

## Editorial

# Why I hate lawyers and the press and why I'm part of the cycle...

By Trent Drake

Actually, I'm part of the press because I like to bare my soul in public, but that's another story.

Last Tuesday night I did something most people don't normally do. When Peter Mansbridge intoned that the photos of a Canadian soldier posing proudly with a badly beaten Somali youth had finally been released to the press, I got up and turned off my television. I didn't want to see the pictures, so I exercised my right not to.

Unfortunately, that right was stolen from me by our very own news show, *Compass*, which aired the photos as part of their report on the triumphant return of Private David Brocklebank. By inserting them in the middle of a basically unrelated report, they forced me to see them.

This isn't the only thing about the unholy alliance of the press and the legal system that annoys me. How many people haven't heard about the famous bloody gloves, the envelope which might contain the murder weapon, and the blood-drenched Bronco? You couldn't fit them in a Lada. I have ceased to care whether O.J. is innocent or not; I just want to see Robert Shapiro hung by the neck. His tactic of declaring each and every piece of major evidence 'inadmissible' has spilled into almost every major trial in the country.

emphasis is given to the reviewing of certain subjects, specifically arts and entertainment. It would appear that you have chosen as your purpose to mildly entertain students for a few minutes on mildly important subjects. A student newspaper should inform its students, to agitate and move them to action, the underplaying of important issues, and the watering down of articles so as not offend someone only further frustrates those willing to contribute, and eliminates any type of real criticism. I sincerely hope that you will print this letter and that you, as well as the rest of the student body, will be more critical of the X-PRESS, for if we are not critical and working towards improvement, how will the X-PRESS ever improve? Also, please print your mandate and operating procedures (salary distribution, budget, etc.) for the in-

formation of the student body and myself. I know that I could likely go to the X-PRESS office for this information, but I would like for the X-PRESS to inform me of these facts in order to restore my lost faith in the X-PRESS. Sincerely,  
Alex Keaveny

And how about the 'too-drunk-to-know' defense? That one is two-for-three in the wins category.

And guess what? Thanks to us, the media, all these wonderful defences will no doubt be used in every high-profile case from now until someone finally takes Shakespeare's advice and kills all the lawyers. We've made it our mission to instruct every attorney in the world in the fine art of filibuster. Many talentless defense counsels have been using the press as a kind of textbook for planning their cases; the prosecution has yet to figure out a suitable counter-tactic.

What's the solution? We can't kill them all, you know... if we did, who would represent us in court? And there's no way to keep these guys from perusing the news; this is the age of the information super-highway. I think the only thing that can guard against these unimaginative idiots is a really aggressive judge. Judges have to spit in the eye of the media and kick the reporters out of the courts, literally if necessary. Think about it: would the Simpson trial have drug on this long if Lance Ito had screamed, "I will not allow my courtroom to become a circus!" at the beginning? I think not.

I'm going to shut up now, lest someone use this half-baked rant as a legal brief.

### Editor's note:

For the information of Mr. Keaveny and all other interested parties, the following is a list of the X-Press staff positions, their salaries and their approximate work hours per week.

**Business Manager**—\$60.00/issue (approximately 20 hours a week which equals \$3.00/hour)

**Content Editor**—\$60.00/issue (approximately 40 hours a week which equals \$1.50/hour)

**Production Editor**—\$48.00/issue (approximately 24 hours a week which equals \$2.00/hour)

**Production Assistant**—\$25.00/issue (approximately 10 hours a week which equals \$2.08/hour)

**News Writer**—\$35.00/issue (approximately 12 hours a week which equals \$2.91/hour)

**Photographer**—\$32.00/issue (approximately 10 hours a week which equals \$3.20/hour)

**Typesetter**—\$40.00/issue (approximately 8 hours a week which equals \$5.00/hour)

**Circulation**—\$15.00/issue (approximately 2 hours a week which equals \$7.50/hour)

**Sports Writer**—\$20.00/issue (approximately 12 hours a week which equals \$1.66/hour)

**Advertising Manager**—works on commission

The volunteers of the X-Press work various hours each week without any financial compensation.

## X-press

Content Editor: Trent Drake  
Managing Editor: C. A. Schneider  
Production Manager: Grace Kimpinski  
News Writer: Shannon Younker  
Sports Writer: Scott MacDonald  
Advertising Manager: Aldera Chisholm  
Photographer: Kathy Giesbrecht  
Arts and Entertainment: Sean McQuaid

*Special thanks to all of our contributors.*

The U.P.E.I. *X-Press* is the official student newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island. The *X-Press* is published three times a month throughout the year. 2,500 copies are distributed both on and off campus every Tuesday. The *X-Press* is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP). Anyone may submit to the *X-Press* but please note the following:

-- For legal reasons, all submissions must contain the author's name and phone number. Author's names can be withheld upon request.

-- All submissions are property of the *X-Press*.

-- Submissions may be dropped off at the *X-Press* office (room 06 Main). Mail at your own risk. Submissions are processed more quickly if they are submitted on a 3 1/4" or 5 1/4" disk. Disks may be picked up any time after Monday.

-- The deadline for submissions is 9:00 a.m. Friday and ads are due by noon on Thursday. Any late submissions will be printed in the following issue.

-- The *X-Press* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Submissions deemed to be racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous will not be printed.

*Advertising and any other inquiries should be directed to:*

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## DEAR EDITOR



Dear EDITOR/X-Press Staff/Student Body, I have noticed that in recent weeks, the quality of the content in the X-PRESS has declined considerably. As a result, I have begun to question whether the X-PRESS is still a relevant voice for the student body. The X-PRESS is paid for by the whole of the student body and should reflect this fact. If it is failing to do so, then perhaps it is time to re-think ourselves. While I share your frustration on the lack of interest in writing articles by a large part of the student body, I would like to ask some questions: Is the lack of interest in the X-PRESS a result of apathy on the part of the student population? Or is it caused by an alienation of the rest of the student body by the X-PRESS itself? Does the presence of paid sports and news writers deter other students from writing these types of articles? If someone is being paid to do this, why should I do their job for them? I feel that no one should be paid to perform these functions because it is not, and especially should not, be one person's "job" to perform these or any tasks.

Also, I personally feel that too much

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