

**Your Guardian
Angels of
journalism on
patrol**

The Whistleblower

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

Edition # 49

May 7, 1991

This Week's Really Big Story

County probe continues



Investigators from the Sheriff's Department are still looking into allegations that three county building inspectors cheated on their mileage reports and timesheets, but no disciplinary actions are expected anytime soon.

"Although all three commissioners are truly *outraged*," explained Steve Chabot, "we can't react until we have the full story."

The investigation began after commissioners panicked when they heard that Channel 9's "I-Team" was actually following up on one of the many unanswered charges that had been previously published in *The Whistleblower*.

Facts missing from "I-Team" report

One thing Channel 9's "I-Team" overlooked is the reason that it should be no surprise that the Hamilton County Building Department's operation has been a little lax.

How could anyone expect director Ralph Liebing to attend to building inspection business when the man has a compulsion to write weird love poems and buy lingerie for his secretaries?

Well-known as a man who observes the spirit of Secretaries Week all year 'round, Ralph the Romantic

was disciplined not so long ago after one female employee objected to his amorous advances.

The name "Liebing" is a derivation of the German word "Liebling" which means "little lover."

Secretaries who work in the county building department agree, saying, "That's about the size of it."

Liebing transferred

Last Friday, Liebing was transferred to another department and kept his \$58,482 salary.

Why didn't the Commissioners just fire him? The answer is obvious. He must really know where the bodies are buried.

Esposito trial not sold out

Although only a few tickets for Mickey Esposito's May 20 trial remain available, the former Deputy Auditor's day in court live television coverage is still expected to be blacked out locally.

Witness lists promise a veritable "Who's Who" of sleaze, and

The Whistleblower will provide souvenir Esposito Trial Sleaze Scorecards for the event.

Esposito still plans to act as his own attorney.



Distribution of this week's Whistleblower to subscribers of record in the downtown area is provided by Blue Chip Express.

(513)
421-3232

Top Ten List

This week, it's the top ten upcoming "I-Team" in-depth investigative reports:

10. County employees cheating on their golf scores
9. Number of Whistleblowers made each week on courthouse copying machines
8. Homosexuals in city government
7. Leaks at the water works
6. What Marge Schott really knows about baseball
5. Pete Rose's connection to the Delta Queen's loss to the Belle of Louisville
4. Hiring practices at minority-owned businesses
3. Do blondes really have more fun
2. How much wood can a woodchuck chuck
1. And the number one upcoming "I-Team" in-depth investigative report is... bimbo bag ladies boinked in the back seat of a Bentley.



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.

Calls to the Whistleblower hotline are protected by the Ohio Whistleblower Law, Section 4113.52 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Callers' confidentiality will be absolutely maintained.

For further information about your rights as a public employee or to voice your concerns about your city, county, state, or federal government, contact your lawyer, the Cincinnati Bar Association Lawyers Referral Service (381-8359) or the American Civil Liberties Union (961-5666).



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Real Editorials By the Publisher Charles Foster Kane

Sweeping stories

All kidding aside—those big budget promotional campaigns that local TV stations foist on their viewers as in-depth investigations during ratings periods are not only an insult to their viewers' intelligence, but to all serious journalists.

Television journalism's moral equivalent of the *Enquirer's* "Sesquicentennial Edition," these reports are a triumph of trivia over substance. Their only purpose is to generate viewership so they can charge more for their commercials. Any dissemination of useful information is purely coincidental.

Take **Jerry Springer's** homeless odyssey—please! It's not that nobody recognized Springer; people felt so sorry for him in that ridiculous get-up that they didn't want to hurt his feelings.

The idea that Springer could walk around for a week without being recognized is a serious indictment of WLWT's impression of its own impact on society's consciousness.

By mid-week, Jerry Springer homeless jokes became such an embarrassment for the station that not even a hastily concocted canned-food drive on Friday could save its credibility.

Then there was the Channel 9 "I-Team" series about bogus mileage reports submitted by county building inspectors.

Does the "I-Team" need a seeing-eye dog, or what? When are they ever going to get around to asking the right questions?

