

EN MIN CHANG/Emerald

Several professors and students from the journalism school participated in an ethics discussion with KVAL-TV reporter Mark Miller at Allen Hall on Monday evening. Working closely with Eugene police, Miller had posed as a drug buyer and successfully recorded an illegal sale Jan. 21.

Media-police relations focus of panel

■ **ETHICS:** Participants ask how much the media should assist the police

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

What is the role of media in society? Watchdog? Provider of "good television"? Catalyst of change?

Recent media stories in conjunction with Eugene Police Department undercover busts sparked a discussion of media ethics Monday night in Allen Hall, sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ).

A week before Christmas, KVAL-TV news reporter Mark Miller went undercover in the Whiteaker neighborhood and bought \$12 dollars of "chiva," black tar heroin. Meanwhile, police cameras rolled. The story aired later that night.

Miller, along with KVAL news director Paul Riess and Tim Gleason, University associate dean and professor at the journalism school, answered questions and discussed the ethics of this type of undercover reporting.

"What was going on was that drug dealing was literally so blatant, that it was disrupting life in the neighborhood," Miller said.

"Anybody who would walk down that block ... would be aggressively accosted to buy drugs."

In response, the Eugene Police Department's Rapid Deployment Unit began a massive undercover operation to stop the drug dealing. Police approached local media organizations, including KVAL-TV, and offered first-hand reports of drug busts.

"[The police] were willing to do some things that they weren't so willing to do in the past," Miller said.

These things included allowing Miller to make an undercover drug deal in order to get a story.

Although Miller's story was a public relations coup for the police department and an exciting news story, the deception of his drug deal may have blurred the definition of media ethics, Gleason said.

"We had a reporter who was pretending not to be a reporter and was actually representing himself as something other than a reporter," Gleason said. "And that's deception."

Some attendees of the discussion voiced their concerns of media cooperation with police operations and whether KVAL

crossed the lines of "good journalism" by participating in the bust.

However, Riess pointed out that because KVAL maintained editorial autonomy from the police, they were clearly not working together.

"Look, I can tell you we are not in bed with the cops," Riess said.

However, Gleason pointed out the inevitability of media-police cooperation in situations such as these.

"There's always some degree of cooperation," Gleason said. "There's always some degree of separation.... This particular involvement becomes, in my mind, far too intertwined with the police operation."

KVAL did not receive any negative comments about the broadcast from its audience, Miller said.

"This is just one story," Riess said. "We do more than 100 stories every day. We do thousands of stories a year. And if this doesn't seem like as big a deal to us as it does to you, then maybe we'd better think a little harder next time. But also you have to remember the context of what we're doing 365 days a year. This is just another story."

Stress workshop provides tips to recovery

■ **WORKSHOP:** Experts tell how to cope with stress and recognize symptoms

By Jamie D. Pope
Freelance Reporter

Stress is a dominant part of American culture and the lives of many Americans. It is estimated that 80 percent of all illnesses in the United States are stress-related.

This was the foundation laid out by psychologists Mark Evans and Linda Sherman in a workshop last Thursday titled "Quenching the Fires of Stress and Burnout," which examined why stress occurs, different types of stress, how stress is promoted and ways to cope with and recover from stress.

Evans, who works with Sherman in the University Counseling Center, said the idea for the

workshop came after talking to many University administrators, faculty and students who were having problems with stress.

Sherman said the stress cycle is made up of four parts: the stressor, the perception, the interpretation and the reaction. Sherman said a stressor is usually external. One kind of stressor is the struggle for people to maintain control in their lives.

"We try to control our lives and fulfill all objectives in our day and yet there is no time," she said.

Sherman said there are two kinds of stress.

"The first is called Type A," she said.

Type A is characterized by a competitive get-to-the-top personality.

"The other kind of stress is called Type E," Sherman continued. "This is characterized by a

be-all-things-to-all-people personality. It is a Supermom mentality."

Sherman said some people are addicted to stress. "There is a reward to having stress because it's exciting," she said.

Evans said there are ways to cope with stress. One way is for people to recognize signals of stress such as fatigue, tension, nail-biting, anxiety attacks, chronic rage and compulsive behavior such as drinking, overeating, shopping and sex.

Sherman said making lifestyle changes will also help people cope with stress, like changes in work schedules and leisure time, for example.

"Other ways to cope with stress are setting limits and prioritizing your time," Sherman said. "In other words, choose your battles because you can't fight them all."

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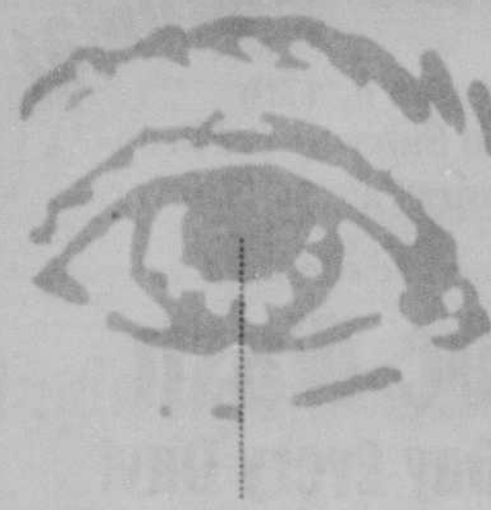
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