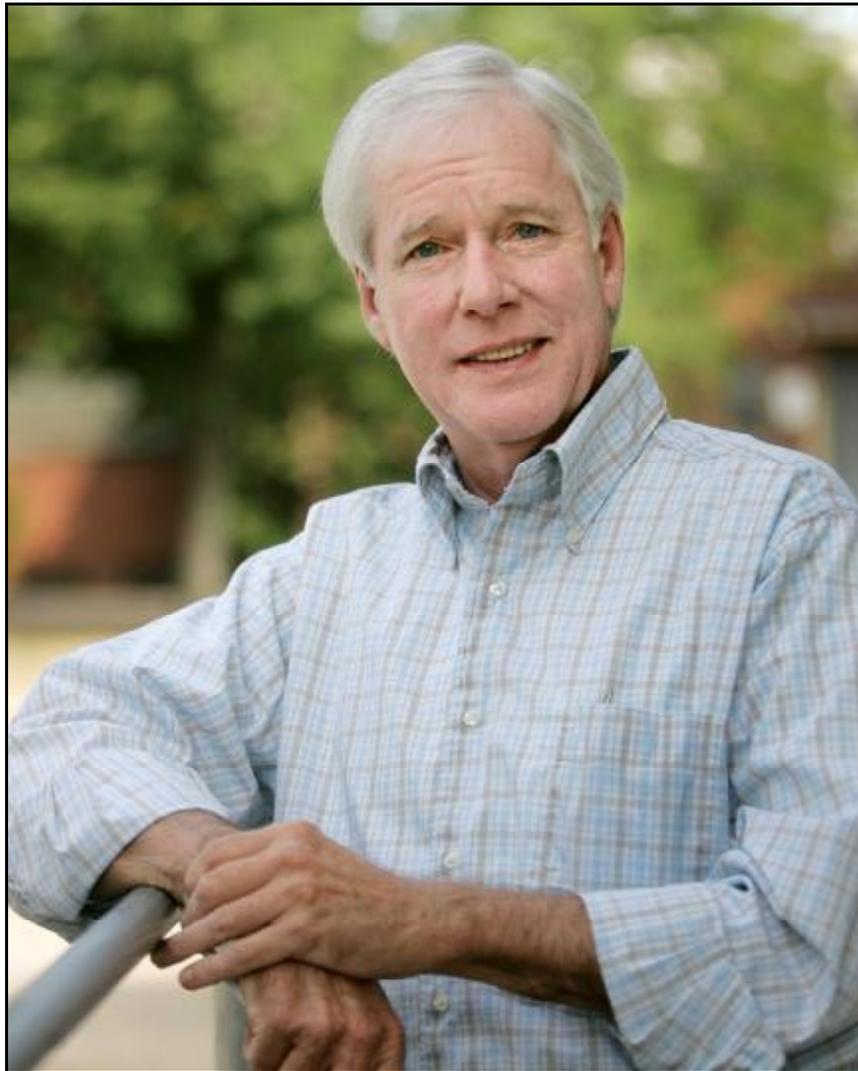


**Nomination of Charlie Cain
Michigan Journalism Hall
of Fame
2015**



Nomination Form



**Michigan Journalism
Hall of Fame**

Nomination Form

DEADLINE: Monday, January 26, 2015

NAME OF NOMINEE: Charlie Cain (deceased)

ADDRESS: Nancy Cain (sister)

PHONE: () _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

NOMINATION STATEMENT:

Please describe the nominee's contribution to Michigan journalism and using the criteria cited on the website or packet, explain why the nominee should be elected to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame. Attach supporting materials, such as testimonial letters, resume', examples of journalistic work and other evidence of merit. All materials remain the property of the Hall of Fame Committee. Complete guidelines can be found online at <http://j-school.jm.msu.edu/halloffame/inductees/>.

ENDORSEMENT:

I nominate the above individual to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame:

Your Name: David Ashenfelter Date: Dec. 15, 2014

Address: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Email _____

Cell Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

Signature: _____

Nomination forms and all supporting materials must be received by **Monday, January 26, 2015**. Nominators should submit two electronic copies of all materials except for books, tapes, DVD's, etc. Send completed nomination materials all together in one packet to:

Chair
Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame Committee
School of Journalism
Communication Arts and Sciences Building
404 Wilson Road, Room 305
East Lansing, MI 48824-1212

Nomination Statement

DAVID L. ASHENFELTER

December 15, 2014

Chair
Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame Committee
School of Journalism
Communication Arts and Sciences Building
404 Wilson Road, Room 305
East Lansing, MI 48824-1212

To the Committee:

Many state government reporters come and go without making much of an impression.

Charlie Cain not only made an impact. He was an institution.

During a 37-year news career, Charlie Cain forged a reputation as a premier state capital correspondent – an award-winning journalist who enjoyed the respect of state leaders, colleagues, competitors and even some legislators who were on the receiving end of his incisive reporting.

Charlie was a terrific reporter and writer whose tenacity, enthusiasm, versatility and commitment to excellence inspired younger colleagues and made state government more accessible and understandable to Detroit News readers.

