

Tuned out of the media? *Speaker emphasizes the importance of keeping the media constantly on the mind*

Dara Duncan
Reporter

"It's about knowing enough to make a decision on whether to support your government or not." This was the main theme of David Mindich's speech Monday night and his book "Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 40 Don't Follow the News."

Mindich spoke to students about the reasoning behind the Y generation being so unaware of current events and news around the world. He took his knowledge and research and composed a book about why the current generation does not follow the news nearly as much as their predecessors.

Mindich spoke Monday about the issues in his book and the reasons that caused Americans today to be so "Tuned Out".

"The Daily Show (with John Stewart) holds people accountable in a forceful way," Mindich said.

Mindich's main points during the speech were that living in a

democracy, people today need to be informed enough in the news to make educated decisions. He even promoted such things as the Daily Show as sources of intelligent information. The need for a better news source was also apparent through Mindich's speech.

"News Media is our power and gives us our only check," Mindich said.

Students were thoroughly impressed with Mindich's knowledge and delivery of the subject. Many of the Elon's communications students had to attend Mindich's speech because his book was this year's common reading.

"He was very informative in his views of why Young Americans do not pay attention to the news," freshman Bernadette Bui said.

Mindich was very impressed with Elon's campus and students. When asked about his motivation for coming to Elon he responded that he came because "It was great to have a conversation about



Brittany Smith/ Photographer

David Mindich spoke Monday night at Elon about the importance of tuning into the daily news.

issues. It showed how engaged students at Elon are." He wished that the engagement could have

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—David Mindich, journalist”

been bottled and given to many more people.

He also complimented Elon's study abroad program, reinforcing that it is activities like studying abroad that help people have a better understanding and appreciation of the news.

Overall Mindich's speech proved to be a beneficial experience for all Elon students and faculty who were in attendance.

He proved that Americans today, especially students at Elon need to take accountability for the kind of knowledge that we take in.

Freshman Lauren Brown said, "I thought Mindich did an excellent job of expressing the urgency of getting young Americans to

'tune in.'

Mendich came to Elon as an accomplished writer and professor. He has had articles in multiple Journals, New York magazine, the Baltimore Sun, and the Wall Street Journal just to name a few.

"It is easier to write a book than have a conversation," Mindich said. I don't want to just observe, but be engaged in the 13 to 39 (age) group about news habits."

Ultimately, each person owns the government. Citizens are the ones who have to keep it in check. How can they do that if they know nothing about it?

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