

**2003**  
**Editorial Daily**  
**NJPA Better Newspaper Contest Results**

**Overall Awards**

**Journalist of the Year, Daily**

“Profiting From Public Service”

Paul D'Ambrosio

Asbury Park Press, Neptune

*Judges comments: A clear winner. A powerful expose. It is evident that a ton of tedious work went into this massive project. A provocative, infuriating look at greed and self-aggrandizement in NJ's political underworld.*

*Would have seen boxes splattered throughout the pages separately addressing how each different “sin” gave the politician and his family/business quality of life advantages the voter who put him in office doesn't have, but is paying for, etc. i.e. several jobs adding up to bigger pensions and a cushy upcoming retirement. I'd title the boxes, “How does this make you feel?”*

*Would like to have seen a chart of how all politicians cited in the series for their misdeeds made out in the election: did they win or lose? By how many votes? One was cited (Bennett's race).*

*Great job!*

**Overall Awards**

**General Excellence, Daily, under 60,000**

Herald News, West Paterson

**Overall Awards**

**General Excellence, Daily, over 60,000**

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**D-01 Responsible Journalism**

**Public Service, Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“In the Line of Fire”

Staff

Burlington County Times, Willingboro

**Second Place**

“AIDS Series”

Martin Espinoza

The Jersey Journal, Jersey City

**Third Place**

No winner

*Judges comments: First Place – Classic newspaper work – shedding light on an issue and creating awareness of a problem. This newspaper is comprehensive, enlightening and urgent in its coverage of two important issues that affect its community.*

*Second Place: The Jersey Journal is an exemplary community steward with this entry. Exhibiting right doing and wrongdoing is one of newspapers great missions. The Journal has not let its readers down in this category with these stories.*

**D-01 Responsible Journalism**

**Public Service, Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“Guns”

John Froomjian and Michael Diamond  
The Press of Atlantic City, Pleasantville

**Second Place**

“Costly Lessons”

Jason Method  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Third Place**

“Poison in the Wind”

Staff  
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judges comments: First Place – Tightly written, well-documented and quick results. What more could you ask for. These stories improved public safety.*

*Second Place – Alarming findings. Classic watchdog reporting. Could have been more tightly edited.*

*Third Place – Strong expose on air pollution and its effects. Hard to get movement on these issues.*

**D-02 Responsible Journalism**

**Editorial Comment**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Thank A Cop, Now”

Janice Piccotti  
The Express-Times, Easton

**Second Place**

“Orwell's '1984' Arrives 19 Years Late”

Alfred Doblin  
Herald News, West Paterson  
**Third Place**  
“Sentence Plays Right Percentage”  
Helen E. Fitzsimmons  
Ocean County Observer, Toms River

*Judges comments: These entries all had a couple traits in common: All were thoughtful yet concise enough for the time-starved reader and all had great beginnings and great endings.*

**D-02 Responsible Journalism**

**Editorial Comment**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“Investigating Elections”  
Carla Linz  
The Press of Atlantic City, Pleasantville

**Second Place**

“A Bad Decision”  
Jim Wright  
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Third Place**

“Make Counseling A Police Practice,” “Budget Showdown A Shameful Act” and “Ocean GOP’s Glass Ceiling”  
Lawrence Benjamin  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

*Judges comments: Picking between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> was difficult. The Press editorial writer won out because of the piece on the Salvation Army bell-ringing. I loved that the writer did out-of-the-office reporting. Too few editorialists – including this one – do this on a regular basis and getting back to journalism fundamentals should be rewarded. The Record writer’s thoughts were well reasoned, though making for a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Asbury Park Press writer has a wonderful penchant for turns of phrase. All three entrants are deserving of awards.*

**D-03 Responsible Journalism**

**Enterprise**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Reverse Course”  
Kathleen Carroll  
Herald News, West Paterson

**Second Place**

“One Iraqi’s Journey Home”

Jonathan Maslow  
Herald News, West Paterson  
**Third Place**  
“Invisible Workers”  
David Levinsky and Lauren Janis  
Burlington County Times, Willingboro

*Judges comments – First Place – This reporter took a great idea and told it not through bureaucracy and statistics but through the people who participated in and were affected by this important social shift.*

*Second Place – Maslow put people on the ground and gave them a look at what was behind the biggest story of the year.*

*Third Place – These reporters took an important story and humanized it. They shed light on the people fueling the backbreaking work of the nation’s underground economy.*

### **D-03 Responsible Journalism**

**Enterprise**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“The New Plague”

Amy Ellis Nutt

The Star-Ledger, Newark

**Second Place**

“Boss Norcross”

Alan Guenther

Courier-Post, Cherry Hill

**Third Place**

“A Child's Struggle, A Mother's Love”

Lindy Washburn

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judges comments – First Place – This entry was outrageously ambitious and remarkably engaging. The writer draws us in and tells a complicated story by using compelling anecdotes and simple language. It’s a frightening series, but alarmist with good reason. Finally, we understand why amoxicillin stopped having any affect on our kids’ ear infections.*

