

2008 Southern California Journalism Award Winners

A. JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR

A1. PRINT (Over 100, 000 Circulation)

Reporter, Columnist or Editor

1st Place: Melissa Healy, Los Angeles Times Judges' comments: Healy's work stood out for its incisive journalism, going beyond merely reporting how things are and explaining how things ought to be. She examined the forces behind the marketing of pharmaceuticals and the influences on physicians and patients.

2nd Place: Robyn Dixon, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: Dixon's work showed depth of reporting. It covered an important issue that we don't often think about.

A2. PRINT (Under 100,000 circulation)

Reporter, Columnist or Editor

1st Place: Anat Rubin, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Prosecutors Target Drugs on Skid Row."

Judges' comments: Rubin's series on L.A.'s crackdown on the homeless and its "quality-of-life" crime-fighting program made for a must-read. It also provided a reality check against glowing pieces published elsewhere.

2nd Place: Sandra Hernandez, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Denied Medication, AIDS Patient Dies in Custody."

Honorable Mention: Michael Collins, Los Angeles CityBeat, "The Radiation Rangers."

A3. TELEVISION

1st Place: Antonio Valverde, KMEX

Judges' comments: This was quality work from a quality journalist who is a relevant, solid storyteller.

2nd Place: Ana Garcia/Fred Mamoun, KNBC

Honorable Mention: Willa Sandmeyer, KTLA

A4. RADIO

1st Place: Steven Cuevas, KPCC

Judges' comments: Cuevas' work left us wanting to hear more. His story selections, audio production and delivery were strengthened by outstanding writing. All these talents woven together had the listener by his side as homeless people peeked out from a tent or a stunned homeowner sifted through the rubble of her house.

2nd Place: Frank Stoltze, KPCC

Judges' comments: Stoltze showed versatility, and all his stories were well produced, with excellent audio quality.

Honorable Mention: Patricia Nazario, KPCC

Judges' comments: Nazario offered a solid presentation of the facts while telling the story through the people affected. Her live reporting skills were strong and put the listener at the scene.

A5. SPORTS – Print, Broadcast or Online

1st Place: T.J. Simers, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: Simers showed great depth and breadth in topics. Never boring..

A6. ENTERTAINMENT – Print, Broadcast or Online

1st Place: John Horn, Los Angeles Times

2nd Place: Meg James, Los Angeles Times

Honorable Mention: Nikki Finke, LA Weekly

A7. PHOTOJOURNALIST

1st Place: Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: This is a strong portfolio. Gauthier is clearly able to gain the trust and confidence of his subjects.

A8. DESIGNER – Print or Online

1st Place: Kelli Sullivan, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: There's a subtle yet strong intensity of focus in Sullivan's work. Regardless of the complexity of the topic ("Sahara") or the deadline pressure ("Facing the Flames"), she aptly applies an invisible glue. The result is a compelling design.

2nd Place: Derek Simmons, Los Angeles Times

Honorable Mention: Laura Dobbins, The Daily Independent (Ridgecrest, CA)

A9. HEALTH JOURNALIST – Print, Broadcast or Online

1st Place: Charles Ornstein, Los Angeles Times
Judges' comments: It was a difficult decision in this category. We chose Ornstein for his powerful, gripping writing that brought the story to life. He was persistent in chronicling the events leading up to the closure of Martin Luther King-Harbor Hospital.

A10. ONLINE JOURNALIST

1st Place: Michael Collins and Denise Anne Duffield, EnviroReporter.com, "Schooled for Scandal"

Judges' comments: The amount of supplementary material and the detailed analysis of supporting documents were astounding. Aided by forceful and effective writing, Collins and Duffield presented a comprehensive exploration of a local issue with national significance.

2nd Place: Jacob Soboroff, "Why Tuesday?"

Honorable Mention: Eric Longabardi, ERSNews.com, "The Summer of Love: The Mayor and his Mistress"

B. DAILY/WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS (Over 100,000 Circulation)

B1. HARD NEWS

1st Place: Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Southern California Wildfires," Oct. 24, 2007.

Judges' comments: This was consummate storytelling, from the sweeping, comprehensive look at the devastating infernos to the small, intimate story of a Times' staff member returning from her wedding to find her home threatened by flames. Every element—reporting, photos, graphics—was top-notch.

2nd Place: Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Southern California Wildfires," October 23, 2007.

Honorable Mention: Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Assassination Rocks Pakistan."

