

# grassroots editor



*A journal  
for newspeople*

**Published by the  
International Society  
of Weekly Newspaper Editors**

## 2004 Golden Quill & Golden Dozen Awards



Editorial skills and courage exemplified by winners  
of the ISWNE contest

**and the**

## **The 29th Annual Gene Cervi Award**

**volume 45, no. 2 • summer 2004**

# 2004 Golden Quill contest and Eugene Cervi Award

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E-mail: donna.remer@voiceneews.com

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Dr. Chad Stebbins, Director, Institute of International Studies, Missouri Southern State University, 3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801-1595  
Phone: (417) 625-9736  
Fax: (417) 659-4445  
E-mail: stebbins-c@mssu.edu

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Eighteen years after Henry Gay won the Golden Quill contest, his son has done the same thing. Charles Gay, editor and publisher of the *Shelton—Mason County Journal* in Shelton, Wash., is the 2004 recipient of ISWNE's award for editorial writing.

Superb opinion writing must run in the Gay bloodline. Henry, who died in 1999, won Golden Dozen awards in 1971, 1973, 1984, 1987, 1988, and 1989, in addition to his 1986 Golden Quill prize. Charles picked up Golden Dozen awards in 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Clarence Burley, editor and publisher of the *Menlo Park (Calif.) Recorder*, established the Golden Quill award in 1960 as ISWNE president. His goal was to recognize "good editorial writing in the weeklies...not necessarily to select the best editorial of the year, but simply to recognize a good piece of writing...something turned out under pressure of a deadline...in the heat of indignation or inspiration...or simply an idea the writer had to get off his chest."

Frank Garred, winner of the 2004 Eugene Cervi Award, has a remarkable record of newspaper editing and publishing, service to the profession, and civic affairs. Although "retired," he remains quite active by freelancing, teaching a college journalism class, and serving as interim director of the Washington Coalition for Open Government.

ISWNE is dedicated to encouraging and promoting high standards of editorial writing and to facilitating the exchange of ideas. These awards, we believe, serve those purposes.

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## 1961-2004

- 1961 Hal De Cell**  
*Deer Creek Pilot, Rolling Fork, Miss.*
- 1962 Don Pease**  
*Oberlin (Ohio) News Tribune*
- 1963 Hazel Brannon Smith**  
*Lexington (Miss.) Advertiser*
- 1964 Mrs. R.M.B. Hicks**  
*Dallas (Pa.) Post*
- 1965 Robert E. Fisher**  
*Crossett (Ark.) News Observer*
- 1966 Owen J. McNamara**  
*Brookline (Mass.) Chronicle-Citizen*
- 1967 Alvin J. Remmenga**  
*Cloverdale (Calif.) Reveille*
- 1968 Henry H. Null IV**  
*The Abington Journal, Clarks Summit, Pa.*
- 1969 Dan Hicks Jr.**  
*Monroe County Democrat, Madisonville, Tenn.*
- 1970 Richard Taylor**  
*Kennett News & Advertiser,  
Kennett Square, Pa.*
- 1971 Edward DeCourcy**  
*Newport (N.H.) Argus Champion*
- 1972 C. Peter Jorgenson**  
*The Advocate, Arlington, Mass.*
- 1973 Robert Estabrook**  
*Lakeville (Conn.) Journal*
- 1974 Phil McLaughlin**  
*The Miami Republican, Paola, Kan.*
- 1975 Betsy Cox**  
*The Madison County Newswheel,  
Richmond, Ky.*
- 1976 Peter Bodley**  
*Coon Rapids Herald, Anoka, Minn.*
- 1977 Rodney A. Smith**  
*Gretna (Va.) Gazette*
- 1978 Robert Estabrook**  
*Lakeville (Conn.) Journal*
- 1979 R. W. van de Velde**  
*The Valley Voice, Middlebury, Vt.*
- 1980 Garrett Ray**  
*Independent Newspapers, Littleton, Colo.*
- 1981 Janelou Buck**  
*Sebring (Fla.) News*
- 1982 Albert Scardino**  
*The Georgia Gazette, Savannah, Ga.*
- 1983 Francis C. Zanger**  
*Bellows Falls (Vt.) News-Review*
- 1984 John McCall**  
*The SandPaper, Ocean City, N.J.*
- 1985 William F. Schanen III**  
*Ozaukee Press, Port Washington, Wis.*
- 1986 Henry G. Gay**  
*Shelton-Mason County Journal,  
Shelton, Wash.*
- 1987 Ellen L. Albanese**  
*The Country Gazette, Franklin, Mass.*
- 1988 Michael G. Lacey**  
*The New Times, Phoenix, Ariz.*
- 1989 Tim Redmond**  
*Bay Guardian, San Francisco, Calif.*
- 1990 Bill Lueders**  
*Isthmus, Madison, Wis.*
- 1991 Stuart Taylor Jr.**  
*Legal Times, Washington, D.C.*
- 1992 Hope Aldrich**  
*The Santa Fe (N.M.) Reporter*
- 1993 Michael D. Myers**  
*Granite City (Ill.) Press-Record*
- 1994 Jim MacNeill**  
*The Eastern Graphic, Montague, PEI, Canada*
- 1995 Brian J. Hunhoff**  
*The Missouri Valley Observer, Yankton, S.D.*
- 1996 Patricia Calhoun**  
*Denver Westword, Denver, Colo.*
- 1997 Tim Giago**  
*Indian Country Today, Rapid City, S.D.*
- 1998 Gary Sosniecki**  
*Webster County Citizen, Seymour, Mo.*
- 1999 Jeff McMahan**  
*New Times, San Luis Obispo, Calif.*
- 2000 Jeff McMahan**  
*New Times, San Luis Obispo, Calif.*
- 2001 William F. Schanen III**  
*Ozaukee Press, Port Washington, Wis.*
- 2002 Paul MacNeill**  
*The Eastern Graphic, Montague, PEI, Canada*
- 2003 Jeremy Waltner**  
*Freeman Courier, Freeman, S.D.*
- 2004 Charles Gay**  
*Shelton-Mason County Journal, Shelton, Wash*

# The judge's comments

By Nils Rosdahl

A combination of humanity and common sense led to the winning choice of "Shelter from Storm" for the ISWNE top editorial. These attributes are applied to the winning editorial itself, not necessarily the person making the choice. However, those factors contributed as well. The first paragraph hinted to the passion and the need, which were actually the message of the entire piece. It's easily worth reading here:

"The door to the dark closet hiding domestic violence has been opened a crack, allowing any of us to peek in at one of society's horrifying secret problems. Rather than pushing the door shut to muffle the screams of the tortured souls within, let's band together as a community to turn the light on in the closet, give the victims a way out and stop the mayhem concealed there."

The editorial gives ghostly (his word) examples of domestic violence and statistics in the community. It tells why it takes so long and too

long for the victims to come forward. It tells to whom they finally turn and what then can be done. It challenges the community to join efforts to do so.

And, adhering to the textbook lesson of effective writing, the ending ties the reader to the beginning: "The brutality happening in this dark closet can't be tolerated. Do your part, big or small, to end the violence."

The awesome lead to this editorial caught the judge's eye right from the start. Rather than choose the best, however, the beginning task was to use some formula to eliminate about half of the 102 (!) entries. In the process, that effective lead sank into the brain from the beginning of the task.

No way, however, could any decisions be made until each worthy piece following the initial elimination steps had its thorough consideration. The first taken from the stack were the practically epistle-long investigative pieces. Oh, yes, they were tremendous, credible amounts of work, with most including the edi-

torial format of the author's recommendation at the end. But they simply were too long to be editorials.

Many entries actually were written more like chronological stories than editorials. They were filled with quotes and written as narrative pieces. Once again, they weren't editorials. These were set aside.

The third set of eliminations were those written in first person. What if the reader simply doesn't care what Joe Schmoe has to say?

Throughout this process, patterns developed. Major themes and topics were obvious. Here they are (with the number of corresponding entries): politics (20), law and crime (19), economics (15), social issues (15), education (13), war (8), media (5), sport (4) and humor (2). No, this doesn't total 102; several were combinations of topics.

Finally it was narrowed to the Top 12 and then the Top 3: "Shelter from Storm," "A time for outrage" and "Has Jean Chretien gone too far?" were the final order.

## About the judge

By Nils Rosdahl

*[Editor's note: Nils Rosdahl has been a journalism instructor and adviser to the award-winning student newspaper, The Sentinel, at North Idaho College since 1985. He is past president of the Community College Journalism Association and the Pacific Northwest Journalism Educators. Rosdahl has an M.A. in Communications (1980) from the University of Washington and a B.A. in Journalism (1967) from the University of Montana. He writes a weekly business column for the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Wash.]*

When I was in the fifth grade in the 1950s, my home town in western Montana was in such a steep canyon that radio and television did not reach us. That was before satellites and even relay towers. I had the *Spokesman-Review* paper route, and I knew the news (and scores) before anyone in town.

So I knew I wanted to be in the news business when I grew up. I was editor of my high school and college papers and was a full-time reporter for *The Missoulian* all four years at the University of Montana. During my four years as a Public Relations Specialist for the U.S. Coast Guard, I was a sports writer nights and weekends for papers in Chicago and San Francisco suburbs. Afterward I was a reporter/editor in Seattle suburbs. But I wanted a change when our family started.

And what a thrill that change was!

While getting a master's degree in communications

at the University of Washington, I was a teaching assistant, I substitute-taught journalism classes at community colleges, and I started my own Sports Journalism class at UW. I really liked teaching willing students about the news profession I love.

That hasn't changed.

My job at North Idaho College is the complete epitome of what I could most want to do professionally and in the best place I could most want to be. Couple this with my family and friends in this fantastic location and I don't see how heaven could be much better.

My job is tremendously rewarding because I have willing students. They want to learn what I have to offer them. Being in my classes is their choice. That in itself is rewarding and makes me want to do my best to teach them things that I hope will help them in their lives — professionally as well as personally and socially.

