

IRE head calls for press solidarity

Journalists mustn't sacrifice rights

Story and Photo
by JANE LEHMAN
Of the Emerald

Two-time Pulitzer prize winner Robert Green blasted the news media for failing to support the first amendment freedom of the press in terms of solidarity, dedication and priorities in a moving speech before 280 journalists.

Greene closed the Saturday session of the Investigative Reporters and Editors workshop on investigative reporting with his keynote dinner address at the Valley River Inn. Greene, editor for Newsday in Long Island, headed a team of reporters who investigated the murder of Arizona reporter Donald Bolles.

"If I gain a freedom, there is an opposite built-in responsibility. It is

not freedom from something, but freedom to do something. We need to cut through the form to the substance in exercising our public service responsibilities," Greene told the audience.

Greene lambasted newspapers for valuing "conglomerates and newspaper earnings" too much. "Publishers are in too big of a rush to fill the daily news hole on form alone and short stories and letting it go at that."

"If freedom of the press has as its responsibility public service, then we are no more deserving of our freedom of the press than Lockheed or the Ideal Toy Company."

Greene warned that journalists cannot let press rights be sacrificed at any point or the weakness will be pressed to an ex-

treme.

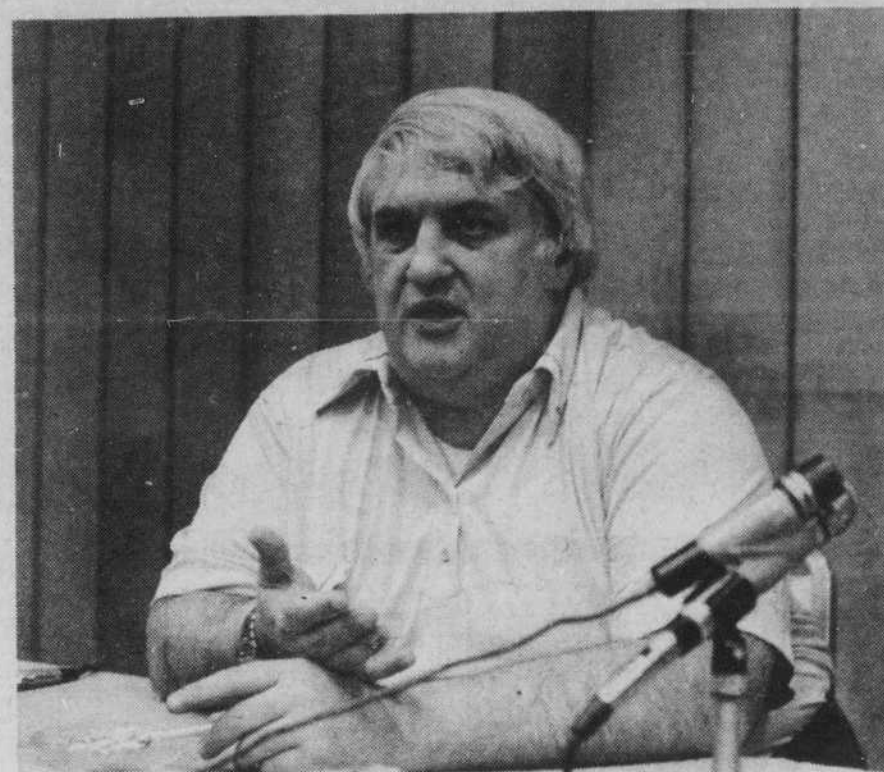
But the mission of investigative reporting is not to put people behind bars, said Greene. "It (the Arizona investigation) was not for revenge. It was our idea to complete and multiply the work (of Bolles). We must show a solidarity such that never will a reporter's work be stopped by assassination and intimidation."

"The killing of Don Bolles was the ultimate offense to first amendment rights. He was killed by a power structure in America that has trampled over human rights."

If we can encourage reporting in that way, then Don Bolles' death was not in vain," concluded Greene. A standing ovation followed the speech.

Jay Shelledy, executive editor of the Lewiston Morning Tribune, was the luncheon speaker. He advised the audience on how to deal with the confidentiality of sources.

Shelledy spent 30 days in jail for refusing a judge's order to reveal a news source. The case, which is still under appeal, has gone all the way to the Supreme Court, which declined to listen to it and remanded it to a lower court.



Investigative journalist Robert Greene

If he had it to do all over again, Shelledy said, he would do things a little differently, but would still not reveal his source.

His big mistake, he said, was to "flag" the source, by referring to an anonymous source in the story when no mention was necessary. Shelledy said he had other officials confirming the information and should have used the confidential source only to put him

on the right track. Shelledy said that references to the source in a story can be couched by phrases such as, "A Tribune investigation has found...."

Shelledy reminded the audience it is vital to maintain confidentiality of sources in order to both uphold first amendment rights and to insure future cooperation from sources wishing to remain anonymous.

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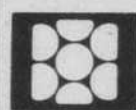
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Judy Carter visits Springfield

The most difficult challenges America will face in the next decade are the problems of aging, adolescence and family disintegration, Judy Carter, the President's daughter-in-law, told a Springfield audience Friday night.

Carter, in the keynote address to the fifth annual Oregon Community Education Association Conferences, said, "These are the

kinds of moral and ethical problems that can be solved by people — and not by government. Our people and their energy are ready to be put to use."

Carter said the concept of community education, the use of public schools as neighborhood centers for all citizens, can be used to solve these problems.

"Community education is a way to begin to deal with these far-

reaching problems. Public schools should be used as centers for community involvement," she said.

Addressing the problems of aging, she said one of the special problems that older citizens face is a feeling of isolation from the rest of the community. By isolating older people, we deprive ourselves of their resources and talents, she said.



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