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SUNDAY VIEW/
Margo Jefferson

The New York Times' Sunday "Arts & Leisure" Critic, Margo Jefferson's review of "The Coyote Bleeds" read on WQXR-FM radio Monday January 22, 1996.

The blizzard delayed me, the flu delayed me, but I finally got down to the Worth Street Theater to see "The Coyote Bleeds" - Tony DiMurro's play about crimes and misdemeanors in a big city police department. I'm awfully glad I did. You feel like you've just walked, or been escorted into a local precinct house. You also feel that you might have stumbled onto the set of a TV police drama or into the middle of a live-action news story.

Interestingly enough, this only heightens the play's suspense. "The Coyote Bleeds" is grueling, funny, scary and except for two speeches that are a little weighed down by coyote metaphors, the talk sounds and feels dead-right.

The direction by Jeff Cohen, the set by Julie Melton, and the acting by a cast of five feel dead-right too. I want to single out two actors especially: Peter Appel, who stars as a treacherously bad guy/good cop and Stewart Steinberg, who plays his cannily likable and cynical chief. They never go for easy, one-note effects and emotions, not with each other, and not with us. My

thanks to these men. It's very satisfying and very moving to watch actors like this work.