NBC correspondent ponders news ethics

In a keynote speech in the EMU Ballroom Wednesday, NBC-TV news correspondent Mary Nissenson addressed the question, "Is it always right to print the truth?" Her discussion highlighted the 1984 High School Press Conference held on campus.

During her address, Nissenson presented questions, offered a few hypothetical situations and then allowed her audience to respond freely.

An investigative reporter, Nissenson has covered several national issues, including the Tylenol poisonings, the Poland labor crisis of 1980 and the controversial Chicago mayorial election of 1983. She has received three local Emmy Awards, an Associated Press award, a United Press International award and a George Foster Peabody Award.

The Jesse Jackson incident, in which a reporter from the Washington Post overheard Jackson refer to Jews as hymies, was just one of the situations Nissenson discussed. Her main concern was the fairness of printing Jackson's statement.

Nissenson asked whether it was fair to Jackson to print what he said and whether it would have been fair to the public to not print it. Several audience members - mostly junior and senior high school students gave their opinions on the subject.

Nissenson's address was the main feature of an all-day event sponsored by the Oregon Scholastic Press, Oregon Journalism Education Association and the University School of Journalism. Other events of the day included competitions in writing, photography and editorial cartooning, lectures, tours and 60 workshops.

A national collection of last year's best student photography was exhibited at the conference, and awards were presented at the end of the day for the first. second and third-place winners of the various contests.

Alumni seek ambassadors

Nominations opened yesterday for student ambassadors, students who represent the University through the Alumni Association, according to Sara Wong, a student ambassador since 1983.

The ambassadors represent the student body at various alumni functions by hosting and "making sure things go well," Wong says.

Students must be nominated by campus organizations or individuals by Oct. 15. Nominees should have knowledge of the University, be articulate and have time for attending various functions, making speeches and generally being a part of many alumni gatherings, Wong says.

Sometime after the nomination deadline a panel of seven judges representing students,

faculty and members of the community will hold a reception for nominees, to get to know them in an informal manner, and personal interviews will follow, she says.

The program, implemented last year by the Alumni Association, will undergo some changes this year, according to

"It will be a more structured program with a more definite purpose this year," Wong says. "It's a great program. I met a

lot of people and found out more about the University. besides meeting alums, who are fascinating to talk to," she adds.

The four new ambassadors will be announced Oct. 22, at a kick-off luncheon for Homecoming week, Wong says.



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