

CADET SLOUCH



"I'm in favor of flipping a coin and foregoing the game!"

Listen Up

Speaker reporting draws criticism

Editor:

I realize the difficulty involved in objective reporting. In fact, I realize that such a thing is impossible considered from a purist viewpoint, the best that can be done occurs when a reporter works as best he or she can to keep opinions out of a news story being written. However, deliberately slanted, biased reporting is a difficult situation which I neither believe in nor tolerate. As a result, I read Mr. Boriskie's article in Friday's Batt with increasingly growing ire.

Mr. Boriskie may believe the Corps of Cadets is God's gift to mankind, he may believe that SCONA is a waste of time because the delegates couldn't care less if they were being addressed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense or the garbage man, he may believe it is more important to have one hundred times the number of nuclear weapons necessary to cause the extinction of all life on this planet than it is to stop an insane arms race and lessen the chance of nuclear holocaust, he may believe that Mr. Clements is the materialization of truth itself and that anyone questioning the motives of the Pentagon and the military-industrial complex is a new Mephistopheles, seeking to deliver all American souls into the

hands of Satan, and he may believe that invisible mushrooms are always served with steaks in Duncan (at least any with the steaks at our table were invisible).

If Mr. Boriskie believes all of this, that's fine, because that is what free speech and thought is all about. Furthermore, if you, Mr. Speer, want his opinions printed in your paper, that's fine also—IN AN EDITORIAL, NOT IN A FRONT PAGE NEWS STORY! The biasing of this story could not have been more obvious and I believe represents the worst, most childish piece of "journalism" I have ever seen in The Battalion in the two and a half years I have been a student here.

If you wish to maintain your integrity as an editor, Mr. Speer, you owe your readers an apology. Mr. Boriskie either owes your readers an apology or the assurance that he will execute his job as assistant sports editor and never attempt to write a news story again.

Ralph McNutt

...Ted Boriskie's story was based on fact, not editorial opinion. I was one of the SCONA delegates that heard Clements' speech and it was evident from conversations there the delegates were tired after their second long day of SCONA events. It is also true that the military was well represented in the audience and Clements' questioners were antagonistic. Those were Boriskie's observations — and I don't know where you drew your conclusions stated in the "Mr. Boriskie's beliefs" paragraph—Ed.

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Editor:

First let me say that my only connection with journalism is on the reading end, so I am not conceited enough to think that I am an authority on the subject. However, since I must rely heavily

on The Battalion for campus news, I ask that from now on you keep the editorial statements on the editorial page and out of the front page reports.

I am referring to an article by Kathy Young concerning the Ruckelshaus speech. Her opening sentence was, "Trite phrases and generalities filled William Ruckelshaus's speech before a large crowd in the University Center Theater last night." Had I not heard the speech myself, I would have inferred from this and other statements in the article that the audience had been subjected to an hour and a half of dull ramblings by a former Washington Bureaucrat. But what I heard Wednesday night was a very interesting and original analysis of the energy-environment problem.

What I thought of Mr. Ruckelshaus's speech is irrelevant. What is relevant is that objectivity is an important ingredient in responsible journalism, and coloring reports with the biases of the reporter is not. In the future, please consider that your readers depend on you for an unbiased representation of the activities which you cover.

By the way, I never saw it mentioned either before or after the speech that Ruckelshaus was presented by the Great Issues Committee.

Mark S. Boerger

I agree the opening paragraph was opinionated and should have been edited more carefully.

The advance story for the speech in the Tuesday, Feb. 12 Battalion mentioned that Ruckelshaus was sponsored by Great Issues as did the SCONA calendar of events. However it should have been restated in the speech write-up.—Ed.

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Editor:

I read the article concerning

Ruckelshaus' speech on the ecology and energy problem and found it to be of low quality—an all too frequent occurrence. William Ruckelshaus, a man whose personal integrity resulted in his losing his job as Deputy Attorney General, was criticized as being too general, implying vague, in his speech. You're right, he was general—he admitted it. How would you have him be? Would you have preferred that he unfold an extensive proposal on exactly on how to deal with pollution and ecology? Think how this would have bored an average audience with

hours of complicated legal knowledge all the while that (Ruckelshaus) is a lawyer, scientist or engineer, and probably doesn't know the cause of pollution as well as a third semester chemistry student!

