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The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors

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Wyoming press adopts 'ombudsman' to handle statewide complaints

By Dr. George A. Gladney

Newspapers in Wyoming are launching a reader complaint resolution process similar to a "news council" except that the resolution of complaints would be in the hands of an "ombudsman" from the journalism department at the University of Wyoming, the state's only four-year institution of higher education.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Press Association, the board voted 6-1 to approve the plan. **Jim Angell**, executive director of the WPA, said he expects "near 100 percent participation" by Wyoming's 10 daily newspapers and 33 weeklies.

Under the new Wyoming plan, Wyoming becomes only the third state to have a formal statewide complaint resolution program. News councils operate in the states of Minnesota and Washington.

The idea of news councils has never really taken hold in the United States, but it has in many other countries. Councils exist in dozens of countries, including England, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and Canada. The largest American experiment in the United States was the National News Council, which operated from 1973 to 1984. It died for lack of support from the mainstream press, especially large, elite metropolitan newspapers.

To launch the ombudsman program in Wyoming, the state press association has prepared "house ads" for publication by participating newspapers. The ads inform the public about the program, advising readers to first take their complaint to the offending newspaper, then — if not satisfied — to the chair of the UW Department of Communication and Journalism. The complaining party then will be asked to fill out a form detailing the nature of the complaint and must agree in writing not sue the newspaper once the complaint is turned over for arbitration by the "ombudsman," a journalism faculty member with specialized knowledge in mass media ethics.

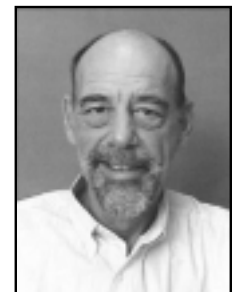
The arbitrating faculty member will hear oral arguments from both the newspaper and the complaining party and issue a decision indicating whether the newspaper was wrong or in error in some way. The WPA will then disseminate the decision via a press release sent to all participating newspapers. The plan will not affect broadcasters, most of whom are affiliated with a separate trade organization, the Wyoming Association of Broadcasters.

John T. Malmberg, general manager of the *Cody Enterprise*, a 7,100-circulation bi-weekly, was the WPA board member who proposed the idea to the board. He said the purpose is to help assure fairness in

news reporting, improve newspaper accountability and credibility with the public, and perhaps head off potential lawsuits against the state's newspapers. He said he got the idea about 10 years ago from his brother-in-law, who at the time was a member of the Minnesota News Council.

Malmberg talked with **Gary Gilson**, executive director of the Minnesota organization, and got advice about starting a press council in Wyoming. Gilson also talked to other Wyoming press executives when he attended a convention of the Wyoming Press Association several years back.

Gilson said almost all of Minnesota's 25 dailies and 360 weeklies participate in the MNC. So, too, do most of the state's broadcast outlets, although their participation has diminished somewhat in recent years because, he said, some broadcasters feel caught up in "the death struggle for ratings and are afraid of being humiliated." Gilson said these



George Gladney

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President's Report

By Donna Remer
Executive Editor
Voice Newspapers
New Baltimore, Mich.



More of you should join us in newspaper exchange

It must be spring: Advertisers have come out of hibernation, classifieds have blossomed with garage sale ads and letter-writers are sounding their election-year call.

Half the staff is suffering from pollen-related allergies and the other half is asking for time off to chaperone school field trips or attend weddings and graduations.

Add in the odd computer suffering from spring fever and it's enough to make a weekly newspaper editor long for the quiet days of February ... a short month with short days and a tiny, little news hole to fill.

Maybe that's why few of you responded to our call last month for editors to take part in a May newspaper exchange. Only three people took us up on it: Robert Mihalek, Clyde Wills, and Cheri Matthews. I am adding *The Voice* to the list and have exciting news to report.

The Voice group publishes seven papers each week. Every year, I come to the ISWNE conference with copies of the *Armada Times* because it was the only paper we publish that carries an editorial opinion.

Last week, that changed. We redesigned *The Voice* editions, five of them, to include a prominent "Our Voice" spot on the opinion pages. This is the first time in the 20-year history of our newspaper group that *The Voice* has published editorials. So far, the feature has been well received.

I have asked staff writers to suggest ideas for editorials and provide their news story related to the topic along with background information that would support the position taken by

the newspaper. Someone who doesn't cover the issue as a reporter, probably me, will do editorial writing.

So far, we have tackled the topic of vending machines in schools, which our governor in a "bold statement" recently denounced. We pointed out that it is easy for the governor to support removing the vending machines but not so easy to replace the money they bring in to the school districts. We advocated more emphasis on physical education classes in elementary schools where few children get daily exercise and increased state financial support for schools.

A second editorial took a look at the phenomenal growth in our local communities and gave a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" to some of the coping techniques. Thumbs up for establishing a district-wide library system. Thumbs down for slow progress on road construction.

I will be eager to show you our "new Voice" when we meet at Pere Marquette in a few weeks.

But, back to the newspaper exchange. In my last column, I referenced out mission statement: To encourage and promote high standards of editorial writing; to facilitate the exchange of ideas; and to foster freedom of the press in all nations. The exchange relates directly to the first two goals of our group.

It's a busy time of year, and we are hoping that more of you want to participate but just didn't get word to us. So ... we have postponed the exchange to the first three weeks in June to allow a little more time to respond.

It's not difficult to do. You add the

names of participating editors to your subscriber list for three weeks and they will add your name to their list. Join Bob, Clyde, Cheri, and me by sharing your paper as part of the exchange. It's a great prelude to the editorial page critique sessions planned for Pere Marquette State Park.

Even "editors emeritus" can participate. If you don't have a paper to exchange, ask Chad to put your name on the list if you are willing to look at and critique the papers others are publishing.

On the other hand, maybe you are so busy that you aren't even reading the ISWNE newsletter when it arrives. If you are reading this in July, after the conference, it's too late. Otherwise, give Chad a call.



Wyoming press adopts 'ombudsman' ... *from page 1*

broadcasters are misguided; they do not realize that by embracing the Minnesota News Council, they can significantly improve the public's perception of broadcasters.

Malmberg said he was attracted to the idea of a news council because it might provide a way for newspapers to fend off libel cases, and perhaps encourage insurance companies to lower libel insurance rates. Gilson said it is hard to say whether existence of a news council lowers the number of libel cases, and in Minnesota libel insurance rates have not been lowered for newspapers. However, TV stations who participate in the MNC have enjoyed a lowered rate, he said.

Gilson said the initial impetus for the Minnesota News Council came from the state's press association. However, not long after its founding in 1971, the council was cut loose from the association to operate independently.

