



From the President

Ed Byers



March Madness at The Press Club is underway. We have a lot going on in the next few weeks.

First The Plain Dealer program at The PD this Friday. Come

out and meet **Debra Adams Simmons, Thom Fladung, Michael Norman, Denise Polverine and Linda Kinsey** who will discuss The PD's new information thrust.

March 24 join us at 11:45 at Progressive Field for a look at what's new at the old ball park for 2011. **Bob DiBiasio** and crew will be giving us a tour and then we'll return to the Terrace Club to graze. For 20 bucks, you can't go wrong.

March 31 at Nighttown, It's The Press Club's monthly mixer-networking event, right after work from 5 to 7 p.m. This is a very informal affair and I hope you can join us. Don't forget – your Press Club membership entitles you to 15% off your meals (alcohol not included).

April 8 is the 5th annual Make Your Best Pitch luncheon at Progressive Field's Terrace Club. This year, the focus is online news sources. We will have key players from Patch.com, cleveland.com, YahooNews.com and AOLNews.com along with the Sun Newspapers and Record Publishing. This program always fills up fast, so get your reservations in a.s.a.p.

I am sure you know someone worthy of induction for The Press Club of Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame. The entry form is in this issue.

I hope to see you at an upcoming event!

P.S. I keep hearing from people who forgot to pay their dues, and, because of that, a few missed out on the opportunity to enter their work in the Excellence in Journalism contest. Call Lynn at The Press Club office or go online to renew your membership.

The Press Club of Cleveland Presents **Make Your Best Online Pitch Hyperlocal: No Hype April 8th at Progressive Field**

WATCH
FOR
DETAILS!

Join panelist **Linda Kinsey**, Sun News; **Jean Dubail and Susan Ruiz Patton**, Patch.com; **Colin Toke**, cleveland.com; **David Kordalski**, The Plain Dealer; **Scott Shriner**, Record Publishing; **Jeff Stacklin**, YahooNews.com as moderator **Stuart Warner** with AOL News takes us through a look at Hyperlocal news.

Real Life in the Virtual News Room

By Stuart Warner

How do you monitor the world and produce a comprehensive news report from your basement in Hudson, Ohio?

I'm a contract editor for AOL News, which produces the national and international coverage for the online giant. I work in a virtual news room. We have a core group of editors and support people in New York, but several dozen other line editors, copy editors, reporters and photo people operate remotely from all over the world.

I have actually only met one other AOL News employee. And I rarely actually talk with them, either. Occasionally we use e-mail to keep in touch, but mostly we communicate by Instant Message. AOL



Stuart's home office

has a system that allows dozens of folks to interact simultaneously. And no matter where we're located, we can all access our online publishing system. So it's as simple

continued on page 6 >

Robin Swoboda Joins Channel 3 News Team



Robin Swoboda will return to her journalistic roots with a new station and new assignment.

Swoboda will be anchoring WKYC's 7 p.m. newscast and her co-anchor will be current TV 3 reporter

Chris Tye.

Currently anchored by Monica Robins and Eric Mansfield, the WKYC 7 p.m. show was first in the market. Robins and Mansfield will return to their original medical coverage and Akron/Canton beats, respectively.

"When we moved to a single anchor

format with Romona at 6 and 11 p.m., we took two of our strongest beat reporters off the street and moved them into a different role at 7," explained News Director Rita Andolsen.

"The opportunity to hire Robin Swoboda coincided with our realization that we needed to reinstate resources for our medical coverage and Akron/Canton content," said Andolsen.

Swoboda will begin on-air in early March. In addition to past roles as a news anchor for WJW and WEWS, most recently, she was the program host for "The Robin Swoboda Show," an advertiser friendly show on WJW FOX 8.

March 18th, The Press Club to host Luncheon Program

“How The Plain Dealer, Sun News and cleveland.com are forging into the future”

Date: Friday, March 18, Luncheon Program

Time: 12 noon - 2 p.m.

Place: The Plain Dealer Community Room
1800 Superior Avenue

Cost to attend: \$25 Press Club members
\$40 Non-members

PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Debra Adams Simmons,
The Plain Dealer editor

Thomas Fladung,
The Plain Dealer managing editor

Linda Kinsey,
Sun News executive editor

Michael Norman,
The Plain Dealer online
arts-and-entertainment editor

Denise Polverine
cleveland.com editor-in-chief

Visit
www.pressclubcleveland.com
to make your reservation.

