

**Translated for
the politically
impaired**

The Whistleblower

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

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This Week's Really Big Story

Whistleblower criticism not unjust

When Hamilton County Prosecutor Art Ney asked Judge Thomas Crush to release the transcripts of the grand jury proceedings on the Great Golf Course Caper, he asserted as one of his grounds for release of those transcripts "that they would dispel allegedly unfounded criticism of the grand jury system, which criticism engenders disrespect for the justice system and is a disservice to the community."

That criticism, according to Judge Crush's opinion, released Friday, was found in various news articles printed in the two daily newspapers, *The Cincinnati Post* and *The Cincinnati Enquirer*; in an editorial published in *The Post*; in news broadcasts and in Jerry Galvin's sorehead editorials on Channel 9, a local television station.

Crush's opinion also stated that "the media must accept the fact that the grand jury proceedings are traditionally secret and will not be opened to public view to satisfy their curiosity."

We could not agree more with Judge's Crush's opinion.



Rather than being "outraged" at being left off the list of unjust critics, *The Whistleblower* will have to be content with the knowledge that our criticism was obviously not unjust.

Esposito says, "No sloppy seconds!"

Former Deputy Hamilton County Auditor Mickey Esposito refuses to allow his father-in-law Joe DeCourcy to go first when their cases finally come to trial.

"I'm not going to sit here and wait until next year," Esposito said. "I want to get on with my life."

Esposito, a former Las Vegas lounge lizard who is representing

himself, no doubt feels that he will be such a sympathetic defendant that the jury will let him off easy.

For that strategy to work, he should remember to leave some of his gold chains and pinky rings at home.



The Whistleblower hotline—call 749-1055



Top Ten List

This week, it's the top ten lessons we've learned from the Great Golf Course Caper:

10. Channel 9's "I-Team" should stick to stories about potholes and truck drivers

9. If it were up to Sheriff Leis, every crook in the world would be locked up in his jail

8. Art Ney does not accept constructive criticism particularly well

7. Judge Wapner is never around when you really need him

6. Justice is truly blind

5. Judges know the law better than the press

4. Don't screw around with the GOP

3. The weed of crime bears bitter fruit

2. Grand jurors probably goof off on their jobs too

And the number one lesson we've learned from the Great Golf Course Caper is...how the criminal justice system in Hamilton County works is none of your damn business.



Point/Counterpoint

Last week while city council was on vacation, Mayor David Mann found a way to get a little media attention by picking a fight with Sheriff Simon Leis over the jail overcrowding problem. Their exchange went something like this:

Mann: Sheriff Leis is letting drug dealers out on the street.

Leis: Check your facts, Dave. You don't know what you're talking about.

Mann: Then why don't we have enough jail space?

Leis: Because your stupid city building inspectors keep holding up the works.

Mann: At least my city inspectors aren't out playing golf when they're supposed to be working.

Leis: Check your facts, Dave. The "I-Team" showed us pictures, we already investigated it, and we're taking the case to the grand jury.



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Real Editorials
By the Publisher
Charles Foster Kane

anchors away

Whenever one of the local TV stations changes one of its newsreaders, they turn on the Myth Machine—or whatever that piece of equipment they use to make you believe that anchorpeople have been elevated to the level of a deity.

Then the TV critics pick up the beat, printing letters from just plain folks, and then everybody's supposed to hold his breath until a new anchorperson is chosen.

As if people really care who's reading them the news.

Remember all the commotion when Clyde Gray moved over to Channel 9? Would he replace Randy Little? The earth didn't stop spinning on it's axis. We still have the news, such as it is.

What possible difference could it make to Joe Sixpack if Toria Tolley returns from CNN to sit in the chair formerly occupied by Debra Silberstein? The news will still be read.

Then it becomes clear. These people aren't reporting the news. They're entertainers presenting info-tainment in a gaudy package that gets redesigned almost daily.

