

# Bill Lueders *Isthmus* correspondence files, 1986 - 2011

Throughout my twenty-five years as news editor of Madison's weekly newspaper *Isthmus* (yes, I had the same title the entire time), I kept a folder in my desk labeled "correspondence," into which I put letters and later copies of emails sent and received, along with other materials I considered worth saving. Each year, I would start a new file.

I'm not sure I ever looked at the items I stashed away in these files, after the initial filing. Most stayed put until early 2020, when I began the task of sorting through them for the purpose of archiving by the Wisconsin Historical Society, which had expressed interest.

In reviewing these materials, I was frankly astonished by what I found—much of which I had forgotten. Though these materials provide a necessarily incomplete picture of the life of the newspaper, they offer a deep glimpse into it. These files also reflect the advance of technology as it transformed the profession.

As the years wore on, the volume of letter correspondence waned, as communications once conducted by mail took place via email, which sort of keeps its own record in the various email folders. Still I printed out exchanges I saw some special reason to preserve. In later years, I also used the folders for news clippings, more than I did early on.

There are a number of items to and from recognizable individuals: Alexander Cockburn, Dave Barry, Jon Meachum, Charlie Sykes, Tony Earl, Nat Hentoff, Donna Shalala, Garry Trudeau and Farley Mowat, among others. Most are to and from more-or-less ordinary *Isthmus* writers, sources, and readers.

I have done some minor rearranging of these files, mostly to consolidate letters that go together. Some entries are still a bit out of chronological order, as they turned up in my folders. I have removed a few purely personal letters but left many that are largely personal, between me and the writers with whom I worked. I have left letters that I regret having sent, and some that I was sorry to receive.

I have also removed or redacted a few letters that dealt with sensitive internal personnel issues or other sensitive information, such as the identification of a juvenile subject of school expulsion. I did keep most of the memos with my bosses and others that found their way into these folders, as well as letters regarding my freelance work for other publications, which I did throughout my years at *Isthmus*.

I acknowledge with the passage of time that this correspondence does not always put me in a favorable light, especially earlier in my tenure at *Isthmus*. I was full of pride and anger, and I relished a good fight. A reader of this correspondence would be right to marvel to see the sort of thing I apparently got away with, on *Isthmus* letterhead and in my official capacity.

In every case, I have tried to identify the person on the other side of the correspondence, when it was sent, and, briefly, what it was about. Rather than conspicuously flag each correspondence as being sent or received, I have tried to make this clear in the short descriptions: "letter to . . ." or "email from . . ."

I did throw away a very few letters which were of unclear origin and purpose. Some readers may feel it was not enough.

Most of the articles and columns and letters mentioned in these files are not easily retrievable, as *Isthmus* did not start putting its content online until 2006. But there are a number of referenced pieces that appear in my book *Watchdog: 25 Years of Muckraking and Rabbleroxing*. I am including in this contribution to the Historical Society a copy of that book, as well as two others: *An Enemy of the State: The Life of Erwin Knoll*, and *Cry Rape: The True Story of One Woman's Harrowing Quest for Justice*.

#### BOOKMARKS FOR FOLDERS

[1986](#), [1987](#), [1988](#), [1989](#), [1990](#), [1991](#), [1992](#), [1993](#), [1994](#),  
[1995](#), [1996](#), [1997](#), [1998](#), [1999](#), [2000](#), [2001](#), [2002](#), [2003](#),  
[2004](#), [2005](#), [2006](#), [2007](#), [2008](#), [2009](#), [2010](#), [2011](#).  
[Miscellaneous](#), [Walker's War](#).



## 1986

**“NEWS EDITOR,”** *Isthmus* job description for position, presumably prepared during the search process in early 1986. I was hired on March 7 and began work on March 17. First line: “The news editor is in charge of making sure that news-minded people find the paper worth reading.”

**Marc Eisen**, 2-12-86, “Annotated guide” from former editor to what is called Section 1, the news section of *Isthmus*, spelling out job tasks. Memorable line: “In general, the editor needs to serve like an airline flight controller bringing stories into land.”

**John Short**, 2-26, cover letter to *Isthmus* publisher Vince O’Hern for writer’s submitted article about Nathan Dane, namesake of Dane County, which I was given to edit as a test. This letter and the three that follow are stapled together.

**Vince O’Hern**, 3-10, note confirming job hire and asking that the Short piece not be edited as much as it was; he asks for some content to be restored.

**John Short**, 3-11, letter to accompanying revised edit of piece.

**John Short**, 3-19, letter from, responding to edit.

**Tom Richards**, 3-27, letter to responding to a pitch about genetic research at the UW-Madison.

**Tom Richards**, 3-31, letter to pitching a story idea about a babysitter charged with killing three kids.

**Ted Soule**, 3-31, letter responding to an offer to write. First sentence: “The writing samples you sent *are* dry, para-academic, and a bit dull,” with the italics indicating this was Soule’s own assessment.

**Mary Conroy**, undated, letter to writer explaining that we are unable to consider hiring her as a full-time reporter.

**Milwaukee Brewers**, 4-10, letter to asking for promo photos.

**Tom Teuber**, WMAD radio, letter from radio guy apparently responding to my first *Isthmus* column, "Hello, Disneyland," which is included in my book *Watchdog*.

**Officer [first name not included] Gabbei**, 4-24, letter to a police officer who was upset when asked if her comments could be used in print; they were used without identifying the speaker.

**Doug Bradley**, 4-22, story pitch from local writer.

**David Bittinger**, 4-25, letter to a writer who wrote a too-long opinion column on Libya.

**Joanne Babic**, 5-5, letter to a reader who pointed out a mistake that was previously identified and corrected. Also attached is Babic's 5-2 letter.

**Invite** to *Isthmus*' tenth anniversary party.

**Arthur Saltzstein**, 5-1, letter from a guy in Milwaukee who knew me from *The Crazy Shepherd*, congratulating me on my hire. Attached is an article I wrote for the paper on the birth of my son (also included in *Watchdog*).

**Matt Rothschild**, 5-9, letter from the then-associate editor of *The Progressive* forwarding issue with essay on Jesse's birth, which the magazine published.

**Richard Miller**, 5-13, cover letter with article submission.

**Doug Bradley**, 5-13, letter from local writer, various subjects.

**Sharon Traudt**, 5-12, letter from writer on status of piece.

**Petr Kotz**, undated, letter from former colleague at the *Shepherd* who was now an editor at *The Minnesota Time*. Also, my reply letter to Kotz.

**P.J. Roth**, 5-15, pitch letter on Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

**Jonathan Schnell**, 5-19, letter to writer at *The New Yorker* who interviewed me for a story about my high school girlfriend and her husband, who split their 1984 votes between Reagan and Mondale.

**Steven Schaffee**, 5-19, letter of recommendation for longtime *Isthmus* contributor **David Tenenbaum**, to UW-Madison's J-school.

**Richard Birch**, 5-20, rejection letter to pitch.

**Rich Eggleston**, 5-21, letter to paper's anonymous columnist, **Capitol Eye**. Yes, he's the one who wrote it.

**Sandy Engel**, 5-22, letter to writer with edit of piece.

“**HOORAY!**” copies of invites to Madison Muskies game.

**Gary DiVall**, 5-23, letter from local real estate developer re: project.

**Eric Parker**, 5-30, letter from frequent *Isthmus* contributor.

*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6-3, copy of opinion column I wrote called “Guns make people crazy” that ran in the paper.

**Debi Newmark**, 6-3, letter to potential contributor.

**John Olson**, 6-4, letter to writer accepting story on Arthur Peabody.

**David Newman**, 6-6, letter in response to guy who didn't like my column criticizing the Sterling Hall bombers.

**Jeff Poniewaz**, 6-4, letter from Milwaukee poet with attached article. Jeff died in 2014.

**Michael Ducey**, 6-8, letter from frequent *Isthmus* contributor, in response to my rejection letter, also included.

**Crazy Shepherd**, undated, letter to staff about my conversation with Michael Moore (also recounted in my book *Watchdog*, in the essay “How I Killed the Crazy Shepherd.”)

**Michael Moore**, 6-16, letter from me to Moore to start a subscription exchange; not sure if that happened.

**Bob Williams**, 6-20, letter to *Isthmus'* conservative columnist, apparently regarding some criticism he received.

**Martha Mueller**, 6-20, letter to writer about particulars in story.

**Sharon Traudt**, 6-23, letter to potential contributor.

**Carl Jensen**, 6-24, letter to head of Project Censored grousing about not getting a press release.

**Petr Kotz**, 6-4, letter to former *Shepherd* colleague, now jobless. Includes an attached letter of recommendation, and Petr's letter to me.

**Will Scheihing**, 6-25, letter to writer suggesting sources for story.

**Owen Coyle**, 6-24, letter to Vince from local writer pitching a story. Attached in my 6-28 reply, accepting the idea.

“**REPORTERS**,” undated, note that probably ran in paper asking for freelance contributors.

**Alex Cockburn**, undated, response from *The Nation* writer to an interview request. (One was eventually conducted.)

**Sam Day**, 6-30, letter to *Isthmus* columnist feeling out potential contributions.

**Antler**, 7-1, letter from a Milwaukee poet expressing his appreciation for a review I wrote of his book *Last Words*.

**Tom Kinney**, 7-2, letter to writer with suggesting sources.

**Dennis Ruzicka**, 7-10, letter to potential contributor.

**Andy Boehm**, 7-11, letter to potential contributor.

**Anne Biebel**, 7-14, letter from UW archivist supplementing **John Olson**'s published piece on Arthus Peabody.

**Tom Doherty**, 7-12, handwritten letter of appreciation from contributor.

**Petr Kotz**, undated, letter praising and rejecting submitted piece.

**Mari Jackson**, 7-17, letter to artist seeking permission to use art.

**John Olson**, 7-22, letter rejecting submitted piece.

**William Bertrand**, 7-17, letter from guy wanting to write; attached is my 7-22 reply.

**Christine Javid**, 7-22, letter in response to a potential contributor.

**Earl Bricker**, 7-22, letter to Vince from member of Gov. Tony Earl's staff.

**Abraham Lincoln Brigades Archives**, 7-25, letter to requesting use of two photos. Also, 7-28 reply saying it has no such photos.

**Rich Eggleston**, 5-26, letter from secret "Capitol Eye" correspondent explaining his equivocal stand on a controversy concerning Attorney General Bronson La Follette.

**William Hurtle**, 7-29, letter from guy pitching a story on a lawsuit between Outagamie County and the Oneida tribe; also, my response dated 8-1.

**Judith Wilger-Gaskell**, 7-30, letter from a potential contributor.

**Dennis Ruzieka** (spelling from sloppy signature), 7-28, letter from guy bailing on a story.

**Jeff Kirsch**, 8-1, letter to a potential contributor.

**Cary Segall**, 8-1, letter from a potential contributor. Also, my lengthy letter of reply dated 8-4 giving advice and direction and outlining various possibilities. Segall would write a couple of pieces and go on to work for the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

**"EDITORIAL INTERN,"** undated, job description for internship position.

**Susan Patchen**, undated, handwritten update from a writer working on a piece.

**Kathy Esposito**, undated, letter from a contributor working on a memorable story, "Earl and the Environment" asking about inclusion on the mathead list of contributing writers.



**Jeff Kirsch**, 8-13, letter to a writer working on a piece. Also attached: Kirsch's 8-8 letter thanking me for prior advice.

**Rich Eggleston**, 8-11, letter from secret "Capitol Eye" columnist about a new local group, **Madison Organization for Reporters and Editors (MORE)**, which was holding an event to feature the new *State Journal* editor and *Cap Times* managing editor. At the event I was invited to join the panel, as a third new guy in town.

**FLYER** for an Aug. 7 event to say goodbye to **Leslie Gauberti**, an employee of the city assessor's office, about which I wrote an *Isthmus* cover story, I believe my first. The flyer used the headline of my piece.

**William Paul Fiefer**, 8-21, letter to a potential contributor. Also Fiefer's 8-27 reply.

**Susan Patchen**, undated, handwritten letter from contributor working on a piece. Also follow-up letter with submitted piece.

**Anthony Barker**, 8-28, handwritten letter to Vince regarding story.

**Jay Hatheway**, 8-30, letter from a potential contributor. Also my 9-2 letter in reply.

**Bob Williams**, 9-4, letter to *Isthmus'* conservative advice columnist, forwarding critical letters.

**Volume 1, Number 1**, June 5, 1986, edition of *Isthmus'* internal newsletter.

**Volume 1, Number 2**, July 1986 edition of *Isthmus'* internal newsletter.

**Ellen Porath**, 8-8, letter to a potential contributor.

**Cary Segall**, 9-7, letter to regarding proposed story.

**Jim Wedde**, 8-8, letter in response to guy offering a story, already written.

**Kris Visser**, 8-8, letter in response to writer who just filed a cover story on Christian street preachers, some of whom were quite hateful. Memorable line: "Reading the article as a whole, I am left feeling as though it is perhaps too kind."

**Kevin Sullivan**, 8-18, letter from a fan of my writing at *The Crazy Shepherd*, now a fan of my writing at *Isthmus*.

**Davis Kuhn**, 8-12, letter to a guy in Boston in support of job candidate David Tenenbaum.

**Andrea Kaminski**, 8-18, letter to a writer forwarding positive letters in response to her cover story about gay parents. Andrea would go on to become head of the Wisconsin League of Women Voters.

**W.P. Norton**, 9-1, letter of recommendation for my first intern.

**Lucy Rhodes**, 9-19, letter to a potential contributor.

**Elizabeth Howe**, undated, handwritten letter from reader complaining that *Isthmus* isn't as good as it once was.

**Vince**, undated, memo explaining the justification for a sidebar on a story about Gov. Earl, apparently in response to some concern he had.

**Bill Conroy**, 9-26, letter to a writer working on a story about anti-abortion groups.

**Rick Rockell**, 9-28, letter from a potential contributor; also my 9-30 letter in reply.

**Mary Conroy**, 9-19, letter from a potential contributor who has knocked on the door before; Iso my 9-30 letter in reply.

**Bob Williams**, 9-30, letter from forwarding an article.

**Charlie Sykes**, 10-6, letter to *Milwaukee Magazine* editor and future never-Trump Republican about his cover story on the Senate race between **Ed Garvey** and **Bob Kasten**.

**Rich Eggleston**, 10-14, letter to alerting him to a column I wrote on Attorney General **Bronson La Follette** (included in *Watchdog*).

**Brian Grancorvitz**, 10-15, letter rejecting a submission.

**Morry Gash** letter of recommendation, 10-17.

**Susan Patchen**, undated, appreciative letter about published piece.

**Marshall Cook**, 10-21, letter rejecting an article about Erwin Knoll and the H-bomb case.

**Daniel Wilson**, 10-22, letter to a potential contributor.

**Barbara Gardner**, 10-27, letter submitting a story written by her daughter. Also 10-28 reply declining the piece.

**Laurue Prinz**, 10-28, letter to a potential contributor.

**Cary Segall**, 10-31, letter critiquing free-lance submission, including “you’ve let chronology take the place of analysis.”

**Katherine Chen**, 10-28, letter from a potential contributor.

**Christrine Javid**, 11-3, letter pitching a story on Baha’is faith, which was written and published. Also 11-4 reply giving advice.

**Tom Vandebrook**, undated, letter accompanying submitted piece. Also my 11-5 reply.

**Cliff Miller**, 11-11, letter pitching idea to *Isthmus* columnist.

**Alexander Cockburn**, 11-18, letter to *The Nation* columnist seeking an interview.

**Chris Halla**, 11-24, letter from writer who apparently failed to come through with a story; also my 11-26 letter in reply.

**Linda Schuet**, 12-3, letter from potential writer who would go on to write a piece or two.

**Alexander Cockburn**, 12-8, letter to *Nation* columnist seeking an interview—still.

**Sam Day**, undated, marked-up copy of column quarreling with various edits; also my 12-17 letter in reply. Good conciliatory line: “Perhaps, having been tutored at *The Progressive’s* “Let no sentence go untouched” school of editing, I have been too free making changes . . .”

**Esty Dinur**, 12-12, letter criticizing *Isthmus*' cover story questioning Gov. Earl's environmental record.

**Unsigned crank letter**, 12-12; scrawled on envelope: "PRINT THE FACTS!"

**Lynn Peltier**, undated, praiseful letter from a reader.

**Jerry Smith**, 11-7, letter criticizing my column bemoaning Earl's defeat by **Tommy Thompson**.

**Marilair Blair**, 12-17, response letter to would-be contributor.

**Bob Williams**, 12-26, letter to columnist suggesting he take a different approach to his offerings.

## 1987

**Ron McCrea**, 1-2-87, letter to Gov. Earl's former spokesman following up on his proposal to write about the Earl administration and its head. He eventually wrote this as a multi-part series—for *The Capital Times*.

**Douglas Armstrong**, 1-5, letter to *Milwaukee Journal* film critic blasting his annual film round-up.

**Tom Vandebrook**, 1-5, letter from writer saying he's bailing on a story; also, my 1-6 reply suggesting it might still be doable.

**Postcard from a reader**, undated. In part: "You must have feces for breakfast. It shows it your stools — er, writing."

**Jay Walljasper**, undated, letter from exec. editor of the *Utne Reader*, in response to submission.

**Karen Prager** letter of recommendation, 1-6, to UW J-school.

**Vicki Swetz**, 1-5, letter from a reader praising my column on militarized toys for kids; also, my 1-8 reply.

**Jeff Kirsch**, 1-6, letter from writer on story ideas. Also, my 1-9 reply.

**Sandy Close**, 1-7, letter from Pacific News Service about mailing list.

**Milwaukee Journal**, 1-12, letter to the editor quarreling with a state lawmaker who attributed a Capitol Eye column as being the view of *Isthmus*. Not sure it was published.

**Bob Williams**, 1-12 and 1-15, letters from columnist forwarding articles that quoted his column.

**David Brewster/Forgotten Americans Project**, 1-15, cover letter for entering three *Isthmus* stories in a national contest.

**Miles DeCoster**, 1-21, letter to art director of *In These Times* letting him know that *Isthmus* was in the process of hiring someone in that role.

**Joan Cotter**, 1-21, letter to a potential contributor.

**Nat Hentoff**, 1-21, letter to *The Village Voice* writer, after meeting him in Madison, on setting up a subscription exchange.

**National Journalism Writing Award**, 1-21, cover letter with entries to contest.

**Alexander Cockburn**, 1-27, note from me passing on a fan letter (“You are in my estimation one of the best journalists ever”) in response to Cockburn’s column in *Isthmus*.

**Susan Shannon Engeleiter**, 1-27, letter from a state senator in response to my letter to the *Milwaukee Journal*.

**Gilliam Kerley**, undated, letter from prominent local activist re: contributing to *Isthmus*.

**Jonathan Schell**, 1-30, letter from *The New Yorker* writer re: his article on my high school girlfriend and her husband, which I had suggested *Isthmus* might run a version of. Also my 2-1 reply, saying this wasn’t going to work (for one thing it was about 40,000 words long).

**John Olson**, 1-29, letter from writer declining to accept an assignment about doing a story on “TV Lenny” Mattioli and pitching other ideas. Also, my 2-5 reply urging him to reconsider. Also, his 2-21 reply declining this overture. (I eventually wrote the story myself.)

**Gary McGoey**, 2-4, letter from a prospective writer; also my 2-6 reply.

**Center for Public Representation**, 2-4, letter from group saying that it had not picked a submitted nomination for an award.

**Gregory Redfeairn**, 2-7, letter from guy pitching a profile piece on Peter Anderson, a local environmentalist.

**Chris Halla**, 2-3, letter from writing bailing on a story and suggesting someone else write it; also my 2-16 reply urging him to reconsider. The story never happened.

**John Patrick Hunter**, 2-19, letter to famed *Cap Times* writer who I made vicious fun of apologizing and saying I like his work. As I recall, I was told he scrawled “Dear Bill, fuck you very much” on my letter and hung it up at work. (John had been quoted in the *Milwaukee Journal* saying that when he died he wanted to come back and write for *The Cap Times* some more. I had written about this, adding, “Happily, this arrangement was agreeable to *The Cap Times* and Hunter has been writing in this capacity for years.”)

**Paul Hass**, 2-23, critical letter from reader re: my column a column on *The Cap Times* (yes, the same one in which I lampooned Hunter); also, my 2-24 reply.

**Jane**, undated, letter to Isthmus colleague about some disagreement having to do with the CIA’ also, Jane’s reply.

**Bob Williams**, 2-27, letter from column praising “nifty editing job.”

**Liz McBride**, 3-5, letter from writer about story ideas.

**Betty Brickson**, 3-11, letter to writer giving advice on a rewrite.

**Letter to the editor to *The Capital Times***, 3-16, complaining about *Isthmus* being omitted from its story about **Milwaukee Press Club** winners.

**Alexander Cockburn**, 3-18, yet another letter seeking an interview.

**Owen Coyle**, undated, letter from writer about a possible story.

**Earl Conn**, 3-12, letter from Ball State University Dept. of Journalism about an *Isthmus* story not being selected for an award.

**Labor-Farm Party**, undated press release, announcing my selection for award for “Best Commentary in the Commercial Press.”

**Questions from mayoral forum**, 4-1, in race between Joe Sensenbrenner and Mary Kay Baum.

**Ron McCreia**, 3-30, letter to Vince about his “Making the Paper” column that ran in the issue containing Ron’s cover story, “Lost Horizon,” on Frank Lloyd Wright’s unrealized vision for Madison.

**Alan Peura**, undated, handwritten letter from guy passing on state Rep. Tom Loftus' campaign finance reports, showing many donations from Minnesota.

**Patrick Powers**, 4-21, letter to a prospective writer.

**Charlie Sykes**, 5-1, letter to writer about stories.

**Katherine Esposito**, undated, letter from writer about stories.

**Carol Tollefson**, undated, letter from organizer of Great Taste of Wisconsin event thanking me for participating.

**John Quinlin**, 5-29, letter from local tenant's rights activist about *Isthmus*' coverage of tenant issues.

**International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors**, 6-1, letter notifying me of my inclusion in The Golden Dozen best weekly columnists.