Two Happy Endings

Laurie Mitchell Certified Personnel Consultant



Last summer, Michael Bennett, Publisher & Editor of the Cleveland Jewish News, quietly asked me for assistance in identifying a new managing editor for the paper. We interviewed many very fine candidates but didn't come up with the perfect fit.

Recently, I served on my synagogue's Rabbinic Search Committee, which included chairing the subcommittee charged with crafting a 25 page questionnaire provided to prospective candidates so that they might learn about our congregation and decide whether to apply for the opening. Various committee members wrote different sections and then five of us sat around my kitchen table one snowy Sunday in January to put all the pieces and parts into a compelling Master Voice.

We were a professional fundraiser, a PhD audiologist, an HR executive, and Bob whom I knew only as the President of the Mens Club but had never spoken with previously. During the four

hours it took to pound out a quasi final document, I noted that every time Bob opened his mouth, it was obvious he knew a great deal about writing and editing.

As the four got up to put on their coats, I steered Bob to the living room, and inquired "What do you do for a living?" His reply, "I'm a newspaper editor," took my breath away.

Turns out that Bob has been a passionate print journalist for 32 years but had never needed a résumé. At my urgent request, he threw together a makeshift résumé and I rushed him in to meet Michael Bennett.

As of Feb. 14, Bob Jacob is the managing editor of the Cleveland Jewish News. And, my congregation just hired the Search Committee's first choice as our new Rabbi. Seems that our opus of a questionnaire was well written and compelling.

Laurie Mitchell & Company, Inc.

*Marketing Communications
Executive Search*

mitchellco17@aol.com

www.LaurieMitchellCompany.com

Betty Klaric, Press Club Hall of Famer, Pioneering Cleveland Press Journalist, Dead at 79

Betty Klaric, 79, inducted into The Press Club Journalism Hall of Fame in 1999, died Feb. 24 at the Hospice of the Western Reserve from complications of brain cancer.

Rarely missing the annual Press Club Hall of Fame induction banquet and the annual Hall of Fame reunion at Night-town, Betty's charm and smile always lit up the room.

Betty held many firsts in Cleveland journalism. In 1964, she persuaded Cleveland Press editors to give her one of the first full-time environmental beats on a daily newspaper. Her stories on the Cuyahoga River helped inspire sweeping environmental laws, a presidential commendation, a gubernatorial award and more.

Klaric was also the first female president of the 33-year-old Cleveland Journalists Guild, elected by acclamation.

She was born Betty Klaric, in Yorkville,

Ohio. Betty was a stringer for the Martins Ferry Times-Leader. She also wrote a guest column for the Wheeling Intelligencer.

In 1953, Betty earned a bachelor's degree in journalism at Ohio State University and in 1955 she became a "copy boy" at the Press.

In 1961, she became a rare female news-writer, handling general assignments.

In 1965, she was a fledgling environmental reporter and helped the Cleveland Press start a "Save Lake Erie Now" campaign. The Cuyahoga River had burned on and off for decades. But Betty helped a 1969 blaze there grab worldwide headlines and inspire many environmental laws, including federal clean air mandates in 1970 and water mandates in 1972.

In 1971, Betty got a letter from President Nixon: "Your outstanding newspaper reporting on pollution problems came



Sarah Crump, Helen Moise, Betty Klaric

to my attention recently..." He enclosed a Presidential Commendation for "exceptional service to others, in the finest American tradition."

The next year, Betty shared the National Headliner Awards with two celebrities, White House correspondent Helen Thom-

continued on page 6 >

An open letter to Clevelanders to rally the forces Cleveland news anchor sings his song to the city



Leon Bibb

I grew up in Cleveland, about a mile from the shoreline of Lake Erie, and I take pride in what the city taught me about life.

Cleveland is part of my bloodline. That's how deep my roots are in this city. I view its people and think my history here and my strength is renewed. This city has taken a lot of knocks over the last several years, but we Clevelanders need to realize we are among the places that has made America great.

We should keep the city's storied history in mind as we help chart a new course into the 21st century.

When I was a kid growing up in the city, my family would take Sunday drives and I could see as part of the skyline those industrial stacks that belched out smoke and steam.

My dad did not work in a plant, but he did work in the U.S. Post Office. For more than 30 years, he moved millions of pieces of mail. He understood his job, a small cog in the Cleveland workforce, was helping lift America.

In the 1950s and 60s, my uncles – almost every one of them – made steel or aluminum, or fabricated some other kind of metal into products the world wanted and needed. My dad, and my uncles, knew how to make something that somebody else wanted to buy. That was the Cleveland of my youth.

