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Sigma Delta Chi

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# The Fourth Estate

Vol. 3, No. 3, Spring-Summer 1979, Department of Journalism  
Western Kentucky University

## Western gets accreditation

It's final.

Two and a half years after Western's journalism department was created, it has received full accreditation from the American Council on Education for Journalism.

The University of Kentucky has the only other accredited journalism program in the state.

The accreditation is for six years and is renewable.

"Our students now have the assurance that this is a department with programs that meet all the highest standards in this field," David B. Whitaker, journalism department head, said.

"We feel accreditation will help the department continue to recruit quality students who are looking for a strong professional program in journalism," Whitaker said.

"And we now should be able to hire some qualified faculty we have not been able to hire in the past because they are attracted to accredited programs only."

The accreditation is for the department's news-editorial and photojournalism programs, which gives the department full accreditation.

Whitaker said the photojournalism accreditation has only been given to six other schools in the country.

And, Whitaker said, 60 of the

74 schools with departmental accreditation have larger enrollments than Western.

The journalism department includes majors in journalism, photojournalism, journalism education, advertising and public relations. The department came into existence Jan. 1, 1977.

"In two years and four months and a few days, we have managed to do what we set out to do—attain national accreditation," Whitaker said.

"We feel accreditation will help our students compete for jobs on even terms with anyone in the country," he said. "We also feel we not only meet but exceed accredited standards."

Whitaker said the achievement of accreditation represented outstanding work on the part of the faculty, students, the department's professional advisory committee and the department's professional student organizations which have been rated among the best in the country.

In its report to the university, the council praised the journalism faculty for its dedication to teaching and for its strong relationships with professional media organizations in Kentucky.

It also pointed to the knowledge of journalism students about all phases of the journalism program.



Western's Roland Gibbons was named Kentucky's Outstanding College Cartoonist at the Kentucky Intercollegiate Press Association convention.

## Searches topic of legal forum

By ED SEVERS

If a policeman shows up at the newsroom door with a search warrant in his hand, stall him, try to make him feel guilty, or tell him there's something wrong with his warrant.

But don't try to fight him or block him out of the newsroom, Rush Dozier says, or you could wind up in jail.

Dozier, Lexington Herald city editor, spoke as a part of an April legal seminar sponsored by the campus chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.



# Police searches topic of forum

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Dozier appeared with three other speakers during the morning session of the seminar. And the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that newsrooms do not have any special exemption from search and seizure police warrants was the topic.

"It's dangerous to have a policeman come in and start looking around," Dozier said.

The biggest hazard is that newsrooms are not organized and items aren't always neatly labeled. So while looking for something, police might wind up sifting through confidential notes and records, Dozier said.

And if that happens, "You cannot really assure a confidential source confidentiality," Dozier said.

Dozier, who is also a lawyer and a Harvard graduate, said he has drawn up some "contingency plans" for his newsroom personnel in case they are ever confronted by a search warrant.

The most important thing is to stall, he said, and try to buy enough time to get a lawyer to the scene, or a friendly judge to quash the warrant or at least "lean on the police."

Argue with the officer, but don't physically threaten him, Dozier said. Try to make him feel he is in the way, keeping reporters and editors from doing their jobs.

Challenge him philosophically, he said. Try to make the officer feel he is doing something outrageously unconstitutional and just plain wrong.

Read the warrant carefully, Dozier said, "three times." Ask him exactly what he wants, and the claim it's unreasonable.

Dozier said one particularly effective practice would probably be to get photographers to take pictures while the police are there.

George Boone, an Elkton attorney, spoke about the court decision in more philosophical terms.

"Policemen are not trained in ideas, and newsmen are," he said. It's more valuable to have an unencumbered press working to expose and analyze bigger issues than to have it shackled so police can prosecute individual cases.

"We're a lot better off knowing what's going on" and keeping confidential sources, Boone said, that helping police with one investigation.

Boone said the social obligation of the press is another reason the press has to have some special consideration.

"If we don't know what's going on, we don't know what to vote on," he said.

What would have happened in the Watergate story, he asked, if reporters were hauled into court and ordered to testify about their sources?

"Do you suppose the story would have every been told?" Boone asked.