My most selfish thrill is when I provide something in class and look into (even one) students' eyes and just "see" them thinking "I can really use this" and "I'm so glad I'm learning this." Then I see them using this as they produce one of the nation's top college newspapers.

And I see them use this as they transfer to universities and/or get into the workplace and enjoy their personal lives. Knowing that they're happy is the bottom line because I'm responsible for many of their choices. That's scary. Maybe that's why that heaven someday will offer more.



Nils Rosdahl

# Golden Quill Winner



**Charles Gay**

Editor & Publisher,  
Shelton-Mason County  
Journal

PO Box 430  
Shelton, Washington  
98584

July 10, 2003

## Shelter from storm

**T**he door to the dark closet hiding domestic violence has been opened a crack, allowing any of us to peek in at one of society's horrifying secret problems. Rather than pushing the door shut to muffle the screams of the tortured souls within, let's band together as a community to turn on the light in the closet, give the victims a way out and stop the mayhem concealed there.

**In a recent space of 10 days, Mason County has seen two men kill themselves after domestic disturbances and another man allegedly stab his wife at their home. The woman in the last incident was found in her driveway shortly after 1 o'clock last Friday morning with the blade of a knife protruding from her back. These ghastly events follow on the heels of Tacoma's police chief shooting his estranged wife before killing himself.**

Yet if you noticed only those unusually violent cases, you are missing an epidemic. The *Journal's* court roundups often give accounts of man's inhumanity to woman. In a county of 50,000 people, Turning Pointe — the local nonprofit agency that helps victims of domestic violence — served 1,076 different clients last year. Shelton police received 80 domestic-violence reports in 2002; the sheriff's office received 406 last year and got 162 more through May 2003. This is nothing new. Patty Jo McGill, Turning Pointe's executive director, has been involved in domestic-violence work for 20 years, and the numbers seeking help have seemed fairly steady to her. She's sure that the actual number of incidents is more than double those reported, and she cites national statistics estimating that one out of three women is involved in domestic violence at some time in her life.

**Turning Pointe sees them at all stages. Children affected by domestic violence. Teenage girls beaten by boyfriends. Married women who have put up with abuse to try to keep their families together. And, seven or eight times a quarter, frail elderly women battered.**

These are the ones who have come forward. What would motivate a woman to remain silent? The situations are complex, McGill said, but fear is a huge factor in not abandoning a relationship. "If she leaves, she's 75 times more likely to be killed," McGill said. A battered woman may not be able to rattle off that statistic, but she knows intuitively the severity of the danger she's in. Economic pressures also can come into play if the woman is being supported by the abuser.

**Domestic violence is about power and control, McGill explained. The abuser is a manipulator. There's usually a pattern of behavior starting with verbal or emotional abuse, escalating to physical or sexual abuse, she said.**

Then a three-part cycle begins and can repeat itself: (1) a honeymoon period, (2) a period of building tension, during which the woman is unsuccessfully doing everything she can to keep the man happy, and (3) violence. The sorrow expressed after the violence and the promises that lead into another honeymoon period are part of the manipulation and can keep women in violent relationships, McGill said. After all, women want their marriages to work and their kids to have fathers, she said.

**So blaming the victim for inexplicably remaining in a violent relationship doesn't help her. Being patient, supporting her and encouraging her to seek refuge can help. So can ensuring she has shelter and services when she escapes from her trap.**

This county has needed a shelter for battered women and their children for years. It's time to provide one. McGill and her colleagues are in the process of pursuing grants to help acquire one, but the project is bigger than Turning Pointe. Schools, the hospital, law enforcement, Indian tribes and other entities all deal with domestic-violence victims and see the need for a shelter, she said. "One agency in this community can't do this alone," she added. "The whole community is going to have to pull together to make this happen and keep the women and children of Mason County safe."

**This nation has four times as many animal shelters as shelters for women and girls. Mason County's people can help change that inequity. They also can confront any behavior that degrades, belittles or hurts women.**

The victims need people with a passion for this issue, with time to volunteer and with the financial means to contribute. You can get involved immediately. Attend a Mason County Domestic Violence Task Force meeting at noon on the fourth Monday of each month at the PUD 3 Auditorium. Volunteer for a shift answering Turning Pointe's 24-hour crisis line (a cell phone during non-office hours). Teach one of the agency's educational classes or lead a support group (or provide childcare during one of them). Offer the use of an extra bedroom as a one-night emergency shelter for a battered woman. Or donate money to help Turning Pointe improve its programs. Donations pay for its housing, food and emergency transportation programs for victims. Other programs are funded with state, federal and United Way grants, and McGill is concerned that state budget cuts have dramatically affected Turning Pointe's funding. You can contact Turning Pointe at 432-1212.

**The brutality happening in this dark closet can't be tolerated. Do your part, big or small, to end the violence.**

**FROM THE JUDGE**

As written earlier, the lead to this piece is dramatic and sets a tremendous tone for the reader to want more. The lead is followed by shocking examples of domestic violence.

This is supported by the revealing statistics and the reasons why this happens and why so little is done. Finally (after maybe too much detail) the writer challenges the readers to act.

One of my students who read the editorial said: "This was written with passion. It hit me on a personal note because I have never been able to figure out why women stay with men who beat them, even though I was one of those women. I have never heard it described the way this writer did, and the three-part cycle made a lot of sense."

As written earlier, the combination of sensitivity and common sense make this the winner.

## An explanation from the winner

I'm sure most editorial writers have been in the same position: Things get to the point where one is compelled to write about an issue.

Year after year *The Journal* had published news story after news story about Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and feature stories about breaking the cycle of domestic violence, and personal stories about women who had escaped that hell. My editorial was an attempt to break out of the news routine and implore people to do something about these atrocities.

I'd always had thoughts in the back of my mind. I remembered a conversation 20 years ago with a friend teaching high school here who wanted to run a home for the neglected and abused kids she saw in her classes. I'd often wondered how I could raise \$200,000 to give a house to a nonprofit agency for a women's shelter or "safe home." I'd known since I was young that domestic violence could strike anyone, because my sister's nice boyfriend in high school hit her and then stalked her after she left him.

*The Journal* publishes the results of domestic violence cases at three levels of court here. In the last several years, there seemed to be entirely too many of them. Then last year, when a story was going nationwide about the Tacoma police chief shooting his estranged wife and killing himself, three particularly violent incidents occurred in Mason County within a short period. The average incident is on page 15. These were all on the top half of the front page. I had just finished collecting statistics for our county almanac, and the domestic violence numbers in the crime statistics were appalling. All of these things past and present made me decide to research an editorial.

I knew that I had to establish the extent of the

problem. If you took the county's 49,800 inhabitants and subtracted the 1,655 who were in prison here and then allowed for 18,819 men age 20 and older, you were left with 29,326 women, girls and boys, and more than a thousand of them in one year ended up at Turning Pointe, the agency that works with domestic violence victims.

Mason County had two dog shelters and a cat shelter for abandoned and abused animals but no shelter for battered women.

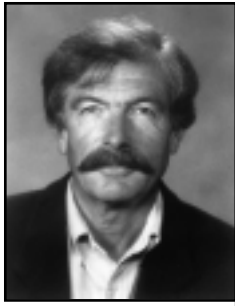
I knew that I had to give at least a brief explanation of why women stay in abusive relationships, because many people have no sympathy for women they regard as crazy.

I interviewed the director of Turning Pointe for background information. The people at the agency have real problems with *The Journal's* policy of naming witnesses in all felony trials, including rape trials, which affects some of their clients. However, I had a productive interview and learned there were half a dozen things citizens could do immediately to make a difference in victims' lives.

My aim was to depict brutal situations, a social need unmet and an opportunity for the average person to help.

What difference did the editorial make? I don't know. A month later, a man shot his pregnant girlfriend, killing her and the unborn child, and then killed himself. The 2002 city statistics I quoted were worse (doubled) in 2003. But Mason County got some great news in April 2004 with the announcement that the new state budget had money in it to support a safe house in the county.

Perhaps it was time for legislators to act, like it was time to write an editorial.



## Wm. F. Schanen III

Editor & Publisher,  
Ozaukee Press

PO Box 249  
Port Washington, Wisconsin  
53074

May 15, 2003

### FROM THE JUDGE

**This editorial encourages readers to express their disagreement with the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature. This committee cut the state's stewardship (conservation) fund by \$245 million. The fund protects natural areas from development.**

**Like the first-place winner, the lead is very worthy: "There are times when public policy should be guided by public outrage. This is one of those times in Wisconsin."**

**The committee move is unwise because most of the conservation funding actually comes from matching grants and bonds. It's only one-half of 1 percent of the state's budget. The writer ends by telling how public outrage can work: Two weeks earlier the same committee rescinded an action when the public cried against it.**

# A time for outrage

**T**he Joint Finance Committee's attack on conservation of Wisconsin resources must be turned back by an outraged public

There are times when public policy should be guided by public outrage. This is one of those times in Wisconsin.

The state's Legislature's Joint Finance Committee last week stuck a knife in the heart of Wisconsin's conservation heritage and the future that heritage has so far protected. It was an outrage that must be countered not by the tired games of politics, but by the people's outrage.

The committee cut the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Fund by \$245 million, an act that will cripple the state's ability to buy land for preservation and recreation. The Stewardship Program has been the state's single most effective tool to protect natural areas that could otherwise be lost to development.

In Ozaukee County, the Sauk Creek Nature Preserve in Port Washington and the Lion's Den Gorge in the Town of Grafton, both environmentally precious parcels of land that were coveted by developers, would be subdivisions today without the Stewardship Program.

Slashing Stewardship funding is the Finance Committee's idea of striking a blow against the state's \$3.2 billion budget deficit, but what a pathetic blow it is. The Stewardship Fund is financed through bonding. Its annual cost to taxpayers is less than one-half of 1% of the state budget.

