



36

Best newspaper staff

Members of the award winning Potomac High Drumbeat staff are, first row from left, Mike Turner, Rik Scarce, Joyce Grimley, Angela Toliver, Kirk Bowie and John Payne; second row, Craig Bowers, Wendy Campbell, Sandra White, Sue Brown, Donna Kidwell and David Morrison, and third row, Barry Jor-

dan, Dino Tassa, advisor Joan Bauer, Irvin Lee, Mike Kelly, Don Kelly and Don Sturgis. Not present for picture, which was taken outside the south county school, were Editor-in-Chief Ron Gray and Joe Graves. (Sentinel Photo by Staff Photographer Carol Woods.)

Best Editorial

First Place -- Joe Graves, Potomac Drumbeat
Second Place -- Aviva Adams, High Point Beacon
Third Place -- Michele Sison, Bowie Spotlight

Best Feature Story

First Place -- Anne Bergen and Brenda Nassau, Potomac Drumbeat
Second Place -- Jeff Billings, Bowie Spotlight
Third Place -- Cristina Valancia, High Point Beacon

Best News Story

First Place -- John Payne, Potomac Drumbeat
Second Place -- Roger Chapman, DuVal Prowler
Third Place -- Kris Dant, Fairmont Sting

Best Photo

First Place -- Shang Hsiung, High Point Beacon
Second Place -- Keith Olmert, Crossland Cavalcade
Third Place -- Don Sturgis, Potomac Drumbeat

The Potomac High School Drumbeat has won first place for general excellence in The Sentinel Newspapers' 1976-77 High School Journalism Contest.

The DuVal High School Prowler came in second, and the Fairmont Heights High School Sting placed third.

Staff members of the Drumbeat, for which Ronnie Gray is editor in chief and Joan Bauer is advisor, also dominated the portion of the contest honoring individuals for their news stories, feature stories, sports stories, editorials and photographs. Drumbeat staffers won three first-place awards and one third-place award.

Young journalists from the Prowler, the Bowie High School Spotlight, the Crossland High School Cavalcade and the High Point Beacon took virtually all of the remaining individual awards.

Here's a category-by-category run-down of the winners:

In the News category, John Payne of the Drumbeat won first place for his story on how budget cutbacks were affecting the quality of education at Potomac High. Roger Chapman of the DuVal Prowler came in second for his article detailing how teen-age pregnancy may be reaching "epidemic" proportions here and tying the problem to an apparent lack of sex education in the schools. Kris Dant of the Fairmont Sting was third-place winner with his thoughtful piece on the value of Scholastic Aptitude Tests.

Feature stories

In the Feature category, Anne Bergen and Brenda Nassau of the Potomac Drumbeat shared first place honors for their story on alcohol abuse among teenagers. Jeff Billings of the Bowie Spotlight came in second with his profile of late night disc jockey Tim Kelly of WPGC, and Christina Valancia of the High Point Beacon placed third with her story on students with "famous names" who attend High Point High School.

In the Sports category, Bill Nowacki of the Crossland Cavalcade took first

place with his amusing piece on how athletes should be adept at crouching on the sidelines on one knee. Danny Knott of the DuVal Prowler had the second-place story, "Girls Can't Play Soccer?" about a female athlete being ousted from the boys soccer team because of state regulations, and Dave Hill of the Spotlight came in third with his "Hill's Huddle" column rehashing several recent football games.

In the category for Editorials, Joe Graves of Potomac High placed first with his editorial asking, "Why isn't Contraception Taught in P.G. County?" Aviva Abrams of High Point came in second for a discussion of ways the Student Government Association might improve homeroom elections. Michele Sison placed third with an editorial against certain restrictions on student dances.

In the category for Photos, Shang Hsiung of High Point won first place with his picture of pom-pom girls bundled up against the cold. Keith Olmert of Crossland came in second with his high-contrast picture of a cheerleader in action, and Don Sturgis of Potomac placed third with his amusing shot of varsity lettermen wearing diapers as part of an initiation rite.

10 entries

In all, 10 Prince George's County high schools— including, for the first time, two private schools—entered The Sentinel's contest.

The judging was done by The Sentinel's Prince George's and Laurel news staffs, which found the task difficult because of the high quality of the entries.

In fact, in the General Excellence category where high school newspapers were rated on the quality of their typography and news stories, the professionalism of their page layouts, the liveliness of their editorial pages, the pertinence of their headlines and the eye appeal of their photos and other art work—several ballots had to be taken before a consensus could be reached on the top three entries.