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Chronicle wins prestigious award

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The Cambridge Chronicle has been selected the best weekly newspaper in New England.

The New England Newspaper Association named the Chronicle "2005 Weekly Newspaper of the Year" at its annual convention last week.

Judges said the Chronicle "has a lot of personality and it seems in touch with the community it serves. {It} is a smart and sophisticated paper in a smart and sophisticated community."

Chronicle editor Deborah Eisner accepted the award at a luncheon at the Boston Marriott Long Wharf Friday.

"This is terrific. It reinforces the good work our staff does each week to cover the city of Cambridge," Eisner said.

The Chronicle was named best in its circulation category by a panel of six judges, including Bill Kovach, chairman and founding director of the Committee of Concerned Journalists. Newspapers from all six New England states entered the contest.

In particular, judges liked the Chronicle's decision to place editorials and readers' letters prominently on the front page of a separate section.

"The writing is generally strong, evocative, lively and clear," the judges wrote.

Greg Reibman, the Chronicle's editor in chief, said the award is a tribute to the entire staff,

including Eisner, assistant editors Sarah Andrews and Chris Helms, arts editor Alex Stevens, photo editor Jim Walker and creative director Donna Handel.

But Reibman said the entire city should celebrate.

"A community newspaper is only as good as the community it covers," Reibman said. "The people of Cambridge demand a lot from the Chronicle. We do our best to live up to those expectations."

While the Chronicle was named the best weekly in New England with a circulation over 5,000, the Chronicle's sister newspaper, the Roslindale Transcript, was named Newspaper of the Year among weeklies with a circulation under 5,000.

The MetroWest Daily News and the Marblehead Reporter, which like the Chronicle are owned by Community Newspaper Company, received honors, as did the Boston Herald.

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