

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY  
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh

M.A. (Mode B) EXAMINATION 1998/99

EN557 PUBLISHING LAW AND MEDIA ETHICS

PROFESSOR GEORGE WATSON  
PROFESSOR ALASTAIR MINNIS  
PROFESSOR KEVIN BARRY  
MS BERNADETTE O'SULLIVAN

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

ALL STUDENTS MUST ANSWER SECTION A AND  
ONE QUESTION FROM SECTION B.

**SECTION A:**

"I am no longer sure about the notion of objectivity, which seems to me now to be something of an illusion and a shibboleth." ("The Journalism of Attachment", Martin Bell in *Media Ethics*, edited by Matthew Kieran).

What are your views on this opinion of objectivity, in relation to the "truths" we consume in books, magazines, newspapers and on television.

**SECTION B:**

1. In their "propaganda model" Herman and Chomsky talk about **ownership**, **advertising** and **sourcing** as "filters" through which news must pass before it is considered fit to print. Explain each of these three filters and give your views on the relevance of the "propaganda model" to the Irish media.
2. To legislate or to self-regulate? How in your opinion should the issue of privacy be tackled in relation to the media?

END.