

Apologies: my failure



by **Gordon Stone**
Herald Staff

Continually apologising for mistakes is *not* what I thought I would be doing by now. To date, *CQM* has clearly been a failure. Why else have there been so many apologies?

In our second issue, I wrote an article about Mayor Schwartzman's drinking prob-

lem. And I ran a his picture with a nasty caption.

He complained. The co-workers met, used *CQM*, came to conclusions and implemented them--i.e., I write an apology.

Only it was not much of an apology. So he threatened to

sue. So our next issue had another apology, along with a larger picture of His Worship.

CQM continues to fail, because otherwise why would I be here writing a *third* apology? This is a mess!

Could a management style
Please see Will Gordo Ever Get It Right?, Inside 3

FREE

The Winnipeg Weekly Herald

All the news that fits in six small pages

Issue 5, December 6, 1999

FREE

We look for leadership, but get politicians.



Dan: my weakness

by **Ruth Schwartzman**
Herald Staff

Dan Weston continues in a coma, with no new developments in the case. This reporter knows it was in part her own weakness which put him in the hospital. It was her article about him which triggered his most recent bout of depression. If she had been a strong person, she would not

have stooped so low as to write the article.

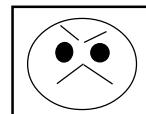
Dan takes the kids on weekends, helps out during the week. They miss him already.

It has been hard finding time to work on *The Herald*, given this reporter's changed family situation. On top of her additional family responsibilities, she visits Dan in the hospital, sits by his bed and reads to him

from his favourite novels. She is sure he can hear her.

But that does not leave much time for work. And her conscience has left her a little scattered. So she is afraid this week's article will be rather shorter than it should be. Maybe next time it will be about something.

It was about something.



My fault: no way!

by **Phillips Slothead**
Herald Staff

The campaign of terror against T.S. continues. The Slothead courageously wrote about AAA Acme, and since then his car tires have been slashed many times, a hate

warning painted on his door, and his apartment burglarized. Far worse is that Dan Weston may have been another AAA victim. The Slothead has visited him in the hospital several times.

It was at the hospital ATM, in fact, where T.S. got the next

"hit". It ate his card. And when he went to the grocery store, his credit card was confiscated and cut up.

When T.S. went to his Credit Union, it had a stop payment order. But that order had been

A Meathead and His Money, Inside 4

Inside 1 Winnipeg Weekly Herald Worker's Collective

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 1999

by Mike Hanchuk

1. Agenda

Gordo's ongoing feud with the Mayor. Phillips still wants to live here. Ruth not carrying out her responsibilities. Everyone but me upset by my remarks in the paper. Everyone but Dan wants Dan out.

2. Me

Terry again raises issue of me, Mike, putting in my editorial comments. I consider me a Greek chorus. *Remarkably, the co-workers vote to put off a decision.* How'd Terry like it if I slipped some of *her* nasty asides in the paper, like the ones she made to Gordo yesterday when they were upstairs speaking loudly?

3. Gordo

We agree the Mayor drinks. But there is no proof of any scandal. But Gordo keeps pushing the issue, risking our credibility (assuming we have any). *Co-workers vote that they are concerned, and Gordo should wrap this up, and that (ready?) we will discuss it next week.*

4. Phillips

No car, haunted apartment, no money. I should be more sympathetic but he again wants to move into *The Herald* building. He says Terry has partly moved in, so why not him? Gordo says if Phillips can't figure out the difference,



he should finish his high school education.

Decision: Gordo owns the house, all but Phillips vote to support Gordo refusing to let Phillips move in.

5. Ruth

Between the kids and visit-

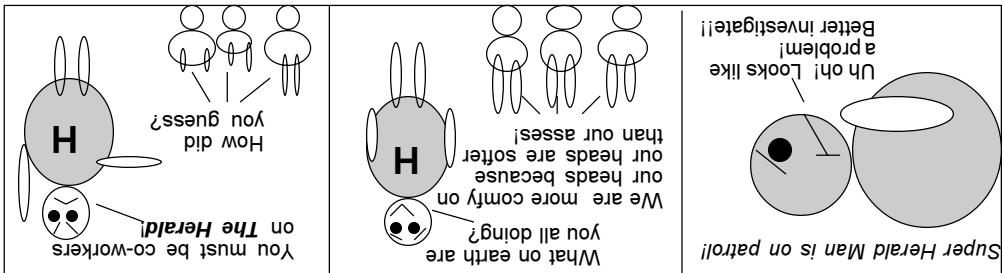
ing Dan, she has significant problems. She wants agreement that until she finds weekend daycare, she may bring her kids to work. Split vote: Phillips, Dan, Gordo and Terry for, me against. I don't like the looks of this! I'm the only one who has to be here all day--this is where the computer and printer and internet connection are! Guess who is heading for yet another job: childcare expert!

6. Print Process

Co-workers all hand in stories late. I complain I have to work through the night. None of them care. After some minimal discussion, a decision: *delay decision until next week, see if co-workers get their articles in on time, given my comments. Ugh!*

Mike, me, points out she, I, works nights, pays bills, fixes the photocopier, changes the toilet paper. Does she have to do everything? And we don't even get to talk about Dan before they all leave!

