

MEDIA FAST TRACK

Trouble in the city
room of the
Baltimore Sun

where several respected but unhappy reporters have quit in the last three months, some without other jobs. One of the reporters who helped crack the Pallotine financial scandal nearly walked off but was persuaded to stay for a while to help head a task force to look into the problems. One gripe: young, talented reporters given little responsibility . . . Press release from **Dell Publishing**—which bought the **Judy Chavez** kiss-and-tell book about her summer romance with Russian defector **Arkady Shevchenko**—promises she'll also disclose "earlier involvements with both congressional and international dignitaries." Dell also claims **Shevchenko's** autobiography, commissioned before he left his UN post, is being written "with the cooperation of the CIA."

Viva magazine in town to profile presidential assistant **Anne Wexler** and chronicle sex and power on the banks of the Potomac . . . **Bobby Shriver**, who reported this summer for the L.A. Herald-Examiner, begins law school at the University of Virginia . . . **Herb Schmertz**, Mobil's VP for public affairs, is the man behind the slick corporate ads that appear on some of the nation's major editorial pages. Now he's turned to fiction, signing a contract with **David Obst Books** for a novel . . . Word of one of 1978's most impressive mix-ups comes from Dayton, where the **Daily News** ran two syndicated political columns, each with a different analysis of African politics. One was by **Patrick Buchanan**, the other by **Carl Rowan**. Unfortunately, the bylines were mistakenly switched.