

# **CRAIG SMITH’S BLOG OUTLINE**

## **Santa Barbara New-Press Implosion**

### **July 2006 Onward**

#### **JULY 2006**

- 7th Five editors including Jerry Roberts, as well as columnist Barney Brantingham, resign
- 10th “The News Mess”; sports editor quits; New York Times picks up story; Ventura County Star writes that “News-Press ownership doesn’t get it”
- 14th Scott Hadly quits
- 17th New York Times story with interviews with Wendy McCaw and Jerry Roberts; no News-Press coverage of itself until Saturday, July 15; rally on 14th outside News-Press building with reporters dressed in black with duct tape over their mouths, 300 people attended; McCaw vacationing in Europe
- 18th Rally outside News-Press building, 500 attended; McCaw in France with Michael Douglas?
- 21st McCaw will not allow key editors to return
- 24th “Thinner than a Paris Runway Model” – Smith’s description of this morning’s News-Press; News-Press still won’t cover story although Long Beach Press-Telegram and Ventura County Star do
- 25th London Observer is covering story
- 28th Panel issues findings into case of Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Diana Hall – News-Press doesn’t cover story; Jerry Roberts speech to community forum

#### **AUGUST 2006**

- 4th Travis Armstrong writes in an editorial that politicians and rival newspapers want to shut down News-Press because News-Press dares to hold politicians accountable; he says that LA Times coverage is a conflict of interest
- 8th News-Press enemies list; Armstrong mad at LA Times for setting up subscription booth across Plaza from News-Press building; Chuck Schultz and Josh Molina resign; News-Press did not run story on Chumash Indians
- 9th Vanity Fair photo shoot
- 10th Paper circulation shrinking since January 2006; News-Press not cutting advertising rates due to lower subscriptions

## AUGUST 2006, continued

- 11th Armstrong complains that KEYT won't tell him why meteorologist was fired; remaining News-Press personnel want election to establish union representation; nine journalists who quit News-Press receive Ethics in Journalism award from Society of professional Journalists
- 14th Shelly Leachman resigns, brings total to 14; reporters have beats changed by News-Press; McCaw tried to stop Ethics in Journalism awards
- 15th Logical names for Santa Barbara Daily Sound web address taken by News-Press' advertising agency; Daily Sound circulation growing
- 16th News-Press circulations down by 4000 since January 2006, other media like bloggers picking up slack; News-Press request for temporary restraining order against former editor Michael Todd was continued until October
- 17th News-Press fires five community columnists
- 18th Nipper responds to allegations that News-Press took domain names from Daily Sound
- 19th Business reporter Hildy Medina resigns from News-Press; Scott Steepleton promoted to associate editor; Graphic Communications Conference filed fifth unfair labor practice charge with NLRB regarding cancellation of column by union supporter Starshine Roshell
- 21st Dr. Laura replaces Barney Brantingham as News-Press signature columnist
- 22nd KEYT ends Sky Tracker forecasting partnership with News-Press and moves to the Daily Sound
- 23rd News-Press management claims unfair labor practice allegations stating that Teamsters coerced newsroom employees; election delayed as a result
- 25th August 23 News-Press feature story is about basil shortage in Italy; employees try to deliver letter to McCaw requesting ability to unionize without fear of repercussions – McCaw is a no show and letter is delivered to HR; sportswriter Mike Traphagen resigns; LA Times reports that McCaw sues Jerry Roberts for \$500,000 in damages
- 29th News-Press "disturbed" that news of arbitration with Jerry Roberts was disclosed in LA Times and speculates that Roberts behind the leak; Armstrong describes paper as being in a "transitional period"
- 30th Security Guard Mike Mantino fired after 23 years at News-Press
- 31st Charge of unfair labor practices withdrawn due to lack of evidence; according to News-Press PR firm, amended charges filed regarding the episode when employees tried to meet with McCaw to request no harassment while they try to unionize; Journalist Loan Fund established; Roberts attorney claims that News-Press attorney David Millstein leaked details to LA Times regarding \$500,000 suit against Roberts

## SEPTEMBER 2006

- 1st Newsroom employees suspended by McCaw for attempting to deliver letter to her last week; Teamsters file unfair labor practice charge with NLRB; newly-hired security firm patrols parking lot for “Ban the Bias” signs
- 2nd Armstrong begins two-part editorial saying that bias will be eliminated from News-Press reporting and that except for a small minority, the News-Press team of 200 is dedicated and working hard;
- 5th News-Press attacks unions in Labor Day editorial
- 6th Union officials and News-Press attorneys meet in San Francisco, no agreement reached; unlike most labor disputes, this focuses not on higher wages and better benefits, but on the desire to keep management from meddling in the newsroom
- 7th San Francisco-based News-Press attorney David Millstein takes Jerry Roberts’ former office in News-Press building; two copy desk editors resign as well as sports desk editor and photographer Ana Fuentes; News-Press had sought restraining order against former business editor Michael Todd for making inappropriate comments to Fuentes
- 8th Vanity Fair issue covering News-Press is out and gives accurate picture of what has been going on; McCaw was not interviewed for the article
- 10th News-Press columnist Michael Seabaugh criticizes Dr. Laura and News-Press issues apology claiming Seabaugh personally attacked Dr. Laura; McCaw compared to Leona Helmsley; LA Times writes feature story on News-Press; photographer Ana Fuentes persuaded to stay at paper as a reporter; Fuentes is expected to vote anti-union
- 11th Fuentes writes op-ed about Michael Todd’s verbal harassment of her; Nipper writes defense of News-Press on his website
- 12th Peter Sklar from Edhat receives cease and desist letter from News-Press because his website provides links to News-Press obituaries; union officials and News-Press management agree to hold election on September 27, 2006
- 13th Feature page editor and metro beat reporter both leave News-Press
- 14th It turns out that News-Press fired feature page editor and metro beat reporter; photo editor Len Wood resigns; Edhat can link to obituaries, News-Press attorney was wrong in thinking that it was illegal
- 15th New York Post’s Page Six blasts Dr. Laura for “anti-female rant”; American Journalism Review doing story on News-Press

