Turning Press Releases into Ticket Sales – Measuring Results that Really Matter

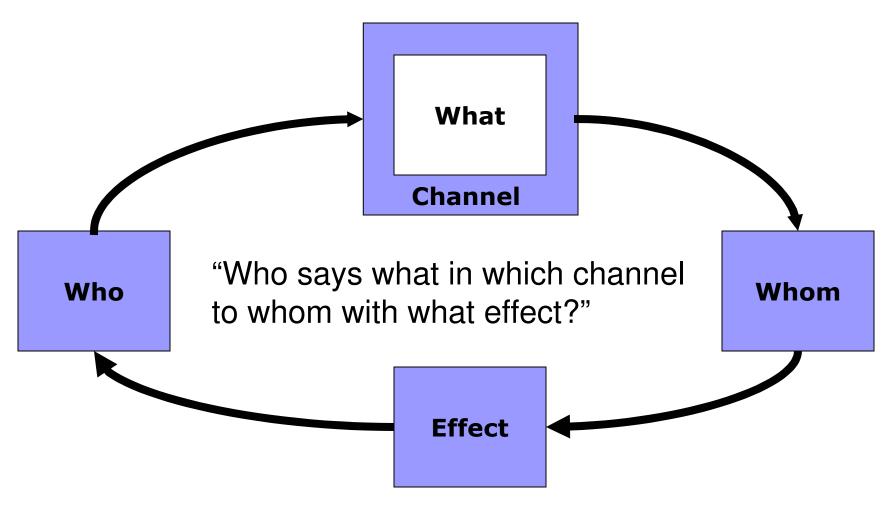
Greg Jarboe, SEO-PR Angela Vargo, Southwest Airlines September 22, 2004



"It's my birthday. Churn out some hype."

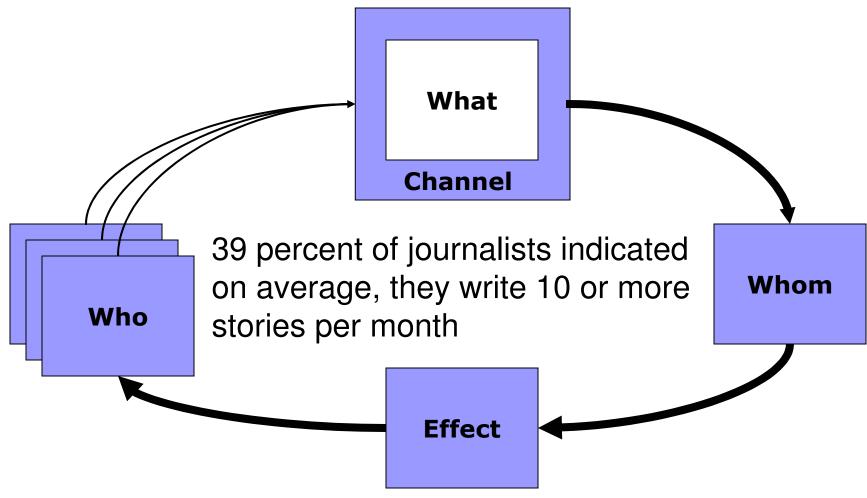
be.

