

Reagan's bill may 'shackle' press

By Brian Bubak
Of the Emerald

Pres. Ronald Reagan is jeopardizing the constitutional rights of all Americans, says Steven Dornfeld, president-elect of the Society of Professional Journalists/Sigma Delta Chi.

The First Amendment, which spells out the public's right to free speech, freedom of religion and freedom of the press among others, is in serious danger of being eroded away by unconstitutional legislation, Dornfeld says.

On campus Wednesday for SPJ's "Freedom of Information Day," Dornfeld urged people to fight Reagan's attempts to curtail public access to government information.

Two specific pieces of legislation are of particular importance, Dornfeld said.

The most important, according to Dornfeld, is the, "so-called agents' identity bill." The bill, which is presently awaiting Senate approval, could mean a \$15,000 fine and up to three years in prison for disclosing the names of present or former CIA operatives.

The vagueness of the law would make it enforceable regardless of the source of information or the public purpose involved in the disclosure, Dornfeld said.

He went on to warn that even publishing the names of agents in order to expose illegal action would be prosecutable under the law.

The original bill proposed to the House of Representatives would have called for prosecution when disclosures were made with "intent to impair or impede" CIA activities.

But the version that passed the full House vote was amended to permit conviction of those who had reason to believe the disclosure would impair the agency's performance, Dornfeld said.

Even though more than 100 "legal scholars" have publicly called the bill unconstitutional, Dornfeld said that Congressional members, fully aided by the Reagan Administration, continue to battle toward shackling the press with one more set of chains.

Another issue of major concern to Dornfeld is Reagan's attempt to weaken the Freedom of Information Act. Adopted in 1966, the FOI act was an effort to increase the government's openness and accountability.

But the Reagan Administration intends to take more information out of the public's grasp, said Dornfeld.

Current legislation will make information, once obtainable through the FOI act, inaccessible. This legislation, coupled with an attempt to increase the amount of information allowed to be classified top secret, secret or confidential, will be a major blow to the public's ability to uncover government improprieties, Dornfeld said.

But any attempt to curtail American's rights to government information will be,



Steven Dornfeld

"vigorously opposed," Dornfeld promised.

The SPJ, as well as other professional and public organizations, Dornfeld said, will battle in the courts to erase over-restrictive laws from the books.

IFC chops more funds in hearings

The Incidental Fee Committee slashed more dollars from student organizations Wednesday in yet another round of budget hearings.

The Oregon Student Lobby was among several groups receiving less funding than they originally requested. Its 1982-83 request of about \$20,800 — a 5-percent increase from 1981-82 — failed by a 3-2 vote despite a request by ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins to "set a precedent" for the other Oregon universities to meet the group's entire request.

OSL receives a straight subsidy from each state school according to its student population, he explained.

The budget OSL submitted for next year included salary increases — inappropriate requests at this time, balked IFC members.

In a second vote, OSL was granted the \$20,000, an increase of just more than a 1 percent over this year's funding.

The Muslim Students' Association received \$900, a 31-percent decrease in funding for 1982-83. Since the organization failed to inform the ASUO of its request in time, the ASUO could not recommend a funding level for the MSA within its total 1982-83 budget, said Alan Contreras, ASUO vice president of program administration.

The Community Service and Public Affairs Graduate Student Council received its request of \$260 for 1982-83, taking a voluntary cut of more than 55 percent from this year's budget.

The Panhellenic Council was granted almost \$2,500 for next year, a decrease of about 7 percent from its 1981-82 total. This amount is about \$75 less than the ASUO recommendation, and more than 50 percent lower than its original request of about \$5,200.

A revised request was similar to the amount granted.

As a sidenote to the hearing, the IFC was informed of possible telephone rate hikes by Contreras.

Telephone expenditures would increase 25 percent for the basic monthly rate, 15 percent for WATS, and 15 percent for the annual charge, effective in April. Because of these increases, the IFC would have to revise all telephone expenditures for 1982-83, he said.

catch the classifieds!

Letters against financial aid cuts urged

By Ann Portal
Of the Emerald

Financial aid supporters get their first chance to criticize Pres. Ronald Reagan's proposed cuts at Congressional hearings next week, but the University's financial aid director wants students to speak up before then.

"It's incredibly important" for

students to send letters now to the six Oregon Congressional members, says Ed Vignoul, University financial aid director. He predicts letters — lots of letters — are the only thing that's going to change minds in Washington, D.C.

The House Budget Committee on Post-Secondary Education begins a series of financial aid hearings next Tuesday

through Thursday in Washington, D.C. The hearings, which will examine the impact of the Reagan administration's budget proposal, will move to New York on March 5.

The 1982-83 budget proposal released by Reagan on Feb. 8 contains a \$141.5 million reduction in the amount of financial aid that Congress approved last December.

If Reagan's proposal passes Congress, the total amount of federal financial aid for the 1982-83 school year would be \$590 million less than was available in 1981-82.

The proposed 1983-84 funds would mean a reduction of more than \$2 billion of the amount that was available during the current academic year.

University Pres. Paul Olum mailed a letter last Friday to students and parents, urging them to write to representatives about the impact of the proposed cuts.

He says "the cuts look terrible" because they revoke a long-standing commitment to give students a chance to earn a degree from a public college or university.

Peter DeFazio, an aide to Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Oregon,

says 300 to 400 letters sent to each representative could have a definite effect. He says it's particularly important for students to write to Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Oregon. Hatfield is chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"If he says there'll be more money for students, there will be more money for students," DeFazio says.

The current attitude at the federal capitol is that there will be a long fight over further financial aid reductions, DeFazio says. The final level of aid for next year is an "open ball game" at this point, and effective resistance and lobbying may well influence the outcome, he says.

The ASUO plans a Financial Aid Forum March 11 to allow representatives of the different sides to present their views. To date, the speakers include Vignoul, who will present the impact of the cuts on the University; Ray Naff, representing Hatfield; Cynthia Wooten, representing Weaver, and a former Oregon campaign worker for Reagan who will present the administration's viewpoint.

The forum will be held in EMU Room 167.

Want to send a letter? Here are a few names

U.S. Representatives

Les AuCoin, Democrat
231 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Denny Smith, Republican
1207 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Jim Weaver, Democrat
1226 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ron Wyden, Democrat
1440 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Senators

Mark Hatfield, Republican
463 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Bob Packwood, Republican
1321 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

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