



## The Mosley case: one cheer for the ECHR

By Charlie Harris  
CIOJ Vice-President

Every journalist must have breathed a sigh of relief - if not let out a cheer - to hear that Max Mosley had lost his bid to have a "prior notification" clause added to the European Convention of Human Rights.

But one cheer would have been enough, for this was not a case to win widespread support for the press in its defence of the right to report. Even some hardened hacks would surely admit, albeit grudgingly, that Mosley had a right to feel aggrieved.

The exposure of Max Mosley's bizarre sex life is hardly an appropriate cause to be emblazoned on banners flying over the crusade for press freedom.

The ex Formula One boss had gone to Strasbourg after he failed to persuade a House of Commons committee to support his view that newspapers should be forced to warn people if they were planning to expose their private lives.

In a 40-page ruling rejecting Mosley's case, the ECHR warned that prior notification would have a "chilling effect" on press freedom.

Mosley's aim in bringing his case was to give those being exposed in the media plenty of time to seek injunctions blocking publication. Had he succeeded he would have put an end to "ambush reporting" - the practice of only telling one's subject of the intention to publish at the very last minute, if at all.

Max Mosley is motivated by the embarrassment he suffered when, in March 2008, the *News of the World* reported that he had taken part in a sado-masochistic orgy in a Chelsea "torture chamber", with five women whom he had paid for their services. A video was posted on the paper's website.

The story was true, although the *NoW*

had to retract a claim that the orgy had Nazi overtones, which had added to Mosley's embarrassment given that his late father - the sometime Conservative, then Labour, MP Sir Oswald - had founded and led the British Union of Fascists in the 1930s.

But the High Court awarded him £60,000 damages after ruling the paper had invaded his right to privacy by reporting on his sex life.

### Public interest

The case boiled down to the difference between "of interest to the public" and "in the public interest", a distinction recognised by the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) in the Editors' Code of Practice.

The code includes a public interest exemption to several of its clauses,

explaining that: "The public interest includes, but is not confined to: detecting or exposing crime or serious impropriety; protecting public health and safety, [and] preventing the public from being misled by an action or statement of an individual or organisation".

But it warns: "Whenever the public interest is invoked, the PCC will require editors to demonstrate fully that they reasonably believed that publication, or journalistic activity undertaken with a view to publication, would be in the public interest."

There is no doubt that Max Mosley's sexual proclivities were of interest to the public, but was exposing them in "the public interest"? Even those of us who got a guilty frisson reading the *NoW*

continued on page 4

## It's time to end libel bullying of journalists

By Amanda Brodie  
Chairman, Professional Practices Board

The Government has unveiled substantial changes to the law of libel, which, if adopted, will be a welcome boost for investigative journalism and freedom of speech.

The draft Defamation Bill, now at the consultation stage, aims to put an end to the libel bullying of journalists and to call a halt to "libel tourism", which the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, says has made Britain "an international laughing stock".

A spokesman for the Ministry of Justice told the CIOJ: "The government is

firmly committed to reform of the law on defamation. We want to ensure the right balance is achieved, so that people who have been defamed are able to take action to protect their reputation, and that free speech is not unjustifiably impeded."

Unveiling the draft Defamation Bill, Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke said: "The right to speak freely and debate issues without fear of censure is a vital cornerstone of a democratic society. In recent years though, the increased threat of costly libel actions has begun to have

continued on page 6

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## In this issue:

Institute man launches new title	P5
Courting publicity	P7
Health... and journalism?	P7
Hungary battles over media law	P8
From the President's desk	P9
Turning back the clock	P10-11
Paywalls	P12
Outsource overseas at your peril!	P13
Journalism and education	P14-15

## Regular items:

Freelance news	P16
International news	P17-19
Bookshelf	P20

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# Editor's Comment

## The Media and the Monarchy: A Personal View

Amidst the gloom of "austerity Britain" the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton has given the nation a much-needed boost. Will and Kate are a hugely popular couple, and the wedding day itself provided irrefutable evidence that pageantry and ceremony are what Britain does best.

However, I cannot be alone in thinking that certain sections of the media were determined to torpedo the royal wedding from the outset. Week after week of seemingly endless sniping at the royals, and a strong undercurrent of anti-monarchist sentiment – not just at the overtly republican end of the media but also in some of the more right-leaning parts of the press – cast something of a shadow over the Royal engagement, right up to the wedding day.

Nowhere was this mean-spirited anti-royalism more prevalent than at the BBC, which for months has been giving republican commentators and guest interviewees the opportunity to make a stream of snide remarks about the British monarchy. Even on the big day, against a backdrop of jubilant flag-waving crowds thronging the streets of Westminster – more than a million people according to police estimates – I got the distinct impression that most of the BBC's presenters were in a state of denial, refusing to accept that what they were seeing with their own eyes was a genuine outpouring of support and enthusiasm for Britain's Royal Family.

Instead, the BBC cynics preferred to suggest that the hundreds of thousands of people swarming across the royal parks and teeming down the Mall to Buckingham Palace were simply there "for a good day out" – in other words, that the Royal Wedding itself didn't matter, and that it was just an excuse for a knees-up. Throughout 29 April, in the BBC's coverage of the day's events, it was left to the historian Simon Schama and just a handful of other broadcasters making guest appearances to "tell it like it is" rather than choosing, as so many of the Corporation's journalists and commentators did, to see the public celebration through a cloud of BBC cynicism and instinctive anti-monarchism.

Things came to a head in the evening with a special Royal Wedding edition of *Newsnight* in which Kirsty Wark posed a series of crass and irrelevant questions to her guest interviewees, one of whom was the much overrated writer Will Self who trotted out the unofficial BBC line, i.e. that the Royal Wedding was merely a stage-managed way for the old aristocracy to trick the British people into accepting a continuation of the monarchy! Again it was left to Simon Schama, with no political axe to grind, to point out what utter tosh these conspiracy theories are!

What was not mentioned in this programme, and is never mentioned when Mr Self appears on the BBC, is that he is a prominent member of the campaign group Republic which seeks an end to the British monarchy. In fact the membership of Republic reads like a roll-call of the BBC's favourite interviewees. In addition to Will Self they include anti-monarchist writers such as Benjamin Zephaniah, Polly Toynbee, Francis Wheen and Marcelle d'Argy Smith, comedians Jo Brand and Mark Steel, gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell, professional atheist Richard Dawkins, film-makers Mike Leigh and Ken Loach, and left-wing lawyers Michael Mansfield and Geoffrey Robertson.

In my view, it is high time these closet republicans were "outed". This country is both a parliamentary democracy and a monarchy. The two go together – and have done for hundreds of years. If certain public figures, celebrities and commentators were dedicated to overthrowing parliamentary democracy, there would be uproar if they were given a platform for their anti-democratic views on the BBC. Yet the BBC appears willing to give a platform to republicans (both overt and covert) and, indeed, one can discern behind the Corporation's policy a distinct anti-monarchist agenda. This cannot be right.

Opposition to democracy and opposition to monarchy are two sides of the same coin, and for the nation's public service broadcaster to promote republican views should be unacceptable. Responsible journalists, both inside and outside the BBC, should have no truck with it.

## Renew your CIOJ subscription today

In the past couple of weeks, subscription reminders have been sent to members due to renew their membership of the Institute.

Right now, more than ever, it is important to maintain your membership of the Institute. At a time when job security is threatened and the industry is facing a bleak few years.

It is vital that, through the Institute, you maintain your access to advice and support on situations and circumstances that may affect you.

So return your renewal form without delay. Don't forget that you can pay by monthly direct debit to make things easier.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with head office on 020 7252 1187 or [memberservices@cioj.co.uk](mailto:memberservices@cioj.co.uk)

# Photographers stage city protest

Anger at over-enthusiastic private security guards

By John Szemerey

A group of press photographers demonstrated on World Press Freedom Day (May 3) outside City Hall against a growing problem: private security guards trying to stop them taking photos in public places. A campaign group of professional photographers, PHNAT, organised the protest.

The police – who were guilty of similar actions against photographers – are behaving more correctly following representations to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) by the Chartered Institute of Journalists and others. Now it is private security men who are the problem.

PHNAT stands for “I’m a Photographer, Not a Terrorist”. The group was set up while some policemen were using anti-terrorist legislation to stop photographers – press photographers as well as private individuals – taking photos outside public buildings and photographing policemen or soldiers.

The problem is particularly bad in London, which is why the demonstration is in front of City Hall.

Security enforcement in several privately-owned but public places has been handed

over to private security companies, who make their own rules as to what may or may not be done there. Photographers often do not even know that a private security company is responsible for safety – at places like Canary Wharf and the Thames Walk between Tower Bridge and City Hall – so initially they take no notice of the security men, some of whom then try to “confiscate” their cameras and expose or ruin the photos taken.

The security men also try to stop tourists and the general public taking photos in these places, leaving a bad impression on *bona fide* visitors who expect to be able to take snapshots of their visit to London.

PHNAT decided to demonstrate outside City Hall, the home of the Greater London Authority and home of the Mayor, Boris Johnson, on World Press Freedom Day and to leave a letter for the Mayor explaining their problem.

The letter and demonstration are intended to bring “this issue to the attention of the general public to highlight the creeping restrictions to press freedom and the right of the citizen to photograph in a public place.”

Continues the letter, “PHNAT is concerned about the role of private security guards in the prevention of terrorism. Their role has been promoted by police, with the result that many privately employed guards are illegally preventing citizens from taking any photographs at all.”

**Do you have a colleague who may be interested in joining the CIOJ?**

If so, please contact head office for a new members pack or, alternatively, send an e-mail to [memberservices@cioj.co.uk](mailto:memberservices@cioj.co.uk) giving their details. Thank you for your help maintaining a healthy membership.

# City University award recognises impact of data journalism

Simon Rogers of *The Guardian* scoops inaugural XCity Award

City University’s new award was established in order to recognise members of the University’s alumni who have made outstanding contributions to journalism – in particular, a difference in the way news and features are written or presented.

Simon is *The Guardian*’s Editor of Datablog and Datastore, the online resources responsible for highlighting news-related data from around the world and representing it visually. He played a crucial role in the newspaper’s decision to “crowdsource” data on MPs’ expenses when they were released in 2009, as well as being a key part of *The Guardian*’s coverage of WikiLeaks’ Afghan war logs.

Professor George Brock, Head of Journalism at City University London commented: “I wholeheartedly congratulate Simon on receiving this prize. We were thoroughly impressed by the diverse range of nominations, demonstrating the quality and high level of professionalism of alumni from City’s journalism programmes. Choosing one winner was difficult, but Simon’s contribution to the advancement of data journalism clearly places him at

the forefront of his field and demonstrates the impact he is having on the future of journalism.”

## Thrilled

Awards always have a major morale-boosting impact on our profession, and Simon (who completed his diploma at City in 1991) told those who had gathered for the ceremony: “I’m thrilled that City University London has awarded me this prize. City gave me my first big break into journalism and I’ll always be grateful for the quality of learning that I enjoyed at the University.

It has stayed with me throughout my career. This award also provides important industry recognition of the impact that data journalism is having on the journalism profession and news reporting. Over the past year, with organisations such as WikiLeaks driving data related media stories, we have seen data journalism really gain momentum. Data journalism serves an important role in serving the public interest and I hope this will continue.”