*Second Place – Few reporters would have the patience and persistence that Alan Guenther showed in putting together this story. The subject would not cooperate and made calls to ask others to stonewall as well. Despite this, Guenther produced an*

*insightful portrait of an important political figure. The newspaper also should be credited for taking on this story and not backing down.*

*Third Place – This is a well-written story, shown through the eyes of the mother. Time spent with the subject, attention to natural action and detail and a soft writing touch make the story.*

**D-04 Responsible Journalism**

**First Amendment (The Art Weissman Memorial Award)**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Jail vs. Therapy: The Mentally Ill Behind Bars”  
Abbott Koloff, Laura Bruno and Matt Manochio  
Daily Record, Parsippany

**Second Place**

“Playing with Fire”  
Kathleen Carroll and Maura McDermott  
Herald News, West Paterson

**Third Place**

“Moonlight Cop Avoids Charges”  
Michaelangelo Conte  
The Jersey Journal, Jersey City

*Judges comments – First Place – The Daily Record news team took on a daunting task and succeeded: It managed to put a human face on a problem that traditionally defies scrutiny because of the entities involved – jails and mental health agencies. For thoroughness, scope, balance and even poignancy, this series was hard to beat. It was the kind of reporting that demanded something be done – and it was. Jail vs. Therapy was obviously well planned and well executed – a credit to the Daily Record Staff and to journalism as an instrument of change.*

*Second Place – The writer made excellent use of the state’s open government laws to expose what amounted to criminal negligence on the part of the school system’s facilities director. What’s more, her doggedness in following up her own stories kept school officials on notice that the Herald News would not shirk its duty as a public watchdog. The children, parents and teachers in Paterson should be grateful for journalists like Kathleen Carroll.*

*Third Place – Mr. Conte showed the value of going after documents to build a case that can’t be stonewalled. His reporting not only saved taxpayers dollars, it kept the police department from sweeping an embarrassing episode under the rug.*

**D-04 Responsible Journalism**

**First Amendment (The Art Weissman Memorial Award)**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“Marlboro Connections”

James Quirk and James W. Prado Roberts  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Second Place**

“School Bus Inspections”

Karen Ayres  
The Times, Trenton

**Third Place**

“Prescription for Peril”

Mary Jo Layton, Benjamin Lesser  
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Perhaps one of your managing editors put it best in his cover letter when he wrote, in New Jersey, politics is crooked. Not some politics, all politics. So, your papers obviously have a lot of fodder for First Amendment issues – and many showed remarkable energy and effort in bringing the abuse and corruption to light.*

*But none could match the saga of the chummy relationship between the Marlboro mayor and one of the community’s largest developers. The story sounds like something straight out of “The Sopranos”, right down to the go-go bar. Because there were so many other examples of this kind of you-scratch-my-back, I’ll scratch-your-back kind of details, it almost seems expected of newspapers in your part of the world. So, for our second-and third place winners, we chose papers that brought issues of public safety to light. Karen Ayres showed remarkable initiative in investigating school bus inspection reports, and Mary Jo Layton and Benjamin Lesser doggedly tried to break the “white wall of silence” of the medical world at personal risk to themselves.*

**D-05 Reporting and Writing**

**Breaking News**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Officer Shot, Gunman Killed”

Staff  
The Express-Times, Easton

**Second Place**

“Pitman Landmark Burns”

Staff  
Gloucester County Times, Woodbury

**Third Place**

“War Hits Home”

Staff  
Herald News, West Paterson

*Judges comments – Entries were vivid in description, conveyed lots of information to readers and evoked emotional responses.*

## **D-05 Reporting and Writing**

### **Breaking News**

**Daily, over 60,000**

#### **First Place**

“Seton Hall Fire”

Guy Sterling, Mark Mueller, Bob Rudolph, Ted Sherman, Tom Feeney, Rebecca Goldsmith, Mary Jo Patterson, Robert Schwaneberg, Brian Murray, John Hassell, Kate Cocarelli and Kelly Heyboer  
The Star-Ledger, Newark

#### **Second Place**

“Walloped”

Staff

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

#### **Third Place**

“Tropicana Garage Collapses”

William H. Sokolic, Michael T. Burkhart, Matt Katz, Lawrence Hajna, Erik Schwartz, Chuck Darrow and Bill Duhart  
Courier-Post, Cherry Hill

*Judges comments – First Place – Their work was thorough, making the arrest from a 2000 event timely and understood. The event ripped through the heart of the community, but the extra work in reporting made it quite clear that the event has changed the lives and attitudes of family, friends and the Seton Hall community. Second Place – The incorporation of the entire staff, ranging from columnists and regular beat reporters to the business staff showed the proper way to cover an event felt by everyone in the community. Snow is something expected each winter, but The Record’s staff showed how the freak nature of the storm made it impossible to ignore or continue with the regular lifestyle. The staff “walloped” that story, especially with help from graphics and art as a bonus.*

*Third Place – The additional reporting – done by using seven reporters – made this event important not only to the people of Atlantic City but also to Cherry Hill, which is about an hour away. The stunning event, something most reporters consider but expect never to happen, became clear in the minds of the readers as they kept looking at the stories that detailed the events of what should have been a normal day.*

