

# SportsLine's Dodd named FWAA's 63rd president

Dennis Dodd of CBS SportsLine became the FWAA's 63<sup>rd</sup> president during the association's annual awards breakfast on Jan 4, 2006, in Los Angeles. He is the first sitting president to work for an internet outlet, signaling the beginning of a new era in the FWAA.

Dodd, 49, succeeds Alan Schmadtke of the *Orlando Sentinel*, who served as the 2005 FWAA president. Mike Griffith of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* becomes the first vice president, and Ron Higgins of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* becomes second vice president

Dodd has won or placed often in the FWAA Best Writing Contest in recent years and has been a member of the CBS SportsLine staff since 1998. He has been a fixture in college football press boxes from Chestnut Hill to Palo Alto during the last seven years and carries a passion for the game.

Known as a diehard St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Blues hockey fan, Dodd graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism after growing up in the St, Louis, Mo., area. His first full-time job was in Sherman, Texas, however.

After a brief stint there, Dodd then graduated to the *Kansas City Star*, where from 1981-89 he covered various sports and developed a love for college football despite the fact the three local schools, Kansas, Missouri and Kansas State, were at or near the bottom of the

Big Eight standings during many of those years.

After Kansas City, Dennis became rather nomadic. He worked for the *St. Louis Sun, The National* (New York), *Omaha World-Herald* and SportsWriters Direct before joining CBS Sportsline in 1998.

Dodd also found time to write a book about his alma mater's basketball program, *Tiger Handbook*.

Born on Dec. 31, 1956, Dodd just missed out winning a washing machine or refrigerator for his parents as the first baby born in the New Year of 1957. But he made sure at least he was around for the next day's bowl games. One of his ancestors, however, kicked around another kind of ball. Dennis' grandfather, Daniel Barnard, was a legendary amateur soccer player in the St. Louis area in the 1920s. Later, Mr. Barnard worked for the railroad and shuttled fans from St. Louis to South Bend on Notre Dame football Saturdays.

Dodd flew solo until 1987 when he proposed to his wife, Janet, during the seventh inning stretch of the fifth game of the 1987 World Series between the Cardinals and the Minnesota Twins.

Dennis and his wife Janet live in Overland Park, Kan., with their two children, Haley, 13, and Jack, 9, just a stone's throw from the fairway of a golf course. So close, in fact, Dodd remains busy fixing broken windows in his house.



January 2006

Vol. 44, No. I

### Inside this issue:

President's column

Freshman All-American team announced

Katie Wieberg named Volney Meece Scholar- 3 ship winner

Fiesta Bowl's John Junker honored with Bert McGrane award

Notre Dame's Charlie Weis named FWAA coach of the year

Texas collects Grantland Rice Trophy as FWAA national champion

Tulane football team wins FWAA Courage Award

Call for entries: FWAA
Best Writing Contest

. 8

7

5

### THE FIFTH DOWN



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## President's column



DENNIS DODD

It sure looked like the Ohio State locker room. It sure as heck smelled like an Ohio State (or any other team's) locker room. There were a lot of sweaty, hairy men running around celebrating a Fiesta Bowl win.

So what was the big deal the night of Jan. 2?

The fact that we were actually

ALLOWED in the Ohio State locker room. For the first time, BCS fathers, in their wisdom, mandated open locker rooms in their four bowl games.

I have to admit, it was a bit of surprise but a welcome one. The trend, of course, has been away from open postgames. Sad to say that I've seen the art treasures of the Vatican on a special VIP tour but I haven't seen the inside of the Michigan locker room after a random Big Ten game.

Welcome to the platform on which I ran for FWAA president in 2006. Access. More and better access for all of us. OK, I didn't run and there is no such thing as a mandate in the rotating one-year terms for FWAA presidents.

But there is a bully pulpit to be used. I intend to make access my focus this year — to locker rooms, to players, to coaches. Heck, back to our dear, old, bigger media guides.

A generation of reporters has been raised to accept the Sunday conference call, the Tuesday presser and MAYBE, MAYBE a few pearls after the Friday walk-through.

Part of the blame is on us for allowing this erosion of access to sources. We have not been vigilant enough or alert enough to realize what was happening.

