

# opinion



## letters

### Right to print report unquestioned, but handling of publication baffling

Daniel Schorr's right to have the house subcommittee report on the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) published will not be questioned from these quarters.

Numerous in-court and out-of-court tests have concluded that there should be no government restraint on the media. The House Ethics Committee which investigated Schorr also nodded to the first amendment when it decided to drop its investigation of Schorr for printing the report.

The fact that the House voted to keep the report on the CIA secret after the committee which prepared it had voted to release it in no way bound Schorr.

Since CBS was not willing to print the report, Schorr was not unreasonable in taking it elsewhere for publication. Schorr told a press conference Sunday night that he had a personal responsibility to see that the American people were informed of the report. He said there was no reason that the report, prepared with one-half million dollars of taxpayers' money, should be kept secret.

Obviously, he was right on that count. The report was published eight months ago and neither the CIA nor the American public have suffered dire consequences because of it. But Schorr has.

His 23-year career as a journalist is all but over. His method of putting the publication into print is baffling and is the cause for his dismissal from CBS.

Schorr's actions concerning the report con-

tradicted his words too many times.

If Schorr was sure of his personal right, his responsibility, to print the report, why did he decide to leave his name off of it and why did he not admit to having it published when first questioned about it? He had done only his job.

Schorr told a news conference Sunday night that a journalist's opinion is an essential part of journalism—that interpretation of the news was necessary, yet at the last minute Schorr decided to omit his introductory explanation from the report when it was published.

Schorr said Sunday his personal distaste for the Village Voice and concern for his source kept him from putting his name on the report.

Even a journalist who has not been in the business 23 years knows there is no legal way Schorr could have been forced to reveal his source. Besides, dozens of people at newspapers other than the Village Voice knew he was connected with the report.

Schorr had never been shy before about having his name connected with his scoops.

There are too many unanswered questions surrounding Schorr's handling of the report.

Just as Schorr admonished others not to cover up their affairs, neither should he. His mishandling of the report, for whatever reasons, is unfortunate in that it prematurely ended the career of a competent journalist. It is even more unfortunate because it has caused apprehension among journalists to report leaked information and among those who would leak that information.

### Reporting questioned

The power of the press is awesome. It can be wonderful. When abused, it can be more than terrible. I am distressed to say that Mike Patten's article on Army ROTC (Oct. 7 Daily Nebraskan) is sorry witness to the latter.

We are faced with an article so full of errors of fact as to be nearly incredible. The story abounds with non-contextual statements, assumptions presented as fact, misquotation, and is documented with the alleged testimony of a small minority of the 91 cadets in the program.

What is an error of fact? It is non-factual that students highly motivated toward the Army leave the program because of disenchantment. I have been associated with the program for over two years and I know of none. I request that Patten name one student who has left under such circumstances. It is not true that students are forced to wear uniforms to classes. Freshmen are exempt from having to wear the uniform and remaining students are required to wear uniforms only during ROTC lab periods. Facilities and time with which to change also are available. It is also false that only scholarship students must comply with the hair code. All advance-course cadets must get hair cuts.

A fact out of context? Examine the circumstances surrounding the volleyball game. Volleyball provides a good source of physical training—important to any ROTC program, and is an invaluable aid in building cohesion and teamwork among the classes. And then consider that the game was held during a non-credit lab, not during an academic class period.

What is assumption presented as fact? It is an erroneous assumption that there is or has been a history of dissatisfaction with the program—an assumption made less credible by the fact that the program is entirely voluntary. Being a graduate of Army ROTC and having maintained many friendships with the cadets, I can state with assurance that dissatisfaction is not now in evidence and certainly this would rule out, then, a growing dissatisfaction. Also, consider the source of the quotation in the article. Rattner is only a two-month freshman initiate of the program yet he feels able to make an unqualified statement of such import.

In this vein I shall not continue. I did not set out to write in defense of ROTC. The issue is much more fundamental. I am raising the question of our right to expect responsible journalism from our student fee-supported newspaper. We have here an example of investigative reporting being done without the investigation.

I believe that we who pay for this newspaper have a right to expect no less than the truth; no less than accuracy in media, not just at a reporters convenience, but all of the time.