As long as news directors continue to listen to consultants that keep telling them that this is what the public wants, this what the public will see.

However, with all the high-tech wizardry at their disposal, it's surprising that someone hasn't invented electronic anchorpeople to present the news. Like Max and Maxine Headroom. There wouldn't have to be anybody sitting on a news set. In fact, there wouldn't even have to be a news set. It could all be done with buttons.

The consultant says blondes are in. Push a button. Maxine's a blonde.

The consultant says Max needs a mustache. Push a button. Max has a handlebar.

The consultant says the audience wants a younger look. No need for a makeover. Push a button. Maxine looks like a high school cheerleader.

The consultant says the audience is tired of Max. No need for a costly search to find his replacement. Push a button. A new, improved Max instantly appears.

You say it will never happen? Don't bet on it. Someone's working on it right now.

Listen to Charles Foster Kane
recite dirty limericks
on Jerry Thomas'
Show, Thursday
morning at 9:05.

55WKRC



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

Freedom flounders in Fairfield

After two weeks of secret discussion, the Fairfield city council unanimously rejected a proposal to proclaim July 21 First Amendment Day because the proposed proclamation did not contain a clause declaring that the First Amendment provided no protection against obscene material.

"Through it's secret discussions and decisions to kill First Amendment Day, council showed it's contempt for the First Amendment and the protections it affords Fairfield

residents," explained Nicholas Martin, director of the group Stop Censorship in Butler County (SCBC). "Based on their actions, would the Fairfield council have endorsed the Bill of Rights

in 1791? No, not unless they thought it would get them re-elected. This bicentennial of the Bill of Rights is an election year on Fairfield. We voters might have to remind the politicians that the Bill of Rights is alive and well, whether they like it or not."



Chabot chastised in limerick contest

Last week, 728 entries for the Whistleblower Limerick Contest were received on the Whistleblower Hotline. The winner was Mike Cantwell, who will receive many valuable prizes.

His winning entry was:

There was a silly commissioner named Chabot
Who had the most terrible habit
Every time he got randy
He'd show his gavel to Sandy
Hoping for once she would grab it.

The first line of this week's limerick contest is: "There once was a woman named Marge.."

Horny!



Chabot '92

Whistleblower Wisdom



Judge Thomas Crush's decision not to release secret grand jury testimony following its failure to indict the Hamilton County Building Inspectors has caused a furor in certain circles of the news media.

Prosecutor Art Ney says their criticism is unfounded. WW says: The press needs to understand how a grand jury really works.

- ▲ Judge Thomas Crush Made appropriate decision, but should not look for an endorsement from *The Post* when he runs for the bench again.
- ▲ Sheriff Simon Leis Would have asked for the death penalty.
- ▼ Prosecutor Art Ney There will always be a doubt about how strong a case he presented.
- ▼ County Commissioners One more example of how they don't have a handle on things.
- ▼ Channel 9's "I-Team" At least they got a nice story in Cincinnati Magazine.



Cheap Shots

TV jeebies

You probably heard about that poor woman who went into epileptic shock every time she heard the voice of "Entertainment Tonight" anchor-bimbo **Mary Hart**.



Several local people, however, have a similar malady. After seeing *Kentucky Post* Editor **Judy Clabes** on KET last week, they experienced an uncontrollable urge to vomit.

Veal of fortune

Animal lover **Shirley Bernstein** made a big deal last week about dropping veal from the menu at El Greco and other restaurants operated by her and her husband **Ben**.

Animal rights activists had finally convinced her about the shameful conditions under which calves are raised for veal.

"We're not in the business of abusing animals while they're alive," Shirley said.

How their employees are treated, however, is, something else.



Labor of lust

"Some interviews take longer than others," explained *Enquirer* "Tip-off" columnist **Jim Knippenberg**.



"Take last Sunday's piece I did on former Newport stripper **Eelise LaShay**. I had to go back to her apartment 15 times to follow up."

