

Uplink

November 1995

A newsletter for the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting

Uplink update

It's beginning to look a lot like ...
... election season.

Yes, we're getting closer to the New Hampshire presidential primaries.

A January conference by IRE and NICAR will help you delve into campaign contributions, analyze polls and dig deeper for stories. See Page 3 for more information.

Meanwhile, this issue of Uplink is designed to help you cover what goes on in the office and factory.

The stories look back at the seminal series by the *Dayton Daily News*, and jump to today, where reporters continue to mine the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's database. Journalists recount how to go beyond OSHA records, using court records, state worker's compensation data and more.

By popular demand, this issue also recaptures highlights on the NICAR listserv, where reporters debated selling data directly to readers. And we include an update on the SEC, which may change its free Internet site popular with reporters.

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Mining the tape

OSHA falls flat

By Jo Craven
NICAR Staff

Hazardous working conditions can cost employees an arm and a leg — or worse. But until recently, the government put little value on the loss of life and limb.

In 1986, Cleveland King and a co-worker were killed in Atlanta, Ga., when an unsupported concrete-block wall collapsed, crushing them both to death. The company was fined \$2. That's right: a dollar a person.

In 1989, four workers were injured in an explosion at the Phillips 66 Houston Chemical Complex in Pasadena, Texas. Two of the four died. The company was fined \$720.

In 1989, Richard Spencer was crushed to death by a forklift at Bethlehem Steel Corp. in Sparrows Point, Md. The company was fined \$585.

These were among the many facts unearthed in Occupational Safety and Health Administration data by Mike Casey and Russell Carollo in a series that ran four years ago in the *Dayton Daily News*. This year, Virginia Baldwin Hick and Natalya Shulyakovskaya of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* found there are still good stories in OSHA records.

Hick first used OSHA data in a spring *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* series that examined local workplace falls that resulted in fatalities.

Tales in the tape

"I cut my teeth in computer-assisted reporting by using OSHA data," Hick said. "OSHA had just put into place new

regulations on fall protection. I featured how these regulations were supposed to save lives."

In a Sept. 4 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* story, Hick and Shulyakovskaya used OSHA data to document the organization's progress nationally in deterring workplace accidents. In 1991, after OSHA violations had peaked in 1990, Congress increased fines. Since

Continued on page six

Workplace inspections

Short on surprises

By Sarah Christian
The Associated Press

Three-quarters of U.S. work sites where serious accidents occurred in 1994 and early 1995 had never been inspected during this decade by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Together these accidents killed more than 1,800 workers and injured thousands more. This fall, AP studied the records of 778,000 inspections conducted by OSHA between January 1989 and May 1995 and examined the most serious accidents in 1994 through April 1995. The resulting story, "OSHA Fails to Check Three Fourths of Places Where Workers Die," was released Sept. 5 and 6.

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On the NICAR-L listserv

Selling data to readers

By Naomi Aoki

Columbia (Mo.) Missourian

In the information age, information itself is one of the hottest commodities.

Selling information, of course, is nothing new. That is the business of journalism. But the question facing journalists today is whether to sell databases: databases of government records, made more accessible by journalists, or compiled by reporters.

"There are lots of ways to meet our mission of giving people the information they need to survive in the world," said Steve Doig of the *Miami Herald* during a recent conversation on the NICAR-L listserv. "We should not be so narrowly focused that the only way to accomplish that mission is on newsprint through a journalist's words."

Doig argues that as long as the same standards of accuracy and newsworthiness are applied to databases, selling them is no different from selling newspapers.

He is not alone. Bob Warner at the *Philadelphia Daily News* added, "If people want the information, we should try to make it available, in formats convenient to them, for an amount that covers our out-of-pocket costs but does not exploit our readers."

Privacy questions

Some fear selling databases will inspire a public outcry against invasion of privacy, further damage the media's credibility, and make it harder for reporters to get access to data. As it is, state government officials in one state after another are closing down access to driver's license records.

Rich Gordon, also of the *Miami Herald*, believes people's privacy concerns must be weighed in every decision on what to publish.

"It's pretty clear to me that the public would look badly at newspapers if they started selling driver's license records," Gordon said.

For Gordon, the concern is more practical than philosophical. The potential backlash from the public — lost credibility and possibly even lost access to public records — would ultimately be self-defeating.