The Royal Statistical Society also awarded Simon a special commendation for excellence in journalism last year.

Other City alumni were shortlisted for the University’s XCity Award. They included:

Kate Day *The Daily Telegraph*’s Social Media and Engagement Editor, for her work on the Debate 2010 project. (Graduated with a Newspaper Diploma, 2007.)

Tom Whitwell from *Times Digital* for his work on paywalls. (Graduated with MA in Newspaper Journalism, 1996.)

James Ball for his work in investigative data journalism at *The Guardian*, WikiLeaks and The Bureau of Investigative Journalism. (Graduated with MA in Investigative Journalism, 2008.)

Nathalie McDermott, founder of On the Road Media, an organisation which was set up in 2005 with the aim of advising marginalised groups on how to use social media, so they have a say in the issues at the heart of their communities.

# Mosley case

continued from page 1

report, or watching its video, would find it hard to argue that it was.

Until that Sunday morning, Mosley was hardly a public figure in the true sense of the word. His name may have been familiar to F1 fans, and to students of his father's colourful political career, but most of us had never heard of him.

And he had never set himself up as a paragon of family values, telling the rest of us to live pure and chaste lives. So there could be no accusation of hypocrisy or double standards, as is often the case in exposes of the moral turpitude of politicians, sportsmen or film and TV stars.

There was no public interest in the *NoW*'s story, so while champions of press freedom will be delighted that Mosley's campaign for "prior notification" has apparently failed (at the time of writing he says he is considering further options), many of us are concerned that the fight has been over such a weak and flawed case.

Within hours of the ECHR ruling, Tory backbencher Zac Goldsmith – and son of the late businessman and serial litigant Sir James Goldsmith – had jumped on the gag-the-press bandwagon and called for Parliament to pass a tough privacy law.

## Prurient

He argued that: "Some newspapers are unwilling to distinguish between what is in the public interest and what is merely of prurient interest to some of the public".

It is depressing to have to agree that he has a point.

Others will no doubt join him in offering some support to Mosley's ambition, so the threat has not gone away.

"Ambush reporting" is a legitimate and useful tactic in the exposure, or prevention, of criminal activity, abuse of power, or the hypocrisy of those who seek to impose strict moral codes on the public while having no intention of behaving that way themselves.

In 35 years as a local newspaper reporter and editor I used "ambush reporting" regularly against local authorities, the police and even the NHS (although never to expose sexual shenanigans) and it is even more vital that the national press and broadcasters continue to have this vital weapon in their arsenals.

It is not just those of us working in the news media who think so. Human rights activists gave evidence to the ECHR judges opposing Mosley's case. Banning "ambush reporting" would dangerously hamper the exposure of crimes against humanity by dictators, it was argued.

Had Mosley won, they claimed, thugs like Gadaffi and Assad would have been entitled to prior warning that the European media were planning to report that they were

slaughtering their own people, mowing down unarmed civilians in cold blood.

So, one cheer for Mosley's defeat, but three large boos for the behaviour of the *NoW* and other papers and websites who recklessly put at risk genuine investigative journalism in the service of truth and justice by continuing to hand crates of ammunition to the enemies of press freedom by abusing this tactic to achieve grubby and sordid ends.

## Lebedev warns of a return to 'dark days' of media control

Abuse of press freedom could trigger Draconian regulations that would not have been out of place in the "dark, totalitarian days of Russia".

The stark warning came from Evgeny Lebedev, the Russian chairman of the *Independent* and the *Evening Standard* in a speech at Oxford University.

Giving the first lecture of the Gorbachev series on press freedom on the day that the ECHR ruled on the Mosley case, Lebedev said that the media had to act responsibly or risk doing society a "terrible injustice".

Journalists who behaved irresponsibly were guilty of dereliction of duty which brought all the press into disrepute and invited a legal crackdown threatening "our much-valued press freedom."

There was too much trivialisation and tittle-tattle in the UK press.

He said: "When that meaningless trivia is procured via illegal means, we are on a slippery slope as this becomes the accepted standard or norm," citing phone hacking and payments to police officers.

"We must be wary of abusing our freedom, which could result in losing that very same freedom. We know we must be alert to preserving press freedom when the Leader of the Opposition calls for a public inquiry into press behaviour.

"We cannot allow this kind of corruption to pave the way for the suppression of the fundamental right to express views."

"If we slip up, the judges and politicians will enforce the restrictions that will not be so different from those in regimes where there are institutional straitjackets, preventing the freedom to report.

"We cannot allow our hunger for a story about a celebrity to produce a system that would not look out of place in the dark, totalitarian days of my native Russia."

Lebedev said responsibility involved "voluntary restrictions", adding: "To comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable is one definition of a vigilant press. We need to fight the suppression of this free flow of information, yet, stay firmly within the boundaries of the law."

# Hacked off!

By Steven Barnett  
Professor of Communications,  
University of Westminster

News International's belated admission of liability for some of the phone-hacking cases now going through the courts is to be welcomed, but leaves major questions unanswered. We still know little about how widespread this practice was at the *News of the World*, how many journalists were involved and – crucially – how many senior executives at News International may be implicated.

It is only through the determined pursuit of civil cases through the courts by a few victims – and some dogged investigative journalism – that the full extent of this criminal activity in the country's biggest-selling newspaper has come to light. News International's insistence that a single "rogue reporter" was responsible has been discredited.

## Press ethics

It is now essential for the revival of reputable press ethics in Britain that all the information now being made available to litigants is placed in the public domain, that we know the full extent of alleged executive involvement, and that a full inquiry is launched into the Metropolitan Police's first investigation. This apology should not be used as an excuse to brush the full scale of journalistic malpractice and possible inadequate policing under the carpet.

## Don't forget

You will find many of the CIOJ's forms, leaflets and guides available as downloads on the members' area of the Institute's website, [www.cioj.org/members](http://www.cioj.org/members).

## Press abused in Palestine

The Doha Centre for Media Freedom has noted a remarkable increase in violations of press freedom in the Palestinian territories - the West Bank, occupied East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip - over recent months. The Centre's researchers monitor violations against journalists, both by the Israeli military and by the ruling Palestinian authorities in Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

## Bomber on moon! (But no more...)

Known for their unbelievable headlines and eye-catching, jaw-dropping picture content, the famous *Sport* newspapers have ceased publication

*The Daily Sport* and *Sunday Sport* have suspended publication and will go into administration.

Launched in 1986, *The Sunday Sport* set a new standard in journalism. Five years later, its owner, David Sullivan, decided that the time was right for a daily version of the paper, and so the two titles marched forth – annoying feminists and the politically-correct in equal measure.

Sport Media Group, which was saved from going out of business by former owner David Sullivan in 2009, said it had ceased trading with immediate effect. The Group warned it had experienced “an insufficient recovery” since December. If no buyer is found, the *Sport* will be the first UK national newspaper to close since the demise of News International’s *Today* in November 1995.

### “Bomber on moon”

*The Daily Sport* was relaunched in April 2008 under the editorship of Barry McIlheney and James Brown (the founder of Loaded magazine) with the stated aim of going from “sleazy” to “sexy”. Mr McIlheney was forthright in his vision for the papers: “If it is not about sport, if it is not about girls and does not make you laugh, then don’t bother.”

The relaunch managed an important political coup when the former Liberal Democrat MP, Lembit Opik, began a weekly political column. Circulation peaked in 2005 at 189,473, while the Sunday edition reached a high in the same year of 167,473.

Further back, both papers were edited by Tony Livesey, who now presents a programme on BBC Radio 5 live. Under his tutelage, the Sunday edition in particular became known for its incredible stories, including: “World War Two Bomber Found on the Moon!”

Sport Media Group (SMG) said on its website that it had ceased trading because of its “inability to meet certain creditors as they fall due” and was in the process of appointing administrators. SMG suspended trading in its shares “pending clarification of its financial position”.

# Institute man launches new agricultural title

*Blue Force Heritage* magazine set to become “leader in their field”

By Stuart Millson

For those unaware of the tractor and agricultural machinery industry in Britain and Ireland (and the numerous clubs and associations out there which celebrate the various makes of tractor!) allow us at *The Journal* to acquaint you with one of the leading lights of this specialised scene: CIOJ member Peter D. Simpson.

Peter is an internationally-renowned figure in his field, and is known from Wyoming to Wakefield for his expert knowledge of giant mechanical diggers and massive earthmoving machinery; tractors, trailers and ploughs; seed-drills and combines, and (just for good measure) vintage bulldozers. A writer, narrator and producer of DVD films dedicated to the monster-machinery of the United States; an engineering journalist and author; and a photographer – always at large at shows and events – Peter is the man to go to for all matters agricultural.

### Publishing vision

Now working for the highly-respected Mortons Publishers, Peter (assisted by fellow journalist and photographer, Gina Harvey) has embarked upon an exciting new project which has managed to capture the imagination of one huge group of tractor enthusiasts. Peter and his colleagues had long believed that more could be done for the thousands of supporters of the classic and distinctive blue-livery Ford and Fordson (and derivative) tractors. His vision was to create a magazine independent of any commercial publishing concern – and one that would be run, as Peter puts it, “for the members and by the members”. The magazine, says Peter, must “do what it says it will do, reflect interest in one of the world’s great industrial names.”



### Success

Believing that a new publishing venture and club formation was needed, Peter decided to launch the Blue Force Club and *Blue Force Heritage* magazine (also online at [www.blueforce.uk.com](http://www.blueforce.uk.com)). And what a success it has been, if the Club’s recent inaugural Leicestershire rally was anything to go by. Peter takes up the story: “We are a fresh name on the scene, and we knew that we would get plenty of support as a result of the power of word-of-mouth. But we were not prepared for the 100 or so tractors, and the large numbers of individuals and families who turned out for our first big event. So far, the *Blue Force Heritage* magazine has gone down well with everyone, and those who really know their tractors love the iconic and historic Ford industrial-agricultural emblem, which Ford in the United States have authorised us, and no-one else, to use!”

### May the force be with them!

*Blue Force Heritage* magazine, it has to be said, sets a new benchmark as far as niche publishing in this field is concerned, and effortlessly outguns the opposition. High-quality colour-work adorns the publication. An attractive typeface, good use of headings, a reader-friendly design, and a remarkable selection of period advertisements and images of classic tractor scenes create a truly superior type of club journal. Substantial and technical, yet readable and generally informative, Peter’s publishing venture is something of which we at the Institute can all be proud. We wish *Blue Force Heritage* every success.



Little and large: Here is one of Henry Ford’s early offerings – a Fordson Model F of the early 1920s – being dwarfed by the latest offering from New Holland.

# 'The test of a free press is its capacity to unearth the truth'

continued from page 1

a chilling effect on scientific and academic debate, and investigative journalism.

"The Government's draft Defamation Bill will ensure that anyone who makes a statement of fact or expresses an honest opinion, can do so with confidence.

"However it is never acceptable to harm someone's reputation without just cause, so the Bill will ensure defamation law continues to balance the needs of both sides and encourage a just outcome in libel cases."

