Winners of 54th Annual SoCal Journalism Awards 2012

54th SoCal Journalism Awards
(Listed in alphabetical order, by name)

A. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

A1. PRINT (Over 50,000 circulation)

Kim Masters, *The Hollywood Reporter*

Comments: Well researched – clearly – concisely written. Understandable to even those who have no history of the Murdoch Journalistic clan – and it’s importance to world events. Factual, but spicy enough to be of interest to even a casual browser! Brava

2nd: Chris Vogel, *LA Weekly*

3rd: Robert Faturechi, *Los Angeles Times*

A2. PRINT (Under 50,000 circulation)

Richard Clough, *Los Angeles Business Journal*

Comments: Richard Clough’s submitted work shows depth and style. The bank pieces reflected tough looks at technical topics, told in an engaging way. Such sophisticated work can only come through rigorous reporting. Well done.

2nd: Gabe Friedman, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*

3rd: Ryan Vaillancourt, *Los Angeles Downtown News*

A3. TELEVISION JOURNALIST

Chuck Henry and Tara Wallis-Finestone, *KNBC-TV*

Comments: Obviously a “big league” anchor and reporter. Great work and impressive presentation.

2nd: Karen Foshay, *KCET, SoCal Connected*

3rd: Antonio Valverde, *KMEX 34 Univision*

A4. RADIO

Larry Mantle, *KPCC*
Comments: Consistently outstanding work! Larry is a credit to our profession, nicely done!

2nd: Molly Peterson, KPCC

3rd: Warren Olney, KCRW

A5. ONLINE JOURNALIST

Chris Hedges, Truthdig

Comments: Champion of the 99% - mortal enemy of the 1%. This former war correspondent turns out weekly columns packed with insightful and biting opinion.

2nd: Simone Wilson, LA Weekly

3rd: Michael Martinez, CNN.com

3rd: Michael Collins and Denise Anne Duffield, EnviroReporter.com

A6. ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST

Alex Ben Block, The Hollywood Reporter

Comments: An entertainment journalist for over 30 years, Alex Ben Block provides readers of The Hollywood Reporter with exclusive breaking news and probing features. During 2011 he provided ongoing coverage of the tangled affairs of a financially troubled movie executive, consistently ahead of the competition.

2nd: Dylan Howard, Celebuzz

3rd: Nikki Finke, Deadline Hollywood

A7. PHOTO JOURNALIST

Francine Orr, Los Angeles Times

Comments: The powerful images in "Vignettes: Living with Autism," are emotional X-rays – revelatory and poignant.

DAILY/WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS -- over 50K

B1. HARD NEWS

Mars Melnicoff, LA Weekly, “L.A. County’s War on Desert Rats”

Comments: This entry wins first place because the story and the photography are perfectly integrated. This story would not have the impact it does without the insightful, portrait-like photography that illustrates its human drama.
2nd: Tracy Manzer and Greg Mellen, Long Beach Press-Telegram, “Seal Beach Attack Kills 8”

B2. NEWS FEATURE

Thomas Curwen, Los Angeles Times, “Serving the Dead”

Comments: This story is so simple and well-told, you forget the reporting required to provide such rich detail. While there might not have been as much "news" as some of the other entrants, the story was so powerfully delivered it could not be ignored. We get an inside look at the embalmer, a mother's grief and the boy, of course (as much as can be told about a 7-year life). Quite simply, it's the age old tale of good and evil. Writing like this was like an emotional punch in the gut: "Together they would not allow the manner of this child's death to set the terms of the family's grief." Very strong ending.

2nd: Roxana Kopetman, O.C. Register, “Grief Finds a Caretaker”
3rd: Ashley Powers, Los Angeles Times, “Hostage to Their Pimps”

B3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Michelle Woo, OC Weekly, “Dave Gibbons is a Church Misfit”

Comments: Michelle Woo tells a compelling story about a man who's straddling different worlds: that of the leader of a mega church who decides that's not the path for him. The story is told effectively, and the anecdote about Gibbons' time at Bob Jones University serves to show how he had to find the right path for himself before.

2nd: Ben Westhoff, LA Weekly, “Bud Bundy, Original Gangsta”
3rd: Danielle Berrin, Jewish Journal, “The Education of LAUSD’s Steve Zimmer”

B4. INVESTIGATIVE SERIES


Comments: The reporter put together the most authoritative package of stones in a field of entries with three strong packages on L.A-area jail abuses. The use of the sheriff's departments own documents and sources, along with those of the district attorneys office, was particularly powerful in showing a system out of control. These stories – along with the second and third place entries – are an example of journalist doing important work for people.

2nd: Chris Vogel, L.A Weekly, “Senseless Violence; Wheelchair Hell”
3rd: Nick Schou, *OC Weekly*, “Orange County Jail Deaths”

**B5. BUSINESS**

R. Scott Moxley, *OC Weekly*, “Pyramid Scheme”

Comments: This is a terrific narrative that makes you feel like you're in the middle of this sting, complete with would-be high rollers who insisted the investors must come in with at least $5 billion -- but would make an exception in this case -- con artists and clever FBI special agents who eventually exposed the game. This story had many moving parts, and Moxley covered them all exceptionally well.