Each one of the members of the generation in front of me had survived 12 years of the Great Depression and four years of World War II. When the Korean War came along, they muscled through that time period, too.

The same with the Vietnam War. Many of us who were of age were called off to war. My family members were strong men and women who grunted out their livings in tough times in a tough city that understood families survived because of the hard work of those who brought home the bacon.

Cleveland has taken a few hits. A lot of jobs have gone up the old chimneys and disappeared into thin air. But Cleveland and its suburbs are still here, filled with strong-minded people cut off the same log from where their ancestors came. Many of us are descendants of those workers who knew how to make something and make it good.

My parents taught me the importance of hard work and dedication to the job. One year into my teenaged years, my dad suggested I ought to get a newspaper route and deliver the morning paper on doorsteps in my neighborhood.

At age 13, I was on the street seven days a week at six o'clock in the morning. In the bag draped over my shoulder were nearly a hundred newspapers that I folded individually so I could toss with a thud on the front porches of newspaper customers in my neighborhood.

Thirteen is a tender age to be muscling newspapers down the street before the sun has even had time to get out of bed. In the days of safe neighborhoods, I did it. My parents insisted I learn the importance of hard work. I was not alone.

Cleveland is filled with thousands of people who learned that same lesson. So when somebody says we are in a tough way economically in Cleveland, I understand the economic picture. But I also realize we have to keep in mind that we

continued on page 5 >

The Press Club March Anniversary

12 years
Maria Magnelli

3 years
Lisa Bess Kramer

David Liam Kyle
William Johnson

8 years
Steve Gleydura
Chris Geiselman

2 years
Don Baker
Julie Haug Feagler
Mary Patton

1 year
Sheila Miller

4 years
Dave Lange

Elizabeth Sullivan
Felizia Haney

The PRESSCLUB of Cleveland

"Serving and honoring communications professionals since 1887."

President: Ed Byers
Medical Mutual of Ohio
216/687-2685

Vice President: Stuart Warner
The Write Coach LLC
warnercorn@aol.com

Secretary & Treasurer: Carol Kovach
Sun Newspapers 216/986-6060

VP Membership: Pat Panchak
Former Editor-in-Chief, IndustryWeek

VP Programming: Wendy Kertes
MarketingSense

VP Sponsorship: Dustin Klein
Smart Business Network

VP Marketing & PR: Carol Saferin
Mart Saferin & Associates
440/461-6753

Board of Directors:

Bob Becker
bbsoundandlight, WTAM 1100

Jeff Bendix
Advanstar Communications

Michael Bennett
Cleveland Jewish News

Margaret Bernstein
The Plain Dealer

John Betchkal
General Electric, retired

Maryana Bradas
Business Wire

M. Jane Christyson
Cleveland Metroparks

Howard Fencil
WKYC-TV3

Bonnie Godbey
Bruce Hennes

Hennes Paynter Communications

Lisa Lowry
WKYC-TV3

David Marburger
Baker & Hostetler

Lee Moran
The News-Herald

Tom Mulloy
Tom Mulloy Photography

Mary Patton
Patton Public Relations

Denise Polverine
cleveland.com

Join Us on



The Press Club of Cleveland Hall of Fame Selection Committee is calling for nominations for induction into

The Press Club of Cleveland's Hall of Fame.

The deadline for nomination is Friday, April 15, 2011

Criteria:

- The nominee must have made notable contributions to broadcast or print journalism in Cleveland and northeast Ohio.
- They have demonstrated exceptional leadership, courage or contributions to the news industry.
- They either have worked in the Cleveland area or, had an exceptional career here before going elsewhere.

Please provide the following information:

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

I nominate (name): _____

_____ (Check here if the journalist is being nominated posthumously)

Important:

Send background information, including reason for the nomination. Why is this individual worthy of recognition? (100 to 250 words. Attach a separate sheet, if necessary).

Please email or return this form to:

The Press Club of Cleveland
 Attention: Stuart Warner/Hall of Fame Selection Committee
 28022 Osborne Road
 Cleveland, Ohio 44140
 Email: Pressclubcleveland@oh.rr.com

Join The Press Club of Cleveland

Visit <http://pcmembershipdues.eventbrite.com>, to renew online.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Work Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Referred By: _____

Credit card type: _____ Expiration: _____

Name on credit card: _____

Card # _____

Signature: _____

Membership applied for:

- Affiliate: \$40
 Journalist: \$60
 Associate: \$90

**Questions? Call Lynn Bracic –
 440-899-1222 or visit our site at
www.pressclubcleveland.com.**

**Make checks payable to
 The Press Club of Cleveland
 28022 Osborn Road
 Cleveland, OH 44140**

Journalist: Print, online, broadcast, freelance and social media (blogger) journalists working for an accredited media company in the Greater Cleveland area (includes Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties).

