

Kingsbury named Journalist of the Year

BY SAH TRICOMO
STAFF WRITER

Hard work and humility are not typically a combination that lead to recognition, but Troy Eccentric staff writer Annette Kingsbury proved that theory wrong as she was named 2003 Journalist of the Year for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Kingsbury was selected from a field of nine editorial department employees during a breakfast celebration at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

"The other nominees are all so good at what they do that I was truly shocked," Kingsbury said.

Each year the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* honors one editorial employee among its 15 different mastheads for exemplifying the journalistic practices set out by company owner and chairman Philip Power.

Those practices revolve around Power's belief that community newspapers must enhance readers' lives by providing unsubstitutable, relevant information.

Kingsbury's work in 2003 reflected that principle,



Journalist of the Year Annette Kingsbury accepts her award from *Eccentric* managing editor Joe Baumann.

according to her editor, Gary Winkelman.

"Annette is Troy, and the pressure this must put on her issue after issue is daunting. I don't believe anyone else could do such a consistently thor-

ough and fine job in such a busy town for as long as Annette has," Winkelman said. Kingsbury said she views her role as a journalist as a critical one in the community.

"I think we are the eyes and

ears of residents who don't have the time to sit through a six-hour meeting and pore over pages of documents to find out what's really going on," she said.

In addition to her work

reporting on government and education issues in Troy, Kingsbury was also honored for her community involvement, which included serving on planning committees for a citywide blood drive and public art projects.

Frustrated at the format of previous candidate forums, Kingsbury spearheaded a movement to create a debate where voters would learn more about the people running for office through an interactive debate.

"I thought we needed to do something to get the candidates away from the typical sound bite kind of statements they make in candidate forums. A lot of the credit for this should go to the Community Network Studio in Troy. They really ran with the idea and did a lot of the work," she said.

The year also brought recognition to Kingsbury when she received a first-place award for local column writing and a second-place award for in-depth reporting from the Michigan Press Association.

The *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* received the most Michigan Press Association awards of any news group in the state in 2003.

OTHER NOMINEES

Also nominated for Journalist of the Year recognition were reporters Tony Brusato, Kurt Kahan and Larry Ruchlen; photographer Tom Hawley; copy editor Bill Emerick; receptionist Emily Champion; paginator Steve Culver; and graphic designer Randy Masters.

"Though busy working out the details of a jurisdictional investigation into Detroit's Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox presented a keynote address during the awards celebration in which he promised to conduct a very thorough investigation.

"I promise this will not be Whitewater," he said in reference to the federal investigation into the financial dealings of former President Bill Clinton. "Between my office and the Michigan State Police we have seven investigators and two lawyers assigned to this.

"When we are done I can promise there will be no punches pulled," Cox said.

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Friends of the Rouge needs volunteers June 7

The Friends of the Rouge is seeking help to restore the Rouge River and its watershed, include those in Farmington/Farmington Hills.

Organizers are inviting individuals or organizations such as schools, businesses and congregations to join in the annual clean up of the Rouge and its watershed on Saturday, June 7.

In Farmington Hills, there are two sites. The first will have folks cleaning up trash,

working on debris management, native planting and invasive plant removal. Volunteers meet at Heritage Park at 8 a.m. Contact Tracy Sliantak at (248) 253-8580.

Site 2 will involve storm drain stenciling and site clean up at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus at the west end behind building II, across Lot 6 from the tennis courts from 8 a.m.-noon. Contact Jim Kluesner for information at (248) 522-3405.

Longacre House membership meeting slated



With the Longacre House tour over, Gill students head for the bus and lunch at Heritage Park.

The Longacre House, Inc. membership will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10.

During the meeting members will discuss and consider appointing an interim Board of Directors, for the purpose of reorganization.

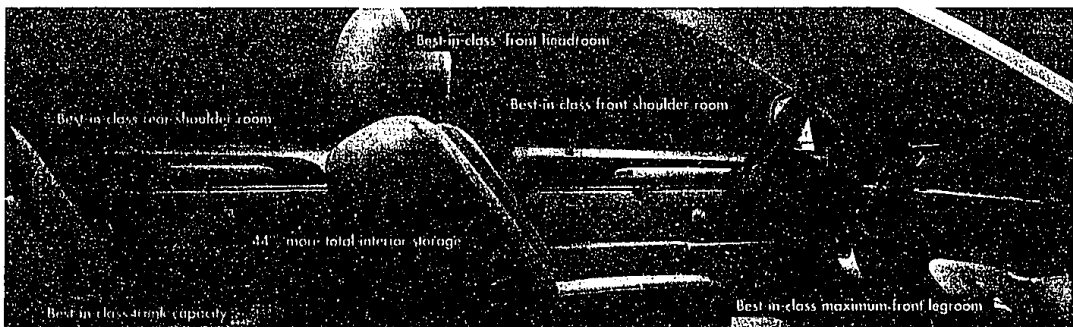
The Longacre House was decided to the community in the 1960s by the Spicer family with the understanding that it be run as a non-profit community house, by a board of directors elected from House membership. The House receives no

financial assistance from any local government and relies on memberships, community contributions and events as its sole source of income.

Memberships are available at several levels, including some accompanied by special discounts. For more information or to become a member, contact Executive Director Denise Tawvax, (248) 477-8404.

The membership meeting will be held at The Longacre House, which is located at 24705 Farmington Road, between 10 and 11 Mile Roads.

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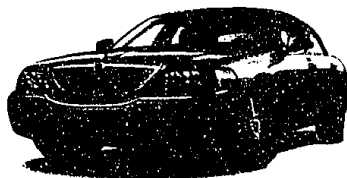
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