



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SCHOOL PRESS ASSOCIATION

On-site contests expanded

Plans continuing for April 29 conference

The On-Site Writing Contests will again be offered at the Spring Conference. This year, though, two more categories have been added.

The two new categories are Feature Writing and Computer-Designed Infographs.

The feature writing category will be similar to the news writing category but will have a feature fact sheet. The Senior Interview contest will still be offered, but this category will give underclassmen and other seniors an opportunity to write a feature story.

The computer-designed infographs category will take place in a computer lab in the Journalism Department. Students will be given information that they will use to design an infograph. Students will design using Pagemaker.

As in the past, each SISPA member school may enter two students in each category. A student may enter only one contest. There is a \$2 fee per entry.

Unless otherwise specified in the contest description, students are to bring only paper and a writing utensil. No typewriters, word processors or computers will be permitted. Also, no tape recorders will be allowed.

Descriptions of each of the contests is as follows:

1. News Writing- Students will be

given a fact sheet from which to draw information. Students will then compose a news story from information provided. (9:40-11:10)

2. Feature Writing- Students will be given a fact sheet from which to draw information. Students will then compose a feature story from information provided. (9:40-11:10)

3. Editorial Writing- Students will be given a fact sheet from which to draw information. After reading the material, students will write an editorial on the topic using their ideas to support or oppose a position. (9:40-11:10)

3. Caption Writing- This contest is designed for both newspaper and yearbook staffs. Students will be given several photographs and will write captions.

The captions must tell a complete story but not exceed 40 words in length. (9:40-10:20)

4. Yearbook Feature Copy Block- A fact sheet will be provided for those entered to write a typical feature copy block. (9:40-10:20)

5. Yearbook Sports Copy Block- A fact sheet will be provided for those entered to write a typical sports copy block. (9:40-10:20)

6. Yearbook Cover Design- Students will be asked to develop a cover idea based on a theme given to them. Students may bring out sheets, color

pencils, markers etc. (9:40-11:10)

7. Editing- Students will be asked to proofread a story checking for good journalistic style. (9:40-10:20)

8. Sports Writing- Students will be given a fact sheet from which to draw information. They will write a sports newspaper story based on those facts. (9:40-11:10)

9. Advertising Design- Students will be given three business information sheets. They will be asked to design ads to fit certain sizes. Students may bring a ruler and any type of pen or pencil. Artistic ability is not necessary as ads will be judged on overall design and areas may be simply marked for art work. (9:40-10:20)

10. Review Writing- Students will watch a short videotaped performance. They will write a review commenting on the performance. (9:40-11:10)

11. Computer-Designed Infographs - Students will be given a fact sheet from which to design an infograph. Students will then use Pagemaker on computers in the Journalism Department to create the infograph. (9:40-11:10)

12. Senior Interview- Seniors will interview a noted figure from the Southern Illinois area and compose a feature story from the information gathered during the interview. (9:40-11:10)

You are invited ...

The SIU-Carbondale
School of Journalism
is hosting a Luncheon
for all SISPA advisers
during the Spring Conference
on April 29, 2003.

Please RSVP

by April 1

to Karen Waldron

at kwaldron@siu.edu or 618-536-3361

It's NOT too late!

**NEWSPAPER Best Story Contest &
2003 YEARBOOK Copy and Photo Contest**

MARCH 26 postmark

send to: SISPA, School of Journalism, SIUC,
Carbondale, IL 62901-6601

Adviser of the Year entries

MARCH 26 email albers@htc.net

Adviser Work Day at SIUC, School of Journalism

March 29 • 10 a.m.

IHSA considers adding journalism to events

In September, the Media Advisory Committee for the Illinois High School Association met, including a journalism instructor for the first time in its history. SISPA member Cathy Sullivan was the teacher.

The committee discussed and approved a plan to present a proposal to the IHSA Board of Directors to create a state-wide series in journalism similar to the ones that exist for speech and music.

The Board gave the proposal green light. Subsequently, IJEA's President Dave Porecca, Dr. James Tidwell of Eastern Illinois University, James Flynn, the IHSA Assistant Executive Director, and Sullivan are trying to hammer out a meeting time to begin planning a concrete proposal to take back to the Board.

The tentative plan is to create a focus group that will determine procedures and rules and get it ready to take back to the Media Advisory Committee next fall who will approve and send it on to the Board for a vote. If all goes well, contests may be in place as early as 04-05.

Cathy Sullivan welcomes advisers' input in this process.

Advisers may email her at csullivan@hbg.saline.k12.il.us or contact her at Harrisburg High School, 333 W. College St., Harrisburg, IL 62946. She will also be in attendance at the spring conference.

Conference right on schedule

Preparations are being finalized for the 53rd Annual SISPA Spring Conference to be held at SIU-Carbondale's Student Center on Tuesday, April 29.

Registration will be from 8-9 a.m. in the Gallery Lounge on the second floor of the Student Center.

Schools are urged to arrive early to take advantage of the displays and to register for the On-Site and Senior Interview contests. The new contest which will utilize computers will only have a certain number of slots. They will be filled "first come, first served."

Fees are \$4 per attendee for member schools. Additional fees are required for those students participating in the on-site contest. (See schedule at right for listing of ALL fees.)

To participate, schools must be a part of SISPA.

PROGRAM

The opening assembly will begin at 9 a.m. At this time, Blue Banner, Golden Dozen and Yearbook Contest winners will be announced along with the Advisers of the Year.