## **D-06 Reporting and Writing**

### **News Writing Portfolio**

**Daily, under 60,000**

#### **First Place**

“Ecstasy Users Pop Up All Over,” “Firefighters Still Feel Pain of Loss” and “Gangs Replace Independent Drug Dealers”

Alisa Camacho

Herald News, West Paterson

**Second Place**

“County Seeks Help in '82 Disappearance,” “3 Charged in 23-year-old Murder” and “A War That Never Ended”

Jim Six

Gloucester County Times, Woodbury

**Third Place**

“Bermudez, Barse spar Over VMEU,” “Agnst, City's Future Take Stage at Landis” and “Worry, Anger, Relief at Closure”

Lisa Grzyboski,

The Daily Journal, Vineland

*Judges comments – Alisa Camacho covers crime for the Herald News with an unflinching eye for detail and color. To do this, she has developed a wide range of sources. They include drug warriors, a woman in Paterson who sold heroin from a corner for so many years it became “her office of illicit commerce” and a rehab patient from the suburbs who was a high school cheerleader and athlete when she started using Ecstasy. Alisa gets out there with the people and brings back narratives steeped in information and rich with human drama. Her readers are well rewarded.*

**D-06 Reporting and Writing****News Writing Portfolio**

Daily, over 60,000

**First Place**

“Victims Board,” “Billions for Poorest” and “Influence Connections”

Jason Method

Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Second Place**

“Ferriero,” “Pay to Play” and “Color of Money”

Shannon Harrington

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Third Place**

“Cop Killer,” “Path to Justice” and “Mob Scene”

Amy Klein

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judges comments – First Place – Rock solid job of watchdog reporting. This writer holds people and institutions accountable through exhaustive documents research and old-fashioned sourcing. This entry is a reminder of the importance of newspapers.*

*Second Place – Woe to the government officials on this reporter’s beat. This writer is keenly aware of the money-politics equation and of how power brokers do their bidding.*



*Third Place – This writer has lightening in her fingertips. Her leads are high voltage and the pace of her writing never bogs. She doesn't just hook readers, she uses a gaff.*

**D-07 Reporting and Writing**

**Feature, Lifestyle and Entertainment Writing Portfolio Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“More Than a Family: Adopting the Unadoptable”

Colleen O'Dea

Daily Record, Parsippany

**Second Place**

“Health Costs Hit Middle Class Where it Hurts,” “Wanted: A Few Good Nurses” and “The Color of Pain”

Carolyn Feibel

Herald News, West Paterson

**Third Place**

“Pregnant With Cancer,” “A Child Brings Hope” and “She's 'Half a Holly' Now”

Lorraine Ash

Daily Record, Parsippany

*Judges comments – First Place – Odea's series was incredibly touching. She took us inside the living room and lives of an amazing Morris County family. The access she had provided readers with a rich detailed, well-told tale.*

*Second Place – Feibel put a face on the impact of the recession. It's very readable and makes us care.*

*Third Place – The writer captured the drama of being pregnant while suffering from cancer. Great quotes and she avoided medical jargon.*

**D-07 Reporting and Writing**

**Feature, Lifestyle and Entertainment Writing Portfolio Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“Champion at the Bit,” “Rock Solid Dreams” and “Yo, Rocky, Pay Up”

Elise Young

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Second Place**

“When it Comes to 4x4s, Size Matters,” “Trout and About” and “Life Begins at Home”

Bob Ivry

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Third Place**

“Landfill Golf,” “Jersey Journeys” and “Train Robberies”

Jeffrey Gold

Associated Press

*Judges comments: First Place - From her crisp, creative and energetic leads through to the final graphs, Elise's entry was excellent. She writes with rich detail, confidence and authority. For example, in the hands of a less-accomplished writer, the conversation among Funny Cide's grooms might have taken the story off-track; she didn't let that happen, and the scene provided insight into the men who care to the champ.*

*Second Place – It's not easy to bring "things" to life and sustain interest, but Bob does just that with his stories on 4x4s and fish. The approach to the trout story was creative and amusing. We particularly loved his fresh description of his fresh description of newborn Maya: "pink as bubble gum, load as a teakettle."*

*Third Place – Stories are set up well and then sustained by Jeff's thorough reporting and energetic writing.*

**D-08 Reporting and Writing**

**Sports Writing Portfolio**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

"Love of the Game," "Off Track At The Downs" and "Ain't No Stoppin"

Michael Blouse

The Express-Times, Easton

**Second Place**

"Strikes Fund Iaconio's FDU Studies," "Equipment Maker Calls in the Farm Team" and "Lamizana's Difficult Decision"

Adam Zagoria

Herald News, West Paterson

**Third Place**

"Baseball Players Affected by Civil Unrest in Venezuela," "Black Players Battle Numbers" and "Patriots Day"

Geoff Mosher

Courier News, Bridgewater

**Judge's Comments:** *None Available.*

**D-08 Reporting and Writing**

**Sports Writing Portfolio**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

"Coach's Style," and "New York, New York" and "Fenway Fireworks"