Most PR measurement is still using a 1948 model of communication



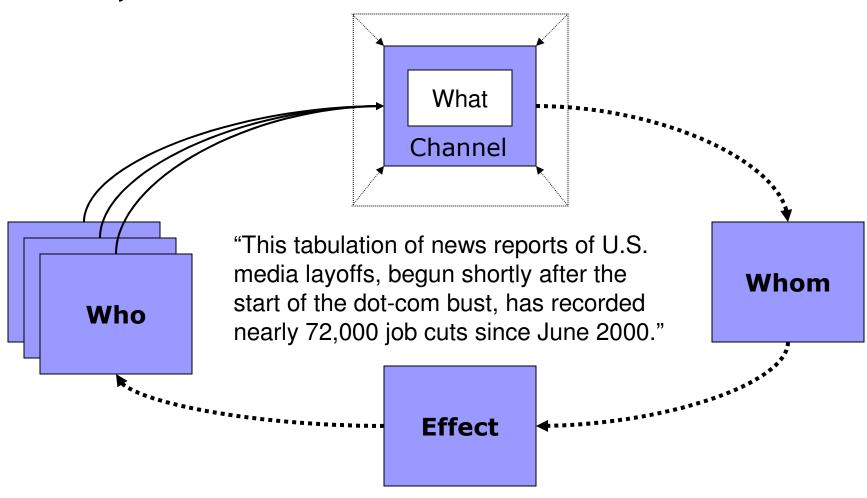
Source: Harold Lasswell, 1939/1948

50,100 news releases distributed via wire services in past 30 days



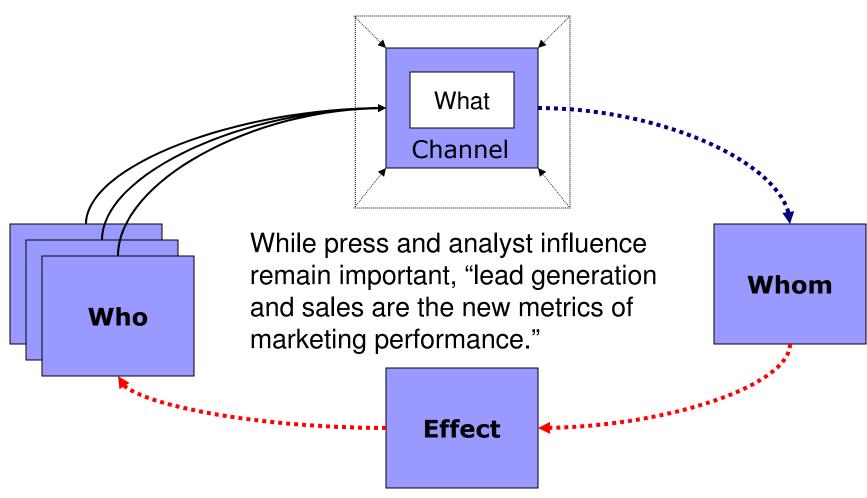
Sources: Google News and Bennett & Company

Media layoffs have eliminated 720,000 or more stories a month



Sources: I Want Media and Bennett & Company

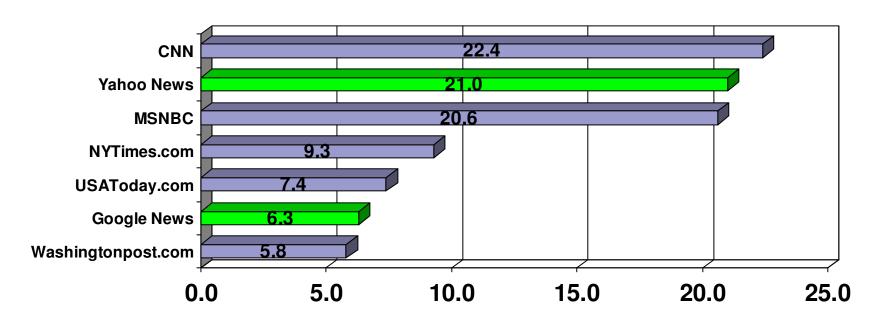
Counting clips (inputs) is useful, but tracking leads (outcomes) is crucial



Source: CMO Council survey, February 10, 2003

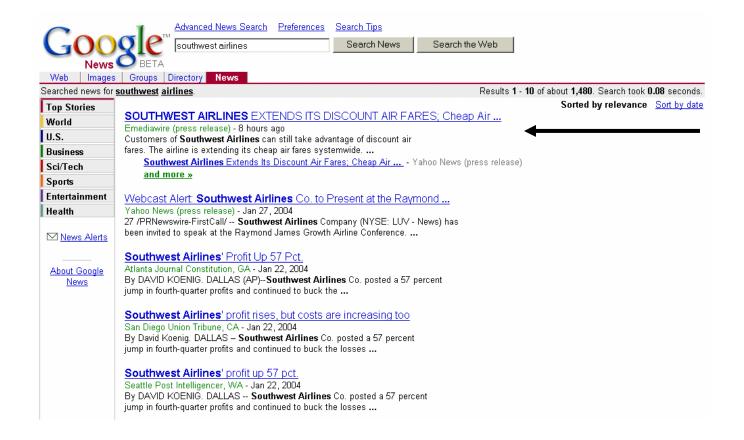
Two top current events and global news destinations have <u>no</u> editors

