

"Silly and banal"

-Cincinnati Magazine
1991 "Best & Worst"

The Whistleblower

Or "Some of the News They Seem to Lose" ©

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This Week's Really Big Story

Post cartoonist charged with cruel insensitivity



Cincinnati Post editorial cartoonist **Jeff Stahler** was charged with "gross insensitivity" last week by **Gary Wendt**, an outraged reader who faxed in his complaint about a derogatory tableau reviling the good name of Channel 5 talk-show host **Jerry Springer**.

The letter read: "I am writing to express disgust at the editorial cartoon Sept. 23 about Jerry Springer. What right does Jeff Stahler have to dig up sins of the past (from the '70s? What about Jerry or his family's feelings?)"

"I believe an apology is due. I am surprised that the editorial board allows Stahler to be so insensitive.

Maybe Stahler can dig up something sordid about The Post editor's distant past...No, that wouldn't be right."

Wendt's anger is over Stahler's reminding people about the time in 1974 that Springer, then a

Cincinnati city councilman, ignored his family's feelings and was forced to resign in shame and disgrace after being stupid enough to get caught paying a Northern Kentucky hooker with a check.

A spokesperson for the Springer show also thought Stahler's cartoon was grossly unfair. She wished people would stop harping on continuing rumors of Springer's perversions and taste for nubile, young flesh.

The spokesperson said she wished critics would focus on some of the more positive aspects of Springer's career, such as his wildly acclaimed abilities as a news reader.

"Jerry's reformed, just like the Cincinnati Public Schools," the spokesperson added. "He hasn't parked his Bentley in a no-boinking zone all week."

Top Ten List

This week, it's the top ten Iraqi secret weapons programs discovered by the U.N. inspectors in Baghdad:

10. A book of 1001 meaningless threats
9. "I survived the bombing" T-shirts for children to wear at the next spontaneous demonstration
8. Recipes for cooking zoo animals
7. Warehouse full of Tariz Aziz big nose and glasses
6. 3 million AK-47 assault rifles—only dropped once
5. Brand-new supply of white underwear to use as surrender flags
4. Peter Arnett's unlisted phone number
3. Lettering kit to make signs that say "Baby Milk Factory"
2. The design for the sealth camel

And the number one Iraqi secret weapon program discovered by the U.N. inspectors in Baghdad is...an unread instruction manual on how to operate a Fax machine.



Fact or fiction?

Many readers thought we were just kidding when we reported the proposed sale and departure of the financially troubled Covington Landing last week.

This week, several independent sources confirmed that this is one rumor you can take to the bank.



Man with a plan

By far the most interesting candidate for the Cincinnati School Board is Libertarian **Jim Berns**.

Berns thinks schools should get back to basics and reduce staff by 25%. Forget the frills.

Berns says the present system cannot be fixed. He opposes the 38% School Tax Increase and believes that paying any school taxes should be strictly voluntary.



The Whistleblower hotline—call 749-1055



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Real Editorials By the Publisher Charles Foster Kane

Balanced bias

"If that 38% Cincinnati School Tax Increase fails again this November, it won't be because they haven't gotten every break imaginable in the news media," claimed an irate Whistleblower Hotline caller.

Tax levy opponents argue that school news has been biased during the early part of the campaign, reporters have asked easy questions to school levy proponents, and that opposing viewpoints have rarely been presented.

Sources at both *The Enquirer* and *Post* deny that a policy exists to take it easy on school levy proponents.

That, however, does not explain why reporters continue to refer to the 38% tax increase as a 9.83 mil levy. Neither do any of the stories we've seen remind Cincinnati taxpayers that they are already paying 26.03 mils for a school system that doesn't work. Nor did anybody bother to calculate that children, riding an hour-and-a-quarter on a bus to get to school, would spend the equivalent of two-and-a-half weeks during the school year riding in a vehicle without seat belts. And during that amount of time, they could have traveled around the world at the equator.

The news media do not appear to be looking the other way when negative school news occurs. Drugs in school and love notes from homosexual teachers still seem to be getting good play whenever those occasions arise.

