

PRINT

BREAKING NEWS STORY

Judge: Scott Nelson, The Oregonian

Large Papers

1st: Doug O’Harra, “In the wake of the winds,” Anchorage Daily News

Judge’s Comments: Doug wrote the lead story after this freak storm came through, but the team coverage – including stories by Richard Richtmyer, Nicole Tsong and Zaz Hollander – was both extensive and exceptional. Good work on a big story.

2nd: Wesley Loy, “Seafood companies win trial,” Anchorage Daily News

Judge’s Comments: Nice use of language and detail on a story that had clearly been building for a long time. Artfully done.

3rd: Craig Medred and Doug O’Harra, “Grizzly mauls Russian River angler,” Anchorage Daily News

Judge’s Comments: Good chronology. Put readers at the scene.

Honorable mention: “Gas Kills four at home,” by Tataboline Brant and Zaz Hollander, Anchorage Daily News; “Kenai police officer slain,” by Tataboline Brant, Anchorage Daily News

Small Papers

1st: Melissa Dover, “Bears Kill Two in Katmai Park,” Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge’s Comments: A little rough around the edges, but this type of coverage is what breaking news is all about. The paper blew out the front page for two stories, a map and a photo. Dover handled it like a pro on deadline.

2nd: Greg Dark, “Police Nab Bank Robbery Suspect,” Alaska Star

Judge’s Comments: Only the fourth bank robbery in Eagle River’s history, and it happened on deadline. Dart managed to get both the story and the photo, with plenty of local flavor.

3rd: Adam Lesh, “Shipwreck Found,” Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge’s Comments: It may not have been a thing of perfection, as Adam noted in his application, but he had a big story and he had it first. The essentials were all there. That’s worth quite a bit in our business.

GENERAL NEWS STORY

Judge: DeAnn Welker, The Oregonian

Large Papers

1st: Tony Hopfinger, “Ripping it up,” Anchorage Press

Judge’s Comments: This is very well researched and informative. Whether a reader comes into it knowing about the gambling in Barrow, they will leave feeling like an expert on the subject. And that says something – not many newspaper articles are that informative.

2nd: Joel Gay, “Darts, not shells,” Anchorage Daily News

Judge’s Comments: From the lead on, this story fascinates readers. It’s something that people might wonder about, or might not even realize it happens, but from the beginning they will want to know more ... and the writer gives them that through the rest, with a detailed account that also is fun to read.

3rd: Zaz Hollander, “Rising Fury,” Anchorage Daily News

Judge’s Comments: This was a fascinating and personal account of a scary problem that obviously not enough people were aware of. This is important journalism, always a welcome read.

Small Papers

1st: Carly Bossert, “Man donates dividends to posterity,” Homer News

Judge’s Comments: This is a way of making an annual event (the Permanent Fund dividend) interesting. These annual events are the hardest stories to write, but the writer here finds the extraordinary in an ordinary citizen of Homer and turns it into a story that I’m sure everyone who picked up the paper that day read from beginning to end. The lead was clever enough to draw me in, and the content/writing kept me wanting to read.

2nd: Megan Holland, “Museum seeks recipes to preserve Alutiiq food,” Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge’s Comments: This made what easily could have been a dull story (food isn’t necessarily the most intriguing material for the front page) into a very lively and fun read. This is something that many people might not choose to read about, but if they catch it on the front page of the paper and start skimming, the writer here captivates them.

3rd: Carey James, “Anti-American group hacks local Web site,” Homer News

Judge’s Comments: This is informative and well researched. The facts are clear, with just enough quotes and personal accounts to keep it interesting (it’s easy to overdo it with a story like this). The subject matter was intriguing, which helped, but the word choice, tone and quote placement will keep readers interested.

Honorable mention: McKibben Jackinsky, “Mutany leads to arrest of fishing boat captain,” Homer Tribune

Judge’s Comments: All of the names in this story get a little bit confusing, and there might have been a better way to differentiate all of the names, but the lead was wonderful. Very, very captivating, and it likely got readers far enough into the story to get glued by the content and read to the end.

BEST USE OF STORY & PHOTOS BY A REPORTER

Judge: Tony Overman and staff of the Olympian. Overman is Director for the National Press Photographers Association Region 11

Large Papers

1st: Matt Hage, "A Dance With the Queen of the Alaska Range," Anchorage Daily News (freelance)

Judge's Comments: "Great display...far and away the best use of photos, and the photos deserved the great usage. The scale of the tiny climber with the looming mountain peaks is magnificent."

2nd: Richard Richtmyer, "Bearly Time to Visit," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: "The title says it all...panda bears passing through Anchorage's airport in the middle of a journey halfway around the world. Not a lot to work with, and the reporter/photographer did both jobs well."

3rd: Jenny Neyman, "High Lights," Peninsula Clarion

Judge's Comments: "Pretty pictures, displayed well. Acrobatic dancers on dark stages are not easy subjects to photograph, and these photos captured both the beauty and action."

Small Papers

1st: Jenni Ver Strate, "100 Takes Wing in USARAK," Alaska Post

Judge's Comments: "Great variety of real activities, photographed up close and personal. Each photo added to the story."

2nd: Ben Stuart, "The Bears of Katmai Coast," Homer News

Judge's Comments: "Technically well-done photos. Lead image inside of curious young bear took the reader right inside the bear's world."

3rd: Kelly DuFort, "Small Church at Clark's Point," Catholic Observer

Judge's Comments: "Nice page design to utilize beautiful lead image inside the church. More variety of moments and a non-posed color lead photo would have pushed this entry up to second place."

SHORT FEATURE

Judge: Mia Bush, The Oregonian

Large Papers

1st: Deb McKinney, "Alaskan gains a bit of fame," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: The reporter seized on breaking news (the Iraqi information minister) and a local angle (an Alaskan's Web site), making for good local journalism. It was a fun read; good use of quotes. Nice little tidbits of information about the site and the producers of the site. The story had a good flow; nice reporting and writing.

2nd: Wesley Loy, "North Slope isn't open range," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: The reporter has a very reader-friendly writing style. It's an interesting 'slice of life' story that has depth. A good use of sources, interesting information and examples given in a very conversational tone. Plus, it's something that readers can relate to – maybe not driving in this area – but readers drive every day and are able to put themselves in the position of these people through the color and quotes in the story.

3rd: Doug O'Harra, "Stranded whale struggles to survive," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: I bet this was the most-talked-about story of the day or week. It was captivating: the reporter was able to put the reader on that beach, watching the whale struggle. It was so intriguing I had to search the Internet to find out how the story ended. Very nice spot reporting.

Small Papers

1st: John Roscoe, "Schweitz gets his wings," Catholic Anchor

Judge's Comments: This was an all-around strong story. First, it was just an entertaining read. Second, it was well written and the quotes and color in the story show the reporter got to know the subject quite well. Third, a very nice 'slice of life' look at how priests are learning how to minister to their congregations while coping with a changing world. Also, the story was helped by good photography and a much-needed map. Very nice job.

2nd: Rose Ragsdale, "Progressive visionary," The Anchorage Chronicle

Judge's Comments: Instead of a standard development story, the reporter took a look at the developer, which is an interesting angle to pursue. The reporter really got into the developer's thought process and gave examples of his other works to help people envision what was being discussed.

3rd: Drew Herman, "Maritime lawyer," Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge's Comments: The reporter hooked me on this story right away. The lawyer spoke to an Alaskan audience, but the topic is of interest, and can be relative, to anyone. Everyone has heard of sunken treasure, but this story put the idea in a new context. Good quotes were included; and a nice ending.

LONG FEATURE

Judge: Paula Span, Washington Post Magazine staff writer

1st: Amanda Coyne, "So this is Christmas," Anchorage Press

Judge's Comments: A household of men-in-recovery, mildly coerced by an over involved reporter, face the hardest holiday. Smart, wry, affecting.

2nd: Melissa DeVaughn, "Hoping for a Christmas Miracle," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Carefully-observed account of a 13-year-old with cystic fibrosis, told with moving restraint.

3rd: It's a tie!

Tataboline Brant, "Teen Lifesavers," Anchorage Daily News. Judge's Comments: Aniak's kickass all-girl EMS squad, in depth.

Doyle Woody, "Givin' a Devil his due," Anchorage Daily News. Judge's Comments: Rollicking report on the Stanley Cup's brief, raucous visit to Anchorage.

BUSINESS REPORTING

Large Papers

Judge: Becky Bisbee, Business Editor, Seattle Times

1st: **Wesley Loy, "Fishing for Oil," Anchorage Daily News**

Judge's Comments: Complete package. The story captures the sense of place, the history, the context of a decision that will forever change the community of Bristol Bay. Good use of quotes. Even handed in giving all sides a chance to tell their side of the story. Map and charts complete the report.

2nd: **Richard Richtmyer, "Red Hot Market," Anchorage Daily News**

Judge's Comments: Story jam-packed with numbers, the kinds of numbers readers want to see and can handle when it comes to real estate. Excellent snap shot of what is happening in the market.

3rd: **Paula Dobbyn, "Cutting big deals," Anchorage Daily News**

Judge's Comments: Nice anecdotal lede to get into a dry subject. Good discussion of a controversial program.

Small Papers

Judge: Bob Drews, Business Copy Chief, San Jose Mercury News

1st: **John Crowder, "City Prepares for Possible Close of Gates Chip Facility," Homer Tribune**

Judge's Comments: All too often Business news stories are overwritten. They take an event or issue and write it into the ground, giving the reader the proverbial too much information. For that reason, I am always leery of what I consider to be lengthy news stories and am often critical of them. Two-thirds of the way through, I am ready to quit reading. John's work here, on the other hand, deserves congratulations. He took this fact of the potential plant closing and thoroughly covered it, particularly reporting the ramifications on the community and the workers. The more I read, the more I found out. It was an excellent story of local interest to those in his community.

2nd: **Robert Howk, "State Purchasing Plan Draws Fire," Alaska Journal of Commerce**

Judge's Comments: Robert took what could have been a very cut-and-dried story and brought it down to earth for the reader. Moreover, he didn't fall into the trap of getting wrapped up in technical jargon and instead made this story one all business readers could find of interest. The lead paragraph was impressive, and the story stayed strong from there to the end by laying out the issues, getting comment and reaction and covering the subject thoroughly. The story went beyond just the state possibly using e-commerce by looking into how this move might affect businesses that could be shut out under the new procedure.

