

# 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 occasions.

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 a 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 re-make? 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

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 Oscar-winning 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 fiancé 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 fiancée and forsaking the Morning Post and journalism.

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

convicted man who is at the mercy of corrupt local politicians.

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 and the Minor, and went on to direct another two dozen films in the following years.

Several of his films have flopped, but the overall quality and general consistency of his work is truly amazing. His output includes

three of Hollywood's greatest dramas, Double Indemnity, The Lost Weekend and Sunset 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 drama, his best films have

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 cold-blooded reporters.

## 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 hand-work 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 Small."

**New Book List**  
**Fiction**  
A Nun in the Closet. Gilman. Unlikely tasks and

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-

tempts, stubborn sailors and wayward ships.

**Mind in the Waters.** McIntyre. 599.5 MCI. A book about whales and dolphins, their place in history and myth, and modern discoveries about them.

**'Keep Me Warm, One 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 Museum.

**Nurse at the Russian Front.** Farmborough. 921

**FAR.** This rare, eye-witness 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. All the drama, desolation, horror, and excitement of war are here, written with immediacy and intimate detail.

**Paddle Wheels to Bucket-Wheels on the Athabasca.** MacGregor. 971.232 MACG. A history of the mighty Athabasca River and the lake into which it flows. Author J.G. MacGregor is a past president of the Historical Society of Alberta.

## 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-the-minute. 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 hotel.

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 closed."

"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 Gullivan 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 listeners.

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 than on baby 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.

## PSS students showing 'Jeremy' to raise funds

The Penetanguishene Secondary School students' council is showing the movie Jeremy at the Pen Theatre on May 14 to raise money for its projects.

Advance tickets for the two showings at 7 and 9 p.m.

are available from the students for \$1. At the door the price is \$1.50 for students and \$2 for adults.

Council president Tim Robitaille asks that this event be supported to aid the efforts of the students.

## Henry Dupuis dies at 45

Henry Dupuis of Second Street in Midland died last Wednesday, April 23, at St. Andrew's Hospital in Midland. He was 45.

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,

Mrs. Helen Clune of Toronto, and Gertrude (Mrs. John Templeton) of Ancaster; by brothers Garnet of Australia, Robert of Thunder Bay and Leo and John, both of Midland.

After resting at Nicholl's Funeral Home in Midland, a funeral mass was held at St. Margaret's Church on Saturday, April 26, Interment at St. Margaret's Cemetery.

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Confessions - Before Mass

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
Minister: Rev. Sydney McDonald BA  
Phones: The Church 322-1411, The Manse, 322-2453  
Elmvale Church: Christian Education, 10 a.m.  
Christian Worship, 11 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
St. John's Elmvale  
Minister: Rev. B. Gazzard  
Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Nursery during Service)  
Phones: Church 322-1472, Manse 322-1522  
Wyevale United Church: 11:30 a.m.  
Waverley United Church: 10:00 a.m.  
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