

## Small town newspaper wins Pulitzer

NEW YORK (AP) — An author who committed suicide while his novel went ignored and a small-town newspaper that found an erupting volcano in its back yard have been awarded Pulitzer Prizes for their contributions to the arts and journalism.

"I'm very proud and overwhelmed," said Thelma Toole, mother of the late John Kennedy Toole, winner of the 1981 prize for fiction for the comic novel "A Confederacy of Dunces."

The 29-member staff of the Longview (Wash.) Daily News "erupted in cheers" when it heard its coverage of the eruption of Mount St. Helens had won them the prize for general reporting.

"It's something that every journalist dreams about, but very few small papers have a chance to have that dream come true," said Bob Gaston, managing editor of the 27,500-circulation paper.

Rich Oppel, editor of the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer, was doused with champagne Monday after the announcement that the newspaper had received the coveted gold medal for public service in journalism for its series "Brown Lung: A Case of Deadly Neglect."

The series of 22 articles charged government and industry with ignoring the disease caused by cotton dust in textile plants, one of state's leading industries.

The Pulitzers, awarded annually by Columbia University on the recommendation of a jury, were endowed by Joseph Pulitzer, late publisher of the old New York World. Except for the public service award, which carries a gold medal, winners receive \$1,000.

The Longview Daily News staff wrote more than 1,500 stories about its deadly neighbor between July and December, said Gaston. After the May 18 blast that left 61 dead or missing, reporters "trudged through mudflows and climbed across rooftops for interviews," the citation said.

The international reporting award went to Shirley Christian of the Miami Herald for her coverage of events in El Salvador and other Latin American countries, including the deaths of American church workers in El Salvador.

New York Times writers took two Pulitzers. Houston correspondent John M. Crewdson, who "walked across the Mexican desert at night

with smugglers," received the national reporting award for a series on the treatment of illegal immigrants which led to a Justice Department investigation.

Times sports columnist Dave Anderson was honored for distinguished commentary.

Clark Hallas and Robert B. Lowe of the Arizona Daily Star received the prize for special local reporting for their investigation of the sports department at the University of Arizona.

The prize for editorial cartooning went to Mike Peters of the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News,

while the award for spot news photography went to Larry C. Price of the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram, who took extensive pictures of a firing squad in Liberia that executed members of the ousted Liberian government.

Taro Yamasaki of the Detroit Free Press was honored for feature photography for photos taken inside a state prison; Jonathan Yardley, book reviewer of the Washington Star, received the prize for criticism; and Janet Cooke of the Washington Post was honored for feature writing for her report on an 8-year-old heroin addict.

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