3rd: **Amy M. Armstrong, "Adams Has Faith in New Digs for Christian Bookstore," Alaska Star**

Judge's Comments: Amy wrote a very readable business profile, and in particular had excellent quotes from main character Mary Alice Adams that gave the story a nice touch of personality. I enjoyed reading about this woman and her stated mission and thought Amy did a very good job of giving the reader a sense of what Mary Alice is like. The world of business is more than economic statistics, profits and stock prices, and Amy's story proves that.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL COVERAGE

Large Papers

Judge: Mike Lewis, Seattle Post-Intelligencer regional reporter

1st: **Lisa Demer, "Absent city worker draws \$66,456 salary," Anchorage Daily News**

Judge's Comments: Terrific story, well organized.

2nd: **Tony Hopfinger, "Up in Smoke," Anchorage Press**

Judge's Comments: Good reporting on an often ignored issue.

3rd: **Liz Ruskin, "Financial wizard works magic for Stevens," Anchorage Daily News.**

Honorable Mention: Amanda Bohman, "Abortion divided state," Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

Small Papers

Judge: Helen Jung, The Oregonian

1st: **Naomi Klouda, "Battening against the storm," Anchorage Chronicle.**

Judge's Comments: Nice writing, smart approach to a budget story.

2nd: Jacob Banks, "KMXT funding not precedent," Kodiak Daily Mirror.

Judge's Comments: Good reporting on a controversial funding decision.

3rd: John Crowder, "Defeated sales tax means relief to city revenues," Homer Tribune.

Judge's Comments: Interesting look at the impact of the state's search for new revenue on municipalities.

EDUCATION

Judge: Christopher Broderick, Family/Education Editor, The Oregonian

Large Papers

1st: "Hard habit to break," John Creed and Susan Andrews, Anchorage Press

Judge's Comments: The reporters exposed a critical problem for Alaskan bush schools who can't or won't keep teachers beyond their probationary first or second years. The article showed in clear and compelling language how the retention problem hurts these communities, particularly the kids. It also used on-point examples of teachers who left or were pushed out, and showed the true cost of short-sighted, penny-pinching decisions by school officials.

2nd: "Making engineers," Sheila Toomey, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: The story on a successful academic program to train and place native engineers had strong characters, relevant details and nice writing touches throughout. And it showed how one person can make a big difference no matter how daunting the problem.

3rd: "Officials try to stiffen correspondence school rules," Katie Pesznecker, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Well reported watchdog story that cites flagrant examples of wasteful spending but also is fair and complete.

Small Papers

1st: "Testing teachers," Robert Dillon, Tundra Drums

Judge's Comments: A clear and descriptive story on a critical issue -- how small schools in Alaska are struggling to comply with No Child Left Behind teacher mandates aimed at raising achievement of non-native English speaking students.

2nd: "Thinking outside the box," Allison Rhodes, Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge's Comments: Well-written article that describes the successes of a program that takes a holistic family approach to literacy. The writer shows rather than tells -- bravo!

3rd: "Skagway students get political," Andrew Cremata, Skagway News

Judge's Comments: Though the subject is familiar, the writer made this high school debate come alive with dialog, detail and political perspective such as how the enthusiasm of the students contrasts with voter apathy in that community.

PROFILE

Large Papers

Judge: Paula Span, Washington Post Magazine staff writer

1st: Tony Hopfinger, "Desolation Row," Anchorage Press

Judge's Comments: Portrait of a Valdez doctor/adventurer/ suicide. Memorable subject, exhaustive reporting and restrained prose: a powerful combination.

2nd: Debra McKinney, "Jigg's Way," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Amusing, affectionate rendering of a cantankerous boxing trainer and his disciples.

3rd: George Bryson, "The Apple Picker," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Well-observed, elegaic account of a decades-long campaign to grow apples in a place -- South Anchorage -- where they're not supposed to grow.

Small Papers

Judge: Robert Meyerowitz

1st: Michael Armstrong, "For North Fork writer, it's all about the art," Homer News

Judge's Comments: A portrait of a retired professor, former bartender and questionably successful novelist, this winning profile shows us a man who started writing fiction because, he claims, he couldn't find anything worth reading. After writing 27 novels, Serge LeCompte had a novel due to be published by a "subsidy" press when the Homer News' astute writer encountered him. LeCompte, we're told, is "contemptuous of modern publishing" -- no surprise there -- and he "doesn't care about his audience." Enough of the modest successes -- here we are asked to consider whether Serge LeCompte is a failure, which is infinitely more engaging. Consider Michael Armstrong's lovely lede:

"Some writers lead lives of suburban introspection, gaining bland experience, and yet through drive, talent and imagination go on to write soaring popular novels. Other writers embrace life completely, living more than writing.

"And then there are writers like Serge LeCompte..."

And there are writers like Michael Armstrong, who are a gift to small newspapers and their readers.

2nd: R.A. Dillon, "A world of song," The Tundra Drums

Judge's Comments: A dual treatment of Mary Ann Sundown and Agnes Aguchak, cousins who lived to see Yup'ik Eskimo dancing revived, Dillon's work is alive with a sense of history that obliterates the difference between insider and outsider – and isn't that what the best journalism is supposed to do?

3rd: Allison Rhodes, "Tran grateful for his life in Kodiak," Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge's Comments: Who can resist the life of a retiring school custodian when a writer like Allison Rhodes brings out its fish-out-of-water fascination? Rhodes shows us Tieu Tran in Vietnam, on the run from the perfidious communists, and takes us on a memorable journey to Kodiak, proving that Alaskans are as varied as stars in the sky.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Judge: Douglas Fischer, Oakland Tribune, environmental reporter

Large Papers

1st: Yereth Rosen, "Warming Climate Challenges Alaska Oil Drillers," Reuters

Judge's Comments: Yereth Rosen's tightly written piece offers a regional look at an eye-glazing abstract phenomenon: global climate change. Ms. Rosen mined a unique angle and returned with a story of broad interest, using crisp writing and a refreshing economy of words to get there. The piece is an exemplary case of enterprise journalism, and it's worth noting The New York Times followed a full five months after Ms. Rosen's story appeared.

2nd: Doug O'Harra, "Plague of Rats," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: A gripping, chilling account of how human activity – compounded by erroneous assumptions – can decimate Nature's seemingly endless bounty. Doug O'Harra's vivid descriptions and graphic lead quote literally force you to keep reading, lifting you from your breakfast table to the tragedy unfolding on Kiska Island. This is one of those rare stories that grabs you by the throat and demands a response.

3rd: Rindi White, "Who's watching the water?" Frontiersman

Judge's Comments: Rindi White has found a truly relevant, intensely local story in the water. This piece should serve as a model for all journalists on the environmental beat: solid reporting holding state and federal bureaucrats responsible for decisions keenly felt in readers' backyards. With a stronger lede and more judicious use of quotes, Ms. White would have a first-place winner here.

Small Papers

1st: R.A. Dillon, "Herring reach coast early," Tundra Drums

Judge's Comments: A poignant account of what happens when a region pegs its economy to a resource and then the bottom falls out of the market. Robert Dillon's chronicle of what could be the end of the Goodnews Bay herring fishery tosses readers into the turbulent waters local fishermen and state biologists navigate. His accounting is as unsentimental, clear-eyed and frank as the fishermen he quotes, and it makes for one hell of an environmental story.

2nd: Michael Armstrong, "Local duo converts fry grease to oil," Homer News

Judge's Comments: Michael Armstrong's deft touch with a story that is at once quirky and serious makes this fact-filled article a joy to read. From lede to kicker, Mr. Armstrong never forgets to have fun as he weaves national and even international trends into an engaging story of a local duo's efforts to motor down the road under the power of fryer oil. Well done.

3rd: Megan Holland, "Drury Gulch cleanup is charted," Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge's Comments: Megan Holland does her readers a great service with her straight-forward account of a federal cleanup's options. The facts, risks, potential upsides and downsides are all there outlined in clear, easy-to-understand language. Missing however was the community itself and the story feels incomplete without a mention or two of how local civic and business leaders, activists and/or residents view the choices being considered.

CRIME & COURTS

Judge: Tom Maurer, The Oregonian, Crime & Justice Team Leader

Large:

1st: Lisa Demer, "Trooper Known for History of Aggression," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: The officer's troubling career of escalating situations to violence is examined, apparently for the first time. Good work.

2nd: Sheila Toomey, "Mother Bears Witness to the Unbearable," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: A well-written story about a mother's grief and guilt in the front row of a murder trial, hearing terrible things about the daughter she gave up for adoption.

3rd: Sheila Toomey, "Care Court," Anchorage Daily News

An important issue in the court system is examined with a nice touch. This is the nuts and bolts work of a court system that most people are not aware of. Good look at it.

Small Papers

1st: Tom Delaune, "Solie's Prior DWI Conviction in Vermont," UAF Sun-Star.

Judge's Comments: Good investigative effort to find the 1981 DWI on a politician, who has a troubled driving record. It was interesting to see the judge didn't know about it, but her comments at the sentencing suggested that if the politician had a prior DWI, he would be facing more serious time. This was the only true investigative entry in this category.

2nd: John Crowder, "Parents Say Hands are Tied Dealing with Troubled Youth," Homer Tribune.

Judge's Comments: Good enterprise story looking at a significant social issue that may be fueling an increase in youth crime.

3rd: Rob Stapleton, "Unsolved Murders Plague Anchorage Families," Anchorage Chronicle.

Judge's Comments: A very interesting case. Even though it wasn't an in-depth story, it was a well-written look at a puzzling unsolved crime.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Judge: Jim Dawson, Senior News Editor, Physics Today

Large Papers

1st: Melissa DeVaughn, "Little Victories," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: This is a fine story that works on several levels. The topic is unexpected and works against the prejudices most of us carry. The lede pulls you in to the emotional world of Hulzengas and the author's relaxed, engaging writing style adds to the emotional texture of the story. DeVaughn also does a good job of including the science and weaving it into the narrative of the story. The sidebar on genetics and ethics adds valuable information to the story, and it was smart to break it out from the main piece. This was the clear winner. The photographs of Jim Lavrakas added a great deal to the package.

