

Editorial

The media and Chicago

Why is the Gazette printing the story of the Chicago brutalization? Not only because it is an exposition of American society at its truest, which effects us all, but also because the newspapers of this province (read Mail-Star and Chronicle-Herald) carried only the sketchiest details of the event, not willing to portray it in its reality. No need to explain why.

Why then do we rely on the Toronto Star? Simply because this paper supplied by far the best Canadian coverage of the event. This was because the Star reporters on the scene, just like those of virtually every American newspaper, were slowly frustrated into seeing the reality of the situation. For the first time, they, the pampered fourth estate, saw themselves as somewhat oppressed Americans.

The successful tactic of the American power structure has long been to make certain that the newsman was treated in a far different manner than the black, the poor, and the young dissenter. But when those in power were not so lucky in Chicago, right from before the convention began, when outside television was greatly limited by order of Daley, for the first time in a long time, the czars of the great media networks and their minions were literally pushed around.

What happened to the media, then?

They simply got up tight and lost their objectivity - that is, they were so appalled that they got involved - not because they wanted to, but because they had no choice.

Many of them are going to be different reporters from now on - they have been directly affected by American oppression in their own lives, and they will therefore have a new analysis of the U.S.

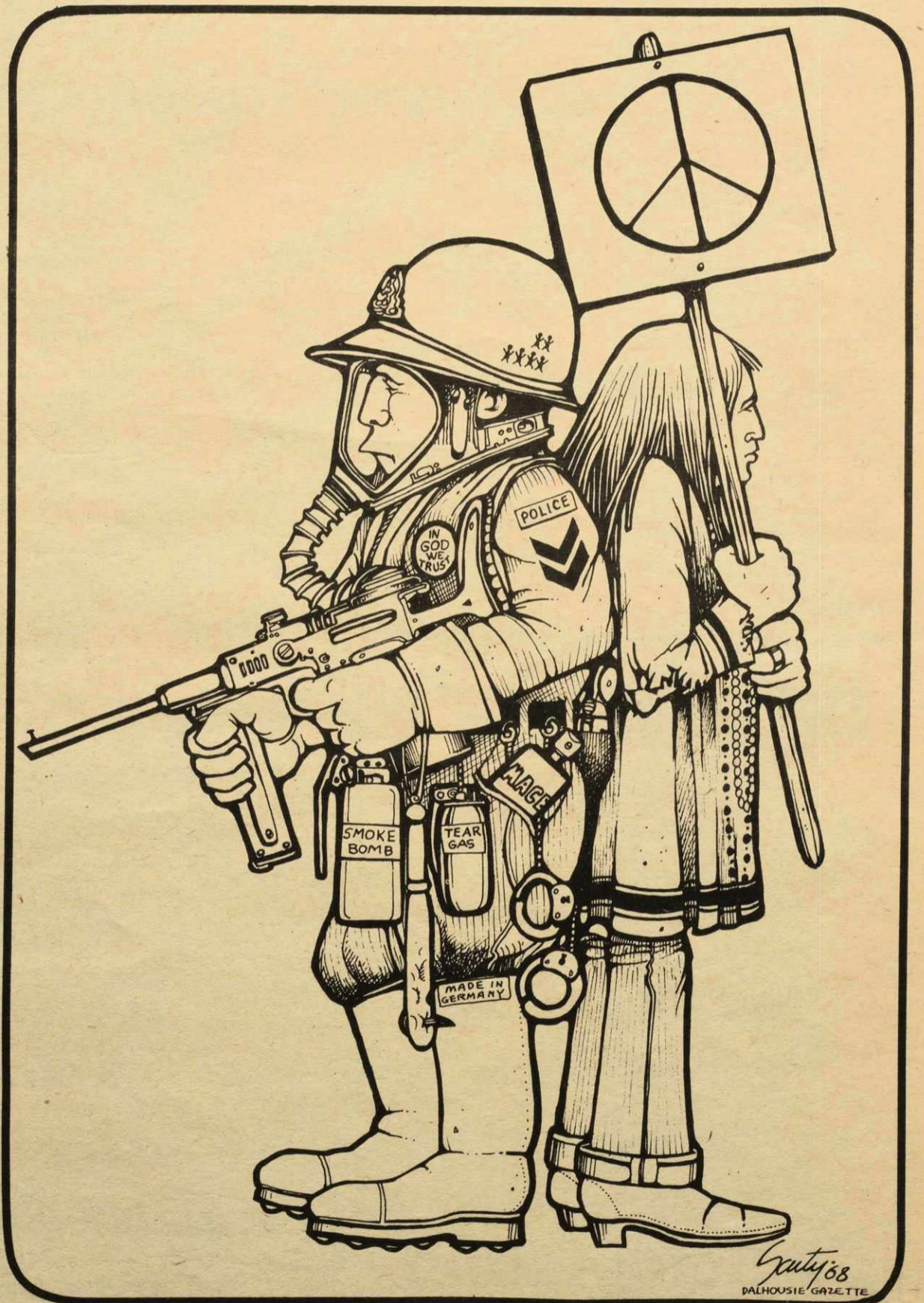
What will this mean for the media? Are these men now, as the myth would have it, less than newsmen now that they have lost their "objectivity?"

This newspaper, along with others in Canada who we call "Student Press," have recently thrown aside the old notion of "objectivity." We have recognized that there is no such thing; that we can't write stories on mere fact and no interpretation, that we ask our own questions in an interview, that we select certain parts of a story for emphasis, and

these are things newspapers must do to function. And we realize that we do this, consciously or subconsciously, from our own points of view. We can then either pretend that we are not a part of society, that we are not affected by it, and hide our biases behind a facade of "objectivity," or we can be more fair to the reader, and admit that

we are biased, and expect you to read and interpret the news and analyses with this in mind. The latter is what this paper attempts to do.

In the U.S., this trend towards a new truth in reporting will simply mean that a lot of good reporters who were in Chicago are going to have to be edited into oblivion.



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