

The SCJ Reporter



The Nation's Oldest National Honorary Collegiate Journalism Organization

Founded as ΠΔΕ (1909) and ΑΦΓ (1919)

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From the President

“So where are we now?”

*By William Ruehlman
SCJ President*

It has been a difficult year for America domestically and abroad in the wake of 9/11. I have never been prouder of student journalists, who found their roles recounting, assessing and, ultimately, sustaining the effects of history on campus communities all over the country. These effects have been profound and have informed our sense of identity as citizens and active supporters of the First Amendment, an important difference between us and our adversaries.

So where are we now? Perhaps at a place where the collective encouragement of membership in The Society For Collegiate Journalists was never more helpful in committing our energies and talents to this terrific profession, which remains, beneath and beyond all the attendant millennial showbiz hoopla, a public service.



Dr. William Ruehlman, SCJ President

I'd like to take the opportunity at the start of a new fall semester to encourage all our members to recruit more, on and off campus. Spread the word about the value of

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SCJ. Enlist new chapters at other colleges and universities; road trip some starter kits! A strong membership not only keeps us going in an oth-

erwise lonely endeavor, it also strengthens our influence on the profession and the audience it serves.

I encourage, too, each chapter to consider putting together a College Media Day, as we are here at Virginia Wesleyan College in the spring, featuring lectures and workshops by professionals for the benefit not only of the host institution but also other schools and organizations in the surrounding area. The newspaper of record in your community is a great source for reporters and editors who might help, as are local radio and TV stations. It's a chance to be an educating force and have some fun doing it.

As for me, I'll be trying to put together a book on writing designed to serve and promote the SCJ membership. Let's each one of us give it our very best this most significant year. That's what we've always been about, after all.

Legal Briefs

www.splc.org

Calif. journalist arrested while photographing police



CALIFORNIA - A Chico State University student journalist landed behind bars Labor Day weekend after photographing an undercover police officer giving a citation.

Misha Osinovskiy, a photographer for *The Orion*, was on assignment taking pictures of officers making alcohol-related arrests near campus Aug. 31 and into the early morning of Sept. 1. The police were cracking down on public intoxication and underage drinking during one of the biggest party weekends of the school year.

"[The officers] didn't mind us being around. They were joking with [the reporter and me]," Osinovskiy said. When he came across Alcoholic Beverage Control officer Jerry Berenger citing a student, the reception was far more chilled. Berenger, under the guise of a Harley-Davidson T-shirt, arrested Osinovskiy on suspicion of obstructing an officer after he took pictures of the ensuing police action.

Osinovskiy said, as he positioned himself on the other side of a nearby pickup truck and took his first photograph, Berenger shone a flashlight on him.

"[Berenger] told me, 'You need to go. If you take another photo, I'm going to take you to jail.' I figured one more [picture] wouldn't hurt," Osinovskiy said. Immediately after Osinovskiy took the second shot, Berenger dropped what he was doing, handcuffed him and confiscated his camera and film.

"[Berenger] said he was concerned about his identification and, if his picture got published, there would be people who would want to kill him," Osinovskiy said.

Jerry R. Jolly, acting director of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, said Osinovskiy, more importantly, was getting in the way of the citation because the camera flashes were "blinding the officer and the suspect was becoming agitated." The department claims Osinovskiy was within a couple feet of the officer and took at least five photographs, although *The Orion* shows record of only two negatives that were both taken from a car-length distance away. According to Jolly, Berenger was concerned about the growing unrest of the onlooking crowd, but Osinovskiy said at the time of his handcuffing few people were in close proximity. Jolly also emphasized Osinovskiy did not have the proper press credentials and did not identify himself until after his arrest.

Dave Waddell, Chico State advisor to *The Orion*, said the lack of press credentials should not have made a difference. "A cop can't tell a journalist or anyone not to take a photo in public," he said. Osinovskiy told officers that under section 409.5 of the California Penal Code he was allowed to shoot in any public place unless it is a crime scene. "Misha acted appropriately and knew the law," Waddell said. "The fact he was a student was the heart of what happened. A photographer from a professional newspaper wouldn't be arrested."

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey has not approved charges and could not comment on case.

Osinovskiy spent more than five hours in Butte County Jail in Oroville before being released at 5:30 a.m. He said he was never read his rights, and upon inquiring why he was arrested, he said an officer told him "for lying to an officer" or, as his citation indicates for falsely representing himself under section 148.9 of the penal code. Jolly said the discrepancy of charges was a clerical error and in fact he was arrested under 148 of the penal code for resisting, delaying or obstructing an officer. This charge carries a maximum penalty of \$1,000 and/or a year in a county jail.

Osinovskiy's court date is set for Sept. 20. Waddell is working to have the charges dropped and Osinovskiy's arrest record expunged.

Meanwhile for Osinovskiy, it is back to business as usual. After regaining his camera the evening of his release, he was out taking additional photographs of student arrests. "[Berenger] saw that I was young and took advantage . . . This doesn't change anything," he said.

The information for this portion of the SCJ Reporter is reprinted from the Student Press Law Center website with permission. For more on recent legal issues check out the SPLC online at www.splc.org.

Past President William Lawbaugh resigns as adviser/professor

*Courtesy of
Carolyn Hakes Dawson*

A two and a half year censorship battle at Mount Saint Mary's College took a new twist recently when the longtime faculty newspaper adviser announce early retirement, just days before the new academic year began.