The MNC typically conducts four to six public hearings a year. The council con-

sists of 24 members (12 from the media and 12 from the public at large) and a chairman. The council listens to the complainant and a representative of the news outlet, and then discusses the merits of the complaint in an open meeting. After that, the council votes to uphold or deny a complaint, in whole or in part, and the staff prepares a news release for all media the same day. The complainant must agree in advance to waive the right to sue the news outlet. Media members of the council participate as independent professionals, not as representatives of the news outlets they work for.

The Minnesota News Council also organizes public forums, does public education projects, hosts a web site, produces a cable TV program, and publishes a magazine twice a year.

The Washington News Council, established in 1998, was modeled after the Minnesota council. The Washington group has never had formal media support in the state, but the council, acting

independently, is half comprised of media representatives (either current or former media professionals) and half comprised of citizens from a variety of backgrounds. The council has been described as a kind of "outside ombudsman." Its procedure is similar to Minnesota's. Only a small number of actual complaints result in public hearings, which are televised by two broadcast outlets.

In Honolulu, Hawaii, there is a 45-member news council (30 from the community, 15 from the media), but it has not been active in dispute resolution. In the past it has commissioned reviews of media performance.

George Gladney is a journalism professor at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

ISWNE trivial pursuit on tap

If you have a good story or know an interesting fact about the ISWNE, please send your entries for the ISWNE trivial pursuits to be played in the social room at the 50th anniversary conference at Pere Marquette, June 30-July 4.

For example, in answering these questions, conference attendees will be challenged to list the Pulitzer Prize-winning members of the ISWNE (and maybe those who were over-turned).

Do you remember which past president of the ISWNE claimed to be sleeping with a township supervisor?

Who was the only weekly newspaper editor on the first roundtable for USA and USSR journalists? By the way, when the other journalists wanted to exclude the press from the sessions, this ISWNE member firmly objected

saying he had championed the First Amendment all his life and would not give in for these sessions. The roundtables were open to the press. Our pursuits are not all trivial.

How many ISWNE piano players can you list?

Send your questions and answers with information about the history and people of the ISWNE to **Phoebe B. Baker** at phoebbbaker@mac.com or 216 Joyce Circle, Avondale, PA 19311 as soon as you think them up. (Remember to put ISWNE in the subject of the email and the middle initial in my name so it will not get deleted or lost.)

We will have conversation and happy reminiscing, but we need help. So please submit serious and silly.

Silent auction to raise funds for Foundation

In an effort to raise at least \$1,000 for the ISWNE Foundation, conference organizers are asking each couple or family to bring an item from their town or region for a silent auction at Pere Marquette. Each item should be at least \$20 in value.

The ISWNE Foundation is a non-profit corporation established for the purposes of continuing education for journalism professionals by awarding scholarships to the annual conferences. All contributions to the ISWNE Foundation are tax-deductible.

Gen. Andrew Jackson expected to travel from summer 1804 to ISWNE conference

By **Ted Jackson**
Chautauqua Scholar/Performer

Take the measure of **Andrew Jackson** cautiously, as you would a big, ugly hound dog: his biographer wrote that "he was a patriot and a traitor -- an ignorant general -- an urbane savage -- an atrocious saint." Young Hickory left the Carolina settlement of his mother's kinfolk at age 16 with a British scar across his forehead and an American

chip on his shoulder. Restive and reckless, he wore out his welcomes and mortified people in position to favor him, including a statesman from Virginia by the name of **Thomas Jefferson**.

With a license to practice law, the luck to speculate well in land, the love to marry Rachel, and the liberty to make a name for himself, he found his following on the frontier. He became their superior court judge and their senator in Philadelphia, their representative in



Ted Jackson

2004 Conference Program - Grafton, Illinois

Wednesday, June 30

Morning	Registration and Board meeting
12.30 p.m.	Welcome to Illinois, David Bennett, executive director, Illinois Press Association
1:00 p.m.	Ethics session led by Garrett Ray
3:30 p.m.	Congressman Paul Findley on America & Middle East & Islam
Dinner	Introduction of new attendees & vintage editors
Evening	General Andrew Jackson (Chautauqua scholar/performer Ted Jackson)

Thursday, July 1

Morning	River issues: Lynn M. Muench, vice president, American Waterways Operators
Late morning	Bus departs for visits to Lewis & Clark Historic Site, Elijah Lovejoy Monument, Great Rivers Museum, Alton Lock & Dam (<i>less than 30 minutes from Pere Marquette</i>)
5:00 p.m.	Piasa Winery on Grafton riverfront for wine tasting and meal
Evening	Greenslade Bursary presentation, relaxed visiting, music by ISWNE talent?

Friday, July 2

8.30 - noon	Editorial page critique sessions with mid-morning break
1:15 p.m.	Attorney Kathryn Dobrinic, prosecutor who served on Governor George Ryan's Commission on Capital Punishment
3:30 p.m.	Mike Lawrence, director of Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and ISWNE's Chris Wills from Associated Press on Illinois politics
Evening	Ken Bradbury & troupe, readers' theatre on small town life & characters

Saturday, July 3

Morning	General business meeting & editorial page wrap-up
Afternoon	Free
Evening	Golden Quill banquet, Cervi winner, 50th anniversary honors

Sunday, July 4

Morning	Breakfast and farewells
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Andrew Jackson

Congress and the major general of their Tennessee Volunteers.

In the spring of 1804, **Captains Lewis and Clark** were getting ready to leave on an amazing expedition

and President Jefferson was getting ready to name a governor for his Louisiana Purchase. Gen. Jackson went to Washington as a shoo-in candidate for the post — but by mid-summer, 1804, Citizen Jackson had revived his private enterprises, bought a farm east of Nashville, and retreated from public service.

Yet the Indian uprisings persisted as the Creeks and Cherokees, the Choctaws and Chickasaws resisted the intruding settlers and their surveyors, their iron ploughs and woolen breeches. Even Jefferson had wondered about relocating the Indians, yet no one more than Jackson made a national policy of their wanton removal from the way of empirical expansion.

They nicknamed him Sharp Knife, not for his recklessness on the battlefield but for his ruthlessness in the treaty tent. By the time President Jackson left the White House three decades later, 45,690 First Americans had been forcibly marched from their ancestral home-

lands into the alien landscapes explored by The Corps of Discovery: lives — and generations of lives — changed forever!

Who is Ted Jackson?

Ted Jackson shakes out his wig and admits to being a 60-year-old imposter: “This isn’t my day job.” A Nebraskan by makeup and a Missourian by marriage, Jackson earned all the degrees and some of the honors one gets for staying in college for a dozen years and working professionally for 30 more.

In 1996, he and his wife, **Millie**, returned to live in her hometown of Bowling Green, Mo., where they are active at Honey Shuck, maintaining the landmark home of **Champ Clark**, speaker of the House and an original tent Chautauqua headliner.

Ted runs The Counseling Clinic in Bowling Green, collects special edition Wheaties boxes, keeps a Farmall tractor looking better than ever — and is not related to Andrew Jackson — but has grown fond of the wig.

