

2003 Press Council Prize Winners

WINNER:

Daniel Creasy

Daniel is a final year student at La Trobe University, completing an Honours degree in Bachelor of Laws as well as a Bachelor of Media Studies (Journalism) degree. His particular area of study for the law degree has been international law / human rights law, exploring the legal ramifications of the *ASIO Amendment (Terrorism) Act 2002*. He intends to undertake articles of clerkship/graduate lawyer position with a national firm in 2004. Daniel's interests include travel, film, literature, theatre, swimming and squash. His future aspirations include writing for newspapers in areas of concern to him, including international relations.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Joy Cameron-Dow

Joy Cameron-Dow is a mature-age international student at Bond University, where she completed her Master of Communication degree last semester and is now enrolled as a PhD candidate. Joy's journalism experience in the workplace has encompassed all aspects of the profession, focussing in recent years on the broadcast media. She hopes to continue her work and research in the communications field.

Phillipa Prior

After finishing high school, Phillipa wandered the earth for a few years before deciding to return to Australia to pursue a career in the media. She is currently completing her second year of a BA in Journalism and Professional Writing at Curtin University in WA. She is an active member of the Media and Communications team at Amnesty International (WA) and regularly churns out articles for their newsletter, which she helps coordinate. Her career dreams include conscientious journalism, feature writing in all shapes and forms, travel with notebook and recorder in hand.

[NOTE: The Council has not received biographical details from **Darryl Hunt** at the time of publication. Those details will be posted on the website when received.]

2003 Judges' Comments

Judge 1

Most of the essays demonstrated a wealth of research into free-speech issues and legal precedents and indicated that the writers understood quite well the difficulty of balancing competing interests when considering the desirability and the efficacy of existing curbs on press freedom.

Many writers referred at length to the NSW report *Race for the Headlines* and offered the report's conclusions and recommendations in support of the notion that - on matters affecting race, at least - the press required more regulation. But few of the writers who quoted from *Race for the Headlines* canvassed the widespread public criticism that followed its release or appeared to question the broad finding that NSW newspapers contribute to racial tensions in the community by "unfair" reporting about various ethnic minority groups.

It would have been pleasing to have seen a stronger defence of the notion that in reporting on controversial issues - especially issues as sensitive as race - newspapers are exercising freedom of speech, a freedom without which we would cease to be a democracy.

Judge 2 (extract - complete remarks to be posted on the website, together with those of Judge 3)

There seems to be a feeling among the essayists that the reporter should go off on his rounds on his/her rounds, carting behind a trolley of law tomes and case histories with him/her. Staying out of trouble may lead to safety, but it will never lead to great newspapers. I would have appreciated a more free-wheeling approach from our essayists, who, I hope, plan to practise journalism rather than study it; I also urge upon them a greater understanding of the reality of working journalism.