2nd: Ann Potempa, "Soothing Strings," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: This is an interesting, bittersweet story that is unusual and well written. It is neither health nor science in the traditional sense, but points to the often indifferent care of our dying and shows that there are simple solutions to that indifference. That Karen Gilley is a nurse who integrates the harp into her care of these patients gives the story credibility. Potempa does a nice job of setting a tone and holding it through the story.

3rd: Sonya Senkowsky, "Testing the Waters of the Yukon," freelance for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

Judge's Comments: Much of science is tedious, unpleasant work. Turning a cold day of data collecting into an interesting story is not only good journalism, but important in showing the very unglamorous nature of most of science. This was a hard story to do, and Senkowsky made it work. Writing in the first person is also dangerous – many journalists get it wrong. Senkowsky got it right, with a nice mix of insight, science, and humor.

Small Papers

1st: Rose Ragsdale, "My Colonoscopy," Anchorage Chronicle

Judge's Comments: There is a genre of first-person medical procedure stories, and they either work, or they don't. This one does. Ragsdale has a wonderful, conversational writing style that is perfect for this type of story. She blends wry observation, explanatory medical writing, and a slightly off-center view of the world to create a piece that pulls the reader through to the end – and that isn't easy to do with a colonoscopy story. The story is amusing and serious, and the final paragraph is a strong reminder of the purpose of the story. The photographs were unique.

2nd: Robert Dillon, "Officials Want Health Providers to Consolidate Care," Tundra Drums

Judge's Comments: This is good, solid journalism that involved a great deal of background work, reporting, and no-nonsense writing. The object of this story is to take a complicated, dry subject that is none-the-less important, and explain it in a clear, understandable way. Dillion does this well. His writing is clear, his organization is very good, and his use of quotes is on point. Good work.

3rd: Anne Millbrooke, "Scientists Confirm What We See: There Is Less Ice," Nome Nugget

Judge's Comments: This is an important national story and Millbrooke does a good job of describing the extent and context of the ongoing loss of arctic ice. She cites credible sources and gives the reader the statistics and context to understand the extent and implications of what is occurring. It is a good, comprehensive science story about a complex phenomenon.

EDITORIAL WRITING

Judge: Eleanor Clift, Newsweek Columnist

Large Papers

1st: Matthew Zencey, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: These are hard-hitting editorials. The writing is direct and clear with a leavening wit that hooks the reader.

2nd: Robert Meyerowitz, Anchorage Press

Judge's Comments: Thoughtful and thought-provoking, the writer avoids knee-jerk positions and explores all sides of the decision to go to war in Iraq.

3rd: Lori Evans, Peninsula Clarion

Judge's Comments: The writer lifts the veil on how government works, exposing Alaska's dependence on the federal government and the role of congressional seniority.

Small Papers

1st: Chris Bernard, Homer News

Judge's Comments: Lyrical and homespun yet pointed in their message, these editorials pack a wallop in the best sense.

2nd: John Crowder, Homer Tribune

Judge's Comments: The writer brings a reportorial sense to his topics, taking the reader along as he explains how he arrives at his position.

3rd: John Roscoe, Catholic Anchor

Judge's Comments: A clear voice on moral issues, from sexual abuse in the church to urging tolerance toward those who hold differing positions on the Iraq war.

COLUMN WRITING

Judge: Lori Robertson, Managing Editor, American Journalism Review

Large Papers

1st: Bill McAllister, "Poor expected to shoulder burden..." Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Bill McAllister combines strong opinions and clear, authoritative writing with a touch of humor – all in columns about the sometimes dry subject of state politics. His writing is accessible, educational and very much deserving of the first place award.

2nd: Bill McAllister, "Capitol Ideas," ABC Alaska's Superstation/KIMO 13

Judge's Comments: Ditto – he's simply a winner.

3rd: Sonya Senkowsky, "Home on the Edge," Anchorage Chronicle

Judge's Comments: A fun, lighthearted look at life in Sonya Senkowsky's backyard.

Small Papers

1st: Neil Zawicki, "Northwords," Alaska Star

Judge's Comments: Neil Zawicki has a breezy, conversational writing style that makes his columns simply fun to read. His endings also make you smile. He was a standout in this category.

2nd: Ken Marsh, "Send Them In..." Talkeetna Good Times

Judge's Comments: While Ken Marsh's pieces are more like history lessons than columns, they provide a nice education—replete with photos—about old Alaska.

3rd: Randi Somers, "L'Attitudes," Homer Tribune

Judge's Comments: interesting snapshots of the traveling life

SPORTS COLUMNIST

Judge: Bill Plaschke, LA Times Sports Columnist

1st: Beth Bragg, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: With all the versatility of a five-tool baseball player, Bragg is compelling, funny and just plain good in this deep compilation. The Iditarod column made this disagreeing judge angry with her, the nicknames column made the fascinated judge stay with her, and the Whitney Leman made the jealous judge admire the heck out of her for turning out such a deft column on deadline.

2nd: It's a tie!

Jeremiah Bartz, Frontiersman

Judge's Comments: Making one laugh out loud twice in a three-column entry is a pretty good batting average...After spending an evening with Mr. Bartz and his snow shovel and his Ohio college friends and his anger over an NFL loss, one thing becomes obvious. Yes, it is indeed "J's World" and we're just lucky to be living in it.

Charles Bingham, Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: The chief task of a sports columnist is to have a finger on the pulse of the community...Bingham has all 10 fingers wrist deep into his community, with great insider columns on everything from a thieving football coach to a funky wrestling tournament . . . One gets the feeling that if something is happening in grass roots sports in Juneau, Bingham know about it and has an opinion on it, and isn't that the definition of a columnist?

3rd: No award given.

SPORTS NEWS

Large Papers

Glenn Crevier, Minneapolis Star Tribune sports editor

1st: Beth Bragg, "Alborn quits on his own terms," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Nice way to break an important news story in your market. Beth not only reported that Alan Alborn was giving up his career as a ski jumper, but she turned the story into a nice profile by reviewing his career (from the age of 9) and involved the parents to share their memories. This is a nice example of going beyond the obvious angle.

2nd: Charles Bingham, "Ayers, Kohan get the big call," Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: The story not only reported that two area players had been drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers, but also told readers the curious story of why the Brewers selected two Alaskans.

3rd: Doyle Woody, "SARS dashes dreams," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Nice tale of two local women playing college hockey who had made Team USA in ice hockey but were denied their chance to play because of the SARS outbreak in China. Beyond the obvious, the story was helped by the fact that the two women were able to put ice hockey/SARS in perspective.

Small Papers

Judge: Lew Freedman, Chicago Tribune Outdoors writer and Glenn Crevier, Minneapolis Star Tribune sports editor

1st: It's a tie!

Randi Somers, "Gaelsong finishes, wins Yacht Club Memorial sail race," Homer Tribune.

Judge's Comments (Freedman): Nice to see a so-called non-mainstream sport get coverage. Some good, flavorful quotes mixed in.

Jacob Brooks, "ERA Aviation Christmas Basketball Tournament," Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge's Comments (Crevier): Jacob did an outstanding job of covering a big local event. His game stories were full of detail and game highlights and he hit the key points quickly in each story. He also did a good job of adding quotes to back up his leads. Jacob's work as a whole was impressive as he covered many games, boys and girls, in this tournament.

2nd: Jeff Brady, "Smart team' completes season at State Tourney," Skagway News

3rd: No award given

SPORTS GAME/EVENT

Large Papers

Judge: Bill Plaschke, LA Times Sports Columnist

1st: Ron Wilmot, "Going For Broke," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: A wonderful look at an automobile competition where, delightfully, the drivers' helmets cost more than the cars ... Wilmot illuminates this and many other hilarious facts while bringing to life the sort of event that is usually relegated to the agate pages..Great, descriptive lede following by old-fashioned narrative that kept the readers interest from start to finish.

2nd: Charles Bingham, "Over The Mudflats, Through The Woods," Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: A thoroughly clean account of a thoroughly messy event. This shows, once again, that the best game stories are often about games that don't require final scores or standings.

3rd: Beth Bragg, "UAA Women are Shootout champs," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: One of the hardest aspects of games stories is capturing the emotion of a stunning victory by an underdog team...It sounds easy, but it's very hard to pull off without become overwrought or maudlin...Bragg, an obvious veteran at these things, pulled it off perfectly. Nailed the story like those UAA women nailed Clemson.

Small Papers

Glenn Crevier, Minneapolis Star Tribune sports editor

1st: Robert Dillon, "King of Kusko," Tundra Drums

Judge's Comments: Outstanding coverage of the Bethel-to-Aniak sled dog race. Nice, tight writing style that got to the point and kept the reader moving throughout the story. Robert also made good use of quotes to tell the story of the race through the eyes of the competitors. Excellent detail on the issues surrounding the death of one of the dogs in the race.

2nd: Randi Somer, "Skateboarders Dedicate New Park," Homer Tribune

Judge's Comments: Good detail on the obstacles that needed to be overcome in order to build the park, and a nice look forward to what potential problems still loom. Very thorough job telling the story.

3rd: Jedediah R. Smith, "Hometown Heroes," Valdez Vanguard

Judge's Comments: Very nice writing to describe the first game ever for the VHS football team. The lead gets readers right into the story: "It could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship: touchdowns in Snow Town." Writer also did a nice job of describing what was happening on the sidelines and in the stands as well as on the field.

SPORTS FEATURE

Large Papers

Judge: Bill Plaschke, LA Times Sports Columnist

1st: Matt Nevala, "Laughing Off Adversity," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Wonderful piece of writing that makes you fall in love with "Lumpy."....Great reporting covers all angles of the story...Begins with cute quote interplay, and ends with a compelling little anecdote...From start to finish, a story that makes you cheer for Lumpy and applaud Nevala.

2nd: Nick Firchau, "Ketchikan's Mann of the Moment," Ketchikan Daily News

Judge's Comments: Writing a story about an athlete with a physical challenge is like walking a tightrope... The writer must balance the facts with the emotion, the diagnosis with the anecdotes... Firchau does this with the greatest of ease, making us not only feel empathy for the afflicted wrestler, but also helping us understand him, which is far more important.

