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Government launches plan to defend media freedom

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt has announced a new campaign by the British Government "to defend free media around the world." Speaking at the G7 summit in France on April 5, the Foreign Secretary, together with his Special Envoy on Media Freedom, the international lawyer Amal Clooney, said a high-level panel of legal experts was being formed "to counter draconian laws that hinder journalists from going about their work."

The Foreign Secretary explained: "Violence against journalists has reached alarming levels globally and we cannot turn a blind eye. The media has a crucial role to play in holding the powerful to account. There is no escaping the fact that draconian and outdated laws around the world are being used to restrict the ability of the media to report the truth."

He added that Amal Clooney's leading work on human rights meant she was "ideally placed to ensure this campaign has real impact for journalists and the free societies who depend on their work. She will use her expertise to chair a panel comprising the world's best legal minds to develop and promote legal mechanisms to prevent and reverse media abuses."



Clooney said: "I welcome the UK Government's focus on this issue at a time when journalists are being killed and imprisoned at record levels all over the world and I look forward to working on new legal initiatives that can help to ensure a more effective international response. The global campaign on media freedom aims to shine a spotlight on media abuses and reverse the trend of violence against journalists."

In July, there will be a major international conference on media freedom, co-hosted in the UK by the British and Canadian governments. This will bring together leaders from around the world to seek consensus behind the measures that can be taken to improve the protection of journalists.

Institute welcomes Cairncross Review

The conclusions of the recent Cairncross review into sustainable journalism are a welcome step in the right direction, says the Chartered Institute of Journalists.

"Dame Frances Cairncross has hit the right note by highlighting the need to underpin local journalism, while attempting to deal with the damage that online advertising drain is having in the market place," said Paul Leighton, Chairman of the Institute's Broadcasting Division. "It is essential for this to be highlighted as the industry struggles to deal with more than 240 title closures since 2005."

Consideration for tax breaks and grants are "extremely welcome", said Leighton, as is the review's recommendation that online news aggregators should be held more accountable for the news links they highlight and share. However, any initiatives designed to support the industry through this unprecedented period should be focused on the long-term, he said, to make sure there is "a viable future for the local newspaper industry as well as quality journalism".

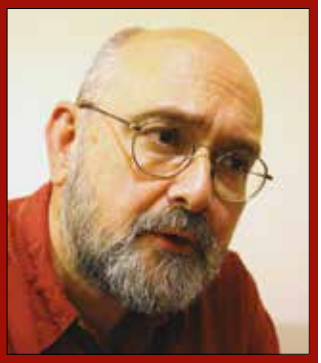
Janice Shillum Bhend, President of the CIoJ, reiterated the Institute's support for the conclusions of the review: "The findings from the Cairncross review are encouraging, and we call on the government to implement recommendations as quickly as practical. Care should be taken to make sure that any support offered to the industry does not impact impartiality and has a focus on providing long-term solutions."

Growing criticism

Facebook's pledge of millions to help train local journalists comes amid growing criticism of the company's failure to deal with fake news on its platform, and might be seen as a cynical ploy to deflect that criticism. An over-reliance on this support would be a concern when you cannot guarantee a commitment beyond the current political storm Facebook is experiencing.

"More support for training local journalists is vital," says Shillum Bhend, "but with the loss of so many local newspapers over the last decade, we must ensure there are jobs available after training. It is also crucial that any tax breaks, or regulation on social media news controls do not bring into question the independence of the industry, or free speech."

Andy Smith
Editor



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Editor's Comment

On January 31 this year, a court in Washington DC issued a judgment concerning the killing in Syria, seven years ago, of award-winning Sunday Times journalist Marie Colvin. This resulted from a civil lawsuit brought by Colvin's family. The court declared Bashar al-Assad's regime liable for Colvin's death and ordered the Syrians to pay $300m (£228m) in punitive damages. It concluded that Colvin had been targeted by the regime specifically because of her profession, "for the purpose of silencing those reporting on the growing opposition movement in the country." The judgment made clear that "the murder of journalists acting in their professional capacity could have a chilling effect on reporting such events worldwide."

Colvin, together with Rémi Ochlik, a French photojournalist, had been killed in February 2012 in a rocket attack on the media centre in the rebel-held Syrian city of Homs. Having crossed into Syria on the back of a motorcycle, ignoring the Syrian government's attempts to prevent foreign journalists from entering the country to cover the civil war, Colvin stationed herself in the western Baba Amr district of the city of Homs, and made her last broadcast on the evening of February 21, appearing on the BBC, Channel 4, CNN and ITN News via satellite phone, describing in detail the shelling and sniper attacks against civilians by Syrian forces. She said the bombardment of Homs was the worst conflict she had ever experienced.

An American citizen but based in London, Marie Colvin had worked for the Sunday Times since 1985, and had reported from numerous conflict zones around the world including Chechnya, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Libya. She lost the sight in her left eye due to a blast by a Sri Lankan Army rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) while crossing from a Tamil Tigers-controlled area to a government-controlled area, and after that she always wore an eyepatch. In East Timor, she was credited with saving the lives of 1,500 women and children from a compound besieged by Indonesian-backed forces. Refusing to abandon them, she stayed with a United Nations force, continuing to report for the Sunday Times. The besieged families were evacuated after four days.

Speaking to the media after the Washington court ruling, Colvin's sister Cathleen said: "My heart goes out to the families of the many thousands of victims of the Syrian conflict. It is my greatest hope that the court's ruling will lead to other criminal prosecutions and serve as a deterrent against future attacks on the press and on civilians. Marie dedicated her life to fighting for justice on behalf of the victims of war and ensuring that their stories were heard. This case is an extension of her legacy, and I think she'd be proud of what we achieved today."

The Syrian government is not, of course, alone in deliberately targeting journalists in order to intimidate news-gatherers and to suppress criticism and dissent. Directing military and paramilitary attacks against members of the press is one method, often under cover of conflict, as in Colvin's case. But other regimes across the Middle East routinely arrest, torture and execute Western journalists on trumped-up charges. Some readers of this Journal may recall the name of Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born British journalist, and a member of our Institute of Journalists, who worked as a freelance reporter for The Observer. While reporting from Iraq in 1989, investigating a mysterious explosion at a weapons factory, he was arrested by the Iraqi authorities and held prisoner at Abu Ghraib, where he was repeatedly beaten by the guards. There followed a secret trial in which he was accused of spying for Israel. Observer editor Donald Trelford said at the time: "Farzad Bazoft is not a spy. He is a reporter who went to do a story. He said in advance the story he was going to do. He told the Baghdad government where he wanted to go. This is not the action of a spy, this is the action of a reporter."

Bazoft was convicted of spying and was sentenced to death. Despite international appeals for clemency, he was refused permission to appeal his conviction. Farzad Bazoft was executed on March 15, 1990. In 2003, The Observer tracked down Kadem Askar, the colonel in the Iraqi intelligence service who conducted the initial interrogation of Bazoft. He admitted he knew Bazoft was innocent but claimed he was powerless to obstruct Saddam Hussein's orders to have him convicted and executed. Saddam's ordering of Bazoft's execution is confirmed in transcripts of taped meetings seized during the US invasion of Iraq.

We should remember Marie Colvin, CIoJ member Farzad Bazoft and all the other journalists who have been murdered over the years by despotic regimes such as Syria's Bashar al-Assad and Iraq's Saddam Hussein. They were honourable members of our profession and they died trying to bring us the news. We honour their sacrifice.

Andy Smith



Marie Colvin – deliberately targeted by the Assad regime in Syria in 2012.

From the President's Desk

Hacks versus 'hobbyists'



I must admit I was rather taken aback by the Editor's column in the last issue of The Journal. If I had known such snobbery existed in the Institute during the 1980s, I might never have joined!

It was Bill Tadd who introduced me to the Institute. President in the early '80s, I had known Bill from when we were both writing for Choice Magazine, a specialist publication for the over 50s, which could itself perhaps have qualified as a 'hobbyist' publication.

I became a member in defiance of the political pushiness of the NUJ which I had joined of necessity when first going into magazines in the 1960s, at a time when anything print-related was a closed shop. You joined NATSOPA and then switched to the NUJ when you became a writer. All a bit 'Catch 22', as you weren't allowed to be a journalist without becoming a member of the NUJ, but you had to work as a writer before being allowed to join, so timing was crucial, but the transition was possible. And, at the time, the Institute had a specialist Magazine Division.

Today, I would say to those who in the 1980s were snobbish deriders of 'hobbyists' that it is the specialist magazines that are actually continuing to be profitable in these difficult publishing times. Magazines work because they target their audiences so precisely.

It is possible to find a magazine about anything you are interested in, and to learn a great deal about your chosen subject, whether it's science, sewing, sailing or anything and everything in between. And these magazines still sell, unlike the glossies and the women's weeklies which are in sad and possibly terminal decline, due to lack of investment and publishing corporations who believe they can keep recycling content.

Typing pools

They force creative people like journalists to work in what amounts to 'typing pools' where they have no loyalty to, or much knowledge of, the title they are writing for, and editors are expected to edit up to four rival weekly titles at once. How can such cost-cutting practices ever result in a product with a 'heart' that people will actually want to buy?

