

significant in informing citizens during the campaigns.

While the book concentrates on the recent elections, material from other elections is interwoven into the analysis, including media use during presidential campaigns since Franklin Roosevelt, to contrast previous elec-

tronic media coverage with contemporary campaigns. Media historians and political scientists interested in twentieth-century presidential campaigns will find this book an exceedingly valuable contribution. *The Nightly News Nightmare* also is appropriate for adoption for both graduate and upper-level undergraduate

courses emphasizing media and society.

Overall, this study is illuminating, compellingly presented, and scary—but frightening only if changes in the way media cover campaigns are not made.

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Gower, Karla K. *Liberty and Authority in Free Expression Law: The United States and Canada*. New York: LFB Scholarly Publishing, LLC, 2002. 306 pp. \$70.

In *Liberty and Authority in Free Expression Law*, Karla Gower has combined the skills of a diligent researcher and a powerful writer in creating a readable analysis of the growth and change in speech law in Canada and the United States. The comparison and contrast of the foundations of the two countries' laws is informative and has value to the instructor, researcher, or lay person with an historical interest in the development of law in the two nations.

Her unique perspective as a citizen of both nations makes this an insightful work. As she states in the introduction, "I found myself surprised at how different I was culturally from my American colleagues. . . . I was suddenly surrounded by journalists who were distrustful of authority, but I was most struck by our differing attitudes toward government and by their strong devotion to individual rights." This theme is attributed in her work to the divergent ways in which the countries were created: the United States by violent revolution, Canada through a series of steps re-

sulting, nearly a hundred years later, in a separate nation. As she traces the changes in the way the high courts of the neighbors acted on the questions of core political speech, libel, and corporate speech, she divides trends into historical periods that demonstrate political shifts in the focus of the two countries.

Constitutional change in Canada happens in a fluid manner consistent with the principle of the political idealist who sees the individual as inseparable from society and views society as a cohesive whole that allows the individual to pursue goals within it. The U.S. Constitution, on the other hand, was born of distrust of authority and protects the right of the individual over that of the state, changing only with great effort and always with much dissent. Canadians view the U.S. system of laws as chaotic and some of the ways in which political speech is condoned by the Supreme Court as disruptive. Americans would balk at the notion that a public employee is limited in how much or how loudly he may criticize policy as the high court has decided in Canada.

Gower employs case law of both countries to illustrate the progression of change in the way expression law is administered. She is most convincing in pointing out the differences in the two systems when discussing the shift in the courts' rulings in the period from 1975 to 1999. Citing cases of the period, she points out that much of the focus of the U.S. court was on campaign finance and the potential for corruption by corporations, while in Canada such corruption was hardly mentioned as a threat to democracy. A shift to conservative thought is evident here in the courts of both countries.

This readable book demonstrates that one can be misled by assuming that the similarities of the cultural milieu of the two countries are paramount. It becomes clear in reading Gower's work that there are fundamental constitutional differences in the way they approach free expression.

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Jones, Adam. *Beyond the Barricades: Nicaragua and the Struggle for the Sandinista Press, 1979-1998*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2002. 308 pp. \$30.

American journalism scholars, generally focused on media in democracies, have rarely provided insightful analysis of the press under socialist or communist regimes, particularly those in the western hemisphere. Adam Jones, a professor of international studies, fills that void with *Beyond the Barricades*, a critical, historical study of *Barricada*, the official daily of the Sandinista Front revolutionary party, which ruled Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990. Moreover, this book offers a model for the study of other official political newspapers that have struggled between the demands of the party and the requirements of good journalism.

Jones, applying a Gramscian analysis, documents the torturous clash at *Barricada* between the desires of staffers to adopt professional journalistic values (as defined by the American press) while at the same time serving the needs of the political party that owned

and, for much of its history, subsidized the newspaper. He identifies these competing obligations as the professional imperative and the mobilizing imperative. Drawing upon extensive interviews and analysis of the newspaper's content, he explicates the staff's move toward professional standards of objective reporting, which contradicted the party's demand that its leading organ communicate propaganda and mobilize the revolutionized population.

Nicaragua in the 1980s was an unusual journalistic laboratory. The revolution had toppled a repressive regime, and many in the press sympathized with or actively participated in the revolution. Nevertheless, once the revolutionary party took power, the country's leading daily, *La Prensa*, assumed an oppositional role. Unusual in a socialist country, *La Prensa* was allowed considerable freedom. The presence of an oppositional newspaper, in turn,

challenged *Barricada* to adopt professional journalistic values. The biggest test for its journalists was coverage of the Contra rebellion and the Sandinista's military and social response, including the regime's largely corrupt privatization efforts.

Barricada, under the editorship of Carlos Fernando Chamorra, fought for autonomy from the Sandinista leadership, and ultimately achieved a semi-autonomous status after the Sandinistas lost power in 1990. But some within the party's leadership never liked the change in the newspaper's direction. In 1994, to prepare the newspaper for the upcoming 1996 elections in which the Sandinistas hoped to regain power, the party leadership deposed Chamorra and reinstated the mobilizing priority. Sandinista official Tomas Borge ran the paper until its demise in 1998.

The study concludes by identifying strategies used by media workers who "seek to