Although the cut has small effect on the budget deficit, it has a much larger effect on conservation because Stewardship grants to local governments and land trusts must be matched by funds from other sources. The cause of land conservation will lose not only the funds cut by the committee, but the matching funds and donations the grants would have leveraged.

Gov. Jim Doyle, who has promised to veto the Stewardship cuts if they are enacted by the full Legislature, has branded the Republican-controlled committee's action the work of "far-right" zealots bent on reducing government's role in environmental protection.

The lack of other explanations for the committee's attack on conservation suggests he might be right. Whom does the cutting of Stewardship funds serve?

The people of Wisconsin? Them least of all. The benefits of the Stewardship program apply so broadly that the cuts should offend every resident of the state. Everyone who uses state parks, hunts or fishes, hikes and goes camping, watches birds, studies nature or enjoys Wisconsin's lakes and waterways benefits from the Stewardship program.

The state economy? Hardly. Cutting back on Stewardship undermines the state's second largest industry — tourism. Wisconsin's most powerful appeal to tourists is its natural resources, the lakes, rivers and forests protected by the Stewardship fund.

Fiscal conservatives? On the contrary, the Stewardship Program is government spending that encourages spending from the private sector to conserve resources. What could be more conservative?

The Joint Finance Committee's attack on conservation, in fact, is so far out of the boundaries of responsible public policy that it could earn the contempt of people of all political persuasions. The Stewardship Program could well be the most successful example of bi-partisan legislating in Wisconsin history. It is named for a Republican governor (Knowles) and a Democratic governor (Nelson). The current Democratic governor pledges to defend it to the end. His predecessor, Tommy Thompson, supported the Stewardship program at every turn and was not shy about claiming credit for it.

The attack on Stewardship offends not just the people of Wisconsin but Wisconsin itself — its land and water and the plants and animals that thrive on it. Some of this Wisconsin is doomed to be lost forever if the nasty work in Madison is allowed to stand. The governor's veto may not be enough. The Joint Finance Committee has the power outside of its budgetary role to block state land purchases.

It's time for outrage, time for the people of Wisconsin to tell their legislators they will not stand for breaking the promise to protect their state's natural resources made when the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund was established in 1989.

Does outrage work? Two weeks ago members of a committee of the Legislature decided to pay back some political contributors by weakening the state's No-Call law regulating telemarketers. The public responded with outrage. The committee meekly rescinded its action.

That committee was the Joint Finance Committee.

# Has Jean Chretien gone too far?

**R**egime change can't come soon enough — in Ottawa for a growing number of Canadians.

Jean Chretien's welcome wore out some time back for most of us, though he has just under a year left before he's agreed to leave public office for good.

Before he takes that long walk into indexed pensiondom, however, he wants to leave a legacy.

And among the things he's determined to stick with is a cumbersome and costly gun registry.

The final tally remains unknown. But it's already at a billion dollars, and climbing steadily.

This week, his Liberal government asked the Commons for an additional \$59 million for the embattled registry, which many gun owners consider to be one of the biggest boondoggles of his boondoggle-ridden reign.

And that's putting it kindly.

Furthermore, there are absolutely no guarantees that registering every firearm will result in any significant reduction in the number of accidental deaths or injuries from rifles, shotguns and handguns.

Nor will it do much to make our homes or streets safer, despite the relentless propaganda war being waged by Ottawa for the hearts and minds of those who don't own guns.

And yet, Chretien is determined the registry will get all the public money it needs, regardless of the final cost. So adamant is he, in fact, he threatened to expel from his caucus any MP who voted against the additional funding, even if it means a drubbing from their constituents

in the next election.

You might say he's holding a gun to their heads.

So, whatever happened to his throne speech promise to let his MPs follow their conscience more often, rather than forcing them to toe the party line each and every time an important issue is put to a vote?

Or a greater role for back-benches, like our own Larry Bagnell, who was so angry with how the Liberal regime is handling this issue he boycotted Tuesday's vote in the Commons?

And Chretien's obsession with the gun registry is bound to cost the Liberals votes and seats, though exactly how many is hard to predict at this point.

At least 10 Liberal MPs have expressed their opposition — behind closed caucus doors, of course — to throwing any more public money at the gun registry, which could top out at the \$2-billion mark before every last firearm is duly registered, say some critics.

Surely all this money can be used for better things than feeding a burgeoning bureaucracy that won't make one iota of difference in the number of gun-related injuries or deaths.

And this lumbering beast is never going away. It will dog us forever, sucking up vast sums for years to come. And for what?

So that Jean Chretien can boast he got his way, defied his critics and bullied his back-bench into submission?

The only problem is he won't be around after next February to face the flak, which is certain to increase in intensity and frequency as the cost of his registry keeps edging up and up.



## Peter Lesniak

Editor,  
*Yukon News*

211 Wood Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Territory Y1A 2E4

March 26, 2003

### FROM THE JUDGE

**This writer laments that Canadian leader Jean Chretien, despite having one year left in office, will cost the citizens \$2 billion in his campaign to register firearms. The problems are that registering guns won't cut down on gun accidents and it won't make the streets safer, the writer contends. Meanwhile the move is so unpopular that it will cost the Liberal Party many votes in the next election.**

**Even worse, if the gun registry continues in future years, it will cost the people more money that can be used for better things. The writer has the guts to call the registry one of Chretien's "biggest boondoggles of his boondoggle-ridden reign."**

**Some tutorial advice: Stay away from question headline just as you should stay away from question leads. If the reader's answer is "No," he won't read it.**



## Leslie O'Donnell

Managing Editor,  
*News-Times*

P.O. Box 965  
Newport, Oregon 97365

January 31, 2003

### FROM THE JUDGE

The school board in this Oregon community made a mistake by rescinding an invitation to a resident who was to tell about his experience as a courier to Adolph Hitler, the writer says.

If the school board had done its homework and read what the speaker has written, the trustees would learn all the speaker has done since his youth to work toward world peace. They only reflected on his past; they didn't check on his credentials. The result is a loss to students.

The writer maintains that controlling people is just what isn't needed. The German people didn't know better because of the government-controlled press. The school board is advised to read the man's book before it condemns him.

The writer is very convincing. Once the public read this editorial, bets are that the school board did too — and learned something.

# Read, and you might learn something

**W**e had a chance to witness that old adage — nothing ventured, nothing gained — in operation in Salem this week.

Salem-Keizer School District chose the easy path, the one they thought would be less risky, and certainly the one requiring little effort, by rescinding an invitation extended to Armin Lehmann of Waldport to visit Sprague High School and speak about his experiences as a courier to Hitler in the waning days of World War II.

It's easy to write off Lehmann as a Nazi, who has no place in our public schools. That is, if you've never met him, talked with him, hear him speak, or read his memoir, "Hitler's Last Courier." Or paid attention to the fact that what he learned from his Hitler Youth experience has been translated into spending much of the time since World War II engaged in working for world peace.

While the school district was focused on Lehmann's past, they forgot to check into his present. Fortunately, many Salem students had an opportunity to hear Lehmann when he spoke Wednesday night at the Salem Public Library. That presentation had been advertised for more than a month, but district officials did not check with library staff about Lehmann's credentials.

Or pick up his book. Instead, they checked out an internet book sale site, where anyone willing is welcome to write a review. Even so, all but one review heaped praise on the memoir as a witness to history.

It was too easy to hear the word Nazi, and think anti-Semitism and preaching hatred. The opposite of what Lehmann, in his book and in his words, offers

anyone who will listen.

He humanizes what happens when a family and a state dictate one view and one view alone in his case, in a country where people were encouraged to report questionable behavior by their family and neighbors. Raised in Germany by an autocratic father who allowed no deviation from the path he set for his son, in a country where opposition meant death, Lehmann joined the Hitler youth. After the end of the war, he learned what had been happening in Germany. And he chose to follow the path of peace for the rest of his life.

When we demonize or depersonalize, we find it easy to hate. Hitler preached hatred of Jews. German citizens were taught to hate Jews. And that made it easy to kill Jews. Not individual persons, but a group with no faces, no names.

This week, timid school officials heard "former Nazi" and failed to look beyond the hated word to the person bearing that label. That's their loss, and the loss to their students.

The parallels to the United States today are frightening. We don't need schools encouraging us to think in terms of labels; we need a lesson in humanity, especially in this time of approaching war.

Lehmann, having been there, says it best. In his memoir, he writes, "We were never encouraged to question...we were given no reasons for doubt...we had no access to any but the...government-controlled press. We were forbidden to listen to foreign broadcasts and threatened with penalties for treason."

He offers a lesson to us all. He closes his memoir with the words, "sanctity of life is dependent on our devotion to freedom."

# Justice Was Not Served

**G**ive 'em hell, Elaine. Elaine Hedrick had to be restrained by deputies at the Feb. 28 sentencing of her attacker, Leonard Velasquez. She was so distraught by the light sentence, she started screaming at District Judge Tim Garcia. And rightfully so.

While it's understandable a newly appointed judge will under-go a learning curve, the hand-slapping given Velasquez courtesy of Garcia is sickening.

It's not wise to second-guess a judge or a jury because most of the time we don't know what they know. They have sat throughout the entire trial and hopefully, digested every word. They've heard the tone of voice and seen facial expressions and made eye contact with people who testify.

We read the highlights of the trial. It's not the same. However, in the case of Elaine Hedrick, something went wrong on many levels. Velasquez, her former boyfriend, beat her to the point there were blood spatters in almost every room of Hedrick's house. He beat her, dragged her to another room and beat her some more.

The consequences for his actions: one year with credit for the nine months time served. He'll get credit for good time for the remaining three months so he's soon to be released.

And there's plenty of blame to go around on this one. Garcia was unaware of Velasquez' propensity toward

violence. That's because at the sentencing hearing Assistant District Attorney Adam Bell didn't introduce Velasquez' three prior run-ins with the law over domestic violence.

Velasquez' son Aaron said of his father, "(He is) the best dad this world has ever produced," and that his father had never previously been violent.

