

Depositions!!

by Gordon Stone
Herald Staff

Who would have thought it ever would have gone this far?

I certainly have learned from my mistakes in running The Herald so far. I have admitted them publicly. Well, almost entirely pub-

licly. I have certainly admitted the ones about vengeful Mayor Collins.

If only Mayor Schwartzman would learn from his mistakes as, well, easily as I learn from mine. Perhaps I should buy him a pyramid.

Two days ago I was sitting in the office of Mayor



Dilbert

Schwartzman lawyers, my own lawyer present, answering their questions. As I have on these pages, I freely admitted I was wrong. I did note the Mayor has often been rosey-cheeked at public gatherings, and that there have been other newspa-

Please see Can you believe this? Inside 4.

FREE

The Winnipeg Weakly Herald

FREE

All the news that fits in six small pages

Issue 11, January 16, 2000

If the chicken had not gotten on the wrong side of the road to begin with, it would not have had to cross the road later

Why did Chauncey

by Ruth Schwartzman
and Phillips Slothead
Herald Staffers

The forgotten man in the short history of this community newspaper is Chauncey Witherspoon. He was an informant Phillips used in an AAA Acme story. Shortly after the article was published, Witherspoon was found dead, an apparent suicide.

He was shot dead in the head, my friends. One hand still gripped the smoking pistol. Poor Chauncey lay on the bed, face up, fully clothed. A cryptic note nearby, in his handwriting: "I'm finally out of here."

Police report little progress in finding evidence of anything other than suicide. Did Witherspoon take his own life? If so, why? And what, if anything, did *The Herald* and



Witherspoon die?

or AAA Acme Incorp. have to do with it?

To give our readers their bang for the buck, The Slothead and "The Reporter" have joined forces. After the last Collective meeting, we sat up late, talking, and shared stuff.

Did Phillips' articles play a role in Witherspoon's death? This reporter believes he knew of the the accident that nearly killed Dan Weston, her ex-husband. Phillips and this reporter

Please see Can you believe they're working together?, Inside 3.

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Martial Law Continues

Martial law was proclaimed during the evacuation of the train wreck site and surrounding area. To ensure public order, martial law continues in the evacuation zone. Armed Forces are empowered to shoot looters on sight, especially if the looters try something tricky like running away.

The Winnipeg Weakly Herald Workers' Collective

*Minutes of meeting
January 14, 2000*



**By Mike Hanchuk
Herald Staff**

Dan and I arrived at about the same time. I tidied up, as usual, while Dan made coffee, as usual. Ruth and Phillips arrived half an hour later, then His Gordosity and Her Terryness came down and the meeting kicked off.

Agenda

Last week's minutes. Process issues: Gordo proposes less meetings, more reporting--adapting CQM. Martial law and evacuation. Dan.

1. Last week's minutes

Reviews of last week's minutes were definitely mixed.

Terry liked them as an arts piece, but nix as minutes. Gordo felt they were too personal. Ruth said they were interesting as art but were a personal violation. Phillips said he *likes* being personally violated, and Ruth shot him a look. Dan mumbled something.

So back to regular minutes.

2. Process

Gordo says he at first was

going to wait on this, but he's excited. CQM is starting to pay off. We have developed working relationships. But Gordo worries that spending more than half our time in meetings is no longer good.

He wants us out on the street. *Everyone* else argues against that. Even Terry likes the meetings (is it that we all like to get paid to sit around and talk most of the time?)

Decision: co-workers defer to sub-committee for review. Gordo, his motion in effect defeated, is angry.

3. Martial law and evacuation

Gordo reports there were no requests we house anyone during the evacuation (he'd put our name on a list). Potential guests probably decided they'd be better off living with toxic waste.

4. Dan

Dan gave us all a list his contest winners. Dan also showed support letters from readers. A lot of readers sym-

pathized with him. And with respect to money, Dan had been completely on the up and up all along. Including Jimmy Benson, whom Dan also re-paid, with interest and a classic comic.

There is an awkward silence after Dan tells us all this and Gordo confirms. I apologise to Dan. We hug.

Paid Advertisement

RCMP Reward

\$25,000 For Information
Three missing, presumed dead, from campsite near Pinawa nuclear power facility. Allan Ellanson, his wife and baby are missing. Their trailer was ripped inside out, in what appears to have been a crime of violence.

Their daughter, seven, is the sole survivor. She is unharmed but suffers from euphoria, and remains so, except for once, when she shouted, "Them!"

Ellanson was an FBI Officer from Chicago, on extended vacation. RCMP is offering a reward of \$25,000 (U.S.) for information leading to solution of this apparent crime. Phone 555-1212.

Inside 2

Critiquing the critic



James McElroy

James McElroy stormed into my office and shouted he finally had enough! He threw a crumpled ball of paper at me. It was last week's *Herald*. My negative review of his tv drama.

He said I had treated him unfairly. In three issues of the paper I called his drama a *disaster*, a *stinker* and a *blind alley*. Without actually reviewing his piece. And when I finally did review it, I was too negative and blunt, and it was an ice pick through his chest.



