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A stand against moving

A Eugene support group gathered in front of the Federal Building this morning to protest the relocation of Native Americans from tribal lands in Big Mountain, Ariz.

Photo by Tony Peck

Zusman challenges news myths 'Willamette Week' editor pushes young journalists to look deeper

By Thomas Prowell
Emerald Editor

Mark Zusman, editor of Portland's crusading investigative newsweekly *Willamette Week*, told 350 Oregon high school kids Thursday he wanted to "shatter the myths" of a profession many of them were interested in.

Zusman was in Eugene to address the 63rd annual Oregon Scholastic Press High School Press Conference, sponsored by the University's journalism school. The high schoolers were editors and reporters from several Oregon high school papers.

Zusman titled his speech "The Real Truth About Journal-

ism," and spoke on public misperceptions about how the newsgathering profession was conducted.

"What if I spent my talk telling you all the things about journalism that your teachers don't want you to hear?" Zusman teased at the beginning of his speech.

The first commandment of the press Zusman tackled was "the myth of objectivity," the

ideal that professional journalism means neutrality and unbiased reporting. "Balderdash," Zusman said. "It's simply not true."

Zusman said that journalists form opinions and connections to stories even in the process of working on an event that color their perceptions of the story. "Every time as a reporter you decide upon a story to write, every time as an editor you decide where to put that story, ... you are making a judgment that's subjective. It's impossible to avoid," Zusman said.

Zusman was not content to question whether objective reporting was possible. He also contended "the best journalism is actually interpretive" and explores beyond just the facts.



Mark Zusman

"Today's journalists are far too complacent, far too amiable," Zusman said.

Zusman said that today's professional journalists tend to be too deferential to people they should be criticizing. "Journalists, like most people, are awestruck by people in power," he said.

Zusman questioned the ideal of the free press, especially a press beholden to advertisers.

"To remain free means enormous sacrifices," Zusman said.

The question often comes in printing editorial content that offends subscribers and advertisers, Zusman said. He told of an incident involving an unfavorable *Willamette Week* review of a Portland-area restaurant, Tony Roma's.

The review stated Roma's ribs "corporate soul food," and said their barbecued spare ribs were to good food what "Hall

"Rejecting subjectivity often means going beyond the who, the what, the where and trying to answer the hardest question of all — the why," Zusman said.

Zusman said that today's journalism isn't as aggressive as most people believe. The perception that journalists "are tearing apart the very fabric of our society is a hoax," Zusman said.

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GTFF votes to reject University proposal

By Peter Cogswell
Emerald Reporter

The Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation, in a general membership meeting Thursday evening, voted unanimously to reject a settlement offer from the University. The offer was proposed during a mediation session held Wednesday.

"We are very unhappy with the University's proposal," said Michael Dawson, president of the GTFF. "We don't feel that the University is even in the ball park."

The GTFF debated the new proposal from the University for about 40 minutes, and then discussed what the next step would be in the ongoing labor dispute between the GTFF and the University, Dawson said.

"We endorsed a position for the mediation session which is being held Friday," he added. Under the guidelines of mediation, however, Dawson was not at liberty to say what the position was.

The University proposed a 3 percent pay raise this year and either a 3 percent pay raise September, 1990 or a 5 percent pay raise which would go into effect February, 1991.

"Either way they are going to end up paying us the same amount of money," Dawson said. "It just looks like more money because it is 5 percent instead of 3 percent. The 5 percent raise goes into effect later in the year than the 3 percent raise does."



Michael Dawson

Dawson added the University is also offering, if it is feasible, to restore the health-care plan that was in effect before the contract negotiations began. Also, the University said it would study the feasibility of, in the future, putting GTFs on the same health care plan as the faculty.

"People were very offended by this offer," Dawson said. "Whenever the word feasible is used in contract negotiations it is a kind of back door. It's built on sand."

In a letter to the state sent out Wednesday the GTFF asked for a factfinder to be brought in to help bring an end to the contract talks Dawson said.

"We called in a factfinder, but it will take about six weeks for the actual factfinding to be-

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Child guidance program hurting for lack of funds

By Hon Walker
Emerald Associate Editor

Volunteers and children in need are being turned away daily from the Big Brother/Big Sister of Mid-Oregon program because of an unprecedented lack of funding, said Merrie Garoutte, acting administrator of the program.

Recent fund-raising efforts to provide an operating budget to keep the nonprofit program alive have fallen short. "Just surviving day to day is a crisis at this point," Garoutte said.

Garoutte vowed, however, that although staff hours may be reduced and corners may be cut, the program will not disappear. "I have made a personal commitment that I won't let this happen," she said.

The Springfield office operated on a \$60,000 budget in the 1988 fiscal year, Garoutte said. The money was raised through fund drives and a grant of about \$7,000 from United Way of Lane County.

The goal for this year's fund drive was \$100,000, she said. Thousands of letters and phone calls resulted in only \$13,000, "which put us into an immediate fiscal crisis," she said.

As a result, the group has undergone a staff reorganization, and the office is operating with two part-time staff members.

"We learned the hard way that we live in a community that is asked by a lot of deserving groups for money, and the

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