

Merry Christmas?!

Mayor Sues Herald!



by Gordon Stone
Herald Staff

Mayor David Schwartzman is suing *The Herald*! We received the legal papers a few days ago. There are many

pages, the print is small.

To start, he wants an injunction to prevent *The Herald* from publishing any more articles about him until the main defamation law suit is settled.

This would be an astonishing assault on freedom of the press if it were not for the fact that I have already admitted publicly that I did defame him.

Please see *Gordo sinks us*,
Inside 1

FREE

FREE

The Winnipeg Weakly Herald

All the news that fits
in six small pages

Issue 8, December 26, 1999

Ho ho ho! Christmas sucks
and so does this Collective!

The Ugly Truth About Phillips

by Ruth Schwartzman
Herald Staff

It brings this reporter no joy to write a investigative expose about a colleague. But her colleague appears to have gone way past professional boundaries in his quest for-- for what? does he even know himself?

Readers of *The Herald* will know that our first issue carried an article by Phillips Slothead about AAA Acme Incorp and its ties to organized crime. Ever since, Phillips has been plagued by mysterious incidents, apparently from a vengeful mob.

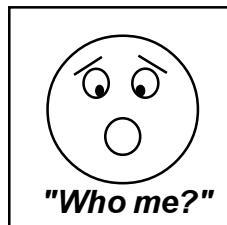
Two days ago, Donna May of the TransManitoba Credit Union called me. She was

concerned about false reporting in *The Herald*.

She stated Phillips is aware that his financial problems stem from unpaid overdrafts which predate AAA Acme. The Credit Union had to ob-

tain a court order, due to non-payment of debts.

Apart from the less-than-accurate reporting about his finances, Phillips also reported that his car tires had
Please see *The Truth*, Inside 1



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Martial Law In Train Wreck Site

Martial law has been declared within a ten square block area of the site of the train derailment on November 13, 1999. This area has been formally evacuated and only authorized personnel are allowed entry. Police and Armed Forces personnel are patrolling the area. Unauthorized personnel will be arrested on sight if on site. People refusing to cooperate with the Police and Armed Forces may be shot, hopefully just in the leg or something that doesn't hurt too much, like on tv.

The Truth About Phillips

continued

been repeatedly slashed. But when this reporter phoned the police, they advised that tire slashing had been a general problem for about two weeks in the neighbourhood. Phillips' tires *were* slashed--but so were many others'.

The slashers have since been caught. As police expected, the thrill seekers with too much time on their hands were seniors.

Take the message on his door: *Try writing more articles on AAA, smart guy!*

Two young men have now been charged with vandalism. But far from being enemies, they were fans. They thought they had written an encouraging message to their hero.

The break-in at his apartment: did it actually happen? There were no witnesses, and no one has been apprehended.

When confronted with all this information by this reporter at a subcommittee meeting, Phillips refused to provide any significant additional information.

Phillips acknowledges he has had financial problems in the past. But he claims to have resolved those.

He also said he knew about neighbours' tires being slashed, but says his were slashed more times, and that the mob used the seniors' thrill spree as a cover.

Gordo sinks us

continued

So he has a point.

And it is true that I did not stop. I apologized and went right on defaming him. But then he "could not" stop the



Guess who?

This reporter leaves it to our readers to decide about Phillips and the truth of his reporting. This reporter will say one thing, however. Phillips is many things, but this reporter never would have thought *liar* was one of them. He may act like a jerk much of the time, but he always appeared to have principles, at least of some sort. And just when this reporter was beginning to feel sympathetic towards him!

budget cuts which created so many problems at my unemployed help centre. He had alternatives. I did not have to lay off staff. Laying off staff was the beginning of the end for me as a manager. They turned against me, after that.

But I am not exactly being mature, am I? At least, that's what Terry says.

Lately I have been sitting in my pyramid, wondering what I have gotten myself into and how to get myself out of it. The pyramid is easy. I step in, step out. Life is harder.