Dan Browning of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* agreed, adding that the impossibility of verifying the accuracy of some databases —

particularly sensitive ones like driver's license records and criminal records — could hurt newspaper's credibility.

The profit motive

Other reporters believe the profit motive would compromise journalism. Currently, journalists are often charged less for databases than those in other industries. But if news organizations begin profiting directly from government database some fear government officials will begin charging exorbitant prices for databases.

"Pricing is a major concern here," said Ra Robinson of *The Press* in Atlantic City, N.J. "It's being litigated right now. The last thing we should do is give state and local bureaucrats an opening to argue that we only want the data at cost so we can resell it for a healthy profit."

Gregg Leslie, a staff attorney at the Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press, added, "Reselling government data — even value-added data and even at break-even rates that subsidize other operations — will not start us down a slippery slope away from the public interest defense; it will banish it."

John Freed, database editor for the *New York Times*, countered, "There is a major danger that agencies will start ratcheting up the price of data. This will happen regardless of what we do as data purchasers; if they decide there is a 'market' we'll be tiny players compared with the insurance companies, etc. We need to keep our eye on the ball — the information is public, paid for by tax money. Government is not a profit-making business. What we do with the data is none of the business."

"Public data is public data, and it should be sold for the cost of duplicating it," Doig said, emphasizing that questions about whether to sell data are the same ethical questions journalists have been dealing with for years. "It's not a different problem. It's the same problem."

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Data on the 'Net

Among the news organizations that offer data on the Internet are the Virginian Pilot at <http://data.pilotonline.com> and Detroit's WDIV-TV: <http://www.wdiv.com/index.htm>

Cover campaigns better

Investigative Reporters and Editors and the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting kick off the 1996 presidential election year with a weekend of comprehensive training in covering federal, state and local campaigns.

From understanding polls and their flaws to tracing special interest money that flows into campaign war chests, this workshop will give you the basics and the nuances.

The conference will be Jan. 20-21 at the University of Maryland in College Park.

The program is scheduled to include:

- Training in using computers to analyze federal, state and local campaign finances.
- Talks by experts on how polls succeed and fail.
- Tips on how to come up with investigative stories while doing the daily coverage.
- Saving all your hard work during the campaign to keep the winners honest afterwards.

Call IRE at (314) 882-2042 for more information and a registration form.

Get computer training:

- **The Medill School of Journalism, four-day computer-assisted reporting bootcamp, Dec. 7-10. Medill's Washington, D.C., campus.**
- **NICAR Bootcamps, week-long intensive training seminars, Jan. 7-12, and March 10-15, Columbia, Mo.**

These dates are open to all journalists. For more information, call

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Rock '95 sessions, call
Sound Images at (303)
649-1811. For
handouts, call
Investigative
Reporters and Editors
at (314) 882-2042.**

Growing collection of federal databases

From the NICAR library

NICAR offers a number of federal government databases. Here is a list of our growing collection:

- Federal Election Commission contributions data, including donations by individuals and political action committees.
- Federal Aviation Administration data, including airplane maintenance work documented in the service difficulty report, pilot licenses and grades, and aircraft registration.
- Home Mortgage Disclosure Act records, for tracking who gets loans and who gets turned down, and finding redlining patterns.
- Federal procurement data, 1992-1994, includes breakdowns by agency.
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms gun dealer records.
- National Bridge Inventory System data, includes inspection grades.
- FBI Uniform Crime Reports, a detailed compilation of crime data that includes statistical breakdowns of individual murders.
- Social Security death records, by name and social security number, going back to 1937.
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration violation data includes worker accidents and exposures to hazardous chemicals by companies.
- U.S. Department of Transportation truck accident and census data. It includes accidents by company and road.

• U.S. Small Business Administration loan guarantees, 1989-1994. This includes the name of the business, address, amount covered by the SBA, and status, including whether the loan went bad.

• U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loan guarantees, 1989-1994. This includes individuals and businesses, the amount covered by the SBA, and the status, including whether the loan went bad.

• U.S. Small Business Administration's list of minority companies certified for SBA assistance in seeking federal contracts. It includes the name of the company, its address, the owner, type of business and phone number.

• U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data runs from the 1987-1988 to the 1992-1993 school year. It includes data on school enrollments, finances, staffing and dropouts.

