

# *content*

*Canada's National News Media Magazine*

*May 1979*

*Number 96*

*75 Cents*



The UNESCO Debate

**OUR "WORLD" NEWS:  
IS IT JUST LOCAL GOSSIP?**



# SOURCES UPDATES

Content's *SOURCES* directory contains the names, addresses and telephone numbers of 802 contact persons ready to help you gather facts, background material and informed comment on hundreds of subjects from addictions to zinc. It's specifically published for reporters, editors and researchers in Canada. It's loaded with story ideas. Keep your copy handy and use it.

The following are updates to the 4th edition of the *Sources* directory (Content No. 95, April 1979):

(pg. 18, col. 1)

ADDICTION RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
*Change-of-name: Barbara Spencer becomes Barbara Coultres*, Media Relations Officer  
Office: (416) 595-6054

(p. 19, col. 3)

THE ALBERTA UNION OF PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES

*New descriptive paragraph:*

A union composed primarily of employees in the provincial public sector. The union is affiliated with the Alberta Federation of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Congress through the National Union of Provincial Government Employees.

(pg. 28, col. 3)

THE CANADIAN LIFE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

*Two telephone numbers in descriptive paragraph are incorrect. Last two sentences should read:*

The Life Insurance Information Centre provides a free answering service for consumer questions or complaints: in English, 1-800-268-8663. In French, 1-800-361-8070. (From British Columbia, phone 112-800-268-8663.)

(pg. 47, col. 1)

DOW CHEMICAL OF CANADA, LIMITED

*Remove from list of contacts:*

**Barry D. Chatland**,  
Chief, News & Information Bureau

(p. 53, col. 1)

NCR CANADA LTD

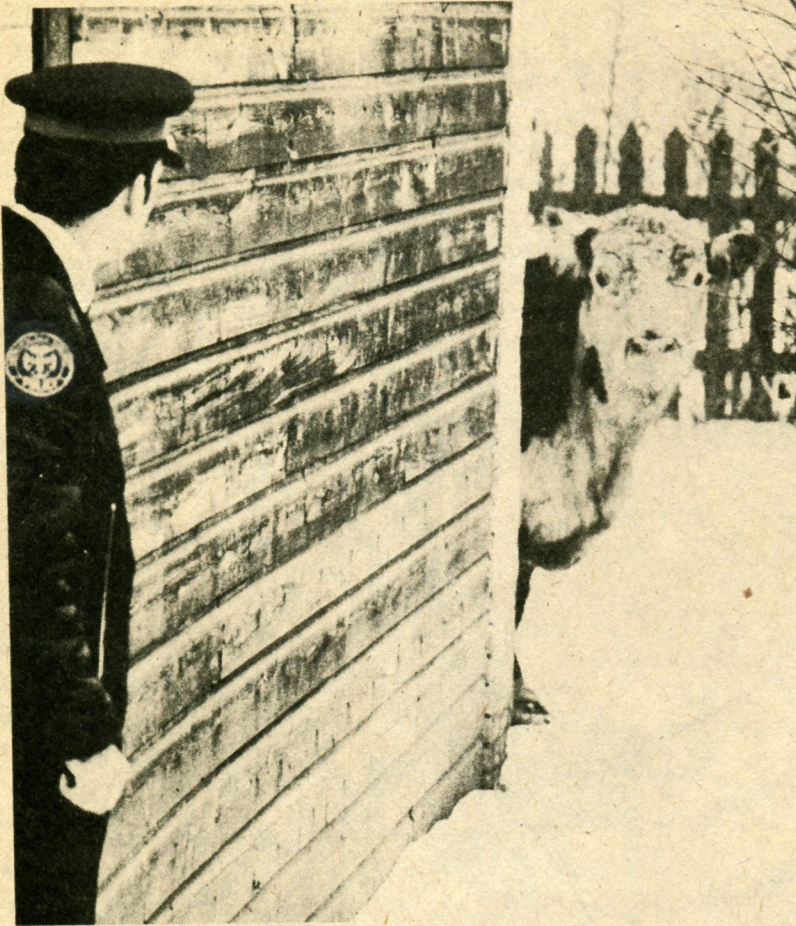
*New contact:*

**Dianne Smith**, Acting Advertising Manager  
Office: (416) 826-9000

*replaces:*

**Les Friedman**,  
Advertising and Public Relations Manager

## CP Feature Picture of the Month



**Photographer:** Ed Regan.

**Newspaper:** *The Globe and Mail*, Toronto.

**Situation:** Mindful, perhaps, of the barn-burning proclivities of Canadian police forces, this steer casts a wary eye on a Metro Toronto officer. Photographer Regan heard a police radio call for help and got this picture of the 1200-pound animal as it was cornered in a Toronto backyard, three miles from the slaughter

house from which it had escaped.

**Technical Data:** Nikon F and 80-200 mm zoom lens at 1/125th of a second and f5.6 on Tri-X film.

**Award:** The *Canadian Press* Feature Picture of the Month, February, 1979.

**Congratulations:** As a tribute to the art of feature photography journalism, Ford of Canada is pleased to regularly sponsor this space.

## OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT AT THE GLEANER

FREDERICTON — Eight reporters and two editors, fired without warning Aug. 12, 1977, from the Irving-owned Fredericton *Gleaner* (see *Content*, Sept./Oct. 1977), have reached an out-of-court settlement with the publisher of the daily. And the New Brunswick Industrial Relations Board has given 20 people who are now on staff in the *Gleaner* newsroom permission to be certified in the International Typographers Union (ITU).

University Press of New Brunswick Ltd. agreed to pay the 10 dismissed employees a total of \$13,500 for damages and court costs, in amounts ranging from \$850 to \$3,500.

The former *Gleaner* employees include Peter Riley, former city editor, and Peter Collum, former sports editor. About two months after the firings, the 10 had a specially endorsed writ served on University Press, in which they claimed wrongful dismissal. They requested costs and damages estimated at that time to amount to more than \$100,000.

University Press waited until the day before the case was to be heard in the New Brunswick supreme court, Feb. 21, 1977, to make the offer that led to the mid-March settlement.

over the content of certain news stories carried by the *Gleaner*. Reporters and some editors said they amounted to political favours, self-promotion and advertising.

When Peter Briant, then the newly-appointed managing editor, was fired over the issue, twelve in the newsroom staged a sit-in (July 19, 1977). Social editor Karin Stoecker resigned. Briant was rehired, but resigned. One of the 12, a summer replacement, also resigned. Eleven were given dismissal notices Aug. 12, signed by H.P. Wood, editor-in-chief, and Desmond Sparling, secretary-treasurer. These said there was a need to reduce the number of people in the newsroom, who, until then, numbered 17. One of the 11 was later rehired. Before and after the dismissal notices were handed out, new people were hired in the newsroom.

Two days before the firings, those who were dismissed had discussed unionizing and there has been speculation that this could have contributed to the dismissals. So it was ironic that on the day University Press made its offer to the former *Gleaner* employees — Feb. 20, 1979 — the present *Gleaner* newsroom staff applied for certification in the ITU.

When this application for certification was heard last March 16, University Press asked the board to exclude from the union the positions of city editor and sports editor — the positions Riley and Collum held when the firings occurred. After the board hearing,

ITU's Canadian representative, Robert Earles, said he never considered calling the *Gleaner's* present city editor (Jeff Lake) and sports editor (John White) to give testimony. "We knew they'd be afraid. You can't ignore the 10 *Gleaner* firings," Earle said.

In the result, the Board approved certification, but excluded the position of city editor from the union.

In October, 1977, Thomas Crowther, whose background is in advertising, became publisher of the *Gleaner* and president of University Press. He had been with the Irving-owned papers in Saint John, *The Telegraph-Journal* and *The Evening Times-Globe*.

The *Gleaner* is the smallest of New Brunswick's five English-language dailies. All are owned by Irving interests. — Esther Crandall.

## "DON'T REPORT" TENDENCY IS "DISTURBING"

EDMONTON — It's not enough to know the contempt and defamation laws of your own province; you have to know the laws of the others too.

That was one of the points made by Ontario supreme court justice Horace Krever at a day-long seminar held in Edmonton March 17.

