

In retirement, Williams said he plans to stay involved in civic activities, including the Optimist Club, where he's past-president; the Heritage Center, where he's past-executive director; and the Presbyterian Church, where he's an elder and Sunday school teacher.

He added he and his wife, Anne, also plan to do some traveling—"possibly snow birding to Florida or Texas in the winter."

They also have three daughters, Cindy Barnett and Joan Stevens, both of Henry County, and Julie Ray of Clarksville; and 11 grandchildren.

[From the Paris Post-Intelligencer, Aug. 20, 1999]

I'M NOT VERY RETIRING ABOUT THE ROLE OF  
THE NEWSPAPER  
(By Bill Williams)

Upon retirement, a fellow gets asked the usual questions about the most memorable experiences or what it all has meant. I suppose a valedictory is called for.

I will not fib and say that every moment has been pure joy or that I can't understand why I get paid for doing something that is so much fun.

There have been times that publishing a newspaper was pure hell. It's no fun dealing with an irate advertiser. It's even worse to talk with someone who's been hurt because we made a mistake in print.

I can truthfully say, though, that I've never seriously considered any other line of work.

If there any regrets, they're that I didn't spend more time and energy preaching to our staff and to you, dear reader, that newspapering is a noble business.

When we think of the highest callings, what usually come to mind are the ministry, the healing arts, teaching and perhaps law and law enforcement. A lot of people put the press down near the bottom, somewhere close to congressmen.

Pardon my conceit, but I put the press up in that top batch. We are in effect in the public education business. People depend on us to know what's going on in the world so they can react—where to spend their money, whom to vote for, what to do this weekend.

The function is contained in the name of our newspaper. An intelligencer, as I understand it, was a town crier, one who spreads intelligence (in the information sense) among the public.

I've always thought that Mirror is a good name for a newspaper, too. I believe a newspaper's highest function is to reflect as perfectly as possible what the world looks like—both warts and dimples—so that the people will know what to do. It's the philosophy of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, which uses an image of a lighthouse and the slogan. "Give light and the people will find their own way."

It's a view that puts the public in an exalted position. Some think that people are basically stupid and can be led this way or that by anyone who is smart, glib and media savvy. I disagree; I think when people are fully informed, they usually make the right choice.

Others believe that the basic duty of a newspaper is to be the community leader, beating the drum for needed improvements and pushing people to do the right thing. That's a high purpose, all right, but I really believe that an even higher is the duty to tell just as fully as we can what's happening and to trust the people to come to the right conclusions.

Well. I didn't intend to preach so, but this is a bully pulpit.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for allowing The P-I to be part of your life. I trust it will continue to be for many years to come.

LEWIS FLACKS OF THE U.S.  
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HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Lewis Flacks, who was employed nearly 25 years in the U.S. Copyright Office, died on July 23, 1999, in London. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, I have come to rely on the technical expertise on copyright matters that are available through the auspices of the Office. The men and women who work there provide a great and needed service to the Congress and the American public, and their contributions should be recognized with greater frequency. In this regard, while I was saddened to learn of Lewis' death, I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge his life and his work.

I wish to enter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following article regarding Lewis Flacks' accomplishments. It originally appeared in the August issue of Copyright Notices, the staff newsletter of the Copyright Office.

[Reprinted from Copyright Notices, Vol. 47, No. 8, Aug. 1999]

LEWIS FLACKS, AN APPRECIATION

(By Ruth Sievers)

Lewis Flacks, 55 whose career at the Copyright Office spanned over 20 years, died of cancer in London on July 23, where he had lived for the past 6 years since leaving his position as a policy planning advisor to the Register. He was the director of legal affairs for the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI).

Known for his brilliance, his wit, and his devotion to his family, Lewis (also known as Lew in the Office) played major roles in the revision on the Copyright Act in 1976 and in the decision for the United States to adhere to the Berne Convention in 1988. He was the senior copyright advisor to the U.S. delegation during the TRIPS negotiations at the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Trade and Commerce (GATT). He served on virtually every Committee of Experts convened by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) from 1984 to 1992 to deal with the Berne Convention and the Universal Copyright Convention, and he was influential in negotiating the final texts of the Geneva Phonograms Convention and the Brussels Satellite Convention. More recently, his work was critical in the adoption of two important intellectual property treaties in December 1996, the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

It was not only the incredible depth of his knowledge of copyright law that made him an important resource in negotiations, but his role as a "peacemaker," as former Register of Copyrights Barbara Ringer characterized him.

During the revision process, the lengthy period leading up to the passage of the 1976

Act, Lewis came up with "brilliant solutions" enabling "innumerable compromises," said Ringer. He was essential "in putting out all those brush fires."

"He was a man of ideas," said Register of Copyrights Marybeth Peters. "He was brilliant at strategies. He could talk about any subject in a way that bound his audience to his ideas."