2nd: Gustavo Arellano, *OC Weekly*, “El Torito Founder is Still the Big Enchilada”


**B6. COMMENTARY**

Thomas Elias, *California Focus Syndicated Column*, “California Focus”

Comments: From PUC secrecy to no new taxes to faulty school drop out rates alias’ Syndicate column engages the reader and never fails to take a firm stand.

2nd: Timothy Spangler, *O.C. Register*, “Yemen”


**B7. COLUMNIST**

Amy Alkon, *Creators Syndicate*

Comments: The dangers are plenty for any advice columnist: It is easy to be trite, predictable, maudlin, stuffy, cute or – most ominously – just plain wrong. Amy Alkon transcends those hazards for two basic reasons: She writes with nerve and she offers knowledge based on that extraordinary attribute known as authentic research. It is rare to read an advice columnist and to think afterward, "I actually learned something." Yet Alkon’s take on the chemical basis of infatuation, or her shattering statistical dismissal of popular myths about blind dates, or her clear-eyed take on the realities of the sexual dynamic in longtime couples (a dynamic most typically and erroneously filtered, as she notes, through a male perspective) .... Holy smokes. Readers walk away looking at their own lives a little differently, which is the goal of any fine columnist, period. That provides reason, ample reason, for honoring Alkon with this award.

2nd: Marty Kaplan, *Jewish Journal*

3rd: Gendy Alimurung, *LA Weekly*

**B8. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMNS**

Karina Longworth, *LA Weekly*, “Karina Longworth’s Film Criticism”
Comments: Longworth was the only entrant, but she won because these are intelligent, sophisticated – and at times humorously sarcastic – film reviews. Outstanding work.

B9. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE
Lilledeshan Bose, OC Weekly, “The Yost Theatre is Ready For Its Closeup”
 Comments: This is a crisp, brisk, thorough account of the controversial reformation of a community landmark, sparkling with detail and clever turns of phrase. A nice job on a good yarn.
3rd: Naomi Pfefferman, Jewish Journal, “Stieg Larsson’s Other Calling was an Anti-Nazi Crusader”

B10. SPORTS
Hillel Aron, LA Weekly, “The Bikeroots”
 Comments: Killer lead: "For Stephen Box, it all began in the summer of 2010, when he was nearly hit by a bus." How can you not keep reading? Excellent long-form journalism in a sport, and form of recreation and transportation, often crowded out by press coverage of other pursuits.
2nd: Timothy Spangler, OC Register, “What Sports Can Tell Us About Other Countries”
3rd: Devra Maza, USA Today, “Calling Perfection”

B11. HEADLINE
Rebecca Bryant, Los Angeles Times, “Sir! I Have A Broken Leg, Sir!”
 Comments: Duty meets dire medical need, and the military slowly admits to the latter’s existence, during modern-day military training.
2nd: Laura Dominick, Los Angeles Times, “Always Groom For One More”

B12. DESIGN
William Dabney, Marissa Chamberlain and Paul Penzella, Long Beach Press-Telegram, “The Port of Long Beach at 100 Years”
 Comments: This publication has one of the most arresting covers ever – a shot of a container unloaded against a full-throttle blazing sun. The photos, layout and graphics throughout the publication are outstanding and the writing is lively.
2nd: Laila Derakhshanian and Jesse Lenz, OC Weekly, “What We Learned”
3rd: Darrick Rainey, LA Weekly, “Skrillex”
DAILY/WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS -- under 50K

C1. HARD NEWS

Ryan Vaillancourt, Los Angeles Downtown News, “Racism, Sexual Harassment Lawsuits Roil Central Division"

Comments: The writer did an excellent job of using public documents, interviews and background sources to shine light on a work atmosphere in the Los Angeles Police Department’s Central Division that could cost taxpayers millions of dollars. The writing was clear, the reporting detailed so the reader got a very understandable, straight forward idea of what was going on and why they should care. The writer could have been more sensational in his choice of words, but kept it straight, letting the facts tell the story. It was also impressive that sources within a police department – historically not the easiest place to get people to talk – talked the reporter to fill in the gaps and background missing from the public record. It is also impressive that some officers, officials were willing to talk on the record even in the midst of multiple lawsuits. The writer did what we all work to do: expose wrong doing among those in power.

2nd: Gabe Friedman, Los Angeles Daily Journal, “Corporate Dodge”


C2. NEWS FEATURE

Theresa Marie Moreau, The Remnant, "Enemies of the State"

Comments: Magazine-quality story on an interesting topic. Writer knows her audience and provides well-researched details to paint a riveting tale.