The seminar, sponsored by the Legal Education Society of Alberta, was the society's first attempt to discuss legal questions with laymen, the laymen in this case being 112 media people from British Columbia, the Yukon, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Panelists included Krever, Alberta district court judge W.A. Stevenson, University of Alberta law dean Jeremy Williams, Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* lawyer R.H. McKercher and *Edmonton Journal* publisher J. Patrick O'Callaghan.

As the seminar closed, Krever noted that "with the transient nature of the press, it's not enough to know the laws of the province you're in.

"Moreover, the practice is universal of putting it (a news story) on the wires...the story might be perfectly all right in one province, but totally objectionable in another."

Krever, who formerly counselled the *Toronto Telegram*, *The Toronto Sun* and *CFTO*, elaborated in an interview.

"There are lots of cases in Canada where publication (of a defamatory or contemptuous article) in a Toronto paper can give rise to liability if read in another province."

And, says the justice, the author of the article could face charges too.

"The writer would still be liable...in the jurisdiction in which he writes, it may be all right, but when *CP* distributes that story to

all (its) members, papers that pick it up can be liable."

How do the media avoid this problem?

The jurist said a newspaper should consult its lawyer about any questionable wire story and that the wire service should take extra care in handling stories which might be actionable in other provinces, since "we can't expect all (newspapers) to have legal advice."

A major issue at the seminar was the recent Cherneskey v. Armadale Publishers case, in which the *Star-Phoenix* was found to have defamed a Saskatoon alderman by publishing a letter to the editor about him.

That case went all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, where the decision was upheld 6-3.

Robert McKercher, counsel for the newspaper, re-argued the facts of the case, noting that the trial judge took away the defence of fair comment on the grounds that the words complained of could not be proven to be the honest opinion of either the writers (who were not brought into court) or any member of the editorial staff or its publisher.

The majority opinion further specified, according to McKercher, that "the honest expression clause must apply to the newspaper as well as the letter."

He asked, since a newspaper often comes to a unified belief on the part of the publisher and editorial board in one opinion, "How in the world can you ever publish a contrary opinion?"

McKercher supposed and the panel agreed that this ruling has made the publication of letters to the editor a risky business, since contentious opinion could only be published on peril of lawsuit. Some audience members suggested later that all opinions contrary to a paper's editorial policy — such as columns — might be included as well.

One audience member asked if the Cherneskey case was at odds with the Federal Election Act "which requires the press to carry various political opinions of candidates."

Law Dean Jeremy Williams suggested the federal statute would take precedence over the court ruling.

Most of the discussion served as an appetizer, because of the brevity of the discussion and the breadth of the subject, or merely reminded participants of facts they should already know, such as:

- The American legal system is often mistakenly relied upon by journalists, when in fact it has almost no bearing on Canadian proceedings;

- Truth, public interest and justification are no defences for contempt;

- Contempt can be intentional or unintentional — innocence of motives is no defence; and

- City councils are "extremely fertile grounds for the hatching of defamation actions" — journalists should be most cautious in their own backyards.

It was not all bad news for journalists.

Krever, speaking from his experience with

the Ontario royal commission into the confidentiality of health records, said the press can perform a valuable service in unearthing information which might not have come to the attention of a public inquiry.

Judge William Stevenson said he was disturbed by the judicial tendency to say "Don't report it."

"This does grave disservice to everybody. The press has a watchdog function which should not be discouraged."

But the judge asked that reporters and editors be sensitive to contempt, especially in the prejudicing of a fair trial: "Let the reader draw his own conclusions...Don't embellish the facts with comment...Get together with the reporter, the desk, the lawyer and make a judgement on the item. Often (it) can be rewritten to take the prejudicial material out." — Bill Bean.

*Bill Bean writes a magazine column for the Edmonton Journal.*

## EDUCATORS AND NEWSMEN CAN WORK AS TEAM

TORONTO — Have reading and writing skills declined in Canada? Have they declined anywhere?

There didn't seem to be a consensus on this issue at a symposium sponsored here March 4-7 by the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association.

It was especially appropriate that CDNPA's Dick MacDonald and Diane MacLean chose 1979, The Year of the Child, in which to organize the National Readership Symposium. As a famous educator has noted, reading makes for more complete individuals. The media couldn't have tackled a more important area.

About 100 school administrators, newspaper editors, reporters and researchers from most parts of the country attended the event. Exploring reading and writing problems was a first for the CDNPA and it hopes to publish the seminar's proceedings.

It isn't easy to determine whether there has been a decline in literacy. Part of the difficulty lies in defining "literacy," according

to David Yarrington, a prominent author and professor at Michigan's Lake Superior State College. He said, "There is no universal agreement on literacy. It all depends on whom you ask. But there is universal agreement that we have problems."

"Historically, millions of people depended on newspapers to learn to read," said Carleton University's Patrick McFadden. He added that the challenge is still here and there's reason to believe we can meet it.

"The newspaper is still the greatest information retrieval system ever devised," said McFadden. "What we have to do in the newspaper business is capitalize on that very real need for information that people have always had."

Cost-benefit analysis was apparently weighing heavily on the minds of newspaper managers. Is it profitable for newspapers to include specific services for children both at the elementary and secondary school levels?

The answer is an emphatic "yes," as countless examples demonstrated. Here's one: *The Vancouver Sun* found its circulation jumping by the thousands when it began devoting pages to material for children, under the skillful coordination of Angus Gunn, a professor of education at The University of British Columbia.

Editors were urged to rush out to the classroom and talk about newspapers by Jack Briglia, ME of *The London Free Press*: "You take the time necessary and chalk it up as an investment...From an editor's viewpoint, we do have an ulterior motive: we're trying to get a student to look at a newspaper as a source of information. If he's going to do so, he's going to have to buy it...If we can hook them early, maybe we can get them for life."

This is not to suggest that the bottom line is the only motive for newspapers to become involved in promoting reading skills. But it does suggest that, if that is a consideration, it's still worth it.

How can newspapers help solve reading problems? Writers have to understand the reading process, said Frank Smith, a University of Toronto professor who was once a journalist himself. Readers bring meaning to the printed word, not vice-versa, he offered.

But this idea begs the question: what roles do parents and teachers play in giving the child some knowledge (meaning) to bring to the printed word? They play an important

role, to say the least, and can make it difficult for the journalist to promote reading.

Making the printed word meaningful is one heck of a task, but if a child can't make sense out of a story, journalists have failed. Patrick McFadden had something to say about this: "We need to attend to the "why" in our writing. And by that, I don't mean the journalistic cliché of "in-depth analysis," because quite often this has meant that the idiot who got it wrong in the first place got it wrong at greater length in the second place. We have to produce writers and thinkers who are able to carry out the job of popularization or vulgarization and able to produce a synthesis of the information so that the news makes sense."

One last question: can educators and newsmen work as a team? The harmonious interaction at the National Readership Symposium suggests they can. — Stephen Overbury.

*Stephen Overbury is a freelance writer studying at the Faculty of Education of the University of Toronto.*

## LABOUR REPS: STRIKE NEWS IS OVERDONE

CALGARY — A generally black view of the media was painted by labour representatives at a two-day March conference examining labour and the media. Among the charges levelled against the news media include sensationalism, misrepresentation, negative reporting, lack of objectivity and scant management representation in news reports.

David Bercuson, a professor of labour history at the University of Calgary, told conference participants the 1930s were one of the few periods in which labour ever received good press, largely because of the Depression. With the coming of the Second World War, a period of increasing labour unrest and strikes changed the outlook towards organized labour. One of the general views the media held during that time was labour was impeding the war effort, noted Bercuson.

Charges that the media generally give an il-

(See **LABOUR**, p. 12)

## content

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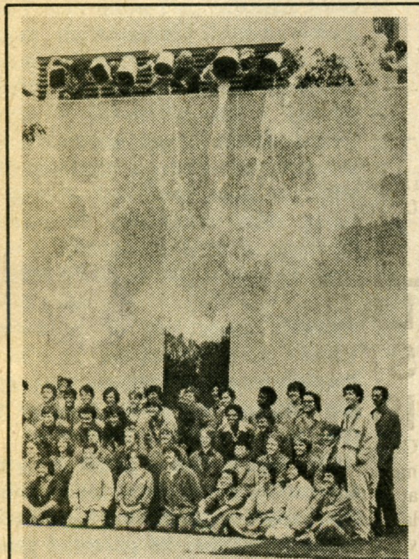
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# 1978 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER AWARDS



THE WINNERS (left to right): John Fraser, John Colville, Josh Freed, Terry Mosher, Doug Gilbert, William French, John Grace, Peter Worthington and Hugh MacKenzie.