Unique Audience (millions), US Home and Work



Source: Nielsen//NetRatings, June 2004

News search engines treat press release wires like "news sources"



Source: Google News



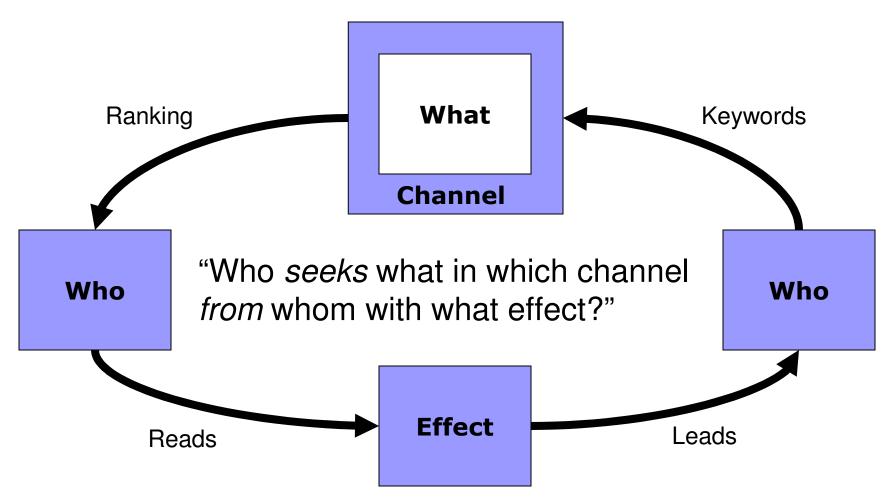
19% of the "public" and 81% of the "media" use search engines daily

- 203 million American adults
 - □ 128 million go online (63%)
 - □ 107 million use search engines (53%)
 - □ 64 million go online each day (33%)
 - □ 38 million use search engines each day (19%)
- 98% of journalists go online daily
 - □ 92% go online for article research
 - □ 81% are searching online daily
 - □ 76% to find new sources/experts
 - □ 73% to find press releases

Sources: Pew Internet & American Life Project, Middleberg/Ross Survey of Media

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News search reverses model of communication but is measurable



Source: Greg Jarboe, 1998/2003

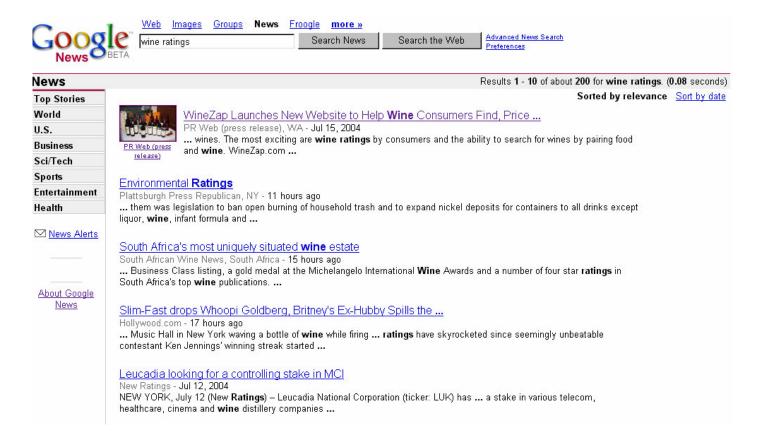


Free tools can tell you how many times a phrase is searched for

How m	any times is	this phrase searched	for?
Wordtrack	er	cheap airfare	51,576.6/day
Check out what else Wordtrack	er can <u>do for you.</u>	cheap flight	49,616.7/day
cheap airline tickets	12,240.0/day	cheap ticket	32,416.7/day
cheap flights	10,074.0/day	cheap hotel	27,892.2/day
cheap tickets	8,693.0/day	cheap plane ticket	13,374.6/day
cheap airfare	7,697.0/day	cheap car rental	12,747.3 /day
cheap hotels	4,393.0/day	cheap laptop	9,038.2/day
find cheap gas	4,176.0/day	cheap cruise	7,112.7/day
cheap gas prices	3,994.0/day	cheap internet service	6,882.7/day
cheap airfares	3,158.0/day	cheap cigarette	5,952.4/day
cheap cruises	2,488.0/day	access cheap internet	4,293.1/day
cheap air fares	1,926.0/day	cheap web hosting	3,006.3/day
cheap plane tickets	1,806.0/day	cheap auto insurance	2,736.3/day
cheap used boat trailers	1,623.0/day	cheap	2,341.7/day
cheap cigarettes	1,580.0/day	cheap textbook	2,221.2/day