The draft Bill, which relates to the law in England and Wales only, includes provision for:

- A new "public interest" defence which can be used by defendants in defamation cases.
- A requirement for claimants to demonstrate 'substantial harm' before they can sue.
- Reducing so-called "libel tourism" by making it tougher to bring overseas claims which have little connection to the UK in the English courts.
- A single publication rule, meaning repeat claims for libel cannot be made every time a publication is accessed on the internet.

In a speech given in January this year, Nick Clegg said: "Recent years have seen some progress on transparency, most notably through the Freedom of Information Act. But progress has stalled. Exceptions [to the Act] remain far too common, and information is too often placed behind tedious bureaucratic hurdles.

"We still live in a society where important information is hoarded by the few. And as we know, knowledge is power."

The Deputy PM said it was important that people were able to use information to scrutinise public services, because this drives up standards.

He added: "The test of a free press is its capacity to unearth the truth, exposing charlatans and vested interests along the way. It is simply not right when journalists are effectively bullied into silence by the prospect of costly legal battles.

"Nor should foreign claimants be able to exploit these laws, bringing cases against foreign defendants here to our courts even if the connection with England is tenuous.

"It is a farce – and an international embarrassment – that the American Congress has felt it necessary to legislate to protect their citizens from our libel laws. This Government wants to restore our international reputation for free speech.

"We intend to provide a new statutory defence for those speaking out in the public interest, whether they are big broadcasters or the humble blogger. And we intend to clarify the law around the existing defences of fair comment, and justification.

"We believe claimants should not be able to threaten claims on what are essentially trivial grounds. We are going to tackle libel tourism. And we're going to look at how the law can be updated to better reflect the realities of the internet.

"We are also going to address the high costs of defamation proceedings. As part of that we have published a consultation paper on proposals by Lord Justice Jackson to reform civil litigation funding – and in particular 'no win no fee' arrangements – to make costs more proportionate."



Clegg: "We want to ensure the right balance is achieved"

- In the next issue of the Journal, we look at the proposals in more detail and Robin Morgan delves into the CJoJ archives to see how libel cases were handled many years ago.
- Have your say – write a letter to the Journal with your views on the reforms.
- The full consultation document for the draft bill can be found at: [www.justice.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations) and select draft defamation bills.

## Libel reform and the CJoJ

Our Institute has been involved with the consultation process over the libel issue for some time.

In 2009 we were consulted on the multiple publication rule (defamation and the internet) by the Ministry of Justice.

We outlined our objection to the rule, which potentially meant journalists and publications could be sued for libel every time an article was re-read on the internet, since every time someone downloaded a story, it could be deemed re-publication in law.

In the consultation report, the CJoJ said: "We regard the introduction of a workable and equitable single publication rule in libel to be an essential first step in the modernisation of the law in England and Wales. Other countries have workable defamation laws which do not have or require a multiple publication rule."

Commenting on the wider issue, the Institute added: "Libel impacts primarily upon reputation. Not everyone has or deserves a good reputation. Journalists must have the freedom to investigate potential corruption and wilful wrongdoing against the public. Mistakes in all walks of life occur and journalism is no exception. Where mistakes do happen then rectification should be made, apologies given and retractions published in short time scales.

"So long as the original publisher/author discharges their duty to retract the libel as far as can be reasonably expected, their liabilities should be limited to a single publication rule."

The new draft Defamation Bill proposes introducing a single-publication rule for libel, including a one-year time limit on bringing cases.

## Whistleblowing and WikiLeaks

Assange goes head-to-head with Douglas Murray

Sparks flew at a debate between Henry Jackson Society Associate Director, Douglas Murray, and Julian Assange of WikiLeaks. Hosted by the Frontline Club and *The New Statesman*, the debate on whistleblowing was a sell-out. *The Guardian* reported the proceedings:

"Douglas Murray...challenged Assange over the website's sources of funding, its staffing and connections with the Holocaust denier Israel Shamir, who has worked with the site. Murray demanded answers: 'What gives

you the right to decide what should be known or not? Governments are elected. You, Mr. Assange are not."

Murray also tore into Assange over an account in a book by *Guardian* writers David Leigh and Luke Harding, in which the authors quote him suggesting that if informants were to be killed following publication of the leaks, they "had it coming to them".

The debate appears on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emPIz7Sv1LE>

# Health – and journalism?

The journalist's lifestyle doesn't exactly inspire much confidence from our healthier colleagues in other professions. But did you know that the EU has a Health Prize for Journalists? Stuart Millson looks at the competition of the year

Over my fried egg and bacon breakfast, I read that registration has opened for the third EU Health Prize for Journalists. The aim of this prize is as follows: "To raise awareness on health issues by showcasing the talents of the best health journalists from across the 27 Member States." As with the previous two prizes, the theme of the third prize is "Europe for Patients", which from this year, includes the topic of pharmaceuticals.

Reading about the EU is enough to turn us all into patients, but the prizewinners could well be enjoying Champagne (or maybe, top-quality carrot juice) for a long time to come. The winning journalists will receive cash prizes of €6,000 for first place, 2,500 for second place and 1,500 (euros again) for third place.

## Huge interest

Interest in the project has, so far, been alarmingly strong.

Over 700 journalists from all over the European Union have participated in this Health Prize already.

If you are interested in: cross-border healthcare, rare diseases, health workforce, patient safety, organ donation and transplantation, cancer, flu vaccination, prudent use of antibiotics, mental health, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and childhood vaccination, this could be the prize for you!

There is even a special prize for the best report into the damage caused by smoking and nicotine. (No after-dinner speeches with cigars at this one, just a prize of 3,000 euros!)

## The rules

- Participants in the competition must be nationals or residents of one of the 27 EU Member States and aged 18 or over.
- A maximum of two articles can be submitted per participant and team submissions are accepted as long as the team does not exceed five people.
- All articles must be in one of the official languages of the EU and have been originally published in either a print or online media outlet.
- The maximum length of the article should not exceed 20,000 characters (including spaces).
- More rules and conditions can be found on the dedicated website.

## Selecting the winners

In each Member State, a national jury composed of journalists and public health experts, chaired by the European Commission, will select one national finalist.

To submit an article and find out more about the EU Health Prize for Journalists please visit the dedicated website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/journalist\\_prize/2011/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/journalist_prize/2011/index_en.htm)

## Numbers crunched at *Accountancy Age*

Changing reader habits and burgeoning subscription rates for emailed newswires are said to be the cause for Incisive Media's decision to cease printing *Accountancy Age*.

The well-known magazine was published in printed form for the last time in April, and it seems that no jobs are to be lost as a result of the change.

According to its most recent ABC figures, *Accountancy Age* has (or had!) an average weekly print circulation of 31,951. The digital edition of the magazine counts 13,650 weekly subscribers.

The *Accountancy Age* website featured the following announcement: "Obviously, there is a great fondness and attachment to *Accountancy Age* in print. For forty years the publication has been the vehicle through which exclusive news and analysis has been delivered to the UK's accounting profession. The publication now has to take the next step in ensuring it can continue to provide the service that readers have come to expect, and support their reading habits as they become increasingly focused on the internet."

## Reporters' stories on the London stage

In July and August 2011, the Liceandfire theatre company will produce a five-week run at the prestigious London fringe theatre, the Arcola, of their new play "On the Record", which has been constructed from interviews with journalists from Russia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, the USA and Israel.

"On the Record" is a powerful piece which exposes the work of independent journalists who, day-in, day-out, put their lives on the line so that readers, viewers and listeners across the world might see the truth behind the headlines. The characters in "On the Record" are real, and you may recognise their names and stories.

There are preview shows on 20, 23, 25, 27, 28 July. Tickets are just £10 for these shows but must be booked in advance by phone (020 7503 1646).

## Courting publicity

Advances in technology may assist the media in reporting court deliberations, according to the Lord Chief Justice

*The Press Gazette* has reported the comments of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Judge, which may signal a new dimension to the world of court reporting. Speaking at a lecture at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, Lord Judge said that it was his "fervent hope" that the new world of communications would improve the immediacy and accuracy of legal reporting.

He continued: "It is now possible, as you know, for a contemporaneous report of what is being said to be put up on a television screen as the words are spoken, or more realistically, three or four seconds after they have been spoken. At present interim guidance on

tweeting in court has been given, for the purposes of a consultation into the use of modern technology and its impact on the processes of the court. Obviously I must wait for the end of the consultation, but can anyone doubt that the issues of the impact of modern technology both as they apply to the judicial system and as they apply to the world of the media, and indeed as they impinge on the relationship of both the judiciary and the media, should be examined now rather than later."

His lordship argued that there must be "open justice" – expressing the view that new technology would make it easier for the media to be "present in court".

# The fight over Hungary's media law

By Norman Bartlett

In December 2010 the European media was seized with panic about a new law that had been introduced in Hungary that appeared to be a grave threat to freedom of the press. From all parts the warnings flared, demonstrations were staged and petitions launched.

The English language reports of the law certainly seemed to show a gross intrusion into the independence of the press. There would be a new media authority dominated by five appointees of the ruling Fidesz party, which would oversee all public news production. The body could also levy huge fines on media it deemed "unbalanced" or "offensive to human dignity". Journalists could be forced to identify their sources and the right to secrecy would only be upheld if it were in the public interest. There were also other limitations. The villain of the piece was identified as the Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán.

Many organisations made their representations and the CIOJ was among them. We wrote to the Hungarian Ambassador in London after the Budapest authorities had attempted to counter the first phase of European criticism. We said:

*"Your government has attempted to defend the new law on very dubious grounds in the view of the Institute. While many European countries may have bodies to monitor and possibly penalise offensive publications or broadcasts, such bodies have only limited powers and, above all, are impartial. Since the merging of the national media supervisory authority (ORTT) with the telecommunications authority (NHH) into the new Media Council (NMHH) there is no longer any semblance of impartiality in the Hungarian body. The appointees are from supporters of just one political party – Fidesz."*

In our letter we went on to remind the Ambassador of the European context:

*"What is particularly worrying is that your government purports to subscribe to universal West European values. The constitution, setting-up and operation of the NMHH give the lie to that. It should be abolished as it offends all those who believe in press freedom".*

The Ambassador replied in due course,

by which time the Hungarian government had backed down significantly but not entirely. He wrote:

*"We believe that all Hungarian citizens have the right to get information and balanced coverage, which is a cornerstone in the work of such prestigious institutions as the BBC...those experts who drafted the legislation did consult other European media regulations and were dedicated to be in line with EU regulations, too. I am afraid that many who criticised the new legislation have not yet had the chance to read it at the time of expressing their criticism as it was not available in English...the Government asked the Commission to make it possible...for their experts to consult with Commission officials regarding the contested provisions in the media legislation..."*

It is interesting to try and unravel why a democratically elected government the origins of whose governing party was founded as a youthful libertarian group, has become identified with the opposite sentiment. The party was founded in 1988, named simply Fidesz (*Fiatl Demokraták Szövetsége*, Alliance of Young Democrats) and comprised mainly students who met in small, clandestine groups. It was anti-communist and its members saw themselves as guardians of fundamental human rights. For the first five years of its existence it had an upper age limit of 35 years. After the fall of communism it became a major force in modern Hungary's political and social fabric.

