

You worked for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990's.

We have some questions concerning that period and the early 2000s.

These are initial questions only.

Please answer them at your earliest convenience and before December 12th, 2024.

Did you work out of the Star Phoenix Newsroom in the 1990's and early 2000s?

When did you cease working out of the Star Phoenix news room?

As you worked out of the Star Phoenix newsroom would you say you were you part of the "newsroom culture" of the period?

How would you describe this newsroom culture?

Was it something you would say you understood?

Actively participated in?

Enjoyed?

Did you have any interactions with the columnists the Star Phoenix published at the time?

Did these columnists or any of them regularly interact or socialize with reporters like yourself?

If you did not regularly interact with them did you interact with them at special events such as staff parties?

Were any of these columnists, to your knowledge, ever a source of stories for yourself or other reporters?

Might you have described these columnists, or any of them, as your friends?

If so, what were the names of the columnists who you would have put in your friends category?

Can you remember or recall if any of these columnists were a source for yourself or another reporter or provided the lead for a story you had published or provided content you used in a story you published?

If so, can you provide a brief synopsis of the story or stories you wrote based [on] information you received from the columnist as a source?

Were you the initial contact for the story by the columnist or were you put in contact with the columnist by another person employed by the Star Phoenix? (Please answer for all stories you wrote wherein a columnist was the source or generated the lead or provided content you used in a story you had published)

If you were put in contact [with] a the columnist who was your source, generated the lead, or provided the content you used in a story you had published, by another person or persons employed by the Star Phoenix was this other person or persons on the Star Phoenix management team?

If so, do you recall the name of the person? (please provide the names of all management staff that put you in touch with columnists working for the Star Phoenix whom you used as a source for a story or who generated a lead for the story or provided content you used in a story you had published as well as the a brief synopsis of the story)

Did the columnists the Star Phoenix published at the time in the Star Phoenix or its daughter weekly publication or any of them regularly interact or socialize with Star Phoenix management?

Was there much interaction between Star Phoenix journalists and other staff and management and the employees of the Star Phoenix's daughter weekly publication?

Would you say the columnists including the columnists who were published in the Star Phoenix's daughter weekly publication were part of the newsroom culture?

Were there any of these columnists you got on particularly well with?

Regularly socialized with? If so, please provide the name or names.

Sometimes socialized with? If so, please provide the name or names

Made friends with? If so, please provide the name or names

Would you aware of how the columnists were remunerated?

Were they drawing a salary, paid on a column inch or article basis, something else, or a combination thereof?

Did they or any of them have reputations for their doggedness, ethics, work ethic, and such at the Star Phoenix?

Were any of the columnists disliked, distrusted, worried about, looked down upon or considered suspect, unreliable or worse?

Or were the columnists popular and highly regarded?

Or did that depend on the columnist?

Can you please elaborate?

Were any of the columnists avoided and ostracized by your co-workers or some of them?

Or were they lionized, looked up, and considered above the reporting staff?

Or did that depend on the columnist and if so, how? (please provide examples)

Were you aware of the reputations of the columnists?

Was there much interaction between the columnists and the management?

Were any of the columnists disliked, distrusted, worried about, looked down upon or avoided and ostracized by management?

Or were the columnists popular and highly regarded by management?

Or did that depend on the columnist and if so, can you describe how and provide examples?

Do you still maintain ties with some or any of the Star Phoenix management team of the time?

If so, would you be prepared to identify them and provide their email address contact information?

I look forward to your reply. Based on same there may be a few follow up questions.

If you choose not to reply or refuse to reply, there will also be follow up questions.

Thanks and have a great day.



The former Star Phoenix reporter, former bureau chief of a newspaper long claiming to be Canada's national newspaper and former winner of a Canadian Association of Journalists Award for Investigative Journalism who is presently working for a Quebec think-tank didn't answer the questions or even provide the courtesy of a reply. More questions were emailed to him.

You failed to reply to our earlier questions by the requested date.

