

THE CONTEST SEEKS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE

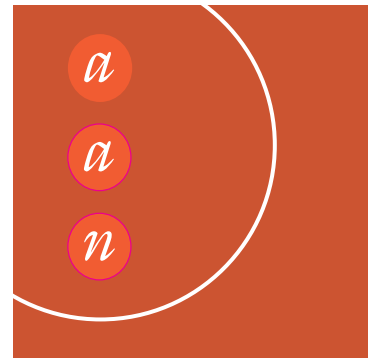
BY RECOGNIZING WORK THAT IS WELL WRITTEN,

INCISIVELY REPORTED AND ORIGINAL, AND

THAT PRESENTS AN EFFECTIVE CHALLENGE

TO ESTABLISHED ORTHODOXIES.

Association of Alternative Newsweeklies



2003 ALTERNATIVE
NEWSWEEKLY
AWARDS

GENERAL RULES

The contest is open to members of the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies.

Publication period for entries in all categories is January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002.

All entries become the property of the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies. Entries will not be returned.

AAN reserves the right to republish winning entries in part or in whole for publicity or educational purposes.

Competition in each category will be divided into two classes based on circulation figures. The circulation cut-off is 50,000. Participating papers will be automatically assigned to their proper circulation category, with reference to circulation figures provided in the AAN directory.

A fee is required for each entry. The entry fee for large papers (circulation over 50,000) is \$25; the entry fee for small papers (circulation 50,000 and under) is \$15. Papers submitting more than one entry should send one check payable to AAN to cover all fees.

Applicants may submit only one entry per category, except for the Arts Criticism, Feature Story and News Feature categories, where up to three entries may be submitted. (Prepare each one as a completely separate entry.)

The same work may not be submitted in more than one category, except for editorial layout and one other category.

Entries must be submitted by the editor, publisher or another designated representative of the paper.

Each submission must have been published originally in the applicant paper.

ENTRY PREPARATION

Unless otherwise noted, each entry must include an original tearsheet(s) and five (5) one-sided, stapled 11" x 17" copies folded and placed in a letter-size file folder.

In the Illustration, Photo Journalism, Editorial Layout and Design categories, each entry must include five (5) original tearsheets folded and placed in a letter-size file folder.

A completed entry form must be stapled to the outside of the file folder.

Letters of explanation are acceptable in all categories. However, supporting materials are not allowed. (If a letter of explanation is included with an entry, copies of the letter should be stapled to the front of each of the five 11" x 17" copies submitted with the entry.)

Entries that do not follow all of the guidelines stated in these rules will be disqualified.

All entries must be received in the AAN office by Friday, January 31, 2003. Do not call the AAN office to ask for an extension. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Send entries to AAN Editorial Contest, 1020 Sixteenth St. NW, Fourth Floor, Washington, DC 20036-5702, telephone: (202) 822-1955.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The judging of editorial entries will take place in two rounds. Four to eight entries will be selected as finalists in each category in the first round. Design categories will be judged in one round.

All finalists will be notified in May 2003. The winners will be announced at the 26th Annual AAN Convention in Pittsburgh June 5-8.

Certificates will be awarded to all first-, second-, and third-place winners, as well as honorable mention recipients.

CATEGORIES

ARTS CRITICISM (Each paper may submit up to three entries in this category.) Entries may include up to three unrelated pieces by the same author(s). Submissions pertaining to any genre except popular music are eligible, including, but not limited to, film, literature, dance, classical music, video, multimedia, photography, painting, sculpture, theater, and performance art. Judges will consider the quality of the writing and matters of style as well as the cogency and originality of the writer's observations and descriptions. Judges will also be alert to the demonstrations of independent thought, critical intelligence and a command of the subject matter.

ARTS FEATURE Entries must include a single feature-length story or series that pertains to any arts genre, including, but not limited to, film, popular music, literature, dance, classical music, video, multimedia, photography, painting, sculpture, food, theater and performance art. Judges will consider the quality of the writing and matters of style, as well as the thoroughness of the reporting and the significance and impact of the information presented.

The 2003 Wild-Card Category*

BUSINESS Entries must include one feature-length story or series reporting on business. Judges will evaluate the general quality of the writing, especially the entrant's ability to convey complex issues simply and persuasively, the thoroughness of the reporting, and the significance and impact of the information presented.

COLUMN Entries must include three representative columns by the same author(s). The column must be locally prepared. Judges will consider the quality of the writing and matters of style and will award points for lucidity, wit, originality, independent thought, clarity of voice and a distinctive tone.

COLUMN - POLITICAL COMMENTARY

Entries must include three representative columns by the same author(s). The column must be locally prepared, and must focus on politics and/or governance. Judges will consider the quality of the writing and matters of style and will award points for lucidity, wit, originality, independent thought, clarity of voice and a distinctive tone.

COVER DESIGN Entries must include three covers. Insert and special-section covers are not eligible. Five original tearsheets must be submitted for each cover comprising the entry. (Please do not mount the tearsheets.) Judges will consider originality, impact, design execution and editorial relevance.