Most people at *The Enquirer*, however, merely assumed he was on a sabbatical.

Following the script

This week it was Commissioner **John Dowlin's** turn to step forward and act confused about the "possibility" that a sales tax increase may be necessary for Hamilton County.

Such a sales tax would be passed by the commissioners and would not need voter approval.

Dowlin's "I don't know where we're going to get the money" soliloquy is part of the well-orchestrated plan to increase taxes without blaming the commissioners prior to their running for election in 1992.



Another Real Guest Editorial by Banky Tadwell

Just in case you don't have enough to worry about—chew on a few of these.

The gentleman proposed by Mr. Bush as a member of the Supreme Court is, as far as we can tell, black. The problem, according to an increasing number of his critics, is that he does not have enough experience as a typical black American. The man has been black for some 43 years, long enough, we would think, to kind of get the hang of it. Opposition on this count seems a bit weak, but we're sure they'll think of something else.

Now as for the Sun going out—by this time the moon should have passed in front of the sun with no ill-effect, so all the folks who went into hiding with their supplies of food and beverage can come out. A dragon did not swallow the sun. Evil spirits are no more evil or evident than before. So don't worry about it. You can worry about the fact that we try to get some sort of modern economic system going with people who shake rattles in the air to make the darkness go away. Come to think of it, many of them are on TV Sunday morning.

About the asteroid—you may have read recently that you have a better chance of getting zapped by some flying piece of space junk than ending your days in a plane crash. Especially if you don't fly. Well, yes, the earth could be whacked by an asteroid. There is evidence it has happened in the past and could happen again. Suppose it gave us a glancing blow and speeded up the spin of the earth? That would render obsolete all our clocks. If we got to wobbling, we might sail out of our orbit and go who knows where? Or a cloud of dust might be raised that would block out the sun and make dusting nearly impossible. They think that may be how the dinosaurs lost out. Not from lack of

dusting but lack of sun. So yes, some day—pow—right in the kisser.

However, you can stop worrying about most of that stuff because there is something really big going on that you may not have heard about. Forget the ozone hole. Forget air pollution and acid rain. Don't worry about radioactive wastes.

The earth is expanding!

What does this mean? It means as the earth expands, it becomes less dense. As it becomes less dense, gravity decreases. Look it up. What holds everything—



including our atmosphere—close to the ground so we don't fall off? Gravity. And what will most likely go first? You got it. Our atmosphere.

Do you know what will happen when it goes? Your eyes will bug out.

There will be a horrible gasping for air, of which there will be no more. Your tongue will run out of your gaping mouth. Your body will explode. It will be a real mess.

I don't know if jumping up and down on the ground will help pack it tight again or not. I doubt it. There's not a lot we can do except worry or not worry. If you want to worry, losing the atmosphere sure beats all the other stuff. But since you can't do a thing about it, there's no point worrying about anything.

Have a nice day.

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.

Coming next issue

Kickbacks in the local radio business: Who's making them! Who's taking them!



Real Letters from Real Readers

Sirs:
Judge Crush decided not to release the Grand Jury transcript in the investigation of the Hamilton County Building Inspectors Case.

As always, I will abide by the decision of Judge Crush. Our willingness to publicly reveal the transcript is evidence of the fact that all relevant and requested evidence was made available to the Grand Jury and they were properly informed of the law.

Art Ney

Sirs:
You can get further with a kind word and a gun than you can get with a kind word alone.

Al Capone

Sirs:
Paying my own way to the All Star Game was no big deal. After all, I have to buy tickets to see the Reds play at Riverfront. Although the way the team's been playing, I don't know why anybody would want to.

Bob Quinn

Sirs:
Last week I submitted plans and specifications to fix up my condemned property by October. Now if I only had some money.

Dr. Slumlord

Sirs:
Whenever I see Ken Blackwell's name in the paper I call up Adam Condo at The Post's Washington Bureau and Anne Willette at Gannett and drive them a real scoop—like my recipe for hot dogs.