In June 2000 that same 14-year-old had to step between the world's best dad and mother before he pounded her like he did Hedrick. In that case Leonard Velasquez was found guilty of misdemeanor battery against Aaron Velasquez' mother Gerri Archuleta.

And the community didn't help either. The Velasquez family showed up in force to tell what a great guy he was and how he couldn't have done what was alleged.

A state police officer wrote in the original complaint that an emergency room physician told him Hedrick suffered fractures to both sides of her face, a fracture to the base of her skull, blurred vision and that her right eye was out of the socket.

In Hedrick's corner a victim's advocate representative and Bell.

Velasquez' attorney Tony Scarborough said the district attorney's office over-prosecuted the case. Tony, we disagree.

To paraphrase Elaine Hedrick, does someone have to be killed before justice is handed out?



**Robert B. Trapp**

**Managing Editor,  
Rio Grande Sun**

P.O. Box 790  
Española, New Mexico  
87532

**March 20, 2003**

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**FROM THE JUDGE**

**"Give 'em hell, Elaine."**

**Once again, a great lead so readers want more. They find that a domestic abuse victim raised hell in court because a judge gave her assailant three months in jail after he beat her to the point that blood was splattered in almost every room of the house.**

**The writer paints a vivid picture of the severity of Elaine's beating. The assailant had beaten women before and was simply slapped on the hand.**

**One of my students who read the editorial said: "This editorial had passion that flowed through it. You immediately felt angry and it got heavier as you got into it."**

**Perhaps this editorial hits close to home for more people than we realize.**



## Jim Painter

Managing Editor,  
West Valley View

200 W. Wigwam Blvd.  
Litchfield Park, Arizona  
85340

October 15, 2003

### FROM THE JUDGE

The writer gives educated reasons of why Wal-Mart shouldn't be allowed to build a superstore in this town. The editorial uses a very organized approach in outlining the reasons to reject Wal-Mart.

Maybe these anti-Wal-Mart reasons are well known elsewhere in the country, but they aren't known in the West, where Wal-Mart is just beginning its intrusion. The three main reasons: poor wages and employee conditions, cheap overseas marketing and discouraging competition.

"With this information, it provided much more value than commentary," a student who read the editorial said.

We in the unWal-Marted West need to know this stuff. Many of our city governments now won't let the giant in.

# The high cost of low prices

**W**al-Mart and the Waltons got to the top the old-fashioned way: by roughing people up. Their low, low prices are the product of two ruthless commandments: Extract the last penny possible from human toil and squeeze the last dime from its thousands of suppliers, who are left with no profit margin unless they adopt the Wal-Mart model of using nonunion labor and shipping production to low-wage hellholes abroad." — *National Public Radio commentator and columnist Jim Hightower in The Nation, Feb. 14, 2002*

Corporate retailer Wal-Mart wants to build one of its big-box supercenters in Goodyear, a prospect that should have local residents and business leaders shaking in their shoes.

Proposed Wal-Marts have been meeting with ever-growing blocs of grassroots opposition recently. Just here in Arizona, citizens groups successfully have deterred Wal-Marts in Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Glendale, Phoenix and Tucson.

So why do so many people object to having a Wal-Mart in their community when the stores are such a boon to consumers with their promises of lower prices than most other retailers and added sales-tax revenue for the city's coffers?

The reasons are myriad.

The first thing residents must ask is why are Wal-Mart's prices so low? The answers are as unpleasant as they are uncomplicated.

#### • Poor working conditions

*USA Today* focused on the plight of Wal-Mart employees in a story headlined "Wal-Mart takes hit on worker treatment," Feb. 10, 2003, ([www.usatoday.com/money/workplace/2003-02-09-wal-mart-cov2-x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/workplace/2003-02-09-wal-mart-cov2-x.htm)). Web sites such as [walmartwatch.com](http://walmartwatch.com) and [altnet.org](http://altnet.org) offer some alarming red flags about the company's track record.

Although the corporation has some 4,300 stores in nine countries and annual revenue of almost \$250 billion (its yearly revenue exceeds the gross domestic product of several industrialized nations including Switzerland and Austria, as well as the combined revenues of Israel and Ireland), Wal-Mart doesn't pay its employees very well. With more than 1.4 million employees, it is the largest private employer in the United States. Almost half of them earn less than \$15,300 per year for full-time work — the federal poverty income level for a family of three. According to *USA Today*, two-thirds of Wal-Mart's employees have no health insurance and 35 percent have no

retirement plan.

These factors contribute to a high turnover rate — more than 500,000 Wal-Mart workers, or more than one-third of the company's workforce, quit every year.

The obvious conclusion from these statistics is that Wal-Mart will not provide meaningful, high-paying jobs to Goodyear residents.

#### • Cheap, overseas manufacturing

Wal-Mart, along with several other big-box retailers including Target and Home Depot, has used its considerable influence to convince U.S. manufacturers to move overseas, where labor is cheap.

Few nations pay workers less or treat them worse than China. Wal-Mart, a private corporation, is China's eighth-largest trading partner, behind Great Britain and Russia.

#### • Competition discouraged

Perhaps the most important reason to resist the proposed Wal-Mart is the negative impact it could have on future economic development in Goodyear.

At least one study has shown that when Wal-Mart comes to an area, other businesses suffer ([www.mainstreetinsights.com](http://www.mainstreetinsights.com)). With such knowledge at their fingertips, other retailers are reluctant to move into an area where they must compete with the corporate behemoth. Wal-Mart even drives its own stores out of business. Its supercenters have forced many of the company's older stores to close, leaving 400 empty stores in 31 states, according to an article in the Sept. 23 issue of *Editor & Publisher* magazine.

If Goodyear approves the supercenter, the city probably will miss out on attracting some other, more desirable, retailers that provide higher incomes for their employees (who, presumably, would be Goodyear residents for the most part).

The Southwest Valley is becoming an increasingly desirable place for retailers. If Goodyear says no to Wal-Mart, other businesses will step up to take its place and the city will still benefit from a burgeoning tax base. The biggest differences will be that the mom-and-pop businesses that exist here now will have a better chance for survival and other retailers will find the city more attractive, ultimately giving Goodyear consumers more choices.

The Goodyear Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Wal-Mart's site plan at 7 p.m. Oct. 22 at the Hampton Inn & Suites on Litchfield Road. Every Goodyear resident who loves his community and wants to see it continue to grow as a dynamic, attractive city should show up and demand that the City Council reject this greedy corporation.

# Progressing through an embarrassing situation

**N**o one, except perhaps the boys involved, knows precisely what happened Jan. 21 when two senior wrestlers confronted a sophomore cheerleader in the boys' locker room at North Sanpete High School.

There have been reports about shaving of hair "just below the belly button" and reports about shaving "in the groin area." There's a big difference.

But the fact that the county attorney evaluated the case as qualifying for simple, misdemeanor assault charges suggests the incident may not have been as serious as some initially feared.

But it was serious. We cannot tolerate students mistreating, ridiculing, humiliating or using physical force against other students in our schools.

The seniors apparently targeted the sophomore because he was a little different from them, and because he didn't want to wrestle but rather chose to be North Sanpete's first male cheerleader. The wrestlers deserved suspension from school and banishment from the wrestling team.

If the wrestlers are found guilty in court, they should publicly apologize to the cheerleader. Depending on the evidence, they possibly should be ordered to receive counseling.

Some who testified at a school board meeting on the incident said such behavior has occurred in the past, but people haven't made an issue of it because they feared offending the perpetrators' families.

In response, we say: Congratulations to the sophomore student's friends, who talked him into going to the principal. Congratulations to his parents, who went to the principal and called police. Congratulations to other parents, who called the superintendent, school board members, police and media.

Sanpete is a county of small towns where people must live and work closely with each other. But with a population of 22,000, our county is way too big for personal relationships to impede the administration of justice.

Our observation is that Sanpete County doesn't work that way. For the most part, our police, county attorney and city prosecutors investigate and prosecute cases based on the law. People do not get special

treatment from the legal system because of their family name.

It does appear that North Sanpete Principal John Ericksen didn't respond to the incident as decisively and quickly as he should have. But Ericksen is a good man. At the time of the incident, he had only been principal for four months. Moreover, in decades within the school system, he had never encountered a comparable incident.

The case highlights what a tough job a school principal has. Besides coordinating everything from class registration to competency testing, a principal must evaluate and respond to misbehavior in accordance with the psychological needs of students and a plethora of school policies.

If a principal doesn't know the policies or apply them effectively, he or she can subject the district to serious liabilities. Now that the cheerleader's parents have threatened a lawsuit, that is exactly what the North Sanpete district is facing.

Finally, the case points to the need to reduce the emphasis on, and glorification of, athletics in our local high schools. Athletics are a worthy extracurricular endeavor, but no more worthy than drama, the Spanish club, the technology club or Future Farmers of America.

One of the youths accused in the incident is nearly 19 and as such is much more physically mature than most students in the school. He has completed high school graduation requirements. It appears his main motivation for remaining in school is to participate in athletics.

We hear about instances where students participate on varsity high school teams for three, four and five years. Possibly the Utah High School Activities Association could help schools put athletics in perspective by limiting the years of varsity participation, just as the NCAA does at the college level.

For now, we look to the courts for a final resolution of this embarrassing case. Hopefully, the legal action brought by the cheerleader's parents can be resolved at minimal cost to the district. Meanwhile, we anticipate the district will review the incident and implement new procedures to prevent anything like it from happening again.



