

## "News Dimensions"

Every Thursday evening shortly before 9 p.m. assistant professor of speech John R. Shepherd walks into the fourth floor studios of KOAC-TV in Villard Hall, puts on a pair of earphones, and becomes director of a unique interview program known as "News Dimensions."

Director Shepherd administers the minute-by-minute activities of a 9-man crew of students who operate television cameras, the control board and interview guests who have been invited to appear on the show.

**THURSDAY NIGHT'S** "Dimensions" show dealt with the question of abolition of capital punishment in Oregon. For the program student interviewers Dale Leach, Cliff Johnson and Don Porter had prepared questions dealing with the specialty of the guest whom they were to interview.

Leach was to interview State Sen. Ed Fadeley, D-Lane, who had recently introduced a bill to abolish the death penalty in the legislature. Johnson's interview was with Joel V. Berreman, professor of sociology, and Porter was to interview University junior George Neavoll, who has conducted a one-man campaign to save convicted child-slayer Jeannace Freeman from the death penalty.

**THE HALF-HOUR** program starts at 9 p.m. By 8, the interviewers were waiting for the interviewees. When they arrived, interviewer and interviewee huddled to determine, in a general manner, what questions would be asked and what the answers would be.

The unique format of "Dimensions" allows for three eight-minute interviews and for introductory and closing statements by program moderator Karl V. Nestvold, assistant professor of journalism.

Inside the brightly lighted studio, the three desks at which moderator Nestvold and two interviewers sit are set up, each with a sign with the name of the interviewee. The third set of panelists dodges cameras and wires to take their places after the end of the first interview.

**NESTVOLD, WHO** introduces the topic at the beginning of the program, also introduces each guest and his interviewer. He serves as the "cover" for movements of one of the two television cameras, which must get into position in front of the desk.

For director Shepherd—sitting, with his student "audio man" and "switcher" in a small room crammed with electronic gear and "monitor" TV sets and lighted only by the glow from the small receivers in the panels—the program is a series of commands in the language of television. As Shepherd watches the preceding program, broadcast from KOAC's Corvallis studio, the clock draws within a minute of 9 p.m. and he speaks into his microphone:

"STAND BY in the studio."

The words are carried to everyone in the studio through headsets each of them wears. The program participants are warned by the "floor man" who raises a finger to the moderator.

