Gage's Canadian Dictionary respectively: The American dictionary gives both the traditional meaning of the word and its newer (and some would say, incorrect) meaning which is synonymous with 'fortunate,' without comment. The British dictionary gives simply the traditional meaning and makes no reference to the newer one. The Canadian dictionary, though it does not legitimize the newer meaning, explains how the mistake came to be made, and suggests certain contexts in which it might be allowable.

In spite of these slight deficiencies (from a Canadian point of view), the book on the whole is a good one. It does not, because it cannot, offer any definitive answers to the questions of what exactly composition is, how it should be researched or how it should be taught. But it does serve to shed some light, and it may even help to reconcile some of the warring factions.

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Boynton, Phil Ross and Doreen Boynton,
Sweepers in the Corridors of Power:
Canadian Broadcast Journalism.
(Toronto: Butterworths, 1986).

This book seeks to fill a number of functions as a practical text for broadcast journalism students. Focusing on news and touching on documentaries, it offers advice on research and writing, interviewing and listening, newscast structuring and reading, camera angles and lighting, participation in news conferences and political campaigns, and effective video story-telling. Beyond these skills, the authors consider some of the ethical and legal aspects of gathering and reporting the news. Partly structured in workbook format, a number of useful exercises are provided in the back of the volume. The style of writing is personal, casual, and anecdotal; the layout of the book includes wide margins with plentiful bold print headings to aid quick access to the information on "tape dubbing and editing," or "performing on camera."
The authors have extensive experience in radio and television, particularly in news and political reporting. Their familiarity with the topics and with teaching journalism is evident in the range of information provided and the well-structured and sequenced chapters. The book moves logically through the skill levels essential for beginning students, ending with a consideration of the more philosophical concerns of news reporting. Despite all of this, one wishes that one could be more enthusiastic about *Sweepers in the Corridors of Power*.

I have approached this book as a former college instructor, considering the volume as a basic text for a first year class in broadcast journalism. The authors have written it for students coming into the field, so their intent matches my perspective. My criteria for a textbook would be comprehensiveness, clarity, accuracy, and an appropriate amount of information, with a practical and unbiased presentation. Particularly for journalism students, exemplary writing and organization must be mandatory criteria. Writing is learned by writing--and by reading. A text that is likely to be referred to repeatedly should be clearly written.

However, this volume reads like the transcribed audiotapes of 30-minute lectures on the multitude of topics included. The language is repetitive, riddled with cliches ("rapidly breaking story" must be used 50 times in 147 pages), and the grammar and punctuation are appalling. If this weren't a book meant for journalism students, I might be more lenient.

As an example, the sentence "A big difficulty for students is in determining whether a collective noun is singular or plural to ensure that the verb agrees with it" (page 40) is found as advice under the heading of "Grammatical Errors." The metaphors are mixed; some ideas are repeated, while others remain undeveloped. Reporters are advised that they can be quite firm with politicians--but are given little idea of what "being firm" means or accomplishes, or how one would go about being firm. In many additional cases, I wanted to
ask the author how they would suggest the task be accomplished. Later in the book, it is recommended that the journalist challenge the evasive interview subject with the question "Do you expect people to believe that?" I have encountered many difficult interview subjects, but few of them would have responded very constructively to that challenge. To be fair, many of the procedures in the volume are more reliable or detailed than these two examples. What the book needs before I would recommend its use with students is critical editing and careful proofreading. The sentence "A good tape editor can use his grease pencil and razor blade to literally (sic) puts words in your mouth" signified less attention to these tasks than the book required.

The authors' political biases and inaccuracies contribute to my concerns. Despite the authors' admonitions about fairness, we are informed that Robert Stanfield was much more politically experienced than the "upstart Trudeau" and that the television coverage of Watergate and Vietnam was a negative, rather than positive, force. We are told that in the post World War II era, the Soviet Union "moved across Europe to annex states such as Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Estonia, and Latvia, and convert them to the communist system" (page 116). Television is presented as a medium of and for the powerful, and the authors make no attempt to challenge this. The legitimacy of news conferences, of celebrity interviews, of media coverage of Pierre Trudeau and not the protestors against the War Measures Act is not questioned. On the other hand, the attitude to demonstrations by special-interest groups is cynical and cautionary.

Finally, writers/newscasters are advised to avoid the name of the Greek prime minister if they are uncertain about its pronunciation. However, on the same page, they are told to be extra careful when handling sports, as fans become irate if the name of their favourite players is mispronounced. Surely Papandreou deserves the same attention as Vitas Gerulaitis.

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