





EMIL DANSKER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



Darrel Rowland's career is defined by one word — impact. For nearly half a century, he has made a lasting difference in every newsroom he touched and every community he covered. ...Through it all, he focused on what matters most: serving the public with honest, meaningful journalism.





LARGE PRINT WINNERS

Coolidge's submission exemplifies why community members should support local news. This entry was a master class in reporting on businesses: identifying the agencies responsible for oversight and their limitations; seeking out people who are, were, or could be impacted by a decision when applicable; and sharing scale and scope.



This series of articles was in-depth and covered this topic thoroughly. It was well-researched, well-sourced, and very informative.



By focusing on self-defense arguments impacting the outcomes of homicide cases, *The Dispatch* was able to vividly illustrate how shifts in laws impact the lives of people. The coverage is meticulously reported and makes use of traditional reporting methods, as well as data points and analysis of court documents. Criminal justice reporting at its best!



While relaying the basic facts, this package captured the community's grief of the loss of a "hometown" hero.



“The *Dayton Daily News* submission is clearly emblematic of superior editorial writing. In all three entries, persuasive and compelling arguments supported by solid evidence were conveyed in reasoned (and, at times, courageous) discourse that never succumbed to rhetorical excess. A significant achievement.”

“The *Columbus Dispatch*'s stories explain the nuts-and-bolts of Ohio gerrymandering – the different types and how it works – in easy-to-understand language for the average reader. What's more, the reporters also took the trouble to look at the money behind the politics and explored how a proposed citizen's commission to draw electoral maps might work.”



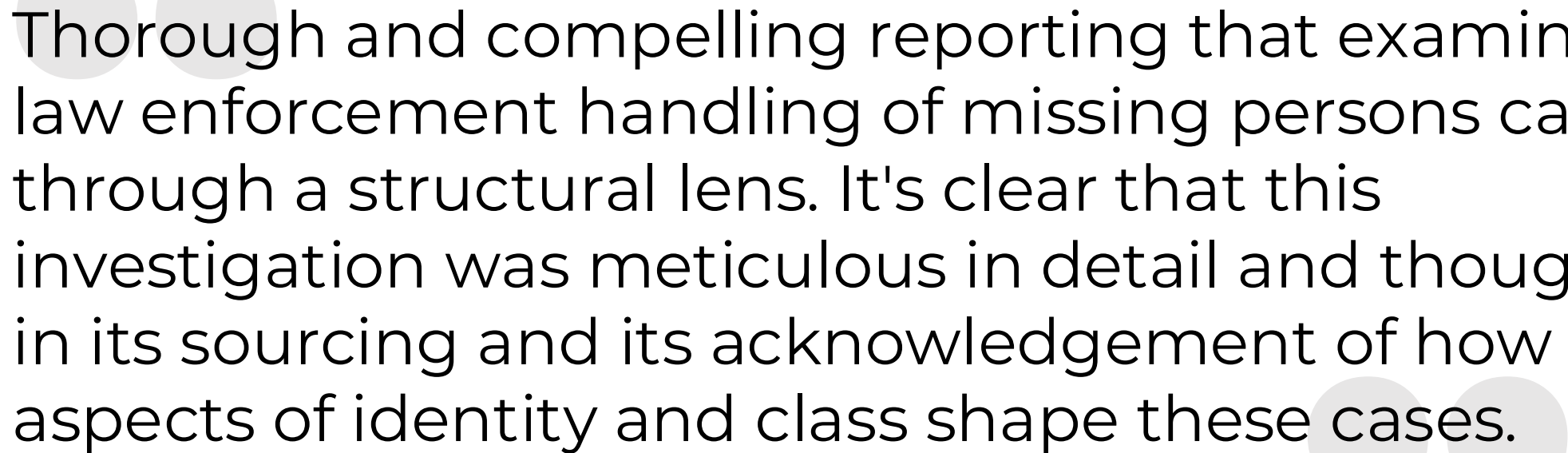
Horn is excellent at reporting, i.e. explaining what is really going on and why, and delves into the full history of these conflicts. He is fair, thorough and writes in a clear and entertaining way, (including ironic touches, when appropriate.)





This trio of stories are deeply reported and vividly told. There's a quiet power in Smyth's accessible writing that allows for greater understanding of the issues for readers.






Thorough and compelling reporting that examines law enforcement handling of missing persons cases through a structural lens. It's clear that this investigation was meticulous in detail and thoughtful in its sourcing and its acknowledgement of how aspects of identity and class shape these cases.


“

With near-surgical fact building, context and clarity, this series of stories not only does the much-needed work of combating misinformation, but also highlights the push-pull of the complicated immigration issue.


