

Spot News

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Dust off those stories; GPC time approaches

Planning for this spring's Golden Press Card awards program has begun, according to Chairwoman Lisa Hood Skinner and her assistant, Bonnie Riechert.

Categories are the same as they were last year when several revisions were made, including a new category for organizational communications and a new division for visuals within the Work for Other Media category. Additionally the rules change stipulated that offices of entrants in the World Wide Web category be in East Tennessee.

Deadline for submitting work is March 1. Janine Jennings in the office of the dean of the College of Communications at UT will collect and record the entries.

The exact date of the program and name of the speaker have not yet been determined. When the information becomes available, entrants will be notified by mail, and the Web site will be updated.

Rules and entry forms are available on the ETSPJ Web site at <http://www.kornet.org/etspj/GPC2002.htm>.

Convention delegates issue guidelines regarding profiling

At its National Convention in the fall, SPJ passed a resolution urging members and fellow journalists to take steps against racial profiling in covering the war on terrorism.

1. Seek out and include Arabs and Arab Americans, Muslims, South Asians and men and women of Middle Eastern descent in all stories about the war, not just those about Arab and Muslim communities or racial profiling.

2. Cover the victims of harassment, murder and other hate crimes as thoroughly as you cover the victims of overt terrorist attacks.

3. Make an extra effort to include olive-complexioned and darker men and women, Sikhs, Muslims and devout religious people of all types in arts, business, society columns and all other news and feature coverage, not just stories about the crisis.

4. Seek out experts on military strategies, public safety, diplomacy, economics and other pertinent topics who run the spectrum of race, class, gender and geography.

5. When writing about terrorism, remember to include white supremacist, radical anti-abortionists and other groups with a history of such activity.

6. Do not imply that kneeling on the floor praying, listening to Arabic music or reciting from the Quran are peculiar activities.

7. When describing Islam, keep in mind there are large populations of Muslims around the world, including in Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe, India and the United States. Distinguish between various Muslim states; do not lump them together as in constructions such as "the fury of the Muslim world."

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Freedom of Information Forum

Reporters who covered the Pamela Reed-UT President Wade Gilley story last summer discussed problems with obtaining access to information at the ETSPJ joint meeting with the UT student chapter in November.

Pictured at right are panelists Brenan Robson, WATE-TV; David Keim, the Knoxville News-Sentinel; and Brad Shepard, UT SPJ student chapter president.



Want a bobblehead? Beer? Cow slippers?

A crazy gift exchange provided entertainment for the annual ETSPJ Christmas party in December.

Suzanne Neal provided Big Orange Country's most questionable comment when she opened one gift: "Oh, no, UT stuff." Neal also had the distinction of being the evening's most frequent picker, as her good stuff got taken away by others. Cynthia Moxley relieved her of the "UT stuff."

The "Congenial Couple Award" goes to Jim Crook for repossessing cow slippers coveted by Diane. (See the photograph on page 3.) He captured a Beijing Olympics baseball cap. Wonder where that came from?

Most popular items were a Peyton Manning bobblehead doll, Corona beer, and a Whitman's Sampler. Several people received talking, squeaking, obnoxious stuffed animals. Just ask Larry Aldridge and John Fox about their toys.

More than 20 members and guests attended and contributed gifts for the Toys for Tots campaign. Fox delivered these to the elves at the Marine Corps.

Pellissippi scholarship winner sends thanks to ETSPJ

The Pellissippi State winner of the ETSPJ scholarship for 2001-2002 is Melinda Perkins, a journalism major from Knoxville. She sent the following letter:

I was so excited to learn that I was chosen as a Pellissippi State Foundation Scholar! I was even more excited to learn that the donor of this award is someone who shares my love for journalism. This scholarship not only gives me the necessary means to fund my educational goals, but it also gives me confidence, which motivates me to focus on my future. Even as an avid writer with a passion for words, I cannot seem to verbally express the amount of gratitude I have for your generosity. I assure you that your investment in my education is worthwhile. I will not let you down! Thank you again for choosing me!

Sincerely,
Melinda S. Perkins

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Christmas party highlights



The shoes -- Diane Crook has the cow slippers. Jean Ash wants them. Looking on are Jim Crook (left) and Steve Ash (right).

Oops, I said it again --

President, Adina Chumley, supervised the crazy gift exchange.



I think mine talks --

Lisa Skinner and Alan Sieve play with their toys.



Gifts piled high --

Mr. and Mrs. Hayden Evans have a great view of the assortment of gifts that were later exchanged.

Guidelines (from page 1)

8. Avoid using word combinations such as “Islamic terrorist” or “Muslim extremist” that are misleading because they link whole religions to criminal activity. Be specific: Alternate choices, depending on context, include “Al Qaeda terrorists” or, to describe the broad range of groups involved in Islamic politics, “political Islamists.” Do not use religious characterizations as shorthand when geographic, political, socioeconomic or other distinctions might be more accurate.
9. Avoid using terms such as “jihad” unless you are certain of their precise meaning and include the context when they are used in quotations. The basic meaning of “jihad” is to exert oneself for the good of Islam and to better oneself.
10. Consult the Library of Congress guide for transliteration of Arabic names and Muslim or Arab words to the Roman alphabet. Use spellings preferred by the American Muslim Council, including “Muhammad,” “Quran,” and “Makka,” not “Mecca.”
11. Regularly seek out a variety of perspectives for your opinion pieces. Check your coverage against the five Maynard Institute for Journalism Education fault lines of race and ethnicity, class, geography, gender and generation.
12. Ask men and women from within targeted communities to review your coverage and make suggestions.

Mark Your Calendar

March 1, 5 p.m., GPC entry deadline.
Submit to Ms. Janine Jennings
302 Communications Building
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996-0332

April 19-21, SPJ National Writers' Workshop Region 3 Conference, Atlanta
June 8-9, SPJ National Writers' Workshop , Indianapolis