# content

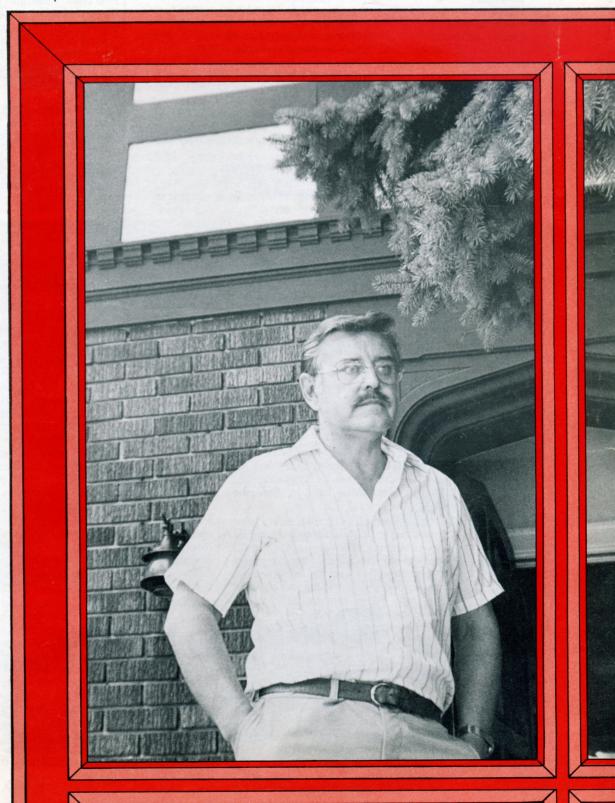
# Canada's National Newsmedia Magazine

September/October 1982. No. H4 \$2.75

Caution! Who says that your employer and editors will defend you in court?

Herd journalism at IMF

Trials of The Body Politic — an acquittal doesn't mean your troubles are over.



# content

Canada's Newsmedia Magazine

Second class privileges pending

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#### Cover

Robert Reguly, a three-time National Newspaper Awards winner, resigned from the *Toronto Sun* in June 1981. His choices, according to general manager Don Hunt: "Resigning or being fired". Reguly's crime, according to evidence presented during a trial which heard federal cabinet minister John Munro's libel action against *The Sun* and six staffers: eight paragraphs, none of them involving Munro or his former law partner.

When Reguly filed suit for wrongful dismissal a year ago, the *Sun* withdrew the legal support ordinarily supplied by the news media to employees involved in libel suits arising out of their work. There are, writes freelancer John Marshall, some hard lessons to be learned from the Munro—*Sun*—Reguly debacle.

# COMBERNIE

Here at *content*, we've been busy moving to our new circulation system of having all subscriptions expire at the same time. Your understanding and co-operation are much appreciated. Frankly, advertising revenues have been substantially lower than those we had projected before the big slump hit, and we're working hard to close the gap.

Many journalists, not trained in what freelancer John Marshall calls "judicial ass-covering" felt an in-tune chill down the spine when veteran reporter Robert Reguly found not only the rug, but the entire floor of the story pulled out from under him in the *Toronto Sun's* response to the *Munro-Sun* libel case and Reguly's subsequent suit for wrongful dismissal. There were, writes Marshall, some hard lessons to be learned and major changes in newsroom drills.

Debbie Bloomfield, a Toronto writer who is a member of *The Body Politic* collective provides some insights into Ontario's long-running and expensive prosecution of *Pink Triangle Press*, publishers of the tabloid for gays. An acquittal, even three acquittals, don't mean that the publication's troubles are.

over. BP's defense lawyer, Clayton Ruby, estimates his clients' legal costs to date at about 90 thousand dollars. He puts the province's prosecutions and appeals of two acquittals at close to one million. Apparently the news media were snoozing when they might have alerted the public to the dangers of confusing prosecution and persecution.

The International Typographical Union and Newspaper Guild have reached agreement in principle on a long-considered merger. We'll examine the behind-the-scenes story and implications for journalists in an upcoming issue of content.

It's important to mark *The Globe and Mail's* decision to join the Ontario Press Council after its long-running reluctant virgin act. Published reports make it clear that the decision to join OPC were made by publisher Roy Megarry and he assures us that there was no — absolutely no — connection between the government's promised National Newspaper Act. Now if every newspaper not currently in an active Press Council would sign up by tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, it might make a difference.

E.W.P.

### Journalism Education in Canada

by Dick MacDonald

Perhaps predictably, questions about professional standards in journalism seem to have been shuffled aside in the seething editorials and lop-sided headlines which have surrounded the work of Tom Kent's Royal Commission on Newspapers.

Instead of addressing the legitimate concerns raised by the Commission about the quality of journalism education — particularily the on-the-job and mid-career variety — in Canada, the industry has dwelled on scenarios of "government spies in the newsroom."

Training, unfortunately, does not seem to be high on the priority list of most daily newspapers. There was a positive spurt of activity during the 1970s, primarily as a delayed response to the valid criticism expressed by Keith Davey's Special Senate Com-

mittee on Mass Media. A few papers appointed staff development officers, positions which have since largely faded away. The Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association (CDNPA) created its Editorial Division and embarked on a relatively comprehensive program of regional seminars, newsletters, and research projects. Science writers formed their own national association, and photographers in Ontario and the West assembled their own skills-and-standards organizations. The Centre for Investigative Journalism (CIJ) came along, in the wake of a series of annual media conferences, and provided the kindling for training sessions across the country.

The efforts, while laudable and, significantly, mainly journalist-inspired, simply have not been enough. They've also tended to occur in isolation of each other. There has been little coordination, little cohesion. Carleton University journalism professor Murray Goldblatt, in a background report for the Royal Commission, said an assessment of professional development programs in Canada revealed two things: "Such programs are in a comparitively early stage of growth and they exhibit a distinct patchwork continued on page 7

Dick MacDonald, 20 years a journalist and founding editor of content was research editor for the Royal Commission on Newspapers. Previously, he was manager of editorial services for the Canadian Daily Newspaper Publishers Association. He is co-editor, with Barrie Zwicker, of 'The News: Inside the Canadian Media" published this fall by Deneau Publishers of Ottawa. Currently he is teaching in the journalism program at Humber College in Toronto.



# **OPINION**

# Herd journalism at world bank conference

by Gord McIntosh

Like some 1,500 other journalists, I spent the first week in September holed up at the Sheraton Centre in downtown Toronto sifting through IMF communiques, putting up with snotty security guards and trying to come up with some fresh information every day amid all the herd journalism. So would somebody please tell me what the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank was all about?

For those who may have forgotten, this was the annual meeting that generated all those stories dealing from extended drinking hours to what bankers were spending their money on in Toronto. Of course there were those sources-close-to-negotiations stories that strangely resembled yesterday's news with the standard two graphs about how shitty the financial situations of some countries are as well as a word or two about lavish freebies, including one the Ontario government spent \$200,000 on.

That was because everything of importance was conducted behind closed doors and what wasn't was carefully stage-managed.

One journalist even made a story out of what wasn't said in a speech. Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the IMF, didn't include Canada among the countries with successful anti-inflation policies. That got what looked like three takes.

I'm not going to remember much of the stuff I wrote or read during that conference. I won't, however, forget the sight of delegates at one reception, many of them from what's politely called, developing nations, eating whole goddamn lobsters as hors d'oeuvres.

I couldn't help wondering what the Third World, or many Canadians for that matter, was eating that night. But it did teach me something about how insulated the world's economic leaders are from every day reality.

As freeloads go, I have been to none finer. I went almost an entire week without a conventional meal because the cocktail hors d'oeuvres these guys were munching on were enough to feed a herd of boat people.

But for serious journalists trying to

"Everything of importance was conducted behind closed doors and what wasn't was carefully stage managed."

"The cocktail hors d'oevres these guys were munching on were enough to feed a herd of boat people."

"It was almost impossible to get the Canadian delegation's press secretary on the phone. Even the Chileans, from an authoritarian regime, no less, were more helpful."

"In a giant room full of telephones, there were dozens of journalists fighting to use the phone. And of course there were no telephone books."

"Like a silly innocent, I thought people sitting among hundreds of annual reports, directories and background papers were there to dispense information."

wade through all the amazing bumpf the conference generated, it was a week of frustration, and sometimes bitterness, at the way we were treated by of all delegations, the Canadians.

I think I got more co-operation from the Mexicans, who after all were teetering on bankruptcy and ostracized at the conference for nationalizing their chartered banks a week earlier, and thus had plenty of reason to keep their mouths shut.

It was almost impossible to get the Canadian delegation's press secretary on the phone. Even the Chileans, from an authoritarian regime no less, were more helpful.

While journalists from other countries were getting daily briefings from their delegations, Canadians gave up on Canada in the conference and found themselves another country. I found refuge with the British, who cheerfully told me everything I wanted to know. One official, who probably felt sorry for me, literally handed me details on secret negotiations they were holding at the conference with the Argentines to clean up sanctions remaining from the Falkland Islands war.

British journalists were trotting upstairs for tea every afternoon with their delegation. They had this habit of disappearing en masse at 2 p.m., leading everyone to wonder what the British knew that they didn't.

The Brits would return to the main press room at night when most of the

herd was boozing it up at receptions and file by far the best stuff of the conference.

I wandered into the press room at 2 a.m. one morning to find Max Wilkinson of the *Financial Times of London* pacing the floor and dictating to a colleague the terms of what eventually became the final treaty between Britain and Argentina. It turned out he had them word for word.

As for the conference itself, it was really little more than a giant plenary session with non-stop platitudes coming into the press room by the minute. Each text was printed in several languages and assigned to a wooden cubby hole at the front of the main press room. There were more than 100 different speeches after three days, but I actually used three or four of them.

Any issue of substance was referred to the Interim Committee, the IMF's policy-making arm, which meets in the spring.