”




A strong example of bulldog investigative reporting, with the reporter realizing that there's a story when you DON'T get the information that should be readily available. The brief turn to first-person storytelling really works here, and Elizabeth uses it with a perfect touch.



“You write with a confidence and a clarity that would make any newspaper reader (even someone who isn't normally interested in religion) want to read your work. Fascinating stories. Well-written and reported as you cover controversy, use court records and look at the big picture on your beat. Congratulations!”



This impressive package consisted of engagingly written stories that gave in-depth looks at practical health issues facing many readers. The reporter put human faces on the problems of drug shortages, strokes and breast cancer, with an array of sources....





Every entry was legitimately award-worthy. But Kaufman's work was the best of the best. His great writing and in-depth reporting help readers go beyond the playing field and understand the full picture.





While cluttered this site does allow for great exploration through multiple categories. Links are up to date and visuals complement well-written headlines.





Ray Marciano's wide-ranging columns are timely, provocative, constructive (in that they offer solutions) and heartfelt. I didn't know I cared so much about what's going on in Dayton and Ohio until I started reading his columns.



“The *Columbus Dispatch* distinguishes itself through consistent, high-impact public service journalism, diverse community coverage, and in-depth investigations. It blends visual storytelling with a narrative spanning civil rights history, college athletics, and leadership impact. It also invests heavily in localized reporting.”



Mr. Landsberger's "Inside the Eclipse" is a powerful graphic design that is visually interesting, informative and easy to read and digest.




“A dynamic portfolio of images that convey emotion, action and wonder. The photos are beautifully lit and composed. The brilliant color and mystery of the smoke photo is incredibly compelling. The girl's face in the mud is such great joy captured in a fraction of a second.”




I liked how she not only presented great in-depth coverage, but also interesting factoids to go with it. She really got to the heart of the story from all angles. Very well-done work.





I was drawn to this section by its fascinating graphics (I love the frog cover), variety of story topics, captivating photos, and presentation of information and humor. The section provides an explanation and history of eclipses, in addition to coverage of what is happening in the area on the big day.






SMALL PRINT WINNERS

“Wuske’s vivid and flavorful writing displayed seasoned expertise in food criticism and in-depth knowledge of the history of Cincinnati’s culinary scene as well as recent changes there. Catherine Viox’s sumptuous photography (we could almost taste Baru’s quail eggs) and the striking, uncredited graphic design put this entry well over the top.”





Nobile's stories connect big-picture trends with local businesses, and they put the consumer first. His stories are well-written, easy to follow, and explain underlying business trends with a clarity that makes them of use to insider and lay audiences alike.






The selection of education-related entries thoroughly and effectively communicated the issues to the public. The reporting covered a wide range of topics that included breaking news, investigative reporting, and reporting on solutions to current challenges.





Nancy Molnar's stories are exquisitely written. They give readers insight into the background of victims and offenders alike. Particularly noteworthy was the story on sovereign immunity, which laid out in simple language what it is and how the laws work.



“These explainers provide history and background while threading in the voices of members of Springfield's Haitian community, legal experts and others. These stories are thoughtful, easy to read and attentive to the needs of local readers seeking to understand how federal immigration policy and politics shape their community.”

“One person against the world is a tried-and-true concept (which can sometimes lead toward over-dramatization by a writer), but "Nancy of the Forest" really works well and is not stale. This captivating feature certainly stood on its own, but the lovely photos accompanying it added a lot to the story and helped transport me. A perfect magazine article.”



Really nice use of character-driven storytelling in reporting on the plight of the middle class and steel workers in Ohio, coupled with enlightening graphics and data.



“The author provided a public service by staying on top of an issue that resulted in a school district receiving \$800,000 it was not entitled to. The series explained the mistake in great detail, resulting in the funds being redistributed to districts that needed them.”

“

Excellent minority reporting. Definitely award-worthy.

”

“The reporter does a nice job of immersing the reader in the housing issues facing Oxford...The topic is tackled with nuance that elevates the story beyond a simple one side vs another side account. The overall coverage shows the reporter spent ample time with the community he's covered.”



Robust, substantial reportage across the stories submitted. Strengths include deep, meaningful dives into historical and contemporary background to give needed context to current events.






Bennett has done excellent work in these stories. She was able to bring the topics to the fore, explain the why of what was happening and give the reader a synopsis of how these changes will affect their life.




“This entry stood out far above the others in this category. The author's knowledge and passion for the subjects come out in these well-written features, especially the informative profile of soccer coach Wilfred Nancy. Top-notch storytelling.”