As a well-known editor once said to me, "Magazines are special, like a wonderful box of chocolates, a real treat; you can't read an iPad in the bath." Many of my beloved magazines are now but a shadow of their former selves, I still believe they will rise again but, in any case, the B2B (Business-to-Business) and specialist titles will inevitably continue to flourish.

Now that I am President of the Chartered Institute of Journalists – and proud of it – I don't ever want to hear that magazine journalists aren't the equal of their newspaper opposites. Some years ago, I wrote and taught a pioneering post-graduate programme for the NCTJ and the PTC (Periodical Training Council) that encompassed the learning of many more skills than newspaper courses offered.

It included law, news writing, sub-editing and shorthand, of course, but also feature writing, photography and magazine design and layout, because magazine journalists need that vital extra sense of the visual to ensure the words and pictures work together on the page. They are also of course expert at predicting the 'zeitgeist', the next big thing – which I sincerely hope I am accurately foretelling here for the Magazine Industry and all those who work in it.

Janice Shillum Bhend

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Success for reporter scheme

The BBC and regional publishers have hailed the success of their Local Democracy Reporter scheme a year on from its launch.

Under the £8m a year scheme, the BBC pays for reporters employed by local publishers to cover the work of local councils and other public bodies. In its first year, the initiative has produced 54,000 public interest stories which were used on the BBC and across a range of local media news outlets. The stories include:

- A £24m health centre in Trafford, Manchester that will never be used and will cost £7m to turn into offices.
- A council in Leicestershire that had to hand back £900,000 paid to them by housing developers as the money had gone unspent for too long.
- A series of "near misses" from falling building materials at schools in Edinburgh – including three at a school where a pupil was killed by a collapsing wall.

The journalists are funded by the BBC as part of its latest Charter commitment but are employed by regional news organisations. At present 144 Local Democracy Reporters have been allocated to 59 news organisations in England, Scotland and Wales, and the initiative will be extended to Northern Ireland shortly.

Public service

These organisations range from a radio station to online media companies and established regional newspaper groups. Local Democracy Reporters cover top-tier local authorities and other public service organisations.

To be awarded the Local Democracy Reporter contracts, the successful news organisations had to pass stringent criteria which included financial standing and a strong track record of relevant journalism in the area they were applying to cover.

Stories written by the democracy reporters are shared with more than 800 media organisations that have signed up to be part of the Local News Partnerships scheme.

Breakthrough on journalism FOI rights at Strasbourg



European Court of Human Rights. (Image: Council of Europe Credits)

Towards the end of 2016 the European Court of Human Rights at Grand Chamber level made a ruling on Freedom of Information which should liberate the role of journalists and researchers investigating the past.

The case was called Magyar Helsinki Bizottság v. Hungary. A human rights NGO was seeking important state information in the public interest. The Court decided that not only were they fully entitled to it, but for the first time in Strasbourg legal history the most senior human rights court asserted that it is a standing right under Article 10 freedom of expression.

This is a game-changer in Freedom of Information law. It should change the situation for investigative journalists and historical researchers in Britain. The United Kingdom Government had been an intervener and actually opposed the application to establish this standing right even though it had nothing to do with the case in Hungary. All of its arguments were defeated and rejected.

It should have opened the door for journalists and academic researchers fighting so hard to find out the hidden secrets in the story of the United Kingdom. Sadly, although it is now 16 months later, the Chartered Institute of Journalists' campaign for justice in FOI continues to be frustrated.

Why? FOI campaigners and mainstream news organisations had been putting all their bets on a European Court of Human Rights case fought for by Times investigative editor Dominic Kennedy. He had been seeking to challenge a block by absolute exemption in the FOI Act of 2000 on documents held by the Charity Commission in relation to their enquiry into a fund to provide medical help to Iraqi children.

Exemption

The UK Supreme Court in 2014 sustained the absolute exemption but suggested that he and the newspaper could make a Common Law request to the Charity Commissioners and if turned down again pursue a judicial review remedy. They did that and got most of the documents they wanted but did not go to judicial review for the documents still withheld.

They hoped they were going to win at the European Court of Human rights on the Article 10 issue, but in December last year their case was ruled inadmissible. They had not exhausted all the domestic legal remedies open to them.

This unfortunate strategy has left so many journalists and researchers well and truly beached when trying to overcome absolute "neither confirm nor deny" exemptions in the FOI Act; particularly in relation to information held by security bodies.

All that public bodies categorised as security bodies, or other government departments dealing with security body information, have to do now is tell FOI applicants, judicially review us if you are not happy with our decision. Of course, freelance journalists, small publishers and academic researchers are not in a position to risk having to pay all the legal costs of government lawyers by going to the High Court for judicial review and losing.

I have been finding obfuscation, blocking and delay with every twist and turn of the several journalistic and research FOI cases I am currently running as part of the CIoJ campaign.

Espionage

The 2016 Grand Chamber European Court of Human Rights ruling would have been the trump card to support my FOI battle with the Foreign Office and MI6 to release files on Alexander 'Alec' Wilson, the espionage novelist and bigamist at the centre of the BBC television drama series Mrs Wilson.

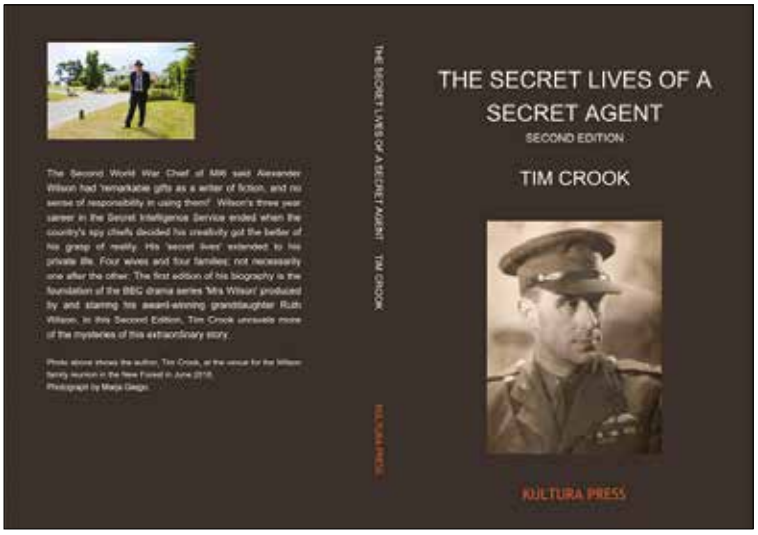
My 2018 book The Secret Lives of a Secret Agent explores the battle to access information on Wilson. After getting blocked at Information Tribunal First tier level, I have been asking my local MP James Cartlidge to put in formal requests to the Foreign Office and Home Office. There have been two unsuccessful FCO reviews.

The Home Office encouraged me to ask the Security Service to release Alexander Wilson information for historical purposes. This I have done and who knows what will happen in the future. I have three other security body absolute exemption cases currently going through the FOI system.

The Information tribunal system has 'stayed' my appeal for access to Special Branch files on Goldsmiths College staff and students prior to 1989 pending a decision in a wholly unrelated FOI exemption case concerning Kingston council.

Justice denied

The Information Commissioner's Office turned down my appeal for Security Service files on Goldsmiths staff and students prior to 1989 on the basis the Home Office does not have them and did not have responsibility for the Security Service before it was established as a statutory body



The Secret Lives of a Secret Agent: Second Edition by Tim Crook. (Image: Kultura Press)

answerable to Parliament in 1989. Justice delayed, of course, is justice denied.

An absolute exemption on accessing state information is a direct contradiction of any legislation that calls itself "Freedom of Information". The Institute campaign on this issue has always been clear and correct. Article 10 freedom of expression gives professional journalists and researchers a standing right to state information.

The question of whether it should be released must be properly adjudicated in a public interest balancing exercise in the courts. That remedy as a right of access should, according to the UN Human Rights Committee, be "easy, prompt, effective and practical".

We wait patiently for the day the UK judiciary are prepared to do their duty according to law and recognise this.

Tim Crook



Ruth Wilson and Iain Glen starring in Mrs Wilson, based on Tim Crook's research. (Image: BBC Media Centre)

INSTITUTE NEWS

Search for new office under way

The Council of the Chartered Institute of Journalists has set up a small sub-committee to begin the search for our new head office.

The criteria for the search has been set; the property should be freehold and have good transport links. Other desirable aspects would be the potential for development, in terms of the creation of extra space that might be sub-let to bring an extra revenue stream.

Towards the end of last year, the trustees and committee of the Orphan Fund agreed, in principle, to a joint investment in the new property with the Institute. This would depend on the property, and any investment would be based on no more than an equal share investment.

Viewings have already taken place in St Albans, Bishop Stortford and Highams Park, East London. Each property had its own relative merits, however, it was felt that each was not quite right for the Institute's need and no final decision has been made.

The committee has considered a number of other elements that may impact both the search and the purchase of a new property, such as Brexit and the effect of any downturn would have on the property market.

Update on charity merger

Wheels have been set in motion to merge the Institute's Benevolent, Orphan and Pension charities into one entity, following the agreement of members at the Institute's AGM last year.

