

## Publisher's: Life was a drama

### Continued from Page 6C

I have a very thick skin and God appears to have endowed me with a physique that stands up well to stress."

But Maxwell bounced back and reacquired Pergamon — which he sold to the Dutch company Elsevier earlier this year.

His big business break came in 1981 when he bought the failing British Printing Corp. Maxwell fired nearly half the 13,000 union employees and modernized production. He had it turning a profit within two years and the company — renamed the British Printing and Communications Corp. — has become Britain's largest printer.

He achieved a long-held ambition of owning a national newspaper in 1984 when he purchased *The Daily Mirror* for \$202 million. He cut about a third of the staff at the *Daily Mirror* and five papers of the group, and disgruntled workers threatened to shut it down.

If they stopped work, Maxwell told them he'd never publish the paper again. The printing presses rolled and the *Mirror* is now the second-largest newspaper with a circulation of 2.9 million.

Maxwell purchased the New York's *Daily News* in March from the Chicago-based Tribune Co., end-

ing a bitter 5-month strike at the 72-year-old. The Tribune paid him \$60 million to liabilities, estimated at \$100 million.

In 1990, he started the *European*, a weekly English-language newspaper distributed across Europe and in some U.S. cities. He also started *Racing Times*, a horse racing digest, together with the *Daily Racing Form* owned by arch-rival Rupert Murdoch, who also publishes Britain's largest circulation newspaper, *The Sun*.

Freewheeling in style, Maxwell hopped from one foreign city to another. He was dubbed "Bob" because of his trademark cap and bow tie.

He also threw himself into a large number of philanthropic activities.

Last month, the *The Samson Option*, an investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, Maxwell had close links with Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency. It also alleged that Maxwell had close links with Mossad, the intelligence agency. It also alleged that Maxwell had close links with Mossad, the intelligence agency. It also alleged that Maxwell had close links with Mossad, the intelligence agency. It also alleged that Maxwell had close links with Mossad, the intelligence agency.

Davies was fired last month, despite the claim that the claims are false.

Maxwell, Davies and the Mirror Group have sued Hersh and his publisher, Faber and Faber, for libel.