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Nobelist praises public's force

By MIKE RUST
Of the Emerald

Public opinion is a powerful force that individuals can use to influence public policy.

That was the message delivered Tuesday night from a man who, for decades, has been a leader in the fight for human rights, as well as a distinguished lawyer, diplomat and communications expert.

Sean MacBride — 1974 Nobel Peace Prize winner, co-founder of Amnesty International, and chairman of the International Commission for Study of Communication Problems — expressed both pessimism and encouragement as he told an audience in the EMU Ballroom about human rights, disarmament and communications problems.

MacBride's prognosis of the times was not a favorable one.

"My considered opinion is that we are probably living through the most difficult period in the history of mankind and certainly the most difficult period since World War II."

The reason for this difficult period is "a total breakdown in public morality and, in some cases, private morality," MacBride said. This moral breakdown's roots lie in the murder of six million Jews by the Nazis and in the abandonment of "the rules that had guided the conduct of war," he said.

The deterioration of public morality has manifested itself in the nuclear arms race and in the repression of human rights, he said. However, American leaders of the immediate postwar period such as Eleanor Roosevelt and former Pres. Dwight Eisenhower were "of a fairly high caliber."



Sean MacBride Photo by Steve Dykes

"They had lived the horrors of war," MacBride said. "They were determined to reorganize society in such a way that the same sort of thing could never happen again."

They tried to do this by working for the principles embodied in the United Nation's 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which MacBride encouraged the audience to read.

"It's probably the most important document that the human race has ever produced," he said.

MacBride said "it's a pity" the United States hasn't ratified the declaration, which the United Nations defined during the years from 1948 to 1965.

Complete disarmament was a possibility as late as 1962 when events such as the Cuban missile crisis and the construction of the Berlin Wall brought the disarmament process to a halt, MacBride said.

"Now the world is spending \$1 million per minute to prepare for World War III," he said. "This is at a time when millions are dying of starvation around the world."

While churches traditionally have been responsible for strengthening public morality, MacBride said they have been unable to keep pace with modern developments. Therefore, the "one remedy" is public opinion.

MacBride said public opinion has acquired greater force than ever because electronic media has made it available instantly around the world.

Vietnam, Watergate, the Iranian Revolution and the current situation in Poland are all examples of the power of public opinion, he said.

"The workers of Poland, informed mainly by electronic media, will no longer accept a situation where they cannot organize into trade unions."

He said radio is the world's most important means of communication because it reaches the most people.

"A man working in the fields in Zambia or Laos usually has his transistor with him all day," he said. "He is better informed on world events than his counterpart walking the streets of New York or Moscow or London."

'Maiden' statue adorns art museum again

By GABRIEL BOEHMER
Of the Emerald

A 22-ton crane hoisted the bronze statue over the 30-foot north wall of the University art museum Thursday morning and set it down on a two-tiered platform in the emptied courtyard pond.

"It's back and I'm delighted," beamed museum director Richard Palin.

The "Indian Maiden and Fawn" stood in front of the museum's main doors for several years before it was vandalized last April. The maiden's left arm was severed, and its bronze plate was scratched.

The figure was shipped to Blue Herring Foundry in Port Angeles, Wash., for repair and was returned to the museum about six weeks ago, Palin says.

State restoration insurance paid the approximately \$5,400 bill, he says.

The Jay F. Oldham Company of Eugene donated the crane and its operator's time to lift the several-hundred-pound figure and its concrete and marble base to its new home in the Prince Lucien Campbell Memorial Courtyard.

About 15 people watched as the statue dangled from a steel hook over its concrete and marble platform at the west end of the pond. Griffin and museum repairman Arnold Canning wrestled the statue into place, unwrapped the choke of nylon bands around her waist, and the crane hoisted away the harness.

The water began rushing into the pond as soon as the figure was in place. It took about 1½ hours to fill the pond. The museum's Chinese Koi fish will be returned to the pond today, Palin says.

The decision to move the statue inside the museum's walls was made soon after it was vandalized, Palin says.

"Once you've been had, you're not going to let it happen again."

"Indian Maiden and Fawn" was cast in Italy by late 19th-century Northwest sculptor Alexander Phimister Proctor, Palin says. It was one of Proctor's few female figures.

While the figure stood in front of the museum, it served as a great addition to the facade and as the museum's established logo, Palin says.

"It's probably the most photographed object in Eugene, from all angles."



Photo by Steve Dykes

Museum staff members look on as the newly repaired "Indian Maiden and Fawn" is hoisted over a 30-foot wall into the museum courtyard.