

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

May 21, 2007

Sylvia Smith, Secretary

Chairwoman Maureen Groppe called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Present were Vice President John Donnelly, Secretary Sylvia Smith, Treasurer Donna Leinwand, Membership secretary Mark Hamrick and Governors Joe Anselmo, Alan Bjerga, John Gallagher, Keith Hill, Gayela Bynum, Lou Priebe, Theresa Werner and Dipka Bhambhani. Also, General Manager John Bloom, Membership director Julie Schoo and Awards Committee chairman Mark Schoeff. President Jerry Zremski and former President Jonathan Salant were absent.

Smith moved and the board approved the minutes of the April 16 meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Hamrick moved and the board approved the applications of the following 64 people:

Active: Ann M. Augheron, Arlington Catholic Herald managing editor; Tim Burger Bloomberg News reporter; Joseph Farah, WorldNetDaily.com editor and CEO; Michelle Katz, HC Strategies author; Judy Mathewson, Bloomberg News reporter; Noel R. St. John, self-employed photojournalist; William Stebbins, Al Jazeera English bureau chief; Ryoji Tachio, Tokyo Chunichi Shimbun correspondent.

Active under 35: Camille Elhassani, Al Jazeera deputy program editor; Greg Giroux, Congressional Quarterly senior writer; Ben Goad, The Press-Enterprise reporter; Timothy Starks, Congressional Quarterly staff writer.

Active under 30: Scott Brodbeck, WTTG-TV FOX news writer; Jessica Gould, Washington City Paper columnist; Nicholas Rummell, Crain Communications reporter; Tali Trigg, McClatchy -Tribune Regional News assistant news editor.

Active non-resident: Corey Byers of Fredericksburg, Va., The Free Lance-Star reporter; Stephen C. Johnson of Lima, Ohio, The Lima News publisher; Jon Petrovich of New York City, Associated Press consultant; Richard Taliaferro of Monmouth Junction, N.J. Wall Street Journal copy editor.

Provisional: Julie Fischer, freelance photographer.

Provisional under 35: Chandra Walker, CCH Inc. writer/analyst.

Provisional under 30: Katherine Boyle, Environment & Energy Publishing reporter; Andrea Noble, Gazette Newspapers reporter.

Active reinstatement: Ramesh ButaniDarshan, Television/HB Productions LLC host/executive producer; Katherine Leiken, Kingsland Productions producer/director; Michael J. Martin, HELDREF Publications senior science writer; Stephanie Stahl, CMP Media/Information Week executive editor; Robert E. Vitarelli, Capitol Media Management LLC partner.

Active non-resident reinstatement: Simma Holt of Maple Falls, Wash., self-employed author; Carey Roberts, Leesburg, Va., freelance reporter.

Affiliate: Jennifer A. Clark, State Department (retired) foreign service officer, media relations; James S. Denton, Heldref Publications executive director/publisher; Ken Ericson, Westin Rinehart, senior vice

president; Art Forster, Federal Election Commission chief communications officer; Ellen Howe, Transportation Security Administration assistant administrative officer; Robert Jacobs, NASA public affairs deputy assistant administrator; Paul M. McKellips, USDA, Iraq war correspondent; Seifeldin Omar Yasin, Embassy of Sudan counselor, press and information.

Affiliate non-resident: Lewis B. Beman, Palm Beach, Fla., self-employed writer; Gina Kerra Logue, Murfreesboro, Tenn., Middle Tennessee State University media representative/producer; Michael Lurie, Baltimore, UMBC (OIA) public relations director; Jodie Newell, Australia, freelance media consultant/author.

Affiliate reinstatement: Mary Helen Yarborough, Medical University of South Carolina public relations specialist.

Affiliate non-resident reinstatement: Ty Harrington, Melbourne Beach, Fla., self-employed former journalist; Sam Summerlin, New York City, self-employed former journalist.

Student: Ann-Marie Adams, Howard University.

Student non-resident: Timothy Guy Echols, Wingerville, Ga., University of Georgia.

Associate: Barbara A. Bird, IT Business Developers, LLC marketing administrator; Jeffrey Busch, Safe Blood International public relations officer; Laura Faul, Folger Nolan Fleming Douglas Inc. account executive; Craig Glazer, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. vice president; Francis Hsu, Department of State IT specialist; Lisa Meier, Washington National Opera director of public relations; Rep. Charles Rangel, U.S. House of Representatives; Christine Warnke Hogan & Hartson senior government affairs officer.