Source: www.digitalpoint.com/tools/suggestion/

An optimized press release can keep high ranking for up to 30 days



Source: Google News



You can measure number of times your release is read or picked up

PRESS RELEASE STATISITES

WineZap Launches New Website to Help Wine Consumers Find, Price and Compare Wines; Subscribers to WineZap's Free Newsletter Offered 22% off Any Wine, Regardless of Quantity Purchased

BASIC STATISTICS

Statistic	Count	Description
Reads	84,141	This number tells you how many times your press release was accessed from our site and other distribution points where we have the ability to measure a click through. This number does not include the number of journalists that have received your release through email. In addition there are online distribution points that we currently have no ability to track.
Estimated Pickup	1,090	This number estimates the number of times your press release was picked up by a media outlet. This does not tell you how many times your story appears in the media. It simply attempts to estimate media interest of your release.
Prints	28	This is the number of times that someone has printed your press release. We measure this by the number of times that the "printer friendly version" link is pressed. In reality, only a small percentage of users actually click this link before printing a release.
Forwards	7	This is the number of times that someone has forwarded your press release to a third party using the link on your press release.

Source: PR Web

You can track readers of release who clickthrough to your web site

WineZap Launches New Website to Help Wine Consumers Find, Price and Compare Wines; Subscribers to WineZap's Free Newsletter Offered 22% off Any Wine, Regardless of Quantity Purchased

WineZap today announced the launch of a new website, WineZap.com, a free online service that helps wine consumers to find, price, and compare wines. WineZap.com assists both fine wine lovers and casual wine drinkers to buy wines by making it easy to find a wine, compare it with other wines, and find the lowest wine prices across hundreds of U.S. retailers.

San Francisco, CA (PRWEB) July 15, 2004 -- WineZap today announced the launch of a new website WineZap.com, a free online service that helps wine consumers to find, price, and compare wines.

26%.com assists both fine wine lovers and casual wine drinkers to buy wines by making it easy to find a wine, compare it with other wines, and find the lowest wine prices across hundreds of U.S. retailers.

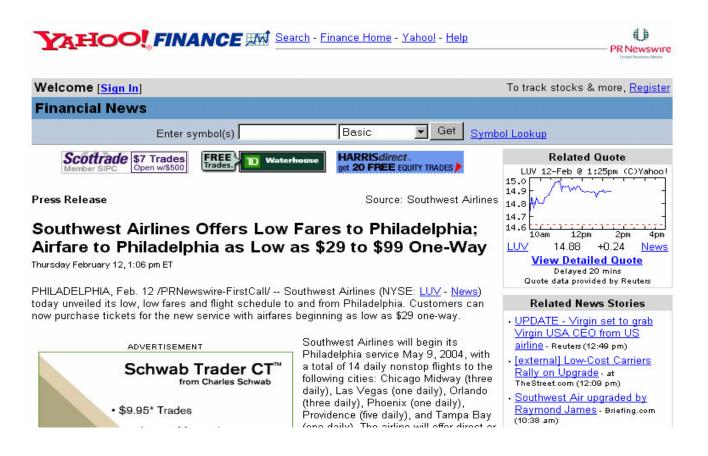
To help promote the launch of WineZap.com, the Wine Library in Springfield New Jersey is offering anyone who subscribes to WineZap's free newsletter 22% off any non sale wine item, regardless of quantity purchased. To get the Wine Library coupon code, which is good through September 1, 2004, go to WineZap Wine Deals for full details.

