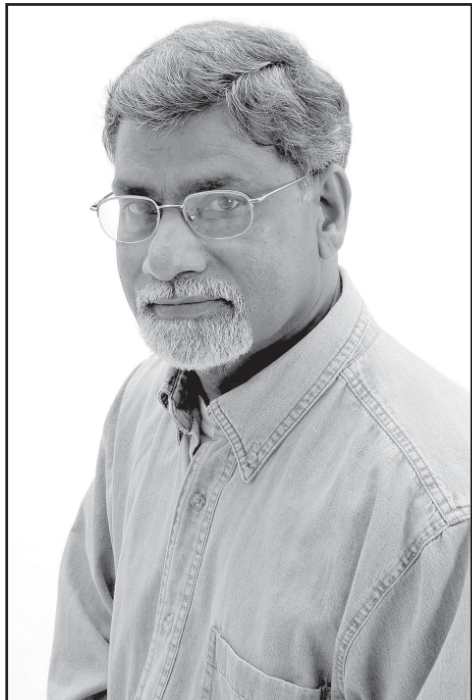


STOP THE PRESSES

Local Catholic journalist, professor takes honest, humorous look at the world of journalism

Page-A1



COURTESY CLIFF ANTHONY

Catholic journalist and professor Cliff Anthony has been enlightening, educating and entertaining his reading audience for more than 25 years. At right, Page-A1's bookcover.

By Cheryl D'Mello
Highland Heights

There are many books available about journalism and writing, but few novels written by journalists that depict the real world of journalism. "Page-A1", Cliff Anthony's first novel, is a great addition to these. The novel, written in newspaper style, is dedicated to overworked, underpaid, unappreciated journalists who live in perennial poverty. Anthony, a well-known local journalist and journalism professor, depicts the life of a rookie reporter for a small town fictional newspaper, "The Crazewood Journal," which is the "watchdog of the community." The book offers a first-hand look at life behind the scenes in the newspaper. He successfully, and humorously, weaves together the trials, tribulations and triumphs of being a newspaper reporter. The newsroom comes alive with the conflicts faced by low paid journal-



CLIFF ANTHONY

ists who love their jobs, and the challenges faced by both publishers and reporters by the convergence of print, broadcast and electronic mediums. Anthony, who has published several articles in the Catholic Universe Bulletin, has 25 years of experience as a journalist. He has worked for Sun Newspapers and The News-Herald. He was the bureau chief for "The News-Herald" before he left the newspaper to teach journalism full time—first at Cleveland State University and then at Lorain County Community College where he is an assistant professor of Journalism, and helps produce "The Collegian," the student newspaper. He previously also taught journalism part-time at John Carroll University. Before moving to Cleveland, Anthony worked for newspapers in Mumbai, India, in Oman at "The Daily Observer," and in New York with "News India."

He did his master of arts in Journalism at Kent State University. A board member and past president of the Society of Professional Journalists' (SPJ) Cleveland Pro Chapter, Anthony volunteers many hours to this organization. He has won three national journalism awards from the Suburban Newspapers of America and five awards from the Press Club of Cleveland. Anthony is a parishioner at St. Paschal Baylon Parish in Highland Heights. "I always wanted to write a book," said Anthony. The impetus for the novel came one day while he was watching the one-sided portrayal of the political scenario on television. "When it comes to politics, the media are not objective. However, daily events are objectively portrayed," he said. It took him five years to complete the novel, while he juggled commitments to work and family. Commenting on the role of the me-

dia, Anthony said: "The media here and also in Mumbai, India, do not give the Catholic Church the same respect as it does to other religious groups. The Catholic Church is an easy target--and the media pick on it. That is disconcerting." His novel highlights such double standards in a humorous tongue-in-cheek manner. It will make you laugh, ponder and will prompt you to buy a copy of your local newspaper, just to support its employees. According to Tom Moore, news anchor for Clear Channel Radio Cleveland, the book provides "about as inside a look at the journalism business as you can get!" The book is available on Amazon and Kindle and also at independent bookstores in Northeast Ohio. For excerpts, visit www.Page-A1.com. DeMello is a freelance writer.