## SEPTEMBER 2006, continued

- 18th Reporter Leah Etling resigns; rally in support of unionization and fundraiser for Journalist Loan Fund on September 24
- 20th News-Press employees required to attend small meetings promoting “anti-union propaganda”
- 21st Daily Sound begins printing KEYT weather forecast
- 22nd Slate magazine writes that “Wendy McCaw has made herself a national joke with her management of the Santa Barbara News-Press”; 44 lawyers part of “Lawyers Alliance for Free Speech Rights”, a legal defense fund for former News-Press employees, attorney Millstein requests in a letter that attorneys do not assist former employees
- 24th 20 local religious leaders write letter to McCaw requesting a “clear commitment to professional ethics” and wish to have the letter printed in News-Press; Nipper responds with a letter stating his opinion that 5th religious leaders were swayed by the unions
- 25th Rally not well attended by very spirited; News-Press finally removes KEYT logo and forecast from pages after a month of disobeying KEYT’s wishes to have it removed; News-Press prints promotion for Amy Orozco’s upcoming column but since Orozco was fired last month, there will be no column forthcoming
- 27th Employees vote 33 to 6 to affiliate themselves with Graphics Communication Conference of the Teamsters
- 28th News-Press indicates they may file objections to the election; News-Press runs 4 sentence story on election in the business section
- 29th Ana Fuentes still on payroll but not seen at News-Press for weeks and she did not vote in election; speculation is that she is still on payroll so suit against Michael Todd can continue; McCaw eliminated overtime, pensions matching 401K contributions and profit sharing when she bought News-Press

## OCTOBER 2006

- 2nd Going away party for Len Wood and Andrea Huebner; speculation that McCaw was in St. Tropez during election
- 3rd Two more resignations – reporter Starshine Roshell and travel editor Al Bonowitz; Roshell resigns in scathing letter to Human Resources Director Yolanda Apodaca at News-Press, Roshell and Bonowitz had stayed in order to vote for unionization; Associate Editor says “thank you” to Roshell and she replies “fuck you”
- 5th McCaw announces that ownership of News-Press will challenge election

## OCTOBER 2006, continued

- 10th Nominee meeting for News-Press “Lifetime Achievement Awards” held and Nipper used it as a time to blast former employees
- 11th News-Press does not run story on supervisory candidate Janet Wolf receiving support from all of Dan Secord’s former Santa Barbara City Council colleagues; paper supports Secord
- 12th Class action lawsuit filed by current and former employees alleging paper failed to pay overtime compensation
- 18th Union attorney expects a ruling on News-Press charges of unfair labor practices against the union shortly; News-Press endorses Schwarzenegger for Governor
- 20th Six year anniversary of McCaw ownership of News-Press
- 21st NLRB dismisses News-Press charges against Teamsters; charge stem from “intimidation tactics” used by employees to try to deliver a letter to McCaw
- 23rd Armstrong writes editorial explaining difference between individual and corporate newspaper ownership
- 25th San Francisco Chronicle has article on Daily Sound in business section
- 26th News-Press dismisses petition for a workplace violence injunction against Michael Todd; reason given by News-Press was that reporter Ana Fuentes had resigned and therefore no suit was necessary
- 27th McCaw’s Ampersand Publishing sues The Independent for copyright infringement, unfair business competition, etc. This suit has to do with the Independent, on its website, linking to a story that was killed by the News-Press. The story was written by News-Press reporter Scott Hadly regarding the resignation of Jerry Roberts. The Independent had received a cease and desist letter and immediately removed the link but has been sued nevertheless; reporter Melinda Burns fired
- 30th News-Press daily circulation down 4.6%; Sunday circulation down 5.4%
- 31st Teamsters file unfair labor practice suit against News-Press for firing of reporter Melinda Burns; News-Press runs story about fire in a building with one person trapped inside; it turns out that the fire was a drill by the fire department and the reporter had just been listening to the scanner, not actually reporting the news

## NOVEMBER 2006

- 1st Vanity Fair article in October was shorter than planned because of legal threats by attorneys for McCaw and Rob Lowe; reporters put flowers on fired reporter Melinda Burns’ vacant desk, Scott Steepleton called human resources and legal department and found that nothing could be done to punish those who out flowers there

## NOVEMBER 2006, continued

- 2nd Several paragraphs about Nipper and his divorce were ones cut from Vanity Fair article
- 3rd Dr. Laura has action figure doll; reporter who ran inaccurate fire story tried to verify facts but was unable to do so and business editor Edmond Jacoby made him run the story anyway
- 7th Hearing tomorrow on News-Press' objections to election has been postponed due to News-Press decision to appeal dismissal of NLRB suit of improper coercion tactics; Union attorney subpoenas McCaw and Nipper
- 8th Candlelight vigil will happen on Saturday in front of the Biltmore; coincidentally, News-Press Lifetime Achievement Awards are being held at Biltmore that same night; business editor fired without reason given by Steepleton
- 9th Cub reporter Vladimir Kogan resigns; Craig Smith interviews Kogan
- 10th Kogan tells Smith that Steepleton doesn't have the skills to be an editor
- 12th 55 people at candlelight vigil; Lifetime Achievement recipient Sara Miller McCune accepts award and tells audience that she hopes to own the paper next year; Armstrong tells her afterwards that she was "rude and inappropriate"
- 13th Labor lawyer Ira Gottlieb denied admittance to awards even though he had a ticket
- 14th Columnist Martha Smilgis resigns after being told by Steelpeton that her column was "too political" and that they wanted "more gossip, more dishy gossip"; NLRB announces that it will file a complaint charging News-Press with violating National Labor Relations Act by canceling Starshine Roshell's column and by threatening employees who wanted to deliver letter to McCaw
- 15th News-Press writes editorial about Craig Smith and Ira Gottlieb trying to get into event, calling it a "sad day" and complaining about the candlelight vigil, calling it "picketing"
- 16th Travis Armstrong writes that Sara Miller McCune told him that she would fire him if she owned the paper; he writes that he would quit
- 22nd McCaw hires attorney to write Ira Gottlieb a letter warning him to stay away from McCaw; letter accuses Gottlieb of "lurking" around the Biltmore
- 25th In her column, Dr. Laura chastises Sara Miller McCune for her acceptance speech at the awards; chain link fence erected around News-Press parking lot; speculation is that it was erected to hide signs in employees cars which say "McCaw Obey the Law"; Sam Tyler making a film on the News-Press story and it's impact on the community and his film crew will be at the Farmer's Market interviewing whoever has something to say – pro or con
- 28th City orders News-Press to remove the fence because Historic Landmarks Commission did not sign off on it

## NOVEMBER 2006, continued

29th News-Press Holiday Fund suffers because designated recipients are animal-rights causes instead of VNA; News-Press editorial wonders what the fuss about the fence is about; claims that fence is only temporary while News-Press “spruces up parking lots”

## DECEMBER 2006

1st Scott Hadly talks about the future of daily newspapers at Unitarian Society; fence is coming down

2nd Independent has luncheon honoring local heroes and former News-Press employees receive standing ovation; fence is completely down

