# Media for Social Change

A Resource Guide for Community Groups
Revised Edition

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### **Includes Toronto Media Directory**

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## Revised edition

Toronto, October 1986

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COMMUNITY FORUM ON SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
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Distributed by CONNEXIONS 427 Bloor St. W. Toronto M5S 1X7 (416) 960-3903

# Media for Social Change

#### A Resource Guide for Community Groups

#### Table of contents

Introduction	5
Is the media your message?	9
Getting organized	17
Meeting the media	27
The Toronto Media Directory 4	11
Creating your own alternatives 5	1
Bibliography	3

This book is a project of the Community Forum on Shared Responsibility. It was originally published in 1983 as two volumes, with writing and research by Siobhan Farrell, Lois Marsh and Barbara Walsh. This edition was up-dated and edited by Jim Hodgson.

Community Forum thanks all those who contributed to either or both editions of the book, among them: Max Allen, David Beyer, Graham Crawford, Theresa Guerriero, Pat Jeffries, Kai Visionworks, Loren Lind, Ontario News Service, Guylaine Spencer, David Walsh, Ken Wyman and Barbara Yip.

Cover design: David Beyer

## Introduction

We prepared this kit as an aid for community groups in the Toronto area, hoping that it will help them obtain greater access to mainstream media or to existing alternative media, or even

to create their own media.

The Community Forum on Shared Responsibility makes the kit available believing that there is value in popular education -- the notion that ordinary people in the community have skills and stories worthy of sharing with other people, and that all of us can learn from each other.

Like media critic Barry Zwicker, we note a tendency to talk about the media abstractly. "It's not entirely misleading to say each of us is a medium -- a walking, talking transmitter of information," says Zwicker. "People are media. This is an empowering notion. It's important not to give away all the power to the commercial media."(1)

Popular educators tell us that social change begins with reflection on a personal experience of oppression, or identification with someone else's experience of oppression. Rarely is someone persuaded adopt a radically different approach to issues by something they have been told or that they have read. When embarking on a media project, it is important to realize that the information you are conveying is most likely to be used by people who are already in essential agreement with you, and that what you are doing is adding to their knowledge and empowering them to take further action.

Our bias then is towards the smaller groups, the ones without much money and little access to mass media, the ones which probably don't want much to do with commercial media anyway, but which do want their message to reach more people.

To engage in a media project, however, means confronting a few problems. One of these has to do with

the nature of news.

A standard definition of news comes from U.S. writer Mitchell V. Charnley: "News is the timely report

of facts or opinion that hold interest or importance, or both, for a considerable number of people."(2)

But the words of Loren Lind, a former Globe and Mail reporter who teaches journalism at Ryerson, remind us that news is not as simple as it seems: "Like the Eaton Centre, news has about six levels above ground and four below ground, each with hazards all its own. So what seems very simple on the surface -- all flash and glamour -- turns out to be full of funny sales clerks and strange exits."

The standard working definition for news comes from John Bogart, a city editor at the New York Sun in the 1880s: "When a dog bites a man, that is not news. But when a man bites a dog, that is news."

In other words, news is an unusual occurrence, an exception to the general state of affairs. focusing on the immediate and the unusual, news cannot always help us understand an event. News tends to ignore the background to events, the relationships and currents in the flow of history.

Moreover, news reporting carries with it reporters' and editors' ways of seeing events. While members of the Canadian news media claim objectivity, they tend to show their probusiness, middle-class biases when they attempt to deal with issues like poverty, the third world and critiques of our socio-economic system.

Another factor is that what merits coverage is partly determined by the structures of the capitalist system. Newspaper business and social pages are filled day after day with accounts of the world of the well-to-do.

Poverty, on the other hand -involving the lives of more than five million poor Canadians -- is not

(2) Mitchell V. Charnley, Reporting, New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1975.

<sup>(1)</sup> In "Media control tightening," Catalyst, March 1985 (published by Citizens for Public Justice, 229 College St., Toronto M5T 1R4.

covered adequately. It is obvious that Canadian newspapers have far more writers who are knowledgeable about the oil and gas industries and the stock market than they have writers who are knowledgeable about social services (or the lack of them).

A 1970 Senate Committee on the Mass Media concluded that the economics of advertising ultimately determined all other decisions basic to the operation of a newspaper or broadcasting station. (Advertising makes up 65 per cent of the gross income of the newspaper publishing industry and 93 per cent of gross revenues for private broadcasting.) An advertising executive told the senators how advertising affects media coverage of the poor: "The measure of editorial acceptability becomes... 'Will it interest the affluent?' We don't have mass media, we have class media -- media for the upper and middle classes. The poor, the young the old, the natives, the blacks are virtually ignored. It is as if they don't exist."

Our media, however, are part of the social fabric, reflecting the values and levels of power of our society. That poor people have no voice within our media reflects an attitude of our affluent society. It is likely that most Canadians still regard the poor as authors of their own misfortune. That the poor are

poor because of circumstances over which they have little or no control may still be too much for most Canadians to face.

It is important for community groups or their media representatives to understand the nature of news if they want to interact with existing mainstream or alternative media, or to create their own media. The article by Max Allen which follows this introduction encourages community groups to avoid the mainstream media and to work with alternative media. Appendix A provides a short bibliography on the problems of mass communications.

The rest of the book will help you select and/or create media which are appropriate for your group or project, whether it be through print, graphics, photography, slide/ tape, video, film, radio or television.

This book is a revised version of a two-volume kit published in 1983 by the Community Forum on Shared Responsibility. Much of the original research (done by Lois Marsh) and writing (by Barbara Walsh) is still valid today and is reproduced here. Resources, facts and contacts have been checked and updated by Teresa Guerriero and Jim Hodgson.

We hope this volume will be a valuable addition to the growth of alternative media approaches.

As the news media became a massive industry during this century, it has faced a great deal of controversy. The themes of twentieth century criticism, in general, have been these:

l. The media have wielded enormous power for their own ends. The owners have propagated their own opinions, especially in matters of politics and economics, at the expense of opposing views.

2. The media have been subservient to big business and at times let advertisers control editorial policies and editorial content.

 Because the media are controlled by one socio-economic class, loosely the "business class," access to the industry is difficult for the newcomer; therefore, the free and open market of ideas is endangered.

4. Media do not reflect the diversity of voices in our society -- too much attention is paid to the affluent at the expense of the poor.

5. The media have resisted social change and have frequently been

identified as instruments of social control.

6. The media have often paid more attention to the superficial and sensational than to the significant in its coverage of current happenings, and their entertainment has often been lacking in substance.

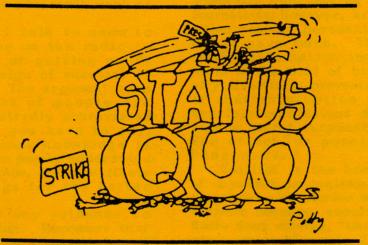
7. The media have endangered public morals.

8. The media have upheld traditional notions of public morality.

9. The media invade the privacy of individuals without just cause.

(Adapted from Theodore Peterson, "The Social Responsibility Theory of the Press," in Fred S. Siebert, et. al., Four Theories of the Press, Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1978.)

## Is the Media Your Message?



Issues & Actions

# Is the Media Your Message?

by Max Allan

I make CBC radio programs.\* When people ask me how they can get their concerns dealt with by the major media, I ask them in return if that's

what they really want.

The Community Forum book you're reading now is full of excellent advice on getting into the mainstream media: how to get your news releases noticed, how to survive interviews, how to cope with that process known as "making news." The trouble with this advice, in my view, is that it's like advice on the best way to get into jail. It's a place you don't want to be.

Many people I talk to seem to think that getting on the radio to tell their story, or getting on TV (that's the real sign of success) is an end in itself. The argument runs like this: If lots of people are exposed to an admittedly abbreviated version of what you have to say, that's useful because knowledge is power, and the more people understand what you already know, the more likely it is that a change for the better will occur.

I don't know any evidence to support this notion. Remember that I'm talking about the transmission of information intended to support social change through the mainstream media. There are lots of other ways to exchange information -- posters on telephone poles, conversations over supper, etc. -- that in my experience are effective. But I think trying to get into the big time is counter-productive. Mainstream media are in the business of preventing social change, and the conventions of mainstream journalism are precisely designed to do just that.

The most effective of those conventions is bipolar objectivity. It's also the most deeply entrenched. It works like this: a reporter's job is to pick (or sometimes devise) two positions on an issue that can be contrasted with one another and then to present the conflict between them without appearing to support either position. This nutty process is not the kind of thing you'd ever do in real life -- it only happens in journalism. There are rarely two sides to anything; more commonly, there are one or 140. And rarely is any knowledgeable person neutral: we spend our lives making up our minds. Journalists, however, are supposed to either conceal personal knowledge or not to have much. This tactic of casting information about the public world in the mold of bipolar objectivity effectively prevents the receiver of that information from drawing sensible conclusions about, for instance, moral responsibility, cause and effect, or possibilities for consensus.

Conflict is the bread and butter of objective journalism. The news is so packed with stories about death and violence because, according to a CBC Radio News veteran, "the best news is news where there is dramatic conflict."

Everybody's news -- not just the CBC's -- is fragmented and decontextualized. Stories are always condensed. There's no such thing as a story that's too short. Almost everything is thought, by editors, to be too long. On television and radio. stories are so abbreviated that everybody relies on codes and shorthand. You have assume your audience shares with you a view of who and what is good and bad. You can't take time to explain all that. So guerrillas, for example, are always bad. Strikes are bad. "We" are good, and "they" are bad. Destruction lends itself to quick description. Construction is very complicated as a rule and is seldom discussed in the news. Death is fast. Life is slow.

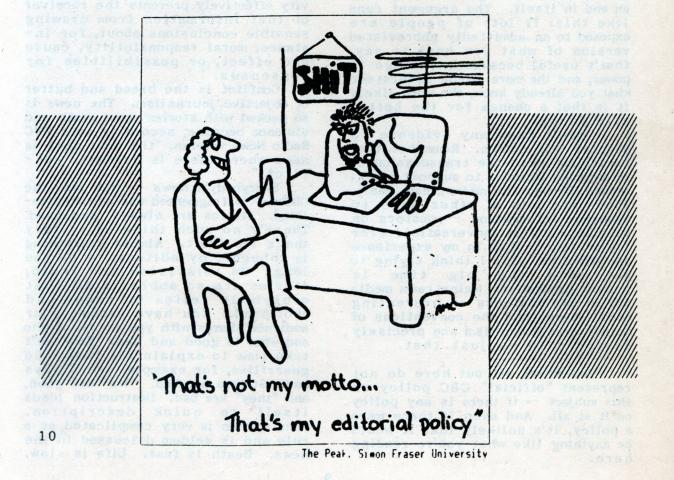
<sup>\*</sup>The views set out here do not represent "official" CBC policy on this subject -- if there is any policy on it at all. And even if there were a policy, it's unlikely that it would be anything like what you're reading here.

As a result, the news -- which sets the tone for all media activity -- is most often about death. On average, five out of seven CBC Radio hourly news stories are about lethal conflict -- though by the time you read this that percentage may have been changed by an act of will on the part of some newspeople.

This matters because your news -the material you want the public to know -- is set in the mainstream media in the context of chaos and conflict. Suppose you wanted to sell your beautiful hand-woven linen sheets to the public. Would you advertise them by carrying a placard in a Ku Klux Klan parade? Suppose you wanted to garner support for more child care centres. Would you speak about this in the midst of a rally sponsored by an organization that trains mercenaries? When you put yourself in the midst of the mass media death-orgy, that's what you're doing. I think your message is thus unavoidably contaminated; people at least subconsciously understand that the news

is mostly irrelevant to their lives in addition to be being gratuitously violent. How are they supposed to be able to distinguish what you're trying to say from this background, particularly since your message will be machined into a standard shape as it passes through the media factory?

Once you notice that news is defined as conflict (see the following page), whether international or interpersonal, I think you'll be as wary as I am of using it as the medium to convey your message. I don't think you can successfully sneak your good news in among all the dismemberment and have it retain its intended meaning. I urge you to look carefully at what the news you read or look at or listen to is actually about -mostly it all goes in one ear and out the other: what you notice is the way it sounds with its snappy presentation and authoritative tones, and not what it's actually about. Once you catch on to what it's about (no matter that the names and the places and the toxic chemicals change from day to day), I bet you'll decide to avoid it.



#### News is defined as conflict

You probably haven't noticed what the media are most interested in because you've been paying attention to what you're interested in. But if you're thinking of reaching the general public, you'd better be careful of the context. The Toronto Sun is an easy target -- everybody knows the Sun is addicted to crime and disorder, so the this typical week of headlines is no surprise:

NETWORK FOR NAZIS
ONTARIO CREDIT RATING IS IN DANGER
MYSTERY MURDER OF YOUNG BRIDE
DENTIST 'WALKING BOMB' WHEN HE SHOT FAMILY
KILLER DISEASE RISK TO EAST-END CHILDREN

But the respectable Globe and Mail shares the Sun's worldview and gives it to us via these six stories gathered under the heading "Around the World:"

14 KILLED IN SRI LANKA
DYNAMITE IN JEEP KILLS 30 IN ANGOLA
IRA MAN KILLED BY HIS OWN BOMB
DRUNKEN SOLDIER KILLS NICARAGUANS
MONUMENT PLANNED FOR KAL VICTIMS
STUDENTS KILLED IN UTAH BUS CRASH

On June 23, 1985, CBC Radio News started the midnight news with this remarkable little essay:

"It appears that Canada is no longer free of the type of terrorist acts that seem commonplace in other countries. That reality struck home on Sunday with the worst air disaster at sea the world has ever seen. As rescue workers continue to pull bodies from their watery graves, the feeling is the jumbo jet was blown out of the sky by an onboard bomb.... Many people are wondering if a bomb got by security either at Toronto or at a stop in Montreal, and if Canada is to blame for the almost certain death of the 329 aboard Flight 182. But there's more -- Canada may also be responsible for the deaths of two baggage handlers in Tokyo...."