Associate under 35: Phillip Wayne Harris, North Bridge Communications partner/owner; Jessica Lawrence-Hurt, Heldref Productions director of communications.

Associate non-resident: James J. Finn, New York City, Avaya vice president, corporate communications; William F. McDonald, Leesburg, Va., Emery Worldwide general counsel and vice president; Dave Samson, San Ramons, Calif., Chevron Corp. general manager, public affairs; Mark W. Smith, New York City, Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLC Partner; Russell Yarrow, San Ramons, Calif., Chevron Corp. manager, external relations.

Associate reinstatement: Carole K. Cones, Safe Blood International executive director.

Hamrick moved and the board approved the acceptance of The Frontline Club for reciprocal status. The club is in the Paddington section of London and offers two bedrooms for rent.

Schoeff presented the board with the nominees for the 2007 journalism awards as proposed by the judging panels. **Smith moved and the board accepted the list and approved them all, with the exception of categories for which the judges had not provided a nominee, had indicated a tie and had chosen 3 honorable mentions.** Groppe indicated those would be resolved by email vote. (See attached.) She also noted the award dinner is July 16.

BOARD COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

International Correspondents – Working a co-sponsored seminar with a Chinese human rights delegation to coincide with the recruitment reception for international correspondents; Japanese Embassy to host a BBQ again this year; Aug. 30 event with AI Friendly fellows (international journalists).

Young Members – Upcoming Cocktails with Champions with Washington Post’s Dana Milbank; speed networking with the mentoring program on July 10; hope to expand mentoring in the fall.

Book and Author – Upcoming wine dinner, Larry Berman.

Events – Karaoke May 31; “Sea Biscuit” movie June 7; Belmont stakes party June 16; June 21, international buffet with music; June 28, music night; picnic June 30 in Bon Air Park in Arlington.

Freedom of the Press – Zremski wrote to Putin about Russian journalist murders and to Howard Dean about his comment on barring journalists from candidate events; seeks board input on sending a letter about legislation that would loosen restrictions on FOIA. No one objected.

5K – needs sponsors.

Professional Development – Fewer than half the RSVPs showed for the Factcheck event. Plans are being finalized for TV training with Deborah Potter.

Broadcast – XM content is available on iTunes. Committee looking at broadcast and cable outlets for airing of NPC documentary.

Membership – Board members will be asked to make personal calls when the next round of dues payments produces drop-outs. There will be a recruitment of affiliate/associate members via an event cosponsored with PRSA.

Photography – Is looking for a photo from each year of the Club’s history for use in an exhibit in the centennial and is looking for a financial sponsor. (Liaison was reminded to tell committee to be sure to work through Lisa Miller, the development director.) Plans May 23 Saturday session on photo tips.

Travel – Japan trip is nearly full; Alaska cruise is still open; India has lots of interest. There will be a travel journalism awards luncheon Sept. 26 with Arthur Frommer as the speaker. The contest will award 2 \$5,000 winners (print/online and broadcast) as per a donation from Edith Friedheim. There will be an independent panel of judges.

Oral History – is being reinvigorated.

Newsmaker – upcoming event on the Duke lacrosse case.

Scholarship – Grad school scholarship judging June 9 and 16.

House – June 2 (a Saturday) will include tour of the facility; new board members especially encouraged to attend.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Leinwand said Reliable Source income is down 7 percent over last year; Fourth Estate is up 14 percent.

Various board members and Bloom theorized the decline is due to the city’s no-smoking law and smokers no longer drink and smoke at the bar over lunchtime.

Catering bookings are up, as is the broadcast center. Library usage is down. Saturday sales are up from last year but short of the board’s goal (which is to reduce by 50 percent the losses attributed to being open on Saturday.)

Leinwand reported that the bill paying online for members is ready. Bloom gave a demonstration.

Leinwand said those who have a credit card on file now will be able to continue as they have but could also opt to pay their bills online. She said the vendor, Club Essentials, also offers a reservations system, but she wants to see how the bill paying goes before making a recommendation to the board.

