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*Radio-Television News Directors Association  
Code of Broadcast News Ethics*

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*The responsibility of radio and television journalists is to gather and report information of importance and interest to the public accurately, honestly and impartially.*

*The members of the Radio-Television News Directors Association accept these standards and will:*

- 1. Strive to present the source or nature of broadcast news material in a way that is balanced, accurate and fair.*
  - A. They will evaluate information solely on its merits as news, rejecting sensationalism or misleading emphasis in any form.*
  - B. They will guard against using audio or video material in a way that deceives the audience.*
  - C. They will not mislead the public by presenting as spontaneous news any material which is staged or rehearsed.*
  - D. They will identify people by race, creed, nationality or prior status only when it is relevant.*
  - E. They will clearly label opinion and commentary.*
  - F. They will promptly acknowledge and correct errors.*
- 2. Strive to conduct themselves in a manner that protects them from conflicts of interest, real or perceived. They will decline gifts or favors which would influence or appear to influence their judgments.*
- 3. Respect the dignity, privacy and well-being of people with whom they deal.*
- 4. Recognize the need to protect confidential sources. They will promise confidentiality only with the intention of keeping that promise.*
- 5. Respect everyone's right to a fair trial.*
- 6. Broadcast the private transmissions of other broadcasters only with permission.*
- 7. Actively encourage observance of this Code by all journalists, whether members of the Radio-Television News Directors Association or not.*



# JOB INFORMATION SERVICE

A bi-weekly service for electronic journalists published by the Radio-Television News Directors Association

For information, call (818) 883-6121

DECEMBER 1987

JOB BULLETIN 505

SITUATIONS WANTED

Beginning news reporter/anchor, television or radio. Can also edit. BA in Broadcasting. TV internships in #20 market. Radio internship in small market. I'm enthusiastic and can get the job done. Willing to relocate. Tracy A. Logan, 406 Linden Ave., Grass Valley, CA 95945 (916)272-5469. (S270)

Just hear my aircheck---that's all I ask. Reporter/anchor at NYC suburban (radio) station seeks small or medium market. Experienced in city and county government, local news, and also stringer for national radio network. (914) 428-3961. (S271)

TV BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS REPORTER. "This stuff doesn't have to be dull, confusing and irrelevant." One of only four commercial broadcasters ever to complete Columbia's fellowship in business and economics reporting. Good ratings history and multiple awards in general reporting. Pete (312) 565-0712. (S272)

Cameraman/editor. The "drive" of a beginner, yet 12-years experience. Also, I can pay moving costs to your state. Ray Etheridge (316)838-1212, 682-3157. (S273)

HELP WANTED

RADIO ANCHOR/REPORTER. Experienced, strong writing skills a must! Big voice. Cassette/resume (no phone calls) to: Ellen Wascou, News Director, WLAN AM/FM Radio, 252 N. Queen St., Lancaster, PA 17603. (5619)

LOCAL NEWS. Full time. Suburban New York City station. One year experience. Four person staff. Contact Al Larson, News Director, WALL Radio, 914/343-7400...Middletown, NY 10940. (5626)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BROADCAST JOURNALISM. Teach and conduct research in broadcast news and public affairs, including writing, editing, and production. Earned doctorate (ABD, or MA with experience will be considered). Professional experience highly desirable. Send letter of application, resume, names of academic/professional references to: Dr. James A. Brown, Dept. of Broadcast and Film Communication, The University of Alabama, PO Box D., Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. EOE. (5627)

RTNDA publishes this Job Bulletin twice a month. It contains a section of job openings in broadcast news, sports and weather and is distributed to paid-up RTNDA members free-of-charge, as part of the INTERCOM newsletter. Non-RTNDA members may purchase the bulletin at a cost of \$8 for four issues.

Listing A Job: Employers may list their openings free-of-charge by mailing in a brief description of their job openings.