Viktor Orbán was one of the founders of Fidesz. One of his contemporaries described him as "the ultimate anarcho-liberal...an embodiment of the Democratic



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

Photo: European Peoples Party

Opposition's underground culture." He studied law in Budapest and got a Soros Foundation scholarship to study English liberalism at Pembroke College, Oxford. He turned out to be a fine political operator. In 1995 he changed the direction of the party to centre-right to take advantage of disarray by existing rightist parties (think Blair and New Labour!) and led Fidesz to its first election victory in 1998. He became Prime Minister and promptly launched a massive re-organisation of the civil service but characterised by an enormous strengthening of the prime minister's office.

He lost the election in 2002 and in the following years built up his international profile. He was awarded numerous distinctions and prizes by European and American organisations of which the most odd was the Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great from the Vatican – despite him being a free-thinking Calvinist!

The next stage is best summarised by a paragraph from a recent article in *Der Spiegel*. "There are many reasons for Hungary's descent into the ranks of countries that are only partially democratic, but archconservatives and the radical

right wing are not the only ones responsible for this adverse development. The Hungarian left has committed a form of gradual suicide. For several parliamentary terms it had the chance to shape Hungary, most recently between 2006 and the spring of 2010. But hopeful steps were quickly abandoned as corruption and nepotism shaped the political



Hungarian Parliament building in Budapest. This was inaugurated in 1896 in the Gothic Revival style, inspired by London's Houses of Parliament that had been completed about 25 years earlier.

Photo: Norman Bartlett

continued on page 9



continued from page 8

scene. Former Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány highlighted the dilemma in a 2006 speech, when he said: "No European country has done something as boneheaded as we have ... We have lied in the morning, at noon and at night."

It was as a reaction from the deceit enacted by Gyurcsány and his socialists that Orbán swept back into power in May 2010. Fidesz had an absolute majority in parliament and proceeded to change things around. The start was some gerrymandering – changing boundaries of election districts to ensure that Fidesz would win almost all mayoral elections at October's municipal elections. There were new rules for the nomination of constitutional judges. Leftist professors in official positions were sacked and even some directors of government theatres. The pension system was nationalized with powers granted to vary payments.

Yet it was the media law that propelled Orbán, Fidesz and Hungarian politics to the world's front pages.

"The freedom that Hungary achieved for itself and others two decades ago is disappearing" – *Die Welt*, Berlin

"...an embarrassing move" – *Corriere della Sera*, Milano

"We express our solidarity with Hungarian media, which Orbán intends to silence" – *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Warszawa

"The freedom of the press in Hungary has come to an end" – *Nepszabadsag*, Budapest.

Many politicians – not all on the left – criticised the Hungarian government. Fidesz has been labelled as authoritarian with doubtful economic policies. Yet the European Union has been tolerant, even of the media law.

On 21 December 2010, the day the law was enacted in Parliament, EU's President Herman Van Rompuy paid an official visit to Budapest. There was no word of criticism from Van Rompuy but instead he spoke of "the power of ideas" and "Europe's values". He congratulated Orbán on his assumption of a EU presidency a fortnight later and predicted "excellent cooperation". He went on to say: "I will return to Brussels with an excellent impression."

Perhaps the "excellent cooperation" did work and led to the worst features of the media law being rescinded. Or maybe it was the modest contribution from your Institute that did the trick!

# From the President's Desk

By Norman Bartlett

Hamilton Hall adjacent to Liverpool Street Station once formed part of the Great Eastern Hotel and is named after an eminent Chairman of the erstwhile Great Eastern Railway, Lord Claud John Hamilton, second son of the 1st Duke of Abercorn. He presided over the old GER for almost 30 years from 1893 until the company was merged with the LNER on grouping in 1923. So distinguished a chairman was he that a very elegant and powerful 4-4-0 class of locomotives was named after him. Sadly none survived into preservation.

But that's enough for the railway anoraks among us. Hamilton Hall is where one of the first steps was taken in my aspiration to see better cooperation with other journalists' organisations.

Those of you who attended the Presidential handover may recall that I explained that I wanted to focus on four strands of activity over the next two years: partnerships, team structure, member focus and HQ admin.

I went into more detail when I spoke to the Institute's freelance division at their AGM. I explained that many years ago I heard from a guy who worked for the National Coal Board a story about Peter Walker, sometime Secretary of State for Energy in one of Margaret Thatcher's governments. When appointed, Walker asked his Permanent Secretary what were the four things he wanted him, as a minister, to push for, where his effort was to be focused.

I was impressed with that approach although less impressed with other aspects of the gentleman. Earlier he had been the junior partner in the infamous firm of Slater-Walker, takeover experts and asset strippers. Later he left government, one of the first to claim he wanted "to spend more time with his family" and became Lord Walker. Anyway, I like the idea of a selective approach to presidency as it provides a sort of blueprint for actions.

So the first of my interests will be associations that may or may not lead to partnerships. Which associations should we be getting closer to? How would we get closer? What would we offer? What would we expect? How much would it cost?

Now I know some of you may already be members of other organisations. If you are, and you think a closer relationship would be useful, please let me know.

Teams are not new to the Institute. We already have some: Professional Practices Board (PPB), International Division, and the editorial team are examples. Other possibilities that I want to work on are a marketing team, a student team, a finance team and a government team. My aim is to get one key person per team. I want that

person to take ownership of the issues. This is diametrically opposite to the classic approach of forming a committee.

Committees do not do things. Individuals do things. But individuals able to draw on support from others do even better.

Member focus is needed because since the collapse of the old regional structure, there has been rather a hole in the middle of the CIOJ. Here in London it may have felt less but in the rest of the country a journalist can feel lonely. On-line facilities such as Journalist help but this whole area must be strengthened.

I want to try and get about more and meet our members outside London. I want to determine what the value proposition of the Institute is. And as important is to compare that with the perceived value proposition. One difficulty in making that evaluation is that the annual subscription has been held at just under £200 for so many years, that it has almost become a benchmark of value in itself.

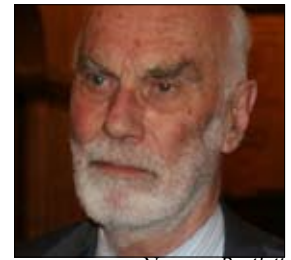
And finally there are administrative matters mainly concerned with the lack of resources at Head Office. This is something that I shall have to address with the General Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer.

So, after that rather long digression, back to Hamilton Hall. This is where I saw the first and second of those strands at work – discussing co-operation and using a team. There was a meeting held with the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BoIJ) – of which more in the next issue – and it was organised by one of our team leaders: Amanda Brodie, chairman of PPB.

Now it may or may not develop into a more productive relationship but it was a useful discussion with Iris Maor, the BoIJ's head of operations. As well as explaining the modus operandi of her organisation, she learnt some facts about the CIOJ of which she was unaware.

It was excellent to see that this first initiative that Amanda has undertaken since she took over at the PPB, resulted in what was a promising exchange of views.

Other contacts have come in from journalist organisations abroad and these will be considered carefully. These approaches demonstrate that the CIOJ image is not insignificant. However, our reputation has been hard won and we shall not allow that to be degraded by careless association or linking with inappropriate organisations.



Norman Bartlett

# Turning back the clock

*It's not like the good old days...or is it? Welcome to a new regular feature in The Journal looking at events in 1911 as reported by the Institute's voluminous Minutes book. We find that events a century ago have an uncanny relevance to what is happening today!*

## Order, order – the Hon members speak rubbish!

Today's politicians take note when you start kicking journalists for political ends: we had the measure of you 100 years ago...

Arthur Walter presented an "interesting" paper on "Parliamentary Reporting" to a meeting of the West Riding District and pulled no punches in his condemnation of Parliamentary speaking standards.

"Oratory, as our forefathers understood it, was quite out of date in Parliament. The politician had come to rely more upon the reporter putting his observations into shape than upon his own language", reported the Minute book.

"As Parliamentary oratory had declined, the unconscious humour of Parliamentary speech had increased, for the "bull" and the mixed metaphor were the children of careless speaking. Phrases were borrowed ready-made from the floating mass of metaphors, proverbs and colloquialisms, and disaster came when a speaker put two incongruous ideas into juxtaposition and produced his "bull".

"Concluding his remarks, Mr Walter said that the Press Gallery was now recognised in the amplest way by Ministers and officials, and the annual dinner of 'the Gallery' was practically a Parliamentary event.

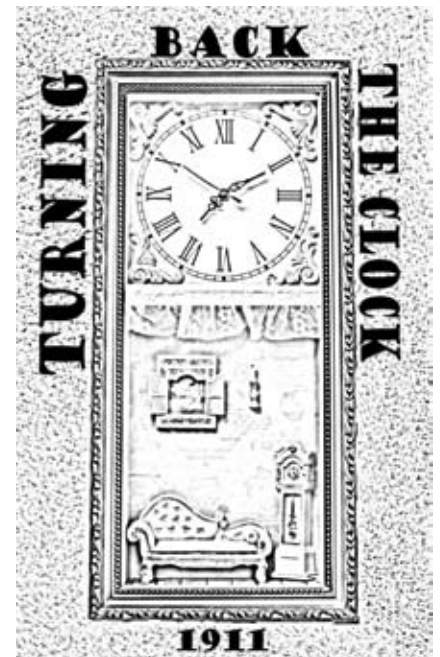
"Today it might truly be said that Press and Parliament were mutually dependent.

"The Press was the voice without which Parliament could not speak."

### LEST WE FORGET... A QUOTABLE QUOTE

"It is men who make newspapers. The most perfect machinery, the finest organisation, world-wide agencies of information and the most lavish expenditure, fail of half their effect without the gifted mind to think and the hand to write..." – Lord Burnham, treasurer of the Orphan Fund, writing a forward to a member's book of Fleet Street reminiscences.

**Today's bean-counters take note!**



## Smoking in concert

Today's anti-smoking campaigners would be aghast at the advice from President John Mitchell to Institute members in 1911. Warming to his year in office, the highly respected editor-in-chief of the Dundee Courier urged members to get together more frequently to strengthen the Institute.

"In many Districts...social meetings – usually the unorthodox but exceedingly enjoyable "smoking concert" – are held, at which opinions regarding the Institute are freely exchanged, and members frequently secured.

"The social gathering are eminently worthy of support. Journalists cannot have too many facilities for the free interchange of ideas. The result will always prove beneficial to the Institute of Journalists", he wrote in a New Year message to members.

London District preferred to do it with song...in March it held its "annual conversazione – an excellent programme of music, songs and stories contributed to one of the most successful of these afternoon gatherings".

## Cracking down on freeloaders

Problems with freeloaders masquerading as journalists were just as rife in 1911 as they are today and with no "Gatekeepers" press card to weed out imposters in those days, the Institute's London District was reduced to writing letters appealing for help to stamp out abuses.

"The Committee have had under consideration certain abuses of the invitations sent to newspapers by public authorities, railway companies and other bodies desirous of drawing attention to new enterprises."

A circular letter was sent to the editors of the Metropolitan's newspapers drawing attention to the fact "that these invitations found their way into the hands of persons who were not journalists, some of whom did not reflect credit on the profession to which they might naturally be supposed to belong."

Replies were sympathetic with promises to help check the abuse.