Steve Politi

The Star-Ledger, Newark

**Second Place**

"Yao Ming Scoring," "Connie Mack Stadium" and "Priceless Experience"

Ed Hilt

The Press of Atlantic City, Pleasantville

**Third Place**

“Mutombo Regroups,” “Self-made Big Man” and “Mega Stars”

Steve Adamek

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judge’s Comments: Anyone can write game stories and tell what happened where and when, but winning entries tell stories behind the events—or they give a different perspective, such as showing what it’s like for fans to get to a World Series game. Steve Politi has a wonderful style that’s both to the point and a pleasure to read, especially the way the Yankees-Mets games weren’t a Subway series, “but an E-Zpass affair.” We loved the comments Ed Hilt got from other Asian Americans for the story on Yao Ming. Steve Adamek does a great job of showing readers another side of some of the big names in sports—and just how much clout these guys have.*

**D-09 Reporting and Writing**

**Scholastic Sports Portfolio**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Delbarton Ends St. Benedict’s New Jersey Domination,” “Pinstripes Should Be A Nice Fit” and “Swimmers Face Tough Choice of School vs. Club Team”

Jane Allison Havsy

Daily Record, Parsippany

**Second Place**

“Soccer is a Clear No. 1 in Disqualifications,” “Wardlaw Amputee Shows Competitive Fire” and “Condemned Gym...”

Jerry Carino

Courier News, Bridgewater

**Third Place**

“Reaching Essence,” “A Dream But No Team” and “Tennis, Everyone?”

Adam Zagoria

Herald News, West Paterson

*Judge’s Comments: These three stood out. Strong leads on Havsy’s stories pull the reader in. All three go beyond the obvious to look for fresh angles.*

**D-09 Reporting and Writing**

**Scholastic Sports Portfolio**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“Pitchman for Rutgers,” “Overcoming Major Jitters” and “Beyond a Game”

Mark J. Czerwinski

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Second Place**

“No Answers,” “At What Cost?” and “From Tears to Laughter”

John Aiello  
Home News Tribune, East Brunswick

**Third Place**

“Court Case Done,” “ABCD Camp” and “A Young Life”

Jason McIntyre  
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judge’s Comments: This was a solid group of entries, but the three winners clearly stood out for their ability to tell the stories about the players behind the plays. Czerwinski’s profiles were well written and compelling. Aiello did a masterful job of describing the raw wounds left by a coach’s suicide. McIntyre’s work was solid and balanced. Several other writers in this category had good stories to tell, but they tended to be a little over-dramatic instead of letting the subjects speak for themselves.*

**D-10 Reporting and Writing  
Business and Financial Writing Portfolio  
Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“The Retirement Crisis”  
Warren Boroson  
Daily Record, Parsippany

**Second Place**

“Diversity is Big Business”  
Bill Bowman  
Courier News, Bridgewater

**Third Place**

“Bethlehem Steel”  
Tom Zanki  
The Express-Times, Easton

*Judge’s Comments: The series on the retirement crisis was outstanding. The reporter took the time to put a reader face on the topic; indeed dozens of reader faces. Because of that, raw numbers became more than just data—they became interesting. This was an outstanding entry.*

**D-10 Reporting and Writing  
Business and Financial Writing Portfolio  
Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“Supplemental Industry,” “Passing Landmark” and “Fake Lipitor”  
Susan Todd  
The Star-Ledger, Newark

**Second Place**

“After a Humble Start,” “Racing Industry” and “Top Executives”

Eileen Smith  
Courier-Post, Cherry Hill

**Third Place**

“Jobs Take Flight,” “Voters” and “Illegal Workers”

Michael L. Diamond  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

*Judge’s Comments: A super tough category! Susan Todd was the clear winner in this highly competitive category, but six or seven other entrants could have walked away with a second or third place. What made the difference? The winners combined personal touches and human faces and conditions with industry trends and background statistics. New Jersey reporters clearly know their business. Great job!*

**D-11 Reporting and Writing**

**Columns**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Mail Boxes,” “Glory Days” and “Parking Authority”

Earl Morgan  
Jersey Journal, Jersey City

**Second Place**

“Commuters in the Dark Turn to Each Other,” “Students Knew More Than The Teachers Heard” and “Riley Must Show Whether He’s About Hatred or Love”

Abbott Koloff  
Daily Record, Parsippany

**Third Place**

“Reagan,” “Race Card” and “Strom”

Andrew Lisa  
The Daily Journal, Vineland

*Judges comments – Morgan and Koloff do what local columnists should do: Hit the streets, connect with the community and ask pertinent questions, especially of people who don’t want to answer them. Lisa is a provocateur and a gifted wordsmith, insensitive to the usual sensitivities but fair-minded and brutally candid.*

**D-11 Reporting and Writing**

**Columns**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“The Kindness,” “The Circle of Life” and “Saying Goodbye”

Michael Riley  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Second Place**

“Searching For Root,” “A Lesson Learned” and “Right At Home”

Bill Handleman  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Third Place**