The conference was, as most of us realized at the end, a massive show of reassurance — hors d'oeuvres and circuses for the people, to convince the world the economic situation was well under control.

Gord McIntosh is a financial writer and jaded observer with Canadian Press in Toronto.

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# Caution! Who says that your employer and editors will defend you in court?

by John Marshall

The Toronto Sun, the little paper that grew into more than four million dollars a year in profits, has told one of its ex-reporters, Robert Reguly, that it will sue him for \$50,000 and more if he persists in claiming damages for wrongful dismissal. The prosperous 11-year-old tabloid (Maclean Hunter Ltd. paid \$54 million for a mite more than a half interest in it this year) had already retaliated. When the nationally known journalist filed his claim a year ago, the Sun withdrew the traditional legal support that the news media provides to employees involved in libel suits arising out of their work. (Reguly was one of six Sun staffers named in a libel suit by John Munro). The support is so unquestioned, the Washington office of the American Newspaper Guild told content that there has never been any pressure to put it into labor contracts. It's not even in the model one. Some now-nervous journalists wonder why not.

Fifty-one-year-old Reguly, a threetime National Newspaper Awards winner earning more than \$40,000 quit the non-union Sun in his third year there in June, 1981. ("A chance of resigning or being fired," as general manager Don Hunt put it).

The dumping of one of Canada's top journalists — subsequently treated in hospital for related stress — climaxed a

frantic week during which he, other reporters, editors and executives up to and including publisher Douglas Creighton, finally discovered they had all been "conned," as Reguly later said in an Ontario Supreme Court hearing. A June 2nd page-one blockbuster about the Indian and Northern Affairs Minister profiting from Petrofina takeover stock deals had been based on false evidence invented by another reporter, Donald Ramsay.

Even after Munro had flatly denied the report and then sued, Ramsay still insisted a microfiche he had often brandished ("I've got fucking Munro!") contained the key evidence. The day after the big story ran, an editor finally thought it would make good art — and proof. No one had ever asked to see it before. Now it was "lost." About a week after the story ran, Ramsay broke down and admitted he'd made it all up.

But a 32-paragraph governmentshaker had run under a joint byline. Reguly's contribution was eight paragraphs, none of them involving Munro or his former law partner Jack Pelech, whose similar suit is still to be heard. The paragraph-by-paragraph breakdown was part of Reguly's testimony during his examination for discovery. That was material not filed in the Munro hearings this year because of a technicality raised by a Sun lawyer. It was an action not noted in press reports, at least in Toronto. Also no attention was paid to the fact that the reporter was facing the serious charges against himself undefended by a lawyer.

Deterred by a \$1,000-to-open fee and \$1,000 a day for court hearings, Reguly had not retained his own lawyer. "I was stupid," he says now. If nothing else, a lawyer working in his interest might have made sure his attitude as a witness was different. Mr. Justice John Holland cited his demeanor as part of the reason why he had not accepted Reguly's evidence when there were conflicts between himself and editors. "The word for how I acted," says Reguly now, "was arrogant. But I was not going to be mealy-mouthed."

Long before the hearings this year, Reguly believed, because of long-standing tradition, that his defence would be covered through the newspaper's libel insurance, a belief bolstered by information he had even received from the Sun's lawyers.

The Sun, like many other newspapers, is insured through the American Newspaper Publisher Association's Mutual Insurance Co. of Hamilton, Bermuda. That's tucked off-shore, because when it was first set up, it was for controversial strike insurance, and it got pushed out of the United States—into Canada. It got another nudge here, out to the congeniality of the mid-

Atlantic.

Creighton says the \$20,000 deductible insurance covers the paper and its staff for legal costs and damages awarded plaintiffs. But both he and editor-in-chief Peter Worthington, speaking of the Reguly situation, said they couldn't see how a paper could be expected to provide legal assistance to someone who was also suing the paper.

Worthington, who says he feels "really sorry" for Reguly and that he thinks Reguly is the person who has been "the greatest victim" of the whole situation, said at first in an interview that if it had not cost Reguly any money, the lack of a lawyer was in fact an academic issue.

But later he conceded that the interests of the corporation and the editors were different than those of the reporter. "There is no question our interest would be relatively narrow, simply because, (he paused) Reguly was in an adverse position. His interest was to cover his own ass."

(They don't teach judicial asscovering in journalism school or in the working newsrooms. They should. The interests of employers and employees could conceivably differ in many ways when litigation is abroad in the land whether fully justified, as in Munro's case, or in nuisance suits).

When the issue of Reguly's legal defence was raised with the Sun's publisher, Creighton pointed out that Reguly had "appeared for Munro." It echoed one of the Sun's stories which said its ex-reporter had testified for Munro. In fact, the correct description of his appearance would have been that he had been subpoenaed by Munro's lawyers.

It was suggested to Creighton the ideal situation would have been the provision of a defence lawyer different than those representing the interests of the corporation and executives.

He said he didn't know if the insurance would cover an additional lawyer, and anyhow, he said, he felt constrained from discussing the matter because of Reguly's suit against the Sun.

A lawyer representing the cut-adrift reporter might, it was suggested, have called for the production of a report written about the Munro matter by Worthington for Creighton. "That was generally favorable to Reguly, wasn't it?"

Creighton replied, "I can't recall. You're going back a long time. I'd have

to go back and read it."

Another report that no one produced in court was that of the investigation conducted by reporters Lorrie Goldstein and John Paine for Creighton. It tells of the hectic week following the June 2nd story when Ramsay, still saying he would provide names of his contacts, became increasingly difficult to find.

The report puts Reguly, with his belief in Ramsay's claims, in some good company. 'Bob Reguly and others, including ourselves,' the two reporters wrote, 'believed him completely at the beginning, but less and less as time wore on until Monday, June 8, 1981 (a week after the story ran)...Ramsey admitted in front of Reguly and Bob MacDonald (another senior writer) that he had 'misled' the paper on the Petrofina story and admitted to us he had 'made up' certain information.'

And while the report didn't appear in court, neither did the man most involved in the relationship of Reguly and the editors. Neither the Munro lawyers or the Sun lawyers called Ramsay as a witness - "for obvious reasons," observed Mr. Justice Holland. These reasons are not obvious to anyone reading the lengthy judgment or press reports of the hearings. Even one of the principals, Peter Worthington, says he does not know what they are. If Reguly had been represented, it may or may not have made a difference in the judgment which came down heavily on him (he was "driven by a desire to destroy and gain notoriety"). But there is no question, the Sun and its ex-reporter went into the court at odds, because of his suit about wrongful dismissal. In a sense, the Munro case was also a preview of the employee-employer litigation. And Mr. Justice Holland recognized it, at least in connection with Reguly, who, he noted, was suing the paper and "has attempted to paint his participation...to serve his own ends."

The main thrust of the senior Sun staffers (everyone was admitting the libel, so the efforts were to cut losses by showing lack of malice, little negligence, full and prompt apology) was to say they were led into whatever they did by their total trust and faith in Reguly. If he said the evidence was there, if he said efforts had been made to get a Munro reaction before publishing, then they believed him. And he did say these things, in turn believing Ramsay. But his editors said they were led to believe that he knew all this by first-hand knowledge.

"I went with him too strong — and for too long," Reguly now says. Holland noted he had no reason to think other than that Reguly really did believe what Ramsay was telling him. And, in post-hearing retrospect, he had no reason not to.

Reguly never read sports pages. He was not a "jock" like so many others at the Sun, including some of its top-rank founders. And he didn't socialize much with other newspersons. He wasn't tuned into the grapevine. In fact, there was a little resentment to him at the Sun, because he was paid much more than most, including some editors.

So, he says, Ramsay was just another reporter, hired specifically to do a senior job, so-called investigative reporting. (that's a term Reguly, an expert on organized crime and international intelligence, has rejected, even for a Sun promotion advertisement). Consequently, Reguly says, unlike many others at the Sun, he was unfamiliar with Ramsay's somewhat controversial history, including a start as a copy boy and sportswriter at the Sun. Then he moved to a sportswriting stint at the Globe & Mail, which ended not long after veteran columnist Scott Young dramatically complained about that paper's acceptance of the 30-yearold reporter's methods by a newsmaking protest resignation. When Ramsay was rehired at the Sun in February, 1981, there were some surprised senior editorial people who didn't know about it until it was accomplished. But he had completed and had gone past his trial period, apparently without problems. After the Munro story debacle, the editor who hired him offered to resign. The offer was rejected.

What is the fall-out from the Canadian equivalent of the Washington Post's award-winning invented story scandal?

Munro won total and unqualified vindication, \$75,000 in damages, and yet to be totalled thousands more in costs.

Ramsay, was summarily fired, and is reported to be in sports promotion in Vancouver, a field in which he worked briefly between the *Globe* and his second *Sun* engagements.

Peter O'Sullivan, not named in the Munro suit, but who was most directly involved in moving the story, without checking the evidence, and who said Reguly was either lying or hallucinating for saying the editors were pushing to publish, has been promoted to man-

aging editor from assistant managing

Ed Monteith, 55, a respected veteran editor, was named in the suit. He was also closely involved with the development of the story (going on some weeks before Reguly was called in) and with the acceptance of the unchecked story. He has been promoted from managing editor to editorial director.

Former editorial director, J.D. Mac-Farlane, one of the defendants, though not mentioned in the *Sun's* full-page report of the final judgment, has left the paper to go into real estate.

Alan P. Shanoff, not named in the suit but who testified, is still with the Sun's legal firm, Goodman and Goodman. Like Reguly and all the rest, he didn't ask to see the evidence. In an examination for discovery, he said he trusted Ramsay, because the reporter had been cautious before.

Reguly is counting the costs of proceeding with his suit, now that the

newspaper has stitched a counter-claim into the action which calls for indemnification for all or part of the damages awarded to Munro in Reguly's name, and for which the Sun was ruled to be vicariously liable.

