2004 Southern California Journalism Award Winners

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR Print Over 100,000 Circulation JOHN DANISZEWSKI – Los Angeles Times Comments: Reporter’s perspective ran the Gamut from “Commander A” to “Mulshallah 665” to “Zionism”. Truly a stunning serves of pieces that captured the venture falorie of Iraq. Every American should be required to read his work before deciding how they feel about Iraq and the Iraqi people.

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR Print Under 100,000 Circulation NORMA ZAGER – Beverly Hills Courier Comments: A classic turn-around of a story. Tiny paper takes on big law firm and legendary environmental crusader and turns out to be right. Ms. Zager went far beyond the mainstream media and hit a winner, all while putting out the paper every week usually on time. Congrats on a job, well done. 2nd Place: John Ryan, Los Angeles Daily Journal Honorable Mention: David Houston, Los Angeles Daily Journal

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR Television Anchor or Reporter DAVE BRYAN – KCBS/ KCAL Comments: Solid storytelling under extreme pressure. Dave was calm and clear while also being informative in the heat of battle. We understand the difficulties of reporting in a war zone and Dave did it well. 2nd Place: Ana Garcia, KNBC Honorable Mention: N/A

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR Radio Anchor or Reporter LANCE OROZCO – KCLU-FM Comments: The top candidate displays a proven ability to move from the most immediate breaking news events to the most sensitive soft news features, achieving the ultimate challenge of a journalist. The diverse samples provided reflect a talented journalist who maintains professional strength under pressure and insures that the real story is told, for those involved and those listening. 2nd Place: Warren Olney, KCRW-FM Honorable Mention: Larry Mantle, KPCC

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR Sports Anchor or Reporter ALAN ABRAHAMSON – Los Angeles Times Comments: Reported is both insightful and informative. Very thorough treatment of the subject, including a great piece from Baghdad. Great sports reporting. 2nd Place: Steve Grad, KNX 1070 Honorable Mention: N/A
JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR Photo Journalist or Designer BRIAN VANDER BURG – Los Angeles Times

Comments: “Moral Wounds” is an intense look at those caught in the trap of violence in L.A. The photographer casts a harsh light of reality, but shows compassion for those lives left behind. Vander Burg is able to switch gears in a studio setting to capture portraits of many of the persons running for governor of California. With impeccable lighting, the photographer was able to bring out the individual personality of all 118 candidates he shot. 2nd Place: Carolyn Cole, Los Angeles Times Honorable Mention: N/A

HARD NEWS Daily/Weekly Newspapers Over 100,000 Circulation STAFF OF LOS ANGELES TIMES – Los Angeles Times “Southern California Wildfires” Comments: A textbook example of how to cover a major story using all resources. The stories are well written and researched and cover all aspects of the Fire’s deadly toll-from the victims to the survivors, rescuers and suspects. Excellent reader friendly graphics, riveting photos- and important side bars on business impact, federal government angles and consumer/ insurance guides make the package complete. 2nd Place: STAFF, Los Angeles Times; “Car Plows Through Crowd in Santa Monica” Honorable Mention: N/A


BUSINESS Daily/Weekly Newspapers Over 100,000 Circulation NANCY CLEELAND, ABIGAIL GOLDMAN, EVELYN IRITANI AND TYLER MARSHALL
Los Angeles Times “The Wal-Mart Effect” Comments: “A well-researched and exceptionally well-written series of reports that document the positive and negative impact created by Wal-Mart in the communities where it locates. The reporters put the Wal-Mart effect into real, human and understandable terms, removing the corporate mystique that generally accompanies the retail giant.” 2nd Place: Dana Calvo – Los Angeles Times; “Dealing with Fire” Honorable Mention: Lisa Girion – Los Angeles Times; “Pipeline To Justice”

