

# Differing Opinions on the Best

New York (AP)—The Pulitzer Prize advisory board rejected the nominations of five of its 10 jurors in making its 1978 journalism awards earlier this week, participants in the selection process said yesterday. One of those jurors had selected *Newsday* national correspondent Les Payne as its nominee.

In one category, commentary, the advisory board rejected all three nominees and chose a journalist who had not been selected as a finalist by the five-member jury. The other categories in which the jurors' top choices were passed over by the advisory board were international reporting, national reporting, editorial writing and editorial cartooning, jurors said. Sources said five reversals also occurred last year in the journalism categories.

"Why have a jury committee at all?" complained W.E. Chilton III, publisher of the *Charleston* (W.Va.) *Gazette* and a member of the international reporting jury. "The winner in our category was our fourth choice . . . this is typical of the establishment press. They can't stand anybody outside of *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and even the *Associated Press*."

According to Columbia University, which administers the awards, the board is not bound to accept the recommendations of its jurors.

A spokesman for Pulitzer administrator Richard T. Baker said Thursday that although the 14-member board reversed five of its 10 journalism ju-

ries in awarding 11 prizes Monday, it did not reverse any of its five-member arts panels in making seven culture awards. In two of the five categories, the Pulitzer Prize went to a *New York Times* writer, giving the *Times* an unprecedented three Pulitzer awards this year.

Jurors gave this rundown on the five categories in which the board rejected the top nominees:

● **International Reporting:** The top nominee was Les Payne, national correspondent for *Newsday*, for an 11-part series on conditions in South Africa. The board chose Henry Kamm of *The New York Times*, whose articles on Vietnamese refugees had been the jury's fourth choice.

● **National Reporting:** The jury's top choice was Richard Scheer of the *Los Angeles Times* for a series on the television industry. The prize went to the jury's second choice, Gaylord Shaw, also of the *Los Angeles Times*, for a series on dam safety.

● **Editorial Writing:** The jury's choice was Paul Greenberg of the *Pine Bluff* (Ark.) *Commercial*, who won a 1969 Pulitzer Prize. The advisory board gave the award to Meg Greenfield, deputy editorial page editor of the *Washington Post*.

● **Editorial Cartooning:** Jurors refused to name their first choice. The Pulitzer winner, Jeffrey K. MacNelly of the *Richmond* (Va.) *News-Leader*, was a nominee but not the top one, jurors said.

● **Commentary:** The jury's three nominees were

Gary Deeb, Chicago *Tribune* television critic; Mike Royko, Chicago *Daily News* columnist, and John Leonard, *New York Times* columnist. The Pulitzer went to *New York Times* columnist William Safire.

Clayton Kirkpatrick, editor of the Chicago *Tribune* and an advisory board member for three years, said the board is responsible for reviewing jury nominations and "has retained a prerogative to accept the juries' recommendations or to reject or alter them. There has been an increasing sensitivity to the jurors' recommendations," he said. "Anytime they are disregarded, there is considerable soul-searching on the board."

The Pulitzer Prizes are the most coveted in journalism. The juries are composed mostly of senior editors and publishers; the advisory board also is made up of editors and publishers.

A poll of about half of the 50 jurors produced a mixed reaction to the board's decisions. All the jurors said they recognized the board's authority to override their nominations, but many said they were sorry it had chosen to do so.

In an unrelated development, United Press International announced Friday that Jim Schweiker, who earlier this week was mistakenly awarded the Pulitzer for spot photography, submitted his resignation. Schweiker, 36, a newspaper manager at Indianapolis, said his "effectiveness as a representative of UPI has been seriously diminished" by the mixup.

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- International Reporting: The top nominee was Les Payne, national correspondent for *Newsday*, for an 11-part series on conditions in South Africa. The board chose Henry Kamm of *The New York Times*, whose articles on Vietnamese refugees had been the jury's fourth choice.
- National Reporting: The jury's top choice was Richard Scherer of the *Los Angeles Times* for a series on the television industry. The prize went to the jury's second choice, Gaylord Spaw, also of the *Los Angeles Times*, for a series on dam safety.
- Editorial Writing: The jury's choice was Paul Greenberg of the *Pine Bluff (Ark.) Commercial*, who won a 1969 Pulitzer Prize. The advisory board gave the award to Meg Greenfield, deputy editorial page editor of the *Washington Post*.
- Editorial Cartooning: Jurors refused to name their first choice, *The Pulitzer* winner, Jeffrey K. MacNelly of the *Richmond (Va.) News Leader*, was a nominee but not the top choice. ~~Arthur~~ ~~said~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~jurors~~ ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~seriously~~ ~~diminished~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~mixup~~.

Gary Deeb, Chicago Tribune television critic; Mike Royko, Chicago Daily News columnist, and John Leonard, New York Times columnist. The Pulitzer went to *New York Times* columnist William Safire. Clayton Koppa, editor of the Chicago Tribune and an advisory board member for three years, said the board is responsible for reviewing jury nominations and "has retained a prerogative to accept the jurors' recommendations or to reject or alter them. There has been an increasing sensitivity to the jurors' recommendations," he said. "Anytime they are disregarded, there is considerable soul-searching on the board."

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