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## Bee reporter wins award for public-records access

By Gabriel Baird -- Bee Staff Writer

Published 2:15 am PDT Sunday, October 10, 2004

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BERKELEY - The California First Amendment Coalition presented Bee staff writer Denny Walsh with an award Saturday for overcoming obstacles to access public records.

"He gets the information to the public, the readers and public officials that they need to make decisions," the coalition's treasurer, Mel Opatowsky, said in an interview.

The Beacon Award recognizes not only Walsh's recent battles for federal court

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documents, but also his lifetime achievement.

"There's always somebody trying to hide something," Walsh said. "I've spent most of my adult life trying to subvert that effort."

He has reported for publications around the country and won many awards during his 45-year career as a newsman.

Walsh and another reporter shared a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in 1969 while at the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Walsh moved from St. Louis to Life magazine and then the New York Times before coming to The McClatchy Co., which owns The Bee, in 1974. He then joined The Bee's staff in 1987.

McClatchy Chairman Gary Pruitt emphasized the importance of the award, noting that it honors journalism's fight to protect the First Amendment.

"It is critical that we have reporters like Denny who tell the truth and don't back down," Pruitt said.



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**frank nordby**

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**From:** "frank nordby" <franknordby@raleysexposed.com>  
**To:** <dwalsh@sacbee.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 10, 2004 10:23 AM  
**Subject:** Congratulations Denny

Wow, you won an award for overcoming obstacles to access public records. Good job Denny. You state "There's always somebody trying to hide something." You should have been the person I contacted years ago concerning Raley's and all that they have been hiding. In fact, the Sacramento Bee has assisted Raley's in being able to hide all of their "stuff." However, based on your award, you can be the one (1) who can "tell the truth and not back down", according to Gary Pruitt. There shouldn't be an advertising dollar anywhere that can influence you.

Denny, I am glad you are here at the Bee. The Bee must have been hiding you over the years because I had come to conclusion that there wasn't anybody at the Bee willing to tell the truth, and specifically telling the truth about Raley's. If you need any help in telling the truth about Raley's for your next "truthful" expose', my web site [raleysexposed.com](http://raleysexposed.com) should be able to assist you. I am looking forward to our relationship together in getting out the truth about Raley's. It should at least earn you another award for getting out the truth about all that Raley's is hiding...

Frank S. Nordby