



NEWS RELEASE

DALE VAN ATTA, INVESTIGATIVE
COLUMNIST, TO BE
ENLOW SCHOLAR AT USI

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Dale Van Atta, who shares a byline with Jack Anderson in a nationally syndicated newspaper column that reaches 50 million people daily, will speak at the University of Southern Indiana on Thursday, April 4, appearing as the 1991 Enlow Distinguished Scholar.

"Showdown in the Desert," offering insights into the Persian Gulf conflict, will be his presentation at 7:30 p.m. in Forum I. He also will speak at 2 p.m. in Forum III on "A Typical Week in the Life of an Investigative Columnist." Both programs are open to the public as part of the Community of Scholars program which seeks to broaden educational opportunity beyond the classroom for both students and the community.

Van Atta spent a great deal of time in the Mid East during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, filing stories that ranged from the men and women going into combat through the high command of the conflict. His investigative reporting uncovered the Iran-Contra arms for hostages scandal that rocked Washington, D. C., in the late 1980s. His persistence in tracking the truth has won him the scrutiny and fury of presidents, CIA directors, and world leaders from Leonid Brezhnev of the USSR to Yassar Arafat of the PLO.

The Brigham Young University graduate has been nominated for seven Pulitzer Prizes for investigative journalism, the most recent for uncovering the complex Iran-Contra deal, a scandal missed by several other prominent journalists. The tenacious Van Atta followed hundreds of leads provided by secret sources, reporting the story despite vehement objections from government officials, including President Reagan.

(more)

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Van Atta's presentations are current, informative, and controversial. He goes beyond basic news reporting, focusing on the hidden forces and motives at work behind every major news story. His presentation has been described as having the intrigue of a gripping spy novel with one exception --Van Atta's stories are true.

The Anderson/Van Atta "Washington Merry-Go-Round" appears in *The Evansville Courier*. Van Atta got his start as editor of his college newspaper and won numerous regional collegiate awards for a regular humor column called "The Vanattitude." He went on to write for the Salt Lake City *Deseret News*, which nominated him three times for the Pulitzer Prize. He is also a contributor to the *Economist*, *The Far Eastern Economic Review*, and *Stern*, as well as *The New York Times*, *Nation*, *Time*, and the *Washingtonian*.