Landslide Charlie Luken

Sirs:
Since the cover of "Vanity Fair" magazine showing an 8-months pregnant actress Demi Moore in the nude was such a success, we're thinking of tastefully showing the three local TV anchorbimbos in the same condition.

Cincinnati Magazine

Sirs:
Did you see me on KET last week impersonating a courageous journalist? I bet I get an award for my performance.

Judy Clabes

Sirs:
Thanks for the free ad soliciting an interim superintendent. As you know, one of your readers applied and got the job.

The Cincinnati School Board

Sirs:
Most of my patients don't ask for a second opinion.

Dr. Frank Cleveland

Sirs:
I just want to put an end to all those "rumors" about me and Ira Joe Fisher once and for all. And besides, I only took a few puffs that one time during college.

Nick Clooney



Another Exclusive Whistleblower Report

Courthouse becoming media circus

For years county government operated in the shadows. Few people even knew there was a county government. Every four years they'd vote for a Taft, a couple of DeCourcys, maybe a Wood or a Wilke, and the beat went on.

Things started to change a few years ago. First a stray news reporter with nothing better to do stumbled into the courthouse. Now, however, county government is almost competitive with City Hall as a local news source.

Aside from the "Friends of Joe" scandal, Joe DeCourcy's drunk driving accident, and the "I-Team's" recent Great Golf Course Capers, there's another reason why the courthouse denizens are beginning to pop up into the news with increasing regularity.

When Si Leis became sheriff, he quickly commandeered Frank Weikel from *The Enquirer*. For which the public is eternally grateful. The former "dots and dashes" columnist became the Si's personal PR man, putting the proper spin on the sheriff's news stories. Today, every convenience store hold-up in the county is followed by an obligatory Weikel news conference.

Frank even brings his own gun, badge, and prison-guard shirt.

Last year, county commissioners Sandy Beckwith, Steve Chabot, and Bob Taft hired administrative assistants Jana Morford, Paul Fallon, and Mike Cantwell to help with their PR. So far the taxpayers haven't complained about the nearly \$100,000-per-year their services cost.

But the process really picked up steam when long-time media maven Dusty Rhodes got elected Auditor last fall. Rhodes used to get his mug into the news more often than some city council members when he was a lowly township trustee. Now that he's a county official, Rhodes makes the news almost daily. Believing the old adage, "he who is his own PR person has a fool for a client," Rhodes hired former Cincinnati Zoo flackie Susan Silver to cover his press releases. Now there's one county employee with job security.

Not to be outdone, newly appointed and virtually unknown County Treasurer Robert Goering just hired former WCKY News Director Mark Neeley to get his name in the news. Goering figured he needed the extra help because Rhodes is taking his name off the Auditor's checks.

Soon some other county officials to get with the program and pick up their own PR people at taxpayer expense:

Coroner Frank Cleveland could hire "The Cool Ghoul" away from Storer Cablevision.

Prosecutor Art Ney would seek out presently unemployed Debra Silberstein to make him look tougher with the news media.

Clerk of Courts Joe Deters has been keeping under cover lately. One of those whiny minority-types that *The Enquirer's* John Keisewetter likes to write about might be just right to make Deters look like one of the common people.

County Engineer Don Schramm needs PR help in Western Hills after his bridge-across-the-Ohio-at-Anderson-Ferry trial balloon was shouted down in Delhi. He should rescue Jennie Key from the gonzo journalism operation at the Press Community Newspapers. She might even be able to loan Don an extra gold-chair to wear.

Then there's Judge Robert Ruehlman. Recently chastised by the State Supreme Court for venting his spleen at Starvin Marvin Warner's expense, Bob really needs a bit of a PR boost. His best bet for someone of unquestioned stature? Probably Mr. Whig, whose column used to appear from time to time on the editorial page of *The Sunday Enquirer* until George Blake took all the space for his weekly report on what he did at the office that week.

