

Dedicated to Akira Kurosawa--Mike



The Herald Worker's Collective

Minutes

December 11, 1999

by Gordon Stone

Herald Staff

Last week *The Herald* featured *two* sets of minutes: Mike wrote her usual set, but Terry wrote an alternate version.

At our next Collective meet-

ing, we discussed the two sets of minutes. In the spirit of true democracy, we decided that for this issue we would *each* write a set of minutes! Talk about horizontal democracy!

That explains this issue, which does not contain any news articles, but only has different versions of minutes of our last meeting. Some might

Please See Gordo, Inside 1

FREE

FREE

The Winnipeg Weakly Herald



All the news that fits in six small pages

Issue 6, December 13, 1999

We rush to the news even as we rush to judgement

The Herald Worker's Collective

Minutes

December 11, 1999

by Terry Bird

Herald Staff

If pigs can fly, they can also write minutes. But they're still pigs. So look out below! Mike's latest version of Collective life is flying over your head right now!

Mike's minutes are so *not* See Terry if you have nothing better to do, Inside 2

The Herald Worker's Collective

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December 11, 1999

by Mike Hanchuk

Herald Staff

As usual, the Collective slowly gathered on the main floor, spilling coffee on the carpet while listening to his Gordoness wake up, perform

Please see me, Mike, Inside 3

This is a busy page, isn't it? As befits the busy little bees we are!

The Herald Worker's

Minutes

December 11, 1999

by Phillips Slothead

Herald Staff

T.S. will write minutes but Why see Phillips?

The Herald Worker's Collective

Minutes

December 11, 1999

by Ruth Schwartzman

Herald Staff

Dan Weston is alert, alive and back with us! He came out of his coma two days ago. This reporter was at his bedside, reading to him, when he opened his eyes and looked at this reporter and said "Hi Please see Ruth, Inside 4



Glowing Blue?

St. Bernadette Hospital Wants You!

HOSPITAL STUDY of people near the AAA train wreck. To date, 257 people glow blue. If you glow blue and have not yet seen a doctor, please phone Admissions now. If you have glowed blue for more than one week, phone our Pathology Department now at 555-1212 (call immediately! Do Not Wait!) Free pickup by people wearing metal suits and two layers of gloves and boots!

Gordo

continued



say that with this issue *The Herald* has established a new low in public embarrassment. Some might wonder how a community newspaper can have an issue which has no articles about the community. Almost all of our articles--*increasingly*--are about ourselves.

I reply that we need to learn about ourselves before we can report about the community. The current content of our paper is completely relevant, in the sense that we are still learning about ourselves.

All last week it was tense. We had worked together for only a few months but it seemed like a few years. You name it, we've endured it: all the normal workplace tensions, compounded by personal tragedies and changing personal

relationships.

This is not a problem for the Three Minute Manager (TM). This one requires the Three Year Manager! How could my *CQM* management program be so wrong this?

1. My Agenda: *Improve my management programme!*

There is politicking, infighting and manoeuvring, but no decision-making. In fact, we excel at avoiding decisions.

It is becoming possible that the meetings-oriented management process I devised, using over half of our work time, is part of our problem.

Our process involves sub-committees preparing recommendations and reporting back to the Collective. The committee reviews the recommendation and then makes its




own recommendation about the recommendation to the Collective, and then at the weekly Collective meeting the recommendations are voted on.

It is true that the meeting cycle does not leave much time for reporting. I agree that, for a newspaper, no time for reporting is a flaw.

We are not enabling each other. We are disabling. We need to undisable by improving communication.

A retreat could be productive. We could blue-sky. Perhaps we do not have enough meetings. We could have a retreat, except there's no money left to pay for it. My lottery winnings have been soaked up by this newspaper, and I have less cash than ever!