That's why I'm nominating him for the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

This packet contains endorsement letters from two governors, two Hall of Fame members, three Pulitzer Prize winners, former Detroit News colleagues and Lansing political observers who believe Charlie is long overdue for induction into the Hall of Fame. They admired and respected him for the qualities that the Hall of Fame celebrates: integrity, courage, achievement, leadership, contribution to the industry and influence on individuals in the profession.

"Newspapering changed a great deal during Charlie Cain's 40 years in the business, from the post-Watergate investigative euphoria, to the website beast that demands to be fed around the clock," Detroit News Business Editor Joanna Firestone, a longtime colleague and former Lansing wire service competitor, wrote in an endorsement letter in this packet.

“But through it all, Charlie’s driving philosophy never changed: Get it right, get it first and make it fair and readable,” she added. “He was respected by his competitors and by those he covered – Democrat and Republican – not because they always liked what he wrote, but because he was objective, honest and accurate in how he presented it.”

Charlie grew up in Detroit, the son of prominent Associated Press reporters. (His father, Charles C. Cain III, was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2001.) After high school, Charlie studied journalism at Michigan State University, served as managing editor of the campus newspaper and worked summers as a copy aide for The Detroit News.

He received his degree in 1973 and joined The News as a suburban reporter. After his award-winning coverage of the 1976 contract talks between the United Auto Workers and Detroit’s Big Three carmakers, The News sent Charlie to Lansing where he quickly established himself.

Except for brief stints as The News’ City-County Bureau Chief in Detroit and political reporter for WJBK-TV2, Charlie spent his entire career in Lansing, where he worked as senior correspondent and State Capital Bureau Chief.

During his years there, Charlie:

- Exposed legislators for living outside their districts, failing to show up for legislative votes and, in one case, for using coveted state parking spaces to store two luxury vehicles.
- Conducted multiple surveys that identified Michigan’s best and worst legislators.
- Chronicled the expulsions of House and Senate members for ethical lapses.
- Caused William Milliken, Michigan’s dignified former governor, to concede during a year-end interview that his job sometimes was a “real pain in the ass.” The story became the stuff of legends in Lansing.
- Supervised award-winning coverage of political controversies, including the 1993 House Fiscal Agency embezzlement scandal, which resulted in criminal convictions of agency staffers and won a Pulitzer Prize for two of Charlie’s staffers.
- Reported and wrote award-winning projects about the pros and cons of legalizing casino gambling in Detroit (1988), Michigan’s changing economy

(1989), Michigan's changing welfare system (1995) and the state's bulging prison system (2009).

- Covered several governor's races, including John Engler's historic 1990 upset victory over incumbent Gov. James Blanchard. He then spent six weeks with other staffers writing a book about the win, "The Journey of John Engler."
- Covered six national political conventions, including the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Diego, where he was dispatched to a suburban McDonald's to cover the then-deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history.
- Regularly appeared on government affairs TV programs, including WKAR-TV's "Off the Record" and WXYZ-TV's "Spotlight on the News."
- Was the last person to interview Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Jerome Bronson, who committed suicide shortly after being arraigned on bribery charges resulting from a case before the court.
- Was the only reporter that Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Republican challenger Dick DeVos could agree on to help moderate their first televised debate in 2006.

Former Lansing Bureau staffers described Charlie as "a reporter's editor," who generously shared story ideas, his knowledge of state government and even his news sources. They said he often pitched in on important stories without claiming credit and was such a fast and accurate writer, he was the bureau's designated rewrite man on major breaking news stories out of Lansing.

Charlie left The News in 2009 during an economic downsizing and joined the Truscott Rossman government consulting firm as a senior writer and editor, mentoring staffers about the importance of accurate research and writing.

He died of cancer in July 2011, at age 60.

Here's what Charlie's former colleagues, competitors and others said about him in Hall of Fame endorsement letters:

Former Gov. William G. Milliken: "I knew and admired Charlie as a highly respected journalist with utmost integrity... No slanting of news. No sensationalizing. Just presenting the facts and telling important and sometimes heart-wrenching stories impacting the community in well written and interesting ways... He simply stood out from the pack for being tough but fair..."

Former Gov. Jennifer Granholm: “Charlie was among the finest reporters I encountered during my public service in Lansing... His brand of journalism – fair, objective and accurate – was something to be admired... I was always willing to take his call because he wanted to get it right and he always did.”

Tim Skubick, Michigan Journalism Hall of Famer and host of WKAR-TV’s “Off the Record” public affairs program: “He was ‘a journalist’s journalist’” who covered Lansing “with class and professionalism that set him apart from the rest... He brought to the table not only a family history of journalism but his own personal style with attention to detail, getting the story right, and tenacity that made the Detroit News Lansing Bureau one of the best bureaus in our town. ...” Skubick said Charlie’s induction into the Hall of Fame “is long overdue.”

