

# The SCJ Reporter

The Nation's Oldest National Honorary Collegiate Journalism Organization



Founded as ΠΔΕ (1909) and ΑΦΓ (1919)

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## Convention!

By William Ruehlmann  
SCJ President

Greetings, SCJers!

We have quite a line-up of speakers and events for your convention March 4 through 6 at Virginia Wesleyan College in Virginia Beach, Va. Headlining is crusading editor-publisher Bill O'Donovan on "The Calling and the Job,"

our theme, plus a full slate of award-winning professionals holding forth on effective reporting, design and art in newspapers. There will be delegate meetings to improve SCJ pol-



**William Ruehlmann**, is the SCJ President and a professor of journalism/communications at Virginia Wesleyan College and he is a working columnist for two newspapers.

icy, the national presentation of awards to our membership, and even an after-hours screening of **I Love Trouble**, which I

know you all do.

Come serve your chapter, have fun and learn!

## SCJ Names SPLC National Philanthropy

By Arthur H. Barlow  
SCJ Executive Director

The regionalization of SCJ chapters has provided us with moderate success. The members of Regions I and II have begun to take advantage of our resources by hosting College Media Days.

I believe it is time for us, as the national leaders, to provide further guidance to our membership. As Executive Director, I have received numerous press releases covering the philanthropy of our member chapters. These have in-

cluded everything from canned food drives, to float construction. Our chapters want to be involved and help those in need.

In consultation with members of the TARARP (Technology and Recruitment and Retention Planning) committee, I purposed to National Council that we adopt The Student Press Law Center as our national philanthropy. The Council accepted this recommendation at the November National Council Meeting in Dallas Texas. This choice is ideal in that The Student

Press Law Center provides services to those whom we represent, and it is an organization we have previously supported on a national level. Our member chapters will organize their service efforts into an annual, national fundraising campaign. This effort could be spearheaded by the National President, with donations submitted to the National Executive Office. This matter will be more fully addressed at the March convention.

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*Police at Tenn. university treating newspaper theft as 'malicious mischief'*

# University of Memphis newspaper staffer says at least 800 copies were stolen

**TENNESSEE** — Stacks of student newspapers found in a trash bin last week at the University of Memphis will not be investigated as a theft but as malicious mischief, campus police said.

Derek Myers, the university's public safety deputy director, said that because the papers were recovered and put back into a distribution rack before anyone notified police, they cannot be considered stolen.

"We can't fit what happened to the way the laws are written," Myers said. "[If the perpetrator is found], it will become some sort of theft charge, but this is something that's so strange as far as trying to fit the crime to an actual statute."

On Jan. 28, staff members of *The Daily Helmsman* were alerted that copies of the paper were hard to find in Patterson Hall. Nearly 800 copies of the Jan. 29 edition were found in a Dumpster outside the building shortly after they were delivered.

Andre Cherry, staff reporter, said he believes papers were stolen Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that week, but only papers from Thursday's edition were found, still bundled, in the trash.

"That particular building doesn't have security cameras where it can observe the newspaper stands," Cherry said.



Myers said the school is adding Web cameras to problem areas on campus, such as vending machines, but if newspaper thefts continue, the campus police department will consider additional cameras near newspaper racks.

Myers said newspaper thefts usually occur because a person or organization is upset with something written in the paper. But he said he was unable to find anything very controversial in Thursday's edition.

Newspaper staff members said they were told that the custodial staff might be responsible for the theft because the staff is aggravated with students who tend to throw the papers on the floor after reading them.

Calvin Strong, director of landscape and custodial services for the school, said he has spoken with the supervisor for Patterson Hall.

"She spoke with the employees in that building," Strong said. "They assured me that they had no part in it."

Strong said the custodial staff is not aware of who might have taken the papers, but will be keeping a closer eye on newspapers

in the buildings.

"There's no reason to suspect them," Strong said. "They say they didn't do it."

Bob Willis, journalism faculty member and advertising manager for the paper, said the newspaper would consider pressing charges against the person responsible for the theft. Willis said he can remember three newspaper thefts in his eight years at the school.

Myers said he believes this was an isolated incident.

"We don't have a lot to go on unless someone wants to come forward and say they saw something or confess," Myers said. "The officers know about it and are keeping an eye on the newspapers in the early morning, just to make sure they are there."