5th News-Press holiday party is limited to full-time employees and their spouses and IDs will be checked at the door; union organized News-Press employees will march around News-Press block on Wednesday and will update public on issues regarding McCaw’s failure to negotiate with union on employment contract

7th Rally was a success; before the rally HR director Yolanda Apodaca issued a memo stating that anyone who made disparaging remarks about the paper would be subject to disciplinary action; Rob Lowe’s hedge case (which began the entire News-Press debacle) was in court; no News-Press reporters in courtroom; benefit reception for Journalists Loan Fund on Saturday

8th Independent’s holiday party drew many past and present News-Press employees

11th News-Press attorney Barry Cappello writes another letter (first was by attorney Millstein) to Lawyer’s Alliance for Free Speech urging attorney’s to reconsider being part of that alliance; NLRB denies News-Press appeal that Teamsters used News-Press name and trademark to falsely assert that management supported unionization; over 100 people attended dinner for Journalists Loan Fund

12th News-Press CFO Randy Alcorn fired; Teamsters agree to withdraw three of the charges of unfair labor practices against the paper, regarding the firing of reporter Colby Frazier, reassignment of beats and Dawn Hobbs; NLRB dismissed surveillance charge against McCaw, which charges her with taking photographs of employees cars and the Teamsters are appealing this dismissal; News-Press runs “Breaking News” article about dismissals on its website while it hasn’t run anything about the charges against itself

14th Teamsters still have many pending charges against the News-Press, including McCaw’s “gag order” on employees, the cancellation of Roshell’s column, the suspensions given to employees who tried to give McCaw a letter and the firing of Melinda Burns; the hearing on News-Press objections over the election will begin on January 9

## DECEMBER 2006, continued

- 15th News-Press holiday party is today; yesterday HR director Apodaca sent out memo asking employees attending the party to “refrain from wearing attire designed to misuse this friendly social gathering for a purpose for which it was not intended”
- 17th (from Blogabarbara – Smith on vacation) Hairstylist threatened over “McCaw Obey the Law” sign in shop window; McCaw lawyers say it’s defamatory
- 19th (from Blogabarbara – Smith on vacation) Reporter Susan Paterno is sued by Ampersand Publishing (McCaw’s company) which claims that News-Press was defamed in an article by Paterno in the American Journalism Review which was a “biased, false and misleading diatribe”
- 21st (from Blogabarbara – Smith on vacation) ACLU of Southern California notified McCaw that letters sent by her attorneys to hairdresser were incorrect and must be stopped
- 28th NLRB will formally lodge complaint which will officially begin prosecution against News-Press that it improperly fired Melinda Burns and imposed illegal gag orders on employees; hearing on February 26, 2007

## JANUARY 2007

- 2nd Annual New Year’s Day message in News-Press from McCaw cites commitment to “the values for which we stand: truth, excellence, ethical journalism and the best coverage of local events that can be had”; most local shop owners taking down signs to avoid litigation with McCaw
- 4th Jury duty for Wendy McCaw; Craig McCaw (former husband) buying a house in Montecito?
- 5th News-Press states that turmoil has barely affected their business but donations to the News-Press Holiday Fund were way down
- 8th Newsroom employees write letter to McCaw and Nipper complaining that local coverage is almost impossible due to staffing shortage; letter cites a wire story that contained the “f bomb” made its way into print because of lack of oversight and that there is nobody to turn to on libel issues
- 9th Joy Wells dismissed as executive assistant for the news after 34 years at News-Press because she was not “supportive of the office” but HR director Apodaca tells Wells that she can apply elsewhere in the company; Wells resigns because she no longer could work in an atmosphere that was “rife with suspicion, distrust, secrecy, fear and vindictiveness”; Steepleton informs employs that if they don’t remove signs from cars and buttons, they will be subjected to “discipline”; hearing on News-Press objections about election begins today and it will be held in a building that McCaw owns and leases to the General Services Administration

## JANUARY 2007, continued

- 10th During the hearing regarding the News-Press trying to set aside the Union election, Judge Schmidt remarked that he was not impressed with the News-Press' case; Steepleton testified that he was "frightened" when the employees tried to deliver their letter to McCaw
- 12th Attorney Barry Cappello wrote in the Independent that McCaw saved the News-Press from insolvency when she purchased it; the News-Press is demanding a formal retraction of the article written by Susan Palermo in the American Journalism Review and the AJR attorneys are refusing
- 15th New York Times runs a major story on News-Press; unfair labor practice hearing is rescheduled for March 12; union intends to file a new unfair labor practice charge against the News-Press regarding Steepleton's demand that employees remove signs and buttons as well as Steepleton's December 15 demand to employees that they sign an affidavit that they did not leak and internal memo from McCaw to Craig Smith
- 17th News-Press editorial complains that other media are employing "agenda-driven reporting"; McCaw ups damages that she is seeking from Jerry Roberts from \$500,000 to \$25 million
- 18th No cameras allowed at hearing but Larry Nimmer videotapes scene outside of courtroom and will air on Santa Barbara Community Access Channel; News-Press reporter Leana Orsua is quoted as saying that she doesn't know much about the case because the newspaper hasn't covered it
- 22nd Travis Armstrong wires in editorial that people who have left the News-Press are "malcontents" and that there are a few "Eyores" left
- 23rd New-Press lawsuit against Independent for linking to an unpublished News-Press story is going forward
- 25th Jerry Roberts hired by UCSB to oversee operation of school newspaper and yearbook
- 26th Reporter Anna Davison fired and not given any reasons; assistant city editor Bob Guiliano was also terminated for "performance-related" issues
- 30th Guiliano was Davison's immediate boss but he was not told that she would be fired and she was fired on his day off; Charlotte Boechler appointed to assistant Life editor and being trained as a manager; she is married to Steepleton
- 31st Director of systems Raul Gil resigns saying "it was my time to leave"

## FEBRUARY 2007

- 1st Paterno files motion to dismiss Ampersand's libel suit against her under the authority of the state's "anti-SLAPP" statute; statute protects citizens when they speak up and was put in place when it was determined that people were suing others just to keep them quiet

