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## Schorr

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ing World War II. He worked in intelligence, but spent the entire time at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

He wanted to go to Europe and write for a military magazine, which he said marks the time he fully realized his ambition to be a journalist.

He jumped at the chance to report from Western Europe for the Christian Science Monitor and the New York Times, two of his early writing assignments. In 1953 his coverage caught the eye of Edward R. Murrow, who asked Schorr to join his CBS television news team.

Daniel Schorr, senior news analyst for National Public Radio, will be the keynote speaker at this year's Convocation ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the EMU Ballroom. The event is free and open to University and community members.

The event is a celebration to mark the start of the academic year and faculty from all departments of the University will attend.

Schorr, 84, will deliver a speech titled "Forgive Us Our Press Passes." This will be his first trip to the University.

Janet Fratella, director of the University outreach project, said every year the undergraduate and graduate councils compile a list of 12 candidates for the keynote speaker slot. The final choice is made by University President Dave Frohnmayer and his executive staff.

Jim Earl, English professor and president of the University Senate, first suggested Schorr to the list of 12. Earl said he has followed Schorr's work for years and has admired the honesty and integrity Schorr brings to his news coverage.

"Schorr stands for the old ideal of news and news and not as entertainment," he said.

Last year's Convocation was pushed back to February due to Frohnmayer's heart arrhythmia, which he suffered on Oct. 22. Gov. John Kitzhaber was the keynote speaker in 1999.

*To betray a source would mean to dry up many future sources for many future reporters. It would mean betraying myself, my career and my life.*

Daniel Schorr  
 radio commentator

Schorr is the last member of that team still active in the field.

Since then, he has literally been in the middle of almost every major news event of the last half century.

And after all the stories and scandals, Schorr said he knows it can't be a big coincidence that he ends up being part of so many stories, but he's not sure why.

"Each time was a peculiar accident," he said. "That was quite weird to me."

He built his reputation on a combination of accurate, vibrant news coverage, a refusal to compromise his principles and a desire to bring the story to the mass audience — even when it meant spending a few hours with the KGB during the heart of the Cold War.

After the Khrushchev interview ran, Schorr and his photographer were taking some pictures of a children's department store in Moscow for another story. KGB officers arrested them for "filming forbidden objects," claiming they were shooting KGB headquarters on the other side of the square.

He didn't spend any time in jail, but Schorr said the event was the KGB's way of telling him that he was in trouble and about to leave the country.

"It's the KGB signal that it's going to get worse," he said.

Schorr also built his reputation on his unwavering defense of the First Amendment and freedom of the press, a principle that brought him one vote away from a conviction by the House Ethics Committee for contempt of Congress.

He went to press with an exclusive, the final report of the House committee investigating the CIA and FBI after Watergate, given to

him by an unnamed source.

CBS suspended him for the decision, and the ethics committee threatened him with jail time if he didn't give up the source's name.

Schorr vehemently refused and told the committee, "To betray a source would mean to dry up many future sources for many future reporters. It would mean betraying myself, my career and my life."

The committee voted five to six against the contempt charge, and CBS asked him to return. He decided to resign instead. Three years later, Ted Turner asked him to help start the Cable News Network — better known as CNN.

Now a news analyst for NPR, Schorr said he thinks that, of all the scandals he's witnessed, the Clinton impeachment hearing hurt the country the most — even more than Watergate.

He said Watergate had the potential to be very damaging, but was stopped quickly enough that Americans actually came out of the scandal invigorated by the process.

"The residue of mistrust goes very deep now. We no longer automatically trust our leaders" after the Clinton impeachment hearings, he said. "Maybe in 10 or 20 years we'll look back and it will be Watergate."

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