Overall coverage appears biased because School Tax Increase Coordinator **Brewster Rhoads**, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers President **Tom Mooney**, School Superintendent **Michael Brandt**, and their merry little band of tax-increase lovers aren't missing a trick. Every sign of improvement in the school system—no matter how long overdue—is trumpeted as another reason for passage of the gigantic school tax increase. They are working hard because their jobs depend on the passage of the tax increase. Their orchestration is one of which even **Jesus Lopez Cobos** would be proud.

On the other hand, tax levy opponents aren't even fogging a mirror. Last year at this time, former WCKY talk-show host and psychotic slumlord **Stan Solomon** was rousing the rabble every day, outraged taxpayers were writing angry letters to the editor, and Citizen's for Educational Diversity's **Blake Baird** had become something of a minor folk hero.

But this year, getting a credible opposing viewpoint has been almost impossible.

Let's face it—if this year's 38% school tax increase passes, levy opponents will only have themselves to blame.

There just aren't that many homosexual teachers writing love notes to their students,



Real Facts "More of the News They Seem to Lose"

Looking in all the wrong places

Last Tuesday, the Ohio Department of Commerce bought five full pages of very expensive advertising space in *The Cincinnati Enquirer* to list the names and addresses of people whom they had not been able to find in order to distribute some unclaimed funds.

Obscure people included *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, Chamber of Commerce, Central Trust Bank (3 times), Cincinnati Milacron, Cincinnati Public Schools,

Fifth Third Bank (3 times), First National Bank (5 times), **Aaron Pryor**, the U.C. Bookstore, Provident Bank, I.R.S., and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

One wonders that if the State of Ohio cannot even find the newspaper in which they're advertising, we suspect that **Bill Keating** will tell **George Blake** to hand-deliver the invoice to insure prompt payment.



Wildman's stunt a scam

Dennis "Wildman" Walker is receiving a lot of publicity these days for agreeing to stay up on a billboard until the Cincinnati Bengals win a game; however reports persist that the **WEBN** sports schmuck, whose contract is almost up, is not up on the billboard at all, except when TV cameras are present.

"It's inconceivable that we'd allow him to be up there all this time and allow him to pollute the environment," said Mayor **David Mann**, who echoed the opinion of the

EPA. "It's bad enough that he lives in this city and pollutes our airwaves."

Sources at the radio station admit that on several occasions they have been unable to reach **Walker**. "But with a cellular phone, he could be anywhere," the station's spokesman said. The spokesman also confirmed that the station's sales have been down and so have the ratings, and that **Walker's billboard scam** was a last resort for both."



Sam slammed in limerick contest

Last week, 1848 sign-making season-ticket holders called the Whistleblower Hotline to enter the Whistleblower Limerick Contest. The winner was **WLW Radio loudmouth** and world-class Wyche-basher **Andy Furman**, who will receive a videotape of the 1991 Bengals' highlights (abbreviated version).

His winning entry was:

There once was a coach called sad Sam,
Who said, "My strategy is all a big scam;
'Cause if we keep on losin',
A first draft pick we'll be choosin'.
Unless the Bengals tell Sam to just scam.

The first line of this week's limerick contest is: "A publicity-hungry sports schmuck named **Wildman**..."



Next week, the Cincinnati Reds 1991 baseball season will come to an end.

Who gives a bit rat's ass!





Cheap Shots

Power of the press

When Ron Jackson read in last week's *Whistleblower* that his company, Jackson/Ridey Advertising, was going belly up, he immediately called all his clients to confirm the rumor. We wonder what Jackson would do if we reported that he'd filed bankruptcy.



Yates relates

These days, Cincinnati councilman Tyrone Yates is running so scared that he's making silly suggestions faster than council can table them, just to get a little attention from the news media. His latest—"guilt coupons" people could buy to give out to all those scruffy-looking beggars and panhandlers, instead of cash. All the merchants at Tower Place can hardly wait.



Phantom fund-raiser

GOP city council candidate Martin Wade calls his fund-raising idea novel and unique; however, nothing could be further from the truth. A letter from Wade's campaign officials—Roger Ach III and Frank Wood—tells prospective contributors that if you send in \$250, you won't have to have any involvement with the candidate. Imagine that—giving a politician money and never hearing from him again. If only it were that easy.