Leinwand said the Budget Committee recommends hiring a consultant to assist the Club in filling out the application to get on the General Services Administration’s preferred contractor list (for the broadcast center) so it is easier to get government contracts. Bynum said she has done it herself for her former business. But Bloom said it is more complicated for the broadcast center, and said it would be time consuming for him or staff to do it. He said the consultant would charge about \$15,000. **Leinwand moved and the board approved a motion to authorize the general manager to seek contracts for a consultant to prepare the NPC application for GSA approved-contractor status and to bring the bids to the board for approval.**

Leinwand moved and the board approved a motion to renew insurance through the current broker, Genatt Associates. The premium will be \$79,892, a slight decrease over the previous year. Insurance covers crime, liability, umbrella, directors and officers liability and fiduciary liability.

Leinwand moved and the board approved the 2006 audit. Smith asked about the status of the management letter, which had not arrived. Leinwand said board action on approving the audit was proper because there will be nothing dramatic in the management letter.

Leinwand noted that the \$77,500 payment to settle the Pyramid lawsuit has been paid.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Bloom passed around the prototype of the centennial medallion. He also reported that work is proceeding on a centennial display calendar featuring NPC photos, the history book and the documentary. He said documentarian Gerald Krell will have the first cut done in July, not April as his contract specifies. He said the centennial committee has picked two bands for the party and contracts are being negotiated. He said the committee is trying to design a poster featuring newspaper front pages but is running into a copyright snag. In response to a question, he said a "big push" is coming up regarding fundraising for the centennial.

Bloom said the Battle of the Bands with the bands of Bob Schieffer and White House spokesman Tony Snow netted nearly \$3,500. During discussion, several board members inquired about the logistics and why the dance floor was covered with tables. Bloom said the seating was added because when the potential donors who had been attending a dinner arrived in the room, tables reserved for them were occupied.

OLD BUSINESS

Groppe reported that the board approved, by email vote, to allow the sale of books by Factcheck at a Club event.

Groppe reported the approval, by email vote, of Zremski's appointment of Ed Lewis to the library board.

Groppe reported that the new general manager, Bill McCarren, will start on July 9 but will not be in the building five days a week until Sept. 1 at the latest. Bloom's last day is July 20 to allow ample overlap. She said the Personnel Committee is talking to McCarren and Bloom about the need for a consulting contract for Bloom that extends beyond July 20.

Smith moved and the board approved renaming the scholarship The National Press Club Ellen Masin Persina Scholarship for Diversity in Journalism and that all materials describing the scholarship state that the Club's aim is to bring new voices, different faces and fresh perspectives into our nation's newsrooms, including but not limiting those perspectives to racial minorities. The Scholarship Committee is instructed to revamp the application so that each applicant must identify his or her diversity status (in lieu of "race") and submit an essay that describes what new perspective he or she would bring to a newsroom, what unexplored or under-explored issues the applicant would like to pursue as a journalist and how each applicant would add depth and dimension to news coverage. There vote was 10-1 with Bhambhani voting "no."

Bynum and Gallagher reported on research on allowing photos of NPC events to be posted online and then purchased by members or non-members, with proceeds to the Club. Bynum provided information about Printroom.com, which she said has a \$99 membership fee. If \$3,000 of the organization's photos are purchased, the fee is waived. Board members said this is an option that would be an alternative to the prices of up to \$50 per photo that NPC members who take photos of NPC events charge fellow members.

Hamrick noted that this proposal should go through the New Media Committee. Groppe said she will ask Salant (the committee's liaison) to discuss it with the committee and report next month.

Gallagher said he has not discussed with the Record committee the policy of paying one group of volunteer journalists who contribute to the Record but not all. He will report in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Groppe moved and the board approved a recommendation that the general membership adopt the following amendment to Article II, Section 3, of the Club bylaws (changes in CAPS):

Section 3. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Governors or any committee thereof shall be held whenever called by the Chair or the President or the chair of such committee, as the case may be. Notice of the meeting shall be delivered to each Governor or committee member in person or by phone and email not less than 24 hours before the meeting is to be held. GOVERNORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY WAIVE FURTHER NOTICE BY RESPONDING TO THE EMAIL. The notice shall state the date, time and place of the meeting and the purpose thereof, except as otherwise expressly provided by law or the Club's Constitution or these Bylaws.