The NNA for feature photography was taken by University of Ottawa class photographer Hugh MacKenzie with this shot of a freshman engineering class posing unaware that they are about to be very wet. The photo was picked up by the *Ottawa Citizen* and *Life* magazine and was picked as the *Canadian Press* feature picture of the year.



This depiction of John Paul II in Polish costume was one of a selection of cartoons which brought Terry Mosher the 1978 NNA for cartooning. Mosher, who, as Aislin, draws for the *Montreal Gazette*, won the cartooning award last year, too.

TORONTO — *Globe and Mail* correspondent **John Fraser** has won the 1978 National Newspaper Award for spot news with his first-person story of an encounter with Chinese citizens at Xidam Democracy Wall in Peking last November.

Eight others won awards in other categories and three journalists received citations for merit.

The awards, instituted in 1949, are worth \$500 each. They are financially sustained by a number of newspapers and other organizations and administered by a committee of the Toronto Press Club.

Fraser's article, one of several covering the appearance of political dissent in Peking wall posters, described his exchanges with a crowd reading the posters. It gave Canadians an unaccustomed glimpse at Chinese who are critical of their government's policies.

Fraser previously won NNAs for critical writing in 1974 and 1976.

**Josh Freed** of *The Montreal Star* took the award for feature writing with a series of articles on the fate of a friend who converted to the Unification Church. Freed followed Benji Carrol to San Francisco and related his subsequent kidnapping and reconversion from the South Korean movement.

*Toronto Sun* editor **Peter Worthington** won the enterprise reporting award for his series of first-person articles on open heart surgery which he began to write soon after his heart attack and continued through his hospital convalescence.

The NNA was Worthington's fourth; he has won others for feature writing, staff corresponding and editorial writing.

The 1978 NNA for editorial writing went to **John Grace**, editor-in-chief of the *Ottawa Journal*, for a number of editorials in that newspaper.

This is the second time he has won the award; he also took it in 1975.

For the second year in a row, **William French**, the literary editor of *The Globe and Mail*, won the award for critical writing. Among the articles in his winning submission was a report on a public debate in Clinton, Ont. over the decision of the local board of education to remove three books from an English course to comply with the demands of book-banners.

**Doug Gilbert** of *The Edmonton Sun* won the sports writing award for a series of articles on preparations in Edmonton for last year's Commonwealth Games. Judges praised the series for the extensive research on which it was based.

Other NNA winners were: the *Montreal Gazette's* **Terry Mosher**, for cartooning; *The Calgary Herald's* **John Colville**, for spot news photography; and **Hugh MacKenzie** and the *Ottawa Citizen* for feature photography (see boxes on this page).

Citations of merit went to **Marc Thibeault** of *Montréal-Matin*, **George Bain** of the *Toronto Star* and **Marcel Pépin** of Quebec City's *Le Soleil*.

Thibeault was cited for a series of articles on professional sport in Quebec.

A feature article on the charges against *The Toronto Sun* under the Official Secrets Act brought Bain his citation.

Pépin was cited for "the exceptional air of authority" of his editorials. (30)



**John Colville** of the *Calgary Herald* won the NNA for spot news photography with this photo of Scott Finlay of Napanee, Ont. flipping into a crash during the Canadian downhill ski championships at Lake Louise, Alta. last year. Colville began to shoot with motor drive when he realized Finlay was in trouble. The paralysed skier is still in hospital.

# EDITORS ON BIERMAN: THEIR CASE IS FOUND WANTING

By WILF KESTERTON

In our March issue, *Content's* Ottawa contributing editor, Paul Park, sampled reaction to the Bierman decision among selected editors across the country: the men and women who decide what goes on the editorial page. This month Wilf Kesterton, the leading authority on press law in Canada, takes a skeptical look at what the decision-makers had to say.

"I THINK THE JUDGE made a drastic mistake," said *Globe and Mail* executive editor Cameron Smith, commenting on the libel judgement against Bob Bierman. Bierman's cartoon had depicted B.C. human resources minister William Vander Zalm pulling the wings off flies.

"There are some criteria saying cartoons can't be libellous. They can be," said William Thorsell, *Edmonton Journal* associate editor.

The two opinions typify the varied views of ten Canadian editors interviewed by *Content* magazine (see *Content*, March 1979) about the Bierman verdict. How legally valid was their assessment?

Michael Harrington (editor, *St. John's Evening Telegram*), Wayne Roznowsky (ME, Prince Albert *Daily Herald*) and Barbara McLintock (editorial page editor, *Victoria Times*) used the term "precedent" rather loosely to describe the legal outcome. Montreal *Gazette* editorial page editor Joan Fraser said the occasion was the first time a cartoonist had been found "guilty" of libel.

It is true there is a paucity of civil case law involving cartoonists. Smith adverted to the savagery of early English cartoons published with apparent impunity, but the reference may not have supported his argument. In early times, *private person* libelled *private person* with safety, not only using cartoons, but in words. It was when the private individual attacked the authorities that *government* invoked

the law. And the measures taken were not civil defamation proceedings, but criminal law proceedings: prosecutions for blasphemous, seditious and defamatory libel.

It would require a thorough search of criminal case law before anyone could say criminal law measures had not been taken previously against cartoonists.

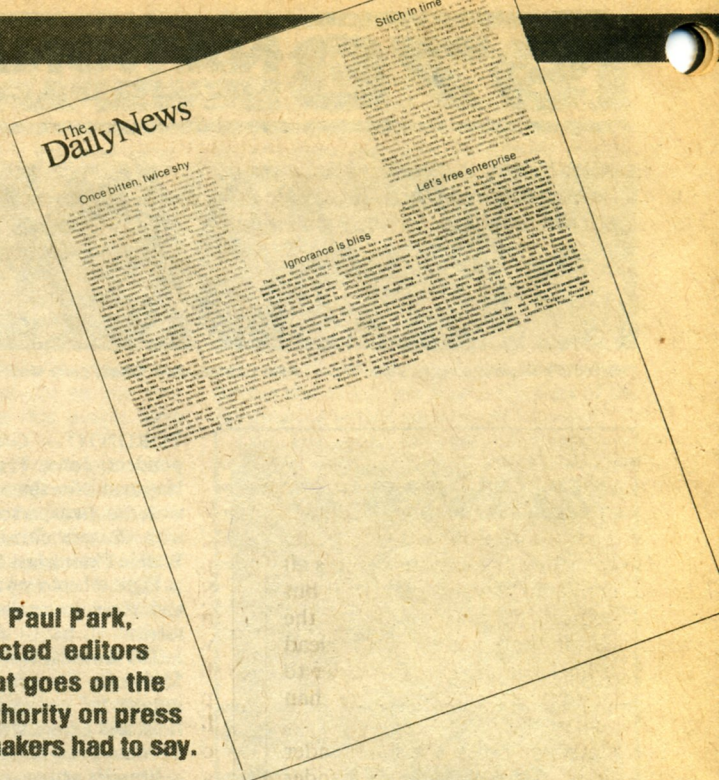
In a New Brunswick case, *The King v. MacDougall* (1909), the defendant was found guilty of a defamatory libel after publishing a cartoon and its accompanying explanation: "Our cartoonist sketched (a police magistrate) . . . The artist is of the opinion that (the magistrate's) head has air space, spongy bone, and also a misplaced bowel filled with something that is not brains in the centre of the head. It is a good photo of the most stupid J.P. in Canada."

In *The Attorney General of Canada v. Alexander et al.* (1975), a cartoon contributed to the conviction of the defendant, but on this occasion the charge was contempt of court rather than defamatory libel.

In the realm of civil defamation there have been at least two libel suits involving cartoons in other parts of the

## FOR OUR TORONTO READERS

The Toronto Press Club will sponsor a News Forum April 18 entitled "Cartoonists in Strait Jackets." See Notice Board, p. 10.



Commonwealth: *Tolley v. Fry* (1929), and *Massey v. New Zealand Times* (1911).

The fact is that it is not for want of any capacity to defame inherent in cartoons that libel suits have been so few. It is the self-denial of potential plaintiffs that has hitherto kept cartoonists free of trouble.