Waiting game

Hamilton County Commissioner Steve Chabot has still not found the money to build the new jail. But why the rush? People waiting to serve their time only outnumber current inmates about 2-1.



Listen to Charles Foster Kane explain nuclear disarmament on Jerry Thomas' Show, Tuesday-thru-Thursday at 9:10 a.m.

55 WKRC



Another Real Guest Editorial by Bunky Tadwell

I don't know how many magazine freaks there are left in the world. People used to really care about magazines. They looked forward to each issue, reading them cover to cover. Some even saved every issue. Of course, there was much less to do when publications such as *Colliers*, *Liberty*, *True*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Judge*, the old *Life* and then the newer *Life* (but not the newest *Life*), *Look*, *Argosy*, and bunches of literary publications.

Rising costs, television, a general decline in the nation's ability or desire to read, and probably, sun spots, led to the demise of what we used to think of as "magazines."

But, of course, that is really not the case. The people most affected by the vanishing of certain publications were short-story writers, cartoonists, and people who liked to read short stories and laugh at cartoons. Today, there are more magazines than ever. Most have limited circulation, but that's good because excess circulation is what killed general-interest magazines. You can find a magazine devoted to people who knit with their left hand only while watching sleaze shows on TV and combing their red hair into ringlets. There are all kinds of music magazines, kiddy porn, muscle magazines, car and driver publications, craft magazines, motorcycle magazines with single syllable words describing tattooed women with big jugs, arty left-wing rags, clumsy right-wing rags, and the popular women's magazines that give, in clinical detail, instructions on achieving orgasm while demolishing a male rival at a power lunch.

So, there are plenty of magazines. The problem, as always, is how to attract enough readers to justify devoting 75-80% of the publication to ads. Few have escaped those mailers that tell you that you may already have won \$10 million or some such thing. These giveaways always take place some three or four years hence, but you are urged to send NOW, and if you are among the first 100 entries from some place you can win something but no one ever knows who won what, so who

cares? The thing about these mailers is that you can save considerably on the price of a subscription. And, you can choose from a wide variety of magazines.

To encourage you to subscribe, magazines today offer incentives or premiums. A desk clock, gym bag, calculator that run on the sun's energy, radios, cameras, almanacs, and road maps. You can sample a lot of different publications for little cost. And, you can collect advertising premiums that may be worth something to collectors.

Which brings us to an interesting premium offered by one of the most famous of magazines, the *Saturday Evening Post*. The old *Post*, the oversized publication that sold for a nickel, holds many fond memories. Some fine illustrators graced its covers and interiors. Famous writers of fiction and fact found it a good market for their wares. Cartoonists flourished. (A few from *Post* and *Colliers* are still around today, but their ranks are thinning.)

Today's down-sized *Post* trades on the past, which is OK, but it is a far less interesting magazine. However, they did make a very interesting offer to subscribers, one that may say more about their magazine than all the ad copy some semi-literate copywriter might scrawl. With each subscription, you can now get a container of Beano, the liquid of choice for those who wish to avoid those noisy, smelly gaffs at social and business functions.



Should this campaign prove successful, I would suggest they follow up with an offer of stylish windbreakers.

The views and opinions in this column do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the author. They do, however, reflect the philosophy of *The Whistleblower*, its staff, its management, and most importantly—its advertisers.



Real Letters from Real Readers

Sirs:
No team has ever gone 0-4 at the beginning of the season and has been undefeated.
Sam Wyche

Sirs:
Next time Teddy Kennedy sees a judge, He'll be the one answering the questions.
Clarence Thomas

Sirs:
There will never be true racial equality in Cincinnati until every little black child arrives at school in a Volvo station wagon.
Frank Allison/NAACP

Sirs:
Every night before I go to sleep I pray, "Please, Lord...Make sure the applause sign works properly."
Jerry Springer

Sirs:
The biggest reason that I endorse the 38% School Tax Increase is because the Church doesn't pay taxes.
Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk

Sirs:
The Enquirer's Bob Clerc was wrong to characterize the Charter Party as dead. I looked in the obituaries and didn't see our name there.
Dennis Hicks/Executive Director