Dr. William M. Lawbaugh, an associate professor of communication, student media adviser, and past president of SCJ left the Mount on August 31.

"I'm really sick and tired of having to fight administrators for what should be taken for granted in an open society—freedom of expression for college editors," said the embattled adviser who adamantly refused to censor or control the student media ever since administrators ordered him to do so in early 2000. "I have endured nothing but hatred and invectives ever since I stood up to them and their chicanery."

College Vice President and Provost Carol L. Hinds issued a letter of reprimand to Lawbaugh in February 2000, ordering him to control student media content and fining him \$3,800 until he capitulated. The veteran student media adviser and associate chair of the national College Media Advisers ethics committee declined, and a fight commenced.

In August 2000, College Media Advisers, Inc., issued a letter of censure against the Mount for "oppressing students' rights to free expression and hostility toward the professional it employs to advise the student press."

Lawbaugh's resignation was triggered by "stonewalling and intransigence," he said. Repeatedly and as

recently as this summer, Lawbaugh has sought to lift the CMA censure, but College President George R. Houston has refused to answer his letters or discuss the matter with Lawbaugh or CMA officials. Lawbaugh left the Mount for two reasons, one being the lack of commitment to the press by the administration.

"The College Media Committee, under orders from the Provost, Carol Hinds, tried to change the policies

and guidelines for student media by eliminating all guarantees of free expression," said Lawbaugh. The standing committee is expected to resume administrative efforts this autumn to remove this controversial clause: "Students have the right to determine content of student publications and broadcast programs."

**Editor's note: Dr. Lawbaugh served SCJ for two consecutive terms as President.*

Tips for the contest

By Mary Jennings, SCJ Contest Director

After two years coordinating the competition, I have a few observations to make.

As journalists, our students are far more often the targets of blame than praise, so I believe it's extremely important for them to engage in competition judged by experts in their fields.

That said, our judges are extremely busy professionals, who give of their time and expertise without stint and without complaint. I'd hate to lose even one because we made the task of judging onerous.

Please be sure to do the following:

1. Newspaper Entries: Tape an entry blank to the back of a FULL tearsheet (which carries the date as proof of publication within the calendar year) for EACH entry. Draw a red-ink border around the story or photo entry. Make sure the entry form is secure, and that it contains all required information. If your story jumps to another page, tape the pages back to back. If your entry is a full page (design categories), you need not mark it in red ink, just affix the entry form to the back.
2. Newspaper Entries: If two or more items you want to enter are on the same page, you must supply a separate tearsheet and entry blank for each.
3. Newspaper Entries: Staples catch on other pieces of paper and paper clips fall off. We cannot inflict that kind of aggravation on the judges. Stapled and paper-clipped entries will be discarded. The judges will never see them. Also, put your entries in order by category. Entries in excess of the allowed number in each category will be discarded.
4. Yearbook Entries: Send ONLY TWO COMPLETE COPIES, no tearsheets; your book will be judged in all categories.
5. Yearbook Entries: Entry forms may be taped inside the front cover. Include student editors', artists', photographers' names, as appropriate.
6. EVERYONE: Remember the Deadline is December 15th. All entries must be post-marked to be eligible.

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Notes from the Executive Director



Arthur Barlow,
SCJ Executive Director

Welcome to Autumn 2002, a new academic year, another chance at a fresh start.

Onwards –

Item 1. Our national contest Director, Mary Jennings, provides some excellent advice for this year's contestants in this issue of the Reporter (page 3). Also included are revised rules for this year's contest. NOTE: The Deadline is now December 15th. No one posts after the holidays – get it done before break. Mary has done an excellent job in her years as National Contest Director, maintaining one of SCJ's most important and prestigious National services. Remember the SCJ National Contest is the only student media contest that is professionally judged.

Item 2. Last Spring was a convention year; SCJ delegates convened in New York City and successfully conducted the work of the society. I have since revised and reprinted the *SCJ Constitution/Handbook*. A request for copies is included with this issue of *The Reporter*, so if you are among those initiates who missed receiving copies because we were between printings, or, if you want to archive some copies, just let me know. We'll have a steady stock till our next convention triggers another revision. That convention, Spring '04, will take us back to our roots; our new President, Bill Ruehlmann, and his Virginia Wesleyan College SCJ Chapter, will be our most gracious hosts.

Item 3. The SCJ National Council will meet at the CMA/ACP convention in Orlando this Autumn. In addition there is a Special SCJ session in the program – please attend and help us explain who we are and what we can do. The CMA sessions are excellent recruitment opportunities, and the CMA convention is a splendid opportunity for established chapters to gather. Look for postings about the time and place of the SCJ reception and plan on joining us. Autumn and Spring CMA conventions provide a rare chance to actively greet and meet the people with whom we have worked for years.

Item 4. Consider hosting a College Media Day: SUNY New Paltz has; Virginia Wesleyan will; Clarion University of Pennsylvania's CMD is scheduled 18 October.

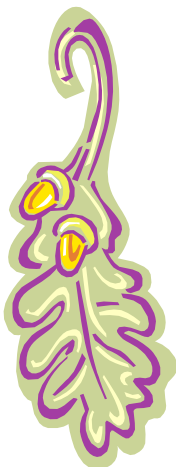
Chapter Notes

*Congratulations to our
new members at:*

*Slippery Rock University, PA
2 new members*

*Hastings College, NE
17 new members*

*University of the Pacific, CA
4 new members*



The SCJ Reporter
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