B2. NEWS FEATURE

1st Place: Thomas Curwen, Los Angeles Times, "Attacked by a Grizzly"

Judges' comments: This compelling narrative hooked readers at the beginning and propelled them into the attack. Vivid descriptions highlighted the dramatic encounter; the commitment of rescuers and doctors; the courageous, gentle soul of the victim and his enduring love for his daughter

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2nd Place, tie: Luis Sinco, Los Angeles Times, "Two Lives Blurred Together by a Photo"

2nd Place, tie: Kurt Streeter, Los Angeles Times, "A Teenage Girl, a Terrible Injury and a Will to Recover"

Honorable Mention: Christine Pelisek, LA Weekly, "Flying High with the Vicious Ladies"

B3. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES

1st Place: Charles Piller, Edmund Sanders, Robyn Dixon and Doug Smith, Los Angeles Times, "An Investigation of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation."

Judges' comments: This series was a real eye-opener, revealing the left hand of investments acting against the right hand of philanthropy. It did a wonderful job of reporting different aspects of the same theme. 2nd Place: Alan C. Miller and Myron Levin, Los Angeles Times, "U-Hall International Skimped on Safety"

Honorable Mention: Jeffrey Anderson, LA Weekly "The Town the Law Forgot"

B4. BUSINESS

1st Place: Alan C. Miller and Myron Levin, Los Angeles Times, "U-Haul International Skimped on Safety"

Judges' comments: We couldn't put down this well-researched, in-depth story on an unusual subject.

2nd Place: Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Mortgage Series"

Honorable Mention: Chip Jacobs, Los Angeles Times, "Inherit a Home, Not a Hassle"

B5. SIGNED COMMENTARY

1st Place: Jervey Tervalon, LA Weekly, "The Slow Death of a Chocolate City."

Judges' comments: Well written in a clear voice, this commentary takes readers into a community and gives them a look at changing demographics from a different point of view. .

2nd Place: Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate, "Look Before You Sleep."

Honorable Mention: Marc Cooper, LA Weekly, "East Versus West."

B6. COLUMNIST

1st Place: Steve Lopez, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: Lopez's work stood out in a large field. Well-crafted and well-chosen stories.

2nd Place: Marc Cooper, LA Weekly.

Honorable Mention: Tim Rutten, Los Angeles Times, "Regarding

Media" columns

B7. EDITORIAL

1st Place: Editorial Board, Los Angeles Times, "American Values and the Next President."

Comments: The well-researched series gave readers a good look at the campaigns and candidates. The even tone took the high road and gave a fair, balanced picture.

2nd Place: Dan Turner, Los Angeles Times, "A Warming World."

B8. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW/CRITICISM/COLUMN 1st Place: Tim Rutten, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: Rutten's reviews offered style, wit and insights into both substance and form, drawing readers to books they otherwise might not have considered.

2nd Place: Scott Foundas, LA Weekly

Honorable Mention: Jonathan Gold, LA Weekly, "Counter Intelligence"

B9. ENTERTAINMENT, HARD NEWS

1st Place: Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Hollywood Writers' Strike"

Judges' comments: This comprehensive package revealed behind-the-scenes mechanics of the strike, plus its effects on everyone from television-show workers to dog walkers. Well-sourced and tightly written.

2nd Place: Matthew Garrahan and James Politi, Financial Times, "Credit Crunch Stalls Film Funds"

Honorable Mention: Nikki Finke, LA Weekly "Deals, Lies and Back Channels"

B10. ENTERTAINMENT, FEATURE

1st Place: Judith Lewis, LA Weekly, "The Way He Lives Now"

Judges' comments: Well written and interesting to the end, this story presented a perfectly hewn subject matter and angle.

2nd Place: Glenn F. Bunting, Los Angeles Times, "Special Report: Sahara"

Honorable Mention: Judith Lewis, LA Weekly, "Chaos Control"

B11. SPORTS 1st Place: David Wharton, Los Angeles Times, "Young Gay Athletes Find a Place Out on the Field"

Judges' comments: Well-written and straightforward, the story flows well and offers good insights into a pertinent subject.

2nd Place: Jeffrey Anderson, LA Weekly, "The Boras Factor"

Honorable Mention: Scott Gold, Los Angeles Times, "Savagery as Spectacle"

B12. SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place: Melissa Healy, Los Angeles Times, "Under the Influence"

Judges' comments: Healy's work stood out for its incisive journalism, going beyond merely reporting how things are and explaining how things ought to be. She examined the forces behind the marketing of pharmaceuticals and the influences on physicians and patients.

2nd Place: Staff, LA Weekly, "People 2007"

Honorable Mention: Kelli Sullivan, Michael Whitley, Mary Coaney and Calvin Hom, Los Angeles Times, "Facing the Flames"

B13. HEADLINE

1st Place: Tim Lynch, Los Angeles Times, "A Town Right on the Default Line"

Judges' comments: Although this headline is a play on words, it does not come across as flip or humorous. Instead, it effectively nails the point of the story.