All of us in the news business have a lot to learn from this case, both in our approach to our work — and to our employers.

John Marshall, veteran journalist, was the subject of a content feature in January-February of this year. He is currently a freelance writer. Marshall states his bias in the Munro-Sun case:

"My specific concern is with the employees of newspapers and what protection they do or do not have...second is my concern for the business, generally. I knew Reguly when he was a reporter and I was news editor at the Sudbury Star. Similarly, I knew Peter Worthington when he was a nightside reporter and I was night editor at the Toronto Telegram."

Everyone in the business works with the idea that you have one big mistake coming to you, but...

Judgement stresses that there *must* be a separation of function between reporter and editor

We can't let our enthusiasm or prejudices get in the way of the facts

We are so gullible with each other

#### Lessons

by John Marshall

In spite of what Ontario Supreme Court Justice John Holland thinks are accepted practices in the newspaper business, I can testify that I can not recall ever being asked by an editor or a lawyer to actually hand over a microfiche so someone else can see if it contained what I said it contained. The same often applied to other forms of documentary evidence or inteview tapes from which I was preparing stories risking lawsuits. A system of trust — or sloppiness (not unusual in a business which, while it decries it editorially in others, particularly governmental enterprises, is the epitome of how not to conduct anything bigger than a peanut stand).

However, already, the lessons of the John Munro-Toronto Sun libel litigation are being applied.

At the Sun, if someone had asked to see the microfiche in the case (or information of other claims by reporter Don Ramsay) that would have ended the whole bizarre operation. No story. Strangely enough, for a visual-conscious tabloid, no one considered it for art — you know the kind of thing, the darkly circled name of the alleged culprit right there in black and white.

Publisher Douglas Creighton says it won't happen again. He also points ruefully to another effect of the litigation: "The newsroom's gun shy."

Warren Barton, city editor of the Globe & Mail, where I worked on many lawsuit-prone assignments, says I now would find things changed. Even with trusted, experienced writers, he wants to see the evidence, if only to pass it up the line. "I agree," he says, "I'm as guilty of trusting as anybody else." At another point: "We are so gullible with each other."

But now, he says, he also wants to bring lawyers into sensitive stories early in the operation, with reporters working more closely with the lawyers.

Peter Moon, a Globe specialist in things that go bump in the night of organized crime or exotic Caribbean Islands, says he can't recall anyone, editor or lawyer, at the Globe or the Toronto Star or elsewhere asking to double-check a microfiche, and only sometimes other documentary evidence. They have known he knows what is evidence and what is not. And he doesn't need that which Mr. Justice Holland has called for: "constant supervision" by an editor.

But like everyone in ulcer alley, all of whom know how good Robert Reguly was, Moon felt that little in-tune chill down the spine when Reguly (one of the many at the Sun who didn't check Ramsay's evidence) found not only the rug but the entire floor of the story pulled out from under him. And his job gone, then even his company-paid lawyer gone. Moon concurs that everyone in the business works with the idea that you have one big mistake coming to you, but...

Editors feel the chill, too. Murray Burt, a former Globe & Mail city editor and now managing editor at the Winnipeg Free Press, says he does ask to see documentary evidence, depending on the circumstances or the experience of the reporter. However, he also muses out loud. "But I also hear myself just saying, 'I hope you've got a copy'."

John Kessell, of the *Toronto Star*, interviewed while still involved with his big-impact beat about Toronto cops being filmed and recorded during indiscreet conversations, says editors at the *Star* and elsewhere generally have enough faith not to ask for actual production of evidence. In the unique story he was working on, however, he was putting things into triplicate, with one copy for the publisher himself.

Gerry McAuliffe, now in nonsensitive reporting at the CBC (where controls, all put into guidelines, are much tighter than at any newspaper) was an expert witness in the Sun case. He described what the Sun's Peter Worthington calls the McAuliffeschool-of-journalism procedures, which included convoluted multiple copying of documents, outside-theoffice secure files, and constant reporting with files to editors and lawyers.

But in an interview, even McAuliffe agreed that it was generally a question of his offering such procedures rather than someone asking for them. Doing legal-style research earlier for the CBC, he found that, by comparison, most newspaper policies were inadequate. He cited Ron Haggart, a print man who switched to broadcasting, as one who always wanted to personally see the material.

Haggart said he recalled *Toronto* Star lawyers checking some court cases he had cited in his writing, but agreed the CBC had a more formalized system. The identity of an anonymous source must be known to at least one member of journalistic management.

The lesson he cites as one of the most important arising from the Sum -Munro case concerns what happened to Reguly and the withdrawal of legal support for him in the hearings, because he was suing the Sun outside that case for wrongful dismissal.

"It's accepted that publishers should provide legal representation for employees...and very often the interests of the employees are not the same as those of the employer," says Haggart.

One example of differences in inter-

# ... be ready to produce that microfiche!

You'd better have a witness if you and your editor disagree.

Those on the outside of news operations see them differently than we do.

"The newsroom's gun-shy."

est in the *Sun* case was the conflict in evidence about who pushed or tried to prevent the pushing of the story into print without Munro being given a chance to react to the allegations.

Writers, and editors, too, for that matter, must realize this difference in interests begins before anyone files any kind of suit. If you disagree with what's happening at any stage of a potentially explosive operation, get a colleague as witness. In the case of the conflicting evidence at the Sun, neither the Sun's lawyers nor Munro's lawyers called any witnesses to the interchanges at issue. Reguly (Lesson No. 1) didn't have a lawyer.

In his judgment, Holland stresses that there *must* (his emphasis) be a separation of function between reporter and editor, with the latter responsible for confirming the accuracy of a story and knowing in detail the documentation and reliability of sources before publication. He also stressed, though not saying implicitly that it was the editor's responsibility to see it is done, that a person targetted in a story be contacted for reaction prior to publication.

Neither the editors at the Sun, including one directly involved with the reporters and who was one of the defendants in the suit, nor Reguly performed those functions. Reguly was found to have been grossly negligent

(though other reasons were included). Those in management were found to have departed from "accepted journalistic practices," and were found negligent, but their failure was not of the degree to be rated as gross misconduct.

One of Holland's findings was that Reguly should have been made suspicious about the reliability of some evidence claimed by Ramsay when the latter said an important source of information had to be interviewed by Ramsay alone. He'd be reluctant to talk otherwise. Like so many of us used to having contacts like that (some because they have come to accept only us, others because, maybe, they're shy of too many witnesses) Reguly accepted. Ironically, he had what he said was his only twinge of wonder about his colleague, and he went to the restaurant site of the interview after the interview subject left Ramsay. Reguly checked wih him on his identity. He was the man Ramsay claimed he was, a reassurance for Reguly. But the judge found Reguly's non-participation in the interview a mystery.

Among the lessons we can learn from the Sun case is that those on the outside of the news operations see them differently than we do—and that even some of our colleagues might see them from another perspective.

Holland apparently put considerable significance on Ramsay's phrase, "I've got fucking Munro." Worthington, among others, tried to indicate that was not an uncommon form of hyperbole in the newsroom. Similarly, there was Reguly's imprudent, to say the least, use of "sleaze" to describe Munro in a memo. I can't see a newsroom becoming like a judge's chambers, (or are things really different there?) but we can't let our enthusiasms or our prejudices get in the way of the facts, even casually.

But what about Holland's statement (going from judicial into journalistic judgments) that Munro, during a brief hiatus in his long political career, had the qualifications that would have made him a "natural benefit to any news-paper" as a labor columnist. Any newspaper person can think of all sorts of reasons, none of them reflecting on Munro's expertise or character why others would, depending on the paper involved, make a better columnist, or why he would be unsuitable. He had applied for a job at the Sun (which has never had a labor beat and whose reporters have been boycotted by some union people), but was rejected. Because the position was filled, said the judge. Sun staffers recall one senior editor who was very much against hiring him, and said so to others.

But nevertheless, the Holland judgment — in proper context — will become a vital resource in journalism school and media libraries. As he says about desirable journalistic practices — those who ignore them "act at peril."

#### Journalism education

■ continued from page 1

character." He went on to say: "It has taken almost half a century to get training programs under way in any significant fashion — and much more needs to be done if the rhetoric about high newspaper standards is to be matched by performance."

The Royal Commission, emphasizing that professionalism should be the spirit of journalism, was explicit in its suggestions to the industry. It called for the establishment of a national training foundation, or institute, to provide a broad variety of long-term courses, seminars and workshops.

"So that no taint attaches to it, such an institute should be funded by those

people who have the keenest selfinterest in the better journalists it could produce — the CDNPA, with the support of, for example, the Canadian Managing Editors' Conference and the Centre for Investigative Journalism. Chains and individual newspapers might contribute directly, as well as through CDNPA.

"Whether the financing of the institute is handled through a fund, supplied by pro rata assessments on newspapers and organizations in the industry, similar to CP membership fees, or some other mechanism, should be for the industry to decide."

Although the Royal Commission urged journalism schools together to take the initiative in pressing for the creation of a strong institute, it was the Centre for Investigative Journalism which picked up the challenge. Regretably, it hasn't been too successful so far in convincing CDNPA that a cooperative training strategy can work for the profession.

CIJ — with membership in broadcasting as well as in print — proposed to CDNPA late last year that a full-time national training foundation be created. It sought the financial and moral support of CDNPA, which represents the vast majority of the country's dailies.

It hasn't received any financial support from the association — nor is it likely to — and even the moral support seems to have amounted to little more than lip-service praise for the concept.

The way CDNPA is structured means that such financial aid as bloc grants is virtually out of the question. The association's own seminars are not budget items, for instance. Rather, they must operate on a self-liquidating basis — or be cancelled. Any group wishing to take the lead in organizing a training institute or foundation presumably would need to appeal to individual papers or chain head offices for funding.

