


# Times' Bernheimer Wins Pulitzer for Music Criticism

By JOHN J. GOLDMAN, *Times Staff Writer*

NEW YORK—The Pulitzer Prize for criticism was awarded Monday to Martin Bernheimer of the Los Angeles Times for his distinguished classical music criticism in 1981. Three other news organizations won two Pulitzers apiece. 

The Pulitzer jurors cited Bernheimer, a Times music critic since 1965, for his writing on a "wide variety of subjects and targets," including a major evaluation of violinist Jascha Heifetz on the musician's 80th birthday, articles about the American Spoleto festival and a review of a performance by tenor Luciano Pavarotti, headlined "Kitsch Spectacular."

The Pulitzer gold medal for public service was awarded to Sydney P. Freedberg and David Ashenfelter of the Detroit News for a nationwide investigation of the U.S. Navy's coverup of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of seamen.

When a 21-year-old sailor from Michigan died from what the Navy called "an unfortunate accident" during routine punishment, the Detroit News investigated further. Without the cooperation of the Navy, the newspaper found that the sailor actually had died of heat stroke and a heart attack brought on by mental and physical torture.

In a series of 60 articles, Freedberg and Ashenfelter reported a pattern of the Navy's providing inadequate or incorrect information to the sailors' next of kin. The series resulted in the chief of naval operations' ordering a review of shipboard punishment procedures.

The Kansas City Star and Kansas City Times were honored with the general local reporting prize for their massive effort to explain the July 17, 1981, collapse of a concrete skywalk in the Hyatt Regency Ho-

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tel that killed 114 persons.

The jointly owned papers put dozens of reporters on the story and hired five engineers as consultants. The papers discovered that the welding on the skywalks was below specifications, that city engineers had spent only 18 hours at the hotel during construction and that a critical design change probably caused the collapse.

In addition, the Kansas City Times won the national reporting prize for the work of reporter Rick Atkinson, who probed the psyches of the members of the West Point class of 1966 during their 15th reunion and also wrote a series on America's chaotic management of its water resources.

Like the Kansas City Times, the New York Times and the Associated Press also won two Pulitzer Prizes each.

John Darnton, the Warsaw correspondent of the New York Times, won the international reporting award for his articles

of Newsday for articles on the distribution abroad of American-made products in ways that would be illegal in the United States.

"It was the feeling of the jury that Darnton and Fisher had done an excellent job in covering the events in Poland that led up to the confrontation and that both should be honored," said jury member Creed C. Black, chairman and publisher of the Lexington (Ky.) Herald Leader Co. "Apparently the (Pulitzer) board, in examining the entries, reached a different conclusion."

Final Pulitzer decisions are made by the Pulitzer board, based on recommendations from juries of professional journalists.

Paul Henderson of the Seattle Times won

the special local reporting award for proving the innocence of a man convicted by a jury of first-degree rape. Henderson found that the actual rapist was a look-alike. The man eventually pleaded guilty to the crime.

Saul Pett of the Associated Press won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing for an 8,500-word portrait of the U.S. government that concluded that the federal bureaucracy threatens to become "a government of too many people, by too many people, for too many people."

Ron Edmonds won for the spot news photography award for his Associated Press pictures of the attempted assassination of President Reagan on March 30, 1981. "I just kept my finger on the (camera's) motor drive," Edmonds said later.

The feature photography prize went to John H. White of the Chicago Sun-Times for a portfolio of photographs on several subjects, including an Illinois National Guard medical group and a police officer searching for weapons at a housing project.

## Buchwald 'Like Fine Wine'

Columnist Art Buchwald of the Los Angeles Times Syndicate won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary for the body of his 1981 work. "Like fine wine," the Pulitzer board noted, "Mr. Buchwald's journalistic skills seem to improve with the passage of time."

Ben Sargent of the Austin American-Statesman was given the prize for editorial cartooning. He won the award over Paul

Conrad of the Los Angeles Times and Don Wright of the Miami News, who were nominated as finalists.