“The Dark Side of Paradise,” “The Last of the Bravest” and “Amy's Heart”

Mike Kelly

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judges comments – First Place – Riley’s work is about life and the influence of spiritualness, not necessarily religion. He is wonderfully succinct, appeals to a universal audience and unselfishly engages us through exploration of his own foibles, sensitivities and experience.*

*Second Place – Handleman’s steady growl is insistent and demands attention. He seems fearless in his writing and is deeply familiar with the nexus between competitive athletics and real life.*

*Third Place – An indispensable reporter and teller of tales from behind the headlines. Kelly foregoes the comforts of the newsroom for the harshness of the streets. A third-place finish only because some of his entry is more effusive than what might be regarded as columnesque.*

**D-12 Reporting and Writing****Critical Writing**

Daily, under 60,000

**First Place**

“Europa South,” “Opening Night Jitters” and “Recover at Surf Taco”

Patrick K. Burke

Ocean County Observer, Toms River

**Second Place**

“Kern Remembers Memoirs,” “Author Orchestrates Music History” and “Truly Good Books Rattle Our Cages”

D.E. Kern

The Express-Times, Easton

**Third Place**

“New Venue,” “Major-League Meat” and “Taster's Choice”

Hilary Harding

Courier News, Bridgewater

*Judges comments – Some excellent writers but not all stuck to critical writing. They were too featurish. Others did not comply with contest rules. Others – the winners – did well in all aspects. Burke has excellent style with lots of descriptive detail. Emphasized the food (which he should) but didn’t overlook ambiance. Kern is one of the most interesting book reviewers I’ve ever read and Harding is a real pro. But she needs to emphasize the food a little more and the surroundings a little less. Good luck!*

**D-12 Reporting and Writing**

## **Critical Writing**

**Daily, over 60,000**

### **First Place**

“Just Like A Legend,” “Traveling Freak Show” and “Ian Andersen”

Mark Voger

Asbury Park Press, Neptune

### **Second Place**

“Lost In Translation,” “Penn, Eastwood Make Splash with ‘Mystic River’” and “Tolkien Trilogy Makes Return With Masterful Final Chapter”

Joyce J. Persico

The Times, Trenton

### **Third Place**

“Must Squeam TV,” “Doing Without the Script” and “All Those Brand Names On TV No Coincidence”

Virginia Rohan

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judges comments – The third place winner would have been first for her insightful and topical articles. However, they seemed to be in the wrong category – would have been better suited to feature or entertainment writing rather than critical writing.*

*First place winner was colorful, fun writing. Really puts you in the scene, especially with the cranky Dylan.*

*Second place – snappy writing. One of the few critics who truly “got” “Lost in Translation”. Reviews a little long, but solid.*

## **D-13 Reporting and Writing**

**Robert P. Kelly Award**

**Daily, under 60,000**

### **First Place**

“Officials in Bridgewater Admit Costly Oversight,” “Raritan Twp. Unit Called to Iraq” and “Charlie Kept Telling Me I Was Going to Die”

Anna Bakalis

Courier News, Bridgewater

### **Second Place**

“The Rosy Future of Nursing Homes,” “Escape Ends Quickly” and “New Superintendent Extols Communication”

Beth Braverman

The Express-Times, Easton

### **Third Place**

“City Nosh,” “Bombers, BoSox Fans Say Rivalry as Sweet...” and “Reaching for Stardom”

Jerry Barca

Herald News, West Paterson

*Judges comments – The best story in this group was Bakalis’ offering about the Bridgewater council’s missing minutes, followed by her treatment of the patient pleading with a nurse not to kill her. One judge questioned the anonymous sources in this latter piece, which he believed damaged its credibility. The anonymity did not seem necessary, but the piece was interesting, solid news and a good piece of the package the paper presented. Both pieces were a public service, the first in alerting taxpayers and voters to incompetent government, the second alerting readers to be diligent medical consumers and watch over incapacitated loved ones in the care of strangers.*

*Braverman’s work on the escape was good, and she did a nice job enlightening readers about the new trend in nursing homes, which required some good shoe-leather reporting. Braverman offered a compelling word portrait of the physical characteristics of these newer homes, which is important to readers, particularly those who must avail themselves of the facilities.*

*Barca’s writing is compelling, the best being his treatment of the band going to Turkey, but neither this nor that City Nosh piece was compelling news. Beginning writers, for whom this category was created, should include a hard-hitting news piece, in addition to features. Barca is a strong writer with a good turn of phrase and his word entailed some diligent reporting.*

*In each case, the third place was weak: The Irag unit (Bakalis), the superintendent (Braverman), the Red Sox reach (Barca), not because of the writing, but because they seem too run-of-the-mill for entry into this category.*

### **D-13 Reporting and Writing**

**Robert P. Kelly Award**

**Daily, over 60,000**

#### **First Place**

“No Excuses,” “Back in Swing” and “Southern’s Tanriku”

Jen Brown

Asbury Park Press, Neptune

#### **Second Place**

“Up Against an Imaginary Wall,” “Mothers” and “Student Athletes”