**Anonymous**, updated, letter from reader upset with Ron McCrea's reference to a subject's sexual preference.

**Keenen Peck**, undated, letter from former associate editor at *The Progressive* thanking me for some mention I made of him.

**Robert Scott**, 6-15, letter of recommendation to former intern.

**Memos**, 6-5, regarding caller saying she would be contacting "60 Minutes" about the investigative story I wrote on Florence County (included in *Watchdog*).

**Gretchen Miller**, 6-12, letter from ACLU employee about Florence County story.

**Carl Jensen**, 6-12, letter from head of Project Censored thanking me for covering its work.

**John Quinlin**, 6-18, letter from local tenant's rights activist regarding local housing meeting.



**J. Mirskin**, 6-23, funny response to a guy who went to a mechanic after seeing a piece (“Honest Art”) I wrote about a mechanic named **Art Rortvedt**, and had a terrible experience. Turns out he accidentally went to the wrong mechanic. Art’s family displayed “Honest Art” and another piece I wrote later about Rorvedt at his funeral, which I attended, some years later. Includes 6-21 letter from Mirskin.

**Madison Police Department**, 6-25, letter listing various requested crime stats for 1986.

**Lueders’ response to a critical letter**, undated. About Israel and Latin America.

**Marilee Long**, 7-6, letter to responding to a query letter about scientists.

**William “Bill” Hawk**. 7-10, letter to my former college anthropology teacher asking for help making contact with Chippewa Indian tribes.

**Rob Okun**, 7-16, letter to giving a mostly positive response to a submitted piece about nuclear weapons and “the human spirit.”

**Doug Bradley**, 7-14, letter from pitching story ideas.

**Mary Stoltz**, 7-15, letter from a writer responding to edit of a piece on adult children of alcoholics.

**Alexander Cockburn** column copy sent in unsigned with a scrawled complaint.

**Patrick Young**, 7-21, response letter to a guy inquiring about staff writer openings, of which there are none.

**Donald Brod**, 7-28, letter thanking guy for sending copy of a booklet of Golden Dozen winners, myself included.

**Mark Belling**, undated, letter from then-Madison radio guy thanking me for appealing on his show.

**Steve Irvin**, 7-30, letter to (as I recall) editorial intern re: assigned story on the Madison Police. I believe it later ran under the headline. “Couper’s Coppers.”

**E.B.**, 6-27, postcard from a guy praising my Florence County piece.

**Matt Rothschild**, 8-5, letter from then-associate editor of *The Progressive* rejecting a submitted piece on Oliver North; also the piece.

**The Capital Times**, 8-12, letter to the editor criticizing a column it just ran from **Mark Belling**, whom it savages. Column attached.

**Teri Heiman**, 8-15, letter of recommendation for an intern.

**Tony Earl**, 7-27, letter from former Wisconsin governor to Vince submitting a piece he wrote for *Isthmus*; also my 8-17 reply, suggesting a rewrite. Memorable lines: “For me the piece never really takes off until Page 6” and “the essay as a whole needs a bit more passion.”

**Kevin Fitzpatrick**, 7-30, letter from a writer pitching a story from Wuhan, China; also my 8-20 reply .

**Bob Williams**, 8-24, letter from a columnist on Sam Nunn, including (I believe) a *State Journal* column on Nunn by Sandy Grady.

**Liz McBride**, 8-20, letter to Vince thanking me for my “support and encouragement.”

**Bruce Brugmann**, 9-1, letter to the publisher of the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* responding to a question he raised regarding newspaper Joint Operating Agreements.

**Unreadable**, 9-7, letter from a staffer in state Sen. John Plewa’s office thanking *Isthmus* for its reporting on family leave legislation proposed by the senator.

**C.B. Mix**, 9-14, letter in response to a *Capital Times* columnist, who chided that I my column on the paper should have just said, “Dave [Zweifel], you stink, your paper stinks and by the way, the Cap imes is a scab infested piece of overreaching yellow journalism.” My letter read in full: “You stink, your paper stinks and by the way, the Cap Times is a scab-infested piece of overreaching yellow journalism, whatever that means. There, feel better?”

**Milwaukee Journal**, 9-21, letter to the editor, criticizing an article it ran on AIDS.

**Barb Mulhern**, undated, phone log message from *Cap Times* reporter praising a cover story I wrote on Donn Eithun, a Madison alderperson. (My obit for Eithun, who died in a canoeing accident, is included in *Watchdog*.)

**Dan Allegretti**, 9-26, letter from a *Cap Times* reporter insisted he has seen some letters he had written about, which I had doubted; also my 9-29 reply.

**Charlie Sykes**, 10-1, letter to Milwaukee writer regarding a story idea he contacted me about, involving allegations of scientific misconduct by UW-Madison researcher Hector DeLuca. I ended up writing this story myself, including some two dozen pieces, as it led to a huge investigation that dragged on for years.

**Richard Heck**, 11-1, letter from me to the editor of a paper in Athens, Georgia, interested in a piece on Halloween celebrations in Madison, which I write on a freelance basis.

**Lueders**, undated, copy of what appears to be an op-ed column that perhaps never ran.

**Tony Earl**, 10-29, letter to former governor including an edited version of his article.

**Bob Williams**, 11-20, columnist complains about not getting copies of his edited column promptly, because he gets asked about it: "People tell me I said things that often aren't in the column." Also, 12-2 letter from Williams.

**Adrian Lomax**, 12-9, letter to state prison inmate who I would write about and correspond with extensively.

**Vince O'Hern**, undated, memo to publisher regarding my two-part cover story on Madison Newspapers Inc.

**Steve Irvin**, 12-16, letter of recommendation to a former intern.

**Vince O'Hern**, undated, some sort of Christmas note to readers.

**Robert Kastenmeier**, 12-21, letter from U.S. Representative (D-Madison) in response to my two-part series on Madison Newspapers Inc.

**Hartmut Selke**, 12-16, letter from a German publishing house seeking permission to reprint part of Mette Hammer's article, "Witches in Wisconsin": also my 12-28 letter of reply, granting permission.

**Curt Pawlisch**, undated, letter from a prospective writer; also, my 12-29 reply.

**Fred E. Haynes**, 12-23, letter from an official with the U.S. Justice Department to whom I had sent a copy of my stories on Madison Newspapers Inc.

**Matt Rothschild**, 12-30, letter from the then-associate editor of *The Progressive*, accompanying a piece of submitted work.

# 1988

**Sam Day**, 1-1-1988, handwritten note to me complimenting an editing job.

**Joe Sensenbrenner**, 1-3, open records request letter to Madison mayor; could be my first-ever records request.

**Rich Eggleston**, undated other than "Tuesday morning about 6:45 a.m., letter from "Capitol Eye" writer about column focus; also my undated reply (memorable line: "I think Eye sometimes engages in too much extended metaphor.")

**Nat Hentoff**, 1-4, postcard *Village Voice* writer from saying, "I haven't been getting *Isthmus*," per subscription exchange.

**Sam Day**, 1-5, postcard thanking me for sending for issues of *Isthmus*.

**Columbia Journalism Review**, 1-19, letter to forwarding Madison Newspapers Inc. stories; also 2-22 reply.

**John Olson**, 1-19, letter to writer from **Fred Milverstedt**, *Isthmus* co-founder criticizing a story.

**Robert Kastenmeier**, 1-14, signed letter from member of Congress responding to a request for a report on pornography.

**Kathy Esposito**, undated, letter pitching various story ideas.

**Carl Jensen**, 1-27, letter to nominating an article on biowarfare research at the UW-Madison for inclusion on Project Censored list; also 2-2 reply. The story was selected.

**Phil Haslanger**, undated, letter from *Cap Times* associate editor. Response to some mention.

**Tim Kelley**, 2-2, pitch from a writer about doing a story of teens held in psychiatric hospitals.

**Bill Sumner**, 2-4, letter from a reader complimenting me for an award given for “Civil Liberties Journalism.”

**Emily Bahr**, 2-11, letter to someone at the Concourse Hotel re: controversy on siting a Madison convention center/hotel.

**Terry Voice**, 2-13, letter to a writer declining one story pitch and inviting another.

**Henry Gempeler**, 2-19, letter to Madison City Attorney requesting records regarding convention center/hotel issue. Also follow-up letter to him dated 2-22.

**Kevin Hoolihan**, 2-22, letter to city risk manager (as I recall) seeking records.

**Will Fantle**, 2-19, letter from writer seeking deadline extension.

**John Skilton**, 2-22, letter to lawyer involved in DeLuca scientific misconduct case seeking documents referred to in court file.

**Bob Williams**, 2-16, letter from writer seeking deadline change to accommodate vacation.

**James Cole**, 2-15, letter to another lawyer seeking documents in DeLuca case.

**Community Shares**, 2-26, letter from local umbrella fundraising group thanking me for a story.

**Vince O’Hern**, 2-29, memo to the boss outlining “TEN REASONS WHY MY 112-INCH STORY IS NOT A PROBLEM.” DeLuca piece; it ran long.

**Linda Baldwin**, 3-7, letter to Vince’s wife apologizing for an argument we have in front of her, not sure about what, probably DeLuca story.

**Donna Shalala**, 3-14, letter to UW-Madison chancellor seeking records on the DeLuca case. At some point I met with her in person on this and, as I recall, her statement was that she thought the courts were a good place to sort this out. Translation: So sue me.

**Tom Richards**, 3-17, letter from a writer submitting a story.

**Shirley S. Jones**, 3-17, letter from the editor of a publication called *InnerView* asking permission to reprint a story by Kris Visser; also my 3-22 reply.

**Barbara Crabb**, 3-22, letter to a federal judge seeking her help in getting records from the court file on the DeLuca lawsuit.

**Hal Harlowe**, 3-23, letter to the district attorney of Dane County asking him to sue the UW-Madison, as represented by legal counsel Michael Liethen, over its refusal to provide records re: DeLuca.

**Ken Smith**, 3-29, letter to guy at a publication called *Wisconsin BioIssues* that ran a story in which DeLuca bashed me at length.

**Nicholas Wade**, 3-29, letter from a writer at the New York Times thanking me for sending him a copy of the DeLuca piece.

**Newsweek**, 4-5, letter to national news magazine that ran an item on the allegations against DeLuca without mentioning *Isthmus*' role in reporting the story; also a letter to the writers (Lisa Drew and Sharon Begley) thanking them for the coverage.

**John Norquist**, 4-6, letter to newly elected mayor of Milwaukee; Norquist had wanted to hire me as a speechwriter at the same time that I was offered, and took, the *Isthmus* job.

**Carl Jensen**, 4-3, letter announcing that biowarfare story was picked by Project Censored.

**James Oster**, 4-20, FOIA request letter to federal postal official re: Madison Newspapers Inc.

**Hal Harlowe**, 4-27, letter in response to his sending a letter from UW-Madison attorney Michael Liethen re: DeLuca records issue. Conclusion: "Again, I ask that you prosecute Mr. Liethen and the UW to the full extent of the law—and quickly." That didn't happen.

**Capital Times**, 4-29, letter to the editor of paper regarding a dismissive mention it had run of an *Isthmus* report. Also a copy of the piece.

**Paul Rix**, 4-26, letter from a writer expressing interest in contributing. Rix later wrote a story for Milwaukee Magazine that sparked a major legislative scandal.

**Jacquelyn Mitchard**, 5-18, letter to then-*Milwaukee Journal* writer about her leaving the paper, and offering her an *Isthmus* column; she did not accept.

**Paul Rix**, 5-4. Follow-up letter from writer on possible stories. Also a letter from Rix dated 5-13.

**Donald Brod**, 5-23, letter from executive secretary of International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors re: my inclusion in Golden Dozen. Also press release on awards.

**Tim Redmond**, 6-1, letter to somewhat famed alternative newspaper writer for the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, following up on a meeting and passing on MNI stories.

**Eugene Carlson**, 6-1, letter to writer at Wall Street Journal passing on articles relevant to things we discussed at ANN (Ass. of Alternative Newsweeklies) convention.

**Ken Syke**, 4-15, letter from spokesperson at St. Marys Hospital offering to help.

**Lester Pines**, 5-20, letter from paper's lawyer on proposed *Isthmus* free-lance contract.

**Paul Rix**, 5-24, letter from writer confirming payment for proposed story; also his 6-7 follow-up.

**Dennis Hetzel**, 6-10, letter from managing editor of *Cap Times* criticizing something I wrote about its coverage. Also my 6/12 reply. Memorable line: "You think my vision is shallow and ill-defined simply because it does not bend to pragmatic considerations as readily as yours."

**Michael Lacey**, 10-14, letter to famed alternative newsweekly editor (publisher?) at *New Times* in Arizona. Lacey won the first-place Golden Quill award; I merely made the Golden Dozen.

**David Couper**, 6-14, open records request letter to Madison chief of police, seeking crime stats.

**Bob Williams**, 6-17, letter from columnist on various topics; also my 6-20n reply.

**Red O'Connor**, letter from the ad seller at the *Catholic Herald* informing me that *Isthmus* is not the only weekly paper in Madison, as I had said on a radio show.



**Jim Burgess**, 7-8, letter to publisher of *Wis. State Journal* for a “crack” he made about *Isthmus* that was quoted in *The Capital Times*. Bashes his paper’s coverage back.

**Capital Times**, 7-19, letter to the editor in response to a column it ran by Patrice Wendling re: a controversy over a recent Capitol Eye column. Also copy of the column itself.

**Michael Sigman**, 7-18, letter to guy at L.A. Weekly offering feedback on AAN convention.

**Teri Heiman**, 7-19, letter to former intern, now living in England with another former intern, Jeff Long. Also Teri’s letter to me dated 7-12.

**Tom Bates**, 7-23, letter from author about an article and letter we ran about his book on the Madison Sterling Hall bombing.

**Dianne Molvig**, 8-3, letter to writer accompanying edit of story.

**Milw. Journal**, 8-15, letter to the editor taking it to task for a column it ran by its editor, Sig Gissler that was critical of *Milwaukee Magazine*. Also, Gissler’s column.

**Will Fantle**, 8-17, story pitch from writer.

**Barbara Higgs**, undated letter mailed 8-15 complaining of *Isthmus*’ alleged harshness toward landlords.

**Editor and Publisher**, 8-29, letter to the editor informing trade mag that it was in error to list the arrangement between the *Cap Times* and *State Journal* in Madison as a joint operating agreement. It isn’t.

**Madison Magazine**, 9-2, letter to the editor taking issues with several contentions in Doug Moe’s media column; also the column itself.

**Margaret Guthrie**, 9-6, letter to writer rejecting a story as pitched and suggesting a different focus. Also, pitch itself with a note from *Isthmus* editor Marc Eisen.

**Florence Magnuson**, 9-12, letter from register of deeds in Marinette County thanking me for sharing “the write-up which appeared in your newspaper.”

**Karen Crossley**, undated, complimentary letter from official with the Nature Conservancy re: article on group by David Tenenbaum.

**Bert Haglund** (as scrawled), undated card of thanks for story headlined "Let it Be."

**Diane E. Strong**, 9-12, letter from someone seeking to connect with Richard Jannaccio, author of the article "Biowarfare and the UW."

**Todd McGrath**, 9-26, note from local developer thanking me for my story on Madison's First Settlement neighborhood, in which McGrath was a fixture for many years.

*Isthmus* staff, presumed 7-12, birthday card.

**Teri Heiman, Jeff Long**, date unclear, postcard from former interns, now in India.

**Dave Zweifel**, 9-30, letter from editor of *The Capital Times*, grouching about my item noting that John Patrick Hunter lifted some quotes from an article by *State Journal* writer Joe Beck. Memorable conclusion line: "[N]either you nor Joe Beck have the journalistic skills to make a pimple on John Hunter's ass." Also, my 10-3 letter of reply taking Zweifel to task.

**Marc Eisen**, undated, note to *Isthmus* editor about his getting angry that I didn't give him a heads up that Rep. Bob Kastenmeier was stopping by the day prior; also Eisen's response, dated 10-22, and my response to that. My final line: "If our relationship is to be collegial, it must have some other basis than the one typically governing relationships here [at *Isthmus*]: power on the one hand, fear on the other."

**James L. Nemke**, 11-7, letter from head of Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District complimenting a story by David Tenenbaum on the district's "sludge lagoon."

**Memo**, undated, on revamping the paper's "Metro page."

**Nat Hentoff**, 11-15, letter to *Village Voice* writer about his gripping and troubling series on child abuse.

**Irwin Klibanert**, 11-14, letter from head of MATC teachers' union's air quality committee thanking me for my reporting on this problem at the school's new Truax campus. Other

media ignored this story as I continued to report on it for months, until MATC brought a lawsuit against the building's builder.

**Janice Christensen**, 11-14, letter from MATC teacher on air-quality issue.

More letters on same:

**Bob Heimerl**, 11-18

**Sandy DeCoursey**, 11-11

**Nadine Hansen**, 11-11

**Mark Shroder**, 11-14

**Carston McKay**, 11-21

**Laura Ward**, 11-17

**Sherry Masters**, 11-25

**Alan Cox**, 11-22

**Marc Eisen**, undated, letter to *Isthmus* editor about the use of anonymous sources and Eisen's reluctance to allow these for women discussing their decisions to have abortions.

**There Shinners-Gray**, undated, complimentary letter from writer.

**Chip Mitchell**, 11-28, letter to guy at *Madison Insurgent*, a new local paper that loved to bash *Isthmus*, complaining about its spelling of the paper as *Isthmess*. Line: "I know you folks get a lot of chuckles out of *Isthmus*-bashing, but it grieves me to be at cross-purposes."

**Vince O'Hern**, 12-2, letter to published informing him that "my salary at *Isthmus* is no longer satisfactory. I think I did get a raise.

**The Capital Times**, 12-5, two versions of a letter to the editor (not sure which was sent) complaining about being referred to by conservative columnist David Blaska as among people he considers "real communists." Calls Blaska a "thoroughly dishonest, foolish and unprincipled man." Also note to Haslanger saying he should not "censor" what I had to say.

**Richard Heck**, 12-8, letter from editor of Athens, Georgia paper about Halloween story, which apparently did run.

**Anatole Beck**, 12-13, letter to UW-Madison professor, about a reported incident that he disputed, which was apparently reported by Charlie Sykes, who I call “a man of proven integrity.” Also response note from Beck, sort of giving in.

**Rob Ritzenthaler**, undated letter of recommendation for former intern.

**Eric Meyer**, undated, letter from teaching assistant at UW-Madison bashing *Isthmus* for various offenses, some having to do with Sykes’ book *Profscam*, which I reviewed. He suggests we trade places, he doing my job and me his.

**Cate Wiley**, 12-12, letter from co-president of TA association re: *Profscam* review. Also, my response. Memorable last line: “...I must decline Meyer’s offer to trade jobs. In mine, at least, some intellectual integrity is required.”

**David Michael Miller**, undated, letter of recommendation for *Isthmus*’ talented layout artist, who continued to work at the paper until it ceased print publication in March 2020.

**W.P. Norton**, 12-30, handwritten letter from former intern on various topics.

# 1989

**Will Fantle**, 1-3-1989, letter from writer updating status of story.

**Jeff Kirsch**, 1-7, postcard update from writer.

**Carolyn Bellin**, 1-11, letter to writer **Tim Kelley** regarding his story in whether Madison needs a trauma center. Contains an accurate pasted Band-Aid, for some reason,

**Bob Williams**, undated letter from writer that concludes, "Keep me the Madison hating for all of us." Also, my 1-18 reply disavowing any hatred of the city.

**The Insurgent Collective**, 1-19, letter to the folks at the *Madison Insurgent* paper taking it to task for dissing *Isthmus*.

**Questions list**, dated 1-13, for an interview with Madison Mayor **Joe Sensenbrenner**.

**Paul Norton**, 1-23, rare typed letter from former intern. Scrawled at top: "They made me sports editor. More later."

**Explanatory graphs**, undated, for two entries in the Milwaukee Press Club contest.

**List of speakers**, myself included, for Feb. 15 event on news internships.

**Liz McBride**, 2-15, letter of apology to staff writer whose piece was delayed, accidentally allowing the *State Journal* to run a similar story first.

**Chip Mitchell**, 2-17, letter of praise from guy at the *Madison Insurgent* for my coverage of *The Cap Times*.

**Unknown**, 2-17, note passing on clip from *Wall Street Journal* and commenting on a published letter.

**Carl Jensen**, 2-27, letter to head of Project Censored passing on my column about Vice President Dan Quayle's high school yearbook reference to drug use. This column is included as "The Media's Acid Test" in *Watchdog*.

**Bill Miller**, 3-5, letter of recommendation to guy at Sangamon State University for Robert Scott. Also, Scott's 3-10 note in response.

**Paul Norton**, 2-15, handwritten letter from first intern, now working for a paper in El Paso.

**Dave Zweifel**, 3-9, letter to *Cap Times* editor and Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council president about my difficulty getting records from the UW-Madison.

**Don Z.**, 3-25, letter from a reader praising a story.

**Warner Gaskill**, 3-10, letter to *Cap Times* writer taking gentle exception to a piece he wrote that mentioned *Isthmus*.

**Capital Times**, 3-10, letter to the editor in response to his published claim that his paper is distinct from Madison Newspapers Inc., which owns it.

**Brian Strassburg**, 3-24, letter to *Isthmus* cartoonist from **Jay Rath** praising his work.

**Paul Soglin**, 4-7, letter of congratulations to Madison's newly elected mayor. Also Soglin's 4-10 letter in reply.

**Howard Quimby**, 4-7, letter seeking records from Wisconsin Banking Commissioner.

**Sam Day**, 4-8, handwritten letter from jailed *Isthmus* columnist.

**Center for Public Representation**, 4-10, letter to group in support of contest entry.

**Capital Times**, 4-18, letter to paper complaining about its decision not to print a letter from me (the one about MNI ownership).

**Terry Michael**, 4-20, letter of recommendation for former intern Maria Olson.

**Erwin Knoll**, 4-17, letter from editor of *The Progressive* informing me that a column I wrote about buying guns while drunk was reprinted in a "column on gun control."

**Capital Times**, 4-21, letter to the editor grouching about a dismissive reference it made about activist Sam Day, saying he "believed that by trespassing on a nuclear launch site, he could prevent nuclear war."

