

People & Places

Pulitzers

Explanatory reporting win

Pulitzers honor COVID & US protest coverage

NEW YORK, June 12. (AP): The Associated Press won two Pulitzer Prizes in photography Friday for its coverage of the racial injustice protests and the coronavirus's terrible toll on the elderly, while The New York Times received the public service award for its detailed, data-filled reporting on the pandemic.

In a year dominated by COVID-19 and furious debate over race and policing, the Star Tribune of Minneapolis won the breaking news reporting prize for its coverage of George Floyd's murder and its aftermath, while Darnella Frazier — the teenager who recorded the killing on a cellphone — received a special citation.



Morenatti

Frazier's award was intended to highlight "the crucial role of citizens in journalists' quest for truth and justice," the Pulitzer Board said.

The AP and The New York Times each won two Pulitzers, the most prestigious prize in journalism, first awarded in 1917.

The feature photography prize went to AP's chief photographer in Spain, **Emilio Morenatti**, who captured haunting images of an older couple embracing through a plastic sheet, mortuary workers in hazmat gear removing bodies, and people enduring the crisis in isolation.

The breaking news photography prize was shared by 10 AP photographers for their coverage of the protests set off by Floyd's killing. One widely published photograph by Julio Cortez on the night of May 28 in riot-torn Minneapolis showed a lone, silhouetted protester running with an upside-down American flag past a burning liquor store.

"Everybody, not just myself, has given up something to go cover this stuff," Cortez said. "To be an illegal immigrant kid who now has a piece of the AP history is just insane. I'm just super proud of everyone's work."

AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt said the two prizes are a "true testament to the talent and dedication of AP photojournalists." He added: "These photographers told the stories of the year through remarkable and unforgettable images that resonated around the world."

The New York Times received its public service prize for pandemic coverage that the judges said was "courageous, prescient and sweeping" and "filled a data vacuum" that helped better prepare the public. Wesley Morris of the Times won for criticism, for his writing on the intersection of race and culture.

Traumatic

Similarly, the prize for commentary went to Michael Paul Williams of the Richmond Times-Dispatch in Virginia for a series of columns on dismantling Confederate monuments in Richmond following Floyd's death.

And Star Tribune journalists were honored for covering the rage in Minneapolis, where protesters burned buildings, including a police station, in the wake of Floyd's death. The Black man died after a white Minneapolis police officer pinned him to the ground with his knee on Floyd's neck for up to 9-1/2 minutes. The officer was later convicted of murder.

"Our staff poured its heart and soul into covering this story. It has been such a traumatic and tragic time for our community," Star Tribune Editor Rene Sanchez said in a statement. "We felt that our journalism had to capture the full truth and depth of this pain and the many questions it renewed about Minnesota and the country."

Prizes for explanatory reporting went to two recipients. Ed Yong of The Atlantic won for a series of deeply reported articles about the pandemic. Andrew Chung, Lawrence Hurley, Andrea Januta, Jaimi Dowdell and Jackie Botts of Reuters were honored for a look at the legal concept of qualified immunity and how it shields police from prosecution.

Two prizes for feature writing were also awarded. Nadja Drost won for her freelance piece on global migration in The California Sunday Magazine, which suspended publication late last year. And freelance contributor Mitchell S. Jackson won for an account in Runner's World on the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was chased down and shot while jogging in Georgia.

The national reporting prize went to the staffs of The Marshall Project, AL.com, IndyStar and the Invisible Institute for an investigation into attacks on people by police K-9 units around the country.

BuzzFeed News won its first Pulitzer, in international reporting, for a series by Megha Rajagopalan, Alison Killing and Christo Buschek on the infrastructure built by the Chinese government for the mass detention of Muslims.

Also, BuzzFeed News and the International Consortium of Journalists were finalists in that category for an expose on the global banking industry's role in money laundering. A former US Treasury Department employee was sentenced to six months in prison this month for leaking the trove of confidential financial reports that served as the basis for the series.

Information

Matt Rocheleau, Vernal Coleman, Laura Crimaldi, Evan Allen and Brendan McCarthy of The Boston Globe received the investigative reporting Pulitzer for a series demonstrating the systematic failure by state governments to share information about dangerous truck drivers.

McCarthy, the editor on the series, said the Globe "quickly found that this kind of tragedy had been happening year after year for decades. The problems were in plain sight but had never been addressed."

The winner of the public service Pulitzer is honored with a gold medal. The awards in the other categories carry a prize of \$15,000 each. The prizes are administered by Columbia University.

The Boston Globe received the investigative reporting Pulitzer for a series demonstrating how poor government oversight imperils road safety.