## FEBRUARY 2007, continued

- 2nd Starshine Roshell outside News-Press building talking with a friend when Travis Armstrong comes out of the building and tells her that she must leave the premises and she asks for clarification as to where private and public boundaries are; Armstrong returns with a security guard who tells her she must leave; banner displayed over freeway by former and current News-Press staffers urging drivers to cancel their News-Press subscriptions
- 5th Dawn Hobbs, Barney McManigal and Rob Kuznia terminated from News-Press because of banner display
- 6th Letter from Steepleton to Hobbs, McManigal and Kuznia admits that they were fired for being disloyal; question is whether an employee can appeal for public support when engaged in a labor dispute, as are employees of News-Press; Hobbs, McManigal and Kuznia plan to file an unfair labor practice charge; Melissa Evans, John Zant and Tom Schultz are also fired today because of banner demonstration
- 7th Only two news reporters left at the News-Press after latest firings; former News-Press employees stage rally outside News-Press building and will have one every day this week for two hours per day
- 8th NLRB staff in town to interview the six recently fired reporters; NLRB contemplating seeking a court order to reinstate reporters who were fired because of banner demonstration; LA Times reporter also in town to do a story on the latest firings
- 10th Former assistant city editor Bob Guiliano posts video of demonstrations on You Tube
- 12th 855 words of local news in today's edition of News-Press
- 13th Sarah Sinclair resigns as director of classified advertising; has been subjected to threats by McCaw that she is either "with us or against us" because she attended former CFO Randy Alcorn's going away party; Sinclair also was tailed to a newspaper marketing conference by a private eye hired by McCaw to oversee security at News-Press; Monterrey Herald has editorial about the "threat of Citizen McCaw"
- 14th Travis Armstrong writes op-ed piece ridiculing fired journalists who are protesting; union meets with local advertisers to sign a letter urging McCaw to work with the union in resolving their differences and attorney Millstein as well as News-Press CPA Norman Colavincenzo show up 15 minutes into the meeting and finally left after about 20 minutes; McCaw writes and circulates an internal memo with her version of the events at the advertiser meeting; Steepleton moves into Jerry Roberts' former office
- 15th "Non-newsroom" employees take out ad in News-Press stating that they are "fed up with the protests, public displays of disparagement and advertising campaigns" and that they would like to "thank Wendy McCaw who supports our efforts each day"

## FEBRUARY 2007, continued

- 16th The story on the ad was that it was passed around by managers in some departments to all employees, none of whom were forced to sign; most of the signatures appear to be from the advertising department; McCaw visits some departments to discuss her memo; when asked if she was planning on selling the paper, she answered “absolutely not”; sources say that computers at the news-Press are being monitored for blog postings and emails and that cameras are installed on top of some computers; going away party for Raul Gil and Sarah Sinclair at Harry’s Plaza and word was that if News-Press staffers attended, they will be terminated; former reporter Dawn Hobbs was asked why she wants her job back and she replied that “I’m on the right side of the fight and I’m going to see it through”
- 20th Website announced for fundraising to help Jerry Roberts fight \$25 million lawsuit brought on by Ampersand Publishing
- 22nd HR director Yolanda Apodaca known as “Angel of Death”; two pressmen from Goleta plant terminated despite glowing performance reviews; neither signed ad “thanking” McCaw and both supported unionization; 200 attend “Wake up Wendy” rally at De La Guerra Plaza
- 23rd Santa Barbara County Action Network does not invite News-Press society page writer to Oscar viewing party for the first time in five years
- 26th News-Press features Amgen Tour of California bike race and included photo of Floyd Landis leading the pack; Landis, however, did not compete this year
- 27th Graphic designed resigns from News-Press; new one hour program on News-Press situation produced by Larry Nimmer on Santa Barbara channel; “Wake up Wendy” rally video on You Tube
- 28th Travis Armstrong writes op-ed piece about Councilman Brian Barnwell and his wife, former News-Press reporter Camilla Cohee; Armstrong suggests Cohee was fired because she lied on her time card

## MARCH 2007

- 1st News-Press runs another full-page ad regarding bias; ad claims that paper used to be biased but now that all of the biased journalists have left, the bias has been eliminated; Rob Lowe seen at rally at De La Guerra Plaza
- 5th Granada Theater now on McCaw’s enemies list as McCaw retracts pledge of \$5 million; retraction seen as retaliation stemming from remarks by Sara Miller McCune that she wants to buy the paper; McCune is head of fundraising campaign

## MARCH 2007, continued

- 7th Still no decision from NLRB regarding the outcome of the union election although it has been two months since hearing concluded
- 12th Dr. Laura back after two month “sabbatical”; Judge Schmidt upholds victory for News-Press employees to unionize; News-Press management must begin collective bargaining immediately
- 13th In opinion, Judge Schmidt writes that Armstrong’s testimony has “no ring of truthfulness at all”; NLRB will prosecute News-Press for unlawful firing of eight reporters in retaliation of their support of the union
- 14th NLRB is also seeking injunction against News-Press preventing it from engaging in any other unfair labor practices; News-Press does not report on latest activity from NLRB; “Wake up Wendy Wednesdays” rallies announced
- 15th Eight fired reporters are starting their own broadcast and online news outlet called “Santa Barbara Newsroom” which will air on Channel 17; both the broadcast and online versions are sponsored by the Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- 16th Attorney Barry Cappello states to Independent that Judge Schmidt’s ruling was “just a recommendation”, Labor attorney Ira Gottlieb replies that only a “labor law ignoramus could say that”
- 19th NY Times reports on NLRB rulings; attorney Cappello is quoted in article saying that we are “watching the end of the industry. Journalists think they can write what they want when they want”; the Organized Newsroom Staff is holding a “Reinstate the Eight” rally
- 23rd LA Times Opinion Editor resigns because he disliked publisher’s interference regarding a special edition of the opinion section
- 26th Santa Barbara Daily Sound celebrates one year anniversary
- 27th Travis Armstrong writes column hoping for same treatment of LA Times that News-Press has gotten
- 29th McCaw denies that she is renegeing on her \$5 million pledge to Granada Theater
- 30th Armstrong writes column about exposing agendas of those who are unhappy with current state of News-Press; Armstrong also goes after local clergy who he accuses of not addressing the gang problem satisfactorily

## APRIL 2007

- 2nd Santa Barbara Newsroom debuts
- 3rd Impressive debut by Santa Barbara Newsroom with 4462 unique visitors to santabarbaranewsroom.com by 10pm Monday night