Sean McCann

Courier-Post, Cherry Hill

#### **Third Place**

“Calligrapher’s Thank You,” “DEP” and “The Fungus Among Us”

Darryl R. Isherwood

The Times, Trenton

*Judges comments – The winners rose to the top in this category by mixing great writing and wonderful descriptions with solid reporting and attributions. Jen Brown painted an incredible picture of the hockey player’s artificial leg, sitting all by itself, and drew in readers, then told a young man’s courageous story without being saccharine. Sean McCann also exhibited a nice voice in his stories-and the one on mothers was a*



*wonderful idea. He could use a little more attribution, though, when describing an athlete's, as he did in the Ambrozy story. Were those his descriptions or someone else's? Darryl Isherwood's work also was solid, well balanced and showed a lot of initiative.*

**D-14 Reporting and Writing**

**Best Headlines**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Bayonne Bleeder Wants His Cut, etc”,

Ronald Zeitlinger

The Jersey Journal, Jersey City

**Second Place**

“Stop Weapons of Crass Destructions, etc.”,

Elliot Goldberg

Gloucester County Times, Woodbury

**Third Place**

“Jefferson Wins on the Crack of Dawn,” “David Puts goliath in the Driver’s Seat” and “Ka-Boone”

Frank DiLeo

Daily Record, Parsippany

*Judges comments – None available*

**D-14 Reporting and Writing**

**Best Headlines**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“For Roadkill Gourmets, it's Finders Keepers”

Mike Walker

The Press of Atlantic City, Pleasantville

**Second Place**

“Can-Doo Attitude”

Jay Levin

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Third Place**

“All Aboard For Debt?”

Tom Wilk

Courier-Post, Cherry Hill

*Judges comments – This was a tough category with many solid entries. Several had one or two great examples in the mix, but the three winners had three strong solid examples of their work. Winners show good play of words or turn of phrases and resist the tendency to just be cute.*

**D-15 Reporting and Writing**

**Special Issue**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Living 2003”

Staff

Daily Record, Parsippany

**Second Place**

“Pride”

Staff

Ocean County Observer, Toms River

**Third Place**

“All-Area Spring '03”

Staff

Daily Record, Parsippany

*Judges comments – First Place – Impressive combo of stories, charts and photos convey a lot of information. Well-designed, crisp color.*

*Second Place – Lots of information shows amount of effort.*

*Third Place – Illustrations make this section appeal to a wide audience.*

**D-15 Reporting and Writing**

**Special Issue**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“The Eating Chronicles”

Staff

Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Second Place**

“After Baghdad”

Staff

Courier-Post, Cherry Hill

**Third Place**

“High School Football Preview 2003”

Sports Staff

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judges comments – Overall, I considered the field of entries strong, albeit limited in number.*

*My selection for first place “The Eating Chronicles” by the Asbury Park Press, comes as a bit of surprise. Though I love to eat, I do not particularly enjoy reading about food. However, this special issue started changing my mind on that score.*

*I found the stories engaging, enlightening, and fascinating. The writers took a decidedly mundane topic and thoroughly personalized it. I particularly enjoyed the story on the family that reserves Sunday afternoon as the one time they will eat together as a unit. I really felt I got to know the Devines.*

*Also, the story on the contents of the bachelor duo's refrigerator lent a unique look at a particular life style through the prism of food (growing ever more moldy).*

*Appreciated as well was the diversity of the issue; no demographic group, it seems, was left out as the newspaper endeavored to provide a comprehensive look at food in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

*Just a great edition – and for the judge, a proverbial penny from heaven.*

*Second Place on my list goes to the Courier-Post for its "After Baghdad" section. I salute the effort that went into the section, particularly as it was published so close on the heels of the coalition forces' capture of Baghdad. The timeliness of this "special report" is worthy of merit.*

*So too is its comprehensive approach. It provided a worldly perspective, but also a regional feel with its many local voices. I particularly liked the tie-in with "9/11" and its efforts to understand Islam.*

*In all, it was a complete "little newspaper", as it provided opinion, in the form of editorials, columns, and letters to the editor, as well as a youthful perspective on the war ("Static").*

*The timeline and picture pages were particularly effective.*

*A nice job in getting such an early grip on the major issue of our day.*

*My choice for third place is The Record's high school football preview for 2003. This supplement is a football junkie's dream – very reader-friendly in its all-out approach to provide a quick and easy look at the many teams – and the myriad star players – in that part of New Jersey.*

*I especially liked the various points of entry for the serious sports fan. With so many teams to cover, none was given short shrift; you got the same packet of information on all – from its playoff outlook, players to watch (including each team's "Top of the Line" performer, its "Heart and Soul", and its "Playmaker"), and, most interesting, each school's most memorable moment ("Best of Times"). In such a way, a lot of "feature-y" information was packed into each team's preview.*

*My only question is why the 2002 results and 2003 schedule were provided for some teams, but only the 2003 schedule for others. But that's a minor crotchet; overall, this*

*section was well done and testified to a great deal of hard work and considerable institutional knowledge.*

