

REVIEW.

THE FLAGSHIP PUBLICATION OF COLLEGE MEDIA ADVISERS, INC. • WINTER 2007 • VOL. 44 NO. 3

FOOD for THOUGHT

First Amendment Values
Put to Test on Florida Campus



After thieves at the University of Tulsa stole several hundred copies of The Collegian student newspaper last fall, they unexpectedly returned the newspapers, but not, apparently, out of remorse: newly-inserted into the papers were photos pulled from Facebook.com of the editor with her middle finger extended. Let's hope she was striking a blow for the 1st Amendment in her pose, because its stock continues to take a bearish turn on too many campus universities.

As you may have concluded from the report in the last issue by Jeffrey John of Wright State University, somewhere on your campus somebody could be plotting to steal your newspaper. They may be mad at you because their Greek organization got busted for hazing, or alcohol abuse or maybe a combination of the two. They could be mad over news that puts an administrator or colleague in a bad light. Maybe the student government association felt it was rubbed the wrong way in stories about its spending. Did that gag that seemed like such a great idea at the keg party lose its luster when news of it was spread across five or six columns? And maybe someone's just discoverd that the college bubble doesn't offer immunity from life's slings and arrows.

All in all, 2006 was a busy year for newspaper thieves. The Student Press Law Center reports that 27 college newspapers reported issues or editions stolen last year, the highest since the 1990s, including nine in November and December, and it seemed the only thing that interrupted them was the Christmas break. "It's a trend that's on the upswing," says SPLC legal consultant Mike Hiestand. "The climate is such that there's little respect for the free press."

It's not inevitable that the pendulum will swing the other way towards a greater value and protection of freedom of expression; it didn't just happen to swing away from that it the first place but because of concerted efforts, events outside our control and a general reluctance to challenge the public and political wisdom that began to prevail.

From a number-crunching standpoint, 27 reports out of the thousands of editions published each year doesn't immediately suggest a crisis. But as noted by the man who lost his home in the Florida Panhandle to a tornado described in news reports as "isolated," "It's not 'isolated' when it happens to you."

* * *

While some administrations to their credit are voicing their support for the protection of free of expression on campuses, in too many cases the First Amendment seems to be tolerated, if that, instead of advocated. At Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, newspaper adviser Michael Koretsky and a gonzo free speech troupe seized the day to give the campus a close-up look of what they could be missing. Read all about it in "Food for Thought." Also in this edition is Sherrie Farabee's fresh spin on journalistic war stories—the classroom bane of many a student and her look at how they've helped her students learn at Southeast Missouri State University.. And we feature a book review of a new public affairs textbook by Perry Parks, the newspaper adviser and a journalism instructor at Michigan State University.

* * *

The student press lost one of its lions in January with the death of Louis Ingelhart, whose accomplishments include serving as the former chair of the Ball State University department of journalism and later its director of student publications and co-founding the Student Press Law Center. CMR pays tribute on page to Ingelhart with an essay from former Ball State University colleague David Knott and takes a look at Ingelhart's legacy.

Robert Bohler Editor



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2. EDITOR'S CORNER

Unfortunately, attorney Mike Hiestand says, "the climate is such that there's little respect for the free press." The evidence seems to be mounting.

Robert Bohler

4. FOOD FOR THOUGHT COVER STORY:

A festival that seeks to shake up attitudes about the value of freedom embodied in the First Amendment catches the attention of students and the news media in Florida.

Michael Koretsky



10. WAR STORIES

Using the best and worst of times in your career can be a launching pad for teachable moments.

Sherrie Farrabee

16. GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM

Louis Ingelhart (1920-2007) was an uncompromising champion of the core freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment.

David Knott

22. COVER TO COVER

Book Review: Perry Parks' book, *Making Important News Interesting*, gives coping tips for thos DBIs — "dull but important" items — that are a vital part of the news budget.

Tommy Thomason

ON DECK: Sex sells! Need you know anything else? Well, of course you do, and Ohio University's Daniel Reimold lays bare the facts on the rise in popularity of sex columns in college newspapers and why it's caused some critics to get hot under the collar. Read all about it in the Spring edition of *College Media Review*.

What's a First Amendment Free Food Festival? And can it go on tour?

FOOD for THOUGHT

By Michael Koretzky

Constitution Day was Sept. 18, and here at Florida Atlantic University, we celebrated by yelling at a rabbi.

We also hit College Republicans with sticks and shoved Amnesty International supporters to the ground. Then we ate lunch.

An hour later, the first-ever First Amendment Free Food Festival was over. That night, the local CBS affiliate aired reports at 6 and 11, and the next morning, both of our Top 100 dailies made us the lead story on page 3 of their metro sections

— with photos of our "goon squad" pushing people around.

Based on the attendance (about 400) and the media coverage (also three radio stations), we concluded that free food and mock violence are a gripping combination and a potent way to teach college students about the First Amendment. Now we want to take our concept on the road.

'So what the hell is this thing?'

On a Sunday night in early September, I nervously strode into a formal chapter meeting of Sigma Phi Epsilon, the largest fraternity on our campus. More than 70 young men were wearing suits, while I was wearing camouflage fatigues and carrying a homemade riot shield and baton.

It's hard to maintain an adviserly air when you're the worst-dressed man in the room, but my outfit was part of the pitch to sign up volunteers for this new event, underwritten by a \$1,000 grant from

the CMA's Ingelhart First Amendment Fund and a \$250 grant from the South Florida chapter of SPJ.

As expected, the first question was, "So what the hell is this thing?"

First, I explained what the First Amendment Free Food Festival isn't: "It's not a lecture. I know you guys don't want to spend all morning in class just to hear more old people like myself giving speeches during your lunch hour."