3rd: It's a tie!

Beth Bragg, "Sweet Sounds of History" Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: This judge constantly preaches that three of the five most important elements in storytelling are ideas, ideas and ideas...This is an exact practice of that preaching, a tremendous idea by Bragg that she pulls off with grace . . . Who would have thought that so many interesting anecdotes are buried underneath the names on those buildings? Bragg thought it, and reacted to it, and wrote it.

Andrew Krueger, "Douglas Dynasty" Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: The hardest thing about anniversary stories is making the past relevant to the present...Krueger does this splendidly with a mystery-solving lead and a magical little tale.

Small Papers

Glenn Crevier, Minneapolis Star Tribune sports editor

1st: Jacob Brooks, Local referee selected to officiate state tournament, Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge's Comments: Compelling human interest story about one man's love of basketball, his job officiating, and the adversity he had to overcome to continue doing something he loved. Excellent story telling about his struggles with cancer and the decisions he had to make during the process.

2nd: Ben Stuart, "On the rebound," Homer News

Judge's Comments: Good reporting and strong descriptive writing in this portrait of one town's efforts to build a youth hockey and ice school hockey program. Tracking down four players from the 1997 youth team who now play high school hockey was a nice way to draw readers into the story.

3rd: Darrell L. Breese, "Mucha grapples her way to success," Anchorage Chronicle

Judge's Comments: Strong combination of reporting (using multiple sources) and writing to tell the story of a high school female wrestler.

ARTS COVERAGE

Laurie Robinson, Features Copy Desk, The Oregonian

1st: Amanda Coyne, "Looking at Clouds From Both Sides Now: Painter Ruth Sorensen," Anchorage Press.

Judge's Comments: This was not the most polished entry, and it could have benefited from tighter editing, but some passages of excellent descriptive writing won me over. Amanda Coyne has a great eye for detail and a good sense for where to insert that telling detail or interesting quote. It's hard to describe artwork in a way that holds the reader's attention, but Amanda makes us want to dive into all those layers of paint. And she added depth to the layers of the story by including the parts about the painter's frailties and depression and her fears that commercially successful work is suspect from a creative viewpoint.

2nd: George Bryson, "Writer Rich Chiappone: Building Character" Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: George Bryson does a nice job of following Chiappone's trajectory from boyhood in a decaying industrial town, riding sheets of ice toward Niagara Falls, to house painter with few prospects, to wallpaper hanger with a book of short stories and a high-powered literary agent. The piece effectively shows how the blue-collar/bad-choices theme of the short stories sprang from Chiappone's own life, in which he overcomes his earlier bad choices to become an anomaly. The lead is engaging, and the story wraps up well, too – both are important considerations in a feature article.

3rd: Robinson Duffy, "Movie Review: 'The Cat in the Hat,'" Fairbanks Sun Star.

Judge's Comments: This review, written entirely in Seuss-style verse, managed to be fun, fresh and informative. Robinson Duffy didn't get so wrapped up in his rhyme that he neglected his job as a reviewer: He makes several substantial points about the failings of the film. I think Dr. Seuss would have liked the review, and I'm guessing that Seuss fans in Fairbanks ate up every word.

SUSTAINED COVERAGE OR SERIES

Judges: Julie and Jim Sullivan-Springhetti, The Oregonian (Julie is a reporter on the Oregonian's investigations team. She shared reporting duties on the INS story that won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. Jim works on the Oregonian's presentations team.)

Large Papers

1st: Tom Kizzia, "Pilgrims and Papa's Passage," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: A fascinating and compelling look at a bizarre family from Texas whose actions in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park have implications for inholding rights in all national parks. Also, impressive research connecting Papa Pilgrim to Texas Gov. John Connally's daughter and President John F. Kennedy's liaisons.

2nd: Tom Moran, "Alaska's Bottom Line," Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

Judge's Comments: This judge was in awe of Moran's grasp of Alaska budget and revenue issues and his ability to explain them in easy-to-understand terms.

3rd: Heather Resz, "Dirty Tricks," Anchorage Chronicle

Judge's Comments: The power of this series on drugs and prostitution is underscored by Heather Resz's description of an addicted prostitute: "Her fingertips are split, the nails are blackened and pulled back from the flesh: "She's literally cooked her fingertips," an officer said.

Small Papers

1st: Carey James, "Boxed In," Homer News

Judge's Comments: An excellent effort to inform the community of the potential impact of a major new big box store before it happens.

2nd: Melissa Dover, "Crab Rationalization," Kodiak Daily Mirror

Judge's Comments: Dover does a fine job of tracking the twists and turns of federal policy toward the complex issue of quotas for crab processors.

3rd: Robert Dillon, "Native Summit ..." Tundra Drums

Judge's Comments: Impressive coverage of rural school issues and efforts to promote native education and cultural identity among native students.

HEADLINE WRITING

Judge: Bob Drews, Business copy chief at the San Jose (California) Mercury News

1st: Jenny Neyman, Peninsula Clarion (Headlines: "Bound to be fun," "Skinned deep/Taxidermist scrapes out a living," "Captive minds/Prison gives young offenders second chance at school," "A brush with wildlife/Summer art show depicts Alaska's untamed animals" and "The Moore the merrier/Soldotna man turns 100")

Judge's Comments: Jenny took each of the five stories here and described them for the reader with creative, descriptive, on-point headlines. In particular, the headlines took one key word from the story (Bound, with books; Brush, with painting) and used it as the cornerstone, an impressive exercise.

2nd: Jamie Rogers, Anchorage Daily News (Headlines: "Duped part deux: 'Joe Millionaire' rides into Europe/Oily: Gold-digging women believe rodeo star is a tycoon in next reality ruse," "Nice guys finish with love that lasts," "Stage frights: From 'Frankenstein' to Frank-N-Furter, get a headless start on Halloween," "Two sides to every serving/Plate: Wait staff can ruin otherwise good meal Counterplate: Customers' behavior sets tone for service" and "Sans the Scorchers, singer still sizzles")

Judge's Comments: Jamie is good at headlines that use a neat turn of phrase to tell the story without being trite. Too often headline writers confuse creativity with corniness and think they are the only ones who have a written headline that has been written thousands of times before. Jamie didn't fall into that trap. Her wordplay was original and also descriptive of the story, a winning combination.

3rd: Andrew Krueger, Juneau Empire (Headlines: "X-C²/Dinna twins are part of Juneau's winning cross-country formula," "All for none/Six Astros pitchers combine to no-hit Yanks/Astros' bullpen shines as Yankees fall apart," "Jump starter/Wyoming farm was site of great leap for basketball/Former Alaska prep coach devised jump shot to beat his older brother," "The Bear-Lin Wall/Conerton, Mearig, Stendahl and Thibodeau – an intimidating front to opposing offenses (note: the high school soccer team is known as the Bears)," and "Ump jumped in chaotic Comiskey contest/Fan tackles umpire in situation eerily similar to attack on coach last season")

Judge's Comments: Sports headlines that attempt to be creative and instead fall into pun purgatory are everywhere. Andrew's work has none of that. Instead, his work tells the stories for the reader and is professionally crafted. If you consider a headline to be almost like a lead for a story in big type, on all of these five stories Andrew has written a ""lead" that entices and impresses.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Judge: David Horsey, Pulitzer prize-winning editorial cartoonist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

1st: Toe, "Santa and Senator Stevens," Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: Toe's cartoons have a lighthearted touch that deliver a smart message. I especially enjoyed how he put the phrase "soft earmarks" into the mouth of an innocent little girl.

2nd: Chuck Legge, "Growth stimulator," Frontiersman

Judge's Comments: Chuck Legge has a nicely relaxed drawing style. His "rack" image was a good device to employ in picturing what he considered the absurdity of the governor's policy.

Dan Darrow, "Bush Action Figure," The Ester Republic

Judge's Comments: Several Dan Darrow cartoons are worthy of note, but I'll give this recognition to one particularly fun example, his portrayal of the president as a paper doll action figure.

BEST SECTION

Large Papers

Lori Robertson, Managing Editor, American Journalism Review

1st: Life section, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: The Life sections combine eye-catching graphics with good writing—plus they have a real community feel. The January 26 edition is particularly noteworthy for providing an in-depth and educational look at the Anchorage Opera's production of "Turandot."

2nd: 8 magazine, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Entertainment or weekend sections are often very gray pages of listings, listings and more listings. 8 magazine isn't. This section is well organized and makes good use of graphics and break out boxes to lead readers to whatever it is they're looking for. It's chock-full of information, and the innovative size is fun, too.

3rd: This Week, Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: The well-organized This Week does a good job of highlighting local artists and events—the middle spread, which makes use of color and pleasing graphics, gives readers a more thorough look at a Juneau-area happening.

Small Papers

Judge: Jake Arnold, The Oregonian

1st: Heart of Homer, Homer Tribune.

Judge's Comments: The design was inviting, the pictures were eye-catching and the writing was informative and interesting. This was my immediately my first-place selection.

2nd: First Alaskans, Alaska Newspapers Inc.

Judge's Comments: Although this was very different from other entries in the category, I decided to judge it as the same. On those merits, it had the welcoming devices of a magazine coupled with the informative style of a newspaper. I also liked the thematic similarity of issues.

3rd: The Looking Glass"; Kodiak Daily Mirror.

Judge's Comments: I like the way the stories were targeted at kids without talking down to them. The stories also had inviting packaging.

BEST WEEKLY

Judges: Pattie Epler, Managing Editor, Phoenix New Times and Paul Rubin, senior staff writer, Phoenix New Times

1st: Anchorage Chronicle

Judges' Comments: Very solid news coverage for a weekly with interesting choices to fill the weekly hole and a decent attempt at storytelling. Appealing and fresh design package spiced with excellent graphics. The writers shoot; the shooters write -- and they're good at both. Impressive!

2nd: Homer News

Judges' Comments: This paper really covers the waterfront (pun intended) from somewhat pedestrian city council coverage to the more compelling idea of sending the 22-year-old reporter back to high school. Good job tracking the week-to-week drama of a vibrant community where a lot happens.

3rd: Tundra Drums

Judges' Comments: Great effort by a small staff, particularly the very busy R.A. Dillon. Excellent photos!