CIJ had proposed that the foundation be launched with a two-year trial program, carried out in the newsrooms of the country. On its own, it conducted pilot training seminars at the St. Catharines Standard and the Winnipeg Free Press. It suggested that longer courses be conducted at journalism schools.

A few people, myself included, have suggested that somewhere down the road could be a permanent, year-round home for the institute, equipped with library, conference and clinic rooms, and the other amenities of a modern seminar centre. It would provide ser-

vices not only to journalism but to all sectors of the newspaper, indeed to the entire media in time, recognizing that communications are complementary as well as competitive.

Ambitious, certainly, but it may be the sort of visionary approach which is required if serious, on-going steps are to be taken to truly raise standards. The hit-or miss, patchwork approach is clearly insufficient.

CDNPA's own seminar program has suffered recently, economic conditions being blamed for lack of attendance. The total number of seminars — editorial, circulation, advertising, administration — has been nearly halfed since 1980. The in-house program — in which CDNPA provides information kits, names of potential resource people, and seminar organizing instructions — was announced in late 1980 as an inexpensive but effective means of staff development. "Only a handful" of papers have taken advantage of the ready-made program, according to Bryan Cantley, CDNPA manager of editorial services.

■ continued on page 13

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A year ago, Poland enjoyed a level of press and media freedom unprecedented in its post-war history.

But since the imposition of martial law in December 1981, hundreds of professionals in radio, television and the press have been fired and blacklisted. Still others have been imprisoned or interned. The Polish Journalists Association has been dissolved.

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On their behalf, the **Polish Journalists' Aid Committee** is making this humanitarian appeal to working media professionals in Canada.

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# The Body Politic on trial — an acquittal doesn't mean your troubles are over

by Debbie Bloomfield

"Almost no one can afford to fight this kind of a defence," Pink Triangle Press lawyer Clayton Ruby says of the second Crown appeal against the publisher of a gay rights magazine. "The costs involved are very, very large. And anybody who wants to publish a paper has got to sit down and say, 'Hey, my freedom to communicate may exist in theory, but if I can't afford to spend \$50,000 in fees, then I ought not to print this'. That chilling effect is very real. (The government) is creating an object lesson to all the small media...saying, 'you print controversial material, we're going to kill you'."

Summary charges of using the mail to distribute immoral, indecent or scurrilous material were laid in January, 1978 against an issue of the *Body Politic* with a feature, "Men loving boys loving men." The issue discussed, pedophilia, is controversial within the gay community as well as the general public, according to author Gerald Hannon.

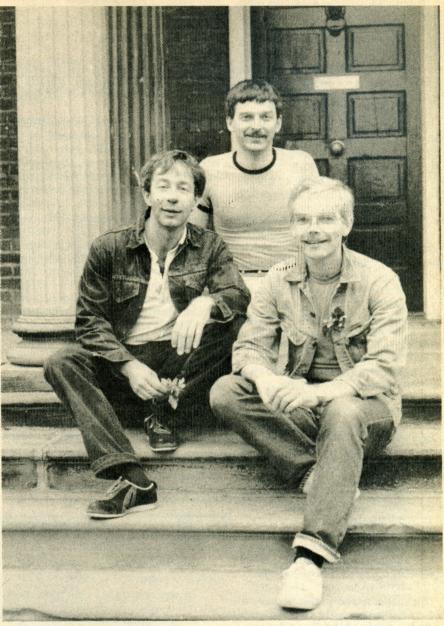
Charges were dismissed a year later, after a widely publicized trial. The Crown appealed, and after a retrial, charges were again dismissed. The Crown launched a second appeal just less than a month later.

Canada's largest gay rights magazine, established ten years ago, is not alone in calling the appeals, harassment. A spokesman for the Canadian Periodical Publishers' Association (as reported in the Star), said the second appeal, "would appear to be an unwarranted harassment of a publisher for moral or political purposes. The issue is not one of content or sale, but rather the right to publish."

ABody Politia article said the charge (Section 164 of the Criminal Code), "has been used only twice before—both times against individuals and not a publication." Ruby agreed in an interview.

Although all newspapers covering the story at some time referred to it as an obscenity trial, the term 'obscenity' was not part of the charge.

Using the mails is an "easier charge to prove," than that of publishing obscenity, Ruby says. "There's some



Body Politic's Ken Popert, Gerald Hannon and Ed Jackson

case law which suggests the level of offensiveness is lower for immorality than for obscenity." He adds, however, that he doesn't think the public sees the two issues as different.

In his 1979 acquittal, Judge Sydney Harris gave his views: "Section 159 (publishing obscenity) in my opinion, was designed to catch a publisher who in a broadcast way (including using the

mails) distributes periodicals containing the type of material to which the Crown took exception. Section 164 was designed to catch the sick individual, who rather than indulge in obscene telephone calls, indulges in obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous mailings...I do not think Section 164 is aimed at the offence alleged by the Crown herein. That of course, does not

mean it may not have caught it."

Harris drew comparisons between the Body Politics discussion of pedophilia (which, when acted upon sexually is a criminal offence) and crime reporting.

"Almost daily one can read the most detailed descriptions of criminal acts of rape, child abuse, murder and the like. The painstaking criminal can find how-to-do-it articles in almost every newspaper and magazine. Are these journals indecent or immoral because they write in explicit detail about indecent or immoral acts? I think not.'

He concluded: "If we condemn Exhibit 1 (The issue of the Body Politic ) we are in effect condemning the messenger who brings the bad news.

Sun columnist and Queen's Park reporter, Claire Hoy, does not see the charges as threatening press freedom. He testified as a Crown witness at the first trial, and says he did not make the complaint to the police mortality squad that led to the raid and charges.

"I wrote a column," (about the article) he said in an interview. "I made my complaints there.

Hannon says Hoy may have had some influence in bringing attention to the magazine. "At the time, opposition to gays was just reaching a kind of climax and (the article) provided a good excuse (to charge the Body Politic). I think Claire Hoy in particular — at Queen's Park — would have been most aware of the demand for gay rights, which was really building up at the time in terms of sexual orientation in the Human Rights Code...It may have seemed an opportune time to try and strike back if you had the opportunity, and he thought maybe he might be able to orchestrate it.

"They seem to view this as a conspiracy theory," Hoy says. "I am entirely alone. I wasn't part of an orchestration. I'm not part of the police or McMurtry.'

The media attention that began with Hoy's columns in early 1978 hit a high with then Mayor John Sewell's speech early in the first trial.

"It felt like the heart of a media swirl at the time," Hannon says. "It was largely because of Sewell's presence in it...it guaranteed that it was a big story. The next day City Hall was deluged with calls."

Sewell, now an Alderman, says he has no regrets about making the speech that earned him the "ill-timing" award from the Globe.

"I think it was the right speech at the right time...the best time to be speaking out about really sensitive issues...is when they're right there before the public...I think the speech was wildly misrepresented by the media. I think that anybody who goes back and looks at it will come away saying, 'Hey, okay, good speech.' I've looked at it since, because people have asked the question."

Regarding the second appeal, Sewell says, "I'm shocked...it clearly is harassment...that paper's being harassed."

Body Politic statements and articles point to the Attorney-General as instigator of the appeals. Ruby says he believes McMurtry was involved in both appeals, despite McMurtry's assertion that he had nothing to do with the second.

"As far as the second decision to appeal, I assume he's not so out of control of his department that a precedent setting decision of this sort would be made without him making it," Ruby says. "It was signed by his Deputy Minister, Rendall Dick. But it may well be (McMurtry) never saw it. It's possible. But if so, he's out of control of his department. Or his department's out of control. It's not a routine appeal. It's a precedent setting appeal by his own standards. He's never appealed a case like this before.

Body Politic staff feel they're under close scrutiny by McMurtry's office.

"We're excessively careful. Things like book reviews now get sent to lawyers for vetting, which I think is going a little far, and it's led to a kind of self-censorship," Hannon says. "I'm really afraid our fear of criminal

charges puts us in the position of maybe kind of looking around for other excuses (not to publish certain articles)...that it isn't quite up to snuff editorially...no one here wants to think that we're being pushed into a corner by the law...that it's affecting our publishing. But I'm slightly afraid that it is."

Hannon says he thinks the second trial got less coverage than the first, ("The Star virtually ignored it,") but that the second appeal has received more sustained coverage.

"The second appeal has drawn things like long editorials (such as the Kingston Whig-Standard one) and so on, which the first appeal didn't. There were letters to the editor this time, which I don't think the first got.

The prosecutions may help focus resistance of laws that restrict press freedom, Hannon says. "It has drawn in organizations like the Canadian Periodical & Publishers' Association and the Book and Periodical Publishers' Association and the Book and Periodical Development Council. It's given a kind of focus to liberal-minded people who oppose restrictions of freedom of the press. And in that way I suppose it's been useful — unfortunately at great cost to us. I think it really will serve historically as a kind of breakwater on freedom of the press matters.

Pink Triangle Press goes back to court, probably in the new year, Hannon says. Meanwhile, the 9-member Body Politic collective has been charged with publishing obscenity, relating to an April, 1982 feature called, "Lust with a very proper stranger."

#### **Pedophile**

Judge Sydney Harris, in decision to acquit, February, 14, 1979:

"In the context of this trial, as a scientific term, 'pedophile' means a homosexual male who can only obtain full sexual satisfaction by means of sexual relations with pubertal or in rare instances, pre-pubertal boys. However, some pedophiles do not 'act out', i.e., do not permit themselves to obtain this satisfaction. But the author of "Men loving boys loving men" does not use pedophile in this sense exclusively in my opinion, he uses it ambiguously — his pedophiles are sometimes lovers of both boys and men, even though all

homosexuals are not of this unusual

'heterosexual' nature. Pedophile in the usual everyday sense means simply a lover (not necessarily sexual) of young people.

