

# Halton Hills Outlook

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## Their Outlook

### Support for Zundel raises some eyebrows



#### Ottawa Report

By Stewart MacLeod  
Thomson News Service

The hate mail began just a few days after the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the conviction of Ernest Zundel on charges that he had distributed false information - that the Holocaust never existed.

And the mail flow here has been increasing ever since. It's now coming from such places as California, Arizona, Texas and Washington, not to mention Ontario and Alberta. How this office, along with other news bureaus, got on this network is a mystery.

The network itself is also a mystery. But there is an obvious connection among the letter writers. The addresses on every envelope are also exactly the same - even the space between postal codes.

These prolific authors are unbridled supporters of Ernest Zundel, whose 1985 marathon trial in Toronto attracted so much attention and caused much agonizing. There were many who felt that bringing him to court merely drew unnecessary attention to his activities and views, providing widespread publicity for his controversial pamphlet, *Did Six Million Really Die?*

And now it's going to happen all over again. The appeal court ruled the accused had not been allowed to challenge potential witnesses and that pertinent evidence had not been admitted. This evidence was designed to show that Mr. Zundel had honestly believed his statements to be true.

He has said that the first trial provided him with \$80 million worth of free publicity.

#### MORE HELP

For his new trial, he might be getting even more. If this network of letter writers - they all claim to be experts - maintains its present volume, Canada Post will soon be in the black.

Whether many people will bother reading the letters is quite another question. Whether many will believe them is even more doubtful.

They are basically trash. Most of them are topped off by anti-Semitic tirades which would be offensive even to Yasser Arafat. The alleged "facts" cited in most would be offensive to your average high school student.

One letter, from Texas, spoke of a visit to a "supposed" gas chamber "where I expected to see blood stains and stains of body wastes." But, lo and behold, it was "spotless clean, with not a mark, a stain or a smear to indicate that anybody had died there."

Now, isn't that a compelling presentation!

But apart from being disgusting, not to mention stupid, this particular brand of letter probably won't serve to influence many. More worrying, are the occasional "moderate" ones which deal specifically with freedom of speech.

Regardless of any views about Ernest Zundel, this subject at least allows for a reasonable discussion. And a few of the authors manage to smuggle their anti-Semitic messages under the umbrella of this argument.

#### MANY SUBJECTS

So far, the subject matter in this blizzard of letters has covered everything from censorship in Israel to the treatment of Mexican migrants by the Americans. There are warnings that the U.S. is aghast at the idea of a free nation like Canada putting Zundel on trial for expressing his beliefs.

In this respect, we are far worse than Adolf Hitler, who, we're told, never received a fair press on this side of the ocean.

"The Germans were never accorded the simple right of self-defence," is one novel view. Naturally, nothing in history compares with Israeli brutality on the West Bank. And the U.S. can no longer function efficiently because "it is subverted by Jewish spies."

They don't get any better. At least I don't think so. I haven't been reading them lately. The last paragraph I recall, before going out to buy a larger waste basket, went like this: "When are we going to break this yoke of subservience to communist Israel and free our nations and our people from Zionist moneybag tyranny?"

That was the same guy who found the clean gas chambers.

It's not that I don't appreciate mail. And I must admit to being intrigued with one aspect of this current batch of hate - the senders' addresses are always thousands of miles from the point of mailing. A New Mexico letter has a Canadian stamp and an Edmonton postmark; a California letter is mailed in Buffalo.

Apart from that, it's only fair to warn the senders they are wasting their stamps, not to mention their valueless time.



"If he sees his shadow it means 6,000 more years of Ice Age."

### Life of a journalist is no bed of roses



#### Your Business

By DIANNE MALEY  
Business Analyst  
Thomson News Service

Sometimes, when they're thinking about changing jobs, people ask me what it is like to be a journalist.

"You must meet a lot of interesting people," they say.

That's certainly true. What they don't know is that many of these people dislike journalists immensely, more so once you've written about them. If they are really incensed, they'll sue you - an unpleasant prospect, to say the least.

A good journalist is a lonely person, the hard-core media types like to believe. I wouldn't go that far, but perhaps I'm just not a good journalist. So far, at least, I've managed not to offend my friends.

