

FREE Press

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Journal of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom

OUR AIMS FOR 2015

THE NEXT six months will be a chance to get political leaders to commit to media reform before the election in May 2015.

And the CPBF is inviting media reform organisations to work on a common platform to maximise the impact on the political process. Then we can press the parties and individual politicians to take up the proposals.

There has never been such public backing for cutting Big Media down to size. There is the revulsion against the excesses of the tabloid press, the frustration at the perpetual foot-dragging and wrangling in the implementation of the mild reforms of the Leveson Inquiry.

There is the resentment at the domination of the internet giants and their intrusion into daily life by logging individual interests to commercialise them as advertising opportunities – quite apart from what else they might do with the data.

There is anger at the bloated and insensitive bureaucracy of the BBC, its failure to respond to internal catastrophes, its programming cutbacks and its

increasingly pro-establishment reporting.

And there is the feeling that despite the turmoil and revelations of the last three years ... nothing has really changed.

The process will launch with a meeting at the House of Commons on December 1 (*see back page*). After two months of consultation a Media Manifesto for the election will come out in early March.

The work will concentrate on the four main areas of concern:

- controls on media ownership
- independent, trusted and effective regulation of the press
- well-funded, independent public service broadcasting
- a human rights framework to protect citizens' communication rights.

The CPBF has produced such manifestos for the last half dozen UK General Elections. But there has never been such a pressing need nor such open opportunities.

3 THE FAIR WAY TO REGULATE
Alternative to editors' IPSO

4 MEDIA SOURCES AT HIGH RISK
State knows who they're talking to

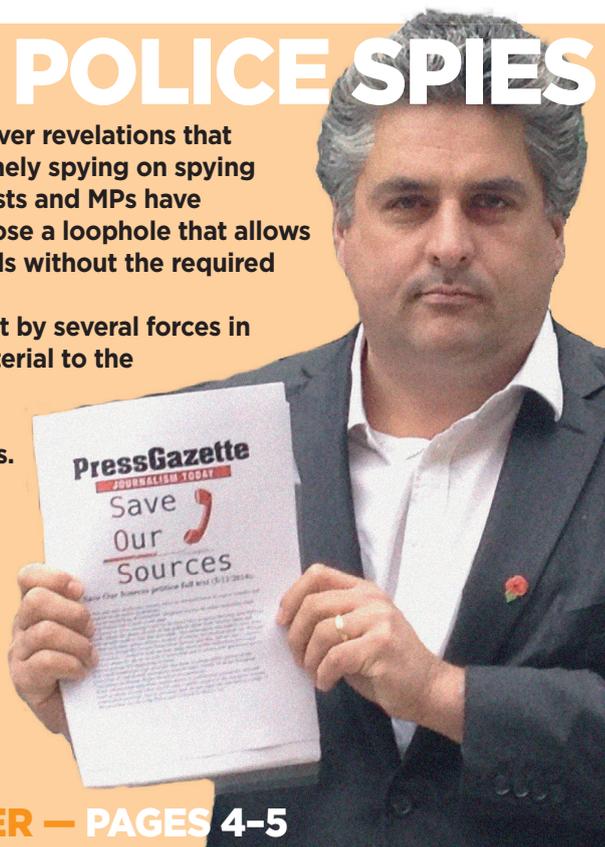
6 WE NEED INTERNET FREEDOM
Sir Tim's Magna Carta won't do

STOP THE POLICE SPIES

A POLITICAL storm has blown up over revelations that police have been secretly but routinely spying on spying on journalists' phone calls. Journalists and MPs have demanded changes in the law to close a loophole that allows officers to get hold of phone records without the required judicial approval.

The snooping has been carried out by several forces in the pursuit of sources who leak material to the media. One chief constable told an MPs' committee: "I struggle to understand quite what the debate is. We're not interested in journalistic sources."

The Save Our Sources Campaign has been led by the trade website Press Gazette, whose editor Dominic Ponsford (*right*) delivered a petition to the office responsible for regulating the interception of communications, which has promised to investigate.