Channel 9 has always had an aversion to going for the throat while supposedly investigating corruption at the Hamilton County Courthouse. The station is still probably making excuses for the way they mishandled the story about (then Commissioner) **Norman Murdock's** running the Reagan campaign out of the courthouse in 1979.

Obviously, if local television news departments let their reporters cover stories instead of their obvious preoccupation with satisfying their anchorpeople's egos, there would be no need for silly Sweeps Weeks promotions. No wonder people watch CNN. Or MTV.

Next time, instead of separate stories, all three local news departments should work together.

Channel 9's "I-Team" should investigate Channel 12's

Mary Krutko dressed up like a little girl on a Newport streetcorner to see if Channel 5's Jerry Springer drives by in his Bentley and asks if he could boink her in the back seat.

At the rate they're going, it just might happen.



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

The missing link

Another of the many facts Channel 9's "I-Team" didn't uncover during their report of county employees was the connection between **Peter K. Marino** and **Pete Marino**, the \$44,964-per-year administrator of the Hamilton County Relief Commission.

Peter K. Marino is the \$26,312-per-year building inspector who called in sick on three straight days so he could work on the house he was building as a private contractor in Clermont County.

Pete Marino is Peter K. Marino's father. He recently agreed to repay the \$27,327 he bilked from the taxpayers, according to a state audit.

One reason the "I-Team" may have chosen not to make the connection is that Pete Marino was formerly an advertising salesman for the station.



Outrage—a new meaning

According to *The Whistleblower* stylebook, use of the "outrage" has been expanded to include an initial reaction by a public official trying to distance himself or cover up some evil misdeed performed by one or more of his underlings, either with or without his knowledge and/or consent.

For example, it is now proper to say "Commissioners **Steve Chabot**, **Sandra**

Beckwith, and **John Dowlin** were all *outraged* when they heard of building department employees playing golf on county time."

Meanwhile, the midnight oil is burning at **Nolan**, **Hogan** and **Stites** (the Republican advertising agency of choice) as they try to figure out how to rework commercials for the 1992 commissioners races.

An Outrage!



Chabot '92

Bosses from hell

Recently the Associated Press reported that a university official in Cincinnati who gave an employee a makeshift office in an unused restroom was one of this year's "winners" in a bad bosses contest sponsored by 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women.

"I spent seven months...typing on the commode. Every time someone flushed the toilet in the adjoining restroom, my chair gurgled," wrote the woman, according to the AP story.

Actually, the school involved was the University of Cincinnati, a fact not known by AP or the *University of Cincinnati News Record*.

Addenda, a newsletter published by District 925, of the Service

Employees International Union was more informative. It explained that in addition to the demeaning working conditions, the employee had received an unsatisfactory rating for keeping an untidy work area.

"But this story is at least three years old," explained **Debbie Schneider**, spokeswoman for the employees union. "It happened several years ago before the secretaries organized at UC. In fact, situations like this forced office workers at UC to form a union in the first place."

Schneider added that in non-union workplaces this sort of thing happens all the time.





Cheap Shots

Old habits die hard

John Mirlisena should purge his mailing list. The born-again Democrat sent invitations to his May 9 fund-raiser to former Republican contributors.

But maybe he's still a Republican at heart. \$100-a-plate receptions at the Bankers Club shut out most of the blue-collar crowd.



Mystery solved

Whistleblower Pulitzer prize winner Jim Borgman, who admits his 15 minutes of fame are fleeting, has been wondering who bought the congratulatory billboards all over town.

Borgman knows that the *Enquirer* didn't put up the money for the full-page ad in this month's *Columbia Journalism Review*.



King Features, his syndicator, paid for that.

But who put up the money for the billboards?

Stop wondering, Jim. We confess. We did it.

Form 941—where are you?

Henry Dorfman's *Greater Cincinnati Business Record* is getting leaned on by the IRS again.

On April 22, a second tax lien—this one for \$42,759.27—was filed in the Hamilton County Recorder's office against the financially troubled local business weekly.

A previous tax lien was for \$25,000.

News of this lien was noted under "Liens Filed" on Page 22 of this week's *Record*.