The merged fund would have the same remit as the existing, separate, funds so members can be assured that the same level of support will be available to them, and their dependants, should the need arise.

The benefits of the merged fund will be efficiencies of administration, and a simpler application process for members who need support. Instead of potentially completing three separate forms when help is needed, one form will cover the whole process. Under the proposed new arrangement, Trustees will have greater flexibility to meet the needs of beneficiaries.

One issue which concerns the Charities Commission is that of governance. The merger will allow the newly formed 'Welfare Fund' to incorporate some vital best practice amendments into its constitution. Two aspects of this will be a rolling election process for trustees and separation of the functions of the managing committee and the trustees. Both of these measures are considered best practice by the Charity Commission.

In the current set up there is no end-of-term date for trustees, which effectively means that, once elected, trustees stay in office in perpetuity. In the new fund, trustees would serve a three-year term and then come up for re-election. The Institute would remain a permanent trustee in its corporate capacity.

At a meeting earlier this year, Council agreed that the first trustees would be selected from the existing trustees of the current funds. Those trustees have agreed to serve on the new fund and members will get the chance to elect three at the AGM.

All the documents relating to the new 'Welfare Fund' are being finalised and will be sent to the Charity Commission in the coming weeks. If the Commission gives the green light to the merger then it is hoped that the newly-formed fund will be in place by the end of the year.

Radio cuts condemned

The Chartered Institute of Journalists has condemned a decision by the UK's largest commercial radio company to cut dozens of local radio morning programmes. The Institute warns that the resulting loss of jobs and local and regional identity in radio programming is as damaging as local and regional newspaper closures.

Global Radio plans to replace more than 40 local breakfast shows with three nationally produced and presented programmes on the Capital, Smooth and Heart networks. Paul Leighton, chairman of the Institute's broadcasting division, blames the rationalisation on Ofcom which last year gave the green light for local programming cuts during daytime scheduling from seven hours to only three hours. It also ended the requirement for local stations to produce their own breakfast programme. "Ofcom's hands-off and deregulatory policy might be good for Global Radio's profits," says Leighton, "but it's not good for broadcast journalism and the role of radio in local democracy."

The Institute is unhappy that Ofcom no longer places an obligation on local commercial radio to operate properly-staffed newsrooms in the towns, cities and communities of their broadcasting catchment areas. "The local breakfast programme is the peak-time of radio listening and for that to become some kind of Trojan horse so that Global can compete with BBC national radio networks is a very disappointing development," Leighton explains. "Slashing local content utterly betrays the prime motive behind Parliament's original vote to approve the creation of independent local radio."

Democracy at risk in 2019

The Council of Europe has published its annual report on media freedom, Democracy at Risk: Threats and Attacks against Media Freedom in Europe, revealing that press freedom is now at its most fragile since the Cold War.

According to the report, "Journalists increasingly face obstruction, hostility and violence as they investigate and report on behalf of the public. Urgent actions backed by a determined show of political will by Council of Europe member states are now required to improve the dire conditions for media freedom and to provide reliable protections for journalists in law and practice."

The report provides a clear but worrying picture of the worsening environment for journalism across Europe, including no fewer than 140 serious violations of press freedom in 32 Council of Europe member states during 2018. "Legal protections have been progressively weakened and denied", says the report. "The space for the press to hold government authorities and the powerful to account has been diminished."

In addition to providing an overview of the urgent threats to media freedom identified in 2018, the report takes an in-depth look at particular issues or country contexts that individual partner organisations have identified as especially salient during the past year. Turkey, which remains the world's biggest jailer of journalists, and Russia, where state actions and policies continue to severely restrict the space for free expression, are major causes of concern for the Council of Europe.

Oligarchs

However, the countries which have seen the sharpest increase in the number of media alerts are Italy and Hungary. In the latter, there is a very high concentration of media in the hands of pro-government oligarchs. But the report also assesses disturbing new trends, including impunity for journalists' murders, attacks on freelance journalists, and efforts to undermine the independence of public service media, including in countries once considered safe harbours for such media.

The Council of Europe is calling on member states to urgently take "all measures necessary to create a favourable environment for free and independent media and to end the many acts of violence, harassment and intimidation which journalists face as a daily reality in some member states."

The report has been produced by the Council of Europe in partnership with 12 international media organisations including the International News Safety Institute (of which the Chartered Institute of Journalists was a co-founder), Reporters Without Borders, Index on Censorship and the Rory Peck Trust.

To download a copy of the report, go to: www.coe.int/en/web/media-freedom

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe. Based in Strasbourg, the organisation was formed in 1949 "to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe". It currently has 47 member states, including the United Kingdom and all the nations of the European Union. It is often confused with the EU but is a distinct organisation. Unlike the EU, the Council of Europe cannot make binding laws, but it does have the power to enforce international agreements reached by European states on various topics. The best known body of the Council of Europe is the European Court of Human Rights, which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights. Further information: www.coe.int

Women freelancers triumph

The Rory Peck Awards celebrate the work of freelancers in news and current affairs across the world. Among the 2018 award-winners were American freelancer Roopa Gogineni and Norwegian-British filmmaker Deeyah Khan, while the Martin Adler Prize was given posthumously to Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

The award for news features went to Roopa Gogineni for "The Rebel Puppeteers of Sudan", her unique film about the creator of a satirical puppet show sharing news of the ongoing conflict in Sudan's Nuba Mountains. Broadcast by The New York Times, Roopa's film was praised by judges as "a wonderfully original piece … She allowed the story to be told through the protagonists. It takes a really great journalist to be able to pull that off."

The award for current affairs was won by Deeyah Khan and Darin Prindle for "White Right: Meeting the Enemy" (Fuuse Films for ITV Exposure). Their film sees Muslim filmmaker Deeyah sit face-to-face with neo-nazis, racists and proponents of the American 'alt-right' to get behind their violent ideology. Judges said: "The filmmakers put themselves in an extraordinary situation which challenged both the subject and them. They got under the skin of these characters in a way that no-one else has."

The Martin Adler Prize was awarded posthumously to Daphne Caruana Galizia, a freelance investigative journalist who, at just 53 years old, was killed by a car bomb near her home in Malta in 2017. This special prize was created to honour a local freelancer who has made a significant contribution to newsgathering, either through a single story or body of work, but who is largely unrecognised by the international news media. Daphne is the first posthumous recipient of the Prize, which was collected by her son Matthew.

Clothilde Redfern, director of the Rory Peck Trust, said, "As our 2018 winners and finalists have shown, freelancers play a crucial role in global news gathering, accessing stories that can't be reached and informing our lives through their powerful, eye-witness journalism. The Rory Peck Trust exists to support freelancers so that they can stay safe and continue to report in an increasingly hostile world."

The Rory Peck Awards are dedicated to the work of freelancers working behind the camera in news and current affairs worldwide. Established in 1995 in memory of freelance cameraman Rory Peck who was killed in Moscow in 1993, the awards have become a prestigious event in the news and media calendar, attracting entries from many of the world's most talented journalists, videojournalists and filmmakers. Website: www.rorypeckawards.org

Time to rein in online campaigns, says ERS

The Electoral Reform Society has welcomed the report of Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Committee inquiry into "fake news and disinformation" but has warned that unless the report is followed up by urgent action "the integrity of our political system" is itself in jeopardy.

ERS director of policy and research Dr Jess Garland described the findings of the Parliamentary report as "a wake-up call for the government to update Britain's broken campaign rules," adding that "the challenges facing our democracy are bigger than Brexit or one election: this is about the integrity of our political system."

She said: "The DCMS report echoes many of the calls we made in our report 'Reining in the Wild West: Campaign rules for the 21st Century', including giving regulators greater enforcement powers and increasing transparency online. Since the DCMS committee's interim report last year, the government has responded with only a limited consultation on imprints. While political ad transparency must be enshrined in law, these issues cut much deeper and necessitate a comprehensive review of campaign law.

"Online political campaigning has the potential to increase citizens' participation in our political processes, but our rules and laws need to be sufficiently robust to protect our democracy from the threats it also poses. This issue goes beyond Facebook and Twitter. Rather than waiting for tech giants to self-regulate, Ministers must take responsibility and act on the clear warnings. If they don't, there is a real risk that future elections could be undermined by foreign interference and dodgy donations. The time to act is now."

The ERS report 'Reining in the Wild West' had brought together regulators, academics and campaigners for the first time to demand comprehensive campaign reform and included six key recommendations:

1. In the short term, extending the imprint requirement – where materials must show who produced them and on whose behalf they had been produced – to online political advertising.
2. Improving how campaigners report funding and spending, including separate reporting for social media spend, and digital reporting of spend/donations.
3. The creation of a single online database of political adverts, which would be publicly available and easily searchable, would similarly increase transparency and allow voters to identify who has produced a piece of content.
4. Giving the regulators greater enforcement powers, strengthening the fines or sanctions so they can act as a meaningful deterrent against wrongdoing. The ICO's powers were increased considerably in the past year, showing what can be achieved if there is political will.
5. Parties and the government must properly engage in efforts to establish a statutory code of practice for political parties and campaigners without delay.
6. It is time for a comprehensive review and overhaul of our electoral law, which needs to be updated and future-proofed for the digital age.