Boone read from the first ten amendments to the Constitution, contrasting the conflicting

***'Policemen are not  
trained in ideas,  
and newsmen are.'***

—Attorney George Boone

first and sixth amendments. The first guarantees a free press, while the sixth ensures the police the right of search and seizure in investigations.

Boone also criticized the courts for their "lack of judicial restraint."

"The courts are doing things they are magnificently un-



Photo by Gary M. Sulter

Rush Dozier speaks during the April legal seminar.

equipped to do," he said, referring to court-ordered and administered busing.

William Ellison, director of news administration at the Courier-Journal, spoke of the need for a special law to protect the news media from search warrants.

"We can't operate in a panic... about what kind of a law we would support," Ellison said. He advocated a third person protection law, applying to all third persons and not just the press.

The "third person" law Ellison referred to has been proposed by a number of reporters as the kind most likely to be passed by a state or other legislature.

It would ensure that the "innocent third person" in any investigation would not be subject to questioning by the police—the third person being any person who is not involved in the crime, but who might, as

in the case of a reporter, have some information about or be a witness to a crime or investigation.

Newspapers have "editorialized against special-interest legislation for so long," Ellison said, that it wouldn't be ethical for them to ask for legislation that protects only the media.

Mark Armstrong, assistant state attorney general, also spoke on the difficulty of enacting a law to protect the press, but he tried to give the other side of the issue.

"The Commonwealth has certain legitimate interests," he said. "The press has certain legitimate interests."

But the state "must be allowed to collect information" to prosecute cases, he said, and it would be hard to protect that information for newsmen without giving everyone a legal loophole to use to keep from being questioned.



# SPJ-SDX honors Taylor, students

Livingston Taylor, investigative reporter for The Courier-Journal's Frankfort bureau, has been recognized as Kentucky's outstanding newspaper journalist of 1979.

Taylor received the award during the fifth annual awards banquet of Western's chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi on April 19.

Taylor was recognized for his work in 1978 which produced some of the greatest upheavals in Kentucky government and politics ever to occur in a single year.

Other distinguished service awards for outstanding contributions to journalism and broadcast news and public affairs went to John L. Crawford, publisher of the Daily-Times Tribune in Corbin, and J. T. Whitlock, executive director of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association, and currently a member of the National Broadcasters Association board of directors.

Four student awards were presented during the banquet including:

Outstanding journalism senior, Connie L. Holman of Bowling Green who has been employed as a feature writer for

the Jackson (Tenn.) Sun since her graduation from Western.

Outstanding journalism junior, Roger Malone of Louisville, newly-elected Western SPJ-SDX chapter president and currently a member of the

SPJ-SDX national board of directors.

Outstanding journalism sophomore, Tom Beshear of Dawson Springs, Western SPJ-SDX chapter treasurer who will intern this summer on

the McLean County News.

Outstanding journalism freshman, Amy Galloway of Lexington.

Phil Dessauer, national SPJ-SDX president, was the guest speaker for the banquet.



Photo by Bob Skipper

Mrs. Jesse R. Shaffer accepts an award in honor of her late husband, who was executive director of the Kentucky Press Association. Shaffer was one of four working journalists recognized during the SPJ-SDX spring banquet.

## Starring role: Waller works to improve Kansas City paper

The new managing editor of the Kansas City Star says competition between the Star and its morning counterpart, the Times, has been the most effective method of improving the admitted poor quality and low morale at the Star.

Mike Waller, hired by the Star last November from The Courier-Journal, made his comments at the university center as a part of a program in March sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi.

Waller outlined the steps he has taken and what he intends to do to "turn the Star around."

He said when he first arrived the Star and Times were using

the same people, and it was hard to tell exactly who did what and who worked where.

So he split the staffs and made it clear he wanted competition. Waller said the separation is working.

"I threw away page one," he said, explaining there had been a two-column index on the left side which is now gone. He made other minor changes. He also said there is more business news on page one now.

Waller said one worry he does not have is competition from local television newscasts.

"They're so miserable, there isn't any," he said, adding that it was not like Louisville, where

the competition between newspapers and broadcast journalists is intense.

He said there are some good writers at the Star who have not been doing good work because

of a lack of leadership. With new editors, those writers have improved, Waller said.