The next meeting was set for June 18.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Aubuchon Freedom of the Press

Winner: Pete Weitzel, formerly of the Miami Herald and several academic postings

Pete Weitzel is truly one of journalism's most unsung FOI heroes. He spent nearly 40 years at The Miami Herald, first as a reporter and later rising to managing editor. A founder of the Florida First Amendment Foundation and the National Freedom of Information Coalition, Pete's retirement from the Herald in 1995 has been anything but. After leaving the Herald, he taught at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg then at the University of North Carolina journalism school and later Duke Law School. As executive director of the North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence, Pete led investigations of criminal cases that uncovered several unlawful convictions. If all that weren't enough, in 2004, Pete was a founder and became coordinator of the Coalition of Journalists for Open Government, which brought together some 30 journalism-related organizations to work together for the first time on open government issues. He is a driving force behind the founding and continued operations of national Sunshine Week and the Sunshine in Government Initiative. CJOG's landmark research on federal FOIA compliance has helped make the case for the first meaningful FOIA reform on Capitol Hill in decades. Pete also continues to travel around the country making speeches and offering guidance to journalism and open government organizations.

Winner: the late Anna Politkovskaya, Novaya Gazeta

Anna Politkovskaya paid the ultimate price for her investigation and reporting about abuses Russian forces were inflicting in Chechnya. On October 7, 2006 - Vladimir Putin's birthday - she was murdered, shot dead in the elevator of her Moscow apartment building. The following day, demonstrators in Moscow turned out to protest the assassination, and more than 1,000 people reportedly filed past her casket before she was buried a few days later. Candlelight vigils, protests and international recognition for Anna's work continue to this day. An unyielding critic of Russian President Putin, Anna's work had led to many previous death threats and a suspected poisoning attempt in 2004. At the time of her murder, Anna was working on a graphic article for her newspaper, Novaya Gazeta, about torture in Chechnya. A few days following her death, the article was published. Born in New York City to parents who were Soviet diplomats to the U.N.,

Anna was the author of several books strongly critical of Russian authorities, in addition to her newspaper work.

Consumer Journalism (newspapers)

Winner: "Boardroom Abuse," several authors, Wall Street Journal

The Wall Street Journal demonstrated exceptional enterprise in exposing the fraudulent of stock options in pay packages for corporate executives. The Journal developed its own algorithm to investigate the practice of backdating. Its series of stories explained in plain English to readers a complicated scheme that was ultimately costing shareholders money. The Journal's work instigated substantial reaction in legislative and legal arenas. Thanks to the intensity of the Journal's pursuit of this story, a problem about which no one was aware is now at the heart of the national debate over executive pay.

Honorable mention: "Deadly Express," Ronnie Greene, Miami Herald

Consumer Journalism (periodicals)

Winner: "What No One Ever Tells You about Breast Implants," Liz Welch, Glamour

Glamour magazine earned this year's prize in the consumer journalism/periodical category for a thoughtful and insightful look at breast implant surgery. It turns out that controversies did not end when silicone implants were removed from the market in 1992. Glamour's November 2006 issue carefully examined pluses and minuses of today's products and procedures for a new generation of readers, millions of whom consider undergoing surgery. More than 350,000 receive implants each year. Reporter Liz Welch gained access to the operating room and provided a detailed account of what happens during surgery. She produced a well-written and engaging story featuring real people, as the FDA re-examined the silicone issue. The magazine made good use of photos, graphics and sidebars.

Honorable mention: "Caution, the Secret Score Behind Your Auto Insurance," Jeff Blyskal, Consumers Union

Consumer Journalism (TV & radio)

Winner: Bill Heard Chevrolet, WTVF, Channel 5

WTVF's investigation of a local car dealership focused on unhappy customers, who in telling their stories led former executives to step forward, on camera, to discuss their business practices. The five-month investigation turned interviews with victims and former dealership finance officers into a compelling tale of a business run amok. The station stuck with the story, pressing ahead even when dealer executives pulled their advertising. The station refused to back down, turning its focus to documents showing the dealer's falsification of financial records of potential buyers, inflating their income to qualify for loans they were unable to pay. Victims on camera shared their shock at the practice. The series led the dealership to begin an internal investigation, and the Tennessee Attorney General and the Motor Vehicle Commission began examinations. Good use of original video, with each of the five segments advancing the story for the viewer.

Honorable mention: State Farm, ABC

Radio/Consumer: no award

Environmental

Winner: Exploding Heritage, The Bob Edwards Show, XM

A compelling examination of Appalachia coal-mining that employed natural sounds, riveting interviews and thorough research to give listeners a fuller understanding of a practice little known outside the region. Bob Edwards' narration and descriptions put listeners on the mountain where blasting had damaged homes and poisoned their water.