ILLUSTRATION

Judge: Steve Dorsey, Design and Graphics Director, Detroit Free Press

1st: Lance Lekander, "Eye in the Sky," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Playful, bright, engaging and to the point. Style was rendered just enough to give flavor and texture without getting carried away. This artist knows his press qualities and also takes full advantage of the proportions of this vertical regular half-section front. Nice coordination with the headline too. (Regrettable placement of "Page 7" reefer, shame on the designer).

2nd: Lance Lekander, "Beat of the Slopes," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Strong use of color and shape complement a well-rendered piece. The implied circle connects this illustration with its headline and gives it strong directional motion. (Good move on the designer's part to increase point size and boldness to account for the reverse type too).

3rd: No award given.

Honorable Mention: Robert DeBerry, "Inhalant Abuse," Anchorage Chronicle

Judge's Comments: Soft lighting and extra negative space combine with proper scale given to the final piece to convey a serious and thoughtful illustration. I could have done without the "faux-feathered" edges perhaps in lieu of a regular border of a softer faded edge.

PAGE LAYOUT & DESIGN

Judge: Steve Dorsey, Design and Graphics Director, Detroit Free Press (small and large papers competed together in this category)

1st: Pam Dunlap-Shohl, "Salmon sizzle," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: A colorful, engaging and artful combination of numerous pieces of artwork. Skillful integration of the elements formed them into a larger whole that attracted and rewarded the reader. The design used just enough grid to organize, but left enough space to allow the eye to wander and appreciate the colorful piece. Excellent use of cut-out and color backgrounds made this even more readable. Well done.

2nd: Jenny Neyman and M. Scott Moon, "Digital Diversions," Peninsula Clarion

Judge's Comments: The illustrative use of the multiple photos really sold this package. The display typography and white space did not work in conjunction with the package and the page itself was thrown off-balance by placing both vertical texts together, but the photo montage and headline color repetition held it together. (This page would place even higher with more attention to scale, proportion and placement of basic elements).

3rd: Andrew Krueger, "Pillars of the Sport," Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: A college paper with attitude and zest from the lead stories, to the illustration and inside columns, all the way to the folio lines. Bravo. Sadly there are not enough of your peers taking risks like this. Keep up the good work and have (responsible) fun.

Honorable Mention: Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks Sun Star: Heather Taggard, Jamie Smith, Theresa Roark.

Judge's Comments: A college paper with attitude and zest from the lead stories, to the illustration and inside columns, all the way to the folio lines. Bravo. Sadly there are not enough of your peers taking risks like this. Keep up the good work and have (responsible) fun.

BEST GRAPHIC

Rob Romig, Director of graphics and photography, The Register-Guard

1st: Ron Engstrom, "Heavy weight: North slope oil," Anchorage Daily News

2nd: Ron Engstrom, "Rat explosion on Kiska Island," Anchorage Daily News

3rd: Ron Engstrom, "Fishing for oil in Bristol," Anchorage Daily News

SPOT NEWS

Large Papers

Judges: Los Angeles Times deputy director of photography Calvin Hom, feature photo editor Hal Wels and photo assignment editor Robert St. John.

1st: Brian Wallace, "Saving A Life," Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: Strong moment, peak emotion, intense expression, long lens helped clean up clutter, maybe crop tighter.

2nd: Al Grillo, "A Rose For Grandpa," Associated Press

Judge's Comments: Beautifully composed with father enveloping son, good seeing repetition of images and white stark snow contrasted by red, red rose.

3rd: Jim Lavrakas, "Gas Main Blows," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Framing is well done, photographer made something out of nothing by juxtaposing the backhoe with the flames.

Small:

Tony Overman and staff of The Olympian. Overman is also director for the National Press Photographers Association Region 11.

1st: Robert Dillon, "Full Service Car Wash," Tundra Drums

Judge's Comments: "Great composition with the man reflected in the side of the half-submerged van, and both the man and the van reflected in the shining water. Facial expression and body language of the distraught driver are priceless."

2nd: Joseph Robertia, "Bear Mauls Girdwood Man," Peninsula Clarion

Judge's Comments: "Good two picture package showing the problem of bears rummaging through fishermen's backpacks, and the solution of game officials armed with rifles. A complete report."

3rd: Robert Stapleton, "Walking Away from Structure Fire" Anchorage Chronicle

Judge's Comments: "Best composition of all the fire photos. Body language and facial expression combine with the billowing smoke to tell the reader that the damage is significant."

PICTURE STORY

Large Papers

Judges: Los Angeles Times deputy director of photography Calvin Hom, feature photo editor Hal Wels and photo assignment editor Robert St. John.

1st: Marc Lester, "Pilgrim Family," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: The most different photo story idea of all the entries. Good inside lead photo of Papa Pilgrim holding his daughters. Good access, would have liked photographer spend more time with the family. Keep pursuing unusual story ideas like this.

2nd: Marc Lester, "Military Youth," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: An idea that has been done a lot, but this was shot well. Keep pushing to find what is unusual about this military youth or different angles to a story that has been done before. Good initiative to photograph AND write the story. Like the behind the scenes ironing and the two head juxtaposed from overhead.

3rd: Jim Lavrakas, "Little Victories," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Lead inside photo of couple shopping was powerful juxtaposition between people who are different. Again, wish photographer had spent more time with the couple than several quick hits. A sensitive story that could provide insight into how this family lives it's life and how it fits into the community.

Small Papers

Gary Cohn, LA Times

1st: Jeff Troth, "Afghanistan Prep," Alaska Post

Jeff Comments: Photographer Jeff Troth did an excellent job of telling the story of how Company B, 1st battalion prepared to head to Afghanistan. The photos work well together to tell this story of training and duty.

2nd: James Mason, "Tag, You're It," Arctic Sounder.

Judge's Comments: Mason's photos capture a slice of life in Alaska, in a way that cannot help but delight the newspaper's readers.

3rd: John Crowder, "War and Peace," Homer Tribune.

Judge's Comments: In this single photo, John Crowder tells the story of how Americans were split over the issue of armed conflict in Iraq. The photo was taken in the newspaper's coverage area, right in Homer, but also illustrated a larger split in towns across Alaska and all of America.

SPORTS PHOTO

Large Papers

Judges: Los Angeles Times deputy director of photography Calvin Hom, feature photo editor Hal Wels and photo assignment editor Robert St. John.

1st: Al Grillo, "Uphill Scramble," Associated Press

Judge's Comments: This was a different sports photo, good timing as runners slip in mud and snow, like the intensity in the face in the foreground, good high angle with strong background.

2nd: Erik Hill, "Golovia Bay Sunset," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Another different sports photo, looks like the photographer knew what he wanted, waited for perfect light, composition and captured the image.

3rd: Robert Hallman, "Snmo Crash," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Good timing as bodies go flying on snow mobile jump, longer lens or tighter crop would could have helped.

Small:

Judge: Rob Romig, Director of graphics/photography, The Register-Guard

1st: Robert DeBarry, "Thrill ride," Anchorage Chronicle

2nd: Robert DeBarry, "Cyclist in motion," Anchorage Chronicle

3rd: Jedediah R. Smith, "Which way is up?" Valdez Vanguard

SCENIC PHOTO

Large Papers

Judges: Los Angeles Times deputy director of photography Calvin Hom, feature photo editor Hal Wels and photo assignment editor Robert St. John.

1st: John Hagen, "Sky Lights," Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

Judge's Comments: The Aurora lights, yes done a lot, but here it was framed beautifully by snow covered trees, good composition and intense color.

2nd: Bob Hallinen, "Chugach Moose," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Well executed framing of the mountains, nice quality of light, good use of rule of thirds.

3rd: Michael Penn, "Skiers' Moon," Juneau Empire

Judge's Comments: Good use of repetition of images and leading line, moon framed well, like the long lens use.

Small Papers

Mark Dolan, Professor of photography, Syracuse University, New York

1st: Don Pitcher, "Ice Time," Homer News

2nd: Bob Martinson, "Alaska Style Spring," Northern Light

3rd: Rob Stapleton, "A Bull Moose," Anchorage Chronicle

PORTRAIT

Small Papers

Rob Romig, Director of graphics and photography, The Register-Guard

1st: John Crowder, "Cece Grevemberg" Homer Tribune
2nd: Robert DeBarry, "New face of worship" Anchorage Chronicle
3rd: Theresa Roark, "Lind's last stand" The Sun Star

Large

Judge: Tony Overman and staff of the Olympian.

1st: Marc Lester, "Pilgrim Family," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: "Large groups are not easy to photograph, but Marc Lester's photo does it wonderfully. Beautiful setting, great body language, and the family's gritty clothing made this photo draw you in."

2nd: Jim Lavrakas, "Fair Face," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: "Great use of framing the young girl's eyes with the face paint and the curve of her hair. The contrast of color from the red forehead and blue mouth force the viewer right into the girl's eyes, and thus, her soul."

3rd: Hall Anderson, "Shark Art - Ray Troll," Ketchikan Daily News

Judge's Comments: "Goofy subject willing to have fun, framed wonderfully by the teeth of a shark. The most creative of the bunch."

FEATURE

Large Papers

Judges: Los Angeles Times deputy director of photography Calvin Hom, feature photo editor Hal Wels and photo assignment editor Robert St. John.

1st: Al Grillo, "Flying Fireworks," Associated Press

Judge's Comments: Great moment, good color, strong eye for framing, well thought out and executed.

2nd: Hall Anderson, "Inside Out," Ketchikan Daily News

Judge's Comments: Nice job of seeing and waiting for the perfect moment when the workers would be framed in the windows just right, photographer waited for just the right moment.

3rd: Matt Hage, "Avalanche Awareness," Anchorage Daily News / freelance

Judge's Comments: Powerful photo, unfortunately the designer put type all over the image, but it still made a good moment with the correct long lens used.

Small Papers

Tony Overman, photographer for The Olympian and Director for the National Press Photographers Association Region 11

1st: Robert DeBerry, "Big Job for Flag Boy," Anchorage Chronicle

Judge's Comments: "It's always nice to laugh out loud at a photo, and this one made us laugh. A great moment of a little boy struggling to carry all of his American flags, and intent on not slowing down from his important duty. Very little depth of field keeps the shot clean, and the inclusion of the cross in the foreground completes the story. Best of the best!"

