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15th annual Montana Interscholastic Editorial Association conference

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

High school journalists from throughout the state gathered at the Montana State University School of Journalism Friday morning to register for the 15th annual Montana Interscholastic Editorial Association conference.

A record number of 475 students and advisers registered for the two-day meeting, designed to provide information and ideas for publishing high school newspapers and year-books.

At the opening session in the University Theater, Sam Reynolds, editorial page editor of the Missoula Missoulian-Sentinel, told the young journalists "the editorial page of a newspaper is the paper's own exclusive property." It is the personal opinion of that paper. While the rest of the paper must strive for accuracy, balance and fairness, the editorial page can express its own opinion. Too often, persons take editorial comment to be a biased news story, Reynolds said.

Because the net sum of knowledge is doubling every 10 years it is the obligation of the press to expand the knowledge of its readers. It is the duty of the editorial page to expose fraudulent easy answers to problems and to arouse the public through various devices to become involved in public affairs, Reynolds said.

The rest of Friday was filled with sectional meetings on newspaper and yearbook editing, writing and production. University journalism faculty members and experienced high school publications advisers were instructors for the session. Topics of the discussions included writing feature stories, producing large and small school yearbooks, makeup, advertising and photography.

Staff members of the Montana Kaimin, MSU student daily, will conduct a panel discussion on "Working on a University Daily" Saturday morning.

Saturday activities, besides sectional meetings, will include the presentation of the Gold Key to an outstanding high school journalism adviser, the election of MIEA officers and the announcement of yearbook awards. MIEA delegates also will be guests of the University at the afternoon football game.