Common law definitions of defamation carry the idea that there is a false statement lowering someone in the estimation of right-thinking members of society or exposing him or her to hatred, contempt or ridicule, or injuring his/her reputation in his/her office, trade or calling. Certainly, cartoons are able to do these things. And as Gatley points out: "Statues, waxworks, pictures, photographs (particularly in collocation with words), cartoons, cinema or television pictures, marks on a pavement, burning a man in effigy, hanging a sign outside his house or hissing him, signs and gestures have all been capable of conveying a defamatory imputation."

Whatever one may think about Vander Zalm's ability to provoke controversy or of his gratuitous songs about frogs, the judge's application of the law seems to be legally correct.

Don Bucholtz, Kamloops *Sentinel* ME, implied a recognition of that when he said that basically cartoons have to be treated like editorials. Norm Ibsen, editorial page editor of the *London Free Press*, showed awareness that

(opposite page)  
"All the news the law permits"

should be the motto on this hypothetical editorial page, which carries no letters to the editor because some politician's feelings might be hurt (*Cherneskey v. Armadale Publishers*) and no political cartoon out of respect and reverence for public figures (*Vander Zalm v. Bierman*).

cartoons are not automatically libel-free when he said he was "not convinced that it was a fair cartoon."

Joan Fraser quoted an editorial from her paper, the *Montreal Gazette*, which seemed to imply that Bierman was free of liability because he had not made his criticisms in connection with a specific act. This puzzling suggestion that it is all right to condemn a man's character but not a specific deed runs counter to the experience of defendants who plead truth in a libel action. It is far easier to prove that someone has told a lie than that he is a liar.

Apparently to distinguish Vander Zalm as a private person from Vander Zalm as a public person, Fraser claimed to see significance in the fact that no name had been attached to the caricatured figure. (Only the label "Human Resources" was placed across his chest.) The three requirements to maintain a libel action are defamation, publication and identification. Clearly the court was satisfied that Vander Zalm could be identified as the person cartooned; whether as a private individual or as minister of human resources does not matter.

Cameron Smith tried to make the Fraser point by what is surely a false analogy. He contended that Vander Zalm's situation was analogous to that of Sir Laurence Olivier playing the part of a cruel, sadistic German dentist in *The Boys From Brazil*. He noted that it would be ridiculous to say that because the character he portrayed was cruel and sadistic, Olivier was cruel and sadistic. Similarly to attribute the faults Bierman depicted to the human resources minister, said Smith, was not to attribute those faults to Vander Zalm as a person.

But surely the difference between the two situations is obvious. Olivier was pretending to be a sadistic German dentist. Vander Zalm was the minister of human resources. If the cartoon claims the human resources minister is cruelly insensitive toward Indians, it is claiming that Vander Zalm is cruelly insensitive in conducting the business of the human resources ministry. Apparently, just as it is within the scope

of fair comment to call Olivier an incompetent actor, it is defensible to call Vander Zalm an ineffective minister. But it is not legally safe to accuse him of being cruel and sadistic.

Many interviewees seemed to think that, if the Bierman decision is overturned by a higher court, the future protection of cartoonists will be assured. Such confidence seems unjustified. At most it would appear that such a reversal would signify only that *this case* had failed on its merits. No large overriding principle not inherent in non-cartoon libel actions would be established. Conceivably another plaintiff could sue another cartoonist in somewhat different circumstances and win — and this despite appeals right up to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Confronted by the liability finding against Bierman, Ed Ecker, Brantford *Expositor* editorial page editor, said, "Something's got to be rectified damn fast by legislation." But legislation, even if desirable, would have to be enacted in ten different provinces because civil defamation is a matter of provincial jurisdiction. And the need to amend the law to allow greater latitude for cartoon comment on public figures without destroying protection against libel suggests changes of formidable difficulty.

Dennis Breckert, editorial writer for the *Fredericton Gleaner*, was one of the journalists who felt that the Bierman decision would encourage other politicians to follow the Vander Zalm example in suing cartoonists. A partial confirmation of his prediction came with the announcement in early February that MP Leonard Jones (independent) was about to sue Acadia Printing Ltd., publisher of *L'Evangeline*, the paper's managing editor, Claude Bourque, and cartoonist Silvain Arsenault for a libel claimed to be contained in a November 24, 1978, cartoon.

Professor Wilfrid Kesterton teaches courses on the law and the media at Carleton University and is the author of *The Law and the Press in Canada*. (30)

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## The Canadian Life Insurance Association

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Toronto, Ontario M5J 2K7



The Third World is on the periphery of the international news gathering and disseminating system. And there's a big, mushy myth about how the Western press really works. The combination of the two could hasten the day of more drastic curtailments on freedom for Western correspondents, Wayne Ellwood writes below. He asks for recognition of one simple truth and a bit less tub-thumping.



# THIRD WORLD & WESTERN JOURNALISTS: WHY THE GULF IS GROWING

By WAYNE ELLWOOD

A "FREE press," devoted to objective, detached reporting and interpretation is sacrosanct to those of us who make our living trying to disentangle the complex cat's cradle of issues and information that besiege the world daily.

And there's nothing that jolts our collective nerves more than a perceived threat to that principle which we enshrine right up there with our other so-called fundamental freedoms — from the right to life, liberty and security of person to the right to own property.

Events leading up to the recent debate at the Paris meeting of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) were just such a jolt. Since 1975, UNESCO had been gamely trying to reach consensus on a draft declaration outlining "the

fundamental principles governing the contribution of the mass media to strengthening peace and international understanding and to combating war, propaganda, racism and apartheid." Originally proposed by the Soviet Union, the draft declaration stirred up a hornet's nest of opposition from the West. The U.S., in particular, lobbied hard against the document, attempting to buy Third World support with offers of technological and professional assistance. The West had to buy support in the Third World, for it was Third World dissatisfaction with the global news gathering and dissemination industry which fueled the debate.

Like most international accords, UNESCO declarations are not binding. As UNESCO's Director-General, Nigerian Amadou Mahtar M'bow,

stated in opening address to the Paris gathering. "An international declaration derives its authority, which is purely moral, only from the unanimous adhesion of the states which adopt it."

"Nevertheless," warned John Reinhardt, head of the U.S. delegation, "if UNESCO passes a resolution which a state can seize on to do what it was going to do anyway, then it can be troublesome." And a resolution passed.

Sorting through the quagmire of UN jargon and endless chains of subordinate clauses of the original declaration, there are indeed some statements at which most of us might take offence. Article Eleven in the original text states: "It is the duty of States to facilitate the application of the present Declaration, and to ensure that the mass media coming directly under their jurisdiction act in



conformity therewith." That suggestion undoubtedly deserved the full opprobrium it received from many national delegations. And, in fact, it never made it to the final draft. The idea of an international body legitimizing government intervention in the gathering, selection and distribution of news is perhaps more dangerous to the underdeveloped world than to the West. The present crop of Third World leaders — the Somozas, Pinochets and Videlas of the world — need no encouragement or support for their muzzling of the press. And a tendency to regard the press as a propaganda tool, presenting government policy rather than news, has to be resisted; the establishment of another *TASS* or *Xinhua* (China's national news agency) could not be interpreted as a blow for freedom.

But, while coverage of the UNESCO debate in the Western press ranged from restrained liberal moralizing to self-righteous cold-war moralizing, any discussion of the reasons for the Third World's dissatisfaction was palpably absent. The old shibboleth of the "free press" was bandied about to defend "what Western democracies have struggled so long and hard to win." The possibility that we may be bogged down in a big, mushy myth was ignored.

WHAT DOES THE Third World have to complain about?

A glance at the world's shipping and airline routes, telephone and cable lines, publication centres and radio networks tells the story. The Southern world is connected by thousands of invisible stitches to the North — particularly to former colonial capitals. It's easier to phone London from Delhi than it is to phone Kabul in nearby Afghanistan. There is an undeniable bias in the system of global news distribution that subverts and distorts the way Third World citizens perceive themselves. *Agence France Press (AFP)*, *Associated Press (AP)*, *United Press International (UPI)*, *Reuters* and *TASS* are the unchallenged powers in selection and distribution of global news and information flows. As a result, Third World nations have to rely almost entirely on outside sources for news about each other.