2nd Place: Dave Bowman, Los Angeles Times, "A Pair of Stars/an L.A. Sky/a Happy Galaxy"

Honorable Mention: Steve Devol, Los Angeles Times, "Cast as a Leader, but What's his Motivation?"

B14. DESIGN 1st Place: Michael Whitley, Kelli Sullivan, Mary Vignoles and

Genaro Molina, Los Angeles Times, "New Orleans Two Years Later"

Judges' comments: We couldn't keep our eyes off this beautiful black-and-white layout, which was powerful and clear. A true stand-out.

2nd Place: Ryan Ward, LA Weekly, "Jonathan Gold's 99 Essential LA Restaurants"

Honorable Mention: Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Massive Evacuations"

C. DAILY/WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS (Under 100,000 Circulation)

C1. HARD NEWS

1st Place: Wendy Thomas Russell and Tracy Manzer, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Nine Guilty in Beatings."

Judges' comments: This story provided strong, comprehensive coverage of the verdict in a trial that polarized a community. Good details, solid reporting."

2nd Place: Andre Coleman, Pasadena Weekly, "Tale of the Videotape."

Honorable Mention: Gabe Friedman, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Prosecutors Will File Plea Deal for Lerach."

C2. NEWS FEATURE

1st Place: Michael Collins, Ventura County Reporter, "Dirty Business"

Judges' comments: Collins provides an unflinching look at the serious soil-pollution problems at a huge planned housing development in Simi Valley. Aggressive reporting, told with a distinctive style.

2nd Place: Wendy Thomas Russell, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "A Tale of Abuse and Murder."

Honorable Mention: Anat Rubin, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Historic Hotel Offers Homeless Remedy."

C3. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES

1st Place: Anat Rubin, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Prosecutors Target Drugs on Skid Row."

Judges' comments: Writing about L.A.'s Skid Row gentrification program, Rubin revealed efforts to imprison the homeless by turning minor drug offenses into serious felonies. Then she tackled the intractable homeless issue itself, revealing how the city ignored successful programs elsewhere. Outstanding public service."

2nd Place: Sandra Hernandez, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Denied Medication, AIDS Patient Dies in Custody."

Honorable Mention: Michael Collins, Los Angeles CityBeat, "The Radiation Rangers."

C4. BUSINESS

1st Place: Jon REGARDIE, Los Angeles Downtown News, "The Navigator"

Judges' comments: This was not the usual mogul profile. By including his cultural background, his way of doing business and more, the story revealed him as an individual and a business leader worth caring about.

2nd Place: Staff, Los Angeles Business Journal, "Wealthiest Angelenos: Mega Moguls"

Honorable Mention: Rebecca U. Cho, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Greener Pastures"

C5. SIGNED COMMENTARY

1st Place: Bennet Kelley, Santa Monica Daily Press

Judges' comments: Every piece was thoroughly crafted, to the point and a good read.

2nd Place: Judea Pearl, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, "A Mighty Heart."

Honorable Mention: Thomas Elias, California Focus syndicated columns

C6. COLUMNIST

1st Place: Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate, "The Advice Goddess"

Judges' comments: Alkon's column is a searing combination of science, libertarianism, and sass that makes for fun and thought-provoking reading.

She's not afraid to make people angry.

2nd Place: Gustavo Arellano, OC Weekly, "Ask a Mexican"

Honorable Mention: Amy Klein, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

C7. EDITORIAL

1st Place: Harold Glicken, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Fatherhood."

Judges' comments: This editorial provided a good look at a father's perspective.

2nd Place: Sue Laris and Jon Regardie, Los Angeles Downtown News, "Mayor Needs Substance, Not Style."

Honorable Mention: John Canalis, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "New Boss Wears a Badge."

C8. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMN

1st Place: Luke Y. Thompson, OC Weekly, "Rock 'Em, Sock 'Em"

Judges' comments: An easy, fun read. Thompson brings a knowledge of the genre into play to point out the strengths and weaknesses of the film.

2nd Place: Robert David Jaffee, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, "Creative Minds at Work"

Honorable Mention: Anthony Miller, Los Angeles CityBeat, "An American Hymnal for Gastronomes"

C9. ENTERTAINMENT, HARD NEWS

N/A

C10. ENTERTAINMENT, FEATURE 1st Place: Alexa Hyland, Los Angeles Daily Journal, "Drama Dominates Entertainment Industry's Year"

Judges' comments: This was a well-researched and aptly reported story about an issue that is important to the economy of the Los Angeles area.

2nd Place: Amy Tenowich, Pasadena Weekly, "Salsa Without Borders"

Honorable Mention: Derek Olson, OC Weekly, "Chicken Babies, Bondage"

Nights and Severed Monkey Heads” C11. SPORTS 1st Place: Daffodil J. Alton, OC Weekly, “Ronny”

Judges’ comments: Well-written and well researched, this story captured nuances of the subject’s relationships with various people who influenced him.