Situations Wanted: Persons seeking employment may submit copy up to a maximum of 40 words. No blind box service can be provided. The cost for RTNDA members is \$10 for a listing in one issue for up to 20 words, or \$20 for a listing of 21 to 40 words. For non-members, the cost is \$15 for up to 20 words, and \$25 for a listing of 21 to 40 words. There is no charge for the name and address of job seeker.

Ads and subscriptions to the Job Bulletin must be paid in advance, with check or money order, made out to "RTNDA", accompanying the copy. No ads will be taken by telephone.

Correspondence and copy should be sent to: Howard Back, Chairman of RTNDA Job Information Service, c/o National Television News, #213A, 23480 Park Sorrento, Calabasas Park, CA 91302 (818) 883-6121.

TWO JOBS. NEWS RADIO STREET REPORTER. Strong writing and air skills essential. RADIO NEWS/TRAFFIC PERSONALITY. Work afternoon team. Strong writing and quick wit essential. Send cassette/resume and writing samples to Darrell Hosack, News Director, 900 Commonwealth Place, Virginia Beach, VA 23464. No calls. EOE. (5628)

DIRECTOR FOR TELEVISION NEWS ARCHIVE, a distinctive collection of videotaped news broadcasts. The Archive publishes a monthly guide to the news programs and offers services to researchers throughout the world. Write Shirley Hallblade, Associate Director of Libraries, Vanderbilt University, Box 155 Peabody Station, Nashville, TN 37203 or call 615/322-7110. (5629)

PRODUCER: Experience required. Good writing skills and eye for graphics. Must know how to deal with people. Contact Loren Tobia, News Director, KMTV, 10714 Mockingbird Dr., Omaha, NE 68127. No phone calls. EOE. (5630)

NEWS DIRECTOR. All applicants will be handled in a confidential manner. Contact Bob Leider, General Manager, WSVN-TV, 1401 79th Street Causeway, Miami, FL 33141. (5631)

NEWSPERSON. To host local segments of Morning Edition. Extensive interviewing, reporting and producing duties. 3 years experience anchor/reporter with strong on-air presence/communication abilities and excellent news-gathering/writing/production skills. Salary mid-twenties + benefits. Send letter describing interest in position; resume with three references (including phone numbers); non-returnable cassette (10-15 min.) containing two samples of reporting/producing work and one sample of newscasting/hosting work. May Wycisk, General Manager, KCFR Radio, 22249 S. Josephine, Denver, CO 80210. EOE. (5632)

REPORTER. Do you outperform your radio/TV station? Need a reporter with feature/series/investigative track record. Jim Forsyth, News Director, WOAI Newsradio, 6222 NW Interstate 10, San Antonio, TX 79201. (5633)

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER. One year's experience shooting news. Tape and resume to Bill Wallace, News Director, WTVC-TV, PO Box 1150, Chattanooga, TN 37401. (5634)

WEEKEND CO-ANCHOR/GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER. 3 days a week as reporter, co-anchoring on Sat. and Sun. Prefer 2 years television news experience. Send tape that includes both anchoring and field reporting to Kevin Kelly, News Director, WPTF-TV, 3012 Highwoods Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27626. EOE. (5635)

WHEN CONTACTING STATION PLEASE MENTION RTNDA JOB INFORMATION SERVICE



# intercom

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 23

"Thank You, Mr. President!"

DEC 28 1987

DECEMBER, 1987

## "FAIRNESS" DOCTRINE IS DEFEATED BY THREAT OF VETO

Fairness doctrine advocates were unable to get the doctrine passed into law last week when President Reagan threaten to veto the entire \$600 billion spending bill because of the inclusion of the doctrine into appropriations measures.

Reagan originally vetoed the legislation in June and argued that the Democrats were trying to override his earlier veto by simple majority vote, rather than by the two-thirds vote ordinarily needed.

"There's a feeling up there (in Congress) that, 'Well, we can throw a little of this junk in at the last minute because the President would never shut down the government,'" said Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS).

Codification of the fairness doctrine "was sacrificed on the altar of necessity....I guess everybody yielded some," said House Speaker Jim Wright (D-TX).