2nd: Heather Taggard, "Mud Volleyball," Sun Star

Judge's Comments: "Clean...and it's hard to expect that from a mud volleyball game. The photo is quick and easy to read, while showing the subtleties of the mud-sports world (Goggles, collisions and splattering mud)."

3rd: Robert Dillon, "Easy Riders," Tundra Drums

Judge's Comments: "Great facial expressions of the two girls riding an electric cycle. Low depth of field cleans up the background. And you gotta love those gator boots."

RADIO

BREAKING NEWS

Judge: Corey Flintoff, NPR

1st: Theresa A. Bakker, "Central Fire," KUAC-FM

Judge's Comments: This story put me at the scene of the fire with descriptive eye-witness tape used early in the piece. Ms. Bakker followed up with a good overview of the situation, and left me with a sense of the danger the town was still facing.

2nd: Johanna Eurich, "Bear Mauling," KDLG

Judge's Comments: This was also a very strong entry, almost a tie for first place. It was remarkably comprehensive for a breaking news story, but it took a little too long to get to the core of the story, what the troopers saw when they reached the scene. The calm pace of Ms. Eurich's delivery lent an added chill to danger the troopers faced when they reached the campsite and when they contemplated returning to do necropsies on the dead bears.

3rd: None given

SINGLE STORY

Judge: Steve Kindred, KFVB, Burbank, CA

1st: Joe Viechnicki, "Petersburg Lake Cabin," KFSK-FM

Judge's Comments: Good use of sound combined with solid story telling skills. Joe is not afraid of letting the sound tell the story without a lot of narration. Nice work

2nd: Helen Fleming, "Teen Marriage," Alaska Teen Media Institute

Judge's Comments: Well written and produced. Good blend of narrative and sound bites, this kid has really done her homework!

3rd: Len Anderson, "Anchorage Cows," KSKA

Judge's Comments: Great writing and wit by the reporter, and excellent use of the language to tell the story. Never has so much been done with cow dung and exploding vegetables

COMPREHENSIVE

Judge: Steve Kindred, KFVB, Burbank, CA

1st: Patty Sullivan, "Coal Bed Beneath Our Town," KSKA

Judge's Comments: Solid writing and integration of sound into the story-telling. Great job of probing into a complex subject in a compelling way.

2nd: Katie Bausler, "Niche Marketing Alaska Salmon," KTOO-FM

Judge's Comments: Katie shows extensive subject knowledge and the piece is extremely well researched.. A good example of what in-depth coverage is all about

3rd: Ellen Lockyer, "Iditarod Volunteers," APRN

Judge's Comments: Solid reporting and excellent production values. Good use of sound and interviews

ONGOING PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

Judge: Paul Glickman, KPCC/Media Center, Pasadena, CA

1st: Robert Hannon, "Vital Signs: Caring for Alaskans," KUAC/Alaska One

2nd: Jessica Cochran, Michelle Wozniak, Ellen Lockyer, John Nelson, "AK", Alaska Public Radio Network

3rd: Kate Ripley, "Evening Rounds: In Vitro Fertilization," KUAC-FM

ONE TIME PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

Judge: Paul Glickman, KPCC/Media Center, Pasadena, CA

1st: "Alaska's Bottom Line: Taxes" - KUAC-FM; Libby Casey - Host; Robert Hannon - Producer

2nd: none given

3rd: none given

COMMENTARY, EDITORIAL OR REVIEW

Judge: Bill Drummond, School of Journalism, University of California - Berkeley

1st: Geo Beach, Tempest Media, "The Power of One."

Judge's Comments: This piece was provocative, well delivered and well written. It demonstrated an exhaustive knowledge and understanding of Alaska politics.

2nd: Ellen Lockyer, Alaska Public Radio Network, "Family."

Judge's Comments: A close look with affection and fondness at the quirky living arrangements in which recent immigrants to Alaska find themselves.

3rd: Doug Fine, National Public Radio, "Off the grid."

Judge's Comments: A caustic reminder to people in the Lower 48 that losing electric power in a blackout is a minor inconvenience, compared to what Alaskans endure in their everyday lives.

DOCUMENTARY

No entries

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Judge: Laura McCallum, Capitol Bureau Chief, MPR

1st: Anne Sutton, "Gustavus, Inc.," KTOO-FM.

Judge's Comments: Good nat sound pulls listener into story of small community struggling with growth. Colorful writing, good tape from community members.

2nd: Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock, "Longevity Bonus," KUAC.

Judge's Comments: Good tape from an angry senior upset about budget cuts draw listener into the story. Nice job of explaining both sides of the issue.

3rd: Jody Seitz, "Allotment," KDLG and APRN.

Judge's Comments: Used the personal story of one couple to help explain extremely complicated issue of Indian law and tribal land - good reporting.

BUSINESS

Judge: Kai Ryssdal, host Marketplace Morning Report

1st: Deepa Ranganathan, "Foreign Workers," KTOO

2nd: Joe Viechnicki, "Can Pack Record," KFSK

3rd: Matt Lichtenstein, "Marine Operator Shuts Down," KFSK

ENVIRONMENTAL

Judge: Guy Nelson, KUOW, Seattle

1st: Patty Sullivan, "Jim Creek - Trashed Alaska," KSKA Public Radio

2nd: Johanna Eurich, "Fencing the Bears," KDLG

3rd: Johanna Eurich, "Russian Fish Poaching," KDLG

CRIME & COURTS

Judge: Richard Baker, Kansas State University Radio Network

1st: Anne Sutton, "Kake Circle," KTOO-FM

Judge's Comments: Well written. Well voiced. Excellent sound. The three are woven together to create an intelligent, listenable report that makes for damn good radio!

2nd: Patty Sullivan, "Burglar-killing Pastor Goes Free," KSKA Radio

Judge's Comments: A good, straight-to-the-point report. The writing, sound, and facts do a good job of informing the listener.

EDUCATION

Judge: Rachel Ambrose, AP, Los Angeles

1st: Johanna Eurich, "Meshek School," KDLG, Dillingham

Judge's Comments: A profile on a rural school where the principal was clearly not the person the community wanted. This is the principal's second year and he says, "They were true to their word. They have not supported me very much." Johanna is a good storyteller who makes wonderful use of sound, getting the listener into this piece with a very simple use of the sound of the school door as the principal opens it in the morning. The piece goes on to show how this principal opens the community to new ideas. Gradually, but there is progress. Good flow to the piece.

2nd: Libby Casey, "Campus Activism--or Apathy," KUAC-FM, Fairbanks

Judge's Comments: A wonderfully told story of a special day at the U. of Alaska at Fairbanks. On one part of campus, there's a planned rally to increase university funding. On another part, it's the annual spring tradition: mud volleyball. The rally only generates the support of 20 people, even with free food. Quotes from students--some of whom don't flat our care about funds for the school and others who say the school needs more money but they're out and about for the volleyball. This piece sizes up the problem of funding.

3rd: Johanna Eurich, "Togiak School," KDLG, Dillingham

Judge's Comments: Johanna does another wonderful job on profiling a rural school. The principal is heard telling a child who's faltering in a spelling bee not to worry because she's not supposed to know everything. "We're here to learn," the principal says. We hear from the students. We hear from a husband-and-wife teaching team.

HEALTH & SCIENCE

Judge: Richard Baker, Kansas State University Radio Network

1st: Doug Fine, "The Salmon Spawn," KHNS

Judge's Comments: Kept my interest with a good mix of sound, voice, information and fun. A good job of painting a picture in my head. Solid reporting.

2nd: Len Anderson, "TV and Diabetes," KSKA

Judge's Comments: Unusual approach to an important issue. Using the indirect method to back into something many don't want to hear is a good way to keep 'em listening until you make your point.

3rd: Jody Seitz, "F-A-S," KDLG & APRN

Judge's Comments: Well written and thought out. Good, intelligent radio. Many listeners had to be thinking "you're kiddin' me!"

FEATURE

Judge: Rachel Ambrose, AP, Los Angeles

1st: Libby Casey, "Athabaskan Fiddle Festival," KUAC-FM, Fairbanks

Judge's Comments: You don't want to stop listening to this piece. This wonderful segment of storytelling traces the history of the Athabaskan fiddle from its beginning through various influences. Of course, the reporter offers the wonderful fiddlers and their special regional music.

2nd: Johanna Eurich, "Set Netting," KDLG, Dillingham

Judge's Comments: Wonderful use of sound as the reporter actually takes you to sea during a poorer-than-usual salmon fishing season.

3rd: Johanna Eurich, "Dillingham Christmas Programs," KDLG, Dillingham

Judge's Comments: We've all been to the local school's holiday programs. But in this case, the reporter treats this like a big production and tells the story of the struggles to get to this point. Again, good sound.

PROFILE

Judge: Katherine Concannon, National Public Radio – Seattle

1st: Len Anderson, "Polish Immigrant Receives Slave Labor Check," KSKA

Judge's Comments: Anderson used a well-balanced combination of expressive writing, strong tape and an authoritative delivery to bring us a compelling story.

2nd: Gabriel Spitzer, "Life of Mike Sams," APRN

3rd: Patty Sullivan, "Alaska's Home brewers," KSKA

SPORTS

Judge: Bill Drummond, School of Journalism, University of California – Berkeley

1st: Libby Casey, "2003 Yukon Quest," KUAC-FM

Judge's Comments: Excellent selection of sound, vivid writing and sharp focus raise this piece to a higher level.

2nd: Doug Fine, "Wilderness Marathon," National Public Radio.

Creative use of the first person and skilled field recording make this a memorable piece.

3rd: no award given

LIVE EVENT COVERAGE

Judge: Mardy Derby, CBC

1st: KNBA, Coverage of AFN

2nd and 3rd: no awards given

ARTS COVERAGE

Euan Kerr, Minnesota Public Radio

1st: Ellen Lockyer, APRN, "Ron Wise"

Judge's Comments: Ellen's report gives us real insight into the life of a talented musician by taking us on a trip to Ron Wise's cabin. The piece slips easily from sound recorded on-site to pieces from the new CD, while Ellen's tightly written script tells us the story of Ron's career, and what led him to sit in the chair in the cabin to create his instrumentals.