I call it the "incorporation" of college sports. Coaches are the CEOs. Players are "assets" to be maintained. SIDs?

Well, they are handlers of the assets, beholden to the CEOs in some instances.

It's still shocking when an SID sits in on an interview in a coach's office. The implication being that we can't be trusted without a his/her presence to verify every word that comes out of the coach's mouth.

Are we paying for every random blog, message board or erroneous piece of info that crawls across the bottom of the TV? Or is this the way it is now at College Sports Inc.?

It would require dozens of such "sitins" in an open locker room after a game so the easy thing to do is to shut the doors. Control the message. Deny the media — and thus the public — the very thing the school is trying to promote.

To the best of my knowledge, there are only two major-college teams that open their locker rooms after games — Miami and USC. Miami, I think, realizes it has to compete for coverage in a pro market. Plus, in a world where too many teams don't provide access, Miami stands out with its colorful players and winning ways.

USC's philosophy is similar but is also a reflection of Pete Carroll's laid-back approach. In any given postgame, you might see a celeb, a rap star, the nation's No. 1 quarterback recruit, friends and parents. There is nothing negative about it. It is part of the USC vibe.

So why don't other schools get it? It's my conclusion that, by and large, coaches have taken total control over their programs. Part of it is flat-out paranoia. Part of it is a copycat mentality.

As is sometimes usual, things go too far. While at LSU, Nick Saban didn't allow his assistants to talk to the media. I'm sure some of those assistants were displeased that their names and faces weren't properly attached to a national championship run in 2003.

God forbid, those assistants might actually be seen and get better jobs.

It's college, folks. As I've written in

(Continued on page 7)



## Freshman All-America team

Arkansas running back Darren McFadden was the only unanimous selection to the fifth annual FWAA/ Scripps Freshman All-American Team announced in Los Angeles during the FWAA's annual awards breakfast.

The ACC led all conferences with five players, including a pair from Florida State. Arkansas had three players

named to the team, and Nebraska had two.

The team and coach are selected by a group of writers led by FWAA vice president Mike Griffith of the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, a member of the Scripps chain. Both true freshmen and redshirt freshmen were considered for the team and so noted.

	OFFENSE					
Pos.	Player, School	Ht.	Wt.			
QB	Drew Weatherford, Florida State	6-3	210			
RB	Darren McFadden, Arkansas	6-2	210			
RB	Steve Slaton, West Virginia	5-10	185			
RB	Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern	5-9	190			
WR	Davone Bess, Hawaii	5-10	187			
WR	Sidney Rice, South Carolina	6-4	191			
OL	Andrew Gardner, Georgia Tech	6-6	285			
OL	Jonathan Luigs, Arkansas	6-4	301			
OL	Jeremy Perry, Oregon State	6-2	315			
OL	Cole Popovich, Fresno State	6-2	275			
OL	Max Unger, Oregon	6-5	305			
С	Robby Felix, UTEP	6-3	275			

DEFENSE					
Pos.	Player, School	Ht.	Wt.		
DL	Steve Davis, Minnesota	6-2	230		
DL	Mitch King, Iowa	6-3	250		
DL	Brian Orakpo, Texas	6-4	238		
DL	Barry Turner, Nebraska	6-3	245		
LB	Michael Brown, Duke	5-11	225		
LB	Daniel Holtzclaw, E. Michigan	6-2	220		
LB	Rey Maualuga, USC	6-5	250		
LB	Tim McCarthy, Northern Illinois	6-0	235		
DB	Joe Burnett, Central Florida	5-11	180		
DB	Tony Carter, Florida State	5-9	160		
DB	Courtney Greene, Rutgers	6-1	180		
DB	Kenny Phillips, Miami	6-2	200		

SPECIALISTS					
Pos.	Player, School	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	
K	Jordan Congdon, Nebraska	5-11	180	San Diego, Calif.	
Р	Chris Miller, Ball State	6-2	208	Libertyville, III.	
KR	Felix Jones, Arkansas	6-0	195	Tulsa, Okla.	
First-year Coach of the Year: Steve Spurrier, South Carolina					
Indicates true freshmen					

### Katie Wieberg wins Volney Meece scholarship

Katie Wieberg, a senior at Lawson High School in Lawson, Mo., is the ninth winner of the Volney Meece Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded annually by the Football Writers Association of America and is named for the late Volney Meece, who served as the FWAA's executive director for 22 years and was the organization's president in 1971.