**Suzanne Dean**

**Publisher,  
Sanpete Messenger**

35 S. Main  
Manti, Utah 84642

**February 13, 2003**

## **FROM THE JUDGE**

**The bottom-line message here is that the harassment of younger, smaller high school students by bigger, older students cannot be tolerated – as the school's administration has done.**

**Although the theme is good, the length is overdone. It'd be tough to get most readers through it to get to the advised resolution.**



**Tim L. Waltner**

**Publisher,  
Freeman Courier**

P.O. Box 950  
Freeman, South Dakota  
57029

**November 12, 2003**

**FROM THE JUDGE**

**Similar to the Wal-Mart item, this editorial reflects on information that hometown readers simply may not know about and warns that people need to defend their constitutional rights.**

**The writer tells about a police drug raid in a South Carolina high school. The police pointed guns at students, pushed them up against the wall and searched them and had them get on their knees with their hands on their heads.**

**No drugs were found.**

**The writer ends: "We (must) keep our perspective and avoid getting caught up in the fear-based paranoia that stands to tear apart the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness."**

**A student who read the editorial said: "The author makes a very good point that our children are presumably guilty. It could have been a massacre of innocent children. That's just terrible."**

# Police state mentality crosses the line in high school raid

**P**olice in Goose Creek, S.C., are defending their decision to send a team of officers, some with guns drawn, into Stratford High School last week conducting a drug raid that turned up no drugs.

The school district is also defending its role in the incident, which has triggered outrage among some in the community ... and beyond.

Outrage indeed.

The problem of illegal drugs is real and that includes students and schools.

But the sobering images of this random, warrantless mass search for drugs should concern everyone.

The actions by the police — and school officials — send a disturbing message.

They suggest that our children are all presumed guilty. They suggest law enforcement officials can do whatever they want in their search for drugs.

They suggest that constitutional rights can be ignored on a whim.

On Nov. 5, 14 officers went to the school and, within 30 seconds, Lt. Dave Aarons of the Goose Creek Police Department said, they had moved to "safely secure the 107 students who were in that hallway."

Video of the raid shows police unholstering their weapons and pointing them at students.

Imagine, just for a minute, what would have happened had something occurred that resulted in shots being fired.

Imagine a gun battle in a high school hallway filled with 107 students — the overwhelming number innocent — and 14 armed police officers, a situation created by the police themselves.

Imagine that taking place in the halls of a Freeman school.

Not surprisingly, Stratford High School students described last week's incident as frightening.

"They would go put a gun up to them, push them against the wall, take their book bags and search

them," Aaron Sims, 14, told CNN affiliate WCSC. "They just came up and got my friend, not even saying anything or what was going to happen ... I was scared."

Lt. Aarons said "12 to 14 students" were placed in handcuffs or plastic flex-cuffs "due to their failure to respond to repeated police instructions to get on their knees with their hands on their heads."

A canine unit was brought in and the dog responded positively to 12 book bags. But when those "suspicious" bags were searched by school officials no drugs were found.

Again, not a single arrest was made.

What these events did was frighten students and trample on their civil liberties.

Why, some may ask, should someone in South Dakota care about what happens in a South Carolina high school we've never heard of before?

Because the "war on drugs/war on terrorism" mentality seems to be increasing in intensity, permeating our society and increasingly turning into a war on personal and civil liberties.

And because, if that can happen in South Carolina, it can happen in South Dakota.

Stratford High School Principal George McCrackin, has been quoted as calling the raid "an inconvenience" and saying "I think there's a valuable experience there."

Valuable experience indeed, if we realize just how dangerous what took place in the halls of that South Carolina high school really is.

Valuable experience indeed, if we stand up to defend our constitutional rights and those of our children.

Valuable experience indeed, if we can keep our perspective and avoid getting caught up in the fear-based paranoia that stands to tear apart the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness which American citizens have enjoyed for more than 225 years.

# What does it mean when cops need choppers?

**A**nyone who supports the efforts of TakeFlight Winnipeg in its efforts to raise up to \$2 million to purchase a police helicopter for the city is obviously asking for increased police presence and more law and order.

If there is need for more law and order, it would follow that too little attention has been paid to the causes of lawlessness and disorder, of which poverty is the greatest.

When malnourished children cannot stay awake in class, they are not likely to do well in school, they are not likely to graduate, nor to find work. They are very likely to eventually find themselves getting free room and board in Headingley jail or Stony Mountain prison. That is, unfortunately, the way it works.

The National Council of Welfare says Canada's justice system is "irrational, unfair, poorly run and routinely discriminates against poor people" — those kids who repeatedly went hungry and fell asleep at school.

"People from all levels of society commit crimes, but crime enforcement resources are heavily concentrated on the close surveillance of young men in low-income neighbourhoods," the council says. "Not surprisingly, the resulting crop of suspects picked up and charged by the police does not reflect the distribution of crime so much as the distribution of poverty in our society."

The council has clearly and forcefully drawn a connection between poverty and crime, yet the resources put into combatting the symptom far outweigh those put toward addressing the cause. Purchase of a police helicopter is a prime example.

In its criticism of authorities for their failure to correct the obvious shortcomings of the justice system, The National Council of Welfare points a finger at school boards and all three levels of government:

- "School boards that fail to teach non-violence but respond to acts of violence by adopting 'zero tolerance' policies that send kids into the streets and eventually to jail."
- "Municipal governments reluctant to increase unpopular taxes impose more and higher fines to raise revenue, sending to prison the poor who can't pay fines directly or by doing community work."
- "Provincial governments constantly denounce crime and promise more police to produce safer streets. At the same time, their cutbacks to health, welfare and employment services throw more mentally ill, homeless families and unemployed youths into the streets, where they frighten local residents."

• "Governments and political parties that are constantly promising largely futile or counterproductive anti-crime measures spread fear in the population by giving the impression that crime is widespread and growing in Canada."

Winnipeg Police Chief Jack Ewatski has reportedly said the annual operating cost of a police helicopter, in the \$600,000-plus range, needs to be weighed against other initiatives being considered by the police, such as placing more officers in schools and expanding a domestic abuse unit, which are at least slightly more geared toward prevention.

The decision should be a no-brainer. What could an additional \$2 million outright, and \$600,000 a year do for these programs and similar initiatives?

And what could Winnipeg Harvest do with \$2 million and another \$600,000 annually? Every \$1 donated to Harvest can be turned into \$20 worth of groceries. What could \$40 million of groceries do toward keeping young, poorly nourished school children awake in class?

Unfortunately, Chief Ewatski's job has a lot more to do with nabbing the bad guys than with preventing them. He will likely jump at the opportunity to add a pretty effective weapon to his arsenal of tools for doing so.

But the fact will remain, just adding more police services will not have any permanent effect on alleviating crime.

The National Council of Welfare makes a lot of sense when it says the best ways to reduce crime are to help vulnerable parents, maintain a strong social safety net, and ensure good jobs for young people.

Such an approach would effectively rule out the necessity for overzealous policing and aggressive enforcement programs that essentially target poor neighbourhoods.

The police need to be effective, but whenever their presence is increased, there needs to be a corresponding increase in crime prevention efforts. Otherwise, it's a case of closing the gate after the horse has run away, and attempting to solve a problem by throwing money at its symptoms.

If the boat leaks, instead of bailing harder and harder, why not find the hole and fix it? Governments and political parties can lead the way by ending their use of crime as a political weapon and, instead, spend more energy and resources addressing the issues of poverty that lead to lawlessness and disorder. In the meantime, everyone should keep in mind that Canada is still one of the safest countries in the world.



**Rick Johnson**

**Editor,  
The Headingley Headliner**

1-126 Bridge Road  
Headingley, Manitoba R4H 1G3

**August 25, 2003**

## **FROM THE JUDGE**

**A great bottom line to this situation is near the beginning of the editorial: Rather than spend \$2 million on a police helicopter, let's give more attention to poverty, the greatest cause of lawlessness and disorder.**

**You feed children, and they'll stay awake in school, get educated, find jobs. The writer enumerates support from the National Council of Welfare. The editorial points out that each dollar donated to the food bank buys \$20 in groceries, and that this keeps kids in school.**

**The police chief would rather spend money nabbing bad guys than preventing kids from becoming them. Helicopters won't alleviate crime. It's "closing the gate after the horse has run away."**

**Great metaphor.**



**Mike Burkett**

Staff Writer,  
*West Valley View*

200 W. Wigwam Blvd.  
Litchfield Park, Arizona  
85340

April 2, 2003

**FROM THE JUDGE**

**The message here is simply that disagreeing with the government is not anti-American.**

**In fact, it's our right.**

**The writer compares the two sides of public sentiment regarding the Iraq War to the Vietnam War. The anti-protestors still maintain "Love it or leave it." The writers calls them "frothy-mouthed souls."**

**Great!**

**The editorial says freedom of speech, freedom of ideas and freedom of religious beliefs are the very core reasons Americans love their country.**

**We shouldn't be so threatened by those who disagree with us.**

**"It's when we start wanting to suppress disagreement that we begin looking like ... well, like the people we usually drop bombs on."**

**Right on, Brother!**

# America: you can love it *as well as* disagree with it

**H**elp. We've been transported back in time against our will.

All of a sudden, just like in the 1960s, you can't turn on a radio talk show, peruse a letters-to-the-editor page or watch the evening news without encountering some frothy-mouthed soul who'd love nothing more than to ship this country's "shameful and unpatriotic" war protesters directly to Saddam Hussein's finest torture chamber.

Although we've yet to hear the actual words, the basic message of these folks is identical to that of a horrifyingly popular bumper sticker from the Vietnam era: America, love it or leave it.

That sentiment confuses us now even more than it confused us then. If we haven't learned from our bone-headed thinking of 30-plus years ago, are we ever going to learn?

Aren't freedom of speech, freedom of ideas and freedom of spiritual beliefs the very core reasons Americans love their country?

Don't we claim to be protecting those rights, and aiming to share their blessings with others, whenever we start dropping bombs and sacrificing young lives?

Right at this moment, aren't we "liberating" Iraq so its citizens — for the first time since Saddam took

power — can say what they think without fear of being considered "shameful and unpatriotic" fodder for execution?

Why is it that so many Americans are repulsed by those who simply find it difficult, if not impossible, to see much enduring good that's been accomplished by war over the history of humankind?

Why do so many Americans feel that such difficulty amounts to spit in the face of every man and woman who has served in this country's battles? Why do so many seem to believe it's impossible to support one's brothers and sisters while adhering, best as one can, to the ancient dictum, "thou shalt not kill"?