• U.S. Coast Guard directory of U.S. merchant vessels. It includes the name of the ship, the managing owner, home port and various descriptive information.

• U.S. Department of Transportation fatal roadway accidents, 1988-1993.

• National Endowment for the Arts, grants, 1989-1993.

For up-to-date prices and more information, call (314) 882-0684, or send e-mail to nicar@muccmail.missouri.edu.

Other places to look for workplace data

Beyond OSHA

By Cassandra Sweet

University of Missouri

For links to a variety
of worker safety-
related sites, visit
corporate-sponsored

<http://>

[www.seton.com/
safety.html](http://www.seton.com/safety.html), Duke

University's <http://>

152.3.65.120/oem/,

the Finnish <http://>

turva.me.tut.fi/

[~tuusitali/other.html](http://tuusitali/other.html),

the Swedish <http://>

www.mic.ki.se/

Safety.html and

OSHA's <http://>

www.osha.gov/

safelinks.html.

For the newsletter

Industrial Safety &

Hygiene News go to

<http://>

www.safetyonline.net/

ishn/ishn.htm

Paul Van Osdol of WJXT-TV in Jacksonville, Fla., was reporting a story on an industrial accident last year, when he decided to research deaths investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Those inspections are required by law. With only an IBM-compatible 286 PC and a program called Nutshell, Van Osdol compiled information from death reports and OSHA investigative reports.

Because state law prohibited him from obtaining complete electronic versions of death reports, Van Osdol tracked down victims' families to get details. He accessed state vital statistics death records, probate court and circuit court records and GAO reports. Van Osdol's team also used the on-line resource, DataTimes, to research companies where deaths occurred.

Van Osdol found that OSHA investigated fewer than one-third of all workplace deaths in Florida during a three-year period. When OSHA did investigate, the average fine imposed was \$2,900. After WJXT-TV's report, OSHA changed its procedures for investigating deaths involving longshoremen. The agency also promised to get tougher with companies that failed to report accidents.

Dateline NBC's David Hinchman, then at KOMU-TV in Columbia, Mo., reviewed electronic databases of OSHA inspections and Missouri workers compensation claims when doing a similar story on workplace fatalities.

Hinchman compared electronic records from OSHA and Missouri's Division of Workers Compensation. OSHA documented only 39 percent of the workplace fatalities that fell into its jurisdiction. He also found repeated on-the-job injuries at one plant did not lead to changes in workplace conditions.

Using compensation records

While reporting for the *Houston Chronicle* in 1993, Nancy Stancill acquired tapes from the Texas Worker's Compensation Commission to examine 13,328 injuries to Texas teenage workers from January 1989 to October 1992. Stancill discovered that Texas' child labor law, on the books since 1981, had never been enforced. Although required by law, the

state had never actually hired inspectors to monitor children's work conditions. And while the law sets 14 as the minimum working age, Stancill found some teen-agers who said they started working when they were 10 years old.

Stancill acquired names of businesses cited for violations from the Department of Labor. She then analyzed all the data using EX IQ and found that the majority of injured teens were hurt in restaurants and grocery stores. Injuries ranged from sprains and cuts to amputations and deaths. She also found many teen-age farm workers became ill after being sprayed with pesticides.

One thing veterans of workplace investigations warn is that seemingly related information might not be stored in one place. Many government documents are stored on different PCs among various public agencies.

Check other oversight agencies

David Armstrong of the *Boston Globe* suggests reporters check local industrial accident boards or equivalent administrative agencies that resolve workers compensation claims. "They're a good resource for finding out why people are getting hurt on the job and what injured workers are getting in terms of compensation."

Most states have an agency that handles claims independently, Armstrong said. These agencies' accident records include workers' descriptions of what happened, what kind of work they were doing, how long they've been off the job and what company they were working for. Information can be dug up including abuses of the system, people filing multiple claims, people who win multiple claims for the same kind of injuries at different companies and other fraud.

Other sources include labor unions, some of which do studies on workplace issues, and state governmental records on their own employees and how they get hurt.

NICAR Director Brant Houston suggests that if electronic accident, death or medical records are not readily available, civil and circuit court records can often fill in the information gap. Most cities and counties have computerized litigation records and can copy records onto diskettes for easy data analysis.