## "FAIRNESS" STATEMENT BY ERNIE SCHULTZ, PRESIDENT OF RTNDA

The most recent battle over the fairness doctrine should never have been fought. The doctrine should never have been included in the continuing resolution because it had nothing to do with appropriations. The doctrine was eventually defeated by the narrowest of margins because of the steadfast determination of President Reagan not to accept a regulation he knew to be bad public policy.

Others contributed to the defeat of the doctrine. In the Senate, Senator Bob Packwood (R-OR) was the leader of those who argued that the President was right and meant what he said. In the House, Representative Tom Tauke (R-IA) led the debate against the doctrine and contributed to the decline of support for the doctrine there.

Through it all, broadcasters worked very hard to convince members of Congress to abandon the doctrine as counterproductive and a disservice to the public. The NAB, under the leadership of President Eddie Fritts, worked very long and hard, especially in the Senate, to educate members about the true nature of the doctrine. RTNDA officers, board members and rank and file were also instrumental in affecting the outcome in Congress. And the support of the print media was significant.

Broadcasters cannot yet celebrate a final victory. The doctrine has powerful supporters in both houses of Congress. It should come as no surprise if the fairness doctrine reappears in some form in the next session. In the meantime, broadcast journalists should continue to do what they have always done—cover the news fairly, accurately, and as completely as possible by their own personal and professional journalistic standards.

## COPY OF RTNDA'S CODE OF ETHICS IS IN THIS MAILING

by Jeff Marks, ND, WOSH-TV, Portland, ME

For many years, RTNDA's Code of Broadcast News Ethics was a forgotten document. Very few newsrooms had it posted on the wall.

When John Spain, president of RTNDA at the time, asked the Ethics Committee to reraft the Code, it was a mission that could easily have been swept aside for more urgent projects. But Spain and his successor Spence Kinard kept the pressure on.

We gathered ethics codes from other organizations. Coincidentally, as chairman of the committee, I was invited to take part in communications ethics seminars at Emerson College, Washington and Lee University and the Poynter Institute. At those conferences, ethics educators, like Lou Hodges from Washington and Lee and Deni Elliott from Utah State made significant contributions to the final draft.

RTNDA members were called on to suggest what should be added or deleted.

When it was over, the RTNDA board adopted a revised Code that was fewer than half the words of the original Code written in the early '60s. Among the major changes:

- \* The new Code omits references to newsroom practices which have little to do with ethics.
- \* It adds sections on deceiving the audience and on the privacy of transmissions.
- \* It removes the provision that appoints RTNDA to censure its own members.
- \* In each section, the new Code first speaks of an ideal, clearly stated. In some cases it is then modified by an accompanying minimum standard.

I was pleased to present the new Code to the membership at the business meeting at the international convention in Orlando in early September.

Now, our job as RTNDA members and broadcast journalists is to disseminate the Code of Broadcast News Ethics. Our Code does not solve every newsroom problem but we hope it gives you a basis for discussion when ethical issues arise.

We're now publishing the Code in Communicator magazine on the table of contents page and, with this mailing, every member is receiving a fancy copy of the Code suitable for framing. But better yet, we encourage you to photocopy it and distribute it to everyone in the newsroom. New members will receive copies of the Code.

## SEND US YOUR BEST WORK

In the last issue of Intercom we included an insert on how you can enter the 1988 RTNDA Regional Awards. (The forms will also be published in the Jan. directory issue of Communicator magazine.) Follow the instructions carefully; Feb. 1 is the deadline to enter. Entry fees are modest (\$15 for radio, \$30 for TV) and we encourage your participation. All radio and television stations are eligible to participate in our prestigious program honoring electronic news excellence.

As a membership service, we've also listed in this issue (pg. 2) other organizations' awards of interest to RTNDA members. The list shows entry deadlines and contacts. Good luck!

# OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' AWARDS OF INTEREST TO RTNDA MEMBERS

Sponsor Award	For	Prize(s)	Entry Deadline	Contact
ALFRED I. DUPONT—COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AWARDS FOR BROADCAST JOURNALISM	Excellence in radio, television and cable news & public affairs programming	Silver batons: one Gold Baton	July 15	Janet C. West 212-280-5047
American Chiropractic Assn. 1987 HEALTH JOURNALISM AWARD	Distinguished journalism in health programming	\$200 Cash prize, plaques	April 1	Irv Davis Clayton 314-862-7800
American Legion National Headquarters FOURTH ESTATE AWARD	Outstanding achievement in the field of journalism	Walnut pylon, \$2,500 stipend	Jan 31	Hubert R. Dagley, II 317-635-8411
Associated Press Broadcasters Inc. NAPB AWARDS	Outstanding contributions to AP reports by member stations, outstanding enterprise reporting	Plaque	April 30	Wendell Wood 202-955-7200
B'nai B'rith (Cinema/Radio/T.V. unit) EDWARD R. MURROW BROTHERHOOD AWARDS	News production best promoting human understanding & good relations among people	Plaques & certificates	Feb. 26	Thelma Muller 212-686-3199
Columbia Graduate School of Journalism KNIGHT-BAGEHOT FELLOWSHIP	Nine months of business and economic study	\$16,000 plus free tuition	April 3	Pamela Hollie Kluge 212-280-2711
Investigative Reporters & Editors UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AWARDS	Investigative Reporting	Plaque and trip to IRE national convention	Jan. 31	Jan Colbert 314-882-2042
Lincoln University UNITY AWARDS IN MEDIA	Outstanding coverage of minority affairs	Trophy	Jan. 8	Dr. Thomas Pawley 314-681-5306
Mollie Parnis Livingston Foundation LIVINGSTON AWARDS	Young journalists under the age of 35, single news reports	\$5,000 each (local, national & international)	Feb. 15	Charles Eisendrath 313-763-2400
Mortgage Bankers Assn. JANUS AWARD	Economic and financial reporting	Bronze plaques, all expenses to receive award	Feb. 12	Tom Marder 202-861-6568
National Broadcast Editorial Association NBEA AWARDS	Editorial excellence	Bronze cube	Mid Mar.	Joel Bellman 213-874-7700
National Association of Home Builders GOLDEN HAMMER AWARDS	Journalist	Cash	Nov. 1	Amy Knapp 202-822-0473
Natl. Assn. of Science Writers SCIENCE IN SOCIETY JOURNALISM AWARDS	Outstanding writing about science and its impact on life	\$1,000	July 1	Diane McGurgan 516-757-5664
National Press Club NPC CONSUMER AWARDS	Consumer reporting	\$1,000	Mar. 15	NPC Library 202-662-7523
National Press Club EDWIN M. HOOD AWARDS	Diplomatic reporting	\$1,000	Mar. 15	NPC Library 202-662-7523
National Press Club WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS AWARD	Interpreting Washington events for home town listeners	\$1,000	Mar. 15	NPC Library 202-662-7523
Neiman Foundation at Harvard University LOUIS M. LYONS AWARD	Conscience and integrity in journalism	\$1,000	Mar. 1	Eugene Robinson 617-495-2237
RFK Journalism Awards Committee/ RFK Memorial ROBERT F. KENNEDY JOURNALISM AWARDS	Outstanding coverage of the problems of the disadvantaged	\$1,000 1st prizes, \$2,000 Grand prize	Jan. 29	Sue Vogelsinger 202-333-1880
Scripps Howard Foundation CHARLES E. SCRIPPS AWARD	Outstanding effort to combat illiteracy	\$2,500 and bronze plaque, and \$5,000 to literacy program designated by winner	Jan. 21	Mary Lou Marusin 513-977-3036
Scripps Howard Foundation JACK R. HOWARD BROADCAST AWARDS	Journalistic excellence Program or series of programs to promote the public good	\$2,000 and bronze plaque	Jan. 15	Mary Lou Marusin 513-977-3036
SPJ, SDX DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD	Meritorious achievement	Bronze medallions and plaques	Jan. 10	Info. for DS award 312-922-7424
State AP Associations STATE ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS INC. AWARDS	Various categories depending on state			Local chief of AP Bureau
United Press International UPI NATIONAL BROADCAST AWARDS	Excellence in spot news, newscast, sports coverage	Sculpted Metal UPI Logo	Jan. 15	Cynthia Taylor 202-898-8000
U.S. Council for Energy Awareness FORUM AWARDS	Understanding of nuclear power & its peaceful applications	Cash	Sept. 19	Virginia Ridgeway 202-293-0770
Women In Communications, Inc. CLARION AWARDS	Excellence in all areas	Plaques (presented at conference)	Feb. 15	Margo Swanson 512-346-9875