Matt Rocheleau, Vernal Coleman, Laura Crimaldi, Evan Allen and Brendan McCarthy were recognized "for reporting that uncovered a systematic failure by state governments to share information about dangerous truck drivers that could have kept them off the road," the Pulitzer board said.

The investigation reported how the increasingly deadly trucking industry operates with minimal federal government oversight.

Boston Globe editor Brian McGrory praised his staff's winning coverage for the investigative reporting Pulitzer, highlighting their "tireless shoe-leather reporting" and the reforms their work produced.



A wounded woman is evacuated after a massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, Aug 4, 2020. The image was part of a series of photographs by The Associated Press that was a finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography. (AP)



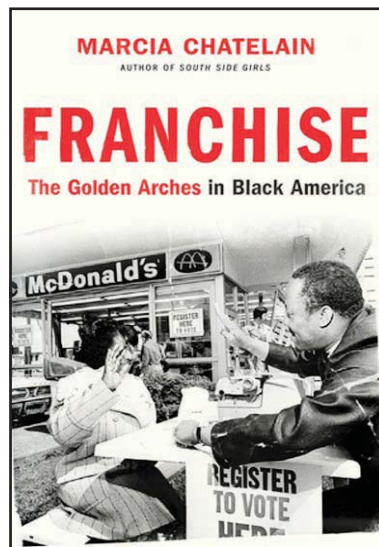
A woman sits on her balcony in downtown Barcelona, Spain, May 7, 2020. The image was part of a series by Associated Press photographer Emilio Morenatti that won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. (AP)



Agustina Cañamero, 81, hugs and kisses her husband Pascual Pérez, 84, through a plastic film screen to avoid contracting the coronavirus at a nursing home in Barcelona, Spain, June 22, 2020. The image was part of a series by Associated Press photographer Emilio Morenatti that won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. (AP)



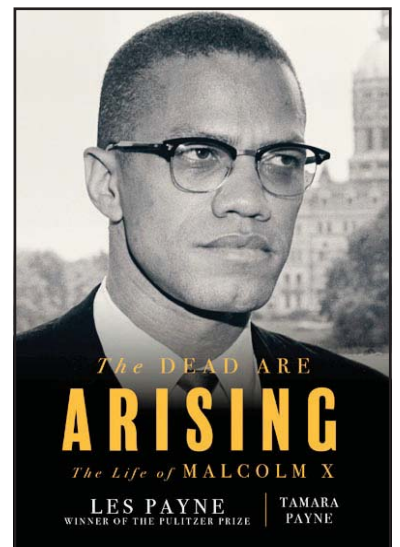
A demonstrator stares at a National Guard soldier as protests continue over the death of George Floyd, June 3, 2020, near the White House in Washington, DC. The image was part of a series of photographs by The Associated Press that won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography. (AP)



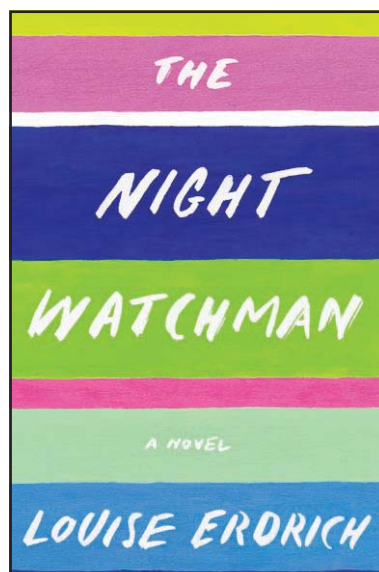
This cover image released by Liveright/Norton shows 'Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America' by Marcia Chatelain, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History. (AP)



The cast of 'The Hot Wing King' appears during a performance on Feb 8, 2020. Playwright Katori Hall won the Pulitzer Prize for drama for her play. (AP)



This cover image released by Liveright shows 'The Dead Are Arising' co-authored by Tamara Payne and her father Les Payne, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Biography. (AP)



This cover image released by Harper shows 'The Night Watchman' by Louise Erdrich, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. (AP)

Pulitzers

'The Night Watchman,' Malcolm X biography honored

Stories of race, racism win arts Pulitzers

NEW YORK, June 12. (AP): Stories of race, racism and colonialism in the US swept the Pulitzer Prizes for the arts in 2020, a year defined in part by the police killing of George Floyd and the protests and reckoning which followed. The news also comes amid an intensifying debate over race and education, with legislators in Texas and elsewhere seeking to restrict the teaching of racial injustice.

"What the Pulitzers are awarding this year seems so timely," Tamara Payne, Les Payne's daughter and the principal researcher for his book, told The Associated Press. "All of these voices are so important and always have been important."

Marcia Chatelain, whose "Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America" won for history, said that she felt honored to be among a group of writers who have "tried to find a way to make clear that writing about race is fundamental to understanding what we need as a society."