Bill Ballenger, founder and longtime publisher and editor of Inside Michigan Politics newsletter: “Charlie’s absence from the Lansing scene has left a void that is unlikely to be filled. Especially in this day and age – with declining commitment by print journalism to covering state government as it should be covered – Charlie’s departure means we have lost someone whose likes we may never see again. The least his chosen profession can do is to honor him as he deserves to be honored.”

Jim Mitzelfeld, a lawyer in the Office of Inspector General at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Washington, D.C., and former lead reporter on the Pulitzer Prize-winning House Fiscal Agency scandal: “Charlie taught me as much about daily journalism as anyone I ever worked with. He was courageous, creative, ethical, hard-working, and more than anything, loved the newspaper business. His passion for the business was contagious.”

Mitzelfeld said Charlie’s involvement in the Pulitzer Prize-winning House Fiscal Agency scandal was crucial. He cheered on his reporters, helped out on the reporting, passed along tips and shared his news contacts, ran interference with editors and never tried to horn in on the story. “It was one of the most selfless acts I experienced during the nine years I spent as a daily newspaper reporter and underscored Charlie’s leadership qualities,” Mitzelfeld said. “He was a reporter’s reporter and editor. He deserves a place in the Hall of Fame...”

John Lindstrom, Gongwer news service publisher who helped rewrite the Hall of Fame bylaws in the 1980s: “I knew Charlie as boss, colleague, competitor, mentor and friend for 40 years,” Lindstrom wrote. “The intensity and single-mindedness of his commitment to good reporting – good, basic, sound reporting that conveys the critical elements of even a complicated story in a complete and understandable way to the audience – was, and is, a personal inspiration to me.”

Roger Martin, a partner in the Martin Weymeyer public policy consulting firm and former Detroit News Lansing Bureau reporter: “Charlie was my friend, my colleague at The Detroit News for nearly a decade, and the best mentor an

aspiring political reporter... could have ever been privileged to call partner... He was loyal, totally trustworthy, and a great ambassador of the profession. I proudly offer my strong support of Charlie for induction into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.”

And, so do I.

Sincerely,

David Ashenfelter
Pulitzer Prize winning journalist
Former reporter at the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News
Member, Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame

Four Decades of Memorable Reporting

HUMAN FEET IN FREEZER

Date: Aug. 16, 1974, The Detroit News

Summary: A compressor malfunction at a public meat storage facility in Macomb County forced the removal of the roasts, chops, steaks and 18 human feet from a freezer. The feet were being stored there for a local hospital for dissection by medical students. Employees discovered them while transferring meat to another freezer to avoid spoilage. "One woman opened the package and a foot apparently fell out and she had some type of coronary or something," a hospital official said. She thought the feet belonged to a murder victim and called police. "Feet sell for \$10 a foot," the official added. "These feet aren't as pink as normal feet, but otherwise look the same."

Background: Charlie, then a suburban reporter, had an eye for off-beat stories and knew how to deliver them in a way that caught readers' attention.

FORD STRIKE IDLES 170,000

Date: Sept. 15, 1976, The Detroit News

Summary: Leonard Woodcock will go out as UAW president the way he came in – leading a strike against the auto industry. Woodcock announced the union's decision to strike Ford Motor Co. yesterday, six hours before the 11:59 p.m. strike deadline. The walkout affects 170,000 U.S. Ford workers in 22 states, including 85,000 in Michigan. It's the third national strike against an auto company since 1970, when Woodcock succeeded the late Walter P. Reuther as president of the 1.4-million-member union.

Background: The Detroit News put a premium on covering contract talks between the UAW and Detroit's Big Three carmakers. Charlie worked on the 1976 auto team, which chronicled the 28-day strike against Ford and won the 1976 First Place Community Service Award from United Press International in Michigan.

REMEMBER HERMUS MILLSAPS? HE'S DOING JUST FINE, THANK YOU

Date: Feb. 13, 1977, The Detroit News

Summary: Financial success hasn't spoiled Hermus Millsaps, who four years ago became the Michigan Lottery's first million-dollar winner. Of course, there have been changes in his lifestyle. Like not working. He rolls out of bed at 2 p.m. if he feels like it. But a one-bedroom, one-story house in Taylor is still home. And Hermus is still Hermus – a man a newspaper columnist once accused Lottery officials of making up because he was too perfect to be their first big winner. Millsaps' car broke down the day of the lottery drawing, so he and his Russian-born wife hopped a Greyhound bus to Lansing. They carried a brown-bag lunch to save money.

Background: Charlie loved covering the lottery and he was fascinated by the usually reclusive Millsaps, who granted Charlie an interview for his package of stories about the four-year-old lottery. Millsaps treated Charlie to a high-ball and a performance on his electric guitar before sending Charlie off with a jar of pickled pig's feet.

GOVERNOR'S CHAIR NOT ALL THAT COMFY, MILLIKEN SAYS

Date: Dec. 18, 1977, The Detroit News

Summary: Being governor isn't always what it's cracked up to be, concedes Michigan Gov. William G. Milliken. "It gets to be a pain in the ass," the usually reserved governor confided in a candid, year-end interview with The Detroit News last week. The 55-year-old Republican, now pondering whether to seek a third four-year term as Michigan's chief executive, said there are plenty of "frustrations and disappointments and tedium" – including the annual ritual of going through budgets, state of the state messages and the interminable meetings.

