

Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 8pm  
Zellerbach Hall

## Seymour Hersh



### *Journalism and Human Rights*

*Presented in association with the Townsend Center for the Humanities.*

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**Seymour Hersh** is widely acknowledged as the most influential and acclaimed investigative reporter of the past 40 years. His special focus is, and has always been, the abuse of power in the name of national security.

Mr. Hersh's journalism and publishing prizes include the Pulitzer Prize, a record five George Polk Awards, the Lennon-Ono Peace Prize, and more than a dozen other prizes (Sigma Delta Chi, Worth Bingham, Sidney Hillman, etc.) for investigative reporting. His groundbreaking reports include many that are landmark events in American journalism: the Abu Ghraib prison abuse in Iraq, the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, the CIA's bombing of Cambodia, Henry Kissinger's wiretapping of his own staff, and the CIA's efforts against Chile's assassinated President Salvador Allende.

Most recently, Mr. Hersh's articles in *The New Yorker* have probed the underside of the Iraq war, the looming threat of war with Iran, and the military quagmire caused by these conflicts.

Seymour Hersh began his newspaper career as a police reporter for the City News Bureau of

Chicago. He served in the Army and worked for a suburban newspaper and then for UPI and AP until late 1967, when he joined the Presidential campaign of Eugene J. McCarthy as speechwriter and press secretary. Mr. Hersh joined *The New York Times* in 1972, working in Washington and New York. He left the paper in 1979 and has been a freelance writer since, with two six-month returns on special assignment to the *Times's* Washington bureau.

Mr. Hersh has published seven books. His book prizes include the 1983 National Book Critics Circle Award, the *Los Angeles Times* award for biography, and a second Sidney Hillman award for *The Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House*. Mr. Hersh has also won two Investigative Reporters & Editors prizes, for the Kissinger book in 1983 and in 1992 for a study of American foreign policy and the Israeli nuclear bomb program, *The Samson Option*. His most recent book is *Chain of Command: The Road From 9/11 to Abu Ghraib*.