

October 2011

FREE

LFB meetings
10 October
Reforming
defamation law
14 November
Regulating the
media: how?
See back page

Deal with Act 2 of the news

"TRAUMA: it doesn't just affect the front line," was the theme of the NUJ safety conference on "the Northern Ireland experience", held in Belfast on 30 September. It opened with a minute's silence and moving tribute commemorating the life and work of Martin O'Hagan, murdered ten years ago because of his journalism.

Jim McDowell, editor of the *Sunday World*, said: "Martin O'Hagan was a smashing hack who invented the act of 'door stepping,' who excelled in exposing the underbelly, the bogey men of the para-mafia. He was always up for a scrap and always up for the truth."

The tenth anniversary of Martin's death "has been a hard week for all of us in Belfast" and McDowell thanked everyone for their support.

Eugene McGlone, president of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions,

reflected that the situation for journalists in Northern Ireland remains grave: "there needs to be a connection of global solidarity amongst trade unions in campaigning for safety at work, to protect against industrial injury and death – but in the case of journalists you can't protect against the unprotectable."

"All industrial accidents are avoidable, but what measures can be taken," McGlone asked, "against someone taking a pot shot at you, when people are mentally ugly?"

Bruce Shapiro has spent many years working as a crime reporter in the US and is now director of the DART centre for Journalism and Trauma (www.dartcenter.org). He said "Martin O'Hagan was the herald of a decade which has seen the murder and persecution of journalists with impunity. Journalists going from

being the reporter to becoming the victim...in part this reflects the power of the internet. People can send a message by killing a journalist.

"The story for the journalist doesn't end when the ceasefire is signed," Shapiro observed: "the survivors go onto struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, and this is Act two. Journalists have to cover Act two. There are situations in which legal systems can never deliver justice. In the case of atrocities the crime is too big, it has broken the contract too severely. We as journalists can step in when justice fails – and tell the truth."

But, he said: "Journalists have to deal with their trauma. It turns out we are a pretty resilient tribe – but when events are too big for us to process in the normal way then we suffer from disruptions of memory...

Trauma is a press freedom issue." The good news, Shapiro said, is that "there are psychological injuries that are preventable, through peer support and solidarity." Journalists at the conference were able to hear shared experiences in private workshop sessions.

And, Shapiro said, "there needs to be responsible news room management. Lessons from Belfast have helped inform DART's approach around the world."

It was extremely valuable to hear from journalists who covered the long years of the Troubles. As a trade union the NUJ now has the opportunity to learn from its members' hard-gained knowledge and to implement processes to guard against and help heal traumas that are the inevitable result of working in a climate of conflict.

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Martin O'Hagan, as Belfast Branch Secretary, attending the trade union event for May Day 2001. After a decade of NUJ campaigning for an investigation and several arrests in 2008, one person, who cannot be named, faces charges connected with his murder.

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New lawsuit on not-so-orphan works

WE GO TO press in the calm before a storm – the "consultageddon" promised by HM Government on changes to copyright law recommended by the Hargreaves Review, suggested to David Cameron by a famous web search engine. It seems that a November lobby-storm will break as the government asks what uses of your work should be "exceptions" from copyright.

Everyone will, we predict, make demands like "free songs for agricultural fairs" and for Google to do what it pleases. The government will be asking what would be required

for legislation allowing use of works whose author cannot be identified: and we'll be telling them.

Meanwhile, the US Authors Guild, the Australian Society of Authors, the *Union des écrivains et des écrivains québécois* (UNEQ), Fay Weldon and seven other authors have launched a lawsuit against the Hathi Trust and four university libraries.

Hathi has launched an interface to books scanned by Google. It planned later this month to start putting what it regards as "orphan" books online. When Hathi posted its list of the first 160 "candidate orphans",

the Authors Guild was able to speak to the wife of the literary agent of one author of an "orphan" book, after less than three minutes' research. Hathi's search had clearly been less than "diligent", in the jargon.

The lawsuit asks the court to stop online publication of allegedly "orphan" books until legislation or the courts determine whether it's legal. Hathi's apparent motivation is to set a precedent, in the hope that their (probably) illegal action will later be legitimated by changes in US law.

Meanwhile in the Southern Dis-

See ORPHANS' PARENTS on p2