For further information, go to: www.electoral-reform.org.uk

Why we need France!

MONOCLE climbs mountains, boards naval ships, and spends time in workshops, ateliers and bakeries to remind readers why France is one of the world's most visited countries, an economic powerhouse and, possibly, the last hope for global liberalism. Just published, the France Special of the global affairs and lifestyle magazine shines a light on the economic, cultural, sporting, culinary, and design contributions of Brand France, giving airtime to those who keep the country ticking over, despite the turbulent politics of the day.

Tyler Brûlé, MONOCLE's Editor in Chief and Chairman, said: "We decided to press play on the France Special while wandering along the aisles of the Yvon Lambert bookshop in Paris, in late autumn, just after the gilets jaunes had been out in full force. We didn't want to ignore what 's going on – but shine a line on what is working so well in France, and why the rest of the world needs this unique European soft power."

Highlights from the France Special include:

- Why the Navy still suits the French – MONOCLE visits Toulon, the first port of call to see the nation's fleet mustering for a world-leading military role.
- The gilets jaune are nothing new. Why the French turn on their leaders.
- How to seize an opportunity: the Franco-Syrian refugee on the scaffolding company that made his construction company a household name.
- Why the Americans are eyeing up Lyon for the future of TV.
- Interview: Franco-Moroccan author Leila Slimani on freedom, middle-class violence and her new role promoting Francophone affairs.
- Macron & Trump: America's on-off love affair
- Paris versus London. Is Brexit Britain on a losing streak?
- Media's new fixers and thinkers
- Talking about a revolution? On 200+ pages, the global affairs and lifestyle magazine celebrates the nation as a last hope for global liberalism

Launched in 2007, MONOCLE is a premium media brand offering high-quality journalism across its magazine, web and broadcast divisions. Led by editor in chief Tyler Brûlé, it is a leading edit on global affairs, business, culture and design, selling more than 84,000 copies of each issue.



Tyler Brûlé is widely considered to be one of the most influential media innovators of his generation. He is the youngest-ever recipient of the British Society of Magazine Editors Lifetime Achievement Award and has been named Ad Age's editor of the year, an unprecedented award for an international editor. Brûlé moved from Canada to the UK to pursue his career, working as a reporter for the BBC before turning his hand to print journalism, writing for publications including The Independent, The Sunday Times and Vanity Fair. He launched MONOCLE in 2007.

Where to train in present-day journalism



Kent University's Centre for Journalism offering undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in journalism since 2007. (Image: Kent University)

By Professor Tim Crook
Vice-President, CIoJ

Part One: The Centre for Journalism in Chatham at the University of Kent.

Many of our members are entitled to ask if we would have any reason to encourage our children to enter journalism today. And, if we did, how should they be educated, trained and made ready for a tough economic and to some extent hostile political environment?

The Cairncross Review reported an industry in significant decline. Since 2007 it is estimated that the number of frontline journalists employed by professional news publishers in the UK has fallen from 23,000 to 17,000.

Provision of public interest news at the local and regional level is most threatened: "Collapsing revenue hasn't just led to cut-backs; it has cut a swathe through the local press […] falling revenues have helped to drive 321 closures in the local press over the last ten years."

If we go back to 1885, it was possible to find advice on this question from Literary Success: A Guide to Practical Journalism by A. Arthur Reade, also author of Study and Stimulants and Tea and Tea-Drinking.

In his first chapter, Reade asked the editors. Mr Wemyss Reid, editor of the Leeds Mercury, said: "As for education, the more of it the better." He added, "A reporter should be well read in contemporary history and English Literature."

Eccentric

The advice offered by other editors was rather more eccentric – even for those days. W.H Mudford, editor of the London Evening Standard, seemed to think that any aspiring journalist should devote at least a couple of hours each day to goinstudying the leading writers on the reign of Queen Anne (1702-07).

Charles T. Condon, a successful journalist of New York City advised: "My advice to my young friends intending journalism is to resolutely banish from their heads all nonsense about becoming celebrated."

Humility, education without end, studying Queen Anne every day and perhaps going on to study Arthur Reade's book on tea-drinking hardly constitutes an assured programme of journalism training.

In chapter 22, on the perils of journalism, aspirant journalists are warned: "The possession of a robust body is one of the essential conditions of success in journalism […] for a reporter needs the strength of a horse and the endurance of a camel in order to discharge his duties satisfactorily."

The Centre for Journalism at the University of Kent began in 2007, when the profession of journalism seemed to be in a better place. It may not be the case that its students need the strength of a horse and the endurance of a camel, but those who sign up for its degrees receive an intensely vocational and professional programme of education.

Unfashionable

The centre is based in Kent University's Medway campus, formerly the barracks of Chatham dockyard, hardly one of the most glamorous higher educational environments. But journalists are expected to work and thrive in towns, cities and areas of the country that are not dreaming spires and fashionable centres of style and razzmatazz.

The Director of the Centre is former editor of The Scotsman, Scotland's national quality newspaper, and a former output editor of BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, Professor Tim Luckhurst. In the 12 years he has been director he has guided generations of students into employment at all levels of the industry.

Destinations include: Archant and Newsquest newspapers, BBC News, CNN, Daily Mail, The Financial Times, Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, Mail Online, The Guardian, Sky News and ITV News.

The undergraduate degree is accredited by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) and consistently rated as among the best for students passing their exams. In the Complete University Guide for 2018, the Centre was ranked as first for graduate employability.

Professor Luckhurst emphasises the diversity of his students and their ability to achieve notable success. Lydia Hamilton, who graduated in 2015, is the youngest editor in ITV News. Jasmin Sahota, who graduated in 2016, is social media editor of the Financial Times. Kishan Koria, who graduated from their MA in Multimedia Journalism in 2017, is Robert Peston's producer at ITN.

Advantages

The students at the centre have considerable advantages in accessing the close tie-up in professional placements with the Kent Messenger Group. Paid internships are also provided with the KMTV television news service which is based at the centre. This provides a powerful and successful symbiotic partnership between a university and professional regional broadcast journalism.

The underlining philosophy of the centre's teaching is that the best way for people to learn journalism is "to go out and be a journalist […] Talk to real people about real stories. And publish them in real newspapers, magazines, television and radio programmes and websites."

The centre is also trying to bridge the practice of professional journalism with academic research. A recent grant of £25,000 from Wireless Group/News UK funded the project: "Assessing the delivery of BBC Radio Five Live's public service commitments." This received widespread coverage and debate in the trade and



KMTV News studio operation with students from the Centre for Journalism. (Image: KMTV)

KMTV control room. (Image: KMTV)



national media and was submitted to Ofcom.

Professor Luckhurst says: "We are operating in a very tough competitive environment. The world's need for diligent, accurate, factual reporting has never been more urgent. But, at the same time, journalists have rarely been more obviously threatened and persecuted."

The Centre's support from industry in the form of bursaries and scholarships all helps. So does the fact that Sky News now employs ten journalists educated at the centre and also sponsors an annual Bob Friend Memorial Lecture.

This is the first in a series of articles by Tim Crook on journalism training.

More information for students can be found on the Institute's website - www.cioj.org

REVIEW

Talking Pictures TV

The journalist breed – by its very nature – is customarily glued to its news and current affairs channels and programmes: the hard glare of the studio lights on Cabinet members and their Shadows; the latest parliamentary vote (following the previous week's parliamentary vote) on the EU Withdrawal deal; the whole ebb, flow – and even, momentum – of politics.

But occasionally, the scribes and sentinels of the CIoJ may wish to escape the portcullis, and head to that part of the TV ether known as Talking Pictures – the freeview channel (yes, fellow journalist – free!) which specialises in quality entertainment from the 1930s, '40s, '50s and '60s – not forgetting a golden era of British TV, the 1970s. The 1980s is also occasionally represented – does anyone remember the excellent series Hannay in which Robert Powell's character pits his wits against the fiendish Prussian spy (you know the actor – the chap who went on to be a snarling presence in Albert Square, although without the Prussian accent). I digress...

Talking Pictures TV presents itself in the manner of a cinema screening. When you take your place in your favourite armchair, your modern screen suddenly becomes an old-fashioned cinema... Quintessentially 1950s jaunty announcement music plays, and archive scenes are played of picturegoers of the era excitedly taking their places in seats and queues – and even buying ice-creams. The message – "Now showing" – appears, and you settle down for your favourite old film or programme, not to mention the item that brings back a flood of memories from long ago.

Does anyone remember the Thames Television 'ident' of the 1970s, or the newscaster, Gordon Honeycombe? Or what about Leo McKern as the Fleet Street veteran in The Day the Earth Caught Fire, perspiring even more in his Daily Express office as the planet slowly changes course toward the sun (the fiery solar giant ball, rather than the paper) following a 1960s' atomic test?

Grand finale

And then you find – again from the treasure-chest of the 1960s – The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre, or Thirty Minute Theatre, or Michael Caine and Omar Sharif in a plague-devastated Europe of the Thirty Years' War (The Last Valley, 1971), before ending up for the grand finale to your evening with The Admirable Crichton … or more of Kenneth More in Genevieve.

