

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



Protect journalists and right to know

Our position: Congress should finally approve legislation to shield journalists from being forced to reveal sources.

Good reporters ask tough questions. They dig into areas that political leaders, public figures and others in power would prefer to leave unexplored. In doing so, journalists fulfill their First Amendment role as public watch dogs.

But should a reporter who talks to the "wrong" person or obtains the "wrong" information, be threatened with jail? Should judges be able to compel reporters to break promises to confidential sources? Will the flow of information slow or even stop if sources can't trust journalists to keep their word?

Those questions arose again last week when a federal judge sentenced San Francisco reporters Lance Williams and Mark Fainaru-Wada to 18 months in prison for refusing to reveal who gave them the grand jury testimony of Barry Bonds and other athletes. The reporters are free pending appeal.

The journalists wrote a series of articles and a book based in part on leaked testimony surrounding the investigation of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative, a company accused of providing steroids for Bonds and other star athletes.

A bill pending on Congress, sponsored by Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar and Indiana Rep. Mike Pence, would block federal judges from forcing journalists to betray sources. In cases of an "imminent threat" to national security, the media's shield could be lowered and cooperation forced.

However, in most cases, including the Bonds-BALCO investigation, journalists would remain free to do their jobs, probing, prying and promising, when necessary, to protect sources.

Congress should finally approve the shield legislation, proposed by Lugar and Pence last year. It's not just about shielding journalists. More important, it's about protecting the public's right to a free flow of information.

The Indianapolis Star

It was just one of those weeks where I kept encountering quirky situations or ideas that interested me. So I made a list:

The week started with me buying gift certificates for a couple of folks who helped me out with a project. I went to a Starbucks coffee shop and bought two gift cards. The problem was that they only had one gift card holder left on hand.

"I have an idea," the counter person said. She proceeded to take a small coffee cup from her supply. She put the gift card in the cup, put a top on it and handed it to me.

"What do you think?" I thought it was a terrific idea, much more clever than the gift card holder and so I brought it back to my office where I left both items on the ink blotter of my desk.

The next morning when I came into work it was obvious the cleaning crew had straightened my messy desk. In the middle of the ink blotter was the one gift card in holder sitting at perfect right angles. The coffee cup? - oh they tossed that in last night's trash.

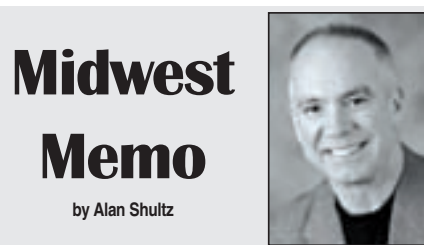
It was all I could do to restrain myself from hopping in the garbage dumpster out back to retrieve my clever gift!

In the waiting room of the dentist's office I passed the time reading an interesting magazine article. The story was about a Chicago investment guru who turned out to be a con man.

In one section of the article the writer described the guy's lakefront cottage in New Buffalo, Mich., which he had purchased the year before for a half million dollars.

It was a long article and it kept my interest. But that detail - a half million for lakefront - that kept bugging me. There's no half million dollar lakefront parcels left on Lake Michigan, certainly not in New Buffalo.

My wait for the dentist was long, and the article was riveting, so I read to the end. Then I closed the cover and noted with a chuckle... the magazine was from 1992. Now even for the dentist's office, well,



This and that

returns speculating on oil futures. I guess they forgot to diversify.

Greed, it can get you in trouble real quick.

A *Chicago Sun-Times* newspaper saleslady called to get me to renew my subscription that I had terminated several years ago.

I explained that I enjoy buying the paper at a news stand when I have time to read it. Well, if I wasn't going to renew then she wanted to talk to me about the outstanding balance due on my account.

According to their records, I owe the folks at the *Sun-Times* a penny.

The conversation deteriorated from that point on.

I have a storage locker that I've probably not opened in a year. I keep real estate open house signs in this locker. They are big, clunky signs, heavy metal ones. I got a "good deal" on these signs from someone changing firms. It turns out that smart folks have gone to plastic signs, they're a lot lighter.

