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Unpopular causes defended by ACLU

By William Kogut
Of the Emerald

"Racial insults are a form of protected speech."

Such a stand might be expected of a Strom Thurmond. Few persons might think the above statement would reflect the views of the American Civil Liberties Union.

But it does.

"The ACLU tends to guard freedom of speech very jealously," says Dave Fidanque, director of the local ACLU chapter. "If we (as a society) say racial epithets deserve an extra six months in jail, then next some other form of speech (will deserve added punishment)."

Fidanque's remarks refer specifically to the case of Ron Harrison, a black Eugene police officer. Harrison has alleged that in responding to a call to Eugenean Richard Lyle Staley's residence, Staley insulted him using racial epithets and slurs. Under a new Oregon law, such words constitute intimidation in the second degree.

The ACLU became involved in Staley's defense at the last minute. On Friday, Circuit Court Judge George Woodrich, in a civil action, found for Harrison on counts of racial harassment and outrageous conduct. Harrison was awarded general and punitive damages on both counts and attorney fees for a total of \$6,750. Criminal prosecution of Harrison is pending. "It was clear from officer Har-

rison's testimony that only speech was involved, there was no physical threat," Fidanque says. "Punishment should be based on acts only," he contends.

When the racial harassment law was proposed in the Legislature, the ACLU opposed it. Instead, it favored beefing up the state civil rights law.

Fidanque realizes the ACLU's position might alienate members of the union drawn from minorities, and that it might have an adverse effect on attendance at the Lane County Chapter Annual Meeting set for 7:30 p.m. today in Harris Hall. But the ACLU has a reputation for not shying away from fighting for what it believes is right, from taking on tough, "borderline" cases.

During the late '70s, the union actively defended the right of neo-Nazis to march in Skokie, Ill., home of a large Jewish population. As a result, union membership dropped off drastically. It has since recovered dramatically.

A 100-member increase in Lane County membership — from 450 to 550 — over the last six months may be in some measure due to the opening of the local office.

Since it set up shop, the Lane County office has received hundreds of requests for legal assistance. "I screen the requests," Fidanque says. "Ones that seem to involve

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Photo by Erich Boekelheide

We'll sing in the sunshine

It wasn't a traditional lawn party, but several hundred folk music enthusiasts gathered on the east lawn of the EMU Sunday afternoon to dance and listen to the 12th Annual Willamette

Valley Folk Festival. Beginning on Friday, the festival provided audiences with three sunny afternoons of free entertainment, including concerts, festival and country dancing.

Job outlook improving for graduates

By Diane Winocur
Of the Emerald

This article about the College of Arts and Sciences is the first in a five-part series examining career opportunities for University students.

Although the University contains the state's largest arts and sciences college, only 25 percent of University students graduate with a traditional liberal-arts degree, according to Larry Smith, Career Planning and Placement Service director.

But career prospects are improving for non-specialized graduates, Smith says. Estimated increases in employment demand for liberal-arts majors through the 1980s range from good to excellent.

The increasing demand for liberal-arts majors is a result of society "moving to a service/industrial base and away from manufacturing industry," Smith says.

Factors contributing to this shift include improved manufacturing technology and the changing demographics of the American consumer, as the post-World War II baby-boom

generation and its particular needs moves through society, he explains.

Employment opportunities in the service areas are skyrocketing, providing many jobs nationwide for liberal arts majors, Smith says. Faster than any other industry, employment opportunities in careers such as health care, maintenance and repair, advertising and communication are projected to grow from the 18 percent of the work force these jobs currently represent 40 to percent through the mid-1980s.

The general background of a liberal-arts education provides a graduate with a terrific advantage in a rapidly changing business world, says Arnuls Zweig, associate dean of the arts and sciences college.

"You've learned how to think critically and how to learn," Zweig says. "Even if you can't use your college studies, skills acquired in your first job lay the foundation for your second and third jobs."

Liberal-arts job opportunities may be improving, but both Zweig and Smith emphasize the importance of taking specialized courses, such as com-



Graphic by M. Schafbuch

Outlook for the '80s

puter science, to increase employment possibilities.

"Graduates are more employable if they acquire expertise in computer science, business, accounting, economics, the hard sciences, or statistics," Smith says.

"Even companies with a policy of hiring liberal-arts majors can't always afford the training time."

Job prospects for graduates of most of the arts and sciences

departments are projected by Federal Department of Labor statistics to be higher than the national average.

Over the next decade, demand for mathematical technicians, political scientists, and sociologists will top the list of jobs increasing in demand, with percentages roughly three times the national average, according to statistics.

Careers expected to almost double the national average include medical doctors, computer systems analysts, geologists and psychologists.

A survey of University students who graduated in 1980 shows how many found employment and gives hope for liberal-arts majors.

In a percentage ranking of each University major now employed full time, positions two through five were filled by history (99), computer science (95), political science (91), and mathematics (90). The field producing the most employed graduates was accounting.

Graduates in the hard sciences seem to be aware of the low demand for their skills, because of those surveyed, more biology, chemistry and

math majors currently attend graduate schools than any other group. This also explains their low showing in the employment polls, Smith says.

Computer science majors ranked highest among those who found jobs relating to their college studies.

Liberal-arts graduates taking jobs least related to their areas of study tended to be in geography, political science, psychology, the Romance languages and sociology.

A higher correlation between studies and job placement was found for economics, general science, German and mathematics students.

Majors in biology, English, and geology were just as likely to find employment outside their field of study as they were to find jobs in their field.

Yearly earnings was the final question posed to graduates. Those earning over \$18,000 a year were roughly limited to computer science and chemistry graduates.

Graduates falling mostly in the \$9,000 to \$17,999 range included anthropology, geology, linguistics, philosophy and political science.