



2003 ALTERNATIVE  
NEWSWEEKLY  
AWARDS

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**PUBLISHED BY**  
THE ASSOCIATION OF ALTERNATIVE NEWSWEEKLIES  
1020 SIXTEENTH STREET NW, FOURTH FLOOR  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-5702  
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# Award Winners

## Arts Criticism

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Margaret Regan, *Tucson Weekly*

**SECOND PLACE:** Rodney Welch, *Columbia Free Times*

**THIRD PLACE:** S. Michael Bowen, *Pacific Northwest Inlander*

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** John Powers, *LA Weekly*

**SECOND PLACE:** Joy Press, *The Village Voice*

**THIRD PLACE:** Robert Lalasz, *Washington City Paper*

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Glenn Dixon, *Washington City Paper*

## Arts Feature

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

No award.

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Andy Newman, *Pittsburgh City Paper*  
“Plays Well with Others”

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Fred Camper, *Chicago Reader*  
“Temma Lowly and the Meaning of Life”

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Bernice Yeung, *SF Weekly*  
“Dancing with the Butoh Masters”

## Business

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Barbara Solow, *Independent Weekly*  
“Blue Notes”

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Gayle Reaves, *Fort Worth Weekly*  
“Accounting for Anguish”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Thomas Korosec, *Dallas Observer*  
“Enough to Make You Sick”

## Cartoon

### 4 OR FEWER PAPERS

**FIRST PLACE:** Chris Ware  
*various strips*

**SECOND PLACE:** Garret Gaston  
“La Petite Camera”

**THIRD PLACE:** Jen Sorenson  
“Slowpoke”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Greg Peters  
“Suspect Device”

### 5 OR MORE PAPERS

**FIRST PLACE:** Ruben Bolling (Ken Fisher)  
“Tom the Dancing Bug”

**SECOND PLACE:** Derf (John Backderf)  
“The City”

## Column

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

No award.

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Chuck Strouse, *New Times Broward-Palm Beach*

## Column-Political Commentary

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** James Shannon, *MetroBEAT*

**SECOND PLACE:** Al Diamon, *Portland Phoenix*

**THIRD PLACE:** Nate Blakeslee, *The Texas Observer*

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Robert Nelson, *Phoenix New Times*

**SECOND PLACE:** Jim Schutze, *Dallas Observer*

**THIRD PLACE:** Chris Potter, *Pittsburgh City Paper*

## Cover Design

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** David Jayne, Andrea Diaz & David Robert, *Reno News & Review*

**SECOND PLACE:** Dora Sison, *Gambit Weekly*

**THIRD PLACE:** Don Eggert & Diane Sullivan, *Seven Days*

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Amy Pastre, *Charleston City Paper*

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Alex Abatie, *Santa Barbara Independent*

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Todd Bates, *Weekly Planet (Tampa)*

**SECOND PLACE:** Jay Vollmar, *Westword*

**THIRD PLACE:** Heather Swaim, *OC Weekly*

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Bill Smith, *LA Weekly*

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Brian Hogan, *Philadelphia City Paper*

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Tricia Reinhold, Heather Mull & Brian Holderman, *Pittsburgh City Paper*

## Editorial Layout

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

No first place.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** *Monterey County Coast Weekly*  
“Driving Green”

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Heather Swaim, *OC Weekly*  
“Bombshell”

**SECOND PLACE:** Doug Kubert & Jay Thornton, *The Pitch*  
“Oh, My Goth”

**THIRD PLACE:** Frank Goodenough, *Dallas Observer*  
“Hope in Hell”

## Feature

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Adrienne Martini, *Metro Pulse*  
“Five Days in the Psych Ward”

**SECOND PLACE:** Tricia Booker, *Folio Weekly*  
“Long Lost Friend”

**THIRD PLACE:** Ron Netsky, *City Newspaper*  
“Jump Jim Crow”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Jill Kramer, *Pacific Sun*  
“Justice Denied”

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Jason Cherkis, *Washington City Paper*  
“The Others”

**SECOND PLACE:** Annys Shin, *Washington City Paper*  
“Little Big Shot”

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Brad Zellar, *City Pages (Twin Cities)*  
“Little Big Man”

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Glenna Whitley, *Dallas Observer*  
“Crazy White Mother”

## Food Writing

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Sara Roahen, *Gambit Weekly*

**SECOND PLACE:** Gary Laing & Sam Lange, *The Local Planet Weekly*

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Dara Moskowitz, *City Pages (Twin Cities)*

**SECOND PLACE:** Paul Reidinger, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*

**THIRD PLACE:** Naomi Wise, *San Diego Reader*

## Illustration

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Ryan Greis & Sean Hughes, *Cincinnati CityBeat*  
“Does Your Vote Count”

**SECOND PLACE:** Gregory Dickens, *MetroBEAT*  
“Overwhelmed”

**THIRD PLACE:** Harry Bliss, *Seven Days*  
“Fat Chance”

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Jeremy Bruneel, *The Georgia Straight*  
“Campbell’s Cuts”

**SECOND PLACE:** David Terrill, *The Pitch*  
“To Dive For”

**THIRD PLACE:** Christiane Granert, *Washington City Paper*  
“Lien Times”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Josef Gast, *Cleveland Scene*  
“How to Succeed in Business”

## Investigative

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Leslie Blade, *Cincinnati CityBeat*  
“Piling On”

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Tom Robbins, *The Village Voice*  
“The Lush Life of a Rudy Appointee: Russell Harding”

**SECOND PLACE:** Ron Russell, *New Times Los Angeles*  
“Mouth Wide Shut”

**THIRD PLACE:** Chris Thompson, *East Bay Express*  
“The Sinister Side of Yusuf Bey’s Empire”

## Media Reporting

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Maria Luisa Tucker, *Santa Fe Reporter*  
“Copping Out”

**SECOND PLACE:** Jeremy Hadley, Tom Grant & Rob  
Wilkinson, *The Local Planet Weekly*  
“The State of Radio”

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Jennifer Mathieu, *Houston Press*  
“Reality TV Bites”

**SECOND PLACE:** Amy Roe, *Willamette Week*  
“Professor Soundbite”

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Thomas Francis, *Cleveland Scene*  
“Hip-Hopcrisy”

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Kathy Glasgow, *Miami New Times*  
“Incessant Static”

## Music Criticism

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Scott Jordan, *Gambit Weekly*

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Monica Kendrick, *Chicago Reader*

## News Feature

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Nancy Guerin, *Metroland*  
“Schenectady Calling”

**SECOND PLACE:** Liliana Ibara, *The Texas Observer*  
“A Trial in Tulia”

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Mike Sula, *Chicago Reader*  
“Killer on the Loose”

**SECOND PLACE:** Mark Donald, *Dallas Observer*  
“Dirty or Duped?”

**THIRD PLACE:** Justin Berton, *East Bay Express*  
“Drugstore Cowboys”

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Jason Cherkis, Joe Dempsey, Sarah Godfrey, David Morton, Annys Shin, Chris Shott, Elissa Silverman and Erik Wemple, *Washington City Paper*  
“The Bishops Set Me Up!”

## News Story

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Tim McGivern, *Weekly Alibi*

**SECOND PLACE:** Terje Langeland, *Colorado Springs Independent*

**THIRD PLACE:** Traci Moyer, *Illinois Times*

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Thomas Francis, *Cleveland Scene*

**SECOND PLACE:** Joe Miller, *The Pitch*

**THIRD PLACE:** Amy Silverman, *Phoenix New Times*

## Photography

### CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Walter Coker, *Folio Weekly*  
“Through the Lens”

**SECOND PLACE:** Bill Kennedy, *The Texas Observer*  
“Brotherhood of the Neighborhood”

**THIRD PLACE:** Nancy Santos, *Charleston City Paper*  
“Portraits and Profiles”

### CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Max S. Gerber, *LA Weekly*  
“Microbats, Broken Skulls, Rocket Girls & Prehistoric Beach Bears”

**SECOND PLACE:** Steve Satterwhite, *Miami New Times*  
“We’re #1”

**THIRD PLACE:** Saul Bromberg & Sandra Hoover, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*  
“Local Discovery Awards”

# First-Round Judges

**Craig Aaron** recently relocated to Washington, D.C., after six years at *In These Times*, the Chicago-based progressive news magazine, where he was managing editor. Aaron is the editor of the essay collection “*Appeal to Reason: 25 Years In These Times*” (Seven Stories Press). He also has taught magazine journalism at Chicago’s Columbia College, and his writing has appeared in *The Progressive*, the *Memphis Flyer* and other publications. **NEWS FEATURE**

**Brett Anderson** is the restaurant critic at *The Times-Picayune* in New Orleans. He is a former staff writer for *Washington City Paper* and a former music columnist for the *Twin Cities Reader*. His writing has also appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Salon* and *Gourmet*. **COLUMN**

**Joel Bleifuss** is the editor of *In These Times*, the Chicago-based news magazine where he has worked as a writer, columnist and editor since 1986. Bleifuss has had more stories on Project Censored’s annual listing of the “10 Most Censored Stories” than any other journalist. **FEATURE**

**Gene Bourg** is a former restaurant reviewer and columnist for *The Times-Picayune* in his native New Orleans. He received the National Magazine Award in 1996 for “*Acadiana: Where Cajun Gets Real*,” which appeared in the January-February 1995 issue of *Saveur* magazine. He also has contributed feature articles to *Gourmet*, *Food & Wine*, *Reader’s Digest*, *Travel & Leisure* and *Food Arts* magazines, as well as the “*Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*,” published by the University of North Carolina Press. **FOOD CRITICISM**

