

Letter Changes . . .

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Arthur C. Johnson, attorney for the firm of Johnson, Johnson and Harrang.

Other members of the SPI board receiving letters were Ken Bauman, Leroy Kellogg, Wayne Hubert, Mike Donahue and Jerry Burke.

Employees working on the bulletin who were among the 18 in Kathleen Liberty, assistant editor, Bill Lovell, project director, Kathleen Liberty, assistant editor, Virginia Bell, Donna Brownway, Thomas Duncan, Libby Evans, Anthony Fargue, Ruthann Holman, Charles Milhaupt, J. Del Pearl and A. Thomas Tinsley.

The letter demanded a retraction and that "all efforts be made to minimize and reduce the damage which he (professor Ellis) has sustained."

"Finally we demand on Professor Ellis' behalf, fair compensation for the damages he has sustained," Johnson concluded.

The letter didn't say whether a suit had actually been filed against SPI or any of the 18 individuals, and Johnson was not available for comment on the subject.

Ellis said he would prefer not to comment on any of the legal aspects of the letter. He did, however, add that he had hoped the letter would "speak for itself."

Normal procedure in such cases is for the parties involved to try and reach a settlement out-

side court and before an actual suit for damages is filed.

If a suit were actually filed, it isn't known how many if any of the 18 individuals might be named as defendants with SPI.

One point of law brought out in the letter was that the attorneys wished "to make it clear that we do not feel the publication is a periodical within the terms of ORS 30.150-30.175 and that this demand for retraction is not required as a condition precedent to the prosecution of an action for damages."

The points covered under these sections deal with actions for defamation in relation to radio,

television, motion pictures, newspapers, magazines and other printed periodicals.

If it were decided that the Course Survey Bulletin is a periodical within these terms, then it would be necessary for Ellis to demand a retraction in writing within 30 days after receiving actual knowledge of the alleged defamatory statement.

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