Perhaps I am blaming my troubles as a manager on Mayor Schwartzman. There were problems with my funding proposal.

And what Terry infers, that I started this newspaper with the unconscious desire to simply get back at Mayor Schwartzman, well. True, I could have started another social service. But that discounts all those little newspapers I made when I was a kid, and my journalism minor in college.

I'm not sure what to think any more.

The reality of my actions has hit me--right in the wallet. I did not have anything left over from the lottery, and now legal fees have already started to eat into my savings.

CQM was not designed for all this--people.

The Winnipeg Weakly Herald Workers' Collective

Minutes of Meeting December 24, 1998



by Mike Hanchuk
Herald Staff

Hear ye, hear ye! For verily the first time in recent Herald history, all are agreed that Mike, i.e. myselfishness, shall herewith writeth oureth minutesth. Myco-workers are sicketh of the fiasco. And I didn't even have to promise to behave myselfishness!

Phillips said that for the moment he does not want to say anything, but just listen to each of us.

I stuck in my two cents. Was it deliberate? Ruth used that word so I asked her what proof she had. She provided a copy of the court order leading to

What is going on between them?

Dan served coffee and went back into the kitchen.

Gordo asked Phillips to answer the charges. He replies that he wrote what happened. He is shocked, hurt and confused. He rejected being put on probation.

Then Gordo says: first, any decision about employment contracts is his, not the Collective's. He signed the contracts and pays the co-workers, so he's the one who decides if a contract has been broken. *Sounds like a horizontal democracy to me, eh?*

Second, he wants to be certain Phillips has a reasonable chance to respond.

Then Dan comes in with lunch, and we all eat. After that we all look at each other, and nobody wants to say anything, so the meeting breaks up and we all go home, resolving nothing.

At least we did not vote to discuss it next week. Nobody talked about the law suit.

1. Agenda

Our girl Ruth comes through with a major item. She says we should discuss it now, before we talk about anything else, and it is:

2. Phillips

The short version is that while everything that Phillips reported may have happened, it may not have been how he reported it.

At this point, Dan left the meeting to make coffee.

Ruth said his articles are at the very least deliberately misleading. This violates the code of ethics laid out in our employment contracts. Ruth believed Phillips should be put on probation.

his accounts being frozen and credit cards destroyed.

Phillips of course must have known about the court order when he wrote the article about his financial problems. And that, Ruth concluded, made his articles deliberately misleading.

Seems weak and incomplete to me. Something else is going on here. But what?

Phillips v. The Truth



**I'll fight the truth
any day! Anyone
know where I can
find the truth?
Where do I look?**

Local TV Drama a Disaster?

Loving the Flatness of Blind Alleys
Directed by James McElroy



The drama isn't the only flat one around here!

by Terry Bird
Herald Staff

This critic has been dealt a lot of criticism for not criticising any art that is local. As I once explained, if I focused on an anonymous Hollywood product, I could serve my critical function and yet not publicly hurt any artist I know.

A lot of you wrote to say I was chicken. Gordon said the same. It led to some rather ugly arguments between us. Led me to wonder where my support was! Like compared to the support I give Gordo, for example.

Not that anyone but myself

could really understand the position I am in. Who else has lived and breathed the local arts scene her entire life and could destroy a friendship of years by writing one brief critical review?

Yes, I know that such problems are part of being a critic. But before you condemn me, like Gordon seems to, know that I never wanted to be a critic. I'm *The Herald's* critic because being a co-worker was the only job I could get. I am an artist and a curator. This is a small city, and

you don't cheese off certain people and expect to keep working.

But James McElroy has been pressing me to review his locally produced tv drama. In fact, we once lived together.

I am prepared to be critical. As you can tell from the headline. This will be a real test.

However, I appear to have run out of space, so I will do the review next week.