## THE DETROIT JET CRASH: ONE OF THE BIG STORIES OF '87

by Bill Smith

It was dusk on a sultry summer Sunday in Detroit, and there wasn't much news. The Tigers had just wrapped up a road trip with a victory. Vacationers heading home from northern Michigan had traffic back up on I-75 near Flint. The usual August thunderstorms were setting off weather alarms in the city's nearly-empty newsrooms.

In a matter of moments it turned into a night that few Detroit newspeople will ever forget.

Northwest Airlines Flight 255, taking off for Phoenix, AZ, crashed into a busy street just outside Metro Airport, killing all but one of the 153 people on board, and two more victims on the ground.

WJW Radio's Gary Baumgarten was off duty, visiting relatives not far from the airport when he heard the first police calls on his scanner. He hopped into his car, and apparently became the first reporter to get to the scene—and on the air live just before 9 p.m.

A microwave ENG truck crew from WJBK-TV was already at the airport—to catch the Tigers' return from their road trip. They had video of the crash's flames on air within minutes and soon were joined by weekend anchor Mike Redford, who ran more than a mile to get to the crash scene after the taxi he'd grabbed at the station got tied up in the freeway traffic jam caused by the accident.

A few minutes more and dozens of reporters were converging on the airport, while all over the city newsrooms were filling with scores of other staffers.

While the investigation continues into the cause(s) of the crash, Detroit news directors and reporters have formed their own conclusions about the coverage. Here are some of them.

WKYZ-TV news director Tom Rosenbaum is convinced planning pays off. He said that since the early '70s his station has been putting together disaster plans. And that it's a continuing process. "During the last disaster drill at the airport, our director of news operations spent all day there—not to cover the story—but to get information for the future. The authorities follow their disaster plans to the letter so it's worthwhile to take the time to learn about their planning process."

WDIV ND Bob Warfield said his station's disaster plan is kept in the newsroom computer. "It tells us who to call, what hospitals are close to the airport, alternative routes to get there." He added that the station plan has subdivisions for different disaster types and, for example, lists protective gear news crews would need at a toxic waste spill.

Chris Sloat, WJBK-TV ND, said her disaster plan establishes priorities for calling in off-duty staffers: "But actually everybody came in without calling. That really helped."

Despite the advance planning, some NDs reported difficulties. Bob Schuman of WJR-AM said he was "very dissatisfied with the police handling of the situation." His reporters "had tremendous trouble getting into the area. They had to park far away from the command post, run there and then, after getting some information, run back to the car to call the station because there were no phones at the command post."

WDIV's Warfield said, "There was an awful lot of tension out there between the cops and officials and the news crews. But everybody was just trying to do their jobs and stay calm."

Wayne County sheriff Robert Ficano said police tried to give all news organizations as much information as they could as fast as possible and reporters generally seemed sensitive to the difficulties of the situation for the police. But he acknowledged that the command post—set up in the airport headquarters building—lacked sufficient phones and work space for the media and parking for news vehicles.

The sheriff's press secretary, Nancy Mouradian, added that

officials are considering moving the media center to a different building, away from the command post. She said many command post workers grew tired of reporters running in and "borrowing" office phones.