Washington Correspondence

Winner: Jim Carroll, Louisville Courier-Journal

Jim Carroll's articles on coal mine safety are excellent examples of Washington-based reporting for a hometown audience. Carroll examined unpaid fines levied on mines by federal safety regulators; underground communications systems that -- if used and working properly -- can save miners' lives; a miner's experience in the blast at Kentucky Darby mine and the refusal of federal officials to go into the mine; and the lack of a requirement that miners carry methane gas detectors. The articles demonstrated a depth of coverage of an issue that is extremely important to the Louisville Courier-Journal's readership. Carroll used databases, sources and shoe leather to report on the topic. After his stories appeared, Congress gave the Mine Safety and Health Administration new powers to collect fines, the agency sued to recover the fines, Congress ordered the agency to evaluate new safety technologies, and two states strengthened their laws on underground communications.

Press Criticism (single entry/print)

Winner: "Adapt or Die," Rachel Smolkin, American Journalism Review

In "Adapt or Die," Smolkin bravely takes on one of the most looming--and potentially terrifying--dilemmas in journalism: what will happen to the newspaper? Instead of falling back on cliched arguments, Smolkin breaks new ground with her exploration of newspapers' possible futures. She takes no shortcuts in her reporting, gaining insight into what reporters and editors are doing now to adapt to ongoing staff cuts and readership declines. This superbly written piece should be necessary reading for those hoping to succeed in the news business.

Press Criticism (single entry/broadcast)

Winner: "Critics Question Reporter's Airing of Personal Views," David Folkenflik, NPR

Folkenflik considered the case of the New York Times's Linda Greenhouse, asking whether she stepped over the line by repeatedly airing her personal political biases -- even marching in an abortion rights rally -- and what this means for her employer, the New York Times. While it drew no conclusions, this well-considered piece asked what we consider to be a journalistically responsible and important question in an impartial way.

Press Criticism (single entry/books)

No award given.

Press Criticism (body of work/print)

Winner: Charley Layton, American Journalism Review

Layton impressed the committee with four American Journalism Review articles published in 2006 that explored shifting trends in newspaper ownership and important topics that have not received deserved media attention. In "Sherman's March," Layton revealed the financial pressures that drove investment manager Bruce Sherman's campaign to force the sale of Knight-Ridder newspapers. In "Surrounded by Singleton," he described how that sale allowed one newspaper owner to dominate a regional market. In the largely untold story of Iraqis working for American news organizations, Layton probed the government's apparent persecution of an AP photographer in "Behind Bars." And in "White Knight," the writer recognized the unheralded reporting of the Knight-Ridder Washington Bureau, including its critical pre-war reporting on the absence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Press Criticism (body of work/broadcast)

Winner: Folkenflik, NPR

The breadth of critical media issues, the accessibility to a general audience, and the enterprise nature of the reports stood out for the committee in the submission of five reports on NPR in 2006. The committee

particularly notes three entries that demonstrated the excellent quality of Folkenflik's work – the illumination of a novel approach to sustaining quality community journalism through the transformation of the Anniston Star to a nonprofit and teaching newspaper, an arresting audio treatment of television financial personality, Jim Cramer, and reporting on allegations against executive Kenneth Tomlinson, including an in-depth interview with Tomlinson.

Goldstein Regional Reporting

Winner: Jim Carroll, Louisville Courier-Journal

Jim Carroll's work this year epitomizes the spirit of the Goldstein Award with its breath and depth of coverage, versatility of voice and attention to the hometown connection. Carroll explored two hometown tragedies through the Washington prism. Not only did he explain the federal failure to enforce its own policies to avert these two events, but he used database reporting and investigative techniques to break new ground. Carroll's work also showcases his writing talent. He can switch voices from heart-rending seriousness in a story about a daughter's quest to give her father a place on the Vietnam Memorial to bemused irreverence in this weekly column. Carroll's many years in Washington enable him to write with authority, but he has not allowed his dispatches to become enmeshed in inside-the-beltway wonkishness.