And why is it that so many human beings — on all sides of all the issues which divide them — are so threatened by anyone who simply disagrees with their point of view?

Disagreements, and our absolute freedom to peacefully voice them — no matter if someone else thinks we're right, wrong or profoundly goofy — are the greatest gifts every American is handed, automatically, at birth.

It's when we start wanting to suppress disagreement that we begin looking like ... well, like the people we usually drop bombs on.

# School board shows leadership

**T**he Yellow Springs school board should be commended for passing a resolution opposing an American-led war on Iraq and encouraging the U.S. government to consider peaceful alternatives with the Iraqi government. While some are criticizing the board for its action, it is perfectly appropriate for a board of education to comment on national, state or local issues. School boards are not apolitical, and board members are duly elected officials who have the right, maybe even the responsibility, to respond to issues they think will affect schools. That is a sign of leadership.

Indeed, in times such as these, we look to our elected officials to be leaders. By approving its anti-war resolution, board members showed that, as educators, parents and community members, they understand the severity of this war and the impact it could have on our world and our children.

This is not the first time the Yellow Springs Board of Education has taken a position on a political issue. About two years ago, the school board took a stand opposing the naming of a Greene County highway after a deceased doctor who was accused of being a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Not surprisingly, the board's position hardly sparked a whimper of protest in this community.

Approved last month, the school board's antiwar resolution tied the war with education, indicating that

an attack on Iraq and other worldwide conflicts will affect students. Since schools are responsible for helping children become good citizens of the world, the board's declaration also reflects what should be a goal of educators everywhere: to reduce conflict through peace. As the board said, a primary goal of education is to promote "reflection, intelligent action and cooperation among individuals and groups."

Perhaps this resolution will even spark a great debate among Yellow Springs High School students, who could discuss whether they agree with the board. That would be an excellent way to encourage democracy and discourse and further education in our schools.

If the board took a misstep, it was in considering and then passing the resolution in one session. The board should have waited at least one meeting before taking a vote, which would have given local residents a chance to comment. But this small pique does not diminish the school board's resolve or its stance.

The bottom line is the board was participating in the democratic process when it passed its resolution. The board's action does not mean that local residents must now fall in line with the board's position, or that local deliberations on the war are over. The vote was not a communitywide referendum, it was a measure that says the five members of the Board of Education oppose a war against Iraq.



**Robert Mihalek**

**Editor,**  
*Yellow Springs News*

P.O. Box 187  
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

**March 6, 2003**

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**FROM THE JUDGE**

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**In an unusual move, this town's school board passed a resolution opposing the "American-led war of Iraq and encouraging the U.S. government to consider some peaceful alternatives with the Iraqi government."**

**The writer commends the board for its sign of leadership. "Indeed, in times such as these, we look to our elected officials to be leaders." It showed students to try to resolve conflict through peace.**



## M. Dickey Drysdale

Editor & Publisher,  
*The Herald of Randolph*

P.O. Box 309  
Randolph, Vermont 05060

May 22, 2003

### FROM THE JUDGE

As other top choices earlier, this editorial is informational as well as guiding. The writer tells the dangers of possible media monopolies as proposed FCC changes would allow more multiple media ownerships.

This would control advertising dollars, limit news access and lessen its quality. The editorial ends: In the Bush administration, it appears, the opportunity for more profits trumps the national interest every time.

My students noticed that though the message was good, the item was hurt by some awkward phrasing.

# Media Madness

**T**here's no way that *The Herald of Randolph* is likely to be the target of a hostile takeover by the local radio station — but still, it's comforting that such a scenario is illegal.

Likewise, it is distressing to see the Bush administration stepping all over itself in its haste to eliminate the regulations — perfectly willing to allow radio stations and newspapers to grow into monopolies that could result in citizens hearing only one side of every question.

The takeover of the Federal Communication Commission by Bush toadie Michael Powell has resulted in a proposal for a June 2 vote which would further relax media ownership rules — as if the ownership of American media isn't already sufficiently controlled by huge corporations.

One change that Powell wants to make is to make it easier for the same company to own both a newspaper and a TV station in the same market. Another would allow a single company to own TV stations that reach 45% of the national audience.

What would it mean to have both the newspaper and the radio or TV in a city controlled by the same company?

The Randolph radio stations of WCVR and WWWT are now owned by Clear Channel Radio, the largest chain in the world, which owns 1200 radio stations. Buying a newspaper like *The Herald*

(should it be for sale) would be like gobbling crumbs off the floor for Clear Channel. Then it would control advertising dollars for the entire community. It would not have to produce good programming, and its acquired newspaper would not have to write much news — because folks would have nowhere else to turn.

The reverse situation could apply in Burlington, as the *Rutland Herald* pointed out. The *Free Press* is owned by the Gannett Co., the country's biggest newspaper chain. What if it should buy WCAX, the independent television station that has kept a lively news presence in Burlington? One can only speculate that the *Free Press* would get worse and WCAX would get worse, while the combined advertising revenues would flow in a river to the corporation.

The proposed rule change by the FCC has plenty of opponents. The current rules, said U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, are "the last bulwark against open, unfettered ownership." The Vermont House and Senate combined last week in a rare unanimous resolution to request that the Powell bulldozer slow down and allow for hearings and more national discussion.

News from Washington, however, is that Powell has the votes and he intends to push ahead. In the Bush administration, it appears, the opportunity for more profits trumps the national interest every time.

# The 29th annual Eugene Cervi Award



The Eugene Cervi Award was established by ISWNE in 1976 honor the memory of Eugene Cervi of the *Rocky Mountain Journal*, Denver, by recognizing a newspaper editor who has consistently acted in the conviction that “good journalism begets good government.”

The award is presented not for a single brave accomplishment, however deserving, but for a career of outstanding public service through community journalism and for adhering to the highest standards of the craft with the deep reverence for the English language that was the hallmark of Gene Cervi’s writing. The award also recognizes consistently aggressive reporting of government at the grassroots level and interpretation of local affairs.

Cervi died on Dec. 15, 1970, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident. He was 64. Several ISWNE members regard him as their “journalism conscience.”



## This Year’s Winner Is...

### Frank Garred

When Clallam County in Washington sued the *Sequim Gazette* in 1999 to prevent disclosure of information revealed in an employee survey, defending the public’s right to access that information was never in question.

Then-publisher Frank Garred, with a neighboring daily ally and co-defendant, raised a defense against any court-directed order keeping secret the survey details. “The county prosecutor told us the suit was a simple process to maintain what the county commissioners had promised their employees: secrecy and anonymity,” Garred recalled.

The county got neither, though both newspapers weren’t anxious to pursue a legal challenge to gain access to the survey results in the first place. After all they were anonymous, and were only referenced to a source by identification numbers even the county couldn’t decode. They belonged to the surveying contractor. There were other ways, besides legal action, to get county employees’ comments on the record about their bosses. Just ask them. The *Gazette* published every response.

What this suit foretold was a strategy by other Washington State public agencies and districts to prevent disclosure of “sensitive” material to the media and the public. The state’s public records law has no such exemption to disclosure. And several other similar actions around the state simply dissolved.

When the suit was called, the county admitted the documents were public, but that commissioners wanted to show their employees they were committed to their promised course.

The suit failed dramatically. The court threw it out, assigned more than \$12,000 in recoverable costs to the newspapers and the county paid. “The county sued its electorate, in a very real sense, and wasted those dollars to pursue an untenable course,” Garred said.

But fighting to access the public’s records, and to hold government agencies accountable for their actions, is not a one-time shot for Garred.

He’s spent a career spanning more than 40 years as a journalist serving the public’s right to know through the pages of his newspapers and, occasionally, in the courts.

Graduating in 1958 from the University of Washington with a degree in Journalism, he first entered the Army, serving a year in Korea as a lieutenant, before discovering that a military career could not satiate a curiosity for spreading self-evident truth. He joined the *Aberdeen (Wash.) Daily World* in December 1960 fresh out of the Army. He was a bureau reporter at Raymond, Wash., covering Pacific County for the *World*. It was a lonely beat, but the opportunities to cover a variety of news and features, develop a photography skill, and work independent — for the most part — of newspaper bureaucracy was a thrill (and an education).

By 1962 Garred had collected his clips and offered them to a new weekly newspaper near Tacoma, Wash. It was one of the first so-called suburban community newspapers in the state anchored in and surrounded by unincorporated residential enclaves. He was hired as editor with the mission of challenging the strong family-owned Tacoma daily, the *News-Tribune*. “We challenged the heck out of them in our area. We had fun, created in-depth reports on community issues here-to-for ignored by the daily. We reflected the lives and aspirations of a community that had no real identity, until we helped focus on it,” Garred said.

But the economic uncertainties of the suburban newspaper — and the too frequent change in management and ownership — led Garred to form a coalition with two other Washington state community newspaper owners to buy the *Port Townsend Leader*. From 1967 to 2002 Garred retained ownership and management of the very independent *Leader*. His mentors, Bruce Wilson (who owned and operated the *Omak Chronicle* and later became a state senator) and Henry Gay (owner-publisher-editor of the *Shelton-Mason County Journal*) supported his “independence” as silent but supportive partners for most of that year.

By 1989 Garred had a concern that the *Leader* might leak into corporate ownership if a crisis sale of his newspaper was forced. So he

recruited a “junior” partner, created an equity contract right from the start, with the commitment to transition ownership over the next 10 years. It took 12, but that commitment never wavered. Today Scott Wilson, Bruce’s son and Garred’s “junior” partner, is owner-editor-publisher of *The Leader*. “It was an ordained process that I hope other community newspaper families can emulate in an effort to secure for our industry a continuing independent press,” Garred said.

In 1998 Garred and Wilson purchased an interest in a neighboring newspaper publishing company, with Garred assuming the role of publisher at Sequim for *The Gazette* and other publications of the company. They sold their interest in 2002.

