

Narcissism

Esquire editor blasts current trend toward cocktail party-style reporting

By PETER LEIBIK
Of the Emerald

The Watergate scandal might never have been broken if former Pres. Richard Nixon and his staff had simply attended press cocktail parties, Esquire magazine's senior editor and wife of Watergate reporter Carl Bernstein, said Monday night.

"I believe that very devoutly," Nora Ephron told an audience of 100 journalism students and faculty in the EMU Ballroom. "I'm

not sure all the self-congratulation is as justified as we'd like to think."

Ephron charged that too much "narcissism wrapped in a mantle of tremendous virtue" has crept into journalism.

Ephron also blasted the coziness that exists between some reporters and politicians. She predicted such an alliance might increase as reporters' salaries go up and as the press becomes "more inflated with its own sense of wonderfulness."

Ephron swiped at a powerful group of political journalists, the Sperling breakfast group, which interviews major political candidates and serves as a type of screening committee. Ephron said the breakfast press conferences are mostly a test of a candidate's ability to "homswaggle" the press.

Calling the Sperling group "the chosen" and "the anointed," Ephron said, "This group is single-handedly maintaining the two-party system."

Ephron said she had no secrets to pass onto prospective journalists except to say, "I type on yellow paper. I find it very useful."

But she did attack the "wretched excess" of first person singular journalism. Ephron has even stopped writing her monthly media column in Esquire because she is tired of her own first person singular writing.

"Journalists are just not as interesting as the things they cover," she said. "I would like not to lose sight of this."

Ephron, a Wellesly political science graduate, said she came to New York afraid of dying, and lying undiscovered in a run-down apartment until the smell hit the hallway. Instead, she got a job as a clipper for Newsweek magazine, moved up to researcher and later was hired by the New York Post after writing a parody of the Post's gossip column.

"Those of us who are in journalism are very lucky and we know it," she said. "I was giddy about it when I started, and I'm still giddy about it now."

Ephron drew laughs when she said living with a journalist is better than living with a doctor and added, "I still don't know who Deep Throat is."

Ephron delivered her remarks as part of the annual Ruhl lecture series sponsored by the journalism school and made possible by a grant from Mrs. Robert Ruhl, widow of the late publisher of the Medford Mail-Tribune.



Nora Ephron

Photo by Kim Smith

Freedom of Africa focus of festivities

By HEATHER McCLENAGHAN
Of the Emerald

Wednesday's African Liberation Day observance takes on a special significance this year, coming at a time of war and upheaval on the African continent and following close on the heels of this week's Southern Africa referendum.

A 12:30 p.m. rally on the EMU Terrace and a march through Eugene to the Federal Building will mark today's local commemoration.

The Organization of African Unity set May 25 aside as African Liberation Day in the early 1960s. Since then, May 25 has been celebrated throughout the world as a day of solidarity with African peoples who are fighting to regain their lands and their rights from white settlers.

A speaker from the Pan African Congress, Theo Bidi, will address the afternoon rally at the EMU. Bidi is an official representative to the United Nations from the Pan African Congress of Azania — one of many liberation groups fighting in southern Africa.

Bidi will be joined by a speaker from the University's African Liberation Day Coalition. African music and a special concert of African drum music will be included.

The march to the Federal Building is a symbolic gesture to point out the role of the United States government in propping up racist regimes in Africa, a spokesperson for the African Liberation Day Coalition said.

Picketing and a short rally will take place at the Federal Building. Bidi will speak again and solidarity messages will be presented by various groups involved in the African coalition.

The University's Black Student Union (BSU) has offered to send material aid to black refugees and progressive groups in Southern Africa in the form of clothing, blankets, bedding and other needed items in recognition of African Liberation Day.

"All progressive-minded persons concerned about eliminating apartheid, oppression and racism in South Africa should express a similar concern about the racism which touches, pervades and confronts and afflicts the black people right here in the United States, in Oregon, in Eugene and at this University," BSU president Pat Melson said. "We must fight imperialism, and national oppression from the USA to Southern Africa and everywhere it is found."

People who wish to donate items to the African National Congress should contact the BSU in Room 14, EMU.

Seven University foreign student organizations and political groups formed the University's coalition two weeks ago. Similar groups have sprung up in cities across the country to conduct May 25 observances.

"In Southern Africa the minority governments and their U.S. backers are weaker than ever, liberation forces in Zimbabwe and Namibia are close to victory and the people of South Africa are shaking the very foundations of apartheid and white minority rule. And across the United States, thousands have been drawn into a growing movement to get the U.S. out of Southern Africa," a national coalition's pamphlet reads.

The national movement is building for a demonstration this Saturday in Washington, D.C. In Portland a regional demonstration is also scheduled. For more information call 343-6215.

"Our Asian Consciousness"

自尊
pride

自由
freedom

文化
culture

An evening of tibetian folkdance,
chinese music, martial arts, play
excerpt, songs & more!

Sponsored by:
Asian american student union
Ethnic studies department
Asian american cultural center

Friday, May 27
8 pm. 167 EMU \$1.00

Tickets available at EMU main desk
& at the door

Blues in the Ballroom

OTIS RUSH

&
MICHAEL
BLOOMFIELD

and the
Nighthawks

Friday

May 27

EMU Ballroom 8:00 p.m.

Tickets

\$3.50 U of O students

\$4.50 General

Tickets available: EMU Main Desk