"I think people ought to work like hell," Waller said. "I think some of them are."

## In supporting roles...

Kansas City has always been a lively newspaper town and two Western students will be plunging into the activity at the Star this summer.

Alan Judd, a junior journalism major from Greensburg, Ky., and Mark Lyons, a senior photojournalism major from Louisville, Ky., will work at the

Star as interns.

Judd has worked for the Greensburg Record-Herald for several summers. Lyons was photo intern last summer with the Courier-Journal.

Dan Lynch, College Heights Herald editorial cartoonist in 1969 and 1970, is now cartoonist for the Star.



## Opened in February

# New lab exposes students to best

The new photojournalism lab in Downing University Center was opened during the spring semester, improving the quality of photojournalism education at Western.

That's the opinion of Mike Morse, coordinator of the journalism department's photojournalism program.

Work to convert part of the ground floor of the university center to a photo lab began late last year, and about the first week in February, enough work had been completed to allow the new lab to open.

With 22 enlargers for black-and-white prints and three color enlargers, the new

facility has more than double the capacity of the old lab, which was located in the audio-visual center in the College of Education Building.

Morse said working in the old lab was a "hardship" because of limited space. And, Morse said, with fewer than 10 enlargers, there wasn't enough equipment to serve the five basic photography sections and the advanced classes that used the lab.

"There's no comparison" between the old lab and the new one, Morse said.

The cost of building the new lab has been estimated at \$25,000. All the work was done

by the university, keeping costs down.

Jack Corn, photojournalist-in-residence, said a similar facility would cost a commercial business \$200,000 to build.

One of the reasons the lab was built now was to have it ready for the recent American Council on Education for Journalism inspection.

Western's journalism department received ACEJ accreditation, and one of the requirements was a photo lab independent of other departments, according to David B. Whitaker, journalism department head.

Whitaker said one of the accrediting team members told him it was the best photo lab he'd seen.

Most of the people concerned with the lab have been pleased with it, Morse said.

Corn said the new darkrooms have helped improve the quality of film developing and printing by students.

"We're getting the best printing we've ever had," Corn said.

Morse said he thought the new lab was "the best in the state."

"We got what we needed," he said.

## Marks of excellence

### Sixteen students honored in contest

Rhonda Graff, a Pleasure Ridge High School senior from Louisville, Ky., was awarded a \$500 scholarship in the second Kentucky High School Mark of Excellence Competition sponsored by Western's Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi chapter.

Fifteen other students from high schools around the state also received certificates.

"Rhonda Graff was awarded the scholarship because of her outstanding contributions to high school journalism and because her work showed a great deal of journalistic ability," Elise Frederick, competition chairman, said.

The award certificates were presented by David B. Whitaker, journalism department head, at a banquet in the Executive Dining Room in Downing University Center.

The winners were:

**Most valuable staff member:** First, Rhonda Graff, Pleasure Ridge High School; second, Janet Sue Pinkston, DuPont Manual High School, and Dale Arnett, Paducah-Tilghman High School.

**Best high school newspaper:** First, "Tates Creek Masthead," Tates Creek High School; second, "The Tilghman Bell," Paducah-Tilghman High School.

**Best high school yearbook:** First, "The Owensboroan," Owensboro High School.

**Best news story writing:** First, Richard Gollotte, Paducah-Tilghman High School; second, Bob Vonderheide, Tates Creek High School.

**Best feature story:** First, Carl Smith, Henry Clay High School, Shelly Wright, Paducah-Tilghman High School,

Barry Doherty, Heath High School.

**Best editorial writing:** First, Rhonda Graff, Pleasure Ridge High School, Dale Arnett, Paducah-Tilghman High School.

**Best sports story writing:** First, Robbie Kaiser, Tates Creek High School; second place, Sandra Pulliam, Bourbon County High School.

**Editorial cartooning:** First, Tom Patrick, Paul G. Blazer High School; second, Donald Scott Engleman, Pleasure Ridge High School.

**News photography:** First, Jon Zanone, Butler High School; second, Neil Kahle, Pleasure Ridge High School.

**Feature photography:** First, John Parks, Paducah-Tilghman High School; second, Mike Collings, Tates Creek High School.

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