And here's a day picked more or less at random (it's the day I'm writing this) from The New York Times. I've underlined some words. This list is the headlines of all the stories the Times found fit to print:

Philadelphia Mayor Says He Fears
'Attempts at Revenge' by Radicals

Salvador Leader, at White House, Claims War Gains

Reagan Tax Plan Seen as Mixture of Policy Changes and Loopholes

House Unit Backs Democratic Plan for 1986 Budget

Soviet, Once Again, Proclaims Measures Against Alcoholism The Nigerian Exodus: Old Rivalries Emerge

Behind Military Budget Rises: Political Aims of Lawmakers

Further Bombings Expected in India

18 Rebels Reported Slain in Sri Lanka

Japan Says Soviet Plane Has Vanished

- As Ethiopians Starve, Food Rots on the Dock
- Panel Votes to Expand Fund on Toxic Waste
- Thai Troops Force Vietnamese Soldiers Out
- Soccer Fire Witness Tells of Cigarette
- Bangladeshis Vote Despite Call for Boycott
- I.R.A. Party in Ulster Gains Elections
- A California Businessman Is Indicted in Export of Trigger Device to Israel
- Israel Offers to Return Some of the Trigger Devices Usable in Making Nuclear Arms
- Army in Lebanon Denies Bomb Link
- U.N. Aide Freed by Beirut Captors After 36 Hours; Deal Offered on 6 Others
- U.S. Cites Warning to Iran
- Canadian Battle Rages Over Timbered Island
- Pope Tells Belgians to Abandon "Idols" of Secularized Life
- Two Malaria Vaccines to be Tested
  This Summer
- U.S. Warns 90 Exhibitors About Terrorist Threat at Paris Air Show
- NATO Ship Barred by Greece
- Texas Reaches Accord to End Prison Dispute
- Hunt Is Widened for Two Killers Who Escaped from a U.S. Prison
- Reagan Gift List: Dog and Gun
- Jackson Is a Witness for Ex-Campaign Chief
- Recanted Rape Case Fails to Gain Early Hearing

- Miami Offender Ordered Back to Santa Monica
- Army Sergeant Charged with Killing 3 in Family
- Wallace Spurns Request for Extradition to Texas
- Trial Starts in Fatal Fire at Theme Park
- Cuomo Is Applauded Often During Visit to School on L.I.
- Von Bulow Jury Is Told Insulin Brought on Coma
- Clergy Malpractice Lawsuit Is Dismissed Again by Judge
- Berkeley Package Explodes
- Philadelphia Navy Yard Against Staves Off Knife
- Accounting Officer Reports
  Chemical War Defenses Inadequate
- Radical Group's Homes Under Watch
- Senators Vote to Strengthen the Safe Drinking Water Act
- \$74 Billion Given to Charity in '84
- Buchanan Sees Political Gain for G.O.P. in Reagan Tax Plan
- School Workers Seized by Police in Sale of Drugs
- Experimental School for East Harlem
- Liberal Party, Looking for a Lift, Is Improving Its Ties with Koch
- Lawyers for Goetz to See Jury Data
- Judge Refuses Bail for Brink's Figure
- Psychologist Held on Sexual Charges
- Cuomo Appoints a Panel to Study Issues on Aging
- O'Neill Approves Budget in Hartford
- Kean Adds Restrictions on Jersey Water Use
- Woman in Pie Toss Gets 30 Days in Jail

If all of this hasn't made you decide to avoid the news media altogether, the following list describes what works best as mainstream news, and contrasts those characteristics with others you might like to strive for instead:

Action
Bigness
High speed
Argument
Failure
Conflict
Confusion
Disruption
Atomization
Chaos
Destruction
Thanatos
War

Thought
Smallness
Low speed
Agreement
Success
Consensus
Clarity
Continuity
Coherence
Order
Construction
Eros
Peace

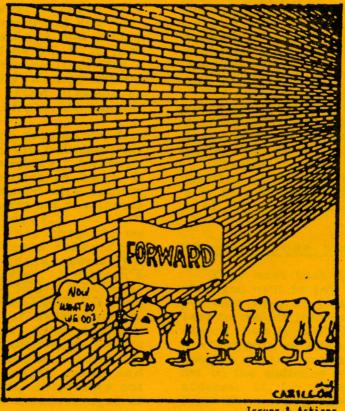
If you still think your work will somehow count for more if it makes news, may I urge you to read these two books, both of which have meant a lot to me in thinking about journalism and some alternative ways of exchanging information about the public world:

- Jerry Mander's book Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television is the most thought-provoking book about the media I've read;

- and Brian Whitaker's News Ltd., a book almost nobody has heard of, is written out of first-hand newspaper experience and mixes very smart

analysis with vivid anecdotes.

## **Getting Organized**



Issues & Actions

## **Getting Organized**

You've decided you want your group to grow, or that there ought to be broader public support around an issue, or you have some piece of information about which you feel the public should know. Perhaps your group has developed some expertise in a particular area and you want to share that with others. This section will help you choose a strategy that meets your needs and to look at other resources.

It is useful to consider efforts to use mass media and to create your own mass communications as a form of public relations -- "PR." The term sounds ghastly, yes, but the difference between commercial and noncommercial use of media is that when a non-profit group does PR, it is promoting a service which will satisfy a need in the community, whereas commercial advertisers often attempt to manufacture a need or provide popular entertainment.

PR is a long term program aimed at building a relationship between your group and the community. Although your group must project an image, it should be more concerned with helping the community understand the issues

with which you deal.
At the end of this chapter, we have included a table taken from Robbie Gordon's useful book, We Interupt this Program: A Citizen's Guide to Using the Media for Social Change (Citizen Involvement Training Project, University of Massachusetts, 1978; 138 Hasbrouck, Amherst, Mass. 01003). This book addresses topics such as media strategies, audiences, print media, electronic media and cable TV. The chart, which sets out the advantages and disadvantages of each medium of mass communication, is reproduced here to stimulate discussion on what media approach is appropriate for your specific needs.

We have also included a chart depicting what nonprofit groups can learn from profit groups about public

relations strategies.

One resource which might be helpful is a set of four videos produced by the Parallel Institute of Montreal

in the mid-70s on the topic of public relations for community groups. tapes can be obtained from the Cross Cultural Communication Centre, 965 Bloor St. W., Toronto, M6H 1L7, (530-4117). The titles are: Bad Publicity and More Bad Publicity; Getting Better Publicity; Making Your Own Publicity; and Research.

#### Critiquing your group's PR

Before starting a new project, your group should spend some time examining your previous PR. If there are any old news releases, pamphlets or the like lying around, their weaknesses should be evaluated. Have you used poor language? Were your graphics effective? Did you include too much copy?

If you don't have any previous PR, you might begin to brainstorm and compile a list of possible projects. Also, examine successful PR produced

by other groups.

Finally, to make the critique a positive experience, you can take your list of problems and turn it into a list of goals.

#### Choosing your audience

Your next task is to decide to whom you want to talk and the message you want to give them. It is important to realize that your issue cannot touch everyone the same way.

Moreover, as community organizers, readers of the commercial media may not be the audience which we want to address. If, for example, we want to reach the working class, we might try using union papers, not the Toronto Star or the Toronto Sun.

If you are trying to address a particular segment of the population, then research their needs and ask yourself a few questions: What are their needs? How will the information I want to get to them affect their needs? What kind of language or pictures do I need to use in order to relate best to my audience?

We must also be clear about our message. We must be clear about what we want from our audience. Do we want to inform them? Educate them? Have them take action -- such as a demonstration, protest letter, donation or boycott? Do we want them to join a mailing list?

# Using mainstream media

Over the past two decades, many alternatives to the mainstream, commercial media have developed and met with varying levels of success. Community organizers may heed Max Allen's advice and use the alternative media or create their own media, but there may still be occasions when you want to deal with the mainstream media.

Should you decide to get involved with the news industry, consider for a moment the advantages and disadvantages of dealing with this complex beast. Graham Crawford, in a media kit prepared for the Right to Privacy Committee, sketches the pluses and minuses succinctly.

On the plus side:

-- it gives us widespread coverage (national, regional and/or local); -- it is often the only way groups can reach thousands of people;

-- it is cost effective (cheap: the price of a phone call or a postage stamp);

-- it often helps legitimize our cause or position

-- it is a persuasive means of affecting public opinion.

On the negative side:
-- our message is subject to a reporter's biases (it's difficult for anyone
to be truly objective and reporters
are no exception);

the message can become filtered (why do they always seem to leave the most important things out?)

-- hostile columnists can turn news into attacks

the media are tied directly into the power groups (political parties, corporations, shareholders); therefore, maintaining the status quo is in their best interests (don't have unrealistic expectations of what they can do for you);

controversy (which sell newspapers);
-- you will often be contrasted in the report by some opposing faction, often a reactionary faction (reporters claim it's "balanced" reporting.

# Collective productions

As people involved in social change, some of us have felt a need to work in a collective or democratic process, rather than in a hierarchical or individual one, believing that such an approach allows for more creativity and a diversity of ideas. Toronto film-maker Glen Richards suggested that when one makes a film individually, one gets too close to the material and one's ego gets in the way. A collective of graphic artists, Mondo Graphia, believes that a group effort produces a broader spectrum of ideas and a richer quality in the final product.

Perhaps this method of working is not appropriate for all situations (such as writing one-page news releases), but it may be an approach some groups will want to consider.

# Media consultants

For those who wish to put time and and a bit of money into a media project, there are media consultants who are willing to discuss your problems and campaigns with you. Some have a sliding scale of fees for groups with small budgets:

Jim Adams
Ontario News Service
Box 142, 55 McCaul St.
Toronto
M5T 2W7
Public relations consulting, newsletter/newspaper production.

Canadian Centre for Philanthropy 185 Bay St., Ste. 504 Toronto M5J 1K5 364-4609

Publishes material relating to communications and fundraising, along with a directory of Canadian charitable foundations and corporate donors.

The Copywrite Company
120 Pembroke St.
Toronto
M5A 2N8
928-0430

Can help with advertising copy and layout, graphic design, artwork, direct mail, logos, posters, speeches and newsletters. Publishes a promotions guide (\$4.95) outlining low-cost advertising methods.

Grassroots Network
366 Adelaide St. E., Ste. 321
Toronto
M5A 3X9
362-2926
Monthly luncheons and papers relating

to community groups and communica-

tions. (Formerly the Brown Bag Forum.)

Kai Visionworks
Box 5490, Stn. A
Toronto
M5W 1N7
964-1278
Slides and slide shows for social change. All topics including sexism, pollution, violence, peace, nature, Third World, gay/lesbian etc. Also has workshops on making slide shows.

Wendy Priesnitz & Associates
195 Markville Road
Unionville
L3R 4V8
477-3641
Freelance research, writing, editing,
publicity, research, publishing,
association management.

Stephen Thomas Associates 2249 Queen St. E. Toronto 690-8801 M4E 1G1 Canada's direct mail firm for all progressive causes.

Ken Wyman
366 Adelaide St. E., Ste. 321
Toronto
M5A 3X9
362-2926
Progressive fund-raising (includin

Progressive fund-raising (including direct mail); consultant on electronic and print media campaigns; volunteer mobilization.

#### More training

Centennial College in Scarborough offers a two- or three-year program dealing with 16mm film, video, cable, advertising and layout. It also has part-time courses in some of these areas. It has a three-year program in journalism and a two-year program in book editing and design.

George Brown College (St. James campus downtown) has a two-year program in graphic design with an option

al third year. It also has part-time

photography courses.

Humber College has a three-year course in public relations; a two-year program in advertising and graphic design; a three-year program in journalism; a two-year program in photography; and it has part-time courses in public relations, fund-raising and promotion. Humber has the most comprehensive audio-visual (a/v) training course (two years) in the Toronto area, and it has courses in advertising and graphic design, computer graphics, writing, reporting, typesetting, film, photography, television, tapes and radio broadcasting.

Network for Learning (formerly the Skills Exchange) has courses in photography, video and writing. For more information: 967-7640.

Ontario College of Art has fulland part-time courses in printing, graphic design, computer design, video, audio and photography.

Ryerson Polytechnical Institute has two- and three-year programs in journalism; a three-year program in radio and television; a four-year program in photographic arts; and several part-time programs, including a six-course certificate in magazine journalism. It also has various part-and full-time courses in graphic arts, video, 16mm film, photojournalism, still photography and slides.

Seneca College in Willowdale has two-and three-year programs in design and courses in photography, a/v, radio and TV.

Sheridan College in Oakville has a three-year program in graphic design; a two-year program in photography; and two- and three-year programs in media arts and writing. It also offers courses covering video, film, a/v, radio, cable, still photos, slide tapes and advertising.

Toronto School of Art has a full fine arts program and part-time courses in drawing, life drawing, painting, illustration, printmaking, colour and design, art history and photography.

York University has a respected film program of three or four years in length. There are some evening and

summer courses as well.

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more owners to remote the personner.