■ 3.3%
WineZap.com offers five unique methods to discover new wines.
The most exciting are wine ratings by consumers and the ability to

search for wines by pairing food and wine. WineZap.com users write wine tasting notes and wine reviews based on their experience. Other users can then search by the wine ratings looking for high quality, top value wines. If someone is looking to enhance his or her dining experience, WineZap.com's unique wine search engine can find the perfect food and wine pairings.

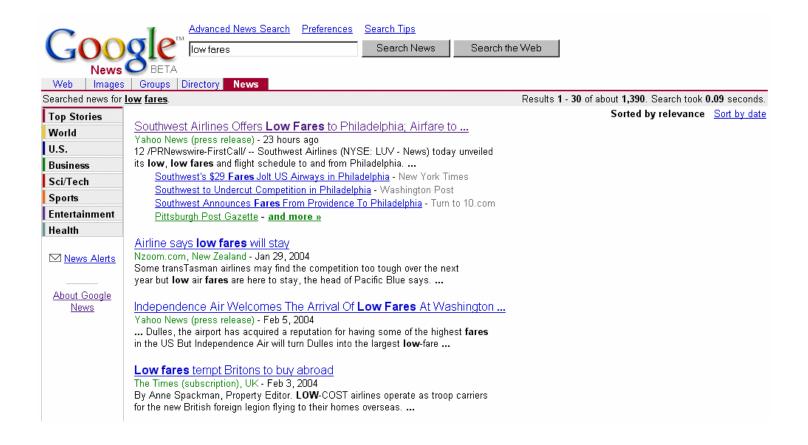
Source: ClickTracks

Southwest Airlines case study: Measuring PR in ticket sales



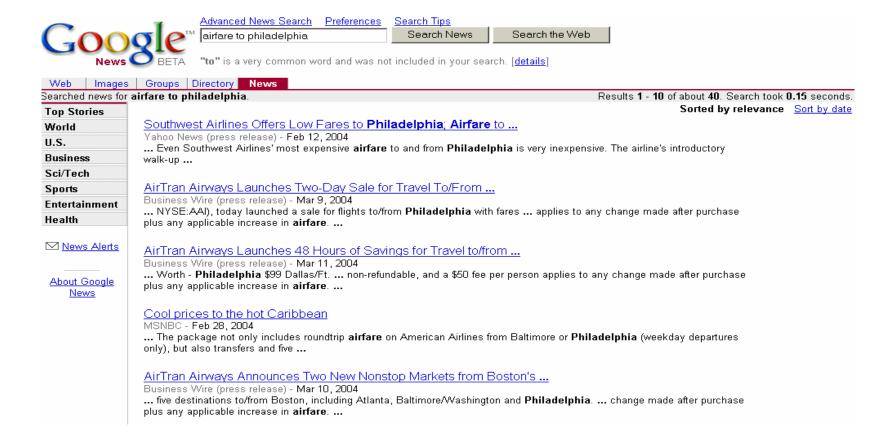
Date: February 12, 2004

New York Times, Washington Post, and 12 other media wrote stories



Date: February 13, 2004

29 days later, optimized release still #1 for "airfare to Philadelphia"



Date: March 12, 2004



Release initially generated \$42,000 in ticket sales, now over \$80,000

Southwest Airlines offers its biggest discounts with its advance purchase tickets. For example, Philly fliers can take off to Boston (via Providence, R.I.) for only \$29 oneway with Southwest's 14-day advance purchase fare. The advance purchase airfare to Orlando is only \$79 one-way. (For a complete list of fares, see http://www.southwest.com/about_swa/press/040212_phl_nonstop2.html.)



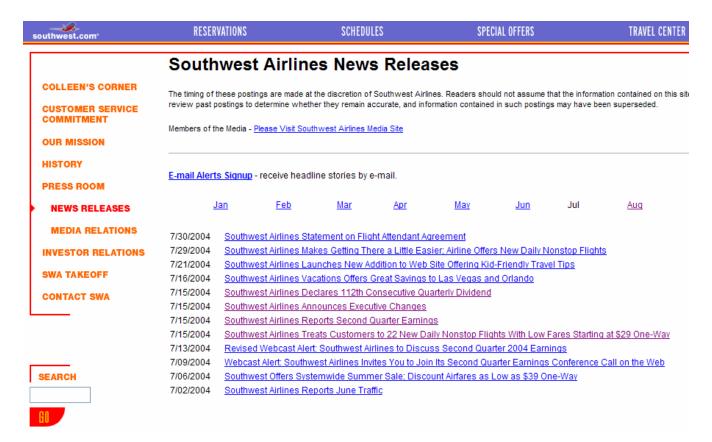
- Unique tracking links only appeared in the press release, not in any of the articles in the media
- Unique landing pages enabled Southwest Airlines to track clicks, sales, revenue and passengers