CATCHING BIG BROTHER — PAGES 4–5

For all the latest on the campaign go to www.cpbf.org.uk

'Only as good as your last story'

A FORMER reporter for the News of the World told a CPBF meeting at the Labour Party conference in Manchester of the culture of bullying in which journalists had to work.

Rachel Broady, who is vice-chair of the NUJ Manchester & Salford Branch, told the meeting in September: "You were only as good as your last story and you got the story you were told to get", but she added: "In spite of a macho, bullying workplace culture, working on the News of the World was often exciting and rewarding."

"Journalists can be victims of misplaced romantic idealism when it comes to confronting

ethical issues," she said. "This might work in Hollywood but not in most British newsrooms, where the exigencies of the daily grind and fears about job security tend to keep journalists' heads below the parapet, codes of conduct notwithstanding."

The meeting, attended by MPs and Labour delegates, was entitled "No More Murdochs", and MP John McDonnell drew attention to Rupert Murdoch's role as propaganda point man in advance of the attack on Iraq in 2003. Murdoch said he supported the invasion because "oil will come down to £20 a barrel".

Granville Williams, editor of the CPBF book *Big Media and Internet Titans*, said that attempting to regulate the media would be "meaningless without the ownership question being settled, but there is little appetite for reform at Westminster. It's just not an issue for the main parties."

Ann Field, chair of the CPBF, reminded the meeting that media ownership is not just about the press and broadcasting titans. Amazon and Google are *de facto* media owners and arguably harder to confront, let alone regulate, than the Murdoch, Desmond, Barclay and Rothermere empires.

MEDIA and ME



I was active in the NUJ and as a journalist, you hope, expect, the media you work for to be diverse and without fear of censorship to stories which contribute to public interest. However, in the UK, this is not the case and ownership of media has converged into the hands of a few.

When this happens, the media become the puppets, of state and of wealth. Despite political indication, Murdoch's hold on power is barely waning.

When the BBC can't freely report on the slaughter of the dispossessed in Gaza, when the Sun's political leanings still hold weight, when only two national newspapers editors are women, and continuous misogynistic objectification remains, the need for lobbying on media diversity and plurality remains acute, and that's why I support The CPBF.

Claire Colley, treasurer of the CPBF

NEW PODCASTS FROM THE CPBF

REPORTING THE NHS

Campaigners say that the NHS being broken up, privatised and changed beyond recognition. But the reporting of government reforms has been sketchy and, although local papers and radio have produced some compelling stories, national coverage of these complex issues has been minimal. Keep Our NHS Public is a campaign to raise public awareness. **Nick Jones** speaks to **John Lister**, **Jill George**, **Roger Gartland** and **Jean Smith** about their lobbying efforts.

GAZA: WHY THE BIAS?

The notion of media balance and context was questioned during the Israeli bombardment of Gaza. The death toll was in brutal contrast to the relatively minor impact of rocket attacks on Israel. The media were criticised for failing to cover the conflict in a fair manner. **Nick Jones** is joined by **Lindsey German** of the Stop the War Coalition; **Tim Llewellyn**, former Middle East correspondent for the BBC; and **Aidan White**, of the Ethical Journalism Network.

Listen at www.cpbf.org.uk

WITH BANNERS HELD HIGH ...

FOLLOWING the CPBF's revelations that Margaret Thatcher's government lied about the future of the coal industry during the great miners' strike of 1984-85, there will be a major event, *With Banners Held High*, at the Unity Hall in Wakefield to mark the 30th anniversary of the end of the strike on March 7 next year. Co-sponsored by the CPBF, the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and the National Union of Mineworkers, it will be a day of music, drama, film and debate. Information from wbhh@talktalk.net

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REGULATION

Same old story, same old men

PREDICTIONS THAT IPSO, the Independent Press Standards Organisation will be no more than a revival of the corpse of the undead Press Complaints Commission were confirmed when it announced details of the body that will control its operations.

The PCC was financed and dominated by a Press Board of Finance consisting of senior executives who held the purse strings, and now the IPSO has its Regulatory Funding Company (RFC) which will do just the same.

All its nine members but one (the editor of the Belfast Telegraph, Michael Gilson) are top managers or finance or legal directors of publishing groups, and all are men.