Media Strategy Cha	t: Advantages and Limitations	Limitations
Press Releases (news)	reaches wide circulation through print and electronic media     free publicity     press coverage lends clout	<ul> <li>not good for a limited/small audience</li> <li>may not be best place for reaching target audience</li> <li>time of day (newscast), page article appears on (newspaper), size of article or length of story afferwhether audience sees article and its effectiveness</li> </ul>
Public Service Announcements (PSAs)	"free ads" on air     good tool for public education (counter ads)	<ul> <li>often aired at odd hours (low audience; prime-tim goes to those who pay)</li> <li>if station produces ad, often done in cheapest way one person talking; no editing, no slides or music, no film or tape.</li> <li>if you produce PSA it must meet quality standards of station</li> </ul>
Calendar Listings	good for reminding people of date, time, place of events	<ul> <li>primarily good for event publicity; not for genera PR</li> <li>only gives who, what, where, when</li> <li>may not be seen</li> </ul>
Interview Shows	<ul> <li>free publicity</li> <li>allows you to clarify issues in more in-depth way</li> <li>(½ hour vs. a one minute PSA or short article)</li> <li>provides public forum for your issues</li> <li>allows you to speak for yourselves (represent yourselves) rather than rely on interpretation</li> </ul>	Is a sudience     usually produced cheaply; appeal of "talking heads" limited; many people tune out after a short time

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or individual one, believing 5995 1885

Strategy	Advantages	Limitations
Press Coverage at Meeting	informs those who didn't attend meeting of decisions/proceedings     keeps issues/events before public eye     more in-depth that press release     useful for raising public opinion	possibility of misquotes     interpretation of reporter may differ from your own
Press Conference	<ul> <li>calls attention to a situation</li> <li>useful for announcing findings, publication of facts, results of studies, clarification of an action, making announcements or demands, brings out the press; makes an event out of your news</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>difficult to find right time of day to hold so all press can attend and meet that day's deadline</li> <li>difficult to get the press to come unless something very important</li> <li>could be a lot of effort for little return</li> <li>place is crucial</li> </ul>
Columns or Regular Features; Article Series	<ul> <li>providing in-depth public education on issues</li> <li>provides forum</li> <li>keeps your group/issue in public eye</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>difficult to convince media to do</li> <li>need enough information to generate several articles</li> <li>weekly deadlines</li> <li>takes lots of person hours</li> <li>takes a lot research</li> </ul>
Photos/Artwork	<ul> <li>good way to bring visual attention to issue</li> <li>attention-getting</li> <li>could be used as filler</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>could be costly</li> <li>photos may not be returned</li> <li>may send out more than get used</li> <li>(cost effective?)</li> <li>needs to meet papers' standards</li> </ul>
Brochures, Handouts, Mailers, etc.	<ul> <li>direct mail insures you reach intended audience</li> <li>is a tangible reminder for people</li> <li>can be more eye appealing/attention-getting than articles</li> </ul>	could be costly     often thrown away     some people have an antagonism to mailings
Posters	attracts attention     additional exposure	<ul> <li>need people to post</li> <li>location of poster important (or may not reach audience)</li> <li>cost</li> </ul>

Strategy	10	- Limitations
Slide-tapes, Video	<ul> <li>visual presentation of issues, facts and resources</li> <li>good stimulus for discussion</li> <li>experiential (visually)</li> <li>adds variety and interest</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>e expensive (possibly)</li> <li>need people to present the tap</li> <li>need equipment</li> <li>need people to put it together</li> </ul>
Banners	eye-catching     adds to feeling of event or festivity     creates sense of community involvement	<ul> <li>must see that banner is delivered a down at proper times</li> <li>each town has own stipulations</li> <li>could cost up to \$400 if done con</li> </ul>
Bus Posters	hitting the commuter crowd (and youth/ elderly)	• cost • limited audience
Public Service Advertisements (newspapers)	could be more attention getting than an article     good as supplement to article for publicity for event	<ul> <li>must run a week to be effective (if only run a few days, some people may miss</li> <li>costly (generally 25% off regular price newspaper ads)</li> </ul>
Event or Action	<ul> <li>good chance of getting coverage</li> <li>gets public attention</li> <li>could be entertaing or educational</li> <li>brings issue to the streets or the community</li> <li>allows you personal contact with public</li> <li>creates media follow-up interest and image in community</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>much planning necessary</li> <li>time-consuming</li> <li>materials may be needed</li> <li>requires pre-publicity</li> </ul>
Press Packets	gives media background information on group and issues     could lead to more in-depth story	needs to be updated
Newsletters	good for networking     in-depth information     provides forum for community people     acts as clearinghouse for infromation	<ul> <li>costly</li> <li>time consuming</li> <li>needs a staff</li> <li>needs submissions</li> <li>needs to remain lively and relevance</li> <li>needs mimeo, printer or graphic</li> </ul>

### EN THINGS NONDROF

GET DOWN TO RENLIMOR

Miss ma IL

In approaching a fund-raising, membership, student recruitment or communications problem, the first rule is to shed your cloak of virtue. Look at yourself clearly and coldly. Business does it in unambiguous, analytical terms. So should

Your organization is a product. Your donors. alumni, members or stu-

dents are consumers of that product. Your organization fits into a product category; colleges and conservation organizations are examples of two product categories, soap is another. Other organ-

izations in your product category are your competitors. Now ask yourself some hard questions. How good is your product? How is it perceived by its consumers? Is it filling a meaningful gap in its product category? What is your competition doing! How well are they doing it?

Answer these questions carefully. It is the beginning of a process called marketing.

MARKE MARKETONIG A WASY OF LITTE

(Don't just do something, sit there)

answers. And hard an-

swers come from data.

Look in the old files, talk

to your staff people, talk

to the individuals you

talk to your

service

M arketing is not a mystical term. It is neither a luxury, nor jargon. It is a disciplined approach to problem solving-a process that allows you to through a problem logically from

point A to point B.

petition. coma frame of reference for your problem. Develop alternative solutions Hard quesand then evaluate tions need hard your alternatives be-

fore you act. No matter how urgent a problem is, if you sit there and think it through, your solutions will always be better.

LOOK AT YOUR PROBLEMS THROUGH THUE ENTES OF OTHERS

(Now may be a bittle nearsighted)

Marketing research is the essential ingredient in the marketing process. The best way to describe a marketing study is to say that it is an insurance policy.

You've probably seen the university that is spending \$150,000 annually on recruitment materials but not one dollar to find out whether the brochures, catalogues or posters will be effective in bringing new students to the school. But you'll never see

Procter & Gamble distribute a new product nationally until it's been thoroughly concept tested, lab tested and market tested. Because their bottom line is profit, the investment must be protected.

A study does several things. It validates (or invalidates)—with numbers—your hypotheses through the eyes of others. If you need a communications program, then it will tell you how to present yourself, what creative themes to use, what information is most important, least important—these nuances may make all the difference when it comes to a successful solution versus one that fails or is only marginally successful.

NO ONTE CAN BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

(Ifind a need and fill it.) No product can be all things to all people. For instance, Ivory Soap appeals to one market segment consistently women who want a pure, natural, utilitarian soap.

Imagine Ivory trying

to appeal to those who

want a creamy soap, who want a colored soap to match the bathroom, who want to feel sexy when they use it ... ad infinitum. It becomes obvious that if a product tries to appeal to everyone, then it is likely to appeal to no one very much. Ivory has insured its place in the soap market by recognizing a consumer segment it can serve well. And because that segment is served well, it continues to buy.

The lesson for nonprofits is simple; locate your market, decide how to appeal to it and serve it.



23

# 5 FIND HOUR POSITION IN LIFE.

(And communicate it.)

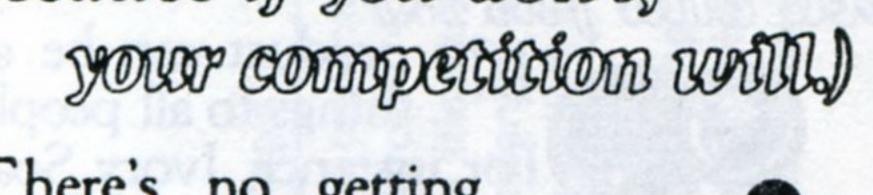
If you've located your market, you've found your

position in life. But positioning shows. It is a presentation of your organization to the public—in speeches, in brochures, in films and slide shows, in your case statement, in your curriculum, in your policy statement,

meetings. It communicates what you have to sell that your competitors don't. For example, Ivory Soap is positioned to the segment we talked about earlier. All of its communications use fresh lovely women, babies, soft imagery and, of course, that famous line –99 and 44/100% pure. While Camay soap is positioned as lush, creamy, sexy soap. Its advertising uses beautiful models lounging in the tub preparing for an evening out. Each product has defined its market and reinforced its position through communications that are consistent and relevant.

TOU MUST COMPETE.

Because if you don't



There's no getting around it. There's a finite amount of philanthropic dollars, board members and constituents available to all non-profit institutions. So you must compete. If you don't, then your organization will suffer.

the business world, people are always under the pressure of fierce competition, price

new product developments. They recognize the competition. They analyze its strengths
and weaknesses and
then develop responses
which
enable

them

to compete effectively. Sometimes they may offer a "cents-off" coupon as a premium. Or they may reposition their

product as Bromo Seltzer did in vying with the giant, Alka Seltzer. Bromo Seltzer offered the one aspect that the competition could not. A speedier dissolve.

The same kind of thinking should be true of nonprofits. Maybe you can offer a reduced mem-

bership fee for a controlled campaign period... or try a new brochure... or offer one of your publications as a premium for joining the organization... or bus high school seniors to your campus for a weekend.

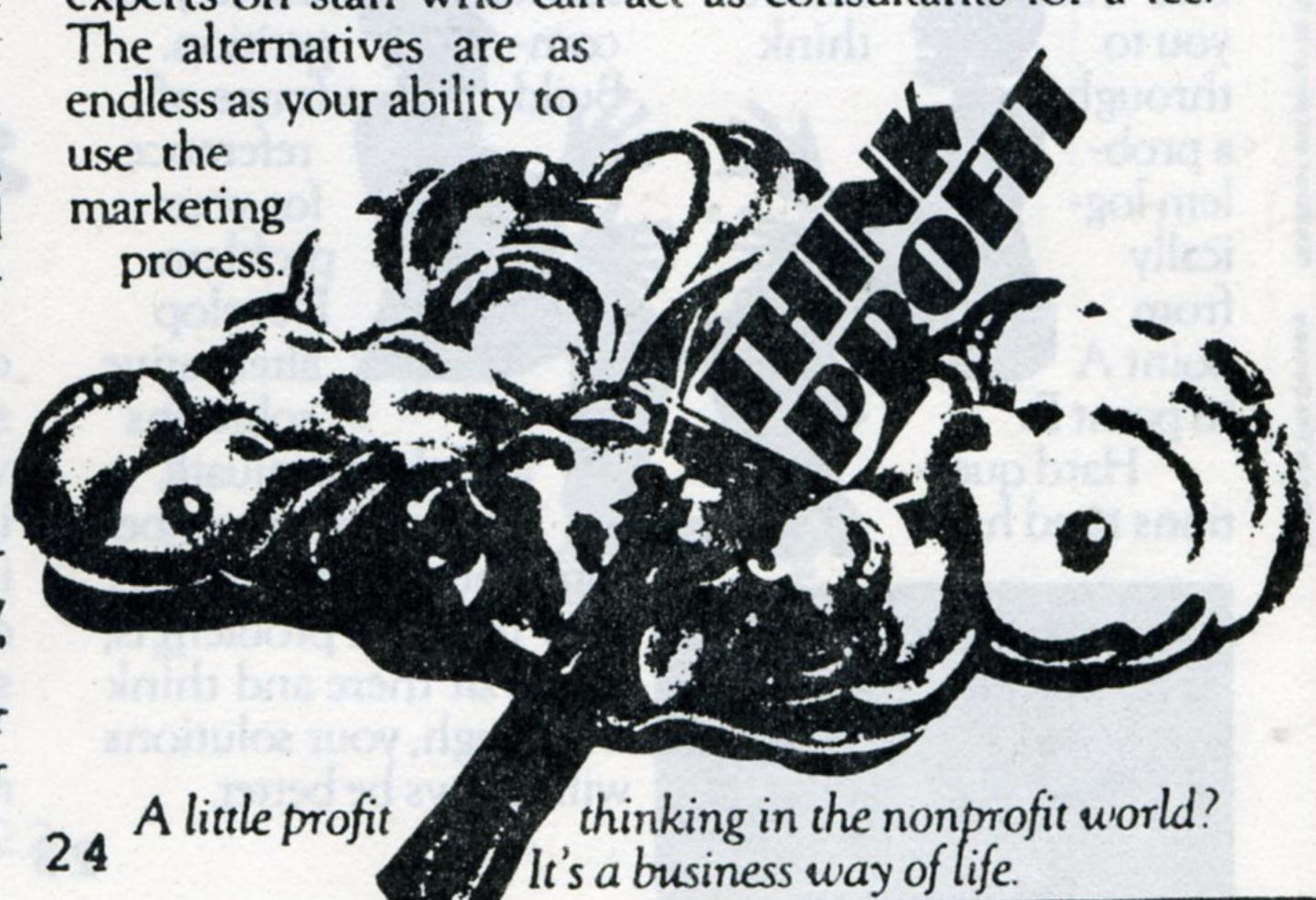
Now's the time to compete a little harder.

MORIE TO SEILL THAN YOU THINK.

Almost every nonprofit executive has the fantasy of bringing his or her organization to a point where it can be self sufficient—not to have to rely on foundations, wealthy individuals or corporations. One of the best ways to become independent is to develop goods or services that could sustain your administrative and programmatic needs.

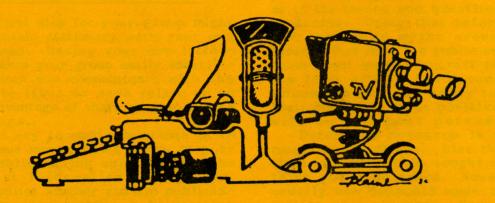
Business has been thinking like this for years. Only they call it extending their line. For instance, Gillette sells razors, blades and shaving cream. Their first product was razor blades. Through experience selling to the shaver, they came to understand his needs, served him well and developed a reliable name. So when they came out with a new shaving product—cream—people felt confident buying from Gillette. And as the company continued to grow, the line kept extending—to various types of shaving cream and then on to developing related grooming products.

Nonprofits can easily adapt this thinking. Have you ever analyzed the salability of the goods and services you currently provide free? Perhaps you now give away a magazine that you could sell on a subscription basis. Maybe that last study your staff conducted can be sold to interested individuals or maybe you have contact with a unique list of people that can be bound into a directory and sold to the right market. Maybe you have experts on staff who can act as consultants for a fee.



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## **Meeting the Media**



## Meeting the Media

Whether you're dealing with mainstream or existing alternative media, you'll be dealing with editors and reporters who may know little about your group and be less than sympathetic to it.

Most of the advice contained in this chapter pertains to both the mainstream and alternative media. first parts of the chapter deal broadly with your group's relations with the print and broadcast media. The last three sections deal specifically with techniques -- news releases, interviews and news conferences.

#### Tasks for your media team

A first step for your group might be to obtain stationary with your own letterhead. Having your own letterhead makes your group easily identifiable when you communicate with the media to issue an news relase or to take advantage of their coming events listings.

The key to media relations is to keep your messages as short as possible while making sure that all the relevant information is supplied. This applies whether you are publicizing a regular meeting, a fundraising campaign, drawing attention to a problem, or holding a workshop.

Remember that conflict makes stories, but not necessarily the kind of stories that are good for your organization. So it is vital to be organized and coherent:

-- have one person involved in media liaison as spokesperson;

-- print their telephone number(s), day and night, on all communications; -- the spokesperson must be articulate in electronic media and be adept at dealing with reporters; they should be well-rehearsed, have the research at their fingertips, and develop facility in dealing with hostile questioning; -- keep a file of newspaper clippings and notes on mentions of your group in the broadcast media (clipping services, for both print and broadcast monitoring, are listed in the Yellow Pages);

-- write filler columns for community and suburban newspapers; these often have a lot of space to fill and will run your material (small newspapers in the Toronto area are listed in the Toronto Media Guide section of this book).