That got their attention.





WEE!

YOU







theater. The in-your-face approach challenged participants who surrendered freedoms in exchange for food. Access to the sovereign site, dubbed the People's Republic of Boca Raton, was limited through check points. Confrontations were the order of the day. "Goon squads" sought to thwart any who tried to exercise their freedoms.

cise and part performance

Phoos provided by University Press, Florida Atlantic University. Used with permission.

EAT FREE or LIVE I

"Basically, we've designed an educational event that cynically appeals to you, the MTV Generation," I continued. "You have short attention spans, so this event lasts only two hours – about the same as Snakes on a Plane with the previews included. You want free food, of course, but you're discerning: You want free fast food, so we're offering brand names like Quizno's, Burger King and Pizza Hut. And finally, you're desensitized to onscreen violence, so we're offering some inthe-flesh violence to grab your attention."

I then sketched out the First Amendment Free Food Festival at FAU (or FAFFFAU for short):

1. The outdoor stage at the student center will be converted into a foreign country, with a 9-foot-tall Soviet-era guardhouse and 12-foot gate arm protecting the free food.

2. To get past the gate, students must sign a waiver renouncing their First

receive a passport to "The Kingdom of the Socialist States of the People's Republic of Boca Raton," which will contain the text of the First Amendment – to remind them what they're giving up.

Amendment rights. Then they'll

3. Once inside, those students will witness some prearranged violence. A rabbi will attempt to blow his shofar for the High Holy Days, College Republicans

will campaign for their gubernatorial candidate, and Amnesty International will protest against torture – and all of them will be bum-rushed by Sig Ep frat guys in riot gear, because there's no freedom of religion or speech in this place. (The staff of the student newspaper will walk around with tape over their mouths, because there's no freedom of the press.)

4. Once the students get their food, they'll experience their own problems. Some won't get the food they want, so they'll be directed to an empty complaint table (because there's no right to petition for grievances). And when they sit together, our frat-guy goon squad will separate them (because there's no right to assembly).

How it went

Well, we ran out of food.

After feeding 364 students in just about an hour, we were had to turn students – and faculty – away. We had



Enticed by the idea of a free lunch with name brand food, scores of stu

FREE...

"Basically, we've designed an educational event that cynically appeals to you, the MTV Generation."



dents lined up early, eager to eat but perhaps unsure of the consequences of surrendering their freedoms.



...YOU CAN'T DO BOTH

planned for a steady flow over the two hours, but instead, we were crushed immediately. A line started forming 20 minutes before we opened the gate.

In retrospect, we probably shouldn't have been surprised. We began promoting the month before. First, we flyered the campus with teasers like, "On Constitution Day, you can eat amber waves of grain and feast on fruited plains" and "On Constitution Day, we hold these truths to be self-evident: all meals are created equal."

Closer to the big day, we marched through campus in full costume and handed out postcards. I also bought lunch for the Student Affairs associate dean and university PIO to get their blessing, and we emailed every poli sci professor, asking them to talk us up. Some gave their students extra credit to attend – we signed no less than 70 passports for those students, as proof they were there.

If that crowd was unexpected, the media coverage wasn't. We designed the event to be visual: constructing a 9-foot-tall guardhouse at the entrance, searching local thrift stores for cheap furniture for our "Dictator's Lounge," and even buying cheap cigars for our goon squad, so they'd look extra-menacing on TV.

What's next

We want to do this again, but not at FAU.

We – and by that I mean myself and two student coordinators, Michele Boyet and Anthony Choman – want to take the event on tour. We're submitting another grant request to the Ingelhart First Amendment Fund, but this time, we're going to be much more ambitious.

We're hoping that the CMA and SPJ will cosponsor a series of First Amendment Free Food Festivals at universities and community colleges around the country. SPJ national president Christine Tatum has already requested an "action plan," which we're drawing up now.

One of the key provisions: Offer this as a turnkey operation.

A First Amendment Free Food Festival is much more complicated and expensive than a lecture series. It costs about \$1,000 to feed 350 students, and it requires methodical promotion, meticulous site-planning and maniacal volunteer recruiting.

But we're offering to share what we've learned via e-mail, phone and even a site visit. We'll also save you money and labor by schlepping the \$500 guardhouse to you, along with \$100 in homemade riot gear and even some old living room furniture. If possible, we'll even work the event with you and help promote it the day before.

For a more detailed look at the first First Amendment Free Food Festival, view the slide show at www.collegemedia.org/images/stories/1AFFF. And if you're interested in hosting one at your school, email me at michael@koretzky.com.

"On Constitution Day, we hold these truths to be self-evident: all meals are created equal."





Michael Koretzky is part-time adviser for the University Press newspaper at Florida Atlantic University. The rest of the time he's managing editor for *JAZZIZ*, a jazz magazine, and a copy editor at American Media Inc., home of the Star and the National Enquirer newspapers.

The favored "citizens" in the People's Republic of Boca Raton (above) could take it easy in the Dictator's Lounge, while others, their speech denied, still sought to get their message out (opposite page).

What the local press had to say about students of



FAU students test First Amendment

By Scott TravisSouth Florida Sun-Sentinel
September 19, 2006

Boca Raton — The invitations looked innocuous, promising a free lunch to any Florida Atlantic University student who attended a festival celebrating the First Amendment.

But what most students missed next to the giant "FREE FOOD" heading was the asterisk referring them to a warning in tiny print: "Sure it's all free after you sign a form temporarily waiving your First Amendment rights," the message read.

The joke was all part of a Constitution Day event, designed to teach students about the importance of the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech, the press, religion and assembly. Students from the University Press campus newspaper and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity organized the event.