2nd: Alfred Lee, Los Angeles Business Journal, "Spilled Milk"

3rd: Eric Longabardi and Roger Bloom, Newport Beach Independent, "Fast Eddie Plays On"

C3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Joel Russell, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Party Life Too Much for Ad Exec”

Comments: Joel Russell followed a great instinct when he second-guessed his decision to stop work on a story about Mike Ramirez. Getting people to talk about someone with a life as complicated as Ramirez’s is a difficult task. Russell did this, and he kept going when others might have stopped. The result was a detailed story of how life in fast lane can go bad. Great job.


C4. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES
Gabe Friedman, Evan George, Evelyn Larrubia and David Houston, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, “Legal Limbo”

Comments: Friedman took on a story about one of the few sacred cows left in government, a federal judge, and dug deep to show how the judge’s apparent incompetence or unwillingness to do his job was taking its toll on people waiting years for justice to be served. The series did more than report a single instance of the judge ignoring other judges’ recommendations to free jailed defendants. Friedman demonstrated through a study of the record that the judge had a pattern of recalcitrance in the face of dire human suffering.


C5. BUSINESS


Comments: A well-documented and well-written piece on a loophole in bank regulations that allowed investors of one west Bank to profit on the backs of taxpayers, I’d love to see a follow-up at the end of the five-year make-over plan, to see if things change at all.


C6. COMMENTARY

Amy Alkon, *Creators Syndicate*, “Selected Columns”

Comments: Ms. Alkon combines off-center analysis, research and spirited writing in these advice columns. The columns are interesting and fun. They also appear to be sincere efforts to provide helpful advice.


3rd: Henry Dubroff, *Pacific Coast Business Times*, “Amgen is Big Pharma’s Newest Player”

C7. COLUMNIST


Jon Regardie Executive Editor of the Downtown News writes colorful and amazing comments on issues downtowners care about. In 2011, he focused on a hated Dodger owner, jury duty, a nasty city council race and more.

2nd: Patricia Bunin, *Los Angeles Newspaper Group*, “Senior Moments”

C9. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE
Patricia Bunin, Los Angeles Newspaper Group, “The Day I met the King”

Comments: This senior moments feature charmingly chronicles a kiss and a song by the love of her life, Elvis Presley, when the writer was just 13. She remembers this life changing moment on the 34th anniversary of the king of the Rock’n Roll’s Death.

2nd: Richard Guzman, Los Angeles Downtown News, “Bakers' Delight”

C10. SPORTS
David Nusbaum, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Sticking To It”
Mike Terry, San Fernando Valley Sun, “The Baddest Cats in the City”

Comments: These stories are both excellent and so different it's not fair to compare them. David Nusbaum takes on a hockey legend use of entirely different job skills to be a team executive, seeing the parallels and differences even more clearly than his subject seems to. Mike Terry profiles a hard-fighting team from a hard-luck town holding on to win a championship over an impressive array of obstacles. He uses quotes well and reproduces the feeling of momentum throughout the game that led to their triumph.

C11. HEADLINE
Tom Hicks, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Greetings”

Comments: The single-word headline, followed by a more informative deck, is an ideal fit for this story about new Wal-Mart stores. Clever, succinct and appropriate.

3rd: Tom Hicks, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Fat Lady Finally Sings for Napster”

C12. DESIGN
Robert Landry, Los Angeles Business Journal, “20 in Their Twenties”

Comments: Clean, elegant design, smart use of color, typography that is inviting and easy to read. Designer balances photography, type and white space for maximum effect.

2nd: Brian Allison, Alexis Rawlins and Yumi Kanegawa, Los Angeles Downtown News, “The Don’t Miss Summer”

ART/PHOTOGRAPHY
D1. NEWS PHOTO
Ted Soqui, Freelance, “Sarah”

Comments: A portrait of one individual, caught up in larger events, that practically begged to become an archetype. It soon became a global one when a version of the photo was used for Time’s Person of the Year, The Protestor.

2nd: Gina Ferazzi, Los Angeles Times, “…After Rep Gabrielle Giffords was Shot at a Town Hall Meeting in Tucson”

3rd: Steven Carr, Long Beach Press-Telegram, “Seal Beach Attack Kills 8”

D2. FEATURE PHOTO

Gina Ferazzi, Los Angeles Times, “Sandblasted”

Comments: One of the best feature shots ever, perfectly catches the terror of being enveloped and isolated by a sandstorm on the highway. We’re relieved both subject and photographer emerged unharmed.

2nd: Mike Meadows, The Los Angeles Firefighter, “In Close”


D3. SPORTS PHOTO

James Santelli, NeonTommy.com, “USC Football: Sun Devils Scorch Trojans 43-22”

Comments: Lively writing, good interweaving of background information, and good pictures taken by the author, especially of the two quarterbacks.

D4. ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO

Francine Orr, Los Angeles Times, “Michelle Williams”

Comments: Orr’s painterly sense of color gives the portrait great warmth.


D5. EDITORIAL CARTOON


Comments: Imaginative and creative visualization of some of the issues in both the ongoing economic downturn and Occupy movement. The Monopoly Man being toppled, a la Saddam Hussein’s statue in Baghdad, was an especially nice touch.