The RFC appoints the Editors Code Committee which will set the code on which the IPSO will adjudicate, and all the committee's nine industry members are editors (two



IPSO

are women). The chair is Paul Dacre of the Daily Mail, who chaired it for six years under the PCC. His Mail on Sunday colleague Geordie Greig is there too.

In a gesture to independence the committee will have five outnumbered "lay" members, but two of them will be IPSO's chair and chief executive. They're taking the piss.

In effect IPSO is recreating the structure of the industry, with the owners and bosses appointing the editors and getting them to tell the other ranks what to do.

Martin Moore of the Media Standards Trust commented: "These appointments, and the manner in which they were made, reinforce the impression that the major publishers intend to recreate the previous, discredited, system of press self-regulation with the same figures in control.

"It repeats what Lord Justice Leveson called 'the pattern of cosmetic reform' that has characterised the previous seven decades of press self-regulation.

"It is difficult to see how IPSO can hope to gain public confidence when the news publishers that established it act in this way."

THE IMPRESS PROJECT

For the press - for the public

We've got a better way

Jonathan Heawood, founding director of the independent regulator IMPRESS, explains the rationale behind its challenge to the media establishment



NADIA BETTEGA

WE ALL HAVE the right to share information and ideas, challenge received wisdom and hold the powerful to account. Newspapers and online publishers help us to exercise this right but they do not have a stranglehold over it. Press freedom belongs to the public, not the people who happen to own the means of distribution.

The British press apparently accepts this principle. They recognise that, in order to serve the public, journalism should follow certain basic standards, and to enforce these standards, they have created a succession of self-regulatory bodies. They have agreed a code of practice that governs such issues as accuracy, privacy, subterfuge, discrimination and the protection of sources.

This all sounds good. Self-regulation has held off state intervention in the press, while promoting a decent code of practice. So what has gone wrong? Why do only 27 per cent of the public believe that the press is well run and a staggering 69 per cent believe they are, indeed, corrupt?

The problem is structural. A regulator which is owned and controlled by newspaper publishers can never command public confidence. Who pays the bills? The publishers. Who writes the code? The publishers. Who oversees the complaints procedure? You've guessed it.

The Chair of IPSO, Sir Alan Moses, will be hamstrung by these defects. If he rules against a publisher, they may leave the regulator. If he rules in favour, the public will raise their eyebrows. Either way, IPSO cannot command public confidence. If trust falls any lower, there will be few

voices left to stop a future government from imposing direct state regulation on the press.

That's why a group of journalists and free speech campaigners have set up IMPRESS, a regulator which will be entirely independent of both newspaper owners and politicians. We have followed the prescription of Lord Justice Leveson, as distilled in the Royal Charter on Self-Regulation of the Press, agreed by Parliament.

Impress will uphold the existing code of practice, and additionally offer a "conscience clause" for journalists, a whistleblowing hotline and an arbitration service.

In a country where defending a libel action can be 140 times more expensive than the European average, access to

justice is an imperative. Unless journalists and editors can offer arbitration, they will be forced to settle any libel threats. At the same time, members of the public who don't have the resources

to take on a major publishing group will struggle to assert their rights. The board of IMPRESS is now in the process of being appointed and will decide whether to seek recognition under the Charter.

Our plans have been endorsed by a range of independent news publishers. Some produce newspapers while others are online-only.

With an estimated 500 hyperlocal news organisations in the UK, there is a large – and growing – market in this area. IMPRESS is preparing for the future of news, at a time when debate about press regulation is mired in the past.

We will be entirely independent of both newspaper owners and politicians

BIG BROTHER

You don't have to be paranoid ...

The flood of revelations about the capacity of security services to spy on people's communications is really serious for the media.

TIM GOPSILL

sets out the severity of the problem and asks what can be done

THE PLEBGATE Affair is bringing more to light than the unsavoury conduct of a Tory cabinet minister and a bunch of coppers of questionable integrity. It may be a matter of monumental triviality what exact phraseology the former Overseas Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell employed in his brief altercation with Downing Street police but the implications for the media are turning out to be serious.