The criticism prize was The Times' 11th Pulitzer. Bernheimer, 45, has contributed to many music publications and has received two Deems Taylor Awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for "outstanding service to music and journalism."

Before joining The Times, he taught music at New York University, worked as a member of the New York Herald Tribune's music staff and served as managing editor of the Philharmonic Hall Program Magazine.

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Art Buchwald

from Poland during the Communist regime's crushing of the Solidarity trade union. Jack Rosenthal, deputy editorial page editor of the New York Times, won the prize for editorial writing.

The international reporting jury had recommended that Darnton and Dan Fisher, the Warsaw correspondent of the Los Angeles Times, share any reporting award from Poland, but its recommendation was rejected by the 17-person Pulitzer board. The jury had also nominated Ray Mosely of the Chicago Tribune for his series on the problems of Black Africa and Bob Wyrick

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"I'm happy, pleased, flattered, giddy and hysterical," Bernheimer said after being told of his Pulitzer Prize.

"Now I can write about what really interests me: baseball and horse races," he joked.

In giving the gold medal for public service to the Detroit News, the board bypassed all three of the jury's nominations in the category. The jury had nominated the Los Angeles Herald Examiner for a series on garment-industry sweatshops that employ illegal aliens, the New York Daily News for a series on the dangerous deterioration of the New York City subway system and the Providence Journal-Bulletin for a series on hazardous working conditions in Rhode Island's jewelry industry.

The Herald Examiner's series, based on reporter Merle Linda Wolin's experiences as an undercover worker in the garment factories, was the jury's unanimous first choice for the award.

The board objected to the series partly because the reporter had posed as an illegal alien to gain jobs in the sweatshops, according to members of the jury. Other sources said the board did not consider any of the jury's recommendations to be first-rate entries.

Anticipating that Wolin might be accused of deception, the jury submitted a confidential report defending its choice of her series. The jurors said they, too, believed that reporters generally should not misrepresent themselves but said that sweatshop "conditions could not have been fully explored in any other way." They said Wolin had been "scrupulously fair" in soliciting responses from the operators of the factories as well as the workers.

## The Whole Process 'a Joke'

"If they are going to, in essence, disqualify entries because undercover reporting was involved, they ought to say so beforehand," Herald Examiner Editor Mary Anne Dolan said. "If that's the reason we lost, it makes a joke of the whole process."

The Pulitzer board switched the Detroit News' entry from the special local reporting category, where it had been a finalist, to the public service classification.

In the letters and drama categories, John Updike received the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his novel, "Rabbit Is Rich," his third book about the life of Harry (Rabbit) Angstrom. Charles Fuller won the drama prize for "A Soldier's Play," which explores race relations at a military camp in 1944.

The award for poetry went to the late Sylvia Plath for "The Collected Poems." Plath, who committed suicide in 1963, won no major prizes during her lifetime, largely because most of her important work was published posthumously.

C. Vann Woodward, Sterling professor emeritus of history at Yale, won the history prize for his editing and interpretation of "Mary Chestnut's Civil War." Woodward provided the first accurate text of the Civil War diaries of Mary Boykin Chestnut, whose observations of



MARY FRAMPTON / Los Angeles Times

Martin Bernheimer after winning Pulitzer Prize.

the South's plunge into war have long been an important source for historians.

William S. McFeely's book, "Grant: A Biography," won the prize for biography. The work by McFeely, a history professor at Mount Holyoke College, seeks to explain how Grant, a successful general, became a mediocre President.

"The Soul of a New Machine," a study of the world of computers by Tracy Kidder, won the general nonfiction award.

Roger Sessions' "Concerto for Orchestra" was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for music. The work by the 85-year-old composer was completed last August and was first performed in October by the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The Pulitzer board voted a special citation in music to Milton Babbitt, a pioneer in electronic music, for the composer's life work. The board noted that Babbitt, 65, a music professor at Princeton University, had influenced a generation of musical thought and had written numerous pieces for conventional instruments and for electronic sound.

The Pulitzers were endowed by the late Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the New York World, and are awarded annually by Columbia University on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize board. The winner of the public service prize receives a gold medal. All other winners receive \$1,000 each.