2nd: Steve Greenberg, LA Observed, “Cartoons on Income Disparity”

**D6. PHOTO ESSAY (Single Topic)**

Francine Orr, *Los Angeles Times*, “Discovering Autism”

Comments: Moving, amazing – we’d nominate this series for a Pulitzer ourselves if we didn’t trust Ms. Orr’s publication has already done so.

2nd: Gina Ferazzi, *Los Angeles Times*, “Arizona Rampage”


**TELEVISION**

**E1. ANCHOR**

N/A

**E2. VIDEOGRAPHER**


Comments: Great work. First-rate camera work with an eye for detail. Judges thought this was great.

**E3. NEWS**


Comments: Reporter did a great job of covering a big, fluid news story. Got right into the middle of it and reported in a reasoned, sensible tone. Did a good job of ad-libbing and telling the story as it developed. Nice job. Judges were impressed with this one.

2nd: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Rebecca Haggerty, Michael Okwu, Alexandria Gales, Michael Bloecher, *KCET, SoCal Connected*, “Testing the Limits”

3rd: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Karen Foshay, Judy Muller, Rocio Zamora, Alberto Arce, *KCET, SoCal Connected*, “Caught on Camera”

**E4. FEATURE**


Comments: Powerful feature on a family torn apart and on opposite sides of the border. Great reporting and access to the family. Riveting interviews and writing. Great entry and one of the best we’ve seen.
2nd: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Saul Gonzalez, Brian Rooney, Rocio Zamora, Alberto Arce, Michael Bloecher, KCET, SoCal Connected, “War Town”

3rd: Kimberly McWatt, Angel Kim, Lu Parker, Justin Mashouf, KTLA 5 Team, “Throw Away Teens”

E5. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Nina Weinstein, Brian Knappenberger, Margaret Murphy, Bloomberg Television, “Bloomberg GameChangers: Rupert Murdoch”

Comments: Top-notch profile of a polarizing media mogul. Excellent interviews and resources. Judges were impressed with the quality of this profile. Great work.

2nd: Michael Okwu, Michael Bloecher, Karen Fosha’y, Justine Schmidt, Bret Marcus, KCET, SoCal Connected, “Herbie Hancock: All That’s Jazz”


E6. INVESTIGATIVE

Karen Foshay, Laurel Erickson, Alberto Arce, Rocio Zamora and Miguel Contreras et al., KCET, SoCal Connected, “Show Me the Money: Government Gone Wild”

Comments: News 12 - Good sense of graphics. Built suspense on punishment for Key Boss. Great use of video to set up dire need. You achieved your goal -- we hate the Boss!

2nd: Cher Calvin, Justin Mashouf, Angel Kim and Kimberly McWatt, KTLA, “Designer Drug Crackdown”

3rd: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Karen Foshay, Brian Rooney, Lata Pandya et al., KCET, SoCal Connected, “Billboards in the Park”

E7. SPORTS

Fox Sports West / Prime Ticket, “50 Years Under the Halo: Angels Baseball (2009)”

Comments: A sad and moving portrait of the Angels making it through a season that started with the unexpected death of a pitcher who showed great promise, was mesmerizing to watch and was especially well-liked by his teammates. They dedicated their season to their fallen teammate and transformed their grief into success on the field.

2nd: Fox Sports West / Prime Ticket, “Kermit Alexander”

3rd: Fox Sports West / Prime Ticket, “Dakota Meyer”

E8. Entertainment
Tie: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Michael Okwu, Karen Foshay, Michael Bloecher et al., KCET, SoCal Connected, “Herbie Hancock: All That’s Jazz”

Tie: George Pennacchio, KABC, "Smart Songs"

Comments: Great use of video – nice editing talked about past present and future gained insights on “Butternotes” and history of Maiden Voyage.

Comments: “Smart Songs” shows how music can make you smarter in school. Pennacchio takes us from his Schoolhouse Rock to todays Schoolhouse Rap, with a learning twist.

2nd: Chuck Henry, Tara Wallis-Finestone and Sean Browning, NBC4, “Forgotten Footprints”

3rd: Fox Sports West / Prime Ticket Team, “2011 Kings Ice Crew Calendar”

E9. Talk/Public Affairs

Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Rick Wilkinson, Dina Demetrious, Vince Gonzalez et al., KCET, SoCal Connected, “Ticket To Space”

Comments: Lots of different Angles – great video – good story telling. Shows impact on area. Gave us a peek at future “endeavors”.

2nd: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Reza Aslan, Rebecca Haggerty, Saul Gonzalez et al., KCET, SoCal Connected, “In the Shadow of 9-11”

3rd: Don Corsini, John Moczulski, Kimberly McWatt and Angel Kim, KTLA, “Heal The Bay”

E10. Documentaries

Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Angela Shelley, Yvette Cabrera, Alexandria Gales et al., KCET, SoCal Connected, “No Place to Call Home”

Comments: Powerful use of Kid’s sound /- blended with deplorable scenes – Great Follow-up with kids over time.

