

journalism are one and the same. He defines “radical journalism” as muckraking with a “critical mind set in the service of humane values.” And who is his great exemplar of this? Rutten fondly recalled “Izzy” with whom he once worked, according to the paper’s account. “Izzy” was the notorious leftist pamphleteer, I.F. Stone.

STONE WAS a propagandist and “fellow traveler” so far to the left the Soviets considered approaching him to become an agent of influence. And this is Rutten’s idea of an icon of journalistic fairness. This explains the near-constant socialist invective in his columns. Cover up his byline and readers might think they were reading a chapter from *Das Kapital*. He never fails to describe businessmen as unfathomably evil creatures, driven wholly by greed. Here’s his balanced take on Rupert Murdoch, for example: “That brings us to Murdoch’s baleful and equally demonstrable influence on American journalism, since

heaving his rapacious carcass onto our shores as a full-time resident.”

Next time Rutten offers up a windy pronouncement on who is and who is not balanced enough to appear on TV or in the media, just keep in mind that his benchmark is I.F. Stone.

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As I’ve noted in the past, the *Los Angeles Times*’ commitment to politically correct hiring policies extends to its Sports section, where it actively seeks female sports writers. It awaits that glorious day when half the sports-writing staff is composed of females. The cause of course for this terrible disparity is not that women aren’t as interested in sports as men; it is the “glass ceiling.”

But it turns out that one of its staffers is able to help out in its quest for an egalitarian Sports page. Staffer Mike Penner announced in April that he was switching

WHAT YOU HAVEN’T BEEN TOLD ABOUT GUN CONTROL

By SAM PAREDES

Term limits guarantee that new knuckleheads replace most termed-out knuckleheads. Last year the forces of freedom were able to defeat every effort to chip away (further) at our Second Amendment rights in California. Working hard in the Legislature to defeat measures to serial number bullets, micro-stamp firing pins, ban the use of lead ammo, prevent mail-order purchase of ammunition, and make law abiding citizens criminals if they do not report stolen or lost firearms. With strong help from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s veto pen, every one of these harassment measures was defeated. It hasn’t happened in a long time; it happened in 2006.

But term limits means we always

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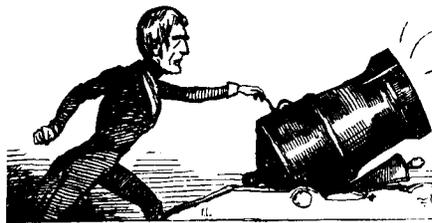
get a new tomorrow, even when it turns out to be yesterday all over again. This year we had 34 new, fresh, wide-eyed rookies. That’s 34 nubies with no historical (although *with* some hysterical) knowledge of the Legislature — 34 waiting-to-happen vindications of Santayana (“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”). They make easy pickin’s for the forces of evil.

Sure enough, every anti-gun bill defeated last year has been reintroduced (most by rookies) with virtually the exact same language as be-

fore. But we remember last year’s lessons. They give us an advantage as we fight the good fight all over again.

Some people see an advantage in term limits in this regard, but I disagree. Politicians dislike pain and they don’t like losing. The gun-grabbing sponsors recruited nubies to reintroduce most of their bills because they had to. Most of the once-burned veterans (and those others who only saw their former colleagues getting burned) are twice-shy about re-living those defeats themselves. The rookies? The rookies don’t know any better, and the ideological P.T. Barnum’s ready to use them for cannon fodder are in only too ample supply.

So defenders of freedom must once again battle to recover ground already won. What a waste. OPB



“genders” and would henceforth be calling himself “Christine.”

“During my 23 years with *The Times*’ sports department, I have held a wide variety of roles and titles. Tennis writer. Angels beat reporter. Olympics writer. Essayist. Sports media critic. NFL columnist. Recent keeper of the Morning Briefing flame,” he wrote in an essay that appeared in the Sports section. “Today I leave for a few weeks’ vacation, and when I return, I will come back in yet another incarnation. As Christine.”

Now Christine Daniels, Penner said that “I am a transsexual sportswriter.” He thanked his colleagues and boss for their understanding: “When I told my boss Randy Harvey, he leaned back in his chair, looked through his office window to scan the newsroom and mused, ‘Well, no one can ever say we don’t have diversity on this staff.’”

His barber, however, is perplexed: “When I told Robert, the soccer-loving lad from Wales who cuts my

hair, why I wanted to start growing my hair out, he had to take a seat, blink hard a few times and ask, ‘Does this mean you don’t like football anymore, Mike?’ No, I had to assure him, I still love soccer. I will continue to watch it. I hope to continue to coach it.”

Penner-turner-Daniels’s essay of explanation generated considerable reader interest, “becoming one of the most heavily viewed stories on *latimes.com* in the last year, with about half a million page views,” said the paper, which, maximizing the number of PC points it could rack up, proudly announced that it expects its transsexual sportswriter to be with the paper for “many” years to come. Imagine the gallows humor this episode must have triggered amongst sacked staffers.

Meanwhile, the *Sacramento Bee*’s Sports page found itself in a controversy for deviating from politically correct expectations. In May, the paper abjectly apologized for using “shucked and jived” in a boxing story about Floyd Mayweather Jr. The ombudsman for the paper pronounced the phrase “offensive.”

CPR



Business Trends

Governor’s veto pen slows job-killing juggernaut

But all defense, all the time, does not address key threats to the economy, such as AB 32.

JAMES W. ROBINSON

FOR A brief moment, it seemed like the old Arnold Schwarzenegger was back — the reform-minded Milton Friedman acolyte who won an historic recall election decrying the chronic deficits, tax increases, and regulations that had been driving businesses and jobs out of California.

Speaking to the state Chamber of Commerce in May, Governor Schwarzenegger praised the business group for compiling its annual list of “job-killing” bills. “This is the greatest service for the people of California,” he said, just before reprising some famous lines one more time:

“You know my opinion about job-killing bills. I

mean, that’s what we have done for three years, is we said, ‘Hasta la vista, baby,’ to those bills. Exactly. And that’s what we’re going to do the next four years, terminate those bills.”

It is appropriate, accurate, and politically astute for the governor to remind the business community how bad things could be were he not guarding the gate with his veto pen in hand. There is simply no limit to what the current legislative majority in Sacramento would

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