87 have registered so far for ISWNE conference

Robert and Mary Lou Estabrook Lakeville, CT
 Don and Debbie Brod St. Charles, IL
 Burt and Ursula Freireich Litchfield Park, AZ
 Elliott, Rachael, and Marissa Freireich Litchfield Park, AZ
 Marquita Porter Litchfield Park, AZ
 Jim and Gail Painter Litchfield Park, AZ
 Al Seiler and Jackie Miller Pittsfield, IL
 Phoebe Baker Avondale, PA
 Jane Steinmetz Forest Park, IL
 Bob and Sandy Horowitz Bethesda, MD
 Charles Gay Shelton, WA
 Clyde and Carolyn Wills Metropolis, IL
 Nancy and Richard Slepicka Hillsboro, IL
 Tom Wills and Robin Schectman Chapel Hill, NC
 Jeanne Pease Oberlin, OH
 Gary and Helen Sosniecki Vandalia, MO
 David and Sue Gordon Altoona, WI
 Chris and Penny Wills Springfield, IL
 Margaret Sawyer Springfield, MO
 Mary Jane Lentz Boyertown, PA
 Ralph and Margaret Henninger Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia
 Kim McCully-Mobley and Al Mobley Aurora, MO
 Dick Drysdale Randolph, VT
 Tim and Mary Waltner Freeman, SD
 Jeremy and Stacey Waltner Freeman, SD

Carol O’Leary and Bob Whetstone Abbotsford, WI
 Dottie and John Wald Medford, WI
 Kris O’Leary and John, Kevin,
 Lucinda and Conrad Flink Medford, WI
 Goodloe Sutton Linden, AL
 J.R. Ledford Carbondale, IL
 Harry and Carol Hix Norman, OK
 Chad Stebbins Carl Junction, MO
 Nils Rosdahl Coeur d’Alene, ID
 Julian Calvert Helensburgh, Scotland
 Bob and Phyllis Karolevitz Mission Hill, SD
 Garrett and Nina Ray Fort Collins, CO
 David Burke Tuam, Ireland
 Bill, Jan, Alex, and Kevin Haupt Lodi, WI
 Vickie Canfield Peters and Jim Graue Valleyford, WA
 Richard and MaryJo Lee Brookings, SD
 Frank and Pat Garred Port Townsend, WA
 Donna and Bill Remer Armada, MI
 Chris, Judy, Ryan, and Brenden Wood Green Bay, WI
 Peter Lesniak Whitehorse, Yukon Territory
 Guy and Marcia Wood Angel Fire, NM
 Robert and Amy Mihalek Yellow Springs, OH
 Joan Plaxton Valleyview, Alberta
 Douglas Sturges Valleyview, Alberta

ISWNEWS



Patenaude makes leap from weekly to monthly

Joel Patenaude recently left the position of editor at *The Mille Lacs Messenger*, a weekly community newspaper in Isle, Minn. After a 30-month stint there, he has taken over as editor of *Silent Sports*, a monthly magazine that covers non-motorized aerobic recreation throughout the upper Midwest.

Patenaude's new role overseeing the publication of a monthly lifestyle magazine brings new challenges and an opportunity to dwell on and promote activities he personally enjoys — namely running, bicycling, cross-country skiing, canoeing, and hiking — as well as environmental conservation and the development of parks and trails.

Silent Sports will turn 20 years old this July and Patenaude is only its second editor. The magazine has a circulation of about 10,000 and is published by Waupaca Publishing in Waupaca, Wis.

The new position has also allowed Patenaude and his wife, family practice physician **Dr. Noelle Dowling**, to move closer to their parents and extended family as the couple eagerly awaits the birth of their first child in late August.

Patenaude said he will miss covering hard news on short deadlines. But he said he hopes not having to attend frequent night meetings of local government will leave him more time for his growing family.

"The *Messenger* was the best job I ever had," Patenaude said. "My publishers stood behind me as I took strong editorial stands, and I'll always be grateful to them for that. My writing staff was a talented and enthusiastic group of part-timers whom I will miss dearly."

Patenaude's relatively short tenure at the *Messenger* was marked by his coverage of several significant local news stories of statewide concern. Most notably, he cov-

ered the Mille Lacs County Board's unsuccessful attempt in federal court to disprove the continued existence of the original 61,000-acre Mille Lacs Indian Reservation.

Prior to working at the *Messenger*, Patenaude spent six years as a staff reporter for daily newspapers in Boulder, Colo., Aurora, Ill., and Dubuque, Iowa. He also spent a year as an editor and reporter at two English-language weeklies in Cairo, Egypt.

Because Patenaude will no longer be working as a weekly editor, he is letting his ISWNE membership lapse. But he wishes to thank the organization for its informative publications and helpful network of editors who he tapped for advice on occasion.

McTighe receives new fellowship in Alberta

Frank McTighe, publisher and editor of *The Macleod Gazette*, a 1,400-circulation community newspaper in Fort Macleod, Alberta, is the first recipient of a new fellowship presented by the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association.

The fellowship, which has a maximum value of \$5,000, was created by the board of directors of the Alberta association to foster excellence among its member newspapers.

The fellowship will be presented each year to an employee at an AWNA-member newspaper to cover the registration fee, accommodation, travel, and other expenses incurred while taking part in the Management of the Weekly newspaper course offered by the American Press Institute at Reston, Va.

McTighe, 44, will attend the API course June 13-17. As a condition of the fellowship, McTighe will volunteer on the committee that organizes the AWNA's annual symposium, an industry education event to be held in January 2005 at Calgary.

The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors

Officers of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors:

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So you wanna write a book . . .

By **Richard McCord**

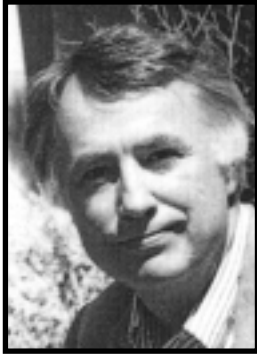
Editor's note: The Chain Gang was first published in 1996. It drew splendid reviews from The New York Times and many other newspapers and magazines. It placed second for the Tau Kappa Alpha/Luther Mott Award for the year's best book about journalism. After five hardcover printings, it is now out in quality paperback.

Getting my first book — *The Chain Gang: One Newspaper versus the Gannett Empire* — published was not a sprint, a dash or a mile run. Instead it was a marathon: a long, hard, slow, discouraging slog. Writing was the easy part. The rest was an ordeal.

The book is an extremely critical study — an exposé, really — of the unscrupulous, unethical, and sometimes illegal practices used by the nation's largest newspaper chain, Gannett, to squelch competition and dominate markets. It sprang from my own experience battling Gannett in two cities, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Green Bay, Wisconsin.