Meanwhile Dorfman continues writing in his *Diary*.

It must be the best part of the paper.

Why else would they devote so much space to it?



Listen to Charles Foster Kane increase the ratings on Jerry Thomas' Show, Thursday mornings at 9:05.

55WKRC



Another Real Guest Editorial by Banky Tadwell

There was this TV station. If I recall correctly, it was in one of the numerous towns I have graced in my travels. As chance would have it, this TV station had a typical TV news department—talking Barbie and Ken heads who giggled and spent most of their time thanking someone for stumbling through an exciting story about the children in the local grade school who wrote poems about potholes or some such thing. Naturally, they, like all the other TV stations in the city, were concerned about the epidemic of apathy toward their newscasts. So, when the dreaded rating periods came around—sweeps, I believe they are called—this TV news department, like all the other TV departments, thought it best to try to make up for the inane, boring, and childish newscasts presented since the last sweeps. So...



she assumed the role of a hooker. I mean really assumed the role of a hooker. And the more she got into the swing of things, the more things got into her. What a story! What a revelation! What an idiot she had been! All that feminist talk about how degrading it was to sell one's body. How had she ever swallowed that guff about being free?

Free, hell. Not only was she making big bucks, she was getting great footage for a video on MTV. By the time the news story was to be filed, the young TV news-woman knew she had found her true calling.

How, you may ask, did this sad tale end up? Well, the young woman was lured back off the streets with a promotion. She was made co-news anchor for the station. Not because she was now servicing one and all in a most professional manner. No indeed. She was promoted because the station manager rightly decided that she, more than any other on the staff, knew how to give the public what it really wanted.

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.

Warner watch

Friends of Marvin Warner and former Home State depositors are glad to hear that the convicted financier is recovering from prostate surgery in Columbus and will soon begin serving his jail term.

Get well cards and fruit baskets with a files inside should be sent to Ohio State University Hospital, 410 West Tenth Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210.





Real Letters from Real Readers

Sirs:
Here's something I learned while I was riding around in my Bentley. Give a man a hamburger and you will satisfy his hunger for a day. But if you teach a man how to cook a hamburger, he can get a job at McDonalds for minimum wage.

Jerry Springer

Sirs:
You may find this hard to believe, but while I'm dictating this letter to my secretary, I'm not wearing any pants.

Teddy Kennedy

Sirs:
If you're not going to give us the name of the rape victim, can you at least show us her picture?

The Sensitivity Committee

Sirs:
We are grateful that Democrat Dusty Rhodes has offered to be the watchdog of Hamilton County. But frankly, we were hoping to find one with a better pedigree.

The Hamilton County GOP

Sirs:
Auntie Marge says to tell you that Rob Dibble is sorry about throwing that baseball and hitting that woman.

Stevie Schott

Sirs:
We all know how important it is to be politically correct. So if you wish somebody a Happy Mothers Day, is that being racist?

Nick Vehr

Sirs:
The only way we'll re-open The Movies in downtown Cincinnati is if the city subsidizes our operation like they do for the Esquire so we can give away free popcorn.

Phil Borack

Sirs:
If Cincinnati doesn't have a pollution problem, why did Chernobyl turn down our application to be a Sister City?

Pete Strauss

Sirs:
Maybe when they do that gerrymandering thing, they should take Delhi out of the First District.

Landslide Charlie Luken

Sirs:
I just found out who that bum was panhandling in front of *The Enquirer* Building a couple of weeks ago. Do you think I could get my quarter back?

George Blake

Sirs:
You guys wouldn't happen to need some office space cheap, would you?

Bill Butler

Sirs:
We think the Hamilton County Building Inspectors are incorruptible.

**Nancy Kohonen Cahill,
c/o Homebuilders Association**



Another Exclusive Whistleblower Report

High school horror stories

Behind last week's proposal by the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers for tougher discipline policies is a series of horror stories. Teachers say administrators don't back them and tolerate violent behavior by students. A couple of incidents illustrate teachers' complaints.