Terry Bird

I offered him a seat, he offered me a lawsuit.

This is exactly what I have always feared with this job.

I did not handle the review very well. I had avoided reviewing it. This was what I have been trying to avoid.

But Jim *insisted*. I told him what might happen if I did not...appreciate...his work. My review would be honest. He insisted. *Insiste d!* Men!

So I eventually bit the bullet and wrote my review of *Loving the Flatness of Blind Alleys* (one of the *stupidest* titles I've ever heard).

I tried to be nice. Readers familiar with my style saw I was holding back. But even so, it was an honest review of a drama I found dramaless.

James, big on insisting, now insists we print the following:

But even Terry should agree that having a negative headline about my drama in three separate issues of the paper is unfair. It was a campaign to attract attention to the final negative review. What have I ever done to you, Terry? If you don't like my work, ok, but write the review and get it over with. I have been dragged through the mud.

Moreover, Terry's opinion is not necessarily the opinion of other critics, whose views are particularly striking by their absence in her review.

Loving the Flatness of Blind Alleys won a Franny in Toronto, and a Zoftig at the Lemburg Film Festival. The Toronto Star loved it. See for yourself on Cable 11 next Tuesday night at 8.

Okay. Control has now returned to the planet Earth.

James? Hello? You insisted I review your work. My opinion was honest.

It is not my job to include other critics' work.

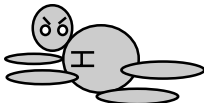
By the way, James' drama did win two awards. It won a Canadian Film Producers' *Franny* for *Most Creative Application For A Government Grant*. A Zoftig was given to every entry. And *The Star* had only a three line mention, where the columnist referred new Canadian film-makers to James for information on how to get government grants.

Readers: James has asked you to watch the drama. So be it. Check it out, and write back. I will fairly select out and publish in this column representative comments.

The Adventures of Super Herald Man

by Mike Hanchuk

Super HeraldMan hears people in distress! But he is late for a Herald meeting! What will he do?

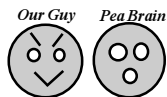


Aieeee!

Please!

Help!

With a truly superhuman strength of will, Super HeraldMan splits himself in two! Most of him goes into Man A, who rescues everyone in distress! Man B, who has only a tiny brain, goes to the meeting.



Lord save us from long captions!

At The Herald Collective, Pea Brain finds his true home. The co-workers bond with Pea Brain and make it a co-worker.



Brilliant! Why didn't I think of that? You're the smartest one around here!

Why is Chauncey dead?

continued

have decided to team up, to work together to track this story down!

Chancey was physically short and mentally sharp. Accountant by day, chess addict by night, a deceptive man who pinned you with his eyes. Little got past him.

Witherspoon takes the risk

When what he had seen inside *AAA Acme* grew into a cancer inside him, he reached out. Afraid to go to the police, he called Phillips. He hoped to quietly feed Phillips information, putting the brakes on the toxic waste danger without *AAA Acme* ever being the wiser. Did that plan fall apart?

The evidence:

The apartment door was locked. Witterspoon lay face up on the bed. Rod in hand. His gun. Only his fingerprints on it. Powder burns on his hand. Suicide note, "I'm finally out of here" on the night table by the bed. Estimated time of death: Thursday eve.

The interviews

This reporter spoke with the caretaker of the small apartment block. His apartment was above hers. She remembers hearing what she thought was

a car backfire Thursday night, around 10:30.

Whose footsteps?

The landlady had deep dark eyes which had seen it all, or at least more than enough. What did she see that night? Nothing. But she *heard* footsteps coming down the stairs a few minutes later. Did she hear footsteps *before* the car backfired? Nana knew nada.

No other witnesses

The two other tenants in the block were both out at the time he died. As a sidebar, we looked into the warning painted on Phillips' door. The two young men turned out to be thirteen and fourteen.

They had painted "Try writing more articles on *AAA*, smart guy!" on my door. Why? They said they were fans of The Slothead. Fair enough. The Slothead can certainly understand that. It was all one of life's misunderstandings!

The mystery man

This reporter then asked the boys where they got the *paint*. They did not answer. The



paint used on Phillips' door was blue and glowed. The boys broke down. They said they were given the paint and paid to write the words on Phillips' door.

The Slothead was shocked by this revelation. Who paid them? The boys said it was a stranger, who told them it was a joke. He gave them each fifty dollars. The boys were afraid to tell the police. They were not fans of The Slothead. In fact, they said they thought The Slothead was a jerk! Ouch!

Where now?

The police are testing the floors in Witherspoon's apartment to see if there is evidence of anyone else having been there that night. Chances are slim of finding anything new at this late date.

We now have two hot leads remaining: Chancey's personal life and professional lives. The Slothead will nail his personal, and Ruthie will go after the professional. And the two of us will then take a crack at *AAA Acme* itself. Stay tuned, readers!

Please be advised: more is to come!

Inside 4

Can you believe

this?

continued

pers which have published articles about it. Only, I was blunt. Blunt, and wrong.