The Adventures of Super Herald Man by Mike Hanchuk

<p>Zzzzzz</p>  <p>The Collective</p> <p>"Journalism is sacred." "I can smell a story." "I love to work hard, and do all the research necessary." "That 500 words I turn in takes a week to write." "Where is my lunch?"</p>	<p>Wakes up</p> <p>KABOOM!</p>  <p>The Collective</p> <p>"I always wanted to be a journalist." "This is my dream job." "No story could ever escape me." "If there are these stories we are missing I'd feel so blue." "Who ate my lunch?"</p>	 <p>A bomb! I fly off to investigate!</p> <p>"When it comes to tracking down a story, I have the nose of a bloodhound." "I smell like a bloodhound." "I have the brains of a bloodhound." "I lick my butt like a bloodhound, speaking of which, who ate my lunch?"</p>
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Terry

continued, over on the left

what happens. In the last *Herald* I wrote a *proper version of the minutes* so we would have *real minutes*. Readers saw what Mike did to those minutes!

Herald readers will find this *very hard to believe*, but my co-workers had almost as many disagreements with *my version* of what happened as they did with *Mike's!* Who would have known? So we each agreed to publish our own version of the latest minutes in this issue. Here are mine:

Then we meet Friday at ten, when she's had about three hours' sleep, and proceed to tear apart her work. Then we all leave and Mike again works

3. Poor Gordon

The guy deserves better than he gets. He lives in a glorified attic. We hear the co-workers downstairs, they hear us. Yes, *us*. Do you hear that world? *Us!*

We have our ups and downs, but we are awe!

4. My Column

I listen to the criticism in a positive and receptive manner. Unfortunately, the criticism is usually stupid.

I hope to eventually educate my co-workers.

1. Agenda

Mike's editorializing. Gordon about privacy. Co-workers mindlessly attack my column. Dan's gambling and puzzles. Phillips moving in. Ruth moving on.

2. Mike Amok

Mike probably works harder than any of us. Often we hand in copy Thursdays at 5 pm, the absolute last deadline. That forces Mike to work until 5 am Friday, to make it all fit.

by herself all night. Last minute decisions are made with Gordo, who lives here and is available. However, Mike pretty much does what she wants.

However, her job problems are no excuse for ridiculing her co-workers. We would make her stop if we could, but her contract gives her final say on layout.

Decision: monitor situation.

5. Dan

As for his ridiculous puzzle pages, ironically his puzzles are the most popular part of the paper.

We vote to continue the discussion next week.

6. Phillips Move In

No way.

7. Ruth

She has a lot on her mind. *We agree to leave her alone.*

**The Collective, or
Going in Circles
(by Mike)**

I'm Ruth, I hate myself & don't want to be here

I'm Gordo and circles are my life

I'm Dan and I'm puzzled.

I'm Phillips and the only thing I know about a circle is the jerk

I'm Terry and I like making every one go in circles

I'm Mike and I'm dizzy, being in all these circles!

Inside 3

A sea of sighs looking at her looking at someone else

Mike,

continued



his toilet and eventually amble down the stairs. Only this time there is more noise than usual, and when Gordo comes a-amblin', Terry is on his arm.

Okay, they *are* a cute couple. Although saying it makes me queasy.

1. Agenda:

Me and everything I do. Gordo's privacy. Terry's columns all about lousy U.S. movies. Dan. Phillips still wants to move in. Absence of Ruth .

2. Me

To be fair, every one of them has a story to tell: articles published with paragraphs deleted...putting some stories in smaller type...my wise cracks. They object to my saying the entire paper is my column. And they point out that even if it was, a journalist's job is to put down outsiders, not their own.

I tell them I am a Greek chorus, a voice which might stimulate my co-workers into getting off their Collective butts and do some actual journalism!

Decision: keep talking about it, what else?

3. Gordo's lack of privacy

Whining.

4. Terry's Columns

All Terry writes about are Hollywood movies. She doesn't even write about good movies, just lousy ones. Although she is supposed to cover the cultural side of this city, she never writes about plays or concerts or socials. Instead she writes about *Star Trek!*

Terry responds by saying she wrote about this in her column last week. She did not want to criticize artists she knew. *Well excuse me, Terry, but you asked for the job!*

We discuss it some more and, surprise, we will talk next week.

5. Dan

We all express concerns, yadda yadda yadda. Dan keeps going to the washroom, then gets our orders for lunch, then spends a lot of time looking out the window.

Nothing is resolved, and we agree, after he cleans up lunch, to talk more next week. Maybe if he was not such a good cook....

6. Phillips

He wallows in his problems. *No way he moves in.*

7. Ruth

The co-workers have enough sense to congratulate Ruth that Dan has come out of his coma. She's barely here, preoccupied with Dan and the kids.