Through the years of awards for writing and photography Garred’s only ambition has been to serve his readers “with journalistic passion, one based on objectivity, ethical standards and a public’s right to know,” he said.

Garred served as president of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association in 1973 and on its board for nearly 16 years. He served on the board and as an officer with the National Newspaper Association, and

as president of that organization in 1993. He served in the same capacity with the National Newspaper Association Foundation. He represented NNA on the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications for seven years following his presidency. He is a past president and board member of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors, an organization that supports the creation and development of strong editorial voices among the world’s community newspapers.

He also has served in numerous capacities on community service and non-profit organizations. In autumn 2003 Garred returned to the “classroom” as an adjunct instructor for journalism reporting at Western Washington University. He currently is interim executive director of the Washington Coalition for Open Government, an educational and advocacy non-profit group committed to maintaining and improving transparency in government at all levels.

He and his wife of 46 years, Patricia, live in Port Townsend, Wash. They have two grown children, Susan in Seattle and Chris in Dallas.

# GENE CERVI AWARD WINNERS

2004 **Frank Garred**, *The Port Townsend Leader*, Port Townsend, Wash.

2003 **Gary & Helen Sosniecki**, *The Lebanon Daily Record*, Lebanon, Mo.

2002 **Bill Meyer**, *Marion County Record*, Marion County, Kan.

2001 **Marg Hennigar**, *Lighthouse Publishing*, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

2000 **Allan A. Seiler**, *The Pike Press*, Pittsfield, Ill.

1999 No award given

1998 **Jack Authelet**, *Foxboro (Mass.) Reporter*

1997 **Carol Wilcox & Cary Stiff**, *Clear Creek Courant*, Idaho Springs, Colo.

1996 **Charlotte & Marvin Schexnayder**, *Dumas (Ark.) Clarion*

1995 No award given

1994 **Jim MacNeill**, *The Eastern Graphic*, Montague, Prince Edward Island

1993 **Bob Bliss**, *The Montgomery County News*, Hillsboro, Ill.

1992 **Robert Trapp**, *Rio Grande Sun*, Espanola, N.M.

1991 **Henry Gay**, *Shelton-Mason County Journal*, Shelton, Wash.

1990 **Karl Monroe**, *Collinsville (Ill.) Herald*



**Garred**



**G. Sosniecki**



**H. Sosniecki**



**Meyer**

1989 **William Rotch**, *Milford (N.H.) Cabinet*

1988 **Bruce Bruggmann**, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*

1987 **James Russell Wiggins**, *Ellsworth (Maine) American*

1986 **Rollin McCommons**, *Athens (Ga.) Observer*

1985 **McDill (Huck) Boyd**, *Phillips County Review*, Phillipsburg, Kan.

1984 **Richard McCord**, *Santa Fe (N.M.) Reporter*

1983 **Homer Marcum**, *The Martin Countian*, Inez, Ky.

1982 **Kieth Howard**, *Yellow Springs (Ohio) News*

1981 **Edward DeCourcy**, *Newport (N.H.) Argus Champion*

1980 **Robert Estabrook**, *Lakeville (Conn.) Journal*

1979 **Houstoun Waring**, *Littleton (Colo.) Independent*

1978 **Tom Leathers**, *The Squire*, Kansas City, Mo.

1977 **Charles & Virginia Russell**, *Dewitt County Observer*, Clinton, Ill.

1976 **Blair Macy**, *Keene Valley Sun*, Kennesburg, Colo.



**Hennigar**



**Seiler**



**Bliss**



**Estabrook**

# A few words from Frank Garred's supporters

## An undaunted community newspaper publisher

Frank Garred is an inspiration to community newspaper editors and others throughout Washington State and beyond. And I use the word "inspiration" literally.

He inspires the respect of editors and publishers who have to make tough decisions in the face of pressure from big advertisers who happen to also be caught in the middle of a controversial news story.

He inspires the trepidation of public officials who are trying to gloss over their mistakes or misdeeds with a lot of bureaucratic or financial jargon. At some point in the effort, they realize they're not fooling Frank.

He inspires the trust of reporters who learn that when the heat is on and the chips are down, their editor and publisher is backing them up both publicly and privately.

He inspires the respect of his peers throughout the state, the region and the nation with his advocacy of community journalism in both its fearless reporting and editorializing, and its independent ownership. In the latter cause, Garred is among the nation's most effective advocates against the often subtle concessions to independent news coverage that could be made for larger market considerations.

For the last several months, he has inspired dozens of college journalism students to buck up their courage with the knowledge of their responsibility to truth without fear or favor. He's also helped them to consider community newspapers as not just a starting point but an ending point in their careers.

And most importantly, he has inspired the respect of his readers who have learned over many years that what they read in the local newspaper is unbiased, unvarnished and direct. He is very well deserving of the Eugene Cervi Award.

After attending journalism school at the University of Washington, Garred became editor of a newspaper in Lakewood, a suburb of Tacoma. In 1967, he and his young wife Pat purchased the *Port Townsend Leader* with the help of two senior community newspaper publishers, Bruce A. Wilson (Omak, Wash.) and Henry Gay (Shelton, Wash.). That's when Garred started to make his mark on Port Townsend, the north Olympic Peninsula, and his chosen profession.

Various cows that were sacred for the previous publisher — quickly learned there was a new newspaperman in town. Special deals for certain businesses were put on a rate-sheet basis. Business transactions were covered as news, not as promotional announcements. Government officials learned that information that came to the newspaper and its new editor-publisher usually wound up in print, rather than as part of a conspiracy of silence.

Disclosure became the rule, and the chips would fall where they may.

And fall they did.

A financial scheme based on fictional Florida investments that almost bankrupted the county treasury was exposed, and the voters responded accordingly.

A port commissioner who lived in the wrong district was exposed and resigned.

A veteran who claimed medals for valor under fire that he never earned was exposed and disgraced. The intricacies of city and county budgets were revealed in lay terms, and their secrets brought to the light of public understanding.

The fact that certain city council members came to their meetings a few sheets to the wind, always winked at in the past, was made part of the news for the first time.

Based on a January 1998 story that was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize, a young man was granted a pardon from a federal penitentiary based on *The Leader's* uncovering a spiral of official errors that had produced a travesty

of justice.

For those in public life, the rule of "get along" became the rule of accountability. Under Garred, the rulebook became straightforward and unflinching. If you did it, it will be reported, and you will be held accountable. If you don't want it in the newspaper, then don't do it.

Those same principles applied to the business side of the operation. In 1989, *The Leader* newsroom did a series of articles about a land use development that revealed some links between an unscrupulous developer and people in the real estate industry. This became the subject of a widespread public protest that divided the community.

In response to what they perceived as bad publicity, some Realtors organized an advertising boycott of *The Leader*. At the time, the real estate industry was the largest advertiser in the newspaper, responsible for two or three full pages each week.

The editor went to Garred to ask what the newspaper should do. "Don't change a single thing," Garred said. There was to be no change in the coverage or in the community comment permitted through letters to the editor. There was also no private bowing and scraping to the advertisers.

The newspaper just carried on covering the story in a smaller newspaper. After three months, the first full-page real estate ad arrived back in *The Leader*. The next week all the other brokers followed, without comment.

In the case of closed meetings or public records that were made off-limits, Garred was not afraid to carry his case in the court.

*The Port Townsend Leader* became the plaintiff in a handful of records cases, one of which set a state precedent for open government. And he would lobby legislators and bureaucrats in Olympia for the same cause.

Garred also got involved in the community, but in ways that would promote it without compromising his or the newspaper's integrity.

He was instrumental in launching a now-famous marathon race that draws out thousands of local residents and visitors each May, the Rhododendron Run. He helped start a tennis program. He was a pillar of support for the Jefferson County Historical Society, especially in ensuring that copies of *The Leader*, reaching back to 1889, would always be available for researchers.

Washington's newspaper publishers recognized Garred's contribution when, on Sept. 14, 1994, they named him the first-ever recipient of a new award designed to recognize an entire lifetime of outstanding achievement in the cause of community journalism. His is the first name engraved on the "Miles Turnbull Master Editor and Publisher Award."

When Garred took the reins of what is now the *Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader*, it had a circulation of about 4,000 and a staff of five. When he retired in 2001, *The Leader* had a circulation of 10,000 and a staff of 30. It remains by far the dominant newspaper of its market. For three years, Garred also published the neighboring *Sequim Gazette* and the *Forks Forum* and brought his brand of independent journalism and business practices to those communities as well.

It should be noted that in retirement, Garred again put his money where his mouth has been. He is selling the newspaper to another independent publisher, Scott Wilson, whom he has mentored since 1989.

In mid-2002, Garred was named the first executive director of the Washington Coalition for Open Government, a nonprofit group devoted to freedom of information causes in Washington. The organization has had an immediate impact on open government by intervening in key lawsuits, educating local and state government officials about citizens' open government rights, and building a broad coalition of labor, business, environmental, media and legal interests in this cause. Garred's service, which continues to this day, is unpaid.

In September 2003, he became an adjunct professor in the journalism department of the School of Communications at Western Washington University. Today there are dozens of prospective community journalists

learning the craft and principles of the trade from this energetic, undaunted community newspaper editor and publisher.

— Scott Wilson, publisher, *Port Townsend (Wash.) Leader*

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## A special role in improving journalism education

I first became acquainted with Frank through National Newspaper Association and ISWNE conferences, but even before that, I admired his work. In judging Washington newspapers for the state association's annual contest, I recognized the *Port Townsend Leader* as a lively, informative community paper with a strong editorial page.

My own journalism interests have touched Frank's concerns for many years, as I was first a weekly newspaper editor and publisher, then a journalism professor. One of Frank's special contributions has been his role in bringing both those disciplines closer together.

All of us — editors and professors — have taken part in interminable debates focusing on "Why don't journalism schools do a better job of training journalists?" In contrast to most of us, Frank did something about it. His long service as a newspaper industry liaison to the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication gave him both a unique perspective and an uncomfortable position between sometimes warring siblings.