"Because of his unsurpassed copyright expertise, his deft diplomatic touch, and his legendary ability to forge compromises, the United States spoke with a strong voice at the international bargaining table," said Ralph Oman, a former Register of Copyright.

A native New Yorker, Lewis was a 1964 graduate of the City College of New York and a 1967 graduate of Georgetown Law School. That was the same year he began his career in the Copyright Office, when Barbara Ringer hired him as an examiner, though she says her primary purpose in bringing him on board was to get a project underway at the Library for the preservation of motion pictures. A mutual friend had recommended him to Ringer, who talked with him twice before passing him along to Former Examining Division Chief Art Levine for the actual hiring interview. "As I recall, we talked nothing but movies," she said. "Nobody knew more about movies than he did."

He served the Office in various positions: senior examiner, attorney-advisor in the General Counsel's Office, special legal assistant to the Register, International copyright officer, and policy planning advisor.

In speaking with his friends and colleagues to write this piece, what comes across in his complete uniqueness.

"I've never known a more brilliant person, but he covered it with his wild, modant humor," said Ringer. "That's what people remember him for, but he had a great deal of depth."

"The most remarkable thing about Lewis was that time was of no relevance to him," said Neil Turkewitz of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) who has known him since 1987. "It was the real genius of him; it allowed him to explore the very details of things. He learned from everything, because he was so patient. . . . What really set him apart was his ability to learn."

"He would recognize the little nugget tucked away" that others overlooked, said Ringer. "He was a fantastic legal technician; he could grasp things that would take others weeks to see, and he could see all the ramifications."

Furthermore, she said she knew she could rely on him to "tell things like they are. He'd tell you if he thought you were off on the wrong track. . . . So many people have their own agendas or they just tell you what they think you want to hear. You could always trust what Lewis said—he always saw both sides of the picture."

Said his wife, Frances Jones, who was his partner for 31 years, "He had a strong sense of ethics . . . a sense of fairness."

To a person, everyone mentioned his wit. "He had keen insights into people, and he was always a wonderful and entertaining person to be around," said Art Levine. "I'd introduce him to some of my clients at WIPO [meetings], and they would always be eager to get together with him again."

"He could be very funny, trotting out a variety of voices, especially Yiddish ones, that left his listeners laughing in the aisles," said David Levy, former attorney in the Examining Division.

"He was the funniest person I ever met," said Eric Schwartz, a former policy planning

advisor who worked with Lewis. Schwartz recounts a story of how Flacks met comedian and actor Jerry Lewis in Paris—where Jerry Lewis is revered—in 1987 at a meeting on moral rights. “Lewis (Flacks) approached Jerry Lewis and introduced himself as Jerry Lewis’ ‘only American fan,’ since only the French really appreciate Jerry Lewis’ films. Jerry Lewis thought it was the funniest thing he’d heard.”

“He was a perfect colleague—smart, funny, and bluff; a much sought-after dinner companion, he always had the best jokes, the hottest news, and the latest photographs of his beloved son, Paul,” said Ralph Oman.

His love and devotion to his son Paul, who is now 14, is something else that no one failed to mention in talking about Lewis. As Peters said, “His son was one of his greatest joys.”

His wife mentioned another important role that Lewis played in private life and in the Office—that of teacher. Said Schwartz: “He was a great teacher. He taught me international copyright law in a series of long talks in his office, which, combined with our love of films and his sense of humor, made it fun to come to work.” Said Peter Vankevich, head of the Public Information Section, “Lewis made copyright come alive, after talking with him, you felt really proud to work in the Office.”

Lewis had many passions—among them books, wine, theater, and more recently, music. He was teaching himself to play the guitar, Chicago-style blues. But above all, he was passionate about movies.

“He knew more about film and film preservation than anyone I’ve ever met, except for Barbara Ringer,” said Schwartz, who served as the Library’s counsel to the Film Preservation Board. “I incorporated many of his ideas about film preservation into the legislation creating and reauthorizing the National Film Preservation Board (1988 and 1992) and Foundation (1996). His suggestions really helped the cause of film preservation, and he was very highly regarded in the Motion Picture and Recorded Sound Division.”

Admittedly, Lewis was not perfect. He was famous—or notorious—for not meeting deadlines. “People had to flog him to get him to finish,” said Ringer. “It could be infuriating,” said Levin, “because he’d never get anything done on time. But then, when he finally produced a piece, it would be so brilliant, he’d get away with it.”

“Lewis did everything slowly,” said Turkewitz. “He even walked slowly. You had to be careful or you’d be three blocks ahead of him. . . . He was someone who just decided that the decline of western civilization was being caused by its frantic pace, and he wasn’t going to live that way.” Turkewitz said you might think that would mean Lewis was, in terms of technology, a dinosaur, “but he was just the opposite. He was very interested in technology. . . . He was a true renaissance man. He was complete sui generis.”