- 9th McCaw appeals ruling regarding validity of union election; Armstrong writes column claiming he was taken aback by “snarky” email from Reverend Teena Grant, the president of the Greater Santa Barbara Clergy Association. He does not reveal what email said.
- 10th Reverend Grant gives copy of letter to Craig Smith; letter reads that on the same day Armstrong was blasting the clergy for not doing enough, the Daily Sound ran a front-page photo and article on what the Association had done for the gang situation’ her email also said that it was “for submission to the editorial page”
- 11th Economist magazine writes article about McCaw revealing that McCaw required the newspaper to take a vegetarian stance; in fact, in editorial on November 18, 2001 (one month after she took over paper) McCaw wrote that rice and beans were good substitute for turkey and trimmings at Thanksgiving; former editorial page editor John Lankford tells Smith that it was his idea and McCaw said fine; Independent pounced on column and McCaw fired off a letter of protest to Independent; NLRB will file two more unfair labor practice charges stemming from the crashing of advertising meeting by attorney Millstein and CPA Norm Colavincenzo and the filming of rallies by a private investigator
- 12th Labor attorney Ira Gottlieb responds to McCaw’s appeal of the election ruling by stating that the News-Press ownership “seeks these exceptions to prolong its residency in the house of incredulity”
- 16th Travis Armstrong blasts Lawyers Alliance for Free Speech Rights for “trying to shut down our opinion pages”
- 17th Gossip columnist Richard Mineards is latest News Press hire and is working out of the former managing editor’s office; News Press private eye Nick Montano has not been seen around the building lately; in Susan Paterno case in Orange County, judge rules in favor of News Press that 3 of 32 allegations of libel can have discovery – 1. That News Press slashed overtime and benefits when McCaw took the helm, 2. That someone killed the follow up story on Armstrong’s drunken driving arrest and 3. That the News Press acted

## APRIL 2007, continued

- improperly when requesting a violence in the workplace restraining order against former business editor Michael Todd
- 18th Hire of gossip columnist gets above the fold story in News Press day after Virginia Tech massacre; News Press didn't run a photo of VT tragedy on front page at all; News Press sales people stationed outside local grocery stores to sell papers
- 24th News Press runs article (with no byline) smearing former editor Jerry Roberts on front page of Sunday edition; article claims that Roberts downloaded child pornography onto his work computer; article does not mention that computer was bought used or that it was used by many people in the News Press office; article was placed after all editors went home except for one who was told to stay late and that one more article had to be placed; News Press had tried in early February to have police and FBI investigate Roberts regarding child pornography on his computer and the police had previously determined that Roberts could not be linked to child pornography and thus they would not investigate
- 25th "Flurry" of subscription cancellations in wake of Roberts article; Roberts formally demands that News Press retracts article; former Director of Systems for News Press Raul Gil had spoken up in Roberts defense; 2007 Payne Award for Ethics in Journalism will be awarded to the nine former News Press staffers who resigned last July in protest of McCaw's interference of news coverage
- 26th Roberts shows the media a letter written on March 2 by the Chief Trial Deputy for the Santa Barbara District Attorney's office Eric Hanson; in the letter he states that there is no evidence to bring charges against any individual in regard to child pornography on the computer; DA's office will not comment on story at all; on Tuesday night an editorial on the News Press website claims that the police and FBI "blew it" and by Wednesday, the editorial was taken off website and not in the paper; computers on News Press network are blocked from accessing local blogs, including Blogabarbara and Craig Smith
- 27th The cover of the Independent has a full page photo of McCaw with the caption "Have You No Shame, Mrs. McCaw?"
- 30th "Shame on Wendy" demonstration to be held on Wednesday at the courthouse

## MAY 2007

- 1<sup>st</sup>
- Business writer Steve Bonser resigns, reportedly because of attempt to smear Jerry Roberts
  - LA Times reports that News-Press circulation is down 9.5% to 38,000
  - "Have You No Shame" takes over in popularity from "McCaw Obey the Law"

- Judge Brown announces tentative ruling to deny return of hard drive to News-Press. He said that arbitrator in civil suit between Roberts and News-Press can decide whether it is pertinent to that case

2<sup>nd</sup>

- Nationwide decline of newspaper circulation is 2.1%, compared to 9.5% of News-Press; current circulation is 38,000 while mid-1990's circulation was 58,000
- Bonser confirms to Craig Smith that his resignation is over Roberts smear
- Shame on Wendy demonstration to take place today
- Judge Brown announces firm ruling that police do not have to return hard drive to News-Press; FBI continues to investigate the matter

3<sup>rd</sup>

- Lots of local media covered yesterday's hearing, including Steepleton and Armstrong from News-Press; one local TV reporter was able to get post-hearing interview with Cappello; Sam Tyler tried but was turned away from; newpress.tv was there
- Cameras were not permitted in courtroom because Judge did not address the camera question
- Leana Orsua resigns as News-Press news reporter after only nine months on job

4<sup>th</sup>

- Roberts smear is reason Orsua gives for resigning; Steepleton seems surprised

6<sup>th</sup>

- Book reviewer Lin Rolens resigns after twelve years with News-Press; cites Roberts and the need to "make choices that honor our conscience and the very nature of the place we live"

7<sup>th</sup>

- Susan Miles Gulbransen resigns as book reviewer after 21 years with News-Press due to Roberts smear; she is the 6<sup>th</sup> person, at least, to quit over the slandering of Jerry Roberts – including Judy Foreman and Dan Shiells

8<sup>th</sup>

- Last remaining book reviewer, Fred Klein, resigns due to Roberts smear; Klein is the 7<sup>th</sup> to resign over attack on Roberts

9<sup>th</sup>

- Santa Barbara Newsroom requests donations for legal fees and notes that McCaw has no less than eight law firms representing her (Ampersand v. Independent; Ampersand v. Jerry Roberts; Ampersand v. Susan Paterno; Ampersand v. City of Santa Barbara; NLRB proceedings; Millstein is President and General Counsel of Ampersand); except for Capello, none are local

10<sup>th</sup>

- Other attorneys send “cease and desist” letters for McCaw including Martin Singer, who claims in his letters that they are protected by copyright law

11<sup>th</sup>

- News-Press hires an...administrative assistant; Craig Smith starts column for Daily Sound

14<sup>th</sup>

- News-press prints “clarification” for Roberts attack on front page of paper; denies that article accused Roberts of having porn; clarification does not explain why Roberts was only one of three who used computer to be named in article; Roberts’ attorney said clarification fell short of being a retraction
- Dr. Laura uses her column in same paper to reassert that the facts were “that the computers were assigned to Mr. Roberts for a significant amount of time”; also derides Roberts for writing for daily Nexus, which has it’s own “version of vulgar sexuality”
- Lou Cannon writes op-ed piece for LA Times that recaps Roberts saga; piece ran with “Have You No Shame” cover from Independent next to it

17<sup>th</sup>

- Mayor Marty Blum debuts radio show; says began show because News-Press isn’t covering City Hall anymore

21<sup>st</sup>

- Sunday’s edition of News-Press looked like it was on a Jenny Craig diet it was so slim; there were only two local bylined stories in edition
- News-Press is not running complimentary ads for non-profits like it used to because Nipper has put a halt to the free ads
- News-Press contesting unemployment benefit applications of fired former employees; two cases have gone to hearing and News-Press has lost both