In both places I produced a major report detailing Gannett's ways, in an effort to rally the community's support behind a small competing newspaper threatened with extinction. In both places the effort proved successful; and after the Green Bay report, I realized that I probably had gathered more information about Gannett than any other reporter. It added up to an alarming story, a warning that needed to be told nationwide.

I put together a formal 50-page book proposal for my literary agent in New York. His reaction was tepid. He doubted he could get an advance for my proposal, and he was not inclined to try. At that point, a sensible writer would probably have abandoned the project. Yet the story had a hold on me. I was outraged and disgusted by the things I had learned, and I felt a book must be written. I had some money set



Richard McCord

aside, and would use it to cover expenses as I wrote.

Writing the book took two years, but the time passed pleasantly. Each day I wrote until lunchtime, then took a hike with my dog and tended to other things. The first draft exceeded 700 manuscript pages, which I knew was too long. I trimmed 290 pages. The result was a taut, fast-moving, 410-page story, told in dramatic first-person-narrative form, to keep the investigative reporting parts from getting too dense and heavy.

With an actual manuscript in his hands, my agent became enthusiastic. He felt confident he could place it quickly, and he had several editors in mind. Out in Santa Fe, I was elated. But the celebrating began too soon.

One by one, the editors returned the manuscript, with letters of rejection that sounded more like rave reviews. "This is an intriguing, worthy book. The story is riveting and well-told. I'm sorry to say, however . . .," went a typical turndown. Another said: "**Richard McCord** is an excellent writer; he makes lively, comprehensible, and sympathetic his crusading story. But in the end . . .," went another. A third: "The book has wonderful integrity and is well written. I just don't think the story will seem big enough in people's minds. I say this almost envisioning the movie that could be made from this."

"What's going on here?" I asked my agent. "I know this is a good book. What's wrong?"

"They're scared of it," was his reply. "It's a trouble-making book. They don't mind publishing a trouble-making book if they think it will sell a million copies. But they don't think this one will, and they're scared of offending Gannett. I'll just keep trying."

He did, and the rejections kept coming. They were replete with praise, but they all boiled down to just two words: "NO THANKS." A year passed. Then two. Dejection settled heavily upon me. "All that work, all those months without pay — all for nothing!" I kept thinking. "And nobody will ever hear my warning."

In all, 26 trade publishing houses turned down *The Chain Gang*. "There's not much else to try except for university presses,"

the agent said. "And if we can't place it there, that may be the end of the road."

Glumly I asked him to proceed.

Meanwhile, I accepted an offer to become acting editor of a twice-weekly paper in Door County, Wisconsin. To get out of my funk, I needed a challenge, a change of scenery, and a paycheck. I had all but despaired of ever seeing my book in print.

Then just before I left Santa Fe, my phone rang. "If you are Richard McCord," said a nice Southern voice, "I have just finished your manuscript, and I am calling to see if you are *real!*" The caller was the editor-in-chief of the University of Missouri Press. She had liked the book so well, she said, that she wanted to tell me so at once. But she cautioned me not to get my hopes up: All the books published by her press went through a complicated and time-consuming process, and in the end had to be selected by the full publications committee. "But I will fight for this one!" she said.

I moved to Wisconsin and began my job there. More months passed, with periodic updates from Missouri. Then the editor called to say my book had been chosen unanimously. I was thrilled — for a few seconds. "Normally that's when we go into production," she said. "But this is a special book, and I felt the need to take one more step. So I have made an appointment to discuss it with the university president."

My heart sank. I understood why she wanted to meet with the president — but I also knew that part of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, one of the nation's best, was housed in the Gannett Building. "That's it," I thought. "He'll kill it on the spot. He didn't get to be university president without knowing which side the bread is buttered on. We are dead in the water. We are all the way back to Square One."

Yet two days later she called back. "I explained the situation to the president," she said. "His reply was: *That book needs to be published — and we are going to publish it!*"

The marathon was finally over. *The Chain Gang* had crossed the finish line.

Look for another installment of "So you wanna write a book . . ." by another published ISWNE member in the next newsletter.

Just call me darlin' if nothing else

By **Kim McCully-Mobley**
Editor, *Aurora (Mo.) Advertiser*

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Those words were penned by **William Shakespeare** some 400+ years ago. His meaning is clear, isn't it?

A rose is a rose is a rose is a rose...no matter what you call it.

David Allen Coe said we never even called him by his name. And, quite frankly, we don't have to. Darlin' will work just fine, but it's not necessary, and he'll still hang around as long as we'll let him. Isn't that how the words to the song sort of go? (You don't have to call me **Waylon Jennings**. You don't have to call me **Charley Pride**...)

When I placed my cards on the proverbial table for marriage a few months ago, the last thing I was worried about was my name. I had more important fires to fight, like where the heck am I going to put all his stuff? Are deer antlers really a necessary part of Victorian/Gypsy decor? Will he like hanging around me all the time? Is he tough enough to handle my hormonal mood swings? Will I forget to tell him my itinerary and call him en route to Little Rock saying: "Honey, I won't be home for dinner tonight; but there's some hamburger in the freezer. Oh, and, by the way, I'll see you Sunday at the end of my conference."

So, when I told my son of my impending nuptials, he quipped: "What name are you going to go by? **Jennifer Kim Estes McCully Mobley** won't all fit on a check." We laughed and I hugged him. But his words nagged at the very core of my heart. He was right. It wouldn't all fit on a check or a business card or a name tag, for that matter. In fact, I don't even think it will all fit on a bumper sticker.

Soon, **Al**, the dubious groom-to-be, told me not to worry about it. He said if I wanted to keep one or all of my other names for professional reasons, he understood. He said he realized I had been alone a long time and the paperwork involved in the name-changing process could be over-

whelming. He said my career was important and he knew I'd worked long and hard to build some sort of a reputation. We talked about how we'd have to retrain some 150 students, five bosses, 30+ family members and 4,000 subscribers. "You marrying me is enough for me, honey," he stated and patted my hand.

I toyed with the idea of just keeping "Kim" or "Kimmy." After all, this seemed to work for **Princess Diana, Cher, and Madonna**. My North Town neighbors don't seem to care about my last name or my social status. I'm just known as the silly woman who works in her flower beds at midnight or who dances in the moonlight from her perch on the back deck. They wave when I fly by their houses, dragging their children and pets into their yards for fear I might flatten them in my haste to get wherever I'm going on time.

Then, in the wake of our April 3 wedding, the calls, letters, and emails began to arrive. "What is your name going to be?" "What last name are you going to use?" "What shall I call you?" they queried. At first thought, I was a little cranky, thinking people flat out needed more to do. Then, I realized they were being curious, but polite. I had a job where hundreds of callers, letter writers, emailers, and passers-by call me by name in any given week. No one wanted to make a mistake. They wanted to know my name. We identify with the people we talk to on a regular basis at many different levels. This was no exception. Last names, throughout history, have served as indicators of many things like lineage, occupation, culture, and country of origin.