And how much will all this personal PR service for public officials cost the taxpayers? No problem—it'll be in their budgets.





Hotline Hang-ups

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

My car broke down on northbound I-71 the other day. A concerned policeman on southbound I-71 glanced over. He sat waiting for a speeding motorist ignoring my plight. Finally a taxi pulled over and took me home. When I returned in 30 minutes I saw several tanned youths smashing my auto with rocks and bottles from an overpass. The total number of air strikes was 17. Meanwhile the man eating doughnuts and pistachios did catch a speeding motorist. I'd like to thank the taxi driver for rescuing me. My insurance company would like to thank the policeman too because they were able to double my rate.

Was I seeing things or what? Did Jerry Springer really ask Norma Rashid if she'd be willing to pose nude for a magazine cover the next time she's 8-months pregnant?

I saw where 4000 people showed up to try to get parts as extras in "The Public Eye," that movie about corruption they're shooting in Cincinnati. If the movie company was looking for people who know something about corruption, why didn't they come to the courthouse where we have all that on-camera experience?

I read where officeholders and PACs at Messer & Sons Construction Co.—the firm that got the contract to build the new jail in Camp Washington—contributed only a combined total of \$2140 to the campaigns of Commissioners Steve Chabot and Sandy Beckwith. That seems awfully cheap to me. Shouldn't a \$32.7 million contract cost more than that?

How come *The Enquirer* continues to run classified ads for 1-900 phone sex lines? Do they get a piece of the action?

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 Judge Thomas Crush.



Real Gossip by Linda Libel

The Stan Solomon countdown continues. Only 16 more days till the bankrupt former WCKY talk-show host's hate-mongering begins on City Cable. We understand there are still a few good seats available. I think it's on at the same time as Ken Broo's silly sports show. Now there's a choice.

We understand the arrival of this year's falcons' is being delayed. They couldn't get a flight. They don't need to hurry on our account. We don't relish the thought of being pelted with pigeon parts on 7th Street. Which, we suppose, is better than having that guy who jumped from the 15th floor of that office building a couple of weeks ago land on us.

And speaking of things that drive downtown residents daffy, we understand that the Residents Council's flower pots are a safety hazard. Downtown Czar Dave Rager is afraid one of the many visitors to the area will trip into one of them and suffocate in the dirt. Yeah, right. Dave, put on your safety director's hat and head up to Harner Street. The drug dealers are waiting for you.

The Residents Council does have something going for them, however. We understand that they've invited all city council

candidates to sit in a dunking booth at their Aug 17 block party. So far, only Jay Andress has accepted. We wonder if Bobbie Sterne will sit on John Mirilsena's lap. We'd pay to see that.

Downtown is a great place to come if you want to see celebrities. We saw WLW Radio loudmouth Andy Furman outside Straus' tobacco shop on Walnut yelling like

a madman that the store was closed for inventory. Ahron Leichman probably put him up to it. Inside, Auditor Dusty Rhodes was buying a lottery ticket. Save your money, Dusty—the day you win the lottery the entire courthouse will launch a real investigation.

One person you'll rarely see downtown is Downtown Council

Princess Debra Richardson. She's refused to stop shopping in the suburbs until Faison puts in a T.J. Maxx and Odd Lots in Tower Place in the Carew Tower.

And speaking about the Carew Tower, how about Ray Combs picking up his comedy club and moving there from 30 Garfield Place. That's funny. I thought all the local comedians hung out at 801 Plum Street.



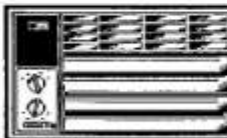
Guess Who?



Which local elected official was seen sneaking out of the Palm Court at the Omni last week without leaving a tip?

He may not have thought anybody recognized him, but we told everybody in the place who he was.

Quit griping about a damn rate increase!



Just think how much you'd sweat this summer without us.

