



Editorial

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Dallas Papers And Truth

The greatest sin a newspaper can commit is to lie to its readers. Printing the truth is the way newspapers and newsmen pay for their right to freedom of the press granted in the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States. An untruth was deliberately printed in the Sheriff Bill Decker, Man of the Year, story of SUNDAY MAGAZINE by Bill Morgan in the Dallas Times Herald of January 7, 1968.

On page 10 of the magazine, Morgan wrote about Sheriff Bill Decker:

In late November, with a force of 300-plus under full strength, Decker turned down the application of a police officer who had 11½ years service.

"He had a good record," Decker said. "But he failed to carry out a rule of his department and he was dismissed. It had nothing to do with the performance of his job, but he made a mistake and I couldn't use him."

We have no doubt the Decker quote is correct, but most newsmen in Dallas know this is not Decker's policy. A couple of years ago four City of Dallas Policemen were fired for "sleeping in a cemetery in Dallas." Three of these men are now working as deputies for Bill Decker. The officers were not in fact sleeping in the cemetery, but that was as close to the truth as the Dallas papers chose to reveal. The Officers were fired by the city, and they are now working for Decker which makes the above quote phony. Surely, if the Midlothian Mirror — a small weekly 25 miles from Dallas — knew the true story, so did both the Dallas newsman and the Dallas newspaper.