Diplomatic Correspondence (print)

Winner: "Afghan Poppy," Phil Dine, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch's ambitious package on the Afghan poppy trade powerfully demonstrated the impact that foreign affairs can have at home. Reporter Philip Dine not only offered readers a comprehensive look at the political and economic factors driving the increase in heroin production but also showed the devastating impact that occurred as more pure Afghan heroin made its way to the St. Louis area. The depth of Dine's reporting made it clear that Bush administration officials were either ignorant of, or in denial about, the Afghan poppy trade's impact in the United States. More often than not, Dine broke news - leaving national media outlets to follow his lead.

Diplomatic Correspondence (broadcast)

Winner: "The Rise and Influence of Arab Media," David Brancaccio, et.al.,

Stanley Foundation/KQED Radio (San Francisco)

Intelligent, informative and well produced this hour-long documentary delivered a revealing portrait of the rising Arab media and how competing interests are using these new technologies to market their message. Beyond identifying the players, David Brancaccio and his team of reporters were able to look deeper – revealing that the U.S. has been slow and ineffective in its response to the new sources of information and communication available in the Arab world.

Newsletter Journalism (analytical)

Winner: "U.S. Officers in Iraq: Insurgents are Repeatedly Captured and Released,"

Elaine Grossman, Inside the Pentagon

The article identified in clear detail a disconnect between the effort by U.S. troops to stop insurgents by arresting them and the struggling Iraq's government's policy of releasing them to win the goodwill of the country's ethnic groups. Quoting military officers and troops in the field, the article explains how the routine discharges of insurgents could be the greatest threat to Iraq's stability by fuelling the spiralling violence. The article was timely, appearing one month after the Election Day that Americans use to register their unhappiness with the war in Iraq and voted for new leadership in Congress to make a change in U.S. policy

Honorable mention: special report on climate change, Darren Samuelsonhn, Greenwire

Newsletter (exclusive)

Winner: “Avaya Practices ‘Judo’ Against Maintenance Foes,” Jessica Gdowski, Voice Report

In a highly readable and gutsy piece, Gdowski revealed in an exclusive report how Avaya Inc., the largest manufacturer of phone systems in North America, engaged in questionable practices to stop customers from hiring lower-cost independent firms to do maintenance work on the Avaya phone systems they purchased. In the best tradition of investigative journalism, Gdowski doggedly followed a lead developed at a convention social reception to uncover Avaya’s strategy to thwart competition from unauthorized maintenance providers. Her story resulted in follow-ups by other publications and news services after a federal antitrust lawsuit was brought against Avaya.

Honorable mentions: “Poor Reliability Puts Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle in Jeopardy,” Christopher Castelli, Inside the Navy

Environmental Reporting (print)

Winner: “A Tank of Gas, A World of Trouble,” Paul Salopek, Chicago Tribune

“A Tank of Gas, A World of Trouble,” brilliantly traces individual tanks of gas pumped at a Marathon station in South Elgin, Illinois, to the fuel’s origins around the globe. Salopek’s idea was ingenious, his execution flawless. His series reads like a novel, propelled by prodigious reporting and superb writing. At a time of stark newspaper cutbacks, the impressive commitment of time and resources by the reporter and his paper proved the value of foreign reporting. With cooperation from Marathon, Salopek taught readers how the oil market works, and made us care.

Honorable mention: “China’s Great Grab,” Evan Osnos, Chicago Tribune

Online Journalism (best site) Best Journalism Site

Kevin Sites in the Hot Zone – Mideast Crisis Coverage, <http://hotzone.yahoo.com/mideastcrisis>
Yahoo! News

Featuring breaking news stories as well as feature reports, this site presents a comprehensive look at tumultuous regions throughout the world – in the particular example, the focus is the 2006 war between Israel and Lebanon. In many ways, we believe that Kevin Sites is defining the future of online journalism and demonstrating the ultimate convergence of breaking news and feature reporting with powerful examples of online multimedia on both sides of the delivery platform – Sites uses portable digital cameras and communication gear to enter dangerous war zones and in many instances is clearly filming himself, yet maintaining a professionalism that quickly engages the online news consumer in a powerful presentation of timely information. His insight into multiple levels of this complex story delves into perspectives of the conflict we’ve not frequently seen in other areas. The site combines high level analysis with eyewitness accounts and footage, compelling graphical presentations and riveting storylines, mixed with reader interaction and commentary, all interlinked together in ways that only web-enabled journalism can accomplish. Whereas many other sites seem to incorporate multimedia as an awkward afterthought, this site’s multimedia presentation is very natural, enhancing the story rather than detracting from it.