Sirs:
The reason I'm against Congressmen bouncing checks and not being charged for their overdrafts is because I haven't been here long enough to take advantage of the program.
Landslide Charlie Luken

Sirs:
Maybe our critics in the neighborhoods think we should all wear "blackface" and put on a little minstrel show.
Clem "Mr. Bones" Buenger

Sirs:
The Cincinnati police department is offering a new service for perverts who call 911. We'll let you talk dirty to a policewoman until we arrive.
Larry Whalen

Sirs:
Why am I having trouble finding the right kind of girl—one I can cheat on?
Donald Trump

Sirs:
Please have pity on a sick old man.
Starvin' Marvin Warner

Sirs:
I don't need a job as an anchorbimbo on WKRC-TV. I can always get a job sniffing luggage at the airport.
Debra Silberstein

Sirs:
Sure, we at *The Enquirer* think the passing of Dr. Seuss was an important story. He was almost as important a national treasure as Schottzie.
George Blake



Another Exclusive Whistleblower Report

Clean Gene's secret plan

According to official GOP campaign correspondence—a fund-raising letter for Councilman Jim Cissell from his Finance Chairman Jim Orr, Hamilton County party boss Gene Ruehlmann's secret strategy for the 1991 Cincinnati city council elections has two major objectives:

1. To make sure that GOP incumbents are re-elected and thus hold on to the seats currently held by Republicans.



2. Elect as many additional positive thinking non-incumbent candidates as possible, which can then be used as a platform for leadership and expansion.

The letter then explains that re-electing Cissell will cost money—\$40,000 to be raised by this appeal alone—and asks for a contribution.

At a recent joint appearance before the Colerain Business Association, Ruehlmann corrected Hamilton County Democratic Party boss Tom Luken, who had complained about Ruehlmann's plan to raise \$1 million.

"Actually, Tom...it's \$4 million," Ruehlmann said.

"We figured Clean Gene would reach into his bag of dirty tricks," Luken said later. "But we never expected something like this."

Whistleblower denies "inaccurate reporting"

Last week, *Hilltop News* staffer Heidi Fallon reported on North College Hill Republican Vince Ever's charges that a recent story in the Whistleblower was "not accurate reporting" and a "set-up." As always, The Whistleblower stands by the accuracy of its reporting.



United Appall People

For the past two years, Elroy Stench, a downtown elevator operator, has attended counseling sessions at the United Appall's Acute Flatulence Clinic in East Walnut Hills.

"It really used to be a problem at work," Stench said.

The Acute Flatulence Clinic was started by Families Against Rectal Turbulence (FART), and is now only one of the many caring United Appall Agencies.

Stench likes the United Appall because it has taught him no longer to be ashamed.



It's still the cheapest day care in town.

Vote for the 38% School Tax Levy Increase!

Paid for by "Citizens for a Mediocre Education"





Bluegrass Holler
by Ken Cambo

Plaque build up

The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce revved up its sincerity machine at their Annual Dinner last Friday and handed out awards to its best and brightest. We can't remember when we last heard such glowing testimonials to dedication and service. It must have been as far distant as last month's Chamber meeting.

The prestigious Walter L. Pieschel Award was doled out to Seasingood & Mayer attorney **Robert A. Cooper**, recognizing him for his "unselfish and generous gifts of time and talent" as the chamber's most ardent volunteer. This guy put in more hours on Chamber of Commerce projects than on his real job. Too bad he hasn't found enough time to actually move to Northern Kentucky. Cooper lives in Cincinnati with his wife and two sons.

The main event at the Drawbridge Inn, however, was the highly coveted Walter R. Dunlevy/Frontiersman Award, which generally goes to either a banker or a past president of the Chamber. The requirements for the laurel are that the recipient be outstanding in everything from hardy handshakes to heartfelt appreciation. You have to have kissed more butt than most politicians; but retain your dignity and have fresh breath. It was certainly no surprise, then, that this year's trophy went to attorney **William T. Robinson III**. One bidder in the audience remarked, "If God comes back in a three-piece suit and gold cuff links, I bet he'll look just like Bill Robinson." As usual Robinson did not have a hair out of place and the shine on his Murphy Johnsons was blinding.