SIGNED COMMENTARY Daily/Weekly Newspapers Over 100,000 Circulation JILL STEWART – Daily News of Los Angeles Comments: “Jill Stewart’s selected columns represent everything readers should demand from regular commentators: biting, ironic, well-reported, logical, factual, amusing where humor is appropriate and consistent. Stewart’s stated aim is to skewer California’s ruling elite; woe to the lawmaker who learns that she is waiting on Line One. But lucky are the readers who are treated to a steady diet of the mincemeat she creates.” 2nd Place: Chris Weinkopf – Daily News of Los Angeles Honorable Mention: Tim Rutten – Los Angeles Times

COLUMNIST Daily/Weekly Newspapers Over 100,000 Circulation MARIEL GARZA – Los Angeles Daily News Comments: Mariel Garza makes the reader an on-the-scene witness to the moods and mechanisms of LA City Hall. She examines the stories behind the workings of the city government and the effect of of council decisions on Los Angeles residents. Ms. Garza covers a broad range of civic matters, addressing LA’s thought-provoking issues with clarity and keen observation. 2nd Place: Dan Neil, Los Angeles Times. Honorable Mention: Erin Aubry Kaplan – LA Weekly

EDITORIALS Daily/Weekly Newspapers over 100,000 Circulation ROBERT A. KITTLE – The San Diego Union-Tribune “San Diego Time Bomb, City pension fund in crisis” Comments: “Series of three editorials attacks with logic and forcefulness the alarming state of pension finances in the city of San Diego. Kittle took a monkey-puzzle tree of a problem and, through clear, declarative sentences, laid out the problem, fingered the culprits and offered the most reasonable solution in ways that made the situation as attainable to the reader as his morning bowl of cornflakes. This is exemplary editorializing, the sort that enables readers to understand what sort of action needs to be taken, and motivates them to become involved.” 2nd Place: Bill Stall – The Los Angeles Times “Reinventing California” Honorable Mention: Alex Raksin – Los Angeles Times “State Prisons’ Revolving Door”
ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMN Daily/Weekly Newspapers Over 100,000 Circulation NICOLAI OUROUSSOFF – Los Angeles Times “Patron of Fear” Comments: Comprehensive analysis of a sick dictator’s obsession with immortalizing himself through architecture. We actually enjoyed the critic’s “notebook” more than anything else in this compelling package. 2nd Place: Mark Swed – Los Angeles Times; “A Search For Salvation” Honorable Mention: John Powers-L.A Weekly; “To the Rectum and Back Again”

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE Daily/Weekly Newspapers Over 100,000 Circulation PAUL BROWNFIELD– Los Angeles Times “Echo of Laughter” Comments: “Fabulous read. What an “El Lay” story the shrinks that these folks must have financed over the years! Crisp writing, wonderful insight to stay out of the way of narrative- driving subjects. 2nd Place: Steven Leigh Morris – LA Weekly; “Raging Gracefully” Honorable Mention: Scott Gold – Los Angeles Times; “Always on His Mind”


HEADLINE Daily/Weekly Newspapers Over 100,000 Circulation JIM COLEMAN – Los Angeles Times “With Malice Toward Nuns, Arnold’s Army Marches On” Comments: Grabs you right away! This was the judges unanimous choice. 2nd Place: Dan Donovan – Los Angeles Times; “Opening Pandora’s In-Box” Honorable Mention: N/A

DESIGN AND LAYOUT Daily/Weekly Newspapers Over 100,000 Circulation STAFF OF LOS ANGELES TIMES – Los Angeles Times “The Oscars” Comments: “Very classy layout. Strong use of photo. Excellent color usage, the layout capture the viewer immediately.” 2nd
Place:  Raoul Ranoa and Brady MacDonald – Los Angeles Times; “Inside Disney Hall” Honorable Mention: Staff of Los Angeles Times- Los Angeles Times; “Mountain Resorts Under Siege”


