

Frost quits NBC series as Kissinger balks

The era of fear and loathing, ushered in by Richard Nixon, reared its ugly head again this week in the image of Henry Kissinger. In a dispute with NBC News, David Frost has refused to continue an interview series with the former Secretary of State because of prior arrangements made between NBC and Kissinger.

Frost has charged — and NBC has denied — that these prior arrangements would allow Kissinger to amend and add to his remarks before the program is aired. Controversy centered most specifically on two taped interview segments dealing with the bombing of Cambodia during Kissinger's term of office. Frost claims NBC (which has a five year contract with Kissinger for his services as a news analyst) has gone soft and that they have labelled his grilling as "too tough."

Though the network has not yet decided

whether the Cambodian line of questioning will be included, this situation smacks of the heavy-handed, back-door diplomacy which Kissinger is famous for. Again this pompous political figure is seen throwing his weight around.

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No longer (at least to our knowledge) can Kissinger use wire-taps and national security arguments to buffer personal criticism, but it is no surprise that his influence has not been tempered to an acceptable degree.

We do not ask for or expect a pound of flesh in return for the many thousands of dollars that Kissinger will receive for his precious time. All one can hope for is a small slice of honest journalism.

Without giving Frost more credit than he deserves as an interviewer, it is clear he has chosen the only acceptable course: to drop Kissinger from his schedule, and inform the public as to why.

Public pressure should be put on NBC to: 1) air the interview without omitting the Cambodia segment, 2) refrain from making guarantees to any interviewees before the taping session has taken place, and 3) resist the back-room pressure that individuals such as Kissinger use to keep their egos (and public reputations) grossly inflated.

NBC's position is wishy-washy: Failure to support Frost is unprofessional, gutless and an example of the collusions that occur between the "fat cats" and the media (which Spiro Agnew analyzed for us so well). A reversal is called for.

Henry K — you've done it again.

yours

Student crises

It was a mundane Sunday afternoon, and I was stuck in the library doing the things a "good" student is supposed to do. Or, shall I say, I was trying to do so. My mind had wandered off somewhere between demand-pull inflation and what I was going to do with the rest of my life. I guess I was experiencing a sort of educational lateral drift, not to mention a mounting anxiety over school in general. It is precisely that kind of anxiety that we all know about, but seldom share with each other. I'd like to try and share it with you.

This being my third year at the University of Oregon, I feel my fund of experiences may somewhat epitomize that of other students. That is, I think I know what it means to be uptight because of an exam. I think I know what it is like to wish you had the confidence to rap to that cute girl across the classroom. And, I definitely know what it's like to have a career crisis every weekend.

The message here is not meant to be "heavy" or esoteric, but instead straightforward: the anxiety over school and life in general must be dealt with immediately upon one's arrival at college or the consequences can be emotionally disastrous. I distinctly remember my freshman year, fall quarter; how I received the coveted 4.0 g.p.a. with 18 units. My parents were overjoyed. My friends were impressed. And even I was proud, for a couple of days anyway. I soon began to wonder exactly how valuable that quarter had been. Sure, I had "achieved," but somehow the human side of me was unfulfilled. I did start a few interesting relationships with some people; but most of those relationships were constrained and shallow by the amount of time I had devoted to studying. To put it in a nutshell, I was damn lonely.

Well, now, as a junior, I have an answer to the question, "will the frustration, anxiety and despair over school ever end?" Unfortunately, the answer is "no." But hold on a minute. It's a qualified "no."

It is clear to me that if one is to live, I mean to really live and experience, despair can never end. To really live and enjoy life is to know despair, a deep

despair. Maybe that sounds like a philosophical paradox, but in fact it isn't. And besides, what would school be like if it presented no problems or conflicts? If you're one of those who dreams of a future paradise for yourself here at college or here on this planet, forget it.

In the end, there are two basic ideas I want to stress: first, to be educated is to learn about despair and anxiety. To go to the University of Oregon is, in an important sense, to directly confront this anxiety. Thus, anyone who undertakes the mission of a college education should pat himself or herself on the back. Hell, no, it ain't easy.