Source: The Measurement Standard, April 6, 2004

Southwest.com/vamonos release generated \$38,000 in ticket sales

southwest.com	RESERVATIONS	SCHEDULES	SPECIAL OFFERS	TRAVEL CENTER	RAPID REWARDS	ABOUT SWA	
						Print Version	
COLLEEN'S CORNER	Southwest Airlines Spanish-Speaking Customers Can Now Make Their Online Flight Reservations in Spanish at southwest.com/vamonos New Feature on the Internet at southwest.com/vamonos Low Air Fares are Available in Two Languages						
CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITMENT							
OUR MISSION							
HISTORY	DALLAS, June 30 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ Southwest Airlines (NYSE: LUV) today celebrates the launch of its Spanish booking engine available at www.southwest.com/vamonos where Customers can make their flight reservations entirely in Spanish on the Internet. With the online booking tool, travelers can take advantage of Southwest's low air fares and frequent flights en espanol (in Spanish). For more information, visit.						
PRESS ROOM	http://www.southwest.com/ip/enespanol.shtml?src=PR_vamonos_063004.						
NEWS RELEASES MEDIA RELATIONS	"Our goal is to be innovative when it comes to Customer convenience in Spanish. We wanted southwest.com to be the first U.S. major airline web site to offer Customers the choice of making their flight reservations from start to finish in Spanish on the Internet," said Kevin Krone, Southwest's vice president of interactive marketing.					of making their flight reservations from	
INVESTOR RELATIONS SWA TAKEOFF	According to Census Bureau figures, the Hispanic population, the nation's largest minority group, reached 39.9 million on July 1, 2003. The Hispanic population grew 13 percent from April 2000 to July 2003, almost four times that of the total population which increased 3 percent. Also, according to the America Online(R)/RoperASW U.S. Hispanic Cyberstudy, about half of online Hispanic consumers (49%) want more web sites in Spanish. With today's launch, Southwest Airlines is addressing the growing Hispanic community and their online preferences.						
CONTACT SWA	At www.southwest.com/amonos , travelers can obtain information in Spanish about Southwest's policies, travel tips, airport information, a route map, fare rules and restrictions, and Company information. Travelers also can read a monthly Customer message in Spanish from Southwest's President and Chief Operating Officer Colleen Barrett. For a screen shot of what the Spanish online booking tool looks like, go to: http://www.southwest.com/about_swa/press/040630_vamonos.html .						
SEARCH	developed multilingual web sit	es for global companies since 199	5, but over the last year we have seen	an increasing demand from clients to	tes, to translate the in-language Spani reach ethnic groups within the U.S.," s ers the choice of making online flight re	aid Simon Mathews, head strategist for	
GO	"If you look at the areas we serve such as California, Texas, and Florida, we are in a favorable position to serve the growing Hispanic population. Southwest Airlines is providing an additional resource to better serve our Spanish-speaking Customers traveling for business or pleasure," said Joyce Rogge, Southwest's senior vice president of marketing. "Our Customers can now book their flights online in Spanish or call 1-800-VAMONOS to make their reservations in Spanish over the phone. With these options available, we encourage Customers to choose Southwest when traveling on business or when visiting their families and friends."						
_				est.com is considered the largest airli f \$3 billion is generated through onl		gest e-commerce sites with the likes of	