I had to make a decision. I took a test on a fidius.org website. My pirate name came up as Iron Jenny Flint. A pirate's life isn't easy, it read. It compared me to the flint rock...indicating I was hard and sharp and easily chipped and sparky. Hmm...I found another website. My hobbit's name is Marigold. That's not too bad either, I guess.

I like the Estes family name just fine. I was born with it. It symbolizes a tenacity of

spirit I'm proud to have in my genes. I use it on my checks and some of my freelance writing. I call on its strength in times of trouble and I have this little wrestling hold I fondly call The Estes Death Grip, in jest, of course. But the truth is, I've been a McCully for 23 years and I have an active son who shares that last name, too. We joke long and often about living on McCully Time. I'm honored now to use the Mobley name as my husband's family is colorful, passionate, humorous, and hard-working. We share a love of people, their stories, and a will to succeed. With that said, my niece, **Cody (Estes) Murray** sent me an invitation to a party last week and solved my name dilemma when I went home to retrieve the mail. The card was addressed to: Kim McCully-Mobley. It sounded good to me. (Apparently, she was confused, too, and thought she'd line 'em up together.)

My tentative plans are to use the hyphenated version of my most recent last names during a transition period for the benefit of my students, my readers, my family, and myself. At some point when I get used to all the changes that have taken place, I'll move on to a different stage and begin to use Mobley all the time. This hyphenated stage may linger for six months or six years. I'll let you know when the time comes for more transition. Or you can just watch for the byline.

My brother used to sign off on his morning radio show with the line: "I'm **Randy Estes** and you know who you are." I wondered then if there were, indeed, people who didn't know. I guess we all know who I am now, once and for all.

I hope that clears up any confusion on my name and the changes that are already in the works.

If you are still confused, don't worry. I'll still answer to just about anything you call me, as long as you're halfway polite. After all, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Right? And, if all else fails, you can just call me darlin'. That way, none of us will be too confused.

ISW NEWS

from page 6

Slepicka's paper fares well at SIEA contest

The *Montgomery County News* won six awards in the 2004 Better Newspaper Contest sponsored by the Southern Illinois Editorial Association.

Publisher **Nancy Slepicka** was presented the award certificates by SIEA President **Dave Ambrose** at the association's spring meeting at Giant City State Park south of Carbondale. Newspaper members don't know in advance which editions will be judged, and this year's contest was based on issues pulled from the weeks of Oct. 6 and Nov. 16, 2003.

An editorial by Slepicka received honorable mention in overall judging, and in the "large weeklies" division, *The News* tied for first place in both Best Local News Coverage and Advertising Excellence, tied for second in Newspaper Design, placed second in Best Use of Photography, and received honorable mention for General Excellence.

According to Slepicka, **Clyde Wills** made an "excellent presentation on ISWNE" at the SIEA meeting and invited everyone to the ISWNE conference at Pere Marquette State Park. ISWNE held several of its early conferences at Giant City State Park.

In other news from Hillsboro, Ill., the 3rd annual Hillsboro Roubaix bicycle race on April 17 attracted more than 360 riders from as far away as Chicago, Iowa City, and Kansas City to compete on the 22-mile-lap country road course, which includes steep inclines, perilous turns and long, windy straight-aways. The in-town loop of the course is over Hillsboro's historic brick streets. The top racers rode four laps, 88 miles, in 3 hours and 45 minutes. The Roubaix is sponsored locally by *The Montgomery County News*.

Gonsalves wins investigative award

Staff members of *The Valley Voice*, Saucon Valley's Weekly Newspaper in Hellertown, Pa., nabbed 19 state press awards this year, including the paper's first investigative reporting honor.

Voice publisher **Ann Marie Gonsalves** took home a first-place Pennsylvania Press Club investigative journalism award for her stories, "Tarola payout costs taxpayers pretty penny" and "State attorney general calls for probe." The stories detailed a shady sick day payout that former Saucon Valley School Board members offered former Superintendent **Ralph Tarola** to retire. It also detailed the board's deal to have Saucon taxpayers foot the bill for new Assistant Superintendent **Sandra Fellin's** unused sick days when she served in the Pocono Mountain School District.

Gonsalves' story now goes to compete in the National Federation of Press Women National Communications Contest. The awards were presented at a luncheon May 1 in Myerstown, Lancaster County.

Gonsalves and columnist **Lee Weidner** swept the PPC editorial writing contest. Weidner took first place for his editorial, "Don't let liability issue kill a skate park." The editorial now goes to the national press competition. Gonsalves took second and third places and honorable mention awards for her critiques of the ousted Saucon Valley School Board majority.

Weidner also won a third place PPC Award in personal column writing. *Voice* editor **Paul Bealer** won a second-place PPC news reporting award for "Lower Saucon manager stalked self" and a second-place PPC award for his continuing coverage of the Geier killing in Lower Saucon.

Bealer also won second-place PPC awards in the publications edited, news photography and sections/supplements edited categories. He won a third-place PPC award in feature writing for "William Cszaszar trades in his fire helmet."

He received honorable mention PPC awards in the headline writing, social issues writing, political writing, health writing, and page layout categories. Last month, Bealer won a second place Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors Keystone Press Award in business/consumer story and a third place Keystone in sports writing.

Haupt starts Murray Scholarship

Bill Haupt has launched a Bruce Murray Memorial Scholarship with a \$50 contribution to the ISWNE Foundation.

Murray, owner of Advocate Printing and Publishing in Pictou, Nova Scotia, died March 30. He was a former member of the ISWNE board of directors. Contributions to the Jim Sawyer Memorial Fund and the Bob Bliss Memorial Scholarship are also being accepted. Checks should be made payable to the ISWNE Foundation and mailed to **Chad Stebbins** at Missouri Southern State University, 3950 E. Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801-1595.

Texas editor receives prestigious award

Skip Nichols, assistant publisher and editor for the *Wise County Messenger* in Decatur, Texas, was presented the Sam Holloway Award by the North and East Texas Press Association at the association's 78th annual convention April 16 in Bossier City, La.

The award is presented to a person who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in support of the association while also upholding high standards. Nichols currently serves as first vice president of the organization, which represents daily and weekly newspapers in the region. He also serves on the board of directors for the Texas Press Association.

Nichols formerly owned a weekly newspaper and was an editor at daily newspapers in Washington, Arizona and Texas.

Whalen recovering from colon cancer

John Whalen of Stevens Point, Wis., had surgery for colon cancer on April 8. The cancer is gone, but he had complications, reports his daughter, **Mary**. He spent his 93rd birthday in the hospital on April 24. Cards may be addressed to John at 5418 Woodland St., Stevens Point, WI 54481.