Second, don't think you are the only one who gets anxious, depressed or frustrated. Sixteen thousand people join you every day. It is a perfectly normal feeling, and everyone, I mean *everyone*, experiences anxieties. With every increase in personal knowledge, it seems as if there is an increase in personal despair also. But, please, stop feeling sorry for yourself. Most of all, quit thinking you are the only one who gets down and out, because you're not! We are all human, and, as cliché as it sounds, we're all in this college predicament together. Do yourself a favor, and think about the above next time you find yourself worrying about those little capital letters (some call them grades) or the next time you wonder why you even bothered with college in the first place.

Marc Winters
business, junior

Neglected day

I am a Jew. I've never been a religious Jew, and I'm quite sure I never will be. Frankly, I wouldn't have thought I'd ever write about my Jewishness had it not been for a conspicuous omission in last Monday's Emerald. I'm referring to the lack of mention about the Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur. Although I could be wrong, I daresay there was nothing about Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, in the Emerald either. These are the two most important holidays in the Jewish religion. It's a shame that nothing was written about them, especially since there are



so few Jews in Oregon and there is much culture to be shared. If it's any consolation to you, the Register-Guard didn't mention these two holidays either.

I am not accusing you of anti-Semitism, nor do I wish to arouse any defensive feelings on your part. I merely wanted to bring it to your attention. In the future, an acknowledgment of the holidays and perhaps an announcement of religious services would no doubt be greatly appreciated.

Lisa Beth Rosenthal
graduate, reading and language arts

Herbicides

"Weaver wants prohibition of 2,4 D spraying" (Emerald, Oct. 4). Families are camped out in National Forests to prevent the forest service from spraying 2,4, D (Register-Guard, last week). Something closer to home? Last spring I watched a worker from the University of Oregon physical plant shaking something out of a perforated coffee can on newly dug-up shrub beds. Then he shoveled bark mulch over the white grains. "Just a little growth retardant," he said when I asked him about it. "2,4, D?" "Yeh, I guess. It would take too much manpower to weed these beds constantly."

The University uses 2,4, D

around all the beds surrounding PLC, the Music School, and, you can bet, anywhere else the bark mulch has remained weedless. Next time you set your sandwich down on the grass to watch the wind in the trees, the next bite may just make you a new person. The wind was blowing last May. It usually does in the spring.

Michael Strelow
instructor, English

Nuclear vote

This letter is prompted by Glenn Boettcher's column in Monday's (10-8) ODE, concerning Dr. John Gofman's references to "burps, puffs and other emissions" from nuclear power plants.

During the question and answer session following Gofman's presentation, I asked the good doctor to identify the pathways by which these "burps, puffs and other emissions" might reach and thus do damage to the human body. I asked this question because he had implicitly suggested that grave damage was being done by each of these "burps, etc.," whereas I have read that these emissions are generally (always?) noble gasses (xenon, krypton — to name two products of the fission process) which simply do not react with organic tissue; i.e., they can be breathed

in and out again without being taken up by the body.

Dr. Gofman had apparently heard that too, because he mostly ignored my question, choosing instead to engage in a "what-if" fantasy about "steam condensing into water droplets and escaping Three Mile Island . . ." One could almost detect a yearning in his voice.

I wasn't particularly surprised at this tactic of misdirection. It is a common debating maneuver and is a basic tool of the sleight-of-hand artist and the charlatan. Dr. Gofman used it to his benefit numerous times during the evening.

Boettcher, it seems, was moved to add his own creative inaccuracy to Dr. Gofman's studied evasions. Boettcher's phrase — "and other emissions of radioactive steam" — was just that: Boettcher's, not Dr. Gofman's.

I am somewhat disturbed by the apparent ease with which Boettcher was manipulated and misled and concerned that others might read his column as factual reportage. In fact, I'm disturbed enough to concoct a highly unlikely "what-if" scenario of my own: if Glenn Boettcher were to be limited to writing on matters of which he had some knowledge, Monday's column would have been shorter by half.

Robert McNeely
junior, computer science
Thursday, October 11, 1979

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