

# Question military, journalist urges

BY BOB KLANAC

The editor of Canada's foremost military journal urged Canadians to question their military's missions during a recent talk at Conron Hall.

Scott Taylor, formerly a soldier in the Canadian military, has been editor and publisher of *Esprit de Corps* since 1988.

"Some will tell you that to question the mission is to undermine the troops," Taylor said.

"It's not true at all. Our duty as citizens is to question what we are doing over there.

"Don't kid yourself. Our military questions it every day."

Taylor has reported from most major military conflicts in recent years including Iraq in 1992 and recently, as well as the Balkans in the nineties.

Through his talk for the Clissold Lecture titled *From Belgrade to Baghdad*, Taylor reviewed most phases of his work as a journalist taking especial note of Iraq.

"Thinking Bush is lying is different from knowing Bush is lying," Taylor said.

Taylor said that the Iraqis knew they had to replace Saddam with someone equally as powerful.

He said that Paul Wolfowitz, architect of Bush's foreign policy, stated that the operation would



*Bob Klanac, Western News*

*Esprits de Corps* editor Scott Taylor denies questioning military missions will undermine troop morale.

be simple as the Iraqis were one people and wanted Saddam gone.

"That was a surprise to the Kurds, Assyrians and Turkmen to say the least," said Taylor. "There are many different peoples there. As a country, Iraq is only 80 years old."

In 2004 Taylor and a colleague were kidnapped in Iraq, bid on by various extremist groups, and tortured. They were released five days later after Turkish intelligence secured their release.

"Its different when you think that this is how you might die than it is when you are sure that you are going to die," said Taylor.