**Sam Day**, 4-24, letter from *Isthmus* columnist thanking me for my letter to the *Cap Times*. Quote: "I thought their article was despicable." Also, Sam's column headlined "On Going to Prison."

**Dolores Gregg**, 4-11, praiseful postcard from a reader.

**Tom Heinen**, 4-12, letter from the head of the Milwaukee Press Club notifying Erwin Knoll, the editor of *The Progressive*, that he had won a first-place award for an article he wrote for *Isthmus*, on non voting.

**Paul Tough**, 4-28, letter from assistant editor at Harper's proposing a subscription exchange.

**David Blaska**, 5-2, snotty letter from *Cap Times*' columnist attacking my defense of Sam Day, including that I stand over a sink and pound my head to "knock some of that socialist crud out of your brain." Also, my 5-3 reply, in which I call him a "hack writer, and an even worse columnist, for a marginal newspaper."

**Stu Levitan**, 5-8, letter to local player defending an attack I made on him, noting that he is continually putting others down; but I do end up apologizing, sort of, saying "I don't know what came over me. Perhaps it was the glare from your forehead."

**Jon Davis**, undated, letter of recommendation for a former intern.

**Michael Fellner**, 5-21, letter following up on what appears to have been a contentious phone call with former *TakeOver* editor, regarding a piece he was penning for *Isthmus*.

**Will Fantle**, 5-23, letter from a writer explaining delay on story.

**Jon Henkes**, 5-25, angry letter to a spokesperson or aide to Gov. Tommy Thompson expressing "my extreme displeasure" at his handling of an interview request: "This is the first time in its 13-year history that *Isthmus* has been denied access to a governor."

**Paul Rix**, 4-29, letter from a freelancer on potential stories.

**Tom Hecht**, 6-1, letter to assistant secretary of state regarding his help in a story I wrote called "The Real Scandal," about legal schmoozing and exploitation of fund-raising loopholes.

**Sam Day**, 5-23, letter from contributing columnist from prison.

**Doug La Follette**, 5-31, letter from Wisconsin secretary of state to Vince commending me for “The Real Scandal” story, which I wrote with help from Anthony Shadid, later a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner.

**Tom Lux**, 5-25, letter from a writer pitching a story about the U.S. Forest Service’s Research Laboratory in Madison.

**Jim Burgess**, 6-14, letter to publisher of *Wis. State Journal* passing on a letter I found that was written by his father (no copy kept) regarding his “betray[al]” of Bill Evjue.

**Frederick Miller**, 6-14, letter to publisher of *The Cap Times* requesting an interview.

**Matt Rothschild**, undated, handwritten letter complimenting my “Real Scandal” story.

**Paul Rix**, 6-12, letter to writer explaining that editor Marc Eisen declining to pay an elevated rate for a proposed story. Also his 6-14 reply, declining to do story at lower rate.

**Steve Hannah**, 6-15, letter from managing editor of *Milwaukee Journal* arguing the distinctiveness of the *Cap Times* and *State Journal*, against my reporting on how they are joined at the hip. Also my 9-19 reply.

**Wis. State Journal**, 6-19, letter to the editor taking the paper to task for running an article that falsely implied that my reporting on Madison Newspapers Inc, was in error. Article attached.

**Capital Times**, 6-19, letter to the editor defending my reporting against its distorted characterization. The paper has run a story--attached--stating “Rumors of C-T takeover, sale are not true,” and blaming me for starting them.

**David Blaska**, 6-5, letter from Cap Times columnist praising my story “The Real Scandal” as “absolutely correct.”

**Dave Zweifel**, 6-23, letter to the editor of the *Cap Times* (not a letter to the editor meant for publication, complaining about being shut out of access at the paper, and defending my right to report critically on MNI.



**Jim Burgess**, undated memo to staff from *State Journal* publisher claiming my reporting on MNI profits is “completely false.” He did not provide the correct amounts. Also, my mock memo in response, dated 6-26, defending my reporting and explaining its basis.

**Frank Denton**, 6-26, letter from the editor of the *State Journal* in response, defending “allowing Jim Burgess to dispute your figures without supplying his own.”

**Roney Sorensen**, updated, critical letter in response to my column titled “Madison’s Radical Past.”

**Sam Day**, 7-4, handwritten letter from jailed columnist.

**Terry Gillick**, 7-13, letter to head of UW-Madison PR office commending James McCarter, former editor of *The Crazy Shepherd*, for a job.

**Gloria Cooper**, 7-6, letter from the managing editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review* acknowledging receipt of a “Dart” nomination.

**The Progressive**, 7-17, letter to the editor to the publication where I had my first internship, criticizing a story for possibly overstating the case in incidents of claimed violence. As I recalled, the letter ran in the magazine with a defense from the author insisting his wording was justified.

**Sam Day**, 8-8, letter from imprisoned columnist.

**David Freedman**, 7-14, letter from writer confessing that he neglected to mention, in proposing an article, that he was a member of the group but which he was proposing to write. Promises to never do it again.

**David Freedman**, 7-21, letter from writer thanking me for working with him on an article.

**Sam Day**, 7-15, postcard from imprisoned columnist asking about his next deadline.

**Sam Day**, 7-17, postcard from imprisoned columnist agreeing to write upcoming cover story (on being in prison).

**James C. Wright**, 7-27, letter to then-head of the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission asking for records regarding a filed complaint.

**Madison Magazine**, 7-31, letter to the editor in part praising and in part pointing out an error in editor Doug Moe's "sympathetic account of my travails with Madison Newspapers Inc" (copy included). Memorable line: "If, as Moe contends, my heavy-handedness (i.e., calling Moe a linthead) makes me not a good columnist, what does Moe's persistent failure to check basic information make him?" Doug Moe would later write the preface to my book *Watchdog*.

**Vince O'Hern**, 8-4, memo to the boss withdrawing my offer to coordinate donations to Community Shares at *Isthmus*, given his condition that I not so much as mention Community Shares in print.

**Gale Kirking**, undated, letter pitching a story about bovine growth hormone.

**David Blaska**, 8-31, letter to *Cap Times* columnist confessing that I "really didn't hate" something he wrote. It concluded: "Keep up the bad work."

**Vince**, 9-16, memo from the boss about plans to do a review of the Annual Manual.

**Frank Denton**, 9-18, letter to the *State Journal* editor taking him to task for some mention he made about height. Strange letter. Also Denton's 9-26 reply. Good letter.

**Dave Zweifel**, 9-21, letter to the editor to *The Cap Times* for some reason addressed to the editor of *The Cap Times*, complaining about Blaska.

**Vince O'Hern**, 9-27, memo to the boss comparing *Isthmus'* "Annual Manual" to MNI's "Answer book." Hint: Ours is better.

**Vince O'Hern and Marc Eisen**, 10-9, memo to publisher and editor about retooling the news section.

**Matt Rothschild**, 8-24, pitching a couple of story ideas for *Isthmus*.

**Dave Howell**, 9-25, letter from head of the Friends of the Madison Civic Center to thank me for volunteering for the *Isthmus* Jazz Festival. As I recall, I introduced bands on one of the stages.

**Robert Gebeloff**, 10-25, letter of recommendation to a former intern. I think it may have been the first (but not the last) time I ended such a letter with the words, “Anyone in a position to hire him ... is, in my opinion, fortunate.” Gebeloff is now a reporter at *The New York Times*.

**Jon Davis**, 11-3, letter of recommendation for a former intern. Uses the same last line as for Rob Gebeloff.

**Steve Last Name Unknown**, 11-5. Letter to a guy from Madison who wrote a “My Turn” essay for *Newsweek*, asking if he would like to write for *Isthmus*.

**The Capital Times**, 11-9, letter to the editor agreeing with and amplifying upon a column by Dave Zweifel. Goes on to accuse the Milwaukee Journal, where I used to work in circulation, of “attack[ing] the civil liberties of its employees for its own sake.”

**Gerard G. Johnson**, 11-10, letter from my former colleague Maureen Mecozzi and Larry Sperling at *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine about an improperly used *Isthmus* photo.

**Anthony Shadid**, 11-15, letter of recommendation for a former intern. Memorable line: “Anthony’s energy and enthusiasm are nothing short of phenomenal.” He would go on to work for the Associated Press, The Boston Globe, The Washington Post, and The New York Times. He won two Pulitzer prizes and wrote three books. He died following an asthma attack in Syria in 2012, while working for the Times.

**William Hurrie**, 11-14, letter from guy writing a story about mining in Wisconsin, who misspells my name. My 11-17 response to his request for more money, granted in part.

**Mark W. Brown**, 11-20, letter harshly critical of my two-part series on American TV and its pitchsman, TV Lenny Mattioli.

**Lisa Gada**, 11-21, letter from someone at *The Daily Cardinal* campus paper for taking part in a young journalists seminar.

**Matt Rothschild**, 11-6, letter commending the paper for recent issues.

**Jean Burt**, 12-1, letter to official at the Office of Consumer Protection and Citizen Advocacy to thank her for helping me obtain public-record complaints against **American TV** for my article.

**Helen Dery Woodson**, 12-1, letter to Madison woman imprisoned for attacking nuclear weapons with blood and such indicating my desire to do a “major article about you.” Her response, not in the file, was to decline. I believe she urged me not to waste the trees.

**The Capital Times**, 12-11, letter to the editor harshly attacked the reporting of **Patrice Wendling** in her “McMedia” column. Last lines: “It is one thing to be kept on a short leash, which many people must endure as a condition of employment. It is quite another to behave like a lapdog, which Wendling, to her discredit, has done.”

**Dave Zweifel**, 12-11, letter to *Cap Times* editor asking for a retraction to a claim published by Wendling that I had applied for a job at “a conservative paper in Arizona.”

**The Capital Times**, 12-13, letter to the editor about the same issue, emphatically denying that Wendling’s claim is false, goes on to a number of ad hominem attacks.

**Patrice Wendling**, 12-14, letter writer letter responding to news that she was unable to debate me on WORT because she was having a baby, which I apparently hadn’t known. Letter says of course, nothing is more important and wishing her well. Also, copy of column from State Journal columnist Pat Simms on the controversy.

**Mark Belling**, 12-18, letter from Madison radio guy to host a debate with me and Wendling.

**Kit Rachlis**, 12-20, letter to Alexander Cockburn’s assistant expressing my concerns about factual and typographical errors in his national column, which *Isthmus* ran.

**Judith Woodburn**, 12-21, copy of my contract with *Milwaukee Magazine* to write a different version of my American TV piece.

**Paul Tysse**, 12-28, letter from businessman thanking *Isthmus* for running a letter about Madison Taxi.

**Reid Granke**, 12-18, positive letter in response to a column I wrote about Catholicism called “Winks and Genuflections.” Also copy of column. Also handwritten reply from **Vince** saying he was not going to run my proposed response to critical letters regarding this column.

## 1990

**Mary Langenfeld**, undated], letter from paper's go-to freelance photographer commenting on an allegedly errant observation I had made about a photo shot by Morry Gash for the *State Journal*.

**Paul Norton**, 1-8-1990, "To Whom It May Concern" letter regarding Paul's flunking of two classes, which put his student status in jeopardy; I defend his right to stay in school.

**"All living members of the edit staff,"** 1-8, memo to staff regarding a proposed staff-written "Dreamers" project, in which we'd each write a short piece about someone "working on something we admire." It was the first of many staff-written cover projects we did over the years.

**Judy Woodburn and Bruce Murphy**, 1-12, cover letter to brass at *Milwaukee Magazine* with my 5,000-word piece on American TV, expounding on an earlier series for *Isthmus*.

**Milwaukee Journal**, 1-15, letter to the editor objecting to a vague reference to "one Madison newspaper" which may have led to some people thinking he was talking about *Isthmus*, which he was not. It was Matt Pommer of the *Cap Times* that done it, to his discredit. Also memo from **Marc Eisen**, 1-15, taking me to task for being so harsh about an alleged conflict involving Pommer.

**Yolanda M. Rook**, 1-15, letter to someone at *Science* magazine asking for permission to use an image with credit.

**Investigative Reporters and Editors**, 1-26, form for a contest entry of my story "The Real Scandal." It did not win.

**Carl Jensen**, 1-26, letter to head of Project Censored nominating an *Isthmus* story regarding fervent opponents of nuclear war.

**Donald Brod**, 1-30, letter accompanying entrees into annual Golden Quill/Golden Dozen contest.

**David Freedman**, 1-25, letter from a writer about a work in progress.

**Stuart L. Geiger**, 1-27. Somewhat off-topic response to a column I wrote called “Why People Hate Madison,” which is in *Watchdog*. Geiger is writing about his need for protection from the government. Also scrawled, unsigned letter on same column, 1-25, that’s even crazier.

**Mark Pitsch**, 2-2, letter of recommendation for former intern seeking an internship at *The New Republic*. Closing line: “Mark would be a superior choice—the kind of intern you will talk about for years to come.”

**Ed Garvey**, 2-2, article to recurring candidate and all-around true progressive advising him on how to approach an article he was writing for *Isthmus*.

**Clip of article**, late Jan./early Feb, in *The Daily Cardinal* about a debate I had with *Capital Times* editor Dave Zweifel and *State Journal* editor Frank Denton on MNI ownership.

**Copy of “Dart”** awarded by the *Columbia Journalism Review* at my suggestion. It was about the person assigned by *The Cap Times* to cover the UW-Madison, Jacob Stockinger, was a part-time instructor at the university, earning \$12,000 a year.

**Rob Zaleski**, 1-30, handwritten letter from *Cap Times* writer beginning “I’d recognize my daughter’s handwriting anywhere.” Or recollection and belief, I had forwarded some communication I received that mentioned him ungenerously.

**Bruce Murphy**, 2-2, letter to *Milwaukee Mag* editor passing on notes about a conversation with Jim Miller of Wisconsin Policy Research Institute, ewho says the only reporter in the state he won’t talk to is Bruce Murphy.

**Judy Woodburn**, 2-9, letter to *Milwaukee Mag* editor asking that I be able to see an edited version of a submitted piece.

**Garith Palme**, 2-16, letter of recommendation for **Anthony Shadid** to the head of an internship program, at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. Also, a 4-5 letter of reply from **Ron Cathell** saying that Anthony had been picked. Anthony later won two Pulitzer Prizes.

**John**, no last name, 2-16, handwritten letter to guy who wants *Isthmus* to correct a representation in a publisher letter to the editor that the writer stands by.

**Olive Branch Awards**, 2-19, cover letter for contest entry of writings by Sam Day. Also, 5-11 letter stating that this submission was not picked.

**Marc (and maybe also Vince)**, 2-21, memo outlining my story overtures to **Rich Eggleston**.

**William Livick**, 3-2, letter declining a submitted story or some version thereof and offering advice for what might work.

**Dane County Board**, undated, questionnaire to candidates for Dane County Board.

**Frank Meyers**, 3-8, records request letter to the Division of Criminal Investigation regarding an alleged theft of money from a UW-Madison library book sale for which the head librarian, **Kaye Gapen**, was the chief suspect. My eventual article on this, "A Reasonable Doubt," is included in *Watchdog*.

**David Freedman**, 3-8, letter from writer of a published story pointing out a slight inaccuracy, apparently introduced in the editing process.

**Carl Jensen**, 3-11, letter from head of Project Censored acknowledging receipt of entered story.

**Carrie Bernhardt**, 3-23, letter from the "home-school coordinator" for the Madison school district, thanking me for participating in a school Career Day.

**Daniel Ellsberg**, 3-28, list of questions for famed whistleblower, apparently for a taping of the "For the Record" program at Ch. 3 TV. I remember a similar occasion where I interviewed Noam Chomsky for the station, but don't remember Ellsberg, who I did interview in 1995 for my book on Erwin Knoll.

**Vince and Marc**, 3-10, letter regarding some dustup involving a column by **Alexander Cockburn**.

**Tom Hecht**, 4-2, letter to assistant secretary of state, informing him that "The Real Scandal," the article on lobbying he helped me on, won a first-place Milwaukee Press Club award.

**Ron Estabrook**, 4-5, letter to scientist at the University of Texas regarding my reporting on the DeLuca case.

**Bob Williams**, 4-6, letter from longtime columnist (who misspells my name) about some notice his column received from Kenneth Lemke of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. Also, clip of Lemke's piece.

**Donna Shalala**, 4-25, letter to UW-Madison chancellor complaining about how a request for comment from her office was handled. Recalls that when she and I had lunch in February 1989, when she was new on the job, she invited me to contact her if I ever needed to. Yet when I did try, I was "treated like a pest."

**Marc Eisen**, 4-19, memo to *Isthmus* editor about staff titles; says I'm okay with remaining "news editor." Also a version with a harsh sentence I decided not to include.

**Sam Day**, 4-25, seven-page, single-spaced letter offering suggestions on the draft of his book, *Crossing the Line*. Also, Day's 4-27 reply: "Thanks for your splendid critique."

**Alan Borsuk**, 4-30, cover letter to *Milwaukee Journal* "Wisconsin" magazine editor accompanying my submitted piece about Helen Woodson and other anti-nuke activists.

**Jennie Anderson**, date unclear, postcard from former intern.

**Milwaukee Press Club**, undated, cover letter notifying *Isthmus* that it had won awards, sans the list of actual awards.

**Parade magazine**, 5-5, cover letter for a submitted story about a Madison firefighter who created a firefighters museum. I don't think it was accepted.

**American Heritage**, 5-5, same as *Parade*: cover letter for a submitted but never-accepted story about a Madison firefighter who created a firefighters museum.

**Mother Jones**, 5-5, cover letter with submitted (never accepted) article about anti-nuke activists.

**The Nation**, 5-9, pitch to write an article for *The Nation* about goings-on in Wisconsin.

**Kathy Bailey**, 5-23, letter to *Isthmus* office administrator about inquiries that were being made of freelancers. Includes her handwritten reply.



**Thad Wendel**; undated, handwritten letter of praise for my reporting on DeLuca.

**Annette Gorminican** [spelling unclear], undated, letter re: DeLuca story, asking to know how the UW investigation launched in response to my reporting turned out.

????, 6-1, typed note with a regretfully scrawled signature from a writer accompanying a submitted story calling me “absolutely the most important influence on my development as a journalist.” I wish I could remember who it was.

**Ron Bornstein**, 6-11, request letter to the UW-Madison’s vice president for university relations for records regarding the hire of a UW position. Also letter to **Dave Zweifel** forwarding this to him in his role as president of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council.

**Rev. Dennis Bearce Sr.**, undated, letter from a patient at the Mendota Mental Health Center, conveying that “PEOPLE SAY I AM SATAN IN THE FLESH.” Also, even more bizarre, a **copy of my note** to *Harper’s* magazine suggesting it for the mag’s “Readings” section. Also, *Harper’s* undated but predictable reply, declining this opportunity.

**George Hesselberg**, undated, copy of column by *State Journal* columnist with scrawled note, apparently a copy of what I sent to him. Lighthearted intent.

**Bill Christofferson**, 6-12, letter from local political consultant grouching about Ed Garvey’s cover story in *Isthmus*. Not meant for publication. Also, my 6-26 letter in response. Notes that Christofferson alleged many “misstatements” in the piece but only offered two weak examples.

**Dave Zweifel**, 6-27, letter from Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council president regarding a possible “major consolidated suit” against the UW. Also, my 6-28 **letter** to Zweifel in reply and my 6-28 **memo** on the situation, presumably to Marc and Vince.

**Brad Stilwell**, 6-17, letter from a potential internship applicant, never an intern.

**Sam Day**, 6-30, letter on his manuscript in progress.

**Marc Eisen**, 7-5, memo to *Isthmus* editor about a possible staff project to identify local “eyesores,” a package that did run.

**Memo to staff**, 7-5, regarding my upcoming work trip to “Philedelphia.” Also **letter** about travel arrangements for this trip from Mary Jane Schneider of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors

**International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors**, 7-14, form for submission to national contest, apparently in response to my 1989 column “Kill the Poor,” for which I received the top prize, the Golden Quill, in Reading, Pennsylvania (same trip as “Philedelphia”). This was the first of my two Golden Quills.

**David Ruffer**, 7-17, letter from president of Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, thanking me for taking part in ISWNE conference. Also a 7-4 letter from **Mary Jane Schneider** reimbursing my travel expenses.

**Capital Times**, 8-6, blistering letter to the editor about a shot Zweifel took at me in print. Includes insanely incendiary P.S. (“I’m sick of this shit . . . cowards . . . bullshit . . . unfair . . . your drunken attacks”) that, as noted, was not included in the letter as sent. Also, my 8-17 letter to **Phil Haslinger** thanking him for running the letter.

**A Reader**, 7-13, anonymous letter praising “your bashing of the WSJ and C-T.”

**Sam Day**, undated, another lengthy letter critiquing his book-in-progress.

**The Nation**, 8-14, letter to someone at The Nation complaining about a claim in a renewal notice that the offered price was “the lowest we will ever offer you” and other questionable statements.

**Wisconsin State Journal**, 8-23, letter to the editor recounting my mostly positive experience with police after being assaulted on the street. The attack is also recounted in the opinion piece “Why Hate Shouldn’t Be Illegal,” included in *Watchdog*.

**Rick Carlson**, 9-27, letter from a guy in Sauk City that got me to jump out of a plane — twice — for a story in *Isthmus* (“Skydive!”, included in *Watchdog*); I also wrote a short piece on Carlson that ran in the *Milwaukee Journal*. Carlson later died skydiving, possibly on purpose.

**Jennie Anderson**, 8-20, postcard from a former intern, now in California. Jennie went on to represent prisoners on death row.

**Susan Hobart**, 9-19, form letter with personalized messages from departing head of the Madison Mutual Housing Association, which I write about.

**Charlotte M. Woolf**, 9-8, letter from the head of Little Friends Montessori school about a bad experience with *Isthmus* freelance writer David Tenanbaum. I must have applied but don't seem to have that.

**Kathy Parks**, 9-26, note of thanks from head of Center for Public Representation for story on health insurance.

**In Business**, 10-8, letter to the editor of local magazine taking it to task for errors in a story that *Isthmus* was the first to report, about the horrible death of a dog belonging to local newsperson Elberta McKnight. Also, copies of magazine's and *Isthmus*' report.