**Jay Davis**, former *Maine Times*’ editor, has gone cyber, photoshopping his way through midcoast Maine with the on-line newspaper *Village Soup*. Davis was a reporter for the *Providence Journal*, *Berkshire Eagle* and *The Boston Globe* before moving to Maine in 1971. Since then he has edited four weeklies, including *Maine Times* twice. **FEATURE**

**Jane G. DuBose** is a freelance business writer specializing in the business of healthcare. She is a regular contributor to *Healthheaders* and *Nashville Post*. DuBose was business editor at the *Nashville Banner* and the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*. She has a B.S. in Communications from the University of Tennessee and an M.B.A. from Belmont University. **BUSINESS**

**Mark Fitzgerald** is editor at large for *Editor& Publisher* magazine. He won the 2001 Jesse H. Neal National Business Journalism Award for Editorial Writing. **MEDIA REPORTING**

**Cynthia Franklin** is vice president of KIP Communications and publisher of *The KIP Business Report*, which covers the New York City metro area’s urban business community. With a readership of 43,200, *The Kip Business Report* is a vital resource for small business, money and investing and the economic challenges facing communities of color. Both she and the publication have received many awards, including the 2002 General Excellence Award from the Independent Press Association, and the 2002 Small Business Journalist of the Year, from the U.S. Small Business Association. Franklin has an MBA in management from New York University. **BUSINESS**

**Glenn Harper** is editor of *Sculpture Magazine*, an international journal of three-dimensional contemporary art. He was editor of *Art Papers* for more than nine years, and has written for *Artforum*, *Afterimage*, *Aperture*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Public Art Review* and a number of other art magazines, scholarly journals, and ‘zines. He is also the editor of “*Interventions and Provocations: Conversations on Art, Culture and Resistance*,” published in 1998 by the State University of New York Press. Harper once owned and operated the Small Press Bookshop, which specialized in alternative publishing in all its forms. **ARTS FEATURE**

**Will Hermes** is a senior contributor to *SPIN* magazine and also writes for NPR’s “All Thing’s Considered,” *Entertainment Weekly*, and other publications.

**MUSIC CRITICISM**

**John Kessler** is the dining critic for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He reviewed his first restaurant for *Westword*, Denver’s alternative newsweekly. **FOOD CRITICISM**

**Andrew Leonard** edits the Technology and Business Department at *Salon*. **BUSINESS**

**Eric Lorberer** is a poet, essayist, and editor of the Alternative Press Award-winning journal *Rain Taxi Review of Books* and its Web site, [www.raintaxi.com](http://www.raintaxi.com).

**ARTS CRITICISM**

**Kay Mallett** is a freelance editor and a founding member of the *Columbus Guardian*. As a former arts writer and editor, she found it odd to critique the critics, but satisfying to discover that the quality of arts criticism in alternative news, already impressive when she was in the industry, has only improved. **ARTS CRITICISM**

**Katherine Marsh** has written profiles, features, news stories and personal and critical essays for a variety of publications including *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* magazine, *The Washington Monthly*, *US Weekly* and *The Washington Post* magazine and “Style” sections, among others. She worked as a contributing editor at *Rolling Stone* for two years, writing on such topics as Washington, D.C. intern culture, college activists visiting Nicaragua and coming out in a fraternity in Nebraska. A graduate of Yale University, Marsh recently moved from New York City to Washington, D.C., where she splits her time between writing fiction and journalism. **ARTS CRITICISM**

**Brad McKee** is a freelance report and editor at large for *Architecture*. He is a former arts editor for *Washington City Paper*. **FEATURE**

**Sia Michel** is the editor in chief of *Spin*. She was also music editor of *SF Weekly* and has written for *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, and *The Village Voice*. **MUSIC CRITICISM**

**Jim Naureckas** has been the editor of *Extra!*, *FAIR*'s bimonthly journal of media criticism, since 1990. He is the co-author of “*The Way Things Aren't: Rush Limbaugh's Reign of Error*,” and co-editor of “*The FAIR Reader*.” He got his start in journalism — and his education in the need for an alternative to mainstream news coverage — covering the Iran-Contra scandal for the news magazine *In These Times*. **MEDIA REPORTING**

**Mark Naymik** is a political writer for *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*. He also worked for seven years at three alternative papers in Cleveland and Philadelphia. **COLUMN/POLITICAL COMMENTARY**

**Rick Nelson** is a staff writer at the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, where he writes about restaurants. He is a former staff writer for the alternative weekly *Twin Cities Reader* and the former editor of *Q Monthly*, the *Reader's* publication for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. **COLUMN**

**James Norton** is the co-founder and editor of *Flak Magazine* ([www.flakmag.com](http://www.flakmag.com)). He also serves as the Middle East editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*. His short fiction and satire, published in a variety of outlets, can be read at [jrnorton.com](http://jrnorton.com). **ARTS CRITICISM**

**Linda Perlstein** is a staff writer for *The Washington Post* and author of “*Not Much Just Chillin': The Hidden Lives of Middle-Schoolers*” (Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2003). **FEATURE**

**Thane Peterson** has worked as a reporter and editor for *Business Week* in Toronto, Minneapolis, Paris, New York and Frankfurt, Germany. For the last three years, he has written the weekly “*Moveable Feast*” column for *Business Week* online, focusing on food, wine, art, music books and other cultural subjects. He lives in rural Pennsylvania. **ARTS FEATURE**

**Mary Beth Pfeiffer** is projects editor of the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. Winner of many state and national awards, including reporting awards from Scripps Howard Foundation, National Headliner Awards, InterAmerica Press Association and Gannett Newspapers. **NEWS STORY**

**Bruce Rodgers** is former editor of *Pitch Weekly*, and co-owner of Discovery Publications Inc., which publishes the regional monthly *Discover Mid-America* and *eKc*, a Kansas City metro news and entertainment monthly. **NEWS FEATURE**

**Michael Schaffer** is a staff writer for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He spent two years on the national and world news staff at *U.S. News & World Report* after starting his career at *Washington City Paper*, where he spent two years as senior writer and two years as senior editor. **NEWS FEATURE**

**Andrea Simakis** began her career as a freelancer, writing for *Glamour* and *The Village Voice*. Her awards include a year-long, Kiplinger Public Affairs Reporting fellowship at the Ohio State University and a Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism for her story about a court-appointed guardian for children in foster care. She is currently a senior staff writer with the *Plain Dealer's Sunday Magazine* and lives in a Cleveland apartment building that once housed famed detective Elliot Ness. **NEWS FEATURE**

**Chris Smith** is a contributing editor at *New York* magazine. He writes about cops, robbers, firefighters, sports, music and politics. **INVESTIGATIVE**

**Joe Strupp** is an associate editor at *Editor & Publisher*, where he covers general assignment stories on everything from foreign news to features, profiles, journalism issues and business. Prior to joining *E&P* in 1999, Strupp worked at several newspapers over a span of 11 years. Those included the *Daily Journal* of Elizabeth, N.J., *The Argus* of Fremont, Calif., the *S.F. Independent* of San Francisco, and the *Press-Enterprise* of Riverside, Calif. Strupp has also served as a writing coach at San Francisco State University and written freelance articles for *San Francisco Magazine*. **NEWS FEATURE**

# Final-Round Judges

## ARTS CRITICISM

**David B. Edelstein** is the movie critic for *Slate* and also does reviews for NPR's "Fresh Air." He writes frequently about movies for the Sunday *New York Times* and is a member of the National Society of Film Critics.

**Christopher Knight** served as *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* art critic (1980-89), as assistant director for public information at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1979-80) and as curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (1976-79), prior to joining the staff of the *Los Angeles Times* in 1989. In 1997 Knight received the Frank Jewett Mather Award for Distinction in Art Criticism from the College Art Association, the first journalist to win the award in more than 25 years. He was twice a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Criticism (1991 and 2001). On five occasions Knight received the former Chemical Bank Award for Distinguished Newspaper Art Criticism (1982, 1984, 1986, 1987 and 1991). He received a 1984 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and was a fellow at the Toledo Museum of Art (Ohio) in 1974-75. Knight is the author of two books: "*Last Chance for Eden: Selected Art Criticism, 1979-1994*," published in 1995 by Art Issues Press, and "*Art of The Sixties and Seventies: The Panza Collection*," published by Rizzoli in 1989 and reissued last year.

**D.K. Row** is the art critic for the largest daily newspaper in the Northwest, *The Oregonian*, in Portland, Ore. Row got his start in journalism at an alternative newspaper, *Willamette Week*. Aside from working in journalism, he has also been a copywriter in the advertising industry.

## ARTS FEATURE

**Katha Pollitt**, associate editor of *The Nation*, is an author, widely published essayist, feminist and freethinker who received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard and her Masters of Fine Arts degree from Columbia. Her book of poems, "*Antarctic Traveler*," won the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her most recent book of essays is titled "*Reasonable Creatures*" (Knopf). She lives in New York City.