Definition of Pedophile from the Random House Dictionary:

Pedo-: a learned borrowing from Greek meaning "child."

-phile: a word element meaning ving," "Friendly," or "lover," "friend," used in the formation of nouns and adjectives.

-philia a learned borrowing from Greek used in pathological terminology to indicate abnormal liking for or a tendancy toward something.

# Did the respectable media deliberately turn a blind eye to harassment of the gay tabloid?

by Debbie Bloomfield

#### PRE-TRIAL November, 1977:

The Body Politic published a feature by Gerald Hannon entitled: "Men Loving Boys Loving Men," a sympathetic look at pedophilia.

#### December, 1977:

The Toronto Sun's Claire Hoy wrote two columns criticizing \$1500 Ontario Arts Council grants the Body Politic had received in the past two years. The first column's lead: "You may be interested to know that a publication receiving money from a provincial government agency is promoting homosexual relationships with children."

A reaction piece in the Sun quoted Toronto Metro Big Brothers' Director, John Liston as saying the article, "casts aspersions on all kinds of men," because Simon, one of the men profiled by Hannon, was a Big Brother. Liston said the matter had been reported to the police.

The Globe & Mail reported on a Body Politic news conference in reaction to the negative press. "The Body Politic objects to being vilified for dealing with an issue which other media have refused to discuss in a balanced fashion." Attorney General Roy McMurtry's reaction: "He was appalled by the article as described in reports."

The Sun and Globe covered the December 30th raid by Metro Toronto's morality squad.

Collective member Ed Jackson was quoted in the Body Politic: "They went through the office with a fine-tooth comb for three and one-half hours. By the time they left they had filled twelve large shipping boxes with documents and records. They took subscription lists dating years into the past...It seemed like everything we needed to continue publishing walked out the door."

#### January, 1978:

A Sun editorial responded to Body Politic assertions that the raid constituted a threat to press freedom: "It's like saying that preventing people from exposing themselves on street corners interferes with their individual liberties, which it may do, but that doesn't threaten society as a whole. Nor does the raid and seizing Body Politic material jeopardize press freedom, though it may certainly disrupt that publication's next edition."

Both papers covered the charges laid under Section 164 of the Criminal Code—using the mail to distribute immoral, indecent or scurrilous material (in regard to Hannon's article), and Section 159, possession of obscene material for distribution. (The book, Loving Man, by Dr. Mark Freedman and Harvey Maye, offered for sale through a Body Politic mail order list). Charged were: Body Politic publisher Pink Triangle Press and its directors, Gerald Hannon (also author of the article), Ken Popert and Ed Jackson.

Both papers covered the unsuccessful attempt by *Body Politic* to have the

One acquittal down: Popert, Jackson and Hannon with defence counsel Clayton Ruby.

search warrant used in the raid quashed.

October, 1978

The Toronto Star's first story, reporting the Body Politic had been awarded another Arts Council grant. (The last the magazine received, Hannon says).

# THE FIRST TRIAL January, 1979:

The three papers covered the trial, each giving different emphasis. Day two of testimony, the *Star's* lead was: "A magazine article on sex between men and boys could be considered a 'how-to-do-it manual,' a psychiatrist testified today."

The Globe's lead: "An allegedly indecent, immoral and scurrilous' article published in a homosexual newspaper last year was described in court by a U.S. psychiatrist yesterday as a 'valuable and accurate scientific document' worthy of publication in a scientific journal."

The Sun headed its story 'Manual for child molestors?' with a drop head, 'Doctors differ on homosexual magazine.' The article lead with Crown testimony, but gave the same amount of space to defence testimony in an almost paragraph-by-paragraph comparison of the views.

The obscenity charge related to Loving Man was dropped by the Crown during the trial, according to Ed Jackson. It was not reported.

All papers covered then Mayor John Sewell's speech at a Body Politic support rally. Sewell, elected less than two months earlier, said: "The trial now going on... is seen by many as an attack on freedom of the press. I wrote to the Attorney-General... stressing that very concern... One article in one newspaper may or may not be obscene, seditious, treasonous, or what have you...that's a question for the courts. But that one incident should not be used as an opportunity to end the life of that publication."

A Globe editorial awarded Sewell the "ill-timing award" for speaking out during the trial. The Sun said: "We find his action inexcusable, and only wish this would have occurred before the last election. Had that been the case, it's likely Sewell would not be mayor today."

#### February, 1979:

Acquittal by Judge Sydney Harris,

covered by all papers. In a Sun column headed, 'So they're free to print filth,' Clare Hoy said, "I believe this encourages radical homosexuals to go further than they already have in advocating sexual relations with children."

The Globe said it had no quarrel with the acquittal, but called it, "less an exoneration of the Body Politic than it is a condemnation of murky, ill-defined...obscenity laws."

The Star editorial, 'Tolerance is not public support,' criticized the Body Politic for seeking a Wintario grant, as falsely reported the day before in a front page banner story. The source was a Body Politic news conference.

A Body Politic story in March-April 1979, said the only mention of a grant at the meeting had been reference to an application for a summer student through the Ontario Arts Council. The Star's correction was described: "The Wintario error is corrected; the implication of a demand for instant cash is not." The Body Politic tried unsuccessfully to sue the Star for libel.

# FIRST CROWN APPEAL March 1979:

The papers covered the appeal (signed by McMurtry) citing errors in law, and the Body Politic's unsuccessful fight to the Supreme Court of Canada to overturn it. The Sun ran an interview with McMurtry that the Body Politic attempted to have declared in contempt of court. Five Ontario Supreme Court Justices unanimously decided against the Body Politic.

#### May 1979:

The Globe reported the Arts Council had turned down the application for an Experience '79 student.

# THE SECOND TRIAL June 1982:

The Globe and Sun devoted about the same amount of coverage as to the first trial, considering no Crown witnesses were called.

The Star devoted less space to the second trial. Lawyer Clayton Ruby was quoted as saying the acquittals were, "unrelated to the merits of the case."

All papers covered the second appeal. The Globe, with the longest, most-detailed story, said the article, "advocated pedophilia...but nevertheless was not indecent or immoral, Provincial Court Judge Thomas Mercer ruled yesterday."

#### THE SECOND CROWN APPEAL July 1982:

Signed by Deputy Attorney General A. Rendall Dick, it named only Pink Triangle Press. Again, errors in law were cited. All papers covered it, and the *Star* carried two reaction stories: 'Appeal in *Body Politic* case harassment, group says' (The Canadian Periodical Publishers' Association), and 'Province isn't harassing homosexuals: McMurty.'

The Kingston-Whig Standard was the only major daily to cover the Body Politic case. A long editorial after the second appeal said the article's "purpose was to examine the stereotype of the pedophile as child molestor. This stereotype is often attached unfairly to all homosexuals. It is also invariably attached to pedophiles. The author came to the conclusion that this is unfair...To mount a third prosecution, we can only conclude, constitutes harassment..."

The Canadian Press did not cover the story, but clipped and sent Globe coverage over the wire.

Toronto freelancer Debbie Bloomfield is a member of The Body Politic collective. content editor Eleanor Wright Pelrine testified as a defence witness in the tabloid's second trial.

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PS: Next time you're stuck for a story idea, why not find out what the local unions in your community are really up to!

#### Journalism education

#### continued from page 7

Cantley has surveyed all dailies. soliciting in-house seminar topics, and says the Editorial Division will explore ways to mesh its program with the CIJ objectives, which naturally have an emphasis on investigative reporting.

CIJ director Harvey Schacter, of the Kingston Whig-Standard, says there now "is not much likelihood of a foundation." Despite the demand for education, as evidenced by reporters "paying out of their own pockets" to attend CIJ seminars, Schacter says "if Canadian publishers are not the key behind it, I don't know who will do it.'

Some publishers aren't hesitant about spending money on the American Press Institute. With an excellent reputation justly deserved in its 36-year history, API conducts some 25 oneand-two-week seminars each year at its headquarters in Reston, Virginia.

At CDNPA's annual meeting in 1978, Editorial Division spokesmen described what they euphemistically referred to as "API North." They suggested that with the increasing demands on the daily press in Canada, and with the burgeoning activities of the Editorial Division and other CDNPA sectors, "perhaps the time has come to give serious consideration to the desirability and practicality of a multifaced, year-round seminar facility which would be indigenous to Canada.'

The notion went no further. The fact tha API representatives pitched their institute to Canadian publishers during a luncheon the same day as Editorial Division personnel hoisted their flag didn't much strengthen the merits of a Canadian training centre.

In the fiscal year just ended, Canadian participation in API seminars was seven per cent — 75 out of a total attendance of 1,058. It was 6.6 per cent in 1980-81, or 63 out of 918. Tuition, accommodation, meals, and transportation works out to more than \$1,000 (U.S.) per delegate.

Canadian interest is not limited to seminar attendance. Mal Mallette, API's congenial director of development, reports that Canadian publishers contributed \$36,725 to the 1.93 million building fund of 1979-80. Earlier, in 1973-74, when API was relocating to Reston from New York's Columbia University, Canadian papers chipped in \$47,875 to the building fund. API receives annual voluntary sponsor contributions from newspapers to subsidize tuition. Canadian figures were not readily available — not "large amounts" according to Mallette — but more than two dozen Canadian dailies have been known to provide such sponsorships in the course of a year.

For its money, apart from the educational benefits derived from seminar attendance, Canadian papers get representation in API affairs. J. Patrick O'Callaghan, new publisher of the Calgary Herald, is on the board of directors. Clark Davey, publisher of the Vancouver Sun and Dona Harvey, managing editor of the Vancouver Province, are members of the western advisory board; Paul Audet, president and general manager of Quebec's Le Soleil, sits on the eastern advisory board. They're all individuals who, to give credit where it's due, are vocal supporters of journalism education.