It's not the story itself, but the way the Met police went about investigating it – which was to access secretly the phone records of the reporter who wrote the story, Tom Newton-Dunn, and of the Sun newsdesk that took the tip-off call. The data was supplied by service providers who did not inform the journalists.

This snooping was not undertaken through the statutory procedure for police to apply to seize journalistic material, which requires an order from a crown court judge (*story below*). Instead, they simply authorised themselves, using the increasingly discredited Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, the dreaded RIPA. This requires the approval only of a senior police officer.

The Met seemed to regard it as routine, and subsequent investigation by the journalists' online magazine Press Gazette has shown that the practice of police helping themselves to phone records is happening almost everywhere, and has been for years.

They do so in the process of investigating leaks of

'We are not interested in journalistic sources. I struggle to understand quite what the debate is'

information to the media, to uncover whistleblowers and police who tip off journalists with stories, which happens a lot.

The Press Gazette has launched a vigorous Save Our Sources campaign, bombarding police forces with Freedom of Information requests. Its research has revealed that in the five years 2006-2011 police forces across the UK conducted more than 300 media leak investigations – many of them using the RIPA to secretly view journalists' phone records.

Strathclyde Police alone conducted 45 such probes and the Met 38. The Metropolitan Police, and the Kent



Tom Newton-Dunn: police hacked his phone records

and Suffolk forces, have confirmed their use of RIPA to obtain journalists' phone records but maintained the use was "proportionate" and "appropriate". A well-placed source told Press Gazette that the RIPA would have been used in the "vast majority" of the Met probes.

The Press Gazette has asked 41 forces for information on the use of RIPA against journalists, and all have refused the FoI requests. But following its campaign the Interception of Communications Commissioner, Sir Paul Kennedy, wrote to all chief constables and ordered them to provide full details of use of RIPA powers to identify journalistic sources. He will report in the new year.

But police attitudes were straightforwardly expressed when Derbyshire Police's Mick Creedon, who is also ACPO's national coordinator for serious and organised crime, said RIPA could "absolutely" be used to secretly obtain journalists' phone records in a leak probe.

Appearing before the Home Affairs Select Committee, he said: "I have to say, we [the police] are not interested in journalistic sources. I struggle to understand quite what the debate is ... The issue is not about the journalistic issue, this is about the corrupt individual who is passing information ... And I accept the corrupt individual could be the well-intentioned whistleblower. So we need to be careful of that ... But actually we're not interested in journalistic sources."

ONE GOOD THING that can be said of pretty well all journalists, however disreputable in their other work practices, is that they are prepared to go to great



Reporters Guardian receive phones until by enclosing in cocktail





lengths to protect informants. This has been shown time and again in cases where they have refused and often defied court orders, sometimes risking jail, to hand over material that would identify their confidential sources. This is not entirely an altruistic matter: if reporters start betraying their informants then people will stop confiding in them. So it's lucky for democracy that they don't.

But the rules of the game have changed. What is the value in journalists honouring their pledges of confidentiality to informants when the authorities can easily identify them anyway, covertly, by accessing their communications, without any kind of

We must have political action to effect democratic control over state agencies

legal check? Phone records, email, online activity ... all are frighteningly accessible to state snooping in the post-Snowden age.

The police, along with GCHQ in Britain and the National Security Agency in the USA and their protective governments, say they aren't interested in and don't read the content of these communications. Maybe they don't, but they don't need to. What they are very interested in and do read is the metadata – where you are, whom you are meeting, phoning, messaging, emailing – and digital devices will tell them all that.

This is a much wider than a journalistic question. It's no longer a matter of putting pressure on reporters to divulge information. The capacity of state agencies to get hold of any information they want about citizens obviously affects everyone, but it's a media issue too, compelling civil liberties, privacy and media campaigners to work together.

This daunting reality is exercising media minds. That is why the Press Gazette launched Save Our Sources and journalists organisations' are discussing intensely how to resist. There are, in truth, only two ways:

The journalists themselves can act to protect their material, by technological means, such as encrypting all

→ continued over page

How police evade the law

HERES'S A RIDDLE: how can the police act within the law but at the same time outside the law?