Françoise Giroud, a journalist for *Le Monde*, gave the raw data for a recent issue of her newspaper:

AP feeds 17 million words a day to 10,000 subscribers with journalists in 110 countries with an estimated daily audience of 1 billion. UPI transmits 14 million

words a day to 7000 subscribers in 90 countries. Reuters distributes one and a half million words a day in six languages to subscribers in 155 countries. It has 529 permanent correspondents. AFP journalists in 110 countries put out three million words a day to 12,000 subscribers.

That's an undeniable marshalling of talent and resources which Third World countries cannot hope to match. It was this domination that prompted underdeveloped nations to push for a re-ordering of news flows — to articulate the poor world's status as a mere consumer of corporate, "Westernized" news.

Third World countries can select from the daily torrent of copy. But, in the end, most maintain that news is distorted anyway. We might respond by accusing Third World news media of worse bias. But that's not good enough. It only avoids the charge rather than confronts it. It's the worst kind of pompous navel-gazing to declaim that we in the West have the correct approach, that we have cornered the market on truth and objectivity.

One Indian critic put the case this way: "The style, content, and treatment of news to or from the Third World reflects the personality, preferences and needs of the Western media. The usual formula is brevity, pungency and action. The focus is on the surface of events with relatively little discussion or analysis of causes."

A RECENT survey by the Ottawa-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC) found that reports of political and economic affairs, political upheavals, international crimes and personalities dominate the Third World news coverage in the Canadian press. Coverage of such key subjects as population, energy, food and positive development efforts was almost absent. The news we do get from the Third World — apart from a handful of foreign correspondents — originates from the four major Western news agencies.

We all hear about the loonies — from Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Republic to the redoubtable Idi Amin. We're buried in the intricacies of President Carter's continuing minuet with Begin and Sadat. But the recent events in Iran hit us like a slap in the face. Where do we go for a thorough analysis of that harrowing conflict — where the revolt of an entire people against one of the world's most repressive police states is

# What is the Third World?

It is a pressing geopolitical fact that the countries of the world increasingly fall into one of two economic categories: (1) those which import raw materials and export manufactured goods and (2) those which export raw materials and import manufactured goods. The two categories are created and united by a movement of wealth from the latter to the former.

One way of referring to this division is to talk of industrialized or developed countries and underdeveloped countries. Underdeveloped countries are also referred to, perhaps inaccurately, as developing countries.

Because the industrialized countries are mostly located in the northern third of the globe (South Africa, Australia and New Zealand are exceptions), the global division is often referred to as the North or Northern World versus the South or Southern World.

"Third World" originated as a term in Mao's three-worlds theory of the global economic and political situation. According to this theory, the First World consists of the two industrialized super powers, the USA and the USSR. Making up the Second World are the industrialized satellites of the two super powers; Canada and Romania are examples. The Third World embraces the unindustrialized suppliers of raw materials.



presented as a clash of religious traditionalism and enlightened industrial development?

At a meeting of the Commonwealth Press Union in Toronto last September, Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal told newsmen, "The question for the developed nations of the North is whether the press is going to play a positive and enlightened role, or a negative and adversary one, on the central issue of our time — social and economic, justice worldwide...The Third World believes the superpowers of the press world are part of the establishment of the North, indifferent to its aspirations."

Though we may find that an affront to our much vaunted objectivity, it would take a reversal of history to wriggle out of the basic charge. Neglect is indifference. Without appearing alarmist or pessimistic, we can safely say that our tired planet is in deep trouble. The West is in the throes of an economic crisis which has seen no equal. Flagrant and systematic violations of human rights are more the norm than the exception from southern Africa and Latin America to the Soviet Union. The international financial system — engineered during the post-war period — has collapsed and appears incapable of recovery. A handful of the poorest nations are on the brink of bankruptcy. Transnational corporations continue to expand into the Third World, creating tiny elites consciously aping the values and lifestyles of the rich in the developed world. The gap between rich and poor, both within and between nations, remains virtually unchanged. The "free market" system, under which most of us have prospered, is transforming the world into what Barnett and Mueller in *Global Reach* call a "global shopping centre." The rich nations are in a position of economic advantage, so resources are made available to those who can afford them, not to those who need them. Meanwhile, our press gives us more "lifestyle" copy — more sports, fashion, entertainment and personalities. Is it any wonder the Third World is dissatisfied?

## Squirmers

"At its worst the embarrassment crept over the lights into the audience, leaving a horrid mixture of empathy and indignance in the pit of one's stomach." (Paul McGrath in *The Globe and Mail*, 14 March 1979.)

That's *embarrassment*, not *err:barassment*, and *indignation*, not *indignance*. (30)

The Third World is right to challenge the hegemony of the "Big Five" news agencies. In fact, the first hesitant step towards what some Third World activists are calling the "New World Information Order" has been cobbled together already.

A "Newspool" system begun in 1976 now has 44 participating Third World states. Unlike the full-blown news agency, a newspool is a method of swapping material between news agencies with no single country dominating. Each country is obliged to pay for its own material and its transmission. The goal is not to *replace* the international news agencies, but to *complement* them. Third World nations want to know more about each other. But Indians want to know what Sri Lankans think about Sri Lanka, not what *UPI* or *AP* thinks — no matter how sympathetic their views.

The ultimate step may be a news agency along the lines of the "Big Five." But that's a move with enormous logistical barriers and unlikely to evolve for some time. UNESCO's International Commission on the Study of Communications — headed by Nobel prize winner and Irish statesman Sean McBride — remarks in its interim report that at least 40 underdeveloped countries have no news agencies at all.

IN A REPORT on the Paris UNESCO meeting for *Southam News Services*, Nicholas Hills rightly notes a split between Western and Third World journalists over the purpose of information in the media. However, the division is not a simple either/or — lapdog press subservient to government edicts versus a detached, aloof and apolitical press. The Third World is not a homogeneous block. Journalists from the underdeveloped world are not likely to remain impassive and silent in the face of anti-democratic and totalitarian measures. In fact, many have paid and are paying a price for opposing arbitrary measures which "most of us would have trouble grasping, so cossetted and comfortable are we in an environment that never calls for life-and-death choices that are often routine in other parts of the world," to quote Paddy Sherman, publisher of the Vancouver *Province*.

Said Sherman, speaking to the *Canadian Press* annual meeting last year: "Some of the more fortunate ones spoke to us in Canberra — Donald Woods, who only had to flee South Africa; Eugenio Lopez, who escaped after five

years without trial in a Philippine jail, his *Manila Chronicle* and other assets confiscated; Mochtar Lubis who suffered a similar fate, and Helen Vlachos who fled over the rooftops of Athens to escape the colonels."

But they do operate from a very different starting point — that journalism is by its very nature a political act. The issues we choose and the way in which we treat them are conditioned by the social and cultural values to which we subscribe — consciously or unconsciously.

If we would just realize this simple truth and act upon it, we would accomplish more towards quelling the growing Third World tendency to restrict Western correspondents than we have with all of our tub-thumping about our so-called free press.

*Wayne Ellwood is co-editor of New Internationalist, a monthly magazine dealing with issues of world development.* (30)

## Notice Board

**April 18:** "Cartoonists in Strait Jackets" is the topic of this month's Toronto Press Club News Forum. Participants will be Mr. Justice Horace Krever of the Ontario supreme court, Judy LaMarsh and cartoonists Bob Bierman (*Victoria Times*) and Terry (Aislin) Mosher (*Montreal Gazette*). Prof. Joseph Scanlon of Carleton University will moderate. The evening begins at 7:30 with an NFB documentary about political cartoonists, "The Hecklers." The debate will get under way about 8:30 p.m. 73 Richmond St. West, Toronto, 3rd floor.

**May 3 & 4:** RTNDA and BN seminars for French-language region, Hotel La Seigneurie de Ste. Marie, Ste. Marie de Beauce, Quebec. Contact Jacques Labrie, *CHRC*, at (418) 688-8080.

**May 10 & 11:** RTNDA and BN seminars for British Columbia region, Harrison Hotel, Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. Contact Grant Ulliyot, *CKWK*, at (604) 792-6681.

**May 17 & 18:** RTNDA and BN seminars for Prairie region, Sheraton Centre, Regina, Sask. Contact Roger Currie, *CKCK*, at (306) 522-8591.