Southwest Airlines made four big announcements on July 15, 2004



Release about 22 new daily flights generated \$1 million in ticket sales

southwest.com*	RESERVATIONS	SCHEDULES	SPECIAL OFFERS	TRAVEL CENTER	RAPID REWARDS	ABOUT SWA	
						Print Version	
COLLEEN'S CORNER	Southwest Airlines Treats Customers to 22 New Daily Nonstop Flights With Low Fares Starting at \$29 One-Way						
CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITMENT	No Tricks! Halloween Day Includes Start of 13 Additional Daily Nonstop Flights From Philadelphia!						
OUR MISSION HISTORY	PHILADELPHIA, July 15 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ With fares so low it's scary, Southwest Airlines (NYSE: LUV) is offering a sweet treat for fall flyers beginning Halloween Day. The low fare airline today announced 13 additional daily nonstop flights from Philadelphia International Airport, including seven flights to three new nonstop destinations. To purchase Southwest Airlines' frighteningly low fares, go to http://www.southwest.com/ip/luvhome.shtml?src=newservice 20040715.						
PRESS ROOM NEWS RELEASES MEDIA RELATIONS	Effective October 31, 2004, Southwest Airlines' operations will total 41 daily nonstop flights from Philadelphia. New Southwest Airlines nonstop destinations from Philadelphia include Hartford/Springfield (five daily nonstop roundtrip flights), Jacksonville (one daily nonstop roundtrip flight), and Oakland (one daily nonstop roundtrip flight). Enhanced Southwest service includes two additional daily nonstop flights between Philadelphia and Orlando, as well as one additional daily nonstop flight between Philadelphia and each of the following cities: Fort Lauderdale, Los Angeles, Chicago/Midway, and Manchester. For artwork capturing all daily nonstop Southwest Airlines flights from Philadelphia, see http://www.southwest.com/travel center/routemap dyn.html						
INVESTOR RELATIONS	Additionally, nine other daily nonstop flights throughout the system have been added to Southwest's convenient schedule, including:						
SWA TAKEOFF CONTACT SWA SEARCH	Between Houston/Hobby and Orlando two daily departures (for a total of three daily) Between Houston/Hobby and Los Angeles one daily departure (for a total of two daily) Between Baltimore and Nashville one daily departure (for a total of ten daily) Between Chicago/Midway and Tampa one daily departure (for a total of four daily) Between Las Vegas and Tucson one daily departure (for a total of five daily) Between Long Island and Orlando one daily departure (for a total of four daily) Between St. Louis and Oklahoma City one daily departure (for a total of two daily) Between St. Louis and Oklahoma one daily departure (for a total of three daily)						



Southwest's PR has generated over \$1.5 million in ticket sales



- Service to Philadelphia
 - Began with 14 daily flights to 6 cities
 - Expanded to 28 daily flights to 14 cities
 - Expanding again to 41 daily flights to 17 cities
- Revenue passenger miles for the eight months ended August 31, 2004, increased 11% to 36.3 billion

Source: Southwest Airlines



The first step in this new process is optimizing your draft press release

- Conduct keyword research to identify at least two relevant search terms that your target audiences are likely to use for a news search
- Edit your press release and optimize it with the relevant search terms so it receives high keyword ranking for up to 30 days in the news search engines
- Build anchor text within each news release to link with related content on your web site
- Insert JPEG images into a news release ensuring your photo gets picked up and displayed in Google News



The second step is distributing your release through multiple channels

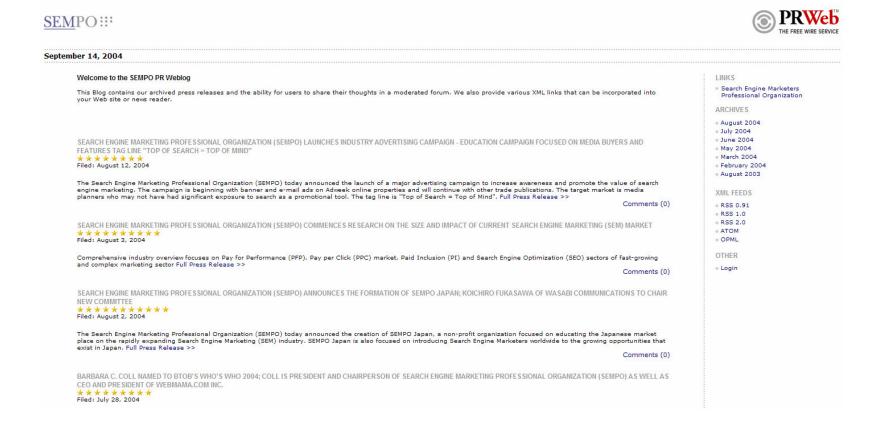
- PR Web provides same-day distribution when you need it, which is faster than its normal next-day distribution
- PR Web distributes releases via opt-in email to its database of over 100,000 media outlets, industry analysts and freelance journalists
- You can also add PR Newswire to reach more members of the news media, investment community, and general public
- Yahoo News, Google News, MSN News, Ask Jeeves News, and other news search engines crawl PR Web's newswires
- PR Web also uses paid inclusion to get you news release into major web portals such as Yahoo, AltaVista, AlltheWeb and more
- PR Web distributes your news releases through PR Web's daily and your own customized XML/RSS news feeds
- Finally, your press release is archived indefinitely on PR Web's site, which generates over 8 million pages views a month