## An appreciative banker gives the Institute cash for responsible reporting

Bashing bankers is the flavour of the moment, with “greedy” being the favourite headline adjective. But in 1911, one bank which had hit the headlines, the Birkbeck, of Chancery Lane, London, was so grateful for the responsible reporting by our profession of its troubles of 1910 that it gave 100 guineas to the Institute’s Auxiliary Fund (forerunner for a new Unemployment Fund, launched later that year).

It was, said the bank: “A mark of appreciation of the temperate and helpful attitude of numerous members of the professions who are clients of the Bank...and of the assistance given by the London Press in informing and reassuring the public.”

In 1911 100 guineas – or £105 – was the equivalent of £6,000 today.

Reporting the gift, the Minute book said: “Fortune has begun to smile upon the Auxiliary Fund. The short-lived run upon the Birkbeck Bank (in June 1910) is commemorated with our corporate profession by the gift of 100 guineas from the Managers of the Bank.

“It is a coincidence and a good omen for the Auxiliary Fund that this gift from the Birkbeck Bank corresponds, in time and circumstance, almost precisely with a similar gift which, in the autumn of 1892, found place amongst the initial contributions to our successful and beneficent Orphan Fund.”

That referred to a Northern Rock-style run on the Birkbeck in September 1892, when clients – including journalists – demanded their money back, and got it thanks to interventions by the Bank of England and others. Press reportage helped calm fears.

(That occasion proved dangerous for some customers. *The New York Times* in September 1892 reported: “Thieves took advantage of the crush and confusion and many depositors were robbed of their money after they had drawn it from the bank. One man was relieved of £1,100 [about £62,700 in today’s values!], while two others lost £250 [£14,250] and £120 [£6,840] respectively.”)

The 1911 Minutes concluded: “It (the 100 guineas) comes with the good wishes of Messrs Ravenscroft (the Bank’s owners) towards the provident and benevolent features of the Institute’s work.”

The gift came just in time – in June 1911 the Bank finally collapsed! It was purchased from the receiver by the London County and Westminster Bank and today its roots can be traced in the Royal Bank of Scotland – which is not without its problems in 2011!

## Freelances want just payment

The problems of freelances getting paid are not new. Surrey member W. A. Shattower complained of not getting his lineage, “especially from the London evening papers” which had numerous editions. If correspondents did not see the particular edition, they could not cite the story’s page and column in which it appeared in their claim and were not paid. Surrey wanted the Council to persuade proprietors to keep better records of submitted stories – and pay up.

## Generous Scots boost care for “the bairns”

Then, as now, the Orphan Fund was the star performer of the Institute’s finances and it entered 1911 with assets of £16,000 – or the equivalent of £912,000 at today’s values. To put this into perspective, the Fund’s 2011 assets are just about £1.8m depending on the current valuations of the stock markets.

The creation of the Fund was proposed at the Institute’s first Dublin conference of 1891 by Major G F Gratwicke, who became its chairman on its launch in 1892 but who, in 1911, decided to retire from that responsibility amidst many generous valedictions from our members.

Income to the Fund came from many sources, including personal gifts from members – News of the World editor Emsley Carr had given £5,000 in 1893! – and outside organisations. The Minutes reported “the handsome gift which lately came to the Fund through the good offices of its friends in the Edinburgh District. Out of the financial surplus of the Scottish National Exhibition of Industry (1908) the Authorities of that successful enterprise generously voted our Orphan Fund a hundred pounds (£5,700 in 2011 values). It came towards the Old Year’s end, as a very welcome token of “auld acquaintance”; and it has been snugly put by for the bairns of the Institute, of whom Scotland has furnished forth a share.”

Generous people these Scots – “there was a sequel also to the big cheque that issued from the Glasgow festival of ‘cake and candy’;”...but no record of how much!

An obviously popular book of the time was *The Press Album* compiled by Institute member Thomas Catling, which included contributions from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Thomas Galsworthy and Jerome K. Jerome. Selling at one shilling (5p) the book made “well past the round thousand pounds” for the Fund.

## The start of a valuable tradition

An early aluminary of the Institute, Miss Catherine Drew, the leading woman journalist of her day, had been presented with an ornate – and valuable – gold bracelet by



appreciative members in 1908 and her dying wish was that it should, in future, be worn by the lady of the then President.

In 1911 it was handed back to the Institute, following her death the previous year, and, ever since, its presentation to the incoming “President’s lady” – when the president is a man, that is! – has been a feature of the hand-over ceremony. The bracelet, which features the Institute’s coat of arms, is, by far, the most valuable piece of our regalia and this year “celebrates” the centenary of a tradition. In her will, Miss Drew left £10 plus “a residue” from her estate to the Orphan Fund.

# The relentless advance of paywalls – or not?

Norman Bartlett reports on a recent debate on the success or otherwise of on-line newspapers

Rupert Murdoch's decision to send *The Times* off on a voyage of discovery into the brave new world of paywalls was announced last year. Instead of the great unwashed of the web gaining free access to the jewels of News International's finest journalism, they would have to pay. It drew a lot of comment at the time with media watchers keen to see the outcome.

At the beginning of March, the Media Society staged a debate in association with the Foreign Press Association. It was a lively meeting. In the chair was the puckish figure of Raymond Snoddy, broadcaster and leading media commentator.

The first contributor was tall, youthful and handsome Tom Whitwell, Assistant Editor of Times Digital. He explained that some 18 months had been spent preparing for the paywall launch. The concept was that people would be prepared to pay regardless of the medium through which it was delivered – iPad, web or print. Their customer research showed that the key elements were quality journalism and exclusives - books, interviews and so forth. Social media was used extensively to promote the concept. From this developed the idea of a community within the paywall.

In November 2010 there were 105,000 distinct subscribers. Snoddy jumped on this piece of info and worried at it like a terrier. He got an assurance that these subscribers were distinct from existing *Times* readers. But it did include people who may have paid for a 24-hour dip into the paywall.

Next up was Rob Aherne, publisher of *Autosport* and autosport.com. He said that about a third of the revenues came from online and two thirds from print. The magazine circulation had declined from

over 50,000 to about 30,000 in 15 years or so. He expected the growth of devices would lead to even greater growth in online.

The final formal contribution was from Jonathan Foster Kenny, VP International Sales Director, Bloomberg Business Week. He explained that Bloomberg's whole premise was online delivery but with a difference – as Bloomberg provides the terminal as well. There are 300,000 subscribers paying \$20,000/year. (That is a serious amount of moulah – \$6 billion for those whose who can't add up!) Subscribers get both factual stuff and functional analysis, charts, trends and forecasts etc.

On the more general Bloomberg website there are around 220,000 users behind the Paywall and it is just 8.6% of those who generate 85% of the queries. Since acquiring BusinessWeek, Bloomberg has strengthened the title with circulation up to 920,000. It has 1,700 journalists – no freelancers. There is also Bloomberg.com that is free to use and has 12.5 million readers on line. About 10% of those take content on their mobiles each week and 220,000 on iPads.

In the general discussion that followed, the debate about paywalls and advertising got quite pointed. There did not appear to be any advertising folks there to refute their arguments. Whitwell was disparaging of the Daily Mail model. It had developed media type content based on celebrities and entertainment "to maximise eyeballs on their site," in his words. They had achieved a massive throughput of fifty million unit users. Yet for all those readers, only £12 million revenues were generated. "Typical of undifferentiated free traffic".

The debate widened to consider effectiveness of online advertising. Kenny claimed there was little connection between

charges (CPM or cost per million) and value because the metrics were so uncertain. He quoted research that calculated 85% of click-throughs came from just 8% of visitors. Thus the responses of well over 90% of visitors were not being measured in any way.

The contributors agreed that it would be easier to educate readers of publications like the FT to the virtue of paywalls and much more difficult for tabloids.

An early questioner was Peter Jennings, a journalist. He explained how he was a regular contributor to *The Times*, both print and website.

"Why", he asked, "am I not being paid for my contributions to the website which is now behind a paywall?"

"We pay journalists for what they deliver," asserted Whitwell.

"But you don't," interrupted Jennings.

"Then don't work for us," was the bad tempered reply from *The Times* representative. Chairman Snoddy had a minor explosion of indignation. "My wife is a freelance," Whitwell defended himself lamely.

A lady from *Arab News* – where print is more significant – wanted to know how to make it more attractive as a concept. The two suggestions were that print needed to be more "luxurious" than the web experience and, secondly, free. The evidence of the *Evening Standard* was quoted.

The challenge for journalists in the future will be to deal with implications of the multiple platforms available. The key brands will probably survive but what form will they take?

Most of the debate is available on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fC8eQhOCYmo>

The only professional organisation protecting journalists.  
Its members are independently minded journalists, many of whom have reached the top of their profession.  
Students on a recognised journalism training course may join the Institute free of charge.

**STUDENT PRESS**  
CA

# What price quality?

Kathleen Lyle and Helen Stevens of the Society for Editors and Proof-readers (SfEP) on the perils of overseas outsourcing of editorial services

The use of overseas suppliers, freelance or corporate, is well established throughout the UK publishing industry.

Many British publishers have routinely and successfully used overseas typesetters for many years.

The concern is that some overseas suppliers whose staff do not have English as a first language are now offering editorial services, often based on a rigid, rule-based approach. Many of the authors concerned do not have English as a first language either, and may require considerable editorial help.

During 2010 the Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP) asked members to report their experiences of this type of editorial outsourcing. The full report is available on the SfEP website (<http://sfep.org.uk/pub/news/outsourcing.asp>).

One major issue was that in-house staff often had to carry out additional work on material that had been edited overseas. The use of freelances for additional quality control or proofreading can be set against the savings derived from outsourcing. This is not the case for additional work by in-house staff, whose costs are counted as overheads.

Various issues were raised concerning the lack of quality in language editing: inadequate knowledge of English, lack of subject knowledge, changes that altered the sense or introduced errors, and an over-reliance on rule-based procedures and pre-editing macros. There also seems to be a lack of the kind of lateral thinking that a good editor requires.

Some publishers are attempting to have the best of both worlds: they now require their overseas suppliers to use native-English-speaking editors. Other publishers have experienced so many problems with overseas outsourcing that they have

brought editorial work back to the UK. While this may mean more work for UK-based freelances, the consequences have been mixed. Some editors have found that pay rates are the lowest they have been offered for many years.

When it comes to working practices, some overseas suppliers appear to perform well in terms of effective communication and streamlined processes. However, in other cases, aspects of overseas outsourcing were reported to hinder rather than help the editorial process. Lack of communication with the author can lead to queries having to be repeated for chapter after chapter. Queries inserted by the typesetters are sometimes inappropriate or poorly worded, perhaps as a result of the inflexible protocols.

Some freelances have been left without a source of income, sometimes with no warning. Although this is one of the risks of freelance life, it is clear that a great deal of valuable expertise has been jettisoned, and there is often no one left in-house who knows the details of the editorial process. The publisher is at the mercy of suppliers who may not be adequately briefed, may not understand the brief, or may not be capable of providing the quality they promise.

Freelances need to do more to sell themselves to the decision-makers in large publishing houses. Although the focus in such companies has moved from editorial to marketing in recent decades, editors have continued to assume that everyone understands the value of their work, and is prepared to pay them to do it.

That is no longer the case. If publishers now think that substandard but cheap editing is good enough, that's what they will use. It is up to anyone who is interested in editorial quality to demonstrate what good editing is, and the value it can add to publications.