Author and social observer **Sarah Vowell** is best known for her monologues and documentaries for public radio's "This American Life." A contributing editor for the program since 1996, she has written about everything from her father's homemade cannon and her obsession with the Godfather films to the New Hampshire primary and her Cherokee ancestors' forced march on the Trail of Tears. She is the author of "Radio On," "Take the Cannoli" and most recently "The Partly Cloudy Patriot." Vowell has also been a contributor to numerous venues that include *Time*, *Esquire*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *McSweeney's*, *The Village Voice*, *Salon*, *Artforum*, the *Chicago Reader* and *Spin*. She has taught at Sarah Lawrence College and the Art Institute of Chicago and currently lives in New York City.

**Chris Suellentrop** is the deputy Washington bureau chief for *Slate*, where he writes the weekly "Assessment" column and edits the technology section. Previously, he wrote *Slate's* "Explainer" column, edited the "Sports Nut" column and during the 2000 campaign he wrote and edited *Slate's* "Politics" page. **COLUMN-POLITICAL COMMENTARY**

**Jon Tevlin** is a reporter at the *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis). He is the former senior editor of the *Twin Cities Reader*, and former writer and columnist for *City Pages* (*Twin Cities*). **INVESTIGATIVE**

**Nicholas Thompson**, previously an editor of *The Washington Monthly*, is currently a fellow at the New America Foundation and a special correspondent for *The Boston Globe*. He is the author of a book about politics in West Africa and Southeast Asia and has also written for the *Los Angeles Times*, *New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and many other publications.

**INVESTIGATIVE**

**Emily White** is author of *Fast Girls: Teenage Tribes and the Myth of the Slut* (Scribner). She is a former editor of *The Stranger*, and her writing has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Nest*, *Spin* and other magazines. **FEATURE**

**Josh White** is a staff writer at *The Washington Post*, where he covers police and courts in Northern Virginia for the Metro section. White has worked at *The Valley News* in West Lebanon, N.H., and has reported for *TIME Magazine*. **NEWS STORY**

**Craig Winneker** is a free-lance journalist, former deputy editor of *European Voice* newspaper, former senior editor *Capital Style* magazine and former managing editor, *Roll Call* newspaper. **NEWS FEATURE**

**Bill Wyman** was a longtime staff writer for the *Chicago Reader*. He was arts editor of *SF Weekly* and later features editor and arts editor of *Salon*, where he oversaw several award-winning investigative projects. He is currently an assistant managing editor of NPR. **FEATURE**

**Lawrence Weschler**, a staff writer with *The New Yorker* since 1981, got his start in the late 1970s at the *LA Weekly* and the *Los Angeles Reader*. His most recent books include “*A Wanderer in the Perfect City: Selected Passion Pieces*,” “*Boggs: A Comedy of Values*,” “*Calamities of Exile*,” and “*Robert Irwin’s Garden at the Getty*.”

## BUSINESS

**Myron Kandel** is the financial editor of *CNN Business News* and was one of CNN’s organizing executives. He has provided economic analysis for “Moneyline,” the network’s flagship business news program, since it went on the air in 1980. Kandel started his 40-year career in journalism as a copy boy at *The New York Times*, working nights while completing his senior year at Brooklyn College and earning a master’s degree from the Columbia School of Journalism. Upon graduation, he became a copy editor at the *Times*, and then a financial reporter. He also worked for the *Washington Star*, the *New York Herald Tribune*, *The New York Law Journal*, and the *New York Post*. He is also a prizewinning magazine writer, whose articles have appeared in *Harper’s*, *Institutional Investor*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Finance Magazine*, *Nation’s Business* and *The Bulletin of the American Society of Newspaper Editors*. In 1988, he received the Elliott V. Bell Award for a significant, long-term contribution to the profession of financial journalism from the New York Financial Writers’ Association.

**Rex Seline** is managing editor news/business at the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and secretary/treasurer of the Society of American Business Editors and Writers. He came to Fort Worth in 1994 from *The Miami Herald*, where he was a business writer and executive business editor. He started his newspaper career at the *Democrat & Chronicle* in Rochester, N.Y. In 1981, he joined the *Dallas Times Herald* as assistant business editor. From 1984 to 1990, Seline was at *The New York Times* in various roles, including business copy editor, assistant to the business/financial editor, and assistant science and health editor.

**Eben Shapiro** is deputy editor of *Personal Journal*, a fourth section of *The Wall Street Journal* that appears every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and reports on the business of life, including personal finance, health, travel, cars and consumer electronics. Shapiro joined *The Wall Street Journal’s* New York bureau as a staff reporter in November 1992 covering the food, alcohol and tobacco industries. In 1983, Shapiro began his journalism career as an editor and reporter for *MCP Inc.* in Minneapolis. From 1989 to 1992 he was a reporter for *The New York Times*, first in Chicago and later in New York. Prior to re-joining *The Wall Street Journal* in December 2001, Shapiro was business editor at *Newsweek*. A native of Minneapolis, Shapiro received a bachelor’s degree in English from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore.

## COLUMN

**Karen Heller** is a reporter and columnist for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and was a finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize in commentary.

**Adam Hochschild** was a co-founder of *Mother Jones* magazine and has been a commentator on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered.” His first book, “*Half the Way Home: a Memoir of Father and Son*,” was published in 1986. It was followed by “*The Mirror at Midnight: a South African Journey*,” and “*The Unquiet Ghost: Russians Remember Stalin*.” His 1997 collection, “*Finding the Trapdoor: Essays, Portraits, Travels*,” won the PEN/Spielvogel-Diamondstein Award for the Art of the Essay. His most recent book, “*King Leopold’s Ghost: a Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*” was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. It also won a J. Anthony Lukas award in the United States, the Lionel Gelber Prize in Canada, and the Duff Cooper Prize in England. His books have been translated into 11 languages. Three of them have been named Notable Books of the Year by *The New York Times Book Review*. Besides his books, Hochschild has also written for *The New Yorker*, *Harper’s*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and many other newspapers and magazines. His articles have won prizes from the Overseas Press Club, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Society of American Travel Writers, and elsewhere; one is included in Best American Essays 2001. Hochschild teaches a writing class at the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley and has been a guest teacher at other campuses in the U.S. and abroad.

**Laurie Roberts** is a metro columnist for *The Arizona Republic* in Phoenix. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri and has been a reporter, editor, editorial writer and columnist during her 25 years as a journalist. She has won a number of writing awards and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2001.

## COLUMN/POLITICAL COMMENTARY

**Joe Conason** is national correspondent for *The New York Observer* and a regular columnist for *Salon*. He is a former staff writer for *The Village Voice* and co-author (with Gene Lyons) of “*The Hunting of the President: The Ten-Year Campaign to Destroy Bill and Hillary Clinton*.”

**Dale McFeatters**, former managing editor of Scripps Howard News Service, writes editorials, op-ed pieces and a weekly column, “*Just Desserts*.” Dale has been with Scripps Howard in Washington since 1969, first as regional reporter for the *Birmingham Post-Herald* and later as a member of the national staff and assistant managing editor/news.

**Geneva Overholser** covered city hall and state legislature for the *Colorado Springs Sun* and spent five years freelancing from Africa and Europe before running the editorial page at the *Des Moines Register*, joining the editorial board of *The New York Times* and becoming editor of *Des Moines Register*, ombudsman at *The Washington Post* and a syndicated columnist with *Washington Post Writers Group*. Overholser joined the Missouri School of Journalism in September 2000. She has been a regular media commentator, CJR columnist, former congressional fellow, Nieman fellow, chair of Pulitzer Prize Board and an officer of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. She is currently a trustee of the Stanley Foundation, Knight fellowships at Stanford, National Press Foundation and the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship.

## FEATURE STORY

**Ellen Barry** is a writer for *The Boston Globe* and a former writer for the *Boston Phoenix*. She was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing in 2002, for “her empathetic and illuminating portrait of teenaged Sudanese boys resettled in the U.S. who must engage with American culture.”

**Madeleine Blais**, who won a Pulitzer Prize for feature writing in 1980 when she was with the *Miami Herald*, is now on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her most recent book, “*Uphill Walkers: A Memoir of a Family*,” is about her childhood in Granby, Mass., where her mother raised six children after the unexpected death of Blais’s father. Blais is also the author of “*In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle*” (1995), which was a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist in nonfiction, and “*The Heart Is an Instrument: Portraits in Journalism*” (1992). She has held staff positions at various publications including *The Boston Globe*, the *Trenton Times*, and the *Miami Herald’s Tropic Magazine*. She has also written for *The Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Northeast Magazine* in *The Hartford Courant*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Newsday*, *Nieman Reports*, the *Detroit Free Press*, and the *San Jose Mercury News*.

**Tom Hallman, Jr.**, a senior editor specializing in features for *The Oregonian*, received the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing, for his “poignant profile of a disfigured 14-year-old boy who elects to have life-threatening surgery in an effort to improve his appearance.” He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for beat reporting in 1996 and feature writing in 1999. In 1996, he won the ASNE Distinguished Writing Award for non-deadline writing, the feature writing award from the National Society of Professional Journalists, and the Livingston Award for Young Journalists. He has worked at *The Oregonian* for 19 years. He was born and raised in Portland and graduated with a degree in journalism from Drake University in Des Moines.

