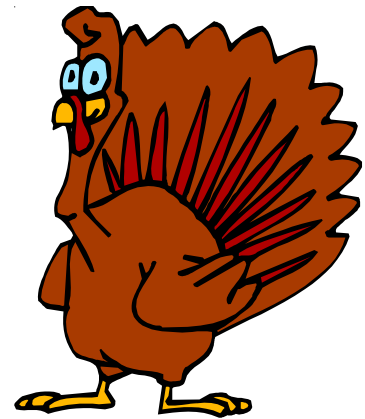


Spot News

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Elf, Elf Wannabe Holiday Warm-up, Dec. 4

Annual ETSPJ Christmas party

6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 4

Cherokee Bluff Condominium Clubhouse

ETSPJ's annual Christmas party and crazy gift exchange has a new twist this year: the opportunity to donate to the chapter's scholarship fund for journalism students at UT and Pellissippi State.

We will continue the tradition of the crazy "Chinese" gift exchange. Members and guests who wish to participate should bring a wrapped gift costing approximately \$10. The gift should NOT have a name tag. We will exchange and trade gifts to see who gets the winners and who gets the losers.

Because the Toys for Tots program has been innundated with gifts in recent years, the ETSPJ Board decided to ask members to use the money they would have spent on toys to help with the scholarship fund. A holiday box will be available at the Christmas party for donations. Checks should be written to ETSPJ with a notation it is for the fund. As a long-range plan, the chapter is looking into establishing a Foundation for scholarships.

Please let Jean Ash (691-2606) (jeanash@aol.com) know by Dec. 1 what covered dish you plan to bring. We will also need to know who's coming, so we can provide names to the guard at the Cherokee Bluff gatehouse.

Once again, we wish to thank Georgiana Vines and John Fox for making arrangements to hold the party at their clubhouse.

Directions

If going south on Alcoa Highway, get off at the UT Medical Center exit. After exiting, you will see Cherokee Trail on the right. Take it and go 0.4 mile to Cherokee Bluff Drive, which is on the left. Go up the steep hill, and you'll come to the guard station. The guard will check your name off the list (that's why you must make reservations). Go left after passing the guard station to the clubhouse. There are a few parking spaces in front. Otherwise, turn left again as soon as you pass the guard station, and there's a parking area.

If coming north on Alcoa Highway, take a right to the UT Medical Center. Then take Cherokee Trail and follow the directions above.



Legislators, Humphrey, on tap for January 5

Legislators and the News Sentinel's "Capitol Hill guy," Tom Humphrey, will discuss "headlines" at the ETSPJ meeting, 6:00 p.m., Monday, Jan. 5, at Naples restaurant, 5500 Kingston Pike.

Rep. Joe Armstrong, Democrat, and Sen. Randy McNally, Republican, will join Humphrey on a panel to discuss what issues will be on the legislature's agenda in 2005, what's left to be done legislatively in getting the lottery program started, what role the legislature will continue to have in TennCare, and what they are interested in accomplishing.

While attending UT, Humphrey worked on the copy desk of the News Sentinel and later went to work for UPI. He was drafted in 1970, a few months after graduation. After a stint in the Army, Humphrey continued his work with UPI in Raleigh and then in

Nashville. In 1984 he signed on as the News-Sentinel Capitol Hill correspondent. Humphrey is a licensed lawyer although he does not practice. He is the father of five and grandfather of four.

Armstrong is in his seventh term representing the 15th District. He is chairman of the Health and Human Resources Committee and is a member of the important Calendar and Finance committees.

McNally represents Anderson County and a portion of West Knox County. He served four terms in the House and was elected to his fifth term in the Senate last year. He chairs the Education Committee and is a member of the General Welfare Committee. He is a Republican floor leader.

Regional conference coming here in 2005

by Lisa Hood Skinner

East Tennessee Pro Chapter members...I've returned from the national SPJ convention in Tampa, Fla., and am pleased to report that our chapter won Outstanding Small Pro Chapter for Region 3.

Of course, the honor is no surprise to many of us, since this chapter has a long history of informative programs, successful Golden Press Card awards contests, and impressive fundraising endeavors (such as our 25 years of producing Front Page Follies, which funds local communications scholarships).

The chapter's active track record continued into this fall, beginning with our Sept. 18 joint luncheon meeting with PRSA, our Oct. 1 dinner with the Boston Globe's Michael Larkin, our picnic with UT students on Oct. 5, and Dorothy Bowles' review of current Supreme

Court cases on Nov. 17. Hold onto your seats...it's going to be a great year.