2nd Place: Robert David Jaffee, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, “Joe ‘Master Blaster’ Weider, Still Going Strong”

Honorable Mention: Bob Keisser, Long Beach Press-Telegram, “Little Fishies in the Brook, Come and Bite my Little Hook”

C12. SPECIAL SECTION

1st Place: Staff, Los Angeles Business Journal, “The Next Century”

Judges’ comments: This section displayed an excellent use of graphics and photos, interspersed with facts to back the story headlines.

2nd Place: Linda Renaud, Palisadian-Post, “Real Estate Stories”

C13. HEADLINE

1st Place: Todd Cunningham, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Broke-o-Matic”

Judges’ comments: Clever and apt.

2nd Place: Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate, “Opportunity Knockers”

Honorable Mention: Jay Firestone, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, “One Camp, Two Camp, Red Camp, Jew Camp”

C14. DESIGN 1st Place: Robert Landry, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Dream Teams That Shape L.A. Skyline”

Judges’ comments: The design was clean, contemporary and readable.

2nd Place: Dan Kacvinski and Carvin Knowles, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, “My Mother’s Table”

Honorable Mention: Dan Kacvinski and Carvin Knowles, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, “Jewish Gelt”

D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

Print - Newspaper/Magazine/Wire Service/Online

D1. NEWS PHOTO

1st Place: Diandra Jay, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Iraq War Funeral"

Judge's comments: Stunningly close to the casket and mourners, the photographer offers a haunting, sensitive photo.

2nd Place: Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times, "Baghdad Raid"

Honorable Mention: Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times, "Virginia Tech Vigil"

D2. FEATURE PHOTO

1st Place: Carolyn Cole, Los Angeles Times, "Dirty Job"

Judges' comments: This was a haunting, empathetic image.

2nd Place: Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times, "On the Inside"

Honorable Mention: Bob Chamberlin, Los Angeles Times, "Bora Bora"

D3. SPORTS PHOTO

1st Place: Wally Skalij, Los Angeles Times, "Football Player Upended"

Judges' comments: Peak action made this the clear winner.

2nd Place: Kevin Chang, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Boxing"

D4. EDITORIAL CARTOON

1st Place: Dwayne Booth, Los Angeles Daily News, "Mr. Fish 2007"

Judges' comments: Embracing a variety of subjects and media, these are some of the most biting cartoons we have seen.

2nd Place: Patrick O'Connor, Los Angeles Daily News, "Summer of Scandal"

Honorable Mention: Doug Davis, Los Angeles Downtown News, "Four Cartoons: Mayor"

D5. PHOTO ESSAY (Single Topic)

1st Place: Luis Sinco, Los Angeles Times, "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder"

Judges' comments: This powerful set of photos revisits the life of a man three years after he appeared in an iconic image.

2nd Place: Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times, "Stanley Cup"

Honorable Mention: Genaro Molina, Los Angeles Times, "Katrina Survivors"

E. TELEVISION

E1. REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST (35 Minutes or Less)

N/A

E2. REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST (Over 35 Minutes)

1st Place: Rich Goldner, Joseph Russin, Angela Kye, Leila Feinstein, Emmett Miller and Todd Grifith,, KTLA, Prime News

Judges' comments: With solid reporting and storytelling, KTLA brought it home.

2nd Place: Rich Goldner, Michaela Pereira, Frank Buckley, Brad Luck and Bill Stratford, KTLA, Morning News

E3. BREAKING NEWS

1st Place: Rich Goldner, Joseph Russin, Angela Kye, Todd Grifith, Stan Chambers, Willa Sandmayer, Hal Fishman and Leila Feinstein, KTLA, "Griffith Park Fire"

Judges' comments: This report featured spectacular pictures, plus stellar turns by Hal Fishman and Stan Chambers. .

E4. FEATURE

1st Place: Fred Mamoun and Ana Garcia, KNBC, "Traffic Test"

Judges' comments: This report was topical, relevant and surprising. KNBC gets points for throwing resources into a story and doing it the right way.

2nd Place: Chris Blatchford, KTTV, "\$100,000 Tupac Challenge"

Honorable Mention: Val Zavala, KCET, "Lenore Rae Smith" E5.
INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES

1st Place: Frank Snepp, Yvonne Beltzer, Paul Moyer, Jim Hourani, David Fernandez, Hernan Vasquez, Martin Proctor, Joel Cooke and Scott Meadows, KNBC, "Fire Safety"

Judges' comments: This was a terrific group of entries. The winner was shot well and had great sourcing and information.