## FOOD

**Anthony Dias Blue** is the recipient of a 2001 James Beard Foundation Award as well as the 1997 Communicator of the Year Award from the prestigious International Wine & Spirits Competition in London. His work in various media is circulated to more than 50,000,000 global consumers each month. He can be found in print periodicals, on radio, in bookstores and in cyberspace. Since January 1981 Mr. Blue has been wine and spirits editor of *Bon Appetit*, and he writes a monthly column for the Los Angeles-based magazine as well as contributing a “*Tasting Panel Report*” page for each issue. For 20 years Blue’s consumer-oriented food and wine critiques on CBS radio in New York have been broadcast several times each weekday. Blue can also be heard daily on CNN-affiliate KFWB radio in Los Angeles. He is the author of numerous books and a regular contributor to the Condé Nast food site Epicurious.com, where he writes both a monthly column and authors a subscription newsletter. In 1988, Blue was selected for the James Beard Who’s Who in Food Award, a recognition given to America’s most influential food and wine personalities.

**Linda Giuca** is food editor at *The Hartford Courant*. She oversaw the launch of the paper’s first weekly food section in 1979. The Flavor section recently was awarded “best section” in its circulation category in the Association of Food Journalists 2001 writing competition. Giuca is a member and former treasurer of the Association of Food Journalists. As a member of the James Beard Foundation, she also has served as a judge in the annual cookbook.

**Phyllis Richman** served as food critic of *The Washington Post* for more than 23 years. She wrote a dining column, annual dining guides and food features for nearly every section, from Style to Financial. She is author of three novels, “*The Butter Did It*,” “*Murder on the Gravy Train*,” and “*Who’s Afraid of Virginia Ham?*” Her freelance articles have appeared in *Gourmet*, *Bon Appetit*, *Food Arts*, *Modern Maturity*, *Gastronomica* and other magazines. Richman, a native Washingtonian, has been writing about food for 30 years, as a freelance writer, and as a staff member of *The Washington Post*, where she was also food editor for eight years. She is author of four editions of “*Best Restaurants & Others: Washington, D. C.*” (101 Productions, 1980, 1982, 1985; Ortho, 1989), and wrote the restaurant chapters for Gault-Millau’s “*The Best of Washington*” and two editions of “*The Washington Post Dining Guide*” (1996 and 1998). She co-authored “*Barter: How to Satisfy Your Needs Without Money*” (Scribners, 1978). Richman has won awards from the Association of Food Journalists for her food sections and her columns, and served as its writer-in-residence. She has also been honored by the Penney-Missouri, Bert Greene and James Beard awards. She is a member of “*Who’s Who in American Cooking*” and serves on the board of Washington Independent Writers.

## INVESTIGATIVE

**Kim Christensen** is the investigations editor at *The Oregonian* in Portland, Ore., and has shared two Pulitzer Prizes in his 25-year career. In 2001, *The Oregonian* was awarded the gold medal for public service for a series of stories by Christensen and three other reporters who documented systemic problems within the Immigration and Naturalization Service, including harsh treatment of foreign nationals. Before moving to Oregon in 1999, Christensen spent 13 years at the *Orange County Register*, where he was one of the lead reporters on a series of stories awarded the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for exposing fraud and other wrongdoing at the renowned University of California, Irvine, fertility clinic.

**Dianna Hunt** is the assistant government affairs editor for the *Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram*. A longtime investigative reporter in Texas, she has won numerous national, state and local awards for investigative reporting, feature writing, Freedom of Information and other issues. She worked at the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Houston Chronicle* and the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* before joining the *Star-Telegram* in 1999. She is a board member of the Investigative Reporters and Editors organization and served as an IRE contest judge. She is also a member of the Native American Journalists Association.

**Phil Williams** is the chief investigative reporter for WTVF-TV, the CBS affiliate in Nashville, Tenn. At WTVF, Phil oversees the NewsChannel 5 Investigates Team with a focus on government corruption and waste. He has been recognized with numerous honors for his investigative reporting, including a George Polk Award for Television Reporting, a George Foster Peabody Award, an IRE Medal and an IRE Certificate from the Investigative Reporters and Editors, a Sigma Delta Chi Award, two regional Emmy Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, as well as numerous Emmy nominations. A former newspaper reporter, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for public service for an investigation of gambling interests who corrupted Tennessee state government.

## MEDIA REPORTING

**David Carr** is media reporter for *The New York Times*. Previously he was a contributing editor for *New York Magazine* and a columnist for *The Atlantic Monthly*, as well as a senior correspondent for *Inside.com*. Carr was editor for five years at *Washington City Paper*. Prior to joining the *City Paper*, he was editor of the now-shuttered *Twin Cities Reader* in Minneapolis.

**David Folkenflik** is the media critic and television writer for the *Baltimore Sun*. He has previously been a Washington correspondent and higher education reporter for the newspaper. In college, he was editor in chief of the *Cornell Daily Sun* and then covered higher education for *The Herald-Sun* in Durham, N.C. Folkenflik has won or shared several national journalism prizes, including the inaugural Paul Mongerson Award for Investigative Reporting on the Media.

**Michael Wolff** writes “This Media Life” for *New York* magazine and is the author of “*Burn Rate*,” a best-seller about his own experiences as an Internet startup entrepreneur. He is also the author of “*NetGuide*,” one of the first books to introduce the Internet to the general public, and “*NetBooks*,” a bestselling 30-title series of Internet guides.

## MUSIC CRITICISM

**Dee Dee Bridgewater**, host of NPR’s weekly “Jazz Set,” is a jazz vocalist and actress who won a Tony for her Broadway role in “The Wiz,” along with two Grammys, and the top musical honor in France — the Victoire de la Musique. She was also nominated for London theater’s Laurence Olivier Award as Best Actress for her portrayal of jazz legend Billie Holiday in Stephen Stahl’s “Lady Day.” She made her New York debut in 1970 as the lead vocalist for the band led by Thad Jones and Mel Lewis and has performed with such giants as Sonny Rollins, Dizzy Gillespie, Dexter Gordon, Max Roach and Roland Kirk. Her father was a trumpeter who taught music to Booker Little, Charles Lloyd and George Coleman, among others.

**Chet Flippo** leads the Country Music Television News Team and is a former *Rolling Stone* senior editor, *Billboard’s* Nashville bureau chief, and winner of the 1998 Country Music Association Media Achievement Award. He is the author of such books as “*Graceland*,” “*It’s Only Rock and Roll: My On-The-Road Adventures with the Rolling Stones*,” “*Everybody Was Kung-Fu Dancing: Chronicles of the Lionized and the Notorious*,” “*David Bowie’s Serious Moonlight: The World Tour*,” “*On the Road With the Rolling Stones: 20 Years of Lipstick, Handcuffs and Chemicals*,” “*Yesterday: The Unauthorized Biography of Paul McCartney*,” and “*Your Cheatin’ Heart: A Biography of Hank Williams*.”

**Tom Piazza** is both a fiction writer and a writer on American music. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Story*, *The New Republic*, *The Village Voice*, and many other periodicals. Since 1997 he has been the “Southern Music” columnist for John Grisham’s magazine *The Oxford American*. His books include the short-story collection “*Blues and Trouble*,” which won the James Michener Award for fiction, and “*The Guide to Classic Recorded Jazz*,” which won the ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award for Music Writing. His most recent book is “*True Adventures With The King of Bluegrass*,” a portrait of country music legend Jimmy Martin. In the fall of 2000, he occupied the Eudora Welty Chair for Southern Studies at Millsaps College.

## NEWS FEATURE

**Alex Kotlowitz** is the author of award-winning nonfiction, including “*There Are No Children Here*,” which the New York Public Library listed as one of the 150 most important books of the century. His second book, “*The Other Side of the River*,” investigated a mysterious murder as it explored issues of race and prejudice. His investigative articles appear regularly in such national magazines as the *New Yorker* and the *New York Times Magazine*. Formerly a staff writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, Kotlowitz has been writer-in residence at Northwestern University, and a Distinguished Visitor at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. His other awards include the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and the George Polk Award. Kotlowitz grew up in New York City with a writer father and a home lined with books. He graduated from Wesleyan University, originally wanting to study zoology. His first reporting job was in Lansing, Mich., for *The Lansing Star* after which he freelanced for five years, contributing to such programs as “The MacNeil Lehrer NewsHour” and National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” and “Morning Edition.”

**David Plotz** is the Washington editor of *Slate*. Before joining the magazine in 1996, Plotz was senior editor and staff writer for *Washington City Paper*. Plotz has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper’s*, *Rolling Stone*, *GQ*, *the New Republic*, and *The Washington Post*, among other publications. He graduated from Harvard University in 1992.

**Susan Tift** is the author of “*The Patriarch: The Rise and Fall of the Bingham Dynasty*,” which she co-wrote with her husband Alex S. Jones. Tift is also a former associate editor of *Time* magazine. The authors share the Eugene C. Patterson Chair in Communications and Journalism at Duke University and live in New York City.

## NEWS STORY

**Michael Grunwald** is a national reporter for *The Washington Post*. In 2001, he won the George Polk Award for national reporting, the Worth Bingham Award for investigative reporting and the Scripps-Howard Award for environmental reporting for a yearlong series on the Army Corps of Engineers. At present, he is on leave to write a book about the Florida Everglades for Simon & Schuster. He used to work at *The Boston Globe* and writes occasionally for *Slate* and *The New Republic*.