With Shepherd's next orders—

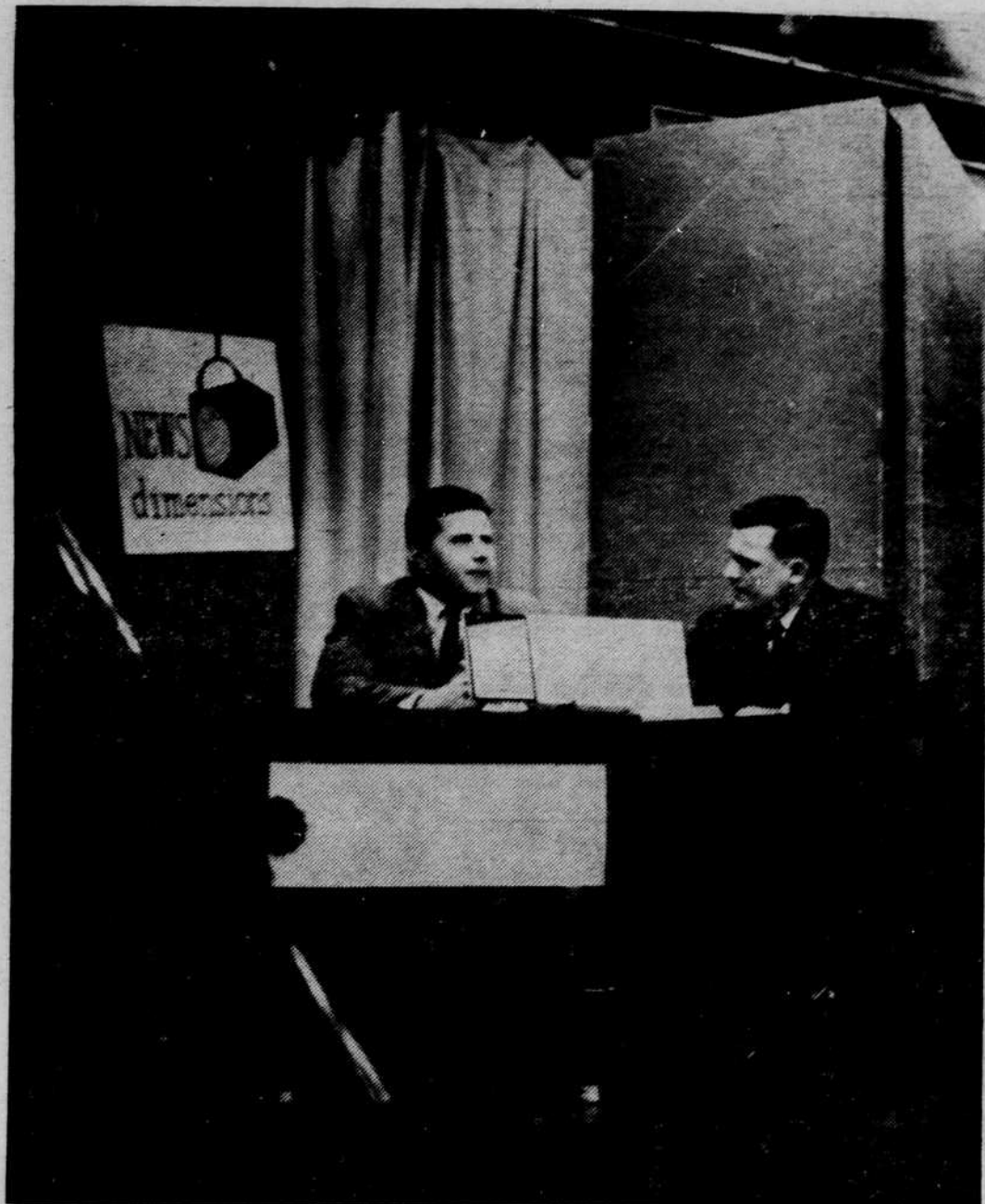
"Stand by announcer—ready audio—ready to fade up on three"—the program is about to begin. When the second hand on the wall clock comes up to the hour Shepherd tells his audio man and switcher to "roll the tape—fade up on three" bringing onto the screen a slide with the program title and the announcer's voice introducing the show.

**IN THE STUDIO,** the floor man points to Nestvold on the order



Cameraman Bill Thompson frames interviewer Don Porter, left, and guest George Neavoll, right, during the live KOAC-TV production "News Dimensions."

Interviewer Dale Leach, right, and State Sen. Ed Fadeley, D-Lane, discuss the Senator's bill to abolish capital punishment.



Writing, Production and Photography: Dave Sands

"cue him" from the director. The switcher has already been told to "give him his mike" and at the cue, Nestvold, moderator of the program since its beginning in October 1962, introduces the topic.

After the introduction of the topic—which has included discussions of DeGaulle, the Cuban crisis, and the Meredith "Ole Miss" case—Shepherd tells student cameraman Bill Thompson "ready to take two" and with Nestvold's introduction of the first interviewer and his guest, the order "take two" to the switchman brings up "News Dimension Desk One."

Interviewer Cliff Johnson and professor Berreman had decided before the program that they would deal with the sociologist's view of the death penalty. Berreman pointed out that empirical findings show "really no relationship" between the homicide rate and use of the death penalty.

**INTERVIEWER PORTER** and guest Neavoll had decided to discuss Neavoll's reasons for feeling the death penalty should be repealed, and his particular interest in the Jeannace Freeman case.

Sen. Fadeley and interviewer Leach dealt with the Senator's bill to abolish the death penalty in Oregon.



Prior to the program, interviewer Cliff Johnson and sociology professor Joel Berreman discuss questions and answers.