**Carl Jensen**, 10-11, letter to head of Project Censored nominating a story about how some insurance companies have investments with tobacco companies. Alo, Jensen's 10-17 letter in reply.

**Karl Harter**, undated handwritten letter from the author of the book *Winter of Frozen Dreams*, about which I wrote a cover story. Praiseful and appreciative.

**The Insurgent**, 11-12, letter to the editor of *Isthmus*-hating local alternative paper, in response to writer Chip Mitchell's broadside against reporter Paul Norton, who went undercover to a massage parlor for a story. Accuses Mitchell of having "a, well, Chip on his shoulder."

**Bruce Murphy**, 10-16, letter to Milwaukee writer expressing regret over the clash we had regarding the editing of his story: "You are one of the best writers I've ever edited, but do think my editing has made your articles stronger." I defend the changes I made as reasonable and justifiable," even while I agreed to reverse them in cases where he objected. Also, Murphy's undated letter of reply, apologizing for "the insults" but defending his right to say things in a more complicated way, saying this suggests we assume that "the average *Isthmus* reader moves his lips when he reads." Also my 10-29 reply to his reply, signed with the valediction, "Your least-favorite editor."

**Steve Hannah**, 10-10, letter to managing editor of *Milwaukee Journal* complaining about the treatment I received regarding a free-lance piece.

**Dave Zweifel**, 10-30, letter thanking *Cap Times* editor for a “kind mention” of something I had written.

**Erwin Knoll**, 10-29, letter to *The Progressive* editor thanking him for dropping off a copy of a story in his magazine that was critical of the American Cancer Society, for which I was involved in a local fundraising effort.

**Bill Haight**, 11-2, letter to the editor of *In Business* grouching that it did not run my letter but rather decided to selectively quote the parts he felt he could knock down. Also Hoyt’s thoughtful and funny 12-11 letter in reply. Also my letter of 12-12 getting the last word.

**James Hoyt**, 11-5, letter to head of UW-Madison journalism school offering to teach a class.

**Abigail Goldman**, undated, letter of recommendation for former intern who would go on to share a Pulitzer Prize for reporting on WalMart as part of a *Los Angeles Times* project.

**Robert Kastenmeier**, 10-8, letter to member of Congress in response to a recent talk he gave in Madison: “Your courage and principles and excellence have honored us all.” Also, a photo of the Capitol received from Kastenmeier in return, with a note and signature.

**Capital Times**, 12-3, letter to the editor offering a quibble on a story about *Isthmus* in which I was quoted, by reporter Mike Stone.

**Vince O’Hern and Marc Eisen**, 12-6, memo to the bosses about my decision to participate in a blockade at the federal business to protest the U.S. entry in the first Gulf War. Marc, I remember, gave his blessing.

**Statement**, 12-7, regarding my participation in antiwar protest at the federal building in Madison.

**Madison Insurgent**, 12-21, letter to the editor in response to another attack on Paul Norton by Chip Mitchell.

**Katie Walechka**, 12-18, letter from staffer at *The Daily Cardinal* thanking me for taking part in a young journalists seminar.

**Becky Weiner**, 12-15, letter from State Bar of Wisconsin spokesperson acknowledging receipt of contest entry.

**Sam Day**, 12-27, harsh, detailed critique of what was apparently his attempt to write a book of fiction: "I'm sorry, Sam, I realize this is not what you wanted to hear." Also, his two-sentence postcard in reply: "A dynamite critique. Many thanks."

**Sue Evans**, undated, card from former intern.

# 1991

**Isthmus Operations Committee** 1-4-1991, memo to others suggesting that *Isthmus* produced a wall calendar, presumably for 1992; nothing came of it.

**Steve Watrous**, 1-10, letter to a freelancer declining to accept a story pitch.

**Letters' page response**, undated, my reply to a letter to the letter from **Mike Petrak**, then circulation manager at Madison Newspapers Inc.

**Statement**, 1-11, regarding my participation in an anti-war protest that included a sit-in at the office of U.S. Rep. Les Aspin, a hawkish figure in the first Gulf War.

**Letters' page response**, undated, to a letter from **Andrew Kornkven** and others who responded to a piece about an opponent of "political correctness."

**Jonathan Burack**, 2-18, letter to former staffer at *The Progressive* who wrote a critical response to something I wrote: "If my comments on this matter have not been thought-provoking, how is it that they managed to provoke your thoughtful letter?"

**Sam Day**, 216, letter to columnist, now in Rock County jail, forwarding a copy of a decision I obtained for him after talking to local attorney **Brady Williamson**.

**Erwin Knoll**, 2-19, cover letter accompanying the edit of a piece he wrote for *Isthmus*.

**Patrica Smith King**, 3-9, letter of thanks from one-half of a Waunakee couple who drew heavy flack after opposing a creche display on public property, which I wrote about.

**Tom Eversen**, 3-11, snotty letter to the editor from a reader objecting to something I'd written on the Gulf War.

????, undated, memo regarding my efforts to obtain a photo from the DNR, complaining about the hassle.

**Jay Walljasper**, 3-19, letter to *Utne Reader* forwarding an *Isthmus* story for reprint consideration.

**Heather Crade**, 3-6, postcard from a reader praising my post-Gulf War column, "Remembering Whom to Thank," which she called "brilliant and great social commentary" that should appear "in every major newspaper." It's included in *Watchdog*.

**Unsigned**, 4-2, handwritten letter from someone wanting to pass on a check for \$24 to a woman I had written about who was unable to pay this sum for a UW class.

**Letters' page response**, undated, 2-22, response to an *Isthmus* questionnaire to Madison aldermanic candidate **John Rousso** notable for its gumption. In response to a question about why he was running, Rousso, a local restaurateur, replied "My lack of common sense."

**John Hamilton**, 4-16, letter of apology to the head of Madison's Human Resources Department for an incident involving a newly installed intern. The intern, who went to Hamilton's office seeking a report had actually stolen a copy from a desk. I chalk it up as a learning experience but in fact the internship ended with this act.

**Kish Mohan**, 4/23, letter to someone who wrote a critical letter to the editor, which we agreed to run. It stated: "[I]t's clear you did not understand the story on any level." Also, Mohan's 5-20 letter in reply.

**Pat Simms**, 4-29, original poem sent to *Wisconsin State Journal* columnist regarding a profile piece on her that appeared in *Madison Magazine*. Still funny after all these years.

**Memo**, 5-3, regarding my efforts to get a local developer, **Jerome Mullins**, to talk with the paper, as he had refused to do.

**Chuck W.**, 5-3, letter accompanying a submitted piece written by his friend, **Ray Lavesseur**.

**Jane Eisley**, 5-5, postcard from a reader regarding a piece I wrote on the sentencing of Sam Day by Federal Judge John Shabazz, who I believed I called a "moral midget."

**Elberta McKnight**, undated, letter from local TV reporter explaining that she had failed to come through on a promised story for *Isthmus*.

**Sam Day**, 5-9, letter thanking me for my column on his sentencing by Shabazz.

**Tom Fitzgerald**, 5-17, letter to executive vice president of Central Storage regarding a story we were working on about his company's failure to submit hazardous-materials plans and requesting access. The story was written by intern **Richard Winton**, now a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer at the *Los Angeles Times*.

**Jay Walljasper**, undated, postcard from *Utne Reader* noting that a submitted piece was similar to one the magazine has already run.

**Sam Day**, 5-22, letter stating that he had been released from jail but suffered a stroke that damaged his one good eye.

**Davi Mandeur**, 5-24, letter from a high-school teacher (I presume, because he mentions his school and suggests we maybe go out for a beer) in Seattle praising my piece on **Sam Day**.

**Anonymous**, undated, scrawled letter regarding my column on Sam Day's sentencing, including; "one word best describes Sam Day. CUNT."

**Capital Times**, 6-19, letter to the editor regarding its columnist Ursula, formerly at *Isthmus*.

**Marilyn Savino**, 6-13, letter to *The Village Voice* about subscription exchange arranged by **Nat Hentoff**.

**Patrick O'Brien**, undated, letter from guy in Madison asking to write a story about his experiences with federal agents.

**David Freedman**, 6-13, letter from a writer about my entering for a Golden Gavel Award for a story he wrote about Dane County DA **Hal Harlowe's** prosecution of a racist killer named Joseph Paul Franklin.

**Sam Day**, 6-17, postcard thanking me for critiquing his "jail journal."

**Erhart Mueller**, 6-18, letter from a guy in North Freedom reacting to an item I had written about a piece he wrote. His piece had mentioned the name Lueders, for which a street in Sauk City is named. Mueller had written that there were no Lueders around anymore and I had begged to differ. So far as I know, there is no relation. Also, my 6-20 letter to Mueller in reply.



**Alexander Rybalsin**, undated, essentially insane letter from a guy in Balto, Maryland, with some incoherent attachments.

**David Haas**, 7-9, letter from the head of the Bayview Association thanking me for *Isthmus'* coverage of the Bayview neighborhood.

**Ken Roesslein**, 7-22, letter to the head of the **Milwaukee Press Club** in response to a piece he had written blasting me for trying to ask a question of Rep. Les Aspin at the annual Press Club Awards dinner, about which I wrote a piece that appeared in *The Progressive*. My letter castigates Roessling for defending the program. First line: "Just a note to let you know how full of shit I think you are." Also included is a copy of Roesslein's column. See Roesslein's belated reply on 2-15-94.

**Brian Strassburg**, 8-12, handwritten letter praising a piece I wrote on **Dan Barker** of the Freedom From Religion Foundation for the *Milwaukee Journal's Wisconsin Magazine*.

**Norman and Pat Barker**, undated, card from the parents of **Dan Barker** thanking me for the article, which was also about their family (both parents followed their son in converting to atheism).

**Mary Beth Schlagheck**, 9-7, thank-you card from one of the subjects of my piece on Helen Woodson.

**Walter O'Brien**, 9-4, guy angrily refusing my suggestion that he write a piece from *Isthmus* that he had pitched to *The Progressive*. (Apparently someone at the magazine passed it on to me.) Sample line: "So don't give me shit about how I should be ashamed for not making a fool out of myself by filing copy with your weekly shopper."

**Anonymous attack letter**, 8-20, sent to various Madison news outlets on UW-Madison Hospital and Clinics stationary in the form of a press release announcing that I was named in a complaint alleging sexual abuse of a child. Transparently bogus. Also, my reply to Terry (presumably **Terry Shelton**, at the *Wisconsin State Journal*) thanking him for sending me a copy. I always had an idea of who it was that sent it—a subject of a story I wrote—but I will not share that speculation here. Also, bizarro undated (I found it in the files around February 1992) "Update" memo on MNI stationary calling me "a notorious and flagrant child molester."

**Craig Schmidt**, undated, letter of recommendation for former colleague at *The Shepherd*.

**Frank Martin**, 9-11, letter from a local photographer I had contacted about doing work for *Isthmus*, saying he could not, having just accepted a job at the *Madison Times*.

**Jennie Anderson**, date unclear, postcard from former intern.

**The Capital Times**, 9-30, letter to the editor blasting a piece it ran by **Bob Meloon** taking me to task for my reporting in Madison Newspapers Inc., in response to a piece I wrote titled, "Can the Cap Times Survive?" Devastatingly harsh letter. Conclusion: "[T]he real problem will come when people who have never met [*Cap Times* founder Bill] Evjue are charged with this responsibility [of keeping the paper alive, as he wanted]. Will the Cap Times' current leadership inspire such fealty? You can see why I worry." Also, an anonymous letter dated 11-4 from someone who agreed, and why attached the published letter. Also, 10-2 letter from **Kenneth Fall** addressed to James Irlbeck and defending my reporting on *The Capital Times*.

**The Capital Times**, 9-24, form letter signed by Dave Zweifel thanking "Bill Weders" for subscribing. Scrawled at top: "Thanks, Dave, for the personal touch," with my actual name. Also Zweifel's 10-14 reply and me 10-16 reply to that.

**Cathy Chun**, 10-16, letter to an employee at the Public Safety Communications (9-1-1 center), who tried to back off if being quoted after talking to an *Isthmus* reporter. I told her we would defend her if she faced reprisals but would not let her change her mind.

**Alex S. Jones**, 10-15, letter to a reporter at *The New York Times* calling his attention to some of my reporting on *The Cap Times* and its nationally unique business arrangement, in advance of the paper's 75th anniversary,

**John Keleher**, 10-7, letter from a guy who pitched me two stories I didn't do that other news outlets did. He said I was "a fine reporter." I wrote on the bottom, presumably never sent: "Dear John, Fuck you."

**Judith Ward**, 10-30, letter to the acting Vice President for University Relations records regarding applicants for this position. Also my 10-30 cover letter for a copy of the letter sent to Zweifel. Also Zweifel's 11-1 reply that seems to say the UW was right to reject a records request, with an attached memo from the circulation manager at MNI and my inevitable 11-4 response.

**The Village Voice**, 11-7, letter to the editor criticizing a column by **Nat Hentoff**.

**Bill Foust**, 11-11, letter to Dane County district attorney forwarding the response I received from **Judith Ward** to my records request, asking him to prosecute the UW, as the open records law allows. Also, my 12-6 follow-up letter to Foust.

**David M. Freedman**, letter from a contributing writer praising a piece I wrote called "How to Beat the Press."

**Warren Bovee**, 11-15, letter from an emeritus professor praising my column "How to Beat the Press."

**Bill Hoel**, 11-15, letter from the station manager at WKBT-TV in La Crosse, complimenting a piece, presumably "How to Beat the Press."

**John M. Greenler**, 11-26, letter to someone at the UW-Madison Dept. of Pathology seeking records regarding a job hire.

**Kevin Gough**, 10-11, praiseful letter regarding a piece I wrote for *Freethought Today*, the publication of the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

**Adrian Lomax**, 12-10 [date was corrected on copy], letter to a state prison inmate who submitted a piece of writing. It identifies problems with the story as written, suggests a rewrite at a much shorter length, 1,000 words. Also, Lomax's 12-12 reply.

**Bill Foust**, 12-13, letter to Dane County district attorney, requesting records regarding a 1989 records request he had received. His failure to reply prompted the Wisconsin Supreme Court, in a [1991 ruling called Richards v. Foust](#), to declare that all prosecutor's files are outside the reach of the state's open records law. Foust had noted to me that state prosecutors still are free to voluntarily release the prosecution files of closed cases. So I asked him, in this letter, for the exact same records that were at issue in the case. Foust, in response, provided me access to the Richards case file.

**Charlene Dahmen**, 12-13, sarcastic letter on my own (not *Isthmus*) letterhead to a UW-Extension official, making what is after the fact and without context a confusing pitch. What happened was that I had applied for a job at the Extension and it had come out that I had done so. This letter facetiously argues that I was both a terrible candidate and quite completely fine with having news of my application being made public.

**Wayne S. [cannot make out]**, 12-14, letter from a UW-Madison J-school professor about how he had recommended my new intern, **Tara Beer**, and how another of my interns, **Matt Traub**, had been his student. Refers to “Donna Jones” matter. This was a UW official who threatened to sue *Isthmus* over a column I had written that mentions her. That never happened.

**Elisabeth Carey**, 12-13, letter from writer in Bangor, Wisconsin, pitching three military-and-the-environment stories. No record of response.

**Verona Norton**, 12-29, thank you card from El Paso from mother of my former intern Paul Norton, for letting her store some of her belongings in the basement of my apartment in Madison. Concludes: “A request. Have been thinking about life on the border. Would you be interested? Let me know.” No record of response.

## **1992**

**Donna Shalala**, 1-9-1992, detailed open records request letter to UW-Madison chancellor regarding the DeLuca case.

**Name unclear**, 1-8, postcard from reader who appreciated a piece I wrote on an upcoming referendum.

**Erwin Knoll**, 1-9, letter from the editor of *The Progressive*, chastising me for how I had characterized his views in my recent piece on Oliver Stone's new film, JFK. Says Erwin: "You quoted me accurately, but you paraphrased me very badly." Also my 1-10 reply, saying that I think he had good reasons for most liking the film but that I didn't share his concern about its use of fictionalization.

**Jennifer S. Raether**, 1-6, long letter commenting on recent coverage and proposing we run a "series" of her stories.

**Jennie Anderson**, date unclear postcard from a former intern now in Singapore.

**Milwaukee Press Club**, undated, wording that accompanied contest entries.

**Vince O'Hern**, 1-23, memo to the boss outlining the importance of our continued coverage of the DeLuca scientific misconduct case, calling it "what may be the biggest story the paper has ever stumbled across."

**Sallie**, last name not stated, 1-24, note to a writer passing on some copies of the issue with her piece. Makes reference to her having been published in *Harper's*.

**"A Friendly Reader,"** 1-28, anonymous letter dissing on city's affirmative action officer, **Kirbie Mack**.

**Tim Sampson**, 2-3, response letter to someone at the *Memphis Flyer* asking to have a look at offered pieces.

**John Patrick Hunter**, 2-5, letter to *Cap Times* writer thanking him for his column about my various open records fights. Also, a copy of Hunter's 2-4 column.

**Gerald Whitburn**, 2-5, letter to head of state Dept. of Health and Human Services seeking records re: state's Learnfare program.

**Jennie Anderson**, date unclear, postcard from former intern now in Thailand.

**SSgt Michael Poplawki**, undated, letter from a guy in the military calling me “anti-U.S. Government and anti-Christian.”

**Ron Seely**, 2-17, letter to *State Journal* writer about a column he wrote about his young daughter, who died in an accident. Also, the column itself.

**Robert Bazell**, 2-20, letter to journalist at NBC News regarding our reporting on the DeLuca case.

**Paul Griesbach**, 2-18, handwritten letter from a reader advising that “Most criminals are bedrock Republicans.”

**The New Yorker**, 2-21, letter to the magazine pitching a 6,000 - 10,000-word article about the DeLuca Case.

**State Bar of Wisconsin**, undated, filled-out form accompanying the entry of a story about the failings of the 6th Amendment to guarantee the right of counsel. This was for a story by Richard Winton. It refers to a case in which a confession was “obtained using coercive techniques.”

**Story roster for Feb. 2-27**, presumably preserved because it allocates more than 130 inches to a story about DeLuca.

**James Doyle**, 2-26, letter to the then-attorney general (later governor), asking for his help in getting records in the DeLuca case.

**Mencken Awards**, 2-27, letter accompanying entries for award.

**Glen Hartley**, 3-2, letter to a literary agent in New York, recommended by Charlie Sykes, proposing he represent me on a book about the DeLuca case.

**Eleni [?] Otto**, 3-5, handwritten letter from a reader complimenting a story.

**Maria d.G. Olson**, 3-9, postcard from a former intern praising the DeLuca piece.

**Joel Winnig**, 3-13, letter to the editor from a local judicial candidate complaining about the “smarmy tone” of our coverage of the race, which he lost.

**Nancy McMahon**, 3-31, letter in defense of Winnig's incumbent opponent, Judge Jack Aulik, from someone associated with his campaign. Also, my 4-1 reply to a statement she made as a P.S. to her letter. I accuse both her and Aulik.

**Bill Foust**, 4-3, letter to Dane County district attorney regarding records in the DeLuca case. Also 4-17 follow-up letter on same.

**Response to [not included] letter by Frank Cook**, undated, reply, defending an article that linked student members of a group called the Ku Klux Klan to the national group with the same day. Memorable lines: "Why is Cook and the UW so intent on denying this? . . . My father was a racist. Every single member of my parent's generation that I met as a kid was a racist."

**Frank Cook**, 4-6, lengthy letter from UW historian on KKK issue, with a note at the top from **Marc Eisen**: "I don't see the purpose of using this." Also, my reply 4-17 letter to Cook, about how his complaint in his first letter about being quoted in the first place was edited out. My rejoinder: "I called, explained that I was a reporter working on a story, and took notes on our conversation, Of course I had every right to quote you."

**Adrian Lomax**, 4-5, letter from prisoner in Waupun proposing an article for *Isthmus*. Also, my 4-17 letter in reply. Also, Lomax's 4-26 reply to that.

**Adam Korbitz**, 4-10, letter bashing me for my reporting on local papers, to which he says I had applied for jobs (not true). Korbitz was the subject of a 1991 cover story ("Obsession," included in *Watchdog*) about a dirty-trick campaign he conducted against someone he suspected of a crime.

**Gerald Whitburn**, 4-17, letter to head of state agency praising the helpfulness of its spokesperson, **Jim Malone**. Also, Whitburn's 4-28 reply.

**Dave Barry**, date unclear, postcard from world-famous humorist to whom I has sent an article about a scientific study on nose-picking. Its one-word message: "Booger."

**Alan Borsuk**, 5-15, letter to the editor of *Wisconsin Magazine* (a weekly insert in the *Milwaukee Journal*) pitchin a story, which I do write, on **Erwin Knoll**.

**Donald Brod**, 5-6, letter from executive secretary of the International Society of Weekly Newspapers Editors informing me that I had won another Golden Dozen award.

**Will Fantle**, 5-26, letter from a writer about a just-submitted story.

**James Calvert**, 5-29, letter to superintendent of the U.S. Senate Press Gallery urging him to give access to **Richard Winton**.

**Melissa Pennings**, 6-1, response letter to a writer seeking opportunities. Also her 5-26 pitch. Resume withheld.

**Marc Eisen**, 6-5, memo from Isthmus editor in reply to an angry attorney who felt I had “put words in my mouth.” Marc agrees that while I did “pretty much sum up the import of what he said,” I did use words that seemed to not have come from him. Marc to me: “Your phrasing was overdramatic—the sort of thing you’d read . . . in the Cap Times. (Ooh, that hurts, I know).”

**Jay Walljasper**, 6-9, letter to *Utne Reader* forwarding an Isthmus column about the alternative press. Also 7-16 postcard from Walljasper in response.

**Adrian Lomax**, 6-7, letter from prison inmate giving an update on the status of his story.

**Will Fantle**, 6-12, letter from writer about packet of copies and payment for his story.

**Melanie Conklin**, 6-11, handwritten letter from writer filing two stories and giving an update on a third.

**Susan Nadeau**, date unclear, postcard from former intern now in Spain. Also 4-6 letter from same, and 5-16 postcard giving a new address in Madrid.