BUSINESS Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation DAVID GREENBERG—Los Angeles Business Journal “Threat of Benefit Cuts Could Lead To Supermarket Strike” Comments: Reporter David Greenberg clearly saw the importance of a growing threat well ahead of the competition. Strong enterprise reporting combined with a good understanding of his subject matter led to exceptional coverage! 2nd Place: Newsroom Staff – Los Angeles Business Journal; “L.A’s Hidden Money” Honorable Mention: Don Jergler and Felix Sanchez – Press-Telegram; “Return of The Pike”
SIGNED COMMENTARY Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation THOMAS D. ELIAS – Southern California Focus “Thoman Elias” Comments: “Elias is feisty and forceful, qualities readers seek in commentators. His knowledge of state politics and policy is reflective in an authoritative style that benefits from being both straight forward and spare.” 2nd Place: Mark Lacter– Los Angeles Business Journal; “Comment” Honorable Mention: Joel Kotkin– The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles; “Out of Sight, Out of Power?”

COLUMNIST Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation TOM HENNESSY – Long Beach Press-Telegram Comments: With so much focus on negativity, crime and violence in the news media, it is refreshing to read a column that focuses on the positive aspects of human nature. Simple, concise, straightforward, yet profoundly moving and poignant for the audience. Developing a column from the experiences of everyday life made this more memorable than others. An excellent job of crafting the column, weaving the commentary from passersby and neighbors around the narrative. 2nd Place: Amy Alkon, Syndicated columnist Honorable Mention: Amy Klein, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

EDITORIALS Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation JOHN POPE – Long Beach Press-Telegram, “Memo to Council: Pay Up” Comments: It is the editorialist’s mission to instruct lawmakers do the right thing, and in the morality tale of Jeffrey Allen Grant, wrongly jailed in an emotional serial rapist case that had Long Beach on edge, John Pope hits all the high notes. His narrative is compelling, his conclusions inarguable; Long Beach council members deserve whatever shame has been heaped upon them for blocking payment of a judgement fairly won (and won, and won) against the city by Pope. This is highly effective editorial writing. 2nd Place: Linda Beckman – Whittier Daily News; “Caregivers in Crisis” Honorable Mention: Rob Eshman- The Jewish Journal; “This Week (The War At Home)”

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMN Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation COREY LEVITAN – Daily Breeze “Only The Strong Survive-Doesn’t” Comments: N/A 2nd Place: Linda Renaud – Palijidian Post; “Vulgar Appeal of The Osbournes” Honorable Mention: N/A

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation NATALIE NICHOLS – Los Angeles City Beat/ Valley
Beat, “About A Boy” Comments: Excellent feature on many levels: interesting subject with interesting issues to discuss, excellent writing. 2nd Place: Rishawn Biddle, Michael Thuresson – L.A Business Journal; “Let’s Make A Video Game” Honorable Mention: N/A

SPORT NEWS OR FEATURE Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation COLE COONCE – Los Angeles City Beat, “Viva La Nitro” Comments: A spirited, fun and very well written story about Latino community’s social dynamics and funny car drag racing. 2nd Place: Bob Keisser – Press Telegram; “10 Years Later” Honorable Mention: Ray Nelson- San Gabriel Valley Tribune; “One Year Later Racing Tries to Right a Wrong”


HEADLINE Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation STEPHEN CARR – Press-Telegram, “The Goodyear Limp” Comments: “Ha! Very clever head to go with great photo sucks you right in as all great headlines should.” 2nd Place: Linda Renaud – Palisadian- Post; “Total Recall: Arnold Wins” Honorable Mention: N/A

DESIGN AND LAYOUT Daily/Weekly Newspapers Under 100,000 Circulation TOM GAPEN– Press-Telegram, “Tears of War” Comments: Very emotional photos tell the story. The headline was well done. The layout structure flowed. 2nd Place: Geoffrey Bilau – San Gabriel Valley Newspapers; “Catchers on the Fly” Honorable Mention: Newsroom Staff-Los Angeles Business Journal; “Rich Kids”