Students who signed in were harassed. Those who ate together were told to separate, because there was no freedom of assembly. When they complained, they were told they had no right to file grievances.

Nicoy Latouche, a senior from Boca Raton, was eating with his friends when he was told he had no right to assemble. He refused to leave, and a loud exchange ensued.

"I don't want to leave, and you guys can't make me leave!" he shouted.

"You signed away your rights!" one of the student guards told him.

Latouche eventually prevailed. He didn't know what was going on when he arrived, thinking it was just a routine festival with free food. But he said he was proud that he stood up for himself.

"If I had left, I would have been sorry for the rest of my life," he said. "I know I'm free, and I would die for my rights."

While Latouche enjoyed the experience, Guy Levhar, a junior from Boca Raton, was angry when organizers shouted at him.

"I don't like anyone arguing with me or threatening me, and I won't take it, even if it is fake," he said.

One unsuspecting student after another signed forms to get passports for entry and free food from Quiznos, Pizza Hut, Burger King, Starbucks and Pepsi.

The outdoor area behind the University Center was decorated to resemble a foreign country where no First Amendment rights exist.

There was a guardhouse, a Dictator's Lounge and a band playing March of the Soviet Tankmen.

There were skits where students and volunteers pretended to be harassed. Student journalists wore duct tape on their mouths, because there was no free press.

A rabbi was stopped when he passed out literature, because there was no freedom of religion.

Organizers received grant money from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Student Press Law Center and other groups to pay for the food. A crowd of 300 students showed up, and organizers ran out of food halfway through.

Sevy Gac of Coral Springs, vice president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, said he's glad the encounters got a bit tense.

"It's important for people to understand it is a privilege to live in the United States and to have these rights," he said.

confronting the values of the First Amendment

Learning the value of free speech

By Kimberly Miller

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer Tuesday, September 19, 2006

BOCA RATON — Florida Atlantic University students gave up their First Amendment rights Monday for a Quiznos sub, a slice of pizza, and a passport to a fake country where free speech is prohibited. The exercise, held in a cordoned-off part of campus that represented the "Kingdom of the Socialist States of the People's Republic of Boca Raton," was part of a Constitution Day event to teach students the value of free speech.

And while "police squads" of fraternity members charged with squashing free speech and separating friends from eating together because there was no right to assemble were fake, a truer lesson in the First Amendment unwittingly played out when 21-year-old Nicoy Latouche was asked to leave the "country."

Latouche, wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with marijuana leaves, refused to move away from his friends and soon was surrounded by a dozen black-shirted members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, some of whom carried clubs and shields for show.

Latouche said he didn't know that a free speech event was going on and laughed at his situation at first. But it turned more tense when his chair was pulled out from under him and he was forced to stand up chest to chest with one of the fake enforcers.

After a several minute standoff where it seemed inevitable a fight would occur, a group of fake student protesters diverted the attention of the fake police who left Latouche alone.

Event organizers from the University Press said the scene with Latouche was not staged, and Latouche said he learned a firsthand lesson about the First Amendment.

"If I left, I would be sorry for the rest of my life," Latouche said. "He was trying to tell me to leave and I know I have a right to be here and I will die for my rights."

Although the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brothers had to play the bad guys Monday, some said they were heartened by the resistance they saw in students like Latouche.

"Being from this country, I expected them to stand up to us," said student Marshall Trace. "If we didn't get resistance, I would be disappointed in our students for not having a sense

of pride in something that sets us apart from the rest of the world."

About 300 students participated in the event sponsored by the Student Press Law Center, the College Media Advisers, the Society of Professional Journalists and the University Press.

Some students weren't as stalwart as Latouche about losing their First Amendment rights.

Jose Pereto's friends scattered reluctantly when they were told they couldn't eat together by the fake police who walked through the crowd banging their clubs on tables and chairs.

"I think they want to show us what it's like to live in a socialist country and they're doing a pretty good job," said Pereto, who added that the free food wasn't worth the loss of free speech. "My rights to be with my friends are more important."

"He was trying to tell me to leave and I know I have a right to be here and I will die for my rights."





MAA R STORIES

Or, How Advisers Learn to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

ewspaper editor Horace Greeley once said that "journalism will kill you, but it will keep you alive while you're at it. "

As Greeley no doubt knew, reporting comprises the best and worst days – and the lessons learned – strung together over time. Many teachers and advisers find that using these stories of their days on the job sparks student interest, teaches real lessons, and shows the human side of reporting.

Jody Beck, director of the Scripps Howard Foundation Semester in Washington program, usually shares her stories with students, including the anecdotes about the front-page error that had to be explained in the next issue and another time she got the story first by going the extra mile and asking the right questions.

"Students do appreciate that I have experience, but the stories do have to have a point," she said. "Students have told me they've had instructors with great stories to tell who couldn't teach them specific skills. So, when a story illustrates a point, I do tell."

Michael Koretzky, the University Press adviser at Florida Atlantic University, said his students learn more from his stories of mistakes and embarrassing moments. One of his stories revolves around his coverage of the 1988 Democratic Convention for the University of Florida's Independent Florida Alligator. He worked up the nerve to talk with Larry King during interviews and they talked for three or four minutes before King told him his fly was down.

"If I tell them some of the good reporting that happened, they won't remember," Koretzky said. "But they remember the fly being open."

Koretzky said he was insecure when he first started advising about sharing "stupid" things he had done as a reporter. "I thought it would undermine my authority," he said. "I've learned over the years it actually helps."

Gale Workman, professor of journalism at Florida A&M University, frequently tells stories of her real-life adventures as a journalist whenever it seems to illustrate a point in class.

