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## 'Page A-1' tells it like it is

Reporter, now journalism prof, pens book on newspapers

**Christina Jolliffe**  
The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — From Mark Twain to Stephen Colbert, many people have taken potshots at newspapers.

But what is it actually like to work for a newspaper?

Well, for starters, it's not as glamorous as Hollywood portrays it.

Cliff Anthony, a 25-year newspaper veteran and Lorain County Community College journalism professor, wanted to set the record straight. So, he did what many a newspaper reporter has said he or she was going to do. He sat down and wrote a book.

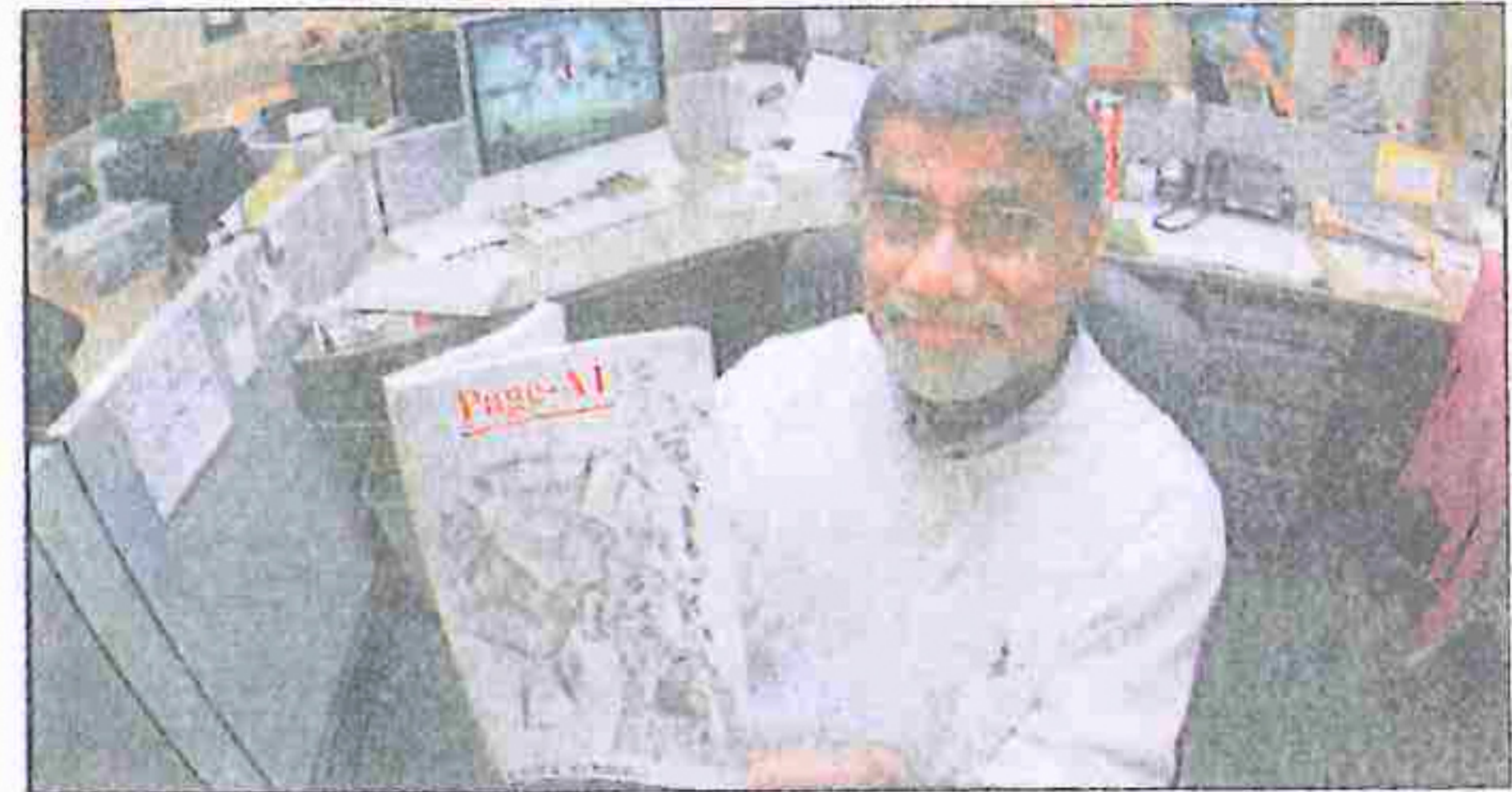
"Page A-1" chronicles what life is like for a new reporter just out of college working his first job at The Crazewood Journal, a fictional small-town newspaper.

Although Anthony stresses the "fictional" part of it, cub reporter Jack Stefancic encounters very real personalities throughout the story.

"Every newspaper has someone like the mother hen," Anthony said. "And every newspaper has someone who doesn't work and just sucks up (to the editors.)"

But Anthony wanted to go beyond the stereotypical newspaper personalities and convey a message that few people outside of the business know.

"Reporters tend to become reporters because they want to make a difference, and in the end, they love the job," he said. "When I hear a journalist leaves the newsroom to go into



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Lorain County Community College assistant professor Cliff Anthony wrote a book about his life in the newspaper business called "Page A-1."

(public relations), my heart breaks because when they started out in journalism, they wanted to make a change. They wanted to do something."

Stefancic does his own soul searching throughout the book. Barely able to buy meals and going home to his parents for loans, the book's protagonist is forced to take a second job at a gas station. With each disappointment, he wonders whether he chose the right career.

Long hours, low pay and fighting to make it on to the front page all contribute to his confusion.

"I tried to make that come across without it being a sob story," Anthony said. "Reporters really get a bad rep. They are not appreciated and they should be appreciated. It's a calling. At the end of the day — 10 or 12 hours — there is gratification."

And Anthony would know. The award-winning journalist has spent 25 years in news-

**WHAT:** "Page A-1" book signing

**WHEN:** 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday

**WHERE:** Visible Voice Books, 1023 Kenilworth Ave., Cleveland

rooms — five years at The News-Herald in Willoughby, working as a reporter for four years and bureau chief for a year; 10 years as a reporter for the Sun Newspapers in Cleveland; three years as managing editor at News India in New York; three years as a reporter for the Oman Daily Observer in the Middle East; three years as a reporter for The Blitz Group in Mumbai, India; and one year as a copy editor for Mid-Day in Mumbai, India.

"It takes a different personality to become a reporter or copy editor," Anthony said. "Not everyone can be a reporter."

Anthony's book, "Page A-1" can be purchased at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).