

Kirk Scharfenberg, 48; Editor on Boston Globe

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Kirk Scharfenberg, editor of the editorial page at The Boston Globe, died of cancer on Monday at his home in Boston. He was 48 years old.

Mr. Scharfenberg joined the Globe in 1977 as an editorial writer and was city editor, metropolitan editor and deputy managing editor before being appointed editorial-page editor in 1990.

He shared a Pulitzer Prize with other staff members for the newspaper's 1983 series on racism in Boston. At the Globe, he wrote about poverty and public education, among other issues.

Mr. Scharfenberg worked as a reporter for The Baltimore Sun, The Washington Post and The Berkshire Eagle in Pittsfield, Mass., before joining the Globe.

He was responsible for what he later called "maybe the most notable gaffe in recent newspaper history" -- a "Mush from the Wimp" headline over an editorial in March 1980 about an economic plan of President Jimmy Carter.

"I meant it as an in-house joke and thought it would be removed before publication," Mr. Scharfenberg wrote years later. "It appeared in 161,000 copies of the Globe the next day," he said. It was changed during the press run to **"All Must Share the Burden."**

Mr. Scharfenberg is survived by his wife, Marianne; three children, Christa, David and Stephanie; three stepchildren, Brendan, Kristen and Joseph Hughes, and his father, Clarence J. Scharfenberg of Lady Lake, Fla.

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