Another misconception that should be cleared up for those thinking of going into the business - you will not spend your years in heated pursuit of the truth. You won't have time for it. What journalists want are the facts; we leave the quest for truth to philosophers.

**NECESSARY HASTE**  
This is not cynicism. When you have half an hour to make five phone calls and write a story about a multi-billion dollar reverse takeover bid, getting the facts straight will be all you can do. If this seems like a slipshod way of working, then journalism may not be for you.

Of course, there are more leisurely jobs - like writing this column. All I have to do is think of something you might be interested in reading, five days a week, week after week. What if nothing is happening?

A journalist's dream is to pick up a pen, or go on radio or television, and explain in great detail how nothing happened today.

"There is no news today, folks. No one fought with anyone. No one was killed, and no one insulted the prime minister."

To the best of my knowledge, the reporting community has resisted the temptation, at least so far.

Another myth about journalism is that you have to write well. That's nonsense. Thick skin, curiosity and unflagging energy are all that is required. Which brings up another question, one that's been troubling me for some time.

What happens to old journalists? Turn on your television or walk into any newsroom. You won't see too many people over age 50. Where do they go?

Into public relations, people tell me. It must be a difficult transition to make. Journalism teaches you not to believe anything anybody says. In PR, you have to make reporters believe what you're saying, whether it is true or not.

**BIG MONEY**  
The wise ones skip the low-paying years as a journalist and go straight into public relations from journalism school. In PR, they say, you earn "six figures", numbers real journalists will never see. A well-known business reporter crossed over to PR recently, and everyone says he's earning six figures.

So why not go straight into PR? For one thing, public relations is even less developed in Canada than journalism. If you live in New York, you can rise to be a powerful PR person. Few succeed in Canada. Business people have not yet discovered that they need PR people.

They're not too sure they need journalists, either. Not too long ago, a chief executive spent a fair amount of time trying to persuade me that his firm was not worth writing about. It was the story of the year.

"Why don't you take a stand, be different," he said. "Why don't you stand up and say, We are not going to write about WYZ Company."

What a story that would be. What a dumb idea.

### Overcoming obstacles



#### Against the odds

PAT WOODE

Approximately 70 per cent of the hearing impaired lose their hearing as adults and Chris Parker is no exception.

After completing his undergraduate course in Geology, he suffered the long term effects of the central form of neurofibromatosis or Von Recklinhausen's Disease. A large bilateral acoustic neuroma damaged his eye motor functions and was responsible for his acquired deafness.

Mr. Parker has worked hard to remain and compete in the speaking/auditory world. Today's technology is providing the assistance needed to do this. Now a graduate student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in Toronto, he keeps pace with others by having a dedicated note-taker take notes on an Apple 2 computer. The immediate visual display of information on the screen affords Mr. Parker the opportunity to interact with the class and write term papers. His one frustration is a lack of information and advice on computers. He would like a modem that would allow him to work in his own apartment and still communicate with the computer at school. It is difficult to know what to get.

To communicate on the personal level, Mr. Parker uses a Minicom telephone deaf device (TDD) which can be used like the computer but is easily transported. Since Bell Canada introduced their 24 hour relay service, he has also been able to renew contacts with friends over the phone.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services have provided other technical devices for Mr. Parker, including an Optic Ear signalling device that flashes to let him know when the phone is ringing, a Super Print TDD and the Minicom TDD.

A kidney transplant for Mr. Parker, at first, meant dependence on his parents to monitor his blood pressure and temperature every day. An electronic blood pressure cuff and electronic thermometer were the answers to these problems. He is now able to live on his own and monitor his own health.

New technology will provide greater independence for person like Chris Parker who have acquired deafness. He has been involved in preliminary testing of a vibrotactile assistive aid - a device that translates spoken words into a series of vibrations that can be played out on a deaf person's arm.

It is a challenge to remain in our hearing world if you are deaf. Mr. Parker has help from a deaf and adult support group at the Toronto branch of the Canadian Hearing Society. Based on his research and the group's experience, he recommends the following programs - Aural rehabilitation, voice conservation, speech reading programs, life skills, assistance in evaluating aids, and vocational training.

The National Wheelchair Tennis Conference 1988 will be held at Mohawk College Hamilton from March 4 to 6. Write Tennis Canada, 3111 Steeles Avenue West, Downsview, Ontario, M3J 3H2 for information.