Please answer at your earliest convenience and before December 16, 2024 the following questions:

1) Did you as a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990's know one of the people the Star Phoenix regularly published the columns of was a convicted stranger rapist who nearly stabbed his victim to death? [**Note:** this question and the related questions that follow using the words "rapist" and "raping" contain error – the columnist was convicted of aggravated sexual assault not rape. Research was conducted subsequent to the questions being asked of the former reporter. As a result of this research it was discovered that the columnist could not penetrate the young woman he kidnapped, unlawfully confined, and nearly stabbed to death. As a result of this subsequent research it was also discovered the columnist was a slasher, had an extensive criminal record with multiple parole violations and that an Edmonton Crown Prosecutor who was later appointed to the Alberta Court of Appeal made an application to have the columnist declared a dangerous offender]

2) Did you as a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990's know that this person whom the Star Phoenix regularly published the columns of was sentenced to 14 years in prison after his conviction for sexually assaulting, unlawfully confining, and nearly stabbing his victim to death?

3) Did you as a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990's know that this person whom the Star Phoenix regularly published the columns of was sentenced to 14 years in prison after his conviction for sexually assaulting, unlawfully confining, and nearly stabbing his victim to death had previous to committing these horrible crimes been convicted of breaking into the home of another young woman?

4) Did you as a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990s know that this person whom the Star Phoenix regularly published the columns of

and was sentenced to 14 years in prison after his conviction for sexually assaulting, unlawfully confining, and nearly murdering his victim had previously also been convicted of participating in a prison riot, taking a hostage during the course of this riot and deliberately wounding that hostage?

5) Did you know as a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990s that this person whom the Star Phoenix regularly published the columns of and was sentenced to 14 years in prison after his conviction for sexually assaulting, unlawfully confining, and nearly stabbing his victim to death and whom had previously been convicted of breaking into the home of another young woman, positioned himself as a defender of women in his columns the Star Phoenix was publishing?

6) Did you know as a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990s that this person whom the Star Phoenix regularly published the columns of and was sentenced to 14 years in prison after his conviction for sexually assaulting, unlawfully confining, and nearly murdering his victim and who had previously also been convicted of breaking into the home of another young woman and of participating in a prison riot, taking a hostage and deliberately wounding that hostage and who positioned himself as a defender of young women in his columns, was known by others at your place of work to have committed the horrible crimes or some of the crimes he had been convicted of?

7) Did you know as a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990s that this person whom the Star Phoenix regularly published the columns of who was sentenced to 14 years in prison after his conviction for sexually assaulting, unlawfully confining, and nearly stabbing his victim to death and whom had previously been convicted of breaking into the home of another young woman, and who positioned himself as a defender of women in his columns the Star Phoenix [Saskatoon Sun] was then publishing gave false or perjured testimony at his trial for the sexual assault, unlawful confinement, and attempted murder and that in the course of this testimony he slandered and defamed the young woman he had victimized?

8) Whether or not you knew of the above facts when you were working as a reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990s were you aware of others working at the Star Phoenix in the 1990s who were aware of the heinous crimes this columnist who positioned himself as a defender of women in his columns had been convicted of, or did you at the time think or believe others working at the Star Phoenix in the 1990s were aware of the heinous crimes this columnist had been convicted of?

8a) If you were aware of others working at the Star Phoenix in the 1990s who were aware of the heinous crimes this columnist who positioned himself as a defender of women in his columns had been convicted of, what were the names of

the people employed by the Star Phoenix who were then aware of the horrible crimes this columnist had been convicted of?

8b) If you merely thought or believed when working at the Star Phoenix in the 1990's that others working at the Star Phoenix in the 1990s were aware of the crimes this columnist had been convicted of:

i) why did you think or believe that others working at the Star Phoenix in the 1990's were aware of the crimes this columnist had been convicted of?

ii) what were the names of the others working at the Star Phoenix in the 1990's whom you thought were aware of the crimes this columnist had been convicted of?

Were any of these people management? Other journalists? Please identify them as such.

Iii) please advise as to why you believed the particular person whom you identified as a person you thought or believed was aware of the crimes the columnist had been convicted of?

9) Whether you knew or did not know as a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990's that this person whom the Star Phoenix regularly published the columns of [via the Saskatoon Sun] and was sentenced to 14 years in prison after his conviction for raping, unlawfully confining, and nearly murdering his victim and who had had previously also been convicted of breaking into the home of another young woman and of participating in a prison riot, and who had previously also been convicted of taking a hostage and deliberately wounding that hostage and who positioned himself as a defender of women in his columns, can you advise or confirm that this columnist was avoided by some of the staff of the Saskatoon Star Phoenix particularly those of the female gender?