The third step is measuring results and tracking web traffic and leads

- PR Web provides stats on:
 - □ Number of times each news release is read
 - Which search engines were used to find it
 - What search terms were used to find it
- ClickTracks can show:
 - □ Clickthrough rates
 - □ Site navigation patterns
 - □ ROI stats

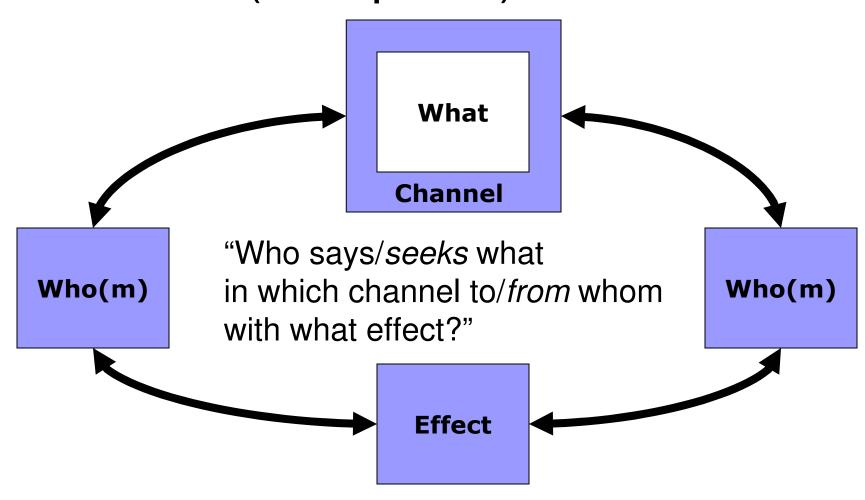
You can start transforming your news archive into a corporate blog



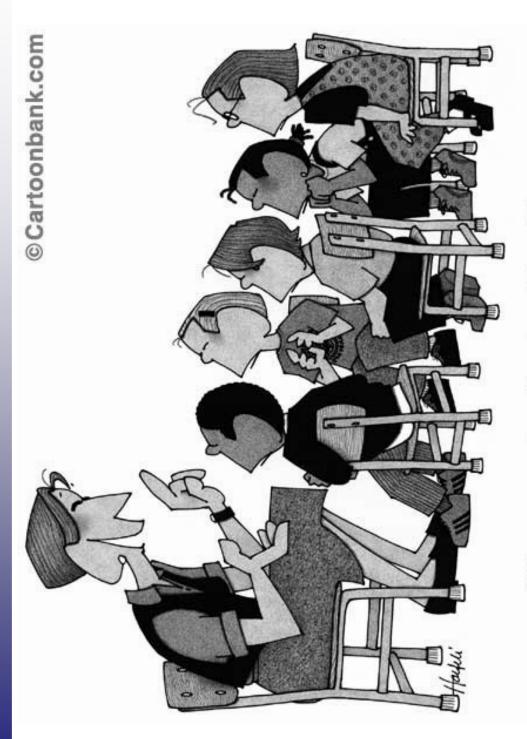
Source: http://sempo.prweblogs.com

be.

News search engine promotion can revitalize (or replace) traditional PR



Sources: Harold Lasswell and Greg Jarboe



"There are exceptions. Sometimes it's possible to have buzz without any hype whatsoever."