Access to the crash area itself was a problem for all the stations. TV news directors said the police cordon around the site made it difficult to get useful pictures. But they recognized the need to preserve the scene for investigators and acknowledged the closer shots might have been too gruesome to use on air. Once all the bodies were removed, crews were allowed in to get shots of the scene.

One of the toughest newsroom decisions about the crash was how hard to go after interviews with relatives of crash victims. ND Tom Bell of WKYT Talkradio said his station received a call from one man who'd lost his father in the crash and complained that at the airport a television reporter had shined lights and stuck a microphone in his mother's face. "The man said the reporter told him 'That's my (expletive) job' when the son told the reporter to back off."

"I'm not a big believer in sticking mikes in people's faces," Bell added. "We're fortunate here in that we didn't have to. With our talk format we got calls from several people who had lost relatives, so I could assign our reporter to other angles of the story."

Overall, there were relatively few on-air interviews with relatives. WJBK-TV's Chris Sloat said she's "not a bit upset" about that. "Generally the relatives who talked came to us."

Reporter Scott Lewis of WJBK-TV said that on the second day after the crash he was assigned to talk to families. "I was having a hard time locating any. I could have parked outside the morgue and waited for them but I didn't want to do that." Instead, he made phone calls to relatives who'd been identified in the newspapers. Lewis got some to agree to talk, but was unable to make connections with any for on-camera interviews that day.

Several days later he did interview members of a family from Ohio who had lost several relatives in the crash. "They were at the sheriff's department trying to see the crash site. That wasn't as touchy; they were willing to talk."

"These people are in the driver's seat," Lewis said of the relatives. "You can't expect them to do anything. They have no obligation to you."

Margie Reedy, one of the reporters WDIV assigned to the morgue, said families were brought in on buses and reporters had little access to them.

But at a memorial service a couple days later she did talk to members of a family who'd lost a little girl. "We talked about the comfort the memorial service provided—rather than the crash," Reedy explained.

Initially reporters were hampered in contacting relatives by the airline's refusal to release a passenger list. That made a lot of extra work—handled mainly by the wire services and by the newspapers with their larger staffs.

"It's been an arduous task," Detroit AP bureau chief Larry McDermott said while the compilation job was still underway Tuesday morning. At that point the AP had about half as many names on the wire as there were fatalities. "In almost every case," McDermott said, "the starting point has been a telephone call from an AP member, or an electronic carbon, saying a local family had been told by Northwest that a family member was on the plane. Then we check with local authorities or employers and so on. It's extremely important to be sensitive to families' suffering and grief. We don't just go plodding straight ahead and make an automatic phone call to the home of the victim."

He said most reporters use discretion in dealing with people affected by a tragedy. But for any who chose not to, he said, withholding the passenger list slowed them down very little.

**Editor's Note:** Bill Smith teaches broadcast journalism at Penn State University.

## POLITICAL CONVENTION ACCREDITATION DEADLINE IS FEB. 1

It's time for news managers to get ready for next summer's political conventions.

The governing committees of the Congressional media galleries will again accredit, allocate workspace and handle news media credentials for the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta (July 18-21) and the Republican National Convention in New Orleans (August 15-18).

Radio and television requests for workspace, broadcast space and credentials must be submitted on a form available from the House Radio-TV Gallery.

To receive the form (which must be returned to them by Feb. 1), send your request in a letter with name and mailing address to: Tina Tate; House Radio-TV Gallery; H-320; U.S. Capitol; Washington, DC 20515.

General housing requests must be received by each national committee by March 1. They are: Democrats—News Media Housing; Democratic National Convention; Atlanta '88; Suite #850; One CNN Center; Atlanta, GA 30303. Republicans—News Media Housing; 1988 Republican National Convention; 310 First St. SE; Washington, DC 20003.

Requests for housing with a specific state delegation must be made through that state party headquarters.