10) If you did not know while a working reporter for the Saskatoon Star Phoenix in the 1990's that the Star Phoenix was then regularly publishing the columns of a man who positioned himself in his columns as a defender of women who in reality was a stranger [now known to be "attempted"] rapist who nearly murdered his victim, a perjurer, and a violent man, when did you become aware of these facts?

11) Why did you not then advise the public or elements of the public of these facts?

12) Did you not believe that the columnist was a risk to women in the community of Saskatoon?

13) Did you not believe the columnist was a threat to men in the community or certain men in the community?

14) Did you ever file a report through some other news organ other than the Star Phoenix so the public would be made aware of the dangers to the community and its women in particular, that your former employer, the Star Phoenix, was causing or had caused, as the case may be, by making payments to this columnist for his columns so he could afford to reside in Saskatoon?

When and through what news organ?

If not, why not?

15) Did you ever file a report to any legal or policing authority concerning this columnist and his veracity given that he gave testimony at his trial that was false and slanderous?

When and to what legal or policing authority?

If you did not file a report concerning this columnist and his crimes and his veracity, to any legal or policing authority, why did you not?

16) Did you consider yourself a good reporter?

If so, when if ever did you become aware of the heinous crimes the columnist had been convicted of and the danger to the women of the community of Saskatoon that he represented and that his columns in which he positioned himself as a protector of women was complete bs?

17) If you knew of this columnist's crimes, did you not think them, in light of the content of his columns and the danger to the community he represented, newsworthy?

Why not?

18) Would you say that the columnist was no longer when residing in Saskatoon and having his columns published by the Saskatoon Star Phoenix [Saskatoon Sun], a violent man, stranger [now known to be "attempted"] rapist, near murderer and perjurer and was not at all a threat to the community of Saskatoon or its residents when the Saskatoon Star Phoenix [Saskatoon Sun] published his columns in which he wrote of his heroin addiction and time in the big house, or positioned himself as a defender of women, but never once truthfully wrote about what he had actually spent time in the big house for?

19) Were you aware, or did you ever become aware, that this columnist actually at some point changed the spelling of his last name in his columns?

Did that not arouse any suspicions?

20. The columnist wrote of his heroin addiction and time he spent in the big house. Did it ever occur to you to investigate and ascertain the reason the columnist spent time in the big house and how long he spent time in the big house while you were working as a reporter at the Star Phoenix?

Ever?

20a). Would a competent reporter have done the above if they were going to use the columnist as a source for a story the reporter was writing before completing the story and submitting it to her or his editor for publication?

20bi). Would a competent editor have investigated and ascertained the reason a columnist who wrote of the time he spent in the big house but never mentioned why he spent time in the big house actually spent time in the big house before agreeing that a story submitted to him was fit for publication if the reporter submitting the story was using the columnist as a source for the story?

20bii) Would a competent editor likewise have tried to ascertain the veracity of such a columnist before agreeing the source [**Note:** should read "story"] could be published and how would he or she go about this?

21. If you or any of the other reporters working at the Star Phoenix in the 1990's had actually been ace reporters and ascertained the crimes the columnist had been convicted of and imprisoned for, did the Star Phoenix management team of the time or any members thereof, make it known to you (in the singular as you and in the plural as the other reporters) that you were not to make any of this information known to the public or any members thereof or any legal or policing authorities?

a) If so, how? Were consequences for making the crimes of the columnist that was positioning himself as a defender of women public explicitly stated?

ai) If so, what were they and who stated them or conveyed them to you or the other journalists?

Aii) If not, what caused you to think you'd best not make the facts of the matter public?

b) If not, why did no one working as a reporter at the Star Phoenix in the 1990's or early 2000's make the information public?

22. When if ever, did you become aware of the facts surrounding the columnist and his heinous crimes, prior to receiving the questions in this email?

Again, please answer the questions at your earliest convenience and before December 16th.

Thanks and have a great day.



The former Star Phoenix reporter, former bureau chief of a newspaper long claiming to be Canada's national newspaper and winner of a Canadian Association of Journalists Award for Investigative Journalism didn't answer the additional questions or provide the courtesy of a reply. More questions were emailed to him after additional research disclosed the columnist was also a slasher with an extensive record whom a prosecutor wanted designated as a dangerous offender. ~~A reply might be delivered after July 21, 2025 according to an auto-responder.~~ The winner of a CAJ Award for Investigative Journalism did not deliver a reply to the questions. The last questions he did not answer are below.