2nd Place: Chris Blatchford, KTTV-Fox 11, "Prison Clampdown"

Honorable Mention: Fred Mamoun, Coleen Williams, KNBC, "Without a Tribe"

E6. SPORTS

1st Place: Damon Andrews, Ted Green, Bob Konysky and Michael Allred, KTLA, "Jackie Robinson: 60 Years Later"

Judges' comments: This work was a terrific way to mark one of the most important sports events of the 20th century.

E7. ENTERTAINMENT

1st Place: Sam Rubin, Grace Mendoza and Willa Sandmeyer, KTLA, "Writers' Strike"

Judges' comments: This coverage did a good job in explaining the issues dividing the two sides. Rubin really knows his subject and presented it well.

E8. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1st Place: Bryan Hileman, Todd Griffith, Frank Buckley, Leila Feinstein, Cher Calvin, Janet Choi and Jay Wilson, KTLA, "Access L.A."

Judges' comments: Nice opening, with the anchors sharing their own stories. Highlights included a good explainer on problems that Asians face in the world of film and television, and a clash-of-cultures package with a Korean family that combined strong video and sound.

2nd Place: Val Zavala, Linda Burns, Hena Cuevas, Saul Gonzales and Vicki Curry, KCET, "Life & Times."

Judges' comments: Highlights included powerful stories about meth's effects and why street kids use it.; and what people can do to help with oil crisis.

E9. DOCUMENTARIES

1st Place: Eric Longabardi, Suzanne Murch, Melanie Switzer and Raheem Dawson, E! Entertainment Television, "Paparazzi."

Judges' comments: This was a great story told well, with great reporting and photography. We learned what life is like for the paparazzi and the stars as they mix in each others' worlds.

F. RADIO

F1. NEWSCAST (5 Minutes or Under)

N/A

F2. NEWSCAST (Over 5 Minutes).

N/A

F3. BREAKING NEWS

1st Place: Brooke Binkowski, Steven Cuevas, Julie Small, Brian Watt and Doualy Xaykaothao, Air Talk, Patt Morrison, KPCC, "Fires in the Southland"

Judges' comments: This comprehensive coverage was vividly descriptive, thorough and engaging without being alarmist.. It featured great analysis, natural sound and on-the-scene reporting and follow-up.

2nd Place: Lance Orozco, KCLU-FM, "Santa Rosa Valley Fire"

Honorable Mention: Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, KCRW FM, "Scooter Libby Verdict"

F4. FEATURE

1st Place: Steven Cuevas, KPCC, "Iraq Veteran Puts Wartime Experience Into Music"

Judges' comments: This was a strong, passionate piece that struck a delicate balance between the ugliness of war and the beauty of music.

2nd Place: Rachel Myrow, KPCC, "Meth Survivor Tells Her Story"

Honorable Mention: Cason Smith, KSAK, "Serious Songs, Serious Respect"

F5. INVESTIGATIVE/ SERIES

1st Place: Cheryl Devall, Adolfo Guzman-Lopez and Frank Stoltze, KPCC, "A Killing in Harbor Gateway"

Judges' comments: This was compelling radio, with great on-scene interviews.

2nd Place: Steven Cuevas, Rachel Myrow and Frank Stoltze, KPCC, "Meth Abusers and Survivors in the Southland"

Honorable Mention: Steven Cuevas, KPCC, "More Worries for Hinckley"

F6A. CRITICISM

1st Place: Joe Morgenstern, KCRW, "Film Reviews"

Judges' comments: Morgenstern's engaging delivery and information made us want to see the movies.

2nd Place: James Taylor, KCRW, "Theater Talk"

F6B. ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING

1st Place: Adolfo Guzman-Lopez, KPCC, "Gustavo Dudamel"

Judges' comments: This feature, tied to current events, had excellent writing – descriptive, colorful, humorous and crisp. It made good use of natural sound, music and live interviews.

2nd Place: Cason Smith, KSAK, "Silly Songs, Serious Respect"

Honorable Mention: Cason Smith, KSAK, "Super Bowl and the Alumni"

F7. SPORTS

1st Place: Cason Smith, KSAK, "Super Bowl and the Alumni"

Judge's comments: This was very well produced. It grabbed all the elements and captured the excitement of a spectacle that some might think is overblown.

2nd Place: Matt Holzman, KCRW-FM, "What Makes the Lakers 'The Entertainment Industry Home Team'"

F8. USE OF SOUND

1st Place: Matt Holzman, KCRW, "Remembering Columbia Square"

Judges' comments: This was A-plus work and the clear winner.

2nd Place: KPCC, "Iraq Veteran Puts Wartime Experience into Music"

Honorable Mention: Matt Holzman, KCRW, "The Business"

F9. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1st Place: Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, KCRW, "Which Way, L.A? – Pedophiles, Parents and the Constitution"

Judges' comments: This report presented a compelling discussion of a sensitive topic. The host and interviewees were careful with their facts and didn't let the topic become sensationalized.