Answer: when they use the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to seize information on the activities of journalists.

The RIPA allows a senior officer to authorise the interception of phone calls for the investigation of a crime. But its use against the media is a cynical and deliberate flouting of the main law covering this area, the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

Under the PACE the police must apply to a crown court judge for an order to seize journalists' material. And there are two more legal foundations for reporters' legal right to protect their sources and material, albeit with some restrictions.

They are in the Contempt of Court Act 1981, and the milestone case won by reporter Bill Goodwin against the UK government at the European Court of Human Rights in 1996.

Because of the case law built up under these provisions, judges have become reluctant to grant PACE orders against journalists. Numerous cases have been won by

reporters, photographers and video-journalists over the years, with the backing of the NUJ.

This is why the police use the RIPA, and this is why they should be stopped.

In October Liberal Democrat peer Lord Strasburger proposed an amendment to the Serious Crime Bill going through Parliament to make the required change.

Despite winning support from peers of all the major parties, it was rejected by the government, which is consulting on changes to the RIPA code of practice which it says will be sufficient.

Lord Strasburger vowed to return to the issue "with a vengeance" unless the government provides a "more substantive" response.

He said: "The purpose is to graft on to RIPA similar protections to those already applying under PACE: judicial oversight of applications involving journalists' records and legally privileged information, and to require an open hearing with both sides represented.

"RIPA must be changed to close the loophole that the police have been using with virtually no scrutiny."



CHARLES GRIS

FIND OUT IF YOU ARE AN EXTREMIST

PROTECTING SOURCES from digital interception enjoys the support of Comedian Mark Thomas (above) who told the Guardian/NUJ conference about the campaign he is running with the union to encourage journalists to apply to the police to uncover what information has been gathered on them.

Anyone can make a subject action request, he said, and he had done just that himself, to discover that police had 63 entries under his name. One labelled him a "domestic extremist".



ers on the rendered their intraceable using them ail shakers

You don't have to be paranoid ...

→ from previous page

their communications, employing interminably long passwords, 68 characters and more, generated by special software, and using physical means to insulate their smartphones from being tracked by satellite.

Or they can say: the state will gain develop the ability to track me 24 hours a day if it wants to, whether I like it or not, so we must have political action to effect democratic control over its agencies.

The state, here, includes the mighty internet and telephony corporations that collect much of the data and cannot be relied on, even if they had the will, to withhold it. Google and Vodafone are not going to risk jail to protect confidential information, despite their public protestations.

There are plenty of media people who put their faith in the first option above: techies who obsess over the relative security of encryption programs and anti-techies who say there is no safe technology so are reverting to typewriters – at least in contemporary mythology; I've never met one.

It has been the case though that reporters on the Guardian at least have employed the tactic of rendering their phones untraceable by enclosing them in cocktail shakers, which apparently works. Presumably Guardian journalists carry cocktail shakers as part of their kit, but there are drawbacks to all the precautions that journalists can take.

One was raised at a special conference at the Guardian's office in London in September, jointly organised with the NUJ and the International Federation of Journalists.

After a presentation by a Guardian IT manager on the necessity of encrypting telephone conversations with confidential sources and the way to set them up – which requires both phones to be loaded with the devices – veteran investigative journalist Duncan Campbell asked provocatively just how a reporter was supposed to supplier the gear to a nervous, frightened and inexperienced source, and without the snoopers finding out. There was no reply.

All the cards are in the hands of the state. It has the resources to develop the antidote to any technological protection and the power to use it. For the CPBF and other media organisations the imperative is to put a check on that power.

Despite the terrifying scope of the secret state demonstrated by the revelations of Edward Snowden – which indict the UK as much as the USA through the links between the NSA and GCHQ – this is far from a lost cause. Journalists are determined to maintain their ability to operate independently, and, despite the odds against them, sources are still bringing vital and suppressed information to public awareness and leaks are abundant.

IN THE NEWS

It just won't work, Sir Tim

THE POWER of governments and the online corporations represents a growing threat to democracy and personal freedom. So said Tim Berners-Lee, co-inventor of the world wide web, at a conference in London in September.

