

18 Mightier Than the Snake, 1979: The Point Reyes Light and Synanon

Chapter 18 Discussion

1. Why did the author focus so much attention on this one prize to a small weekly newspaper?
2. Consider how local background on the Synanon situation put the Light in a good place to cover a big story when it broke.
3. Discuss why the story of the snake attack became national news.
4. Call up Dave Mitchell's "[Sparsely Sage and Timely](#)" blog. (See p. 313.) Discuss the now-retired editor's relationship to his community.
5. Notice the legal advice Dave Mitchell got (p. 310.) How important are lawyers to reporters and editors? What are some other cases of newspapers getting legal help that have been written about in this book?

Chapter 18 Quiz

1. Marin County is near
 - A San Francisco
 - B Los Angeles
 - C New York City
 - D Las Vegas
2. The Point Reyes Light's Dave Mitchell
 - A Reported stories
 - B Owned the newspaper
 - C Wrote editorials
 - D All the above
3. Paul Morantz was
 - A A radio announcer
 - B A lawyer
 - C A Synanon member
 - D A reporter
4. A snakebite killed Morantz:
 - True
 - False
5. The Point Reyes Light is now out of business:
 - True
 - False