Background: Year-end interviews with Michigan governors often wind up being boring discussions about state issues. But Charlie livened up the Milliken chat by drawing him into a conversation about the personal side of being governor. Milliken, who initially was annoyed with the story, never missed an opportunity to tease Charlie about it.

THAT'S NOT THE WAY I THOUGHT IT WORKED

Date: Dec. 19, 1977, The Detroit News

Summary: Rep. Thomas Scott, D-Flint, sat in a Lansing restaurant one lunch hour last week grumbling about his new mail-order suit. "It doesn't even look like it did in the picture," Scott complained. But it was a bargain – \$79 for a \$225 suit, he said. Scott, a 34-year-old former life-insurance agent and county party official, is one of the more earthy lawmakers in the 17-member freshman caucus in the Michigan Legislature. They are a diverse lot of first-term lawmakers, whose average age is 32.

Background: Charlie worked hard to develop news sources in Lansing and one of the ways to do it was to profile the newcomers with a brightly-written and entertaining story.

A PART-TIME FULL-TIME JOB

Date: Nov. 5, 1982, The Detroit News

Summary: To meet year-round or not to meet? The question concerns the Michigan Legislature, one of only seven in the United States that has full-time members. Pressure is increasing to make it a part-time body. Its members, who draw \$31,000 annual salaries, are the highest-paid state lawmakers in the nation. Not bad for folks who spent 90-96 days in session last year. Since Jan. 1, they've had had four months off.

Background: Charlie liked to remind readers about the not-so-demanding workload of state lawmakers.

A TOWN IN SHOCK: RESTAURANT MASSACRE SHATTERS SURVIVORS' LIVES

Date: July 22, 1984, The Detroit News

Summary: The wrought iron fence around the playground at the McDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, Calif., holds a cardboard sign and two bouquets of wilting flowers. "God

Bless America, Give Peace a Chance,” say the black, spray-painted letters. Peace will return neither quickly nor easily to this mostly Spanish-speaking San Diego suburb a mile from the Mexican border. The tranquility of this small community was shattered last Wednesday when a gunman, for reasons he took with him to the grave, methodically mowed down 40 patrons in the crowded restaurant.

Background: Charlie Cain was versatile. Though he was in San Diego to cover the 1974 Democratic National Convention, he quickly sprang into action when editors diverted him to cover what then was the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. Twenty-one people, including five children, were killed in the spree.

BRIBE–SUSPECT JUDGE KILLS SELF; BRONSON SUICIDE FOLLOWS ARREST

Date: Nov. 15, 1986, The Detroit News

Summary: State Appeals Court Judge S. Jerome Bronson, 56, was found dead in his Franklin village home at 4:45 p.m. Friday. Police said he committed suicide. Bronson was elected to a fourth six-year term 11 days ago. He was arraigned earlier Friday in Lansing before Ingham County Circuit Judge Thomas Brown on one count of bribery and one count of conspiracy to bribe. He was accused of accepting \$40,000 in bribes in a case before the court and was released on personal bond.

Background: Charlie, who worked on the story because of his role as a state capital correspondent, telephoned Bronson for comment shortly before the judge killed himself. Charlie was the last person to interview the judge. Charlie was stunned by what had happened, according to Joanna Firestone, a long-time friend and colleague. “I remember how shaken he was on that night,” she wrote in a Michigan Hall of Fame endorsement letter.

CASINO GAMBLING: HIGH STAKES FOR DETROIT

Date: April 10-15, 1988, The Detroit News

Summary: Bringing casinos to Detroit would substantially increase the city’s already-high crime rate if Atlantic City is any indication. Felonies in Atlantic City have increased 238 percent since the first casino opened, and the FBI says the resort’s crime per capita is significantly higher than rates in the nation’s largest cities. But it’s a bum rap, Atlantic City officials say. They say most of the increase was in nonviolent crime such as pickpocketing – mostly confined to casino areas and away from neighborhoods.

Background: The six-day series, written by a team of reporters, including Charlie, examined the pros and cons of legalizing casino gambling in Detroit. The series won the 1988 First Place Public Service Award from Michigan Associated Press.

THE BEST AND WORST: WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT IN MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

Date: Sept. 11, 1988, The Detroit News

Summary: Rep. Lewis Dodak attends every house session, works tirelessly to push bills through the state Legislature and is considered one of the most effective negotiators in Lansing. When he talks, people listen. Rep. Ethel Terrell's chair, at the front of the House chamber, is empty more often than it is occupied. She hasn't ushered a bill into law in years, and her House Civil Rights Committee rarely convenes. When she does attend a session and attempts to speak, her colleagues have been known to switch her microphone off. That's why a large group of Capitol insiders, in a survey conducted by The Detroit News, picked Dodak of Montrose as the best lawmaker in Lansing and named Terrell of Highland Park the worst.