2nd Place: Larry Mantle, Linda Othenin-Girard, Jackie Oclarey, Mindy Steinman and Chumi Paul, KPCC, "AirTalk - Racially Motivated Gang Violence in South L.A."

Judges' comments: Another delicate handling of a sensitive subject tied to the news of the day.

Honorable Mention: Matt Miller, Arianna Huffington, Robert Scheer, Tony Blankley and Sarah Spitz, KCRW, "Left, Right & Center: CIA Tapes; Iran, No Nukes?"

Judges' comments: With a panel not afraid to speak their mind, this round table discussion gave listeners a different look at the day's news.

F10. DOCUMENTARIES

1st Place: Gerald Zelinger, 89.9 KCRW FM, "Remembering Columbia Square"

Judges' comments: Well-done documentary, with great use of new and archival sound.

2nd Place: Patt Morrison, Aimee Machado, Janice Watjer-Hurst, Jonathan Seniss, 89.3 KPCC FM, "Recidivism: Ending the Vicious Cycle"

F11. NEWS BUREAU

1st Place: Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, KCRW-FM, "House Votes"

Judge's comments: This was a well-done news magazine, especially considering that it was a daily.

2nd Place: Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, KCRW-FM, "Libby"

Honorable Mention: Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, KCRW-FM, "Obama"

G. MAGAZINES

G1. NEWS/INVESTIGATIVE

1st Place: Matt Welch, Reason Magazine, "Who Owns Your Body Parts?"

Judges' comments: This story's terrific lead drew you in with a revelation on how lucrative this business is. It fits the definition of a good expose.

2nd Place: Matt Welch, Reason Magazine, "CSI: Mississippi"

Honorable Mention: Vince Beiser, Tu Cuidad Magazine, "U.S.-Born Children of Illegal Workers: A Moral Dilemma"

G2. FEATURE/COMMENTARY

1st Place: Jacob Sullum, Reason Magazine, "Thank Deng Xiaoping for Little Girls"

Judges' comments: This engaging story mixes comprehensive, well-researched material with the author's personal experiences and perspective.

2nd Place: Champ Clark, People Magazine, "Thumbs Up"

Honorable Mention: Matt Welch, Reason Magazine, "Be Afraid of President McCain"

G3. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMN

1st Place: Joe Woodward, Poets & Writers Magazine, "A Novelist's Inner Poet"

Judges' comments: Woodward has a wonderful knack for getting inside his subjects' heads. His well-crafted, thorough piece took us into the home of Carol Muske-Dukes, setting the scene while skillfully weaving background material into the interview.

2nd Place: Joe Woodward, Poets & Writers Magazine, "His Soft Side"

Honorable Mention: Amy Sturgis, Reason Magazine, "Florida's Forgotten Rebels"

G4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE

1st Place: Seth Lubove, Bloomberg News, "Star Struck"

Judges comments:

2nd Place: Brian Doherty, Reason Magazine, "Robert Heinlein at 100"

Honorable Mention: Amy Keith, People Magazine, "Fighting Autism with My Son"

G5. IN-HOUSE OR CORPORATE PUBLICATION

1st Place: Bryan Alexander and Lizz Leonard, People Magazine, "Insider's Poll"

Judges' comments: This special issue was entertaining, concise and served its audience well.

2nd Place: Jim Perry, United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, "The Los Angeles Firefighter"

Honorable Mention: Dave Wagner, Juan Carlos Sanchez, Eric Santiago, Los Angeles Firemen's Relief Assn., The Firemen's Grapevine"

G6. DESIGN

N/A

H. NEWS BUREAUS AND CORRESPONDENTS

H1. BREAKING NEWS

1st Place: Terri Vermeulen Keith, City News Service "Man Convicted of Murdering 10 Women Sentenced to Death".

H2. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES 1st Place: David Evans and Richard Tomlinson, Bloomberg News, "Subprime Mortgage-Tainted Investment Scandal"

Judges' comments: A prescient package of reporting paved the way for this critical look at the national mortgage industry. 2nd Place: Jacob H. Soboroff, "Why Tuesday?" H3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE 1st

Place: Amy Keith, People Magazine, "Tyra Talks"

Judges' comments: This well-written story keeps you reading with good color and detail. It reveals an unknown side of this celebrity.

2nd Place: Seth Lubove, Bloomberg News, "Poseidon Misadventure"

Honorable Mention: Lyndon Stambler, Emmy Magazine, "Where to Draw the Line?"

I. ONLINE

I1. NEWS STORY, FEATURE, SERIES OR PACKAGE

1st Place: Ken Ellingwood and Richard Boudreaux, Los Angeles Times, "40th Anniversary of 1967 Israel War"

Judges' comments: This was an in-depth, comprehensive look at a situation that affects the world. It offered interesting videos and great photos and writing.