A junior high teacher was walking through a nearly empty cafeteria. As she passed two students sitting at a table, they jumped up and one pushed the other hard into the teacher. She fell and was injured, requiring medical treatment. The students claimed it was an accident; the teacher is convinced it was a deliberate attack. Her principal never even questioned the students and no discipline was ever imposed. The teacher filed criminal charges and both students were convicted in juvenile court. Still, no disciplinary action was taken by the school. The CFT has filed a grievance invoking contract provisions that require principals to suspend and recommend expulsion when a student assaults a teacher.

A high school student came to school with a knife one day and announced to one and all which

teachers she intended to cut. Fortunately, school officials had received a phone call from Grandma warning that the young lady was carrying cutlery. The student got close to one of her intended victims, a teacher who shut herself in a room to avoid being attacked. She later went home. In this case the student was suspended and expulsion was recommended. However, she was permitted to return the very next day to attend an

after school activity. The teacher happened to run into her and, understandably, went to pieces. She is now under psychiatric care and her doctor has told her not to return to work this school year. Administrators have denied her request for assault leave. CFT filed a grievance in this case as well. Teachers absent due to assault by a student are paid without losing their accumulated sick leave, under a contract clause dating to 1977. Administration responds that no assault occurred because the teacher wasn't actually cut.

Small wonder teachers want stricter district-wide standard and mandatory expulsion for these violent offenses.



Whistleblower News Poll

If Cincinnati City council election were held today, the only people who would show up at the polls would be NRA gun fanatics.

However, the interest in some of the new faces when endorsements were made a few weeks ago, has dwindled after special interest groups were asked to put their money where their mouths are. Desert Storm anti-Arab sentiment dooms GOP newcomer Bill Al'Uqdah from the outset.

Registered Cincinnati voters were asked, "If the elections were held today, which nine candidates would get your vote?"

The top nine vote-getters ranked according to the survey, along with the previous ranking, were:

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. David Mann | (1) |
| 2. Nick Vehr | (3) |
| 3. Bobbie Sterne | (2) |
| 4. Pete Strauss | (5) |
| 5. Guy Guckenberger | (6) |
| 6. Virginia Rhodes | (4) |
| 7. John Mirlisena | (8) |
| 8. Nell Surber | (7) |
| 9. Dwight Tillery | (11) |

"This seems to underscore the power of incumbents to raise money," explained pollster John David Barker, Ph.D., "which will cause future changes depending on the strength of the campaign finance reform movement."

721 voters were interviewed by phone between May 1-3 and the margin of error was ± 4 percent.



**Bluegrass
Holler**
by Ken Cambio

False alarm

Covington Police figured it was just a prank when they got a call about a walrus bobbing around the Suspension Bridge last week. After a couple of sightings by boaters, the cops sent somebody down to the riverbank to check it out.

Turns out that Alan "Bruiser" Bernstein had slipped overboard at Covington Landing. That was bad enough, but witnesses claim his brother Jim Bernstein was selling chopped fish heads to the tourists so they could feed the walrus.

Police Chief Joe Rieskamp was reluctant to get involved in a domestic squabble; but did since Big Daddy Ben was in Maysville meeting with Nick Clooney and family matriarch Shirley was too busy screaming at the help to "Cut more fish! We've finally got a decent crowd!"



Photo attraction

Newport's anti-drug parade got upstaged last Tuesday by a fistfight on Monmouth Street between a uniformed police officer and his ex-girlfriend.

Patrolman Mike Scott was suspended after he punched out his former love-interest, Shirley Turner, a Newport School Board employee, who was watching the parade on the sidewalk with her daughter Lesley. The entire incident was caught on film by Kentucky Post photographer Jim Osborn and was splashed all over his paper's front page the next day.

Shirley Turner says she and Scott broke up last October after they duked it out when she caught him with another woman. Scott claims Turner has a "fatal attraction" to him and has accused her of damaging his apartment, harassing him on the phone, and vandalizing his new fiancée's car.

"Well, at least they weren't dirty dancing or selling drugs," one Newport official told us. "But if our cops are going to air their dirty laundry on the streets, I wish they wouldn't be stupid enough to invite the press."

