Columbia Announces 2004 Pulitzer Prizes in 88th Year

at personal peril, the voices and emotions of Iraqis as their country was invaded, their leader toppled and their way of life upended,” said the Pulitzer Board. Editorial cartoons by The Journal News’ Matt Davies, which covered a variety of topics, including several decades of war, were dubbed “piercing” by the board. And The Dallas Morning News’ team of David Leeson and Cheryl Diaz Meyer, who won the breaking news photography award, were cited for “exceptional photographs depicting both the violence and poignancy of the war with Iraq.”

Other winning entries tackled a wide array of subjects, from The Wall Street Journal’s explanatory reporting on brain aneurysms to The New York Times’ scrutiny of safety violations in American factories. Three reporters from The Toledo Blade won the investigative reporting category for exposing Vietnam War atrocities committed by an elite U.S. Army platoon called Tiger Force.

As the administrative home of the 23 prizes in journalism, letters, drama and music, the University awards the prizes annually on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Board.

University President Lee C. Bollinger, who is a voting member of the Pulitzer Board, will present the awards to winners at a luncheon in Low Rotunda on May 24.

Each prize is $10,000, except for the public service prize, which is a gold medal.

—Caroline Ladhani

The University’s official announcement, with comments from the Pulitzer Board, follows.

Public Service

For a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a newspaper through the use of its journalistic resources which, as well as reporting, may include editorials, cartoons, photographs and an online presentation, a gold medal.

The prize was awarded to The New York Times for the work of David Barstow and Lowell Bergman, which relentlessly examined death and injury among American workers and exposed employers who break basic safety rules.

Nominated as finalists in this category were: The Courant, Hartford, Conn., for its work on death and injury among American workers and exposed employers who break basic safety rules; The Providence Journal, for its comprehensive coverage of the causes and consequences of a nightclub fire that killed 100 people and spread anguish across America’s smallest state; and The Seattle Times, for the work of Christine Willmsen and Maureen O’Hagan, which revealed sexual misconduct by male coaches who preyed on female students and escaped discipline or prosecution.

Breaking News Reporting

For a distinguished example of breaking news photography in black and white or color, which may consist of a photograph or photographs, a sequence or an album.

The prize was awarded to David Leeson and Cheryl Diaz Meyer (Meyer’s photo above) of The Dallas Morning News, for their eloquent photographs depicting both the violence and poignancy of the war with Iraq. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: The Associated Press staff, for its evocative, panoramic portrayal of the war in Iraq; and Chris Hondros of Getty Images, for his powerful and courageous coverage of the bloody upheaval in Liberia.

Investigative Reporting

For a distinguished example of investigative reporting by an individual or team, presented as a single article or series.

The prize was awarded to Michael D. Sallah, Mitch Weiss and Joe Mahr of The Blade, Toledo, Ohio, for their powerful series on atrocities by Tiger Force, an elite U.S. Army platoon, during the Vietnam War.

Also nominated as finalists in this category were: David Barstow and Lowell Bergman of The New York Times, for their outstanding study of death and injury among American workers and of employers who violate safety rules; and David Ornstein and Joe Stephens of The Washington Post, for their detailed stories that revealed questionable practices by a respected environmental organization and that produced sweeping reforms.

Explanatory Reporting

For a distinguished example of explanatory reporting that illuminates a significant and complex subject, demonstrating mastery of the subject, lucid writing and clear presentation.

The prize was awarded to Kevin Helliker and Thomas M. Burton of The Wall Street Journal, for their groundbreaking examination of aneurysms, an often overlooked medical condition that kills thousands of Americans each year.

Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Erika Niedowski of The Baltimore Sun, for her illuminating account of how one of America’s best hospitals let an infant die of a preventable condition and how the devastated mother joined with the hospital to spare other families such heartache; and Bernard Wolfson, William Heisel and Chris Knup of The Orange County Register, for their ambitious exploration of the quality of care at 26 local hospitals and the creation of a “report card” to help consumers make medical decisions.

Beat Reporting

For a distinguished example of beat reporting characterized by sustained and knowledgeable coverage of a particular subject or activity.

The prize was awarded to Daniel Golden of The Wall Street Journal, for his compelling and meticulously documented stories on admission preferences given to the children of alumni and donors at American universities. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Ellen Barry of The Boston Globe, for her fresh, thoroughly reported and powerfully written stories about neglected people with mental health problems in Massachusetts; and Barton Gellman of The Washington Post, for his authoritative and provocative coverage of the search for forbidden weapons in Iraq.

National Reporting

For a distinguished example of reporting on national affairs.

The prize was awarded to The Los Angeles Times staff, for its engrossing examination of the tactics that have made Wal-Mart the largest company in the world with cascading effects across American towns and developing countries.

(Continued on next page)
The prize was awarded to Dan Neil of the Los Angeles Times, for his one-of-a-kind reviews of automobiles, blending technical expertise with offbeat humor and astute cultural observations. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Nicolai Ouroussov of the Los Angeles Times, for his versatile architectural criticism that stretched from his hometown's new Disney Hall to the rubble of Baghdad, where he pondered the ancient city's resurrection, and Inga Saffron of The Philadelphia Inquirer, for her passionate and insightful architectural criticism that, through clear, elegant writing, was as accessible to the ordinary reader as it was to the expert.