**D-16 Design and Presentation**

**News Page Design Portfolio**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Saddam, We're at War,” “Trustee Board Politics” and “Calm Before Storm: Rocco Upsets Pearson”

Copy Desk

The Daily Journal, Vineland

**Second Place**

“Front Pages 9/19, 10/11, 10/16, 11/14 and 11/27”

Patrick Burke

Ocean County Observer, Toms River

**Third Place**

“Front Pages 3/28, 2/18, 9/12, 3/5 & 9/5”

Bill Demarest

Daily Record, Parsippany

*Judges comments: First Place: little not to like. The cutouts above the flag are exceptional. The headlines are bold. Just a good, clean layout with nice use of graphics. Some pages might be a little busy.*

*Second place – Overall, very attractive. Terrific use of cutouts and teasers that work nicely with the flag. Some headlines are too compressed, and many of the headlines are too small. Some should be doubled in size. Also suggest that mug shots be standardized; some currently run too large.*

*Third place – Very nice use of photos and graphics. Headlines are bold, although there appears to be too many different typefaces. One major criticism: Some six-column headlines are over stories they don't pertain to: “Hospital unveils \$125M vision” is right over an AP story about Iraq.*

**D-16 Design and Presentation**

**News Page Design Portfolio**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

“Walloped,” “Its All In A Day's (& Night's) Work,” “Coalition Chips Away at Baghdad Targets,” “Cuplifting” and “A Century of Hope”

Lance Theroux

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Second Place**

“Shuttle Disaster,” “Blitz Over Baghdad,” “Baghdad Falls,” “Lights Out” and “Ferry Rams Pier - 10 Die”

Robert Townsend

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Third Place**

“Captured,” “Collapse at Tropicana,” “Show Does Not Go On” and “Harvest Time”

Peter Brophy

The Press of Atlantic City, Pleasantville

*Judges comments – First Place - These pages are cleanly designed and use photos very well; good layering of types.*

*Second Place – Uses design to convey information in an attractive fashion; good “box pop” for single-copy buyers.*

*Third Place – Attractive design and good use of photos; but we were troubled by Oct. 12 placement of dominant art to interrupt the flow of a vertical column of type.*

**D-17 Design and Presentation**

**Feature Section Page Design Portfolio**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

“Degas and the Dance,” “Hop, slam and a Dunk,” “Summer Entertainment Cover,” “Take Your Pick” and “Craft Bonanza”

Leeza Hernandez

Courier News, Bridgewater

**Second Place**

“Black Women Emerging in Film,” “Charting A Course to Recovery,” “From a Technorap View” and “Celia Cruz”

Nicola Corbin

Herald News, West Paterson

**Third Place**

“Marbles Collecting,” “The Thrill of Victory,” “Trendy Thurst,” “Invasion of Cell Phones” and “A Century of Westerns”

Jason Schifno,

The Express-Times, Easton

*Judges comments – The designs by the three winners in this category have several things in common. First and foremost, they are balanced, with an excellent use of white space and typography. Strong choices were made for the dominant art element, and photos were played with meaning. The designs were executed with an eye for all of the elements on the page, not just focusing on the centerpiece. And most of all, the designs told the stories visually and strengthened the messages in the text. Some of these elements appeared in some of the entries in this category, but none of the entries demonstrated knowledge of all of these important design tenets as well as the winners did.*

*Leeza Hernandez's entries were far and away the best I saw here. She has a light touch, which shows in her deft handling of the "Degas" centerpiece. She made excellent choices in "Take Your Pick" and the "Summer Entertainment Cover" in taking one art element and repeating it to reinforce the stories. And she's not afraid to be bold with color, as in the "Craft bonanza" and "Hop, slam and a dunk!" layouts. Those are a touch too busy for my taste, but the reader can't help but to be drawn in. They are engaging layouts.*

*Nicola Corbin showed the best understanding of white space out of any of the designs in this category. She played her art large and gave it room to breathe. She also didn't crowd the art with fancy typography, which would have been gilding the lily. I particularly like the "Black women emerging in film" and the "From a techno rap view" pages, because she used the design to tell the stories in one glance.*

*Jason Schifano's entries showed a sense of humor and a willingness to play with his work when appropriate. He used a few gimmicks – specifically the "wanted sign" burnt edges in the "A century of Westerns" layout and the tabloid-style design of the "Invasion of the cell phones" layout – but the gimmicks were a perfect fit with the topics. The "Marbles collecting" and "Bottled water" designs showed his ability to choose his dominant art well and let simple visuals tell the story. I wasn't a fan of the paintball "splats" in the "Thrill of victory" design, but again, they served the story. His work shows that he thinks of the reader when approaching his work.*

**D-17 Design and Presentation  
Feature Section Page Design Portfolio  
Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

"Olive Oil," "Soup to Nuts," "Cool Beauties," "Sky High" and "Passion Meets Precision"

Lisa Mansolillo Dalie

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Second Place**

"Bread Winner," "Jersey Trout Angler," "Americans Play Cricket," "Revenge of Rake" and "See NJ By Canoe"

Elaine Isaacson

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Third Place**

"Summertime Blues," "Baseball," "Pope John Paul II," "27 Days" and "What If?"

