

'Funniest female' author humors Lincoln's YWCA award winners

By Lisa Nutting
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

"One of the funniest females," as described by Time magazine, spoke Tuesday at the fourth annual YWCA Tribute to Women Awards luncheon.

Fran Lebowitz, noted humorist and author, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon, which was held at Lincoln's Cornhusker Ballroom.

Along with being described as "funniest," Lebowitz also has been called "outrageous, witty, hilarious and alarming."

The 34-year-old New Yorker has written articles for Newsweek,

Mademoiselle, Esquire and Interview magazines. She has appeared on the "Phil Donahue Show" and has been on the "David Letterman Show" 15 or 16 times, she said.

Lebowitz also has written two books — "Metro Life," and "Social Studies," — both from a social satirist viewpoint.

The humorist said that writing is very difficult — at least for her.

Lebowitz said she is a writer because, "I have only one other marketable skill — driving."

She was a New York taxi driver until she worked her way up to limousines. But, she said, she no longer drives for a living. She

added that she is sober "non-stop."

"I don't want to dull the edge," she said.

And the edge wasn't dull — the half hour with Lebowitz kept the luncheon rolling.

The YWCA Awards followed Lebowitz's talk.

The Gladys Forsyth Award, which is awarded to an organization or business that has shown a commitment to offering career and leadership opportunities for women, was awarded to the Lincoln Public Schools.

Seven Lincoln women also were honored for their outstanding community achievement: Dorothy Brazil Clark, assistant manager of marketing research at Norden Laboratories; Ann Coyne, associate professor at the School of Social Work, UNL; Jan Gauger, county commissioner since 1972 and the first woman to be elected to any Lancaster office; Esther Montgomery, part-time librarian and researcher for the Nebraska ETV Network; Ada Munson, current chair of Nebraska Coalition for Women, serves on the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women, and is the vice-chair of the Lancaster County Democratic Party Organization; Lynn Roper, account executive and assistant vice president of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith; and Joan Wittstruck, one of the founders of Nebraska Dairy Women, is a member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters and a member of the National Association for Women, and Women involved in Farm Economics.

Although Lebowitz said, "This is the first time I've ever been in Nebraska intentionally," she said she found Nebraskans "quiet and polite."



Lebowitz David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

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