Associate: Public relations, corporate communications, marketing and advertising professionals, including corporate and non-profit freelancers and bloggers, working in the Greater Cleveland area, as well as others who share an interest in or are allied with the media and communications professionals, including sources; political, civic and business professionals; personal bloggers; and vendors.

Affiliate: Non-local professionals and associates working outside of Greater Cleveland, retirees, educators and students

Carl Hirsch, Driving Force Behind WMMS, WHK, WMJI, and Rock Hall, Dead at 65

Carl Hirsch passed away unexpectedly March 1 of an apparent heart attack. Hirsch was the driving force in the successes of WMMS, WHK, WMJI, and other Cleveland radio properties for more than 30 years.

John Gorman, a colleague for many of those years, said, "Carl was the driving force in the successes of WMMS, Z100, WMJI and other Malrite, Legacy and OmniAmerica radio properties over three decades. He had only two rules: don't make the same mistake twice, and don't jeopardize the license. He fostered and encouraged creativity and taking chances."

Hirsch is also credited with helping to start the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and book many stars for local gigs.

He graduated from Shaker Heights, went to Kent State University and started

broadcasting there. By age 33, he was president of Malrite Communications, which owned WHK-AM and WMMS-FM. With his encouragement, WMMS adopted the Buzzard mascot and a "Morning Zoo" slogan. They led the local market for years.

Hirsch and his two siblings funded the William B. Hirsch Family Cancer Center at Hillcrest Hospital in their father's memory. He also funded a Carl E. Hirsch Family Lounge at the Cleveland Clinic Florida Health and Wellness Center in West Palm Beach and a Hirsch Media Convergence Laboratory at Kent State.

He received an honorary doctorate from Kent State and served on boards for the Clinic, National Association of Broadcasters and Radio Advertising Bureau. He was inducted into the Cleveland Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.



Carl Hirsch and Fiancee Cappy Abraham

Contributions: Lerner Research Institute Hirsch Fund or Palm Beach Wellness Expansion Fund, both at Cleveland Clinic, P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland Ohio 44193-1655, giving.ccf.org.

RALLY THE FORCES

< from page 3

can come back. We are a tough people – or the descendants of tough people. That strong work ethic is in our blood. It's part of the bloodline; it's part of the city's heritage.

I know America is filled with men and women who can do the work if there is work to be done. Business people, looking to set up shop somewhere, should look to Cleveland. In this city they would find a workforce ready to do the lifting of building something, or creating something, or bringing a service to the world's needs.

When this nation went off to war, Cleveland, Akron, Lorain, Sandusky, Canton, Massillon and a lot of other communities in Northeast Ohio, were there. The steel, rubber, copper, brass, textiles and other products were represented in the armaments and articles of war.

Civilian workers were at their machines around the clock, showing the might of America to the enemies of America. The manufacturing might of the nation was evident in every dropped bomb or fired shell.

The world has changed greatly in the last few decades. The empty factories that dot some parts of Cleveland speak to that. Many jobs have been shipped overseas or simply eased out of the plans of the people who run big businesses. However, the

workforce is still here, toughing through these times. The nation should keep in mind America needs to build things again. It needs to employ people who work with their hands, and their hearts, and their guts.

Cleveland is glad to have the newer jobs that the 21st century has brought. There is no doubt the city is in the process of reinventing itself with much emphasis on medicine. Ground has been broken for the Medical Mart. It will work nicely with the big medical gemstones of Cleveland – Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals of Cleveland and MetroHealth Medical Center.

Add that to our superb institutions

of higher education, which have distinguished themselves by providing real brainpower to the world. But there is much more to do. We need to get other types of jobs going, as well.

The clothes on the backs of my family members in my youth came from manufacturing. Clevelanders need to know those manufacturing jobs are some of the ones we know best. Those jobs are in our heritages; in our bloodlines. Handling the hard work is what we do. So when we start the engineering and construction work of rebuilding our infrastructures – bridges, sewer and water lines, roads – call on Cleveland. America, we've done it before. Cleveland is ready to do it again.



