

" Good evening ladies, gentlemen and distinguished guests. Presented to you tonight is a myriad of texts relating to the concept of representing the truth. In particular, I have chosen to focus on the media of our country, exploring their values and concepts of 'the truth' and how it is portrayed, if it is portrayed at all. There are various televisions playing continuous episodes of Rob Sitch et al's biting satirical indictment Frontline. There are, next to each Frontline episode, various extracts from Today Tonight and A Current Affair, their images and stories disturbingly similar to Mike Moore and his crew. Finally, around the walls and on stands, you will find quotations from media personalities and politicians, extracts from Robert Pullman's "Four Corners, Twenty-Five Years" and various

articles from The Australian and Gerald Stone's recently published book "Compulsive viewing". The aim of this exhibition, ladies and gentlemen, is not only to reflect my own, somewhat pessimistic, vision of the representations of truth, but to also allow you to compare, contrast, and come up with your own decision. But first, I would like to discuss in further detail the exhibits themselves.

Rob Sitch et al conceived their idea of Frontline following an episode of 60 Minutes entitled "Has the media gone too far?" Indeed, Frontline has taken this concept to alarming heights. ~~The~~ Take The Siege, an episode ~~to~~ that is playing on the far wall. In this episode we witness ^{the} Frontline crew illustrating all the dubious practices of ~~a~~ current

affair television. Moore puts the lives of children at risk by interviewing a "possible war veteran" who is holding his children hostage. We see witness Martin di Starvo, the on-sight reporter "crouching-down" to "make it look like we're in danger" despite the fact they are five kilometers away.

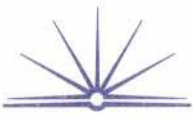
Then, we witness Moore hilariously equate the scenario to a "Rambo situation". The controversy that ensues is no surprise, but Moore is quickly convinced of his ~~be~~ innocence by Brian, who the executive producer, who produces a picture of Mike on the cover of Time magazine. Oblivious to Mike is the caption, "Has the media gone to far?"

I can hear yourself you asking

yourselves, 'surely something like that would never happen in reality...?'

I assure you, ladies and gentlemen, it can. You will notice next to this particular episode another a footage of Mike Willsee on a phone. He, too, is talking to a potential 'nut-case', only this time, it's real. That real-life event occurred in 1993 in NSW. Clearly, the media have a very blurred vision on 'representing the truth?'

On the wall to my left, ladies and gentlemen, you will see another episode of this 'mockumentary' entitled "Smaller Fish to Fry". This particular episode deals with Moon's futile efforts to 'bag the big fish'. Instead, the Frontline team are ~~can~~ more or less content with destroying "daddy fudge



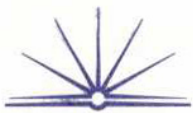
repairman." Next to this you will see a recent episode of A Current Affair in which, you guessed it, the headline story is chasing a "neighbor from hell."

Then we have the politically incorrect episode "Add sex and stir", in which we are witness to all the dubious editing tricks that allegedly occur behind the scenes. Brook Vandenberg, the malicious reporter, re-edits a previously innocent question and consequently ruins the reputation of a women's hockey team. After all, as we are shamelessly reminded, "sport rates, sex rates, put the two together and you've got dynamite!"

Inherent behind a lot of frontlines'



accusations is the idea that is not only the commercial & networks that employ these tricks, in order to "win the ratings war". You will see, ladies and gentlemen, various extracts posted around the room from Robert Pollman's "Four Corners, Twenty Five Years". One of these extracts outlines a story 4 corners aired looking at teenage prostitutes and pimps entitled "What's a girl like you...". However the ratings were poor, and the then executive producer conceded, "Australian audiences just aren't hungry for titillation". Next to this extract, however, you may also witness the 60 Min story about child molesting, in which the ratings soared. As David Lecker said, "Congratulations! Amazing what sex does!"



documentaries." And then there's Harry M. Millars comment "A terrific edge of realism."

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is vital that we question these supposed "news" shows that are common on television.

My vision is to have the 'truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth'.

However what may be true to me, may indeed be boring to you. Cheryl Kernot rightly said, "We tend to accord [the Media] a status that assumes ethics... it is just as subjective as anything else". You would have noticed, Ladies and

Gentlemen, the quotation directly behind me also taken from Time, reading "the beast gets hungrier everytime you feed it". We all may have different opinions on the truth and how it is represented, but that doesn't mean it should be ignored, manipulated and skewed.