At least, this week I set the stage!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Last issue there was no comic strip. If you can't print news at least print comics! No offence, but the comics are the best part of the paper. And you don't have any

Sincerely
Alice Levine

Sorry, says Mike. But the co-workers' absorption with themselves was so bad last week that not only did we not have room for news articles, cultural events, or unknown stuff for us like a book review (if it doesn't come on film or

tape, Terry's not interested), but after all of our minutes, there was no room left over for my comic strip! Some would say I am getting bitter about my co-workers.

I respond by saying, what do you mean 'getting'?

The Adventures of Super Herald Man

by Mike Hanchuk

Super Herald Man is surrounded by lies!

Phillips is honest!

Dan does his best!

Ruth has no hidden motives!

Terry means well!

We are an alternative!

We publish news!

POW!

POW!

POW!

POW!

He fights the lies with his super "Collective" Strength!

Oh, I am alone and I'm sure I should feel bad!

Super Herald Man beat back the lies! But with the lies gone, there is no one left in the Collective!

Good Sports at The Herald?



by Rich Ludwick
Freelance non-co-worker

Getting a sports column off the ground has proven a lot harder than I would ever have believed. It is not that I have nothing to say. There are plenty of issues, and enough sports events to fill a hundred columns for a hundred years, which I guess is pretty much what most sports reporting feels like.

This is my third sports column for this newspaper, and somehow it feels like I had to move heaven and earth to get this far.

After my first column in the second issue, there was not another sports column until issue 7. The delay was *not* caused by my *not* writing. I provided plenty of copy. But something *always* seemed to happen to keep my copy out of this newspaper.

For example, in the third issue there was the coverage of Dan Weston being in a coma. By the way, read much about Dan lately? I know the co-workers are self-involved, but why can't they follow up a key local news story?

Anyway, I suppose if you wanted hard news you would not have picked up *this* paper to begin with.

For the fourth issue, Mike said she lost my copy. She might have lost it. She seems very neat, but all the other co-workers are constantly going in and out of her office, taking papers and leaving papers. My column could have gone anywhere. I understood that.

In the fifth issue, I was squeezed out to make room for a ~~second version of the minutes of a meeting!~~ In the sixth issue, *everything* was minutes!!

~~Last issue, I told Gordon I~~ was thinking of suing. After all, I had signed a contract to write a sports column! That must have woken somebody up, because suddenly space was available this week.

I had thought all of these problems were resolved, but when I walked in this week, I found the co-workers embroiled in yet another crisis, this time about Phillips, whom I must say is not exactly the

most personable young man I have ever met.

When I played with the Blue-bombers, we were a team. We trained together, worked together, performed together. We had mutual goals and a mutual commitment to achieve those goals. The co-workers, on the other hand, would not know a mutual goal from a bag of grapes.

Of course, not being an official co-worker, I am not invited to any of their meetings. But I spoke to Gordon about teamwork being the driving force behind sports, and how we could apply that to the Collective. I thought it was a good management idea, since Gordon is so involved with management plans. He said thanks.

Mike has made it clear she is not interested in sports, Ruth and Dan and Phillips are rarely around, Terry could care less. There really isn't anyone on the Collective I can talk with! **Next week: Maybe some scores!**

Or Not!

Vive La Difference Contest! **Find the Different Picture!**

by Dan Quayle
Entertainment Editor



Mike came up with this puzzle. One of these pictures is different from the others. She calls it the Mayor's "courtroom face". Find that face and you might possibly win some kind of prize!



Instructions:

What a contest!

One of the above six photos is somehow different from the rest. The difference is very small, so it won't be easy to see at first or maybe at all!

The first person who correctly identifies the different picture, and what that differ-

ence is, and then submits their contest entry, properly written on the proper form (printed on this page), ***along with a contest entry fee of \$25***, may very well win a prize! The prize will be really good, and I expect to know what it is real soon!

Note: you must include the \$25, and you must use the form on this page!

Send all completed entries to Dan Quayle at ***The Herald!***

***The Winnipeg Weekly Herald
by Victor Schwartzman
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