

SPJ

"If it happened in Fort Worth ... it's news to us!"

The Chaser

Fort Worth Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists

March 1996

Verlie Edwards' President's Platform

On with the show!

"Hello ... suckers."

We're polishing this time-honored greeting for those paying cold, hard cash to be roasted at the 1996 Golden Gridiron Show. The big night is Friday, March 29, at the Will Rogers Round-Up Inn — 6:30 p.m. cocktails, 7:30 p.m. dinner, 8:30 p.m. show.

Rehearsals are in full swing with left-footed dancers and tone-deaf singers preparing to perform for the last time in this format as the Gridiron celebrates its Golden Anniversary. You read that correctly. This will be the last stage production of the Gridiron Show. Next year's officers and Board of Directors will determine the format of future Gridiron events.

In honor of our Golden Anniversary, look for some twists to this year's production.

Fort Worth legend Bob Schieffer, weekend news anchor for CBS-TV and former Star-Telegram reporter, will join us on stage to rehash his days as a cub reporter and shed some

Calling All Past Presidents

We need you to unpack your tuxedos and evening gowns and help meet and greet dignitaries the night of the show. Let Loyd Turner know if you'll be able to assist and send Lou Brooks your ticket reservation.

light on today's political climate.

Directors Brynn Bristol and Margaret Whitten are actually finding talent within our ranks, and script chief Donna Darovich has done a marvelous job reviving our most memorable skits from years gone by and blending them with current events. For continuity expect a Forrest Gump-type character played by Breck Harris

of Lone Star Gas and a curmudgeonly city editor portrayed by Frank Perkins of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Ann Gilliland has done a yeoman's job of producing the video portion of the show. Don't be surprised if you see, oh, Fort Worth City Councilman Chuck Silcox and Former Speaker of the House Jim Wright as rap stars.

Former Fort Worth Mayor and SPJ President Willard Barr and his son, Mayor wanna-be Kenneth, will also take the stage. Willard was in the first Gridiron Show — what a trouper!

see The last big one on the back

The last big one

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Among other personalities in the spotlight will be congressional candidate Kay Granger.

Ticket orders are coming in, and don't hesitate to extend a hearty Gridiron welcome to anyone who would like to attend. I urge each chapter member to sell tickets. Remember, we're all busting our behinds to help deserving college students. It's everyone's responsibility to make this a spectacular event.

Lou Brooks is tracking sales again this year; call her at 877-

1171 or write 1415 Ballinger, Fort Worth 76102. The details:

Champagne tables

for eight: \$800

Tables for 10: \$750

Individual tickets: \$75

And what would the Gridiron be without Newsmakers? Seven will be honored, and each coincidentally is celebrating its own 50th anniversary. The envelope (please) goes to the Texas Boys Choir, Kincaid's Hamburgers, MasterCard Colonial Invitational Tournament, Fort Worth Opera, Bell Helicopter/Tilt Rotor Wing Division, Osteopathic

Medical Center of Texas and Witherspoon & Associates.

Preview Night

Thursday, March 28, is Preview Night when friends and family (shoot, anyone who can't afford a \$75 ticket for the following night) can enjoy the antics of their friends and colleagues. Doors open at 6 p.m.; curtain goes up at 7. Cost is \$5 per person, payable at the door.

Call (336-5165, 441-8458) with questions. If I haven't gone completely bonkers, I'll try to find an answer.

Verlie

... meanwhile, members keep making their own news

Dorothy Estes jetted off to the Big Apple to receive the Golden Key Award from College Media Advisers/Columbia Scholastic Press Association. She and other distinguished student advisers were honored at a dinner March 15. ...

Mark Woolsey is back from Washington, D.C., where he had been exiled by the Associated Press. You'll find Mark, a.k.a. Mark Elliott, on KEWS (94.9), the first all-news FM station in the country. ...

Congratulations, **Linda Pavlik** and **Wanda Conlin**, recently recognized by the FW Commission on the Status of Women. Linda received her award for women in the workplace and Wanda for appointed and/or elected officials. ...

Oprah looks to Fort Worth, again! Dr. **Bob Lanier** was recently featured on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." You'll remember that **Bob Ray Sanders** appeared on the show not too long ago. These guys need an agent.

SPJ

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