

2018 Student Media Awards

CATHOLICISM

First Place

The Maroon, Loyola University New Orleans, "Borofsky: next Loyola president could be non-Jesuit," by Michael Giusti

The writing is adequate, but the storytelling misses opportunities. While the headline brings the reader in to learn about a historic change in Loyola policy, the implications of that policy are largely ignored. One would expect some reporting on how the Catholic identity or mission of the school might be affected by such a change, or at least how students/staff/alumni feel about it. The factual setup that opens the article is written well. The article needed additional sources besides just the student rep on the hiring committee.

Honorable Mention

14 East Magazine, DePaul University, "Ken Butigan Journeys for Justice," by Amy Merrick

Understanding this to be a piece on one man, the lack of quotes from other sources hurts the story's credibility. This is the story of Ken Butigan, by Ken Butigan. Something from the Jesuit priest he knew, or someone else who was on the ground in Central America with him, would have enhanced the story. That said, the writing is gripping at points. There is more than enough material for a story of this length and none of it feels like filler.

FEATURE WRITING

First Place

14 East Magazine, DePaul University, "Cameraman Confessionals," by Amy Merrick

This truly captivating writing style engages the reader from the start. Its vibrant energetic language winds throughout the course of the entire story. The author animatedly harnessed the personal and professional spirit of its sports-themed subject in such a way that even this non-sports minded reader experienced all the feels. Other than what appears to be an autocorrect typo (Division, instead of Davidson) halfway through the story and an absent zero (60,00 instead of 60,000), this story is pure quality. Solid sources and accurate facts enhanced the readers enjoyment. Congratulations on a job well done!

Second Place

14 East Magazine, University, "The Pursuit of Aletheia," by Amy Merrick

The tenacity with which this article is written dares to make this journalist swoon. The dramatic and expressive telling of events make for a memorable and meaningful read. Credible sources as well as picturesque details bring to life the characters, from their rich, deeply personal histories to their present day realities. Truly well done and deserving of merit.

Third Place

14 East Magazine, University, "Birth Justice is Social Justice," by Amy Merrick

The writer immediately grabs the attention of the reader by using a dramatic lede. Brilliant use of graphic representation urges the reader on. Her use of sources appears to be broad and solid. Her refreshing honesty shows no fear in truthful reporting, a highly desirable quality in journalists today. The author should exercise caution in a feature story to take great care in remaining impartial. A couple of references might give the impression of the author's bias. Overall, the article is well written and thoughtful, highlighting the author's attention to detail and lengthy research. The underlying social justice theme aligns well with the values worthy of a Catholic Press Award.

GRAPHIC ART OR PHOTOGRAPH (SINGLE)

Second Place

The Maroon, Loyola University New Orleans, "Sugar-powdered goodness meets good will," by Michael Giusti

The photo provides a fun, lively perspective on the topic, giving the viewer a sense of being a part of the action. Choosing to center the subject in the composition adds to the impact of the photo. I'm a little distracted by the lack of interesting detail shown in the reflection of the glasses. When I see a reflective object taking this much real estate in a photograph, I assume the content being reflected will help tell the story. I was disappointed not to see that technique used here, and I think the image would have been more successful with attention paid to this detail. I also would have liked to see just a bit more of the beignet. The crop feels just slightly off-balance, as though it's missing a bit of information at the bottom. Nicely done! I really like that this particular image was selected to illustrate the story, rather than a more static or obvious photo.

NEWS WRITING

First Place

14 East Magazine, DePaul University, "Spaces for Speech: Charles Murray and the DePaul Response," by Amy Merrick

I particularly enjoyed the language—good, even striking, word choices. There were alliteration, assonance, unusual multi-word modifiers, the quoted poetic language of professionals, the quoted chants of protesters. I appreciated the succinct summary of Murray's speech and, even more, the Q and A that followed. I do think it took a little more time than necessary to (proverbially) bring Murray to the podium and also think that his controversial opinions should've been noted at the beginning of the story (perhaps a controversial quote could've been italicized and positioned at the very beginning). A couple of incorrect word choices (e.g., incorrect subject/verb agreement in one case; "anyways" instead of "anyway"). A whiff of editorializing at one juncture. First section—granted, an excellent college publication example of a wordsmith (or wordsmiths) in action—got OVERLY detailed at times. I would've appreciated some sort of summary that made the story's ending seem more obviously an ending. I did appreciate the structural framework—the three-section division into simultaneous, very different group occurrences the night of the Murray speech.

Second Place

14 East Magazine, DePaul University, "The Night Shift," by Amy Merrick

Early on, an excellent example of phraseology appears in the article: "a snowflake away from freezing." I felt this gem was worth noting! While perhaps not exactly scintillating topic-wise, the story strives for objectivity and is indeed thorough. A timely article. Dangling or misplaced modifier or two observed, but a competently written story overall.

Honorable Mention

14 East Magazine, DePaul University, "Four Disasters, Two Places, One City," by Amy Merrick

Eliminate the unnecessary word, watch subject-verb agreement ("the groups is"), a few more commas in order, watch dangling or misplaced modifiers & redundancy ("still currently"). Writer has ability to paint a word picture, plus a good ear (and/or the good sense to utilize a ~~tape~~ recorder) resulting in some good conversational quoting. Balance, accuracy, thoroughness, reliability of sources were impressive. Sentences digestible (and fittingly so). De Paul's part in relief efforts should've been mentioned much earlier in story, in or very near the lead.

ONLINE MULTIMEDIA

First Place

14 East Magazine, DePaul University, "They Took to the Streets," by Amy Merrick

The 7 contributors published two excellent reports on the events surrounding the 2017 presidential inauguration weekend in Chicago. There were marches and demonstrations. In a very creative way, they used audio illustrated by still photos, quotes from participants in the events, and unique spherical images that panned from the center of the crowd to give a sense of the size of the location and the number of people present. Very dramatic, interesting and technically dramatic. It told the story as only well-done multimedia can!

Second Place

14 East Magazine, DePaul University, "The Children of Sarajevo," by Amy Merrick

The report tells the touching story of two children who lived in Sarajevo at the start of the Serbian-Bosnian civil war. Now living in Chicago their lives are also intertwined. The interviews are powerful. The writing is A+. The slideshow is well photographed and produced. The use of a map helps us place where in Europe these events happened. Very well done multimedia journalism.

Honorable Mention

The Maroon, Loyola University New Orleans, "Confederate monuments to come down in May," by Michael Giusti

Nice job covering a current topic. The video adds good visuals to the piece. The video quality could be improved, particularly both the audio and graphics. Additionally, the video should add new information and enhance the viewer's understanding of the topic, rather than repeating much of the written content. I also would have liked to see more and higher quality/more interesting photographs, particularly of each of the monuments. The piece feels a bit static, and more photos could improve that.

VIDEO JOURNALISM

First Place

The Maroon, Loyola University New Orleans, "Loyola adds Braille signs to buildings on campus," by Michael Giusti

Danielle Garcia has produced an excellent human interest story about what it is like for a student with visual disabilities to navigate the Loyola University campus. She filmed a video interview with Sophie. The video showed the the difficulties Sophie has making her way to class. Included with the story was also a still photo with a complete caption. Through this portrait of Sophie we learn of the syndrome that caused her blindness, the challenges she faces, her independent attitude, the support she found on campus and the new Braille signs that provide assistance. This is a very good example of local reporting that informs and improves the community.