Background: Charlie and Lansing Bureau Reporter Roger Martin collaborated on the multi-story package, one of many Charlie wrote in his effort to hold state officials accountable for their actions or, in the case of Terrell, inaction. The project required a lot of painstaking tabulation and Charlie didn't take shortcuts.

THE NEW ECONOMY: A DIVIDED STATE OF PROSPERITY

Date: Sept. 10-14, 1989, The Detroit News

Summary: To read the economic fortune of Michigan during the 1980s, take a map, a ruler and a pencil and slice the state in half, from the Mackinac Bridge south through Lansing. Call it the prosperity line. On the west side, tourism and service industries are booming. Manufacturing jobs are on the rise. Folks are bullish about the future. The cities of Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Traverse City and Lansing are growing in population, and have increasingly diversified economies and low unemployment rates. On the east side of the line, the five auto-dependent metro areas are still reeling from the 1979-82 recession. None has recovered the high-wage manufacturing jobs lost in that downturn. People wonder aloud whether the best times are behind them.

Background: Charlie teamed up with Lansing Bureau Reporter Roger Martin on the four-part series, which won the 1989 First Place Interpretive Writing Award from Michigan United Press International. The first story in the series said Michigan's much-touted economic comeback since the devastating 1979-82 economic recession had put Michigan residents back to work in record numbers, but in lower paying jobs.

SENATOR'S DREAM CARS HOGGING PARKING SPOTS

Date: Nov. 22, 1989, The Detroit News

Summary: An influential state Senate leader is storing two expensive sports cars in a guarded state-owned parking lot near the Capitol while thousands of state employees must wait up to five years for assigned parking spaces. The cars – a Ferrari and a Mercedes Benz – are owned by Senate Majority Floor Leader Phil Arthurhulz, R-Whitehall, and occupy two highly coveted spaces in a garage two blocks west of the Capitol. The vehicles, worth an estimated \$60,000, are covered with tarpaulins and

don't have license plates. Arthurhulz, who collects exotic vehicles, also uses a space in the state parking lot next to the Capitol to park the Cadillac Seville he drives to work.

Background: Following up on a tip, Charlie canvassed state-owned parking garages until he found Arthurhulz's vehicles. State officials said they assigned the extra spaces to Arthurhulz believing his staff needed them. After Charlie's story, they told Arthurhulz to remove the two vehicles. Charlie cared about good government and looked for opportunities to expose abuses.

SEN. JOHN ENGLER DEFEATS GOV. JIM BLANCHARD

Date: Nov. 8, 1990, The Detroit News

Summary: Everyone from tax cut advocates to Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths were claiming credit Wednesday for Gov. James Blanchard's stunning defeat by Sen. John Engler. The real reason Blanchard lost was his failure to motivate Detroit voters, a postelection analysis of voting results indicates. Blanchard tallied about 35,000 fewer votes in the city of Detroit this year than he did in 1986, when he clobbered GOP nominee William Lucas.

Background: Charlie was a fast writer with a quick mind, a combination that made him the Lansing Bureau's rewrite man on big stories. And he generously allowed other reporters to take top billing on many stories. Charlie wrote a sidebar about Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths, who said Blanchard's decision to dump her from his re-election ticket helped cause his defeat. After the election, Charlie worked with a team that spent six weeks producing a 102-page book, "The Journey of John Engler," that chronicled Engler's victory. It was the first time in 28 years that someone had defeated an incumbent Michigan governor.

NOBODY'S HOME: FOUR LAWMAKERS HAVE PACKED THEIR FAMILIES OFF TO LANSING, RARELY HANGING THEIR HATS IN PLACES THEY CALL HOME

Date: March 31, 1991, The Detroit News

Summary: At least four state lawmakers, including two from Detroit, don't live in the districts they represent, a two-month investigation by The Detroit News has found. All own or rent homes in or near Lansing, where they live full time while maintaining addresses in their districts. The four veteran legislators are: Sen. Phil Arthurhulz, R-Whitehall; Rep. William Keith, D-Garden City; Rep. Burton Leland, D-Detroit; and Sen. Mike O'Brien, D-Detroit. O'Brien and Leland represent majority black districts while living in predominantly white, out-state neighborhoods. Their children attend schools in Lansing or its upscale suburb of Okemos.

Background: Charlie and Lansing Bureau Reporter Jim Mitzelfeld spent weeks poking through public records and peeking in residential windows to confirm suspicions that the lawmakers didn't live in their districts. Though none of the lawmakers lost their jobs, the stories caused them considerable discomfort.

AWOL: 23 LEGISLATORS MISS 20% OF VOTES

Date: Aug. 4, 1991, The Detroit News

Summary: When the roll is called at the Capitol, a lot of Michigan citizens are getting a busy signal from their legislators. A trip to Europe. Sailing in the Virgin Islands. Hunting in Africa. Those are some of the excuses legislators gave for missing roll call votes, which are required for passage of all bills, as well as some amendments and motions. A Detroit News investigation found that 23 of the 145 men and women in the Legislature have missed more than 20 percent of roll call votes.

