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# KOB Radio Takes On an Icon

by Dennis Domrzalski

One of the hardest things for a reporter or editor to do is to report, write or air unflattering and negative things about so-called pillars of the community. Journalism is often an incestuous business. Reporters and editors rub elbows with the rich, influential and famous and often cringe at the thought of having to dump on their good buddies. Sometimes the pressure to *not* do a story about a "pillar" is as simple as this: "So-and-so is a respected member of the community. We can't say that."

In a place like New Mexico those pressures can be intense at times, more so than in more populous places where there are more dissenting voices. That's why a series of reports that KOB-Radio (770-AM) aired last week is significant.

KOB's News Director Vern Beachy wrote a five-part series on famed Taos painter R.C. Gorman. The report, unlike the slavish things that are routinely said about Gorman, detailed allegations that Gorman is a pedophile and that he has spent large sums of money to keep his victims quiet about his sex habits.

"R.C. Gorman is considered by many to be the premier Indian artist," Beachy said in his report, "but as you will hear throughout this week, there are several who would use the words 'pedophile and monster' to describe the Taos painter.

"You will hear from several victims who are now grown men, but were merely teenagers when they say the cycle of abuse and pedophilia began. ... Civil court papers researched and gathered by Guardian, a non-profit

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An Interview with Michael McClure

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Baca Ranch to Become Public Land

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organization dedicated to protecting children from sex offenders, and obtained by Newsradio 770-KOB, tell a different story. The Indian artist paid out six-figure sums to silence at least eight victims of his sexual habits. The victims I spoke with were between 13 and 16 when they endured this abuse."

Guardian and Beachy say they found the first concrete evidence of Gorman's alleged lust for boys in documents in an obscure unemployment claim case.

The radio newsman said he interviewed three of Gorman's alleged victims for the series.

During an interview for this column, Beachy said he became interested in the story three years ago when he first came to New Mexico. "The rumors (about Gorman's alleged pedophilia) have been persistent, and no one has been able to track anything down until now," Beachy said.

The report quoted one man, now in his 40s, as saying he had been sexually abused by Gorman when he was 16.

"At the time, you know, nothing can stop this man," Beachy's report quoted the alleged victim as saying. "Even if you tell anybody or say anything to anybody, they're going to think, humph, this guy's crazy. He's talking about R.C. Gorman. He says 'If you tell anybody about this' he says 'your family will be hurt.'"

"After intoxication you know, it gets very sexual. Um, you have to perform oral sex on him and then he will penetrate you."

Beachy said his investigation was eye-opening. "I was kind of surprised at how much power he (Gorman) seems to wield in the state. I guess Taos is a cliquish community and R.C. Gorman is a checkbook of the community."

Beachy said that the Associated Press and other publications had contacted him about the story.

Kill

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### **Council Races**

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### **Blotter**

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**PREVIOUSLY**

**Ad People to The Rescue:** Free speech is always under attack. In some eras the attacks are more intense than in others. These days, what with political correctness and hyper-sensitivity, the attacks on free speech are more intense than in recent memory. Crazy enough, the people you would think would fiercely defend free speech -- newspaper people -- sometimes engage in this type of oppressive censorship. So, who's to defend free speech? Advertising people. The September issue of *Creativity* magazine, a wild and irreverent publication that caters to ad people, contains a blistering editorial against David Lowenthal, a professor of political science at Boston College who wrote recently in *The Weekly Standard* that the nation's mass media must be rigorously censored.

"The choice is clear," the nit-wit professor wrote, "either a rigorous censorship of the mass media, in conformity with responsible republican government, with censors known to all and operating under law; or an accelerating descent into barbarism and destruction."

*Creativity* editor Rogier van Bakel blasted Lowenthal as a potential Joseph Stalin and Joseph Goebbels and as the hypocrite he is: "Note the textbook examples of Doublespeak: to keep barbarians at bay, we must adopt the methods of barbaric, totalitarian lands; to 'survive as a civilized society,' we must do away with the civil liberties that define it; and to keep us all 'free' we must stop throngs of people from speaking freely."

Van Bakel also warned about what we will come to if censorship and political correctness prevail: "You could soon face a whole new media landscape, a world without anything more controversial than a pretty Hallmark card."

Bless those advertising people.

### [Thin Line](#)

In the Line of Fire  
(September 9, 1999)

### [Thin Line](#)

Blaming Someone Else  
(September 2, 1999)

### [Thin Line](#)

Jones Intercable  
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