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San Marcos – Palomar College’s newspaper, The Telescope, was awarded First Place for Best Newspaper in College Media by the San Diego Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ).

The Telescope won this and six other awards during SPJ’s annual banquet, July 16 at the Bali Hai Restaurant on Shelter Island.

The Telescope beat out all other area colleges, including San Diego State University’s newspaper, the Daily Aztec, and San Diego City College’s newspaper, the City Times. The newspapers are judged by professional journalists outside of California and selected based on standard news guidelines.

The judges wrote: “Great variety of stories, from campus smoking to national and even international issues such as coverage of the Middle East conflict. Strong, relevant opinion pages. Well done!”

Former Telescope Editor-in-Chief John Scafetta won four awards, including a first place for his reporting of a bomb scare that shut down Palomar’s campus last fall.

Former Photo Editor Elliot de Lisser earned second place for his creative and colorful photograph of an art festival in Carlsbad.

The entire newspaper staff earned an honorable mention for layout and design. For more information about the awards, visit the San Diego SPJ’s Web site at www.sdspj.org or see a partial list of winners below.

College Media

Best Newspaper

Honorable Mention: The Daily Aztec, San Diego State University

2nd Place: City Times, San Diego City College

1st Place: The Telescope, Palomar College

Judges’ Comments: Great variety of stories, from campus smoking to national and even international issues such as coverage of the Middle East conflict. Strong, relevant opinion pages. Well done!

News Story or Series – Print

Honorable Mention: College mourns the death of student athlete, John Scafetta, The Telescope

2nd Place: SDS works to provide equal access to books, Giselle Dondom, The Daily Aztec

1st Place: Bomb scare shuts down campus, John Scafetta, The Telescope

Judges' Comments: Well-reported job on a continuing topic.

Feature Story or Series – Print

Honorable Mention: Final Farewell, John Scafetta, The Telescope

2nd Place: Halley's Comet's got nothing on Bauer's asteroid, Lauren Ciallella, City Times

1st Place: Vigil honors missing student, Devin Kunysz, The Daily Aztec

Judges' Comments: Devin Kunysz did a nice job of dealing with a family in a tragic situation without making it maudlin.

Sports Story or Series –Print

Honorable Mention: No average Joe, John Scafetta, The Telescope

2nd Place: A role reversal of fortunes, Justin Lafferty, The Daily Aztec

1st Place: Hall of famer's dad would've been proud, Joe Giovanetti, The Daily Aztec

Judges' Comments: What are the odds of three finalists all featuring father-son baseball topics? Joe Giovannetti's piece tapped into the sport's highest level, but also brought out some nice personal insights into someone who was one of the very best people in the world at what he did.

Arts/Entertainment Story or Series – Print

2nd Place: Art on track, Katie Dunn, City Times

1st Place: Biology: A real miracle on 55th street, Bradley Haering, The Daily Aztec

Judges' Comments: Well written and knowledgeable

Review/Criticism – Print

Honorable Mention: 'Beowulf' is a step back for digitally animated films, Alissa Wisniewski, City Times

2nd Place: 50 should stick to vitamin water, Bradley Haering, The Daily Aztec

1st Place: 'Tango' steps on your toes, Lauren Ciallella, City Times

Judges' Comments: Excellent job of selling the experience – from high expectations to getting the bum's rush. Makes us want to check it out.

Regular Column – Print

Honorable Mention: Sports on the Edge, Rosemarie Davis, City Times

2nd Place: Live and Learn, Luis Bahena, City Times

1st Place: Devin Kunysz, The Daily Aztec

Judges' Comments: Devin has a nice edge, which a good columnist needs, and a sense of image such as the birth control pill in "The Hannah Montana Lunch Bucket," which suddenly doesn't sound so weird. But still . . .

Photography – Print

Honorable Mention: Soak up San Diego, Glenn Connelly, The Daily Aztec

Honorable Mention: An evening of dance, Rebecca Saffran, City Times

2nd Place: Carlsbad art makes a splash, Elliot de Lisser, The Telescope

1st Place: Fire victims hugging outside home, Andrew Huse, The Daily Aztec

Judges' Comments: Strong composition and capturing a moment that shows the emotion and devastation of a fire.

Layout & Design – Print

Honorable Mention: Blown Away, The Telescope staff

2nd Place: Hi-tech, vo-tech, Scott Landheer, City Times

1st Place: Aztec aquaplex opens, Daily Aztec staff

Judges' Comments: This was a very competitive category. But the simple two-column structure of "Aztec Aquaplex opens" carried the page well. The photo illustration of the recreational pool was a nice way to top the package.

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