**May 24 & 25:** RTNDA and BN seminars for Central Canada region, Sheraton Royal Connaught Hotel, Hamilton, Ont. Contact Warren Beck, *CHML*, (416) 549-2411.

**May 22-26:** Canadian Managing Editors Conference, Ottawa. Contact Dick MacDonald at *CDNPA*, (416) 923-3567, or Bob McAleer at *The Windsor Star*, (519) 255-5711.

**May 31-June 2:** RTNDA national conference and BN seminar for Atlantic region, Chateau Halifax, Halifax, N.S. Contact Dick Prat, *ATV*, at (902) 453-4000.

**June 4-6:** 22nd World Congress of the International Federation of the Periodical Press, Hotel Scandinavia, Oslo, Norway. Write to FIPP XXII World Congress, PO Box 8641 St. Olav, Oslo 1, Norway or call 011-47-2-20-84-25.

# Column by Richard Labonté

ONCE UPON A TIME, newspapers were mainly for news: their purpose was to tell people what to think about the prime minister, the mayor and the axe-murderer who lived on the next block.

But not too long ago, readership surveyors and market analysts decided that readers, bored by news, needed to be serviced.

Not just Ann Landers or sewing patterns or how-to-make-perfect-meringue service: that was the simple stuff of the old-style women's page. But women's pages became lifestyle pages. And there's more to lifestyle than whether sex with the light on is evil.

Lifestyle is doing it; lifestyle is being with it; lifestyle is getting down to it. As we used to say. Now newspaper editors are saying it, and — worse yet — believing it is important. And so, a fungus-growth of tabloids festering inside the noble broadsheet: *Fanfares* and *Focuses* and *Relaxes* and *tgif's* and *Street Talks* and *Tuesdays*, hell-bent on telling the reader, obviously a mindless clot, how to do it (dance and drink and eat) and be with it (fads and trends and fashions and styles) and get down to it (mostly the disco).

There are now more than a dozen of the newspaper-magazine mutants in Canadian daily papers, from the *Toronto Star's Street Talk* to the *Brantford Expositor's* (and *The North Bay Nugget's*, *Sault Ste. Marie Star's*, *Medicine Hat News* and the *Owen Sound Sun-Times's Focus*).

(*Focus*, in fact, seems to be the name of choice, especially among smaller papers. Probably because the American publisher's survey which called tabloid magazines a necessary marketing gimmick called its example *Focus*: and Canadian publishers, just following orders, adopted the name.)

As with all creative endeavours — even the least necessary — the gamut runs from not-so-bad to bad.

Not-so-bad used to be *The Globe and Mail's fanfare*, a meaty read before it was buried in the Saturday paper — as preparation, some say, for the demise of *Weekend Magazine*.

In spite of more stylish writing, more philosophical muttering and more — for the masses of the elite who read the *Globe* — intellectual style, though, *fanfare* still fits the get-with-it formula.

Its *Between the Sexes* column on the emotional relationships of women and men becomes tips on how to pick up dates in the *Ottawa Journal's Street Talk*; the decline of student activism and the hard times hitting campus newspapers chronicled in *fanfare* become a university and high school gossip column in the *Ottawa Citizen's tgif*.

And there's much they all have in common: events listings, so the reader will know what to do; wine columns and restaurant columns, dictating where to drink what; fashion columns so what's worn to the right spots will be in style.

It's done better in *Street Talk* than in *The Windsor Star's Tuesday*; and there's more on gardening, CB radios, antiques, bowling and pets in *Sault Ste. Marie*, *North Bay* and *Medicine Hat* supplements than in *Toronto's* or *Ottawa's*.

But no matter how well it's written, none of it is news. It's fodder for the narcissism supposed to be besetting us all: *fad journalism*, *silly concepts* foisted on *sillier readers* who accept — and pay for — the *inconsequential*.

\* \* \*

THE CONFLICT GOES ON between the repressive and the repressed.

In *Ottawa*, April 5 was the trial date for obscenity charges brought against *Ottawa Revue*, an entertainment weekly, for reproducing the suggestion of nudity on its front cover.

In *Toronto*, the province has appealed the acquittal of *The Body Politic* on charges of using the mails to transmit material thought indecent, immoral and scurrilous.

The repressive? A society ashamed of its sexuality; a system which permits the outrage

of the insensitive and the moralistic to define sensitivity and morality; legal standards which dictate that only what is offensive to none can be offered to some.

The repressed? Two magazines, each with specific audiences to serve and specific interests to reflect, each committed to examining the unfamiliar and sometimes unpopular fringes.

The case against *Ottawa Revue* stems from the cover of an issue last fall, which showed a man and a woman nude, embracing. Hardly an unnatural act.

It was an obvious but certainly not detailed study, but its depiction of the human body — something we all ought to be familiar with — shocked several suburban housewives, whose outrage encouraged the Crown attorney's office to lay the charges.

That individual outrage should not carry with it the full weight of society's standards, reduced as they are by flexible laws and intolerant norms to a vacuous common denominator.

If the trend continues, we'll all be reading pudding.

Richard Labonté is a columnist for *The Citizen* in Ottawa. Periodicals, books and news releases which must be sent for comment should be mailed to Richard Labonté, 64 Marlborough Avenue, Ottawa K1N 8E9. (30)

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# CP Sports Picture of the Month



**Photographer:** Bev Christensen.  
**Newspaper:** *The Standard*, St. Catharines, Ont.

**Situation:** While shooting a men's game during the Ontario intercollegiate curling championship, Christensen got this shot of Leslie Dix, in a women's

game on an adjoining sheet of ice, dispiritedly watching her rock wandering off on its own.

**Technical Data:** Nikon FTN and 135-mm lens at 1/125th of a second and f2.8 on Tri-X film.

**Award:** The *Canadian Press*, Sports Picture of the Month,

February, 1979.

**Congratulations:** This space is contributed regularly in recognition of excellence in photo-journalism by the Canadian Life Insurance Association, representing the life insurance companies of Canada.

## LABOUR (from p. 4)

legitimate view of unions were expressed by Ray Sentes, health and safety officer for the southern Alberta insulators. In an examination of newspapers across Canada for a university thesis Sentes is writing, he cited numerous editorial cartoons which depict labour leaders as being "thick-headed animal-like creatures." Sentes objected to the blue-collar image projected in the majority of editorial cartoons. Photographs frequently devoted to labour problems and some of the picket signs often prominent in the photos.

"There is very little management representation in articles or photographs," he said.

Touching on newspaper editorials, Sentes stressed unions are constantly getting "hammered." He also criticized news coverage devoted to labour problems and some of the journalistic language used.

"Labour problems are always given heavy news coverage but the results of strikes are usually buried in the back of newspapers."

Ed Ewasiuk, executive secretary of the Edmonton Labour Council, laid the charge that freedom of the press is for those who own one. Ewasiuk agreed with other speakers the bad image labour receives in the media is largely undeserved and said the general view of labour portrayed is of "greedy, irresponsible workers led by power-mad leaders."

Ewasiuk criticized newspapers for the lack of full-time labour reporters and also objected to the language used in describing strikes such as "paralyzing" and "controversial."

Other criticisms laid by Ewasiuk included the lack of positive news items regarding labour.

"The average newspaper pays very little attention to civic involvement (of labour) or the election of officers."

Ewasiuk also stressed a vast majority of contracts are signed without a labour dispute yet the majority of labour coverage is devoted to strikes and lock-outs. He added one of the fundamental problems facing labour is the

lack of a major labour newspaper in Canada.

The importance of the media was cited by Richard Vandenberg, executive secretary with the University of Calgary faculty association in his speech. He conceded many problems in media labour relations are created by labour itself. He criticized trade unions as having a tendency since the Second World War to think of their own particular needs rather than the overall need of the labour movement.

"The media are the key to union solidarity in many ways," he maintained. "Ignoring the role of the media is courting disaster."

The two day conference was sponsored by the University of Calgary Students' Union, the Calgary Labour Council and the Committee on Socialist Studies. — Ron Stanaitis.

*Ron Stanaitis is assistant editor of Oilweek magazine in Calgary.*

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## OMNIUM (from p. 16)

In Ottawa, one legislator at least has proposed, citizens can demand corrections to charges recorded in Hansard.

