

# Spot News

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## Court TV's Fred Graham headlines Golden Press Card awards program

Fred Graham of Court TV will deliver the keynote speech at the Golden Press Card awards program at 6:30 p.m., May 16, at the University Club (not the University Center), corner of Neyland Drive and Kingston Pike.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Make reservations by Monday, May 5, with Sally Guthrie at 865-588-1474 or [sguthrie1474@comcast.net](mailto:sguthrie1474@comcast.net).

### Journalist and lawyer

Graham, chief anchor and managing editor of the network, is also a journalist and lawyer. He has won the George Foster Peabody Award and two American Bar Association Silver Gavel awards. He has participated in three Emmy awards. He has been with Court TV since its beginning in 1991.

Key cases and trials Graham has covered include OJ Simpson, William Kennedy Smith, Rodney King, Watergate, Daniel Ellsberg, John Connally, John Hinckley, and John DeLorean. His legal expertise includes the Supreme Court, Clinton investigations, and cameras in the courtroom.

Graham has written four books: *The Self-Inflicted Wound*, which is about the criminal law decisions of the

Warren Court; *Press Freedom Under Pressure* about news media and the First Amendment; *The Alias Program* about the Justice Department's witness protection program; and *Happy Talk* about television news, not all happy.

### Substitute anchor

During his career, Graham has been a practicing attorney, government official, legal writer for the *New York Times*, law correspondent for CBS News and anchor, commentator and senior editor for WKRN-TV in Nashville, his hometown.

As a correspondent for CBS News from 1972 to 1987, Graham covered the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Department, FBI and the legal profession. He has also served as a substitute anchor on "Face the Nation," "Nightwatch,"



FRED GRAHAM  
CHIEF ANCHOR & MANAGING EDITOR

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## Graham

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and “The CBS Morning News.” He also broadcast a weekly radio commentary, “The Law and You.”

His television documentaries include “See You in Court” for CBS Reports and “Justice for All” and “Ethics on Trial” for PBS.

Before beginning his broadcast career, Graham was the Supreme Court correspondent for the New York Times . He served as a special assistant to Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz from 1963 to 1965. He also served as Deputy Chief Counsel of the President’s Committee on Equal Opportunity.

Graham’s wife, Skila Harris, is a member of the TVA board of directors.

## Local media take home Green Eyeshade awards

by Georgiana Vines, chapter delegate

The Knoxville news media did very well at the 2003 Green Eyeshade Awards banquet, which was part of the Society of Professional Journalists’ Region 3 meeting in Atlanta this past weekend.

The News Sentinel won a best of show in the Online category after winning first place in Non-Deadline Reporting. The entry, “Afghan Journal,” was done by Bryan Mitchell, Cathy Clarke and the Online Department.

Don Dare and George Mitchell of WATE-TV took first place in television’s Business Reporting category for their work, “Trashed Transactions.”

Sam Brown of WNOX AM-FM took a best of show in the radio market for the “Cynthia Barker Story.” He also won first place for the report in the Non-Deadline Reporting category; Sam took another first in the Investigative category for “Day Job Stealing Cars—Night Job Work Release in Jail.” The station’s Dave Foulk took first place in Deadline Reporting for “Morgan County Tornado Coverage.”

From the business meeting:

■ The program for the national convention Sept. 11-13 in Tampa is coming together. A headliner is Carl Hiassen,

## Washington chapter Judges GPC entries

Approximately 145 entries were received for this year’s Golden Press Card awards program, according to Lisa Skinner, vice president in charge of GPC,

Judges for this year’s entries are the William O. Douglas Pro Chapter in Central Washington ... as in Washington state!

In return, members of ETSPJ’s board and University of Tennessee professors and staff judged the Washington group’s entries in its awards program.

author and columnist, who works for the Miami Herald. Dozens of workshops are planned on everything from “Novel Ideas” (tips on how journalists can use their skills to write books and capture freelance work) to “Election Chadder” (Political pundits preview the coming war of words from candidates).