Frank found himself having to explain to journalism schools why they were viewed with such skepticism by journalists. Then he had to turn around and explain to publishers that university journalism programs really weren't designed to be trade-school "reporter factories." His soft-spoken, level-headed approach won friends in both groups and has helped improve journalism education across the country.

Frank has had a long career as an outstanding community journalist, an admired mentor to young professionals, and a trusted colleague among his peers in the Northwest. Those reasons alone justify his receiving the Eugene Cervi recognition. His special role in improving journalism education is icing on the cake.

— Garrett W. Ray, associate professor emeritus, Colorado State University

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## A champion for weekly newspapers

I'm not sure why veteran editor and publisher Frank Garred was not recognized as a Eugene Cervi Award winner years ago. I can only guess that we in the trenches were too busy to coordinate the effort.

Busy or not, this year I paused and asked Scott Wilson, Garrett Ray and Richard McCord to join me in nominating someone worthy beyond our words for this coveted honor. They jumped at the opportunity.

My co-conspirators have covered most every facet of this outstanding journalist's career making me wonder what more can be said.

Simply, Frank Garred has been an inspiration since I first met him through ISWNE in the mid 1980s

He has mentored me and countless others during numerous "Editorial Critique sessions" at ISWNE summer conferences with handouts for improving our editorial writing. He often volunteered to organize these critiques (a big task), believing good editorial writing is key to a strong weekly newspaper. "Good research, active verbs, punchy writing" — his words — all are hallmarks of Frank's editorial style.

Frank is a champion for weekly newspapers. He nurtured his *Port Townsend Leader* like a baby, then hand-picked his successor, came up with a buy-out structure and provided years of on-the-job training. I remember Frank telling me how he switched roles with Scott every six months, so Scott could cut his teeth both as ad manager and editor/publisher.

Frank is also a champion of a free press and independent ownership. His early fears about media conglomerates have proven well founded. Long ago

he made Guy and me sign in blood that our newspaper will never pass into chain ownership.

When Frank was still attending every ISWNE conference, I looked forward to hearing his latest innovative idea for making his *Leader* even more interesting to readers. He realized he could strengthen the editorial pages by providing other "Community Voices," and got folks to promise three or four columns a year so every issue of *The Leader* had other viewpoints. If memory serves, this seaside publisher also gave history lessons through his "Message in the Bottle" series.

Of course Frank didn't rise to the top of the Washington state newspaper ranks without help from wife Pat, who kept the accounting in A+ shape until her retirement at age 60. Working together to make their newspaper the best, they also raised two children. When one of the kids got "busted," the name appeared in the paper, like everyone else's. I'm sure Frank gulped, but he's an advocate for truth and accountability.

Soon after Pat's retirement, Frank was supposed to call it quits. But as others already have written, he took a leap and bought another nearby newspaper, the *Sequim Gazette*, and gave it his stamp for three years. Then when Pat was hoping — at last! — for more trips to Hawaii or time on the tennis courts with Frank, he got involved in the statewide Coalition for Open Government. Then he started teaching journalism at Western Washington University, commuting by ferry to Bellingham. Anyone who read Frank's January 2004 article in the ISWNE newsletter titled "I'm anxiously awaiting my final grade" will agree Frank upholds Gene Cervi's tradition as a fine writer.

It's hard to slow down a marathon man. (Remember Frank in his running shorts and shoes at ISWNE conferences and board meetings?)

If we can catch this dynamo and get him to Pere Marquette for the 50th ISWNE anniversary, ISWNE as well as Gene Cervi's legacy will be honored with Frank Garred's lifelong achievements.

— Marcia Wood, co-publisher, *Sangre de Cristo Chronicle*,  
Angel Fire, N.M.

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## Frank Garred is Gene Cervi's 'kind of guy'

Frank's news career spans more than four decades, and his commitment to community journalism is unsurpassed. But his contribution to the news profession extends far beyond the borders of Port Townsend, where his weekly *Leader* fully lived up to its name. On the statewide level he served as president of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association. On the national level he served as president of the National Newspaper Association. And on the international level he served as president of our own International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

He also presided over a marvelous annual conference for ISWNE in 1988, based in Washington's capital city, Olympia. A stunning highlight was a two-day examination of the massive Mt. St. Helens volcanic eruption, capped by an exclusive tour of the blast zone, escorted by rangers from the Weyerhaeuser Company, owner of the land. ISWNE conferences always require A LOT of work — but Frank made it seem almost effortless.

Soft-spoken and gentlemanly, Frank usually makes his impressive achievements seem effortless. He does not toot his own horn, but he causes remarkable things to happen. Now in so-called "retirement," he recently taught a demanding college-level journalism class, and is currently serving as interim director of the Washington Coalition for Open Government. Open government — say, didn't Eugene Cervi care about that, too?

Frank's wife, Pat, says her husband doesn't consider himself any big deal — more of a "worker bee," she says. But I say that Frank Garred is Gene Cervi's kind of guy, ISWNE's kind of guy, principled journalism's kind of guy, and fully deserves to be named "king bee" at the awards banquet of the 50th-anniversary conference in 2004.

— Richard McCord, former editor and co-publisher,  
*The Santa Fe (N.M.) Reporter*

# Frank Garred



*Frank and Pat Garred meet with President Clinton during the National Newspaper Association's March 1994 Government Affairs Conference White House reception in Washington, D.C. Garred served as NNA president in 1993-94.*

## Professional Experience/Education:

- President, Port Townsend Publishing Co.; publisher of *The Port Townsend & Jefferson County* (Washington) *Leader* 1967-2001; Co-Publisher 1989 to 2001; Editor 1967-1989, 1995-1998; Board Member, Port Townsend Publishing Company, 1967-present.
- Publisher, Olympic View Publishing Co. LLC, Sequim, Washington, January 1998-January 2002; partner/manager Olympic View Publishing Co. LLC January 1998 - January 2002.
- Partner/Member, Olympic Peninsula Communications, LLC, 1997-present.
- BA Journalism, University of Washington School of Journalism (Seattle) 1958.
- Commissioned army officer through ROTC with active service in U.S. Army Infantry 1958-1960, overseas duty in Korea 1959-60; U. S. Army Reserves 1953-1973; separated 1973 with rank of captain;
- Reporter for the *Aberdeen (WA) Daily World* 1960-1962;
- Editor of the *Suburban Times*, weekly, at Lakewood, Pierce County, WA, 1962-1967.
- In 1967 formed Port Townsend Publishing Co. with Bruce A. Wilson, then-publisher of the *Omak Chronicle*, Omak, WA, and Henry Gay, editor-publisher of the *Shelton Mason County Journal*, Shelton, WA; purchased the *Port Townsend Leader* in 1967 from Richard F. McCurdy; served as corporate president/publisher 1967-2001. In 1989 Scott Wilson joined Port Townsend Publishing Company, succeeding his father and Henry Gay as equity partner and editor; he assumed ownership in January 2002.
- After retiring, freelance writing for *Port Townsend Jefferson County Leader*; special project coordinator for WNPA (Publishers'

Reunion 2002); interim director, Washington Coalition for Open Government 2002-present; adjunct instructor, Journalism-reporting, Western Washington University, Bellingham, fall quarter 2003.

## Professional Organizations:

- Past president (1973) and past board member (1969-1987), Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.
- Former board member of the Washington Press Association (formerly Washington Press Women), 1985-87.
- President of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE) 1990-1991, chaired its site relocation and manager-selection committees (1991-92); treasurer (1989-90) and board member (1985-1992); member 1967 to date.
- National Newspaper Association: 1984-1994, two three-year terms on board representing Region 9; treasurer (1990-91); vice-president (1991-92); president, 1992-93; immediate past president 1993-94.
- American Newspaper Representatives: board chairman 1993; board member 1984-1994.
- Chairman, NNF Journalism Education Committee 1993-1998.
- NNA representative to the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 1994-2001.
- Member, Professional Advisory Committee, Western Washington University, Journalism Department, 1994-1998.

## Civic Affairs:

- Past president (1973) and former board member of the Port Townsend Chamber of Commerce.
- Former board member and chairman, United Good Neighbors of Jefferson County.
- Served on numerous city, county and school district advisory committees.
- Board member and sponsor, Port Townsend Marathon Association, 1979-present.
- Former co-chairman, board member, committee chairman and member, The Port Townsend Rhododendron Festival.
- Member, Port Townsend Community Concerts

Association;

- Member, Rotary Club of Sequim.
- Volunteer media relations councilor, Jefferson County, March 2002 to date.
- Volunteer data entry project, indexing *Port Townsend Leader* 1900-1910, Port Townsend Library, 2001-present.

## Etc.:

- Member of the Washington State Bench, Bar, Press Committee 1990-2000 representing Washington Newspaper Publishers Association (WNPA).
- State Chairman, National Newspaper Association 1993-2000.
- Member, Congressional Liaison Committee, National Newspaper Association 1993-1999; 2001.
- Testified before Congress and state legislature committees numerous occasions on newspaper, First Amendment, and information access/open government issues; postal service issues before Congress.
- Coordinated 1988 ISWNE annual conference at The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA.
- Received John L. Fournier Memorial Community Service Award, 1991, the WNPA "Highest Achiever" award.
- Recipient Miles Turnbull Master Editor/Publisher award, WNPA, 1994; the first presentation of this memorial award.
- Publisher-In-Residence University of Washington, 1987; Western Washington University 1978, 1993, 2001; Washington State University, fall 1994.
- *The Leader* has won numerous state and national honors; earned numerous individual writing, photography, advertising and special publication awards.

## Personal:

Age 67. Married 46 years; wife Patricia; two children: Chris, 43, of Dallas and Susan, 41, of Seattle. Pat was circulation director (among many other duties) at *The Leader*, now retired. Our recreation interests include tennis, hiking, travel and running.

# grassroots editor



*A journal  
for newpeople*

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