23<sup>rd</sup>

- George from “I’m Not one to Blog but...” lists names of all writers of bylined stories from May 15 – May 21; some feel that George was wrong to harass writers who are still working for News-Press; George explains that he was trying to figure out how paper is still coming out when so many have left
- Appellate court in Orange County stays trial judge’s ruling that Ampersand can delay Susan Paterno’s motion to dismiss that case brought by Ampersand against Paterno; Ampersand must explain why trial judges ruling should stand; noting can happen until the appellate court makes it’s ruling, expected in late July

- 24<sup>th</sup>**
- Rob Lowe at KQET to tape a public service announcement; when reporter Michelle Cole seeks him out, he ignores her and flees in car
- 25<sup>th</sup>**
- Only newspaper available to inmates at Santa Barbara County Jail is News-Press
  - News-Press advertising on Craig's List for a restaurant critic
- 29<sup>th</sup>**
- McCaw writes opinion piece in Sunday's News-Press railing against Lou Cannon's op-ed piece in LA Times which was critical of News-Press; McCaw claims that she sent a response to the Times regarding Cannon's piece and that the Times refused to print it; also claims that Lou Cannon did not attempt to speak with her before writing piece
  - In her op-ed, McCaw claims that she was trying to end bias in the News-Press reporting and that is why Roberts quit
- 30<sup>th</sup>**
- Arts and culture writer for News-Press, Tom Jacobs, resigns after thirteen years; due to Roberts smear
  - Lou Cannon provides Craig Smith with copy of letter he wrote to McCaw requesting a meeting; this letter and a phone call from Cannon were never answered by McCaw
- 31<sup>st</sup>**
- McCaw's rant appears in the online version of LA Times
  - Cannon replies to McCaw publicly and shreds her arguments

**CRAIG SMITH'S BLOG  
SUMMARY  
JUNE 2007**

**JUNE 2007**

- 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Columnist Buddy Winston leaves News-Press
  - NLRB announces that it will prosecute News-Press for unlawfully firing nine employees, as well as for cancelling Starshine Roshell's column, threatening to suspend 11 employees for demanding that a letter got delivered to McCaw, denying bonuses for anti-union reasons, ordering employees to remove "McCaw Obey the Law" buttons and stickers, Millstein intruding on a union meeting and surveiling employees who attend rallies, benefits and demonstrations
  - NLRB is still considering whether or not to go to court for an injunction to immediately reinstate the nine employees
- 4<sup>th</sup>**
- Travis Armstrong once again attacks local clergy in his column, as well as Mayor Blum
  - Dr. Laura's column returns

## 5th

- News-Press has not run a story on NLRB decision
- McCaw and Nipper spotted at Montecito Union School Fair

## 6th

- Mayor writes letter in response to Armstrong's op-ed but News-Press doesn't print the letter; Craig Smith does
- Fundraiser June 16<sup>th</sup> for Jerry Roberts
- Editor of LA Times answered tough questions to about 100 people regarding editorial staff departures at LA Times

## 7th

- NLRB has August hearing date for complaint against News-Press; Union attorney Ira Gottlieb explains that the law is weak in these areas but staff would have to be rehired with back pay if News-Press found guilty
- Rob Lowe hits bird while playing golf

## 8th

- Smith invited to Helen Mirren/Taylor Hackford home for a meeting of "The Moron Society", a group made up of mostly writers to talk about recent news; topic was future of newspapers and news media; also there was LA Times editor, editor of SB Independent and another blogger.
- Armstrong responds to Mayor's letter with an attack of his own, which begins "It's confounding to me when reporters or journalistic wannabes in Santa Barbara become apologists for elected officials and their bad behavior"

## 11<sup>th</sup>

- Armstrong calls two businesses to ask them why they canceled their subscriptions
- News-Press runs story about NLRB hearings with headline “Two union charges against paper dropped”; omitted from the article was the fact that NLRB will prosecute News-Press for 7 violations
- Santa Barbara Newsroom debuts on Channel 17

## 12<sup>th</sup>

- While shopping, McCaw and Nipper ask store to reup their advertising in News-Press

## 13<sup>th</sup>

- Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce was one business contacted by Armstrong after they canceled their subscription; they explained that they canceled because News-Press doesn't cover Goleta and Armstrong responded that they don't cover Goleta because former News-Press employee Bill MacFadyen is the new volunteer chairman of the Goleta Chamber of Commerce; in same conversation, Armstrong tells Goleta Chamber President Kristin Amyx that he will “ruin” her
- Brantingham hospitalized with high fever

## 15<sup>th</sup>

- Armstrong writes in paper that the volunteer chairman of Goleta Chamber does not live in Goleta and does not have a business there

## 18<sup>th</sup>

- Fundraiser for Jerry Roberts in Hope Ranch drew 165 people; raised \$132,000 with Sarah Miller McCune donating \$100,000 herself

## 19<sup>th</sup>

- Goleta Chamber president Kristen Amyx shares email sent to Chamber members in which she tries to explain what happened
- News-Press files papers with NLRB denying most of charges; hearing begins August 14
- Job posting by News-Press on Journalismjobs.com requests a candidate who “must be able to work independently, yet play well with others”

## 20<sup>th</sup>

- Craig Smith spoke with Sarah Miller McCune at fundraiser about News-Press; McCune had sent McCaw letter offering to buy News-Press but hasn't heard back but doesn't think McCaw will sell; McCune believes that McCaw and Nipper are enjoying the attention; McCune will not start a newspaper from scratch
- NLRB denied a request from the union to seek a court injunction to have the eight fired reporters reinstated

## 21st

- On May 6, 2006 Armstrong had attended at Goleta Chamber awards dinner before going home then left home and was stopped for DUI at 2:45 am on May 7, 2006; the News-Press has never printed the details of Armstrong's DUI plea and sentencing
- Copy Editor Allan McCabe will leave the News-Press

## 22nd

- Armstrong uses Thursday's column to rail against the Goleta Chamber again

## 25th

- News-Press covers the Solstice Parade but does not mention Independent's float with Barney Brantingham BBQing copies of the News-Press and Starshine Roshelle carrying blonde Barbie dolls with tongs

## 26th

- Nothing about Goleta adopting a two-year budget in News-Press
- News-Press did mention a \$2.5 million donation by Sarah Miller McCune's Sage Publishing to Cottage Hospital

## 28th

- Armstrong wrote on Wednesday that the Goleta Chamber formed it's own PAC to get two candidates elected, who were also endorsed by the News-Press
- The Contributing Editor, Assistant Editor and Production Manager of Blue Edge Magazine (owned by McCaw) resigned

