

Society's head talks about freedom, future of press

By JUDY EMERSON
Of the Emerald

"It hasn't been a good year for the first amendment," president Alf Goodykuntz told local members of the Society of American Journalists Sunday.

Goodykuntz, who is managing editor of the Times-Dispatch in Richmond, Virginia, commented on the American press and the status of First Amendment freedoms in this country.

Citing instances in which the press lost to subpoenas and court rulings, he told area journalists the threat will continue until the public

becomes more aware that its freedoms, as well as the media's, are challenged.

Goodykuntz said the American press has undergone numerous changes in recent years, mostly for the better. Going beyond its responsibility to mirror society, he said the press has expanded its role to inform and explain to a greater degree than newspapers did in the past.

Another change involves less emphasis being placed on crime reporting, Goodykuntz said. He said more weight is being given instead to in-depth stories about religion, business and education.

But he feels the change could go even further.

"Most American newspapers aren't doing enough investigative reporting," he said. "Instead of trying to find wrong-doing, you have to do some explaining."

Springfield fire lights up city sky

A fire in a log storage pile at the Springfield Sundance Lumber Co. still raged at 1 a.m. this morning, after seven hours.

Flames and smoke from the fire at 35th Avenue and Commercial Street were visible from Eugene.

"It's a hot little fire out there," said a Springfield Fire Department spokesman. "The log pile is still burning out of control."

However, engines and firemen from Eugene, Thurston-Waltonville and Goshen, and all but one Springfield engine, had the fire's perimeter under control by midnight.

Officials expect to announce a damage estimate and possibly identify the cause this morning.

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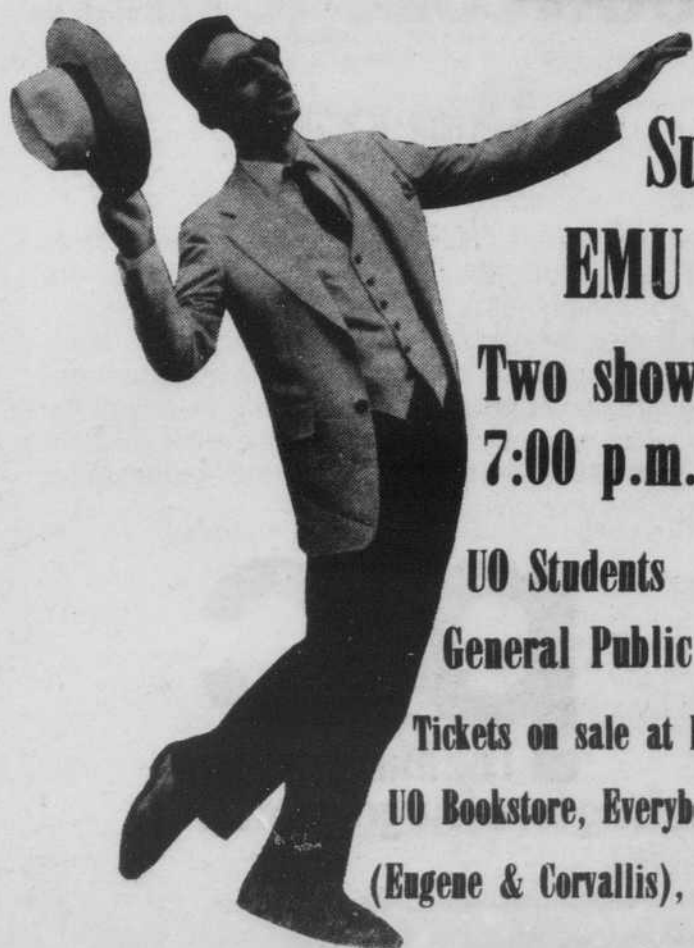
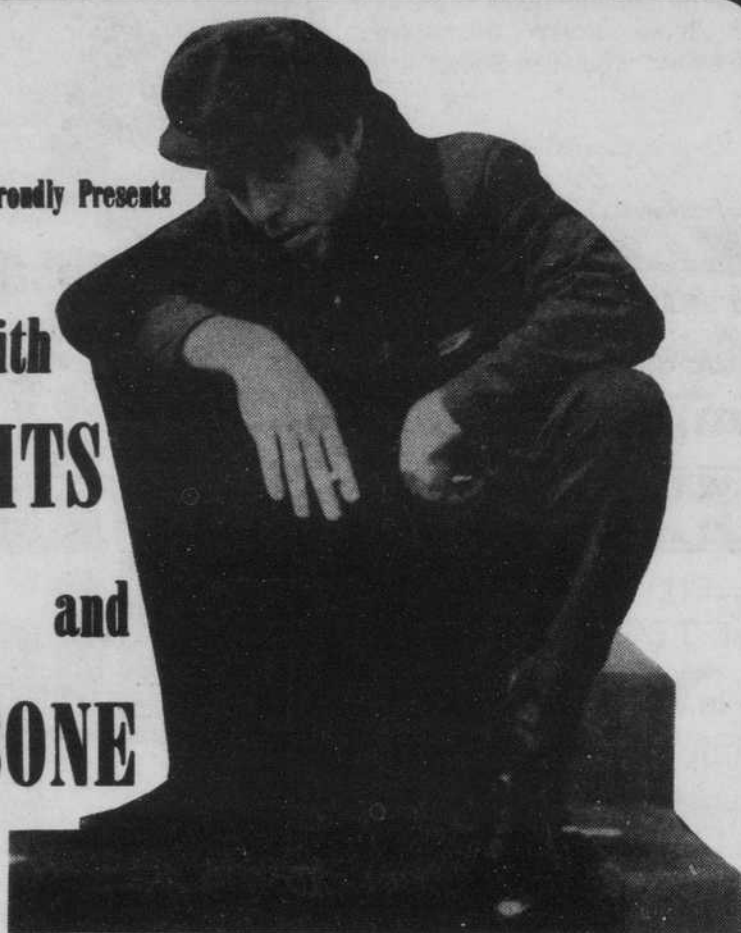
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Post executive probes justice issue in press

