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Critic says press needs to examine, improve itself

■ MEDIA: Speech focused on journalists' responsibility to society

By Sherry Rainey
Community Editor

There never was a "golden age" of the press, and the media should get past the denial stage that nothing is wrong, said a nationally known media critic at the 1996 Johnston Lecture.

James Fallows, author of *Breaking the News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy*, addressed a packed crowd of about 200 people in the Gerlinger Alumni Lounge on Monday afternoon. The topic of his lecture was "Can We Afford to Hate the Media?"

He answered his question by saying, "No. But to keep [society] from doing so, the press has to examine the way it does business."

"Currently [the media] comes across with a presentation of news that is not steady or whole."

Fallows, the guest lecturer for the 1996 Richard W. Johnston Lecture, hosted by the School of Journalism and Communication. He is best known for his weekly news commentaries on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition," and as the Washington editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

Fallows has also written several books, including *Looking at the Sun and National Defense*, which won the National Book Award.

Garrett Epps, a Harvard classmate of Fallows and an assistant professor of law at the University, said Fallows has written a sophisticated analysis in bureaucratic and human terms of the national media.

In his book and at the lecture, Fallows said the public is generally discontented with the media.

He cited several examples where the media only showed one side of the story and failed to report on another. For example, eulogies at Ron Brown's memorial service described a man who made a life of successful compromises, while the media portrayed him as an enigma on President Clinton's staff.

"There is a crisis in the relationship between journalists and the community," Fallows said at a news conference Monday morning. "If an alternative universe could report on us they would say, 'You are not well esteemed.'"

"It's not just a whim [that] we are the only business protected in the Constitution," he said. "We need to think we are a part of society rather than outside of it."

Fallows emphasized several times during his speech that journalists must care about their work in order for the institution to change.

"You have to think it matters," he said. "I love this line of work, but I'm lodging my grievances on how it should be different."

Construction: Building should begin in summer of 1997

■ Continued from Page 1

for academic affairs. The Oregon legislature gave the law school \$4.7 million to help with the cost of construction, but most of the expenses will be covered by private donations, he said.

"This is a major accomplishment to get this approved," Mosely said. "If we're able to raise the funds ... it would be really good for the University."

So far the School of Law has raised an equal amount in donations, bringing the total amount so far to \$9.4 million, O'Kelly said.

The new building will have 120 square feet, 50 percent more space than the current law school. Part of that space will be used to expand the school's mediation clinic and increase its number of outreach programs, O'Kelly said. And it will also allow the school to invite tentative employers to interview students at the law school.

In addition, the extra space will allow the law school to expand its masters program.

"We have demand for it, but we don't have space for it," O'Kelly said.

The current law school building is one of the smallest law school buildings around.

Renovations and additions to the current law school building would cost around \$19 million, O'Kelly said. The current building would have to be completely rebuilt to meet the school's growing needs and such reconstruction would only crowd surrounding buildings, he said.

O'Kelly hopes to break ground for the new building during the summer of 1997. Architects will probably begin drawing blue prints for the building in May, he said.

Eugene landscape architect Larry Gilbert has created conceptual plans for the new development that would preserve the University's land development policy, which uses open spaces that interconnect into quadrangles. Gilbert used previous guidelines that require a rectangular-shaped open space headed by a few large buildings. All of the open spaces are connected by paths that draw the different groups of buildings together, Gilbert said.

The law school would be one of the foundation buildings for the proposed quadrangle. If the development materializes, it would contain parking garages to replace parking spaces lost to new buildings.

"If parking is impacted or taken away it will have to be replaced somehow," Gilbert said.

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Smoking Cessation

An educational support group for those wanting to quit smoking and for those who have already quit. Emphasis will be placed on recent findings, overcoming perceived barriers, and dealing with relapse.

Mondays, 4:00-5:00 p.m. • April 29-May 27
Medical Library, Student Health Center

Fast Healthy Cooking

Integrate low-fat, delicious meals into your daily life.

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m. • May 8th and 15th
Cafeteria, Student Health Center

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Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m. • April 25th, May 2nd and 9th
Cafeteria, Student Health Center

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Learn techniques to relieve stress and increase peace of mind.

Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. • May 1st-22nd
Location TBA

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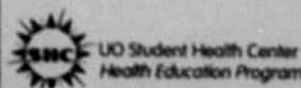
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