

For coverage of cult, company, siege

Small papers win 3 Pulitzers

United Press International
NEW YORK — A weekly newspaper with only one full-time reporter won the 1979 Pulitzer Prize for public service, the first time in 26 years a weekly has won journalism's most coveted award.

The Point Reyes (Calif.) Light, a "mom and pop" paper with a circulation of only 2,700, got the prize for an investigation of Synanon, the drug rehabilitation program turned cult.

Humorist Russell Baker of the New York Times got the commentary prize for his "Observer" column and said he might write a column about it.

It was the first time in 26 years a weekly newspaper has won the public service prize and only the fourth time in the awards' history that a weekly won any Pulitzer.

After a six-month investigation of the program, the paper charged

Synanon was a money-making operation benefiting the family of its founder, Charles Dedrich. It also uncovered evidence of alleged beatings, hoarding of weapons and revenge attacks.

Risser, who won his first Pulitzer for national reporting in 1976, won his second for a seven-part series on pollution by farmers. He said he didn't think he "had a chance" of winning.

Cramer, who joined the Inquirer in 1976, won the international reporting prize for his coverage of the Middle East. At the time of the Israeli incursion into Lebanon, he flew to Beirut and hired a cab to take him to the battle front.

Gaul and Jaspin won the prize for special local reporting for a probe into the demise of the Blue Coal Corp., once a leading producer of anthracite coal.

Two other small papers also won Pulitzers in the 63rd annual awarding of the prizes for journalism, letters, drama and music Monday.

Gilbert Gaul and Elliot Jaspin, reporters with the Pottsville, Pa., Republican, a daily with a circulation of only 28,500, won the prize for special local reporting.

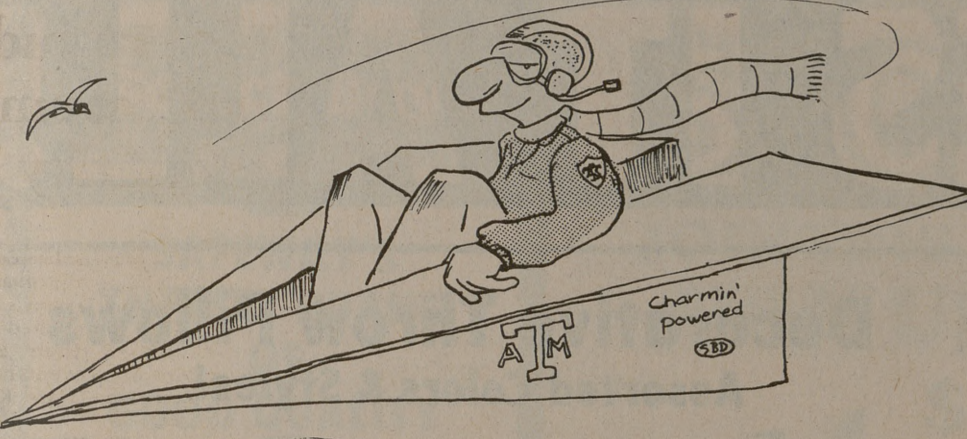
And Thomas Kelly III, a photographer for the Pottstown, Pa., Mercury, a daily that has a circulation of only 29,800, won the prize for spot news photography. His award came for a series of pictures on the siege of Richard Greist, who held his family hostage in a rural home.

James Risser, Washington bureau chief of the Des Moines Register, won his second Pulitzer for national reporting. Washington Post cartoonist Herbert Block and poet-novelist Robert Penn Warren each won their third.

Asked to comment, Block said, "Can I call you right back? I'm right on deadline." He never called back.

Richard Ben Cramer, 28, gave the Philadelphia Inquirer its fifth successive Pulitzer by winning the prize for international reporting.

Novelist John Cheever, who won the National Book Award in 1958, was awarded the prize for fiction.



The paper plane chase: distance, time, originality

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff

They really didn't look like planes. Instead, an assortment of gyrocopters, missiles and parachutes made up the entries in the fifth annual paper airplane contest, held Tuesday afternoon in the foyer of Zachry Engineering Center.

There were some conventional-looking entries, of course. Most of these were constructed on the spot out of notebook paper.

The purpose of the contest wasn't to discover new aerodynamic principles, but just

to have fun, said Karen Wessels, vice president of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. TSPE sponsored the contest.

The 11 contestants competed for \$5 prizes in one or more categories: design, longest time in flight, and distance flown.

Judging the contest was Glenda Wiley, president of TSPE, and two industrial engineering professors, Robert Bateman and James Hennigan.

Three engineering students soared to victory.

First they inspected the design entries, testing them for stability and originality. A flying

tube, entered by mechanical engineering student Don White, won this category.

Then the longest flight contestants tossed, sailed or dropped their entries from the second floor balcony of Zachry. The toilet paper parachute designed by Bill Elmer, a chemical engineering student, fluttered to the ground in nine seconds, almost a second longer than the second place time.

Distance honors went to nuclear engineering student Russell de Castongrene, whose missile sped 74 feet 6.5 inches diagonally across Zachry before touchdown.

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