"I want a web where I'm not spied on, where there's no censorship. If a company can control your access to the internet ... then they have tremendous control over your life," he said. "If a government can block you going to, for example, the opposition's political pages, then they can give you a blinkered view of reality to keep themselves in power.

He called for a "Magna Carta for the Internet" to ensure that the internet remains remain a "neutral medium" – reflecting all human life, including, he conceded, "some ghastly stuff".

Sir Tim Berners-Lee has devoted much of the quarter-century since he and Robert Cailliau developed the web at CERN in Geneva to fighting for an "open internet", protected by a framework of voluntary regulation both technical and ethical in character

This is an essentially libertarian view, yet the problems with surveillance and the suppression of information are matters not just of principle but of application and accountability.

Aidan White, director of the Ethical Journalism Network, wrote on its website that "the public online space" was dominated by four broadly drawn user groups: corporates; political and state institutions; journalists; and individuals engaged in social media.

"Only journalism has a well-established connection with ethical obligations," he pointed out, which means that those too-often wilfully ignored obligations might serve as a model for an ethical framework in the online world. Without such a framework – with communications based on respect for accuracy, independence, impartiality, humanity and accountability – Sir Tim Berners-Lee's Magna Carta will surely fail to protect democracy and freedom.



You read it here first
– from *Free Press*
September/October 2012

Gary Herman

Grim prospect for licence fee

A CHILLING statement that the BBC licence fee is "worse than the poll tax" and will not survive has come from the chair of the Commons culture, media and sport committee, Tory MP John Whittingdale.

He said: "It is a poll tax, it's actually worse than the poll tax because with the poll tax, if you were on a very low income, you got a subsidy, but with the licence fee it doesn't matter how poor you are, you still have to pay £145.50 and go to prison if you don't pay it." In fact non-payment is not an imprisonable offence, and the 50-odd jail sentences imposed each year are for

non-payment of the fine, generally £160. But there are thousands of prosecutions, invariably of people who are too poor to pay.

John Whittingdale said that criminal sanctions were almost certain to be abolished; there have been vociferous calls for this and reviews are being conducted by the DCMS and the BBC itself.

There are also questions about the rationale for the fee in the age of the iPlayer, when anybody can watch BBC channels online and TV sets become redundant. He suggested the BBC should receive a reduced fee to cover a limited range of services, allowing people to choose to pay for additional services if they choose.

But, significantly, as an influential voice on media policy, he did believe that the licence fee would survive for the next BBC Charter, for 10 years from 2016.

That is a relief, for it would give supporters of public service broadcasting a decade to work out their arguments. They must take these factors into account. No-one wants a regime that ignores technological change and criminalises the very poorest people.

Tim Gopsill

Don't pity the poor editor

JAILED FORMER editor of the news of the World and Downing Street media chief Andy Coulson has been charged with committing perjury in the trial of a libel case against the NoW brought by former MSP Tommy Sheridan and his wife Gail in 2010.

Called as a witness, he said that as editor of the paper he had not known that royal editor Clive Goodman and private investigator Glenn Mulcaire were involved in phone-hacking until they were arrested, and had never heard of Glenn Mulcaire. Neither was he aware of a culture of phone-hacking at the paper.

In June this year an Old Bailey jury found him guilty of conspiring to hack phones while he was editor (2002-08) and he was imprisoned for 18 months.

The jury failed to agree, however, on charges of conspiring to commit misconduct in public office by bribing public officials, and he will face a retrial on these charges – with Clive Goodman – next year. He will also stand trial in Glasgow on the perjury charges.

Andy Coulson has been designated the fall guy for News International in the aftermath of the hacking scandal, in line with the well known saying at the BBC that, after a corporate catastrophe, "deputy heads will roll."

He could be languishing in jail for several years while his bosses – Rebekah Brooks, who was found not guilty by the jury, James Murdoch, Les Hinton and above all Rupert Murdoch – continue to enjoy their lives of wealth and privilege.

It almost makes you sorry for him. But not quite.