Best Website

FIRST: Claire Lefton, Emma Balcom, Brianna Connock, John Fox, Aiesha Little, and Amanda Boyd Walters, *Cincinnati Magazine*



An engaging homepage with plenty of different topics to catch any readers' attention. Plug-in for integration of print version of magazine helps to highlight your physical publication while not distracting from more consistent digital content.



“Jeffers' sharp ear for the untold stories of quiet people, sharp eye for political absurdity and sharp wit serve her, her causes and her readers well. Incisive social criticism (and rarely witnessed self-criticism as well), conveyed with a clearly seasoned, impassioned and authoritative voice.”




I want to subscribe after reading through your work. Outstanding job on making your paper look fresh and inviting. I loved the use of art and info boxes and the entire layout. Well-done and congratulations Springfield News Sun!






These infographics are wonderful. This is a great way to convey complicated information and these in particular really enhance the subject matter, which is the hallmark of great graphic design.






These issues of *The Dayton Jewish Observer* provided a model of how to cover a community in a supportive, informed manner without shying away from controversy or serving as the public relations arm of its major institutions.






This portfolio shows off a huge range of visual skills and an eye for spotting perfect moments. The fire battle against the rainbow stands out as one of those moments.





This reporter showed a great grasp of many disparate topics, from open meetings to renters to the use of public money. Strong anecdotes added to the richness and humanity of these stories and the people in the stories are portrayed as deep characters with complex motives.




Cincinnati Gives 2024 is more than a special section — it's a celebration of community and giving. Packed with inspiring stories and fantastic eye-catching design, it highlights local nonprofits doing meaningful work and encourages readers to get involved.

“The issues submitted for judging delivered consistent, timely coverage of the Israel-Hamas war including the political and personal impacts to those close to home as well as globally. They addressed themes such as the impact of the war on Jewish communities and its effects in Israel and on the local Jewish identity.”




TRADE PUBLICATION WINNERS

“The above-the-fold rubber tree graphic — which complements the "Strong branches of support" headline nicely — makes for a strong visual. Not only is it a striking image that conveys the resources of the associations at the center of the article, but it also makes the rubber industry — of all things! — instantly relatable, even to the layperson.”



Excellent in-depth coverage of a complicated topic, with a variety of voices and discussion of the complex challenges around a buzzword-filled issue like automation and modernization.





This is an excellent story package. This shows that trade-focused reporting is essential and applicable. Well-done. This is a great service to the industry.





Bowers consistently chooses topics that are relatable to readers in her publication's industry, sharing information that will be of interest within the trade.






This is a beautiful product! Covering such a broad spectrum of business is a challenge and it is done wonderfully here.






DIGITAL MEDIA/ FREELANCE WINNERS



Simply put, this story stayed with me. I loved the tension between art being ephemeral while also being about legacy. It made me think about a lot of the things we're seeing in society, which art is supposed to do.



“Each story included well-rounded histories of these businesses and represented strong profiles of managers and/or owners and local partnerships. The details, dialogue and snappy quotes on all three stories made these pieces enjoyable reads. The photographs that accompanied each story did add a positive to each piece.”



The author provided in-depth reporting to substantiate opinions in a logical, persuasive, and well referenced manner. Issues covered were all important topics within Ohio's political landscape.





These stories are genuinely interesting and seem to balance the voices of teachers, admins, parents, and the interests of students. The details are there, and all three of these are compelling reads.



I thought the writing was great, good attention to detail, fun turns of phrase, interesting information. It made me want to keep reading. This was the clear-cut winner in my opinion. An outstanding body of work!



This series demonstrates excellent accountability journalism, taking a detailed dive into how lobbyists and politicians work together to subsume the public good. Really fine job.



“Holthaus balances information, analysis and storytelling by carefully weaving patient stories into his narrative, illustrating the teens’ mental health struggles without exposing his youth sources. A prime example of informative, ethical and solutions-driven health care reporting.”



This is a complex issue that is important across the country and the writer addresses it thoroughly and sensitively and provides compelling art to go with it. Very nicely done.




“Stands out for its tone, presentation and content. The personalized editor's note helps connect with readers, and offers an inside look at the newsroom that week. Use of multimedia, design elements and font keeps the look fresh and clean.”




David did an excellent job stating his point. His passion for his subject matter kept me going through the read! Congratulations on a job well-done.



“Brick by Brick is a great example of solutions journalism. In this time of acute housing needs, the series explored creative possibilities for helping people find a roof over their heads. The podcasts were thorough in exploring the possibilities and the limitations of repurposing structures to ease the crisis.”



What Zack is able to do is follow along for a 162-game (plus the off-season and the characters involved and ingrained) slash-365-day process. The stories are there if you find them and Zack has with this sample across the Cleveland MLB scene.