NEWS PHOTO Print CAROLYN COLE – Los Angeles Times, “Monrovia Soldier” Comments: “Very gripping shot – so emotional I thought at first it had been posed until I saw the cartridge ejecting. Why no smoke or fire? A dangerous shot for a photographer.” 2nd Place: Carolyn Cole, Los Angeles Times; “Bullet Casings Monrovia” Honorable Mention: N/A FEATURE PHOTO Print GENARO MOLINA – Los Angeles Times,
“Skid Row Kiss” Comments: Intimate peek into gritty life of street people. Privacy is a luxury for them. I particularly liked her cell phone – for doing business. 2nd Place: Stephen Carr – Press Telegram; “Lightning” Honorable Mention: Steven Georges – Press Telegram; “Sea Lion” SPORTS PHOTO Print LOUIS SINCO -Los Angeles Times, “Boxers” Comments: Good action shot, well timed, showing the force and pain of a heavy weight boxing match. 2nd Place: Jeff Gritchen – Long Beach Press Telegram; “Swedish Soccer” Honorable Mention: Wally Skalij – Los Angeles Times; “Funny Cide Fires” EDITORIAL CARTOON Print STEPHEN P. BREEN – Sun Diego Union Tribune Comments: Great caricatures. Illustrations right on target. Way to encapsulate the political climate of California through humor. 2nd Place: Michael Ramirez, Los Angeles Times; “Editorial Cartoon-Schwartztenegger” Honorable Mention: Michael Ramirez – Los Angeles Times; “Editorial Cartoon-War” PHOTO ESSAY Print BRIAN VANDER BRUG – Los Angeles Times, “Mortal Wounds” Comments: This was very difficult. We know that C. Cole won every award conceivable, but Brian essay moved us like no others. His sequence of the emergency room death of John Smith was horrific by showing the consequences of shooting- in a way very rarely, if ever seen. He completed the sequence clear to the girlfriend in the morgue. Outstanding. Can’t stop thinking about those images.” 2nd Place: Carolyn Cole – Los Angeles Times; “War in Iraq” Honorable Mention: Hans Gutknecht – Daily News of Los Angeles; “Inmates Firefighters”

REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST 35 Minutes or Less CBS 2 NEWS TEAM, “CBS 2 NEWS at 11″ Comments: “Great nightly newscast covers the wide-ranging wildfire story. Great live coverage, solid reporting. The exclusive story was a nice addition- different perspective. Overall a solid effort” 2nd Place: Channel 4 News Team at 11 Honorable Mention: KTLA News, First Edition REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST Over 35 Minutes CHANNEL 4 NEWS TEAM, “KNBC 5 PM NEWS” Comments: “Excellent coverage of the many elements of the wild fire story. Good live reporting. Good photography and graphic elements. Overall a comprehensive look at the developing story” 2nd Place: KCAL 9 NEWS TEAM, News at 10 Honorable Mention: Jeff L. Wald, Marcia Brandwynne, Richard Goldner, Chris Falin, Carlos Amezua and Sharon Tay, KTLA MORNING NEWS BREAKING NEWS REPORT Television RON FLEURY, PAT HEALY AND MARTIN PROCTOR, KNBC, CHANNEL 4 NEWS “Old Fire, Creek Road, Lake Arrowhead” Comments: Great live report includes some mention of all of the key elements, including the devastation caused by the
News. The reporter does a great job of staying calm despite the gun battle going on a few doors down. She provides descriptive coverage letting listeners know exactly what's going. Great NATS with the gun shots. 2nd Place: KNX 1070 News Team; "Wildfires" Honorable Mention: Lance Orozco, KCLU FM; "Ventura County Firestorm" FEATURE Radio MICHELLE TRUDEAU, PEGGY MEARNS AND JANE GREENHALGH- NPR "The Judge and the Scientist" Comments: "A compelling and informative narrative." 2nd Place: Michell Trudeau and Peggy Mears – NPR; "Bipolar Disorder in Children" Honorable Mention: KRCW- "Walt Disney Concert Hall" INVESTIGATIVE/BUSINESS/SERIES Radio KEITH S. GOLDSTEIN – KCSN-FM; "Domestic Violence: The Cycle of Abuse" Comments: This is a powerful piece of journalism and radio at its best. The personal stories from the real victims gives this radio series extreme authenticity. It's hard to imagine how much effort went into putting this together. Excellent work and a deserving winner. 2nd Place- Rachel Myrow, Anthea Raymond, Kitty Felde, Larry Mantle, Christal Smith, Julia Posey, Aimee Machado, Linda Othenin-Girard, Jackie Oclaray, Polly A. Sveda and Chumi Paul, KPCC; "Examination of Workmen's Comp" Honorable Mention: Warren Olney, Frances Anderton, Karen Radziner and Sharon Rembaum, KCRW "To the Point" - Walmart ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING/CRITICISM Radio Gail Eichenthal and Chris Stanley – KNX; "Oscars 2003" Comments: "Very good live shots from these reporters give a glimpse into the academy awards event. Good "show prep" on those who were nominated. 2nd Place: John Rabe – KPCC "Call Sheet" Honorable Mention: Lance Orozco-KCLU "Miss Saigon" SPORTS NEWS Radio WARREN OLENY, KI SUNG, FRANCES ANDERTON, KAREN RADZINER, JACOB CONRAD, SHARON REMBAUM AND KYLE MCKINNON – KCRW; "To the Point" 2nd Place: Steve Julian – KPCC; "Women's College Hockey Team" Honorable Mention: Warren Olney, Peter Ginsberg, Karen Radziner, Frances Anderton, Jacob Conrad, Ki Sung, Sharon Rembaum and Kyle McKinnon, KCRW-FM USE OF SOUND Radio BOB CARLSON and RUTH SEYMOUR – KCRW; "Walt Disney Concert Hall" Comments: "We were there." 2nd Place: Ilsa Setziol and Anthea Raymond, KPCC "Colorado River Delta" Honorable Mention: John Rabe, KPCC "Carl Sigman – Songwriter" TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS/DOCUMENTARIES Radio FRANCIS ANDERTON, BOB CARLSON, RAY GUARNA and RUTH SEYMOUR – KCRW, "Walt Disney Concert Hall" Comments: "When almost a year is invested in a story it better be good-this one is excellent!" 2nd Place: Warren Olney, Jennifer Ferro, Ki Sung, Francis Anderton, Gisele Regatao, Karen Radziner, Illeana Justus
and Kyle McKinnon – KCRW; “Which Way LA; Santa Monica Farmers Market” Honorable Mention: John North, KNX; “Child Molester: Profile of a Predator” NEWS BUREAU Radio WARREN OLNEY, KAREN RADZINER, JACOB CONRAD, KI SUNG, FRANCES ANDERTON, SHARON REMBAUM AND KYLE McKINNON – KCRW-FM “To the Point” “Baghdad Neighborhood Bombed”. Comments: It was difficult to pick one winner in this category because each of the entries was outstanding, but the program entitled “Baghdad Neighborhood Bombed” was superior. The depth of information and quality of guests was astonishing. There are monthly programs that don’t have the quality of this daily show. And this program is still vital and holds up, a year after it was originally broadcast. 2nd Place: WARREN OLNEY, GISELE REGATAO, KAREN RADZINER, FRANCIS ANDERTON AND SHARON REMBAUM. - KCRW-FM “To the Point What Happened to the Soldiers When the Battles Are Over?“ Honorable Mention: N/A MAGAZINE NEWS ARTICLE/INVESTIGATIVE REPORT DAVID ZUCCHINO - Los Angeles Times “The Thunder Run” Comments: This story stood out among a phenomenally deep group of entries. It is a magnificent piece of journalism – entertaining, gripping, educational and enlightening. It illustrates horrors of war that is difficult, if not impossible, for those back home to grip. Congratulations and thank you. 2nd Place: Eric Longabardi – Telemedia News Productions; “A War of Memories” Honorable Mention: Vince Beiser – Los Angeles Times Magazines; “The Cruelest Prison” MAGAZINE FEATURE/COLUMN/COMMENTARY RONALD BAILEY – Reason Magazine; “The Battle for Your Brain” Comments: Ah, brave new world! Writer Ronald Bailey presents the pros and cons of neurological enhancement. A complex topic. Well organized and fascinating. 2nd Place: Harlan Ellison – V Life; “Infamy: The New Fame” Honorable Mention: Christopher Lisotta – Frontiers; “The strongest Hold: How Crystal Meth Takes Over the Lives of Gay Men”. IN HOUSE OR CORPORATE PUBLICATION JIM PERRY – The Los Angeles Firefighter. Comments: Good use of pictures, compelling photographs – excellent use of photos to tell a story. 2nd Place: Among Ourselves – Los Angeles Times Honorable Mention: N/A DESIGN AND LAYOUT NELSON ANDERSON, MICHAEL KELLNER AND JEFF SIEDLIK – v Life; “Takes of Infamy” Comments: This layout required a lot of detail work. The cover image flowed. Excellent color and interesting paper. Overall presentation is excellent. 2nd Place: NAN OSHIN AND ROGER GURBANI – Los Angeles Times Magazine; “The Restaurant Guide 2003”. Honorable Mention: NAN OSHIN, ROGER GURBANI AND CAROL WAKANO – Los Angeles Times Magazine. WIRE SERVICE/DAILY OR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
People Magazine; “Laci Peterson Series” Comments: A series of stories that takes a balanced approach to a topic which have been thoroughly covered in so many fashions while much of the coverage of the Laci Peterson story is a

