

Journalist discusses press freedom, ethics

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"We should be dedicated to truth but, in certain instances, we should be willing to depart from basic principles if good will result in our actions," he said. National security or the welfare of person are two exceptions to printing the truth, he said.

press when talking to a source, he said. The acceptance of gifts by members of the press is "not necessarily unethical," Merrill said, but the journalist has to answer that question for himself. "If he won't be corrupted, then he should take it," he said.

The press is experiencing several ethical problems, according to Merrill. Reporters who quoted out of context can "achieve any image of a person that they want," he said. Using a "reporter's bluff," or "acting as if you know more than you do in order to get more information from a source" is an unethical means of getting the "end to justify the means," according to Merrill.

A final and foremost ethical problem is commonly found in newspapers, according to Merrill. A story will have a statement made by one person, usually of a controversial nature, followed by a sentence saying that the person who was to answer any accusations made was unavailable for comment, Merrill said. "We do not know how many attempts were made by the reporter to get in touch with the source," he said. "It insinuates the person was neglectful in his duties."

Reporters should not tamper with direct quotes, changing the wording within quotation marks, he said. They should always identify themselves as members of the

"It is only in following duties that our actions will hold any continuity or predictability," he concluded.



MARCHING FOR ERA. Local residents and JMU students walk down Main Street Saturday to a rally supporting the Equal Rights Amendment at the Rockingham County

Courthouse. In spite of the rain, a good turnout was reported for the event, which featured State Senator Clive DuVal as a speaker.

Photo by Al Wittner

Kent president limits campus access

(CPS)--Last Tuesday, in a move designed to cripple the continuing protest at Kent State University, trustees gave president Brage Golding absolute fiat over campus activities.

Brigade for Oct. 22.

Golding immediately banned a conference scheduled by the Revolutionary Students

Golding also plans to limit access to campus and to restrict assemblies. He stressed that, while access will not be denied to "anyone who has lawful business with the university," it is "high time" that the university returned to its normal function of academic instruction.

An informal poll by the Kent Stater, the campus paper, revealed that 36 out of 40 people interviewed were against Golding's new action.

SGA delays appointments

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the immediate investigation of the need to establish a major party facility on campus.

In a bill of opinion, the senate unanimously opposed action taken by the faculty senate towards shortening the time a student has to drop a class for a "W" grade from ten to eight weeks.


The senate also overwhelmingly opposed efforts by the faculty senate to reduce the time to withdraw from the university from ten to eight weeks.

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Not responsible for typographical errors.