Background: Though Charlie was the News' senior correspondent in Lansing, he often worked with his staff to report and write stories like this one. Legislative attendance improved dramatically after the story was published, according to former Lansing Bureau Reporter Jim Mitzelfeld, who worked the story with Charlie.

NEWS REPORTERS WIN PULITZER PRIZE

Date: April 13, 1994, The Detroit News

Summary: Two Detroit News reporters won a Pulitzer Prize on Tuesday for uncovering the \$1.8-million House Fiscal Agency embezzlement scandal that led to eight criminal convictions, the downfall of a powerful state representative and reforms in state government. Mitzelfeld and Eric Freedman shared journalism's highest award for beat reporting, the newspaper's third Pulitzer in its 121-year history. The scandal involved kickbacks, no-show employees, nepotism, bribery and other financial shenanigans. The longtime chair of the House Appropriations Committee had to give up his committee assignment in the aftermath of the scandal.

Background: Mitzelfeld and Freedman credited Charlie with much of their success. As their editor, they said he cheered them on, helped them figure out how to get the story, shared his news sources and ran interference with clueless bosses in Detroit. "It was the type of leadership that reporters in the trenches crave from their supervisors, the type of leadership that helps reporters succeed and the type of quiet leadership that doesn't seek to take the glory," Freedman, now a Michigan State University journalism professor, said in a Hall of Fame endorsement letter.

LAWMAKER'S EPITAPH: BRASH, COLORFUL, KIND

Date: Nov. 29, 1994, The Detroit News

Summary: There are colorful characters in the Legislature, but Dominic Jacobetti was a 64-crayon box. The son of Sicilian immigrants, Jacobetti climbed out of the iron mines to become one of the most powerful Michigan lawmakers of the century. Jacobetti, who died Monday at the age of 74, represented the Upper Peninsula for 40 years. He was the longest-serving lawmaker in Michigan history – a distinction that may stand forever because of newly enacted term limitations. He lost his chairmanship of the powerful House Appropriations in the House Fiscal Agency scandal.

Background: Charlie knew more about state government and its characters than almost anyone in Lansing and reveled in sharing tales about them with younger

journalists. When Jacobetti died, Charlie wrote Jacobetti's obituary and a sidebar recounting colorful events in the lawmaker's career.

FROM WELFARE TO WORK? NOT AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS

Date: July 23-28, 1995, The Detroit News

Summary: The cornerstone of today's welfare revolution is a belief that those on the public dole should be made to find work, which not only would make them feel better about themselves but also would ease the load on taxpayers. But finding a job is not always easy, particularly when more than four of every 10 recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children lack even a high school education and nearly 95 percent are poor women caring for young children.

Background: Charlie's story was part of six-day series that separated fact from fiction as Congress debated welfare reforms. The project, involving several reporters, won the 1995 First Place Public Service Award from Michigan Associated Press.

UNQUENCHABLE THIRST IMPERILS GREAT LAKES

Date: June 8-9, 2003, The Detroit News

Summary: The shorelines that define our state geographically and economically are likely to become battlefields between Michigan and thirsty cities, states and even nations. Those battles could wreck the lakes that power the region's commerce, and irreversibly damage their fragile ecology. Fighting for access to the water are forces from near and far. Communities that already draw their water from the lakes are siphoning off more and more; cities and towns not allowed to take Great Lakes water are demanding it; there's even a remote possibility that parched regions of the United States and other nations will request it, too.

Background: The two-day story package, by Lansing Bureau Reporter Gary Heinlein and Charlie Cain, examined the dilemma. Charlie wrote several forward-looking stories that are as relevant today as they were when he produced them.

GRANHOLM, DEVOS TEST EACH OTHER IN FIRST DEBATE

Date: Oct. 2, 2006, the Associated Press

Summary: Gubernatorial candidates Jennifer Granholm and Dick DeVos spent their first debate criticizing each other's ads, laying out what needs to be done to spur the economy and saying they'd be the best leader for the state. "A governor's responsible for setting an atmosphere on what happens in this state," DeVos said. "The atmosphere is clearly not here for job creation." Granholm, the Democrat fighting for a second term, said her administration is working to train more workers, raise educational standards and invest in new, cutting edge business. The hour-long televised debate, the first of three the candidates will have this month, took place at the WKAR-TV studios at Michigan State University. Tim Skubick, host of public TV's "Off the Record" program, and political reporter Charlie Cain of The Detroit News, questioned the candidates.

Background: “Charlie was the only journalist the two rival camps could agree upon [to assist Skubick] because of his intelligence, insight, and, above all, fairness,” Bill Ballenger, founder and former publisher of Inside Michigan Politics newsletter, said in a Hall of Fame endorsement letter. He said Charlie was a regular on political talk shows because of his knowledge about state government.