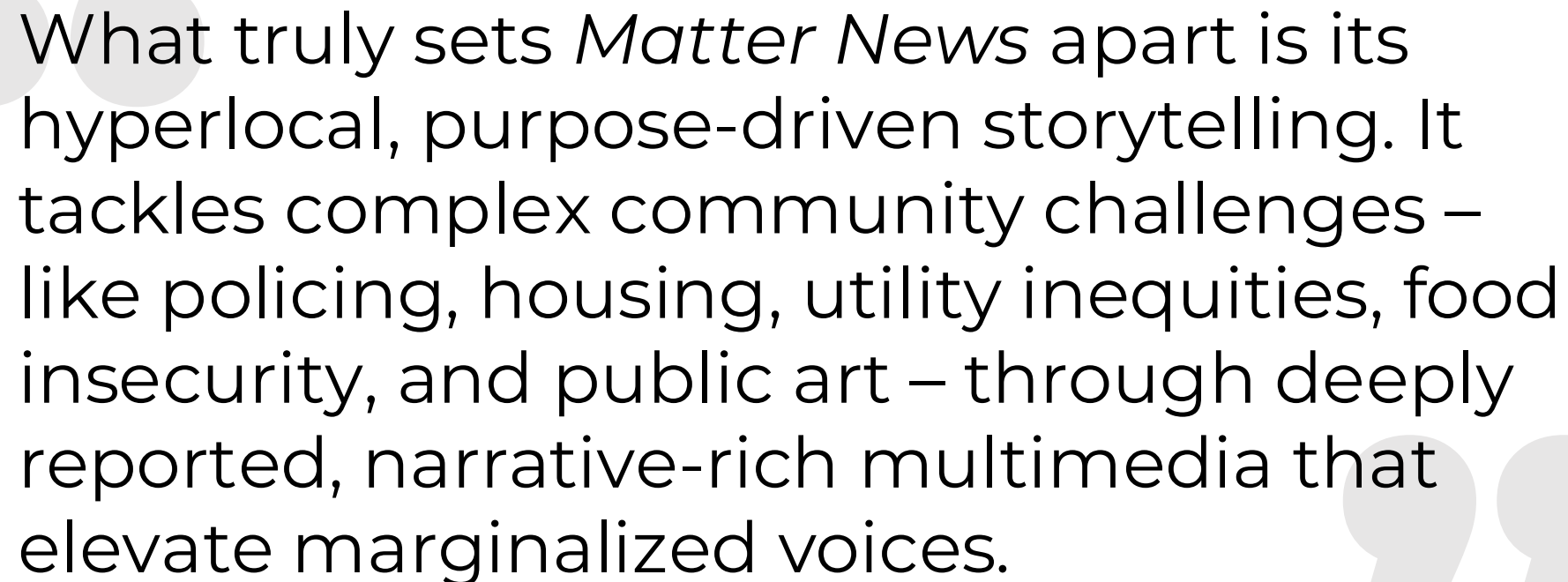
These are excellent demonstrations of dynamic, engaging visual storytelling. The well-timed blend of perspectives, from drone video to tight detail shots, keep the visuals interesting while real people tell the stories.





Sharp, investigative storytelling with a compelling narrative style and strong investigative reporting, tackling local land-use conflicts and regulatory enforcement. This is a high-stakes, underreported topic in many fast-growing counties.





What truly sets *Matter News* apart is its hyperlocal, purpose-driven storytelling. It tackles complex community challenges – like policing, housing, utility inequities, food insecurity, and public art – through deeply reported, narrative-rich multimedia that elevate marginalized voices.

“

Ryan Loew doesn't just take photos — he tells stories. His work captures real moments with emotion, depth and a fresh point of view.... With every shot, he turns everyday life into something memorable.

”



TELEVISION WINNERS




Outstanding journalism from top to bottom. Scott Noll particularly does a great job holding power to account.




“This story came with all the trimmings of a true-crime thriller but not just any reporter could weave it all into a compelling narrative that showcases grit and humanity rather than sensationalized drama. Jessica Schmidt's deep reporting shines in this two-part investigation, which leaves viewers with a bit of hope following a decades-long fight for justice.”

“This little doc had the history, the humor and some great interviews. It starts with the best title “10 cent beer night. It sounded like a good idea at the time.” The backstory was well told and led up to some good suspense. All in all, it was an entertaining look back at a crazy time in baseball history.”



Very nicely produced, these pieces are a great source of information on the state of forensic science. I only wish that the team had held off running it all until this month when the identity of Avondale Jane Doe was revealed. Overall a solid body of work.






