



Mike Levine

(1952-2007)

“He was such an **iconoclast**. Mike wouldn’t like that word; it was too big.” –Brendan Scott, reporter

“He **taught** me more about reporting, writing and life in five minutes than I’ve learned in a **lifetime**.”

Steve Israel, reporter

Born in Manhattan on May 2, 1952, Michael Levine began working at the Times Herald Record in July, 1980, after serving as the editor of Heights-Inwood, the weekly newspaper of north Manhattan. He worked in Sullivan County for years and often laughed at the irony of a New York City boy reporting in what was then a wild and rural county.

Levine loved the area, its people, and working by the journalist’s credo: Afflict the comfortable, and comfort the afflicted.

In 1983 Levine became a columnist, combining hard-edged reporting with stories celebrating the spirit of everyday people. His column quickly became a favorite with readers, earning him state and national awards. He reached out to the communities, touching hearts, changing worlds. His stories were featured in Reader's Digest and in "Best Newspaper Stories of 1990," published by the Poynter Institute.

Levine was once described by a reader as someone who had “the three i’s: intelligence, intensity and integrity.”

He served as the newspaper's writing coach and as city editor before becoming executive editor in 1999, and left the Record in 2001 to accept a position as senior editor at ESPN the Magazine in New York City, where his work helped the magazine earn the 2002 award for General Excellence by the American Society of Magazine Editors.

He returned to the Record as executive editor in 2002, and during his tenure, the newspaper was named New York's Newspaper of Distinction three times by the Associated Press. The paper's Sunday sports section was also twice named one of the top 10 in the nation by the Associated Press Sports Editors.

Levine also co-authored two children's sports books on family values, published by Simon & Schuster.

He was a member of Temple Beth El, The Monroe Temple of Liberal Judaism, Monroe, NY.