**Video Highlights of
the Scott-Turner
fight will be shown
on Storer Sports
Channel tonight at
8:00 p.m.**



J. R. Hatfield
Northern Kentucky
Bureau Chief

**Give 'em enough cable and
they'll hang themselves**

As reported in this column some weeks back, Storer Cable Communications had planned to buy out its only competitor in Northern Kentucky by offering cash-strapped Jacor \$ 5 million for its Telesat division.

We thought that deal was pretty screwy, since Telesat admits to losing \$1.5 million on its Boone County operation last year.

Storer GM Wayne Rankin saw it as a way to eliminate the complaints about cheaper Telesat rates and to dissolve the lawsuit his company filed against the Kenton-Boone Cable Board, in which Storer claimed Telesat got unfair consideration in their franchise agreement.

Well, the deal got even dumber last week when Cable Board administrator Jayne Gerdeman made a pitch to Kenton County Executive Judge Clyde Middleton and his Boone County colleague

Bruce Ferguson to have the counties buy Telesat. Both county officials claim they have been deluged with consumer complaints about Storer's service and rate increases. They didn't mention how many calls they had received about their poor county services.

Gerdeman rationalized her recommendation, and her thinly veiled contempt for Storer, by saying that her office could adequately operate the company. Fat chance! These are the same people whose major claim to fame is infinite re-runs of local government meetings which Bluegrass bush-leaguers use instead of paid campaign ads in election years.

If the county needs any more reasons not to get into the entertainment business, maybe they ought to talk to those guys who told Cincinnati City Council what a loser buying The Movies was.

How you'll know when you're home

Ever since Delta Airlines announced their big expansion at the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati/We Hate Landslide Charlie Luken/We Also Own The River International Airport, a lot of people have been buying homes in Northern Kentucky.

Most of these folks come from outside the tri-state region and are free of the usual biases and stereotype perceptions most Buckeyes have about Northern Kentucky.

Still, we get a lot of calls from these newcomers who are concerned about fitting into their new communities. So as a public service to our readers, *The Whistle-blower* offers the following checklist of tell-tale signs. If you, or any member of your family, display three or more of the symptoms listed below, you have probably already been assimilated to Bluegrass living.

Welcome to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. You're home if:

- Your wallet is on a chain, but your dog isn't

- Your richest relative buys a new home and you have to help take the wheels off of it
- Your lifetime goal is to own a fireworks stand
- Your wife's hairdo has been caught in the ceiling fan
- Your mother-in-law has started a fist-fight at a high school sporting event
- You have more fingers than teeth
- Your kids look like your brother-in-law
- You have a rag for a gas cap
- Your idea of a vacation is two weeks in Hamilton!
- You think God looks like Hank Williams, Jr.
- You called the number on the men's room wall and your mom answered the phone
- Your favorite Sunday dinner is the special at the Burns Brothers Truck Stop in Union.
- You didn't put the pink flamingos in your front yard as a joke
- You know how many hay bales your car will hold
- You've gotten used to sitting in I-75 traffic jams



Spolied Sports

by Andy Furburger

Can you believe it? They suspended poor **Rob Dibble** for throwing a ball into the stands. His hand slipped.

That woman wasn't really hurt. I hear the soft cast she was wearing was really an Ace bandage and her prescription was only Tylenol 3. Give me a break.

If the Reds knew what they were doing, they'd have a Rob Dibble Night sponsored by Community Mutual. The first 500 women and children could get free hospitalization.

If you really want to talk about sports, let's talk about **Eric Davis** selling his autograph at a baseball card show for \$12 a pop.

To get him to sign your glove, it cost you \$24. The way he's been playing, Davis ought to pay you. For crying out loud, you can buy a ticket for \$5 and see him play. That's when he ever gets in the lineup. He got his first home run Sunday. It's about time.

Or what about **Gordy Coleman**, the newest voice of the Reds? I thought **Tommy Hume** was bad last year. But Gordy? Anybody could do better than he's doing. Even I could do better than he's doing.

And speaking of local role models we've heard too much about, **Pete Rose** is the guest speaker at the Greater Cincinnati Boys and Girls Clubs "Family Steak and Burger Dinner" on May 20.