(216) 533-2203 • cleveland, ohio • tmulloy@thomasmulloyphotography.com

thomas mulloy
photography

portrait • public relations
documentary • industrial
digital restoration
photo conversion to digital
custom framing

www.thomasmulloyphotography.com
flickr.com/photos/mulloyphoto
Visit us on our Facebook Page

Bob McBride, Former WKYC-TV News Anchor, Dead at 84



Bob McBride anchored news shows on WKYC-TV for two of his many years in the media. McBride died Feb. 1 at a nursing home in Alexandria, Va. He was 84.

He was born Robert James McBride Jr. in Chicago and raised partly in Washington, D.C. As a young boy, he'd read aloud through an open window to passers-by.

At 16, he became a copy boy for U.S. News and World Report. He spent many years with newspapers, radio stations and television stations in Virginia, Chicago, D.C. and Detroit. He led market research for the Detroit Free Press and

delivered editorials on Detroit's WJBK-TV, always signing off with, "What do you think?"

He briefly left retirement in 1986 for WKYC. At first, he teamed with Doreen Gentzler on the 6 and 11 p.m. news and later soloed at 6 and teamed with Leon Bibb at 11.

McBride won many awards from the Associated Press, Radio-Television News Directors Association and other groups. He also led the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

His wife, Cynthia Martin McBride, died in 2007. Survivors include two daughters and a grandson.

By Grant Segall courtesy of The Plain Dealer

John Cole, Lorain Morning Journal, Dead at 61

Former Lorain Morning Journal editor John Cole died in his sleep at home in Avon Lake on Feb. 3, after years of cardiac and kidney problems. He was 61.

Cole was raised in Springfield, Ohio and became a reporter at his hometown Springfield Sun. He joined The Morning Journal in 1974 as a reporter.

Over the next five years, Cole rose to city editor, managing editor and editor, reaching the top job at age 29. He retired from the Journal in 2008.

Read Regina Brett's personal tribute to John Cole:

http://www.cleveland.com/brett/blog/index.ssf/2011/02/memories_of_first_boss_endure.html



Newspapers Thriving Online

According to comScore data cited by the Newspaper Association of America, newspapers are not dying - at least online.

An average of 105.3 million people per month visited a newspaper Web site during the fourth quarter of 2010, 105.3 million in October, 106.7 million in November and 103.9 million in December.

These visitors spent an average of 3.4 billion minutes per month browsing newspaper Web sites, generating an average 4.1 billion page views per month. That works out to about 32.3 minutes and 38.9 page views per individual per month, according to a report published by Media Daily News.

The NAA noted that online advertising

revenues from newspaper Web sites are also growing, including an 11% increase between the third quarter of 2009 and the third quarter of 2010, to \$690 million. (Fourth-quarter figures are still being tallied). Despite the growth, newspapers' huge online audience -- perhaps the largest of any traditional media -- has failed to generate sufficient revenues to offset print declines.

Between 2005 and 2009, newspapers' total print ad revenues dropped 47.7% from \$47.4 billion to \$24.8 billion -- while their online revenues edged up from \$2.02 billion to \$2.73 billion over the same period. (That includes two years of consecutive declines in 2008 and 2009.)

BETTY KLARIC

< from page 2

as and novelist Eudora Welty.

Statewide honors came from Governor James Rhodes, the Ohio Newspaper Women's Association, the Ohio League of Sportsmen, the Ohio Conservation Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1982, she was stunned by the Press's demise. "We knew the Press was teetering, but we always thought we'd merge with The Plain Dealer and survive. The next day, I contributed to one of the stories on the closing of the Press. It was a sad day for Cleveland."

But Betty had taken nothing for granted. She'd already begun studying at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. In 1984, she earned a legal doctorate with high honors.

Betty retired in 1997 and began to volunteer for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. In 2000, she became a part-time community education specialist there, writing brochures and newsletters.

Betty lived in Euclid and later Highland Heights. She belonged to the American Civil Liberties Union, the Theta Sigma Phi sorority and other groups.

Contributions: American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, 4506 Chester Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103, acluohio.org; or Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, 1223 W. Sixth St., Cleveland, OH 44113, lasclv.org.

*By Grant Segall and the Byliner staff.
Courtesy of The Plain Dealer*

the Byliner

A publication of
The Press Club of Cleveland

Editor

Lee Moran

Associate Editor

Maryana Bradas

Contributing Reporters

Stu Warner

Ed Byers

VIRTUAL NEWS ROOM

< from page 1

to output a story from Hudson as it is from New York.