Anyway, I needed my signs.

I couldn't find the key to the padlock.

I looked everywhere. In the course of a day I made five separate trips to the locker with five different keys I thought might work. I went through every drawer, tracked down every spare key, but to no avail.

Sometimes life itself is a metaphor. How often do we look to others or away from ourselves to solve our problem? How often is the solution inside ourselves, something we already know, or already have?

All along, the key to the padlock was on my key chain, I just never looked there.

Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

Students + reading = success

When we think of what we wish for our children and the future of Indiana, we can all agree we want fluent, avid readers. To read, they must have access to books. To develop a passion for reading, they must have interesting, age-appropriate books - and let's be honest - current and appealing ones as well.

If Indiana schools are going to prepare our students to be competitive in this global society; they must have the resources necessary to encourage reading and vocabulary development. That is why the Indiana State Reading Association is joining coalition of organizations to improve the 2007 Indiana General Assembly to reinstate the School Library Printed Materials Grant.

From 1997-2002, the Indiana General Assembly initiated this grant providing up to \$6 million a year to purchase new books and other printed materials. When the School Library Printed Material Grant was eliminated in the 2002-2003 school year due to budgetary constraints, both book purchases and circulation declined dramatically. Even more disturbing, prior to the 1997 dollar-for-dollar matching grant program, the average book on the school library shelf was printed in the 1960s.

The expense for this grant is a minimal investment in the future our children and state. According to the recent issue of *Indiana Libraries*, Indiana schools' expenditures for books are significantly below the national average with funding that won't even buy a single new book per student per year. That may be partially why a 2001 national study by the University of Maryland reported 70 percent of eighth-grade students believe reading is boring, and more than 55 percent perform below a basic reading level.

To acquire the advanced reading skills necessary to succeed on high-stakes tests and in the workplace, current books are essential. But more importantly, current books and newspapers are required to foster the love of reading and desire for a lifetime of success. Young readers must get the "feel" of reading by turning pages, curling up on the couch and being immersed in the wonder of the experience. This just can't be done in front of a computer or handheld wireless device. Young adults need to realize books are portable too!

With a small investment in school library materials, we can cultivate readers and make Indiana's economic future brighter by strengthening the skills of its young citizens.

As the 2007 Indiana General Assembly gears up, Gov. Mitch Daniels, Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed and each legislator must make reinstating the School Library Printed Materials Grant a priority.

Libby Turner
President, Indiana State Reading Association

Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the *Comet* is publishing upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Thursday, Sept. 28

Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District:
7 p.m.-White County Gov. Bldg.

Friday, Sept. 29

County Council: 8 a.m.
Monday, Oct. 2
County Council special meeting: 8 a.m.

Drainage Board: 8:30 a.m.
County Commissioners: 9 a.m.
Flora Town Council: 6 p.m.
Delphi Board of Works: 6:30 p.m.
Delphi City Council: 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 3

Carroll School Board: 7:30 p.m.

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith

Superior Court judgments are gathered from public records on file in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi.

New Filings

Ryan M. Homburg was charged with two counts of operating while intoxicated, endangering.

Patricia A. McLeland was charged with possession of cocaine; possession of marijuana; and criminal mischief.

John D. Sievers was charged with residential entry and battery resulting in bodily injury.

Kym L. Stangle was charged with two counts of operating while intoxicated, endangering; driving while suspended; and habitual substance offender.

Thomas L. Marchand was charged with invasion of privacy.

Rhonda K. Lawson was charged with failure to stop after an accident resulting in non-vehicle damage; and driving while suspended.

Benjamin J. Smith was charged with auto theft.

Janice E. Lane was charged with operating while intoxicated, endangering; and expired registration.

Albert J. Hackl III was charged with operating a vehicle with blood alcohol of .08 or more; and speeding, 57/25.

John K. Dubes, Jerame W. West, and Graydon K. Perkins were all charged with operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol of .08 or more.