Mayor Schwartzman was not there, of course. Not that he should have been or that I blame him in any way for what I have done. I have admitted my "crimes" in public. What else is left?

What is left is a settlement. Perhaps a further public apology. There is no need for a lot of lawyers, for that. I have been trying to contact Mayor Schwartzman directly about resolving his dispute now, but

he will not take my calls.

Meanwhile I continue to take full responsibility at home, doing everything Terry has worked out for us. I really appreciate having that schedule on the fridge, it makes everything that much simpler.

Finally I have had that breakthrough. Finally I have changed. Finally I will have a new life.

But it will be a while before I have hot lunches again, courtesy of Mayor Schwartzman!

Classified Ads

Garage Sayle

Videos made by John Sayle in his garage. Write Box Secacus 7, The Herald.

Lights Off

Thanks to all of you who wrote to request my services. And double thanks to those I had the privilege to serve. It was a great experience to glow blue and provide light in a home. I felt as if I was part of a family. Of course, I no longer glow blue, and so my family is gone and my career has dimmed. But thank you all, the experience has been enlightening. Box 1313, The Herald.

Vandalism Reward

\$2,000 REWARD for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for ripping out a rail freight car's side and stealing forty tons of sugar. If you have information, phone 555-1212.

Public Notice

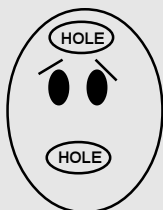
The law suit against Dan Quayle has been withdrawn. The complainants were satisfied with the explanation provided. Many of the contest winners came forward on their own, once they read about the suit. They said Quayle gave them good prizes. He has also settled generously with Jimmy Benson.

Louis Offsink

DVD System for sale

Have bought and sold my reel to reel, 8 tracks & cassettes, laser disc player, Beta, VHS. Now selling DVD and going internet, accessing any movie ever made through web sites. At last I've found the right system: total availability and excellent quality! My search is over. I have really learned from this! Box 1313.

Life At The Herald



Gordo

Gordo's Brain



[Note: No Connection]

Gordo's Mouth



Mike

Long Term Funding for Glowing Blue Study

St. Bernadette's Hospital is pleased to announce it was awarded \$5.2 million to continue a long term study into the possible health impact of the train wreck contamination. Dr. Sybil Fagin and Dr. Michael Barden PhD will lead the study team. Although many individuals gradually have stopped glowing blue, the long term health effects are not known. The study will track 273 individuals for the rest of their lives, whether they like it or not.

The World's Greatest Multiple Choice Quiz

by Dan Quayle,
Entertainment Editor



Welcome, fellow puzzlers, to Dan's Multiple Choice Exam! I remember sitting in that little Prairie town, in a little school, writing big exams. It is not my favourite memory. I swore if I ever wrote my own multiple choice exam, the correct answers would be clear for once!

NOTE: This week's feature is not a contest. I know a lot of you have questions about my puzzle pages and prizes. I understand. If you take this exam, you will have your answers.

1. Where was Dan Quayle born?

- a New York
- b Toronto
- c Lemberg, Saskatchewan

2. How much money did Dan's family have?

- a Comfortable
- b Some, anyway
- c What's money?

3. Dan's father's name?

- a Ernest?
- b Clint?
- c Dan's parents were divorced before he was two. Dad took off and never came back.

4. What job(s) did Dan's mother have, to support them?

- a Waitress
- b Shoe store clerk
- c Furniture worker
- d All of above, at same time.

5. Dan told Gordon he had successfully done puzzles. Was Dan telling the truth?

- a Almost completely
- b Mostly
- c Total, complete lie

6. Dan also claimed a good freelance career in puzzles.

- a You've got to be kidding
- b Not likely
- c Want to buy a bridge?

7. Dan used to do puzzles for his amusement only

- a He doodled them at first
- b Then they reflected his life
- c His puzzles were like a diary
- d He wrote many, but never sent them off

8. Why did Dan never send the puzzles off?

- a He was shy
- b He knew they were no good, at least not professional.
- c Mostly, his puzzles were always so *personal*

9. Has Dan used the money from entry fees to finally pay off his gambling debts?

- a You hit the jackpot
- b You drew aces
- c Your horse came in
- d You bet

10. Has Dan given prizes?

- a He handed Gordon and the lawyer a list of the winners
- b *Every* contest had a winner
- c Twenty percent of the money collected in each contest went for a prize. Prizes averaged several hundred dollars each. Dan used the rest to pay off his gambling debts. Readers have been kind in writing to support Dan.

11. Has the lawsuit been resolved?

- a They were good people
- b They just needed information from Dan
- c He just never thought to publish the prize winners
- d He agrees to publish any future winners' names
- e Yes

12. What will Dan do now?

- a Work harder on puzzles
- b Has almost three more years on *The Herald* so money is not an immediate problem
- c Think about his life

13. Has Dan joined Gamblers Anonymous?

- a Why?
- b Not yet
- c Gambling under control
- d He'll join tomorrow

14. What puzzle will I see next week?

- a A really good one
- b No great contest
- c Thanks for your support

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