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OSHA inspections

Some of what AP found included:

- OSHA inspectors were not doing a large number of surprise inspections. These unannounced "program inspections" are supposed to convince businesses to follow safety regulations because OSHA staff could, in theory, show up at any time and slap fines and citations on companies that don't follow the rules.

- OSHA staff often spent its time chasing down union complaints, many of which resulted in no serious violations.

- OSHA inspectors spent nearly 106,000 hours in 1994 on complaint inspections that did not result in a single violation.

- Nationally, 54 percent of OSHA inspections were surprise inspections during the period studied by AP. However, several states, "inundated with complaints that must be inspected first, lag far behind the national average," AP reported.

- Of the 6,411 workplaces AP concentrated on (those with recent fatal or catastrophic accidents), 75 percent had not been visited by OSHA in the previous five years. Seventy-six percent of those were non-union companies and more than half were small shops with fewer than 50 employees.

225 miles away

The story got started when a source inside OSHA tipped off AP Washington Bureau reporter John Solomon and Special Assignment Editor Bob Port.

"He said that if we looked at OSHA records we'd see that they weren't making surprise inspections," Port said. "The same source said if we looked at union vs. non-union businesses we'd see that unions were making a lot of unfounded complaints. Sure enough, that is exactly what we found."

Port, in New York City, and Solomon, in Washington, D.C., worked in offices separated by about 225 miles. Although each made a visit to the other's office, mostly they shared data, query results and tables via modem.

"I found it to be a fascinating tool. You have two people six hours apart by car who can zap these huge files back and forth to each other," Solomon said. "It worked really nice."

Passing information electronically wasn't the hardest part of the story — it was the sheer size of the OSHA database. It includes millions of records and hundreds of fields.

"We were working on a master table that was 300 megabytes large. It really taxes your ability to do queries," Solomon said. "It was not uncommon to run a query that took two, three four hours to run. That's even with some fabulously fast computers."

Port and Solomon used both FoxPro and Paradox to analyze the OSHA data, using each to its strength in different situations.

"We did a lot of alternating. I found that quite useful," Solomon said. "I like working with Paradox because it's visual. You can see what you're doing. But when you get into a real complex query, we used Fox for that."

When they finished their analysis, Port and Solomon took the results to OSHA, where staff checked the numbers.

"They came up with the exact same things," Port said. "They confirmed everything we had."

Right angle

Although OSHA has been scrutinized by many news operations, AP's story came at the agency from a new angle, Solomon said. "I think the most famous one (OSHA angle) is, 'What is the cost of a life?' What we wanted to look at was, 'Is OSHA working effectively?' 'Does the prevention inspection work?'" he said. "Well, we found it did work in places they get to. But do they do enough prevention? The answer is overwhelmingly no."

While the AP story was reported and written, Congress debated OSHA's budget. It fit nicely into the debate, Solomon said. "I think both sides found powerful fodder in our story."

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For a handy site to check OSHA numbers, go to <http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/index.html>

This includes a searchable index to find the most common OSHA violations by industry.

There is summary information on worker deaths, accident rates and other information that could help reporters on deadline put a workplace accident in context.

<http://gabby.osha-slc.gov/osh.html> also offers OSHA resources.

OSHA data includes four tables, which may be analyzed separately or joined using the activity number field, which appears in each.

Here are the tables and some of the information they contain:

Accidents: Names those injured, identifies the task that was being performed when the accident occurred, indicates whether a hazardous substance contributed to the accident, lists which body parts were injured, and indicates the degree of the injury, including whether it was fatal.

Hazardous Substances: Lists accidents involving hazardous substances not involving people.

OSHA: Gives company sites, previous violations, the number of workers employed at the site in the previous 12 months and other OSHA activity at the sites.

Violations: Details penalties, types of violations and the number of employees exposed to the danger.

—Jo Craven
NICAR Staff

Continued from page one:

then, accident and fatality rates have been declining. In addition, their analysis revealed, repeat and willful violations have dropped.

But, as Hick and Shulyakovskaya reported, Congress is now considering a budget that would snip OSHA's inspection funds by one-third and sever its authority, which means companies would bear a greater responsibility for policing themselves.

"That's like letting the gangs police themselves," Carollo said. "They've already proved they won't do that. They have no incentive to punish themselves."