The scholarship is a \$1,000 annual grant for four years. It is given to a deserving son or daughter of an FWAA member.

The 17-year-old Wieberg is the daughter of long-time FWAA member Steve Wieberg, a staff writer for *USA Today*.

Katie's impressive academic record includes a 4.111 grade point average on a 4.0 weighted GPA scale at Lawson High, where she has been president of the Stu-

dent Council her junior and senior years and a member of the National Honor Society for three years. She was elected councilwoman and senator as a Missouri Girls State delegate.

In addition to her academic work, Katie is involved in a number of extra-curricular activities at school and with her church. She has served on missions to Alaska and El Salvador, where she helped repair church buildings and work with children through music and drama.

Katie is also an accomplished actress, singer and athlete. She has had the lead in school drama productions, made All-State Choir as a soloist and was an All-District selection in softball while lettering in the sport four years.

Katie plans to major in music at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., and hopes to become a contemporary Christian singer.



## Fiesta Bowl's John Junker named recipient of Bert McGrane Award

John Junker, Tostitos Fiesta Bowl president and chief executive officer, has been named the 2006 recipient of the Football Writers Association of America's Bert McGrane Award.

The McGrane Award, symbolic of the Association's Hall of Fame, is presented to an FWAA member who has performed great service to the organization or the writing profession. It is named after McGrane, a Des Moines, Iowa, writer who was the executive secretary of the FWAA from the early 1940s until 1973.

The Fiesta Bowl has sponsored the FWAA's Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award for the past eight years, all during Junker's tenure. The sponsorship has provided money for the trophy and presentation banquets and receptions. Proceeds have gone to the Eddie Robinson Foundation as well as to the Volney Meece academic scholarship for a deserving son or daughter of an FWAA member.

In addition, the Fiesta Bowl has been a model for press operations and media relations, under Shawn Schoeffler, director of media operations.

Junker will be honored next August during the National Football Foundation's Hall of Fame induction weekend in South Bend, Ind., and his name will be placed in the College Football Hall of Fame's rotunda.

Junker has helped the Fiesta Bowl become a member of the Bowl Championship Series, expand the growth of one of the nation's leading civic celebrations and increase the popularity of the community-based and volunteer-driven festival of 50 year-round events. Junker is also responsible for moving the Insight Bowl from Tucson to Phoenix, where it has flourished in Bank One Ballpark.

Junker became the executive director of the Fiesta Bowl in 1990 and was named the president and chief executive officer in January 2000. Since 1990, the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl has hosted three national championship games — 1996 (Nebraska vs. Florida), 1999 (Tennessee vs. Florida State) and the most recent double-overtime thriller between Ohio State and Miami on January 3, 2003.

Junker, who possesses more than 20 years of college football bowl experience, was named the seventh most powerful person in college football by Sports Illustrated in 2003. His leadership and active participation in maintaining the health of college football continues to be acknowledged and praised by community leaders, conference commissioners and university presidents nationwide.



Fiesta Bowl president and CEO John Junker, winner of the 2005 **Bert McGrane** Award

### BERT McGRANE AWARD WINNERS

Winners of the FWAA's Bert McGrane award for outstanding service to the organization and the writing profession:

1974 Charley Johnson, Minneapolis Star

1975 Wilfrid Smith, Chicago Tribune

1976 Paul Zimmerman, Los Angeles Times 1977 Dick Cullum, Minneapolis Tribune

1978 Wilbur Evans, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association

1979 Tom Siler, Knoxville News-Sentinel

1980 Maury White, Des Moines Register 1981 Fred Russell, Nashville Banner

Furman Bisher, Atlanta Journal 1982

1983 John Mooney, Salt Lake City Tribune

1984 Si Burick, Dayton News

Blackie Sherrod, The Dallas Morning News 1985

1986 Raymond Johnson, Nashville Tennessean

1987 Tim Cohane, Look Magazine

1988 Dave Campbell, Waco Tribune-Herald

1989 Jim Brock, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association

1990 Jack Hairston, Gainesville Sun

1991 Murray Olderman. Newspaper Enterprise Association

1992 Volney Meece, The Daily Oklahoman/FWAA

1993 Bob Hentzen, Topeka Capital-Journal

1994 Edgar Allen, Nashville Banner

1995 Dick Herbert, Raleigh News & Observer/AFCA

1996 Bob Hammel, Bloomington Herald-Times

1997 Bill Lumpkin, Birmingham Post-Herald

1998 Don Bryant, University of Nebraska

1999 Field Scovell, Cotton Bowl Athletic Association 2000

Jimmie McDowell, All-American Football Foundation

2001 Edwin Pope, Miami Herald

Orville Henry, Morning News of Northwest Arkansas 2002

2003 Dan Foster, Greenville News

2004 Pat Harmon, Cincinnati Post

2005 Steve Richardson, FWAA/Dallas Morning News

2006 John Junker, Fiesta Bowl



# Notre Dame's Charlie Weis named coach of the year

PHOENIX — Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis has been named the winner of the 2005 FWAA/Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award, which is sponsored by the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

The 49-year-old Weis, in his first season in South Bend, turned around Notre Dame in superb fashion in 2005 after leaving the coaching staff of the Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots.

Weis basically took the talent of a year ago (6-6), installed his offensive system and fashioned a 9-2 record that landed the Fighting Irish in the Fiesta Bowl. One of Notre Dame's losses was a last-second defeat to defending national champion USC.

There was a little doubt from the beginning of the 2005 season things would be different under Weis. With victories at Pitt and Michigan to open the season, Weis became the first Irish head coach to win his first two career games on opponents' home fields since Knute Rockne in 1918.

Weis, a 1978 Notre Dame graduate, made the Fighting Irish the most prolific scoring team in the school's modern history (38.1 ppg) and qualified the Irish as the most improved offensive team in the country with 489 yards a game — 143.6 more than in the 2004 season.

"Charlie Weis restored the pride and magic at Notre Dame in a single season," said FWAA executive director Steve Richardson. "If ever there was a deserving candidate for this award it is Weis. He basically took the same players who were there the year before and won more games. That's coaching."

Weis is the third Notre Dame coach to win the FWAA Award but the first since Lou Holtz in 1988. Ara



Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis receives the FWAA's Eddie Robinson Trophy from Fiesta Bowl executive director John Junker.

Parseghian also won the FWAA award in 1964.

The FWAA Coaching Award is named after former Grambling State University coach Eddie Robinson, who in 55 years rolled up more Division I victories (408) than any other coach.

### **PREVIOUS WINNERS**

1957	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1973	Johnny Majors, Pittsburgh	1989	Bill McCartney, Colorado
1958	Paul Dietzel, LSU	1974	Grant Teaff, Baylor	1990	Bobby Ross, Georgia Tech
1959	Ben Schwartzwalder, Syracuse	1975	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1991	Don James, Washington
1960	Murray Warmath, Minnesota	1976	Johnny Majors, Pittsburgh	1992	Gene Stallings, Alabama
1961	Darrell Royal, Texas	1977	Lou Holtz, Arkansas	1993	Terry Bowden, Auburn
1962	John McKay, USC	1978	Joe Paterno, Penn State	1994	Rich Brooks, Oregon
1963	Darrell Royal, Texas	1979	Earle Bruce, Ohio State	1995	Gary Barnett, Northwestern
1964	Ara Parseghian, Notre Dame	1980	Vince Dooley, Georgia	1996	Bruce Snyder, Arizona State
1965	Duffy Daugherty, Michigan St.	1981	Danny Ford, Clemson	1997	Mike Price, Washington State
1966	Tom Cahill, Army	1982	Joe Paterno, Penn State	1998	Phillip Fulmer, Tennessee
1967	John Pont, Indiana	1983	Howard Schnellenberger, Miami	1999	Frank Beamer, Virginia Tech
1968	Woody Hayes, Ohio State	1984	LaVell Edwards, BYU	2000	Bob Stoops, Oklahoma
1969	Bo Schembechler, Michigan	1985	Fisher DeBerry, Air Force	2001	Ralph Friedgen, Maryland
1970	Alex Agase, Northwestern	1986	Joe Paterno, Penn State	2002	Jim Tressel, Ohio State
1971	Bob Devaney, Nebraska	1987	Dick MacPherson, Syracuse	2003	Nick Saban, LSU
1972	John McKay, USC	1988	Lou Holtz, Notre Dame	2004	Urban Meyer, Utah