So many names from the past flick before your eyes on Talking Pictures: John Gregson in Gideon's Way, with guest appearances by Anton Rodgers; Jack Warner and John Slater in the old pre-Eastenders East End; or the young Joan Collins, ice-cold Sylvia Syms and Deborah Kerr – radiant and unchanging in The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp. Then there is Michael Gough, a fine character actor – he played (among many other roles) the modern artist in the Hammer classic, Dr. Terror's House of Horrors, who gets his revenge on art critic Christopher Lee? Gough appeared again recently in an Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre play, as an MP who enjoyed the good life but made many speeches about Africa and equality, before falling prey to a blackmail plot. Entitled Game for Three Losers (1965), the hour-long story was hugely compelling. In fact, I was sorry when Game for Three Losers ended. But it did remind me that my duty as a journalist finally called: I had to get back to the BBC Parliament channel, for the latest from the House of Commons.

Stuart Millson

A BIG ISSUE

I'm against sizeism — are you?

A recent email to the Institute containing a report from the World Obesity Federation caught my attention because it highlights size prejudice, specifically in the media — something I have spoken and campaigned about many times during my career as a magazine journalist.

To explain, I wrote a column about fashion for larger women every week for some 26 years for Woman's Weekly magazine and from that grew my own national, glossy magazine, which I published and edited between 1993 and 1998. I called it YES! because that is the most positive word in the English language.

We featured no lecturing, no blame, no diets and plenty of role models and positive images to empower women and as it turned out men too, to counteract prejudice and be comfortable in their own skins. One of our strap lines was "Style is an attitude, not a size." We encouraged our readers to stop putting their lives on hold until that mythical time in the future when they may or may not have lost weight and start living in the here and now.

We did some ground-breaking fashion shoots, showing for instance, large women in swimsuits, shot under water in Egypt by a young photographer who is now extremely successful and featured some challenging illustrations from talented artists. We had a section for young women called '& Alternatively' showing edgy fashion never before seen on girls larger than a size six or eight.

We took risks and challenged perceptions — we were probably way too far ahead of the times. Some PRs were shocked, it takes a while for the professional fashion eye to re-adjust to larger bodies in front of a camera after years of seeing androgynous, almost anorexic models. The fashion company Red Or Dead refused to lend shoes for our shoots, cosmetic and fashion accessory companies declined to advertise because our well-endowed readers did not present the right image for their precious products. Even Dawn French's clothes company 1647 insisted on picture approval before publication.

Dark corners

After all large women aren't really interested in fashion, make-up, handbags, jewellery and the like, are they? They prefer to sit in dark corners wearing wrinkled dressing gowns and eating doughnuts. That is the image the mainstream press liked to promote then (I had some huge spats in print with A.A. Gill, for instance, who, though a terrific writer, was always very scathing about big women) and it depresses me that 20 years on from the demise of YES! after unfair competition forced us to close (long story) that attitude is still so prevalent that the World Obesity Federation feels it is necessary to put out a request to journalists to be mindful of the images and language they use when writing about size issues.

I have always believed that sizeism is the last great permissible prejudice because if we are large it is seen as our own fault. We are obviously lazy, greedy, stupid and probably poor and could easily lose weight by exercising and using some self-control — if only it was that simple.

Psychological disorders, diseases and life experiences all factor in to this highly complex issue, for instance, many YES! readers, we discovered, had been abused as children or young women — their bodies putting on weight as a kind of protective self-defence. But the biggest contributing factor of all are the genes we inherit and the effect they have on the way our bodies process the food we eat.

The World Obesity Federation report acknowledges all of this and repeats many of the things we were saying through the pages of YES! all those years ago. Those headless bodies with wobbly abdomens that feature in most TV news stories about obesity, the depressed, lonely large figure

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Here is an excerpt from the World Obesity Federation report:

Obesity is a global issue. Since 1975, it has nearly tripled worldwide, with more than 650 million people now living with obesity. No country is currently on track to meet the target to halt the rise in obesity in all ages and this is in large part due to its complexity and many interlinking causes, from genetics to dysfunctional food systems, to social deprivation.

Here at the World Obesity Federation we are starting our weight stigma journey, encouraging people all over the world to take steps to end weight stigma, and there are many ways to help us. People and institutions can get involved by speaking up and calling out individuals and groups that stigmatise weight, raise awareness through social media, or choose positive unbiased images from our extensive online image bankwww.imagebank.worldobesity.org

It is our hope that this report provides the evidence to inspire people to act and speak out against weight stigma in the media, while encouraging writers, journalists, editors to create accurate and fair reports of obesity. The signal of success will be when weight bias is no longer seen as an acceptable form of discrimination and society can get on with the job of working together to tackle the fundamental causes of obesity.

Johanna Ralston
Chief Executive of the World Obesity Federation

IMAGES

- Media should use positive images which accurately support their stories without exacerbating misconceptions about people with obesity
- Pictures of people with obesity should include their whole body, rather than specific body parts with the head removed
- Images that perpetuate stereotypes, such as people with obesity being sedentary, looking sad or isolated from other people, should be avoided
- Picture agencies and other suppliers of images should review the images they provide on obesity to ensure they do not exacerbate weight stigma
- Editors can download and use images fromwww.imagebank.worldobesity.org

These have been carefully selected to avoid reinforcing negative stereotypes about obesity.

LANGUAGE

- Use people first language
- Review style guides and adopt positive language about obesity and people with obesity
- Avoid the use of language that is derogatory or pejorative
- Use plain language to illustrate that obesity is a health condition
- Ensure reporting addresses the wider causes of obesity where relevant to the story and avoid the use of language that implies individual blame

TAKE ACTION

We all have a role to play to end weight stigma. Please take action:

- Highlight good and bad practice in the media when you see examples of stigmatising language or images using the hashtag #endweightstigma or message us @endweightstigma
- You can use a template letter provided by World Obesity at www.imagebank.worldobesity.org
- Ensure images used in presentations and reports are not stigmatising. Visit www.imagebank.worldobesity.org for a selection of free to download images available for use.

More information about how to help combat weight stigma can be found on the World Obesity website www.worldobesity.org and Image Bank website www.imagebank.worldobesity.org

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eating unsuitable food while slumped on a sofa, the incendiary words about obesity plagues and impending health crises used in newspapers, all contribute towards ostracising large people from mainstream society in a vicious, self-perpetuating circle.

Being overweight/fat/obese whatever horrible word is currently in use, is a social disability that limits people's lives, they suffer from an illness just as surely as those with anorexia or bulimia yet receive little help, many insults and much prejudice. Until we begin to value people, especially women, for who they are and what they can do, rather than how they look, nothing will ever change.

But journalists and picture editors can do something to help kill off this last unjust and thoughtless prejudice by ensuring the words and images they use when reporting on size issues are sympathetic and accentuate the positive instead of re-enforcing the negative. After all, no-one would think of denigrating disabled or transgender people these days.

I feel sure that members of the Chartered Institute of Journalists will understand how important this issue is. I have just one other thought to offer, the word obesity itself is ugly and loaded with negative connotations, perhaps the Federation might even consider a new name to reflect their entirely justifiable concerns…

Janice Shillum Bhend

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us, and re-post our messages on social media. The Institute has a Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn presence which will keep you up-to-date with our news.

Exhaustion of rights in ebooks

After reading that not-very-sexy heading, you're probably already lost. But stay with me for a while, especially if you have ever written a book, or even considered writing one. That general ignorance applied to many astute members of the British Copyright Council. In fact it warranted a special presentation at the March meeting of the full BCC.

There's a big difference between a hard copy of a book and its intangible or virtual electronic equivalent. Buy a book and you have something solid in your hands. You've paid a publisher, wholesaler or retailer for it, and part of that payment goes to the author, illustrator or designer in recognition of their creativity and copyright. That copy is yours to read, display, lend or use as a door-stopper, as you wish. Crucially, if someone else wants a copy of that book and can't or won't deprive you of yours, they need to buy another copy.

What you can't do with the book you bought is to make a digital or printed copy and then sell, loan or hire out that copy. That infringes not only copyright but also a complementary but less often mentioned right, the 'making available' right. This is especially applicable to copies accessed by download, like ebooks, where every copy is absolutely identical with the master.

These statements seem pretty obvious and uncontroversial to me and to virtually every expert in copyright and related rights. However, none of this prevented case C-263/18 of the District Court of the Hague (the Tom Kabinet case) being referred to the European Union's Court of Justice. The claim being tested is whether a digital copy is a (tangible) 'object' and whether first sale of that object exhausts the right to control resale of the object. Regrettably, the reference apparently did not mention that digital copies are specifically excluded from the 'object' definition in all relevant legislation, nor did it draw attention to the 'making available' right.

Nonetheless, the case has been sitting around at the CJEU for about a year and no definitive decision has yet been handed down, so all this is mere interpretation. In the meantime, 'legal opinions' proliferate.

I have no time or space to mention here the perhaps more astonishing US case of the 12,000 and counting (as yet anonymous) US public libraries who, encouraged and abetted by Amazon, are making thousands of e-books available free of charge to anyone, which they say is legal providing each library buys a few licences and does not 'sub-licence' more than that number of licences at any one time. They claim that this is analogous to the long-established distribution of printed books, but every purchaser (or 'sub-licensor') of a digital ebook receives a brand-new, perfect copy, whilst the print version wears out and, by convention, is generally replaced after 30 or 40 loans.

