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HERALD WINS 3 AWARDS, INCLUDING ONE FOR HART COVERAGE

Herald Staff

The Miami Herald has won three distinguished service awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, including one for its coverage of the relationship between former Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart and Miami model Donna Rice. Herald reporters Tom Fiedler and **Jim McGee** and editor James Savage won the Washington correspondence award for their series on how Hart met with Rice in a Washington, D.C. town house after his repeated proclamations of marital fidelity. The initial story, which caused Hart to temporarily withdraw from the presidential race, resulted in a major controversy about the propriety of delving into a candidate's personal life and the Herald's reporting tactics.

"The accuracy of the Herald stories, while widely questioned at the time of publication, has stood up under the thorough scrutiny of critics," the society said. "The stories were in the finest tradition of responsible newspaper reporting and met the strictest standards of journalism."

The Herald's Guy Gugliotta, Jeff Leen and James Savage won the SDX foreign correspondance award for a series on the Colombian Medellin drug cartel, which allegedly controls 80 percent of the United States cocaine supply.

Herald photographer Michel duCille won the news photography award for a series of black-and-white pictures showing how crack cocaine dominated the lives of residents of a public housing project.

The Dallas Times Herald won the society's public service award for a newspaper with circulation over 100,000 for its series on the effect of the Immigration Reform and Control Act on U.S. residents.

The Alabama Journal in Montgomery won the public service award in the under 100,000 circulation category for its series on the state's extremely high infant mortality rate.

DuCille's series of crack photos also won an honorable mention in the photojournalism category of the Robert F. Kennedy journalism awards. The 20-year-old competition recognizes journalistic achievements in outlining the problems of disadvantaged Americans.



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