2nd: Melissa Smith, Alaska Teen Media Initiative, "Nothing Less"

Judge's Comments: Melissa introduces us to a group of young performers riding the wave of excitement of a first recording. She captures that excitement without descending into hyperbole. The script lays out the story, with writing that sets up the cuts effortlessly. The piece leaves the audience wanting a little more: the secret to both good theater and good radio!

3rd: Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez, independent producer, "Kid Band"

Judge's Comments: This is truly one of the most bizarre pieces I have heard in years of judging --- and it works! Part arts commentary, part media satire, it examines a scene familiar to most families: youngsters playing rock stars. Dylan's dead-pan delivery, and marvellous interviews with the 'stars' (highlighting the importance of look over songs, and how its better to have three hairbrushes than two) capture the delight of childhood and make a listener take a new look at music appreciation.

DAILY NEWS PROGRAM

Judge: Mardy Derby, CBC

- 1st: Alaska News Nightly
 2nd: KUAC and Native Voice Communications
 3rd: Alaska Morning News, APRN

TELEVISION

BREAKING NEWS

Judge: Kimberly Reeves, KTVT-TV Dallas (KTVT was named best large-market newscast in the nation by Quality in Project for Excellence in Journalism Study in 2001. Also recently won a number of Lone Star Emmy Awards.)

- 1st: KTUU, "The Search is Over," Meghan Stapleton, Anchor/Reporter; Jason Moore, Anchor; Lynn Melling, Reporter; Karen Pearson, Producer

Judge's Comments: An impressive use of a smaller news team to put together the final note on the story that really gripped Anchorage. All the elements were there, from an overview of the story to local reaction to a location map of where the boys were found. Meghan was well prepared to answer questions from the anchor, too. Our only thought was to speed up the pacing a bit and bring the vo of bodies found to the top of the newscast.

- 2nd: KTUU, "Plane Crash," Lynn Melling, Reporter and Justin Freeman, Photographer

Judge's Comments: All of us could identify with Justin's thoughts as he must have seen the plane come in. Quick writing and editing in a tight time frame.

- 3rd: KTUU, "Stranded Belugas," Lynn Melling, Reporter and Chris Werner, Photographer

Judge's Comments: We liked the creativity on a piece that must have been difficult to see from the ground. Good hustle in a tight time frame.

SINGLE STORY

Judge: Kimberly Reeves, KTVT-TV Dallas (KTVT was named best large-market newscast in the nation by Quality in Project for Excellence in Journalism Study in 2001. Also recently won a number of Lone Star Emmy Awards.)

- 1st: KTUU, "Pilgrim Road," Jason Moore, Reporter and Dave Steward, Photographer

Judge's Comments: This story made a good use of sound and video to tell the Pilgrim family's story. We assume getting access to the family was probably the biggest hurdle.

- 2nd: KTVA, "Under the Ice," Jeff Turner, Reporter and Ian Rushing, Photographer

Judge's Comments: Nice simple explanation to a science story. Good mix of video and interviews from the Artic.

- 3rd: KTOO, "ANWR: A Tale of Two Cities," Bill McAllister

Judge's Comments: Good mix of video and interviews. This tells both sides to a controversial story from the point of view of the two villages.

SERIES REPORTING

Judge: Mike Beudet, Investigative Reporter, FOX 25 (Winner of three Boston/New England Emmys. Named Outstanding News Reporter by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Also won an Edward R. Murrow Award for a news series about international adoption.)

- 1st: Rhonda McBride, Phil Walczak, Justin Freeman, "Wrangell Institute," KTUU

Judge's Comments: This was an excellent piece of journalism. The storytelling through words and pictures made me care about this fascinating slice of history. Well done.

- 2nd: Maria Downey, Eric Sowl, "Special Olympics Ireland," KTUU

Judge's Comments: Nice combination of local Irish flavor and local Alaskan athletes. It's refreshing to see local TV going overseas for a worthwhile feature series.

- 3rd: Lauren Maxwell, Dave Gamson, Scott Smith, "Spirit of Youth," KTVA

Judge's Comments: This series shows an admirable commitment to "good news". It IS refreshing.

LIVE SHOT

Judge: Mike Sipes, KMBC-TV Kansas City MO

- 1st: Meghan Stapleton-Reporter, Shawn Wilson-Photographer, "Rats," KTUU-Channel 2

Judge's Comments: Meghan Rocks! Great Energy, storytelling and able to handle curveballs thrown by the anchors.

- 2nd: Lynn Melling, "Ft. Rich Fence," KTUU-Channel 2

Judge's Comments: Solid-Nice Demonstration

- 3rd: Ben Deci-Reporter, Ian Rushing-photographer, "Fee's and Fines," KTVA

Judge's Comments: Nice Job-Would have scored higher if found way to use graphics in live shot as well.

DOCUMENTARY

Judge: Karen Larsen, News Anchor KJRH 2 NBC, Tulsa (In 2002 station won: Edward R. Murrow Regional Award for News Documentary; Heartland Emmy Award best morning newscast; Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters outstanding achievement award. Murrow documentary national winner in 2001)

1st: KTUU-TV, Channel 2 News, "Alaska's Forgotten War: Legacy of Sacrifice & Survival," Steve MacDonald Writer-Producer, Eric Sowl Photographer-Editor, Rich Jordan-Photographer, Jim Schewe-Executive Producer

Judge's Comments: "Alaska's Forgotten War is a clearly written, intensively researched and beautifully shot documentary. By tracking down survivors for first-hand perspectives, using extensive historical video and clever post-production techniques, this program provides an insightful, heartbreaking and yet inspiring view of an event that few even know happened. Well done!"

2nd: KTUU-TV, Channel 2 News, "The Yukon: Subsistence, Salmon and Survival," Brian Bechard, Photographer, Megan Baldino, Reporter

Judge's Comments: "In the hands of a talented photographer and reporter, 'TheYukon' provides an insightful look at the delicate balance of life on the river. Terrific use of natural sound, music and even chyron help provide even more impact for the reporter's words. Great teamwork!"

3rd: KUAC Alaska One, "Fishlift: The Recovery of an Ichyosaur," Mark Cosson, Producer

Judge's Comments: "Unique and captivating topic."

Honorable mention: KUAC Alaska One, "If We Dance: The Story of the Midnight Sun Intertribal PowWow," Aaron Elterman, Producer

HEALTH OR SCIENCE

Judge: Karen Larsen, News Anchor KJRH 2 NBC, Tulsa (In 2002 station won: Edward R. Murrow Regional Award for News Documentary; Heartland Emmy Award best morning newscast; Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters outstanding achievement award. Murrow documentary national winner in 2001)

1st: Rhonda McBride, Reporter/Phil Walczak, Photographer/Editor, "Get Steamed"

Judge's Comments: "Beautifully shot, nicely paced, 'Get Steamed' is an insightful, indepth report on one man's efforts to make a difference in his community. Well-written, with good audio/video links and use of natural sound."

2nd: Chris Wermer, Photographer/Joy Mapaye, Reporter, "Champ Camp"

Judge's Comments: "Champ Camp" is a strong contender with solid writing, excellent photography and use of natural sound. Nice writing into and out of sound."

3rd: no award given

EDUCATION – MISSING!

Judge: Tim Ryan, KUSA-TV, Denver (Emmy winner and past president of Heartland chapter of the National Television Academy)

ENVIRONMENTAL

Judge: Tim Ryan, KUSA-TV, Denver (Emmy winner and past president of Heartland chapter of the National Television Academy)

No awards given.

CRIME & COURTS

Judge: Mike Sipes, KMBC-TV, Kansas City, MO

1st: KTUU Channel 2, "I didn't shoot the pipeline," Gianna Trinca, reporter; Mike Nederbrock, photographer; Justin Freeman, editor.

Judge's Comments: Great surprise in the middle of the story. Nice pacing and this story had the key players.

2nd: KTUU Channel 2, "Drug Court: Lives in the Balance," Rhonda McBride, reporter; Phil Walczak, photographer/editor; Justin Freeman, photographer; Rich Jordan, photographer.

Judge's Comments: Very interesting stories with good players. Pacing was somewhat deliberate, that's why it got knocked down into second.

3rd: KTVA, "Correira," Christina Cotterman, reporter; Ian Rushing, photographer.

Judge's Comments: Good story. Nice photography in spots. Overall pacing needed to be picked up and more creativity in shooting interviews would have helped it score higher.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Judge: Mike Beaudet, Investigative Reporter, FOX 25 (Winner of three Boston/New England Emmys. Named Outstanding News Reporter by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Also won an Edward R. Murrow Award for a news series about international adoption.)

1st: KTOO, "Alaska Week," Bill McAllister

Judge's Comments: Excellent in-depth, local coverage. Good questioning of the Governor.

2nd: **KTUU, "Sorry it's the Law," Meghan Stapleton, Justin Freeman**
Judge's Comments: Very entertaining. I'll never look at a moose the same way again...

3rd: **KTUU, "Alaska Video Gaming," Warren Williamson, Shawn Wilson**
Judge's Comments: Good job comparing Alaska to Oregon.

BUSINESS

Judge: Mike Sipes, KMBC-TV, Kansas City, MO

1st: **Ulu Factory," Steve MacPorsato, Chris Werher- photographer, KTUU-Channel 2**
Judge's Comments: Great Storytelling and use of natural sound throughout story. Overall the story flowed and paced nicely. Makes me want to buy an ULU!

2nd: **"Kotzebue Summit," Gianna Trinea-Reporter, Dave Steward-Photographer, KTUU-Channel 2**
Judge's Comments: Nice profile of biz and how it was a success story in the Summit. Would have won if found ways to use more natural sound and maybe interview some customers of the business that we saw.

TELEVISION FEATURE

Judge: John Sharify, Emmy-Award Winning Reporter, KOMO Radio & TV, Seattle

1st: **"Patti Godfrey: One Year Later," Rhonda McBride, Reporter; Phil Walczak, Photographer and Editor, KTUU-TV Channel 2 News**
Judge's Comments: Bar none, the strongest entry in this category. Writing was crisp, moments memorable, story telling superb. 'Bravo' to this talented team of journalists. I 'felt' this story, like I was in the room right there with the photographer and reporter. I cared. I cared a lot. I watched and I was envious of the work. That rarely happens.