But why is all this happening? My theory, unsupported by any other BCC member, is that someone has spotted a gap in the market, to be used in making them the next billionaire or adding more billions to the megazillions of an existing worldbeater. According to my idea, the cases I've mentioned above are mere distractions from the coming book-based equivalent of Spotify and the like, whereby you borrow a digital copy of virtually any book in existence (in or out of print or copyright) free of charge for as long as you like, but receive with it a targeted and ever-changing array of personalised advertising. If you decide to go into this yourself, just send my one per cent of turnover to the new company I'm setting up in the Cayman Islands.

Ken Brookes
CIoJ Copyright Representative

ALCS reaches 100,000-member milestone

By the end of 2018, membership of the Artists' Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS) had passed the 100,000 mark. ALCS now represents more than 100,000 authors from all creative backgrounds including writers of books, magazine articles, radio scripts and audiovisual scripts.

The objective of reaching 100,000 members was set out in the Society's three-year strategic plan for 2016-19, and was therefore achieved ahead of the target deadline. A professional and highly efficient organisation working hard for writers, passionate about protecting and promoting their rights, ALCS has grown enormously from its beginnings as a tiny operation set up in 1977 by the Writers Action Group, an initially small band of writers – including ALCS's Honorary President, Maureen Duffy – who volunteered their time to campaign for authors' rights.

Since its formation four decades ago, ALCS has paid out around £500 million to all kinds of writers in over 100 countries. In the last five years, the organisation's membership base has increased by 28% – from 78,000 to 100,000 members. In this time ASLCS has paid out over £145 million to its members in the cause of paying writers the royalties they are owed for their work. Many members of the Chartered Institute of Journalists are also members of ALCS – if you have not joined, please go to www.alcs.co.uk to sign up. Lifetime membership costs just £36.

Sometimes you just have to wait

by Norman Bartlett

Some time ago - in December 1993 – a group of 11 American freelance writers sued the New York Times, Newsday, Sports Illustrated and other media organisations for copyright infringement. Among those others was Mead Data Central Corporation which owned and operated the NEXIS electronic database.

This was a massive source with the full texts of articles that appeared in hundreds of newspapers and periodicals over many years. These were provided to Mead through licensing agreements with dozens of publishers.

Subscribers to NEXIS were able to access an almost infinite combination of articles from any of these publications by using the search engine provided. None of this activity enjoyed the writers' consent.

Four tedious years later, the legal battle known as 'Tasini v. The New York Times' finally reached a conclusion; the case was dismissed. The media companies argued that the 1976 Copyright Act enabled publishers of newspapers or magazines, where there may be several contributors, to revise and amend material they had commissioned. Putting the articles on a database, they maintained, was simply 'revising'. The judge agreed and dismissed the case.

It was appealed and as it was a New York case it went to the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. According to a lawyer at the time, "The Second Circuit, more than any of the other 11, prides itself on leadership in copyright, and doesn't hesitate to overturn a decision in copyright law. Particularly because it's a new interpretation of the law, the Second Circuit will feel even freer about changing a ruling." And so it turned out.

Infringement

The grant of summary judgment by the lower court was criticised as being inappropriate for such a serious matter. The Appeal Court declared that the unauthorised reproduction and distribution of a copyrighted work generally infringes the copyright unless such use is specifically protected by the Act. Each author owns the copyright in an individual work, emphasised the Court. The publishers' contention that the electronic databases are revised, digital copies was dismissed. Transferring them as originally written could not be considered revision.

"...there is no feature peculiar to the databases at issue in this appeal that would cause us to view them as 'revisions'. NEXIS is a database comprising thousands or millions of individually retrievable articles taken from hundreds or thousands of periodicals. It can hardly be deemed a 'revision' of each edition of every periodical that it contains."

It seemed a pretty convincing ruling, but the media organisations had a lot to lose. The New York Times alone expected to make $80 million over the subsequent five years from its electronic archive rights. Alarmed, so it seemed, at the prospect of substantial payments for the years of infringements, they decided it was worth a punt to go to the Supreme Court. Now, the top tribunal for US law picks and chooses the cases it will consider. This was one it decided to look at, and in June 2001 it accepted it.

It took a while for the case to make its way to the top of the pile but eventually it did so in 2005. The US Supreme Court rejected the appeal and ruled that publishers, by making their contents accessible through electronic databases, infringed the copyrights of freelance contributors. The justices vote in the case was seven to two.

Settlement

The decision involved works generated by 27,000 authors, but it did not allocate any bargaining power to them. Further negotiation with the media companies followed with the journalists' and authors' side being represented by a Claims Administrator. The Administrator was The Garden City Group, Inc., which provides legal administrative services for class action settlements and similar claims administration on behalf of law firms, corporate legal departments, government and other legal teams.

There were now 16 media companies involved that were identified as the 'Defense Group' in legal documentation. The Defense Group continued to deny all allegations of copyright infringement but to avoid further expense agreed a settlement with the claims administrator reflecting the Supreme Court judgement. The proposed settlement was approved by the original court as fair and satisfactory.

At this stage, I, along with other Institute members who are signed up to the Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS), received a letter from its Chief Executive, Jane Carr, outlining the outcome in the US. She explained there was as much as $18 million up for grabs. She suggested that any members who had contributed to US newspapers or journals should have a close look at the relevant website.

I had been contributing regularly to Design News, the leading magazine for design engineers, as European editor. It was published by Reed Elsevier, one of the companies listed as being in the Defense Group. From reading the website it seemed I could join the class action. So I applied and in due course received an application form and instructions on how to proceed.

I was able to identify about two dozen written pieces, of which some were quite short, published during the relevant period. Earnings from all this work was about $7,000. I copied everything and sent it all off to the Claims Administrator as directed. Warned that payment process might take some time, I waited. And waited. Because sadly the settlement wasn't implemented.

Appeal

It seems that certain companies had objected and initiated an appeal process. The case got back in front of the US Appeals Court. It made changes after considering the substantial grounds for difference of opinion about the proposed settlement. But, in January 2014, after revisions were made, it ordered that: "The Agreement is approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and in the best interest of the Class, and the parties are directed to consummate the Agreement in accordance with its terms."

Finally, a Fairness Hearing was heard at 10 a.m. on June 10, 2014 in Courtroom 11A of the US District Court for the Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York City. It approved the revised settlement in favour of "All persons who, individually or jointly, own a copyright under the United States copyright laws in an English language literary work that has been reproduced, displayed, adapted, licensed, sold and/or distributed in any electronic or digital format, without the person's express authorisation by a member of the Defense Group or any member's subsidiaries, affiliates, or licensees (a) at any time on or after August 15, 1997 (regardless of when the work first appeared in an electronic database)..."

Now the wheels began to move. About 500 writers withdrew from the proposed agreement for their own reasons but it still left over 20,000 people – including me – waiting patiently around the trough.

Not much information filtered through to this side of the Atlantic after 2014. I had really written off the matter. Then, at the end of April 2018, a letter dropped through my letter box. It was quite abrupt.

"Dear Class Member,

Full payment of your claim in Re. Literary Works in Electronic Databases Copyright Litigation. Void after 90 days."

Attached was a check (cheque) for $1,466.26. The bank cleared it after commission to the value of £1.049.03. It may have been a long wait but it increased my original earnings by over 20%.

All things come to those who wait.

Broadcaster is new Professor of Public History

Historian, broadcaster and film-maker David Olusoga has joined the University of Manchester as a Professor of Public History.

Olusoga, who presented the BBC's landmark series Civilisations in 2018 alongside Simon Schama and Mary Beard, is one of the UK's foremost historians of the British Empire. He was made an OBE in the recent New Year's Honours List.

Born in Nigeria to a Nigerian father and British mother, he migrated to the UK with his mother when he was a young child and grew up in Gateshead, on a council estate. Later his home was attacked by the National Front on multiple occasions and his family eventually forced out of their home.

He later attended the University of Liverpool to study the history of slavery. "I got into history because I wanted to make sense of the forces that have affected my life," he says. "I'm from that generation who would look at Trevor McDonald on television – his gravitas and authority – and see hope and potential."

After leaving university, Olusoga became a television producer, working on programmes such as Namibia Genocide and the Second Reich, The Lost Pictures of Eugene Smith and Abraham Lincoln: Saint or Sinner. He subsequently became a presenter, beginning in 2014 with The World's War: Forgotten Soldiers of Empire, about the Indian, African and Asian troops who fought in the First World War, followed by several other documentaries. His most recent TV series include Black and British: A Forgotten History, The World's War, A House Through Time and the BAFTA award-winning Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners.



David Olusoga, newly-appointed as Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester.

As well as his TV work, Olusoga is an award-winning author. His books include Civilizations: Encounters and the Cult of Progress, The World's War, which won First World War Book of the Year, Black & British: A Forgotten History, which was awarded both the Longman-History Today Trustees Award and the PEN Hessell-Tiltman Prize and The Kaiser's Holocaust: Germany's Forgotten Genocide and the Colonial Roots of Nazism. He also writes for The Observer, The Guardian, The New Statesman and BBC History Magazine.

