1916, 1929

LEDGER-ENQUIRER

rAGE ONE AWARDS

Sunday, May 7, 1995

Supplement to the Ledger-Enquirer

20th Anniversary



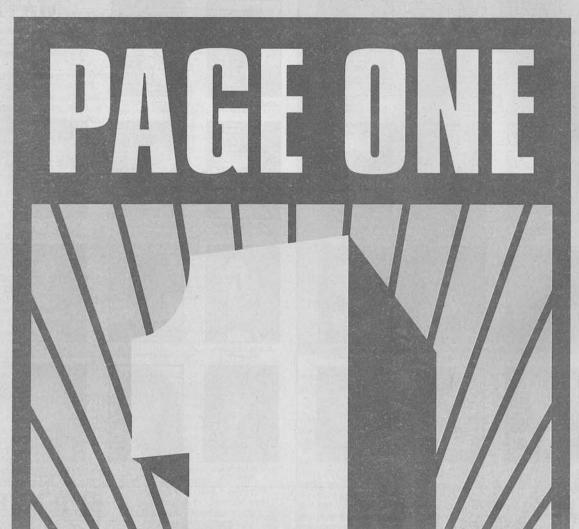
Program inspiring, rewarding achievement

I definitely seems out of kilter. Pick up any newspaper and turn to the sports section. You'll see story after story describing and applauding the athletic exploits of young people.

Then conduct a page-by-page search for similar stories about the academic achievements of young people. Lotsa luck.

But the scale has been brought more in balance at the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, thanks to one thing that happened 20 years ago and another that happened more recently.

In 1976 the management of the paper launched the Page One Awards Program, It



Nominees honored in 20th year of awards

From staff reports

rery year, they come to the auditorium in their Sunday best hoping this will be a night they will remember, not realizing that this is one of those events that brings to a close a lengthy chapter in their lives.

Their parents sit on the edge of their seats, listening to the reading of the student resumes, listening for a clue that the winner about to be announced might be their daughter or son.

Their teachers and principals find a seat, remembering when these students came to them as frightened adolescents, marveling at how they have matured and proud of all they have accomplished.

For 20 years these moments have been celebrated at the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer's Page One Awards. This Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., with the student orchestra playing and the audience cheering the latest seniors in this area. Awards granted over the years total some \$200,000.

Equally or more important is the prestige of the program, the recognition granted the nominees and winners, and the incentive all this provides for academic excellence. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Page One Awards are among the most highly regarded and most sought-after of any in the Chattahoochee Valley.

More about the Page One Awards in a minute.

The more recent development was recognition two years ago, following discussions with community leaders, that education was the number one priority and concern here. That led to a year-long news and editorial undertaking called Project: Education. Published mostly in 1994, the Project: Education articles comprise one of the most comprehensive reports ever published in this paper.

As an outgrowth of that project, we continue to publish many positive educational stories about young people, including standing features called "Academic Achievers" and "Hypel" Also as part of Project: Education, we created a new recognition program for the middle schools called the Headline Awards.

Back to the Page One Awards. The 20th anniversary awards program, to be held May 10 at the Three Arts Theatre, is a testament to the foresight of former Ledger-Enquirer Publisher Glenn Vaughn, now retired, and former marketing and promotion

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school graduates and teachers will walk across the stage at The Three Arts Theater.

This is a milestone year. In the past two decades, thousands of talenied students have been nominated and hundreds have been honored. These young people are ones who have shown abilities both in and out of the classroom.

Since their night of honor, they have graduated into their various communities, Some have stayed close to home. Some have found homes far away. Whatever their address, they contribute in all walks of life. Some have gone on to other rewards. Some live out of the spotlight and away from the headlines.

Twenty years ago, the Ledger-Enquirer gave birth to these awards hoping to nurture and encourage.

They wanted to put these young people on Page 1 of the newspaper. They wanted to underscore the idea that everyone has potential and they wanted to let these students know that they were appreciated.

Over the years, the categories have changed, the number of participating schools has expanded and teachers have been added to the list of honorees. The basic principles remain the same, however.

Those principles are simple but important. Hard work deserves a reward. Involvement should be encouraged. Potentials need to be noted. Academics should be applauded as well as athletics.

Such were the goals in 1976. Such are the goals in 1995.

PAGE ONE CEREMONY

► WHERE: Three Arts
Theater.

► WHEN: Wednesday at 7:30 nm.

► ADMISSION: Free.

