

Behrend's Weekly Newspaper

# The Collegian

Thursday, March 26, 1992

Vol. XL

No. 21

## Watching the watchdogs

*Excellence in Teaching winner Dr. Mike Simmons addresses ethics in journalism*

by Vicky Snyder  
*The Collegian*

Dr. Michael Simmons, recipient of the 1990-91 Council of Fellows Excellence in Teaching Award and associate professor of English, discussed modern ethics in journalism as part of the Provost Speaker Series last Thursday.

His speech, entitled "Who Watches The Watchdogs," began with the example of a *Washington Post* reporter who, in 1981, wrote a story about a child heroin addict. This young reporter was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for her feature.

Simmons cited one more award-winning story, discussing a young television reporter's series about illegal pit bull fighting in Denver.

Problem. Both of these stories

were works of fiction. The newspaper reporter's editor called the Pulitzer Prize Committee to explain that the story was a complete lie. The pit bull story was set up by the reporter, who in turn was convicted of dog fighting and conspiracy.

Further, Simmons said media critics took these cases very seriously, calling them "one of the most serious breeches of journalistic ethics in history."

Simmons discussed the constitution's first amendment and its superiority over the government controlled press as it exists in some countries.

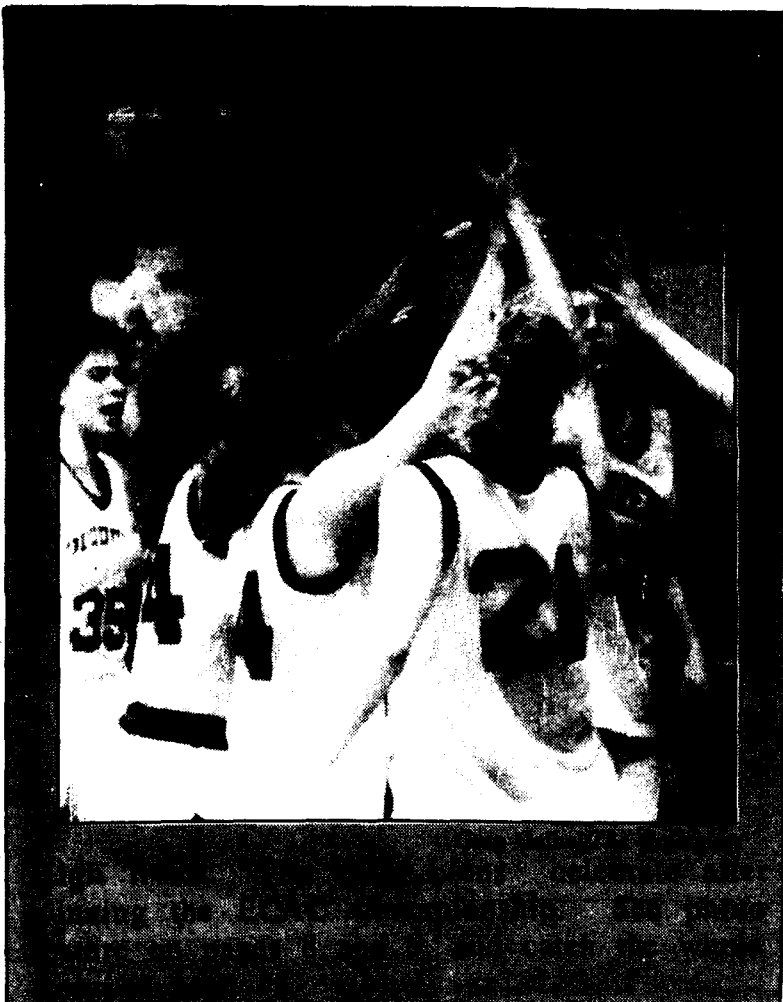
"We recognize that credibility and objectivity are possible only when a press is independent from outside influence and pressure, and we smugly applaud our constitution for preserving those

(continued on page 2)



Jim Pierdominico/*The Collegian*

**Making his point:** Dr. Simmons, recipient of the 1990-91 Council of Fellows Excellence in Teaching Award, speaks on the ethics of journalism last Thursday.



## Royer resigns, Hilden takes over SOC president's post

*Hilden serving as third different SOC president this year*

by Loretta Russ  
*The Collegian*

For the second time this year the Student Organizational Council (SOC) has lost a president due to personal demands.

Lori Royer, president of SOC since the beginning of the semester, resigned from the SOC post two weeks ago, citing lack of time and other personal obligations as influencing factors in her decision. Royer took over the position after former SOC president Steve Fuller resigned for similar reasons.

"I could not devote the necessary time to the position without taking away from my many other obligations," said Royer. "Although I'm experienced and knowledgeable about the processes and responsibilities (in Student Government)

it became increasingly difficult to tend to them while trying to keep up with the changing tides within the Student Government Association (SGA)."

Chris Hilden, Royer's former vice president, will serve as president until the end of the semester. Hilden was elected to the vice presidential position at an SOC meeting earlier this semester after Royer took over for Fuller.

"I feel confident that I can handle the work that is required of me now, the SOC will not suffer and it will continue to effectively serve the students," said Hilden.

SOC is the organization responsible for overseeing and advising new and existing organizations, revising and creating new constitutions and monitors the supplemental and initial budget request process.