\$100 buys you a burger and steak for the kids. Believe me, if I'm shelling out a C-note, I'm eating the steak.

But for \$500, you even get to meet Pete. We're not sure, but we think autographs are extra.

Or what about **Boomer Esiason** and **Sam Wyche**? If it wasn't for Boomer, Sam would be out on the streets begging with **Jerry Springer**.

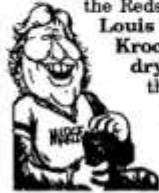
Sam's a jerk. No wonder **Louis Billips** wouldn't see him when Sam visited him in jail.

And speaking of jail, UC basketball star **Lou Banks** is up on rape charges. I asked **Bill Cunningham** and we agree—Banks is guilty. Banks is a senior anyway. The Bearcats can't use him anymore. They should throw the book at him.

Anyway, the real news in sports this week is the lawsuit where the limited partners of the Reds are suing **Marge Schott**.

Louis and Louise Nippert, **Carl Kroch**, and **American Laundry Machine** want to know that happened to that \$17 million.

And besides that, when are we going to get some decent food in the press box before the games?



Real Gossip

by Linda Libel

Our source inside WCPO's newsroom says anchorhunk

Randy Little is more than a little upset that we revealed in last week's column that he wears a toupee.

Randster, that doesn't mean you're not still gorgeous. Really—we want you so badly we'd be willing to overlook your personality.



WE overheard two young ladies at **Randmeister's** favorite Hyde Park watering hole:

"Isn't that the guy from the news?"

"You mean **Randysomething**?"

"Yeah, **Randy Little**."

"Hah, it can't be...that guy has too much gray hair."

Word from **BB Riverboats** is that resident buffoon and shirt-tail relation **Captain Jim Holthaus** is following **Dr. Floyd Poore's** lead and legally changing his first name to **Captain**.

Speaking of **BB Riverboats**... what does the **BB** stand for? Only thing we can think of is it refers to the size of its staff's behinds...**Big Butt**?

Now, we can't name names, but: Which **GOP** big-wig who has been paying all kinds of lip service to the **Right to Life** movement decided with his wife to abort her first baby a few years ago because it was "inconvenient?" Just wondering.

Also, we want to know which son of a local big-wig has been arrested not once, but twice, on drug charges...and has escaped going to prison because someone else took the rap.

Some people's lives seem so golden it makes you want to puke your guts out. Well, things ain't

always as they seem. A larger than life local celebrity and his wife are splitting. She's pregnant. He's not the father. Believe it.

Besides Randy Little, here are some of the guys I'd like to boink in the back of a Bentley:

- Nick Vehr
- Landslide **Charlie Luken**
- **Eric Kunzel**
- **WCPO's Paul Schaeffer**
- **WMLX's Deane Osborne Jr.**
- **WEBN's Eddie Fingers**
- **Alfred Burton Closson**
- **Michael E. Comisar**
- **Steve Ford (twice)**
- **Arn Bortz**
- **Simon Leis**
- **Lou Pinella**
- **Shumlord Stan Solomon**
- **George Clooney**
- **Mel Gibson**

Here are some of the guys I'd let stand out in the rain and splash as I drove by:

- Homeless humper **Jerry Springer**
- **Enquirer** music critic **Cliff Radel**
- **WKRC's Stew Williams**
- **WCPO's Dennis Janson**
- The entire on-air staff at **WLW** except maybe **Mike McConnell**
- **Hitler Youth** Chairman **Bill Kintner**
- **Embassy Suites RiverCenter**
- **GM Larry Cooper**
- Any registered meteorologist or even **Bob Alan**
- **Carl Bruggemeier**
- **Jeff Ruby**
- **Boomer**
- **Roger Grooms**
- **Marty and Joe**
- **Ken Broo**
- **Nick Clooney**
- **Mickey Esposito**
- **Uncle Al**
- **Ray Combs**
- **Dan Quayle**
- **Dick Celeste**
- **Johnny Bench**

Coming in three weeks

The Whistleblower
Centicentennial Edition