2nd: Paul Feine, Alex Manning and Anthony Fisher, Reason Magazine, “Abandoned in Guatemala – The Failure of International Adoption Policies”

3rd: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Rebecca Haggerty, Michael Okwu, Rocio Zamora et al., KCET, SoCal Connected, “RX Dangers”

RADIO

F1. ANCHOR

Jim Rondeau, KCLU
Comments: With a fast paced and brisk delivery Jim Rondeau commands attention. He keeps things moving and interesting, fun and informative.

2nd: John Rabe, KPCC, “KPCC’s Off Ramp”
3rd: Steve Julian, KPCC

F2. NEWS
Frank Stoltze, KPCC-FM, “Occupy Ousted”
Brian Ping, Jon Baird, Steve Futterman, Pete Demetriou and Rory Eriksen, KNX, “Shutdown Occupy LA”

Comments: In a category packed with outstanding entries – This was a tough one. Both KPCC and KNX’s coverage of the Occupy LA incident were extraordinary! Excellent Job!

2nd: KPCC News Team, “Carmageddon”
3rd: Summer Reese and Cary Harrison, KPFK, “Live Hurricane Irene Crisis Coverage”

F3. NEWS OR FEATURE SHORT FORM
Molly Peterson, KPCC, “Barbie Protest”

Comments: Radio reporter Molly Peterson makes every word—and every sound—count as she covers a breaking news story involving Greenpeace’s beef with Mattel, in 1 minute, 31 seconds.

2nd: Lance Orozco, KCLU, “Simi Officer Funeral”
3rd: Brian Watt, KPCC, “Bin Laden”

F4. FEATURE
Karen Pelland, KDB, “Santa Barbara Choral Society ’9-11 Requiem’”

Comments: A gripping report that tells the story of the impact 9/11 has on the nation and its children.

2nd: Stephanie O’Neill, KPCC, “Laura’s Law”
3rd: Bob Carlson, Jacob Conrad and Darby Maloney, KCRW Radio, “It’s Always Now”

F5. INVESTIGATIVE
Charles Feldman, KNX, “The Strange Case of Dr. Ehab Mohamed”

Comments: A comprehensive and thorough piece of journalism at its finest. Kudos to Charles Feldman for his fine work, which results in the arrest of a physician.
2nd: Kitty Felde, KPCC, “Secure Communities”

**F6. ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING/CRITISISM**

Sanden Totten, KPCC, “Farewell Potter”

Comments: Sanden Totten attends a midnight showing of Harry Potter’s last film. He weaves on-the-scene teenage fan reaction with his own perceptive film review and packs it with effective sound-track excerpts.

2nd: Molly Peterson, KPCC, “Randy Rhoads”


**F7. SPORTS**

Raghu Manavalan, KPCC, “Ball Hawks”

Comments: This piece was hilarious, focusing on a special variety of baseball fan. We especially loved the use of the sound of wood hitting the ball, and the detail of a ball hawk sitting in the stands, glove in one hand, camcorder in other.

2nd: Christopher Johnson, Miguel Coleman, Jacob Conrad and Bob Carlson, KCRW, “Bring Your Game”

3rd: Lance Orozco, KCLU, “Saintly Week for SoCal Football Fans”

**F8. USE OF SOUND**

Molly Peterson, KPCC, “Pot Raid”

Comments: Molly uses sound to take the listener right to the scene of the raid and keeps the listener there for the duration of the report – nicely done!


3rd: Sanden Totten, KPCC, “Mars Rover”

**F9. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Off Ramp, KPCC, “Memorial Day Special”

Comments: From the Holocaust’s youngest Jew on Schindler’s list, to the wife of a survivor of the USS Indianapolis’ sinking and more this special Memorial Day edition of Off Ramp commemorates the day with moving and compelling, first-person stories.

2nd: Patt Morrison, KPCC, “Poverty”

3rd: Barbara Osborn, Howard Blume, Laurie Kaufman, KPFK, “A California Tax Tutorial”

**F10. DOCUMENTARIES**
John North, KCLU, “Bullying – Kids in Crisis”

Comments: Excellent and compelling documentary of the bullying issue. John North and the staff of KCLU are to be commended for an outstanding report.

2nd: Noelle Conti and Patt Morrison, KPCC, “Boyle Heights”

3rd: Alex Chadwick, Bill Abbott, Jacob Conrad and Bob Carlson, KCRW, “The Descent”

MAGAZINES

G1. NEWS INVESTIGATIVE


Comments: Very compelling writing. Nicely laid-out story. Tough category with lots of quality entries, but this one stood out to the judges.

2nd: David Evans, Bloomberg Markets, “Benefits Denied”


G2. FEATURE/COMMENTARY OVER 1,000 WORDS

Matthew McGough, The Atlantic Magazine, ”The Lazarus File”

Comments: This feature pulled the reader in, taking her on a mesmerizing narrative ride into a cold case of a murdered nurse. Years later, LAPD detectives found the perpetrator, who happened to be a cop. But as gripping as the actual story was, it was also informative and illuminating -- portraying the passion of detectives who must work through very old unsolved crimes and also explaining the technicalities of current DNA technology and other forensic tools. I learned a lot and also enjoyed the swift pacing and intelligent prose.

