

Reporter claims

Press power is overrated

By Joan Nyland
Of the Emerald

Stressing the press' limited power, Pulitzer Prize-winning political reporter Seymour Hersh blamed a lack of leadership in Congress and the "divine right" of presidents to conduct foreign policy for the U.S. interventionist foreign policy.

Hersh, who won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for his exposure of the My Lai massacre, told Friday evening's audience of journalists and University students during the final lecture of the journalism school-sponsored Ruhl Symposium that the press' power is overblown.

"I don't think my reporting did anything," he said about his coverage of My Lai. "It didn't keep one bullet out of one soldier or one Vietnamese."

Talking about U.S. intervention in Central America, Hersh said, "The whole point is don't expect tomorrow's New York Times to bail you out of this."

"Our power is exceedingly limited," he said. "There isn't much we can do when a president runs a foreign adventure. No one story can stop Central America. The president can do what he damn well pleases," including training Nicaraguan troops.

But Hersh later said "the reporting of the press... does limit his (the president's) options."

Congress lacks the power to stand up to the president because nobody speaks out, and congressional leaders such as Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., are lying low for later elections, he said.

Watergate proved that American foreign policy includes the divine right of presidents to fend off communism anywhere in the world and to lie to the American people, Hersh said. Dwight Eisenhower was the last honest president, he added.

In 1968, Hersh spoke at the University as

the press secretary for presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy. Drawing a parallel to the 1984 hopefuls, he said, "I can't help but think of the bunch of wimps running in behalf of the Democratic Party."

Although Hersh said Reagan probably will be re-elected, Hersh called him "illiterate, incompetent... and basically proud of it."

Walter Mondale, Gary Hart and other Democratic Party hopefuls exemplify the lack of leadership, he said.

While Reagan knows he doesn't need media support, his contenders court the press, believing the press can make a difference in the elections, Hersh said.

Continued U.S. operations in Central America underscore the "irrelevancy of the press," he said.

"I blame Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman," Hersh said. "Everybody thinks you can knock on doors and bring down a president. Not to blame Woodward and Bernstein, they did wonderful stuff. It's the impression that's left."

He said daily coverage of Vietnam, Watergate and other major news events become "satire" when compared to his more than three years of research on his new book, "The Price of Power: Kissinger in Nixon's White House."

Watergate was not a victory for the press, Hersh said.

Reporters didn't uncover the major events leading up to Watergate, such as the secret bombing of Cambodia in 1969, the overthrow of the democratically elected Chilean leader Salvador Allende and orders for the CIA to "stick it" to the anti-war protesters in 1970.

"Why didn't Nixon think twice" about burglarizing the Watergate complex or taping "everybody" in 1972? "Look what he got away with prior to that," Hersh said.

Cable Continued from Page 1

years, Sweet says.

Years ago, a special two-way cable was laid extending from the Group W Cable office in West Eugene to the Lane County Fairgrounds, the University and Lane Community College.

The line allows the cable company to send and receive broadcasts from customers on the line. Three hook-ups are present on the University campus — at Villard Hall, the EMU and Mac Court.

With a modulator, the University could broadcast a wide variety of shows from any of the locations, Sweet says. But the prospect of the University or another public or private concern picking up the tab for the modulator is promising but not definite.

For 12 years, until 1978, the University broadcast a wide variety of programming to cable subscribers from a well-equipped studio on the third floor of Villard Hall and also had a number of accredited telecourses for students.

The project was discontinued "because of a lack of foresight on the part of the University and also because of the bureaucratic shuffling

they got mixed into," Sweet says.

Holbo remembers it differently.

"Students did not like it (telecourses). They said they were paying for real classes, and they wanted to see real professors," he says.

In contrast to the University, Lane Community College continued their telecourse program. LCC offers about a dozen classes that can be applied towards a degree, including courses in oceanography, computer science, business and human development.

Students can receive the broadcasts in their homes by subscribing to Group W Cable, and must visit the campus only for registration, orientation and testing.

In addition to community outreach programs, cable television could link the data bases of various University departments and allow teleconferencing and two-way communication between dozens of Eugene area data banks like the fairgrounds, library and the 4-J school district.

"The possibilities are endless," Sweet says. "The sky's the limit."

EXCEPTIONAL MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

For exceptional College Grads (and those who are soon to be)
CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- NUCLEAR ENGINEERING
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
- AVIATION • LAW
- MEDICINE • INTELLIGENCE
- CIVIL ENGINEERING
- SHIPYARD OPERATIONS

Sign up for an interview in the Career Placement Office. Interviews will be held in the Placement Center from 9 am to 4 pm on May 23-25, 1983. Or call the Naval Management Office at 1-800-452-3872 Toll Free.



SAHALIE Natural Foods

**Fresh
Mushrooms**
\$1.29 lb.

13th & Patterson
Weekdays 9-9, Sat. & Sun. 10-9
484-6460

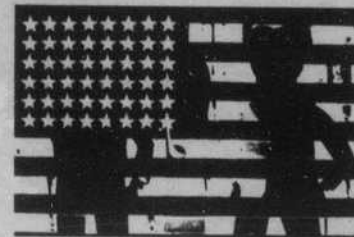
The EMU Cultural Forum Presents...

Women and Art

A slide presentation by Eugene artist
Katherine Corham

exploring the relationship between women artists, the institutions of art and ideology in the U.S. today.

EMU Forum Room • May 24 • 4:30 p.m.



"After I decided to be an artist, the first thing I had to believe was that I, a black woman, could penetrate the art scene, and that, further I could do so without sacrificing one iota of my blackness or femaleness or my humanity.
Faith Ringgold
"The Flag is Bleeding"

"My paintings are about desire, food and sex, the frantic energy of contemporary life, and the aliveness of everything. Women and men, and their relationships are part of my paintings. I show them balanced and equally active."
Faylinda Kodis
"Good Fortune, 1"



This event is free & open to the public.

Buy Your Baby a Book



**Children's Books
Reduced 20%**

*This week, May 16-21
*Cash register sales only
*Limited to stock on hand
*Upstairs in General Books

**UO
BOOKSTORE**

13th & Kincaid
Mon-Fri 7:30-5:30
Sat 10:00-3:00
General Books 686-3510