2nd Place: Staff, Los Angeles Daily New, "Coverage of Brush Fires"

Honorable Mention: Michael Collins and Denise Anne Duffield, EnviroReporter.com, "V.A. Nuclear Dump in Brentwood"

I2. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE

1st Place: Anthea Raymond, Tony Co and, Gary Dauphin, National Public Radio, "Photo by Sammy Davis"

Judges' comments: We didn't want this package to end. The components complemented each other and provided a deeper understanding of an icon.

2nd Place: Drew Carey, Reason Online, "Medical Marijuana"

Honorable Mention: Rick Loomis and Hector Baccera, Los Angeles Times, "Gang Flash"

I3. COLUMN/COMMENTARY/CRITICISM

1st Place: Rip Rense, The Rip Post, "Miss Seipp"

Judges' comments: This piece was engaging, witty, insightful and beautifully written. A true work of love.

2nd Place: Sandra Kobrin, Womensenews.org, "Beat a Woman? Play On; Beat a Dog? Your're Gone"

Honorable Mention: Ronald Bailey, Reason Online, "The Secrets of Intangible Wealth"

I4. DESIGN AND LAYOUT

1st Place: J. Craig Williams, Esq., "May It Please the Court"

Judges' comments: Interesting to look at and easy to maneuver through, this site was packed with information.

2nd Place: Reason Online

I5. SPORTS NEWS/FEATURE/COMMENTARY

1st Place: Lonnie White, Los Angeles Times, "Possible Plays for Super Bowl XLI"

Judges' comments: This was a great concept for online sports commentary, wonderfully executed.

I6. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS/FEATURE/COMMENTARY

1st Place: Nikki Finke, LA Weekly, "Morton's: A Million Deals. Now a Wake."

Judges' comments: This was an interesting historical walk through Morton's, showing what a powerful presence it was, spiced with vignettes of the personalities that made it so.

2nd Place: Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Hollywood Writers' Strike"

I7A. BLOG – INDIVIDUAL

1st Place: Brad Greenberg, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, "God Blog"

2nd Place: Amy Alkon, AdviceGoddess.com, "Tea & Crumpet/Know Your Death Threat"

Honorable Mention: Jill Leovy, Los Angeles Times, "The Homicide Report"

I7B. BLOG – GROUP

1st Place: Janine Kahn, R. Scott Moxley, Gustavo Arellano et al., OC Weekly, "Navel Gazing" (Sept. 20-21)

Judges' comments: This blog covered a nice range of subjects, with sharp writing, It was analytical and interesting.

2nd Place: Nick Gillespie, Reason Online, "Hit and Run Blog"

Honorable Mention: Staff, Los Angeles Times, "Dustup"

I8 Website – Online Only

Eric Longabardi, Roger Scott, Steve Butler, ERSNews.com/The Enterprise Report, "The Enterprise Report"

Judges' Comments: The world needs more investigative reporters, and it's refreshing to find reporters who have the patience, focus and fortitude to do the hard work.

2nd Place: Adam Rose and Zach Behrens, LAist, "LAist online"

Honorable Mention: Don Frederick and Andrew Malcolm, Los Angeles Times, "Top of the Ticker"

I9 Website, News Organization

Nick Gillespie, Reason, "Reason Online"

Judges' Comments: The true marks of a successful web site are graphics and functions that pull you in, then content that doesn't easily let you go. I found myself reading things that I didn't know were of interest to me. Whenever I started to exit, something else would catch my eye.

2nd Place: Ted Johnson, Variety, "www.WilshireandWashington.com"

Honorable Mention: Staff of the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Times, "LATimes.com"

J1 International Journalism – Hard News

Joy Malbon, Adam Blair, Tom Walters, Caryn Lieberman, CTV News, "California Fires"

Judges' Comments: This is a searing report on the damage done in the worst natural disaster in the U.S. since Hurricane Katrina. From the

opening footage – where a man slips down a smokey hill while an off-camera voice yells “You OK?” – to the agonized expressions on residents waiting to hear what happened to their homes, this team’s work documents the devastation and shows the human toll (even Arnold Schwarzenegger looks exhausted). The map and aerial shots add understanding and context.

J2 International Journalism – News Feature

Helena Groll, Swedish Broadcasting, “The Price of War”

Judges’ comments: Groll’s feature on soldiers in a special facility for brain injuries is, quite simply, devastating. Through straightforward reporting and the evocative sounds of soldiers struggling to recover from the Iraq war’s “signature” casualty, Groll powerfully demonstrates the incalculable damage suffered by these soldiers, their families, and the U.S. medical system. Most heartbreaking – and effective – is the small, weak voice of First Lt. Dark Silou, whose labored, childlike attempts to answer a reporter’s questions bring home the cost of the Iraq war like no chart with dollars signs or congressional report ever could.