**Death threat**, 6-25, memo to (presumably) Marc Eisen about a message left on my home answering machine. Key lines: “I want to put bumps and bruises all over [your face] until you bleed out of your fucking skull” and “Hey, mister, I don’t like the shit you’ve been writing in that fucking paper, and it’s huigh time you wuit before someone gets hurt bad, Hah.” As I recall, Marc reported it to the police.

**Maria d.G. Olson**, date unclear, postcard from former intern passing on her father’s praise for DeLuca case reporting.

**Jules Hallum**, 7-6, letter to the Office of Scientific Integrity within the National Institutes of Health about it’s foot-dragging on DeLuca probe, which was delaying the release of documents from the UW-Madison.



**Fairview Industries**, 7-7, letter from a Middleton, Wisconsin, address from someone which just scribbles for a name calling attention to “items which have a deficit of information in the public media.” Also equally bizarre postcard from the same.

**Kathy Stern**, undated, letter from a reader thanking me for writing about her restraining order ordeal and putting in a good word for our work in general

**Barbara Hanrahan**, 7-15, letter to University Press forwarding my critique of a book sent to me for that purpose. The book by Mark Lemberger that the press had already decided not to publish was later published by another press as *Crime of Magnitude*. My critique is not included.

**John Dingell**, 7-24, letter to member of Congress regarding the DeLuca case.

**Melanie Conklin**, 8-4, letter from a writer about her progress on a story about local fundamentalists.

**Garry Trudeau**, 8-8, letter to creator of the comic strip “Doonesbury,” regarding Dan Quayle’s high school drug references. Also, Trudeau’s 9-8 reply.

**Katherine Griffith**, undated, handwritten letter from person at Wisconsin Rural Development Center for a story on **William von Meyer**. Also, my 8-10 letter in reply, alleging that he misrepresented his credentials.

**Marc Eisen**, 9-10, memo from the *Isthmus* editor that says in full: “Bill, Re: my 45-minute phone call from Hizzoner [Mayor Paul Soglin]. He’s unhappy with your column.”

**Bill McClenahan**, 9-3, letter from a Lake Mills writer inquiring about writing opportunities.

**Ben Patrusky**, 9-9, letter to Council for the Advancement of Science Writer recommending Savid Tenenbaum for a writing scholarship.

**Lynn Helms**, undated, card from member of the “Young Dems” thanking me for my role in a candidate debate.

**Catherine Harding**, undated, letter from an *Isthmus* colleague reacting to the defeat of **David Clarenbach** in a race for Congress, which *Isthmus* sort of helped along with a critical story on the long-term state Assemblyman.

**Kathy Steffen**, 9/24, phone message taken from the mother of an autistic girl named Carly I wrote about, who was not allowed to join the Girl Scouts, thanking me for the column I wrote about it, which is included in *Watchdog*.

**Gail Longworth**, 9-27, letter from a local Girl Scout official defending her actions in the case involving Carly Steffen. Also a copy of a letter sent by Longworth to the parents in the troop, and a letter from the Scouts' chief executive officer, **Dianne Schnitzer**, disputing the column. Also the column itself.

**Daniel A. MacDonald**, 9-25, four-page letter from a local attorney defending the Scouts and arguing that it was justified in turning away Carly because her mom would not agree to accompany her during all Scout activities, something not expected of other parents.

**Joel Bruce Winnig**, 10-3, letter from a former local judicial candidate who had earlier complained about the coverage he received, walking back his criticism and saying "you paper has provided the about the only meaningful coverage I have seen of the fall election campaign."

**Andy Hall**, 10-7, letter to *State Journal* reporter (and future boss) about the DeLuca case, which I tried to get him to write about, to no avail. Also his 10-12 reply.

**Graphic reminder**, undated, piece of paper with two images, under the heading "Bill's lesson for the day": one was a person lying down with the caption "kowtowing." The other was of a person pulling a cow in a wagon captioned "cow-towing." Evidently, I had confused the two.

**The Nation**, 10-14, letter to the editor taking issue with claims made in a story it published about anti-gay bigotry in Madison, noting that I could not firm these.

**Sheila Faulkner**, 6-20, appreciative card from an apparently reluctant story subject, which I talked her into: "You affronted my sensibilities, Bill, and although I feel I am making all the steps toward truth in measured cautious ways, you reminded me of the importance of truth to myself and others."

**Neil Geilson**, undated, “not for publication” letter regarding the Carly Steffen column.

**Anonymous**, undated, “shame of you” letter over the Cathy Steffen column, saying her mom has “slandered a fine organization” by complaining about her daughter being treated differently because she’s autistic.

**Adrian Lomax**, 10-27, letter to inmate-writer, asking some questions about prison life and future writing.

**Andy Baggot**, undated, note from a *State Journal* writer: “Bill, keep fighting the good fight.”

**Brandon Scholz**, 11-6, letter to chief of staff of Rep. Scott Krug’s office re: my open records request regarding DeLuca case.

**On the Edge** newspaper, 11-9, letter to the editor of Edgewood College blasting it for a critical error-strewn editorial criticizing *Isthmus* debate hosting. Good line: “Besides not teaching you how to spell, Edgewood College has apparently taught you the wrong lesson about how media should approach people who aspire to power.” Also 11/23 letter from Adam Kassulke, chairman of the Lake Wingra Alliance, apologizing for the student paper.

**Richard Winton**, undated, handwritten letter from former intern and future Pulitzer Prize winner asking me for a letter of reference. I’m sure I provided one but do not seem to have a copy.

**John [last name unrecorded]**, 11-18, letter from a reporter at the *Sheboygan Press* returning some materials and asking to meet.

**Adrian Lomax**, 2-4, letter to prisoner-writer passing on an article I wrote about him.

**Will Fantle**, 12-1, letter from writer explaining delays on story-in-progress.

**Spring Internship application**, 12-4, letter used for years to recruit internship applicants.

**Melanie Conklin**, undated, card giving update on status of story about local witches.

**Troy and Carol Janisch [??]**, undated, holiday card from reader wishing me well in “butt-kicking news coverage in 1993.”

**Doug Moe**, 12/23, handwritten note from *Madison Magazine* editor about getting together, he, me and Marc, after the holidays.

## 1993

**Poynter Institute**, 1-8-1993, letter applying to attend upcoming training session on investigative reporting. Also 2-2 letter from Poynter saying I was not selected. I would attend a couple of Poynter Institute programs in Florida over the years.

**Chris Deisinger**, 1-12, letter of recommendation for former *Shepherd* colleague and current roommate.

**American Planning Association**, 1-12, application for an award for reporting on planning, an *Isthmus* staple.

**Columbia Journalism Review**, 1-14, letter to magazine suggest two possible “Darts,” one concerning the *State Journal* and one about *Isthmus* being sued for \$12 million—\$1 million for each sign in the Zodiac—but a local practitioner of astrology who didn’t like a piece we ran that viewed it skeptically.

**Milwaukee Press Club**, undated, text that accompanied our contest entry of “The DeLuca Case” in the category of best investigative. Also, additional explanation of this story, perhaps for a different contest. Also, explanation of submission on critical story about **David Clarenbach**.

**Column**, “1/93,” a printout of what might be the worst opinion column I ever wrote, during a spell of low inspiration. It was called “What I Believe” and listed things that I believed. Marc Eisen persuaded me not to run it.

**Dave Zweifel**, 1-22, letter to head of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council thanking him for inviting me to the group’s meetings. Argues that the Council is not aggressive enough.

**Bill Hoel**, 1-22, letter to local radio guy passing on articles about Adrian Lomax.

**David Adenaike**, 1-30, letter of rejection sent to an internship applicant.

**Adrian Lomax**, 1-13, handwritten letter from prisoner-writer on various topics.

**Marc Eisen**, 1-30, memo to Isthmus editor regarding opinion column submitted by Lomax, over the retribution he received for identifying a guard as a bad actor in a published piece.

**Nicole Getthelf**, date unclear, postcard from member of the city council inviting me to a party.

**Michana Buchman**, 2-4, note to staff from long-time *Isthmus*' employee on her decision to go back to using her birth name.

**The Nation**, 2-13, letter to the editor taking issue with writer **Andrew Kopkind**'s gushing assessment of UW-Madison Chancellor **Donna Shalala**, on the occasion of her being elevated to U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, noting her un-progressive positions on gay rights, student protests and more. The letter was not published.

**Oscar Shade**, 2-23, letter to warden at Racine Correctional Institution requesting an interview with **Adrian Lomax**.

**John A. Borden**, 2-24, letter is response to guy who sent two query letters, saying it was not local enough.

**Erwin Knoll**, 2-19, letter from *The Progressive* editor thanking me for sending him a copy of the Lomax story.

**Gloria Cooper**, 2-12, letter from the managing editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*. magazine responding positively to my inquiry about contributing.

**Madison Magazine**, 3-8, letter to the editor in response to a story by **Margaret Guthrie** essentially blaming *Isthmus* for **David Clarenbach**'s loss.

**Charles Downing**, 2-28, letter from an inmate at Waupun asking us to send a copy of our story on **Adrian Lomax**.

**Jeremy Solomon**, 3-8, letter from a literary agent offering to represent me, for a \$400 upfront fee.

**Paul Soglin**, 4-7, note to Madison mayor about our decision not to use a photo of him grinding his head into his hand. He objected when it was taken. Photo attached.

**Russell Smith**, 4-7, letter from a writer moving to town.

**Christian Science Monitor**, 4-26, copy of an article I wrote about hate crimes, included in *Watchdog*.

**Jeff Cohen, Norman Solomon**, 5-6, letter to heads of the group Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, praising their reporting and suggesting a subscription exchange.

**The Progressive**, 5-6, letter to the editor challenging **Nat Hentoff** for not being committed enough to free speech, based on something he wrote. The magazine did run the letter, with Hentoff's response.

**Fred Milverstedt**, 5-7, praiseful letter from co-founder of *Isthmus* on a piece I wrote on the *Wisconsin State Journal's* new publisher, **Phil Blake**.

**Dan Baum**, 5-11, letter from Montana reporter quoted in my piece on Blake, complaining that I quoted him calling Blake the "prince of fucking darkness." Also my 5-14 reply, in which I noted that I asked him if I could quote him right after he said this: "If you had in fact said 'No' instead of 'Yes,' your comment would never have seen print."

**Denise Sanders**, 5-2, letter to a writer tapped to write a story about African American professionals in Madison.

**Edward M. Dettinger**, 6-1, letter from a prisoner asking us to send stories.

**Dave Barry**, 6-3, letter to syndicated columnist passing on an update about a study on nospicking to which I had earlier alerted him. Also his 6-10 postcard in reply: "This calls for a new Cabinet-level position."

**David Hoppe**, 6-24. Letter to an aide to Sen. Trent Lott regarding a letter he sent to **Donna Shalala** regarding the DeLuca case.

**Larry O'Brien**, undated, note from an assistant city attorney praising a poem/column I wrote called "The Scourge of Ethics," included in *Watchdog*.

**Erwin Knoll**, 7-15, letter from *The Progressive* editor setting the record straight re: something I had written about the magazine's employees' union. Also, my 7-13 reply to the point he made.

**Marge Williams**, 7-14, postcard from a reader regarding something I had written about her and "MHA," the Madison Mutual Housing Association. Also, my 7-20 letter to MHA head Bill Sullivan explaining that she had persuaded me to stop writing about her situation for fear it would be held against her. My letter warns against this: "Marge Williams is just a sweet old woman in need of a place to live, Leave her alone." Also follow-up letter from Williams: "I've never been accused of being 'just a sweet old woman before!'"

**Adrian Lomax**, 7-16, unsigned letter from writer-inmate asking me to send a letter to the Parole Commission on his behalf. Also my letter to the Commission chair, **John Husz**, with a cover letter to Lomax saying his recent failure to communicate "kind of pissed me off." Also Lomax's lengthy handwritten letter to me dated 7-15, and my conciliatory reply dated 7-22. Also, letter from Husz acknowledging my letter, and 7-29 note of thanks from Lomax.

**Marc Eisen**, 7-22, memo to Marc urging that *Isthmus* make a counteroffer to keep Judy Davidoff on staff, in light of a job offer she received from *Rockford* magazine. It must not have worked, since she took the Rockford job. She later took my job as *Isthmus* news editor and went on to become the *Isthmus* editor.

**Sandy Flickner**, 7-7, letter from the senior editor of *The Washington Post*, declining a story pitch I had sent.

**Richard Williams**, 7-30, letter to Madison's new chief of police complaining about longstanding media access issues.

**Donald Brod**, 7-19, letter from head of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors congratulating me on another Golden Dozen win.

**Bill Clinton**, 7-30, mock letter to the president. A scathing critique. Ran as an opinion column. Also, my 10-6 letter to *Harper's* noting that I sent the letter to the White House and received an autographed photo of the president in reply, as requested,

**Frank Denton**, 7-29, letter from the editor of the *State Journal* to **Suzanne Braun Levine**, the editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, complaining about the "Dart" his



paper was awarded based on something I had passed on, which suggested the *State Journal* had killed a story to appease an advertiser. Also, my 8-10 letter to Denton, in response to his letter to *CJR*. Also, my actual 9-10 letter to the editor of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, which it published.

**Jan Swan**, 9-16 [possibly a typo for 8-16], letter from senior editor at the *Columbia Journalism Review* complaining that I had shared Denton's letter when it was meant "in confidence." Also my 8-20 reply saying I had no such understanding. Also a 9-28 letter from Swan to me saying—in confidence—that my 9-10 letter to the editor would run.

**Molly Ivins**, 8-12, letter to famed columnist passing on something of hers that we published.

**Mike Jacobs**, 8-17, letter from a Milwaukee TV reporter, to whom I had passed on a column that mentioned him.

**Paul Soglin**, 8-24, letter to mayor of Madison passing on writer Paul Norton's contact info in Russia, which the mayor must have requested. Also a 8-10 letter from Norton to me, and my 8-29 reply.

**Marc Eisen**, 9-7, my critique of the latest Annual Manual.

**Dave Zweifel**, 9-12, detailed six-page letter to president of Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council calling on the group to hire a full time executive director. I did have some meetings with others about possible funding but none was forthcoming and the idea never happened. Also, Zweifel's undated reply.

**Kathryn Anderson**, undated, text of reply to a letter from a Department of Corrections official who complained about nonexistent conspiracy and cover-up theories in an article I have written.

**Dave Zweifel**, 9-21, letter to *Cap Times* editor praising a column he wrote by **Adrian Lomax**.

**Richard Williams**, 9-29, letter to Madison police chief forwarding a letter from the state Attorney General's office contradicting the rationale for his refusal to release records.

**Robert Sharp**, 9-24, finger-wagging letter from head of local YMCA in response to a column I had written urging people to not contribute to United Way of Dane County his

letter to me because it gave money to the Boy Scouts even though the Scout's openly violated the United Way's nondiscrimination rules. Also, my 9-30 letter of reply.

**Bill Christofferson**, undated fax from local political consultant taking issue with sometime I wrote. Also my 9-30 letter of reply.

**Capital Times**, 10-4, letter to the editor critiquing its coverage of the DeLuca case.

**Lawrence Cohen**, 10-5, letter to the editor of *Isthmus* from an official with the **Wisconsin Institute for Psychotherapy** in response to an article I had written about the exclusion of a controversial group from a conference, which it supported. Letter was published. Also, my submitted reply and 10-11 letter to Cohen. Also, Cohen's 10-20 letter to me in reply, and my 10-22 response letter.

**Linda Lutton**, date unclear, postcard from "your ex-faithful intern," now in Guatemala. Also my 10-20 letter of reply.

**Peggy Rahow**, undated, letter in response to a column I wrote criticizing Catholicism, accusing me of "bigotry and malice." Note from Marc Eisen ["ME"] saying he was not going to use it because it did not include an address, as required.

**Bill Livick**, date unclear, postcard from (I believe) a former intern now living in New Mexico.

**Melanie Conklin**, 11-1, handwritten letter from former intern and future staff writer: "I always want to keep writing for you as long as I am around here."

**Jennie Anderson**, 10-5, postcard from former intern now in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Bob Wills**, 11-23, letter to former editor of *The Milwaukee Sentinel* and former president of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council regarding my proposal that funds be raised to hire a full-time executive director for the group and asking his opinion.

**Dave Zweifel**, 12-2, letter to president of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council regarding a contact I had with Rep. Marlin Schneider, a privacy advocate who clashed often with the Council. I suggest we invite Schneider to a meeting.

**Christine Larsen**, 11-4, letter from a staffer at WORT radio about a proposal I had for WORT to have me on regularly to talk about things in *Isthmus*. This did happen for a while.

**James Riemenschneick**, 10-18, letter from a prisoner asking for *Isthmus* to review his case. Also my 10-20 letter in reply, saying we lacked the resources to do so.

**Dave Barry**, 12-3, letter to national syndicated columnist passing on word of a study about road kill. He responded, as before, with a terse message on a postcard, which is not in the file.

**Wisconsin Week**, 12-9, irate letter to the editor in response to an article it ran on the DeLuca case in which, among other errors, it misidentified the federal agency for which former UW-Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala now worked.

## 1994

**Jon Meachum**, 1-3-94, Thank you letter for *Isthmus'* use of piece in *The Washington Monthly*, of which he was editor at the time.

**Bert Zipperer**, 1-27, Madison Common Council member, letter to publisher **Vince O'Hern**, thanking him and the paper for a story on him written by **Catherine Harding**.

**Ira Sharenow**, Madison anti-tobacco activist, 1-22, explaining the reasons for his activism.

**Linda Lutton**, former intern, 1-7, letter from Guatemala. Also my 2-2 reply.

**Ken Roesslein**, Milwaukee Press Club, 2-15, belated response to my letter of 7-22-91, also attached, telling me to "shove it up your ass." Also my 2-21 reply.

**Hamdy Ezalarab**, candidate for Dane Co. District attorney, undated. Thank you letter for coverage of the race.

**Cam & Barb**, undated, thank you letter for participation in charity event.

**Unaddressed** letter, 4-12, template letter for a query to news outlets for my story on the Buffalo Brothers, a pair of white guys who ran an Indian casino.

**Denis Collins**, Edgewood College, 4-15, humorous response to satirical piece about him.

**Reid Granke**, 4-23, letter praising satirical column on the Catholic Church.

**Karen Durbin**, 6-3, letter to the editor of *The Village Voice* praising its coverage of welfare "reform" in Wisconsin.

**Adrian Lomax**, writer and state prison inmate, 5-19. Reply 6-13. Also 9-21.

**Margaret Engle**, Center for Responsive Politics, 6-22, thank you note for contributed freelance piece.

**Police Chief Richard Williams.** 7-7, letter sent requesting letters regarding complaints against cops; the request would be denied, prompting an ultimately successful lawsuit.

**Hugh Nations**, attorney, National Coalition of Free Men (oppressed men's rights group). 8-18, response to letter in *Isthmus* about "female-initiated partner violence."

**Dan Barker**, Freedom from Religion Foundation, 9-16, postcard of thanks for some tough questions asked.

**John Steele**, undated, handwritten letter of appreciation from subject of story on drug charges in a case that involved allegations of police misconduct. Also a postscript from his parents, **Marv and Virginia Steele**.

**Russell Evansen**, 10-3, letter from a *Wis. State Journal* writer saying my criticism of something he wrote was based on a misunderstanding, saying he should have included a note that said "Warning: Sarcasm Ahead." Also my 10-4 reply, in which I suggested a different phrasing: "Warning: Bad Writing Ahead."

**Julie Anne Chase**, 9-30, thank you letter to me for giving a reading to the Children's Stage at Madison's First Annual Book Fair.

**Hugh Nations**, 8-18, virulent attack letter from men's rights activist. Also, my 10-10 reply. Also, a followup attack letter from Nations dated 10-13.

**James Klauser**, secretary, state Dept. of Administration, 10-6, dismissive letter in response to some request for information.

**Gov. Tommy Thompson**, 10-12. Letter to, thanking him for the interview he gave me that provided the basis for my election-year cover story, "My Free Lunch with Tommy," later reprinted in my book *Watchdog*.

**Adrian Lomax**, prison inmate, 10-7, letter on letter challenging facts on piece by Lomax that *Isthmus* had published.

**Fred Milverstedt**, 10/24, letter from *Isthmus* co-founder regarding column he didn't like. He called it "trite, asinine, and worth less than the newsstand price of the paper it is printed on."

**Linda Lutton**, 11-2, card from former intern, now in Chicago.

**The Capital Times**, letter to the editor, 11-3, regarding its coverage of the death of **Erwin Knoll**, the day before, in which it called him a “liberal,” a term he would have cringed to see.

**Paul Norton**, former intern and friend, 10-31, just saying hello.

**Paul Schmelzer**, 11-4, following up on a meeting about a vaccination story.

**Will Fantle**, contributing writer, 10-28, postcard.

**Matt Rothschild**, publisher of *The Progressive*, 11-7, letter regarding **Erwin Knoll's** death. Also the program from Knoll's memorial on 11-13, and letter to Matt 11-23.

**Barbara Lyons**, Wis. Right to Life, 11-29, thanks for meeting with her.

**Capt. John Van Dinter**, Dane County Sheriffs Dept., 12-6, letter to explain how I managed to accidentally erase a tape of a disciplinary proceeding that I had been allowed to hear.

## 1995

**David Steingass** [presumed from indistinct signature], 1-10-95, letter of praise for radio appearance.

**Ada Dolph**, undated, letter regarding journalism mentor program. Reply, 1-12.

**Catherine Harding**, 1-7, letter from former *Isthmus* colleague taking me to task for writing a Cheap Shot that dealt with a person's personal appearance. Contrite reply, 1-12.

**Steve Plamann**, 1-12, letter to a National Enquirer editor (a guy from Madison) passing on a clip of a story re: **Elvis Presley**.

**Policing the Police**, undated, letter of explanation for contest entry of articles and columns on the Madison Police Department. Apparently for the State Bar of Wisconsin's Golden Gavel contest.

**Frank Zeidler**, 1-22 handwritten letter from the former mayor of Milwaukee, thanking me for a column I wrote in *Milwaukee Magazine* praising his service. [I wrote a long feature story on Zeidler for the magazine in 1986.]