N.C. members are grandparents

Carol Wilcox and **Cary Stiff** of Chapel Hill, N.C., are first-time grandparents! **Isaac Stephen Andrzejewski** was born April 20, weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces. He is the son of **Katie Stiff** and **Steve Andrzejewski** of Cranston, R.I.

Cary claims his grandkid can beat up your grandkid.

Findley's column oversimplifies issues

By **David Gordon**, Professor Emeritus
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Paul Findley's column in the April 2004 *ISWNE* newsletter makes some very valid points but it also oversimplifies greatly in regard to the extremely complex Israel/Palestine dilemma. There is plenty of blame to go around in regard to "the situation" as it's referred to in Israel, but that blame must be shared by Palestinians, not just by Americans and Israelis.

No even-handed approach to discussing this dilemma would go on for eight paragraphs without even mentioning Palestinian suicide bombers who blow up both themselves and Israeli (both Jewish and Arab) civilians...but Mr. Findley did just that. No reasoned analysis of the complex Middle Eastern situation would claim that "making a clean break from Israel's scofflaw behavior" would "instantly -- without firing a shot -- quiet guerilla warfare in Iraq." That statement oversimplifies not only the Israeli-Palestinian situation, but also the dilemma that we've gotten ourselves into in Iraq.

Mr. Findley's bias is also evident in his incomplete comment about "the Arab territory Israeli forces seized in June 1967." Israel has already returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt; the rest of that territory came under Israeli control during a war that was fomented by several Arab states, and escalated beyond Israel's defensive strike against Egypt only when several of those countries attempted to invade Israel. That certainly doesn't mean the Israelis should keep all (or, perhaps, even most) of that territory. But it does mean that the terms for withdrawal need to be negotiated, not declared by fiat to be the *sine qua non* of future Israeli-Palestinian relationships.

And I'm totally puzzled by Mr. Findley's statement that the "member states of the Arab league, plus Mamas [sic] and Hezbollah, unanimously offered peace-for-withdrawal a few years ago." To be as polite as possible, that is simply revisionist Middle Eastern history.

It might also be noted that the armistice lines which ended the 1948 war (following Israel's declaration of statehood) allowed Egypt and Syria to occupy a great deal of what could have become a Palestinian state...and to do so for 19 years with no anger or indignation expressed by the international community. It would seem that many Arab states have been more interested in using the Palestinians as pawns to serve their own interests, rather than working toward some sort of reasonable accommodation to end this stalemate.

I share Mr. Findley's misgivings about Israel's assassination policy, more than a few of its military operations, its apparent intransigence in regard to meaningful West Bank withdrawals, and the so-called security fence. But I have even graver misgivings about Palestinian suicide bombings, insistence on an absolute right-of-return for Palestinian "refugees" (a topic that could take up a whole column of its own) and the repeated

occasions when the Palestinians have muffed opportunities to move toward agreements with Israel that would have given both sides more than they have now, though less than each would like.

Like Mr. Findley, I have the luxury of voicing those misgivings from a place where my life is not in danger any time I venture to a restaurant or a store or board a city bus. I'd suggest that Mr. Findley's long-standing pro-Palestinian perspective should be tempered by a knowledge of the tension that Israelis (again, both Jews and Arabs) experience all too often because of the inability or refusal of Palestinian authorities to crack down on suicide bombers. Those attacks remain a (perhaps "the") key issue in the current Middle East equation.

Mr. Findley's concerns were undoubtedly exacerbated by the mid-April policy reversal by **President Bush**, supporting Israel's continued presence in the West Bank after it withdraws from Gaza. Despite overwhelming Likud party rejection of this plan, the idea is likely to remain alive. (And if Mr. Findley in fact opposes this plan, he must feel a bit uncomfortable to be in such solid agreement with the Likud hard-liners.) If this or any other plan is viewed as being carved in stone, there will be no chance for meaningful negotiations that just might find a way out of this dilemma. Such negotiations require leadership -- on both sides -- that is willing to make concessions, and which has the capability of enforcing those concessions once they are agreed to. At the moment, I don't see anything resembling such leadership on the Palestinian side, which all too often appears to demand nothing less than a return to the 1948 armistice lines, if not the complete elimination of Israel. And, unfortunately, despite its proposed Gaza withdrawal, the Sharon government has not yet been willing to bite the bullet and provide that kind of leadership on the Israeli side.

In the spirit of sharing the blame, it might also be noted that some Palestinian negotiating positions (e.g., an absolute right of return for the descendants of everyone who fled the country in 1948) are even more ridiculous than the official Israeli policy on settlements beyond the Green Line. Such an even-handed analysis of the situation appears to elude Mr. Findley.

I'd also suggest that Mr. Findley might show some concern about the immorality of using teenagers and young adults as vehicles for suicide bombings. Some of the family members of these young bombers have begun to speak out against the ways their children were recruited (or "pressured"? or "duped," in at least one case) into giving their lives in order to kill and maim Israeli civilians. Mr. Findley's own failure to speak out against such tactics is an unfortunate illustration of his concern that the United States is failing to exert the proper influence on this situation.

I look forward to an opportunity to discuss these concerns with Mr. Findley at the *ISWNE* convention.

46 reasons why Freeman is special

By **Tim and Jeremy Waltner**
Freeman (S.D.) Courier
 March 31, 2004

For the 46th consecutive year people from near and far are coming to Freeman to take in the community's largest festival, some for the first time, others coming back.

Schmeckfest runs April 1-3.

Welcome to all.

In honor of the 46th annual Schmeckfest (not limited to, and in no particular order) are 46 things that contribute to the vitality of this community and make Freeman special.