Tim Gopsill

REVIEWS

Discordant voices on the BBC

Is the BBC in Crisis? By John Mair, Richard Tait and Richard Lance Keeble (eds); Abrams academic publishing

THE LICENCE FEE, governance, the place of the BBC in the media market and its cultural role in the life of the nation — these will be fiercely debated in the run-up to charter renewal in 2016. This book, with its 30 articles by a stellar list of contributors, was compiled to set the agenda.

On the licence fee: Michael Grade (Lord Grade of Yarmouth, former chairman of both the BBC and ITV) presents a radical cost-cutting Blueprint for Survival that could reduce the fee. Alice Enders (Enders Analysis) finds that 57% of the public consider it “good value”.

Andrew Scadding (BBC Head of Corporate Affairs), supports the fee, while David Elstein (ex-Chief Executive of Channel 5) favours subscription.

On governance: former BBC trustee David Liddiment argues that it meets the need for a separate body to protect the public interest. Howard Davies (Director LSE 2003-2011) argues for a Public Service Broadcasting Commission and a new board constructed on the lines of “best-practice corporate governance”.

Despite the many trenchant criticisms there is support for the democratic, economic and cultural role of BBC. Sir Peter Bazalgette (Chair of the Arts Council of England) writes that the BBC has historically been justified by the delivery of trusted and reliable news, original programming and a sustained investment in creative talent. These should be maintained though “sharing its cultural and economic capital with the nation”.

Frances Balfour

They're just getting bigger

Big Media & Internet Titans; Media Ownership: The Democratic Challenge, edited by Granville Williams, CPBF.

THIS VOLUME reminds us just how very tenuous is the grip on the so-called free press in the UK — if it ever existed. Granville Williams has assembled a collection of writers who have experienced first-hand the vicissitudes of media megalomania and the close relationship with politicians.

Of course most disapprobation is directed at Rupert Murdoch because he represents the most rapacious acquirer of newspaper titles and TV stations, although Google, Facebook and the other internet behemoths are in the line-up of media villains too.

In TV things aren't much different, and the 1990 Broadcasting Act that split ITV on a political whim and put franchises up to the highest bidder, is covered in full and shows how obstructive political interference has become to anything

approaching media freedom.

In 180 pages we are confronted by forays into the battle by corporate media enterprises to control creative content and to loosen regulatory policies.

Without the challenge of the CPBF and like-minded groups, governments and politicians are unlikely to change their beholden attitudes to the press.

This volume shows how little has been learned by governments and the effete regulatory authorities that witness the same transgressions over and over again as the usual suspects take charge of how we are fed what they determine as news.

But the grim warnings are accompanied by antidotes that offer a way out of the present mass-media mess. This makes Big Media & Internet Tycoons required reading for all those interested in how we might secure press freedom.

John Bailey

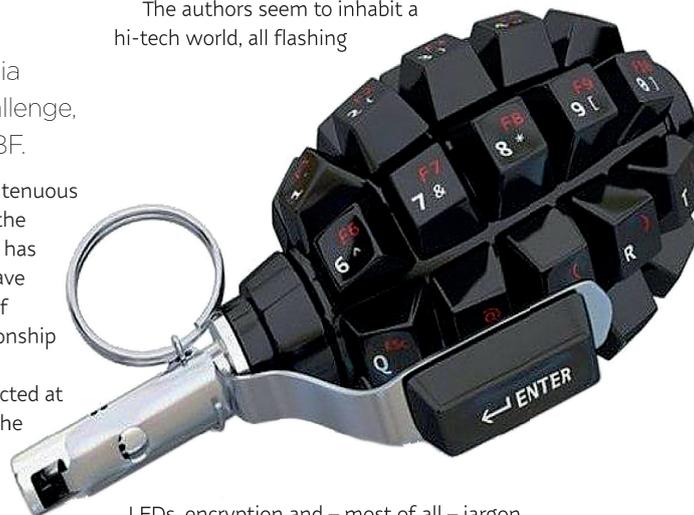
More than technology

Information Security for Journalists by Silkie Carlo and Arjen Kamphuis; Centre for Investigative Journalism; free as a PDF from <http://tcij.org>

THIS MANUAL “is designed to instruct journalists and media organisations on how to practise information security in the digital age, protecting your work, your sources, and your communications at a variety of risk levels.”

