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[Viewpoint](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[Archives](#)
[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)
[Pressroom](#) (web)

[CEO Hotline](#)
[Metro Projects](#)
[Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

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[Events Calendar](#)
[Research Center/](#)
[Library](#)
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[Metro Classifieds](#)
[Retirement](#)
[Round-up](#)

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Metro's Craig Clifton Writes About 'Love with a Pure Heart'

- Author didn't allow cerebral palsy to stifle his creativity. Now he's seeking a publisher for his first novel, "Veronica's Hair."

By PERRY WILLIAMS

(July 15, 2005) Metro employees may be surprised to learn that a co-worker, Craig Clifton, recently finished writing his first book, a present-day love story entitled, "Veronica's Hair."

Born with cerebral palsy, Clifton used the same hands that hold his walking stick or push his wheelchair to type the manuscript. He refused to allow his condition to prevent him from expressing himself on paper.

Clifton is a programmer analyst who has been with Metro for 14 years. "I really like my job. The people I work with here at Metro are great and have been very supportive of my book as well."

Inspired by several writers like Nicholas Sparks, author of "Message in a Bottle," Clifton decided to write his own novel after realizing he had the ability to formulate a story that would touch a person's desire to feel and receive love.

"Veronica's Hair" is about an astronomy professor returning to his hometown in search of his first love. Upon returning, he finds love – but not in the way he expects.

'Love with a pure heart'

Clifton's main focus is to encourage people who are dealing with love on any level. "I want the readers to see that you can go back, conquer past situations, and readily accept love with a pure heart."

The target audience for the novel is women from the late 20s to early 50s. "My book is geared towards women, but men who have read the book compliment me all the time about how much they enjoyed reading the novel," he says.

Clifton encountered several obstacles while writing his novel.

"Understanding how a book is written took a while for me to grasp," he says. "People often make the mistake of forgetting how much work the book-writing process actually takes."

Creating the characters took quite some time. "Writers must



Craig Clifton

remember that characters need problems and goals," he says. "The whole reason for them having road blocks and situations is so that they can rise successfully to the challenges."

The support of his wife

Clifton attributes a lot of his success to the support of his wife, Natasha. "She didn't mind taking the time out to help me really express the core of things I desired to convey to my readers."

The budding author is looking for an agent willing to work with him and connect him with a publisher. And he plans to give a portion of any proceeds from the novel to the United Cerebral Palsy organization.

"When I was growing up, it was hard for me to play," he says. "The organization provided an after-school program and helped me meet some friends that I am in contact with to this day."

Clifton says the possibilities for his novel are endless. "Who knows, maybe this will one day be a movie on Lifetime."

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