In State of Indiana vs. Eric W. Walden, 26, Kokomo, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count II, operating while intoxicated. He was sentenced to three years, with one year suspended and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Eddie Cruz, 29, Logansport, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating a motor vehicle without ever receiving a license. He

was sentenced to one month, suspended, and a year of probation.

The following cases filed by the State of Indiana were dismissed: Elizabeth C. Irwin, Fred W. Hicks Jr., Stephen M. Smith, Olga L. Villagrana.

In State of Indiana vs. Tony J. Isom, 27, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to possession of paraphernalia. He was sentenced to four months.

In State of Indiana vs. Shane E. Toole, 37, Brookston, in two separate causes the defendant pleaded guilty to check deception. He was sentenced to nine months, suspended, with three years probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Erin H. Busch, 27, Delphi, the defendant pleaded guilty to public intoxication. She was sentenced to six months, suspended, and one year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Jason Patton, 23, Monticello, the defendant pleaded guilty to residential entry. He was sentenced to a year and a half suspended, and a year and a half probation.

In State of Indiana vs. John A. Jones, 84, Flora, the defendant pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated, endangering. He was sentenced to 60 days, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Rodney L. Mangas, 46, Colburn, the defendant pleaded guilty to operating while intoxicated, endangering. He was sentenced to a year and a half, with all but 16 days suspended, and one year and 170 days probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Ricardo A. Rosario, 30, Logansport, the defendant pleaded guilty to operating while never receiving a license. He was sentenced to 60 days, suspended, and a year of probation.

In State of Indiana vs. Kirk W. Johnston, 23, Brookston, the defendant pleaded guilty to operating while intoxicated, endangering. He was sentenced to six months, suspended and one-year of probation.

Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie

New filings are from public records available in the Carroll County Clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse, Delphi. Other information regarding judgments and marriage dissolutions is gathered from public records found in the clerk's office.

In Communitywide Federal Credit Union vs. Dusty J. Davis, the court found in favor of the plaintiff, who shall recover \$17,636.47.

A default judgment was ordered in Legal Recoveries, Inc. vs. Roy C. Shaw. The plaintiff shall recover \$848.18 plus costs.

A judgment and decree of foreclosure were ordered in JPMorgan Chase Bank vs. Jerry L. Hughes and Kimberly K. Hughes.

In Richard S. Rakos vs. Sherri Cupp, Cupp shall return the 2001 Jeep Laredo to the plaintiff.

In State of Indiana vs. Scott B. Spencer, the defendant pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle after forfeiture of license for life. He was sentenced to six years, with three years suspended, and three years of probation.

A default judgment was ordered in Great Seneca Financial Corp. vs. Ellen Saylor. The plaintiff shall recover \$3,925.17 plus costs.

In State of Indiana vs. Forrest E. Newman III, 36, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count I, operating a motor vehicle after forfeiture of license for life. He was sentenced to eight years, with four years suspended, and four years of probation.

The following cases were dismissed: Billy G. Best vs. Carroll County and the Carroll commissioners et al.; Wells Fargo Bank vs. Ronald Fritz and Catherine M. Fritz.