■ Holly Fisher, Region 3 director, would like the chapter to consider hosting the regional conference in 2005. The board is considering a realignment of regions. Several plans are under consideration, and one would put all of Tennessee in one region. She doesn’t know what region the state would be in yet. A decision is likely at the national SPJ board meeting in Indianapolis at the end of the month. Representatives of the Miami chapter made a pitch for hosting the regional next year. If that doesn’t develop and the East Tennessee chapter remains in Region 3, we could be asked to host the meeting next year.

About six students from the University of Tennessee attended the Mark of Excellence luncheon, where several got awards for their work on the Beacon. Winners were Jeff Haws, first in general column writing, third in general news and honorable mention in editorial writing and Tim Vacek, first in sports column writing and third in sports writing. The Beacon won third in all-around excellence. The Phoenix won third in a magazine category.

The first-place winners will be entered in the national Mark of Excellence competition, with national winners announced at the convention.

**President** Larry Aldridge

**First Vice President** Lisa Hood Skinner

**Second Vice President** Alan Carmichael

**Secretary** Jean Ash

**Treasurer** Dorothy Bowles

### Officers and Board ETSPJ

**Communications Coordinator**  
Sally Guthrie (588-1474)

### Board Members

Adina Chumley

Jim Fields

Nicole Henrich

Bonnie Riechert

Michele Silva

## FOI panel discusses open records



Bob Brunner



Margie Nichols



Gene Patterson

ETSPJ members and guests celebrated St. Patrick's Day at Naples Italian restaurant for a panel discussion of open records and journalists' relationships with the public. Serving on the panel were Frank Gibson, political editor, The Tennessean; Richard Hollow, First Amendment attorney; Margie Nichols, news director, WBIR-TV; and Gene Patterson, evening news anchor, WATE-TV. Bob Brunner, WVLT Volunteer TV news anchor, was moderator.



Richard Hollow and Frank Gibson with the sometimes lost SPJ banner

## Coalition to hold conference

The newly organized Tennessee Coalition for Open Government will participate in the national conference of the National Freedom of Information Coalition and SPJ Project Sunshine May 16 and 17 at the Marriott Vanderbilt Hotel in Nashville.

Sessions tentatively scheduled for Friday include "Starting an open government coalition," "Keeping your group going strong," "NFOIC annual business meeting," "Rewriting state sunshine laws," "Conducting a successful public records audit," "Innovative and successful projects" and a reception.

Saturday sessions include "Status of court records on the Web," "When government becomes a business (privatization and commercialization of records)," a luncheon with speakers Sen. Bob Graham and John Seigenthaler, Sr., "Homeland security: Isn't secrecy un-American?," "Secrecy in the homeland: The domino effect," "Building public trust" and a Freedom Forum First Amendment Center presentation.

More information and a registration form are available at <http://www.nfoic.org/Meetings.html>

The registration fee before April 18 is \$100. Late registration is \$150. Students may register for \$25 (sessions only). Registration includes lunch each day and the Friday reception.

Dorothy Bowles, the ETSPJ chapter representative on the state steering committee, plans to attend the conference.

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GPC Awards Program  
Deadline for Reservations  
May 5

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## Seigenthaler to present UT Freedom Forum lecture

John Seigenthaler, Jr., weekday anchor and correspondent for MSNBC and news anchor for the weekend edition of "NBC Nightly News," will present the annual Freedom Forum Lecture at the University of Tennessee April 24.

His talk on the "Press and War" will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Shiloh Room of the University Center. John Seigenthaler, Sr., founder of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University and founding editorial director of USA TODAY, will introduce his son.

The lecture is free and a reception will follow.

## PR Panel

What do reporters miss in the field?

What do they forget to ask?

What do they not realize they have a right to ask?  
Join Alan Carmichael, Adina Chumley and others  
for a public relations panel at the April meeting.

6:30 p.m.

University Center

Rooms 226-227

### Mark Your Calendar

**April 21**, 6:30 p.m., UT Center, rooms 226-227, meeting, PR Panel

**April 24**, 7:30 p.m, Freedom Forum Lecture, UT Center, Shiloh Room

**May 16**, Golden Press Card Award Program with Court-TV's Fred Graham -- Reservation  
deadline May 5.

**May 16-17**, Nashville, Freedom and Fear. . . at War/Access Under Attack

**June 14**, Front Page Follies