**Steve Mills** joined the *Chicago Tribune* as a reporter in 1994. For the past four years, he has written about the death penalty, miscarriages of justice, and other problems in the criminal justice system. With *Tribune* Staff Writer Ken Armstrong, he reported and wrote the November 1999 series, “*The Failure of the Death Penalty in Illinois*,” which won a George Polk Award for criminal justice reporting. Mills and Armstrong also wrote the June 2000 series, “*State of Execution: The Death Penalty in Texas*.” Most recently, Mills, Armstrong and reporter Maurice Possley reported and wrote the December 2000 investigative series, “*Executions in America*.” In December 2001, Mills, Armstrong and Possley reported and wrote the series “*Cops and Confessions*,” which examined how police obtain confessions. Before joining the *Tribune*, Mills worked for about five years at the *Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle*. Before that, he worked for the *Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal*. He is a native of Pasadena, Calif., and a 1981 graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Jason Riley** is a news reporter at *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville, Ky. Riley graduated from Western Kentucky University in 1997 and won the 2002 George Polk Award for local reporting for a story called “Justice Delayed, Justice Denied.” It revealed a county court system that had hundreds of felony cases which had fallen through the cracks.

# Graphics Judges

Cartoonist and illustrator **Jessica Abel** (Chicago, 1969) is currently working on a serialized thriller set in Mexico City titled “*La Perdida*,” published by Fantagraphics Books. She’s previously been best known for her comic-book series of short fiction, “*Artbabe*,” and her journalistic comics, such as “*Radio: An Illustrated Guide*.” She lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her husband, Matt Madden. **CARTOON**

**Greg Bennett** is co-owner of the Big Planet Comics shops in the Washington, D.C., area. He has also been one of the organizers of SPX, the East Coast’s premier small press/alternative comics festival, since 1996. He lives in Vienna, Va., with his wife and two dogs. In his spare time he plays bass in the Hurricane Lamps, a Washington, D.C.-based indie rock trio. **CARTOON**

**Jonathan Berlin** is an assistant design director at the *Rocky Mountain News* and the editor of the Society for News Design’s *Update* newsletter. **ILLUSTRATION**

**Celeste Bernard** is the design and graphics editor at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. She was associate graphics editor at the *Chicago Tribune* prior to joining the *P-I* and interned as a graphic artist and page designer at the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*, the *Milwaukee Journal* and *U.S. News & World Report* a long, long time ago. She has won many awards from SND (and others) but she is holding out for an Oscar nomination from the Academy.

## EDITORIAL LAYOUT

Born in New York and raised in Miami, **Nanette Bisher** is the creative director of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She has played a leadership role at Danilo Black, Inc., *The Orange County Register*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The New York Daily News*. Her work has won design awards from the Society of Publication Design, The New York Art Directors and The Society for News Design, among other organizations. She is an expert on the use of color in newspapers and has lectured on color, photo layout, typography, illustration, newsroom organization, Web design and information graphics at seminars around the world. Her journalism career began when she got kicked out of chorus and has included stints illustrating, designing, art directing and being the designated adult in the newsroom. She currently serves as president of The Society for News Design Foundation, and is a past president of SND. Bisher has a B.A. from Florida International University. And a corgi named Harry. Her favorite word is marmoset.

## COVER DESIGN

**Steve Dorsey** is the design and graphics director at the *Detroit Free Press* and a part-time design consultant. He edits SND’s quarterly *Design Journal* and has been a member of their competition committee for 10 years. He’s been a speaker at conferences and workshops around the U.S.; a visiting professor at Syracuse University; and a guest speaker at The Poynter Institute. Before Detroit, Steve spent time at the Lexington (Ky.) *Herald-Leader*, and the York (Pa.) *Daily Record*. **COVER DESIGN**

**Thomas E. Franklin** has been a photojournalist for more than 15 years and a staff photographer at *The Record* in Bergen County, N.J. since 1993. He has won more than 30 national and international awards for his photography. Franklin’s now famous image of three firemen raising the American flag above the rubble of the World Trade Center taken on Sept. 11, 2001, was a Pulitzer Prize finalist and the winner of numerous awards and special recognitions. The photo has appeared on the covers of countless news publications, including; *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, *Parade Sunday Magazine*, and *People* magazine. On June 11, 2002, the United States Postal Service introduced the “Heroes” stamp, featuring Franklin’s fireman photo. This past fall, Franklin was an adjunct professor at his alma mater, Purchase College (SUNY) in Westchester County, NY, where he taught a course on photojournalism. He is also a faculty member of the Eddie Adams Photo Workshop. **PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Bill Gaspard** is news design director at the *Los Angeles Times* and second vice president of the Society for News Design. **EDITORIAL LAYOUT**

**Jennifer Gilman** was the founding art director of *My Generation*. Her previous art direction credits include *The New York Times Magazine*, *New Woman*, *New York* magazine, *Entertainment Weekly* and *The Village Voice*. She has won design awards from *Folio* magazine, The Type Directors Club, The Society of Illustrators, *Print* magazine, and The Society of Publication Designers, including a Gold Medal from the Society of Publication Designers. She also served as a judge for the SPD awards this year. **EDITORIAL LAYOUT**

**Gayle Grin** is assistant managing editor/design and graphics at the *National Post*, responsible for visual presentation throughout the newspaper. She was part of the design team that launched the *National Post*, Canada's fastest-growing national newspaper in 1998. Twice since launch, the *National Post* was named one of the world's best-designed newspapers in an international competition conducted by Society for News Design. Previously, Gayle was feature design editor at *The Montreal Gazette*. She has won more than 100 design awards for her work on both newspapers, including the prestigious Canadian National Newspaper Award. Gayle is a member of the SND board, as regional director for Eastern Canada and the executive representative for all the regional directors. She has been a speaker at annual SND conferences, Quick Courses and regional journalist seminars. **ILLUSTRATION**

**Christine McNeal** is assistant managing editor for visuals at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. She previously worked as a news reporter, copy editor, entertainment editor, graphics-design editor and assistant managing editor for the *Journal Star* in Peoria, Ill. She joined the *Journal Sentinel* in October 1997 as its graphics editor. She was promoted to senior editor/graphics & design in January 1999 and to her current position in September 2000. She is currently in the University of Missouri's online master's of media management program. Christine is treasurer of the international Society for News Design. **PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Rhonda Prast** is an assistant design director at the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, responsible for feature section design and content. One section she designs is the "Taste" section, which has won top honors from the Penney-Missouri competition and the Association of Food Editors, and is currently nominated for best section by the James Beard Foundation. Prior to that, she was the art director of *Pacific Northwest Magazine*, the *Sunday* magazine of the *Seattle Times*. Before that, she ran the design desk at the *Miami Herald*. She has been a reporter, photographer, designer, picture editor and section editor. Her most rewarding experiences have included building a Habitat for Humanity home with former President Jimmy Carter; being part of the staff winning the Pulitzer Gold Medal for Public Service for coverage of 1992's Hurricane Andrew; and teaching at the Missouri Photo Workshop. She earned her bachelor of arts in journalism from Arizona State and her master of arts degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. **ILLUSTRATION**

**Richard Thompson** is an illustrator for *The Washington Post* whose weekly strip, "Poor Richard's Almanac," appears in that paper's "Style" section every Sunday. **CARTOON**

**Kathleen Vincent** is the art director for the News Art Department at *The Dallas Morning News*. In 1994, Vincent received a Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for the series "Violence Against Women: A Question of Human Rights" along with *The Dallas Morning News* team of reporters, photographers and graphic artists. During her 26 years in visual journalism, Vincent's work in newspaper graphic design has been recognized through awards by professional organizations including the New York Art Directors Club, Society of Newspaper Design and the Dallas Press Club. She is a member of Society of Newspaper Design and NPPA. Vincent holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design from the University of Texas at Arlington. **COVER**

# Arts Criticism

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Margaret Regan, *Tucson Weekly*

Margaret Regan writes about multiple subjects, but her photography criticism is especially compelling. Her breadth of knowledge is matched by a probing curiosity about the complex intersection of camera images and social mores.

**SECOND PLACE:** Rodney Welch, *Columbia Free Times*

Though his copy was in need of one more good scrub (how do you spell Jeanette Winterson?) Rodney Welch's material possessed broad range, intellectual depth and a nice mix of viciousness and cheer in taking on a literary big shot, Jane Smiley.

**THIRD PLACE:** S. Michael Bowen, *Pacific Northwest Inlander*

Michael Bowen is an ambitious, original theater critic, with a talent for weaving analysis through description and plot summary. His aesthetic seems unduly rigid, however, potentially leaving him closed-off to the varieties of theatrical experience.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** John Powers, *LA Weekly*

This writing is tight as a drum — literate, passionate, wry, perceptive. Even in a genre as widely dissected as mainstream Hollywood movies, John Powers is consistently engaging.

**SECOND PLACE:** Joy Press, *The Village Voice*

A major critic, Joy Press confronts her authors on an equal footing, with high-flying language that gorgeously evokes her subjects, penetrating analysis, and the driest wit.

**THIRD PLACE:** Robert Lalasz, *Washington City Paper*

Even in a think piece on Stephen Sondheim that goes up and down as well as side by side, Robert Lalasz shows strong writing, adventurous thinking, and spasms of perception that distinguishes good from ordinary criticism.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Glenn Dixon, *Washington City Paper*

Glenn Dixon's art criticism is first-rate, if occasionally chewy. But a long analysis of the Spider-Man character pegged to the Sam Raimi movie (but focusing more on the old cartoon series) was an eye-opener — an exhilarating fusion of architecture and pop-culture writing. Just fantastic.