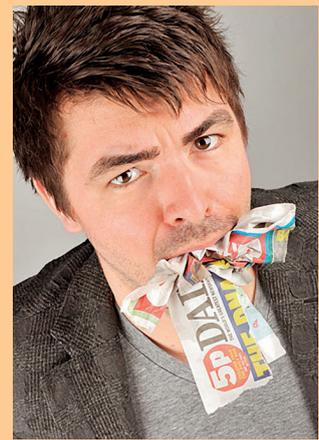
In the era of Wikileaks and Snowden, this is a laudable aim. Any journalist with even a toe in the murky waters of corporate or state secrecy will already understand the need for “information security” (infosec). But the title is misleading, and the aim is not really achievable.

The authors seem to inhabit a hi-tech world, all flashing



LEDs, encryption and — most of all — jargon. There is a world of techno-tradecraft, a latter day John Buchan adventure. But technological change undermines their goal: security is shifting ground and practising it involves a more nuanced understanding of risk than choosing the right piece of kit.

Gary Herman

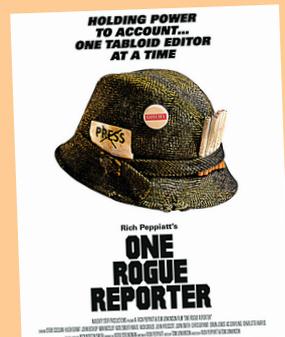


ONE ROGUE REPORTER

RICHARD PEPIATT was a roguish Daily Star reporter who walked out in 2009 in disgust at the degrading things reporters he was required to do, dressing up in stupid costumes and making up stupid stories.

He gave candid evidence to the Leveson Inquiry and launched a career as a stand-up comic. His show *One Rogue Reporter* — lifting the line immortalised by News International in its cover-up of phone-hacking — was a wow on the circuit in 2012 and he has now made it into a movie.

His show incorporated clips of the pranks he'd pulled on newspaper editors, doorstepping them, shouting fatuous questions and being generally offensive — the sort of things the editors get reporters to do — which they fail to appreciate. Paul Dacre,



Kelvin MacKenzie, Hugh Whittow of the Express are all targeted.

These are edited into a sequence of interviews and gags. Fun with a point: revenge on a comic sale.

One Rogue Reporter is showing at selected venues with Q&A sessions afterwards.

Go to www.oneroguerreporter.com

THE MEDIA MANIFESTO 2015

What do we want from politicians to help promote fairer media that can be independent of government and business, and be more responsive to people?

Action to make Big Media more accountable and more responsive to the public they serve, including effective ways of challenging inaccuracies and contesting biases; ensuring communities have access to a diverse range of communication services geared to serving their needs; an end to the corruption around Big Media corporations. **But how to get them?**

The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom is bringing groups together to prepare a *Media Manifesto for 2015*, to promote the points for people to raise around the UK General Election.

We need a broad range of progressive organisations and individuals to take part in the initiative in an open and collective way.

We are calling a meeting at Parliament on December 1 to discuss and launch the programme. We plan to publish the manifesto next March.

Everyone involved or interested in media reform is welcome to join in.

There are four main proposals:

Controls on media ownership

To strengthen media diversity, regulations to limit how much companies can own and require those with significant market shares to meet agreed standards.

Independent, trusted and effective regulation of the press

Implementation of the arrangements for press self-regulation put forward by the Leveson Inquiry in 2012. We need an effective right of reply to media inaccuracies, operated by a regulator that represents both the working journalists and the public.

Well-funded, independent public service broadcasting

A charter renewal and licence fee settlement in 2016 that results in a strong, independent BBC that is able to support the central role of public service media and its expansion across platforms, local neighbourhoods, and communities of interest.

Protection for communication rights

After phone-hacking the new scandal is the state's snooping on a far larger scale – on journalists' communications and everyone else's. Government wants to legalise it and weaken the UK's human rights framework. This is an issue for media and the whole of society.

ALL WELCOME AT THE LAUNCH MEETING
Monday December 1
Committee Room 10 at the House of Commons, 6.30pm.
Chair: John McDonnell MP