Or, as Ringer said, “I never met anyone like him. He was utterly unique.”

Or, as Jason Berman, head of IFPI said, “The legacy of Lew Flacks remains the legions of friends and admirers he made around the world in a distinguished 30-year career.”

The Copyright Office is holding a memorial program for Lewis Flacks on September 24 in the Mumford Room of the James Madison Memorial Building.

## COLLEGE MISERICORDIA ANNIVERSARY

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 75th anniversary of a fine institution of higher learning—College Misericordia of Dallas, PA. I am honored to have been asked to participate in the kickoff event of the anniversary on September 24.

Founded and sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy in 1924, Misericordia was the first 4-year college, the first Catholic college, and the only all-female institution in Luzerne County, with 37 young women in its first freshman class. Offering both bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees, the college boasted 22 faculty members, 16 of them Sisters of Mercy. Today the bustling campus is home to more than 1,700 students, 83 full-time faculty and 65 part-time faculty. Misericordia offered its first summer courses in 1927 and began its graduate program in 1960. In 1975, Misericordia opened its enrollment to men and began to offer continuing education courses.

Mr. Speaker, College Misericordia is an integral part of the Northeastern Pennsylvania community. In 1972, when Tropical Storm Agnes caused the Susquehanna River to overflow her banks, more than 100,000 people were left without food and shelter. College Misericordia became a shelter and hospital, with the benevolent Sisters of Mercy administering aid to the victims of the disaster. Mercy Hospital, totally inundated by raging flood waters, evacuated its patients and staff to College Misericordia.

The college annually offers community-based cultural and athletic programs. Each summer, former members of the National Players, a Shakespearian theater company, present Theater-on-the-Green, bringing the wit and wisdom of William Shakespeare to the area. The college boasts an outstanding art gallery, the MacDonald Gallery, and the Anderson Sports and Health Center, which offers community-based, health-related activities for young and old.

Still under the sponsorship of the Sisters of Mercy, the college currently has a lay president, Dr. Michael A. MacDowell. A liberal arts college, it is especially known for its Education, Health Sciences, Humanities, Social Work, Business, Mathematics, and Natural Sciences programs.

The kick-off of the anniversary celebration is the dedication of the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library on Friday, September 24. A 1987 graduate of College Misericordia and later a Trustee until her death in 1993, Mary saw a real need for a new library at Misericordia. Her family has helped to make this dream a reality in Mary’s honor. Beginning with one building 75 years ago, the college now proudly boasts 13 beautiful buildings.

Mr. Speaker, many alumni, students, faculty, staff and Sisters will pay tribute on Saturday to the spirit of giving which was the ideal of the Founding Sisters. They will volunteer their

time and efforts around the community in various projects of Habitat for Humanity, St. Vincent Soup Kitchen, Catherine McCauley House, and Mercy Center, just to name a few. It is a fitting start to an anniversary year and a fitting tribute to an order of religious Sisters whose very purpose is to help others. I am extremely pleased and proud to have had the opportunity to bring the history of this fine institution to the attention of my colleagues. I send my sincere best wishes for continued success to College Misericordia.

## THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

SPEECH OF

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague today in strong support for implementing legislation to substantially reduce the exorbitant prices of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries. Our current Medicare program drastically fails to offer protection against the costs of most outpatient prescription drugs. H.R. 664, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act of 1999 aims to create an affordable prescription drug benefit program that will expand the accessibility and autonomy of all Medicare patients. This bill will protect Medicare beneficiaries from discriminatory pricing by drug manufacturers and make prescription drugs available to Medicare beneficiaries at substantially reduced prices.

Currently, Medicare offers a very limited prescription drug benefit plan for the 39 million aged and disabled persons obtaining its services. Many of these beneficiaries have to supplement their Medicare health insurance program with private or public health insurance in order to cover the astronomical costs not met by Medicare. Unfortunately, most of these plans offer very little drug cost coverage, if any at all. Therefore, Medicare patients across the United States are forced to pay over half of their total drug expenses out-of-pocket as compared to 34 percent paid by the population as a whole. Due to these burdensome circumstances, patients are forced to spend more of their limited resources on drugs which hampers access to adequate medication needed to successfully treat conditions for many of these individuals.

In 1995, we found that persons with supplementary prescription drug coverage used 20.3 prescriptions per year compared to 15.3 for those individuals lacking supplementary coverage. The patients without supplementary coverage were forced to compromise their health because they could not afford to pay for the additional drugs that they needed. The quality and life of these individuals continue to deteriorate while we continued to limit their access to basic health necessities. H.R. 664 will tackle this problem by allowing our patients to purchase prescription drugs at a lower price.

Why should our patients have to continually compromise their health by being forced to decide which prescription drugs to buy and which drugs not to take, simply because of