## New online news source for journalists

Launched in May, JournalistFeed is a new online source of news stories and features. JournalistFeed puts journalists in touch with those who have stories to share and voices to be heard, particularly in the charity and NGO sector. Members of the scheme include many leading charities as well as a wide range of companies and other organisations that are seeking to raise their profiles through direct contact with the media. The aim of JournalistFeed is to deliver "PR with a purpose", and to

support UK charities by donating £5 of each membership subscription fee to the Charity of the Month, voted for by members. Journalists can send press requests to JournalistFeed member organisations, and can opt-in to receive press releases by topic, search member profiles and download press information. Whilst organisations putting their news on JournalistFeed are expected to pay an annual membership subscription, the scheme is completely free to journalists. Go to [www.journalistfeed.co.uk](http://www.journalistfeed.co.uk).

## Goggling at Google? Not in the British workplace you don't!

Nearly three quarters of British workplaces (74%) restrict their employees' access to the Internet, according to a recent survey by office design specialist, Maris Interiors.

Almost half of UK employees are unable to access personal emails, and some 71% of offices surveyed have a filter for pornographic websites, with 52% of employees unable to access social networking sites such as Twitter or Facebook.

YouTube was blocked by 30% of employers, and news websites by 27%. Just under 10% of offices only allow access to certain specific sites, and 4% only allow staff to use the company's intranet – not even allowing search engines such as Google.

Just over 80% of the employees surveyed said that restrictions to internet access made their jobs more boring. Maris Interiors Chairman Michael Howard commented: "It's a difficult decision about blocking websites in the workplace – by doing so you have to balance employees' productivity against their morale. At our company we restrict access to pornographic sites – hopefully this doesn't affect their morale too much!"

## The Rory Peck Awards, 2011

Now open for prospective entrants

The only competition in the world (free to enter) dedicated to the work of freelance cameramen and women in news and current affairs has three competitive categories:

- The Rory Peck Award for News (max duration: 10 mins)
- The Rory Peck Award for Features (max duration: 60 mins)
- The Sony Professional Impact Award (max duration: 60 mins)

All entries must have had their first broadcast (television, agency feed, recognised online news publisher) between 1 August 2010 and 31 May 2011.

Closing date for Entries is Monday 6 June 2011 (please note the earlier dates for this year's event).

For more information: <http://www.rorypecktrust.org>

# Journalism and developments in UK higher education

By Ioannis Soilemetzidis

Currently the jobs market is challenging for all and especially for those who strive to get their foot in the door. Since this is the time for the survival of the fittest, now more than ever before we all need to focus on what a potential employer and the market needs. Everybody is cost conscious, so a key point to focus on for students or recent graduates aspiring to enter the profession is to answer the question: what kind of unique advantage can I bring to my employer, how much value can I add with my presence?

Recent developments in UK higher education are expected to have a significant effect on newcomers to the journalism profession. Issues such as top up fees and the internationalisation agenda of British universities will also have significant influence. Six universities have already announced their intention to charge home students the maximum £9,000 allowed by the government from 2012. The previous fee increase that set undergraduate university fees at £3,290 for the 2010-11 cohort, was a direct consequence of the changes in the funding of higher education announced in January 2004. At that point a political decision was made by the United Kingdom government to increase the level of tuition fees that universities were allowed to charge to £3,000 a year. Following that first university top-up fee decision we all witnessed a reaction by the public and the student community, similar to the recent widespread protests. In the end Scotland followed a different system, and the changes were applicable only to students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We are now far away from the times – following the end of World War 2 – when under the Education Act 1962 a national mandatory student maintenance grant was established. Then Local Education Authorities (LEAs) paid the student tuition fees and provided students with a maintenance grant. Nowadays following the developments of the publication of the Lord Browne of Madingley, Independent Review into Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, the cost of university attendance and student debt are expected to skyrocket. That in combination with the decision of the previous government to grant degree awarding power to private providers, while

seeking to open up the university sector to private providers, led many to support the view that we are moving toward a full-scale and 'de facto' privatisation of higher education in the UK.

With student debt levels estimated to rise at graduation to £35,000, for students entering university education in 2012, students from less well-off backgrounds could be put off from going to university once fees start to rise. Some argue that with the continued rise of the university population – a trend that started during the 1980s – and the fall of funding per student by 40% by the mid-1990s – compared with the mid-1970s – the university funding model was in need of an urgent make over. While new fee levels are not applicable to the entire United Kingdom, the reality is that English universities both in terms of numbers and student population are the dominant force in British higher education. Therefore social mobility and access to some career paths such as journalism may be restricted for those from a less privileged background. On the other hand while home universities have no trouble recruiting students from abroad, sending British students to study outside UK is a totally different issue.

But why is it that British students are not so keen about the idea of studying abroad?

Reasons have included the chronic lack of foreign language skills and financial constraints. But recent developments in UK, European and global higher education have created new realities. Consequently last year for the first time a significant number of British students were seeking to enter university education abroad. The Netherlands was the country of first choice, probably due to the country's geographical proximity to the UK and the largely English-speaking population.

Now UK students and their families are discovering that the internationalisation process in higher education has created an entire world of English-speaking universities on their doorstep. In almost every European country one can find a variety of higher educational providers offering their degrees in English.

Having seen that the use of English as an institutional language is a tool that can increase and diversify student numbers



more and more, countries and institutions are eager to use English as a medium of instruction. So pupils who wish to attend university education in Europe have real choices. This trend will only continue, already top schools, both state and private, are reported to be appointing student counsellors to help pupils apply for their university education overseas. Well, why not? For example if one lives in London or the South East, the Netherlands is probably closer than Scotland and the weather is certainly much better. With many countries in Europe providing free university education in English and in some cases offering a student maintenance grant, we should see an increasing number of students going abroad for their entire university education.

If one considers that even if one chose a university that charges fees, both fee levels and the cost of living in most European countries are lower in comparison with the UK. A university education in another European country could be excellent value for money choice. Arguably the affects on professional journalism and students that aspire to enter the industry could be significant.

But is graduating from a university course in journalism, the fastest and indeed the best way to enter the profession? Not that long ago becoming a journalist in the UK was a long journey not suitable for the fainthearted and one needed to know someone to get his/her foot in the door. One needed to be prepared and willing to work hard, long and unsocial hours to climb the ladder from local newspapers and radio stations thence to regional and national tabloids, broadsheets and the glory of a national radio and television post, this was a reward achieved by the very few after a lifetime of struggle and excellence. Trial and error was the way to learn the trade. Women were restricted to write on specific topics such as home decorating and gardening, women's fashion, motherhood

...last year for the first time a significant number of British students were seeking to enter university education abroad...

and housekeeping, that is if they were fortunate enough to enter the profession in the first place.

Luckily, over the last decades things have changed significantly. Some link that with generic UK and global socio-economic developments. Others identify universities as the driving force behind this and other progress in professional journalism.

It is true that nowadays universities all over the country offer a range of degrees, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level providing some training for students who aspire to enter the world of journalism. Degrees in Journalism, Media, Creative Writing, and many other titles are competing for students' preferences.

But do you need to graduate from a journalism course and does a degree make one a journalist? One

could argue that the cowl does not make the monk! Do you need a degree to be knowledgeable in a particular subject, have an opinion, a judgment, or be capable of analytical thinking and have the appropriate writing style? Anyone

can write and at times it seems that this is the case. W.F. Deedes once said, "Give me an hour and I'll write you a thousand words on pretty well anything."

So, can one become a journalist by graduating from a university course? One of the major challenges of academia is to strike the right balance between the practical elements of the real professional world and the wider academic content. It is very easy to get this balance wrong and in the end just offer an academic education in communication, public relations, media studies, etc, all useful again, but probably not meeting the current needs of professional journalism.

Some support the view that it is probably a better idea to study a more generic subject, maybe related to the specialised areas on which one would like to report. Some degree choices could be law, sport, international relations, diplomacy, etc. Afterwards if one decides to follow journalism as a profession, a postgraduate or a professional training course in journalism could help. I think that this is closely linked with a more generic question: does one at the age 16 to 18 know definitely which profession he/she wants to follow?

It is widely proven that the majority of graduates will end up doing a job not related with their studies – with the exception of a very small number of specialised degree courses – and that most will change several jobs and career directions in their lifetime.

Today in the era of social media, blogs, smart phones and all the rest of the intelligent gadgets we are all a little bit of

a journalist, and indeed nowadays we have a larger number of "part-time" journalists than ever before. Many will work in the industry for some years and then follow another path, while others will combine journalism with other professions.

Also, journalism attracts the young rebellious generation, eager to initiate and participate in changing the socio-economic status quo, since it is one of the few professions that actually enhances social mobility. Journalism is a considerably more open profession than others, such as the law, and has more top positions available. And it has a culture that noticeably lacks elitism.

Nevertheless, critics support the idea that journalism is among the most difficult professions and getting that top job is

closely related to background, social cycles and schooling. The right connections and networks do appear to matter. So the universities – whether Oxbridge or "red brick" – are considered by many to be the fast track to a successful high-level

journalistic career.

To be fair, since writing an article is not exactly a textbook science – like heart surgery, landing a plane under difficult circumstances on the Hudson River, or winning a court case against the odds – it is quite a task to evaluate, judge and distinguish one professional from another, at the end it is a matter of one's personal opinion. Therefore promotion to the top jobs is more subjective than in most other career paths.

With what is and what is not politically correct changing constantly, whatever your opinion, one thing is certain. The recent global financial crisis, new technologies, and the developments in UK and global higher education will have significant influence over the future of professional journalism.

In that respect professional journalism will always need journalists with language skills, international worldwide knowledge and local culture experience. On the other hand, unemployment is rising and many are desperately hanging on to their current position; afraid of possible redundancy they increase their productivity to make themselves more valuable and therefore less disposable, if and when the axe falls. Consequently entering the profession in the current market conditions is more difficult than ever before. But how can a journalist make him/her self more valuable? Can prior work experience and a diverse academic background help?

Foreign languages, in-depth knowledge of local cultures, civilisations and the current socio-economic realities are vital

for any professional with high aspirations. Vacations and study abroad does not make one knowledgeable about other countries, the only thing worse than not knowing is thinking that you do.

Diversification is also important, today more than ever before, and one needs to be able to change with the times. Students' currently studying journalism or other subjects who plan to enter the industry need to be versatile and open minded. At times it is not only what you can write about but also what you can find out about, how fast you can deliver the work and what the final quality will be.

The ability to write and report on a variety of subjects is a must and that is achievable if one has broader knowledge in a variety of subject matter and the ability to process, understand, evaluate and effectively use new, quickly presented information. The ability to do rapid and to the point research, both online and in a printed form, is equally vital.

Increases of fees and other student costs, the privatisation and globalisation of higher education and the greater interdependence of countries and societies, financial systems and markets, the instant transfer and sharing of information, are some of the characteristics of the modern smaller and 'faster' world. This modern world is full of opportunities for those ready to adapt, learn and seize the day and the new possibilities. Professions will vanish, new ones will be created, but journalism and university education is here to stay, in one form or another.