2nd: Nick Gillespie and Veronique de Rugy, Reason Magazine, ”The 19 Percent Solution: How to Balance the Budget Without Increasing Taxes”


G3. FEATURE/COMMENTARY UNDER 1,000 WORDS

Michael White, Bloomberg Businessweek, “Organized Crime Goes to the Movies”

Comments: One of the reasons video piracy thrives is that people tend to think of it as a victimless crime, or at worst one that takes money from big studios who can afford the losses. White demolishes this image, showing piracy itself is big business. The traces the global players in video counterfeiting and takes the reader step-by-step through the pirating of a movie. A powerful and well-told piece.
2nd: Johnny Dodd, *People Magazine*, “Stable of Friends”

3rd: Marisa Laudadio, *People Magazine*, “Drunken Fights & Drama”

G4. PERSONALITY PROFILE


Comments: First-rate profile of Trent Reznor and his transformation into one of Hollywood’s most talented composers. From drugged-out rock star to Hollywood heavyweight, the profile hits on all the reasons Reznor is still so good at what he does.”

2nd: Lacey Rose, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Late Night’s Late Bloomer”


G5. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMNS


Comments: McCarthy writes with intelligence and insight about two complex films.


3rd: Bill Steigerwald, *Reason Magazine*, “Sorry Charley”

G6. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE


Comments: Masters and Miller write about how Hollywood plays with a sure touch and well-handled drama.

2nd: Alex Ben Block, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “The Globes Go to Court”


G7. IN-HOUSE OR CORPORATE PUBLICATION

Staff, *Los Angeles Collegian*, “This City Never Sleeps”

Comments: Fanciful and eye-catching cover, and the layout and graphics throughout take full advantage of the oversized dimensions of the publication. Relevant and interesting pieces, and an inspiring example of what a college publication can accomplish.

**ONLINE**

**H1A. NEWS**
Nicole Charly, Kristen Lepore, David Fonseca, Jessica Hamlin, Dan Abendschein et al., *Patch*, “Breaking News Coverage of San Gabriel Valley Storm, Nov. 30”

Comments: Patch.com covers a devastating windstorm that struck San Gabriel Valley Communities by marshaling all the editors of its San Gabriel and Northeast Los Angeles editions. Residents could access all the storm news they needed on Patch’s hyperlocal sites.

2nd: Paresh Dave, *NeonTommy.com*, “In California, Obama’s High Speed Rail Network Slowed by Authority’s Miscues”


**H1B. INVESTIGATIVE**
Christopher Palmeri, Rodney Yap, Michael Morris, *Bloomberg*, “Payroll in Peril”

Comments: Well-reported series of investigative pieces. Eye-opening jobs and pay for a very select few. Nice work. Reporters dug and round some good stuff.

2nd: Benjamin Gottlieb and Mary Slosson, *NeonTommy.com (with Los Angeles Times)*, “Diego Garcia, 25”


**H2. FEATURE**
Catherine Green, *Tommy.com*, “Kneading the System: Mark Stambler’s Cottage Food Crusade”

Comments: We thought we were reading about a prohibition-era speakeasy. Turns out this is far more homespun and just as vigorously opposed by the local government. Ms. Green captures the frustrations of small business owners trying to deal with nonsensical regulations. Judges thought this was great work.

2nd: Stef Willen, *McSweeney’s Internet Tendency*, “Bring it On, House Fire, Part Two”


**H3. PERSONALITY PROFILE**
Mae Ryan, KPCC, “Modesty Modern”

Comments: This beautifully shot news story tells a richly complex story with ease and grace without compromising its weight.

2nd: Andrew McIntyre, Kate Rooney, Benjamin Gottlieb, Mary Slosson and Reut Cohen, NeonTommy.com, “Classroom Frontlines”

3rd: Mae Ryan, KPCC, “Child of the Killing Fields”

H4. CONSUMER/DATABASE-DRIVEN JOURNALISM

Christopher Palmeri and Rodney Yap, Bloomberg News, “Buffett’s Forgotten $20 Helps California Bridge Budget Gap”

Comments: Funny, informative, well-written. If you’d ever wondered where all the state’s unclaimed money came from and will go to, start reading here.

2nd: Karen Foshay, Rocio Zamora, Miguel Contreras, Brian Frank, David Egen et al., KCET, SoCal Connected, “Interactive HACLA Expenses Database”

H5. MULTI-MEDIA PACKAGE

Chris Vogel and Simone Wilson, LA Weekly, “LAPD Detective Says Combs & Knight Ordered Killings”

Comments: These are journalists who have the topic covered even beyond their crisp and detailed prose. They offer video and documents to weave a story told from all sides.” Despite what Sean Combs telling them the allegations are “pure fiction”, the reader is left with much to ponder.