**Editorial Writing**

For distinguished editorial writing, the text of excellence being clearness of style, moral purpose, sound reasoning and power to influence public opinion in what the writer conceives to be the right direction.

The prize was awarded to William Stall of the Los Angeles Times, for his incisive editorials that analyzed California's troubled state government, presided remedies and served as a model for addressing complex state issues. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Andrew Malcolm of the Los Angeles Times for his refreshing, richly textured editorials that illuminated a variety of life situations, and Andres Astorga of the New York Times, for his exhaustively researched series of editorials that exposed the harmful global effects of American agricultural trade policy.

The prize was awarded to Khraschev, The Man and His Era (W.W. Norton), by William Taubman. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Middle Earth: The Lord of the Rings and the Creation of Modern Fantasy (Pantheon Books), by James Gleick, and Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), by Hyzer Herrera.

**Feature Writing**

For an outstanding example of feature writing giving prime consideration to high literary quality and originality.

There was no award in this category. Nominated as finalists in this category were: Robert Lee Hotz of The Wall Street Journal, for his extraordinary reporting that shed new light on starvation in Africa and prompted international agencies to rethink their policies, and David Zucchino of the Los Angeles Times, for his resourceful, sweeping and valuable reports that gave readers a rare, close-up view of combat as American soldiers invaded Iraq.

**Commentary**

For distinguished commentary. The prize was awarded to Leonard Pitts Jr. of The Miami Herald, for his fresh, vibrant columns that spoke, with both passion and compassion, to ordinary people on often divisive issues. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Nicholas Kristof of The New York Times, for his passionate columns that, through rigorous reporting and powerful writing, often gave voice to forgotten people trapped in misery, and Cynthia Tucker of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, for her forceful, persuasive columns that confronted sacred cows and hot topics with unwavering candor.

**Criticism**

For distinguished criticism. The prize was awarded to Dan Neil of the Los Angeles Times, for his one-of-a-kind reviews of automobiles, blending technical expertise with offbeat humor and astute cultural observations. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Robert Lee Hotz of The Wall Street Journal, for his extraordinary reporting that shed new light on starvation in Africa and prompted international agencies to rethink their policies, and David Zucchino of the Los Angeles Times, for his resourceful, sweeping and valuable reports that gave readers a rare, close-up view of combat as American soldiers invaded Iraq.

**Editorial Cartooning**

For a distinguished cartoon or portfolio of cartoons published during the year, characterized by originality, editorial effectiveness, quality of drawing and pictorial effect.

The prize was awarded to Jim Borg board of the Los Angeles Times, for his piercing cartoons on an array of topics, has had its first performance in New York City.

For a distinguished biography or autobiography by an American author.

The prize was awarded to Khraschev, The Man and His Era (W.W. Norton), by William Taubman. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Middle Earth: The Lord of the Rings and the Creation of Modern Fantasy (Pantheon Books), by James Gleick, and Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), by Hyzer Herrera.

**Biography**

For a distinguished volume of original verse by an American author.

The prize was awarded to Walking to Martha's Vineyard (Alfred A. Knopf), by Franz Wright. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Middle Earth: The Lord of the Rings and the Creation of Modern Fantasy (Pantheon Books), by James Gleick, and Arshile Gorky: His Life and Work (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), by Hyzer Herrera.

**Drama**

For a distinguished play by an American author, preferably original in its source and dealing with American life.

The prize was awarded to I Am My Own Wife, by Doug Wright. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Man from Nebraska, by Tracy Letts, and Omnium Gatherum, by Theresa Rebeck and Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros.

**History**

For a distinguished book upon the history of the United States.

The prize was awarded to A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press), by Steven Harts. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: They Marched into Sunlight: War and Peace, Vietnam and America, by Elizabeth Pace and Donald Priest.

**Literature**

For a distinguished book of fiction by an American author, preferably dealing with American life.

The prize was awarded to The Known World (Random House), by Edward P. Jones. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Things Unseen (Simon & Schuster), by Marianne Wiggins.

**Music**

For distinguished musical composition of significant dimension by an American that has had its first performance in the United States during the year.

The prize was awarded to Tempest Fantasy by Paul Moravec, premiered on May 2, 2003, in New York City.

For a distinguished book of nonfiction by an American author that is not eligible for consideration in any other category.

The prize was awarded to Galg: A History (Doubleday), by Anne Applebaum. Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Rembrandt's Jew (The University of Chicago Press), by Steven Nadler, and The Waging War and Keeping Peace with America's Military (W.W. Norton), by Dana Priest.


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Also nominated as finalists in this category were: Plano Concerto No. 3 (G. Schirmer, Inc.), by Peter Lieberson, premiered on Nov. 26, 2003, in Minneapolis, Minn., and Cello Counterpoint (Boosey & Hawkes), by Steve Reich, premiered on Oct. 18, 2003, in Champaign-Urbana, Ill.

**Visual Arts**


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