

# Journalists Aid Terrorism?

by Michael Hunter

Censoring media coverage of terrorism is too high a price to pay—even if the cost involves lives, says Edmonton Journal editor Stephen Hume.

"It isn't up to us to decide what stories to print," said Hume at a Political Science Undergraduate Association forum on terrorism and the media.

To be concerned with "exclusion" and not "inclusion" would only result in a western version of TASS (the official Soviet news agency), Hume said.

However, Dr. Leslie Greene, a U of A political science professor and an expert on terrorism said "glamour value" and not "news value" is the controlling factor in deciding what to publish or broadcast.

Greene felt the media had lost "the distinction between liberty

and licence."

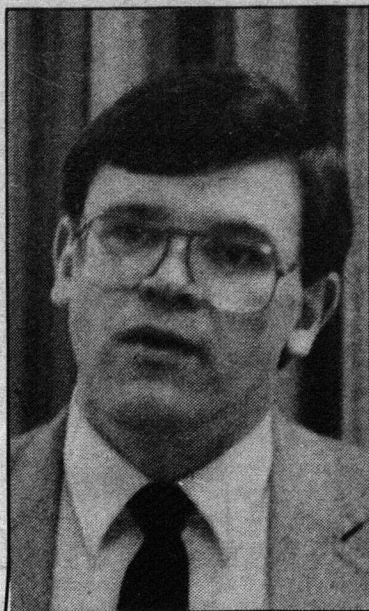
Too many details of procedures such as rescue attempts were being released and, as a result, lives were being lost, he said.

As an example, Greene told a story in which a reporter allowed a policeman to open a car door he knew was going to explode.

"I would fire that reporter and try to make sure that person never worked in this business again," responded Hume.

Hume indicated that any changes to be made in what was broadcast would come about through public and market pressures.

"You have to weigh the interests of the terrorists against the right of the public to be informed," said Hume, even when it resulted in "orgies of excess" such as the 1985 Beirut hijacking incident.



Hume: censorship too high a price

# International students have WCT woes too

by Lutful Kabir Khan

Five per cent of all international students have not yet passed the WCT while the figure for Canadian students is only two per cent.

According to statistics supplied by International Students' Affairs, out of the total of 503 students who had not yet passed the Writing Competency Test by Nov. 15, 41 were international students.

Of those 41 students, 20 had marginally unsatisfactory (MU) and 21 had unsatisfactory (U) standings. Twelve of them had taken the test four times. Since MU's are not accepted by most faculties, at least 12 international students are in grave danger of being required to withdraw from the U of A.

When contacted, the Testing and Remediation Office could not provide any information about those 12 students. "Statistics would be available later," and "the information is confidential" were some of the reasons cited.

Mr. Bruce Caldwell, the International Student Advisor, said that although it is harder for international students to pass the WCT, it is not unfair to them.

All international students are required to obtain at least 600 (in some cases 550) in the 'Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)'. "But the concept and content of the two tests are very different," says Caldwell. TOEFL is just a test for grammar and comprehension.

It does not test the ability of cohesive writing as the WCT does.

Most international students feel that the test is harder for them. Many of the students contacted said that a special remediation course for just the international students would be of great help. "I took the (present) remediation course, but I still got a U," said Hung Diung, an international student.

Audrey Djuwita, another international student, said, "At least one topic of very general and international interest should be included in the test." "In most WCT tests, the essay topics," she noted, "are mostly relevant to western society."

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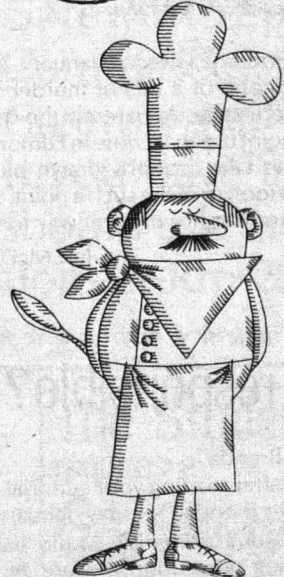
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