Casey and Carollo examined OSHA's operation nationwide, traveling to various states and interviewing more than 200 people, in addition to analyzing 1.8 million computer records. Their series precipitated 1991 legislation that increased OSHA fines sevenfold and led to the tougher, and more effective, OSHA that is operating today.

If Congress cuts OSHA, the trend in workplace injuries may, as Carollo alluded, soar again — but one thing is for sure: The tale will be told in the data. Or, as Casey and Carollo discovered, at least part of the story will be told in the data. The rest depends on thorough reporting.

Tips

Here are some tips Carollo, Hick and Shulyakovskaya offer for handling OSHA data.

- Use ZIP codes. "Some companies had many, many locations," Carollo said. "If you used company names, like General Motors, you'd end up with a zillion hits. We used ZIP codes to identify locations."

- Look for deaths. "One of the more interesting queries is to look for citations that result from fatalities," Carollo said. "Once you've got those, you can get all the paperwork on it because somebody's dead. Then rank those in order of monetary fines."

- Find the survivors. "Look through the data field of fatalities, find the names and look up the survivors early on," Hick said. "It helped me focus my story and focus my interviews."

- Keep it simple. "It's a pretty complicated database," Carollo said. "Definitely make the queries simple."

- Look for what is NOT in the data. Casey and Carollo suspected that not all workplace

Tale of OSHA tapes

deaths were recorded with OSHA. They confirmed their suspicion by comparing the data with state medical examiners' reports in Oklahoma and Arkansas. "I picked states that had a coroner's office that had good records," Carollo said.

- Examine penalty fields carefully. "There are actually three different amounts of penalties that you will see for each inspection," Shulyakovskaya said. "The first comes from the OSHA table; it's called 'total current penalties' and represents the initially assessed fine. Second is the 'current penalty reflecting changes and modifications,' which indicates the fine negotiated between the company and OSHA. It appears in the violations table. Third is the 'total penalty dollars remitted for the inspection,' which is what was actually paid. This appears in the OSHA table."

- "Often, the difference is drastic," she said. "There are two obvious reasons: Employees abate regulations or go into litigation."

- Look out for "deleted" records. "OSHA has a habit of leaving records marked for deletion in the database with a flag," Shulyakovskaya said. "Look for the 'delete' field in the violations table where (existing) records are marked for deletion."

- Inspected or not? "We discovered that about 4,000 records a year have no inspections," Hick said. The records are listed in the OSHA table, but the companies have not been inspected. The lack of inspection — which may result, for example because the business closed or because it refused entry to the OSHA inspector — is noted in the field referred to in the record layout as "Why-no-inspec." While this may not alter overall trends not noting it may skew specific calculations.

- Take advantage of SIC codes. "We didn't get into looking at OSHA for dangerous occupations because the occupation field is rarely filled in," Hick said, "but standard industrial codes (SIC) are listed. These are standard codes used throughout federal government. SIC codes indicate how the industry is classified in the federal bureaucracy. You can find out which types of industries have the most fatalities."

- Use clipping services. "You'll get clippings from tiny, tiny weeklies that otherwise get ignored. If you're doing a national project, there is no better way to find anecdotes," Carollo said. "I might be a brief in some paper in South Dakota and you get this great material."

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SEC ponders EDGAR's fate

By Robert Anderson
University of Missouri

Although the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has put a key database of company financial documents on the Internet, the agency is hinting that free access to the database might come to an halt.

Among the possibilities the SEC raises is privatization of the database, known as EDGAR.

"We want to throw the net as wide as we can" for suggestions about how to run EDGAR, said Mike Bartell, an official in the SEC's Office of Information Technology.

He was referring to a 12-question survey that was placed on the SEC's web page (<http://www.sec.gov>) and in the publication Commerce Business Daily on Oct. 9.

The No. 1 question in the survey is: "Should all, or a portion of EDGAR be privatized?"

Another question refers to the operation of EDGAR at the SEC's Web site: "Should the agency continue to maintain and operate this service or should this service be provided by the private sector either on the Internet or via some other means?"

The questionnaire, called a request for information, had an original response deadline of Oct. 31 — but that has been extended to Nov. 30, according to the SEC.

Bartell said the main reason for the extension is that "there's an awful lot of interest in this." But he declined to say what the volume of the response or what responders were suggesting.

EDGAR, which stands for Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system, was phased in by the SEC in 1993 for access to filings of public companies. Among the documents is the 10-K, the annual financial report for a public company.