CG&E ■ We're tired of your crap



Bluegrass Holler
by Ken Camboo

Kill all the lawyers

When Wil Schroder was sworn in as Kentucky Appeals Court judge last Tuesday, you needed hip boots to walk around in the Devou Park Memorial Building. The moisture wasn't from all the rain we've gotten; but from all the lawyers in the crowd drooling over the prospect of being appointed to fill Schroder's seat on the Kenton County District Court bench. The appointee would have the advantage of incumbency when the seat goes up for election in November. All of the dozen or so judicial wannabe's were there to suck up to Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Donald Wintersheimer, hoping that he might put in a good word to Governor Wallace Wilkinson on their behalf.

Then start on the politicians

One lawyer who isn't after Wil Schroder's job is State Representative Martin Sheehan, who announced last week that he does not wish to be considered for the appointment. Marty says he will be too busy with his legislative commitments to pursue a judgeship. Sheehan, who was practically invisible in the last General Assembly session, is hoping to use his position on the redistricting sub-committee to carve himself a bigger piece of the pie when the legislature gerrymanders the state in a special session later this year.

Banks of the Ohio

Rumors on the street have yet another Kentucky banker packing his bags, as a result of Ohio money moguls buying up all the local financial institutions. Why would the guy build a mansion and then sell it a year later, unless he was looking for work?

Alien chief

Now that Denny Mussman has been selected to be the new fire chief in Covington, maybe he will move back into the city. Mussman, a 20 year veteran of the Covington Fire Department, currently lives in Edgewood.

Gun control

In Campbell County, the city of Melbourne has passed an ordinance restricting shooting guns anywhere but at a licensed firing range. The definition of "firing range" is yet to be determined, but insiders expect that stop signs, river banks and your neighbor's mailbox will no longer be considered fair game for target practice.



J. R. Hatfield
Northern Kentucky Bureau Chief

Not wanting to look like they weren't just as outraged as Newport about the prospect of someone seeing a woman's bare breast in a dimly lit barroom, Covington city commissioners rushed to pass an anti-nudity law last week. Not all the details have been hashed out, but you can pretty well bet that the new ordinance will make it tough to take your clothes off unless you are taking a shower, in the privacy of your own home, with the lights on, the shades drawn and a note from Mayor Denny Bowman saying it's okay.

Covington doesn't currently have any naked bars, but the City Solicitor Joe Condit was in a hurry to get a law on the books to prevent a flood of sleaze joints coming across the Licking River from Newport.

While they were in the morality legislating mood, the commissioners doubled the fee charged for a nightclub license. They also amended another law requiring bars to keep their doors closed, so as not to disturb the neighbors with all that honky tonkin' coming out of the jukebox.

Commissioner Nyoka Johnston hopes to extend the nudity ban to go after the lingerie luncheons being featured at Tickets Sports Bar on Fridays. That means New-



port City Manager Jim Parsons will have to find a new hang out.

Am I imagining this; or haven't we heard this uproar of indignation before? It seems like only yesterday, or at least the last contested election, when Nyoka and the boys declared war on the prostitutes. It got them a few votes, but believe me, prostitution is about the only business in Covington that hasn't been effected by the recession. Them and the lawyers. Is that redundant? When you figure it out, call me.

We don't know why there wasn't a press release announcing the "no nudes" policy. After all, it is an election year. Newschannel 5 was the only crew on hand and reporter John London was trying to disguise the erection he got from finally scooping the "I-Team."

Apparently, nobody knew the commission was going to take this action since none of the local barkceeps were there to voice any opposition.

The license fee increase will apply not only to strip bars but to nice places like the Waterfront, Conservatory, and Covington Landing. That should make it interesting when commissioners start begging for campaign money.

Wait till Bill Cunningham gets his bill. He won't stop screaming about it on his WLW Radio talk show for weeks.

Enroll now in Jeff Ruby's School of Elegant, Exciting Egress
Learn to exit from expensive cars at any speed
Call...581-1414

