

the networks seek to achieve balance over time." Summarizing the discussion later, John Honderich of *The Toronto Star* said that the differences between the rival networks' film was not surprising, since there is not only one right way to tell a story.

Florian Sauvageau, professor of communications at Laval University, Quebec City, discussing televised violence, tried to separate needed information from sensationalism. In the Iraq war, the showing of beaten prisoners' faces once, he said, was information; showing it ten times was sensationalism. He applied this judgment to repeated showings of a Quebec flag being trampled underfoot in Ontario. In a study of the confrontation between Mohawk Indians and soldiers at Oka in 1990, his students had found television coverage "sensationalistic and confusing through repetition." On the other hand, an American study had concluded that TV film of Kurdish refugees in Iraq had "changed the attitude of President Bush" (towards greater sympathy for the Kurds). An overwhelming majority of TV viewers say that showing violence encourages violence; TV producers say it does not. The political question is how to find a balance, Professor Sauvageau said.

Commenting on these contributions, Bernard Wood said that print journalism was no less selective. CNN had attained the peak of power because of all we had gone through in the last two or three years, but not all of that was violence; it was drama. "People were just as gripped by those velvet revolutions."

Mr. Starowicz said he was uncomfortable with live TV, preferring the carefully edited documentary approach -- "but you can't put the genie back in the bottle." After mentioning the weak coverage of the Iran/Iraq war, he added a non-military example of CBC news judgment: 140,000 died in the Bangladesh floods last spring, but that was "not considered worth bringing to bear our technology."

Another panel brought out the experiences of two journalists who had been closely involved with hostage situations. Roger Auque, a former Beirut correspondent for Radio-Canada and a writer for *Paris Match*, was himself a hostage for nearly a year. Jean Pelletier, now of *Le Journal de Montréal*, was the Washington-based correspondent who won a world scoop on the story of the American hostages who escaped custody by hiding in the Canadian Embassy in Teheran.