Editorial

he opinions expressed in this column do not neces-arily reflect those of the staff of this publication, or f the Student Union.

ot necessarily the news!

/e live in a country and society where freedom of peech and freedom of the press are fundamental ghts every member holds.

/e are all taught that the news we hear, see and read telling us what is going on in the world. We are so taught to not believe everything we hear. Which ne do we believe? Unfortunately, when it comes to ie news, we tend to believe in the former, and often orget the other.

veryday the news tells us about events around the orld, but how reliable is the information we are resented? Much of the foreign news comes from iformation that was given to the media by the other ountries government. How accurate and fair do you ink this information would be. Would you believe n Israeli report about the situations in the occupied rritories, or would you believe the South African overnments analysis of the situation for minorities n that country?

doubt many people would answer yes to either one f these questions, but in fact, these situations and any more arise each day in our evening news broad-ast. What is worse, is the fact tat these reports are resented as facts and not as the slanted information really is. And every evening we accept these reports s news and look at the world based on these reports.

nfortunately, the same situation rises in our national nd regional news. The government releases informa-on to the media that is in turn reported as news. his is a very dangerous situation for the media to be . At what point does the media step back and take a ook at the stuff they are passing off as news. is especially dangerous when this news is used as a ropagandist weapon in order to sell a specific idea or ction. Classical examples of this is the reports that ere emerging from the Chernobal accident where the eadlines read "2000 Dead", or the Oka standoff last ear, or even more recently, the Gulf War. All of ese are grotesque examples of media abuse

Even our everyday views are influenced by the medias creative reports. Think of how we viewed the Soviets 10 years ago, or how we now view some of the situations in the Middle East. Think of what we associate when we hear the names Norriaga or Hussain.

Why do we associate certain thing with certain people or situations? It is because that is the picture that the mass media try to sell us. That is the picture we are also believing. It would be great to hear the news from other perspectives, weather from other countries or from other groups, I am sure that their story would be just as believable.

Remember, don't believe everything you hear. It may not be as it appears. Everything has two sides, the news only shows one.

And that's the way it isn't.

Cory Large

Cory Large
Editor

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