., a wholly-owned commercial subsidiary of *The Associated Press*. Clifford, 46, succeeds Meyer Goldberg, 57, who has entered private business . . . radio *CHUM* in Toronto received a special Broadcaster of the Year award from the magazine *RPM Weekly* for efforts to establish communication among Canadian programmers . . . this month, *CHUM* also entered a letter of dissent to the United Church of Canada, resenting the "gratuitous provision of 'editorials'" by the department of church in society. Wrote news director Dick Smyth: "An editorial to me is something sacred. It is the highest language of journalism. Your crass exploitation of this revered form of expression is frightening in its implications and sinful in its dishonesty." . . . in the middle of this rambling account of people and events, it may be useful to mention that *Content* welcomes any multitude of tidbits — items some of us refer to as trade gossip. Not surprisingly, it's a well-read page, and we'd like to cover the entire professional spectrum of people, places, things and activities. See the address on the masthead for your memos or letters . . . not only was the death of the *Toronto Telegram* discussed, and elaborated upon, at Media 72, discussions surrounding the paper's demise get attention in the Winter/72 edition of the *Alumni Gazette* of the University of Western Ontario. The piece is written by Mark Parliament . . . a court overruled New York radio station *WBAI's* argument that tapes of an uprising in a city jail should be protected under the 'newsman's privilege' statute. *WBAI* general manager Edwin Goodman was imprisoned briefly for defying the subpoena which requisitioned the original tapes . . . *Saturday Review* film critic Hollis Alpert has resigned after 20 years at the magazine. His leaving followed a change of management and format which he argued de-emphasized the arts. Alpert plans to join the staff of the new biweekly *World Review*, to be edited by Norman Cousins, also late of *Saturday Review* . . . staff departures from Canadian Press bureaus across the country seem to be continuing. A story on possible reasons why, and on CP in general, is upcoming in *Content* . . . a letter which came in too late to be included in the Media 72 coverage makes a fascinating point. Writes Michael Moore of the *Toronto Globe and Mail*: "One of the resolutions passed at Media 72 referred to 'the dangers inherent in having the government's finger in the print media's pie'. It has since been revealed that this a paraphrase of the motto of Information Canada, shortly to be inscribed over the door of that enterprise: The Government's Finger Is in the Print Media's Pie. In the interests of linguistic neutrality, it is to be in Latin: Digitus Imperius in Crustum Mediorum Imprimatorum Est. Those of us who have been following the fortunes of Information Canada have been wondering where the government's finger was."

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