2nd: Mars Melnicoff, LA Weekly, “Desert Rats: L.A. County’s Private Property War”

3rd: Michael Martinez, CNN.com, “Changing Fortunes of Fame”

H6. POLITICAL COLUMN/COMMENTARY

Tina Dupuy, Crooks & Liars Blog, “Confessions of a Child Janitor”

Comments: Heart-felt first-person account of what it means to be working poor in America, inspired by some of Newt Gingrich’s campaign utterances. Rather than it being the working poor who are federally subsidized, Dupuy argues, it is their underpaying employers who are getting a free ride on the taxpayers. It’s “wealthy janitors,” she says, who are Gingrich’s true “invented people.”

2nd: Jon Perr, Crooks & Liars Blog, “You Know Mitt Romney is Out of Touch”

3rd: Tracy Bloom, NeonTommy.com, “Top 5 Rick Perry Gaffes”
H7. NON-POLITICAL COLUMN/COMMENTARY

Susan Straight, Douglas McCulloh and Zach Behrens, KCET, “Notes of a Native Daughter”

Comments: Susan Straight, joined by photographer Douglas McCulloh, presents compelling portraits of life in today’s Southern California, centered on her native Riverside. She sees Southern California, and more generally the U.S., as a mix of people newly arrived, those who’ve been here awhile, and those who were here long before there was a United States. In particular she reminds us of the Californios, here since before the Gold Rush and still here. In a place some see as timeless and placeless, she insists both place and history matter greatly.

2nd: Stef Willen, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, “Total Loss”


H8. ONLINE SPORTS NEWS/FEATURE/COMMENTARY

Martin Henderson, Patch, “Football: Tesoro Shocks Top-Seeded Servite With Stunning 24-20 Victory”

Comments: Great lead, excellent build-up to the punchline with good use of context; excellent writing that really captured the excitement of the game.


3rd: Martin Henderson, Patch, “Welch Gambles on a Transcendent Moment”

H9. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS/FEATURE

Nikki Finke, Deadline Hollywood, “ICM Imploding, Pt. 1”

Comments: This story breaks news about power struggles and makes inter-company politics clear and compelling.

2nd: Allegra Tepper, NeonTommy.com, “Shepard Fairey: Rebel with a Cause”

3rd: Taylor Hamby, OC Weekly, “Where the Hell is Monster Massive Going to Be Held?”

H10. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY/REVIEWS

Virginia Postrel, Bloomberg View, “Virginia Postrel - Entertainment Commentary”

Comments: Postrel shows a sharp eye for detail and gleans meaningful truths from our entertainment culture.

2nd: Tim Molloy, The Wrap, “X Factor: Great if You Like Watching Desperate People Play the Lottery”

**H11. WEBLOG, INDIVIDUAL**


Comments: “Comprehensive reporting with a fresh perspective.”

Comments: This is a blogger on a mission and not afraid to ruffle more than a few feathers so long as it gets him there.


3rd: Sandra Mitchell, CBS2/KCAL, “1 in 8”

**H12. WEBLOG, GROUP**

Staff, *Reason Magazine*, “Hit & Run”

Comments: From eye-popping headlines to sarcastic commentary, this group isn’t afraid to take a position when it comes to the government and politics. The weblog succeeds splendidly cause these writers are smart and funny.


**H13. WEBSITE, NEWS ORGANIZATION, EXCLUSIVE TO THE INTERNET**

Michael Collins and Denise Anne Duffield, *EnviroReporter.com*

Comments: “A wealth of resources when it comes to our environment. From investigations to videos to exclusives, EnviroReporter.com is one interactive site that should be clicked on every day.”

2nd: Nikki Finke, *Deadline.com*

3rd: Zuade Kaufman, Robert Scheer and The Truthdig Team, *Truthdig.com*

**H14. WEBSITE, NEWS ORGANIZATION PRINT**

Staff, *People Magazine*. “www.people.com”

Comments: Shhh, don’t tell the editors, but like it even more than the magazine. And the “tweet tracker” keeps it timely and keeps you going back for more.

3rd: Staff, *Glendale News-Press Website*

**H15. WEBSITE, NEWS, ORGANIZATION BROADCAST**

Brian Frank, Miguel Contreras, Linda Burns, Jason Bazalar, Justin Cram et al., *KCET, SoCal Connected, “SoCal Connected Website”*

Comments: A sleek, clean design that is easy to navigate. This compliments perfectly with the award-winning KCET show.

2nd: Lance Orozco and Jim Rondeau, *KCLU, “KCLU News Online”*

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**I1. BEST NEWS TWEET**


Comments: The winner in this category sets the bar high. Ms. Robes tweets were a ticker-tape of the event as it happened.


**I2. BEST FACEBOOK PRESENCE BY A NEWS ORGANIZATION**

Jake Swearingen, Keith Plocek and Liz Ohanesian, *LA Weekly, “/laweekly”*

Comments: This is much more than just a showcase for the popular publication. LA Weekly smartly uses its Facebook page to encourage participation and reaction for its readers. The LA Weekly extends its print franchise as the bible of what to see and what to do in LA to Facebook.