1. The 40-acre Prairie Arboretum.
 2. A community hospital that has thrived for 50 years.
 3. A healthy, proven, successful, and up-to-date public school system that produces plenty of "Flyer pride."
 4. A vital community development corporation.
 5. A new building on Main Street that houses Freeman's rescue services, which include an active, well-staffed, vibrant fire department and ambulance service.
 6. Homegrown businesses that have grown and developed over the years including AMPI, Rural Manufacturing, Stern Oil, and Wildcat Manufacturing.
 7. Fred Haar Company, established in 1882, Freeman's oldest business is today expanding on the highway.
 8. Housing developments that have extended Freeman's city limits.
 9. Two grocery stores.
 10. Three banks, including Merchants State Bank, a family operation that began in 1899.
 11. A track and field complex on the grounds of Freeman High School, which hosts numerous track meets.
 12. Home of one of the greatest football dynasties in state history; from 1996-1999, the Freeman Flyers went 51-1 and won four straight championships.
 13. Low crime.
 14. A clean town.
 15. 24-hour recycling service.
 16. A well-organized landfill just outside of town.
 17. An active summer recreation program.
 18. Baseball; Freeman's Legion has won the State B Baseball Tournament two years in a row and the Black Sox nearly pulled off an incredible upset before finishing second in last year's state amateur tournament.
 19. Eldercare, from independent living to skilled care.
 20. Solid retail including unique stores like Fensel's, the Kairos, the Et Cetera Shoppe, and 10,000 Villages.
 21. Cheesepockets at the Freeman Cafe every Friday.
 22. A strong ag business community, bolstered by two healthy implement dealerships.
 23. Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers.
 24. Heritage Hall Museum and Archives.
 25. Plenty of tree-lined streets.
 26. Ethnic pride.
 27. History; Freeman is celebrating 125 years this June.
 28. A nine-hole golf course a mile south of town.
 29. Location; situated on Highway 81, Freeman is less than an hour from Sioux Falls, Yankton, and Mitchell.
 30. A strong agricultural heritage, which includes hard work and optimism as strong as you'll find anywhere.
 31. Entrepreneur spirit.
 32. Strong church life.
 33. Growing Dreams, offering a day care and pre-school environment usually reserved for larger cities.
 34. Two city parks.
 35. Two industrial parks; one developed on the north edge of town, the other being developed on the south.
 36. A powerful musical tradition.
 37. An appreciation for the arts.
 38. People who have spent time in other countries, many through church-related efforts, gaining a global view.
 39. Commitment to education; a large number of community residents have post-high school education.
 40. Freeman Academy, now in its second century, continuing to provide a unique classroom experience.
 41. A Veterans Memorial, a nice addition to Sixth Street.
 42. A full-time community development coordinator.
 43. Value placed on extended family -- an increasingly rare trait in an increasingly mobile society.
 44. Comprehensive health care including medical, dental, pharmacy, and optometrist services second to none.
 45. Active service organizations like the Lions Club.
- And finally ...*
46. Schmeckfest. Experience it yourself this week. And return again anytime!

The Freeman Courier editorials reflect the opinion of Courier news editor Jeremy Waltner and Courier publisher Tim L. Waltner.

Newspapers and Community-Building Symposium selects 12 papers for presentation at NNA convention in Denver

Twelve papers have been selected for the 10th annual Newspapers and Community-Building Symposium which will be at the National Newspaper Association convention Sept. 15-18 in Denver, Colo. The symposium, co-sponsored by the Huck Boyd National Center for Community Media at Kansas State University and the NNA Foundation, brings journalism educators and publishers together in a forum that encourages discussion about current research that is relevant to community newspapers.

"We're glad that the symposium has gained popularity over the years and that it is now an integral part of the NNA convention each year," **Gloria Freeland**, director of the Center, said. "It's a great opportunity for educators and publishers to share ideas and work together to improve community journalism."

The following papers were selected for presentation:

Understanding your readers and how they use media

"Identifying bilingual media newspaper readers: Research method selection and effectiveness," **Brooke Fisher**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

"Beyond demographics: Understanding who your readers are and how they communicate," **Stephen Byers**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

"Social capital in decline: Who is to be blamed? An examination of the relationship between social capital and mass media use," **Maria Raicheva-Stover**, Washburn University, Topeka, KS

Business decisions: Web sites, advertising dilemmas and job satisfaction

"Show me the money: A modest proposal to make a modest profit on community newspaper Web sites," **Joe Marren**, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY

"Advertiser pressure on news content: The dilemma between business and editorial in community newspapers," **Soontae An** and **Lori Bergen**, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

"Building community on the copy desk: How newspapers between 25,001 and 50,000 stack up," **Susan Keith**, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Small papers: big responsibilities to their communities

"Preserving the legacy: The joys and tribulations of running the family newspaper," **Linda Gilmore**, *Junction City Daily Union*, Junction City, KS

"Perceptions of a small town newspaper's role in war coverage," **Sharon B. Stringer**, Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, Lock Haven, PA

"Small papers, big stories: A look at the Pulitzer Prize-winning efforts of three community newspapers," **John Hatcher**, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

Building community through conversation, participation and continuing education

"Community building through interactive mass communication," **Dr. John "Jack" Morris**, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA

"Community-Building: A case study in community unity," **Robert Krecklow**, former editor and publisher, *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*, Grand Island, NE

"A Johnny Appleseed community journalism roadshow," **Jock Lauterer**, the Carolina Community Media Project, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

ISWNE new member



Jill Boomer is editor of the *Jersey County Star* in Jerseyville, Ill. She graduated from the Southern Illinois University-Carbondale School of Journalism 1979 and hails from a newspaper family. Her father, **Joe**

Michelich, bought newspapers at Auburn and Divernon (Illinois) in 1959. The family chain, South County Publications, Ltd., now has eight weekly newspapers including *The Jersey County Star*, which Jill started in 1996.

Jill is the new president of the Southern Illinois Editorial Association (SIEA) and is active in several community activities including the Jerseyville Rotary Club and on the board of the Jersey Community Hospital Foundation. Her email address is jill@thejc-star.com.

Florida Presbyterians set a sterling example

By Al Seiler
Pike Press, Pittsfield, Ill.
April 28, 2004

One bright April morning last week in the boondocks near Montgomery, Fla., I witnessed a rare example of religious enterprise and understanding.

The place was the church's regional conference center. The topic was "Religion in Our Times" with the sub-topic headed, "Seeking Common Ground," meaning to explore and discuss the similarities and differences in Islam, the religion of more than 1.2 billion in the world, and Christianity. The speakers were **Ashraf Shaikh**, an Islamic cleric, and **Dr. Paul Hooker**, executive director of the 63-church St. Augustine Presbytery of North Central Florida. Attending the session were about 200 persons, including several African-Americans. The audience hung on every word of the two speakers.



Al Seiler

Cleric Shaikh spoke first. Space here does not permit me to describe the Five Pillars of Islam and its Six Articles of Faith. Very briefly, Islam encompasses the belief that there is only one god, Allah; that prayer is required five times daily; that two and a-half percent of one's assets must go to the poor; that fasting is required during the month of Ramadan; that a trip to Mecca is advisable at least once during one's lifetime.

Throughout his talk the Islamic cleric emphasized "the common ground" between Islam and Christianity, the Qur'an and the Bible. Dr. Hooker did the same, noting especially the generous charitable contribution of Muslims, adding, "I wish Presbyterians were doing as well. I'll settle for two and a-half percent."

The central point I want to emphasize here is to applaud these Florida Presbyterians for their willingness, even eagerness, to explore and learn more about a different religion while still holding fast to their own, to see "the common ground." If other American churches were willing to concede even a narrow measure of matching open-mindedness, the world would be better off and peace more promising.

Hear that distant Indian drum beat

By Al Seiler
Pike Press, Pittsfield, Ill.
April 21, 2004

"We know you've got sand, Illinois!" So goes a line in the University of Illinois Loyalty song, affirming the fighting spirit of its athletic teams.

The same strong heart is missing among the University's board of trustees that has repeatedly shied away from taking a stand on the long debated issue of Chief Illiniwek, the school's traditional Indian mascot.