## Texas wins Grantland Rice trophy

PASADENA, Calif. — The Texas Longhorns (13-0) are the Football Writers Association of America's 2005 national champion after their dramatic 41-38 win over USC in the Rose Bowl. Texas coach Mack Brown was presented with the Grantland Rice Trophy by FWAA president Dennis Dodd at a news conference at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Texas finished atop the final Grantland Rice Super 16 Poll, receiving all 16 first-place votes from the FWAA pollsters. The Longhorns were No. 2 in the poll heading into the Rose Bowl.

The Longhorns, now winners of 20 straight games, snapped USC's 34-game winning streak to claim their first FWAA national title since 1969 and their third overall (1963). USC had won each of the last two Grantland Rice Trophies and has won six overall FWAA national titles, most of any school. No team has ever won three straight FWAA national titles. The Trojans were the topranked team in each of the regular-season 2005 regular-season Super 16 polls.

"One thing about the young guys who wore burnt orange last night, they'll be champions for the rest of their lives," Texas head coach Mark Brown told an overflow crowd at the news conference. "So few people even get in the ballgame as coaches or players and even fewer obviously win it. So for these guys, we're really, really excited because it is about the players."

While Texas was the lone Big 12 school to finish in the final Super 16, the SEC boasted five schools among

Dropped out: Miami (9), Louisville (t15)



FWAA president Dennis Dodd presents the Grantland Rice Trophy to Texas coach Mack Brown.

the final ranked teams as Florida moved into the poll. The Big Ten and Pac-10 each had three teams in the poll. No other conference had more than one.

FINAL FWAA SUPER 16 POLL						
Rk.	School [1st]	Conference	W-L	Pts.	Pvs.	Bowl Result
1.	Texas [16]	Big 12	13-0	256	2	def. USC, 41-38
2.	USC	Pacific-10	12-1	240	1	lost to Texas, 41-38
3.	Penn State	Big Ten	11-1	223	3	def. Florida State, 26-23
4.	Ohio State	Big Ten	10-2	207	4	def. Notre Dame, 34-20
5.	LSU	Southeastern	11-2	182	t10	def. Miami, 40-3
6.	West Virginia	Big East	11-1	166	12	def. Georgia, 38-35
7.	Virginia Tech	Atlantic Coast	11-2	163	t10	def. Louisville, 35-24
8.	Alabama	Southeastern	10-2	128	13	def. Texas Tech, 13-10
9.	Georgia	Southeastern	10-3	102	7	lost to West Virginia, 38-35
10.	Notre Dame	Independent	9-3	95	5	lost to Ohio State, 34-20
11.	TCU	Mountain West	11-1	84	14	def. Iowa State, 27-24
12.	Oregon	Pacific-10	10-2	71	6	lost to Oklahoma, 17-14
13.	Auburn	Southeastern	9-3	53	8	lost to Wisconsin, 24-10
t14.	Florida	Southeastern	9-3	50	-	def. lowa, 31-24
t14.	Wisconsin	Big Ten	10-3	50	-	def. Auburn, 24-10
16.	UCLA	Pacific-10	10-2	47	t15	def. Northwestern, 50-38

By conference: SEC 5, Big Ten 3, Pac-10 3, ACC 1, Big East 1, Big 12 1, Mountain West 1, Independent 1.



## **Tulane captures Courage award**

Tulane University's football team, displaced before the 2005 season because of Hurricane Katrina, has been named the winner of the 2005 Courage Award, which is presented by the Football Writers Association of America and the Federal Express Orange Bowl.

Tulane (2-9) played 11 games in 11 different stadiums before finally returning to its New Orleans-based campus in January for the second semester of classes. The team and coaches are to receive the trophy during halftime of a Jan. 21 men's basketball game at Tulane.

"It's difficult to imagine any team enduring all the physical and emotional adjustments Tulane has endured since August," said FWAA president Alan Schmadtke. "Yet players went to class, practiced and competed week after week and coaches put in all their customary long hours of preparation. I know there haven't been as many wins as the Green Wave wanted this year. But across Conference USA and the country, Coach Scelfo's program made more of an impact on anyone who watched Tulane play than even the Green Wave coaches and players may realize."

