

From the editor . . .

Dying objectively

By Al Scarth

I wonder if many people think about just how meaningless the words are that journalists put in our newspapers.

Sometimes it takes a person like the reporter in the motorcycle boots motioning you over to his desk in the city newsroom to demonstrate how insulated from reality those cool words manage to keep you.

"I have to rewrite this obit," he said.

(Obit is one of those pleasant journalistic abbreviations like "death check"—calling the funeral home to see if the child died naturally or was beaten to death. "Pardon me, did you notice if the baby's neck was broken, any bruises?")

"I have to edit it to style," he said, "but I wanted someone else to see the original too before it ends up 'Joseph Doe, 90, died Monday, etc.,' you know."



HOW MANY PEOPLE . . . knew Paddy?

The neat tiny scrawl on blue letter paper read: "Ol' Joe died last week after a hard winter. He was ninety years, seven months, three weeks and four days old.

"He'd been through a lot of hard winters but this last one was real tough, worst we've seen in a long time. There will be a lot of people out to say goodbye. He helped build the first church here and he and his wife (she died in '47 I think) always gave more than their share to community things.

"He'll be with her again now though and with their baby boy who died in the flu epidemic of '08. They'll all be there right near the church he helped raise."

I didn't read it in the paper. I knew it would say: "An Alberta pioneer, Joseph Doe, 90, died here Monday. He came to Timberley in 1900 from England and was

active in community affairs. His wife predeceased him in 1947. Funeral services will be held in Timberley United Church and burial will follow in the family plot. Officiating will be . . ." I don't expect the young reporter with the cynical smile and black boots read it either.

That's the way things are done in the daily press world and journalists treat their own the same way—"objectively." Sometimes it isn't easy.

The person who wrote Journal reporter Paddy Roe's obituary on Monday knew Paddy, probably very well. I knew Paddy and if I had to sit down and write his obit, I would have liked to say that he lived all by himself in a room in The Gateway Hotel.

I would have liked to say he handed me a five-dollar cheque from his regular chair in the King Eddy, and at my bewildered look explained: "You lent it to me when you were at The Journal" (seven months ago).

I would have liked to say that Paddy was a gentleman whose only life was The Edmonton Journal and his chair at the King Eddy down the street.

"... it's a tough, lousy racket"

I would have liked to quote the bartender who said: "He seemed a nice guy, quiet you know, an old guy, sick, money problems . . . it's a tough, lousy racket—journalism. Long hours, being forced to be sociable all day, lots of pressure . . ."

Yeah, that was the lonely little Irishman's world. In many ways, his was even tougher than most. There just isn't much fun in covering the final act of men's inhumanity to men—their being brought to justice before the benches of the Supreme Court.

But it's good copy, very good copy. It's why people buy newspapers, it's where they get their daily ration of child-beatings, father-killings and similar meat to satisfy the sadistic portions of their minds.

Maybe they forget that someone has to write that stuff, day in and day out, and maybe they forget he might be a lonely, sensitive sort of guy. Maybe they forget he might be trying to give the kids caught with a little pot a break, and maybe they don't know about the wry sense of humor he uses as a shield against a dirty job.

There are a lot of things people don't know when they read that cool, sterilized copy and there are a lot of things I would have liked to tell them about Paddy Roe.

But I would have written it by the book because that's how you do it in the daily press world . . . "Edmonton Journal reporter Patrick J. Roe, 46, died today in hospital at Medicine Hat . . . A bachelor, Mr. Roe is survived by . . . funeral services will be held at . . ."

Well, Paddy would have written it that way himself.

"SCITEC" a first for Canadians

By MAT YEDLIN

Canadian Science now has a united voice.

A month ago a new national organization representative of the entire Canadian scientific and technical community was formed in Ottawa.

SCITEC, short for Science, Technology and Engineering Canada, was the name chosen for the new organization.

Stimulus for the founding of SCITEC began last June with the hearings of the Special Senate Committee on Science Policy. The committee asked why Canada's scientific community could not offer concerted opinion on issues relating to science policy. Motivated by these hearings, the Canadian Association of Physicists, the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Engineering Institute of Canada organized a conference in Ottawa on July 31, 1969. Delegates at the conference resolved that a new national scientific society should be established. Seven months later SCITEC came into being.

SCITEC is the first organization of its kind in the world, with membership ranging from the Social Science Research Council to the Canadian Association of Physicists. The formal structure of the organization is a dual assembly system, which elects members to a 29-member council.

The founding motion passed unanimously stated the main ob-

jective of SCITEC to be "to marshal the scientific, engineering and technological community to provide leadership, to communicate, co-operate and work within itself, with government and public in the national interest in those areas in which it can make a competent contribution."

More specifically, SCITEC will provide advice to the government regarding the development and implementation of a national science policy. At present briefs are being prepared as comments on the Lamontagne Report on Science Policy.

A second objective of SCITEC is the establishment of better communication with the public regarding science and its effects, present and future, on society.

A third objective is the marshalling of the knowledge available to provide leadership in important national matters such as

pollution, transportation and urban development.

In SCITEC, Canada has its first scientific "think tank." With representatives from the environmental sciences such as town planning, and social sciences, such as political science, it is hoped that effort can be directed to specific problems.

Now, however, SCITEC is involved principally with the first objective described, because of limited financial resources. Individual support is needed now and yearly memberships may be obtained for a fee of \$10.

As a result of local interest shown in SCITEC, and the need for support by local societies, a founding meeting of SCITEC, Edmonton, will be held on March 5, at 2 p.m. in Physics Building 126. Guest speaker will be Dr. Norman S. Grace, president of SCITEC.

Students strike

Women fight tenure board

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (CUPI)—Approximately half of the students at the all-women college of New Rochelle went on strike Friday to support a popular teacher who was denied tenure at the Roman Catholic institution.

The teacher, William Frain, is

an assistant professor of sociology, a political liberal, and a leading advocate of educational reform here. On February 16, Frain was notified that his contract would not be renewed. No reason was given for the action.

Students threw up picket lines around their administration building early Friday and later gathered in dormitories for "free university" classes.

The strikers are demanding that Frain's contract be renewed, that students be included in the tenure decision-making process, that reasons be given for decisions regarding professors' contracts, and that teachers be granted the right to appeal tenure decisions.

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campus calendar

THIS IS WEST INDIAN WEEK

- CONCERT

Thurs. 8:30 p.m., SUB

- ARTS AND CRAFTS DISPLAY

Thurs. 9-6 p.m., Meditation Room, SUB

- DANCE

Fri. 9:00 p.m., Hazeldean Community Centre

(The above events are sponsored by the West Indian Society)

FRI., MARCH 6

- ROOM AT THE TOP

"KAREN YOUR" and "DAVE WRIGHT"

9-12 p.m.

WATCH THIS CORNER EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY FOR THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Dr. P. J. Gaudet

Dr. D. G. Kot

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