BULGING PRISONS DRAIN MICHIGAN’S BUDGET

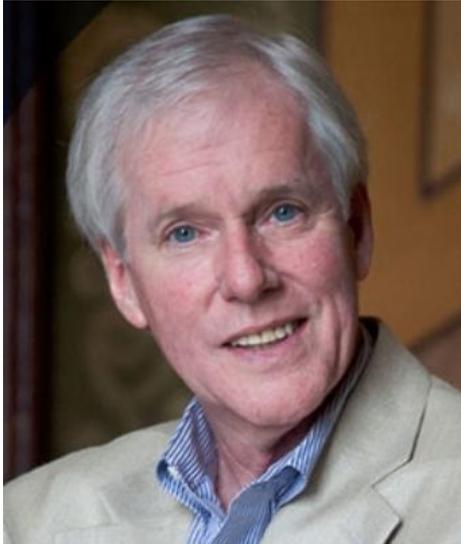
Date: April 14-15, 2009, The Detroit News

Summary: Michigan runs one of the nation’s largest and most costly prison systems, a \$2-billion-a-year expense that is crowding out other spending priorities at a rate many officials fear the state can no longer afford. Yet despite near-unanimous agreement that Michigan can’t pay the ever-rising corrections bills during a period of economic decline, politicians and law enforcement professionals remain hesitant to spend less by changing sentencing guidelines or paroling more prisoners. The problem is reaching a crisis: Michigan’s system is already the nation’s sixth-largest overall, and ranks 15th among the states in the cost per inmate. It could exceed capacity within two months unless lawmakers approve stop-gap measures, corrections officials say.

Background: The series, by Charlie and Lansing Bureau Reporter Gary Heinlein, won the 2009 Wade McCree Advancement of Justice Award from the State Bar of Michigan.

Biography and Resume

Charlie Cain



There was never any doubt about what Charlie Cain wanted to be when he grew up.

Like his father and grandfather, he was determined to become a journalist.

And what a journalist he became.

During more than three decades in Lansing, Charlie chronicled major controversies, political brawls on the floors of the House and Senate and the ups and downs of state power brokers. He was one of the foremost experts on the modern history of state government.

“Sitting next to him in the press gallery of the state Senate and hearing him spin yarn after yarn about the many colorful characters he had covered during his years in Lansing, it quickly became clear that he was a reporter with incredible institutional knowledge and a willingness to generously share what he knew with younger reporters,” recalled Jim Mitzelfeld, a former Detroit News Lansing Bureau reporter who now works as a lawyer for Inspector General’s Office of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Washington, D.C.

Mitzelfeld credits Charlie’s leadership for helping Mitzelfeld and Reporter Eric Freedman win the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Beat Reporting for their stories about the \$1.8-million House Fiscal Agency embezzlement scandal that resulted in criminal convictions and major state reforms. The agency is the economic forecasting arm of the Michigan House.

Charlie was born in Detroit on Sept. 13, 1950, the second of seven children and grandchildren of prominent journalists. He grew up on the city’s eastside.

His grandfather, Charles C. Cain II, was editor and publisher of the Attleboro (Mass.) Sun. His father, Charles C. Cain III, was a longtime sports and automotive writer for the Associated Press in Detroit and came to be known as “Mr. Michigan AP.” (Charlie’s father was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2001.)

Charlie’s mother, Ruth Cain, was a former Associated Press reporter who eventually became a public relations specialist for Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and, later, a columnist for the Grosse Pointe News. Six of the couple’s children got into the communications business.

“From the time he was a little kid, he knew he wanted to get into the news business,” recalled Charlie’s oldest sister, Nancy Cain, former public relations director for AAA Michigan. “His first news job was a paperboy for The Detroit News.”

Charlie loved to tag along with their father on Sundays at the AP Bureau in Detroit, she said.

After graduating from Austin Catholic High School in 1968, Charlie enrolled at Wayne State University, but transferred the next year to Michigan State University to study journalism. He eventually became managing editor of the campus newspaper, The State News, and worked summers as a copy boy at The Detroit News.

Charlie joined The News as a suburban reporter after getting his Bachelor’s Degree in 1973. He covered the 1976 contract talks between the United Auto Workers and Ford Motor Company that resulted in a 28-day strike. Charlie and two other reporters were awarded the 1976 First Place Community Service prize from Michigan United Press International – the first of a string of newswriting awards Charlie was to receive.

In 1977, the News sent Charlie to Lansing to cover the governor and Michigan Legislature. He quickly made his mark, chronicling the Legislature’s upcoming young lawmakers, its best and worst legislators and numerous political controversies.

Charlie spent the rest of his career in Lansing, except for tours as City-County Bureau Chief covering then-Detroit Mayor Coleman Young in 1979 and political reporter for WJBK-TV2 in 1980-82.

The News promoted him to Lansing Bureau Chief in 1991 and he supervised a staff of several reporters.

Charlie was outgoing and friendly and possessed an amazing knowledge about state government. He loved to regale younger reporters about the characters he had covered over three decades.

“The most remarkable thing about Charlie was his uncanny memory,” said Joanna Firestone, Detroit News business editor and a former wire service competitor in Lansing. “He was the greatest repository of political and government history in this state. He never forgot a name or an event. Years later, he could recall them with photographic clarity – and in these days of lightning-fast news delivery, you don’t see that kind of institutional memory anymore.”

His staff loved him.