**Lee Tishler**, 1-21, letter of praise for my piece on Milwaukee Mayor **Frank Zeidler** in *Milwaukee Magazine*.

**William C. Lloyd**, 1-30, three-page letter regarding my sarcastic column on the psychology of gun enthusiasts. Rejected for publication by **Marc Eisen**.

**Andrea Anderson**, 2-2, letter accompanying contest entry for articles by **Erik Ness** and **Judith Davidoff**.

**Ms. Franz L. Martin**, 2-10, letter of recommendation for former intern **Jessica Fugate**.

**Columbia School of Law**, 2-15, letter of recommendation for former intern **Rich Dvorak**.

**Maria d.G. Olson**, 2-5, handwritten letter from former intern who Vince mentioned in "Making the Paper." Also, a typed letter from Olson on the same day. Reply, 2-17.

**Rod Passman**, [presumed from indistinct signature], undated, complimentary letter from Ch. 27 reporter on his way to a new job in Pittsburgh.

**Eunice Gibson**, Madison city attorney, 3-1, letter of complaint sent regarding assistant city attorney Larry O'Brien's failure to return calls.

**Kathie Rasmussen**, contributing writer, 2-23, card regarding my plan to write a biography of **Erwin Knoll**. Later published as *An Enemy of the State*.

**Paul Norton**, former intern, letter dated 11-24-94 with 2-2-95 postmark, from Norton's gig at the *Moscow Tribune* in New York City.

**Adrian Lomax**, 2-18, long typed letter from inmate/contributor at Green Bay Correctional Institute.

**Jennie Anderson**, former intern, 3-1, postcard.

**Jim & Yvonne**, undated card of thanks for article.

**Melanie Conklin**, 3-3, card sent on occasion of leave for Knoll book.

**Evelyne Girardet**, 3-14?, postcard from former contributor now at *Chicago Tribune*.

**Jessica Fugate**, 5-5, letter from former intern.

**State Bar of Wisconsin**, 6-2, letter regarding Golden Gavel Awards — not selected.

**Sarah O'Brien** 10-2, letter to Dane County judge regarding coverage of *Isthmus*' open records lawsuit against the Madison police.

**Mayor Paul Soglin**, 10-2, letter to passing on article of interest.

**Adrian Lomax**, 10-2, letter to inmate scoping out possible story.

**Rep. Robert Goetsch**, Wis. Legislature, 10-4, letter to opposing bill to limit inmates' ability to make open records requests.



**Ralph Ovadal**, 10-11, letter to conservative religious guy confirming his upcoming appearance on my Citi-Cable talk show, "Ground Zero."

**Dustin Beilke**, 10-12, letter from writer and contributor pitching story on Progressive Media Project.

**Deb Reilly**, 10/17, card.

**Adrian Lomax**, 10-23, letter to about proposed article on prison life.

**Daniel Kane**, Madison resident, 10-20, angry letter about satirical column on Gov. Tommy Thompson, which purported to be an overheard conversation.

**Robert J. Seltzner**, 10-21, letter of praise for satirical column on **Tommy Thompson**.

**Ed Emerson**, 10-25, letter from longtime friend now city administrator of Hillsboro, re: TV appearance occasioned because some people took this satirical column seriously.

**John Honeck**, Brookfield resident, 10-30, letter inquiring if satirical column was real. Reply, 11-1.

**Peggy Robinson**, 11-2, letter to producer at the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, passing on my column on **Erwin Knoll** in *Isthmus*. Column Included in *Watchdog*.

**Memo**, 11-10, ideas for improving Annual Manual.

**Adrian Lomax**, 11-9, handwritten letter from.

**Center for Responsive Politics**, 11-8, letter with check and copies for article for *Capital Eye*.

**J. Scott Maxwell**, 11-14, letter regarding issue with WORT Radio, Reply, 11-17. Response letter from Maxwell 11-20.

**Donna Schleicher** [presumed from signature], 11-22, letter sent in praise of anti-tobacco activist **Ira Sharenow**. Reply, 11-27.

**Sarah O'Brien**, 11-28, letter to Dane County judge thanking her for favorable open records ruling and requesting an electronic copy.

**Kevin Fisher**, 11-21, letter to MTMJ-TV guy complaining that the Milwaukee Press Club's award to **Linda Lutton** spelled her name incorrectly.

**Dave Zweifel**, editor, *Capital Times*, 12-1, letter regarding editorial on *Isthmus*' open records win.

**David Peterson**, 1-30, letter of praise for Ira Sharenow. Reply 12-1.

**Mayor Paul Soglin**, 12-8, letter to mayor regarding a request for documents.

**Chip Mitchell**, 12-13, copy of letter sent to *Shepherd-Express* complaining about not being paid for an article.

**John Stauber**, *PR Watch*, undated, letter of thanks for Capitol Eye column.

## 1996

**Steve Holtzman**, 1-2-96, letter from Madison alderperson in response to a Cheap Shot award. Also my intemperate reply 1-3 (NOT sent), and my temperate reply 1-3 (sent).

**Leo Gilpin**, 1-4, letter to source for story.

**Mary Unmuth**, 1-5, letter re: **Ira Sharenow**. Reply, 1-5.

**Lynn Adelman**, 1-24, letter to state senator passing along an article.

**Carol Hartman**, 1-24, letter from UW-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication re: arrangements for my appearance as a guest speaker.

**Larry O'Brien**, 1-26, letter to assistant city attorney denying that *Isthmus* has treated him unfairly. Last line: "I will always strive to report [on subjects] fairly and accurately, no matter how much of a jerk you are."

**Tim Wing**, 1-30, letter from tipster regarding article that ran on sheriff's deputies Reply 2-1.

**Ron Trachtenberg**, 2-2, letter to local attorney regarding "Ground Zero" show. Reply 2-5.

**Adrian Lomax**, 2-5, letter from prisoner-writer regarding article in progress.

**Mayor Paul Soglin**, 2-14, letter to mayor refuting his expressed belief that *Isthmus* coverage of him has been mostly negative.

**Kathy D. Willis**, 2-18, letter from Taycheedah inmate looking to write an article. Reply 2-20.

**Dan Ramirez, Linda James**, 2-18. Letter to the editor (accepted for publication) regarding article on Madison affirmative action officer **Kirbie Mack** and fired employee **Dorcas Johnson**. Reply for publication.

**Errol Davis**, 3-1, letters to Wis. Power and Light exec commiserating about typos in a published piece. Memorable P.S.: “My spellcheck tells me ‘Erroll’ and ‘Davis’ are not words. Could it possibly be ‘error advice’?”

**Bill Foust**, 3-20, letter to Dane County district attorney complaining about difficulties getting access to his office.

**Adrian Lomax**, 3-22, letter to regarding story in progress, reply from Lomax 3-24.

**Anonymous** postcard, 3-35, that seems to suggest I participated in a murder-suicide pact.

**John Husz**, chairman, undated, letter to Wis. Parole Commission head urging parole consideration for **Adrian Lomax**.

**Capital Times**, 4-9, letter to the editor re: **Pat Schneider** story, pointing out error in published report on *Isthmus* open records lawsuit.

**Joe Durkin**, 4-11, letter to president of Madison police officers union taking issue with his public vow not to talk to me ever again.

**Linda Lutton**, 4-8, letter from former intern. Reply 4-11.

**Brandon Scholtz**, 4-12, joking letter to local politico regarding his remarks he made that got him in hot water. Included a flyer that said: “Ready, Fire, Aim.” Reply from Scholtz.

**Cindy Brown**, 4-18, letter to regarding letter she provided a photo for.

**Paul Armentaro**, 4-18, letter to someone at NORML regarding marijuana coverage.

**David Giffey**, 4-23, letter of thanks for story on Vietnam vets.

**Memo to Marc Eisen**, 4-25, regarding proposed columnist.

**Malcolm Hatfield**, 4-24, letter from Racine resident regarding fathers rights. Reply 5-1.

**Carol Hartman**, 4-29, thank you letter from UW-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communication re: my appearance as a guest speaker.

**Adrian Lomax**, 5-22, letter to prisoner-writer thanking him for submitted story.

**Steve Plamann**, 5-27, letter to guy at *The National Enquirer*, pitching a story idea.

**Dave Zweifel**, 6-3, letter to Wis. Freedom of Information Council president regarding council meeting and issues.

**Erin Middlewood**, 6-6, letter to writer at *The Progressive* magazine suggesting contacts for story.

**Brent Beer**, 6-12, letter of apology to me for critical comments. Reply 6-17.

**Det. Mary Morgen**, 6-16, letter to a police detective who hung up on me as I tried to ask about an issue re: female detectives. (*Isthmus*' lawsuit win against the police was not popular.)

**Allan Nairn**, 6-20, letter to national journalist mentioned in *Isthmus* piece.

**Mayor Paul Soglin**, 6-26, letter to asking for off-the-record chat to improve relations. Apparently no response.

**John Husz**, 6-24, letter from chairman of the Wis. Parole Commission in response to appeal for Lomax.

**Adrian Lomax**, 6-24, letter from in response to forwarded anonymous response to Lomax article.

**Betty Custer**, 6-27, letter from Madison resident regarding issue with **Paul Soglin**. Reply, 7-2; followup reply 7-3 apologizing for aggressive tone of 7-2 reply.

**International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors [Dick Lee?]**, undated, handwritten letter of congratulations for making the Golden Dozen best editorial list.

**Dorothy [?? illegible]**, 7-4, letter of thanks regarding published article.

**Adrian Lomax**, 7-5, letter from regarding Husz letter, book project.

**Steve Kroft**, 6-8, letter to “60 Minutes” correspondent suggesting that *Isthmus*’ story on **John Steele** was worthy of that program’s attention. There was no reply.

**Quae Mattox**, 7-8, letter to Dateline NBC regarding Madison city attorney gag order.

**David Knoll**, 7-19, letter to local lawyer (and Erwin’s son) explaining that **Marc Eisen** does not want me to pursue a story he suggested regarding a shooting in Beloit.

**Adrian Lomax**, 7-11, letter in response to responses to his piece. Reply 7-19.

**Candi Kriegh**, 7-22, letter from Dane County jail inmate seeking coverage. Reply with regrets 7-22.

**Pat Skaleski**, Madison comptroller, 7-8, letter from re: funding for “Ground Zero.” Reply 7-22.

**Capital Times**, 8-5, letter to the editor re: **Paul Norton**’s *Cap Times*’ story on police complaints.

**M.L. Kewley**, 8-2, letter to editor at *City Pages* offering a detailed critique of fledgling Wausau weekly, provided on request. Reply from Kewley, 8-9.

**Chip Quade**, 8-30, email response critical of subhead on cover story. First email in letters file! Reply 9-2.

**Pat Skaleski**, Madison comptroller, 8-14, letter denying continued funding for “Ground Zero.”

**Stuart Levitan**, 8-24, letter to paper (“not authorized for publication”) in response to critical comments made about him by **Ira Sharenow** in published piece. Includes my response: “Stuart, I think you are being a big baby.”

**Malcolm Hatfield**, 9-14, letter complaining about media unfairness to divorced dads. Reply 9-23. Response letter from Hatfield 9-25.

**Mark Pitsch**, 9-21, email from former intern about Erwin Knoll book, etc.

**Henry Bruse**, 10-3, letter from a fan. Reply 10-9.

**Michael Moore**, 10-10, text of my remarks introducing director of (at that time) *Roger & Me*. There were so many people attending that hundreds were unable to get inside; Moore talked to them briefly before entering.

**Steven Underwood**, 9-23, letter from president of the West Metropolitan Business Association inviting me to give a talk on 10-10, along with **Bill Kraus** and **Dick Wheeler**. Also a letter from Underwood on 10-22, expressing appreciation for talk and notes from the presentation.

**Gwen Carlson**, 10-16, letter of condolence to contributing writer regarding the death of her mother.

**Tim Provis**, 10-17, letter from attorney inviting me to join a committee regarding academic freedom. Also my 10-22 reply to said invite. Notable line: "I think by far the greatest threat to academic freedom at the UW comes not from the administration but from the fact that most college professors are deep-down cowards, afraid to speak out on issues or take stands on principle even when they have tenure and the total freedom to express their minds."

**Leonard Lee**, 10-22, letter to Madison resident who forwarded materials regarding prison overcrowding.

**Steve Enich**, 10-9, letter from Milwaukee attorney threatening *Isthmus* with legal action over inquiries being made of Enterprise Lighting by reporter **Steve Korris**.

**Mayor Paul Soglin**, 11-12, letter recommending a book on drug policy.

**Tom Boswell**, 11-27, letter to him rejecting an article that had been submitted for publication.

**James Doyle**, 12-5, letter to Wis. attorney general complaining about an interaction with Ass. AG **Maureen McGlynn Flanagan**, who had called to complain about a story. See reply 1-15-97.

**Marc Eisen**, 12-6, memo from *Isthmus* editor regarding my interaction with Flanagan, who had called him to complain.

**Maureen McGlynn Flanagan**, 12-10, letter to **Vince O'Hern** (sent to his home!) regarding my complaint to Doyle.

***The Capital Times***, 12-17, letter to the editor regarding unacknowledged ownership arrangement.

***Shepherd-Express***, 12-18, letter to the board of directors expressing support for the hiring of **Joel McNally** as editor, after serving on a selection committee.

**Jay Walljasper**, 12-26, letter to editor at the *Utne Reader* regarding a reprint of his piece on **Joel Rogers**.

**Deborah Scussel**, 12-26, letter from local attorney forwarding copy of article about **John Steele**.



## 1997

**Adrian Lomax**, 1-6-97, letter to prisoner-writer regarding his Your Right to Know column for Wis. Freedom of Information Council.

**Jim Sarland**, 1-7, letter to correspondent declining to pursue a story on a situation involving him.

**Matthew Frank**, 1-15, letter from assistant attorney general in response to my complaint against **Maureen McGlynn Flanagan** (see 12-5-96). Says she contacted me as a private citizen, not as an assistant attorney general—which, as I recall, is how she identified herself.

**Joseph McDermott**, 2-2, letter complaining about Cheap Shot award given to Madison Bishop **William Bullock** as “Bully of the Year.” Reply 2-7.

**Jessica Fugate**, 2-21, letter from former intern.

**Mary Feingold**, 3-10, letter of thanks for participating in Wis. Newspaper Association panel.

**Ira Sharenow**, 3-7, email regarding *Isthmus* acceptance of ads from cigarette makers.

**Phil Day**, undated, completely crazy letter from Sam Day’s schizophrenic son.

**Marc Eisen**, undated, draft of his letter to Madison Police Chief regarding violent letter to the editor received from pro-smoking activist **Carol Thompson**.

**Dusa Gyllensvard**, assistant to **George Will**, 5-26, responding to column I sent him calling him a “fatuous windbag.”

**Marc Eisen**, 5-15, memo on *Isthmus*’ business planning meeting.

**Scott Herrick**, 6-2, email from attorney for the Madison Police and Fire Commission complaining about my column criticizing the PFC. Also my 6-3 reply to Herrick, his 6-9 reply to me and 6-10 response to that reply.

**Doug Moe**, 6-2, handwritten note from the-*Capital Times* columnist in response to some suggestion.

**Laura Sutherland**, 6-20, letter from assistant attorney general in response to my request for discrimination complaints filed with the state Equal Rights Division, affirming that these should be public.

**Dave Blaska**, undated, letter on Dept. of Workforce Development stationary complaining about something I wrote. Reply 6-21.

**Tim Phelan**, 7-26, letter to father of guy who committed a murder and later killed himself, explaining that a clarification that would run regarding a disputed statement in an article.

**David Blaska**, 7-22, letter to the editor complaining about how he was quoted in a story.

**Lynn Morgan**, official with Waste Management, 8-4, outraged letter regarding **Steve Korris'** story. Passed on to Korris with my 8-5 letter advising him on a response.

**Eunice Gibson**, 7030, letter from Madison city attorney taking me to task for reporting on city's relationship with Axley Brynelson. Reply 8-5 builds case that the law firm is ripping off the city. Years later, as a result of my reporting, the city would suspend relations with Axley.

**Caroline Brier**, 8-11, response to writer of a letter to the editor in support of banning dogs from the Farmer's Market.

**Rod Kreuen**, 8-17 card regarding the death of **Donn Eithun**.

**James Friedman**, 9-16, letter to regarding problems getting records pursuant to the state Supreme Court's Woznicki decision.

**Todd Hitchcock**, 9-18, letter to guy seeking assurances that a story about the discrimination he faces won't mention the name of his same-sex partner, an assurance that is given.

**Gordon Hertz, PhD**, 9-19, email exchange with irate shrink. Includes apology email from Hertz, regretting his decision to hit "Send."

**Steve Holtzman**, 9-19, email from Madison alderperson regarding my despairing column on journalism.

**John Keleher**, 9-19, letter in response to my column about journalism.

**Paul Schick**, 9-28, Harshly negative response to journalism column. Reply 9-25.

**Bruce O'Dell**, 9/22, letter from a reader.

**Adrian Lomax**, 9-25, long handwritten sympathetic response to journalism column. Reply 9-30.

**Lynn Ward**, 10-2, email exchange over journalism column.

**Brady Williamson**, 10-3, note of praise from Madison attorney for article on drivers' records.

**Notes** for emceeding show at Isthmus Jazz Festival.

**Stuart Levitan**, 10-2, long email in response to his "horrible" submitted draft about Dow protest. Also 10/10 letter after meeting with Stu, acknowledging critique was too harsh. And an email from Levitan 10-12 agreeing that it was, in fact, too harsh.

**Stan Milam**, 10-10, response to pitch to write a story on **Randy Alexander**.

**Richard H. Johnston**, 10-15, letter from executive vice president of Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corp. in response to story on his outfit. My indignant reply 10-16.

**Dennis Boyer** and **Justin Isherwood**, 10-23, co-editors of book *A Place to Which We Belong* write asking for a contribution to the same.

**C.C. Alexander**, 10-22, letter from a fan.

**Madison Magazine**, 10-27, letter to the editor taking issue with an ad from Axley Brynelson defending its honor.

**Joe Wineke**, 11-3, letter to state Senator thanking him for Blue Books.

**Jim Rissman**, 11-19, letter from a reader.

**Dennis Boyer**, 12-3, letter of thanks for contribution to *A Place to Which We Belong*.

## 1998

**Sue Richmond**, undated, angry letter in response to *Isthmus*' article on rightwing firefighter (and firebrand) **Ron Greer**.

**Erik Ness**, 1-7-98, email from contributor who says he can't afford to keep writing for *Isthmus*.

**Roy U. Schenk**, 2-25, letter to the editor from local men's rights activist regarding *Isthmus* cover story, "Cry Rape," the same title as for my book on the case which came out in 2006.

**Sue Bauman**, mayor, email regarding Patty rape case; note says it was "sent as letter" but apparently not copied as such.

**Marc Eisen** and **Vince O'Hern**, 3-5, memo outlining proposal to re-envision *Isthmus* news coverage.

**Kerry Farley**, 3-10, long email to someone pitching the idea of basing a network drama on the life of an alternative newspaper.

**Richard Williams**, 3-17, letter from Madison police chief denying access to the 9-1-1 call made by Patty.

**Your Right to Know column** on police secrecy, undated.

**Jill Karofski**, 3-2, letter to Dane County Deputy DA asking questions about Patty's case and apologizing for my tone in an interview: "As a professional journalist, I should have done a better job of concealing my shock and moral revulsion."

**Adrian Lomax**, 3-3, letter from responding to critique about his book in progress (never completed).

**Tom Still**, *Wis. State Journal*, 4-3, letter forwarding Your Right to Know column.

**Tag Evers**, 4-8, card from freelancer (later good friend) thanking for help on a published piece.

**Judge Sarah O'Brien**, 4-9, letter to regarding successful open records lawsuit brought by **John Stauber**.

**Jeni McLaughlin**, 4-20, belated reply to 5-18-97 letter (included) from a former teacher at Messmer High School regarding a piece I wrote for the *Shepherd Express* on the death of **Allen Ginsburg**. Delivery of her letter was apparently somehow delayed.

**Wis. State Journal**, April [unclear], article regarding Milwaukee Press Club Awards.

**Bruce Kittle**, 4-16, letter of thanks from Frank J. Remington Center for Tag Ever's article on restorative justice. [Note: Bruce's son, **George Kittle**, went on to play in the 2020 Super Bowl with the San Francisco 49ers.]

**Gordon Grovier**, 5-1, card of thanks from head of Madison chapter, Society of Professional Journalists, for participation in event.

**Anonymous**, 5-11, letter to the editor critical of piece regarding the **Dalai Lama**.

**Sue Bauman**, 5-20, harshly critical letter to the mayor of Madison for her refusal to involve herself in rape case involving Patty.

**Jim Novak**, 5-22, letter from local men's rights activist regarding past issue. Reply 5-27.

**Dave Zweifel**, editor of *The Capital Times*, 6-11, handwritten letter challenging my representation of Madison Newspapers Inc.'s ownership arraignment. Reply 6-15.

**Zweifel**, 6-18, longer typed note on ownership issue. Reply, 6-29.

**Richard Winton**, 6-29, email from former intern, with news of his hiring at the *Los Angeles Times*. Reply. [Note: Winton was still at the paper as of 2021; he was part of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 2011.]

**Adrian Loman**, 6-16, letter from thanking me for writing to Corrections Corporation of America, a private prison company, regarding his possible transfer to a CCA prison in Tennessee.

**John Brush**, 6-23, letter from Corrections Corporation of America in response to my article on Lomax.

**Mark Grapentine**, 7-25, letter from asking a question re: *Isthmus*' "On the Town" item re: out-of-state prisons. Reply. Continued back-and-forth 7-27, 7-30, 7-31 and 8-3

**Jody Ray O'Kane**, 8-4, letter of thanks from an inmate at Waupun for article re: out-of-state prisons.

**Janet O'Kane**, 8-5, email exchange re: her son Jody and prison issue.

**Marilee Parfrey**, 8-14, letter from a reader pointing out the contradiction between my item on an anonymous flyer and the fact that *Isthmus* has for many years run an anonymous column, "Capitol Eye." Reply, 9-17.

**Marc Eisen**, 9-27, email exchange with *Isthmus* editor regarding my reporting on Patty rape case. Indignant reply. Exchange has been partially redacted to remove reference to personnel issue.