#### Research

Graham Crawford identifies two types of research, positive and defensive:

Positive research is fighting myths with facts. Your conversation with the interviewer, researcher or producer will give you some direction as to the issues and questions you'll be facing. Using that information, list the public myths around your issue. What does the public currently think about you? Contrast this with the facts around the issue. information must you convey to change their attitude? What positive points will be the most persuasive?

Defensive research is getting ready for the attack. List the questions (and make them tough) that you think you'll be asked. News people usually use comments made by your critics as a resource. Know what's been said and be able to react to it. Develop your answers to the questions

you have listed.

For any interview, send appropriate literature to the interviewer/ producer. This accomplishes a number

of things:

-- you will influence his/her thinking and possibly the line of questioning; -- you will be providing material that helps him/her get the other side of

the picture;

-- you make their research job easier; -- you will be protecting yourself from unfair treatment. If the material you supply covers the important points around your issue, the reporter/broadcaster cannot ignore these points without appearing biased. Make reference to them in the interview if necessary. But be selective. Don't send everything that was ever written on the subject.

27

# Rehearsal

Press reporters use roughly the same interview techniques as are used by broadcast interviewers. Whether you're meeting newspaper reporter for an interview over lunch, or going on a radio interview program, or speaking at a news conference, you will have to rehearse.

(This section and the following four sections are taken from Graham Crawford's media kit, External Communication: Contact with the Media, prepared a few years ago for the Right to Privacy Committe in Toronto. The material has been edited slightly.)

The best way to prepare for an interview is definitely to role play the situation with members of your group:

-- get someone (or several people from your group) to help you develop your answers;

-- record the role play on tape;
-- build and refine your answers;
-- don't be too easily satisfied with
your responses. You can always make
your answers crisper and more focused.
-- don't assume you already know how
to answer the question. Unless you've
said it out loud, you haven't prepared.

If you are invited to appear on a talk show, find out who else has been invited, and clarify the topics of discussion with the producer.

# Define your aces

Your "aces" are the position statement you want to make about your organization or issue during the interview,
whether you are asked about them or
not. It's up to you to fit them in by
bridging to your aces when you get the
opportunity. But don't wait too long
or else you may never get the chance.

Some common bridges:

-- "I'm glad you mentioned that because I wanted to point out that ace ."

-- I don't know whether you're aware of this, but ace ."

# Delivery

For the sake of your group or issue, you should project a positive image.

Appearance: If it's a television interview or news conference, the television equipment can't handle white. Stick to solid, mid-range colours. Wear lightweight clothing. You'll be hot enough under the lights and the pressure of the question.

Manners: Don't lose your temper. Stay calm. The audience usually sides the the polite, calm person who is under attack.

Concern: The radio or TV audience didn't tune in to hear about your problems; similarly, newspaper readers don't want to read about your problems. They do want to know how your issue or actions are affecting them. Know what their concerns are and address those concerns in your comments.

Relate to your audience:

-- Use plain talk. Avoid jargon or buzz words they may not understand.

-- Answer questions directly. Show you have nothing to hide.

-- Use examples. Relate your group's concerns to the concerns your audience has (discrimination, harassment, human rights, etc.)

-- Show your feelings. People relate most strongly through their emotions. -- Tell the truth. Don't be evasive and never play dumb!

Some delivery techniques:
-- Initiate: don't just respond to
questions, raise some of your own.
-- Pacing: don't be afraid to pause,
if only for effect. It shows that
you're giving the question some
thought.

-- Involve: ask the interviewer for his/her point of view. This helps you direct the flow of the interview.
-- Be pre-emptive: If you know a sensitive topic will be raised, don't wait for it, raise it yourself.

#### Trap questions -- The five key ones to watch out for

l. Editorialized or loaded preface questions take off from a so-called "fact" or premise that you don't accept. To avoid the trap, you have to first challenge and refute the "fact" and then answer the question. Such a question runs like this: "Given the fact that all homosexuals (or all women, or all street people)..., then why ...?"

2. Some questions put words in your mouth, words that you would never put there yourself. "Would you say that it is more important for gays (or women, or all street people) to ... than ... ?" If you don't challenge the statement, or the way in which it is constructed, then you will appear to accept it. If that's not the way you see the issue, acknowledge the question, deny its validity, and explain why.

3. The set-up. If the interviewer asks you a question like, "Are you satisfied with ... " and you say "Yes," then s/he may have some information that you didn't think s/he had.

4. The interviewer can put you on false ground by equating you or your organization with situations that are not within your control or don't represent your community. You may be asked to speak for the whole community. Break the equation as quickly as possible. Speak only for yourself and your organization.

5. The lazy question is just to general to be answered with a crisp answer. Ask the interviewer to be more specific. Don't attempt to make

a speech.

#### Feedback

When you don't like what you see or hear about your group or issue, -- organize your group so that you can respond quickly to negative coverage -- write letters to the editor -- telephone the TV or radio station -- picket (if you think it will work or garner positive publicity) -- legal action (if the comments warrant it; check with a lawyer).

When you like what you see or hear,

-- everyone needs positive feedback, and the media are no exception. Let them know when you're pleased; it's positive reinforcement

-- send letters or telephone -- send an extra tidbit of information to a reporter or editor who has covered your story

-- feed interested reporters with background and research; bring newsworthy situations to their attention.

Some things to watch out for: -- The laundry list: attempts to link your groups with undesirable elements, such as criminals, pimps, drug addicts, imperialists, etc.

-- Unsubstantiated statements: for example, a statement that says "Homosexuals suffer from sexual and personality disorders" or "People are poor because they're lazy."

-- Guilt by association: phrases such as "homosexual murder," "helpless

woman," "drunken bum"

-- Abusive terms: use your common sense in reacting to these comments. They are often made by one of your fanatical critics, so it may not be worth acting upon. In fact, their fanaticism can be one of your aces: their unfairness will predispose thinking people to give your side of the question a second hearing -- Stereotypes: again, use your discretion.



# News Releases

News releases (radio and television reporters don't like the term "press" release) can be used when your group has information it wants distributed quickly and widely. A news release should be simple, timely, short and broadly accessible. It can either stand on its own or entice reporters to follow it up by seeking more information.

For maximum impact, news releases should follow standard journalistic style:

-- double-spaced

-- 60 character lines

-- paragraphs indented half a line -- typed in upper and lower case letters

-- wide margins for copy editors' marks

-- don't put any underlining on the page; it confuses typesetters and won't appear in a newspaper anyway -- on the upper right corner, type release times:

For immediate release on (date) Embargoed until (time, date) For immediate release

-- give a headline. It should be teaser to lead the reader into the story,

-- Dateline, typed in upper case letters, indicates where the story has come from

-- use one side of page only

-- two pages maximum

-- end with - 30 -

-- give name of contact person day and night

In terms of content, tell the story in newspaper-like, inverted pyramid style:

-- give the most crucial information first. The first paragraphs should quickly answer the five standard questions of news writing: who, what, when, where and why. The succeeding paragraphs should develop the facts in descending order of importance.
-- give a time peg, to relate the story to the immediate present. Stories can also be based on anniversaries, such as those of major speeches, strikes, assassinations or deaths. The Socialist International calendar is a good source for anniversary dates.

-- give a local angle: "North York mayor bites dog"

-- give an angle tailored to the media you are trying to reach: "Steelworker arrested" (a story for union papers); "Catholic priest arrested" (story for church papers).

Other points to keep in mind when issuing news releases include the following:

-- there may be a niche for your story in the special interest media, such as the medical papers, local papers, small-town radio stations, or church newsletters

-- out of town and small news outlets will be grateful for photographs, so supply them with action shots, or close up shots

-- if you have photos, but don't wish to send them out unless requested, note on the news release that they are available, and list them. Also list audio tapes, video and super 8 film, if available.

-- you might wish to include a photocopy of photos: get a dot sheet from photocopy manufactures; it can be used with any photocopier and provides fairly good reproductions.

-- include a cutline with the photo, identifying people left to right. Give full name, middle initial, and explain why they are in the photo. Give extra details.

-- a quick way to get your news release around to most mainstream media is to take it to take it to Queen's Park and leave it in the Press Gallery mailboxes of those outlets which have representatives there.

-- the standard guide to news style is The Canadian Press Style Guide (available from Canadian Press, 36 King St. E. Toronto, M5L 2L9). Conforming to standard news style will make your material more acceptable to reporters and editors.

-- it may be worthwhile to have your group included on the mailing lists of government departments of special interest to your group. Send a request to their public relations departments.

Sample news releases follow in the next few pages.



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The Poliution Probe Foundation 12 Madison Avenue Toronto, Ontario MSR 2S1 (416) 926-1907

> FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 30, 1986

#### NEWS RELEASE

# "GIGANTIC LOOPHOLE" IN ONTARIO'S WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANS

Toronto - Environment Minister Jim Bradley has left a gigantic loophole in Ontario's water pollution control plans, says a new report from Pollution Probe.

Last week's revelation that half of Ontario's water polluters on the Great Lakes were violating discharge guidelines "just barely scratches the surface" says Kai Millyard, the author of the new Probe report. The Environment Ministry report underestimates the scale of the problem by only covering 100 of the 300 water polluters in the province, and by ignoring most of the pollutants in the discharges says Millyard.

According to the new Probe study a more serious problem is the 12,000 industries that discharge into municipal sewers all over Ontario. Environment Ministry reports show that over 270 chemical pollutants have been found passing through Ontario's sewage treatment plants into the Great Lakes, and that the problem is growing. "Despite the scale of this form of water pollution", says Millyard, "the province does not regulate sewer dischargers, and Jim Bradley's white paper outlining new water pollution control plans is virtually silent on the matter".

One reason for the chemicals in the sewers may be that

Ontario's clean water law exempts municipalities from prosecution for clean water violations, says Millyard.

Hews. releases tradio and televi- - - give a local angle: North Fart

Controls for the the term mayor bitter more

Among the 17 recommendations in the report, Probe says 3 things should be done to deal with the pollution via the sewer system. 1) Develop a long term program to phase out the use of Ontario's sewers for industrial waste disposal.

- 2) Impose "best available (pollution control) technology" (BAT) standards under provincial law. This would require that industries "clean up" their waste water before discharge to sewers, and
- 3) Change the law to remove the exemption for municipalities from clean water requirements.

"If the government doesn't address this problem, says Millyard, "it will be leaving a loophole in Ontario's water pollution control program big enough for 11,000 industries to keep pouring their waste through."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Kai Millyard

story in newspaper-like, inverted

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can also be based on anniversaries

such as those of mejor spenches

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## Inter-Church Coalition on Africa

129 St Clair Ave. West, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1N5 (416) 927-1124

SOUTH AFRICA DENIES VISAS TO CANADIAN CHURCH ENVOYS

NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, June 10, 1986

TORONTO -- The South African government has refused to issue visas to members of a Canadian church delegation which had expected to leave Wednesday (June 11) for Namibia, a territory occupied by South Africa.

The six members of the delegation had been invited to Namibia by the Namibian Council of Churches (NCC), whose members are among the groups pressing for an end to South African rule.

The Canadian churches which are members of the Inter-Church Coalition on Africa had contributed more than \$20,000 towards the cost of the planned two-week trip and a national education program which was to follow.

A member of the ICCAF board, Rev. Jim Kirkwood of the United Church of Canada, said the South African government's decision not to issue visas was disappointing. "It means that the Canadian churches cannot respond to an invitation from other churches, and that we cannot return the visits which Namibian church representatives have made to us," he said.

ICCAF learned of the decision Monday morning when a staff person telephoned the South African embassy in Ottawa to see if the visas had been issued. She was told that a telex from Pretoria had arrived with the instruction that no visas be issued. There was no explanation given.

.../2

South Africa has occasionally allowed Canadian church representatives into South Africa in the past. A Roman Catholic delegation was there earlier this year, but Rev. Kirkwood was later denied a visa.

South Africa administered Namibia (also called South West Africa) under a League of Nations mandate ended by the United Nations in 1966. But South Africa continues to refuse to leave the mineral-rich territory, using some 100,000 troops to maintain control over the 1.5 million people.

Two members of the Canadian delegation are already travelling elsewhere in Africa. They are Marg Bacon, ICCAF's staff person in Toronto, and Wendy Hunt, a United Church minister who chairs ICCAF's Namibia Working Group.

The other representatives were to meet Bacon and Hunt in Johannesburg
Thursday (June 12). They include Rev. Roy Gellatly, a minister with the
Presbyterian Church in Canada; Rev. Stephen Larson, minister with the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Edmonton; Sister Noreen MacDonald, a Roman
Catholic from Prince Edward Island; and Daphne Robinson, a native woman
from northwest British Columbia and a member of the Anglican Church of Canada.

on Africa had contributed more than \$20,000 towards, the cost of the planned.

The Canadian churches which are members; obtion inter-Church Coalition

two-week trip and a national education program which was t

disappointing. "It means that the Canadian churches commot -

Namiblen church representatives have made to us," he said. . .

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visas be issued. There was no expianation given.

For more information:

Jim Hodgson 361-0466

Jim Kirkwood 925-5931

NOTE: Ms Bacon, Ms Hunt, Mrs. Robinson

locate learned of the decision Monday morning when a staff person telephoned

the South African embassy in Otlawa to see if the visas had been issued. She

was told that a telex from Pretoria had arrived with the instruction that no

#### **News Conferences**

News conferences are worthwhile when you have something newsworthy to say. Generally, this means only when you have a crisis on your hands. Few reporters attend the average news conference, and to lure them to yours, you must convince them that it is big news, and that their competitors will be there.

Some guidelines:
-- the preferred times are 10 a.m.
Tuesday to Friday

-- 10 a.m. is early enough to make the deadlines of most papers

-- hold it at a convenient or significant location. A convenient location would be the Press Club, City Hall, hotels, Queen's Park, Ottawa Press Gallery. A significant location for your group, for example, might be the Litton Systems plant.