# Arts Feature

CIRCULATION < 50,000

No award.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Andy Newman, *Pittsburgh City Paper*  
“*Plays Well with Others*”

Andy Newman's piece on a production by Pittsburgh's City Theatre fulfills the mission of alternative weeklies to thoughtfully cover local artists. That said, we readers with little curiosity about the Pittsburgh theater scene were drawn in by his account of the interaction among playwright, director and actors. In telling the story of how one production took shape, Newman captured how art gets made. No mean feat.

**TI/HONORABLE MENTION:** Fred Camper, *Chicago Reader*  
“*Temma Lowly and the Meaning of Life*”

Painter Tim Lowly has taken to rendering portraits of his catastrophically disabled daughter Temma, and when one of his friends looks at those images, he gets reminded how if we aren't careful, we could easily miss the ways God is at work in the world. One needn't necessarily be a believer or even an art lover to be moved by Fred Camper's grace-flecked and deeply empathic rendering of the devastated situation and the sustaining faiths of Temma's parents, and of the mysterious life force still apparently coursing through the girl herself.

**TI/HONORABLE MENTION:** Bernice Yeung, *SF Weekly*  
“*Dancing with the Butoh Masters*”

Bernice Yeung deftly braids an introduction to Butoh, a style of Japanese modern dance that fuses the beautiful and the grotesque, with the story of two of its greatest performers, who also happen to run a sushi restaurant in San Francisco's rundown Mission district. A fascinating tale of cultural translation — and mistranslation.

# Business

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PRIZE:** Barbara Solow, *Independent Weekly*  
“Blue Notes”

Barbara Solow’s “Blue Notes” provides a sophisticated analysis of the potential perils of North Carolina’s conversion of its Blue Cross into a for-profit enterprise. Solow deftly recounts the experience of other states, putting the potential local consequences in a broad national context. The issue has great significance for the people of the state, and Solow clearly lays out the process and the stakes.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PRIZE:** Gayle Reaves, *Fort Worth Weekly*  
“Accounting for Anguish”

Gayle Reaves’s “Accounting for Anguish” provides an early, inside look at one of the biggest business scandals in years. In detailing the whistleblower’s plight, Reeves clearly and presciently identifies the accounting tricks at the heart of the immense WorldCom scandal. The whistleblower’s story also provides a chilling picture of the corporate culture that fostered the accounting scandal. It’s a huge win for an alternative paper to be so early on such a major story.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Thomas Korosec, *Dallas Observer*  
“Enough to Make You Sick”

Thomas Korosec’s “Enough to Make You Sick” is a fresh, surprising look at the asbestos litigation industry. In a nuanced story, Korosec details the unlikely alliance between asbestos companies and some of the lawyers that sue them.

# Cartoon

4 OR FEWER PAPERS

**FIRST PLACE:** Chris Ware  
*various strips*

Chris Ware’s strips stand out as the most visually accomplished comics anywhere. It’s shocking that he is not in more newspapers. Ware’s experimentation with form remains vital and fascinating 10 years into his run, and his color sense is deeply subtle and lyrical. In contrast to the continual low murmur of political cartoons on the pages of newspapers, Ware tells stories that are tender and intimate, but also powerfully grand. Chris Ware graces the pages of the newspapers he appears in.

**SECOND PLACE:** Garret Gaston  
“La Petite Camera”

Gaston’s cartoons are a wonderful mix of poetry, nightmares and comedy, like surreal fairy tales for mordant children. His drawings are uniquely decorative and closely examined, and he expertly handles a wide range of subjects, from the personal to the social to the political.

**THIRD PLACE:** Jen Sorenson  
“Slowpoke”

Using iconic visual shorthand, Sorenson creates an appealing dreamlike world. By starting with the issues of today, and immediately pushing them into the realm of the absurd, she allays readers’ fears with her twisted yet reassuring worldview.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Greg Peters  
“Suspect Device”

Peters’ dry, allusive wit is nicely matched with the neat collages of clip art, photographs and engravings he constructs. He shows a deep concern for the local politics and character of Louisiana, and his opinions are frequently unexpected. It’s also a very funny cartoon.

5 OR MORE PAPERS

**FIRST PLACE:** Ken Fisher (Ruben Bolling)  
“Tom the Dancing Bug”

“Tom the Dancing Bug” is consistently funny, pointed without being dogmatic, and takes on subjects that no one else does. Fisher’s approach is always innovative, utilizing everything from a single image to a series of mini-strips to make his points. Excellent fun, it’s also an oasis of keen intelligence in the comics page.

**SECOND PLACE:** John Backderf (Derf)  
“The City”

“The City” is one of the most visually arresting strips out there and does a great job of grappling with the issues of the day while remaining funny. Backderf is always on top of what’s on the minds of readers, and his ability to change gears between political satire and social satire makes his strip interesting and new on a weekly basis.

# Column

CIRCULATION < 50,000

No award.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Chuck Strouse, *New Times Broward-Palm Beach*

Chuck Strouse's columns stood out from the others we looked at because he was not content to merely give his opinions, but backed them up with thorough and enterprising reporting.

# Column-Political Commentary

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** James Shannon, *MetroBEAT*

James Shannon treats local readers with the respect they deserve, bringing large and complex issues home with engaging and effective writing. "Iraqnophobia" was a good example of something an alternative paper can do — bring an international story home.

**SECOND PLACE:** Al Diamon, *Portland Phoenix*

Al Diamon tackles the nitty-gritty of local politics with wit and flair, and at heart he takes local politics seriously, a hallmark of the alternative press. He's topical and informative and knows his stuff.

**THIRD PLACE:** Nate Blakeslee, *The Texas Observer*

Nate Blakeslee's editorials are informed, passionate and forceful. He knows how to make a point.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Robert Nelson, *Phoenix New Times*

Robert Nelson's writing is clear and compelling; his reporting is sharp and careful. His powerful column about the near-lethal beating of Jefferson McGee — a prisoner wrongly accused of raping and murdering a child — exemplifies what a free press is supposed to do when confronted with official criminality.

**SECOND PLACE:** Jim Schutze, *Dallas Observer*

Jim Schutze doesn't just write political columns. He tells exquisitely reported stories that advocate without preaching, and he's funny, too — all of which explains why he is a perennial contender for these awards.

**THIRD PLACE:** Chris Potter, *Pittsburgh City Paper*

For a rich illustration of Potter's deliciously effective tone, look no further than his deft translation — into fictional Belgian terms — of George Bush's nationalistic response to the Quecreek mining rescue: Terrific.

# Cover Design

## CIRCULATION < 50,000

FIRST PLACE: David Jayne, Andrea Diaz & David Robert, *Reno News & Review*

First by a mile. Solid type, provocative images. Consistent, well thought out and executed.

SECOND PLACE: Dora Sison, *Gambit Weekly*

The adult literacy cover was especially cool. We wish more American papers would demonstrate this kind of controlled risk more frequently. They have a clean style for their teasers, but it seems to work for them. The visual images are strong and work with the content.

THIRD PLACE: Don Eggert & Diane Sullivan, *Seven Days*

We really liked the “hindsight” 2002 cover (George Bush with “20/20” vision), it was a great surprise, but the rest of the pages fell off quickly. These are a little different.

TIE/HONORABLE MENTION: Amy Pastre, *Charleston City Paper*

Showed some real effort. Somewhat cliché ideas but strong execution and a polished result. Nice mix of visual images with typography — “Bright Idea” Issue and “Desperately Seeking the East Side” in particular.

TIE/HONORABLE MENTION: Alex Abatie, *Santa Barbara Independent*

Managed to take the type explosion that most of the covers suffered from (the overly promo-heavy fronts) and restrain it a little. In addition, they offered some evocative imagery and different mediums.

## CIRCULATION > 50,000

FIRST PLACE: Todd Bates, *Weekly Planet (Tampa)*

All three submissions were very different in style and typography, but each seemed to catch the eye and hold the theme. Particularly liked “Peeping Feds.” Much more scaled-down type still communicates strongly. And allowing the cover illustration to become/replace part of the nameplate is handled with style.

SECOND PLACE: Jay Vollmar, *Westword*

Immediately stopped on “Street Angel” cover, but all art has an edge and the type treatments seemed to have been planned with the illustrations. Stunning imagery, superb typography. We wanted to read more.

THIRD PLACE: Heather Swaim, *OC Weekly*

Images work with the content — surfing Jack Russell for summer, Satan and drugs. Sign us up. Seriously, though, shifting gears smoothly between wildly different topics, yet all have a sense of appeal without feeling overdone and crowded out by competing promo type.

TIE/HONORABLE MENTION: Bill Smith, *LA Weekly*

Fun, funky, hip. Wild adaptation and use of varied forms. Compelling and a real sense of storytelling through visuals.

TIE/HONORABLE MENTION: Brian Hogan, *Philadelphia City Paper*

The most “traditional” look of the entries we saw, but the “Paint the Town” cover is a nice play of color, type and space (other covers aren’t as strong).

TIE/HONORABLE MENTION: Tricia Reinhold, Heather Mull & Brian Holderman, *Pittsburgh City Paper*

Love the two illustration covers and the “Why Jean Fink Won’t Blink” portrait cover in b&w: Can you imagine trying to make a centerpiece or cover story out of a school board battle? Very compelling.

