

Columnist sides with courts on rights

By KENT KULLBY
Of the Emerald

New York Times columnist and legal expert Anthony Lewis said the Supreme Court has not forgotten the First Amendment rights of the press, despite recent decisions which indicate the contrary to some observers.

Lewis, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner spoke to an estimated audience of 50 listeners in the EMU Ballroom Thursday night.

Lewis spoke at length about the case of his colleague, Times reporter Myron Farber, who was released from jail this week after being imprisoned for refusing to turn over his notes on a murder case to a New Jersey judge.

Attorneys for the defendant in the case, Dr. Jascavich, claimed they needed Farber's notes to help prove their client's innocence. But Farber and the Times felt the notes were confidential and that a subpoena requiring that the notes be turned over to the



Photo by Keith Allen

Newspaper columnist Anthony Lewis

court violated the First Amendment.

The judge in the Jascavich

Case jailed Farber and fined the Times a total of \$285,000 when they refused to hand over Farber's

information on the deaths.

"Privilege of information is not to protect the doctor or lawyer but to protect the patient and client. Think of Soviet dissidents who are not allowed to call witnesses in their favor," said Lewis.

Lewis said the Constitution is meant to stimulate a free flow of information.

The press is the only private institution protected in the First Amendment. But Lewis said the constitution founders meant to indicate anything that came off the press and not the press as a private institution.

"The constitution protects values, not particular classes of people," like those who work for the press, said Lewis.

"What matters is the informing function. It is foolish of the press to think itself alone the sole agent of public information," Lewis said.

Lewis said it was common practice for judges to look at the private files of lawyers and doctors; "the Constitution does not

say media are exempt from law."

The Jascavich case was settled last Tuesday which proved the doctor's innocence, freed Faber and stopped a \$5,000 daily fine on the Times. However, the dissenting judge wrote that if the ultimate test would've had to comply with the law, Lewis said.

The Lewis identified the controversy as the press extending its First Amendment protections over the rights of an individual to a fair trial.

Lewis also gave the example of a Yale professor who went to jail for not revealing his sources for a paper he wrote on Vietnam which seems to give the press a special status under the First Amendment.

"Can journalists feel comfortable to work under protection while individuals go to jail?—I think not," Lewis said.

"I have a bias in favor of courts. They remain much more individually responsive than other institutions," Lewis said in an informal discussion.

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Rock

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the road ("It shortens your life and makes you a loner"), and even gonzo journalism.

"A good or bad review in a particular trade publication makes a difference between a band making it or not making it," explains Friedlander.

"Rock journalism has become big business," he adds. "Gonzo journalism is just one aspect of rock journalism, which is embodied by Hunter Thompson. He embodies what I think is the early spirit of rock and roll — an 'I don't care' attitude. But there's a cuteness to his thinking that is remarkable."

"What we're trying to do is combine humor and intelligence in a large fantasy when writing about rock and roll. Do you quite believe it would be a subtitle to gonzo journalism."

Out of the history session, which consisted of "Jumpin'" Johnny Etherege playing and explaining early contributions to rock, a 1950s sock hop has grown, planned for the middle of November and produced by interested class members.

The grand finale of the class is a "rock recital," produced by the students and featuring Mithrandir, the Jive Tones, and John Powell, all local artists. The concert is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 10 in Beall Hall. Admission will be free.

In January, Friedlander will tour Japan and the Orient with a friend as a bluegrass and country duo, but will offer Rock and Roll I and Rock and Roll II spring term.

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