*This story is reprinted with the permission of the Student Press Law Center. For more on the issues of the student press check them out online at [www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org).*

## Philanthropy

from page one

Student Press Law Center already provides members of SCJ with the SPLC Report and allows us to use their original copy for our monthly newsletter. It seems natural that we give back to this prestigious and important organization.

Schedule for SCJ Biennial Convention

## The Calling and the Job

Virginia Wesleyan College

March 4-6

### THURSDAY, March 4:

5 p.m. - 7: Check-in and dinner at Boyd Dining Hall, VWC  
7 p.m. - 8: Reception in the Galleria at Boyd Dining Hall  
8 p.m.: DELEGATE MEETING I: Committee Assignments

### FRIDAY, March 5:

(All events in Boyd 1/3 Dining Room)

7:30 a.m.-9:15: Breakfast (Cafeteria)  
9:30 a.m.-9:45 : Welcome by Dr. Stephen S. Mansfield, Dean of the College; Remarks by SCJ President Bill Ruehlmann and VWC SCJ Chapter President Jana Popeleski  
9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. KEYNOTE SPEAKER Bill O'Donovan, Editor-Publisher of *The Virginia Gazette*  
10:30 a.m.-10:45: Break  
10:45 a.m.-11:30: Chris Williams of *The Star-Democrat* on "Starting Out"  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Lunch and fellowship in the Dining Hall  
1 p.m.-2:30: Julie Elman and Sam Hundley of *The Virginian Pilot* on "Design and Art in Newspapers"  
2:30 p.m.-2:45: Break  
2:45 p.m.-4: DELEGATE MEETING II (as assigned)  
4 p.m.: COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT  
5 p.m.-6: Dinner (Cafeteria)  
Evening Off. Options: VWC Men's Lacrosse vs. Elizabethtown College, Trinder Stadium/Foster Field, 7 p.m. **I Love Trouble**, newspaper comedy movie starring Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte, Clarke 118, 7 p.m.; "A Celebration of Women's Voices," dramatic readings, Hofheimer Theater, 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, March 6:

8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.: DELEGATE MEETING III: General Business Meeting and Report, Boyd 1/3 Dining Room  
11 a.m.: National Awards: SCJ Executive Director Art Barlow and Amy Johnson of *The Virginia Gazette*  
Noon: Lunch (The Grille) and Check-Out  
1:30 p.m.: SCJ NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

## Keynote Speaker

**W.C. (Bill) O'Donovan**, crusading editor-publisher of *The Virginia Gazette*, grew up in a family of writers/editors, edited his college paper at the University of Detroit, worked two summers writing for the *White Plains Reporter-Dispatch*, and worked another summer on the *Stockton Record* in northern California. He went to Vietnam as an Army press officer, returning in 1971. Bill landed at *The Virginia Gazette* in Williamsburg, Va., "for six weeks"; 32 years later, he is vice president for a multi-million-dollar division of five units. Bill is past president of the Virginia Press Association of 128 papers, co-founder and past president of Housing Partnerships rehab volunteers, and past president of the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce. He is active in Kiwanis Club and Williamsburg Performing Arts Center. Virginia State Chairman for the National Newspaper Association, Bill serves on the board of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and lectures twice a year at the American Press Institute.

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## Notes from the Executive Director



Winter will end, but it will end sooner if you go to The Beach— Virginia Beach. This is it: **REGISTER NOW** for the SCJ Biennial National Convention hosted by the Virginia Wesleyan College SCJ chapter and our most gracious host and president, Dr. William Ruehlmann. The convention will be an outstanding time for chapter members to get to know each other, making SCJ an even stronger presence on our campuses.

Early registrations have NOT been pouring in, but there is still time, and remember, you can always register on-site.

Join us in early March and watch the surf set and the flowers bloom.

Also, don't forget about the College Media Advisers National Convention March 18 through 20 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. The convention always provided SCJ members the opportunity to mingle and to network with each other and prospective employers.

The CMA convention falls after the biennial convention at Virginia Beach, so everyone should have a great deal of momentum for the business at hand. In the past, convention coordinators have been gracious to SCJ by allowing us to hold our annual executive board business meetings and announce our contest winners at the convention site. Even though we've changed our convention to the local college model, CMA remains a valuable resource for all student journalists in our prestigious honorary organization.

## Chapter Notes

*Congratulations to our new members at:*

*Hampden-Sydney College, VA—1 new member;  
Elizabethtown College—17 new members;*



*We look forward to seeing  
you all at the Convention in  
Virginia Beach, March 4-6.*

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