First session discussions will be held from 9:40-10:20 a.m. The second session is slated from 10:30-11:10 a.m.

The On-Site Writing categories Caption Writing, Yearbook Feature Copy Writing, Yearbook Sports Copy Writing, Advertising Design and Editing will be from 9:40-10:20. The rest of the on-site contests will be from 9:40-11:10.

Those students competing in the Computer-Designed Infographics contest will meet in the lobby after the opening session. Students will then be escorted to the Journalism

Department.

The afternoon assembly will begin at 12:45 p.m. with awards for yearbook photo and copy and Best Story awards for newspapers being presented.

The On-Site Contest and Senior Interview winners will be announced at that time also. The conference will be completed by 1:30 p.m.

PARKING

Cars must park in the pay lot between the Student Center and the Stadium at 25 ¢ per hour or park south of the arena.

A special lot for buses is available just south of the parking area across from the Student Center. Pick-up can be made at about 1:30 p.m. in front of the Student Center.

LUNCH

There are several fast food places to eat in the Student Center, as well as places close to campus. Students can eat at McDonald's in the Student Center as well as Pizza Hut, Mexican and sub sandwich fare.

ADVISERS

In addition, a special advisers' meeting will be conducted. The meeting will be held in the Gallery Lounge.

This year, also, the School of Journalism will be hosting a luncheon for all advisers.

PROGRAM

TIMES

Registration

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Opening Assembly

9:00 a.m.

First Session

9:40-10:20 a.m.

Select On-Site Contests

(Caption Writing, Yearbook Feature Copy Writing, Yearbook Sports Copy Writing, Advertising Design and Editing)

9:40-10:20 a.m.

Second Session

10:30-11:10 a.m.

Senior Interview

9:40-11:10 a.m.

On-Site Contests

9:40-11:10 a.m.

Lunch

11:10 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Afternoon Assembly

12:45-1:30 p.m.

COST

Attendees

\$4 each

On-Site Contests

\$2 per entry

Membership

\$15 per school

TENTATIVE SESSION TOPICS

- yearbook companies presentations
- photojournalism
- on-line publishing
- cartooning
- legalities of on-line publishing



Best Story categories reviewed

There are a total of 20 categories in the Best Story Contest. Each publication may enter a total of three entries per division except front page and overall layout. Each entry should be attached to a sheet which includes the name of the student, the school and the category. Entries are to be postmarked by Wednesday, March 26.

— Best Original Advertisement

A published ad that is conceived and designed by the student. Ad slicks or ads designed by the advertised company are not eligible.

— Best Computer Produced Graphic

Graphic used in lieu of photographs with the intent to enhance any news, feature, or sports article or to aid in the graphic look of the publication. All graphics must be computer produced or enhanced by student.

— Best Original Art

Artwork used in lieu of photographs with the intent to enhance any news, feature, or sports article or to aid in the graphic look of the publication. All art work in this category must be hand drawn by a student.

— Best Original Cartoon

A cartoon entry may be editorial or comic. It may be a single frame or multiple frames. Computer produced cartoons are acceptable as long as they are student produced and generated.

— Best News Story

An article of a news event that presents new information or an angle on already published information or past events.

— Best Editorial

An article written as a statement or opinion on an issue by the staff. It should not be biased. It may seek to encourage critical thinking, to mold opinion, or sometimes to promote action.

— Best Review

An opinion piece that reviews movies, music, plays, concerts, book, exhibits, performances, or other works available to the public or students.

Article may be column work or an individual piece.

— Best In-depth Story

Article should be issue-oriented coverage with emphasis on research, interviewing and analysis. It should be a minimum of 12 column inches.

— Cub Division

Any type of article written by a freshman or sophomore on staff. Guidelines will vary depending on type of article entered. Refer to appropriate category.

— Best Interview Story

Article is dependent on the use of extensive quotes. Quotations should make up at least 60 percent of the article.

— Best Feature Story

An article that entertains through material that is interesting but not necessarily important. Emphasis should be on rich detail and liberal use of quotes. It should focus on human interest.

— Best Featurette

An article that contains the elements of a feature story but is shorter. Length should not exceed 6 column inches.

— Best Sports Feature

A sports feature is on a sport-related topic. It would contain the same elements and guidelines of a feature article.

— Best Photograph with Caption

Photograph can be a news, feature, or sports subject. Along with published picture and caption, if possible, send original photograph so that printing errors can be accounted for.

— Best Humorous Column

An article under a permanent title written regularly and giving expression to the writer's opinion. It would have a lighter tone either through writing style and/or subject matter.

— Best Editorial Column

An article under a permanent title written regularly and giving expression to the writer's own opinion. The editorial column should be of a serious nature.

— Best Sports Column

Like the editorial and humorous column, the sports column differs only in that its subject deals with sports.

— Best Sports Story

A news article that emphasizes timely action, including coverage of sporting events. It may be an advance, follow-up, summary, or combination story.

— Best Front Page Layout

Enter one front page layout.

— Best Overall Layout

Enter one complete issue.

2003 YB Contest

- 3 entries per category per school
- Best Feature Copy Block
- Best Sports Copy Block
- Best Photograph

Conference Updates will be emailed.
If you did not receive the last SISPA email,
send address to lbielong@mindspring.com.

SISPA Southern Illinois School Press Association
School of Journalism
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Carbondale, IL 62901-9601

• PLEASE FORWARD TO THE APPROPRIATE PUBLICATION ADVISER •