

**Tuesday, July 18**  
**BROWN BAG LUNCH**

**Bill Marimow, Vice President of News**

Bill Marimow, the Vice President of NPR's News division, sat down with interns on Tuesday, July 18 for an interactive and interesting brown bag lunch. Mr. Marimow, who feels in many ways that he is still a reporter, spent most of his career as a reporter and editor for the Baltimore Sun before joining NPR.

First off, he asked the interns to write down any questions they might have for him, because he believes the "best questions are always those that are never asked." He then told the interns about his choice to air Bush's profanity statement in regards to the Middle East crisis. He told them that his choice was based on three things; how important the person was, the triviality of the quote, and the context that the quote was said in.

Marimow then had the interns perform an exercise. He proposed a situation where the Mayor of Maryland's son had been arrested for drunk driving and wanted the interns to decide whether it was newsworthy or not. He told the interns that the Mayor was an advocate for stricter drunk driving laws and alcohol free events. He asked the interns to decide and vote on various topics. The first was whether the event was newsworthy overall. The second topic was a question on where the story should be placed; on the front page, the front page of the metro section, the inside of the metro section or the front page of the features section. After the interns voted, he asked why we came up with our decisions. The overall consensus was based on the three decisions he made regarding the Bush quote. He then showed then interns the real situation and how it played out in the newspapers in 1999.

Marimow emphasized to the interns that there is no right or wrong in journalistic judgment. There is no mathematical equation to the news-worthiness of a story. He believed that we should trust our instincts and realize that there will always be different conclusions regarding a story.

After, he asked the interns to voice their questions they had written down at the beginning of the lunch. Questions varied in topic and included how involved in stories he is? How the placement of a story is decided between who wrote a story and journalistic politics like story importance, etc.? What his opinion was on the role of libraries for the future and what he sees the reporter of the future as being.