20th annual Page One Awards program Wednesday

The 20th annual Page One Awards, honoring outstanding high school seniors and teachers, will be presented Wednesday at The Three Arts Theatre, 1020 Talbotton Road, Columbus.

The awards are sponsored by the R.W. Page Corp., publisher of the Ledger-Enquirer. Winners in the student and teacher categories receive \$750 each and runners-up receive \$150 each.

Also presented will be the newspaper's \$2,000 Tucker-Wilder Scholarship to a student planning a newspaper journalism career. It is named for three former local newspaper editors. The Sara Spano Top Teacher Award, named for the Ledger-Enquirer food editor emeritus and senior columnist, will be presented to an area teacher.

Recognized will be 184 area seniors and 14 high school teachers. The public is invited to the free program which begins at 7:30 p.m. Music will be provided by the Central High School Symphonic Band conducted by Neal Crawford.

Teacher selection is based on ability, educational background, previous recognition, achievements, public and school service, articles published, student achievement, recognition of students taught and teaching philosophy. Two runner-up teacher awards will be presented.

Top students and runners-up will be named in art, athletics, citizenship, drama, English and literature, foreign language, general scholarship, industrial-vocational, journalism, mathematics, music, science and social science.

Area schools nominated the students then judges made their decisions based on scholarship, service and a personal interview. The awards go to individuals who have exemplary scholastic records and "whose records of excellence, achievement and service to school and community best exemplify the unselfish use of talents and abilities to help others."

Since 1976, the Ledger-Enquirer will have awarded \$201,000 in scholarships and recognized 3,591 students and