“As a reporter, he was passionate about the facts, forever striving to get the story and get it right,” said Mark Hornbeck, communications director for AARP Michigan and a

former Lansing Bureau reporter. “As a human being, he was gentle and kind, the model of honesty and integrity.”

Charlie left The News in a staff downsizing in 2009 and joined Truscott Rossman, a government consulting firm in Lansing. He was a senior writer, editor and staff advisor, imparting his vast knowledge of reporting, writing and state government to a stable of young writers.

“Charlie’s greatest gift to us was his ability to mentor the younger members of our team – and they revered him,” said company CEO Kelly Rossman. “His gift to them was his dry wit, his innate cynicism, his professional integrity and his extraordinary commitment to getting things right and well-written... Months after his death, our account executives instinctively challenge the validity of information or execution precisely because of what Charlie Cain instilled in them.”

Charlie died July 9, 2011, at age 60, at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit after a brief battle with cancer. He is survived by two daughters, Kelly and Katie, as well as his brothers and sisters.

A year before his death, Charlie, his parents and his siblings received a Lifetime Achievement Award for Journalistic Excellence from the Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

“Charlie Cain was a great reporter – one who knew his craft well and how to find the story,” the late Ben Burns, one of Charlie’s former editors, said in presenting the award. “As bureau chief, he was an inspiration to his team.”

Charles C. Cain

EMPLOYMENT **TRUSCOTT ROSSMAN strategic communications firm, Lansing, MI** ***Senior Writer/Editor, 2010-2011***

- Assisted staff in crisis and litigation communication, media and community relations and ballot initiatives.
- Mentored young staffers on writing, politics, research and accuracy.

THE DETROIT NEWS, Lansing, MI ***Lansing Bureau Chief, 1991-2009***

- Wrote extensively about Michigan state government and politics.
- Covered six presidential nominating conventions.
- Supervised and helped coordinate coverage of the 1993 Michigan House Fiscal Agency scandal, which won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for beat reporting.
- Collaborated to write the 1991 book, "The Journey of John Engler," after he upset incumbent Gov. Jim Blanchard.
- Reporter in Lansing Bureau — 1977-80 and 1982-91.
- Staff Writer in Detroit — covered the suburbs and Detroit police, 1973-77; covered UAW-Big Three auto contract negotiations, 1976 and 1979.
- Covered Mayor Coleman A. Young's administration, 1979; named Detroit News City-County Bureau Chief the same year.
- Frequent guest on WKAR's "Off the Record" TV show hosted by Tim Skubick, 1977-2009.

WJBK-TV CBS AFFILIATE, Detroit, MI ***Political Reporter, 1980-1982***

HONORS

- Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Society of Professional Journalists for journalistic excellence — 2010. Shared award with his parents and other family members who worked in news and communications.
- Wade H. McCree, Jr. award from the State Bar of Michigan for excellence in legal journalism for a series of stories about Michigan's costly and unsustainable prison system — 2009.
- First Place Associated Press Public Service Awards for a series examining Michigan's changing welfare system — 1995; a series examining pros and cons of casino gambling — 1988.
- First Place United Press International Interpretive Writing Award for series exploring Michigan's changing economy — 1989.
- First Place United Press International Community Service Award for Big Three-UAW contract talks that triggered a 28-day strike at Ford Motor Co. — 1976.

EDUCATION **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, East Lansing, MI** ***Bachelor of Arts — Journalism, 1973***

- Served as Managing Editor of The State News campus newspaper.
- Worked part time as a copy boy at the Detroit News.

Endorsement Letters

This section contained 10 nomination letters.

News Clips

This section contained nearly 100 pages of news clips – the same ones cited in the section entitled “Four Decades of Memorable Reporting.”

**250-word
Program Essay**

Charlie Cain

Charlie Cain chronicled the successes and foibles of Lansing politicians for more than three decades for The Detroit News. As a reporter and bureau chief with the paper's State Capital Bureau, Cain was among the longest-serving and most respected members of the Capital Press Corps.

He was a third-generation journalist, following in the footsteps of his father, Charles C. Cain III, who worked at the Detroit Bureau of the Associated Press for 39 years and was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2001. Cain's grandfather, Charles Cain II, was publisher of the Attleboro (Mass.) Sun. Cain's mother, Ruth Cain, was a reporter for the Associated Press and, eventually, spokeswoman for Michigan Blue Cross and Blue Shield and columnist for the Grosse Pointe News.

Charlie began his newspaper career as a copy boy at The Detroit News while studying journalism at Michigan State University in the 1960s and 1970s. He was managing editor of the campus newspaper, The State News.

After graduation in 1973, he joined The News as a suburban reporter and eventually was assigned to its Lansing Bureau. Except for brief stints as City-County Bureau Chief in Detroit and political reporter for WJBK-TV 2 in Southfield, Cain spent his entire career in Lansing and won several newswriting awards.

Cain left the newspaper in 2009 and joined Truscott Rossman, a Lansing government consulting firm, where he worked as a senior writer and editor.

He died of cancer in July 2011, at age 60.