2nd: Kim Bui, Julie Westfall, Mike Roe and Eric Zassenhaus, *KPCC, “/kpccfm”*

3rd: Staff, *Glendale News-Press, “/glendalenewspress”*

**I3. BEST FACEBOOK PRESENCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL**

Richard Stellar, *The Wrap, “/groups/savingthelivesofourown”*

Comments: ???

2nd: Robert Kovacik, *KNBC-TV, “@robertnbcla”*
CAUSE/ADVOCACY JOURNALISM

J1. ADVOCACY JOURNALISM


Comments: Many thought it just sarcasm when some inner-city residents referred to law enforcement as “just another armed gang” during the riots some years back. These reporters uncovered the chilling truth in what is perhaps America's most troubled jail in this startling series of articles, making the judges relieved that they lived to tell the tale. While some observers prefer the term “cliques,” groups of deputies employ many of the trappings of street gangs to protect some prisoners (and each other) while savagely assaulting the person of prisoners and the careers of deputies who don’t join up. Outstanding research and excellent writing.


INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

K1. HARD NEWS

Tom Walters and Brian Campbell, *CTV News (Canada)*, “Fullerton Police”

Comments: The fatal beating of a homeless man drew truly international attention, of the sort the Fullerton Police Department would doubtless rather not have. In a story where it was easy to take sides, the reporters avoided doing so while doing justice, so to speak, to what appears to be a major miscarriage of it. They covered a major story with remarkable completeness given the necessarily tight time limits of broadcast journalism.

2nd: Jody Godoy, *Kyodo News*, “Ex-POW Seeks Rail Firms' Apology”


K2. NEWS FEATURE

Rajesh Mirchandani, *BBC News (UK)*, “Prison Theatre”

Comments: The story’s seemingly frivolous topic opens up significant issues connected to prisons and budgets in California.

2nd: Jan Tussing, *ARD – German Public Radio*, “Leading the Pack in Globalization”

K3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE

Julie Moul, Fabulous Magazine, “The No. 1 Hollywood Mistress Agency”

Comments: The writer tells a potentially sensational story with a deft touch, presenting it instead as the other side of our superstar culture.


3rd: Tom Walters and Brian Campbell, CTV News (Canada), “Brian Wilson”

K4. COLUMNIST/CRITIC

Timothy Spangler, The Jerusalem Post, “International Affairs from the Outside-In”

Comments: Excellent look at a wide variety of world affairs from a truly international perspective. “England Stands Alone In Euro’s Darkest Hour” is especially good, with its headline a clever reworking of a Winston Churchill quote from World War II.

2nd: Tom Walters, CTV News (Canada), “Fear Itself”


YOUTH MEDIA

L1. COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

Daily 49er, Calstate Long Beach

Comments: Investigative Journalism at its best. Well researched and cover stories. Take student issues to their heart. Great layout, good mix of the news, entertainment, opinion and sports.


L2. HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

The Pearl Post, Daniel Pearl Magnet High School, “Volume 3, Issues 1-4”

Comments: Right on the Topics what matter to students. Very informative, well advanced level of writing, great graphics and photos.

2nd: Highlights, Beverly Hills High School

3rd: Staff, Jaguar Times
L3. NEWS WEBSITE
Staff, Daily Sundial, “DailySundial.com”

Comments: Clean, simple design that leads to original content. Students are very well served by the pertinent hyper-local news the Sundial is providing in this website. Excellent use of video and photography.


L4. INDIVIDUAL BLOG
Tracy Bloom, NeonTommy.com, “Politics Today”

Comments: This is a compact, fast-paced, well-organized blog with plenty of variety and – where appropriate – sass and wit. “Video of the Day” is a nice kicker.

L5. PHOTOGRAPHY
Andrew Lopez, Daily Sundial, “CSU Protest”

Comments: Andrew Lopez’s shot of protesters facing off against police perfectly captures the anguish and anger of students over tuition increases.

2nd: Michael Yanow, Corsair, “Lucha VaVoom: Mustard Wrestling and Striptease”

3rd: Chris Alves, Corsair, “Dejected Wheelchair Bound Iron Man Denied Entry Because He Lost His Catheter Bag”

L6. WRITING -- PRINT
Luis Rivas, Los Angeles City College, “Community Within Communities”

Comments: Out of all the articles we’ve read about Occupy LA, this is the only one that explained the “tribes”. Outstanding in its originality, informative and witty, Journalism at its best.

2nd: Tanya Flower, Los Angeles Collegian, L.A City College, “Alumna Receives White House Honors”

3rd: Jaime Carrillo, Jaguar Times South East High School, “CIF Champions: Marshall Defeated”

L7. BEST REPORTING – BROADCAST, PODCAST OR STREAM
Benjamin Gottlieb and Arezou Rezvani, *NeonTommy.com*, “Eye on the Middle East Podcast”

Comments: Benjamin Gottlieb and Arezou Rezvani took on a timely topic concerning the role of New Media in the Arab Spring in a comprehensive, well-paced interview with NYU Scholar and writer Clay Shirky.