-- send out a news release a few days before your news conference; follow it, up with phone calls to assignment editors, producers, reporters, etc. -- you must have electricity for

camera crews
-- have plenty of copies of news
releases, copies of your remarks, and

backgrounders

-- make the conference into an event: invite a celebrity sympathetic to your concern as guest speaker

concern as guest speaker
-- make it a fun occasion: have a

feed-in, a work-in

-- involve the committed arts community, such as A Space -- be innovative: people can

sometimes walk on the air when shows are transmitted live.

## Public Service Announcements

Free time and free space are allotted by most media outlets for announcements by non-profit organizations which offer a service to the public. And many newspapers have free community calendars. For addresses, see the Toronto Media Directory chapter. Broadcast PSAs: The normal public service announcement (PSA) for broadcast is typed one page to fit 30 or 60 second time slots. It must be written in conversational style and in manageable chunks. Thirty characters equal three seconds. Type your announcement in capital letters, double-spaced. Maximum 100-120 words. Material may be edited.

Smaller stations may broadcast taped material with background music. Clear the music with the station, and they are usually willing to say yes to

non-profit groups.

You can also produce your own video tapes for television public service slots. TV stations often have time to screen them outside prime time.

Guidelines for self-produced video material:

-- use two-inch or three-quarter-inch video tape. 35mm slides will also do. -- you must prove to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters that you do not have a budget for advertising. They have a form for you to fill out. CAB, 85 Sparks St., Ste. 909, Write: Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5S2; 1-800-267-4211. -- following CAB endorsement, script storyboard should be sent to the public service department or the telecaster committee of the network or station. Product identification or corporate endorsement for a service or organization could render the commercial unacceptable as a PSA. stations are concerned that material be integrated, in good taste, and not contain unsubstantiated or extravagant claims. The PSA must inform but not attempt to sway the public. -- Each station and network has its own set or rules. Global, for examp-

-- Each station and network has its own set or rules. Global, for example, accepts only PSAs from groups with a federal or provincial non-profit charter. For more information, contact the station or network.

PSAs for magazines: Very few magazines provide an allotment of space for PSAs, but they occasionally have space to fill due to last minute cancellations, etc. Supply your information well in advance and they will (hopefully) keep them on file.

There are no regulations for magazines, other than approval by the Magazine Association of Canada for some magazines. Their guidelines are that a group must be approved by the association's directors as a bona fide non-profit group; that they not be an advocacy group; and that they deal only with physical and mental health issues. However, only big magazines, such as Comac Publications, Maclean's, etc., are members of the association. Smaller magazines often have space.

Make your magazine PSAs look like ads, and make them as attractive as possible.

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Community calendars in newspapers: Each of the daily papers has a weekly events column, usually located in the entertainment section. They may or may not print your announcement if it seems "too political."

Most community newspapers have calendar listings, as do most alternative newspapers. Noteworthy are the monthly calendars in Issues & Actions and the Cross Cultural Communications Centre newsletter. Also, Now magazine publishes calendar items every week.

Samples of public service announcements follow in the next few pages.

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# LAND/PEOPLE/GOVERNMENT Native Perspectives on the Constitution

A conference organized by the Community Forum in co-operation with the Union of Ontario Indians, the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, the Grand Council Treaty 3 and the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians.

# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

On Saturday, February 26th, Toronto is getting one more chance to speak up on justice for Native People! Come to an all-day conference at the University of Toronto's Medical Science auditorium, 1 Kings College Circle, and hear Ontario Indian spokespeople give their positions on aboriginal rights and self-government. Guest speaker. George Erasmus, President of the Dene Nation.

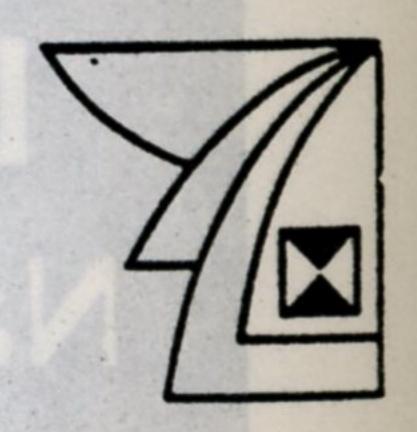
Admission: Suggested donation of \$2. For childcare arrangements and other information, please call Community Forum, 361 0466.



# Applebaum & Applebaum Productions

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nollstrogiza and the Arski Nathon, Council Line and Crant That Indiana Sin Taza-adwantern and Taza-adwantern and



CLIENT: Greenpeace Foundation

PRODUCTION: Bingo P.S.A. : 30 Radio

DATE: January 10, 1983

Sfx.: (big floppy feet running by )

Voice 1: Hey! Where yougoing in such a hurry?

Voice 2: You kidding!? It's Monday night. I'm going to the Maple Leaf Bingo Hall.

Voice 1: But you're ah .....

Voice 2: They have a \$1000 jackpot, a second special of \$700....

Voice 1: But you're....

Voice 2: ...the only grab bag in town, and all proceeds go to The Greenpeace Foundation.

esting one more chance to speak up on justice

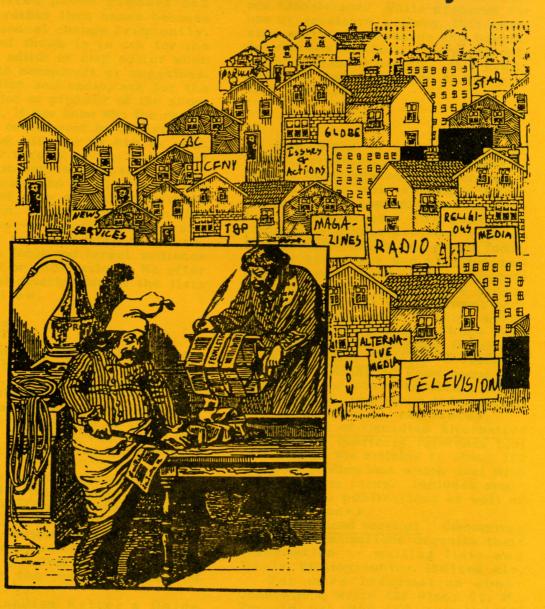
Voice 1: A \$1000 jackpot! That's great. But why are you dressed like a chicken?

Sfx: (big floppy feet again)

Voice 2: (running away) I'm going to early bird bingo!

Annc.: Bingo at 7:45 Monday nights at the Maple Leaf Bingo Hall, 665 St. Clair West. Early bird bingo at 7:15. Chicken suit not required.

# **The Toronto Media Directory**



## The Toronto Media Directory

In this guide to media in Toronto, we have listed phone numbers and addresses rather than names because media personnel change frequently. The rule of thumb is to ask for the assignment editor or city editor when dealing with newspapers or magazines. For television and radio, ask for the news director or producer of the show. In addition, if you know who the reporter is who covers your particular area (beat), speak with her or him as well.

Another word of advice: make your own media survey to analyse the stations, programs and publications from the point of view of your particular organization. Develop your own list of contacts -- reporters who have dealt with topics similar to yours. Analyse the focus and target audience of the show or publication. We offer only general descriptions in the lists which follow.

#### Resources

Matthews List, updated three times a year, keeps track of media personnel. Bowden Information Services publishes a media directory which is similar to the Matthews List. They are available at the Metro Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. Inquire at the desk in the business section.

Another useful publication is Canadian Advertising Rates and Data, which has sections on small, special interest publications, such as community newspapers, and ethnic, farm, religious, scholarly, university and school publications. It is also available in the business section of the library.

The Canadian Writer's Guide (Fitzhenry & Whiteside) is the

official handbook of the Canadian Authors Association. While prepared for use by freelance writers, this guide also contains addresses and helpful descriptions of almost every periodical published in Canada. It's available from bookstores for \$9.95, or at the library.

Connexions is a Toronto-based national organization which works to support Canadians working for social justice. Their work is based on information-sharing, communication, networking and education. The quarterly Connexions Digest provides a forum through which people and groups facing similar situations and problems and sharing common needs can communcate with and learn about each other.

Connexions has three national services which are useful to those working for social justice. These are:

- A Directory of Canadian Organizations for Social Justice. A resource for those needing to know names and addresses, or where to obtain films, publications, and other information and educational resources.

-- An Index of Canadian Alternative Periodicals. Quarterly reference tool Indexing all the articles in about 100 Canadian publications which deal with social justice issue. Includes smaller and local publications as well as national ones.

-- Computerized services. Connexions can help organizations organize their information -- mailing lists and labels, bibliographies, indices etc.

Connexions, write 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ont. M5S 1X7, or call (416) 960-3903.

# Radio

CBC RADIO
CBL AM/FM services in English

Mailing address:
Box 500, Stn. A
Toronto
M5W 1E6

Delivery address for programs which are broadcast nationally (central radio building): 354 Jarvis St.

Delivery address for local programs: 509 Parliament St.

Telephone (main switchboard): 975-3311

SOCIETE RADIO-CANADA CJBC AM/FM services in French

Mailing address:
Box 500, Stn. A,
Toronto
MSW 1E6

Delivery address: 100 Carlton St., 2nd floor.

Telephone (main switchboard): 975-3311

CBPM-PM
200 King St. E.
Toronto
M5A 3W8
967-1212
Closed circuit for George Brown
College.

CPCM-AM
10254 Yonge St.
Richmond Hill
L4C 3B7
960-1320
Toronto's only country music station. Regular news coverage.

CPNY-PM 83 Kennedy Rd. S. Brampton L6W 3P3 453-7452 Progressive rock station, 18-34. Regular news coverage and current affairs programming.

CPRB-AM

2 St. Clair Ave. W.

Toronto
MAV 1L6

924-5711

Middle of the road, 25-59. Regular
news coverage. Has current affairs
programming.

CPRE-FM
3359 Mississauga Rd.
Mississauga
L5L 1C6
828-5310
University of Toronto Erindale
College station. Alternative, 18-25.
Regular news coverage.

CFTR
25 Adelaide St. E., 11th fl.
Toronto
M5C 1H3
864-2030 (news room)
Adult contemporary and top 40
music. Regular news coverage.

CHBR/CHCR-FM

205 Humber College Blvd.

Box 1900, Station B,

Rexcale

M9V 2B3

Closed circuit radio for Humber

College. Progressive, 18-25. Regular

news coverage.

CHIN/CHIN-PM
637 College St.
Toronto
M6G 1B6
531-9991
Stations provide news and
information in 30 languages to Metro
and southern Ontario.

CHIR
460 Danforth Ave.
Toronto
M4K 1P4
461-4244
Greek station. Regular news coverage
and current affairs.

CHFI-FM
25 Adelaide St. E.,
Toronto
M5C 1H3
864-2082 (news room)
Adult contemporary/middle of the
road/ classics station. Regular news
coverage plus daily half-hour news
magazine show.

CILQ-FM (Q107)

2 Bloor St. E., Ste. 3000

Toronto

MW 1A8

967-3445

Rock station with regular news
coverage and a talk show.

CIUT-PM
91 St. George St.
University of Toronto
MSS 2E8
978-5267
Begins FM broadcasting, September,
1986. Alternative, 18-35. Commitment
to community broadcasting, news and
public affairs.

CJCL-AM
464 Yonge St., Ste. 202
Toronto
M4Y 1W9
920-6387 (news room)
Middle of the road. Regular
newscasts

CJMR-AM
Box 1190, Port Credit P.O.
Mississauga
L5G 4M3
279-1190
Adult contemporary music. Regular newscasts, local interview shows.

CJRT-PM
297 Victoria St.
Toronto
M5B 1W1
595-0404
Classical/folk/jazz station. Noncommercial. Daily current affairs
show, education, and newscasts.

CJRY-PM
4700 Keele St.
York University
Downsview
M3J 1P3
736-2100
Closed circuit radio for York
University. Newscasts.

CKCC
651 Warden Ave.
Scarborough, Ont.
MIL 3Z6
694-3033
Closed circuit radio for Centennial
College. News and information.

CKEY-AM

1 Yonge St.
Toronto
MSE 1G1

361-1121 (news room)
Middle of the road, adult
contemporary music. Regular
newscasts and daily current affairs
show.

CKFM-PM
24 St. Clair Ave. W.
Toronto
M4V 1L4
922-9999
Adult contemporary music, with
regular news coverage and daily
current affairs show.

CKLN-PM
380 Victoria St.
Toronto
M5B 1W7
595-1477
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.
Progressive jazz/rock station,
geared to under 30 audience.
Interested in Metro current affairs.

CKO-PM
30 Carlton St.
Toronto, Ont.
M5B 2E9
591-1333 (news room)
All news programming, Canada-wide.

CKOMW-AM

83 idennedy Rd. S.

Brampton

LGW 3P3

453-7111

Multi-lingual, adult comtemporary.

Regular news coverage.

1750 Finch Ave. E.
North York
M2J 2X5
491-5050
Closed circuit for Seneca College,
Newman campus. Alternative, 18-25.
News coverage.

CSCR-PM
1265 Military Tail
Scarborough
MIC 1A4
284-3143
Closed circuit for Scarborough
campus, University of Toronto.
Alternative, 18-30. Regular news
coverage.



### **Television**

CBC TELEVISION
CBLT services in English

Mailing address: Box 500, Stn. A Toronto MSW 126

Delivery address for programs which are broadcast nationally: 354 Jarvis St.

Delivery address for local programs: 500 Church St.

Telephone (main switchboard): 975-3311

SOCIETE RADIO-CANADA CBLFT services in French

Mailing address:
Box 500, Stn. A,
Toronto
MSW 1E6

Delivery address: 100 Carlton St., 2nd floor.

Telephone (main switchboard): 975-3311

CTV TELEVISION NETWORK

Mailing address: Box 9, Stn. 0 Scarborough M4A 2M9

Delivery address: 9 Channel Nine Drive McCowen Road & 401 Agincourt

Telephone: 299-2000 (CFTO-TV) 299-2044 (local news) 299-2114 (CTV news)

GLOBAL TELEVISION NETWORK (Channel 22, Cable 3 - CIII-TV) 81 Barber Greene Road Don Mills MSC 2A2 446-5311 (main switchboard) 446-5460 (news room)

CHIN Television 637 College St. Toronto M6G 1B6 531-9991 News and current affairs programs in seven languages.