"For me, history has always been a public activity – it's about reaching out to as many people as possible," says Olusoga. "I've spent my career working with institutions similarly committed to making history inclusive, expansive and diverse. Joining the University of Manchester is to continue in that tradition."

National Centre for Writing opens

The Writers' Centre in Norwich is being relaunched as the National Centre for Writing. This follows a £2m extension and restoration of the historic Dragon Hall, backed by patrons including internationally-renowned authors Margaret Atwood, JM Coetzee, Sarah Perry, Elif Shafak and Ali Smith.

Opening this summer, the National Centre for Writing will celebrate the best in world literature. A programme of innovative collaborations will engage writers, literary translators and readers, in person and online, in projects that support new voices and new stories, and respond to the rapidly changing world of writing.

Based at the Dragon Hall in Norwich, the newly constructed south wing will welcome some 20,000 young people for a programme of ambitious school projects in the coming year. Workshops and mentoring will be available for writers at all levels, both face-to-face and online.



The 15th-century medieval hall is becoming a creative hub, with residencies available for writers and translators from around the world in the newly refurbished cottage.

For details go to www.writerscentrenorwich.org.uk

AWARD FOR CRIME WRITER



Robert Goddard has been awarded the CWA's Diamond Dagger.

The Crime Writers' Association has announced that the author Robert Goddard will receive its highest award for crime writing, the Diamond Dagger. CWA chairman Martin Edwards explained: "Robert Goddard has been entertaining crime fiction fans across the world for over 30 years. His books are notable for their breathtaking plot twists, sharp characterisation, and insights into history. It is a genuine pleasure to celebrate his illustrious career with the award of the Diamond Dagger."

Robert Goddard said: "I'm greatly honoured to be this year's CWA Diamond Dagger recipient, particularly since it's an award conferred by my fellow writers, who know about the challenges of the craft from the inside. Looking back, I'm not exactly sure when trying to make a go of writing turned into a career, but it's been a hugely enjoyable and satisfying experience and recognition like this is much appreciated. It also gives me encouragement, for which I'm very grateful, to look ahead to all those books yet to come!

Previous winners of the CWA Diamond Dagger include P.D. James, John Le Carre, Dick Francis, Ruth Rendell, Lee Child, and Ann Cleeves. Born in Hampshire in 1954, Goddard was educated at Price's School Fareham, and Peterhouse, Cambridge where he read History. He pursued various career options prior to spending 10 years as a local government officer. In 1986, he published his first novel, Past Caring, setting him on a fresh path. He won an Edgar for best original paperback (Long Time Coming) and Into the Blue was televised with John Thaw as Harry Barnett, who appears in three of Robert's novels.

The CWA was established in 1953 by John Creasey and has over 800 members in the UK and overseas – published writers of crime fiction and non-fiction as well as editors, bloggers and reviewers.

China through the looking glass

By Richard Dove

Some years ago I was in Beijing to deliver a lecture on Western media to an audience of elite foreign-language students at Beiwei University. I received an invitation to visit a newly opened Science Park. Later on, in the lobby of my hotel, I bumped into a British correspondent based in the city and invited her to accompany me to the Science Park. The reply took me by surprise. She said she was not interested as the editors back in London would not be interested. On further questioning, it became clear that, for this correspondent, to get a story there would have to be a controversial angle of some sort, such as human rights abuses or government corruption. A Chinese colleague explained that the West largely sees China through the three T's – Tiananmen, Tibet and trade.

It is undoubtedly true that President Xi Jinping is increasingly autocratic by inclination and design. It is also true that that the treatment of religious groups such as Falun Gong and ethnic communities such as the Uigurs is scandalous. The benchmark for a Western TV crew is a policeman or soldier blocking the camera lens with his hands. China's security forces are, at best, obstructive and suspicious, and at worst, brutally repressive.

We see examples of this behaviour on our TV screens regularly. The BBC's John Sudworth's excellent investigation of the hidden camps for the re-education of Uigur Muslims in Xinjiang is a prime example of a story the Chinese government would have preferred the world not to see. And, of course, the hands blocking the camera's view were ever present. It is a story that needs to be told. But, it is not the whole story.

At the Science Park I was introduced to new applications of solar power, grand designs for electric cars, energy-efficient town planning and software experts who were working on next generation communications. I met a group of young entrepreneurs who were developing their own brand coffee shops to take on Starbucks. We consider China a stealer of technology not an innovator. Throughout my day's visit I was introduced to research work demonstrating creative ingenuity and global sales potential.

Aggrieved

Talking to the students at Beiwei, they were aggrieved that China is often perceived as a monster and militarily expansionist. One student pointed out, leaving out the complex history of Tibet, that China had not generally been an invader of neighbouring countries, whereas the British had burnt down the Summer Palace in Beijing twice! The Opium Wars showed Britain and its own colonial expansionism in a terrible light. When I raise the question of a future democratic government in China, there is, invariably, silence.

I am told that Chinese politics is a little more complicated and beyond the understanding of a Mandarin non-speaker – a point I freely acknowledge but do not accept. The response that you are a foreigner and do not understand 'our ways' is more of an escape tactic to close a difficult conversation. But, their interest in learning about the world and engaging with it does not match the isolationist, controlled picture that we often see on our nightly news bulletins.



President Xi's 'Belt and Road Initiative' is a 21st century economic Silk Road linking China to its neighbours and stretching across continents. Billions of dollars are being spent on new roads, ports, airports to, in Chinese government terms, enhance regional connectivity and a brighter future. To others, particularly Donald Trump, it is a strategic move to push Chinese dominance in global affairs. The new superpower on the block.

Foreign aid

China is providing 60 billion dollars of financial support to Africa when many other Western governments are cutting back on aid and investment. In Pakistan, China is building a port city at Gwadar. From one point of view, this is another example of chequebook diplomacy or debt trap diplomacy.

From Beijing's point of view, it is creating new trading opportunities in a developing country solely in need of investment and expertise. China's motives are often seen as malign, underhand, devious. Chinese government officials see it differently. The wealth of the country is being used to improve lives within and outside the country. Who is right? Well, unfortunately it is probably a mix of self-interest and philanthropy. Was it not ever thus with foreign aid?

A wise and urbane Chinese diplomat explained that China has too many of its own problems and therefore does not want to create problems for others. The doctrine of harmony drives policies in Beijing. It does not mean confrontation, but it does mean conformity to certain goals and behaviour. The Chinese government always pushes for a pragmatic approach, but it is jumpy over dissent and often overreacts to what it perceives as challenges to its authority. Human rights lawyers are harassed and imprisoned. Dissident writers and artists are often forced into exile.

In 2009, Ai Weiwei created a work called Remembering to honour the thousands of children who died in the Sichuan earthquake. This upset the Beijing government as it wanted to control information on the earthquake. Ai Weiwei set up a citizen investigation team to determine how many children had died. He identified 5,219 children who had died in the earthquake. The government responded by arresting members of the artist's team. Later, the artist himself was jailed.

The government reaction was totally unjustified. It was pernicious and, perhaps, naïve. I like to think a lesson was learned in Beijing. It cannot control everything. All governments get things wrong. And we often get China wrong. There is a need for sensitivity, maturity and understanding both from us and them. That would be a start, at the very least.

Who says grammar is outmoded?

Winston Spencer Churchill put it beautifully when he said that the UK and the USA were "two great nations divided by a common language".

This has so proved and been exacerbated by the strong influence of the American film and television industry. It came about quite slowly – and at about the same pace – as the general 'dumbing down' in schools of examination questions, and the growth in the use of short-cut terms in language. Take, for instance, the use of the word 'upcoming' instead of the previously common (and certainly more English-sounding) 'forthcoming'.

Then there is the mis-pronunciation of the word 'surveillance' as 'survey-lance'. This is, of course, a French word that means 'keeping a close eye on'. The English translation of the French is 'purveyance' but because of the way people lapse quickly into the easy ways of neglecting the rules of grammar, another word disappears from the language.

Another instance of how Americanisms are so easily copied, can be noticed in films and television dramas. In early war films, the skipper of a bomber in giving instruction to a crew member over his radio might then ask: 'Copy?' The expected reply would be: 'Roger.' Today, the answer invariably, will be: 'Roger that' or 'Copy that'.

If you think that, up to now, this has been a rant by someone who is just nit-picking, well, I have not yet had my go at the real grammatical enemy – the split infinitive. Therein lies the greatest American blunder which was led by the popular science-fiction television series, Star Trek, with the now famous and ever parodied: "Space, the final frontier. To boldly go where no man has gone before."

From that time, both in the written form and in general conversation, sentences that would begin with the word 'To' always seem to be followed by an adjective instead of the completed infinitive. For example: 'To fairly treat' or 'to not go'.

The result has been that 'split-infinitisms' have now become completely acceptable.

Maybe it is because I am becoming old and crotchety, or perhaps it is the memory of the scoldings from my first newspaper editor over lapses in my copy, such as missing an apostrophe where necessary, or his pointing out that 'disassociate' should be written: 'dissociate' and 'disassemble' to be 'dissemble'.