A lot of things have happened lately on Parliament Hill. For one thing, there are new faces: For *Canadian Press*, **Bill Levitt** and **Marlene Orton**; for *CJMS* Montreal (flagship to *Radiomutuel*), **Daniel Steel**, as that bureau re-opens; for *Le Devoir*, **Michel Vartel** and for *The Gazette*, **Ian Anderson**, as the Montreal papers double-staff; for *Novosti*, **Andrei Sandakov**, replacing **Alexander Palladin** (who returns to Moscow).

The Ontario supreme court has sided with provincial police. The September 1977 issue of *Penthouse* was obscene and "makes no pretence at literary or artistic merit" says the court, ruling against an appeal by Inter-City News Co. of Mississauga, from whom police seized 85,500 copies.

The OPP were seizing negatives from the *Standard-Freeholder* in Cornwall after photographs were taken of St. Regis Indians at their "toll station" on the International Bridge.

The police charged B.C. photographers with obstruction when they wouldn't move on, as ordered. (See THE WEST)

And in spite of all that, no photographer was included in latest nominations for the Canadian News Hall of Fame.

Winners did include cartoonist **Len Norris**, *Vancouver Sun*. The other two named were former *Ottawa Journal* editor **Norman Smith**, and onetime CRTC chairman (now novelist) **Harry Boyle**.

Maybe people simply appreciate factual news less than they do "the other stuff." Torstar for instance, announced that consolidated net income for the quarter ended Dec. 31, was \$5,664,000 (earnings of 70¢ a share vs. 43¢ the previous year). A third of the gain is attributed to Harlequin Enterprises, of which Torstar owns 56 per cent. Romance is wonderful.

## Atlantic

Founded three month ago, *Atlantic Life* still hopes to go weekly, according to Publisher **Richard Matheson**. It has gone twice a month with circulation around 15,000 and a new price of 50¢ compared to 75¢ previously.

Twice-monthly *Echo* was still trying to hold on at last word, new editor **Tom Benjamin** (formerly *Gleaner*, *Fredericton Sun*) struggling to continue without benefit of federal grants on which it began. **Kathy Dryden** still is managing editor).

Changes at the *North Shore Leader* and *Miramichi Press*. The *Miramichi Leader* comes out Wednesdays, the *Miramichi Weekend* on Saturday. It happened in January.

Still careful about lifting heavy paper clips (let alone typewriters), **Sterling Kneebone** is back at the *Gleaner* after lengthy absence with back problems.

Department of Transport still is curious about DX reports for 1260 *CIHI*. How did anyone pick up the station in Elsa, The Yukon, 350 kilometres north of Whitehorse? C'mon!

I'm more fascinated by approval of a *CBC* station okayed in St. John's Nfld. in French. Certainly hasn't the making of another Dick Reeves' show in my book.

News casting in New Glasgow at *CHEC* is **Chris Robinson**. He's a graduate of Humber College in Toronto.

Better-known is **Philip Tetreault** who joined Dunn, Theobald and Johnson Feb. 1, having sold his interest in Cumberland Pub-

lishing (*The News*, Amherst). He joined the daily in 1968 and was founder of the firm that published the weekly *Citizen* and then acquired *The News*. D, T & J does the market research, marketing, and provides advertising services.

The new co-host of Information Morning at *CBC Radio* in Saint John, N.B. is really a Westerner, **Molly Hughes**, who taught writing in Winnipeg at Red River community college. While working on a book about newcomers to P.E.I., she freelanced in Charlotte-town and, apparently, was hooked.

## Quebec

Previously a consultant, **Pierre Charest** has gone fulltime as an information officer with *Radio-Quebec*.



CKO Montreal lost **Malcolm Bernard** to CKOY in Ottawa. *Le Soleil* has moved **Richard Daignault** to Ottawa. *CJMS* Montreal is re-opening its Ottawa bureau.

No call letters yet, but the CRTC has authorized a Trois-Rivières firm to operate an FM station there in French. Fort Chimo is to get its first radio station in English, French and Inuktitut languages.

One of Ontario's better interviewers, **Bob McKeown**, of *CBO's* morning show, has moved to Montreal, where he hosts *Daybreak*, the flagship show on 940. Just a mite tetchy, McKeown used to host a weekend TV news show in Ottawa for a seven-day week. Gotta be careful what I say; he's a former Roughrider.

## Ontario

Off the top, here's the new legislative press gallery executive, for the record: Toronto newspaperman **Pat Crowe** has succeeded **Claire Hoy** as president; **Peter Mosher** (*Globe and Mail*) and **Jim Deeks** (*CFTO-TV*) are vice-presidents. Treasurer and secretary respectively are **Cheryl Hamilton** of *The London Free Press* and **Chris Gaynor**, *CKEY Radio*.

New women on the beat are **Christine Silman** (for Thomson Newspapers) formerly of the *Brampton Times*, and **Regis Cornale** (formerly *CKLC* Kingston) for *BN*.

In case you wondered what happened to **Janet Ecker** of communications, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, she's now media aide to environment minister **Harry Parrott**.

Leaving Consumer and Commercial is **Joerg Ostermann**, after 3 years as assistant director of communications. He's now manager, public affairs, at Coca-Cola.

Information co-ordinator for the Ontario Arts Council is **Barbara Sheffield**.

In Kitchener, the Sunday tabloid, *Newsday*, finally has given out due to high production costs, I'm told. Launched last October, its last issue was Feb. 11.

Leaving the *K-W Record* to become assistant national editor in Toronto at *The Star* is **Simon Wickens**.

Back in Ottawa: *CKOY* hired away from *CKO* Montreal **Malcolm Bernard**; *CFGO* added, as local commentator, former civic politician **Pat Nicol**. At the *Journal*, **Ian Hysom** is entertainment editor (**Susan Scott** is back in Calgary) and former Saturday editor **Neil Naismith** replaces assistant news editor **Susan MacDonald** (now in Winnipeg).

Formerly of *CFPA* Thunder Bay, **Joe McLean** has moved to Fredericton, New Brunswick. Another whisper from there, former *CHML* Hamilton staffer **Tom**

**Hendrix** has changed his name to **John Hendrix**. (Might sound familiar to **Tony Parsons/Parsonage**. These Hamilton guys do that kind of thing.

In Hamilton, assistant managing editor now is **Bill Findlay** at *The Spectator*. He's former metro editor. Also moving: **Bill Dunfield**, new night news editor, replaced as district editor by **John Flanders**, and Metro editor is **John Gibson**.

At *The Globe and Mail*, executive vice-president **Earle B. Richards** gave up his active role to act as consultant to chairman **R. Howard Webster**.

**John Chippa**, hired fresh out of Conestoga College's broadcast program last year by *CKNX-TV* in Wingham, has taken the most awards ever won by a Conestoga student. Chippa took a faculty-staff award, and was named newsmen of the year and announcer of the year.

**Paul G. Wilson**, former editor of the *Niagara News* at Niagara College in St. Catharines, has joined the full-time staff of the semi-weekly *Midland Free Press* as a reporter-photographer.

## The West

Over at *CBC*, **Molly Hughes** won't be back in Winnipeg as planned. See *THE MARI-TIMES*. And there's a new agri-commentator at *Radio 540* where **Hugh Hauser** has replaced **Barbara Peacock** (now in Windsor *CBC*). Born in Saskatchewan, he graduated from radio arts and television in Calgary in 1962.

It's gypsy-season. Who's earning what, you ask? The new two-year Winnipeg Guild contract with the *Tribune* raises copy editors top minimum by \$65 to \$444 weekly, reporters and photographers to \$405.

They won't be earning much for a while, but third-generation newspaper publisher **Steven Dills** and crew say growth around Edmonton makes the outlook bright for a new weekly north of the city. Designed to serve the entire county of Lac Ste. Anne from Onoway is the *Highway 43 Tribune*.

Your new Winnipeg contact for Transport Canada (Manitoba region) is **Ian Taylor**, formerly with the federal government in Saskatchewan.

Local television stations producing their own shows may take tips from *CFCN* and *CFAC*. At the Can Pro Program Festival in March, the grand prize for excellence went to *CFCN*. The Calgary station came in first in a news and public affairs series and first in news specials, with Where's Flight 314? First in sports was *CFCN* (rodeos), followed by *CFAC* (on skiing). And, hey, this was against stations from 11 other market areas of similar reach.