This issue does not have any articles promised in the first issue. That is because my coworkers are incompetent. To date we have published only two promised pieces: an article on the Mayor (for which Gordo had to apologise) and my comic strip--Mike



The Adventures of Super Herald Man by Mike Hanchuk

Winnipeg Weekly Herald

Worker's Collective

Meeting Minutes

December 4, 1999



by Terry Bird

We began our meeting at 9:30 am. Present were all co-workers. I announce my decision to write an *alternate* version of the minutes, so readers and co-workers can compare my version with Mikey's. Mikey is not happy.

1. Agenda:

Mike's editorial comments. Living, working arrangements.. Phillips' situation. Ruth's work load. Process problems in co-workers meeting deadlines, word limits. Agenda accepted.

2. Mike

Mike has been inserting editorial comments throughout the paper. We all write art-week after reviewing the re-cles whereas Mike writes all action to the latest apologetics from Gordon to the Mayor over. Also, our articles do not criticize each other. Mike thinks she can criticize any of us just because she lays out the paper. We all agree this.

Phillips is a concern, and that he reviews his current life situation. He wants to move into the collective because it is an extended discussion, we agree to continue next week. Mike is

asked not to put in more personal *this is a crock of crap--you mean like that?* and we will keep a watching brief until the issue is resolved.

3. Gordon

Mike yells about the Collins articles. The other co-workers do not support her. We agree Gordon means well, and the articles could be important, if they were only better. Gordon is so nice, and he does try hard, he deserves our support. Unfortunately he lacks the journalistic training to make his articles or the paper work.

Mike is the editor, really not Gordon. We decide to continue this discussion next week.

Hasn't our little head been getting big lately? Could it be from sitting on it too often?

house. Mike does not like the idea. Gordon says it would be disruptive to his personal living space. Co-workers agree, 5-7, to support Gordon if he decides to say no, as it is Gordon's home. Co-workers vote to keep a watching brief on the issue.

5. Ruth

Although we are all sympathetic, the Collective is concerned that Ruth is not carrying her weight. I'm sorry for her current situation. We vote to keep a watching brief on her.

6. Process

We do not have time to talk about process. Anyway, it's Mike's silly little problems if she can not organize her deadlines. We all know about doing our best. We agree to keep a "watching brief" nothing. "watching brief" is for doing

Inside 3

Sexist Play Of The Week

Phantom of the Opera

Starring: Who Can Remember? Do you care?

by Terry Bird
Herald Culture Critic

The verdict is in, both from *some* readers of this paper and even some co-workers. And I'll agree. Yes I have not reviewed anything from local arts community. I know the local artists. They work hard. They do not deserve to be trashed.

Unfortunately, their work is often crap. If I am to be honest, 25% of our local cultural industry are amateurs. The remainder are professional, i.e. commercial, but mostly boring. Of course, all the artists locally are often just learning their craft. When they know enough, they move away.

Anyway, that is why I trash Hollywood movies instead of the local arts community. When reviewing a film, I am not hurting anyone I know or care about.

That said, say hello to *Phantom of the Opera*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's love song to his bank. I can attack this cash cow with no guilt at all.

The touring production at the Centennial Concert Hall was good.



The problem is Webber's story. It works okay as a horror piece, where the audience is rightly repelled.



Haven't we seen her somewhere before in this issue?--Mike

But Webber has written a melo-drama, and made it romantic, not horrific (although it is horrific, in an altogether different sense).

Webber's *Phantom* glorifies a stalker and kidnapper.

Perhaps you think I am mad. Well, buckos, The Phantom is a lover they write textbooks about. He manipulates and uses women to get what he wants. In fact, The Phantom most reminds me of my current lover. He is supportive one moment, critical the next. He has taken sides about my ignoring the local arts community. As if I was not facing enough pressure already, even Gordon's piling it on! Yes! That is who I am writing about, okay?

Gordon is the real Phantom! He lured me into this dungeon! He makes me sing!

I agree

He'll Never Get It Right, Never

continued

other than *CQM* be the answer? There are quite a few out there. Once I have located the right style, these other problems are bound to clear up. As far as I am concerned, for a manager the problem must always be in the process. Fix the process and you have then fixed the problem.

As for all the apologies, let no one say I have not learned

a great deal from this experience. I checked *CQM*: if an apology does not work, stop. Otherwise you are being a destructive enabler. Of course, I wrote *CQM*, but still.

So, frankly the Mayor is known to drink. What more do readers want? To put a match to his mouth and see if his breath catches fire?

One of the new management

styles I am now looking at is *Really Excelling At Management, or REAM*.

But maybe I should double check, after reading the story of a manager who *REAMed* his staff and gave up on the project long before he cleaned all the eggs off his car.

Any way, I am very sorry for what I have written about Mayor Collins.

Meathead, *continued*

lifted.

An investigation is underway into computer tampering. Once the court order has been updated, my accounts will be unfrozen. Right now if it was not for my mother, I'd starve.

No money, no car, trashed apartment--this is ridiculous! Has organized crime always been this thin skinned?