API's splendid work notwithstanding, it seems fair to wonder whether a Canadian institute — or some form of comprehensive training program could have found rather considerable seed money if even some of the dollars directed southward had been spent here.

Whatever the form — institute seminars, in-house workshops, collegiate refreshers - on-the-job and mid-career training have assumed new importance. The Royal Commission said that "Any measures taken by newspapers, individually and collectively, which help to improve the quality of journalism in Canada should be welcomed both by the journalists and the newspapers they write for."

What's needed, obviously, is an overwhelming commitment to higher standards. It is in the industry's own interests to encourage solid, imaginative training programs.

And, yes, they cost money.

#### Herd journalism

#### continued from page 2

Of course, for those of us slogging through all the paper there was little opportunity to think about such things until it was all over.

The IMF-World Bank staff were issuing hourly press bulletins with excerpts from stories from several wire services and leading papers. It was supposed to be a help. It wasn't.

They caused you to constantly worry about what the others were getting, so much so that you were too busy looking over your shoulder to come up with original stuff. The press corps was too busy watching itself to come up with anything new.

Reporters had to go through an obstacle course just to file routine copy.

I was warned by an official of Canadian International Development Agency not to expect much co-operation from the IMF-World Bank staff. "When they go outside Washington (headquarters for both organizations) they're used to dealing in countries where journalists are on the government payroll or might as well be. They won't be any different with you.

That, as it turned out, was an understatement. The main press corps was herded into a giant newsroom, about two and one-half football fields in size with one telephone for every three working spaces.

Trouble was the telephones at each desk were only equipped for longdistance calls.

The phones for local calls, which we were far more likely to use, were at the front of the room. Guess how many there were for all of us to use?

Six.

So in a giant room full of telephones, here were dozens of journalists fighting to use the phone. And of course there were no telephone books.

I had a Kafkaesque feeling of absurdity toward the end of the week.

I asked the IMF staff for background information on Mexico's situation. Like a silly innocent, I thought people sitting among hundreds of annual reports, directories and background papers were there to dispense information. I was directed to the Latin American specialist who proceeded to interrogate me on whether I was a duly accredited journalist before finally telling me he knew nothing.

Finally, on the last day of the conference the World Bank and IMF invited the entire Fourth Estate to a lavish lunch after the closing ceremonies.

It dawned on a colleague, as we knocked back another glass of wine, that the whole point of the lunch was probably to let the delegates slip out of the hotel without reporters milling around.

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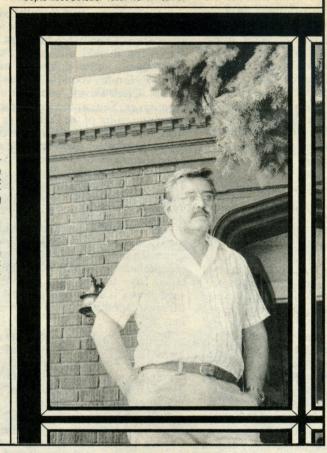
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Caution! Who says that your employer and editors will defend you in court?

Herd journalism at IMF

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# Atlantic journalism awards presented for first time

by Peggy Amirault

HALIFAX, N.S. — The Atlantic Journalism Awards were presented for the first time earlier this year. The Awards are co-sponsored by Imperial Oil. which supplies the money, and the University of Kings College journalism school, which supplies the judges and administration.

There are 11 awards: one for magazine articles; three each for spot news, commentary and enterprise reporting in newspapers, television and radio; and one for the journalist of the year, who is selected from the 10 winners. The awards consist of \$300 each plus an appropriate plaque, and the journalist of the year receives \$500 and an invitation to give a series of lectures at Kings. The awards, offered for work done in either French or English during a calendar year, are open to "Atlantic Canadian media representatives working with and on behalf of Atlantic Canadian newspapers, radio, television and magazines." Work done for publications outside the region is not eligi-

The Awards replaced the 17 or 18year old Imperial Fishing Derby, an annual media fete which had outlived its usefulness. Tim Taylor, external affairs advisor with Imperial said "Time was passing that type of event by. There were a lot of non-media people involved and the media was non-involving itself." Taylor felt there was not a public awareness or appreciation of the quality of journalism and journalists in the region. He approached George Bain, head of the Journalism School at Kings, for an opinion on an awards programme. Bain was interested and thus the Atlantic Journalism Awards were created.

Both Bain and Taylor were pleased with the response, and their intention is to continue annually. Over 100 entries were received from all four Atlantic provinces, with a good representation in all categories. Bain expects a considerable increase in entries next year. The judges remain anonymous and decisions are made collectively.

Parker Barss Donham, a Cape Breton-based freelancer, was named Journalist of the Year for 1981; in addition he was selected for three of the other 10 awards.

Donham won in newspaper commentary for columns in the weekly

Scotia Sun (Port Hawkesbury, N.S.) the Burchill Plywood plant at entitled "Patronage Alive and Well in Victoria County"; "Taxpayers' Bark Could be Louder'; and "Liberals Avoid Being Trapped in Truths of Their Own Making"; in radio commentary on CBC for a series on MLAs and their constituency work; and for best magazine article, "Burned Steelworkers: The Horror Lingers On — And On," (Atlantic Insights, November 1981), which traced what had happened to 17 severely injured men four years after an explosion in the Sydney Steel coke ovens.

Donham was executive editor of the Harvard Crimson, reporter and columnist for the Boston Globe, and assistant press secretary to Senator Eugene McCarthy during the 1968 U.S. presidential campaign. He spent four years as associate editor of the Cape Breton Post and produced "Information Morning" for CBC, Sydney before turning to full-time freelancing in 1978.

Winners in the spot news category were: Louella Billings with the Fredericton Daily Gleaner for a report on the deaths of three university students at Hayes Falls, a 30 metre gorge on the Maliseet Indian Trail; Ian Morrison, ATV News, Halifax for a report on the shipwreck of the Euro Princess on Sable Island and the rescue of her crew; and Eugene Weiss, CBC-Radio, Moncton for a story on the closing of Nelson-Miramichi, N.B.

The television commentary award went to Cheryl Runyon, CBC-TV, Fredericton for a piece on the hazards of trying to get out of Edmunston, N.B. without a car.

The enterprise reporting awards went to Susan Murray, Inquiry, CBC-TV Halifax, for a documentary on lead poisoning at a Nova Scotia battery factory; to Ray Zinck, news director of CJLS Radio, Yarmouth, N.S., for "The Hidden Minority," a documentary on life in old age and nursing homes in the area; and to John P. Mason of the Daily News, Halifax, for a profile of convicted child murderer James Joseph Odo.

Citations of merit were presented in the enterprise category to Steve Thorne, of the Halifax Chronicle Herald, for a series on the anniversary of the Springhill mine disaster; and to Jim Nunn, CBC, Halifax for a story on a non-profit hearing aid dispensary closed by pressure from private business; and in the magazine article category to Chris Wood of Saint John, N.B. for a story in Atlantic Insight on toxic waste disposal in the Atlantic provinces. The Imperial Oil Prize for Excellence, awarded to a graduating Kings journalism student, went to Glenn Wheeler, now with the Globe & Mail in Toronto.



# Judicial ban on publication extends to U. S. media

by Peggy Amirault

An American reporter was found guilty and fined \$200 or 20 days in jail by a Canadian judge for violating a Canadian court order banning publication of evidence presented at a preliminary inquiry for a New Brunswick man charged with murder. Judge James D. Harper of the New Brunswick Provincial Court, in what may be a precedent setting decision, found Beurmond Banville of the Bangor Daily News, Maine, guilty of failing to comply with Section 467 of the Criminal Code. Section 467 allows an accused to request a ban on publication of evidence heard at a preliminary hearing, and makes the publication of such evidence a summary conviction offence, which allows for six months imprisonment and a \$500 fine. While the reporter was charged, the newspaper was not.

Banville is the Saint John River Valley bureau chief for the Bangor Daily News and covers both sides of the river, which forms part of the border between Maine and New Brunswick. He attended, in Edmunston, the February 15th and 16th preliminary hearing for Samuel Gagnon of St. Leonard on a murder charge. Edmunston and St. Leonard are directly across the river from Madawaska and Van Buren, Maine.

The Daily News carried Banville's account of the first day of the hearing, although Judge George Perusse granted a defence request to ban publication of testimony under Section 467. Because of previous experiences in Canadian courts, Banville thought the ban did not apply to him or his paper. On checking with the prosecuter Andre Picard, defence counsel Paul Duffie and Judge Perusse, he was told it did apply and he would be in violation of Canadian law if the evidence was reported. He informed his editors who decided to run the item. Admonished by Judge Perusse on the second day of the hearing Banville, on instructions from his editors, wrote a second item, but it was not published.

Judge Perusse ruled the sale of the Bangor Daily News in Edmunston and other Canadian border communities was tantamount to publication in Canada, and Banville was subsequently charged with violating the publication ban. The Daily News, which was not charged, has a press run of about

80,000. About 56 go to Canada, and on February 16th, 17 copies arrived in Edmunston.

In his defence, Banville submitted a copy of a September 22, 1973 Daily News article which summarized evidence heard at the preliminary inquiry for a relative of Gagnon's, who was also charged with murder. A publication ban had been granted, but Banville was informed it did not apply to him or to his paper.

Judge Harper basically said that was too bad, Banville was told otherwise in 1982. He said, "...the Judge and both Counsel all made it clear that the order did apply to him...The defendant cannot rely either on ignorance of the law or upon the intepretation of the law he had previously received as a defence to the charge...It is common ground that Banville's article was fair and unprejudiced, and was confined to a fairly accurate summary of the evidence..." But Section 467 makes the publication of any evidence an offence, no matter how fair and impartial the report.

