



Lothar Loewe spoke in eloquent defense of media freedom before an audience of University students and faculty yesterday. Loewe, a former University student, is a West German broadcast journalist.

Photo by Greg Weed

Speech freedom requires defense says journalist

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

"Free speech is something that has to be defended all the time. We journalists must never take it for granted," warns West German broadcast journalist Lothar Loewe.

A former University student, Loewe addressed questions concerning several aspects of international news coverage asked by a gathering of faculty and students Wednesday afternoon.

Loewe, who has worked as an international correspondent for the West German network ARD for nearly 18 years, was "invited to leave" its East German bureau in December 1976.

"I was doing a TV reaction piece describing the very tense political situation in East Germany," he explains. "Rapidly increasing numbers of people were requesting exit visas and most were getting rejected. I concluded what

was a rather grim picture with the statement that every child knew the border guards had orders that anyone who attempted to cross the border could be shot like rabbits."

The East German government accused Loewe of violating many treaties, including the Helsinki agreement, and expelled him from the country. But no one suggested his coverage was inaccurate.

Loewe believes the actual reason the government ordered him out was because of "the sensitivity about West German TV and radio programming reaching the East Germans. Many were able to get from our reports information not normally published by the Communist media."

Loewe originally opened up the ARD bureau in East Berlin in 1974, after West Germany and East Germany established relations.

The two public networks in West Germany have been very independent and successful since

their formation following the war. Loewe is afraid that if political parties attempt to introduce what he describes as "proportion journalism" the instrument of public broadcasting in West Germany could be destroyed.

He explains that the numerous political parties attempt to influence programming most often by pressuring stations to hire management personnel sympathetic to a particular party's ideology.

"I feel I am an independent journalist and refuse to be used for political purposes," Loewe asserts. But he adds that it takes "strong personalities" to resist the party pressure.

"Parties try very hard to request party affiliations for some positions — this is the greatest danger."

Loewe mentions that, as in the United States, small independent papers are rapidly being bought out and consolidated into chains. Two independent dailies remain in Berlin, including the paper he began his career with.

"It would be disastrous for freedom of information if these papers were to disappear," he says. "There is a danger of the large publishing houses building up opinion monopolies."

Loewe emphasized that suppression of the free flow of information is not only practiced by communist countries. "Egypt has expelled a journalist because they reported something unfavorable about Mrs. Sadat," he says. "We must convince the third world countries that free press is essential to a democracy."

Unclaimed tickets await 749 students

A total of 749 athletic tickets remain unsold after the first deadline for the 4,000 lottery winners was reached Wednesday noon.

Students with lottery numbers 4,001 through 4,749 have until 5 p.m. today to purchase a ticket for \$34 at the athletic department's ticket office, Mac Court.

Any tickets not purchased by today's deadline will be sold Friday beginning at 8 a.m. on a first-

come, first-serve basis.

ASUO administrative assistant Lisa Barnhardt reminded students that fall term fees must be paid in order to buy a ticket. She said any students with winning lottery numbers who failed to purchase a ticket, may still purchase a ticket on Friday, but their lottery number won't give them priority. She said anyone who has already bought a ticket can't buy another on Friday,

and lost tickets cannot be replaced.

ASUO Pres. Gary Feldman advised those intending to sell their athletic ticket to sell to other University students. He said that a "stringent" process for checking student ID's will be initiated at the basketball games this year.

He also pointed out that the \$34 ticket fee isn't the only time that students pay for seats in Mac Court. "Students pay for the right

to purchase these seats through incidental fees, so it should be students who get to use them."

Feldman advised students who purchase a ticket from someone else to either pay by check or to get a receipt of the sale if they pay cash.

"This would be advisable merely to protect the purchaser," Feldman said. "If no record of the sale exists, the ticket seller could claim that the ticket was stolen."

Westmoreland less safe than Amazon apartments

Residents of the Amazon housing project may be surprised to learn that despite its appearance, firemen consider its housing units to be safer than the Westmoreland complexes.

Capt. Dick Allison of the Eugene Fire Department says that is why the department recommended the Westmoreland complex receive smoke detectors before Amazon does.

Allison cites two reasons for the department's recommendation, saying, "There are two exits from every Amazon apartment, while there is only one from the Westmoreland apartments."

In addition he claims some windows in Westmoreland were not installed to code, making it difficult for small children to use them to escape from fire.

John Thorpe, director of maintenance planning for the Uni-

versity, explains that at the time the detectors were installed, there was only enough money to provide them for one project. "The consensus," says Thorpe, "was that Westmoreland was less firesafe than Amazon."

Original plans called for the University to install smoke detectors in Amazon apartments at a later date. Thorpe says these plans have been left "up in the air" because of the reorganization of the housing department.

However, Thorpe says Amazon residents should not worry. The Amazon project has to be "one of the safest housing projects in the city."

Second floor Amazon apartments are already equipped with rapid rise heat detectors. The installation of smoke detectors in Amazon and other housing is "only a matter of time," says Thorpe.

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