## **CRAIG SMITH'S BLOG SUMMARY JULY 2007**

### **JULY 2007**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup>**

- Almost one year from beginning of News-Press "meltdown"
- List of names of those who have been fired or resigned in 12 month period
- Copy editor and page designer Jeff Marshall Craig covers fire for News-Press because no reporters were on duty

#### **•**

#### **4<sup>th</sup>**

- McCaw writes letter to Lou Cannon in News-Press and on website
- Jerry Roberts comments that he misses "...the great people and the high-energy spirit of our newsroom. In its best form, daily journalism is a team sport. For a time, we practiced and played it with a level of caring and institutional knowledge about the community that is rare for a paper of that size, or of any size"

#### **5<sup>th</sup>**

- Over 50 employees have left in the past year; Smith has quotes from many of them about how their lives have changed and what they miss about the News-Press; when asked about what she thinks the future of the News-Press will be, Starshine Roshell responds, “Sadly, I think you’re looking at it. Or, if you’re like the rest of the community, not looking at it”

6<sup>th</sup>

- Official one-year anniversary of meltdown
- More comments from former employees and staffers
- Lou Cannon responds to McCaw’s letter from July 3 with letter which describes the difference between the United States of America and “Wendy’s World”

7<sup>th</sup>

- 72 people have left News-Press since July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006; Smith lists them all by name, former position and current job

9<sup>th</sup>

- Audited News-Press circulation is 38,000, down 9.5% from 41,000 in one year

10<sup>th</sup>

- Ad rep Cristina Wilson fired from McCaw-owned Goleta Valley Voice

**11<sup>th</sup>**

- Former owner of Goleta Valley Voice, Jim Farr, has a non-compete with Ampersand which is about to expire; rumor is that he is contemplating a rival Goleta newspaper

**12<sup>th</sup>**

- Tim Buckley of the Montecito Journal writes that rumor has it that Tom Cruise has bought Rob Lowe's estate, the same estate which set off the News-Press saga

**13<sup>th</sup>**

- SB Newsroom signs off due to lack of funds
- Seven of the eight fired reporters are featured in a documentary recounting the events of the past 12 months; documentary will air on the SB Newsroom television show on July 14 & 15

**16<sup>th</sup>**

- News reporting in Santa Barbara is increased with addition of blog-style news site for Daily Sound and the Independent and Edhat are getting stronger

**17<sup>th</sup>**

- News-Press shut out of California Newspaper Publishers Association awards; last year they received two 1<sup>st</sup> place and five 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards
- News-Press hires new reporters from a temp agency

**20<sup>th</sup>**

- Dr. Laura gloats in her column about the demise of the SB Newsroom; asks where McCune's check is

**23<sup>rd</sup>**

- Sunday editorial at News-Press encourages everyone to combat rudeness and be kinder to those we encounter

**24<sup>th</sup>**

- Independent and Daily Sound receive subpoenas from McCaw in relation to the NLRB hearing; both vow to oppose the subpoenas

**25<sup>th</sup>**

- News-Press does story about lawsuit regarding a child who drowned at Cathedral Oaks Country Club; Barry Cappello is family's attorney as well as attorney for News-Press; Cappello is quoted in article saying family has a good case and defendant's lacked care; no opposing side was quoted

**CRAIG SMITH'S BLOG  
SUMMARY  
AUGUST 2007**

**AUGUST 2007**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

- Slew of News-Press employees served subpoenas for NLRB hearings beginning August 14, 2007; many employees are baffled as to why they have to testify
- Awaiting decision from NLRB on News-Press appeal of law judge allowing employees to unionize
- Rupert Murdoch, in bid to purchase The Wall Street Journal, agrees to 5 member panel to oversee owner and editors
- “Neville Flynn” disagrees with Smith and writes to Smith that News-Press is “tighter and brighter” with McCaw changes

**6<sup>th</sup>**

- Process server tells one former News-Press employee that about 70 subpoenas had been served
- Many employees who were served we're not at the paper when employees unionized; some served by subpoenas were not even employees but rather contract workers
- about to expire; rumor is that he is contemplating a rival Goleta newspaper

**9<sup>th</sup>**

- News-Press will run radio personality Kim Commando's column on technology; it turns out the Commando's column is free to any newspaper, as long as the newspaper promotes her national radio show

**13<sup>th</sup>**

- McCaw's former brother-in-law, John McCaw, on trial in Vancouver regarding his sale of the Vancouver Canucks; according to local columnist, John McCaw's credibility suffered from “numerous changes to previously-sworn testimony and failures of memory”
- Dr. Laura slams Craig Smith for being too anti-News-Press

**14<sup>th</sup>**

- NLRB hearing on possible News-Press violations of National Labor Relations Act begins today
- News-Press accused of illegally firing 6 reporters for participating in a union demonstration, firing Burns and Davison on trumped up charges of biased reporting, denying performance bonuses to employees who supported unionization, disrupting a meeting some union employees were having with advertisers and suspending employees who attempted to deliver a letter to McCaw
- Cappello will be News-Press' lead attorney; Gottlieb is Union attorney
- No cameras permitted in the courtroom

### 15<sup>th</sup>

- Large turnout for first day of NLRB hearing
- Afternoon testimony was about freeway demonstration and firing of Burns and Davison

### 16<sup>th</sup>

- Testimony of freeway demonstration leads to Cappello asking Steepleton if he was worried at the time that former employee Melissa Evans had a “substance abuse” problem; Evans explains to Smith later in the day that she thought she had a confidential conversation with Yolanda Apodaca regarding alcohol dependency
- Armstrong’s August 15, 2007 column asserts that he believes that every paper covering NLRB hearing is biased

### 17<sup>th</sup>

- NLRB upholds administrative law judge findings that the unionization of employees of News-Press was legal; Teamster’s are now bargaining unit for newsroom employees
- In other NLRB hearing, Steepleton testifies that when originally hired, McCaw told him that she was “sick of bias” in the News-Press and wanted him to stop it

### 20<sup>th</sup>

- Cappello subpoenaed Sam Tyler, who is making a documentary about the News-Press situation; January 11, 2008 film premier date
- AP carried a story on the NLRB ruling that unionization was legal

### 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Howard Kurtz of the Washington Post mentions McCaw and News-Press in story about American Journalism Review; McCaw did not respond to Kurtz’s request for an interview

### 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Judge asks Cappello why he wants to see Tyler’s footage and Cappello answers that the footage might include reporters on film who are telling contradictory statements than those they gave as testimony in NLRB hearing; Cappello calls the film project “a Michael Moore-type project”; judge supports Tyler’s desire to have subpoena withdrawn
- Former Assistant City Editor Bob Guiliano testifies that former reporter Leana Orsua called him to say that she couldn’t write a story about the employees “marching” to McCaw’s office to deliver the letter that Steepleton asked her to write because she didn’t see it that way; Steepleton later wrote the story himself under a Staff Writer byline, although he testified last week that he didn’t know who wrote the story