2nd Place: David Evans – Bloomberg News; “The Flinflan Man” Honorable Mention: Terri Vermeulen Keith – City News Service;

MONTHLY PUBLICATION BUREAU SUSAN KARLIN – IEEE’s Spectrum; “Invention on Demand” Comments: Nice idea, well executed. Would have liked to have been at a meeting of these minds.

2nd Place: N/A Honorable Mention: N/A

ONLINE/NEW MEDIA Single News Story, Feature or Series STAFF OF LOS ANGELES TIMES – “The Southern California Wildfires” Comments: The Los Angeles Times online provided a valuable news resource for the area in a way only an online news organization could achieve.

2nd Place: LOS ANGELES TIMES STAFF – “War in Iraq” Honorable Mention: N/A

COLUMN/COMMENTARY/CRITICISM REASON STAFF – Reason Online; “U.S. War in Iraq” Comments: Yearlong drumbeat of columns, critiques and commentary about the U.S. mission in Iraq examined virtually every angle of the invasion, from run-up to the deadly business of peacekeeping, from every point of view – iconoclast hawk to stereotypical dove – producing a balanced and thoughtful study of American and international history in the making. This is a collection worth keeping, both for ready reference, and to haul out in 20 years to see how future historians have spun the war and its aftermath.

2nd Place: Ronald Bailey, ReasonOnline Honorable Mention: Matt Welch, ReasonOnline


NEWS FEATURE International Journalism MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN – Voice of America; “Looking at the Military Preparation Leading up to War” Comments: Very well done, with great use of sound. Takes you right in to boot camp.

2nd place: David Willis, BBC Los Angeles; “California Recall Election” Honorable Mention: David Willis, BBC Los Angeles “Hispanic Vote in California”

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE International Journalism ANDREW GUMBEL – The Independent; “Elliott Gould” Comments: Very interesting profile of the actor, in an article that seems to allow the reader to glimpse

COLUMNIST International Journalism DIANA LJUNGAEUS — Resume, Sweden Comments: The work is significant for its insight, freshness and cleverness. While the columns may make the average American wince on occasion, her Swedish readers are treated to wit and humor from a point of view that demonstrates both fondness for, and frustration with, the natives.