# Unscrupulous editors, cold-blooded reporters are all in Front Page

by Terry Dupuis

There is a long-established axiom in the field of movies that re-makes are seldom as good as the original versions. Occasionally, however, a film will come along which disproves this old axiom. I think that Billy Wilder's recent re-make of The Front Page is one of these rare

This most recent version is the third of the classic 1928 play by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur. It was originally filmed way back in 1931, with Adolphe Menjou playing the part of the dynamic newspaper editor, Walter Burns, and Pat O'Brien as Hildy Johnson, his ace reporter.

Ten years later, the story was refashioned as screwball comedy by producer-director Howard Hawks. Entitled His Girl Friday, it starred Cary Grant as the editor; the Hildy Johnson character was changed to a woman for this version, with the incomparable Rosalind Russell playing the role.

These two first versions of The Front Page were enormously successful in their days, both financially and critically. Moreover, they have been considered as something of screen classics over the years. Why, many people have been asking, has Wilder bothered to do a remmake? After seeing his version, it seems perfectly clear and obvious why he decided to remake it.

For one thing, The Front Page makes a perfect showcase for the comic talents of Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. Both performers can be very funny on their own, but when they're together - wow!

Remember them in The Fortune Cookie and The Odd Couple? Well, it's about time this hilarious pair teamed up again - Odd Couple was nearly seven years ago, and these days our movie screens could certainly use some rollicking good comedy again.

In the new Front Page, Matthau has his best role in recent years as Walter Burns, the boorish, fanatical and unscrupulous editor of

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the Morning Post. The actor has a field day with the part!

Lemmon is also in fine comic form in his first film since his dramatic Oscarwinning performance in last year's Save The Tiger. He plays the part of Hildy Johnson, the Morning Post's ace reporter, who plans on marrying his fiance and retiring from the newspaper.

However, his editor has other plans for his star reporter. He wants Johnson to cover a sensational story the pending execution of

condemned murderer, Earl Williams. The crafty editor connives to prevent Hildy from fiancee and forsaking the Morning Post and

> As good as Matthau and Lemmon are, they are by no means the whole show. Also scoring in striking supporting roles are Carol Burnett as a prostitute, David Wayne as an effeminate news correspondent, Vincent Gardenia as a bumbling sheriff, and Austin Pendleton as the pathetic

Air Fare

## Canada A. M.



Morning television is coming of age, a fact which was recognized by last week's ACTRA Award to Helen Hutchinson, co-host of Canada AM which runs on the CBC from 7-9 each weekday morning.

Canada AM is blissfully low key, informative and up-to-theminute. Friday morning, three Toronto Vietnamese commented on the previous night's news clips which showed Canadian embassy cars being airlifted out of Saigon while the native chauffeurs were left behind. All three had been trying for weeks to get their families out of the country. Their pleas for Canadian cooperation in the evacuation were moving and genuine.

CKVR's Daybeat (also at 7 a.m.) featured a lengthy interview with a sleekly groomed hotel manager, who stressed, among other things, how important it was for married people to get away now and then for a weekend in a luxury

Taken in opposition with the tearful pleas of the Vietnamese on Canada AM, the situation was not without irony. Cable reception spotty

If your cable reception of CBLT has been a bit spotty since they moved from Channel 6 to Channel 5, you can blame Toronto's epidemic of high rises, especially in the area of the downtown transmitting antenna.

It will be two years before that transmitter goes on the Metro Centre tower. In the meantime, the CBC says it's trying to find a satisfactory interim solution.

Adding to the local reception hazard is the fact that Sudbury's Channel 5 operates on the same channel, which causes a venetian blind (and viewer blind) effect at times. Wit at ACTRA

There was one big difference between the ACTRA awards and the most other springtime award telecasts, and that was the wit and literacy displayed by everyone connected with the show.

It would be hard to top W.O. Mitchell's probably prepared speech when he accepted his best writer award. Deadpan, he revealed to the audience the secret of how to be a ventriloquist - a secret he'd learned in his boyhood from a mail order house. Although sworn to secrecy he spilled it. "Stand in front of a mirror and practice talking with your lips,

"My Aunt Pearl," said Mitchell, "spied on me and was sure I had contracted lock jaw.'

Would that some sportscasters would develop limited lock jaw. The ones on the ACTRA award show talked for too long, and Johnny Esaw and Danny Gallivan both referred to a plurality of athletic pursuits with the singular noun "sport". Oh well, at least they didn't talk about "ath-a-letes.

No reaction to task force Malcom Martini, project director for the Simcoe Georgian Consultants was on CKMP at 10 a.m. last Thursday on an open line show which produced no reaction at all from

Talking about reaction to the consultants' reports, Martini mentioned that the public was more conservative than its politicians. "The public can influence the consultants by making strong statements, and intelligent comments," he said, "and by influencing politicians to reflect their wishes."

The silent majority was silent indeed on Thursday morning, although the phones rang indignantly Friday morning when there was a mention of the Fourth Street widening. Perhaps an issue has to be hot and immediate to generate response. Martini, after all, was only discussing our future. Pet special Sunday

Six and a half million Canadians own pets, and pet food sales in the last five years have recorded a growth rate twice that of total grocery sales. More money is spent on pet food

On Sunday night at 9, the CBC examines pets and people, in a 60 minute special. Pets can be extremely valuable to man, but unwanted pets can cause big problems. Warning: If your dog or cat enjoys television, Sunday night's show may contain language or ideas offensive to them. Don't say we didn't warn you.

