

# For Canton author it's one down, two to go

Darren Miller's first book to be out in May

By VICKI HYATT

Editor

Canton resident Darren Miller has wrapped up one of three books he is writing under contracts with major publishing companies.

All three are co-authored by Jim Broderick, Miller's college professor who still teaches English and journalism at New Jersey City University.

Miller was a staff writer and editor at The Mountaineer for nearly three years before leaving to become a full-time author.

Titled "Consider the Source: A Critical Guide to 100 Prominent News and Information Sites on the Web," the duo's first book is expected to be released in May.

"The book is for people who want to start using the Internet to get their news or find information but don't know what sites to visit," Miller said. "It gives a pretty clear road map to the information superhighway that is useful to students, journalists, media watchers, and people who already regularly surf the Web. It can save news

consumers in the digital age a lot of time searching for reliable sources."

To prepare for the book, Miller and Broderick spent countless hours surfing the Web to find what they thought were the most prominent — though not necessarily the best — Web sites and then spent time using and researching all 100 sites. The sites range from Rush Limbaugh to The New York Times to Web MD to Al Jazeera and many in between.

"It is not just news sites but organization sites such as the AARP or the ACLU," Miller said. "We also included some smaller sites that don't get a lot of press but have useful information."

Besides helping Web surfers find the sites, the Miller/Broderick book provides a 750- to 1,000-word review of each site that includes a brief history, an overview of what can be found, a reason to visit and a rundown of any biases to keep in mind while using the site. The book also rates the site from 0 to 5, which is a subjective ranking based on qualities such as user friendliness, reliability, design and content accuracy.

"Out of 100 sites, there were only five that received the highest possible rating," Miller said. "We were honest in our appraisals of these

sites."

Miller said there are very few books in print that talk about the changing information age that has resulted from widespread use of the Internet.

"We are really at a moment in history where the media is changing dramatically," he said.

"But there's no book out there that helps Internet users sift through the hundreds of thousands of sites they have to choose from when they log on," Miller added. "We wanted to provide people with an A to Z guide to help them find credible news and information, and we think we've done that through the in-depth, insightful and opinionated reviews included in this book, which can be read front to back or used for a quick and ready reference."

Work on the "Consider the Source" project began in the fall of 2005, though the idea and book proposal submissions began months before that. This book is being published by Information Today, a New Jersey-based company that distributes through places such as Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million and other traditional large market areas, as well as through popular online book stores like Amazon.

A large market for this book, Miller said, will likely be in public libraries, colleges, universities and journalism schools, and journalism organizations and newsrooms. He said they also think it will have success among the general reading public.

"We are working to get established experts to blurb

the book and plan to do a lot of promoting ourselves," Miller said, adding that he and Broderick are currently discussing marketing options with the publisher.

To counter the ever-changing information available through the World Wide Web, the pair have begun a Web site that will regularly update information in the book. The site is in its early stages and can be found at [www.TheReportersWell.com](http://www.TheReportersWell.com), where Miller writes a regular media column and blog called "Taking Notes."

"Consider the Source" was one of two books Miller and Broderick were working on through the past year. The second is an unauthorized biography of filmmaker and political activist Michael Moore, tentatively titled "American Provocateur: The Life, Works, and Meaning of Michael Moore."

Plans call to have the book ready for 2009 — in time to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Moore's arrival on the filmmaking scene with his landmark documentary, "Roger & Me."

Work on this book will also include Moore's latest film commentary about the health care industry in America. Titled "Sicko," the production is expected to be released this spring.

The third book Miller and Broderick are writing under contract is to be titled, "Web of Conspiracy: A Critical Guide to the Conspiratorial World on the Internet." Also to be published by Information Today, Miller and Broderick are working to finish the manuscript by their August deadline. "Web of



Photo by John Montalvo

The book "Consider the Source" by Darren Miller, seated, and co-author Jim Broderick, should hit bookstores this May. The pair have two other books under contract which will be released in the next year.

"Conspiracy" is slated for release in spring of 2008.

Miller said being a full-time author is a lot of work but extremely exciting. While small advances help pay bills during the writing phase, the real money will come in when the books hit the market.

"But we're not expecting to become millionaires any time soon," he said. "Money would be nice, but we write because we love to write. And we feel we are doing important and necessary work."

Reach Vicki Hyatt at 452-0661, ext. 128 or [news@themountaineer.com](mailto:news@themountaineer.com)

One too many  
**FENDER BENDERS?**

Nationwide® is here for you with affordable options on car insurance.