Honorable mention: **Kiplinger.com**, <http://www.kiplinger.com> **The Kiplinger Washington Editors Inc.**
The LIRR Gap, <http://www.newsday.com/gap>, **Newsday**

Online Journalism (distinguished contribution)

Winner: “Saving Bobby,” Newsday

Newsday showed a real commitment to this story from the start and based its online presentation on long-term in-depth person-to-person reporting. It then employed most of the tools in the interactive arsenal -

text, video, Flash technology, multiple forms of graphics including maps and timelines. At the same time, the navigation allowed story readers to jump easily to features that interest them most. Newsday took one family's story and offered lessons/preventive measures that could benefit others.

Hume Excellence in Political Journalism

Winner: Brody Mullins, Wall Street Journal

Mullins' stories showed exceptional reporting, and provided a new and fascinating angle on a story that many members of the Washington press corps were following. His stories were in-depth and contained multiple sources, and they were well written and peppered with important and insightful details.

Honorable mention: Josh Gohlke, The Record (Bergen County, NJ)

Geriatric Writing

Winner (tie): "The Final Journey of Art Clifton," Barbara Brofman, Chicago Tribune

"After the Fall," Alice Dembner, Boston Globe

The judges decided to give a joint award to the Chicago Tribune and Boston Globe in the geriatrics writing category. Both entries showed impressive, dedicated reporting, deep understanding of the issues, and fine, often touching, writing. These are difficult subjects handled in a sensitive manner. We decided they were both deserving of the top award.

Humor (single entry)

Winner: "The Parasites," Dan Wood, The Christian Science Monitor

Dan Wood did not ridicule or make fun of Paris Hilton fans. Instead, he immersed himself in their world to give readers insight into what makes them worship the pampered icon. His on-the-scene reporting at a Hilton appearance at a mall provides a rich and vivid, yet funny and respectful, portrait of people who think the world has done Paris wrong.

Humor (body of work)

Winner: Dana Milbank, Washington Post

Milbank was chosen for a series of three columns that showcased his ability to give readers a satirical gimlet-eyed view of official Washington and the politicians and reporters who inhabit it. Milbank's writing is a combination of both detailed behind-the-scenes reporting and well-crafted topical humor that punctures the pomposity of the nation's capital.

Honorable mention: Lore Sjoberg, Wired News

Animal Reporting (print)

Winner: "What's a Dog Worth?" Jesse Katz, Los Angeles Magazine

In 2005, in Los Angeles, 104,841 animals were put to death in the city's six municipal shelters. No other metropolitan area in the United States has killed more dogs and cats -- at least a million pets exterminated in the past decade -- more than 5 million during the past 35 years. By following one dog - a weathered but friendly pit bull named Roy - through the machinery of the South LA shelter, Los Angeles magazine senior writer Jesse Katz, shows us that euthanasia is little more than a death of convenience, society's method for disposing of expendable pets. He reveals how the daily calculation to kill is made and who makes it. As the first LA journalist to gain access to the "bump room" since the 1970s, he is a witness the animals' last moments. His story generated enormous response, and was designated "the talker story of the month" by one LA media outlet. Comments were robust, with one reader pointing out that the piece "wasn't just some story about stray dogs, it was a commentary on who we have become."

Honorable mention: "An Elephant Crackup," Charles Siebert, New York Times Sunday

Magazine

Animal Reporting (broadcast)

Winner: "Puppy Heartbreak," WTVJ, Miami

In a four month investigation, which resulted in a nine-part series, WTVJ TV took a close look at the practices of the self-proclaimed "world's largest celebrity pet store", based in South Florida. What it found was shocking. The station talked to scores of customers whose dogs became very ill or died shortly after purchase. WTVJ conducted hundreds of interviews and reviewed more than a thousand public records related to complaints about the store. By gaining access to a pet store industry Internet auction site, the station was able to trace some of the dogs back to Midwest dog breeders known as "puppy mills". The news team traveled to two of those breeders and captured inhumane and unhealthy conditions on tape -- a side of the pet industry rarely seen by the public. The series generated huge viewer reaction, including a lawsuit filed by the Florida attorney general seeking to shut down the store. The series also prompted debate in the Florida legislature to toughen consumer protection laws for pet buyers. The station received hundreds of emails, including this one, "If there is an award for superb reporting you deserve it."

Honorable mention: "From Stable to Table: America's Dirty Little Secret," KHOU-TV, Houston