"Stories told to illustrate a point - not glorify a prof -- and stories told
concisely enough so not to become the
whole lesson are a must," Workman
said. "They are like the anecdotes
and examples we try to get students
to include in their news stories. They
make information memorable."

Former editors and reporters now turned professors and advisers were asked to share some of their stories of best and worst days on the job. Many did, and themes emerged: the power of the press, lessons learned and the unique nature of the job.

Power of the press

Kathy Lawrence, University of Texas-Austin

"One of my best was when I was working for the (Orange Post Daily Pilot) owned by the Los Angeles Times that served the Orange County coastal communities. It was nearly Christmas, and I did a piece about a

Compiled by Sherrie Farabee

single mom who was losing her condo because she couldn't pay homeowner association fees. She had a very sad tale of being abandoned by her husband and suffered many illnesses. The story ran on a Saturday morning on Page 1. The newspaper phone operator phoned me at 8 a.m. to say her phone was ringing off the hook with people wanting to donate money. Readers donated far more than she needed to pay her fees, but she had plenty to provide a nice holiday for her children and then some. She phoned me about six months later and I thought. 'Oh, no, what now?' and worried that this might be a scam. Nope. She just wanted to let me know the homeowner association had hired her to run a day-care for pre-schoolers and an after-school program for other kids. She wouldn't be needing charity any longer.

Pat Parish, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

"Kathy's story about 'best' reminded me of a phone call I got from a reader one scorching July day in central Ohio, where it can get above 100 degrees. The reader wanted me to know that a resident of the county nursing home had been taken to the hospital suffering from heat exhaustion. The nursing home had no air conditioner. She was upset that the county commissioner's meeting room and offices had air-conditioning while they insisted the nursing home residents 'didn't want it.'

Parish, who was writing for the Marysville Journal Tribune, went to the nursing home with a high-accuracy thermometer and found temperatures of 92 degrees. She then had to make a decision.

"I know the editor did not like to roil the waters with the commissioners, but he was out of town. I got the story in the paper, the local Lionesses took up the cause and, in a short amount of time, the nursing home residents' environment was as comfortable as the county commissioners."

Lessons learned

Mark Plenke, Normandale Community College, Bloomington, Minn.

Plenke never forgot his first story in the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette. A one-man bureau, he had written a story about all the ubiquitous for-sale signs he'd noticed.

"A local Realtor I'd used as a source in the story called my office the same morning the story ran. 'This is Bob Palmer of Palmer Realty,' he said, "Bob Palmer." I said hello. 'You called me Robert PARKER in the paper this morning,' he said. I phoned the correction in to the paper, fully expecting to be fired on the spot. I wasn't, but I've never forgotten to double-check the spelling of someone's name since."

Kaylene Armstrong, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Armstrong is editorial director of The Daily Universe and has two of what she calls "really bad" stories she regularly shares with her class. One is about an obituary that never ran, the other a cautionary tale from her time at the Provost Daily Herald. A man who had invented a new carburetor had not wanted to be interviewed because reporters writing about his inventions always got the technical information wrong, but he finally agreed. She did her research, did the interview, and wrote the story – to mixed reviews.

"[H]e called me the next day and complimented me on the story because for once all the facts were right. 'However,' he said, 'MY name is Larsen, not Petersen.' Oops."

Julie Freeman, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

"My most sickening moment came early in my career at The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal in west Texas. Mostly, I was a rimmer, but I designed and edited the front page twice a week. Then one day I had to fill in for the editor who designed Sunday's page one. I was thrilled at the opportunity and put all my creative energies to work – excellent editing, crisp and enticing headlines, clean and appealing design. What I didn't realize was that Sunday's paper required a different template than the one I used on the daily edition.

"I walked into the newsroom Monday afternoon to find on my keyboard the corner of Sunday's paper: '50 cents.'

"Not only did the Sunday template have a different price in the flag, but it had a different bar code as well. I was so obviously mortified that my managing editor couldn't even come down hard on me. He just said, 'It was an expensive mistake.' I never asked how expensive; I never wanted to know. Fortunately, a lot of stores caught the error and priced the newspapers themselves. Of all the low points in my career, I don't think anything ever topped 50-cent Sunday."

Tom Winski, Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, Ky.

"During the first several weeks at the (Monmouth, Ill.)Review Atlas, the local college hired a new president. We ran the routine 'new president story,' but then we received an invitation to a press luncheon hosted by the college to meet the new president. For whatever reason, I just went to the luncheon as a meet-and-greet affair. Lo and behold, the president talked all about his philosophy of education, his background, etc., etc., etc., And there I was, no notebook; I thought it was a luncheon! I scrambled to collect every napkin I could find on the table for taking notes. I returned to the office and wrote the story on the spot - much from memory - for the next day's paper. I learned never to assume and never to go anywhere without a reporter's notebook. Best lesson I ever had!"

Paul Beique, St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vt.

"In 1987, after only a few weeks at my first job (copy editor) at the Post-Star in Glenn Falls, N.Y., the news editor gave me a piece of paper with a number written on it. 'The lead story just updated, but I'm going home,' he said. 'This is the AP number for the update. Find it and put it at the top of Page One.'

"I found the story, removed the strip lead about President Reagan, and replaced it with the update, complete with 60-point head. The next afternoon I found a copy of the front page in my mailbox, bleeding red felt marker. 'See Me!' read the note from the managing editor. He wanted to know who authorized the switch from the Reagan piece to the story about political infighting in Mozambique. That was the day I learned to THINK before following anyone's directions. (When I left the paper, my colleagues gave me a framed citation from the Mozambique Press Club for the promotion of the country's interests in upstate New York)."

Who wants to be an accountant anyway?