ENGLISH-LITERATURE



Beth Curry



Chris Curtis



Mark Buchholz



Japonica Childs Russell County High





Jonathan Gray



MATHEMATICS

Sebastian Enberg



Alida Davis



Michele Dodson



Danielle Doughman



Jeff B. Fowler

Jason Hankins



Jeff M. Fowler

Lakita Harvey



Josh Hicks



Jim Hudson



Josh Llanos



Corey Dowdell

Lauren Matthews





Holli Ramsey



Mary Jerzak

Andrea Thomas



Jennifer Johnson

Briarly White



Willis Kao



Eileen King



Bergen Ostervold



Jay Wilson





Carrie Alvarez



Christina Erb Russell County High



Coulter Fussell Hardaway



Melanie Head Central/Phenix City



Eric Fowler Shaw

Nikki Jackson Spencer



Hope Johnson Smiths Station High



Amber Lane Columbus High



Cortney Lynch Brookstone



Tiffany Overstreet Kendrick



Ben Stanton Glenwood



Jonathan Walker Harris County High



John Adams



Bessie Bussie Central/Talbotton



Angela Cruz Rendrick



Tanya Duncan Shaw



Amy Funk Hardaway



Joel Judah Columbus High



Josh Laney Central/Phenix City



Carolyn Martinez



Nataly Morgan Glenwood



Jolene Oakland Smiths Station High



Sunny Resch Carver



Brooke Russell Harris County High



Stanley Washington Russell County High

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP



Nicki Bailey Harris County High



Reese Boulware Russell County High



Alicia Brown Jordan



Tennile Durham Central/Talbotton



Anthony Glackmeyer



Tara Kumar Brookstone



Cory Cooper Central/Phenix City



Alicia Leerssen



DeRhonda Monagan Smiths Station High



Brandon Shiver



Beth Topping Glenwood



Laura Warner Pacelli



Madeana West



Julio Morales



Brad Parker Christian Heritige Academy



Laura Lanier Springwood

MUSIC



Chris Barkdull



Jennifer Carden Pacelli



Phillip Arrington



Lisa Brinker Hardaway





Veronica English Russell County High



Molly Henderson Eufaula High



Yolonda King



Marla Dewey Carver



Robert Dozler



Agnes Evans Kendrick



Julia McKenzie Spencer



John O'Brien Columbus High



Heather Ogilvie



Dawn Plott Opelika High



Diana Faulkner Columbus High



Cassaundra Gleaton Randolph-Clay High



Laura Oswalt



Gene Rodgers Harris County High



Robby Sanders Brookstone



Steven Smith Harris County High



Kimberly Snyder Auburn High



Michael Thomas Central/Phenix City



Chris Tucker Hardaway



Twila Schneider



Janice Terry



Jane Walden Central/Phenix City



Dianne White Russell County High



Deborah Williams Central/Talbotton

JOURNALISM



Christy Barron Central/Phenix City





Philip Clippinger



FOREIGN LANGUAGE



Antony Brand Spencer



Sheree Burnett Randolph-Clay High



DRAMA



Beth Carden Central/Phenix City















Nicole McIntosh



Matthew Mills



Jason James

Opelika High

Carrie Osborne Smith Station High



Columbus High

Marilynn Johnson Shaw



Brookstone

Kiana Pitts



Jordan

Latoria Richardson



Ilana DiBlasi

Lindsay Sexton



Rebecca Grimes

Smiths Station High

Laurel Stern

Alton Waldrop, Jr. Russell County High



Christina Harrison

Amanda Storey Shaw



Ailecia Ruscin Auburn High



Benito' Seay Stewart-Quitman High



Carlton Swift Brookstone



Susan Smith Hardaway



Brandi Stamp Central/Phenix City



Kathy Thomas Springwood



Maria Velez Pacelli



Joshua Sturgill Kendrick



Cori Winfrey Jordan

SOCIAL SCIENCE



Kathy Bledsoe Harris County High

Louisa Childs Brookstone



Keisha Bursey Carver



Amanda Campbell Opelika High



Damien Currier Spencer



Sabrina Ellison Kendrick







Anita Jackson Russell County High



Sonya Mack Hardaway



Chatele' Chester Stewart-Quitman High

Corwin Howard



Matthew Johnson



Keisha Dixon

Shakela Johnson Smiths Station High



Anessah Griffin Central/Phenix City

Scott Jones



Tammy Henderson Central/Phentx City



Sarah-Jessica Hood

Michelle Rayl



Katie Richburg



Beth Roberts Jordan



Tasha Minter



Amanda Regnier



Keisha Rush



Allison Waish Hardaway



Michelle Williams



Kemekia Smith



Cherrika Taylor



Robert Weaver



Stacy Williams

CITIZENSHIP



Kelly Benson Auburn High



Janet Cotton Central/Phenix City



Adam Coursey



Shawn Austin



Kim Black



Chris Bussey Stewart-Quitman High





Brandi Bell



Lauren Dowd



Meshay Francis Hardaway



Sam Hodge Harris County High



Hildred Jones



Courtney Creek Columbus High



Jeffery Davis Central/Talbotton



Reagan Griffin



David Harris Carver



Latorria Jones Stewart Quitman High



Katie Lenhard



Alex Llanos



Shameika McCoy



Wendi Milam Pacelli



Jay Harris



Jeffrey Hudson Hardaway



Fletcher James



Angela Jones Central/Phenix City



Carla McKinney Kendrick



Marlon Moffett



Leigh Morrison Randolph-Clay High



Derek Seim





Kippi Smith Christian Heritage



Sarah Taylor



Stara Mullins Harris County High



Cile Swift



Marlon Taylor



Tiffiney Taylor

Ra'Mel Thomas Randolph-Clay High

JUDGES

SARA SPANO TOP TEACHER

SOCIAL SCIENCE



Willie L. Dozier Deputy Chief of Police Columbus Police Department



Albert L. Johnson

Honorable June D. Jones



Preliminary: _





INDUSTRIAL-VOCATIONAL



Dr. Grady S. Hamer



Second Vice President,



Don Sawtelle, Jr.

JOURNALISM



Nan Fairley Assistant Professor/Journalism
Auburn University

Editor of the Editorial Page
Columbus Ledger Enquirer



Billy Winn



Ron Woodgeard Managing Editor/News The Macon Telegraph



Fort Benning Schools

Classroom:_

Dr. Tom Atkins Professor, Dept. of Counseling & Clinical Programs Columbus College



Director of Develor

Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Dr. Frank W. Bonner Dr. Charles Mendoza Professor of HRM & Education Troy State University



Elementary Education Troy State University

Chairman Criminal Justice Department Troy State University

MUSIC



Mark Ruppelt Andrew College Division Coordinator of Fine Arts



Rev. Hal A. Stewart
Minister of Music/
Business Administrator

Dr. Paul Vander Gheynst
Dean/School of Arts and Letters
Columbus College Evangel Temple



ATHLETICS



John Dittrich Vice President/General Manager Columbus Redstixx



Dr. Ellen Roberts Associate Professor
Dept/Physical Education
and Leisure Management
Columbus College



Robert H. Steele President, Steele Financial Inc., Quad Base Software

FOREIGN LANGUAGE



Dr. Alyce Cook Assistant Professor of Spanish Dept. of Language & Literature Columbus College