In his 20-page decision, Judge Harper concluded that Banville was caught by Section 21(1) of the Criminal Code: "Everyone is a party to an offence who actually commits it; does or omits to do anything for the purpose of aiding any person to commit it; or abets any person in committing it." Publication of the evidence would have been impossible if it hadn't been reported by Banville: he was the sine qua non of the ultimate publication. Furthermore, Banville, in his capacity as author, published the material. Although he had no control over the ultimate decision to print the story, he submitted it with the intention and desire that it be printed; he both requested and permitted publication.

Banville's lawyer, John Hansen of Fredericton, based part of his defence on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Judge Harper stated that while freedom of the press is guaranteed under Section 1(f) of the Bill of Rights (1960) and Section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights (1982), he could find no reported cases which indicated Section 467 violated Section 1(f) of the Bill of Rights. While Section 467 is a restraint upon freedom of the press, it does not follow that all such restrictions are per se in violation of 2(b) of the Charter. Section 467 is justifiable since it exists for the protec-

tion of the individual, and falls within Section 1 of the Charter as "a reasonable limit prescribed by law." Besides, the Charter is not retroactive — the events occurred in February 1982 while the Charter was not in effect until April 1982.

Hanson also argued the Court had no jurisdiction as the publication did not occur in Canada. Judge Harper ruled "the actual geographic area of publication is of no legal import" since he found that Banville as author had published the article. "...The fact that several copies of the newspaper...were sold in Edmunston is also evidence of 'publication' in Canada in the sense that the word 'publication' in its common definition means...the dissemination of information."

Banville's, and anyone's, right to attend the court hearing was subject to certain limitations, i.e. the lawful orders of that Court. "The order...banning publication...was binding upon those persons physically in the court regardless of their citizenship...The order...was binding upon (Banville) as a person as it was equally binding upon...Canadian reporters employed by Canadian periodicals."

While Judge Harper said it was unlikely the sale of 17 papers would prejudice the right of the accused, the case is concerned solely with a breach of a Court Order specifically authorized by statute. Neither the "degree" of the breach, nor the motive for the breach is of consequence.

The newspaper was not charged and Judge Harper seemed to indicate if it had been, the decision might have been different: "Fortunately, this Court is not charged with making a finding as to the guilt or innocence of the newspaper itself, but it could well be possible that its legal position is quite different from that of Banville. The newspaper as an entity was not specifically made subject to any order of the Court and in any event it may well not be subject to Canadian law vis-a-vis Section 467."

The decision will be appealed.

The charge and Judge Harper's decision has disturbed the U.S. Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a Washington D.C. based national association. Just after the charge was laid the Committee sent a letter of protest to Alan Gotlieb, the Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. and to then U.S. Sec-

retary of State Alexander Haig. Bob Becker, managing editor of the Committee's journal, News Media and The Law, says the Committee is concerned about the authority of the courts and the apparent reaching across the border to impose that authority. The purpose of the Canadian statute should be considered and that there was no real threat to an individual's fair trial.

Judy Lynch, legal defence coordinator for the Committee, said they were "very distressed at the court decision," and that it was unfortunate for Canadian-American relations. The Committee is discussing possible courses of action. As the decision is being appealed, they will ask permission to submit a brief to the New Brunswick appeal court. In addition, they may ask the U.S. government to take an official position on the matter. Ms. Lynch said Canadian reporters have expressed concern they'll be hurt by closed courtrooms if the Committee fights too diligently.

The presence of American reporters in Canadian courts had already resulted in closed courtrooms. In Niagara Falls, Ontario, on March 8th, Judge Donald Wallace ordered the exclusion of the public and press from a preliminary hearing into a manslaughter charge. Defence lawyer Edward Greenspan asked for the exclusion because of the presence of American reporters from WGR-TV and the Courier-Express in Buffalo, New York. In reply to Judge Wallace's question, they said they would probably publish the evidence presented. Judge Wallace said, "Ac-

cordingly, with some reluctance, I will make the order. I would not have made the order had the U.S. media said they wouldn't publish the evidence."

# **PROFILE**



by Esther Crandall

You have to be on the mark when you open your door to Jacqueline Webster.

It's quite likely that before she's put the first foot on your threshold, Jackie — Jake, if you like, — is already relating, with subtle humor, a funny thing happened to her on the way to your place. And if you aren't with her from the start you've probably missed a dandy.

"When her name comes up, I think of laughter and warmth, a great sense of humor and a gift to see the lighter side of life," Fredericton developer Jim Ross says. Ross and Webster were classmates at law school.

There have been those, of course, who have not exactly appreciated the Webster wit. For example, when she worked in the late 1960s for the Saim John Telegraph-Journal and Evening Times-Globe, the Managing Editor of that day 'threatened, often, I would be fired because of 'irreverence' toward the operation,' Webster said. 'I would reply, in that event, I would get a job with the custodial people and earn more money. At the wages they paid me (little more than \$100 per week), I could well afford to be irreverent,' she said.

Seven years ago, Webster took a job as information officer with New Brunswick Information Sevices when a family member became seriously ill and she elected to assume the responsibility. But she will tell you she is no less a journalist because she works for government.

"A pure journalist might say I defected, but I don't feel compromised," she said. "I write for the government of the day so it's not a partisan thing."

In the last two years, Webster has written speeches for Premier Richard Hatfield. "I've come to respect him, as politicians go." As for politicians in general, "why do all politicians have to be alike?" she said.

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When it comes to freedom in writing while working for government, "there is as much freedom (in New Brunswick) writing for government as there is writing for the Irving Press. The Irving interests are nearly as extensive as government interests and far more secretive," Webster said. "If you write for the New Brunswick print media, it is one or the other of the Irving-owned newspapers, the only English language dailies in the province."

"I enjoyed working for the Saint John papers and for the Fredericton Daily Gleaner because of the personalities of the people. But that's not the same as the Irving Press," Webster said. "There were stories we couldn't touch. There are probably stories that people at Southam and Thomson papers can't touch because of the owners' interests. But it is more than that in New Brunswick."

(Gleaner publisher) "Tom Crowther expressed it well at the Kent Commission hearings when he said, 'We never write critical stories about business; we need them too badly in New Brunswick." What New Brunswick needs is an energetic, independent press and if anyone had the money the journalists are here," Webster said.

She did not take an oath of secrecy when she joined NBIS. "I came here on the understanding I could continue to free lance as long as I did not use information the other information officers did not have, to my own advantage," she said.

"I have not been privy to secrets, and in the seven years I've been here I have not found anything I could use to my advantage. I have continued to free lance," Webster said. "If I go more than a week or so without writing something of my own, I become uneasy, insecure. If I were forced, this day, to make a choice between government work and free lance, I would opt for the latter," she said.

"When I was small, I was certain I would write," the Fredericton-born Webster said. "The two markets I saw as mine beyond question were Maclean's and the Family Herald, about the only two Canadian publications our family took."

"Much later, when Maclean's asked me to write for them, and my name appeared on their masthead, same thing; I always knew I would see it there."

But it was a long time in coming.

Webster, the first woman to get a Beaverbrook undergraduate scholar-

ship (1948), earned a bachelor of arts degree at the University of New Brunswick, then won a World University Service Scholarship for a year's study in English and philosophy at the Franco American College, Pontigny, France.

Back in Fredericton, she married lawyer Roly Brewer and in 1958 entered law school which, in that year, moved from Saint John to Fredericton. In the middle of her last year, Webster left law school to work in law with her husband. She also established M.J. Brewer Ltd., a holding company for a credit bureau; a beauty shop; then a construction business. "I worked at one until I could do it easily, then started another while hanging on to the first. But I hated business," she said.

When her marriage of 11 years broke up, Webster moved her three daughters to Saint John "to stand or fall on my own as a free lance writer." In that year (1966) "I fed and clothed us with my writing, but just barely. A weekly income I could depend on, no matter how small, became very important." And so she went on staff with the Saint John Tely.

"I didn't know a news story from a magazine feature and I got absolutely no training at the Tely," Webster said. "I wrote my stories like everyone else, but before giving them to the editor I'd call my brother, Scott, an experienced journalist, and read them to him. He gave me all the training I had."

"He'd say, 'It's a good story — nothing wrong with it. But you've got your lead in the last paragraph.' I bluffed my way through," Webster said.

Terrified she would end up in the Social Editor's seat, Webster requested, and got, the waterfront beat and worked it for two years. She left the Tely when she suffered a heart attack, 'directly caused by overwork at the

paper. In the last 8 weeks I worked 7 days a week — it never occurred to me to say, no, to an assignment," Webster said.

She went back to free lancing, adding new markets: the Globe & Mail, the Beaverbrook Press in London, Time Magazine and in addition, worked on the Bathurst Tribune, a short-lived northeastern New Brunswick weekly, founded in June 1971.

The Tribune's greatest triumph was the rooting out, physically, of an Irving-owned oil tanker, filled with bunker C, which ran aground 7 years earlier in the Bay of Chaleur, "a story the Irving Press would not have touched," Webster said.

With the *Tribune's* demise, Fredericton became a launching pad for Webster and her three daughters, longtime dreamers of travel to far places.

In 1976, Allison Brewer, the second oldest daughter, spent her 19th birthday in the capitol of the 19th country she had visited, while Margot Brewer, the eldest, studied at the University of Cairo on a World University Service Scholarship. Last year, Margot became the first recipient of the Kay MacIver Memorial Broadcast Internship, which included a year at CBC. Allison is studying journalism at King's College, Halifax and earlier won a scholarship.

Each of the three daughters has published many times in the last several years. But Meredith, the youngest, is majoring in psychology at the University of New Brunswick on the grounds that "with three writers in the family, we need our own psychologist." She, too, won a scholarship.

As for Webster, "I'll probably go to Egypt or India, when I retire, and write fiction. I still like writing fiction better than anything else."

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# **Omnium Gatherum**

#### **AWARDS**

# Radio Television News Directors Association of Canada.

The winners of the Association's 1981 news awards for radio and TV were announced at its national convention in Montreal.