# Editorial Layout

CIRCULATION < 50,000

No first place.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** *Monterey County Coast Weekly*  
“Driving Green”

Big cars, nasty emissions, long commutes. *Monterey County Coast Weekly*’s “Driving Green” package used strong iconic photography and typography to visually capture the key issues facing an eco-crusader in the market for a new car.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Heather Swaim, *OC Weekly*  
“Bombshell”

Smart, sassy, sophisticated. *OC Weekly*’s “bombshell” sex issue was, well, really sexy. Painstaking attention to detail was evident on every page — even those that should have been write-offs because of the ad stack — and the juxtaposition of retro images and graphic elements was expertly executed. The typography was top-notch as was the visual editing. And the mix of pages with on- and off-grid column design gave the issue great pacing.

**SECOND PLACE:** Doug Kubert & Jay Thorton, *The Pitch*  
“Oh, My Goth”

*Pitch Weekly*’s “Oh, My Goth” layout makes the best of what newsprint has to offer. The high-contrast photo, rough-edged type and graphic scratchiness all contribute to a raw quality that is entirely appropriate to the subject matter. The tension between that raw character and the elegance of the page architecture and the fonts make for a dynamic and meaningful presentation.

**THIRD PLACE:** Frank Goodenough, *Dallas Observer*  
“Hope in Hell”

The *Dallas Observer*’s “Hope In Hell” is a compelling photo essay about Cameron Park, Texas, the “poorest town in the U.S.A.” The designer utilized strong shapes, smart white space and bold typography to complement the photos without running roughshod over them. The main typeface is all sharp-edged and distressed adding a graphic dimension to the mood of the photography.

# Feature

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Adrienne Martini, *Metro Pulse*  
“Five Days in the Psych Ward”

The elegance and the verbal control throughout this piece are at heartbreaking odds with the writer’s emotional and psychological chaos. Martini documents what post-partum depression can do to a mother without offering false resolution. A clear winner.

**SECOND PLACE:** Tricia Booker, *Folio Weekly*  
“Long Lost Friend”

Booker gives us a haunting example of how bureaucracy and human foible can conspire to trap a person everyone is intending to help.

**THIRD PLACE:** Ron Netsky, *City Newspaper*  
“Jump Jim Crow”

As a work of oral history, this piece orchestrates a stunning array of voices from people who may have recovered their dignity after racist rebuffs and slurs, but who never lost their sense of injustice. The respect and the restraint throughout add to the reader’s sense of outrage.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Jill Kramer, *Pacific Sun*  
“Justice Denied”

A meticulously reported story that has been told before, but cannot be told often enough, about how money and gender can corrupt the blind eye of justice.

# Feature

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Jason Cherkis, *Washington City Paper*  
“*The Others*”

Cherkis’s reporting is extraordinary, and his tone and pacing nearly perfect from beginning to end. Cherkis showed how mental illness and subculture can reflect and intensify one another, a theme that is often alluded to but almost never explained. Strong, restrained writing.

**SECOND PLACE:** Annys Shin, *Washington City Paper*  
“*Little Big Shot*”

Shin’s gentle but persistent reporting gives us Derrell Simpson, a young, very young politician who already understands that everyone you meet on the way up you (1) may meet on the way down and (2) more importantly, is a potential vote. One judge said, “The writer took a subject that most people never think about — a kid running for office — and infused it with life. I laughed and was caught up in the story. That’s a testament to the reporting and writing.”

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Brad Zellar, *City Pages (Twin Cities)*  
“*Little Big Man*”

Some subjects invite condescension, and this oddball dugout hanger-on is a perfect candidate, but the profile we get of Wayne Hattaway is instead respectful and touching. Beautiful use of quotations.

**TIE/HONORABLE MENTION:** Glenna Whitley, *Dallas Observer*  
“*Crazy White Mother*”

This portrait of a rich young nihilist, narrated by his hard-luck partner, was both unsettling and compelling.

# Food Writing

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Sara Roahen, *Gambit Weekly*

Whether she’s diving into Vietnamese bubble tea, “fish-forward” flounder or tubs of gumbo, Roahen writes knowledgeably about her subjects in a lively, entertaining style.

**SECOND PLACE:** Sam Lange & Gary Laing, *The Local Planet Weekly*

This duo’s downscale “Moonshine” column is straight-forward, clean, unaffected and with lots of personality. They lead their readers, apparently novices to the pleasures of the cup, through the bewildering mazes of adult beverage choices, with witty explanations of how they are produced and marketed, as well as how they taste.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Dara Moskowitz, *City Pages (Twin Cities)*

Clean, knowledgeable, entertaining — Moskowitz writes about more than food, though she gets that in all right. She also writes about the people who eat the food, want the food, search for the food and, of course, cook the food, with grace and wit.

**SECOND PLACE:** Paul Reidinger, *San Francisco Bay Guardian*

Thoughtful, with an attention to the details of mood and presentation that make his reviews come alive.

**THIRD PLACE:** Naomi Wise, *San Diego Reader*

She goes beyond the standard restaurant review to arm the reader with feature story-style background and detail on these distinctive San Diego chefs and entrepreneurs.

# Illustration

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Ryan Greis & Sean Hughes, *Cincinnati CityBeat*  
“Does Your Vote Count?”

This had the best rendering style of all the entries and the overscale hand and devil was a draw to readers. Concept perhaps a bit forced, but very well executed. We thought the page design was strong where the devil's hand goes through the letter O in the word vote. On tab covers, the design link between words and artwork is vital. This one worked.

**SECOND PLACE:** Gregory Dickens, *MetroBEAT*  
“Overwhelmed”

The various colors and textures in this illustration made it stand out from many entries, that had a ‘cartoonish’ look. It was more sophisticated in approach and execution. It has good, clean horizontal and vertical drama. It is captivating.

**THIRD PLACE:** Harry Bliss, *Seven Days*  
“Fat Chance”

We liked this entry for its simple approach and use of color. It reminded us of a lot of the work in the *New Yorker* magazine, kind of had a wry humor. Reading the type was fun, too.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Jeremy Bruneel, *The Georgia Straight*  
“Campbell's Cuts”

We loved the simplicity, the clean, straightforward approach to the subject. It had instant meaning to the reader. The audience would know Campbell is the premier of British Columbia, who is making cuts to entertainment funding. A cut-up dollar bill as legs is humorous. The drawing has wonderfully dramatic horizontal, vertical interaction. It is a sophisticated yet raw, highly graphic drawing. The “less is more” formula works here.

**SECOND PLACE:** David Terrill, *The Pitch*  
“To Dive For”

We were attracted to the illustration style and the use of typography in the illustration. The words ‘edgy and scratchy’ came to mind. One judge called it ‘powerful and unique.’

**THIRD PLACE:** Christiane Granert, *Washington City Paper*  
“Lien Times”

This kind of illustration is hard to do without fear of offending. We thought the illustrator really pulled off strong iconic work on the cover and inside pages. This illustration was highly conceptual and sophisticated because it made a complicated story seem easy to understand. The illustration had a beautiful mix of texture: flat faces, warm brick, lace curtains. Playful, yet poignant. Simple and complicated.

# Investigative

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Leslie Blade, *Cincinnati CityBeat*  
“Piling On”

Rather than merely reconstructing events from police reports and other records, Blade went the extra mile to uncover surveillance video and track down and interview witnesses whose relevant testimony never came to light at trial. Strong, even-handed and well written.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Tom Robbins, *The Village Voice*  
“The Lush Life of a Rudy Appointee: Russell Harding”

The hands-down winner in a category with several strong contenders. A classic example of the rewards of dogged determination: Robbins’ pursuit of previously denied records and surprise sources produced not just one terrific and readable story but a string of them — each more revealing than the last.

**SECOND PLACE:** Ron Russell, *New Times Los Angeles*  
“Mouth Wide Shut”

Russell makes his case: exhaustively researched, beautifully written and clearly presented.

**THIRD PLACE:** Chris Thompson, *East Bay Express*  
“The Sinister Side of Yusef Bey’s Empire”

The depth of Thompson’s reporting is clearly visible in his thoroughly researched and deftly handled treatment of an obviously difficult and politically sensitive subject.

# Media Reporting

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Maria Luisa Tucker, *Santa Fe Reporter*  
“Copping Out”

The author took a seemingly technical, narrowcast issue — media access to police records — and rendered a story that was full of broad implications. She did it the old fashioned way, with a great lede, original reporting, germane examples, and smart conclusions that were well supported by what came before it. Nothing fancy, just great craft arrayed over a complicated topic.

**SECOND PLACE:** Jeremy Hadley, Tom Grant & Rob Wilkinson, *The Local Planet Weekly*  
“The State of Radio”

The judges stepped up to the main story in this submission with a lot of skepticism. Stakeholders in Spokane’s local radio scene — DJs, musicians, and radio executives — were convened to discuss that hardy perennial of why radio sucks. But what could have been preachy and didactic came off as thoughtful and constructive. Proscriptive approaches to local issues are a dangerous exercise, but the staff at *The Local Planet Weekly* used sidebars, credible sourcing, and an absence of whining to bring real insight and, heaven forbid, real change, to a seemingly intractable cultural conundrum. Other stories in the submission about the emasculation of indie radio and the sex-fetish of mainstream morning shows demonstrated that this paper has great ears for a good story.