Charlotte Osterburg Intercultural Liaison of Georgia



Mary Renteria Information Program Officer International Student Training Detachment Fort Benning, GA

ENGLISH-LITERATURE



David J. Johnson Professor of English
Dept. of Language & Literature
Columbus College

Columbus College

Columbus College



Mark Lytal



Amy Porche English Instructor Chattahoochee Valley Community College

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Don Coker Editorial Art Director Columbus Ledger-Enquirer



Cyde McQuien Graphic Designer Owner, Image by Design

CITIZENSHIP



Honorable John D. Allen



Lois N. Cohen Vice President



McDonald Plummer, Jr. Group Vice President, Trust & Investment Services • Trust Company Bank

MATHEMATICS



Jody Lowery Synovus Financial Corp.



Dr. J. F. Lumley Director of Institutional Research Chattahoochee Valley Community College



Rita Towler Chief Financial Officer Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

SCIENCE



Dr. John A. Herbst



Dr. John A. Herbst
Environmental Manager
Assoc. Director Science Programs/
Callaway Chemical Company
Mathematics & Science Education
Mathematics & Science Education Columbus College



DRAMA



Hazel E. Hall Chatr/Department of Communications & Theatre Arts Columbus College



Roger Mays Associate Artistic Director Springer Opera House



Susan L. Sanford Instructor-Theatre Telfair Peet Theatre Auburn University

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP



Gregory A. Davis President
Davis Broadcasting Inc.
WOKS/WFXE Radio



President/Columbus Chamber of Commerce



Susan Wiggins Vice President/ Stakeholder Relations W.C. Bradley Co.

PAGE ONE AWARD WINNERS THROUGH THE YEARS

Here are the winners since the beginning of the Page One Awards in 1976. There were originally 12 categories. A Citizenship award was added in 1977. In 1985, the Sara Spano Top Teacher category was added to the program.