Some of the stories submitted illustrated the singular joyful nature of the job.

Jodell Strauch, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville

"Best day -- I was working the night shift (at the El Dorado (Ark.) News Times). The sports editor said he had his pages ready to go but was going home to eat and watch the (1989) World Series, which he had to wait on-- it was his lead. He called shortly after 8 to say there had been an earthquake in San Francisco. I wasn't too worried; there are always earthquakes in California. Turned out – this was the big one many people killed, freeways collapsed. While sad, it was fascinating to watch the AP wire and

photo wire come alive, spitting out story after story as the evening progressed."

David Swartzlander, Doane College, Crete, Neb.

In the early 1980s Swartzlander covered city hall for the Lincoln (Neb,) Journal, an afternoon paper with a noon deadline. He was covering the Monday meeting more, he wrote, to "keep the council honest" than because he expected big news. He expected to be out in good time to pick up his kids from day care when, well, other news happened.

"That's when I got a tip that Jack Nicholson had been hired to be in the movie 'Terms of Endearment' and that he was coming to Lincoln to film a scene.

"Realizing this was more interesting to readers than whatever the small flare-up of the day was for the city council, I bolted out of city hall and ran (the newspaper building was only five blocks awaym and I could still run in those days) to the Journal. I sat down at my computer at 11:30 a.m. and started calling people to confirm the story and try to get Nicholson on the phone, realizing I had 30 minutes to bang out what surely would be a Page 1 story. After all, movie stars don't routinely come to Lincoln, Neb. As I typed my notes furiously into the computer, the executive editor found out about the story, knew we were on a tight deadline, and came to my desk.

"He asked me, 'What can I do to help?' I replied: 'Go pick up my kids from day care.' As it turned out, he didn't have to. I was a little late picking up the kids, but I made deadline.

Ira David Levy, Wright College, Chicago, III.

While some of Levy's good days included his interviews of Winter Olympics medalists Dan Jansen and Billy Kidd, his best day involved more lofty pursuits.

"I wrote a feature story for a

Chicago publication on two 19-yearolds who climbed the face of Chicago's landmark buildings without suction cups, ropes, or other gear. They would dangle their legs off the rooftops of buildings – including the Wrigley Building - while smoking cigars and reading H.D. Thoreau. I ventured with them one night to do the photography. I climbed the fire escapes to the roofs of four Chicago landmark buildings towering over the Chicago River. I photographed these kids climbing onto the rooftop gargoyles, wedging them between their legs, letting go and leaning back with nothing between them. One nearly slipped to his death, 34 floors below. It was all illegal and we didn't get caught. Few ever capture the pace of a city from the top of a gargoyle."

Other stories, and there were lots of them, were painful, funny, enlightening, and profane –just like journalism. We learn from them because the most important lessons are often learned from being smacked for our mistakes or from the serendipitous events that can unexpectedly reward us, and sometimes the best and the worst are really one and the same. Greeley nailed it.

Learning from the best (and worst) experiences

By Sherrie Farabee

Wow, I thought. One dead body in a trashcan and they're yours for life.

It was 2004. I had just finished telling my freshman reporting class about a couple of grisly murder cases from my reporting days. It wasn't intentional, just an outcropping from the news segment that started each class. Expressions were evenly divided between fascination and disgust. I had their attention, however. All eyes were riveted on me and waiting to see what gory detail I might come up with next.

The lesson on crime reporting that day was lively. Student questions were more about the how of getting the story than the mechanics of writing it. "How did you do," "What would you have done if X or Y had happened?" The dynamic of my class had change. I had a new level of credibility.

Like the velveteen rabbit, I had become "real" as a reporter.

I had been a full-time working journalist for a good many years before I became an academic, and I had a boatload of experiences. The students knew this. As only a second-year teacher, however, I did not want class to turn into the "me" hour so I shared my own experiences sparingly, mostly to let students know that what they were reading in textbooks really did happen to reporters. I never shared any of my actual writing clips, fearing students would recognize poor word choices and editing errors in my work they could not seem to find in their own.

After that day, however, I dumped the baggage and started working a few more of my own articles into the class, choosing more pedestrian articles along with headlines of blood and mayhem. What I found even more useful was bringing the news clips in, letting students read them, and discussing the stories behind them. Every news story has a back-story and that's where the best lessons are.

A story of a woman falling off a rope swing and getting impaled by a cypress stump – she lived, by the way – launched the discussion of spot news and how to approach rescue workers and families. A single front page with all five stories under their teacher's byline showed students what future bosses will expect of them. They found out civic club meetings were places to mine the local hospital administrator, banker, and millionaire for stories while waiting for the director of economic development to speak. Accident stories led to questions about how to talk to grieving families and why they might want to talk to reporters. They learned that getting the story may mean waiting eight hours for an interview, slogging through swamps, or following up on things that don't mean much at the time but turn out big.

They also got the blooper real of my reporting career: misspelled names, botched headlines, crappy writing, having to do photos or interviews over because tape recorders and cameras failed, and having to chase down names because I did not get them in the first place.

It worked. Feedback from students was that it added a lot to the experience. As an educator I got better questions and better focus on the lesson at hand. Even confessing my mistakes brought me closer to the students.

Two years later, I continue to use the more interesting stories to launch discussion. I continue to mine the hits and misses of my journalism career so students can learn from them. In 2006 I branched out, begging stories from friends and colleagues to use at a presentation for high school students. For students thinking of becoming journalists, these glimpses of the reporting life are possibly more relevant than what degrees and classes they need and what salaries they can expect.

As we all know, reality bites. It also teaches and I'm willing to let my students learn what they can from my best accomplishments and worst mistakes if it makes them better reporters later on.