The Tulane football team actually was evacuated to Jackson, Miss. After a few days in Jackson, the team moved to Dallas and eventually to Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La., where it remained headquartered through the 2005 season.

"Everyone in the collegiate athletics community had Tulane University, as well as other Gulf coast institutions, in their hearts and prayers this summer," commented Orange Bowl Committee CEO Keith R. Tribble. "We are proud that the Football Writers Association of America chose to honor the entire Green Wave football program with its annual Courage Award. Playing in as many stadiums as games this season, Tulane had a tremendous challenge that far outweighs wins and losses. Every player, coach and administrator on that team is a winner by our measurement."

The Tulane football team will receive a beautiful trophy with a bronzed lion as the focal point.

"This is a great award for our football team," said Tulane coach Chris Scelfo. "Though our wins and losses are not where we wanted them to be, to have 100 people see this season through is a great testament to their character. Hopefully, it will give people in the Gulf Coast region the strength to keep believing and to put their lives back together."

The Courage Award was created by *ESPN The Magazine's* senior writer Gene Wojciechowski, also a FWAA member. A select group of writers from the FWAA vote on the award. The requirements for nomination include displaying some sort of courageous act, on or off the field including, overcoming an injury or physical

handicap, preventing a disaster and living through a lifetime of hardships.

Tulane's football team followed in the great tradition of the award in overcoming hardship and tragedy in the New Orleans area. Some of the players lost all of their belongings and their homes or apartments because of Katrina. And much of the Tulane campus and athletic facilities suffered water and structural damage.



"I want to thank the Football Writer's Association and the Orange Bowl for recognizing our football team with this year's Courage Award," said Tulane athletic director Rick Dickson.

"At the beginning of this season, we asked all of our teams to carry the torch for Tulane University and the City of New Orleans this semester, and they have done so with resilience and perseverance. This team has accomplished a feat that no other group of student-athletes has undertaken in the history of intercollegiate athletics, and more importantly, served as a beacon of pride and a symbol of hope for a university and a community that was left inoperable due to the largest natural disaster in our nation's history."

### President's column ...

this space before, we're all in a unique situation. For the most part, we tend to write positive things about college athletes and coaches. There is less cynicism than in the pros where some of these media policies trickled down from.

More and more, as long as these schools have their rights-holder money, they don't care about anything else. Their rights holders are paying for coverage so it tends to be positive.

The rest of us? Slotted into our weekly pressers.

The message for 2006 is to not settle ... for closed locker rooms, for coaches' pre-approving reporters and/ or their questions, for the status quo.

The message might sound radical. So call me Jerry Rubin, but please call me this year. I'm in the directory via cell, office and e-mail.

Together we can, brothers and sisters.

### THE FIFTH DOWN

## Attention members: Send entries now for FWAA 2005 Best Writing Contest

FWAA Best Writing Contest Rules, Procedures

### Categories

- 1-Game Story (Immediate Deadline)
- 2-Spot News/Second Day Game Story (Loose Dead-ine)
  - 3-Feature Story/Profile
  - 4-Enterprise/Investigative
  - 5-Column/Analysis/Commentary

You can begin sending entries now. You MUST BE an FWAA member in good standing.

- 1. Deadline: July 1, 2006
- 2. Limit: One (1) article per category.
- 3. Entries had to appear in print or on-line between Feb. 1, 2005 and Jan. 31, 2006.
- 4. Entries must be sent electronically via e-mail to <a href="mailto:contest@sportswriters.net">contest@sportswriters.net</a>. Send MS Word or text files only. Do not send HTML files or links to stories on the Internet or electronic libraries because links sometimes become inactive. Make your entry easy to read by taking out unnecessary carriage returns at the ends of lines. The carriage returns can give your entry an odd look when opened by the judge's word processing program.
- 5. At the top of each entry, this information should be included: publication (on-line service, writer(s), category, date of publication, plus an email address and telephone numbers for the writer(s) of the entry. The entries will be sorted and stripped of identifying information and forwarded to the judge(s).
  - 6. Only entries sent electronically will be accepted.



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