EDITORIAL LAYOUT Entries must include original, full-page tearsheet(s) incorporating all of the text and graphics from one complete feature-length article. Five complete sets of original tearsheets must be submitted for each entry. Judges will consider originality, expressiveness and visual appeal of the interaction of words and images, including text, photos, graphics, cutlines and headlines. (The feature submitted in this category may also be submitted in one other category.)

FEATURE STORY (Each paper may submit up to three entries in this category.) Each entry must include a single non-arts related feature-length story or series. Judges will consider the quality of the writing and matters of style, as well as the thoroughness of the reporting and the significance and impact of the information presented.

FOOD CRITICISM Entries may include up to three unrelated pieces by the same author(s). Judges will consider the quality of the writing and matters of style as well as the cogency and originality of the writer's observations and descriptions. Judges will also be alert to demonstrations of independent thought, critical intelligence and a command of the subject matter.

ILLUSTRATION Entries must include an original, full-page tearsheet incorporating a single illustration; or several original, full-page tearsheets incorporating a related series of illustrations by the same artist(s). (Please do not send the original illustration.) Five tearsheets must be submitted for each illustration comprising the entry. Cover illustrations are eligible. Judges will consider technical excellence, visual impact and the capacity of the illustration(s) to enhance and illustrate a story.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING Entries must include one feature-length story or series that provides evidence of extensive research and/or investigation. Judges will evaluate the general quality of the writing, especially the entrant's ability to convey complex issues simply and persuasively; the thoroughness of the reporting; and the significance and impact of the information presented.

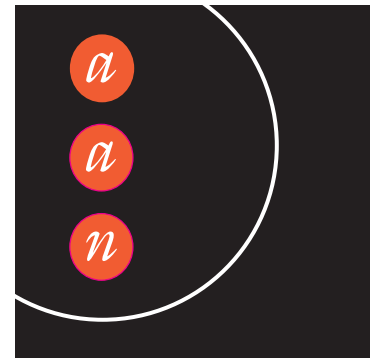
MEDIA REPORTING Entries must include one story or series reporting on media issues. Judges will consider the quality of the writing and matters of style, as well as the thoroughness of the reporting and the significance and impact of the information presented. Judges will also be alert to demonstrations of independent thought and an understanding of media issues.

MUSIC CRITICISM Entries may include up to three unrelated pieces by the same author(s). Judges will consider the quality of the writing and matters of style as well as the cogency and originality of the writer's observations and descriptions. Judges will also be alert to demonstrations of independent thought, critical intelligence and a command of the subject matter.

NEWS FEATURE (Each paper may submit up to three entries in this category.) Each entry must include a single news story or series totaling more than 1,500 words. Judges will consider the thoroughness of the reporting and the significance and impact of the information presented, as well as the quality of writing and matters of style.

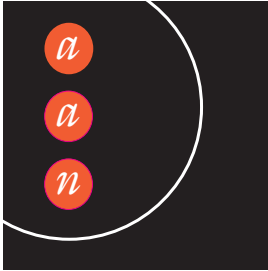
NEWS STORY Entries must include three news stories of less than 1,500 words by a single writer. Judges will consider the thoroughness of the reporting and the significance and impact of the information presented, as well as the quality of writing and matters of style.

PHOTOGRAPHY Entries must include an original, full-page tearsheet incorporating a single photo; or several original, full-page tearsheets incorporating a related series of photos by the same photographer(s). Photo essays are eligible for consideration, as well as a photograph or a series of photographs illustrating a related story or article. Five tearsheets must be submitted for each photo(s) comprising the entry. Judges will consider technical excellence, visual impact, the capacity of the photography to enhance and illustrate a story, and evidence that the photographer(s) exercised unusual diligence or ingenuity in taking the photo(s). Cover photos are eligible.



2003 ALTERNATIVE NEWSWEEKLY AWARDS

*Every year, the awards contest features a special wild-card category for reporting on a specific topic. This category was established by the Editorial Committee to recognize papers that show initiative in covering a broad array of issues that may be outside the scope of typical weekly coverage. Immediately prior to the publication of the call for entries, the wild card is selected at random by the AAN staff from among topics chosen by the Editorial Committee. To avoid influencing papers' coverage, the wild card is not revealed in advance to any AAN members. This year's wild-card category is business.



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ENTRY FORM

PAPER

DATE(S) OF PUBLICATION

REPORTER(S) OR ARTIST(S) NAMES AS THEY SHOULD APPEAR ON CERTIFICATE

PERSON SUBMITTING ENTRY

CATEGORIES

- ARTS CRITICISM
- ARTS FEATURE
- BUSINESS
- COLUMN
- COLUMN - POLITICAL COMMENTARY
- COVER DESIGN
- EDITORIAL LAYOUT
- FEATURE STORY
- FOOD WRITING
- ILLUSTRATION
- INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
- MEDIA REPORTING
- MUSIC CRITICISM
- NEWS FEATURE
- NEWS STORY
- PHOTOGRAPHY

REMINDERS

Staple a completed entry form to each file folder containing an entry. Please do not send original photographs or illustrations. Please reproduce this form for additional entries. All entries must be received by the AAN office by January 31, 2003.

Send entries to:
AAN Editorial Contest
1020 Sixteenth Street NW
Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5702
Telephone: (202) 822-1955