

1972

► Until last fall, Joe Eszterhas, 27, was a bright and sassy reporter for the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*. Then he was fired for having written a piece in *Evergreen Review* that criticized his paper, himself and all others concerned with the merchandising of Ronald Haerberle's exclusive photographs of the My Lai massacre.* Eszterhas, backed by the American Newspaper Guild, protested the dismissal, and the case went to Arbitrator Calvin L. McCoy for judgment. In ruling against Eszterhas, McCoy

asked: "Can you bite the hand that feeds you and insist on staying for future banquets?" Eszterhas, now writing for *Rolling Stone*, maintained that the *Plain Dealer* "hired me to do a job for 40 hours a week and I did that job. But outside that job I have rights as a human being, and when something strikes my conscience, I have a right to speak out."

*The *Plain Dealer* first published the photos. Haerberle, with Eszterhas' help, then sold the photos to LIFE.

Time 1972

June 9 1972