Did the reporters the Star Phoenix was then employing simply not know nor care to find out what crimes the "columnist" whose columns the Saskatoon Sun was publishing and published for years and who had alluded to time he had spent in a penitentiary what the columnist had actually been sent to the penitentiary for and for how long?

Did the reporters simply take the "columnist's" word that his stay in the big house was due to his heroin addiction?

Were the reporters the Star Phoenix was then employing unaware the "columnist" had threatened the life of the young women he victimized at knife point multiple times, slashed at her forcing her to dodge his knife swipes while naked, and almost stabbed her to death missing her heart by less than .4 of an inch?

Were the reporters the Star Phoenix was then employing unaware the "columnist" the Star Phoenix was then publishing and allowing to create a false persona in Saskatoon wherein he masqueraded as a normal albeit heroin addicted fellow and

defender of women – deployed various means and language one night in early January of 1984 that caused his female victim to fear for her life multiple times and eventually conclude she had to get the knife he was slashing at her with away from him or she was going to be murdered and that when she did so, took a swipe at him and ran to an adjacent room and slammed the door shut and screamed and screamed in terror for help as she held the door closed with all her might as the "columnist" tried to force his way into that room until the police arrived?

Were the reporters the Star Phoenix was then employing unaware that the "columnist" had an extensive criminal record with multiple parole violations and if so, why were they unaware of this?

Were the reporters the Star Phoenix was then employing unaware that crown prosecutors filed an application to have the man whose columns the Saskatoon Sun was then publishing designated as a dangerous offender so he might receive an indeterminate sentence?

Were the reporters the Star Phoenix was then employing unaware of the reasons the prosecutors gave for filing an application to have the man designated as a dangerous offender?

Was there a verbal, written or oral arrangement between the Star Phoenix management and its reporters to keep the remarkable criminal record and reputation for veracity of the columnist the Star Phoenix was publishing via the Saskatoon Sun, who had committed stranger aggravated sexual assault, unlawful confinement, and nearly murdered and then slandered and defamed his female victim at his trial – a secret?

Do you, as a former award-winning journalist who received an award from the CAJ for Investigative Journalism, not think a major news outlet, Saskatchewan Justice and the parole system allowing a man who was a legitimate threat to the safety of women and men in Saskatoon to create a false persona that kept innocent people and his victims and potential victims from being aware of his past and the real and present danger the man presented at that time, very out of the ordinary?

Would you not agree this is probably the biggest Saskatchewan news story of the 21st century to date?

Or the last half century?

Do you believe news organizations ought be held to the highest standards of conduct and integrity?

Do you think that in allowing a career criminal, thug, would-be stranger rapist, attempted murderer, unlawful confiner, slasher, perjurer and slanderer and defamer to present himself to the Saskatoon community as an addict, defender of women and otherwise wonderful human, your former employer the Star Phoenix, met these standards of conduct and integrity?

As a former award-winning journalist who received an award from the CAJ for Investigative Journalism, do you think your standard of conduct fell far below that of a competent journalist in not reporting to the Saskatoon community the criminal record, background and veracity of this threat to the women and men of the Saskatoon community that your employer was publishing and paying to allow and enable him to live in Saskatoon?

Do you agree that a known perjurer, career criminal, attempted murderer, slasher and man who takes a young woman at knife point to his apartment and attempts to rape her, becomes a slasher and nearly stabs her to death and says and does things that terrified her and caused her to fear for her life multiple times, lives in Saskatoon for years where he writes columns published by various newspapers including your former employer and never once mentions when he talks about time he spent in a penitentiary in those columns [why he was sentenced to 14 years in the Penitentiary] and instead portrays himself as a protector and ally of women, is not a suitable source for a story?

Do you agree that any story based in whole or in part upon claims such a man has made ought to have disclosed his criminal record, false statements on the witness stand at his trial for heinous crimes, and victim slandering to allow readers to draw reasonable and proper conclusions when the story is published if the publisher and authoring journalist believe there is actually a story suitable for publication?

As a former award-winning journalist who received an award from the CAJ for Investigative Journalism, do you think your standard of conduct and competency fell far below that of a competent journalist for not disclosing the criminal record, background and veracity of this threat to the women and men of the Saskatoon community when you used this person and columnist as a source for a "major" story you wrote that your employer published?