2nd Place: Gry Winther, TV2, “Arlington Memorial”

When U.S. President George W. Bush announces a troop surge for Iraq, anti-war protestors create a moving memorial to those already lost to the war: more than 3,000 crosses on a peaceful beach. Most effective is Winther’s interview with the mother of a dead soldier, who wonders how many more will be lost before she bends down and kisses the items she leaves on her son’s cross.

3rd Place: Gry Winther, TV2, “Waiting for a Quiet Revolution”

Winther’s feature on Westwood’s “Little Tehran” neighborhood of American Iranians distraught on the occasion of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s visit to the U.S. reveals the complex emotions and tortured past of these new Americans whose new country is at odds with their old country.

J3 International Journalism – Entertainment News or Feature

Tom Walters, CTV News, “Price is Right”

Judges comments: Mining archival footage on the occasion of Bob Barker’s

retirement from his long-running gig as host of "The Price is Right," Tom Walters crafts a proper sendoff for a true American phenomenon. The series of kisses Barker enjoys (endures?) from his adoring fans makes an especially appropriate climax.

2nd Place: Michael O'Sullivan, Voice of America, "Munchkins"

Judges' comments: Jeez, could it really be possible that the Little People who played such a crucial role in The Wizard of Oz never got even one star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame? Fortunately this oversight has finally been corrected while some of the actors are still alive; hearing their elated (and now very old) voices in Michael O'Sullivan's report is an unexpectedly stirring experience.

Honorable Mention: Tom Tugend, The International Jerusalem Post, "I Just Met a Girl Named Fatima"

Judges comments: Cheers to Ari Sandel for his humorous approach to one of the world's toughest problems — his West Side Story treatment of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which he calls West Bank Story, and for which he won an Oscar. And cheers to Tom Tugend for telling the lively tale of the movie. The more we remember that humor works where guns and bombs fail, the better.

Category J4: Columnist or Critic

Tom Tugend, The International Jerusalem Post, "Who's a hero?"

Tugend's argument was plenty convincing from the beginning, but when he got to the example of the letter from the Jewish charity offering him the title of "hero" if he made a \$50 contribution, I was properly mortified — he had built up to that moment expertly. This thoughtful and excellently written commentary was a strong reminder of our culture's tendency to cheapen even the most important things.

2nd Place: Diana Ljungaeus, Resume, "Mr. Brooks Review"

Ljungaeus' review of a standard thriller/Kevin Costner vehicle goes deep to show us the real point: that in a culture where murder is a popular amusement, the filmmakers are asking how much we are willing to engage in the "guilty pleasure" of murder stories when we're not willing to engage in serious debate about war in Iraq or genocide in Darfur. Ljungaeus raises a crucial question about American culture.

Honorable Mention: Tom Walters, CTV, "Jamie Lynn Spears"

K. STUDENT JOURNALISM

K1 Best Newspaper

Brentwood Flyer

Judges Comments: Solid designs, good choice of photos and relevant, interesting articles.

LA Collegian, Collegian Staff

K2 Best Website or Blog

Patrick Becker and Katherine Riese, Annenberg TV News, "ATVN.org"

Judges' Comment:

K4 Best Broadcast:

Annenberg TV News Staff, "Your Health and Wellness"

Judges comments: Slick and well written. Solid talent and solid stories. This could run anywhere. Some technical issues with a handful of shots, too much headroom and a few jumpcuts. Overall this show very well done.

2nd Place: Annenberg TV News Staff , "10/22,10/23, 11/05, 11/06"

Judges comments: Good look, good information. The shows had nice story count and were well produced. Great use of Graphics and even the phoner worked to add immediacy.

Honorable Mention: Ana-Luisa Gallo, "School Truancy"

Judges comments: Well produced entry. Touching interviews and good information on a troubling issue.

K5 Best Report, Print

Giuliana Repetti, Brentwood Flyer, "Little Women" representation in English curriculum

Judges Comments: This piece stood out because the writer did what good writers do – write what they know. The reporter looked around her high

school English classroom and realized the school's curriculum had a dearth of female authors. Not only that, but some classes were separated into "gender correct" groups where guys study male authors and girls study female authors ("Because god forbid any Brentwood boy would have to read a book with a female heroine." The reporter made keen observations; asked relevant questions; used research, interviews and good quotes to examine and tell the story.

2nd Place: Justin Ostroff and Abby Zeltser, Brentwood Flyer, "Writers' strike: students take sides on the latest Hollywood dispute"

Honorable Mention: Arianna Hanson-Ashkar , Brentwood Flyer, "School surveys bullying"