Sherrie Farabee has more than 15 years of experience as staff reporter and freelance journalist. She teaches reporting at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Mo., where she is the new adviser for the student newspaper.



Guardian of Fredom

Louis Ingelhart (1920-2007)

By Dr. David L. Knott

ears fell on Indiana the night of Jan. 7. Louis E. Ingelhart's fight for life ended that cold winter evening in a hospital room in Muncie,

Ind. Word of his passing brought a flood of memories rushing back to me. I had just visited him that morning and had an uneasy feeling then that I needed to tell him good-bye and thank him for all he had done to make my life and everybody else's better. I did so and then reluctantly exited that sterile, antiseptic room.

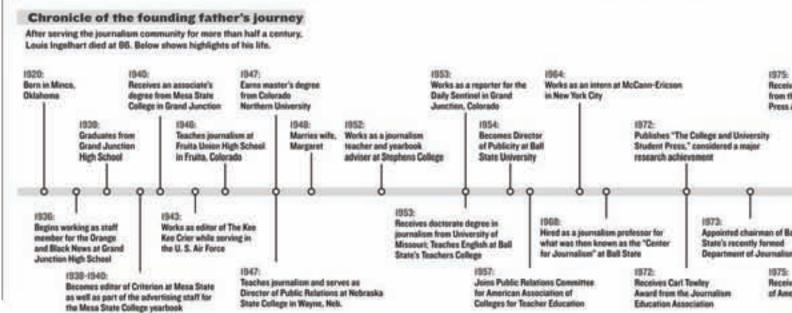
Sterile and antiseptic were nearly anathema to this man who truly was a legend in his own time. He was bigger than life. He was wise, cunning, wily, funny, loving, fatherly, grandfatherly, devoted to his wife and family, comforting, sometimes cranky, irreverent, always loyal, persistent, determined, encouraging supportive, in a hurry but always at a slow pace, prolific in his writings, poetic in nature, and most of all in love with life and journalism and education and those who shared those loves.



Louis Ingelhart, in red sweater, was hard to miss at Ball State groundbreaking ceremony

Then a young high school English and journalism teacher and director of student publications in Indianapolis, I received an invitation in 1969 from Dr. Ingelhart to be a member of the faculty at the high school journalism workshop that summer at Ball State. I never had been to Ball State or Muncie, but I accepted the invitation. Feeling totally inadequate and never-





The timeline (above) was created by Ball State Daily News and was part of the two page spread, a portion of which is featured on pages 20-21

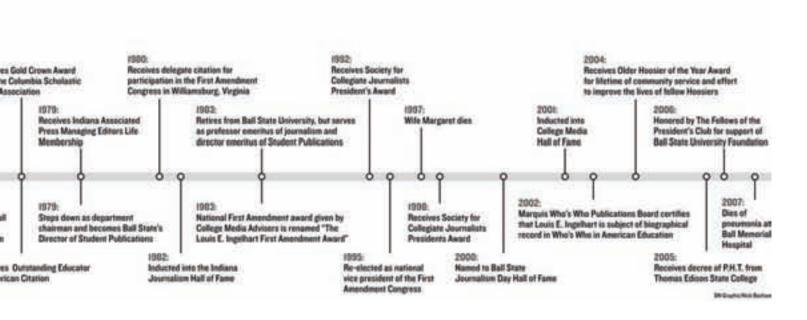
theless in awe of working with such high school publications notables, as Dick Johns, Rod Vahl, Bill Click, Nancy Green and then the biggest star of all, Col. Chuck Savedge. My assignment from the good colonel: prepare a lecture on a subject about which I knew nothing at all. I hurried to seek Dr. Ingelhart's advice. He told me I would do just fine. A few minutes later I got a call from Bill Click inviting me to meet with him that evening to discuss my impending lecture. He gave me a crash course lasting until 3 o'clock in the morning. The next day I pretended to know what I was doing and delivered the much dreaded lecture. That was my first experience with the leadership of Dr. Ingelhart. He knew how to help people get things done.

ive years later I was teaching journalism and advising the Ball State Daily News under the direction of Dr. Ingelhart as department chair. And my life was changed forever. He had created a culture of expected excellence in the department. Nearly everybody worked hard. Nearly everybody wanted to. With a small budget and a small staff, we didn't have the luxury of being specialists. We all had to be generalists in those days. That served me very well in my role as adviser

of the student newspaper, which required me to be somewhat like a general manager as well. He encouraged me to make whatever changes I thought were necessary in the newspaper operation, and he supported me in every way possible, including limiting the number of courses I had to teach. It truly was the job of my dreams. The primary admonition I was given was to be sure the students came first in whatever I did. That was not lost on me, nor was it on our students. They knew that their work on student publications carried just about the highest priority in the department.

Why was this so? Because kids working on student publications were exercising what Dr. Ingelhart viewed as the most important rights in this country: the freedoms of speech and press. He believed that the only way to keep these freedom alive was to exercise them. College student publications provided the most pristine exercise of First Amendment freedoms anywhere. That's what he believed, and that's what he lived.