CITY-TV 99 Queen St. E. Toronto MSC 2MI 367-5757

CRMT-TV 545 Lakeshore Blvd. W. Toronto M5V 1A3 583-4747 News and current affairs shows in 20 languages. TV Ontario

Mailing address: Box 200, Stn. Q Toronto M4T 2T1

Delivery address: 2180 Yonge St.

Telephone: 484-2600 Education channel. News and current affairs.

Scarboro Cable Television 705 Progress Ave., Unit 33 Scarborough MIH 2X2: 438-6370 Covers only Scarborough events and charitable events.

Graham Cable TV 35 Scarlett Road Toronto M6N 4J8 762-3633 News and current affairs. City of Toronto, west of Bathurst to Humber, Eglinton to Bloor.

Rogers Cable TV 855 York Mills Rd. Don Mills MSB 121 446-6666 News and current affairs, parts of cities of Toronto, North York and East York.

### Major Newspapers

Globe & Mail
444 Front St. W.
Toronto
M5V 289
585-5000
Daily (except Sunday) morning
newspaper. National circulation
328,000. The For The Record section
has listings for events, openings
and closings.

The Toronto Star 1 Yonge St. Toronto MSE 1E6 367-2000 Daily nowspaper with morning and afternoon editions. Circulation approximately 500,000; 800,000 on Saturdays.

The Toronto Sun
333 King St. E.
Toronto
M5A 3X5
947-2211 (newsroom)
Daily morning newspaper. Circulation 250,000; 500,000 on Sundays.

# Write a Letter To the Editor



Issues & Actions

# News Services

Broadcast News Ltd.

36 King St. E.

Toronto

M5C 2L9

364-3172

The broadcast arm of Canadian Press.

Canadian Press
36 King St. E.
Toronto
M5C 2L9
364-0321

Canadian University Press
126 York St., Ste. 202
Ottawa
KIN 5T5
613-232-2881
News service for university papers.

Newsradio
1 Yonge St., 25th fir.
Toronto
MSE 1G1
364-2162

Ontario News Service
Box 142, 55 McCaul St.
Toronto
M5T 2W7
364-5139
Covers Queen's Park for community
newspepers. P.R. consulting and
newsletter production.

# Major Magazines

Homemaker's/Madame au Foyer
2300 Yonge St., Ste. 401
Toronto
MAP 1E4
482-8260
10 times per year. Liberal, reflects
goals of mainstream Canadian women.

Maclean's 777 Bay St. Toronto MSW 1A7 596-5386 Weekly. National and international current affairs. Circ. 650,000.

Saturday Night
70 Bond St., Ste. 500
Toronto
MSB 2J3
Monthly. National magazine of commentary and reviews. Circ. 130,000

Toronto Life
59 Front St. E.
Toronto
MEE 1B3
364-3333
Monthly. General interest aimed at affluent Torontonians. Circ. 95,000.



# **Community Newspapers**

Agincourt News (etc.)
150 Milner Ave., Unit 35
Scarborough
MIS 3R4
Also publishes Scarborough News,
West Hill News, East End News, North
York News, Pickering Post, Highland
Creek News and Malvern News. Circ.
36,400.

Bloor West Villager
2259 Bloor St. W.
Toronto
M6S 1N8
767-3644
First Wednesday of each month.
Deals with local news and issues in
Roncesvalles-Etobicoke areas. Circ.
36,500.

Bulldog 1552 Bayview Ave. Toronto M4G 3B6 486-5072/3 Downtown Toronto community news. Geared to business people. Readership est. 44,000.

Cabbagetown-Riverdale News 765 Queen St. E. Toronto MAM 1H3 461-5730 Every other Tuesday.

City Dweller
95 Gloucester
Toronto
M4Y 1M2
928-3266
Monthly. Aimed at higher-income
young Torontonians. Lifestyleoriented. Circ. 35,000.

Community Interlink
957 Bloor St. W.
Toronto
M6H 1L7
537-4106
Publishes Bloor-Centre Link, Parkdale Link, Spadina Link, St. Clair
Link, Weston Link, York Link, Yorkville Link. Third week of month.

The Crier (East York)
3092 Danforth Ave., Unit D,
Toronto
MIL 1B1
698-3152
Twice monthly. Circ. 3,000

Contrast 1074 Bathurst St. Toronto M54 3G9 537-3461 Weekly. National paper for Canadian Black community. Circ. 120,000.

East End Express
783B Danforth Ave.
Toronto
M4J 1L8
463-4634/7161
Every Wednesday. Community issues
east of Yonge St. Circ. 30,000.

Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian Today 260 Galaxy Blvd. Rexdale MSW SR8 675-4390 Every Wednesday. Circ. 37,000.

Etobicoke Life 3874 Bloor St. W. Etobicoke M9B 1L3 231-6809 Monthly. Circ. 35,000.

Jane Echo 120 Norfinch Dr., Ste. 39 Downsview MSN 1X3 665-6969

Midtown Voice
249 Sherbourne St.
Toronto
M5A 2R9
927-0150
Monthly. Downtown and Midtown
Toronto community newspaper. Has
calendar. Circ. 30,000.

The Mississauga News 3145 Wolfedale Rd. Mississauga L5C 3A9 273-8111 Twice weekly. Circ. 70,000.

The North York Mirror Willowdale Mirror 10 Tempo Ave. Willowdale M2H 2N8 493-4400 Every Wednesday, Circ. 44,000

NOW
150 Danforth Ave.
Toronto
MMK INI
461-0871/0345
Every Thursday. Entertainment/news.
Has events calendar. Aimed at
under-35 group. Circ. 75,000.

The Promenador
1621 Bayview Ave.
Toronto
MG 3B5
481-4470
Monthly on the 15th.
Reporter Newspapers
Box 400, Stn. T
Toronto
MSB 4A3
782-8889
Publishes Etobicoke Reporter, Scarborough Reporter, North York/Yorkview
Reporter, Scarborough/West Hill
Reporter, Willowdale Reporter.
Weekly newspapers covering local
news in each community. Total circ.
80,000.

Scarborough, Birch Cliff and West Scarborough News 14 Lynn Road Scarborough MIN 2A3 691-4085 Every Wednesday. Circ. 10,000.

The Scarborough Mirror 125 Nashdene Scarborough MiV 2W3 292-6366 Circ. 50,000. Share
1801 Eglinton Ave. W.
Toronto
M6E 2H8
789-0691
National weekly serving black and
West Indian community.

Silverthorn & District News 72 Cloverdale Rd. M6N 3L5 656-7171 Second week of each month.

Toronto Jewish Press Box 142 Downsview MGM 3A3 633-0202

Toronto Wright Media
124 Laird Rd., Ste. 103
Toronto
M4G 3V3
425-6037
Publishes East Toronto Weekly, East
York Times, Forest Hill Journal,
Leaside Advertiser, North Toronto
Free Press, North Toronto Herald,
The St. Clair Examiner.
Every other Thursday.

Town Crier Inc.
1560 Bayview Ave., Ste. 210.
Toronto
MMG 3B8
488-4779
Publishes Forest Hill Town Crier,
Leaside Town Crier, Thorncliffe Town
Crier, Upper Yonge Town Crier.
Monthly. Circ. 25,000.

The Town Flyer
123 Front St. E.
Toronto
M5A 1E3
281-0566
Monthly newsmagazine. St. Lawrence
Neighbourbood and Harbourfront.

Tribune Weekly Newspapers
2533 Gerrard St. E.
Scarborough
MIN 1X3
699-9695
Five community newspapers, published
twice monthly. Cover local news in
the Beaches, Danforth, Gerrard,
Leaside and Scarborough. Circ. 2,000

Ward 9 News 907 Kingston Rd. Toronto ME 154 698-1164 Every other Tuesday. Circ. 23,000.

# Print Media in Languages other than English

ARABIC

\*Arab News of Toronto

\*ARC Arabic Journal

\*Canada & Arab World

\*Middle East Report

370 Queen St. E., Ste. 1011

Toronto

M6A 1T1

\*Arab Voice 25 Bally Connor Court Willowdale M2M 483 536-4850 bi-monthly

BYELORÜSSIAN Bielaruski Holes 24 Tarlton Rd. Toronto MSP 2M4 488-0048 monthly

CHINESE
Chinese Express Daily News
352 Spadina Ave., 2nd fir.
Toronto
MST 204
593-9574/5
daily except Sunday.

Shing Wah Daily News 12 Hagerman St. Toronto M4G 1A7 977-3745 daily except Sunday. Circ. 12,800. CROAT, SERB, MACEDONIAN & SLOVENIAN "Bratavo
1 Secroft Cr.
North York
MGN 1R5
769-7181
monthly.

Macedonia Box 2377, Stn. B Scarborough MIN 2E9 431-0316 monthly

DUTCH
\*Hollandia News
Box 1064, Stn. B
Rexdale
MSV 2B3
743-6880
twice monthly

De Nederlandse Courant 2623 Kingston Rd. Scarborough MIM IMI 264-2672 bi-weekly

ESTONIAN
Meie Elu
858 Broadview Ave.
Toronto
MMK 2R6
466-0951
weekly

Vaba Eestlane 1955 Leslie St. Don Mills M3B 2M3 444-4823 twice weekly PINNISH Vapas Sans 400 Queen St. W. Toronto M5Y 2A6 368-7721 weekly. Circ. 3,300.

PRENCH L'Express 135 Broadview Ave. Toronto MAM 2E9 465-2107 Every Tuesday.

CERMAN
Deutsche Presse
Austrian Publications Ltd.
455 Spadina Ave., Ste. 303
Toronto
M5S 208
595-9714
weekly. Circ. 10,000

Die Zeit 111 Merton St., Ste. 205 Toronto M4S 3A7 488-6100 weekly. Circ. 8,200

GREEK
Hellenic-Canadian Chronicles
370 Danforth Ave., Ste. 202
Toronto
M4K 1N8
465-4628
weekly

GUJARATI
Gujarat Vartman
86 Pilkey Cres.
Scarborough
MLB 2A9
281-3736
twice monthly

HINDI Bharat Darshan 2749 Dundas St. W. Toronto M6P 1Y1 767-2726 semi-monthly

Bharati/Asia Publications 1433 Bloor St. W. Toronto M6P 3L6 533-8243

Vishva Bharti 387 Cherokee Blvd. Willowdale M2H 2W9 495-1510 bi-weekly

HUNGARIAN
Kanadai Magyarsag
412 Bloor St. W.
Toronto
M5S 1X5
924-2502
weekly

Magyar Elet
Patria Publishing Co. Ltd.
6 Alcina Ave.
Toronto
M6G 2E8
654-2551
weekly. Circ. 9,000

red con works in

Magyar Naplo
Box 771, Stn. A
Toronto
M5W 1G3
283-2357 or 921-6161
monthly

Menorah-Egyenloseg 1378 Bathurst St. Toronto MSR 3J1 656-5219 weekly

Sporthirado
Green Meadows
110 Unity Rd., Apt. 210
Toronto
M4J 5A9
461-2623
weekly

\*Communita Viva
Photo Press Publishing
Box 429, Stn. D.
Toronto
M6P 3K1
656-2192
monthly

Corriere Canadese/
Corriere Illustrato
545 Lakeshore Blvd. W.
Toronto
M5V 1A3
598-3357 (news)
Corriere Canadese publishes Monday
and Wednesday mornings; Corriere
Illustrato is a weekly.

Donna/Lo Specchio
898 Wilson Ave.
Downsview
M3K 1E7
635-9673
Donna is monthly; Lo Specchio is weekly with circ. 9,000

Vita Italiana Box 158, Stn. L Toronto M6E 4Y5 656-2050 weekly

JAPANESE
\*The Canada Times
291 Dundas St. W.
Toronto
M5T 1G1
593-2777/6953
twice a week

The New Canadian 479 Queen St. W. Toronto M5V 2A9 366-5005 twice a week

KOREAN
The Korea Times
146 Hallam St.
Toronto
M6H 1X2
533-1111
daily

The Korean Journal 649A Bloor St. W. Toronto M6G 1L1 757-8000 weekly

\*The Minjoong Shinmoon 802 Bloor St. W. Toronto M6G 1L9 537-3473/74 semi-weekly

The New Korea Times
720 Spadina Ave., Ste. 503
Toronto
M5S 2T9
925-3250/3259
weekly

LATVIAN
Latvija Amerika
125 Broadview Ave.
Toronto
MAN 2E9
465-7902
weekly

LITHUANIAN
Teviskes Ziburiai
2185 Stavebank St.
Mississauga
L5C 1T3
275-4672
weekly. Circ. 5,700

MALAYALAM
Kerala Express
Box 5, Stn. W.
Toronto
MGM 4Y0
654-0431
every other Wednesday. Circ. 2,000.

Malayalee 275 Lansdowne Ave. Toronto M6K 2W2 twice monthly

PAKISTANI
Eastern News
Box 1061, Stn. B
Mississauga
LAY 3W4
273-4822
twice monthly

PILIPINO
\*Balita/Kalayaan Media Ltd.
119 Scadding Ave., Apt. 212
Toronto
M5A 4H8
364-3285
twice monthly

POLISH
Glos Polski-Gazeta Polska
396 Roncesvalles
Toronto
M6R 2M9
533-9469
weekly

The Polish Canadian Courier
Box 161, Stn. P.
Toronto
M5S 2S7
537-4991

Zwiezkowiec/Polish Alliance Press Ltd. 1638 Bloor St. W. Toronto MSP 4A8 531-2491 twice weekly. Circ. 6,300

PORTUGUESE
Correio Portugues
793 Ossington Ave.
Toronto
M6G 3T8
532-9894
semi-monthly. Circ. 24,000

Novo Mundo/Portuguese World News 946 College St. Toronto M6H 1A5 535-9409 weekly. Circ. 9,000

Portugal Illustrado Unit 138, 60 Hanson Rd. Mississauga L5B 2P6 279-8368 semi-monthly. Circ. 11,300. PUNJABI Asia Times/Asia Publications 1433 Bloor St. W. Toronto MSP 3L6 533-8243

Perdesi Panjab Gurdip Singh Chauhan 2749 Dandas St. W. Toronto MSP 1Y1 767-2726 weekly.

SLOVAK/CZECH Kanadske Listy Box 520, Stn. D Toronto MSP 3K1 279-4060 x 226, or 278-4116 monthly

Novy Damov/Masaryk Memorial Inst. Inc. 450 Searborough Golf Club Rd. Searborough MIG IRI 439-4354 every two weeks.