I work primarily with a regular group of U.S. reporters producing original content. I also help edit breaking news.

However, the week of Feb. 21, our executive news editor, Marty Steinberg, took a well-deserved week of vacation. Marty is a veteran of the national desk at The Associated Press; he's accustomed to the fast pace. I was a projects editor for most of the past decade. But now, for a week, I was going to have to handle Marty's job, coordinating our reporters across the globe.

I had learned from Marty several sites that provide a good overview of the news. Naturally, we have the AP report for the big stuff. Newser.com is an excellent site for finding the stories that do well among online readers. Google Trends tells you what's hot at any given moment in the day. RSS feeds and Twitter provide even more information. I also keep CNN on all day long. And, of course, we pay close attention to what's playing on the Huffington Post, which will soon merge with us.

When I turned on my computer in my basement office at 5:30 a.m. that Monday, our reporters based in Europe were already busy producing stories on the growing unrest in Libya. Lauren Frayer, from Madrid, talked to experts who wondered why dictator Moammar Gadhafi hadn't been seen since Friday. Theunis Bates, from London, reported on the criticism heaped on the British government for its cozy relationship with a man many considered a tyrant. Their reporting foreshadowed what was going to be a busy week on reports out of Libya.

But an interview with Sen. Scott Brown by freelancer Michele McPhee and the details of the brutal treatment against CBS correspondent Lara Logan during the Egypt uprising played even bigger with our readers. A five-paragraph rewrite of the Logan story – we couldn't get our own comments – would produce a half million page views by the end of the week as our version of the story got picked up by a variety of American news sites.

Reporters produced a couple dozen other stories Monday, edited by me and two part-time line editors. And that was

a slow day. Tuesday, at least 75 were dead in the earthquake in New Zealand by the time I woke up. Lauren already had survivors on the phone. Later, four Americans were reported killed by Somali pirates, by far the favorite of our readers. We published wire copy first, then supplemented it with our own reporting.

Throughout the week, we also got stories from our reporters in Bahrain and Jerusalem as well as numerous contributors in the U.S. Our courts/cops writer David Lohr, based in Erie, Pa., had the arrest of the suspect of that double slaying in Ashtabula before Ohio papers did.

Libya continued to dominate the world stage – but AOL readers couldn't get enough of the events in Wisconsin, where thousands protested the governor's proposal to end union bargaining. Stories related to Wisconsin or similar demonstrations ranked 1 thru 10 on our most-commented list.

By Friday morning, Gadhafi and Libya seemed to be spinning out of control, so we kept a running story online, with three reporters updating it constantly and producing sidebars, too.

Of course, there was much more going on. Tori Richards, our regular Los Angeles reporter, worked overnight to produce a tale worthy of an episode of "Law and Order." Thursday, an LA restaurateur dove off an 80-foot cliff after he learned that police were going to charge him with the murder of his missing wife. He survived the fall. Dun-dun. Our readers devoured that one.

The AP reported that three Amish kids had died in a flood-swollen creek in a remote area in Western Kentucky. Lohr started a follow-up story about the hopes that the fourth child in the buggy was still alive. Not five minutes after he finished that story, though, wire reports said searchers found the fourth body. David retrenched and put together a touching story on the failed rescue efforts.

Meanwhile, contract writer Lisa Holewa, based in Milwaukee, found a family divided over the union protests that were intensifying in Wisconsin. Dana Chivvis, our education reporter, compiled a roundup of the labor movement throughout the rest of the Midwest. She

did that right after a rewrite of the story of the Northeast Ohio man who proposed on Fox 8. Rewrites are part of what we do, too.

Mara Gay, a New York-based reporter, was gathering string for an AOL Original on the growing war against abortion in the South, the Midwest and even in New York City. That would be ready to stir the pot on the weekend.

Finally, I had to find time to edit a piece by our Haiti correspondent, Emily Troutman, about a chance meeting between presidential candidate Mirlande Manigat and a teenage mother, Alexandra Delophene. "Haiti's presidential race is a battle for Alexandra's vote," Emily wrote. "But also, for Alexandra."

Subtle articles like that don't always do as well in this virtual news world, but I'm glad there's still a place for them.

And then my week was done. Whew! Thank goodness Marty was already home and would be back in the real office on Monday.



Two weeks after this article was written, AOL News fired almost its entire news operation to accommodate its merger with HuffingtonPost. Warner remained employed as a contract editor.