Investors, journalists and the general public use 10-K's and other EDGAR documents to assess the financial well-being of companies.

Survey: 'No problem'

One of the key proponents for free access to EDGAR said he is not worried about the SEC's survey.

"Actions speak louder than words," said Carl Malamud of the non-profit Internet Multicasting Service. "I think the on-line database is of more significance than an RFI (request for information)."

Malamud's service (<http://www.town.hall.org>) had carried the EDGAR documents on-line until Sept. 28, under a two-year pilot program underwritten by the National Science Foundation. The SEC took over control of the EDGAR system on that date.

The pilot program also allowed Internet Multicasting to carry full-text versions of patent documents filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The funding for carrying that database ended at the same time as funding EDGAR. The Patent Office has promised to put up a free on-line system of searchable — but not full-text — patent information by Nov. 9.

During the pilot program, persons exploring EDGAR scrutinized an average of 17,000 documents per day, for a total of 3 million documents.

The SEC states that almost three-quarters of the 15,580 publicly traded domestic companies now use EDGAR to file their reports. Under a U.S. Congressional mandate, the remainder of the companies will file by May 1996.

Since 1985, the SEC also has given out millions of dollars in contracts to such private firms as LEXIS-NEXIS of Dayton, Ohio, which packages raw EDGAR documents for resale.

Malamud has said that for-profit companies tried to kill free on-line access to EDGAR when the Internet Multicasting project ended and the SEC took over the online service.

"Lobbyists for the Information Industry Association (IIA) have actively opposed this project," said Malamud in a September statement on the Internet Multicasting Web page. He invited people to write SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt with their complaints.

In an interview, Malamud praised the actions of the SEC to keep the free online service.

"My feeling is that the database is on-line with the SEC and it will be difficult to take a step backward by removing it," he said. "However, the SEC has an obligation to find out what people and the industry think, hence the RFI."

The main SEC contracts for EDGAR expire at the end of 1996. SEC officials have said they may use responses from the questionnaire to put together a request for proposals from companies that want to take over the EDGAR system.

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www.ire.org
The web site also
includes a menu for
IRE and for the
Hillman Project,
which is developing
a site for tips and
resources for
journalists around
the world.

Bits, Bytes and Barks

Nation of Islam site defaced

The Nation Of Islam's Internet home page was defaced within two days after the Million Man March.

A hacker electronically broke into the Internet site and peppered it with cyber-graffiti files.

The page opened with its Netscape browser title changed to "The Bigots Of Islam H0meb0y pAg3!@#."

On the page itself, the opening read, "In the name of some goofy god that does not exist!@#." The site continued with previous welcome message of "As-Salaam Alaikum (Peace be unto you)," defaced by another set of parentheses: "(As if we really belive that)" (sic).

A source at Object Oriented Information Systems (O2IS), the Internet consulting company that runs Afrinet Central, home of the Nation of Islam page, said Nation of Islam staffers alerted O2IS to the break-in two days after the march. The source added that the company is working on its computer security to prevent future attacks.

The Cambridge, Mass.-based company had taken Nation's Home Page off the Internet while it eliminated the hacker files. The site, which includes speeches by Minister Louis Farrakhan, resumed at the same address, <http://www.afrinet.net/~islam/>

— Timothy K. Maloy, The Internet Newsroom,
editors@DGS.dgsys.com

Bound for California

Jennifer LaFleur, who has helped hundreds of journalists learn computer-assisted reporting, recently left as

NICAR's training director. In late October, she started her new job as database editor for the *San Jose Mercury News*. She can be reached at (408) 920-5728., or send e-mail jenster@aol.com.

Bound for Omaha

Carol Napolitano, formerly computer-assisted reporting coordinator at *The Times* in Munster, Ind., will be joining the *Omaha World-Herald* on Nov. 20. She will bring her CAR skills to the paper as a member of its newly created public affairs reporting team.

Swedish IRE begins listserv

Swedish IRE recently began MEDIA, a European listserv on journalism, investigative reporting and computer-assisted reporting. The list includes bilingual journalists able to help English-speaking reporters covering Europe. To subscribe, send e-mail to listserv@socrates.mip.ki.se. If you have questions, send e-mail to Michel Bajuk, head of the Swedish IRE-secretariate, at bajuk@jmk.su.se

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