

When you receive 25 awards, there are only two words you can sincerely say:

“Thank You.”

Certainly the judges in the Michigan Press Association's 1995 Better Newspaper Contest deserve our gratitude for such abundant recognition, but without the dedication and effort put forth by our Editorial staff, the judges would have had significantly less excellent work to consider.

Week after week, our writers and photographers are out in their communities covering the news. Our editors spend long hours in front of flickering computer screens checking facts, getting the truth, and writing about the issues that are important to you, our readers. And while our writing staff is looking for the best approach to the news, our photographers match their efforts with creative pictures of civic functions, local athletic

contests, parades... think for a moment of what your hometown newspapers would be like without pictures. Nor does their work end with the snap of a shutter; hours of darkroom time are necessary to bring you those visual memories of your community.

And so it is with a great deal of pride that we say a heartfelt Thank You to the talented journalists who staff our newsrooms.

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric

First Place—Holiday Gift Guide

Holiday Gift Giving

"Outstanding cover design...type and headlines are excellent, ads are great."

Second Place—Local News Reporting

Greg Kowalski: "Should Schools Merge"

"A fine service piece to the community, school officials, parents and kids alike."

Second Place—Editorial Writing

"Brief and well organized"

Second Place—Sports Feature

Chris Mayer: "Nedomansky Blossoms Into Great Player"

"Sensitive endearing account."

Third Place—Sports Coverage

"Solid writing and excellent graphic presentation make these sections a winner."

Third Place—General Excellence

"Sophisticated...nice page one features/packaging."

Third Place—Fashion Supplement

Back to Fashion

"Great, excellent cover. Ads are fabulous."

Honorable Mention—Sports Picture

Dan Dean: "Field of Dreams"

Canton Observer

First Place—Sports Column

C.J. Risak: "Canton's Gruenwald Has What It Takes"

"After reading C.J.'s column, we feel we know the boy. We can think of no higher compliment. Thorough, thoughtful treatment of a sport where the heavyweights get most of the ink."

Second Place—Sports Coverage

"Very readable editions. A nice variety to front pages showcasing a myriad of sports in the coverage area."

Farmington Observer

First Place—Editorial Writing

"Short, good summaries, good ideas."

Second Place—Design

"Nice feature layouts. Easy-to-read."

Second Place—Feature Picture

Sharon Letourneau: "Looking Sharp"

"Creative and imaginative photo that works well with the accompanying story"

Troy Observer

First Place—Feature Story

Sue Mason: "A Move to Zero Tolerance"

"An increasingly popular topic extremely well-written."

Third Place—Local News Reporting

Tedd Schneider: "Dream Weavers"

"A nice piece that captures the backbone of most any successful community project—people coming together and working hard to accomplish a goal."

Honorable Mention—Lifestyle Section

"Lively, colorful, and topical. Religious calendar is helpful."

Plummouth Observer

Second Place—Breaking News

Jeff Counts: "Two Die in Ford Plant"

"Good factual reporting without sensationalism or unnecessary emotional hype."

Rochester Eccentric

First Place—General Excellence

"Compelling front page stories, good active photos, very extensive newspaper sections."

Third Place—Editorial Page/Pages

"Engaging commentaries"

Troy Eccentric

Honorable Mention—Editorial Writing

The West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric

First Place—Feature Picture

Dan Dean: "Making Waves"

"Excellent artistic shot!"

Second Place—Picture Story

Dan Dean: "Wings and a Prayer"

"Strong sports photo story. Good story telling from start to finish."

Third Place—Sports Writing

Marty Budner: "Lalas Kicks Around Future"

"Story covers all the bases; solid work"

Honorable Mention—Spot News Picture

Dan Dean: "Shock"

Honorable Mention—Feature Story

Tim Smith: "Despite Odds..."