

# The FBI is a greater threat

The Justice Department revealed this week that between 1956 and 1971 a "counter-intelligence program" of dirty tricks was carried out against the Socialist Workers Party, the Ku Klux Klan, the Communist Party and a variety of New Left groups.

The committee which wrote the report on "Cointelpro" activities said that *some* of them were "reprehensible in a free society."

But Attorney General William Saxbe said most of the actions taken by the FBI were legitimate. "Indeed," said Saxbe, "the programs were in response to numerous public and even congressional demands for stronger action by the federal government." Saxbe did say that such programs would not reoccur under his administration. FBI Director Clarence Kelly has defended "Cointelpro" even more strongly.

The FBI's activities first came to light in 1971 when radicals broke into the Media, Pa., FBI office and found evidence of them. But the details of the program were not known until now. Included were:

- telling the families of target individuals that they were engaging in "immoral or radical" activities.

- giving the same kind of information to employers and creditors

- anonymously publicizing such information when the individual ran for public office.

- putting pressure on employers, landlords and state and local governments to harass the target individual

Saxbe's statements on the matter display his typical ambivalence. Indeed, since taking the helm at Justice, Saxbe has shown an unusual ability for putting both feet in his mouth at the same time.

The "Cointelpro" activities *are* thoroughly reprehensible. For the U.S. Attorney General or FBI director to say that any of them were legitimate is equally reprehensible.

The government has acted as if freedom only applies to those people and groups that keep their criticism within certain bound. Those groups who have the audacity to question or challenge the system itself are subject to harassment, intimidation or worse.

The Declaration of Independence, in assuring the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness says that "whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it..."

The target groups of FBI harassment all—in one way or another—challenge the underpinnings of the American government. It is their right to do so. FBI harassment is an abhorrent violation of free speech.

By imposing limits on dissent and free speech, the FBI has shown itself to be a greater threat to freedom than any of the groups it sought to intimidate.

## A simple case

The following excerpt is from an Associated Press story dated Nov. 19. It speaks for itself:

*Nixon and Colson discussed clemency for Hunt on Jan. 8, 1973, the day former CIA agent Hunt went on trial for the Watergate burglary.*

*"Hunt's is a simple case," said Nixon. "...We'll build that son-of-a-bitch up like nobody's business. We'll have Buckley write a column and say, you know, that he, that he should have clemency, if you've given 18 years of service...That's it. It's on the merits."*

*Columnist William Buckley is a long-time friend of Hunt's and at one time served in the CIA with him.*

*Buckley said Monday in an interview, "I don't need to be reminded to write a column urging clemency for sons-of-bitches, as Mr. Nixon should know from personal experience."*

## Writers wanted

The *Emerald* is seeking faculty and students interested in writing opinion columns for "Science and Society," a multi-part series to be published during the Winter term.

Topics for the series are yet undefined, allowing wide latitude for writers. Potential topics may range from specific issues such as military contracts for scientific research to more philosophical questions such as the impact on society of the assumptions underlying the scientific method.

Columns will be selected for publication on the basis of interest and the quality of writing. Potential contributors are urged to contact Lee Siegel, editorial page editor, Box 3159, Eugene 97403 with their ideas for columns. Or call 686-5511 and leave a message.



## Letters

### Obscene

Until last Friday I would not have believed one would see an obscene caricature of Yassir Arafat in a student paper, the editors of which supposedly have judgement not easily swayed by propaganda, as well as historical perspective.

All through history desperate victims of alien invaders have defended themselves by the kind of warfare which their weakness dictated, even though it is not condoned by the Geneva convention. In recent history the nationals of various countries who used terror against the German invaders were acclaimed as heroes.

Furthermore, it doesn't take much historical knowledge to remember organizations, such as Hagannah, Irgun Zvai Leumi, and the Stern Gang, whose unmitigated terror toppled the British rule over Palestine. Fortunately, the British, realizing that the coldblooded counterterror of governments is more abominable than the hot blooded terror individuals did not bomb Jewish settlements because of a suspicion that terrorists might have found refuge there.

One would like to ask progressive students why they prefer a state which selects its citizens by race and is dominated by religious zealots to a democratic, secular binational society as envisioned by Arafat.

A strident propaganda to the contrary, it is not the existence of the Jewish people in Palestine which is at stake. At stake is justice for the Palestinians, which entails an end to the dreams of a Jewish superstate large enough to settle every Jew in the world. Today, thoughtful Israelis rue having refused to negotiate with Hussein before the latter had to give up the West bank. Will tomorrow the few survivors of a large incinerated world, including Israelis, damn the Tel-Aviv government for having refused to negotiate with Arafat?

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### An appeal

May I use your platform for an appeal? During 1972-73 I believe it was the Black Student Graduate Council that sponsored a

publication called *Blackness Is*. At least four issues came out but the library was never able to get any issues because it was "not for general circulation." It was, of course, subsidized by student funds.

Will anyone in the University community donate such issues as he may have to the library? We collect for the purposes of both Oregon social history and University history.

Walter Slocum  
library  
ext. 3036

### Library concerns

While I found Bill Strubbe's article on the Department of History (Nov. 14) to have been, in the main, an accurate and well-written representation of our current situation, I wish to comment upon two aspects of the piece. Both concern the University library.

(1) The critical remarks by colleagues and graduate students concerned the administration's inadequate financial support of the library. No one in the Department of History wishes to impugn the integrity of professionalism of the library's staff.

(2) My remark concerning the impossibility for faculty to do primary research in the library outside certain areas of American history was meant to extend to graduate students interested in primary research outside certain areas of American history. Mr. Strubbe quoted me as saying that *all thesis writers* would find it impossible to do primary research in the University library. This isn't so. The special collections division of the library is rich in manuscripts dealing with the history of Oregon, right-wing American political movements, the Philippines campaign of the Spanish American War, and certain other aspects of U.S. history. However, two thirds of the history department faculty and fully half of our graduate students are not in American history and most of our undergraduate course offerings are outside American history as well. At present support levels the library cannot come close to keeping up with the published scholarship in the fields taught by the history department, and neither the faculty nor graduate students can do primary research in printed sources because the

funds are lacking for acquisition of these sources.

Raymond Birn, head,  
history department

### Two comments

First, in the Nov. 13 issue, Sylvia Frankle, after condemning the irrational acts of violence by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, tells us that the UN has no right to function if "a majority could be reached for a resolution declaring that a country, Israel, member of the UN, can be destroyed."

What Sylvia has forgotten here is, that in creating Israel, a nation also known for arbitrary irrational acts of violence, (i.e. air strikes on bordering villages suspected of harboring PLO members, knowing that Arab village people will be killed, while the military-oriented PLO will escape) the UN effectively destroyed the nation of Palestine. Did the UN have the right to function in that case?

Secondly, in the Nov. 14 issue, Michael Stone pointed out that due to the existence of "nuts who devote their lives to making sure it's going to be 'them instead of us' when the time comes" inside the highest positions in the military, that we should not leave the task of educating our future military officers to the military academies. A very good point.

The military bureaucracy is designed to fend off criticism and change from the outside (even in case of uproar from Congress and the American people). For that reason I am convinced that the University should take a special interest in educating future military officers, making damn sure that they develop a clear picture of the world situation.

Allen Klefstad Jones  
sophomore, FAA

### Letters policy

The *Emerald* will accept and try to print all letters containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Because of space limitations, letters must be no more than 250 words—typed, triple-spaced, dated and signed with the person's major or discipline. Longer opinion columns will be run whenever possible after being submitted to the editorial page editor. The limit on opinion columns is 1,200 words using the same format as letters.