He was dogged in his determination to see that students and advisers throughout the country were free to exercise that right. He saw no encumbrance that was too big to overcome in his fight for this freedom. He would go anywhere, anytime, and meet with anyone to keep



these freedoms intact. One day the student newspaper published a column about gays in the military. One of the local veterans' groups was irate and told the university president that they were going to fill the street in front of the Administration Building and picket if he didn't do something about that student columnist and the student newspaper. The president called Dr. Ingelhart and me to his office, where he had also summoned the university attorney, and asked, "Now what should I do about this?" Dr. Ingelhart said, "Let us take care of it. I think we can work it out."

r. Ingelhart then called the veteran's organization and asked if we could meet with them. They said they would meet with us if we came to their place. We arrived to find four or five very unhappy veterans waiting for us. Dr. Ingelhart immediately proceeded to disarm them by launching into a recitation of his experiences as a Navy man during World War II. Before you knew it, they were exchanging war stories and patting each other on the back. They ordered beers around for everybody. And then the wily old fox got in the final blow. He told them how proud he was that he and they had all worked so very hard and successfully as military men

in performing their primary duty: to protect the freedoms of those back home, even those with whom they disagreed. They all shook their heads in agreement and ordered another round of beers for everybody. They said they really appreciated what the students brought to the city and that a simple column was nothing to be upset about. We left after accepting a couple more beers and thanking them for their invitation to return the next weekend for their weekly bingo games.

That was Dr. Ingelhart. He had an uncanny ability to make everybody feel good about themselves and what they were doing. The students were prime beneficiaries of this also. One summer night two or three students were on their way to attend a workshop at Ohio University, about a four and a half hour drive from Muncie. Somewhere in the middle of Ohio their car broke down. Having little money and not knowing what to do, they called Dr. Ingelhart to tell him of their predicament. It was 10 o'clock a night. He said sit tight, that he would be there shortly. He got in his car, drove to Ohio, picked up the students and drove the four and a half hours back to Muncie. He was at work by 9 o'clock the next morning.

Even after he retired, Dr. Ingelhart managed to keep up with things at the university



During his retirement reception in 1983, Ingelhart shares a word with photographer Joseph Costa.

Louis E. Ingelhart, Ball State professor emeritus of journalism, died Sunday of pneumonia at Ball Memorial Hospital. Learn more about the founding father of scholastic journalism and his accomplishments. PAGE 6

MONDAY, January 8, 2007 Vol. 86, Issue 76

LOUIS E. INGELHART 1920 - 2007 First Amendment guardian dies

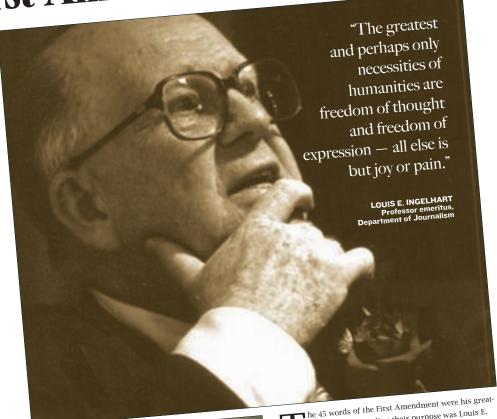




PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM.

LOUIS E. INGELHART began his high school journalism career as a junior in the late 1930s. His senior year he was elected by the student body of Grand Junction High School in Colo. to editor in chief of the Orange and Black news.

"We need to continue our efforts to educate the uneducated. Journalism has the largest classroom - the entire campus.

LOUIS E. INGELHART

lacksquare he 45 words of the First Amendment were his greatest love, but defending their purpose was Louis E. Ingelhart's greatest passion. Ingelhart arrived at Ball State University in hope of fostering support for the outspoken at the edge of an era when Sen. Joseph McCarthy was championing the hunt for "communists" and battling the likes of Edward R. Murrow. The United States was shaken to its core by fear. Silence enveloped the nation.

Ingelhart, meanwhite, focused on building an academic environment where the academic environment should be a supported by the academic environment should be a supported by the academic should be a supported by the su

Ingelhart's passion for the First Amendment was for the sake of the students, not the amendment. He cared not only about theirorads, but their hearts and well-being. Some former students remembered him as a fatherly figure who gas when not just his knowledge, but he would not have the sake of the sake well. Others read how he would pay the tuttion of students who couldn't afford to continue paying it themselves. It was an investment in the students who would apply the sake of the s

"He was the architect of Ball State's Journalism program. His vision and tenacity shaped what has become today's nationally recognized and accredited journalism program."

JAMES D. YUNKER, EdD Ball State alumnus and president of Smith Beers Yunker & Company Inc.

"He believed that your works throughout life [are] what builds the picture of you."

JAMES INGELHART

"No one in the history of this country has done as much to support the free press rights of student journalists as Louie Ingelhart."

MARK GOODMAN Executive Director, Student Press Law Center

Fitting Tribute: The E

In his own words ...

all State Daily News celebrated Ingelhart's legacy through an impressive tribute to this guardian of freedom

Louis Ingelhart leaves behind memorable legacy



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when Ingelhart's former student

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- word and the control of discussions and a substitution of this classroom newspaper.

 "Lou was dedicated to student journalism and to the Ball State journalism department in a manner that you rarely see individuals that dedicated."

 "Cour Police of Police State journalism department in a manner that you rarely sample of the course police of the

and friends remember Louis Ingelhart. Ingel-pneumonia Sunday night at Ball Memorial







He was the Ben Franklin of the journalism department."





He was unwilling to ics who would say stu-dents aren't ready yet or students shouldn't be given complete freedom."

and hopefully throughout the coming twenty-first century, the United States has had and will have strong constitutional provision for the protection of a free press and free speech."

Advocate defended

student media rights Organization names

internship in honor of former professor Emily Ortman = Asst. News Editor

Yunker, said there will never be College Media Advisers another Loss linguishment grub-lications in the '60s could all ways count on his support, advice and coursed during linguishment played an issumed and the lident for the college form the mental rule in leighting form the m



Former chairperson devoted to students, journalism program A founding father has lasting effect on hundreds of people Jessica Kerman and Samantha Zilai Daily News Staff

ity shaped what has become today's nationally recognized and

accredited journalism

Chronicle of the founding father's journey

and to meet and talk with students. Upon learning of Dr. Ingelhart's demise, one such former student emailed me: "My meetings with him were usually bull sessions. Often I would just sit around and listen to him and other old-timers talk about whatever was going on at Ball State or in the world. I can't say that he was a mentor, but he was an influence on me. I don't remember so much his kernels of wisdom as I do his simple friendliness. Funny how that's what we remember most about people: 'Were they nice to me?' Doc was."

