

T.V. stations now dancing 'disco journalism'

WATERLOO (CUP)—A scramble for ratings and pressures for advertising revenue have turned television news into "disco journalism", according to a CBC producer.

"In the early '70s, ratings for TV news began to fall off. Since TV is big business, the reason for it was sought. It was decided that people want upbeat lifestyle news which has led us to the kind of journalism we see a lot of today," Nick Filmore told a Waterloo audience recently.

Filmore, the producer of CBC radio's Sunday Morning news show and a former National news editor, said defining news is a major problem.

The average journalist develops a news sense that governs what stories he or she will do and from what perspective, said Filmore.

A second major problem is the necessity for TV news to make money, he said. Responsible, socially important stories are passed up when the evening news line-up is prepared because they aren't flashy or interesting enough to compete with other commercial programs, he added.

The news presented is too sensationalistic, said Filmore. He

cited the coverage of cancer-victim Terry Fox's marathon of hope as an example. Instead of covering Fox's run, the media turned it into a drive to create a national story, ignoring the event's real purpose, he said.

TV news also focuses on individuals rather than on groups, resulting in a warped view of the organization and its operations, he said. The result is often a story that seems great because of one individual but that has no substance, said Filmore.

Another fault of the media is its obsession with flashy success stories. We are swamped with stories about people like Edmonton Oilers owner and Alberta millionaire Peter Pocklington that have little social or news value, said Filmore.

The quality of our news is also declining because of financial cutbacks, although certain priorities are maintained.

Filmore cited a recent CBC decision to chop one of its few investigative units because the corporation felt it couldn't afford the \$250,000 a year cost, as an example.

However, the CBC recently spent more than \$250,000 on its trip to

Katmandu, Nepal, to cover the Canadian climb of Mount Everest. There were a few voice-overs of the climb, a few shots from the top but no actual report of the climb or any investigative reporting, said Filmore.

Meanwhile, the war in Lebanon was escalating, but there was very little coverage of it on the CBC news, and it didn't receive the same attention the Everest climb did, he said.

Even though the recession is affecting news-gathering in other areas, foreign bureaus are still being maintained.

According to Filmore, the bureaus are not used, because it costs too much to transmit the stories—one and a half minutes by satellite costs more than \$3,000. Canadian TV stations instead buy American news stories and the Canadian reporter on location phones in a story to match up with the pictures.



The CBC on the move, keeping up the ratings

Acts like enamel for you

Better protection with Charter

MONTREAL (CUP)—The rights of Canadians are now better protected than ever before, according to a Canadian constitutional expert.

Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides better protection than John Diefenbaker's Bill of Rights because it has constitutional status, Walter Tarnopolsky, told a Concordia University audience recently.

"The bill of rights was never accepted by the majority of the Supreme Court as being constitutional," said the University of Ottawa law professor. "At best, one or two of the members referred to it as being quasi-constitutional and this affected its interpretation."

Crown attorneys will no longer be able to argue successfully that Parliament has supremacy over rights and freedoms, because the British North America Act of 1867 is now subject to the Constitution Act of 1981, which includes the new Charter, said Tarnopolsky.

The new Charter grants extensive rights and freedoms protection in all provinces, unlike the bill of rights, which applied only in the federal sphere. Prior to the Charter's passage, only Alberta, Quebec and

Ontario had similar provincial legislation, and Quebec's was the most extensive, said Tarnopolsky.

Two new areas have been delineated under the Charter: the citizen's right to vote and the citizen's right to enter, remain in and leave Canada. The former is important, according to Tarnopolsky, because not every Canadian citizen has always had the right to vote. People of Asian descent couldn't vote in Canada until 1949.

Despite this new constitutional protection, Tarnopolsky: "A truly Machiavellian government could revoke citizenship and remove the right to live and work in Canada on the basis that the individual is no longer a citizen."

Tarnopolsky's main criticism of the Charter is that freedoms of religion, thought, expression, press and association are subject to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be democratically justified in a free and democratic society. These limits have yet to be interpreted by the courts, he said.

But if Parliament, instead of the courts, defines what is reasonable "then we're back to square one," he

said. However, existing rights cannot be lost as section 26 of the Charter guarantees that rights shall not be construed "as denying the existence of rights and freedoms that exist in Canada," he said.

