

At the heart of this questioning is live television and CNN. Philippe Meyer, who is the television critic for the magazine *Le Point*, has referred to television as the Mecca of deception. As you can see, we are far from the triumphant tones of yesterday evening.

I would like to give a few examples from the current debate in France. Dominique Wolton, in his book *War Game* talks of exaggeration, rumours, non-verified information, repetition of the same images and information on the Gulf War, as was the case for example with the images of allied pilots taken prisoner, which you all saw. As Wolton points out, showing them once is information, but showing them ten times becomes sensationalism. In the Canadian context, the conflicts are national not international, but we can ask the same questions: for example a report on *The Journal*, showing a Quebec flag being trampled is journalism when aired once, whereas showing the same scene eight, ten or twelve times smacks of sensationalism.

Dominique Wolton concludes that "the purpose of the press is not to put the public directly in touch with the particular scene but to present the information to the public, which is the most important part in terms of understanding. And the purpose of the press is to provide for such understanding."

In another work as interesting as Wolton's, the radio and television critic of *Le Monde*, Alain Woodrow, wrote on the subject of live television: "We must call a halt to the tyranny of technology so as to re-establish a distance between the journalist and the current events he is dealing with." As Mr. Turner pointed out yesterday evening, technology and unedited information have destroyed the system of checking, sorting and ranking information by importance, all of which are at the very basis of journalism. I must conclude, therefore, that live television may be communication; it may be part of the grab-bag and cover-all approach to communication which has developed so quickly over the past ten years, but in my view it is not always journalism and sometimes it can be something far removed from journalism.

It is high time that we learned to distinguish journalism from other professional communication skills, such as promotional activities, public relations or entertainment.