

Former University president awarded Peace

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By Colette Doudin
Of the Emerald

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon presented Robert Clark, former University president, and 1986 Lane County commissioners with Civil Liberty Awards at a benefit reception at the Eugene Hilton on Sunday.

"The award to President Clark recognizes the numerous actions he took in support of

free speech activities during his tenure at the U of O from 1966 to 1975," said David Fidanque, associate director of the Oregon ACLU.

"In particular, he is being honored for his efforts to diffuse tensions between University students and local officials during periods of protest against the Vietnam War," Fidanque said.

On at least one occasion,

Fidanque told an audience of about 60 people, city officials dropped demands that students avoid the downtown business district for anti-war protests because of Clark's direct intervention.

Fidanque praised Clark for making the difference between the "police beating heads" and a peaceful outcome.

Clark said he always tried as president of the University to operate with an "open campus" policy, in which faculty and students had a right to know what was happening at the school and could express their opinions in a responsible manner.

The ACLU also honored Lane County commissioners John Ball, Peter DeFazio, Chuck Ivey, Bill Rogers and Jerry Rust. They were chosen to receive the award for their unanimous decision to close the old Lane County Jail this spring in response to an inmate lawsuit, Fidanque said.

The commissioners started planning to phase out the jail, built in 1906, before the lawsuit was filed, Fidanque said.

Though Fidanque said the Oregon ACLU did not support a recent county plan to expand local jail facilities, he said he hoped other officials would learn from the commissioners' decision "that protecting constitutional rights is not the exclusive domain of the courts, but is a responsibility of all branches of government."

Reagan "sacrificed that possibility on the altar of his Star Wars program," Talbot said.

In addition, for the past three years, the U.N. General Assembly has passed a resolution calling for the prevention of an arms race in outer space, Talbot said. The only nation to vote against the resolution all three years was the United States, she said.

"It is indicative of the fact that it is not just the U.S. against the Soviet Union... we stand pretty isolated from the rest of the world on these votes," Talbot said.

Many Americans believe that when the current administration changes in two years, the threat of nuclear war will diminish, she said.

"But I submit that we haven't the luxury of two years — we have to act now," Talbot said.

Many Americans are frustrated because no matter how much the American people fight for peace, the government continues to initiate programs that point toward war. But the slogans and demonstrations for peace are the same all over the world, she said.

The people of America are not alone in their struggle for peace, but the American government is alone, Talbot said.

"The vast majority of the millions of people in this world stand for what we stand for," she said.

Peace is not seen just as a question of disarmament, but

also as opposition to apartheid, as a peaceful end to international disputes, as women's equality, as human rights and as opposition to racism, she said. "You cannot separate the issues."

One way to promote peace is to make changes for peace in the community, said Barbara Keller, a No-GWEN legal coordinator who helped organize a lawsuit against the establishment of a GWEN tower in Lane County.

"People have been recommitting themselves to peace. They have been walking over lines for peace," she said.

In Lane County, the passage of two nuclear-free zones for the city and the county were a victory for peace, as was the opposition to a GWEN tower being built in Lane County, she said.

"This year, we are no longer a part of our country's plans to start a prolonged nuclear war," Keller said.

The reason for these victories is a small group of citizens who protested and lobbied against "the international insanity that is our nuclear arms race," she said.

If each person committed him or herself to working on one issue for peace, then "this will indeed be an international year of peace," Keller said.

The International Year of Peace was called by the United Nations to strengthen the United Nations' disarmament campaign.

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Holiday

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of work" determination was made by administrators who never asked employees how much work they need to do.

Steward said he did not consult with any employees. "I consulted with a number of other administrators who are the ones responsible for determining when work needs to be done," he said. "The students are gone, and that's the number one reason for our existence."

Oregon State University, Portland State University and some of the state's regional colleges also will close the day

after Christmas, Steward said.

Wittwer said the administrators' assumption that University staff members have little work to do when students are gone is wrong.

"Yes, there is a lighter work load in the sense that no phones are ringing and no students need to be served, but many people view the time as an opportunity to catch up on some work in a quiet, peaceful atmosphere," Wittwer said.

The library, where Wittwer and Sieracki work, is an interesting case in point because

it will be closed Friday, but open on Saturday and Sunday after Christmas. It would seem that Saturday and Sunday also would be lighter work days, but actually none of the days will be lacking work for library employees, Wittwer said.

The employees likely would be appeased if the state would follow the lead President Reagan took last week when he declared Dec. 26 an extra day off with pay for federal employees. All presidents since the early 1950s have taken similar action when Christmas falls on Thursday, the White House said.

Steward said the governor's office is inquiring to find out the true extent of Reagan's action. If the president declared Dec. 26 a federal "holiday" rather than just a "day off," it could make a difference in what the Oregon governor could do, Steward said.

Supposedly, if Reagan declared Dec. 26 a holiday, the governor also could give state employees a holiday.

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