Two Prairie journalists have won national

awards and \$1,000: **Ellen Nygaard** in Edmonton was honoured by the Ministry of Science and Technology for reporting plant cell research and Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* outdoor writer **Tom Loran** won the Kortright award for conservation writing.

*CKOM* Saskatoon open line host **Raymond Earl** has "crossed the road." He's now reporter at *CJWW* Saskatoon.

And **Fred Harrison** no longer writes for the *Star-Phoenix* or the *Regina Leader-Post* out of Ottawa. He has been seduced into *The Financial Post's* Ottawa bureau.

Some new radio stations will be on-air soon. *CKWX* in Vancouver will run the alternative FM'er, beating out 3 other applicants. *CHUM* Ltd. still is chafing.

The new FM'er for Lake Louise, Alta., will rebroadcast from *CJAY-FM* in Calgary.

*CBC* meanwhile has extended its English-language programs to Coutts-Milk, Alberta under the Accelerated Coverage Plan.

New managing editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press* is 45-year-old **Murray Burt**, city editor of *The Globe and Mail*. He's a transplanted New Zealander; came here in 1956.

Further to troubles reported under *NATIONAL*, newsmen in the West haven't had an easy life. Charged with obstructing police in Edmonton when they refused to be warned off were photographers **Bill Brennan** of *United Press Canada* and **William McKewen** of *The Saint John Edmonton Report*. Five newsmen were fined in Kamloops, B.C. on contempt of court charges. And *The Surrey Leader* was fined \$500 for contravening a ban on publication of evidence at a preliminary hearing. The report was delayed until the hearing was over, but that wasn't what the judge had in mind.

## Listen Up

After years of discussing it, RTNDA Canada's foundation to administer its first \$1,000 scholarship for a student this fall has an executive: **Ron Laidlaw**, *CFPL-TV* London, **Bruce Hogle**, *CFRN*, Edmonton, **Barry Hamelin**, *BN*, **Dave Rogers** of the Canadian Bankers' Association.

Publishers of *Quill and Quire* offer an annual award for newspaper or magazine journalism which furthers appreciation of books and authors. Save your pieces from this year. Next deadline is Feb. 28, 1980.

## Obituaries

Formerly managing editor of the *Globe and Mail* and editor of *Saturday Night* magazine, **Robert Allan Farquharson**, died at age 79 after a stroke last summer.

Dead at 67 is **Gerald Albert Scott**, publisher for 41 years of the *Gananoque Reporter*.



MOVING? Let us know. Fill in your name and new address below and send this strip, including the mailing label to *Content* 91 Raglan Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6C 2K7.

Mailing label here

Blank area for mailing label information.

# Omnium-Gatherum

If Omnium-Gatherum seems a trace jumbled with this issue, forgive him. Our new contributing editor. The 20-year-man who went back to freelancing last March after ten years in the Ontario legislative gallery, **Bob Carr**. It is NOT confusing," he insisted when we commented on the content for *Content*. "It's INCOMPLETE. And I HATE incomplete material. We gotta tell these guys to get me the poop faster, faster, faster. Ross in Hamilton, Catt in the Maritimes, O'Hara out West, Gordon and Armstrong in The Middle, Ennis on The Hill...we gotta seduce 'em!" Did we make a mistake?

Send your stuff to Omnium-Gatherum, c/o *Content*, 91 Raglan Ave., Toronto, Ontario M6C 2K7 or call Bob Carr at (416) 787-3949.

Such language! No sooner was it leaked that *Content* had a new Trivia Whiz than the phone rang with insults. "Carr? Carr? Migod! It'll take a tot or two to keep my name out of the papers, now!" Yep, and maybe a carton of Luckies, too, with the huge syndicate of snitches we plan to assemble to recover all the Out takes and pinpoint all the Outcasts.

## National

Last one out turn off the set! seems to be a rallying cry over at *Global*. Somebody call **Al Slight** and ask for help. After the company bought a soccer team, there was a blizzard of resignations, **Bodine Williams** making it first when asked to return to reporting instead of doing interviews. After the ratings share in Toronto dropped 8 points at 6 p.m., **Rae Corelli's** move was no surprise. A loss that would really be felt: **John Scully**. He was credited with originating a lot of interesting, unique international items.

On the radio band, All-News *CKO* was happy to announce its audience has, slowly and gradually, but nonetheless, *improved* (to 242,500 from 49,700 in Toronto, with the fall *BBM*). Marvellous what hockey broadcasts can do! (*CKO* outbid *CKFH* for rights.)

But while, some people say, that puts the lie to forecasts of doom for the national network, competition is creeping up the hindstretch, apparently without much interest from the *CRTC*.

*Broadcast News Voice* no longer distributes merely "tales on tape." Its seven-day-a-week service of complete newscasts on the hour is interesting more and more stations, particularly those short-handed and looking for ways to have one newsman covering council while still "getting news on-air." Close to 100 stations have access to the package; more in the West are using them since a better-quality line was provided to carry the programs out of Toronto.

Then again, maybe the newscasters are more responsible for acceptance. Former West Coasters include **Will MacKenzie**, **Dave Lang** and **Clint Nickerson**. Completing the roster are **Bill Marshall** of *BN* Toronto, **Dave Bray** (formerly *CFGO* in Ottawa), **Howard Christenson** (*CJAD*, *CKVR* and *CHUM*).

Speaking of *CHUM*, after some heart trouble, **Hal Anthony** is back at work in *CFRA* Ottawa. From that sister-station, he and **Dick Smyth** in Toronto originate a joint 12:00 noon newscast that, with work, may wind up on other *CHUM* Ltd. stations soon. Yet another network? Shades of *Contemporary News* (the now-defunct coast-to-coast Canadian *CHUM* new service)!

From *CHUM*, AM news director **Bob Kennedy** was among newsmen at the Three Mile Island nuclear station during speculation on fallout from the "event" there. An American colleague says he hadn't seen so many Canadian television cameras and radio recorders since the Elvis funeral.

Meanwhile, both **Bob Delaney** and **Mike Lewis**, the information officers for Canadian Nuclear Association, are leaving Apr. 27. Director Lewis, 36, goes to Goodyear PR. Delaney heads for Vancouver and Heal Shaw-Walden.

It could be, that kind of interest relates to criticism of Toronto-area tv stations in recent *CRTC* hearings. "More original programming was the call," which must have sounded strange over at the *CBC*. It was blasted for not trying as hard to provide Canadian programs, in the midst of budget cutbacks.

Newspapermen shouldn't sneer. The February newsletter to publishers and managing editors from *CDNPA* points out what happened in Guyana where "Canadian press coverage of the Jonestown story almost completely depended on U.S. wire services..." (Senator Davey, are you

listening?) The author explains there are reasons and compliments *Maclean's* and daily newspapers in Ottawa, Toronto and St. Catharines for trying to analyze and explain "cults." But, he adds, "this picture did not fit the profile of The People's Temple which clearly emerged from news stories.

The same newsletter warns against believing freedom of information laws are any kind of cure-all. As elsewhere, if a cabinet minister wants to hide information, probably he can get away with it.

Optimists might note that Ontario's court of appeal over-turned a libel judgement against former cabinet minister **Jean-Pierre Goyer**. He couldn't libel a public servant, went the reasoning, because his remarks to reporters outside the House were "privileged" that day in 1976. Granted, my experience of 10 years as a legislative reporter was provincial, but usually such privilege is restricted to the assembly and its standing committees.

If Morton Shulman had only has such privilege during the stormy debate on organized crime... Oh, the quotes we could have had!

Look around. Against The Fifth Estate and Adrienne Clarkson, court costs and \$5,000 for a hardware merchant-turned-cornerer who said he was unfairly criticized for his actions in a 1974 inquest. (See also, *THE WEST* and *ONTARIO*). The former head of the Law Society of British Columbia settled out of court over a column in *The Vancouver Sun* by **Allan Fotheringham**, but an apology was required to be read in the B.C. supreme court.

And now, a British Columbia appeal court rules municipalities can sue for damages in libel actions. In question were *BCTV* 1977 news stories about land dealings in Prince George. **Mr. Justice J.A. Aikins** ruled that a city is a corporation and a corporation has the right to defend itself.

(See *OMNIUM*, p. 13)

**COMING IN CONTENT**  
**Vancouver's Express:**  
**How does a strikers' paper measure up?**

*al Mathews*