I have to say, I was very fortunate in having begun my journalistic career with such a great local newspaper as the Kent Messenger. Let us hope and pray that we never lose such valuable training grounds as our local newspapers!

Michael Moriarty

Raise a glass

Real-ale drinkers always head for Beaconsfield's local haunt: The Royal Standard of England.

Whether you are a local, or someone exploring what Betjeman described as "leafy Bucks", the chances are that you will want to experience the very finest inns that the county has to offer. One of the most historic is The Royal Standard of England, at Forty Green, Beaconsfield, a magnificent old place, known for its ancient beams, foaming beers and mouthwatering food… and (this will appeal to ghost-hunters) spectral figures – one of whom seems to be rather fond of Edmund Burke's old fireplace in the supernaturally-named Candle Room! (Locals say that this may be the ghost of a 17th-century soldier.)

Dating from the early 13th-century, and originally known as The Ship, this redoubt of Royal England and real ale, has been known by its present name since 1663. King Charles II is said to have given his blessing to the name-changing as a result of the inn's proud record as a safe haven for Royalists during the turbulent Civil War period. After an active day of musket-firing against Cromwell's men, even the most devoted cavalier must have needed an ale or two, in order to compose himself for the next day's skirmishes! And it is also said that the King treated the pub as something of a safe haven for himself… and the occasional toothsome Royal mistress!

Modern-day businessmen (or even visiting journalists) who find that their lunchtime appointment has gone on far longer than expected, thus making an afternoon return to the office questionable, may take heart from this historical extract from The Royal Standard's informative website:

"In 1643 an advance troop of Roundheads discovered an Irish Royalist captain, Hugh of Dromagh, sleeping off his lunch in the pub. It is said of him when captured by the Roundheads and having given his word not to escape, he stood up one morning and said: "Gentlemen, I give you notice – "I'm off", then he jumped out of a window to freedom, considering that the 'notice' cancelled any previous undertakings!"

Ghostly presence

It's probably a good idea to raise a glass, not just to your luncheon, dining, or drinking companion, but to the great human pageant that has passed through the inn at one time or another. (It is always wise to treat the spirits kindly!) As we have mentioned, it is said that the ghostly presence is that of a soldier, or soldiers, killed in the Civil War. But there is another angle, as the pub historian informs us:

"The second version is that of a traveller accidentally killed by the notorious Earl of Barrymore in 1788. Barrymore belonged to a club called the Four Horse Club where the young wild Regency bucks would bribe any coachman to give them the reins and drive at breakneck speed. The traveller was crushed outside the pub by a speeding coach and four. The bloody corpse was brought into the pub and the landlord was paid hush-money over the incident, and an unknown traveller has been haunting the downstairs ever since."

So, what of the present day? Here is a bill of fare that will inspire you: specialist lagers, wheat beers and trappist ales; Henley Dark and Henley Gold, Delirium Tremens Blonde (shades of Charles II's mistresses, perhaps?), Marston's Owd Roger Strong Country Ale, and Orchard Pig Charmer Cider! And the inn is even brewing its own: the proudly named Britannia ales – a pale ale and a gold – and Chiltern ale and Rebellion IPA. To soak it all up? Order some oysters or cured salmon gravlax; Welsh lamb's liver and bacon, or roast beef (pork or chicken); handmade sausages, a Ploughman's, fish pie, rib-eye steak, or – proper steak and kidney suet pudding. You may even be able to manage the Bramley Crumble for afters.

A gastronomic feast and the spirit of old, swashbuckling, cavalier, hell-fire England awaits you at The Royal Standard of England!

Stuart Millson

Charles Curry MBE: A son's tribute

Charles Curry, long-time proprietor of the New Milton Advertiser and Lymington Times and a veteran member of the Chartered Institute of Journalists, has died aged 98. His career in local newspapers lasted more than three quarters of a century, taking over the family-owned weekly from his father in 1966 and running it until his retirement aged 91 in 2012 (although he continued to write a column for a further two years).

The following tribute is by his son, Eddie Curry, and is reproduced here with the kind permission of the New Milton Advertiser and Lymington Times.



Charles after receivng his MBE in 1997

The A&T story begins with Frank Townley Curry the editor of the Cornish Telegraph.

In 1893 Frank became one of the founding members of the Chartered Institute of Journalists – now one of the oldest professional bodies for journalists in the world.

The CIoJ was born out of a meeting held in the July of that year with other journalists to discuss access to information, access to court proceedings, allegations of fake news, court proceed-ings and a lack of a safety net for colleagues and dependants. The result was the formation of the Association of Journalists, which went on to become the CIoJ.

Frank died at just 39 in 1894 leaving a widow and three children. One of them, Frederick Charles Townley Curry, was educated at Spurgeon's Orphanage in London as a ward of the Institute. He went to work on The Cornishman newspaper as a junior reporter before emigrating to Canada where he became a reporter on the Toronto Telegram.

Frederick joined the Canadian Expedition Force in 1914 during the First World War but became ill during preliminary training in Salisbury, England, and was invalided out of the army. He went on to become the editor of the Canadian Daily Record, a newspaper for Canadian troops serving abroad, during the First World War, working for Lord Beaverbrook.

He was awarded an MBE for his help in getting injured Canadian troops a period of convalescence before they were sent back to the front line. In 1919 he went to work on the Daily Express in Fleet Street London before deciding to go back to Canada where he rejoined The Toronto Telegram for two years before come back to England. In 1925 he relaunched the Christchurch Times, which had shut down as a result of a libel action.

In 1930 he sold his shares in that newspaper to buy the New Milton Advertiser. He had been buying the paper with a business friend who had neglected to tell him that his half was still in a trust and the trustees would not let him have access to it. So, Charles' in-laws mortgaged their home and lent him the money to buy the Advertiser which he published very successfully. In 1932 he started the Lymington Times.

Charles Curry fourth from right with his father and staff at the Advertiser & Times offices in the 1950s

Frederick had two sons, Charles and Teddy, who both followed him into the business. Charles who was born in 1920 started at the A&T when he was just 16. In 1966, Frederick died, leaving the A&T in the hands of his sons – Charles in charge of editorial and Teddy running the accounts department.

In 1990, at the age of 65, Teddy decided he wanted to retire, but Charles (who was 70 at the time) did not want to give up working. In attempting to keep the newspaper going he had a meeting with Sir David English, then Editor of the Daily Mail, with whom he had worked when they were both junior reporters.

Sir David was quite keen to buy into the business but the conditions he laid down for the purchase were not agreeable to Charles who instead managed to borrow the money from Barclays Bank by re-mortgaging his house.

Charles' wife was disabled, and it was a lot for her to agree to take on such a loan at their ages, but she agreed. Her faith in her husband's business acumen was well placed as within three years he had repaid the lot! His belief in the power of the A&T was so strong that he told one estate agent who was about to open a branch at Lymington to wait because at the time there was not enough space for him to get an ad in the paper and so he was doomed to failure.

Charles Curry served at the newspaper for over 76 years, only being interrupted by World War II when he joined the RAF. His role was to mend the telephones. Always obsessed by tinkering with bits of machinery, he managed to install a transformer in his Nissen hut – which made his much brighter than all the others much to the bemusement of the other servicemen. He served mostly in the UK until he complained to his commanding officer that he believed there was a scam going on regarding the NAAFI and canteen, items being delivered that did not match the order sheet. Instead of being congratulated he was sent off to Berlin in a three-ton truck and spent his time there collecting bits of scrap planes. He also created generators out of old Bournemouth trolleybuses to power his business and would forever be taking things apart to see how he could reuse them.

Hot metal

The A&T was running a 1903 hot metal press and was the last publisher in Europe using hot metal. In the 1990s it became increasingly difficult to obtain the necessary flongs for casting plates. When a scrap Hoe & Crabtree converted letterpress printer became available, Charles paid a scrap metal merchant money to knock a hole in the press hall where is was standing and take it out in complete units, then brick the wall up again. He reassembled the 120-ton press in the back garden of his mother's bungalow in Compton road. This was powered by a John Deere tractor engine, coupled to a marine alternator, and this device was used to produce the A&T from 1995 until last year.

The paper finally went to computerised production in 2009. Despite using the hot metal press for so long Charles was not averse to new technology. In 1978 he acquired a second-hand PDP8 Computer and had a software engineer wrote a typesetting programme for it.

Charles, who was awarded an MBE for services to journalism in 1997, ran the A&T as editor until 2012 and continued to write for it until 2014 by which time he was 94. He was still driving at the age of 91 until an optician at Specsavers gently suggested he should give up. Charles still kept a keen interest in the paper, which now reaches 40,000 readers. The A&T is evolving in this era of a worldwide move from print to online. Last year the newspaper went colour and is now printed on high-speed presses in Portsmouth, Hampshire, owned by JPI Media.

The newspaper editorial and advertising staff moved to new premises at the same time. Where the old offices were is now the IncuHive, an exciting new business venture which provides office work spaces for rent, a microbrewery for hire and even a 3-D printer. Compared to other local newspapers the A&T is continuing to hold its own in a difficult market.

Eddie Curry