Both journalism and universities are currently at a 'major crossroad' due to new technologies, socio-economic and global political developments. So the future will never be as the past or the present. And the future will belong to those who can envision, dream, adapt and act.

**Mr Ioannis Soilemetzidis BA (Hons), PgQ, MBA, MCMI, MCQI CQP, MCIJ is the Editor of AngloHigher® magazine, ISSN 2041-8469 (Online) [www.anglohigher.com](http://www.anglohigher.com)**

## Did you know?

Your annual subscription to the Chartered Institute of Journalists is tax-deductible? This applies to any Institute member who is a UK taxpayer, whether you are a staff journalist or a freelance.

Also, you may pay your subscription online or by internet banking. Ask head office or check our website for more details.

...Students' currently studying journalism or other subjects who plan to enter the industry need to be versatile and open minded...

# freelance news

The Freelance Committee asks...

## How can we help you?

Meeting for the first time under new Chairman Jeff Stuart, on March 1, the Freelance Committee prepared its Budget for 2011 and discussed the range of ways it could contribute most to helping the members of the Division in what are tough times for freelancers.

As a result of those discussions, it swiftly became clear that the provision of training for members, and the dissemination of up-to-date information to members, remained the Committee's main priorities.

But what training...?

What information...?

These are the areas in which the Committee needs help in determining the type of practical steps they can take to help meet members' requirements.

Can you help...? Yes, you can.

You can do so by telling us what training you feel would benefit you most and/or what information you need or want most. Do this by simply e-mailing Chairman Jeff on: Stuart077@btinternet.com.

The Committee is planning a minimum of four, maximum of six training events in 2011 (budget allowing) and already has some proposals of their own to "get the ball rolling".

It is vital to speak up swiftly, though, or the necessary "windows of opportunity" in the year may no longer be available.

Remember, it is your suggestions and your proposals that we'd like to incorporate in this year's programme.

Please write and tell us what your needs are as soon as you can.

## That's right . . . !

Have you noticed this overused phrase in every single news programme?

By Tom Caldwell

The newsreader in a warm cosy studio reads out the report you are about to hear from the on-the scene-reporter.

So what else can they possibly reply when the newsreader switches to that reporter but "That's right" ... especially when they are up to their armpits in water or muck, even bullets for the sake of "authenticity"! They can only repeat the report you have just heard announced from the studio.

When they try to amplify it they are constantly interrupted with irrelevant questions as if to try to quash the reality. Most responses come with their own "That's right!" An advocate in court would be admonished by the judge if he tried to examine a witness in this fashion because it draws a conclusion, or just puts words into their mouths.

How did good factual TV reporting descend into this level of macho posturing?

The obvious candidate is the 24-hours news channel format with the constant competition between channels and even the news presenters themselves.

One presumes "That's right!" then became fashionable in the USA and spread like an unmentionable disease until it became ingrained in every station.

Worse, the habit has now spread to radio reporting making listening to a news bulletin irritating and an in-depth piece an excruciating abuse of the journalistic art.

Has it now become as impossible to eradicate as foul language? Will someone have enough courage to ask routinely "What do you say about this?"

## A RANT this month – and no RAVES

Don't use D.O.B. for security questions

By Verité Reilly-Collins

Ever since Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad showed me how easy it was to get a DOB off the internet, and told me never to use this as a security question – I haven't.

After banking with Midland Bank for yonks, when it became HSBC, and went over to closing branches and using call centres abroad, I went over to a bank in the NatWest stable (you still have a contactable bank manager with them).

Now I seldom use my HSBC card, even though I am the sixth generation of the family to bank with them, as the bosses in Hong Kong have cut off all customer contact with the people whom I knew.

One day I was phoned by HSBC to ask why I hadn't repaid my credit card borrowings. I had paid my annual tax bill via them – but that had been three months ago, and since then – nothing. No statements came out, so I thought I had some money in credit (sometimes I do!).

HSBC couldn't tell me why they hadn't sent out statements, and said that as I couldn't give my DOB they couldn't tell me to which address they had sent these.

After all day on the phone to Bangladesh, Manila and Malta (lots of banter with Terence when I said I knew the island), I get calls very early in the morning and late at night at the weekend, from Manila, threatening me if I didn't "pay up".

This was becoming nasty – not only do HSBC not give a monkey's about problems with my card, but they are starting to use illegal methods to make me pay. Again refuse to give my DOB (after the £25 million loss in Switzerland at an HSBC bank, I am not too keen on their security) – they refuse to talk to me, or let me talk to a security officer.

So when demonstrators set fire to a branch of HSBC during the London demos, I could empathise. . . !

To comply with security, I had twice been into different branches of HSBC, and spent an hour in setting up security questions, which I was promised would be the questions I would be asked. Don't you believe it – both managers can't have sent on my details, as none of the call centres will ask me the questions I thought had been set up.

The sad thing is that, once this is sorted out, if anyone has used my card illegally, the amount lost will be amortised over all other customers' accounts. So next time you query your bank charges, sorry if I have added to them, but I did try to stop this.

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## international news

# Death-threat editor thanks CJoJ for support

Journalists at a northern Cyprus newspaper are in fear of their lives after receiving death threats

Two shots were fired at the building of the daily paper *Afrika* on 25 February and a note was left threatening editor Şener Levent that if he continued writing, he would be killed.

Speaking to *The Journal*, Şener Levent's brother Osman, a reporter on the paper, said: "We are very grateful and pleased to have your support and will keep you updated with events over here – if we are still alive."

He added: "We are all targets. We get these threatening calls from Turkish nationalists, and they tell us what they want to do to us. The latest was the two gunshots at the door. They left a note that said: 'To Şener. This time we do it like this, but next time you won't be alive.' They don't like us because we want to decide our future as Cypriots, and they take their orders from Turkey. We don't like Turkey telling us what to do, so they don't like what we write - but we will keep writing."



Police confront protesters on the march

## Thousands join march

*Afrika* journalists joined thousands of Turkish Cypriots who marched on Wednesday 2 March in the Turkish sector of the divided Cypriot capital, Nicosia, protesting at Ankara-inspired spending cuts.

In one of the biggest demonstrations ever seen in north Cyprus, the underlying message from the estimated 25,000 protesters was resentment at what they see as efforts by Turkey to exert more control over the Turkish Cypriots. Police confronted Şener Levent and *Afrika* staff and seized flags of the internationally-recognised Republic of Cyprus.

The CJoJ was swift to respond: "We



Journalists on the march

condemn the threats against Şener Levent, and are happy to support our colleagues in the Greek Cypriot Journalists' Union (ESK) who have called for the international community to speak out about this intimidation. This is not just a threat to an individual, but to freedom of the press, and to democracy itself. This sort of criminal act should not be tolerated, and we call on the Turkish authorities to act swiftly to ensure the safety of journalists in northern Cyprus."

Meanwhile, the Institute has contacted the Turkish Consul-General in London to express concern at the situation.



Şener Levent, centre, makes a point during the protest march

# Russian journalist attacked

The veteran reporter Sergei Topolhas survived a vicious beating outside his own home, but attacks on press freedom continue in oligarch-dominated Russia

The Chartered Institute of Journalists and numerous Human Rights groups have criticised the Kremlin for doing too little to solve a string of attacks against Russian journalists.

"Sergei Topol, 65, was beaten around the head by an unknown person and is currently in hospital," announced a Moscow police spokesman – prompting questions and anger from civil liberties and journalists' organisations. Reuters reported that the attack came six months after leading Russian journalist Oleg Kashin, 30, was savagely beaten in Moscow. Kashin, who was sent into a coma by the assault, worked at the popular business daily *Kommersant*, where Sergei Topol had also been employed.

Police would not comment on the motive behind the attack on Topol, who published a string of articles in 2008 which said that Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, 58, was to leave his wife Lyudmila for 27-year-old Olympic champion gymnast Alina Kabayeva.

## Paper is mysteriously shut down

Putin dismissed the allegations, telling journalists to keep their "snotty" noses out of his private life. Kabayeva has denied an affair with Russia's leader. Shortly after the articles were published, Topol's paper, *MoskovskyKorrespondent*, was shut down. Alexander Lebedev, the paper's billionaire owner, who has close links to the Kremlin, called Topol's articles "nonsense" and said he shut the daily because it was losing money.

According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), there have been 19 unsolved murders of journalists in Russia, including the 2006 killing of Kremlin critic Anna Politkovskaya. CPJ lists Russia as eighth on its "Impunity Index," a listing of states where journalists are killed regularly and governments fail to solve the crimes.

# THE SANDS OF TIME: Can we live with Arab democracy?

## A personal view of the Middle East crisis

By Patrick Emek

As the British media, learned institutes and think-tanks, filled to overflowing with former civil servants and military professionals, continue to reel in disbelief at the sight of the once-secure political order in North Africa and the Middle East collapsing or tottering on the brink of collapse, there never was any doubt in my mind why they had all got it wrong for the past four decades.

Questions such as how can we facilitate Bahrain in its dilemma of political reform when being criticised on one side by Saudi Arabia for being too liberal (Bahrain is one of the few Gulf states to respect the rights of all religious faiths to openly practice – and that includes its Jewish population) and on the other by fundamentalist Iran, which has for years been stirring up dissent within Bahrain.

Iran actually claims Bahrain as part of a province stretching from Basra to the Straits of Hormuz and is waiting for the right moment to enforce this claim – similar to Adolf Hitler's annexation of the Sudetenland on the pretext that ethnic slaughter could only be prevented by Nazi intervention. Iranian supporters in the Kingdom, acting as agent provocateurs, have tried for a long time to make foreigners feel unwelcome, destabilize the Royal household and sabotage constitutional reforms.

The recent intervention of a Gulf Cooperation Military Task Force to assist the Royal Family and Bahrain government maintain order amongst the Shia majority may in the short-term stabilize the situation but is likely also to torpedo any prospects of a long-term peaceful reconciliation between the Shia majority and the ruling Sunni minority as its presence will inevitably be seen as an abrogation by the government, Royal household and Bahrain armed forces of their ability to manage the country's affairs without external assistance.

To make matters even more complicated, Iran's only obstacle to annexation is the fact that Bahrain is home to the American 5th Fleet in the Gulf. So getting the American presence out of the Gulf and replacing it with Russia and China has long been a political objective of the Iranian government, as it appreciates that it cannot alone achieve this task.

The presence of GCC forces must raise concerns that Bahrain's future as an independent Kingdom hangs by a thread. The U.S. State Department has reacted

with considerable concern about events in Bahrain and expressed its desire to see that dialogue as opposed to confrontation must prevail for long-term stability to be achieved.

### Pressure for change

Saudi Arabia, next door to Bahrain, will not be able to buy its way out of reform indefinitely. Continued oppression of women and the glaring inequality and mistreatment of non-European "guest workers" and other minorities are creating growing pressures for change. As much of the rest of the Arab world democratizes, there is fear that with every influx of pilgrims and every byte of internet data, the inevitable fall of the House of Saud draws closer.

What about Oman and Yemen, where decades-old grievances have fuelled dissent insurgency and insurrection? Into the vacuum created by weak central administrations in Yemen have stepped Al Qaeda and radical Wahabist and Salafist groups – supported in their clandestine activities by Saudi Arabia and with arms coming through Somalia, another country in chaos and instability.