And so he was to all of us who had the privilege of knowing him. That's why tears fell on Indiana the night of Jan. 7. We miss you, Doc.

Dr. David L. Knott, a Lifetime Member of College Media Advisers, was an associate professor of journalism at Ball State University and faculty adviser for the Ball State Daily News from 1976 to 1979. He is a member of the CMA Hall of Fame, served as CMA president from 1985 to 1987, and was the executive director of the Indiana Collegiate Press Association for 1977 to 1993. He was a recipient of the Gold Key Award of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in 1986.



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Cover to Cover



Parks, Perry. (2006) Making Important News Interesting. Oak Park, Ill.: Marion Street Press.

Making important news interesting.

We used to call them DBI's – dull but important. They were the kinds of public affairs stories that were admittedly boring, but we journalists considered them important. They were the stories we agreed that readers *should* read, though we feared that not many would slog through them.

And those were the days before the days of shrinking newspapers and news holes and 24-hour news cycles and attention spans that have continued to decline since a few decades ago when we thought they were already dangerously short.

Perry Parks has written a public affairs reporting text for today's journalism – today's newspapers and today's readers. It's not like any other public affairs reporting book, but Parks makes clear in the preface what the differences are.

One difference is that this is a writing-centered book. Parks explains in the preface: "The public affairs journalism we need is lively, direct, honest, powerful, and transparently important. The public affairs journalism we get is dull, bureaucratic, insider-focused, and occasionally incomprehensible."

Parks has written a book that addresses that problem: It shows students how to address the old DBI issue. His solutions certainly aren't new, but he centers the book on how to find the *story* in the information – by focusing on the people in government, the people affected by the actions of government, and the implications of the actions of government. Parks shows young journalists how to find the issue behind the news event and to look for the ways that public policy options impact citizens, rather than to just cover a meeting or the routine actions and pronouncements of government.

The book is full of illustrations that help students see exactly what the author is talking about. He doesn't fall into the lazy-writing trap as do some textbook authors who state a premise and then include 10 stories that illustrate it, without explaining how these stories demonstrate the principle under discussion. He talks students through 15 chapters of advice on various aspects of this approach to public affairs journalism and its implications for local, state, national, and international news; for elections; for business news; and for opinion pages.

One chapter title sums up one of his major themes: Refuse to be Boring. Like all chapters, this one ends with a list of bulleted points that summarize the main points covered. Following each chapter is a "For thought and action..." section with ideas for applying the principles of the chapter.

The book is different from most other texts in its writing orientation. Parks explains in the preface that "This book starts where most ... texts leave off." You won't find the traditional organization-of-county-government chapter that focuses on reporting in light of the functions of county government. To be sure, there are many implications for reporting in the approach Parks advocates – you can't write this type of story without solid reporting. But some public affairs reporting teachers might want to adopt this as a supplemental text because of its lack of traditional reporting content.

Those of us who work with college students know that they are socialized all-too-early into the bad habits of our business – covering the same old story in the same old way, writing for insiders in governmentese. And so often, journalism textbooks just contribute to the problem.

Hats off to Perry Parks in being part of the answer, not part of the problem.

-Tommy Thomason

Tommy Thomason is director of the Schieffer School of Journalism at Texas Christian University, where he teaches public affairs reporting.





MISSION

- It educates and informs advisers on how to teach, advise, and produce collegiate media.
- Its refereed section quantifies trends, documents theories, identifies characteristics, and disseminates research and information for and about collegiate media and advising.
- Its non-refereed section offers essential information on all facets of collegiate media advising teaching, training, recruiting, diversifying, motivating, and challenging students to media excellence.

GUIDELINES

- Our audience is primarily faculty and staff engaged in college media advising. Content is tightly focused to the concerns of college media.
- Length limit is 5,000 words.
- Style: Text follows Chicago style. Use single space after periods. For citations, use parenthetical references in text to author, year, and page number. Include at the end of the article a complete reference in the reference list, in alphabetical order by author's name, and following Chicago style.
- Art: Black-and-white and/or color photography or graphics may be submitted in digital format. Art files (particularly charts and graphs) may be imbedded in the text of an article for placement but should be submitted as additional stand-alone files. Please provide credit/copyright information for all art submitted.

- College Media Review will consider articles for publication; a query is suggested. CMR prints first-time material, unless the material has been specifically requested from another publication.
- CMR seeks authoritative articles rather than anecdotal.
- For all articles for which it is appropriate, a service journalism approach is encouraged.
- CMR prefers articles written in third person; exceptions may be made under extenuating circumstances.
- Articles must be submitted electronically, in either Microsoft Word or basic text format. E-mail articles as attachments to Robert Bohler (r.bohler@tcu.edu). Include a 60-word biography that includes current position, media advised, and key prior experience.

- Submit to Associate Editor Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver two copies (kopenhav@ fiu.edu) of each manuscript, which should be typed and double-spaced and submitted both in hard copy and on disk. Refereed articles that are rejected may be resubmitted for the non-refereed section of CMR and will be considered if appropriate.
- Contributing writers will be notified within 90 days in most cases. Once an article is published, the author will receive two complimentary copies of that issue by first class mail, prior to regular second-class mailings. College Media Review will gladly comply with any requests for verification letters confirming acceptance of an article.

Color Page

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