

FOUR AWARDS FOR '92

Beacon Brings Home Honors From Annual Press Competition

The Brunswick Beacon staff brought home four awards from the N.C. Press Association's 1992 community newspaper competition.

The awards were presented at the association's 1993 Winter Institute held this past weekend in Chapel Hill.

Managing Editor Lynn Carlson accepted second-place awards for editorials and columns. Sports Editor Doug Rutter was awarded second place in sports columns for "Sporting Scene," and the newspaper won second place for sports coverage.

Carlson, who has been with the newspaper since June 1992, submitted editorials on the Brunswick County schools system, tourism, and the county's draft land use plan. The judge, Walter Sanchez of the Queens Ledger in Maspeth, N.Y., commented, "Nice use of facts to get message across. Appealing subject matter. Gets right to the point, with a nice writing style."

Carlson's winning columns were "The Scariest Sport In The World," a humor piece about T-ball; "Well-Fed And Well-Read For The Summer," about her childhood; and "Why America Needs New Orleans," written in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo. "Good writing that carries the thought and makes a point with intriguing openings and snappy conclusions," said judge Barbara Rivette of the New York Press Association.

Rutter's awards were for "Sporting Scene" columns about the 1991 state football championships, the

need for wooden gym floors in local high schools, and youth baseball.

About Rutter's columns, the judge—Sharon Fulmer of Eagle Newspapers in Baldwinsville, N.Y.—said, "Mr. Rutter hits the issues that touch the community. In the first two columns, he deals with issues that the entire readership area can relate to. In the third column, Mr. Rutter talks about one of America's favorite pastimes, and anyone could enjoy it. He is easy to read and doesn't lose audience with clutter."

Rutter has been on the newspaper staff since August 1987.

The Beacon's sports coverage, judged by Cliff Richner of Richner Publications, Lawrence, N.Y., was praised for "exceptional feature stories and quality news coverage."

(Former staff writers) Terry Pope and Dori Cosgrove show great natural talent and knack for in-depth

coverage of athletes and their lives rather than just covering games and posting scores. Doug Rutter's story ("Lady Cougars Wins Conference Pair") is also a fine example of straight news coverage written with flair while remaining concise and factual!"

The State Port Pilot of Southport accepted five awards, including a first place for general excellence among weekly newspapers with circulations of more than 3,500. James M. Harper III won a third-place award for investigative reporting for a story about problems at Carolina Power & Light's Brunswick Nuclear Plant.

The Pilot's Marybeth Bianchi accepted a second-place award for photo pages for a display about the turtle watch program. The newspaper won second place for its editorial pages and third place for use of photographs.



BEACON MANAGING EDITOR Lynn Carlson, left, and Sports Editor Doug Rutter display four awards the newspaper staff won in the N.C. Press Association's 1992 community newspaper competition.

STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

UNCW Wants To Bring High-Tech Distance Learning Into County

BY SUSAN USHER

A proposal to extend a high-technology distance learning network into Brunswick County will be discussed at a workshop offered 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, in the teaching auditorium at Brunswick Community College.

Representatives of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Bell South and the N.C. State University Department of Communications are expected to participate in the session, the latest in a series aimed primarily at local public and private agencies. Speakers will share, among other things, how the advanced technology works, its associated costs, and how it can be used to advantage in various settings. Fiber optics technology provides high-quality, high-capacity transmission.

The Cape Fear Educational Partnership Network, an interactive video project, is already in place in New Hanover County, a joint effort led by UNCW's Division for Public Service. The university is linked by fiber optics telecommunications technology with New Hanover and Hoggard high schools and the Area Health Education Center based at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center complex.

Students at the high schools, for instance, are participating in a Japanese language course.

"There's going to be some pretty good how-to's," said Milton Coleman, Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service chairman. "It's exciting to see what you can do."

He said extension offices are already taking advantage of distance learning opportunities. An equine care series offered at UNCW through the extension service was transmitted statewide using the interactive mode, with students at sites as distant as Wilmington and Asheville asking questions and sharing comments.

"We want to expand that into Brunswick County," said Scott Carpenter, coordinator of the Southeastern Network for Economic Development at UNCW. To that end, Carpenter is putting together a

"What helps Brunswick County helps New Hanover County..."

—Scott Carpenter

proposal seeking a \$500,000 grant from the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

Carpenter said UNCW has taken the initiative in trying to extend the network into Brunswick County, with economic considerations chief among its reasons. "In part because of the high unemployment and because it's our closest neighbor and there is a high commuter relationship," he said. "What helps Brunswick County helps New Hanover County. It makes sense to do this given the relationship of the two counties."

In about another year's time, UNCW anticipates offering similar assistance to Pender County.

Meanwhile, said Carpenter, "We want to expand to Brunswick Community College and to one of the high schools and to a hospital. It's a hard decision which school. I believe we will leave that to the school board and superintendent to decide. But probably West Brunswick because it is closest to U.S. 17."

Also because of its proximity to the highway, The Brunswick Hospital looks like the most likely of the two county high schools.

All three tie-ins are contingent upon money. Each partner must provide matching funds, currently estimated at \$20,000 apiece, said Carpenter.

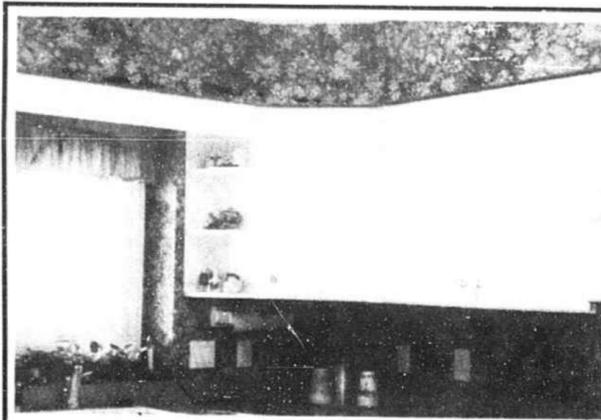
Distant learning links are available now through technology that is less expensive but that will soon be dated, he said. "It's slower going with fiber optics now, but in 10 years everything will be fiber optics and we'll be ahead of the game."

Carpenter believes that tapping into the "cutting edge" of fiber optics technology will help set the area apart and contribute to its economic development. Fiber optics technol-

ogy cannot only increase classroom opportunities for students, but also make a broader range of information available to businesses and industry and make it easier for facilities such as rural hospitals to share resources, including medical specialists.

"I see things happening," said Carpenter. "If they want to come on line, there is nothing stopping them. But they have to find the money. They need to realize they have to go after the money and make it happen."

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