

# "All the news that fits, we print"

MOTTO OF THE HALIFAX HERALD (SLIGHTLY ABRIDGED)

The following story is taken from a November SATURDAY NIGHT article entitled "All the News that fits, they Print", in which the sordid details of our lesser news (sic) media are revealed. This portion, dealing specifically with the Halifax Chronicle Herald, is being reprinted with the kind permission of the publishers. — Ed.

18% NEWS, 82% B.S.

Perhaps it is unreasonable to criticize this paper, in the general circumstances of our regrettably depressed Maritimes, but surely any Canadian newspaper should at least be offering information in manner and content relevant to this century. The old C-H rolling along day to day with an average of approximately 18 per cent news and 82 per cent advertising, sport, boilerplate and handouts — seems to me to be summed up in the issue of Sept. 12 last.

### NEWS (Sic)

All told on that day, the Chronicle Herald carried 51 stories which could be described as local news. Ten of them were stereotyped obituaries. Nine formula reports covered the nomination of assorted candidates in the Nova Scotia election. Eleven reports, mostly brief, worked through the weary round of convention meetings, exhibitions, club gatherings, and similar routine fixtures. There were four bare announcements of scholarships and school enrollment figures. There were four reports of fires and police court proceedings. There were two reports written, or edited, from press handouts. And there was a story reminiscing about a fire many years ago which actually didn't even indicate when the fire actually occurred.

That left ten other local news reports. And what were Haligonians treated to? This, precisely, is the list:

— An interview with Mrs. Jane Grant on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

— A report on how cattle in Bridgetown, N. S., are being fed spent grains from the local distillery.

— A news story about three RCN ships on cruise.

— An interview with a St.

Francis Xavier professor about his fact finding trip to the West Indies (exactly 154 words long).

— A feature about a new tuna seining ship.

— A report on the continuing study underway by a committee to investigate Cape Breton County Jail.

— A report on the opening of a grocery store.

— The result of a liquor plebiscite, 40 words long (the drys won).

— A feature article on a new Foundation Maritime tug.

— An interview with a farmer who said the Berwick tomato crop was good this year.

All told, when one adds in the bare, terse and not terribly exciting wire service copy (including a description of a fire in the barn in Brantford, Ontario) the Chronicle Herald offered its eager readers roughly six pages of "news" out of a total 36 pages.

### EDITORIALS?

But surely incisive editorials would save the day, with penetrating comment on basic issues. Alas, no. Sept. 12 was the day that Haligonians were treated to a review of the idea of a Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries on which the Liberals and Conservatives had already agreed) which concluded, after listing four possible difficulties

and two advantages, "all of which are fairly strong arguments for the suggestion at hand".

Next, albeit on the side of the angels, editorial readers were told that the American Seaman's International Union attack on Claude Jodoin of the CLC was unjust and that Hal Banks of the SIU is an evil man, not because of any C-H reasons but because of a rehash of the published Norris report.

Finally, there was a study of the need for private plane landing facilities in Nova Scotia which revealed that two artists (called painters) had some trouble finding landing places when they toured the province recently by air. "They were sorely tried," said the Chronicle Herald. "Defence airports do not favor such visitors. Of other landing strips there were just a few, for which state of affairs they were far from thankful."

When you add to the brew the aged type, the archaic layout and apparent parochial obsession displayed throughout the newspaper, one feels that there is need for improvement. Or are they all like that in the Maritimes?

### DATE RATING

- 1 Star . . . No Good Night Kiss
- 2 Star . . . ONE Good Night Kiss
- 3 Star . . . She Necks!!!
- 4 Star . . . She Pets !!
- 5 Star . . . All the Way, Boys !!!
- 6 Star . . . I wouldn't try it, men; better read Section 149 of the Criminal Code, first.

# THE MONUMENT

A Satire on a four-fold vision

In Calydon there dwelt a man whose fame Spread far as his own voice could bruit his name:

A mighty lover of the polished line,  
He thought himself the keeper of the Nine;  
And all the humble people had to bow  
Before his Vision, as to a sacred cow.  
At last, enveloped in his mental haze,  
This blusterer determined to upraise  
A monument to his own memory,  
That all the people his true worth might see.  
What fitter than a polished looking-glass?  
A monstrous Mirror of prodigious mass,  
Wherein decayed Adonis might display  
The full-blown beauty of his wit's array?  
A Mirror this which never e'er was wrought  
When one reflection was sufficient thought;  
A Mirror this of true magnificence,  
Which spite of reason, quadrisected sense.  
The demigod, secure in his conceit,  
Long laboured to erect the crystal sheet--  
The water from his toiling brow poured down  
And all the people gasped to see him frown.  
The task too arduous for his single strength  
For many breathless hours seemed, until  
at length  
Heaving a final grunt, in all the people's sight  
The awe-inspiring Mirror stood upright:  
Apollo from his height could not prevent  
A laugh. His laughter shook the firmament;  
It doubled and redoubled still, his mirth,  
And set in sympathetic motion all the earth.  
The Mirror on its pedestal did rock  
And lo! came crashing down with deaf'ning shock.  
The people raised a dismal, universal sigh--  
Entombed in cutting ruins did the builder lie.

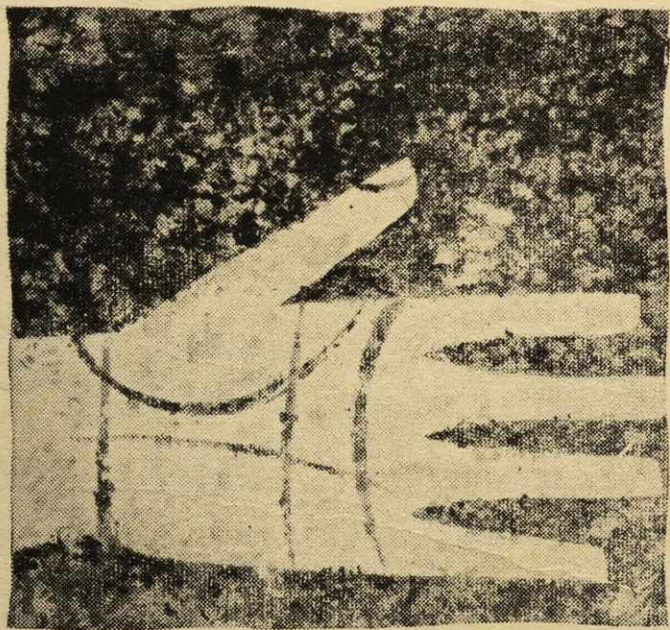
D.A.G. Hin

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## NEW CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

The Student's Council is sponsoring a new classical music series, "The Beginnings of Music" to be held in the King's Gymnasium at 3 p.m., Jan. 12, 19, and 26.

On January 12 a concert, "music of the 1750's" will be presented. Included will be the music of Hayden, Stich, Mozart, and Debussy. Featured especially and will be wind and string music.

The instruments playing the most prominent parts will be: French Horn, 2 violins, cello, clarinet and viola.

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