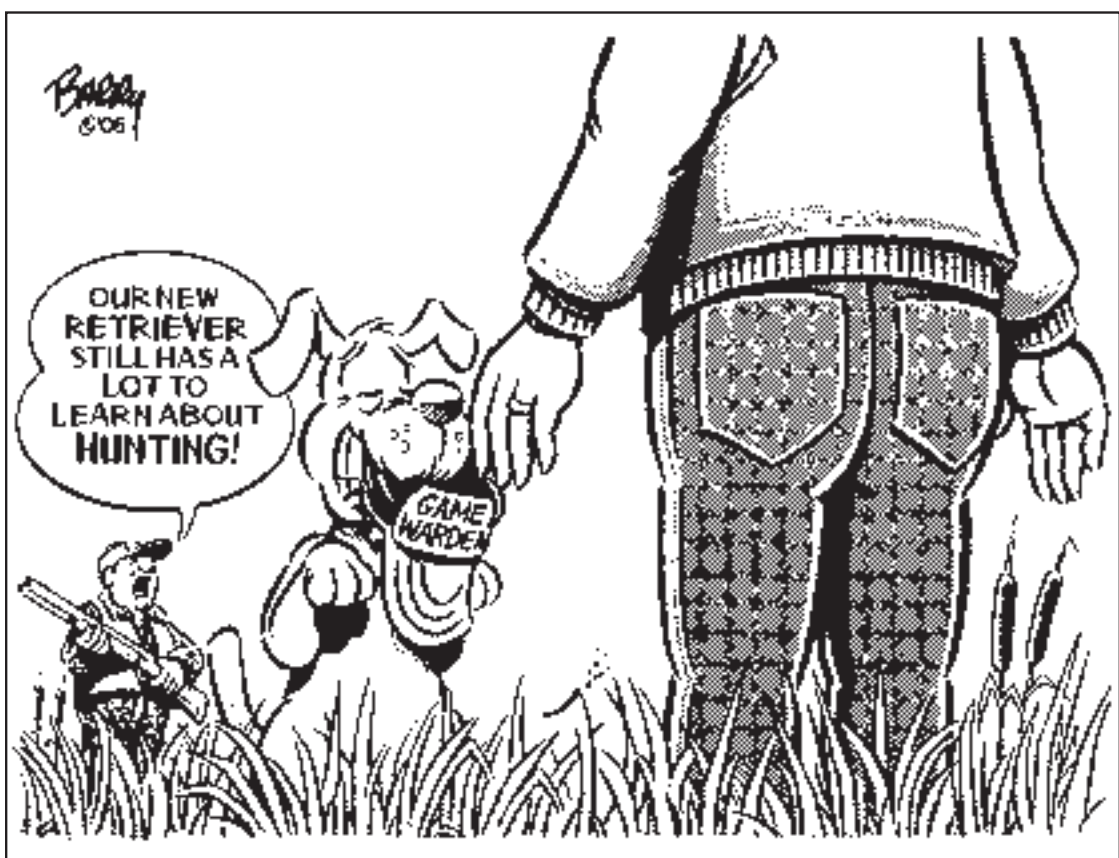
In Deutsche Bank National Trust Co. vs. Stephen M. Smith et al, a summary judgment entry to reform mortgage and decree of foreclosure as to Stephen M. Smith were ordered.

Marriage dissolutions: Russell Snider and Rebecca M. Snider; Tonya S. Hicks and Garry S. Hicks.

A complaint was filed in Capital One Bank vs.

that's pretty old material. I think I'm going to buy my dentist a current subscription to something - anything. Free catalogues would be better in my estimation!

In case you missed it, last week an investment hedge fund in Greenwich, Conn. lost 6 billion dollars in value, overnight. Amaranth Advisors was racking up 20%



Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com

Do you think the recent drop in gas prices is market driven or politically motivated?

Market driven

Politically motivated

Web poll results

Each week the *Comet* polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the *Comments* link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

Last Week's Results:

How often do you call or talk to your commissioner or county council representative about an issue they are debating?

66% Never?
34% 1-5 times/year?
0% 6-10 times/year?
0% Every month or after every meeting?
Total responses: 29

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Marshal's Sale-Brown	5B	3614
Summons-Holman Estate	5B	3713
Notice of Suite-Stover	5B	3713
Sheriff Sale-Burlington	5B	3813
Campbell Estate	5B	3812
Julien Estate	5B	3812
Sheriff Sale-Pattengale	5B	3813
Sheriff Sale-Wrightsmen	5B	3813
Town of Camden-Bidders	5B	3812
Sheriff Sale-Brower	5B	3913
Notice of Suit-Merlin	5B	3911
Delphi Sch-Notice of Adop.	5B	3911
Commissioner-DLGF	5B	3911
Clem estate	5B	3912
County Claims	4B	3911
Highway Claims	4B	3911
Smith Name Change	5B	3911

Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.