This narrative analysis of the suffragist journal the *Woman Citizen*, published from 1917 to 1927, addresses the challenges social activists face when reframing progressive narratives. This article provides insight into the press as a site for identity; considers how a magazine positions itself to effect social advances; and explores the hurdles for a reform magazine to survive when the landscape changes, as it did for women with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, and with the end of the first wave of feminism circa 1930. To ascertain if the editorial strategy and content of the journal shifted to absorb the ramifications of suffrage, the study examined each issue published, comprising some 6,300 articles. This study found that, although the journal adapted by fostering more dynamic narratives of women’s new place, it continued themes prevalent over the previous forty years, and depended on narrative framings characteristic of the suffragist movement—motherhood, altruism, equality, profiles of women of accomplishment, pioneers, and success “by chance.” This examination of a women’s journal from the 1920s also sheds light on our current environment, and shows how, despite almost a century of citizenship, coverage of women’s participation in the public sphere is still presented in ways that mimic coverage from that era.

“The radicalism of to-day becomes the conservatism of to-morrow.”

A narrative analysis of the journal *Woman Citizen*, published between 1917 and 1927, provides insight into the importance of the press as a site for the discussion of identity and social change. An examination

Sheila M. Webb is an associate professor in the Department of Journalism at Western Washington University, MS 9161, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225. (360) 650–6245 sheila.webb@wwu.edu

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“We Used Every Effort to be Impartial”: The Complicated Response of Newspaper Publishers to Unions

By Philip M. Glende

As large employers of labor and owners of businesses that conveyed information about organized labor to a wide audience, publishers were intimately connected to the labor movement during the 1930s and 1940s. Publishers such as William Randolph Hearst were condemned for controlling a press determined to fight unionism. Newspaper owners, however, were business operators, journalists, and community leaders and these broad interests led to the creation of diverse content on organized labor in the nation’s newspapers. For some publishers, civic and professional motivations encouraged an effort to remain neutral or to offer balance in reporting and commentary. Other publishers expressed support for unions, if only to claim market share. Regardless of personal views on unions, many publishers showed an honest respect for the line between opinion and news. This article examines the complex response of publishers to the growth of unions in American life.

When editorial employees at the Wisconsin News in Milwaukee went on strike in a test of the strength of the American Newspaper Guild, William Randolph Hearst, the publisher, was the target of a national campaign of public pressure to get him to recognize the union. The Guild strategy was in harmony with a broader attempt to discredit Hearst for his attacks on the New Deal, university professors, and radical students. Heywood Broun, the president of the Guild, and other Guild leaders seized on Hearst’s already shattered image among leftists to draw attention to their fight. The National Women’s Trade Union League joined other groups in endorsing a boycott of Hearst papers and advertisers. In the
Food Journalism or Culinary Anthropology? Re-evaluating Soft News and the Influence of Jeanne Voltz’s Food Section in the Los Angeles Times

By Kimberly Wilmot Voss

Jeanne Voltz was a groundbreaking food editor at the Los Angeles Times in the 1960s—a time of great change for journalism and gender roles. This article outlines her career path and includes an analysis of her work at the Times, including her approach to food journalism as a mix of hard news, such as food safety and consumer awareness; and soft news, including recipes, and restaurant reviews. The research illuminates the significance of food sections and lays the foundation for future research on the contributions of women to food journalism.

Before the success of the Food Network and the popularity of competitive cooking programs such as Bravo’s Top Chef, aspiring foodies relied on the food sections of their local newspapers for their gastronomical fix. These sections, thick with grocery store advertisements in the 1950s and 1960s, originated in the women’s pages—narrowly defined as the fashion and household pages—of metropolitan dailies across the country. A staple of mid-century metropolitan newspapers, food sections continue today. Then as now, food sections reflected gender roles, health standards, and governmental policies about food in a community. They also reflected the developing demographic of many cities as new immigrants settled into communities and shared their dishes. Lastly, these sections related stories about food—creating a form of culinary anthropology, as Jeanne Voltz, the former Los Angeles Times food editor, once described her
“They Deserve a Stinging Defeat”: How Mississippi Newspapers’ Coverage of the 1955 Junior Rose Bowl Protected the Closed Society

By Jason A. Peterson

In 1955, college sports teams in Mississippi refrained from playing integrated squads as a part of the social standard of segregation that dominated the Magnolia State. When the Jones County Junior College football team, with a record of 9–1, accepted a bid to play in the 1955 Junior Rose Bowl for the junior college national championship against the integrated Tartars of Compton (California) Junior College, Mississippi’s journalists used their power and public forum to denounce the decision and protect what James Silver has called the Closed Society. As demonstrated by this article, sports reporters neglected the social implications of participating in integrated athletics while some of Mississippi’s more famed editors, including the Jackson Daily News’ Frederick Sullens, attacked the Jones County contingent for its violation of the state’s segregated way of life. This research argues that as a result, the silence and outrage in the press served as a deterrent for any and all efforts toward athletic-based integration, thus protecting the interests of pro-segregationists and leading to the eventual adoption of the unwritten law, an informal agreement between the state’s college presidents and politicians that prohibited competition against integrated teams.

In the December twilight of 1955, the football Bobcats of Jones County Junior College, a small, two-year school in Ellisville, Mississippi, had an impressive record of 9–1 and were considered by many to be the second-best junior college squad in the nation. Led by All-American quarterback Ken Schulte and head coach “Big” Jim Clark, the Bobcats were rewarded with a trip to

Jason A. Peterson is an assistant professor at Berry College, Department of Communication, Box 299, 490299 Berry College, Mount Berry, GA 30149. (706) 368–6767 japeterson@berry.edu

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Putting Your Community on Stage: Creating a Play out of Local Historical Letters to the Editor

By Doug Cumming

Journalism has deposited quite a thick alluvium of matter in the archives over the past 200 years. Digging into that sediment for a footnote, or getting a core sample in pursuit of a research question, don’t we all sometimes feel the prickling sensation of a greater excitement, a presentiment that there is more we could do with all this . . . stuff? Here in these old newspaper pages are stories by the thousands, hilarious or poignant twists of culture in the advertisements, a multitude of Americans lost to history, un-poll ed and silenced in their individuality. Haven’t we all suppressed an intuition about the creative possibilities that lurk in this material, beyond traditional research?

A project to create and produce a community theater play out of two centuries of local letters to the editor turned out to confirm this intuition. Here at Washington and Lee University, in Lexington, Virginia, the journalism department teamed up with the theater department in 2010–11 to make a play we titled “Lexington’s Letters to the Editor.” Crossing traditional boundaries, the project unleashed fresh energy with a number of collaborations: not only between the journalism and theater departments, but also between professors and undergraduate researchers, the university and a local weekly newspaper, media history and stagecraft, theater students and amateur community actors.

It began in the summer of 2010, when four undergraduates and three Lexingtonians interested in local history read more than 8,000 letters published since 1804 in our county and campus newspapers. There was plenty of known history underlying the letters through the decades. Lexington, in Rockbridge County, is home to Washington and Lee and the Virginia Military Institute, the resting place of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and a couple of Virginia governors, and the historic hub of a beautiful valley between the