We can't wait until the Chamber gets around to its Annual Business Person of the Year Award. Those in the know are betting it will go to **Angelo** from Campbell County Chevrolet; because just like the Chamber, he does business the old fashioned way...with a handjob

Mother's keeper

Covington police must have thought they checked into the Bates Motel when they encountered **Ann Hamilton**, who had stashed her dead mother in a locker for the past four years. Neighbors got suspicious when Hamilton started dressing up like her mother, whom nobody had seen for a long time. On their first visit to the house, the cops thought the foul odor they noticed was from the zillion or so cats living in the place. Only later did they find the mom-in-the-box, but decided to sit on the story for a couple days, so as not to induce "public panic." Inside sources tell us the CPD didn't want to scare people away from the MainStrasse Oktoberfest, which was just around the corner from the house from hell.



J. R. Hatfield
Northern Kentucky
Bureau Chief

Conventional Wisdom

It didn't take long for the fur to fly after the Northern Kentucky Convention's Visitors Bureau released its consultant's feasibility study recommending a new convention center be built in downtown Covington. The good ole boys in suburbia started screaming bloody murder mid-way through the press conference.

Leading the pack of cry-baby developers was Drawbridge Inn owner **Jerry Deters**, who was stunned that his estate out on Buttermilk Pike wasn't selected as the site. "How the hell are we supposed to get rid of all this crappy beer," bawled an Oldenburg Brewery executive.

Equally dismayed was Turfway Park showhorse **Jerry Carroll**, who has been amassing land next to his race track in anticipation of building a convention facility. Word on the streets is that Carroll is banking on the \$86,000 campaign contribution to **Brereton Jones** by Turfway principals to sway the deal in his favor. Primary funding for construction of the center will come from the State of Kentucky.

NKU president **Leon Boothe** made a half-hearted plea for consideration of his campus as the site, but backed off later. Somebody must have reminded Neon Leon how bad traffic is in his neighborhood already.

One guy in the crowd

who could scarcely contain his glee was Covington Mayor **Denny Bowman**. He was all set to give an Academy Award style acceptance speech, but was headed off by NKCVB director **Mike Rozow** before he could reach the podium.

Kenton County Judge Executive **Clyde Middleton** tried to look inconspicuous as he snuck out early, hoping nobody would pin him down on having the county put any money into the deal. He also probably didn't want to listen to his bosom buddy, Deters, whine about how he got shafted.

Another nervous nelly in attendance was Chamber of Commerce president **John Garman**, who has to figure out how to look happy for Covington and not piss off his big money members in the 'burbs at the same time.

A united front of support has to be in place before the General Assembly meets in January. That's when the state begins to grapple with its \$157 million revenue shortfall this fiscal year.

It ought to be pretty interesting to see how the local movers and shakers handle this hot potato in the next few weeks. This will be a real acid test of whether they truly believe the regionalism gospel they've been preaching, or if that just applies to the war with Cincinnati.



Curb your stud

In yet another move toward the 20th Century, the Boone County Fiscal Court passed a law last week to require horseback riders to clean up after their mounts.

The equine pooper-scooper measure was prompted by frantic calls from residents in the pricier subdivisions complaining about road apples stinking up their

BMW's. Judge Executive **Bruce Ferguson** reminisced about his boyhood days in Boone County when he "tramped barefoot in horse manure." At least now he wears boots.

And speaking of unadulterated horse manure, the City of Florence has just boosted its earnings tax charging twice as much to people who live outside the county.



Campaign tidbit

Wild-card contender **Angela Matthews** has picked up steam in the Covington City Commission

election thanks to a large money injection from a secret admirer sick of the incumbents.



Hotline Hang-ups

Here are some of the anonymous calls we received last week on the Whistleblower Hotline.

Times have really changed. Why I remember when city councilman John Mirlisena actually supported the pro-life movement. But that was when he was still a Republican.

Word at the courthouse is that Special Prosecutor Tom Smith was so crushed when he was beaten in court by a former lounge singer with no law degree, that he vowed to get even by sending an audition tape of himself doing his Elvis impersonation to the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas.

