

Press Biased, Debaters Say: Reason Why Incites Dispute

By BILL CLOTHIER

All hands agreed that the press was biased in the University Town Hall debate held in the YMCA Wednesday evening. But the reason for and the degree of bias was something else again.

William Tugman, managing editor of the Eugene Register-Guard, and Robert Dorang, graduate student in journalism, thought the degree of bias was due in large part to incompetence in reporters. C. G. Howard, professor of law, and Dirk Schepers, exchange student from Holland, saw the issue more in the light of editorial policy.

Tugman admitted it was impossible to be completely objective.

"We constantly exert some editorial influence by what we print or what we leave out," he said. "We always have the problem of how to get the reader to read what we know they ought to read instead of what we know they want to read."

Work Needed

Prof. Howard saw a lot of work in store for the journalism profession before it is declared not guilty of the charge of bias.

"I know they are trying to clean out their stables," he said, "but they've got it so deep it'll take more pitchforks than they have." He said he did not think the newspapers always printed both sides of the issue.

Schepers affirmed the newspapers are in the business to make money. For that reason, he said, "they don't print what happens but what people want to read." "The press has to be practical," he stated, "and to be practical means they print what the public wants to read. Otherwise they couldn't stay in business."

"Incompetence Reason"

Dorang believed the press was biased to some extent but seldom intentionally. He blamed incompetence among some reporters for

whatever stigma the press has. "The tendency in our profession is away from sloppy reporting," he said. "The mistakes of people in other professions, such as law, are not always before the public eye, but a reporter's work is displayed for public inspection every day."

Tugman pointed out that the complexity of gathering news in the modern age and the speed with which it is presented to the public is a problem that critics of the press sometimes forget. He deplored "stupidity in the press" but said the news gathering and reporting was "well done in the main."

Division Exists

"As to our bias," he went on, "I might add that there is a wall between editorial and news pages. On the news pages we give facts insofar as we can, but we reserve the right to say anything we want to on our editorial pages."

Professor Howard cited specific examples of press bias. "In Germany in 1946," he said, "there were reports that German women were ready to go out with any American soldier for the express purpose of stabbing him in the back. Five individual cases of murder were reported in the papers. None of these cases were true. I spent considerable time in disproving these rumors—which were reported as fact." He attributed much of this journalistic cheating to poor individual reporters.

Schepers had a final question. "Why," he asked, "doesn't some paper have enough backbone to print what the people don't want to read?"

Dorang considered the prime objective of a newspaper was to print facts for public dissemination. It can do this, he said, and even its readers may not be aware that it does. The other day he said he heard one person tell another person, "I don't have anything to do with that newspaper. I just look at it to see what's going on."

French Comedy Set May 22-24

"La Farce de Maitre Pierre Pathelin," a Fifteenth Century French comedy, will be produced May 22 through May 24 in the Experimental Theater in Villard Hall.

Two casts, one directed by C. L. Johnson and the other by R. L. Picard, professor of Romance Languages, will each present the play twice. There will be a matinee performance May 24.

Playing the lead role of Pathelin will be Don Hensley, senior in English, and Bill Wallace, junior in Romance languages.

Supporting Hensley in Johnson's cast will be Guillemette, wife of Pathelin, played by Mrs. Phyllis Nan Thompson; Guillaume, the draper, John Palmquist; the judge, John Palmer; and the shepherd, David Johnson.

Players who will appear with Wallace in Picard's cast are Guillemette, Coralie Nelson; Guillaume, Dave Eakin; the judge, David Twohy; and the shepherd, James Blue.

Several numbers presented by the music school will be included in the evening's entertainment.

The production is sponsored by Pi Delta Phi, French scholastic honorary.

Angry Father: "What do you mean by bringing my daughter in at this hour of the morning?"

Student: "Sorry, sir, but I have to be in class at eight."

Dick: What's the hurry?"

George: "Just bought a textbook and I'm trying to get to class before the next edition comes out."

Rent control foes are preparing a Senate fight. We thought it was a house problem.

USA Primary Monday

USA open primary will be held 4 p.m. Monday at 207 Chapman, instead of today because of conflicting Junior Weekend festivities.

Candidates presented for the party's consideration were those recommended by the steering committee and those nominated by ten people from the floor.

Candidate speeches are limited to three minutes and they may be introduced by a seconding speaker who is limited to one minute.

Offices open are those specified by the old ASUO constitution.

Aluminum Company Interviews Today

An employment officer from the TACUC Aluminum Company of New Kensington, Penn., will be on campus today to interview students interested in sales positions.

Personal interviews will be conducted from 2 to 5 p.m. in room 2, Commerce. Appointments may be made through the Graduate Placement Office, 216 Emerald Hall, or by contacting Walter Ackley, No. 10 Susan Campbell Hall.



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Better Attitude Must for U.N., Forum Decides

Unless people of all nations change their attitude toward one another and gain more of an international outlook, the United Nations organization is probably doomed to failure.

Five "student ambassadors" from five foreign countries agreed on this fact Wednesday night in a round-table discussion sponsored by the University Historical Society. The discussion, moderated by Glenn Stadler, was recorded and will be broadcast over station KERG later in the week.

Participating in the round-table were Madeleine Michel of France; Mattie Raikkala of Finland; Walter Billing of Germany; Shyundaw Shaw of China; and Boon Koo Gan of Malaya.

Each participant answered questions put to them by Stadler concerning the effect of the cold war on their countries and gave opinions on the effectiveness of the United Nations in bringing about world peace.

Dorm Sponsors to Meet

Men's dormitory sponsors will meet with J. D. Kline, director of men's dormitories, at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Registrar's Office.

The meeting is planned to prepare a detailed counseling program to be put into effect in the men's dormitories next year.

Mr. Kline will meet with dorm presidents Tuesday.



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