ART

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984



Robert W. Ehrhart Charles Keith Panco





Cyde McQuien



Sheila Turner



Michael Chalmers



Leslie Alexander



Mark Johnson



Sheila Brooks



Pat Simpson

1985



Jennifer Ivey

1986



Nita Gale Central/Phenix City 1987



Jeff Latham

1988

Mark Smith

1989



Laura Terry

1990



lihae Shin

1991



Heather Shannon

1992



Martha Green

1993



TeMika Grooms

1994

Laura Deavours



Tommy Lee Meeks Central/Phenix City



1977

Kenneth Huff Hardaway



1978

Robert Lawter



1979

Mark Jackson Central/Phenix City



1980

Wanda Johnson Hardaway



1981

Degas Wright



1982

Cornelius Richards Vanessa Graham Smiths Station High



1983



Walter Reeves

1985

Vangie Dickerson



Karen Hill

1987



John Jones Troup County High

1988



Donnie McCoy Kendrick

1989



Brian Rutledge Central/Phenix City

1990



LaTosha Miles

1991



Giorgio Hiatt Pacelli

1992



Jeffrey Collins

1993

1994



Mary Rebecca Harp DeeDee Williams

CITIZENSHIP

1976

This category was not included until 1977

1977



Wendy Patrice Clayton lumbus High



Vance Bray

1979



Jay Sullivan Columbus High

1980



Darlene Mitchell Hardaway

1981



Janie Cartwright

1982



April Wells Kendrick

1983



Claude Shumate

1984



Chan Yoon

1985



Algracie Jackson

1986



Terry Phillips

1987



Pete Do Kendrick

1988



Julie Kellett Smiths Station High

1989



Katrina Denson Jordan

1990



Carolyn Mims

1991



Sonji Barnes Tuskegee High

1992



Suzie Garrard Columbus High

1993



Maggie Hodge Harris County High



Clyde Slappey

DRAMA

1976

Sharon K. Turner Hardaway

1977



Mike Thomas

1979



Kelly Stansel



Andy Allen



Laura Fessenden

1982

Jerry Powell



Gilbert Lawson



Julia Fessenden Hardaway

1985



Kellie Reynolds Jordan

1986



Alan Tomblin

Bob Hyscher

1987



Deidra Taylor Smiths Station High

1988



Nancy Tubberville Pacelli

1989



Tommy Kemp Hardaway

1990



Jenni Jordan

1991



Jason Ferguson Hardaway

1992



Pam Anthony Columbus High

1993



Megan Davis

1994

Ginger McKibben Shaw

ENGLISH-LITERATURE

1980

1976



Barbara J. Prescott

1977



Annette Dyer



1978

Kim Shumate



1979

Lynn Smith Columbus High





Eric Fleischauer Hardaway



Haynes Brooke



Melissa Hicks



Donna Fussell



Angela Coleman Smiths Station High

1985



Gina Rigby Smiths Station High

1986



Karl Douglass



Denise Carson

1987



1988

Valerie Rodgers



1989



1990

Shannan Easter Navnaniel Thompson
Pacelli Brookstone





Laura Brown Columbus High

1991



1992

Jennifer Plunk



1993

Jason Vaughan



Heather Konkoli

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984



Patricia D. Kravtin



Dana Jennings



Sharon Shoemaker



Bobby James



Melvin Cloud



Tippi Faucett



Susan Looney



Amy Thornton



Becci Thompson

1985



Lindsey Atkins Columbus High

1986



Anne Zschoche

1987



Archana Koganti

1988



Amy Asbell Columbus High

1989



Jennifer Corley

1990



Jay Gemes

1991



D'Anna Thomas



1992

Shane Winfield

1993

Sadia Subhani

1994



Carey Taft Harris County High

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

1976



Rebecca E. Geeslin Annemarie Frohn
Columbus High Hardaway

1977



1978



Faye Crawford

1979



Beth Hinson

1980



Mona Crawford

1981



Cathy Carlisle

1982



Mike Boling

1983



Susan Parker

1984



Jimmy Adams

1985



Jill Butler

1986



Stephanie Tomlin Hardaway



1987

Stan West

1988



Laura Bingham Troup County High

1989



Steve Elliott Smiths Station High

1990



James Bazetta

1991



Jill Ussery

1992



Bobbie Hollis

1993



Kelly Virella



Nikki Scott

INDUSTRIAL- VOCATIONAL





1977

Patricia Lynn Miller Pattiann Saczawa



Melody Perella Kendrick



Jean Patnaude



Eva Redfearn Carver



Linda Cote



Kenneth Walker Kendrick



Ronnie Wisener



Ashley Karriker Harris County High

1985



Ginger Davis Early County High

1986

Monica Shelley



Doug Bryant III Kendrick

1988



Melody Barksdale Central/Phenix City



1989

Frank Braski

1990



Rusty Phillips

1991



Kirsten Barnes

1992



Lange Taylor Hardaway



Doryiane Washington



Tina Thomas Central/Phenix City

JOURNALISM

1980

1976



Sylvia Orkand

1977



Martha Lowe

1978

Kaye Prescott



1979

Ralph Barnes





Mike Aiken



1981

Rachel Liebermann Karyn Langhorne Michelle deBrabant







1985



Donna Itzoe

1986



Emily Burba



1987

Cam McClellan



1988



1989



1990

Kelly Williams



1991



1992



Anna Burdeshaw





1993



Lindsay Swift

MATHEMATICS

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1993

1984.