What an inspiring and tragic story, beautifully shot and extremely well-told at a compelling pace.






This is a comprehensive look at the Ohio government landscape. It is a well-written, well-stacked television broadcast. This is how government reporting should be done.






A well written piece, this story highlights the potential hazards of Zyn but also explains the lack of information available about effects. The use of POTS interviews is well-placed and the experts chosen to comment added an academic layer to the piece. Delivery and tone were spot on.






A great and unique investigation. A lot of work went into this, and it shows. I loved the perspective of showing all their interviews with people affected by this issue.





Duane Pohlman does not let go when he is on to an important story. Four years after he began investigating radioactive contamination in the area surrounding a Cold-War-era uranium enrichment plant, Pohlman has continued to dig and to find fresh outrages.



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A beautifully told story.

A large, light gray closing quotation mark.



Being given the space to breathe and tell a story is an art and a jigsaw puzzle. Marshall takes the pieces of this football puzzle and puts them all together in a way that even a non-football person can understand and empathize.




“What I like about your website is how you prominently display your I-team stories because that's important enterprise for viewers to see. ...Your website displays lots of news from crime, local government issues, etc. Your news station is providing a good resource for information for viewers.”

“Rob Powers showed a commanding presence, maintained a crystal clear delivery no matter the situation, and offered an empathetic ear when appropriate. Seemingly unflappable whether he was reading from a prompter or ad libbing in the moment, Powers’ consistency is admirable. Great storytelling.”


“

Magic happened in WTOL's entry for "Best Newscast" in a way that's both rare and pure. I never met "Butch," but I'll never forget him, either. Remarkably well-executed, WTOL.

”



This entry stands out for its sheer breadth of information. As a viewer, however, I never felt short-changed or that a story was just a cursory few lines of copy. The pacing kept me watching, and compared to the other entries, this felt most comprehensive and best presented.



“Intensely researched, impactful storytelling that never forgets at the heart of the issue you find real, everyday people. The reporter's passion is evident throughout. The takeaway – people in power should be nervous if they get a call from Duane Pohlman.”



Excellent and beautiful visuals enhance storytelling and leave an imprint on the viewer long after the story concludes. Use of drone footage was especially impactful.





RADIO WINNERS

“

Great use of tape.

”




Good use of on-the-ground voices and nice color.






Solid reporting on inner workings of law enforcement.





Beautifully produced, insightful documentary series that present the story about the death of a young man that many people outside of Ohio likely haven't heard about but should.





This series tackles an important topic in education and does it with professional writing and voicing along with natural sound. It includes history and graphics.



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Interesting story on an issue not covered across the Ohio media landscape in this way. Good use of sound. Pleasant voicing. Solid use of cuts from quality sources. Well done.

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Interesting topic not covered extensively by other outlets that demonstrates a good use of sound with quality actualities. This was a competitive field. Excellent work.



“

Great concept! Great writing! And, the ambient background sound that really "takes you there!" Congratulations to State News for a story that the whole nation should be inspired to follow!

”



Super interesting case and well-reported in a timely manner following the dismissal of the charges. Raises really important issue on the criminalization of homeless shelters.






Important information that citizens need to know was communicated clearly! Congratulations on a job well done!






You did a great job teasing this and grabbing my attention.





Good, consistent nat. sound throughout the entry. Did a great job weaving the present to the past that involves a historical figure such as Jesse Owens and coming back around to the present at the end.





A solid mix of up-to-date stories and information, but also keeping the most popular stories on the website high up, which helps generate traffic.





Kenney's warmth and professionalism are apparent even in a short piece of audio....He's got a great ability to form a connection with the listener and with interviewees.





Great variety of topics for listeners and excellent writing to communicate complicated issues. I actually followed along with the early voting numbers, which is hard to do in radio.





Excellent work bringing a group together to answer questions and offer insights on a topic that is relevant in every city with an Interstate running through it.





You were my favorite. I think you know how to tell stories well. You also have a strong command of the microphone.





COLLEGE JOURNALISM WINNERS



Phoebe Helms's article about Ohio State's co-education program opens a window onto the grit, determination, and vulnerability of incarcerated students. Well-researched, well-structured, and well-told.





Shows what can be done when reporters are willing to put in the effort. The combination of human and physical sources makes this article stand out.



“


The Miami paper took first because of its more varied content. The strength of the information in the articles led this newspaper to the top.

”



The competition in this category was incredible.
But Gina Roth's first-hand account of The Haitian
Issue in her hometown was the cream of the crop.





Polished writing style and in-depth reporting. I especially love the hook in the lede about the blue hoodie. This writer has a bright future.



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