In general, the article ignored the gist of his talk (which included the importance of farmland decision making by citizens, legislators as well as ways producing energy) and made appear as if the speech was and trite (it wasn't) and Ruckelshaus was nervous (he wasn't).  
Tom Dawsey

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**Frank E. Novak**  
University Key — Kentucky Central Life

House committee will decide what conduct is impeachable

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee comes to grips this week with a crucial question: what kind of conduct by a public official constitutes an impeachable offense?

The decision it reaches—and it could be weeks before there is one—will go a long way toward determining whether the committee will recommend the impeachment of President Nixon.

On Wednesday the committee members are to receive a brief prepared by the staff that will examine the history of the impeachment provision in the Constitution, the way in which it has been used, and define in broad terms the nature of impeachable offenses.

The brief will represent primarily the views of John M. Doar, the head of the impeachment staff and Albert E. Jenner Jr., the chief minority counsel. As such, it will in no way be a statement of the committee's position.

Doar, a Republican who rose to prominence in the Justice Department under Democratic administrations, and Jenner, a Republican who supported a Democrat—Adlai Stevenson III of Illinois in his 1970 Senate race—have impressed committee members of both parties with their nonpartisan professional approach to the investigation.

"If Doar and Jenner agree on a definition it's going to be very persuasive with me," said Rep. William E. Hungate, D-Mo.

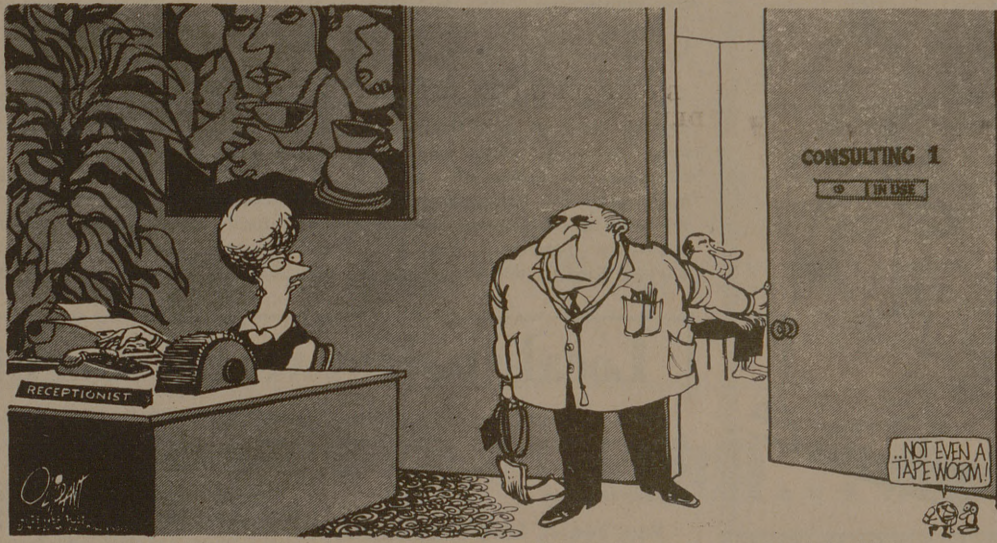
Rep. Robert McClory, R-Ill., said, "I'll probably be almost completely persuaded by the brief."

The question of what constitutes an impeachable offense has been an issue for almost 200 years. The Constitution uses the words "high crimes and misdemeanors."

The core of the question is whether the words refer to conduct punishable under criminal law, or whether they can include a broader range of misconduct dealing with the official duties of an office-holder.

From the precedents of previous House actions and from a

compilation of impeachment material published earlier by the Judiciary Committee, it appears likely the forthcoming brief will support a broad definition of impeachable offenses.



'HE'S A HUNDRED PERCENT FIT—CALL MY BROKER AND TELL HIM TO SELL!'

The Battalion

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