**Brian Lavendel**, 10-16, email exchange with contributing writer re: story on the use of pesticides at city schools.

**Bob Whitby**, 10-15, email exchange with *Isthmus* colleague re: possible story on "drug pushers"--pharmaceutical reps.

**Mike Flaherty**, undated, email to a *State Journal* reporter who took offense to my swipe at sometime he wrote: "I should have been more sensitive to you."

**Bob Whitby**, 10-15, email exchange with *Isthmus* colleague re: judicial substitutions.

**Patricia Legaard**, 11-18, handwritten letter from a reader re: *Isthmus* coverage of Madison police and open records issues.

## 1999

**Charles Sherman**, 1-29-1999, email exchange with former *Capital Times* city editor on various issues, including my confession that I have been pulled from covering Mayor Bauman because of an interperate email I sent to her on Patty rape case.

**Jim Miller**, 2-4, letter to head of Wis. Policy Research Institute thanking him for letting *Isthmus* use a WPRI report.

**Fred Milverstedt**, 2-19, email exchange regarding column about guns.

**Melanie Conklin**, 2-19, email exchange with *Isthmus* staff writer re: direction of column.

**Ron McCrea**, 2-23, email exchange with then *Cap Times* city editor regarding the proposed naming of the Dane County courthouse after Federal Judge **Robert Warren**.

**Daniel Shea**, 2-17, letter from guy seeking an affidavit from me in connection with some legal case. Purportedly responds to a letter from me that is apparently lost to history, along with any clarity as to what this exchange is about.

**Eugene Parks**, 3-18, letter to the editor from Madison mayoral candidate.

**Patty**, 3-30, handwritten thank you card for coverage of her ordeal.

**Deborah McCant**, 4-10, card of thanks from widow of guy I wrote about who was dragged into court while seriously ill.

**Sue Bauman**, 4-20, letter of apology to mayor for “inappropriate and unprofessional” email blasting her for inaction on Patty’s case.

**Bob McChesney**, 5-17, irate email from local prof regarding my report on *The Progressive’s* firing of long-time art director **Patrick Flynn**. Reply letter 5-17. Followup email from McChesney, 5-21. Reply 5-24. Also, dated 6-4, my scathing reply to McChesney, never sent.

**Barb Karls**, 5-23, angry email from aunt of **Shaina Davenport**, a young girl killed with a gun that had been left in an accessible place. Reply. Additional exchanges 5-27 and 5-31.



**Marilyn Cooper**, 7-12, letter from reader re: story on **Leon Shohet**, a UW researcher sentenced to jail for misconduct. Reply 7-15.

**Jerry V. Smith**, 7-22, email exchange regarding column on free speech involving his prior beef with **Marc Eisen**.

**Gary Storck**, 7-30, effusive email from local medical marijuana advocate re: article on pot prohibition.

**Carmen Clark**, 8-30, thoughtful email assessment of *Isthmus* from summer intern.

**Rhea Ellestad**, 9-30, angry email accusing *Isthmus* of having anti-gambling bias. Indignant reply (“If that were true, there wouldn’t be so many office pools”). Follow-up email from Ellestad 10-11.

**Alexander Cockburn**, 11-4, email exchange with famed leftist writer and *Isthmus* contributor re: my defense of *The Nation*’s **Katha Pollitt**, whom Cockburn had publicly attacked.

**Tag Evers**, 12-20, email exchange with writer working on a piece about **Gov. Jim Doyle**.

## 2000

**Sam Day**, 2-14-2000, letter to longtime *Isthmus* contributor declining to use unsolicited piece on the anti-nuclear group Nukewatch.

**Marc Eisen**, 2-17, email exchange re: possibility of book anthologizing material from the first 25 years of *Isthmus*.

**Tag Evers**, 2-21, email exchange regarding his contributions to *Isthmus*.

**Marc Eisen**, 2-22, email exchange regarding the refusal of attorney **Brady Williamson**, the subject of my cover-length profile, to agree to have his photo appear on the cover.

**Todd Robert Murphy**, 3-21, letter from PR guy praising my story on state Supreme Court race.

**Adrian Lomax**, 4-19, letter to inmate writer re: a call I received from Supreme Court Justice **David Prosser** re: a published letter to the editor from Lomax.

**Maureen**, 4-18, card of thanks from writer, last name forgotten, for help on an article.

**Bennett Stark**, 4-23, letter to the editor offering praise for my coverage of DA's office. Reply 4-24.

**Dennis Burke**, 5-18, letter to the editor from a state public defender in response to critical article. Also, my 5-22 reply: "Did you intend your letter to the editor to have a point? If so, you neglected to include it. Just an oversight on your part, I'm sure."

**Adrian Lomax**, 5-4, letter from on various issues.

**Poynter Institute**, 7-28, application to attend upcoming seminar. [I was accepted.]

**Adrian Lomax**, 8-4, letter from prisoner-writer regarding my article on the state's superman prison [anthologized in *Watchdog*].

**Brian Clark**, supermax inmate, undated letter re: supermax article.

**Mary White**, 9-8, letter of thanks for supermax article.

**Edward Kennedy**, 9-26, email exchange with subject of news story.

**Brett Hulse**, 9-29, letter to re: **Al Gore** and **Alex Cockburn**.

**Tag Evers**. 10-10, email exchange re: the use of his article by the campaign of **Gov. Jim Doyle**.

**Eunice Gibson**, Madison city attorney, 9-27, positive email exchange the announcement of her intention to retire.

**Isthmus Newsletter** for 10-20; internal office newsletter.

**Matt Olson**, updated, email to writer filling in for staff writer **Melanie Conklin** about his proposed lead column item.

**Jerry Smith**, 11-14, letter to chair of the Wisconsin Parole Commission re: Adrian Lomax, urging that he be granted parole. Letter of thanks from Lomax, 11-6 that includes a copy of Lomax's letter to **Joel McNally** of the *Shepherd Express*.

**Jeffrey C. LaMar**, 11-12, critical letter to the editor re: column item on use of police surveillance cameras.

**Adrian Lomax**, 11-23, letter from re: disciplinary issue involving Lomax. Reply of 11-26 includes "to whom it may concern letter" from me re: same. Also 12-1 letter from Lomax re: disciplinary hearing in which he was found guilty as charged. Also my 12-18 letter to Lomax in reply. And Lomax's 12-25 letter in reply.

**Steve Holmes**, 12-14, letter to guy at *The New York Times* forwarding copy of my cover story on Steve and Jenny Braunginn that was inspired by *NYT's* series on race and Poynter Institute training.

**Dave Prosser**, undated, thank you card from state Supreme Court justice for "your balanced coverage" of "Hughes" case in 4-14 issue of *Isthmus*: "I appreciate that you took my concerns seriously and followed up. The column present the case in quite a different light from the letter that was published."

## 2001

**Jerry Smith**, 1-1-2001, another letter to chair of Wis. Parole Commission in support of inmate **Adrian Lomax**.

**Charles Anderson**, 2-14, letter from Appleton resident regarding superman story from the fall of 2000. Reply letter of 2-20 explains that it is too late to run.

**Antler**, 2-14, note from Milwaukee poet that accompanied a review copy of his new book.

**Michael Walker**, 2-26, email from unhappy writer of rejected piece on criminal justice system in Wisconsin.

**Adrian Lomax**, 3-1, 19-page typewriter letter on various issues, concluding with "That's all I have to say right now."

**John R. Salmon**, 3-4, letter from state prison inmate re: piece on police undercover op at Jocko's bar.

**Mike Neuman**, 3-23, email from reader angered by **Alexander Cockburn** column questioning the validity of the science on climate change. Also my same-day reply expressing my agreement with his position but support for Cockburn's right to be wrong. Also further back and forth.

**Erik Breilid**, 3-25, letter from guy who wanted us to write about an issue, in apparent response to a letter declining to do so.

**Adrian Lomax**, 3-29, short letter re: various items. Also 4-11, short letter re: various items. Also a 5-27 short letter re: various items.

**Ann Marie Cusac**, associate editor, *The Progressive*, undated card of thanks for column on Sam Day, and remarks at his memorial service. Day died in January 2001.

**Erik Breilid**, 4-26, letter from guy who sent letter to the editor, questioning why something in it was cut. Reply 5-3.

**Marc Eisen**, 5-3, email exchange re: book reviews in *Isthmus*.

**Critique**, undated, unidentified and not clearly remembered, re: my strengths and weaknesses. Possible from **Bruce Shapiro**, a journalist we hired as an adviser.

**Rosemary Zulo-Cuva**, undated, thank you card re: office tour by group of kids.

**Adrian Lomax**, 7-10, letter re: published piece. Reply 7-13.

**Ryan Blakeslee**, 7-20, email exchange with researcher who inquired about marijuana laws and enforcement.

**Don Schultz**, 7-22, email from subject of story re: quarreling neighbors that eventually led to criminal charges being brought against his neighbor-tormentor.

**God, Mrs Ca-Key**, 8-18, insane letter reader warning that *Isthmus* staff is “headed for HELL.”

**Anonymous** letter, 8-29, passing on tips (dirt regarding) *State Journal* editor **Frank Denton**.

**Jon E. Smith**, 9-13, handwritten letter of appreciation from a guy who met the subject of my story about a crooked dating service and ended up in a romantic relationship with her.

**Tag Evers**, 9-20, email exchange with writer/friend re: the attacks of 9/11. Follow-up 9-21.

**James Herried**, undated, horrifically harsh undated bromide re: **Marc Eisen**'s report about having been touring the White House during the 9-11 attacks.

**Gaye Stantis**, 10-19, email exchange with guy upset with an article suggesting racism on the part of a radio shock jock who misidentified a Hmong candidate for office as Vietnamese.

**Brian Howell**, 11-8, letter to the editor of *Madison Magazine* complaining that its write-up for including me in a list of 50 prominent Madisonians was “primarily a put-down.”

**Stuart Levitan**, 11-9, email exchange re: his spat with Isthmus over being a contributor. It's complicated.

**Adrian Lomax**, 10-24, letter re: my recent columns on supermax and terrorism.

**Isthmus Newsletter**, 11-20, internal office newsletter.

**Adrian Lomax**, 12-19, letter regarding his release from prison on work release.

## 2002

**Adrian Lomax**, 1-8-2002, letter to now-former prisoner and longtime contributor and correspondent.

**The Nation**, letter to the editor, 2-5, regarding its article in which someone named **Burt Neuborne** claimed to play a significant role in *The Progressive's* H-bomb case, unknown to those who actually did. Reply from **Katrina Vanden Heuval**, 2-15. Response to Vanden Heuval, 2-19. My letter to *The Nation* challenging Neuborne's claims was never published.

**Adrian Lomax**, 3-17, letter regarding his ongoing situation.

**James Nikora**, 8-4, letter to supervisor of police property room regarding claims made to him, and by him to me, that I expressed concern police might steal some money that I found on the street and turned in as lost, a complete fabrication.

**Joe M.** [last name unclear, 8-5, card of thanks for *Isthmus* article.

**David Tenenbaum**, 9-11, e-mailed letter to the editor from *Isthmus* contributor and personal friend regarding my raising a concern about the use of the herbicide Roundup in city parks. Reply same day.

**Eunice Gibson**, 8-28, letter of thanks for column on **Brian Blanchard** and the caucus investigation. Reply 10-1.

**Ken McGrew**, 10-10, email exchange with noted local cop critic; blistering reply: "I think Ken McGrew needs to McGrow up." Response from McGrew 10-11; reply to that.

**Gillin Nevers**, undated email sent to him in response to his letter to the editor, not in correspondence file.

**Unnamed person** with UW faculty email address, undated, email exchange re: Dane County Assistant DA **John Burr**.

**John "Sly" Sylvester**, undated, heated email to radio talk show host over his comments about me in connection to a column regarding firearms and the D.C. Sniper.

**Letter to the Editor** to the *Shepherd Express*, 11-8, regarding that paper's spat with *Milwaukee Magazine*.

**Kenneth Hitzke**, 11-20, letter from a person who had come forward with a concern about the DMV and a letter he wrote on smoking in the schools.

**Mike Carey**, 11-18, brief note of thanks for story.

**Letter to the Editor** sent to *Wis. State Journal*, 12-10, re: the one good thing about the death penalty: It forces additional review of shaky convictions.

**Brad Clark**, undated, email to head of Madison City Channel in response to his letter to the editor. Deals with whether **Mayor Bauman** got me booted from appearing on a channel show.



## 2003

**Charlie Sykes**, 1-7-2003, email from writer taking the GOP line about caucus scandal target **Scott Jensen**. Also, my same-day reply.

**Richard Rathmann**, 2-2, letter from a guy quarreling with my reasons for not wanting to write his court case. No reply on file.

**Sarah Sundquist**, 3-24, email from a woman claiming that a "Watchdog" column item defamed her husband, the president of Shorewood Hills. Reply same day.

Packet of letters, dated 3-25 to 4-15, from **Sandra George** of the Wis. Newspaper Ass., **Jeff Hovind** of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (I didn't become president until 2004), attorney **James Friedman**, and UW academic **Pamela E. Oliver** sent to **J. Denis Moran**, the acting director of state courts, taking issue with a proposal to remove information on race from the state's online court records system. The change was never implemented.

**Richard Marie Commander**, 4-18, email from a reader questioning why I did not post police reports online re: the death of a young man, **Jamal Mohamed**, in police custody, in my coverage of this issue. Reply same day explains that reason had to do with the volume of reports.

**Adrian Lomax**, 4-20, letter from *Isthmus* contributor regarding article on the Mohamed case.

**Jay Leno**, 5-12, letter to late-night comic's show suggesting an item for his "Headlines" feature. The issue is that a reference to a lawsuit appears to be a reference to an item-of-clothing "suit."

**Newsweek**, undated, letter to the editor re: its coverage of the story-fabrication scandal involving reporter **Jason Blair**.

**Pam Tauscher**, undated, letter from spokesperson of the Madison Dept. of Public Health, lightly objecting to tone of column item. Also my undated reply.

**Lisa McGinnis**, 8-6, letter of thanks for covering her concerns about downtown traffic.

**Paul Buhle**, 9-9, email exchange with local historian re: the ownership of the *Cap Times* and *State Journal*.

**Daniel Harr**, 9-21, letter from a state prison inmate seeking coverage of his story. Reply 9-24, declining to do so.

**Carole M. Doeppers**, 10-20, letter from local privacy advocate thanking me for taking part in a panel discussion of this topic at the **First Unitarian Society**.

**Julie Hebel**, 11-14, letter to Madison Police Department official regarding requested records that were provided too late, after an item on a matter was published.

**Steve Kokette**, 12-2, letter from a local man with a bizarre offer to “pay you to be interviewed for a movie on corruption I’m doing about Madison and Wisconsin.” No reply.

**Merry Hunter**, 12-30, card of thanks for “kind mentions” of her husband, legendary reporter **John Patrick Hunter**, who had just passed away.

## 2004

**David Krier**, undated, business card sent along with a newspaper clipping from the *Boscobel Dial* newspaper in response to 2003 Cheap Shot award.

**Adrian Lomax**, 2-13, letter of praise for article on casino visit (anthologized in my book *Watchdog*).

**Maria Krueger**, undated, email to Dane County judge giving her a “heads up” that her arrest for drunken driving would be mentioned in an *Isthmus* news item.

**Mike Achbar**, 4-8, email from a guy involved in a local screening of the movie *The Corporation* that I introduced. Same day reply.

**Brian Blanchard**, 4-9, email to Dane County District Attorney forwarding an email exchange I had with a reader (named redacted on forwarded emails) who took issue with my positive mention of Blanchard.

**Audrey Edmunds**, 6-4, letter of congratulations from wrongfully imprisoned woman re: my Golden Gavel award from the State Bar.

**Peter Rortvedt**, 6-10, letter of thanks from son of the recently departed **Art Rortvedt**, a local mechanic whom I wrote about on two occasions. The articles were displaced at his memorial and quoted by the minister. Reply, same day. Also see 6-23-1987.

**Ken McGrew**, 6-18, typically hostile email from local police critic. Also my equally hostile reply, ending with: “I think you are a pathological liar, Go away.”

**Rosemary Zurlo-Cuva**, 7-2, email from reader (and friend) of thanks for latest column.

**Illegible hand-written name**, 7-6. Letter from Portage prison forwarded from mother. I believe this may be a guy who was permanently disfigured after being maced at a private out-of-state prison, whose case I wrote about.

**Noble Wray**, 8-31, letter to acting chief of police explaining reasoning behind a records request involving an issue I decided not to write about because it was more of a personal issue than one of public import.

**Steve Pomplun**, 9-9, email of enthusiastic praise from a reader. Reply of some relevance to this archiving project: "Wow, this is one of the best compliments I've ever gotten. I'm making a print out and putting it in a folder I'm saving for when I'm in the Home, with pee stains on my underwear."

**Keith Schmitz**, 9-10, email from reader regarding phrasing of statement in item on tax policy. Positive reply.

**Lisa Plotz**, 9-16, email exchange with reader re: column on presidential election, and whether President Bush had attended funerals of fallen soldiers.

**Mariah Straunch-Nelson**, 9-17, thank you note from International Institute of Wisconsin for visit with visiting delegation from Russia.

**Enis Ragland**, 10-4, card of thanks from Madison affirmative action officer for article.

**Bush's Brain speech**, 10-7, copy of my prepared remarks at screening of the film *Bush's Brain* (about Karl Rove).

**WNA Bulletin**, 10-13-04, copy of newsletter from the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, with an article noting my new role as president (formerly vice president) of the Wis. Freedom of Information Council.

**John Fennell**, undated, email to editor of *Milwaukee Magazine* declining his request that I write a story regarding the military: "I'm not saying this is a bad story to do, just that I've not the right person to do it."

**Wisconsin Newspaper Association**, 11-29, letter nominating Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager for a WNA Badger Award.

**Marilyn Dethorne**, undated Christmas card from appreciative reader.

**Blaire Skinner**, 12-17, critical email regarding my coverage of the use of dogs in UW research. Strongly worded reply noting that he chastised for things I never said.

## 2005

**Marc Eisen**, 1-5-2005, email exchange with *Isthmus* editor re: his discomfort with my inclination to respond in print to critical letters, rather than letting readers have the last word.

**Nick Spinelli**, 1-28, email from reader remarking negatively on the “outpouring of appreciation” for my article on the use of dogs in research. Also my reply to Spinella and a bit more back and forth.

**Jordana Lenon**, 1-31, email from spokesperson for UW’s primate lab noting that many of the letter writers expressing support for my article on dog research are known animal rights supporters who failed to offer alternatives. Also my reply.

**Brian Blanchard**, 3-1, email from Dane County District Attorney taking me to task for reporting on pre-trial motions in the case of **Gordon Sussman**, charged with child sexual abuse. Reply defending coverage decisions. Followup email from Marc Eisen backing my position, forwarded to Blanchard. Terse Blanchard reply. Final response from me: “Can we maybe take a step back and ease off on the level of accusation and conflict?”

**Thomas Reisman**, 3-1, letter to a state prison inmate declining to pursue a news tip due to lack of resources.

**Bob Worth**, 3-3, letter to Wisconsin state senator thanking him for book recommendation and passing on *Isthmus* article.

**Roger Allen**, undated, email to assistant city attorney declining his request that I share emails I received from anti-tobacco activist **Ira Sharenow**.

**Wisconsin State Journal**, copy of my 3-23 published responding to a letter from **Laurene Bach**, re: the burden of having to deal with open records requests.

**Terry Lee Tansey**, 4-18, story tip from resident of Romnes Apartments. Reply 4-25, declining to pursue.

**Wisconsin state legislators**, 4-29, letter to them all forwarding a list of Open Government Problem Areas.

**Wisconsin State Journal** (presumed, could be Cap Times) 4-3, copy of my guest column responding to published column from UW researcher **Eric Sangren**. It challenges his claims of openness regarding UW animal research.

**Janesville Gazette**, 6-5, copy of article in the in which I am quoted. Note: This article includes a parenthetical that explains the pronunciation of my name (“leaders”), which I do not recall anyone doing before or since.

**Emily J** [last name unclear], 6-1, letter of thanks from Madison Rotary, 6-1 for giving a Rotary talk.

**Gaeme Zielinski**, 6-16, email exchange with political operative complaining about my coverage of an incident involving a police officer to whom he is related and a young black man who worked at *Isthmus*. Zielinski argues that police in other places are much worse than the ones here. Exchange includes my sassy 6-16 rejoinder: “Yeah, I guess seeing how brutal cops are in other places would make it easier for all of us to not object to the mistreatment of a young black man for no good reason. Thanks for the insight.”

**Copy of speech** given in Edmonton, Canada, 7-10. While receiving a Golden Quill award for best column of 2004 from the **International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors**.

**James Emery**, 7-17, letter from guy unhappy with the **Madison Police Department’s** investigation of his complaint against a cop, seeking coverage of the same.

**The Capital Times**, 8-1, copy of article in which I am quoted.

**Forest Shomberg**, 10-4, letter to a state prison inmate with a credible claim of wrongful conviction, awaiting a state Supreme Court ruling on his case. Shomberg’s conviction was later overturned and he was freed, but he went on to commit suicide.

**Roger Vander Logt**, 12-11, letter from a state prison inmate arguing that the names of people who obtain concealed carry permits should be kept secret. This is what happened, over the objections of the Wis. Freedom of Information Council.

## 2006

Note for posterity: I have no idea why my folder contains no materials for January and February.

**Wisconsin Newspaper Association newsletter**, 3-7-2006, printout copy of article about a song I wrote and Peter Leidy recorded called “The Open Records Blues.”

**David Blaska**, 3-25, email exchange with *Cap Times* writer over things each of us said about the other in print. My last word: “Rest assured that I will never again make the mistake of assuming you have a sense of humor.”

**Jessica McBride**, 4-2, printout of article from “Media Matters” blogger about my efforts to get records from Dane County District Attorney **Brian Blanchard** that she had wondered about. It begins, “I like Bill Lueders. I say that without sarcasm. I think his columns are funny and thought-provoking, and he thinks outside the box.”