Labour points finger

TORONTO (CUP)—Corporations in the Western World are selling instruments of war and torture to Latin America and elsewhere, the Canadian Labour Congress president charged at a recent public forum.

Dennis McDermott made a call at a forum on stopping oppression and torture held in Toronto Nov. 17 for a "code of conduct" for corporations "because they shouldn't deal with the devil, no matter how much the profit."

"(We need) a government with guts, willing to impose sanctions, to stand up for what is right or be prepared to risk political credibility if it doesn't," he said.

Eric Fawcett, a University of Toronto professor and Canadian Committee of Scientists and Scholars chair, questioned "the association and interaction between Canadian university presidents and those of military dictatorships where retired generals, in the role of presidents of the universities, select students on a subjective, political basis."

Flora Macdonald, Conservative M.P. for Kingston and the Islands, has made visits to Central and South America and the U.S.S.R. in the past

year as part of a parliamentary subcommittee.

In every country, the subcommittee was denied the chance to speak directly with prisoners. However, in the U.S.S.R. MacDonald did speak with dissidents who were friends of those imprisoned. She sensed the "tremendous reluctance of people in these countries to speak out because of fear of reprisal", but feels Canada has not "spoken out loudly or often enough either."

MacDonald said the government should use official international channels "in order to act on an individual and collective cases."

Pierre Berton, the forum's chair, reminded Canadians not to be smug "about other countries' offences, because oppression and torture occur everywhere, in most civilized and oppressed countries."

Clark MacDonald, Moderator of the United Church, agreed with Berton in his discussion on conditions in Quebec's Archambault prison. After two visits to the prison, meeting with guards, management and prisoners, he concluded that "the hole (solitary confinement) is cruel and unusual punishment."

Employment Centre can help

Think about jobs now

by Gilbert Bouchard

We've all heard of the place, the Canada Employment Center on Campus (C.E.C.), on the fourth floor of SUB.

We've all been there to look at the job boards while hunting for a summer job, but most of use are oblivious to the myriad of other services they offer.

Now more than ever it's vital that students think seriously, and early, about their future employment. Even students in their first and second years should realize the added emphasis employers are placing on relevant summer employment.

The job market is tighter than a few years ago when recruiters actively recruited on campus, and recent graduates could pick and choose their future losses. According to C.E.C. Officer In Charge, Jennifer Yip Chow, it's an employer's market and "the students must seek out the employer."

On-campus recruiting is down and it is important that the student know where to hunt down the available positions and know how to present himself to his potential employer.

That's where the campus employment center comes in. They are a federal placement office, offering all their services free of charge. Counsellors provide students with helpful hints related to the problems and needs of the university job seeker.


While the services are open to the general public, most job orders are oriented towards undergraduates, recent graduates, or students from other post-secondary institutions.

The C.E.C. does more than just accumulate and post job openings. They strive to prepare students for the job market by offering programs such as the Creative Job Search Technique (CJST). The CJST teaches the prospective student methods of searching and landing a job: filling out applications, writing resumes, and personal presentation during job interviews. The CJST can be an important edge in the tight summer job market.

Regular CJST sessions are offered Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, but special sessions in the evenings for clubs and individual sessions can be arranged. A special CJST session for Education students also exists.

Individual employment counselling, a practical counselling service aimed at familiarizing the student with the current job market, allows students to discover how their own skills can be best utilized. Along with a large information center filled with over 700 entries from various employers, brochures and job descriptions, C.E.C. also has access to the National Job Bank which lists job openings from across Canada and provides students with a strong base from which to formulate career decisions.

Other services include: boards listing temporary and permanent part-time jobs, organized on-campus recruitment, employer contacts, assistance to the university in filling job vacancies, and the processing of social insurance number applications.



Friday

December 3

Open House

3 - 6 pm

S.U.B. 270A

Sleigh Ride

Double J

Riding Center

- Yearbooks available
- Information for new leaders
- Plans for next summer
- Hear about the Oct. conference in Kentucky
- Ideas welcome!

- \$4.00 includes tube-steak BBQ
- Bring your own "fuel"
- Maps or rides available
- 6 - 6:30 pm. SUB 280

****NOTE:**

- A few experienced leaders still needed for January/83 Orientation.
- 50 new leaders needed for Summer/83 Orientation

Come and talk to us!

Students' Orientation Service

Rm. 278 SUB 432-5319