James K. Pound Ralph Cecil Weeks





Nanci Aiken



Angela Robinson

Curtis Paul

Lisa Calton

David McCaskill



Soo Ra Yoon



Angela Corley

1985



Jason Asbell

1986



George Webb

1987



David Hopper Smiths Station High

1989



Joseph Rivera Pacelli

1990



Wilfred Graves

1991



Brian Chen

1992

Bing Kao



Chris You

1994



Tom Lawhorne

MUSIC

1976



Rebecca L. Kruger

1977



Steve Pharris

1978



Anna Kruger Columbus High

1979



Marc Goldman

1980



Teresa Davis Hardaway

1981



Greg Faulkner Central/Phenix City

1982



Jay George

1983



1984



Gratia Richardson Anthony Criswell
Hardaway LaGrange High

1985



Dawn Bradley

1986



Cindy Kelly Kendrick

1987



Rojav Evans Hardaway



1988

Alice Miller Columbus High

1989

Aimee Homer Columbus High

1990



Dana Shehane Hardaway

1991

Wren Bettes

1992



Grace Kwan

1993

Melanie Mewbourne

1994

Allyson Fleck

SCIENCE

1980

1976

John W. Lee



1977

John Woods



1978

Cathy Williams Spencer



Terry Woods Carver



Penny Forest



Shellie Harris



Jean Stevens



1983

Scott Nelson



C. P. Dawkins Central/Phenix City

1985



Milce Challcley Kendrick

1986

Josie Hooten Hardaway



Kyang Kim Kendrick

1988



Kathryn Cavis Columbus High

1989



Bobby Moughon

1990



Jennifer Bunyea

1991



Vicky Rudd Glenwood

1992



Eric Konan Carver

1993

1994



Wayne Manuel

SOCIAL SCIENCE

1976



1977

Mary A. Sheppard Elizabeth Ann Raines Carla Hodges
Kendrick Hardaway Carver



1978



1979

Stephanie Wilson



1980

Kenneth Sheves



1981

Angie Walker

1982



Lynda McNealy

1983

Stewart Godwin



Fletcher McElreath



Colin Martin

1985



1986



1988



1989



1990



1991





1992



1994









SARÁ SPANO TOP TEACHER

1985



Dr. Susan Squiers

1986

Pamela Carter

1987

Mike Edmondson

Les

1988

Regina Lewis

1989

Edgar Johnson

1990

Kathryn Agnew

2

1991

Vivi Anne Johnson Baker

1992

Mike Stephens



nnye Davidson Shaw



1994

Evelyn Harris

Columnist recalls Page One nomination

y Page One award nomination was the first real honor I ever got, and I cherished it. It was a heavy, parchment-colored certificate, and right on the front in bold, black letters, it said, "Tim Chitwood," and right over that, it said....

Look, I don't

know what it

said, OK? I

don't know

where it is. I

had it here

somewhere,

but now it's

hair.

gone. Like my

I had hair in



Chitwood in '78

high school. We all did. But we didn't use it wisely. We had some sort of fashion-deficit disorder.

To the 1978 Page One Awards ceremony, I wore a maroon, polyester, double-knit suit, a wide, navy, clip-on tie and rust-colored suede shoes with platform heels. I wore Clearasil skin cream. I had as much



TIM CHITWOOD

chance of winning as of losing my virginity.

The only reason I was nominated at all was because I was absolutely the only senior at my high school who deliberately planned to go into journalism. The other kids had ambition.

I played along. I was interviewed by three distinguished judges (I forget their names) who asked tough questions such as, "Have you ever written anything that was published?" I had, but only twice, as a student correspondent for what the Ledger-Enquirer then called its

"Teen Tempo" page. (And you thought "Excellent Views" was a silly name.)

On awards night, I sat nervously with the other kids in the Three Arts Theater until the moderator (I forget who) called our names, and we walked on stage, and someone gave us our certificates and shook our hands. Then we stood there, blinking in the bright lights, while everyone applauded. Then we stumbled off, blinded by the light (that was a song then), and the ushers sent us to our seats.

That's when an usher who looked like Cat Stevens knelt beside me and asked to see my certificate. "That's great!" he said, holding it like jewelry. "Congratulations! I never got anything like that."

Poor guy. Must have been a copy editor.

I didn't feel so honored until my mom kissed my cheek later and told me how proud she was. Then I felt like someone who might actually become a newspaper columnist one day, and not just a zit-faced kid in a polyester suit.

As a bonus, my Page One nomination automatically enrolled me in the Rozell TV show's "Speak Up For Young Americans" edition. This required standing quietly in front of a camera while a teacher told viewers what a nice young man I was.

It scared me witless. From my look of frozen terror, you would have thought someone had a gun on me. Days later a neighbor's rat-faced kid rode up on his bike and said, "I saw you on TV."

"You did," I said.
"You looked scared," he said, giggled, and rode off.

So I did. But I got another certificate for having been "spoken up for," and I treasured it, It was made of heavy, white paper, and right on the front in bold, blue letters, it said:

"Tim Chipwood."
I guess I should have saved that one, too.

Tim Chitwood is now a Ledger-Enquirer columnist.

PROGRAM / From Page 1

director Merry Tipton, now living at St. Simons. They started the local program after viewing a similar one at our sister Knight-Ridder paper in Miami.

All of the above takes the long route to a couple of important points.

First, our experience at the Ledger-Enquirer has convinced

us that nothing is more important to this community than education. There is deep and widespread agreement on that.

Second, all of us need to do more to encourage, recognize and reward good academic efforts by students. In the long run, book learning is far more important than running fast, jumping high, or hitting a ball far. That is

a tough point to make with many young people, and we adults need to work harder to make it convincingly.

The Page One Awards program is just one small effort to show the young people of this area that we care about them, we appreciate their good efforts in the classroom and we want

them to do well in the future. It is, nevertheless, one of the most important and rewarding things we do at the Ledger-Enquirer, and we plan to keep doing it for many (at least another 20) years to come.

Billy Watson is president and publisher of the Ledger-Enquirer.