So The Slothead has no safe place to live--except *The Herald*, where there is a lot more street traffic, and usually there is someone else around. The Slothead lives on the back of the top floor of a house, with the entrance rickety wooden stairs up the outside. It is not safe.



For the record I cut Gordon's grant because Gordon's client base had dropped by almost fifty percent in three years, as unemployment problems eased.

I do drink, but not to excess, and have never been drunk in public. One more article and I will sue! My patience has ended, Gordon! Also, I'm sick and tired of that lousy photograph of me you keep running!

Mayor Schwartzman

Letters to The Collective

Dear *Herald*,

The Herald is better than a soap opera. Gordon has less money and is living in a worse apartment although he's won the lottery. He's supporting a bunch of people for three years. He's having an affair with Terry, who comes from a broken home (my prediction: it won't last!) Phillips is being hassled by the mob. Ruth is a single parent riddled with guilt that her article somehow caused her ex-husband's coma.

Meanwhile, Mike Hanchuk, the office person, seems to almost live in the place, and has written some of the most interesting pieces (*thanks!*). Not to forget Dan, who runs countless scams to raise money to cover his government VLT gambling losses.

Kathryn Davis

Dear *Herald*:

I got this weird statement from my credit union today. Weird because it listed several cheques I had written on my chequing account which I had forgotten until I got the statement. I don't know why I wrote the cheques, except it was always just after I had read *The Herald*, and done Dan's puzzle page. I don't know why, but by the time I finish one of Dan's puzzles, I want to write him a cheque.

I think he's using subliminal messages or hypnotism or something, but I've sent him cheques totalling \$100, and I'm not sure why.

What's going on?
John Doe

Herald Classifieds

Medical Research: Help Make Medical History!

St. Bernadette Hospital is researching the sudden out-break of a blue glowing condition among people who live or work near the train wreck site. If you glow blue, we want you! Please report to the Hos-pital at once! If you glow a dull blue, ask for Admissions. If you glow a bright blue, go directly to Pathology.

Lawyer Needed
I need a lawyer because I want to sue Dan Quayle. He still hasn't paid me for my dad's comics. Now my dad is so angry that I sold his comics without him knowing it, and didn't get any money, and

I've been grounded for a month and lost my allowance for the next twenty-two years. My dad's paying for this ad, though. Write Jimmy, Box 17, The Herald

*Read By the Light of Yourself.
Glowing blue? Have you switched off the light at night, and read by the light of yourself?*

There is a Great Reason why so many of us are chosen to turn blue and glow like beacons to our fellow human beings.

Come join with us and eat the chocolate ants of peace.

We proclaim the Age of Pseudo-Harmonic Convergence. Either the End or the Beginning is at hand--we are not sure which, yet.

Write or phone us so we can come to your house and talk to you about this for hours in person! Phone 555-1212 now.

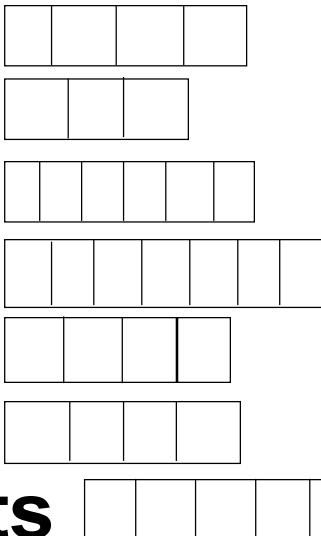
Do not wait because otherwise we will have to come and get you, and we will.

The Committee To Drag You and Everyone else Into the Age of PseudoHarmonic Convergence, Box 63, The Herald.

Rear End World's Greatest Word Tumble

by Dan Quayle

iegv
nda
nywett
oadsrlI
seh'
arle
pradeeets



*Complete the Word Tumble properly, or at least try.
Don't worry about getting them all correct, I'll still take your entry fee.
Then enter your probably winning Word Tumble solution
in the Dan Quayle Word Tumble Contest.
Entry fee \$25, enter as many times as you like, really.
Send cheques, cash is better, to Dan Quayle.*

Dear Herald:

We wrote in for this information Dan Quayle had about getting rich and the secrets of the universe, for \$25.

What we got back in the mail was a booklet with a star chart, and advice to put ads like the original one in other papers. This was not what we had in mind, and we want my money back!

Sincerely,
Kelly and Bev Grey

Dan replies:

A lot of you have sent me money, and then most of you have written letters like this one. I have given each of you what I promised. I honestly feel I have delivered, and it is not my fault if you want to send me money. I am sorry for what is a minor inconvenience to you, but it is very important to me.

If only the provincial government hadn't started all those video lottery terminals in bars and hotels. It is like a million small casinos all over town.

I wish I had not lost all that

money, but I have, and I can not seem to stop. And the government keeps advertising the casinos, and everywhere I go there are video lottery terminals.

I have a lot of debts to pay back, and I need more money. If only I could get more money then I could pay you back. Could you send me more money so I can send you more money?

*The Winnipeg Weekly Herald
by Victor Schwartzman
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This is a work of fiction.*