By ANAMARIA BELL
Of the Emerald

PORTLAND — Newspapers must decide so quickly what will or will not be printed that the consequence of the choices aren't weighed carefully, Ben Bradlee, executive editor of The Washington Post, told an audience of about 1,500 Friday.

Bradlee, who has also served as managing editor of the paper, delivered his speech as part of a fall forum series at Lewis and Clark College entitled "Toward a Just Society."

The symposium probed issues of justice in relation to the individual, as well as to society as a whole.

Bradlee related the issues to the power of the press and its role as "watchdog" over the government and individuals.

"The personal areas we are faced with is where justice is hardest to define," Bradlee said. He told of an incident in which a man jumped off a roof very near to where the Post is located, blocking traffic and causing commotion. A Post photographer was on the scene and brought back photographs, which Bradlee called "ghastly."

"I believed they were too intrusive," Bradlee said. The newspaper's board decided with a 13-8 vote not to print them.

"I believe we made the right decision. However, we did not carry out one of our functions, which is to let people know what is going on in their society," Bradlee said.

Bradlee brought up another case in which two children, of a Washington, D.C. suburb were missing, and were later found dead. At the funeral, a Post photographer zeroed in on the family's anguish. Bradlee believed it was an intrusion and decided not to print it. Yet, television covered it on local stations.

Bradlee raised the question of whether or not public figures should be everyone's business, and newspapers' roles in their private lives.

"John Kennedy's girlfriends have come back to life, even this long after his death," Bradlee said. He questioned the public's right to know, whether or not the stories are true.

Bradlee also discussed the coverage of Joan Kennedy's accident under the influence of alcohol.

"The Post does not usually cover such incidents, unless it is an employee of the Post," Bradlee joked. "I'm not so sure such an event is news," he said, adding that such reporting seems unbalanced to him.

Reporters' rights to protect sources were also discussed. Bradlee referred to the case in which New York Times reporter Myron Farber was held in contempt of court for not revealing a news source which could be a vital key in a murder case.

"We don't want to become the arm of the law," Bradlee said. "I think newspapers should avoid this type of confrontation altogether," he added.

Answering questions from the audience, Bradlee said he did not actually foresee history dropping over his head when Watergate was first discovered. He explained that it did not seem like such an important issue and that actually it was reported as just a break-in at first.

Bradlee said, "The glory the Post has seen in the last five years belongs to Katherine Graham and nobody else." His comment received supporting applause from the audience.

Bradlee explained that Graham was put on the spot, because many of the individuals involved were personal acquaintances in her social life. He added that in this type of situation, it is truly much more difficult for someone to be just.

When asked if the movie "All the President's Men" was an accurate account, Bradlee replied, "It blew my mind — nothing in my education and training had prepared me for seeing someone running around using my name — and all that dirty language."

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