# Media Reporting

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Jennifer Mathieu, *Houston Press*  
“Reality TV Bites”

We’ve all watched in mock horror and secret joy as the pain of others was writ large on the small screen for the rest of us to enjoy. “Houston Medical,” a reality-based series by ABC, included astounding footage of Chad and Shani Walter in the midst of losing one of their twin boys. The Walter’s unfathomable loss became TV fodder, and the *Houston Press* examined where all that great footage came from. As the writer carefully explained, the public’s opportunity to feel their pain came at significant cost to the subjects. A smart, well-rendered portrait of a cultural phenomena that will be with us for some time to come.

**SECOND PLACE:** Amy Roe, *Willamette Week*  
“Professor Soundbite”

Readers who might stop to wonder about how much that “expert” being quoted really knows were well-served by this deconstruction of one talking head from Portland. In riveting and ironically rendered detail, the reporter unpacks the expertise of an oft-quoted local professor on terrorism. As it turns out, a willingness to feed the beast with whatever quote they are in need of is much more important than genuine credentials. Great topic with serious and knowing execution.

**TIE/ HONORABLE MENTION:** Kathy Glasgow, *Miami New Times*  
“Incessant Static”

It takes a brave writer to step up to a big issue in the Cuban exile community in Miami, and Ms. Glasgow seemed more than equal to the challenge. Radio and TV Marti are publicly funded media outlets that the writer effectively argued had been turned into a fiefdom by those in charge. This is the rare altie newspaper takedown that had great facts, real beef, and fair-minded conclusions.

**TIE/ HONORABLE MENTION:** Thomas Francis, *Cleveland Scene*  
“Hip-Hopcrisy”

What happens when radio for, by and of the people turns out to be radio for something else entirely? This was a terrific micro case study of a macro problem.

# Music Criticism

CIRCULATION < 50,000

Scott Jordan, *Gambit Weekly*

Jordan accurately reflects the rich musical heritage of one of the world’s great music centers, New Orleans. His finely-wrought miniatures always have a point of view, always tell a little story, and always show real thought and engagement. One judge says, “Scott Jordan is my kind of writer: simple, direct, informative, humorous. . . . There’s no trickery, everything is laid out clearly. No mind games with literary prowess. Thank you, Scott Jordan, for your intelligence and the gift to know that ‘less is more.’”

CIRCULATION > 50,000

Monica Kendrick, *Chicago Reader*

Chicago is extremely lucky to have Monica Kendrick writing about music. She is real smart, real funny, and real human. Her surprising, alive language is always tethered to precision of meaning. Kendrick’s lively, provocative writing displays a thorough familiarity with and intense curiosity about her subjects. She also conveys an identifiable point-of-view throughout her writing. One judge said, “She managed to make me vitally interested, for the duration of her pieces, in music that I usually pay no attention to. I became an instant fan of hers reading her entries. Wow.” Another writes: “I learned while also being entertained. . . . The piece ‘Screaming Bloody Mordor’ was most insightful on the immense impression J. R. R. Tolkien has had on hard rock. This article for me is her ‘piece de resistance.’ I absolutely loved it. With Monica Kendrick spinning her tales there is hope for the world of journalism. Bravo, Monica.”

# News Feature

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Nancy Guerin, *Metroland*  
“Schenectady Calling.”

The cheerful tale of how Mayor Al Juczynski is luring hundreds of Guyanese immigrants from New York City to his town of Schenectady, helping turn around a place that has been known as a “hellhole.” Guerin’s portraits of Juczynski and his Guyanese recruits are vivid. She captures the optimism and incongruity of the story in clear, lively prose.

**SECOND PLACE:** Liliana Ibara, *The Texas Observer*  
“A Trial in Tulia”

With clarity and evenhandedness, Liliana Ibara spins out a compelling tale of what is at worst a miscarriage of justice, and at best an overzealous prosecution. By recounting this one case — of a man convicted of manslaughter, Ibara suggests that there is more amiss in Tulia, Texas, than just the wrongful arrests of black citizens for drug dealing.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Mike Sula, *Chicago Reader*  
“Killer on the Loose,”

“Killer on the Loose” is a medical mystery story with a microbe as the murder suspect. Mike Sula deftly captures a medical team’s race against time as it tries to diagnose and contain an outbreak of flesh-eating bacteria at Evanston Hospital. The committee was particularly struck by Sula’s vivid writing, narrative control, and careful selection of telling detail.

**SECOND PLACE:** Mark Donald, *Dallas Observer*  
“Dirty or Duped”

In “Dirty or Duped?” Mark Donald recounts in vivid detail how the Dallas Police Department’s use of informants may have inspired numerous false drug arrests. In this extraordinarily reported story, Donald avoids pointing fingers and instead concludes that there is something fundamentally wrong with the way police departments use informants, especially in drug cases.

**THIRD PLACE:** Justin Berton, *East Bay Express*  
“Drugstore Cowboys”

“Drugstore Cowboys” is one part real-life who-dun-it, one part morality play, one part small business story, and one part soap opera. With energy and grace, Justin Berton pulls us into the world of Doc’s Pharmacy in Walnut Creek, California, both before and after a contaminated batch of an anti-inflammatory drug kills two people. Along the way, we are educated about drug regulation, health policy, and the foibles of human nature.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Jason Cherkis, Joe Dempsey, Sarah Godfrey, David Morton, Annys Shin, Chris Shott, Elissa Silverman and Erik Wemple, *Washington City Paper*  
“The Bishops Set Me Up!”

Thirteen short stories about a political scandal. *Washington City Paper*’s staff dissects the petition-forgery uproar that nearly ruined popular Mayor Anthony Williams’ re-election campaign. Instead of condensing its account into a single feature, *City Paper* splits it up into more than a dozen pieces: There are profiles, charts, sidebars, tick-tocks, and timelines. The experiment in form pays off. The range of stories allows *City Paper* to capture the scandal’s gravity, human cost, political consequence, stupidity, and absurdity.

# News Story

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Tim McGivern, *Weekly Alibi*

McGivern has great instinct for interesting public policy issues, and his style is forceful and passionate, advocacy journalism at its best. He lays his facts in the complex human and physical settings where environmental or social scandals thrive and even offers hope of solutions.

**SECOND PLACE:** Terje Langeland, *Colorado Springs Independent*

Solid reporting and calm delivery. Good use of internal files to document police spying on peace activists. Langeland holds the Colorado Springs Police Department's feet to the fire for its surveillance of peaceful protesters and First Amendment protected activities. An interesting and informative read

**THIRD PLACE:** Traci Moyer, *Illinois Times*

A police cruiser collides with a passenger car killing the driver. The driver's daughter is still getting bills from the police for damages. Workers resign after a family services center closes its day care. Temporary snowplow operators languish without benefits because no veterans can be found to fill the permanent positions. Moyers straps it on for them with her karate-chop reporting.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Thomas Francis, *Cleveland Scene*

Francis knows how to deliver the news of Cleveland's mean streets on the wings of great story-telling. He describes the conflicts at strip clubs, keg parties, and race-baiting fights with taut, heart-thumping prose. His articles on police brutality and a neighborhood heated with racial tension were great fast-paced reads, and perfect examples of getting past the bland police reports to find compelling stories.

**SECOND PLACE:** Joe Miller, *The Pitch*

Miller takes a nice sense of outrage and wraps it in hard facts and human faces. His exposures of bureaucratic bungling, obstructionism and cronyism make your blood boil. Miller's article on two high school debaters not allowed to compete evoked compassion for the students and anger at the adults who held them back. A strongly written and touching story.

**THIRD PLACE:** Amy Silverman, *Phoenix New Times*

Silverman's writing is clever and intricate, leaving the reader shocked, maybe, but curiously refreshed. "Dying Young" pierced the secrecy of a state institution to explain in clear prose how a young man died. Silverman is a dogged reporter who clearly has a lot of talent.

# Photography

CIRCULATION < 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Walter Coker, *Folio Weekly*  
*"Through the Lens"*

The photographer's portraits and slice-of-life snapshots give a wonderful feel for the community, documenting everyday moments in ways that make them truly memorable.

**SECOND PLACE:** Bill Kennedy, *The Texas Observer*  
*"Brotherhood of the Neighborhood"*

The stark contrasts make this work captivating. Smiles against a backdrop of poverty; robed monks in a trashy alley; a "high-rise" shelter for a VW Beetle in an otherwise barren landscape. They paint a gripping picture of the Mexico City neighborhood.

**THIRD PLACE:** Nancy Santos, *Charleston City Paper*  
*"Portraits and Profiles"*

The photographer does a perfect job of not only capturing the qualities she was looking to portray in her subjects, but does so in a way that provides an array of flavors of personality.

CIRCULATION > 50,000

**FIRST PLACE:** Max Gerber, *LA Weekly*  
*"Microbats, Broken Skulls, Rocket Girls & Prehistoric Beach Bears"*

Gorgeous portraits, dramatically staged in a way that captures the flavor of the characters. This is portrait photography at its best, done with vivid imagination.

**SECOND PLACE:** Steve Satterwhite, *Miami New Times*  
*"We're #1"*

The package is spiced by the playful irony of the approach to the bad news, but the meat comes in the grim feel of the strong documentary pictures of Miami's poorest areas. The pictures are stark and compelling, revealing a Miami that even the statistics don't prepare you for.

**THIRD PLACE:** Saul Bromberg & Sandra Hoover,  
*San Francisco Bay Guardian*  
*"Local Discovery Awards"*

The photographers capture the energy and the attitudes of the subjects, showing why they are on the edge of the Bay-area scene.