SPANISH Golezo Ste. 9C, 20 Prince Arthur Ave. Toronto MSR 1P1 531-7266 weekly

El Popular 2413 Dundes St. W., Ste. 504 Toronto MSP 1X3 531-2495/96 three times per week

Nuevo Diario 327 High Park Ave. Toronto M6P 2S8 766-1973 weekly newspaper.

UKRAINIAN Homin Ukrainy 140 Bathurst St. Toronto MSV 2R3 368-3443 weekly

Moloda Ukraina Box 40, Stn. M Toronto M6S 4T2 monthly

Nasha Meta/Our Aim Publishing Co. 278 Bathurst St. Toronto MST 2S3 368-3519 weekly

Nova Shliskh/New Pathway Publishers 297 College St. Toronto MST 182 960-5297/3424 weekly

Nowi Dni Box 130 Etobicoke M9C 4V2 monthly

Vilne Slovo/Toronto Free Press Ltd. 196 Bathurst St. Toronto MST 2R8 368-7282 weekly. Circ. 2,500 Yunek 2199 Bloor St. W. Toronto M6S 1N2 769-7855 monthly

\*Zhinochy Svit Ukrainian Women's Organization Box 234, Stn. M Toronto M6S 4T3 monthly

URDU Asswaz Box 2114, Stn. B Scarborough MIN 2ES 960-8348 monthly

The Messenger 2 Middleport Cres. Scarborough MLB 3L1 283-7255 semi-monthly

\*Pakeeza International Unit 21, 21 Lexington Ave. Rexdale 745-1866 every two weeks.

Shama Box 1304, Stn. B Mississauga LAY 3A7





### Alternative Media

The ACTivist
456 Spadina Ave., 2nd F1.
Toronto
M5T 208
960-2ACT
Quarterly publication of the ACT for
Disarmment Coalition.

Asianadian
Box 1256, Stn. Q
Toronto
M4T 2P4
Quarterly English-language magazine
with articles on life and struggles
of Asian Canadians.

The Body Politic
P.O. Box 7289, Stn. A
Toronto
M5W 1X9
364-6320
Monthly. National. Deals with gay
and leabian liberation and related
struggles. Circ. 15,000.

Broadside
Box 494, Stn. P
Toronto
MSS 271
598-2513.
Monthly. Feminist newspaper. Has
calendar.

Canadian Tribune 290A Danforth Ave. Toronto MKK 1N6 469-0301 Weekly. National. Labour, peace. Has calendar.

Catalyst
229 College St.
Toronto
MST 1R4
979-2443
Eight times per year. National.
Published by Citizens for Public
Justice for discussion of political
views from a Christian justice perspective.

Common Ground
67 Baycrest Ave.
Toronto
M6A 1M2
789-3100
Fitness and holistic health, left
politics, new age lifestyles,
events.

Commexions
427 Bloor St. W.
Toronico
M5S 1X7
960-3903
Quarterly digest of resources and
groups for social change.

Newsletter 965 Bloor St. W. Toronto MSH 1L7 530-4117 Monthly. News relating to cultural and ethnic groups. Has calendar, job listings. Circ. 750.

Cross Cultural Communication Centre

El Salvador Libre 2 Bloor St. W., Ste. 100, Box 197 Toronto M6W 3E2 534-0301 Monthly. National. Published by the El Salvador Information Centre. News of Central America and solidarity activities in Canada. Gustemala United
Konojel Unam
Box 421, Stn. F
Toronto
M4Y 2L8
Newspaper of the Toronto Gustemala
Solidarity Committee. News of
Central America and solidarity
activities in Canada.

Healthsharing
101 Niagara St., No. 200A,
Toronto
M5V 1C3
862-1791
Quarterly. Critical analysis of
personal and political health issues
from feminist perspective.

In Focus
1621 Dupont St.
Toronto
535-4476
Published by the Jamaican Canadian
Association.

Issues & Actions
49 Wellington St. E.
Toronto
MSE 1C9
361-0466
Monthly. Metro-wide. Published by
the Community Forum on Shared
Responsibility. Promotes networking
between groups working for social
justice. Has calendar. Circ. 7,000.

Kick It Over
Box 5811, Stn. A
Toronto
M5W 1P2
Anti-authoritarian journal published
four times per year. International.

New Internationalist
175 Carlton St.
Toronto
M5A 2K3
923-9857
Articles on international development issues.

Our Times
1357A St. Clair Ave. W.
Toronto
MBE 105
531-5762
10 times per year. News and features
with labour/liberation perspective.

Phoenix Rising
Box 7251, Stn. A
Toronto
MSW 1X9
699-3194
Quarterly. Promotes alternatives to
current mental health care systems.

Probe Post
12 Madison Ave.
Toronto
MSR 2S1
Bi-monthly. Environmental and energy issues.

Rites
Box 65, Stn. F
Toronto
M4Y 2L4
928-0907
Monthly. A magazine for gay and lesbian liberation.

Ryersonian
Journalism Dept.
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute
55 Gould St.
Toronto
M5B 1E8
979-5000
Three times per week during school term. Written and edited by journalism students. Serves campus community. Circ. 50,000.

Sources
9 St. Nicholas St., Ste. 402
Toronto
M4Y 1W5
964-7799
Twice yearly. Commentary and contacts for news media.

Status of Women News
40 St. Clair Ave. E., 3rd flr.
Toronto
MAT 1M9
Quarterly. Political and economic
issues of concern to Canadian women.

The Harder They Fall
456 Spadina Ave., 2nd flr.
Toronto
M5T 2G8
Monthly. Anti-authoritarian journal
of arts and politics.

This Magazine
70 The Esplanade, 3rd fir.
Toronto
MSE 1R2
Bi-monthly. Comments on culture,
politics, labour and international
affairs.

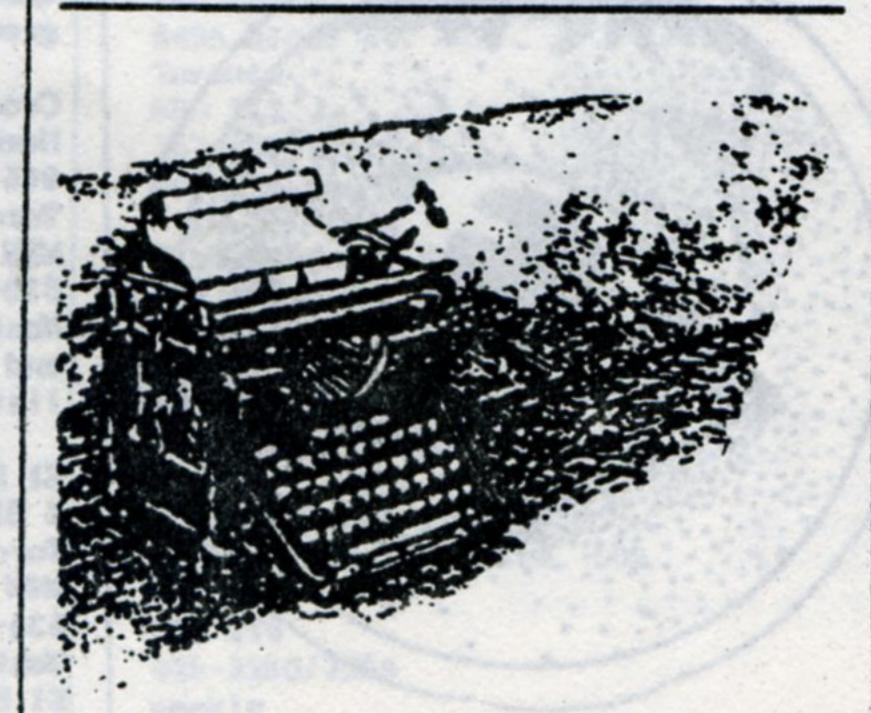
Varsity
91 St. George
Toronto
M5S 3E8
979-2831
The newspaper of the University of
Toronto student community.
Published Monday and Thursday during term. Circ. 25,000

Box 7289, Stn. A
Toronto
M5W 1X9
364-6320
Every other Tuesday. Guide to gay
and lesbian community in Toronto.
Has calendar. Circ. 10,000.

# ALTERNATIVE MEDIA/Broadcasting

OPIRG Community Radio
229 College St., Rm. 203
Toronto
M5T 1R4
598-2199
Issue-oriented weekly radio show which encourages listeners to get involved in community, social and environmental issues.

From A Different Perspective c/o Development Education Centre 229 College St. Toronto M5T 1R4 496-0512 (Norman Richmond) Looks at third world issues and Canadian multiculturalism with a view to social change.



# Religious Media

The Anglican
135 Adelaide St. E.
Toronto
M5C 1L8
363-6021
Monthly serving Toronto diocese.
Circ. 45,000.

Canadian Baptist
217 St. George St.
Toronto
M5R 2M2
922-5163
National monthly. Circ. 19,000

Canadian Churchman 600 Jarvis St. Toronto MAY 2J6 Anglican. National monthly. Circ. 273,000.

Canadian Jewish News 562 Eglinton Ave. Toronto MAP 1P1 483-9331 Weekly. Circ. 52,000

Catalyst
229 College St.
Toronto
M5T 1R4
979-2443
Eight times per year. Published by
Citizens for Public Justice.

Catholic New Times
80 Sackville St.
Toronto
M5A 3E5
National, progressive, bi-weekly.
Circ. 12,000.

Catholic Register 67 Bond St. Toronto M5B 1X6 362-6822

Presbyterian Record
50 Wynford Drive
Don Mills
MGC 1J7
441-1111
National. Circ. 76,000.

United Church Observer 85 St. Clair Ave. E. Toronto MIT 1MB 960-8500 National monthly magazine. Circ. 269,000.

# RELIGIOUS MEDIA/Broadcasting

Godshow
315 Queen St. E.
Toronto
MEA 187
Matters of faith, social concerns,
world events and church affairs, of
special interest to the local,
sational and international Christian
churches. Supported by Anglican,
Beptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian,
Boman Catholic and United Churches.
Broadcast on 14 radio stations
across Canada, including the CBC.

# **Creating Your Own Alternatives**

To get your message out to the public, you don't necessarily have to convey it through existing media -- or even through what we conventionally think of as media. Sometimes the cheapest and most effective way to get your message across is to run a contest or distribute balloons to kids at a local community celebration. (For information about novelties like balloons, T-shirts and bumper stickers, check the yellow pages.)

But getting your message across is basically a public relations function. The more skillful you are at catching the public's eye, the better.

In preceding parts of this book, we have discussed whether or not to use existing media, and also how to go about using them. This chapter will help you to consider the questions around creating your own alternative media, from posters to films.

### Print

Print is still the most accessible means of mass communication in terms of skills required and prices of reproduction. Even so, there is all the difference in the world between a flyer or brochure put out by someone with no graphic skills at all and one designed by someone who has acquired a basic grasp of the principles of design and layout.

Whether you're publishing a single-sheet flyer, a poster, a brochure, a newsletter or a newspaper, you face choices about the use of graphics, layout, typesetters, and printers.

Your first effort to create your own media may be something fairly simple, such as a poster or a newsletter. You will need some basic materials which can be purchased at any art supply store:

-- Lettering stencils in plastic or letraset letters are available in all sizes and colours.

-- Felt-tip pens are also available in all sizes and colours.

-- Light bonded paper (8 1/2" x 11" or 8 1/2" x 14") is also available in various colours and can be used for pamphlets, newsletters and small posters.

One suggested format\* for a first attempt at a newsletter is to use lightly coloured 8 1/2" x 14" paper. Folded in the centre, it will give you space for a four-page booklet. The cover should identify your organization, feature its logo, and give its address. On the inside cover page, list your steering committee and describe your group's goals. Use half of the back page for a membership and/ or information request form. The rest of the space on the inside cover, the third page and the back cover can contain any other information or news about what your group is doing. Keep it simple and stay away from jargon and "big" words which not everyone will understand. This is only a suggested layout, and you will find that your own ideas and work will improve with each creative effort. The following sections offer more detailed ideas for creating your own printed media.

Graphics and layout: Graphics are what make any publication look great (or bad). Thus, they often comprise the most difficult aspect of printing for community groups with limited resources. The term "graphics" includes drawings, photographs, lines and white space -- everything relating to the design of your publication.

Pat Jeffries, a Toronto peace

Pat Jeffries, a Toronto peace activist and graphic artist, designed two posters in 1983 for the Toronto Disarmament Network (reproduced following this section). They cost about \$10 for materials, but, if done commercially, they could have cost about \$400 for labour and design. It took her about two weeks to complete them.

Pat says the left is conservative visually, since people in the various social justice movements express and sustain their ideology largely through

<sup>\*</sup> Art Shearim, "Publicity: Selfhelp groups can't grow without it," in Initiative, the newsletter of the Canadian Council on Social Development, April, 1986.

the printed word. She believes that although people are influenced by the power of words, they receive most of their information through visual media, usually films and television. Given this context, information should be conveyed through powerful images and short copy.

As a peace activist, she feels the peace movement can contrast the images of war which predominate in mainstream media with warm, non-aggressive

images.

Some community groups are fortunate enough to have members who are
skilled in the creation and use of
graphics. If your group wants to create its own print media, and you lack
design skills within the group, don't
hesitate to ask for help or get some
training. There is a growing network
of struggling graphic artists with a
social conscience who would be pleased
to share their skills, especially if
you can afford to pay at least an
honourarium.

Community groups which publish newsletters or newspapers often "bor-

row" graphics from other progressive publications. For good or ill, this practice has become something of a tradition on the left. Although the copyright legally belongs to the author, photographer, cartoonist or to the publication which bought their work -- parties which can sue unauthorized borrowers -- borrowing has become an unofficial practice among the hundreds of small alternative publications across the continent. Nevertheless, all the progressive publishers we talked with in Toronto said they wanted borrowers to request permission first and to acknowledge their sources in print.

Old materials for which the copyright has lapsed provide another source of graphic material. When material is 50 years old, it goes into the "public domain" (which means that the copyright has expired), unless someone renews the copyright. Dover Publications, whose paperbacks are available at most bookstores, puts out a huge selection of books containing









# CROSICANADA TOUR TOUR TOUR TOUR CARACE CARAC

CA SITUATION ACTUELLE AL MICARACUA MARCARET RANDALL ON MICARACUA

MARGARET RANDALL, Author of:

"Sandino's Daughters"

"Cuban Women Now"

"Christians in the Nicaraguan Revolution"

women in nicaragua monday, october 3 nicaragua today wed., october 5

Bloor St. United Church, 300 Bloor St. W. 7:00 pm

day care admission by donation interpretation for the deaf sponsored by C.A.N. & I.W.D.C.

reprints of old woodcuts, decorative frames, borders, alphabets and ornaments, most of which are old enough to be reproduced without permission.

