

Fager defends rights of student press

"There is a growing climate of censorship hovering over school newspapers," a press rights advocate told a group of about 65 student journalists Thursday night at Allen Hall.

Christopher Fager, former director of the Student Law Press Center in Washington, D.C. and a leading defender of the rights of student newspapers, spoke on the rights of today's student press.

"The more high school presses become meaningful and get read, the more censorship is enforced," he said. Fager used as an example of a Pecos, Texas school where a principal refused to allow a student to publish a second school newspaper because the school already had one."

Fager recently argued a case in Virginia in which a student news-

paper established that school administrators could not control the content of the paper even though they funded its publication.

"There is a general decline in knowledge of organization and operation of the government by adolescents," said Fager. "Young people are not reading the established press, and are not aware of their First Amendment rights."



Photo by Keith Allen

Christopher Fager

"Democrats for Lausmann" answer Weaver campaigner

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

A co-leader of "Democrats for Lausmann" says controversy surrounding his group is a political character assassination attempt.

Bob Gorman, who heads the group with fellow University political science grad student David Mason, added attacks on the group are nothing more than an attempt to discredit his group by workers for 4th District Congressman Jim Weaver. Mason made virtually the same statement when he responded to questioning earlier this week.

The group's validity came into question earlier this week when Weaver's campaign manager, Joe Rutledge, said Gorman and Mason had become paid members of Lausmann's staff after they were denied positions with the Weaver campaign.

Both Gorman and Mason are paid \$300 monthly to run Lausmann's Eugene office. The "Democrats for Lausmann" group was started at the end of September as part of a volunteer program to gather support for the Republican challenger.

Gorman said he and Mason approached Rutledge as members of a professional political research group designed to aid candidates during the 1978 election. The group was not looking for paid staff positions, he said.

"At no time did we discuss that

we should try to get a job on the Weaver staff," Gorman said.

Gorman's and Mason's research group was seeking a contract for its services with Weaver's staff, he said. They were also negotiating a similar contract with Lausmann at the time of the Weaver meeting, Gorman said.

Their motivation for joining the Lausmann staff came from the "type of campaign Weaver's staff was running," Gorman said. That campaign includes targeting opponents for harassment, he said.

Gorman and Mason decided to join Lausmann's after they learned Weaver's staff had singled out Medford businessman Norman Peterson for harassment. Peterson, head of the Forest Education and Energy Institute, told Gorman he had received several threatening telephone calls from people connected to Weaver's staff.

The FEEL is a private Southern Oregon Program that trains unemployed workers in timber industry skills. Lausmann has publicly supported the program during his campaign.

The threats were made because Peterson had received a \$10,000 grant from Lausmann's plywood mill in Medford to continue the FEEL program, Gorman said. That grant was interpreted as a political payoff by Lausmann for Peterson's support, he explained.

"We decided that because of

that incident, this was no place for us to be working," he explained. "That was the motive for our move, not money."

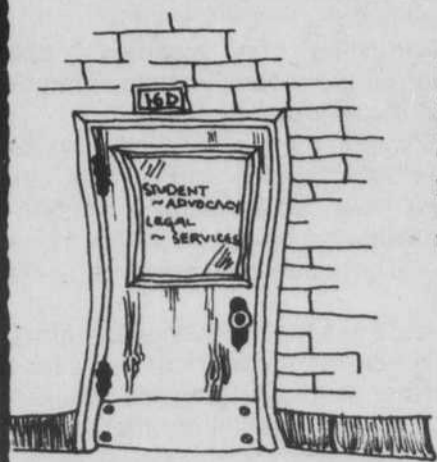
Gorman explained that he and Mason wouldn't discuss the "Democrats for Lausmann" group again because they wanted to "get back to the real issues" of the campaign.

SOMEWHERE TO TURN...

The Office of Student Advocacy (OSA), an ASUO funded agency, is located in the basement of the old half of the EMU, room 16D.

OSA director Don Chalmers acts as the ombudsperson in grievances between students and the University, student employers, and state agencies. Cases commonly handled range from residency disputes to charges of alleged hiring or housing discrimination.

The Legal Services Division provides other professional services through a full time attorney, Chuck Spinner. Chuck will help students with name changes, divorces, incorporation, etc.



Also available is the Student Defender Division. Third year law students working with Chuck act as legal representatives in Student Court, and, in select cases, accompany low income students in criminal proceedings at the discretion of the attorney.

OSA is also available for speaking engagements on issues of student rights.



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