We agreed to lay off her.

8. We give up.

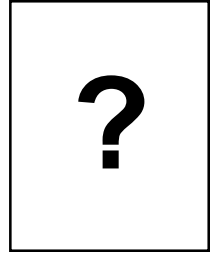
I'd like to talk about where the paper is going, but by now all they want is to go home, including me, frankly. This is how every Collective meeting ends: resignation and the need for alcohol.



Mayor Schwartzman does drink, and to excess. He is just very good at holding it. Next time you see him in public, ask to sniff his breath! Look at the sloppy grin on his face! --Gordon Stone

Ruth,

continued



honey."

This reporter wanted to grab him but was afraid he would break so she just kissed him while she cried.

Dan had returned from the dead. In a way, so had this reporter.

The doctors and nurses checked him over. He passed their medicals and seemed okay. Weak, but okay. He still has injuries, chiefly to his chest and legs, but nothing that a lot of bed rest won't cure.

He has told this reporter that as far as the accident goes, he has no idea what happened. He was collecting samples of the blue gook on the AAA Acme turkeys when one of the palletes above him collapsed.

He said he had discussed his concerns with the AAA representative who had originally contacted him about the turkeys, Tony Soprano. Dan told him he was going to have samples of the blue goop sent to a lab. The next morning, the palette collapsed on him.

This reporter contacted the police with this information.

As far as minutes of the meeting go, frankly this re-

porter has been remiss in her journalistic duties. She was in there but also in nana land. Here is what she remembers:

1. Agenda

A bit of a jolt when Terry and Gordon walk together down the stairs.

2. Mike

We're all concerned, but Dan is awake and alive, so Mike's larks don't seem to matter.

3. Gordon

He would like us to be quieter, or, better yet, not around.

4. Terry

Mike really does not like her.

5. Dan

He is not around much.

6. Phillips

We all say bad idea to his moving in. He takes it surprisingly well. I feel good even about Phillips.

7. Me

I haven't been around much.

Phillips,

continued

why?--does anyone ever read them?

1. Agenda

There were plenty of items on it, none of them of interest, except the one about T.S.

2.-6. About other people

7. Me

Here they go, kicking me when T.S. is down! His apartment has been trashed, his car vandalized, his very life threatened. His apartment is only one block outside the evacuation zone. T.S. could be glowing blue any minute! All he wants is to move in for a while until things cool out. Terry's living here more and more--no one's throwing *her* out! T.S. just wants to live in peace!

Well, they all turn T.S. down. Frankly, The Slothead knew it was a longshot. T.S. will find a way. He always does. Mostly, not always actually.

Rear End The World's Greatest Meeting Minefield Puzzle

by Dan Quayle
Entertainment Editor

Every business meeting I have ever been in, *and especially the meetings of our Collective*, has been a minefield. The wrong word, the wrong inflection, KABOOM!

So I am always afraid. I know I will put my foot in it. If you discuss issues, you have to discuss your co-workers' mistakes. That leads to hurt feelings and lots of politics. Meanwhile I'm supposed to be meeting my loan officer.

The staff are concerned about me and my puzzle page. They mean well. But the puzzles

have been getting better, and are very popular. The money I collect is properly handled.

Be that as it may, here are *my* minutes. You must go from **Agenda** to **Home Free** with the *least* number of points! Each box has points, depending on how awful a part of the meeting it is.

Send your completed puzzle to Dan Puzzle, c/o the Herald, *with your \$25 entry fee*. A prize is under advisement.

'Bye for now, Dan fans!



**Agenda
(Start)**

**Bathroom
break, 0**

Mike, 47

**Freshen
coffee, 0**

Terry, 75

Gordon, 10

**Coffee break
0**

Get everyone's lunch order, call it in, look for it out window, setup, cleanup. 00000

Remember to send in your \$25 entry fee, and also enter the contest too.

**Me
0**

Ruth, 5

**Check for
mail, 0**

Phillips, 40

I absolutely refuse to draw connecting lines between all these damn boxes!--Mike

**Home Free
(The End)**

*The Winnipeg Weekly Herald
by Victor Schwartzman
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