Who will be the main winners from democratisation in North Africa and the Middle East? Will it be the ordinary downtrodden people – the very people the West has ignored for the past 40 years, preferring instead to deal with tyrants who ruled these police-states? Who then will these new democracies look to for their new models of political, economic and spiritual development? Naturally they will look to those countries that have supported their "liberation" struggles – the likes of Iran, China and Russia.

China and Russia will benefit from the political changes because of what is perceived as their less intrusive approach to the economic and political determination of Arab domestic and foreign policies, and also for what is perceived as more even-handed policies in the search for peace between Israel and its neighbours, and consistent support in the United Nations for Palestinian justice and human rights.

This is a belief widely shared by ordinary people throughout the Arab world – fuelled as it has been by hate media and underground literature spreading like



bushfires across the internet, influencing everyone from schoolchildren to adults.

We in the West have dug ourselves into an economic and political pit by supporting the tyrants for so long – and now we must dig ourselves out again.

What sort of economic and political unions or caliphates of a pan-Arab nature, cognisant of the modern world but conscious of their national identity and spiritual unity, will emerge over the next decade and what new terms and conditions will they set for a reset of relations with America and Europe and the Christian world as a whole?

The history of the rights and equality of Christians, Black Africans and the Coptic Church in North African countries – especially Egypt – is not a promising one. Discrimination has always been rife – placing such indigenous communities at the bottom of the social and economic ladders and condemning them to permanent impoverishment and leper-like isolation. What has happened to Christians in Lebanon and the Palestinian territories should serve as an example of what happens when parties like Hezbollah and Hamas take power.

As has happened in Iraq after the second Gulf War, the exodus of indigenous Christians from North Africa could intensify, creating, as has been seen in Morocco, elites of non-indigenous Christian expatriates who have no political voice in the country and can be told to leave the country at any time.

Change is imminent – but not uniform – throughout the Arab world. We have to decide now whether we want to be a part of it, and can live with it, or again bury our heads in the sand.

## Dismay as Rwandan journalists jailed

**Two journalists with the *Umurabyo* newspaper have been sentenced to long jail terms after being found "guilty" of stirring up ethnic divisions**

Reporting the news and making political comment is a difficult business in the Republic of Rwanda. The Editor, Agnes Nkusi, has been imprisoned for 17 years, while her colleague, reporter Saidath Mukakibibi, was sentenced to seven. Their crime? The writing of articles – or in the language of the Rwandan Government: “disrupting state security”. Among several articles selected by the trial judge was one which simply reported how Rwandans were unhappy with their country’s rulers! Prosecutors said that the piece was “meant to stir [up] hatred and fury against the government”.

President Paul Kagame came to power in 1994, ending the genocide in which some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered. He has recently been accused of intolerance and of harassing anyone who criticises him. He defends his Government’s tough media laws, pointing to the role of “hate media” ahead of the genocide.

The judge cited several other offending articles, including one which criticised the gacaca traditional community courts set up to deal with 1994 genocide cases and others criticising Rwanda’s reconciliation process.

Last month, four former top officials who disagreed with President Kagame and who have gone into exile, were sentenced in absentia to long jail terms for “threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions”.

The deadline for contributions for the next issue of *The Journal* is:  
June 30.

**TheJournal**



## Pakistan: outrage as journalists are murdered

**The press freedom group, Reporters Without Borders, has told *The Journal* that Pakistan has become one of the most dangerous countries in the world for reporters. At the time of going to press, 13 journalists have been killed in the past 13 months in the country.**

Reporters Without Borders has some grim news for members of the CloJ. Pakistan – with its continuing, problematic relations with India and its links to terrorism, is one of the world’s most complex nations and its journalists confront a daunting array of problems that include terrorist threats, police violence, the unbridled power of local potentates and dangerous conflicts in the tribal areas.

Now we learn that 13 journalists have been killed, just for pursuing their professional vocation.

An RWB spokesman told us: “The Pakistani media are still young and often inexperienced. Due to a lack of resources and ignorance of protective mechanisms, news media often send their reporters out on the most dangerous assignments without any kind of safety net. At the same time, the authorities have little consideration for a profession that keeps on raising awkward issues. Inadequate laws and a shaky constitution mean that media freedom is not yet fully recognised. It is easy to sue journalists over what they report and easier still to force them to shut up.”

## Arabic media is changing, says Slade

An expert in Arabic media believes that the influence of Al-Qaeda and the radical Islamist movement has been declining dramatically and that young Muslims are far less susceptible nowadays to Al-Qaeda propaganda than in previous years.

As news of Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden’s death spread across the globe, Professor Christina Slade, Dean of Arts & Social Sciences at City University London, and a leading expert in Arabic media, revealed the findings of her research into the viewing habits of Arabic speaking audiences in Europe, including insights into the role of channels such as Al Jazeera.

Prof Slade says the news of Bin Laden’s death is being depicted by Arabic channels in a way that reflects the new ideology of younger, media-savvy, Arabic speakers in Europe and throughout the Arab world. She told *The Journal*: “Bin Laden’s death as a result of a Navy Seal intervention in the mountain town of Abbottabad in Pakistan, has been portrayed in the Western Media,

quite understandably, as a triumph for US technology and justice. Al Jazeera English portrays Muslims in Washington welcoming the death. At the same time, there are concerns about the role of the government of Pakistan and potential acts of recrimination.

“Perhaps the most interesting commentaries note that this is the end of a saga that was already out of fashion in the Arabic speaking world. The events in North Africa this year have brought into focus a younger generation of media-savvy Arabic speakers, who wish to bring new forms of democracy to the Arab world.

“Arabic speakers today, in Europe and in the Arab world, share a media environment which includes not just Arabic national channels but also transnational channels such as Al Jazeera and Al Arabiyya and a range of channels in European languages. The new governments forming in Egypt and Tunisia may well have Islamic parties, but extremist groups are no longer the only opposition to entrenched dictators.”

## Middle East journalists appeal for help

**With an absence of press freedom, there will be no democratisation in the Middle East. Journalism continues to be a lynchpin in the march to democratic values. But the brave journalists on the ground need immediate help from those of us who want to see democratic values emerge from the unrest. Independent news organisations cannot survive without our help.**

The Media Line, an American non-profit news agency has contacted *The Journal* with this plea – and has especially identified the emerging (and difficult) role of women in the Middle Eastern media.

For more information on how you might help, please contact: The Media Line Ltd., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, 27th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10019

# bookshelf By Em Marshall

## The English Year

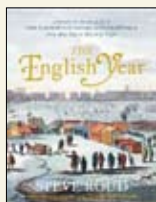
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Penguin 2008 £9.99

ISBN 978-0-141-02106-5

This superb and intriguing book, true to its rather lengthy subtitle, takes the reader through the often bizarre and always interesting English traditions of each month. It is a treasury of the weird and wonderful, as Roud spans the centuries and both reveals customs that will be utterly unfamiliar to the reader and elucidates the often surprising origins of events and traditions that have now become a recognised part of our culture. Roud's prose is clear and readable; witty and scholarly. The book is well-presented, with colour pictures, maps, and a full list of sources. Guaranteed to astonish, sometimes shock, but also delight.



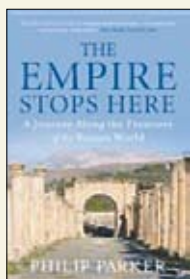
## The Empire Stops Here – A Journey along the Frontiers of the Roman World

PHILIP PARKER

Jonathan Cape 2009, £25

ISBN 978-0-224-07788-0

The frontier of the Roman empire reached for some 10,000 kilometres, from Britain and Africa, to Arabia and Armenia. In this book, Parker travels the frontier, and describes from first-hand knowledge not just the geographical sites, but the history of these places, and the people who lived in them, and who contested Roman rule thus preventing further expansion. Cultures, religions, customs are all examined, as are buildings, fortifications, cities and settlements. Parker draws the reader in by his informal and unstuffy depictions, and with the superb black and white photographs that accompany the text. Part history, part travelogue, and meticulously researched, this book comes with the highest recommendation.



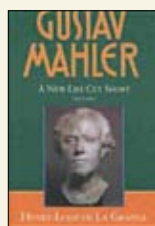
## Gustav Mahler – A New Life Cut Short

HENRY-LOUIS DE LA GRANGE

Oxford University Press, 2008

ISBN 978-0-19-816387-9

This weighty tome comprises the fourth and final volume of de La Grange's incredibly comprehensive and authoritative study of the life of Gustav Mahler (the author has devoted over fifty years of research to compiling these volumes). It covers from the start of 1908 through to Mahler's death in 1911 – his American years. Considering that the book is nearly 2000 pages long for just those three years, that's a lot of detail! De La Grange brings history to life by his inclusion of letters, contemporary articles and reviews. The text is illustrated by numerous photos – including some that Mahler admirers will be unfamiliar with – as well as pictures, cartoons, facsimiles and autographs. In the appendix we find a catalogue of works with in-depth analyses, descriptions of, and historical details about the pieces, as well as such interesting oddities as lists of performers, obituary articles, further articles, performance histories, Mahler "mythomania", poems copied by the composer and even the recipe for Mahler's favourite dessert! One gets the impression that de La Grange has left no stone unturned...



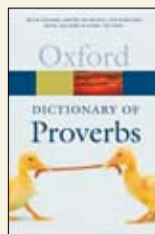
## Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs

ED. JENNIFER SPEAKE

Oxford University Press 2008 £8.99

ISBN 978-0-19-953953-6

The Fifth edition of the Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs is as thorough and scholarly a book as one would expect from OUP. Including well over a thousand English proverbs, it set them in context citing their origins, a history of usage, quotations and examples of use. The thematic index is extremely useful. I was, however, surprised by the odd omission of an apt quotation – (such as the lack of Tolkien under "All that glitters is not gold", for instance).



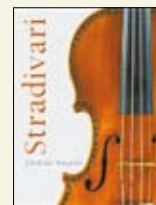
## Stradivari

STEWART POLLENS

Cambridge University Press 2010

ISBN 978-0-521-87304-8

This beautifully-presented hard-back is a glorified biography of the famous instrument-maker, Stradivari, and of the instruments that he fashioned. Drawing on the latest research – including a newly-discovered horde of archive material, Pollens takes us, in clear, interesting prose, through the master's life and his different instruments (including guitars, lutes and harps as well as the violins for which he is so celebrated), illustrating their descriptions with drawings, photographs and paintings. He sets the history in context, with information about Stradivari's workshop, materials and even his assistants. A fascinating book to dip into, giving a wonderful taste of the time and an insight into a truly great craftsman.



## The Good Food Guide 2010

Which? 2009, £16.99

ISBN 978-1-84490-066-4

The Good Food Guide is based on reader feedback and anonymous inspections. Although first published in 1951, it is compiled from scratch each year to ensure that all entries are up-to-date and worthy of inclusion. It is easy to use, with maps, useful symbols and extra information and features. Of course, one can always quibble – certain restaurants that one is convinced should be included are omitted and some included that should definitely be left out! I was looking forward to the gourmet "authentic regional Italian food" said to be found at one particular inn and was deeply disappointed to find the rather grotty pub serving bog-standard pub-grub in somewhat shabby surroundings! Such odd oversight aside; it is a useful guide.



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