The latest chapter in the controversy is a sit-in by Illinois students who argue that the Indian chief is racially offensive. Yet last month more than two-thirds of the university's 13,000 students who voted in a referendum said they favored retaining the dancing Indian. Meanwhile on another college campus, Bradley University in Peoria, American Indian advocates are lining up behind a student-led push to scrap the Braves

as that school's nickname, again because it's considered racially offensive. But here, too, in a student referendum 64 percent voted to keep the Braves as the college sports signature.

Before you conclude all this is a tempest in a teapot, consider that many colleges with Indian athletic names have already dropped that tradition, including giant Stanford in California. But what's scary, if that's the right word, is the position of the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media. It wants to eliminate about 2,500 American Indian sports symbols around the country, from professional teams TO GRADE SCHOOLS.

If you think public opinion is occasionally inflamed at meetings of the Pikeland Unit 10 Board of Education, wait until that Saukee issue hits the fan! It will be equaled only by the fireworks that could erupt some day between the Pike County Board and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Editorial critique sessions for 2004 conference

By **Donna Remer**
ISWNE President

The editorial critique session is the heart of the annual conference of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. This year, there will be a couple of changes in the way the session is conducted, changes designed to give more time to the critique and discussion process.

In June, all members will have the opportunity to exchange newspapers with other members of ISWNE. Notify Director **Chad Stebbins** by May 28 if you want to take part. Chad will compile a list of addresses and distribute it to all those participating. For the first three weeks of June, you will send a copy of your paper to the names on the list and you will receive papers from fellow editors. This will help us get to know the papers before we meet at Pere Marquette.

By the first of June, you will receive the names of others assigned to your editorial critique group for the conference. You be asked to send your group members three newspapers to be critiqued at the conference. You can choose papers from any week during the past year. The idea is to show what your paper is doing, highlight any changes to the editorial page, and get suggestions from fellow editors.

At the conference, we will break into the assigned groups for a critique session on Friday morning. Each

group will have a leader for the discussion which will include:

- Reaction to editorials from the group;
- Strengths and weaknesses of the editorials;
- Overall content of the editorial page.

Each group member should have at least one suggestion to improve each editorial page.

Editors should be prepared to answer the following questions:

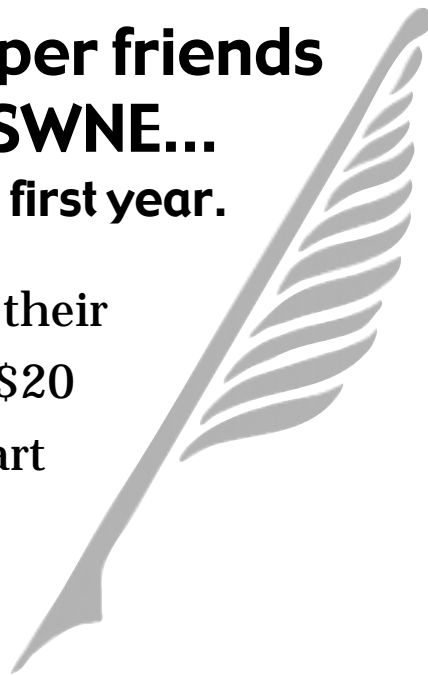
- Who is involved in the writing process?
- Why did you choose this subject?
- Where did you get the background material for the editorial?
- What impact did this editorial have on the community?
- Discuss your process of writing and writing style.
- How has your editorial page changed in the past year? If there has been a major change, bring before and after tear sheets.

Discussion can continue informally on Friday evening, with papers on display in the social hall. On Saturday morning, all the groups will convene and leaders will present a brief summary of the previous day's discussion. They will be asked to present their group's selection for the following:

- Strongest editorial from their group;
- Best overall editorial pages from their group;
- Editorial page most improved during the past year.

**Sign up your newspaper friends
to be members of ISWNE...
...at our special \$20 rate for first year.**

Simply send Chad Stebbins their names and addresses, plus \$20 for each one, and they'll start reaping all that ISWNE has to offer.



50th Anniversary Registration

Pere Marquette State Park
Grafton, IL 62037

June 30–July 4, 2004

Registration Fees

	<u>By May 1</u>	<u>After May 1</u>
Adults	\$475	\$525
Children (ages 6–17)	\$275	\$300
Meals Only (for campers)	\$175	\$175
Single supplement for those requiring private rooms	\$100	\$100

All prices in U.S. funds, payable to ISWNE 2004

Clyde Wills
118 Carter Dr.
Metropolis, IL 62960
wills1@shawneelink.net
Day Ph: (618) 524-2141
Night Ph: (618) 524-2533

Name _____ \$ _____ U.S.

Address _____ Phone # _____

_____ Email _____

Newspaper/University Affiliation _____

Others in my party (please include names & ages of children)

_____ \$ _____ U.S.

_____ \$ _____ U.S.

_____ \$ _____ U.S.

_____ \$ _____ U.S.

_____ \$ _____ U.S.

Paying single supplement for private room \$ _____ U.S.

TOTAL \$ _____ U.S.

If single, would like to share a two-bed room with: _____

Any special dietary needs or other considerations: _____

Holmes assists Sierra Leone journalists

As part of the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression Sierra Leone Media project, **Roger Holmes**, publisher of the *Wainwright Star Chronicle*, led an intensive five-day workshop for rural journalists the first week of April. Local government elections will be held for the first time in 35 years in this country on May 22.

CJFE is in the final stages of a four-year program of helping rebuild the newspaper industry in the West Africa nation after the

civil war in that country. The project has included considerable training with six small newspapers, including installing a printing press (sheet-fed KORD; they fold their papers by hand) and instruction in using digital cameras, scanners, and a small direct to paper plate-making system.

Holmes is president of the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association.



Roger Holmes conducted a five-day workshop in Freetown for these 11 reporters who write for Freetown newspapers

ABOUT THE ISWNE

The International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE) was founded in 1955 at Southern Illinois University (SIU) by Howard R. Long, then chair of SIU's Department of Journalism at Carbondale, and Houstoun Waring, then editor of the *Littleton (Colo.) Independent*. ISWNE headquarters were at Northern Illinois University at Dekalb from 1976 to 1992, at South Dakota State University in Brookings from 1992 to 1999. Missouri Southern State University in Joplin became the headquarters in 1999.

ISWNE's purpose is to help those involved in the weekly press to improve standards of editorial writing and news reporting and to encourage strong, independent editorial voices. The society seeks to fulfill its purpose by holding annual conferences, presenting awards, issuing publications, and encouraging international exchanges. There are ISWNE members in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. There are subscribers to *Grassroots Editor*, the society's quarterly journal, in still more countries.

This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request to Chad Stebbins 417-625-9736.

Dr. Chad Stebbins
Editor & ISWNE Executive Director
Director, Institute of International Studies

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