**Badger Herald**, 4-7, printout of article in UW-Madison student paper about my song, “The Open Records Blues.”

**Daniel Bach**, 4-24, email exchange with deputy Attorney General regarding a dispute over the office’s performance on open records.

**Nathan Comp**, undated, email to prosecutive (later prolific) freelancer who asked me for “tips in tightening up my writing.” I told him how I prowl through stories, looking for things to cut.

**Mario Mendoza**, 4-26, letter from a mayoral aide and chair of a committee charged with picking a city song, acknowledging my submission. The actual song and lyrics, which were not selected, may be lost to history. But I did at one point perform it in public with **Mayor Dave Cieslewicz** providing back-up vocals. Wait, here’s a lyric I remember: “Oh, Madison, you’re beautiful / you’re cheery, not dreary with blight / And if you ain’t got no Eiffel Tower / At least you have State Street at night.”

**Bob Williams**, 7-20, letter from now-former *Isthmus* columnist to former **Gov. Lee Sherman Dreyfus**, mentioning a piece I wrote that included an interview with Dreyfus. (It was “Wisconsin’s Ethical Crisis,” included in *Watchdog*.)

**Marc Eisen**, 9-12, 9-13, testy email exchange with *Isthmus* editor over letters policy.

**Tommye Schneider**, 9-22, email exchange with city of Madison official who complained about a fact being left out of a story written by staff writer **Vikki Kratz**. Key line: “[W]e stand by the story and the way this was phrased.”

**Amy Kerwin**, undated, thank you card from former UW-Madison animal researcher who started a group to retire former research monkeys, about some coverage *Isthmus* provided. Kerwin succeeded with her dream in 2017. I wrote an *Isthmus* cover story about it called “[Life After the Lab](#),” published 7-6-2017.

**John Nichols**, undated, email to *Cap Times* writer praising his book *The Genius of Impeachment*.



## 2007

**Tara Nicaj**, undated, email to producer of Fox News' show "Hannity and Colmes," suggesting it cover a story reported in *Isthmus* by **Jason Shepard**. The email notes that I [was on the program](#) a month earlier with **Patty** talking about my book *Cry Rape*.

**Ed Stattmann**, 2-12-2007, letter from guy in Indianapolis I helped with a records access issue, thanking him for his note thanking me and praising my book *Cry Rape*, which he has read. Also Stattmann's letter of 2-9. He also sent a contribution for the provided help.

**Bob Popper**, 2-22, email exchange with a writer who penned a story bemoaning the harm caused by easy Internet access to records about criminal convictions.

**Peg Lautenschlager**, undated, card from Wisconsin attorney general thanking me for the award bestowed on her by the **Wis. Freedom of Information Council**.

**Associated Press**, 5-18, clipping of article about story reported in *Isthmus* and Gov. Jim Doyle's reaction to it. The story, which I wrote, was about a state employee, **Georgia Thompson**, strung up on trumped-up charges that were ultimately dismissed.

**Catheryn Fath**, 6-4, email to the *Isthmus* art director (with cc to **Marc Eisen** and **Ellen Meany**, regarding an not-atypical goof up. Also Fath's email to me that set it off.

**Cheri Maples**, 7-30, email from former Madison police official regarding a piece I wrote about a Madison police shooting. Also my reply, suggesting we get together to take our dogs for a walk. This did occur. Maples later died, about a year after a devastating bike accident.

**Marc Eisen**, 8-1, email exchange regarding my work performance, which he says is 97% good and the rest of the time "highly destructive to the well-being of this place." Ouch.

**Patricia McNaughton**, 9-4, email exchange with a reader regarding a letter to the editor. McNaughton, who had lost family members due when a police officer in pursuit of a suspect crashed into their car. She had submitted a too-long letter and I trimmed it down and shared it back. The exchange concludes with me advising **McNaughton** to let go of the hurt if she could

**Capital Times**, 8-21, clip of published letter to the editor regarding a letter it had run by a 9/11 denier named **Kevin Barrett**, complaining that *Isthmus* and the *Cap Times* had not taken his ravings seriously. I noted that Barrett had harassed an *Isthmus* freelancer [**Nathan Comp**] over a story in 2006.

**Quill**, September 2007, copy of article in national journalism magazine in which I am quoted.

**Mark Lynde**, 10-24, email exchange with journalism student who asked to interview me and then wrote an email filled with errors, for which I took him to task. His reply: "It is now clear to me why you are stuck in Madison of all places working for a an [sic] unknown publication. You clearly know nothing of upward mobility so it would be pointless to wish you luck in life you miserable piece of shit. Wondering who the fuck you think you are." After a few more emails, we worked it out.

**Ellen Meany**, 11-15, email exchange with *Isthmus* production manager over the deadline for a story, about my "harvesting" a Thanksgiving turkey. The piece, included in *Watchdog*, ran under the headline I wanted. "To Kill a Turkey."

**Dawn Kubly**, undated, card from local animal rights activist praising my turkey story.

**Debra Amesqua**, 11-21, card from Madison's Fire Chief declaring: "Your Thanksgiving story was a hoot!"

**Dave Cieslewicz**, 12-11, email exchange with mayor of Madison saying his response to a public official, which I called him out on, was "probably more snarky than it needed to be."

**Farley Mowat**, 10-5, letter from the famed Canadian writer in response to a piece I had written on his work, suggesting a book of his I hadn't yet read. "[M]any thanks," he wrote. "It makes an old fart like me feel good." The piece I wrote, "Farley and Me," is included in *Watchdog*.

## 2008

**Karen Cossley**, 1-2-2008, thank you card from the director of the **Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission** for mentioning its calendar in my "Watchdog" column for 12-14-07.

**Steve Kokette**, 1-17, letter from guy who uses letterhead "aylmer press" harshly attacking local performer **Ken Lonquist**, to whom the letter is addressed. He's the same guy who offered to pay me for appearing in his movie on corruption; see 12-2-2003

**Rick Volland**, 2-15, letter from a guy thanking me for an article I wrote about a historical marker on State Street.

**Marj Passman**, 3-27, email from the Madison school board member to *Isthmus* reporter **Jason Shepard** harshly criticizing a piece he wrote about the upcoming school board race. Including: "Your writings may be momentarily amusing for the negative and disengaged few but they have no lasting value of contribution to anyone." Also my same-dal reply to Passman: "You have only yourself to blame for coming across looking bad."

**Randy Gaber**, undated, email to a Madison police official who had complained that the story I was working on about how he sold homes to several other officers was nobody's business but his own. I told him that while I thought this was "a fair issue to investigate and report," I had decided not to publish it.

**Jason Joyce**, undated, email to an *Isthmus* colleague about a dispute we had and words that were exchanged as the paper prepared to cope with Marc Eisen's departure.

**Sara Naatz**, 7-29, 7-30, heated email with a reader who took offense to an item I had written about the **Dane County Humane Society**. Ended badly.

**Kathleen Day**, 8-5, letter from Sam's wife thanking me for my writing, including my recent piece on Eric Hainstock, the kid who killed his high school principal ("Free At Last," included in *Watchdog*). My 8-11 reply that ends: "I miss Sam and Ervin, I wish they were here to argue with each other and everyone else."

**Dawn Kubly**, undated, card from local animal rights activist noting my selection as “Favorite Reporter” by *Isthmus* readers.

**Robert Dinndorf**, 9-3, letter from president of the Madison Rotary Club thanking me for giving a “presentation.”

**Dave Cieslewicz**, undated, email from mayor about watching my Rotary speech.

**Madison Rotary**, 9-3, text of speech to Madison Rotary, titled “Why Newspapers Still Matter.”

**Eat Sleep Publish**, 9-12, printout of interview of me by **Jason Preston** for this website, regarding my “killer speech” to the Rotary.

**International Center for Journalists**, 10-23, letter from Washington, D.C.- based group thanking me for hosting a visiting delegation of Russian journalists.

**Sheila Stubbs**, 9-2, email exchange relating complaints by Dane County supervisor over a report by **Vikki Kratz**. Includes reply from **Vince**, who is pissed off that I brought him into the situation as Stubbs’ request.

**PAVE**, undated, card from local activist group thanking me for giving a talk about sexual assault, ala my reporting in the Patty case.

**Deborah Blum**, 11-20, card from Pulitzer Prize winning UW-Madison journalism professor thanking me for talking to her students at the “Journalism & Democracy” forum.

**Patricia Fero**, 12-3, email exchange with a woman following up on a story I had written about her mother, who had been thrown out of her nursing home, including news of her death.

**Gerald Lynch**, 12-15, letter to a state prisoner who wrote asking for me help with his situation; I explained that I could not.

## 2009

**Dave Cieslewicz**, 1-22-2009, email exchange with former mayor-turned-*Isthmus* columnist regarding the departure of **Vikki Kratz** (who left to become a grade school teacher) and other matters.

**Dave Cieslewicz**, 1-31, email exchange with mayor in which he asks me to critique a piece of his writing, which I do, mostly to say I do not think it was successful.

**John L. Gann Jr.**, 2-9, email exchange with a writer who complimented me on my article about animal-welfare activist **Karen Dawn**, which led to say I was still sorry his last piece stirred a disagreement over editing and never ran. That causes him to get his back up and for me to inform him that he is “full of crap.”

**Jeff Schimpff**, 2-10, email exchange with a bicycle enthusiast who calls auto drivers “a pack of cowards,” prompting me to tell him off: “It’s okay for bicyclists to go around thinking they’re superior—I do, when I’m on my bike. But to assert it as a fact just makes you look like a fool.” Also some additional back-and-forth with other bikers, including my defense of an article they criticized that was written by the *State Journal*’s **Chris Rickert**.

**DawnWatch**, 2-9, printout of email newsletter that talks about the article I wrote on national animal rights activist.

*Newsweek*, 2-5, letter to the editor to national news magazine grouching about the interview it ran by **Fareed Zkaria** with **Danny Boyle**, the director of *Slumdog Millionaire*, which I hated. The letter never ran.

**Jacquelin Sutton**, 3-1, letter of recommendation for a UW-Madison journalism student who wrote two pieces for *Isthmus*, one of which won a Golden Gavel award from the State Bar.

**Seamus Flaherty**, 3-13, email from the senior advisor to the campaign of avowedly conservative state Supreme Court contender **Randy Koschnick** complimenting my article on the race.

**Randy Koschnick**, 3-22, card from Supreme Court contender (who didn’t win but who is not director of state Courts, thanking me for my article: “In my opinion, it’s the best article to be written on this race.”

**Rick Bogle**, 3-19, email exchange with local animal-rights activist who was upset that a story about UW-Madison scientist **Richard Davidson** did not mention his use of animals in research. I urged Bogle to write a letter to the editor.

**Kurt Gutknecht**, 3-25, email exchange with reader who had his own email exchange with **Mark Jayne Vivian**, a candidate for Fitchburg mayor, whom I had written about when he tried to link his opponent to terrorism. Vivian raised what I considered a “deceptive” objection to my reporting.

**Carolyn Fath**, 4-2, email to art director apologizing for my initial negative reaction to an art decision, including a note from *Isthmus* editor **Dean Robbins** calling my note “perfect.”

**Dave Cieslewicz**, 4-9, email exchange with mayor responding to his published column about the spring election. Also, Cielewicz’s reply.

**Madison Community Foundation**, undated, thank you card for article on group.

**James Q. Jacobs**, 5-1, email exchange with guy regarding some alleged malfeasance involving Karl Rove. My closing line: “I . . . get the sense from these emails that you are a nut. Please stop writing me.”

**Brian Locke**, 5-21, handwritten letter from a state prisoner urging me to investigate various matters; also my 6-1 declining to do so. Letter to him was returned to me as undeliverable.

**Chuck Romslad**, 5-21, handwritten note from a fan of my article on the Primate Center, presumably “My Monkey,” included in *Watchdog*.

**John Rublein**, 6-5, letter from a reader criticizing my article on animal research; also my same-day reply.

**Greg Conniff**, 6-5, email exchange with letter writer who objected to the editing of his letter, pledging not to read *Isthmus* again.

**Mary Burke**, 6-5, card from assistant attorney general (not the Mary Burke who ran for governor) thanking me for kind words about the AG’s office, in a Your Right to Know column for the **Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council**.

**Dan Schilling**, 6-12, email from a guy I wrote about calling someone I quoted complaining about him “a silly woman.”

**Brian Blanchard**, 7-24, email exchange with Dane County district attorney. He accuses me of cynicism in my assessment of the justice system and I own up to it, telling him I regularly refuse to write stories about people facing charges for fear that it will make things worse for them.

**Carol Andrews**, 8-18, email exchange with scheduler in governor's office about difficulties getting through to the communications office.

**Piers and Jenny McBride**, 10-13, email from a visiting couple from England who I met while covering a trial of a man with a plausible claim of actual innocence. I had sent them a copy of what I had written.

**Dave Cieslewicz**, 12-17, email exchange with mayor thanking me for the walking stick I gave him as a gift. Also 12-23 email exchange regarding a card I had sent him.

**Sally Franson**, 11-23, letter of recommendation to Barnard College for contributing writer who had written a couple of especially good pieces.

**Mike Bachhuber**, 12-24, praiseful email from the reader of a piece I had written about **Forest Shomberg**, a guy in prison for a sexual assault that it was later shown he did not commit. He was released but ended up taking his own life. Also my reply: "This is one of the nicest notes I've ever gotten."

## 2010

**Henry Spelta**, 1-8-2010, thank you note from a guy whose son I had spoken to, presumably about a journalism career.

**David A. Hammond**, 2-20, email exchange with a guy unhappy with how his letter to the editor had been edited. My reply: "I'm sorry you did not approve of the editing, It is similar to the editing done on every letter we receive."

**Ronald Witt**, 3-23, email exchange with a reader you didn't like that I said something nice about local television journalists. He refers to himself as "a superstar athlete and academic genius" who had no choice but to respond hostilely. My reply: "I guess I owe you an apology. I didn't realize you were "a superstar athlete and academic genius" who only wages malicious attacks on the intelligence and professionalism of others because he's right. My bad. I mistook you for a pompous ass. Whatever waa I thinking?"

**Press release**, insanely undated, on my selection to receive a Genesis Award from the **Humane Society of the United States** for my reporting on animal issues.

**J.B. Van Hollen**, 3-30, letter from Wisconsin attorney general offering congratulations on the Genesis Award.

**Amy Kerwin**, undated, card from local primate activist regarding my selection as the winner of a Genesis Award.

**Heart of Journalism Award**, undated but from mid-February, text from the local Alliance for Animals is presenting me with an award for reporting on issues affecting animals.

**Dawn Kubly**, undated but in response to an event in mid-February, card from local animal rights activist regarding the Heart of Journalism Award.

**Matthew Scully**, undated, email to the author of the great book *Dominion*, who I had met while receiving a Genesis Award in Beverly Hills for my reporting on animal issues. Scully had been a speechwriter for H.W. Bush.

**Tim Damos**, 7-16, email exchange with reporter at the *Baraboo News Republic*, offering solicited career advice.



**David Blaska**, 8-10, email exchange with conservative local commentator, telling me that “you and **John Nichols** are the two leading journalists in this town,” over his columns on *Isthmus*’ website, then TheDailyPage.com.

**Noem Radomski**, 8-13, email exchange with local alderperson over the paper letting **Dave Cieslewicz** write a column. I explain how and why I asked the mayor to write it. Also referenced: writer **Jack Craver**. Radomski responds by launching into various ruminations and then writing, If I were a real politician I wouldn’t send this to you. My reply: “I agree. Only a person unfit to hold office would send an email as foolish as this.”

**Eric Tripke**, 8-23, email exchange initiated by Madison Police Sergeant with whom I had done a ride-along (my first and only), ticketing drivers for ignoring pedestrian rights rules, after he had heard me on the radio.

**Ryan J. Foley**, 10-1, group email from an excellent local Associated Press reporter that he was leaving to take a job with the AP in Iowa, where he remains today. My reply: “[Y]ou, more than any journalist I know, has what it takes to make it anywhere.”

**Joyce Aasen**, 10-12, email letter thanking me for talking to her class, along with a packet of individual typed letters from her students.

**Pat Christianson**, undated but late 2010, letter to a reader who essentially blamed *Isthmus* for Russ Feingold’s defeat as a U.S. Senator. Expresses regret that he or she does not want the letter that this responds to published. Also, undated response from Christianson received in 2011, after the publication of my article, “Walker’s War.”

## 2011

**David Nordstrom**, 1-16, 2011 (incorrectly written as “Jan. 16, 2001”), card from a reader who found my putdown of a public figure objectionable. Also my letter of reply, in which I agreed with the need for civility but explained that I was “confronted with an individual who was uncivil to the point of being abusive.”

**Zack Ploszay**, 1-24, email exchange with reader who “cannot believe you give David Blacks a forum to spread his dishonest, ugly, misinformed ‘opinions.’” My reply: “Sorry to have offended you. Would you be available in the future to review as copy prior to publication to screen out points of view you think we should not let be heard?”

**State Bar of Wisconsin**, 1-28, letter informing me that I had won a Golden Gavel award.

**Annie Laurie Gaylor**, undated, letter from co-president of Freedom From Religion Foundation thanking me for including her in my “35 for 35” feature of the 35 most significant Madisonians of the past 35 years, which ran in *Isthmus*' 35th anniversary issue.

**35 for 35**, 4-8, printout of story.

**Alliance for Animals**, undated, card from group congratulating me on winning a second Genesis Award.

**Larry Kaufmann**, 4-18, email exchange with a contributing writer over a comment he posted on a column item I had written about **Judge Maryann Sumi**. We worked it out.

**Wisconsin Watchdog Awards**, 4-20, text of speech delivered at annual Watchdog Awards dinner.

**Madison Rotary**, 5-4, text of speech given at Madison Rotary. Also, 5-4 letter from Rotary president **Juli Aulik**, thanking me for the talk.

**Jeff Waksman**, 4-27, email exchange with spokesperson for the Dane County Republican Party. I had asked why a press release that was sent was not online, to make sure it was for real. Continues 5-5 with an email from Waksman tossing out an allegation about *Isthmus* “lying” about what the party has to say. My reply: “Wow. I’m going to print this out and put it on my bulletin board.”

I left *Isthmus* in June 2011.

## Miscellaneous

This folder contains various items of interest I kept but did not stash away in my “correspondence” files.

**Soglin photo**, April 1989, newspaper clipping of front page photo in *Wisconsin State Journal* in which my face can be seen just next to the smiling face of **Sara Soglin**, wife of the newly elected mayor, **Paul Soglin**

**Daily Cardinal**, 10-5, newspaper clipping of story I wrote for the campus paper, on applying for a PR job at the UW-Madison. Also, photo of a coffee mug created by the UW News Service bearing words I used during the interview, calling it “A cut above the Mafia.”

**John Keleher**, 4-2-1990, letter from a guy to *Cap Times* editor **Dave Zweifel** complimenting my reporting.

**Jesse Lueders**, undated, copy of my son’s first published piece, an article about a dinosaur exhibit at the **Madison Children’s Museum**.

**In These Times**, 11-7-1990, printout of a book review I wrote for the lefty publication about **Sam Day**’s “Crossing the Line.” ITT promised \$150 but never paid me for it.

**Freedom From Religion Foundation**, October 1991, copy of article I wrote called “Religion and the Left” for *Freethought Today*.

**Makeshift poster**, undated, copy of a piece of paper left posted to *Isthmus*’ front door, asking “So what’s up BILL’S BUTT?” with an attached column item I wrote on an anti-gay harassment campaign involving **University Bookstore**.

**Anonymous note**, 12-19-1991, phone message note of “State of Wisconsin” stationary pointing out that my item on what I called “the lead sentence” of a story in Madison Metro publication was actually two sentences. Item included, with note: “I numbered ‘em for ya, douchebag.”

**Worst lead ever**, 5-10, 1988, printouts of two submitted pieces of writing from UW-Madison journalism student looking to write for *Isthmus*. The lead sentence of one of them: “One drink now and then one for later may seem harmless. But for an alcoholic and his or her family, life may just drag on without seeking outside help.”

**Address/Phone No.**, printout of my list of addresses and phone numbers, marked with changes and editions. When there were so many as to make it hard to use, I would update the info and print a new list.

## **Walker's War**

This folder contains materials collected in 2011 regarding *Isthmus'* coverage of the protests over Walker's proposed plans to cut school funding and kneecap public employee unions.

**Protest reporting**, 2-13, to 3-24, 97-page printout of my coverage of the Wisconsin Uprising.

**More articles**, March to June, additional coverage not in above packet. Includes article written for the website *Politicus USA* and email exchange with an editor there.

**"Walker's War,"** 2-25, printout of my cover story on the protests.

**GOV Press**, 3-11, printout of the official Walker press release after the signing of the budget repair bill, which would become known as Act 10, with the misspelled headline and subject line: "Budget Repair Bill Singing Ceremony Announced."

**Michael Moore**, 3-6, printout of web post from famed rabble rouser on Madison protests.

### **Emails and letters in response to coverage:**

**Robert Olson**, 2-23, to "Walker's War," from former assistant city attorney: "It's brilliant!"

**Steve@ammobelt**, 2-25, response to "Walker's War": "This latest piece you've written has to be the most uninformed and naive piece of propaganda you've ever written."

**Jen Poyant**, 2-24, from producer of New York City radio show I appeared on.

**Mark Pitsch**, 2-22, letter from *State Journal* assistant city editor in response to my criticism of his paper's coverage. My undated letter of reply. Also 2-25 email exchange.

**T.L. Benton, Julie Kerr**, 2-22, emails from a *State Journal* reader (Benton) and Madison Alderperson (Kerr) saying they were cancelling their subscriptions to that paper. Also my replies, urging them not to do so. Also exchange on this issue with **John Smalley**, *State Journal* editor.

**Terry Lee Tansey**, 2-27

**Mike Buelow**, 2-28, from AP reporter

**Chris Rickert**, 3-2, exchange on coverage with *State Journal* writer.

**Terry McCoy**, 3-2

**John & Ann**, 3-2

**Daniel Nseuser**, 3-2

**Kathy Cramer Walsh**, 3-3

**Alan Talaga**, 3-8, letter from future *Isthmus* columnist and cartoonist

**Lynda Barry**, 3-10, from famed cartoonist.

**David H. Doyle**, undated