2nd: **"Cultural Camp," Megan Baldino, Reporter; Brian Bechard, Photographer, KTUU--TV**
Judge's Comments: Nicely crafted piece, with wonderful moments. Nice use of natural sound. Good writing. Beautiful editing. And beautiful story.

3rd: **"Paragliding," Lynn Melling, Reporter; Justin Freeman, Photographer, KTUU-TV**
Judge's Comments: I was impressed. Some superb visual moments, including close up shots of subject while he was gliding. Clever moment at the end with the reporter. Overall a nice piece.

ARTS COVERAGE

Judge: Enrique Cerna, KCTS Public Television, Emmy Award winning reporter, Seattle

1st: **"Willow Artist," Lauren Maxwell, reporter and Mitch Tremblay, photographer.**

2nd: **"Small Gallery, Big Art," Sheila Balistreri, KTUU**

3rd: **"UN Celebration," Elicia Hammond, KTVA.**

ONGOING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Judge: Tom Hauser, Chief Political Reporter KSTP, 2003 Emmy Award Winner- Best Public Affairs Program "At Issue", St. Paul, Minnesota

1st: **"Consider This"/KAKM-Channel 7, Rhonda McBride (Host/Reporter) Richard Davis (Producer/Director)**
Judge's Comments: The interviews were all interesting, but "The Godfrey Family" segment was compelling television. The host and producer managed to tell a riveting story without exploiting the family's tragedy. It was also a great public service to highlight a serious problem with the 911 system.

2nd: **"Inside Alaska"/KVAC-Alaska One, Robert Hannon**
Judge's Comments: For someone with little knowledge of Alaska's history I found the show about Alaska's statehood both fascinating and informative. High marks for production!

3rd: **"Vital Signs: Caring for Alaskans"/KVAC-Alaska One, Robert Hannon**
Judge's Comments: The shows on sleep apnea and behavioral disorders caused by inhalants provided a valuable public service.

ONE TIME PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Judge: Tom Hauser, Chief Political Reporter KSTP, 2003 Emmy Award Winner- Best Public Affairs Program "At Issue", St. Paul, Minnesota

1st: **KTVA 50th Anniversary Special, Lauren Maxwell (Executive Producer); Ian Rushing (editor)**
Judge's Comments: The history of television is an important part of every community and state. This special broadcast captured the pioneering spirit it took to put television on the air in Alaska.

2nd and 3rd: none given.

SPORTS STORY

Results not in by press time.

PROFILE

Judge: Jeff Gianola, Award Winning Anchor/Reporter, KOIN 6 T.V. Portland

1st: "Apple Man, Christina Cotterman/lan Rushing, KTVA CHANNEL 11

Judge's Comments: This is proof you can take a very simple story and make it a great story. The editing and photography is excellent. The reporters pacing is good... Letting the pictures and the subject tell the story... In Television reporting... When it comes to narration... Less is best. It is time for this photographer to move up to a larger market...

2nd: "Ed Homer," Chris Werner/Jeff Hope, KTUU TV

Judge's Comments: A good subject with a great story to tell. Good skills used in telling this picture with still photos...good editing and story telling. T-v Reporters often forget that still pictures can be more powerful than moving images... This story proved it.

3rd: "Rich Owens," Heidi Loranger/lan Rushing, KTVA TV

Judge's Comments: The subject of the story was interesting... Could have used more visual elements...Did he have any old pictures of when he first opened the store? Old photos of the tasty freeze? Tough story to do... But was done well with what it was...

LIVE SPECIAL

Judge: Dennis Grant, 2003 Emmy Winner Best Single Newscast, KTTC/KXLT News Director

1st: "Decision 2003," Meghan Stapleton, Jason Moore, Karen Pearson, Lyn Melling, Iris Keogh, KTUU

2nd and 3rd: no awards given.

EDITING

Judge: Kurt Austin, Photographer, KGW-TV Portland

1st: "Spring Dogs," Eric Sowl KTUU-TV

2nd: "River Rafting," Chris Werner, Photographer; Jeff Hope, Reporter KTUU-TV

3rd: "Fun in the Snow," James William De Crane KTVA-TV

73-Feature Photography (Megan)

Judge: Kurt Austin, Photographer, KGW-TV Portland

1st: "Fly Like an Eagle," Brian Bechard, Photographer Gianna Trinca, Reporter, KTUU-TV

2nd: "Paddle Primer," Eric Sowl KTUU-TV

3rd: "Blessing of the Fleet," Justin Freeman, KTUU-TV

SPOT NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

Judge: Kurt Austin, Photographer, KGW-TV Portland

1st: "Bottom of the 3rd," Justin Freeman KTUU-TV

2nd: "Stand-Off," Eric Sowl, KTUU-TV

3rd: No award given.

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Judge: Kurt Austin, Photographer, KGW-TV Portland

1st: "Down the Mountain," Justin Freeman, KTUU-TV

2nd: "State Championships: Game day," Brad Hillwig, KTUU-TV

3rd: "Motocross City Series," Brad Hillwig, KTUU-TV

76-Daily Newscast (Megan)

Dennis Grant, 2003 Emmy Winner Best Single Newscast, KTTC/KXLT News Director

1st: 5pm Daily News, Cherie Shirey-5pm news producer, KTVA

Judge's Comments: The conversational clear writing set this newscast apart. Good pacing. Nice job of owning the lead without going overboard. High story count. Good job relating the weather to the viewer.

2nd: The Late Edition, Staff of Channel 2 News, KTUU

Judge's Comments: We loved the cabbage story, very memorable! Nice job of covering the missing boy but some of the information was repetitive.

3rd: Channel 2 Newshour, Staff of Channel 2 News, KTUU

Judge's Comments: Great writing on the coffee shop robberies. Also, great video of the plane crash landing, but this video could have been showcased better. Overall, good show. Some of the live tags were long.

HUMOR

Category thrown out due to conflict of interest (we found out about it too late to find another judge). Refunds available.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Judge: Bob Drogin, National security reporter for the LA Times, former IRE board member and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Robert F. Kennedy award and the Polk award.

1st: Rich Mauer and Nicole Tsong, "Sins Of the Father," Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: The Catholic priest sexual abuse scandal is by now a horrifying but familiar story around the country. But each life scarred, each family traumatized, each community violated, presents the bitter tragedy anew. And few newspapers anywhere have dug as deeply, or written with such sensitivity, as the Anchorage Daily News in their series on Anchorage Archdiocese Monsignor Frank Murphy. The paper carefully documented how the parish priest preyed on boys and young men for nearly 25 years. They also exposed the cover-up: after ignoring complaints about Murphy for years, the Anchorage Archbishop had hustled the abusive priest out of town on one day's notice to prevent his arrest - and to avoid embarrassing the Church. As recently as last year, the Archbishop denied that Anchorage had a problem with sexual abusive priests. The Anchorage Daily News "Sins of the Father" series is in the finest traditions of investigative journalism. It took on a powerful local institution, broke through official denials and cover-up, and exposed a reality that touched the lives of an entire community.

2nd: "Experts: Jurors erred in murder case," Brian Patrick O'Donoghue, Sharice Wacker, Tom Delaune, Gary Moore and Laurel Ford, Daily News-Miner/UAF Journalism

Judge's Comments: Few institutions are as crucial to American justice as a jury trial. And few crimes have caused such a sensation in Fairbanks as the 1997 murder of John Hartman -- a white teenager fatally beaten in a downtown rampage by Native youths. Local publicity was so intense that the trial was moved to Anchorage, and four men were convicted. But an 18-month investigation by journalism students at the University of Alaska Fairbanks determined that jurors in one trial had improperly left the courthouse and conducted an unauthorized experiment during deliberations to test the testimony of the prosecution's key witness. Several of the jurors said the experiment - and not just the evidence in the trial - had helped convince them to vote for conviction. The judge in the case is now considering an application for at least one new trial. This case again shows how investigative reporters - in this case students supported by an enterprising newspaper - challenged the status quo and exposed wrongdoing. They succeeded where prosecutors, defense lawyers, judges and other parts of the Alaska justice system had failed.

3rd: Lisa Demer, "Who Was Watching Out for Charlie?" Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: For years, the state Division of Family and Youth Services had logged complaints about a family in Mountain View. They investigated, and inevitably filed away reports about five children living in filthy and dangerous conditions. And they did nothing. Until too late. In April last year, Charlie Lynn Hamilton was killed in a fire set by her sister. Charlie was three years old. "Who Was Watching Out for Charlie" is a compelling indictment of a system badly out of touch with families badly out of whack. It shines a much-deserved light on inadequate efforts to help the most vulnerable members of society: children. In the end, Charlie died of neglect - both by the family, and by state authorities.

BEST MEDIA WEBSITE

Gary Duchane, Online Editor, The Hartford Courant

1st: Alaska.com, Leon Unruh and Tom Twigg, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Just a super portal site. Rich in content. Understandable navigation. Good balance between usability and the latest technology. This site makes me want to visit Alaska.

2nd: Webcenter11.com, KTVF

Judge's Comments: Not a cookie-cutter TV web site. It's clear the station has devoted resources to produce a site that's not all about hawking network TV shows. Good base of content (although too heavily reliant on AP). There are plenty of reasons beyond the news of the day to return to this site on a regular basis.

3rd: ADN.com, Leon Unruh, Tom Twigg and Eric Courtney, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: A solid site with a good balance between news and utility. The 24-hour news dropdown is a great feature. Some of the internal section fronts seem better-finished than the home page.

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Gary Cohn, Los Angeles Times

Rich Mauer and Nicole Tsong, Catholic Church Stories, Anchorage Daily News

Judge's Comments: Mauer and Tsong did an extraordinary job of reporting and writing this story of sexual abuse of teenagers by a priest in Anchorage over three decades and the role of the Anchorage Archdiocese in keeping that abuse secret. The reporters performed an important public service by exposing this secret, prompting an apology from the Anchorage Archbishop. For their meticulous reporting and compassionate and compelling writing on an important subject, Rich Mauer and Nicole Tsong are the winners of the Public Service Award.