After watching Lee Etta Powell and Robert Braddock succeed at taking our public schools into the porcelain facility, I'm tired of listen to complaints from the black community about their lack of input.

I've noticed a lot of new chain-link fences on the bridges that cross over the roadways. How expensive are they? Who got the contract?

I have it on good authority that when Dusty Rhodes is in the privacy of his own bedroom, he dresses up in like a nun.

We haven't seen much about the tempest that's taking place at U.C. about the \$10 million spent to renovate Nippert Stadium. Half of it was from general funds without faculty approval, behind closed doors, with a 7% deficit and tuition increases. All for a team that gets beat 81-0.

I was watching Oprah about women who date men. I'm 24 and currently dating a 47-year-old woman and I just wanted to brag about it.

You guys are really wimps! When will you ever have the nerve to publish the names of all our celebrity homosexuals?

The Whistleblower hotline—call 749-1055

The Whistleblower has installed a special hotline for people wishing to give us more of the news the others seem to lose.

To make your report, call 749-1055 and listen carefully to the instructions.

To our knowledge, The Whistleblower is still the only publication in this area to offer a readers' call-in line.



This publication is a work of fiction. Any similarity to persons living or dead without satirical intent is purely coincidental, especially Virginia Rhodes.



Real Gossip by Linda Libel

Would somebody tell Enquirer

radio-TV critic John Kiesewetter to get a life. Last year, all he could write about was keeping "thirysomething" on the air. This year he's all strung out about cast changes on "Designing Women." Is anybody starting to see a pattern here?



Meanwhile, over at The Post, they're still reveling at all the awards they got in last week's Whistleblower "Best and Worst" edition. Especially Jennifer Kent, voted "best-smelling female business reporter." Jennifer's boss, business editor Dan Andriacco, said the award didn't go far enough. Says Dan, "She's the best smelling business reporter—male or female."

Last week, Paramount Films gave a preview screening for "Necessary Roughness," a movie about a really bad football team. Curiously enough, some of the Bengals attended. Obviously looking for pointers. I couldn't enjoy the movie, though, because I was sitting in front of one of the players who talked on his cellular phone during the entire show. Maybe he was doing his radio sports-talk show direct from the theatre.

Tonight's the night we've all been waiting for, ladies...the Chippendales will be taking it all off at the Hyatt. And who said that place didn't have class. No wonder vacancies in downtown hotels are at a four-year high.

And speaking of empty rooms, I read where former Business Record publisher Henry Dorfman is now doing some marketing work for one of the hotels. That's two industries he's helping to destroy in a single year.

Last week, ABC got great ratings when Doogie Howser lost his virginity on TV. This week, we understand WKRC-TV, the local ABC affiliate, plans to show weatherman Steve Horstmeyer doing the same thing.

Here's an idea for a new TV show—Charlie Keating starring in "Empty Nest Egg."



Guess Who?

Which female Cincinnati city council candidate once posed in the nude as a joke and thought the negatives had been destroyed?

And speaking of a refreshing alternative to breakthrough TV, did you catch Jerry Springer's first program? Even the new "ego-cam" won't help.

I can see why his producers are so worried. They're so desperate to have people show up that they call ticketholders at home 18 times. I couldn't use the two I had, so I left them in an envelope under my windshield wiper along with a note offering the tickets to anyone who could use them. When I returned, the envelope was still on my windshield, but instead of two tickets there were four.

A lot of people are asking why the other media—especially The Enquirer and Post are giving Springer's show so much attention.

The answer is simple. The bigger build-up they give him now, the more fun they can have tearing him down when his silly show goes down in flames.



Classified Advertising

REPLICATE YOUR GENITALS IN WAX

Will perform at your place or mine. Ask for Dave. 352-2791.

SAFE SEX CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNITY

No testing necessary. Looks real. Call Andy 852-1074.

FREE LIMO SERVICE

Good seats still available for Jerry Springer's new TV talk show. All performances. Call 352-5063.

AD SALES ALERT

Comedy Club opening soon needs to hear from media reps. Whores only. Call Ray Combs 729-2662.