#### National Awards for Radio:

• The Charlie Edwards Award for spot news reporting:

CFCH North Bay, Ontario. News Director, Clancy MacDonald.

For its report on the discovery of confidential medical records from a doctor's office at a city dump.

French language: CBGA Matane, Quebec. News director, Claude Roy.

For a report on two students who married in order to obtain additional government assistance.

• The Dan McArthur Award for documentaries or news specials:

CJLS Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. News Director, Ray Zinck

For a report on nursing homes for the elderly.

French Language: CJMT Chicoutimi, Quebec. Reporters, Louis Trepanie and Francois Lafortune

For a program that dealt with the aftermath of a landslide in May, 1971 at St. Jean Vianney, Quebec.

The Sam Ross Award for editorials, commentaries or news analysis:

CFAX, Victoria. News Director, Terry Spence

A tribute to Terry Fox.

French Language: no award given.

**National Awards for Television:** 

• Charlie Edwards Award:

CFRN-TV, Edmonton, News Director Bruce Hogel.

For coverage of a plane crash into the Royal Alexandra Hospital on Dec. 6, 1981.

• Dan McArthur Award:

CJCH-TV, Halifax. Director of News & Public Affairs, Richard Pratt.

For a documentary examining the state of Canadian Armed Forces and their ability to defend Canada's national interest.

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#### • The Sam Ross Award:

CITY-TV, Toronto. News Director, Gord Haines.

comments by Dick Smyth on the ten o'clock City Pulse program.

#### President's Award:

The award is given to an individual for making a significant and lasting contribution to the Radio and Television News industry in Canada.

Winner: David Rogers, now media relations adviser for the Canadian Bankers' Association. Mr. Rogers has spent more than 30 years in broadcast journalism and put one of the first private television newsrooms in Canada on the air (CHCH-TV Hamilton, Ontario in 1954).

#### SAINT JOHN, N.B.

by Esther Crandall

- Julien Walker, editor of the semiweekly, the St. Croix Courier, St. Stephen, N.B., has returned to university to take a masters degree in political science.
- Jon Everett, outspoken critic of the Irving Press, has moved with his family to Israel. Everett began his newspaper career with the Irving dailies in Saint John. He had also started a weekly newspaper in

Bathurst, and worked as executive editor of the weekly, the Kings County Record, in Sussex, N.B.

- For three one-minute and half Doug Huskilson, ATV bureau chief in Saint John, is now ATV news director in New Brunswick, replacing Dave Lakie
  - Dennis Melanson is the new reporter for CFBC Radio in Saint John. He replaces Jim Turnball, who took a leave of absence to work for the Liberal party in the October 12 election in New Brunswick.
  - Veteran newsman, George Prentice, assistant managing editor of the night operation at the Montreal Star when it folded, is now assistant news editor with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Fort Worth, Texas.
  - Moncton Publishing Co. Ltd. is no longer publishing the Moncton Transcript on Saturday for economic reasons. Publisher Ed Larracy says the Saturday edition of the Moncton Times, a morning paper, will have more news and features. The Times circulates around the province, the Transcript in the city.

#### **TORONTO**

• Kevin Doyle, deputy editor of Mac-

- lean's Magazine, has been appointed Editor of Maclean's, effective September 1. He replaces Peter Newman, who resigned from the position.
- Tom Rivers, morning DJ at CHUM-AM was fired for his alleged reluctance to follow requested changes in format.
- · Victoria Russell, a lawyer and professor of business law, has been appointed to the new position of legal affairs specialist reporter for CBC-TV's National News.
- Executive Producer Tony Burman of CBC-TV's National News has been named Producer of CBC's news bureau in London, England.
- Bob McCown, host of Global-TV's nightly sports show, "Sportsline, has been appointed Sports Director of Global News.
- Former talk show hostess for CKCO-TV in Kitchener, Ontario, Linda Richards recently joined the Global News Team of Peter Trueman and Jan Tennant as the weather announcer.
- Peter Lloyd, natonal reporter at CTV has joined CJOH in Ottawa as a re-

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Poverty and the Press

by the media in this regard. I later the National Council of Welfare's report on how Canada's press covers poverty concluded, "Canada's press is not today providing that relevant in-formation. On the contrary, the infor-mation it is providing, and the way it is providing it, is reinforcing those

Leon Muszynski of the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, says the press is instrumental in forming public ideas and attitudes. But at the same time, people are very manipulated in terms of their tastes and their wants and what they see as important in the news, he says. Rejecting the notion that the press tries to reflect the interests of its readers he says, "I'm not sure the press can easily say that they're really giving people what they want as opgiving people what they want a proposed to giving them what the press really wants them to have. the way the press handles

by John Saunders

The Gag

'Censoring

was emotionally draining. "No jour-nalism outlet has any real motive for doing that kind of exploratory journalism because you challenge the syshe says.

Part way through the Senate's inves-

to have the effect on the public that the journalist may be hoping for. The only positive outcome he remembers was positive outcome ne remembers was embarrassing the government into fix-embarrassing the government into fix-ing up Toronto's Regent Park housing is the traditional ing up 1010into 8 regent ratio nosang is the train project. But even though Allen's arti- trgentina?

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CONVERSATIO

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who ! by Eleanor Wright Pelrine

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lot different from most businesses." Perhaps not, but it was at CP that the almost \$300 thousand surplus projected for the last fiscal year became a deficit overnight. Went up in smoke, you might say, during CP's switch-over from a manual to a computerized accounting system. According to Kin-

# Canadian Press, says General Manager Keith Kincaid, "is not a heck of a **Bow to Libel Thre**

June Callwood had no idea that she counting system. According to Kill State accounting for the first six months might be accused of libelling anyone.

| by, Her PORTRAIT OF CANADA — 10 iys-, years in the writing — dealt with conved trasts between Canadian and American ac-, attitudes and behavior. As she wrote in t of the introduction: "Canadians are not ce-Americans who live in a colder climate; Did they are different people. While they aidresemble Americans -' jeans, use the same expletives, drink wear the same

Alan Borovoy, general counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, an organization Callwood describes as having 'an almost un-blemished record of failure in such a climate," refers to the Canadian style as "autocracy with decency PORTRAIT

Callwood's CANADA abounds with examples of the differences between Canada and the

sive causes, she suggests th viewers expected PORTRA political polemic, and wer when it was not.

Another of Callwood's e Canadian authoritariani aroused the interest and Gouzenko, the former ciph the Soviet Embassy in O blew the whistle on Soviet:

# wice

be by Debbie Parkes

Six million Canadians live in Povna erty. As the country falls deeper and er deeper into the economic recession, the ov media continue to throw at us updated io figures on the number of unemployed. s; the number of bankruptcies and the ivi number of children being sent to school or every morning without a lunch. But be-

It's not that the press avoids the issue that he claims is passed on of poverty, as such series as the Globe & Mail's "Poverty Trap" last fall, and the Toronto Star's January series on the inadequacies of Ontario's social services show. The issue is not whether poverty gets its fair share of coverage by the media but rather whether it gets fair coverage

Earl Miller is co-author of the report, procedures for the compa

ation to generation of "co valids, idlers, gluttons, dr beggars" in a column la

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# REGULATIONS RESPECTING THE SECURITY OF What's a nice lawyer doing as publisher of The Winnipeg Sun?

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a long-time reader of The Free Press and The Tribune, it bothered me that I was really paying twice for the same news stories. Only the headlines written by the local editors were different. I thought, if we're going to give the city Winnipeg a real alternative, we

# thing that you know here. People looking a voting pattern in we tendency to appear attitude of the people they vote, tends to Talks About — the press in Argentin — disappeared people disappeared people

## THE SPECTATOR REPLIES

to *content* piece me editor of *The Herald*, left ina when terrorists threatened

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In fact, no senior editors nor members of senior management were conlawyer) met over breakfast, at the beginning of the two-week trial, they were joined by a Hamilton lawyer

to ignore controversial facts.

As any journalist knows, not every word uttered in a court is used in a court

s, the extreme left. Then the ent made a habit of pestering t editors with invitations for nd a chat. In my case at least,

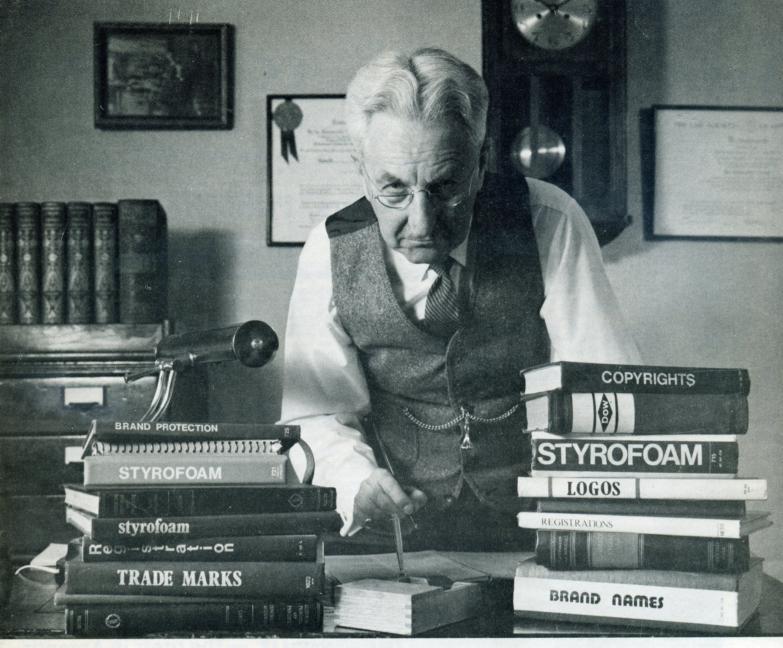
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