Below is a national convention's highlight, summarized by our regional director, Holly Fisher. If you wish to read a more detailed "blow by blow" account, she suggests you check out The Working Press convention newspaper online at www.spj.org/twp.asp.

Fisher writes, "We have set the 2005 Regional Conference for Knoxville, Tenn. I'm looking into the possibility of a joint regional conference with Region 12, our neighbors to the southwest. We're thinking all the Southern states could gather together for a meeting in Knoxville—but I doubt a civil war will result from our efforts. :-)"

Note: This report was inadvertently left out of the last edition of Spot News.

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Second Vice President Michele Silva
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 Sally Guthrie (588-1474)

Bowles reviews recent Supreme Court cases

Dr. Dorothy Bowles, professor of journalism at UT, presented an overview of First Amendment cases at the Supreme Court at the Nov. 17 meeting of ETSPJ.

In the term that ended last July, the Court upheld laws and polices intended to protect the public from dishonest telemarketers, cross-burners, pornographers, and drug dealers in public housing, according to Bowles.

“No matter how speech protective you are, you’re going to reach your limits somewhere,” Bowles said, noting that although this Court has a good record on free expression cases, it ruled last term in favor of every governmental restriction of free speech and press.

She discussed the extension of the Copyright Term Extension Act (life of the author plus 70 years) and the Court’s decision to defer to Congress. Thus, Disney’s cash registers will “ring for years to come,” as Mickey Mouse and all of the other Disney characters have seen their protection extended.

In discussing a cross burning statute in Virginia, Bowles explained that the Court upheld the part of the statute that criminalized symbolic speech intended to intimidate, but invalidated the part that made cross burning prima facie evidence of an intent to intimidate.

Unlike other hate speech ordinances that singled out specific groups of people for protection, the Virginia statute passed Constitutional muster to the extent that it protected anyone who was a target. “It does not matter whether an individual burns a cross with intent to intimidate because of the victim’s race, gender, or religion, or because of the victim’s political affiliation, union membership, or homosexuality,” the Court wrote.

The First Amendment is not an absolute, according to the Court. The government may regulate certain categories of expression consistent with the Constitution. “The prima facie provision strips away the very reason a state may ban cross burning with intent to intimidate,” Bowles explained. Thus, the Court sent the case back to the Virginia Supreme Court for interpretation of the prima facie provision in a way that might avoid constitutional objections.

The case of Nike v. Kasky was closely watched, but fizzled on the last day of the Court term when, after having granted certiorari and hearing oral arguments, the justices issued a one-sentence unsigned opinion to say that certiorari had been improvidently granted.” No reason was given.

Bowles explained that this case involved commercial speech and the extent to which public relations press releases praising a company could be viewed as advertising. A company spokesperson had extolled the virtues of Nike to potential customers in response to charges that the company operated sweatshops overseas. This case raises questions for public relations practitioners concerning how far they can go—at least in California, where the state supreme court ruled against Nike—in publicizing the good deeds of clients.

Bowles also discussed the Children’s Internet Protection Act; the Victoria’s Secret trademark dilution case against a small business, Victor’s Secret; and an ordinance in Richmond, Va., to restrict movement of unauthorized people within a public housing project.

In the current term, the Court has already agreed to hear a case again challenging the Child Online Protection Act and cases concerning state funding of scholarships for religious study, the “under God” phrase in the Pledge of Allegiance, interpretation of the privacy exemption to the federal Freedom of Information Act and campaign-finance reform.



Dorothy Bowles

Golden Press Card Call for entries out soon

Golden Press Club chair, Michele Silva, suggests everyone think about their entries in this year’s Golden Press Card competition. The call for entries will be sent out around the first of the year and will be posted on the ETSPJ Web site. Deadline for entries is March 5. The awards program will be May 21 at the University Club.

PSTCC scholarship winner announced

Maralynn Rochat of Knoxville, a communications graphics technology major, was awarded the ETSPJ scholarship for 2003-2004 at Pellissippi State Technical Community College.

ETSPJ adds four members

We welcome the following new members of ETSPJ: Susan Barnes, UT; Sunde Farquhar, WATE-TV; Mary Leidig, St. Mary's Health Systems; and Jennifer Wiggins, Akins-Crisp.

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 4, 6:00 p.m., Holiday Party with crazy gift exchange, donations to scholarship fund, Cherokee Bluff Condominium. Bring a covered dish, too.

Jan. 5, 6:00 p.m., "Headlines" with Tom Humphrey, Rep. Joe Armstrong, Sen. Randy McNally, Naples, 5500 Kingston Pike



Dec. 4, 6 p.m., Cherokee Bluff

Holiday Party