### 24<sup>th</sup>

- Guiliano testifies that he sent McCaw some emails after he was fired because he wanted to “complete the assignment I came to Santa Barbara to do, help her improve the paper”; one email ended with a PS that stated that he would try to come back and see her (McCaw) as a “friendly ghost” and that he will let her know that he is present by “rearranging your jewelry on in a clockwise position on your dressing bureau”

- Another Armstrong op-ed about the bias in other newspaper's coverage of NLRB hearings
- Armstrong makes inappropriate conversation in courtroom and is reprimanded by Sam Tyler

#### **25th**

- Melinda Burns on stand at NLRB hearing; gives "cogent overview of the chronology of the News-Press meltdown" according to Smith
- Smith has a link of "required reading" for story about how Bill Etling got served with his News-Press subpoena

#### **27th**

- Lou Cannon blasts Armstrong again in a letter which states that Armstrong "can write a column less cluttered with facts that anyone else I know"

#### **29th**

- Gossip columnist Richard Mineards writes that the New York Post picked up his "scoop" about Oprah Winfrey's Obama fundraiser; his "scoop" was available to anyone on the Internet

#### **30th**

- Lightblueline project defeated; it was opposed by News-Press

#### **31<sup>st</sup>**

- More people getting subpoenaed by Cappello

## **CRAIG SMITH'S BLOG SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2007**

### **SEPTEMBER 2007**

#### **4th**

- Melinda Burns cross-examination by Barry Cappello at NLRB hearing continues; Cappello argued that protests over "journalistic integrity" and "ethics" aren't legitimate areas for Union protest
- Cappello overhears a courtroom visitor wondering aloud how "Cappello sleeps at night"; Cappello threatened to have him removed from the courtroom
- Dr. Laura blasts "non-boat owner" in her column about a race at SB Yacht Club. "Non-boat owner" crewed on boat which beat Dr. Laura's

#### **5<sup>th</sup>**

- Fired reported Todd Schultz describes letter delivery incident as "peaceful" but Cappello produces an email written by Schultz saying that they "rocked the house"
- Melinda Burns and Michael Todd finish testimony; Judge repeatedly asks Burns to "help him understand" what happened

#### **7<sup>th</sup>**

- Andrea Huebner on the stand
- Copy desk chief Charles Bucher and Matt Armstrong from the Goleta printing facility, resign; Armstrong is quoted as saying “The humanity of company has gone away”

8<sup>th</sup>

- Dawn Hobs testifies

10<sup>th</sup>

- Hobbs asked to reenact scene where she and two others tell Travis Armstrong to “F\*\*\* Off”; was able to use a more polite phrase in her reenactment
- Sam Tyler will be at Farmers’ Market looking for pro-News Press people to interview on camera

11<sup>th</sup>

- Starshine Roshell on stand; she was asked to reenact the FU incident and when asked if she felt uncomfortable repeating it, she looked at Armstrong and said “Not at all”
- Dawn Hobbs cross-examined by Cappello

12<sup>th</sup>

- Judge states that he understands some of Cappello’s arguments that protesting over journalistic integrity may not be protected and concedes that Cappello’s beliefs may have some basis in Board Law
- Tyler’s request for pro-News Press interviews it met with much blogosphere discussion

### 13<sup>th</sup>

- Steepleton is on the stand
- Melissa Evans, Karna Hughes and Marty Keegan all on the stand
- Earlier in the week, Dawn Hobbs had checked with Highway Patrol to ensure that freeway sign protest was legal; she was assured that it would be as long as signs were hand-held

### 14<sup>th</sup>

- News Desk Copy Editor, Kim Favors, resigns
- Cappello begins presenting his case; calls Starshine Roshell to stand and shows a photo of her in “Angry Poodle” float; objections and sustained by judge
- Fired reported Rob Kuznia testifies that he received a bonus even though he was a union supporter
- Gottlieb apologizes for not producing “Rock the House” email from Kuznia

### 15<sup>th</sup>

- News-Press files motion with NLRB (in separate matter) to reconsider certification of the union as a bargaining unit; centers around Letter Delivery incident which NLRB claimed was peaceful; two since-disclosed emails are said by News-Press to prove otherwise, even though Armstrong himself testified that the march was peaceful
- Fourteenth day of testimony ended; Travis Armstrong called as a witness; testifies about Rob Lowe incident

### 17<sup>th</sup>

- Hannah Guzik, South Coast “hard news” reporter, no longer with News Press
- 4 people agree to interviews with Tyler – two about animal rights and two in support of News-Press

### 19<sup>th</sup>

- Hannah Guzik quit/was fired because of her objection about the way her stories about the NLRB hearings were edited

### 20<sup>th</sup>

- Business and consumer affairs reporter, Maria Zate, resigns

### 24<sup>th</sup>

- Cappello calls a witness out of order – Ralph Haber, a human factors consultant; Haber is not allowed to testify
- News-Press runs editorial about how the owner should have final say about what runs in the paper; Armstrong testified that the editorial board consists of McCaw, Nipper and Armstrong
- Sonia Fernandez, the lone staff writer at the Goleta Village Voice, resigns

## **25th**

- McCaw takes the stand; much of the testimony is based on establishing that she has been troubled about bias in reporting for a long time
- Armstrong testifies about his blood alcohol level and arrest; offered to resign and McCaw said no – this is interesting because Cappello’s argument is that the highway banners were breaking the law and that is what justified the firing of the reporters, but Armstrong broke the law and was kept on
- Roberts’ letter of resignation introduced into evidence

## **26th**

- 17<sup>th</sup> day of hearing
- McCaw sees bias everywhere; she thought that Davison’s piece about the wildlife on Santa Cruz Island was biased in favor of the fishermen against the sea otters, etc. and that McManigal’s article about the coyote problem in Hope Ranch was “anti-coyote”
- Nipper testified for 30 minutes

## **27th**

- NLRB hearing concluded September 26; decision not expected for months
- One year anniversary of newsroom employee’s voting for unionization
- Union and News-Press will likely begin contract negotiations
- McCaw on the stand was covered by the LA Times, Associated Press, Ventura County Star, SB Independent and Daily Sound; News-Press ran the shortest article and buried it on page A5

## **28th**

- Smith corrects an error in his reporting about Robert’s letter of resignation on September 25 – the word is “favorites” not “frivolities”