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The producer-director and co-screenwriter of The Front

Page, Viennese-born Billy Wilder, began his American career as a scriptwriter at Paramount in the late 1930's. He directed his first feature

in 1942, a well-received comedy called The Major flopped, but the overall and the Minor, and went on to direct another two dozen films in the following years.

Several of his films have

quality and general consistency of his work is truly amazing. His output includes

## At Midland Public Library

## Trainable retarded pupils show

Library Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This week at the Library there is a display of handwork by the pupils of the class for the trainable mentally retarded children at Huron Park School.

On the Weekly Library Report, on CKMP at 6:30 p.m., this Thursday, you will hear the first of a two-part interview by Mrs. Delaney with Mr. Fred McClement, author of the book "The Strange Case of Ambrose

> New Book List Fiction

A Nun in the Closet. Gilman. Unlikely tasks and

The Penetanguishene

Secondary School students'

council is showing the movie

Jeremy at the Pen Theatre

on May 14 to raise money for

Advance tickets for the

two showings at 7 and 9 p.m.

Street in Midland died last

Wednesday, April 23, at St.

Midland. He was 45.

Andrew's Hospital in

Beloved husband of

Elizabeth Brophy, Mr.

Dupuis was the father of

David, Karen, Elizabeth and

Denise, all at home. He is

survived by sisters Dora

(Mrs. Ross Leduc) of St.

Catharines, Theresa (Mrs.

Ross Jones) of Midland,

its projects.

PSS students showing

'Jeremy' to raise funds

Henry Dupuis dies at 45

Henry Dupuis of Second Mrs. Helen Clune of Toronto,

adventure fall to the lot of two nuns who set forth from the convent to explore a house left to their order by a mysterious benefactor. By Dorothy Gilman, creator of the CIA's most unorthodox

spy, Mrs. Emily Pollifax. World From Rough Stones. Macdonald. A story of the early days of railway building in the north of England; and of one momentous year in the lives of two couples involved in it.

Strange Adventures of the Great Lakes, Boyer. 386. BOY. A fine addition to the history of the Great Lakes' ships and men is to be found in these well-documented tales of daring rescue at-

are available from the

students for \$1. At the door

the price is \$1.50 for students

Council president Tim

Robitaille asks that this

event be supported to aid the

and Gertrude (Mrs. John

Templeton) of Ancaster; by

Australia, Robert of Thunder

After resting at Nicholl's

Funeral Home in Midland, a

funeral mass was held at St.

Margaret's Church on

Saturday, April 26, Inter-

ment at St. Margaret's

Bay and Leo and John, both

brothers Garnet

of Midland.

Cemetery.

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tempts, stubborn sailors and FAR. This rare, eye-witness wayward ships.

about whales and dolphins, discoveries about them.

Night'. Burnham. 746.0971 BUR. This beautiful book, with many illustrations, on early handweaving in Eastern Canada, is the culmination of twenty-five years of study, by the late Harold B. Burnham and his wife Dorothy, in conjunction with the Royal Ontario lake into which it flows.

Nurse at the Russian past president of the Front. Farmborough. 921

Mind in the Waters. McIntyre. 599.5 MCI. A book their place in history and myth, and modern

account (in the form of a diary kept from 1914-1918) was written by a young English girl who had been teaching in Moscow when war broke out and volunteered for Red Cross work. 'Keep Me Warm, One All the drama, desolation,

war are here, written with

horror, and excitement of

immediacy and intimate Paddle Wheels to Bucket-Wheels on the Athabasca. MacGregor. 971.232 MACG. A history of the mighty Athabasca River and the Author J.G. MacGregor is a

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Boulevard, as well as some of the brightest and wittiest adult comedies ever made in the U.S., such as The Seven-Year Itch, The Apartment and Some Like It Hot. But whether comedy or

greatest dramas, Double

Indemnity, The Lost

Weekend and Sunset

always contained a mood of deep cynicism which is characteristic of the man himself. So, as well as being a perfect vehicle for the comedic talents of its actors, The Front Page is a perfect vehicle for the cynicism of its director, with its setting of corrupt politicians, unscrupulous editors and coldblooded reporters.

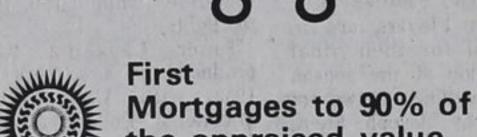
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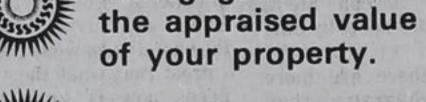
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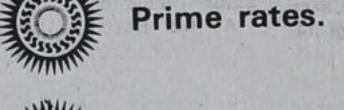
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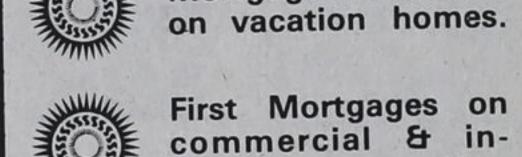
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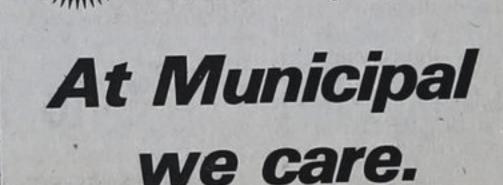






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