Old books and archival material provide other sources of graphics and photos, but you, the borrower, must find out through the publisher whether the copyright has been renewed. The Archives of Ontario (77 Grenville St., Toronto) has a collection of historical photographs and publications relevant to Ontario. A disclaimer is stamped on the back of the prints so that if a copyright problem arises, the borrower, not the Archives, will be responsible. You must credit the Archives in your publication or on your poster if you use their prints.

Other sources include existing media. Mainstream newspapers and Canapress (the photography section of Canadian Press) charge about \$30-\$50 for the reproduction of a photo or article, and will sue for breach of copyright if they find out you have used their material without paying for

it.

You might also be able to visit editors of progressive publications like Issues & Actions, the Catalyst or Catholic New Times to look through their photo files. Chances are you can use the material for free.

Another possibility for small publishers in search of graphic material is to hire a student from a local high school or community college. Call the art department of the school to make your request, or check on co-operative programs at community colleges (discussed elsewhere in this chapter).

Posters and brochures need graphics, but some effective newsletters use them minimally. One example would be the Cross Cultural Communication Centre newsletter, which uses cleanlooking, small headlines and plenty of

white space.

On the other hand, Tenants' Bulletin, the newspaper of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, uses lots of small drawings and cartoons to brighten its pages.

Typesetters: With the advent of personal computers, many groups are using word processors and various types of printers to prepare their While this material looks copy. better that what you can create on a typewriter, material that has been typeset looks cleaner and more professional than that which most personal computer printers can produce. This book was produced using a personal computer, and major headlines were typeset. But the quality gap is narrowing now that laser printers are becoming more popular. (The publicity flyer for this book was printed on a laser printer.)

One typesetting firm popular among community groups is Wordmakers. Some print shops also offer typesetting

services.

Printers: The most common methods of inexpensive print used today are sheet-fed offset (which allows for a wide choice of paper colour and texture) and web offset (for large runs on newsprint). Gestetner is still used by some groups, but the restrictions it places on layout have limited its appeal.

The Cross Cultural Communication Centre in Toronto has its 12-page newsletter printed with the sheet-fed offset method at College Copy for about three cents per page.

Action Print, a union shop on Adelaide Street, is popular with unions and community groups. It uses the sheet-fed offset method, and has typesetting, layout, pasteup and design services.

Issues & Actions, an eight-page tabloid newspaper, is usually printed at Del Charters Litho (a union shop) in Brampton, using the web offset method. A run of 5,500 copies costs about \$600.

A similar job at a non-union shop, such as Weller's Publishing Co. on Bloor Street, costs around \$350.

# Photography

Photography is a form of visual communication which can be used as documentation on many levels. Snapshots record a particular scene or event simply to help the participants remember it later. A news photograph implies that the scene recorded by the camera is authentic.

At another level, a photograph can communicate the photographer's viewpoint, and can possibly influence people's opinions. Used with words and/or other pictures, a single photograph can become an integral part of a carefully constructed story. Photography is a powerful medium for use in education and mobilization.

Making a photographic image can be as simple as pushing a button on a Polaroid camera and watching the picture develop before your eyes. At the other end of the scale, it can be a studio set-up with complex lighting. Professional photographers spend years in training and then practising their trade, and this pays off in the quality of their photographs.

Even so, an amateur can learn the basics of photography quite quickly. And if you have a processing shop develop your films, an amateur can take photographs or slides for your

project.

A photostory (pictures with accompanying writing) is one method with which to tell a story. It is often used in brochures, pamphlets, books, newspapers or magazines, and in dis-

plays at public events.

A slide show (with or without tape) is for many groups a cheap method with which to educate the public about important issues. The advantage of creating a slide-tape show is it needn't be shown by its creator; it can be presented by anyone. And because a package including slides and tape is quite compact and light, it can be sent through the mail quite easily.

A slide-tape show is a viable option for those groups with little funds (or which do not want to raise

them). And because photography is a medium with which most people have some familiarity, it is possible to involve the participants or subjects of your production in the actual

process of production.

Slide-tape technology can be as simple or as complicated as you make it. The basic skills needed are photography and a well-written script; the basic equipment includes a slide projector and tape recorder. If you want, you can add up to 24 projectors, but the more complicated the technology gets, the less portable it becomes.

Slide-tape can be cheap: just the cost of photography and making a good soundtrack. They are easily updated. But producing a 10- or 15-minute slidetape show can be time-consuming: you have to plan, raise money, find people with the necessary skills, research your issue, prepare a script, obtain the photographs, make the soundtrack and assemble the show.

The uses of a slide-tape show are

many:

-- documentation of an issue -- education of members of your organization or community

-- introduction and training session

for volunteers

-- chronicle of the history of your organization

-- introduction to your group for use at fundraising presentations and community events

-- transferred to video, your slidetape can be used as a public service announcement or shown on cable television. It costs a bit more than \$20

for this transfer.

In Toronto, a unique co-op exists which is devoted to popularizing audiovisual technology among groups or individuals working for social change. Kai Visionworks has a slide library with thousands of slides catalogued under headings which include industry, energy, health, consumerism, indigenous peoples, gay and lesbian people, peace, pollution, third world, etc.

Since Kai Visionworks, is workercontrolled and non-profit, the charge per slide is substantially lower than

the \$70-100 charged by commercial libraries. Of special note here is their slide show on How to Make a Slide Show for Social Change, which you can rent. Kai Visionworks also has workshops on preparing slide show. Contact them at Box 5490, St. A, Toronto, M5W 1N7, or 964-1278, weekdays, 10 a.m. to noon.

### Co-op programs

Most community colleges which have full-time programs in communications arts (outlined in the chapter Getting Organized) are open to proposals from non-profit groups who wish to work with students on a media presentation of a community issue. Cost to the community group is just the price of materials and whatever incidental expenses the student incurs.

There are a number of ways to interact with students. First, contact the colleges to find out the name of the chairperson or co-ordinator of the departments in which you might be interested and to obtain more information about various programs. Then you can make some choices:

- l. Write to the co-ordinator of the department of your choice outlining your project as one which one of his or her students could take up as a class project. It is usually best to have your project proposal submitted by spring, so that the faculty members can discuss the project and integrate it into the activities for the next year. If your proposal is accepted, the school equipment and the student's time are free. You just pay for a copy of the finished project, and for the hiring of any additional equipment that may not be available at the school. You will also be expected to pay for incidental costs (such as travel expenses) incurred by the student(s) working on your project.
- 2. If you have less time, or if your project is not incorporated into the school program for whatever reason, you can request that your project be offered to students as a free-lance job. You will have to pay for materials and for the student's time.
- 3. You may propose that the students work with you on a cable TV program. Assuming that one of the cable TV companies is providing support through their community development budgets, there is no cost to you at all.
- 4. You may propose to the school that your group co-sponsor a summer work project with them and seek funding from a Canada Employment and Immigration program.

Which ever approach you choose to take, you must write a proposal to the co-ordinator of the college department. Explain clearly the focus of your project, outline it, and nominate someone from your group as chief liaison with the college and the students. (Keep in mind that students have tight deadlines and their teachers become frustrated with slow decision-making processes and missed deadlines. Deadlines must be met or the student's grade will suffer, so you must be prepared to work to a tight schedule.) Ask for a tentative budget for materials and other costs, if any.

# Film

Film is an expensive and complex medium, but it can also be effective. That is not to say that any given film can initiate mass change, but it can inform people and empower them to work for further change.

no equilatiow ead oets amoundary lan

preparing slide show. Contact them at

The production of a film is a lengthy and often-costly process. If you and your group are not willing or able to take the time and spend the money it requires, it is better not to start, because no one wants to watch a technically poor film.

But, if the issue you want to publicize is still going to be around in a year or two years time (like the pollution of the Great Lakes or racial discrimination), film may be the medi-

um you will choose.

You will probably not want to make a film unless one of the following conditions is met:

- -- at least one, or preferably two or more people on the film crew have had experience and training in film-making;
- -- you are hiring a technical crew; -- you are working with film students (see the section on co-op programs in this chapter) who will be providing the technical skills;

-- you plan to take some courses in film-making before you begin production (courses are listed in the Getting Organized chapter).

For more information about filmmaking and distribution, contact one of the many film-makers living and working in the Toronto area. It is easy to track down film-makers who may be interested in your project. Simply find a film that documents the subject (or a related subject) you are planning to film, and then find out who distributes the film. If you then call the distributor, and explain why you are attempting to contact the filmmaker, there is a good chance that the distributor will give you the address and telephone number of that person.

The next part, the hardest part, is trying to convince the film-maker that your project needs their exper

tise and assistance. If you're wellprepared (and a little bit lucky), they may be interested in your project. Another benefit of contacting a film-maker at an early stage is that they many give advice about possible sources of funding. Independent filmmakers have had lots of practice in this endeavour, and they may save you a lot of time and energy.

the \$70-100 charged by commercial il-

braries. Of special note here is their

In addition, you might wish to speak with either of the following

film distributors:

Cdn. Film-makers Distribution Centre 67-A Portland Toronto M5V 2V9 593-1808

DEC Films Development Education Centre 229 College St. Toronto M5T 1R4 597-0328

Liaison of Independent Film Makers of Toronto (LIFT) 345 Adelaide W. Toronto M5 V 1R5 596-8233

# Video and Cable TV

Video is a cheaper and less complex alternative to film. Video tape works much like the audio taping process, by storing electronic information on magnetic tape. The ease with which video tape can be edited electronically is one of its most useful qualities. Unfortunately, video does not offer the clear picture quality (resolution) that film offers. Most video photographers resort to using tight shots to overcome resolution problems. That is why television is called a "close-up medium."

If you and your group wish to make a video documentary, much of the advice offered in the previous section on film pertains here as well. Video requires some technical training, and

the equipment is expensive. Again, some community colleges offer courses, and some have co-op programs from which you may be able to obtain stu-

dents to help you.

On the other hand, you may simply wish to record a speech by a resouce person which your group has brought to town for use later when introducing your group to new members. If this is the case, borrow equipment from a friend (and possibly enlist their technical aid as well), and start shooting.

One of the choices in making a video production is whether to use cable facilities that are available to the public. Certainly, in terms of cost, cable is an excellent option as there is no cost to the producer whatsoever, except for any reproductions of the final tape that the group or individual wishes to make.

Cable: If you have no access to equipment (particularly the editing equipment), the Toronto cable stations may be the route to choose.

They run good training programs, and it is helpful to have taken one of these courses or have other experience before starting on a project. This ensures more control of your production. Otherwise, volunteers are used. Even though they are, technically anyway, working for you, if you do not understand the technical decisions that affect your production, some decisions may get made without your involvement.

Producers are not always as helpful as you might hope, simply because they are overworked. You may have to be persistent and push for certain things. Some producers may be very sympathetic to the idea you are documenting, while others will simply

tolerate your efforts.

Cable stations exist as local community broadcast outlets. Their purpose is to provide production and broadcast services for, about, and by the people in their own community. Their programs are different from and provide an alternative to the programming of other broadcast outlets. Cable stations receive nearly all their funding from cable TV subscribers. At present, cable reaches about 80 per cent of the homes in Toronto.

The main requirements for community cable are that the programs by non-commercial, different from other stations and be about the local community, or be of some local specific interest to the community. For example, while disarmament is a social issue, it is not necessarily of specific interest to one local community alone, whereas the problem of tenants in a local building would be a specific local issue. Also, because of the large number of program proposals received by each station, an issue that has received a large amount of exposure on cable may be bypassed in favour of one that has never been aired on cable before.

A written program proposal must be submitted, usually about six months in advance, to the program director of the station in the area where you live. Forms for this purpose can be obtained from the stations. Programs must be produced in the area where the community group operates or the individual lives. The proposal should include the name of the group and its co-ordinator, the objectives and topics of the program, plus a detailed shooting script (dialogue, camera shots, locations, effects, lighting, edits, sound and music cues, plus any other pertinent information).

The program should be as completely prepared as possible beforehand to give the cable people a specific idea of how much time will be involved in the production, the number of people, the amount of equipment, etc. This will influence the decision on the proposal. If a program is too complex, it may be put off to another time or the application denied.

The decisions are made by the program department and are based on whether or not it meets the requirements of a community cable station, whether there is time and space available at a particular time, and its technical feasibility.

The cable company needs to know that a completed production will result from a submitted proposal, so the group must be organized and know exactly what it wants to do, what it wants to get across, and be prepared to do the necessary work.

People at cable stations like to see a group make a good, tight, creative use of the video medium resulting in interesting, eye-catching presentations. It is in their interest to have good productions made because they are shown on their channels.

Because cable technicians are always very busy, they prefer that volunteers from the group produce the program themselves. If people from the group do not know how to use video

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equipment, the station can provide technicians and assistance at no cost. Sometimes, training workshops can be given to specific groups.

All cable stations offer regular workshops which cover all aspects of production, including post-production (editing, titles, effects, etc.) and allow you to use any piece of equipment in the studio once you are qualified. But if you take the series of workshops which the station offers, it expects some level of commitment —that is, providing some volunteer time and assistance in programming.

The Toronto-area cable stations are listed in the Toronto Media Directory chapter.

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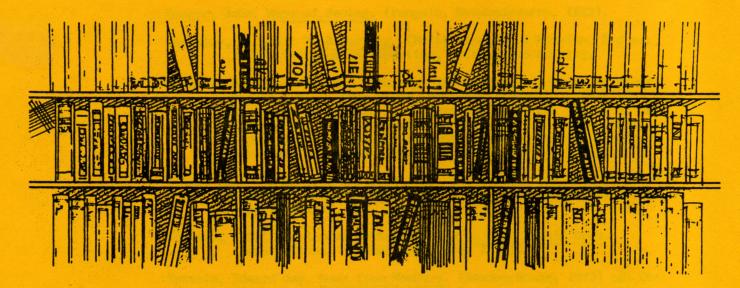
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