## KMID-TV WASN'T THE ONLY STATION COVERING JESSICA'S RESCUE

by Susan Leigh Moore, Producer, KTFK-TV, Midland, TX  
As a news producer, I am aware of the amount of competitiveness in our business. But I'm appalled at the lengths to which some stations have gone for blatant self-promotion. I am writing in response to the article printed in Intercom—"The Rescue: It Was a Story That We Became a Part Of" by DeAnn Holcomb.

I'm surprised that you would print such an outlandish article without checking the validity of the facts first. If Holcomb of KMID-TV is to be believed, they were the only news team in Midland. But that's far from the truth.

We have not, until this time, stated "firsts" accomplished by our station during the Jessica McClure ordeal. We know that we had spectacular coverage of the story and do not feel the need to "brag" in order to prove that we are an efficient news team.

Our station was the first with a news cut-in, granted it was not live from the scene. Our anchor team was the only team to stay on the air throughout the entire 58-hour ordeal, with cut-ins ranging from every 20 minutes to every hour and a half, depending on the content of the update. We did not switch to our network coverage during the actual rescue as reported by Holcomb. We accessed our network and Conus feeds, switching between the two, which, to the best of my knowledge has never been attempted in our market. Our chief photographer manned the camera that the NBC network used for its world-wide coverage.

I am completely amazed that someone has the gall to state that most of the Permian Basin was tuned to its station. Where is the proof? We are in a business that requires that we check our facts to the point of exhaustion, so that their reliability is unquestioned. That has obviously not been done.

I now feel that if we don't come out and praise ourselves for our coverage, all of the hard work we put into those 58 hours



FORGET IT, DICK...

will go unnoticed. I am very proud of our newsroom and feel disheartened that your readership was denied "the facts."

**Editor's Note:** Because KMID-TV photog Phil Huber shared his audio and video equipment with Midland police and helped them locate Jessica in the well and because an assistant news director in a small market was placed in the unusual position of having to handle the continuing coverage of this big story, we asked DeAnn Holcomb to write the first-person article.

## NOTES FROM REGION 6

by Loren Tobia, ND, KMTV, Omaha, NE

Here is the latest from our region. The Iowa Broadcasters News Association, KUNI and RINDA held a writing seminar Dec. 5 in Cedar Falls. Merv Block spent the day with 40 journalists going over newswriting skills. The response was tremendous.

Laura Behrens from KUNI did a great job in helping to set up the program. Most of those attending said they would go to a similar session in the future.

## REGION 8 STUDENT WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

Following the successful formula at the Region 8 conference in Columbus, Ohio last Oct., another student workshop is scheduled at Central Michigan State Univ. in Mt. Pleasant Feb. 27. The format will be expanded to a full day featuring a panel of radio and TV NDs advising broadcast students on how to break into the business, from appearance, speech and writing style to resumes, tapes and interviews. NDs will critique student audition tapes in afternoon break-out sessions. A live camera will be used so students without tapes can do on-air auditions and be critiqued as well. For further information, contact Region 8 Director Gary Hanson, WKBN-TV, Youngstown, OH, (216) 788-2456.

## OBITS: NORMAN WOODRUFF & JENNIFER BELL

Norman Woodruff, 47, a former news director at KCBS Radio in San Francisco, died Dec. 3 of AIDS-related causes. He was called a "pioneer of the all-news radio format" by a KCBS-AM spokesperson.

Woodruff was a "relentless taskmaster, but a consummate newsmen who was very well respected in the broadcasting field. He was among the vanguard of broadcast executives who ushered in the era of news radio in the late '60s," said KCBS anchorman Steve Baffrey.

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High school student Jennifer Bell, 14, daughter of Edward Bell, ND at WHDH Radio, Boston, died Nov. 29 in an car accident in Rochester, NH. Other family members, including Ed, were injured when a pickup truck crossed the median strip and collided head-on with Bell's van. The driver of the truck has been charged with negligent homicide.

"She was a beautiful, well-rounded student. She was really exceptional," said Jennifer's school principal Paul Coleman.

Jennifer's father remembered her as a leader, who often took charge of a situation to make sure others had a good time.

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