Peter M. Brophy

The Press of Atlantic City, Pleasantville

*Judge's comments: First Place: Designs were clean, crisp, imaginative. Each page's deft execution pulled me in. The pages were so attractive I wanted to read the story. I especially like the use of a dollar in the martini glass next to the colored price list. Each of the submitted pages used the five major design elements well.*

*Second place – The pages were well executed. The “Bread Winner” design was exquisite. Overall a nice job.*

*Third Place – The baseball story layout was an outstanding page, very attractive and warm. I found 37 front pages provocative.*

**D-18 Design and Presentation**

**Sports Page Design Portfolio**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

Gary Stelzer

Courier News, Bridgewater

**Second Place**

Jeff Weber

Courier News, Bridgewater

**Third Place**

Brian Costello

Herald News, West Paterson

*Judge’s comments: Courier News designers used bold, but solid design to overcome strip ad. Good centerpieces. Herald News showed good, clean design with strong use of photos, labeling.*

**D-18 Design and Presentation**

**Sports Page Design Portfolio**

**Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

John V. Smith

Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Second Place**

Chuck O'Donnell

The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Third Place**

Nick Masuda

Asbury Park Press, Neptune

*Judge’s comments: First place – This designer handles bold ideas well. He has a flair for the dramatic standout page. His baseball preview cover was smart and complete. Pages were well designed and well executed.*

*Second Place – Nice variety. Designer shows ability to create feature centerpieces as well as he displays breaking events.*

*Third Place – Pages show emotion and intensity. The choice of using the photograph of the pitcher shot from behind was unconventional and worked well. He handles secondary information well.*



**D-19 Design and Presentation  
Business Page Design Portfolio  
Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

John Hardick  
The Express-Times, Easton

**Second Place**

Kathy Shwiff  
Daily Record, Parsippany

**Third Place**

Jay Jefferson Cooke  
Courier News, Bridgewater

*Judge's comments: Centerpieces and use of art in both The Express-Times and Daily Record were good. Pages turned in by designer at The Times had a bit more pop. I found myself immediately attracted to the pages. The designer at The Courier News does well with the space provided and the fact that there is no color.*

**D-19 Design and Presentation  
Business Page Design Portfolio  
Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

Jeff Colson  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Second Place**

Liz Roberts  
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

**Third Place**

Nick Masuda  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

*Judge's Comments: All these designers had strong entries. Besides eye-popping illustrations, the designer at The Press offered readers a little more with job tips or other facts. The designer at The Record was a close second here. Each one of her pages offered a different look. Both papers have really talented artists. Good work.*

**D-20 Design and Presentation  
Graphics/Illustration Portfolio  
Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

Jan Housewerth  
Herald News, West Paterson

**Second Place**

Leeza Hernandez  
Courier News, Bridgewater

**Third Place**

Adam Hollanek  
Daily Record, Parsippany

*Judge's Comments: First Place – How do you illustrate teaching sex at church? Well this artist found a way and managed not to offend anyone. This artist uses simple and creative ways to engage the reader and get the story's point across.*

*Second Place – Ms. Hernandez' breezy style and soft palette are a delightful addition to the feature stories they illustrate. Most papers run dozens of these stories each year. The Courier News is fortunate to have her talent on which to rely.*

*Third Place – Versatility, effort, and a dash of cleverness, that's what this artist brings to the pages of The Daily Record. The judges agreed that the artist has a tendency to 'over art' the information but otherwise a great effort.*

**D-20 Design and Presentation  
Graphics/Illustration Portfolio  
Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

Lori Gallo  
Courier-Post, Cherry Hill

**Second Place**

Jeff Colson  
Asbury Park Press, Neptune

**Third Place**

George Tuggle, Jr.  
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

*Judge's Comments: First Place – The artist has a very clear concept on each of these pieces and the talent to bring them off. The ocean life triptych is easily the 'Best in Show.'*

*Second Place – What fun it must be to read the Asbury Park Press. If it were my paper, I couldn't wait to open it each day to see what fantastic surprises Mr. Clson might have in store for me.*

*Third Place – A delightful collection of engaging illustrations. Mr. Tuggle is very aware of his drawing style, palette and page presence. He knows his illustrations are supposed to do and each story benefits from his efforts.*

**D-21 Design and Presentation  
Innovation Award  
Daily, over 60,000**

**First Place**

"Nuestra Comunidad"

Enrique Lavin, Patricia Munoz, Carlos Caprioli, Alexandra Pais, Diana Campos and Amy Catalano  
Home News Tribune, East Brunswick

*Judge's Comments: Very impressive product. The paper has invested a lot of time, talent and money in reaching out to its Spanish-language audience. Well done.*

**D-21 Design and Presentation**

**Innovation Award**

**Daily, under 60,000**

**First Place**

**"Game"**

Sports Staff

Daily Record, Parsippany

*Judge's Comments: This paper has made a real commitment to local sports coverage, one that should ensure that kids and their parents proper sports information here. Good work incorporating the web site into this too. GAME has got game!*