Erdrich, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, has drawn upon her background and blended the traditions of oral and written storytelling for such acclaimed novels as "The Round House" and "The Plague of Doves." She based "The Night Watchman" on the life of her maternal grandfather, a night watchman whose reservation in rural North Dakota was threatened in the 1950s by congressional legis-

lation. "This story belongs to him and the Turtle Mountain people. It is very moving, this is very moving recognition," said Erdrich, who runs an independent bookstore in Minneapolis, where Floyd was killed in May 2020. She called the Pulitzer a welcome contrast to the news of the past year.

"I love this city and it hurts to know how deep the racism goes. It's something indigenous people also know about well. It's been a painful time."

Pulitzer judges called Erdrich's novel "a majestic, polyphonic novel about a community's efforts to halt the proposed displacement and elimination of several Native American tribes in the 1950s, rendered with dexterity and imagination."

Accolades

It was the first Pulitzer for Erdrich, who turned 67 this week and has been a published author for more than 40 years. Her previous honors include a National Book Award for "The Round House" and the National Book Critics Circle prize for "LaRose."

The Pulitzer for "The Dead Are Arising" continues the posthumous acclaim for Les Payne, an award-winning Newsday journalist who died in 2018. He began working on the Malcolm X book in 1990 and compiled more than 100 hours of interviews, including with family members of the late Black activist, before he died. Tamara Payne helped complete "The Dead Are Arising," which has been praised highly by critics and last fall won a National Book Award.

"I do wish he were here, to receive the accolades," Tamara Payne said of her father.

The Paynes' collaboration is also the second Malcolm X biography to win a Pulitzer for an author who didn't live to see his book released. Manning Marable, whose "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention" won for history in 2012, died shortly before publication.

Natalie Diaz's "Postcolonial Love Poem," a work of pain and of ecstasy her publisher describes as "a call toward goodness, even as it recognizes the violence of our time," was the poetry winner and David Zucchino's "Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy" was cited for general non-fiction.

Tania León's composition "Stride" won for music. The judges commended it for being "a musical journey full of surprise, with powerful brass and rhythmic motifs that incorporate Black music traditions from the US and the Caribbean into a Western orchestral fabric."

"The Hot Wing King" by Katori Hall, a play set around a hot wing cooking competition, won the prize for drama during a theater season that saw most venues largely shuttered.

The drama award, which includes a \$15,000 prize, is "for a distinguished play by an American author, preferably original in its source and dealing with American life."

The Pulitzer board hailed "The Hot Wing King" as a "funny, deeply felt consideration of Black masculinity and how it is perceived, filtered through the experiences of a loving gay couple and their extended family as they prepare for a culinary competition."

Finalists included "Circle Jerk" by Michael Breslin and Patrick Foley, and "Stew" by Zora Howard.

Variety

MIAMI: Michele Gillen, a former South Florida television investigative reporter, has died. She was 66.

Longtime friend and producer Marcia Izaguirre confirmed Gillen's death from natural causes in a Facebook post Friday. "For all those who knew her, she was a relentless warrior who fought indefatigably for the vulnerable," Izaguirre wrote. "In every story she delved into, she aimed to discover the truth and spur change to improve the quality of life of her community."

Gillen won 39 local Emmys over several decades. Gillen graduated from Emerson College in Boston in 1977 and took a job at a TV station in Bangor, Maine, a short time later. She moved to Miami in 1980 to work for WPLG-ABC10, where Izaguirre said Gillen's work on housing facilities for the elderly led to national legislation against elder abuse. (AP)

NEW YORK: Jailed R&B singer R. Kelly wants to shake up his legal defense team two months before he is set to go on trial in New York on federal racketeering charges.

His top two attorneys, Steve Greenberg and Michael Leonard, of Chicago, filed a motion this week seeking to withdraw from the long-delayed case, saying it would be "impossible" for them "to properly represent Mr Kelly under the current circumstances."

US District Judge Ann Donnelly did not immediately grant the motion, requesting more details about the apparent falling out among Kelly's team of

lawyers.

"Sometimes you can't save someone from themselves," Greenberg wrote on Twitter this week, "no matter how hard you try."

A request for comment was sent Thursday to Greenberg and Leonard. (AP)

NEW YORK: CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin returned to the network for the



Kelly



Camerota

first time in more than seven months after he was caught ... on a Zoom call with former colleagues at The New Yorker.

Toobin, in an interview with CNN's Alisyn Camerota, said that he was grateful to CNN for another chance and that he was "trying to become the kind of person that people can trust again." Camerota asked him bluntly, "what the hell were you thinking?"

"Obviously, I wasn't thinking very well or very much," he said. (AP)