Richard R. Caniglia

### Objects to policy

Dr. Kenneth Hubble's response (Oct. 7 Daily Nebraskan) to my letter about my son's accident is only further evidence of an attitude that is completely incompatible with the basic medical creed of helping people. I did not know that common decency was subject to official policy. My infant son was denied an examination so how can Hubble assert that the emergency was not bonafide?

Carl Chrisman

### Dear bicycle

To Whom It May Concern:

Your bicycle has a habit of parking itself with the front wheel in the rack. This nasty habit produces unwanted scratches and bruises to surrounding bikes and bikers when it inevitably falls down. Please explain to your machine it's easier and surprisingly more efficient if your bike is parked with the rear wheel locked to the bike rack.

Easy Rider



### Barbara Walter's debut:

## ABC's five-million-dollar woman

By Nicholas Von Hoffman

The debut of Bubwa Watahs on the XYZ Network's evening news as co-anchorwoman is the biggest thing to happen to broadcast journalism since Captain Kangaroo had his 20th anniversary. Harvey Goldbrick, XYZ's board chairman, said that Bubwa is his network's answer to the *The Six Million Dollar Man* - a five-million-dollar woman.

"Just as XYZ has forged into the entertainment lead by bringing the viewing audience the best in crime, so we're sparing no expense to give TV viewers the finest and most costly in journalism," Goldbrick said in announcing Bubwa's debut.

"But even as great a journalistic star as Bubwa Watahs, with her knowledge, her experience, her brilliant news judgment isn't enough. You need depth to win in news, so that Watahs is being backed up by two chauffeurs, a hair stylist, Oscar de La Renta, a wardrobe seamstress, a cordon bleu French gourmet-type chef, three reporters to read the teletype machines and two writers so Bubwa will always have something to say."

### News reruns

Bubwa's debut exceeded Goldbrick's best expectations. It was so good that for the first time in television history a network will be selling its old news programs for afternoon reruns.

The deal on rerun syndication isn't set yet because MGM is trying to buy the rights to Bubwa's shows so that they can be edited for movie house distribution as a sequel to *That's Entertainment*. Tentative title for this, the first flick to premiere as a TV program and then be made into a movie, is *That's News*.

Bubwa's opening week performance set an all-time record for exclusive interviews, bombshells and scoops on consecutive non-weekend news days. Since the news on Bubwa's shows is copyrighted and intended solely for home use and enjoyment, it may not be replayed, reproduced or reprinted without the express permission of the Commissioner of Baseball and the mayor of the city where the scoop took place. So we can only give you snippets without having to pay royalties.

XYZ does allow a synopsis and a few quotes for people who don't want to wait for the reruns, so here is the

juicy part of the opening night, exclusive Anwar Sadat interview.

### Scoops unlimited

Bubwa: Anwah, I'm glad you're my first interwoo on the first night of my big news show. This gray-haired man sitting next to me is named Hawie. He helps me, Anwah.

Anwar: Delighted to meet you, Hawie, and Bubwa, my dear, everybody in Africa from Lesotho to Zimbabwe is delighted that you have got a show of your own. It warms my heart and that of Madame Sadat who longs for a show of her own also, almost as much as a new shipment of the latest missiles.

Bubwa: Anwah, or ha... Just as I should call you even though you and I are on closer terms than my colleague Howard Cosell and Muhammad Ali, Mr. Pwresident, do you have any news for us, something weally fwesh and exciting which will interest the people back here?



Anwar: Yes, Bubwa, I do. I've saved a little announcement just for your opening, debut program. I wanted it to be a little something of substance so they couldn't call you a gossip columnist or a lightweight.

Bubwa: America has no better friend in your part of the world than you, Anwah. So what did you save for me, kid?

Anwar: I'm taking this occasion to announce that in five minutes we're going to war with Israel again.

Bubwa: Hawie!!! Did you hear that? Oh, Anwah, how can I ever thank you?

And so a scoop was born, but that first debut week was stunning scoop after stunning scoop. The next night the Chinese used Bubwa's program to introduce Mao Tse-tung's successor, Chairman Too Dang Fat, who asked if the decision on Nixon was final or did he still have a chance?

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes letters to the editor and guest opinions. Choices of material published will be based on timeliness and originality. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, but may be published under a pen name if requested. Guest opinions should be typed, triple-spaced, on nonremovable paper. They should be accompanied by the author's name, class standing and major, or occupation. All material submitted to these pages is subject to editing and condensation, and cannot be returned to the writer.