

OSPIRG fires Impact editor

By SHAWN ROSSITER
Of the Emerald

PORTLAND (Special) — OSPIRG (the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group) staff member and public relations director John Bartels was fired Monday because of his outside interests and his "instinctive bend toward investigative reporting," according to Steve McCarthy, OSPIRG director.

Bartels' job involved editing OSPIRG's monthly tabloid, the OSPIRG Impact, which was published as an outlet for student work throughout the state, McCarthy said.

Bartels, who finds no fault in being "addicted to investigative reporting," published stories that he had covered such as the facts about a shipment of radioactive materials being trucked through Portland.

His findings were not followed up by any other staff members and Bartels was told by McCarthy not to do that type of reporting again.

"Eventually, Bartels got bored with his job, and it showed," McCarthy said. "His intentions and interests started to wander, and we received complaints about the Impact."

Bartels was also responsible for handling OSPIRG's public relations, a duty he felt created a "canned" image of OSPIRG to people outside the organization.

To correct this, Bartels decided to let the staff lawyers become their own public relations team and work with them as an adviser.

Bartels was hired last May while OSPIRG was waiting for the bar exams of prospective staff lawyers to be held in August.

"Since August, one month before I became Impact editor, I've had no say in OSPIRG policy," Bartels said. "I have objected very strongly to the increasing rigidity of the organization's bureaucracy and to the salary system which pays McCarthy and his assistant a total of \$28,000 a year." (Bartels received \$400 a month on a 90-day basis.)

Because Bartels and his family could not live on the salary, he said, that OSPIRG was paying him, he took other part-time jobs, such as working on a talk show for Woodburn radio station KWRC-AM.

Bartels also began working for an Oregon weekly newspaper called the North Coast Times Eagle, which published out of a Wheeler, Oregon, office.

Since his job ended with OSPIRG, Bartels will become the Times Eagle's publisher and a branch office will be established in Portland for circulation, distribution and news collection of the 18-month-old newspaper.

The Times Eagle, listed at number 20 out of the 95 Oregon weeklies with a circulation of 4,700, is the product of several recent University journalism school graduates who live on a goat farm a few miles from Wheeler.

Bartels' former position at OSPIRG will be taken over by Allan McCullough, who was associate editor under Bartels. McCullough will be helped by a volunteer, Bill VanDyke, according to Bartels.

"Being fired from OSPIRG came as a relief to me. I expected to quit June 1 anyway because I was told there would be no more work for me during the summer," Bartels said.

"It was ironic that I should be fired for a conflict of interest though, when McCarthy left later that day to attend a Tri-Met board of directors meeting."

McCarthy was appointed to the Portland Tri-Met board of directors last Dec. 28 by Gov. Tom McCall.

Cook claims tax plan conspiracy

Tax committee chairer fired

By NAN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

SALEM (Special) — Senator Vern Cook (D-Portland) said Wednesday "there is a conspiracy to keep the people of Oregon in ignorance of the true impact of the Boe-McCall (school finance) tax plan." He said the Senate Revenue Committee was probing into the conspiracy when he was fired as chairer of the committee Tuesday by Senate president Jason Boe (D-Reedsport) who then appointed himself to the position.

"The primary ingredient of that conspiracy is speed in submitting it (the plan) to the people for a vote—have it voted on before the people know its effects," Cook continued in a morning news conference.

Cook called the conference, his second in two days, to give his reaction to being fired by Boe. Tuesday morning he announced during the first conference he did not believe the Senate Revenue Committee could act on the tax plan in time for its implementation during the 1973-74 school year, after which Boe announced Cook was being removed from his position of committee chairer.

"There has been a massive campaign of misinformation coming from the Governor's office about his tax proposal," Cook continued Wednesday. "The most significant of these was the contention that his plan would meet the test of providing equal education for all of the children of Oregon without regard to where they happen to live."

Cook said that under the plan the poor districts would remain poor and the rich districts would become richer as the plan would freeze expenditures for education in each district at the present level. And, he explained, the \$2 per \$1000 assessed true cash Oregon Daily Emerald

value property tax which could still be levied under the plan would produce substantially different amounts of revenue in each school district depending on the wealth of property in each district.

"The main fear of those who support the Boe-McCall tax plan was that we would continue to destroy the myths surrounding the tax package and thereby expose those who are pushing for it so hard," Cook said.

"They fear that further research would show that many of our wage earning middle class and the backbone of our state, the

small businessman, will pay more, not less taxes under this program," he continued.

Cook stressed that the controversy over the plan is not a personal matter. He said that he in fact voted for Boe for Senate president and until yesterday felt Boe was a good Senate president.

But "It's a sorry day for democracy when the chairman of a legislative committee cannot disagree with the president of the senate and still hold his position and carry out his responsibility," Cook said.



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