Handbill Rule Dropped Unanimously by CSA

By CHARLES G. FENTON

The Council on Student Affairs voted unanimously last night to drop its rule banning distribution of handbills on campus, but stipulated that this would not take place before its next meeting Feb. 16.

John T. Bonner Jr., executive dean of student relations and CSA chairman, named a committee of CSA members to study the problem of handbill distribution and report to the council at its next meeting.

The rule states that handbills may not be distributed in any way on campus.

Mrs. Ruth L. Wilkins, associate professor of business organizations; Clark P. Pritchett, Jr., a first-year student in Law, and Dan E. Moore, a senior in Agriculture, were appointed to the committee by Bonner.

The Students for Liberal Action criticized the handbill rule at a meeting Jan. 13. SLA president Dennis C. Knepley, a junior in Arts, called the rule "ridiculous" and said SLA would violate it if it were not changed.

Knepley and SLA adviser David Kettler, associate professor of political science, appeared before CSA last night to present their opinions on the handbill rule.

"This rule is not needed and should be got rid of," Kettler said.

"The University has an obligation to create an atmosphere conducive to free dialogue. The handbill rule stifles free dialogue on campus," Knepley said. He felt "embarrassed" by the existence of such a rule at Ohio State.

"Students and student organizations should be allowed to distribute free handbills and literature on campus," Knepley said.

He also asked CSA to permit students to sell literature on campus. According to University Rule 61.01 passed by the Board of Trustees, all sales are prohibited on campus unless specifically granted by the executive dean for admissions and registrations.

Bonner said the handbill rule had been requested by the student government "about 30 years ago" to prevent littering of the campus during student elections.

In other action, CSA granted provisional recognition to the Ohio State Libertarian Forum, a group formed to study free enterprise economy.

Pamphlet Rule To Be Reviewed, Bonner Says

The University rule prohibiting distribution of leaflets on campus may be revised soon, John T. Bonner, executive dean of student relations, said yesterday. Bonner said he has invited Dennis Knepley, president of the Students for Liberal Action, and Prof. David Kettler, SLA adviser, "to present their views on a change" to the Council on Student Affairs Wednesday.

SLA recently criticized the ban and announced it would distribute leaflets in defiance of the "ridiculous rule."

Bonner said it was SLA's questioning of the rule in part that brought his attention to it.

"I support a reasonable revision of the rule," he said.

Knepley said Bonner told him SLA would have first priority at the CSA meeting and assured him that the rule would be changed.

"This is an example of the University responding to legitimate student demands," Knepley said.

He said SLA would postpone distribution of any leaflets until a new rule is drawn up and made public.

DISTRICT 1-24-66

A controversy over handbills at Ohio State University may be taken up during a Feb. 2 meeting of the Council of Student Affairs instead of exploding in a storm of paper on the campus Monday.

The Students for Liberal Action, a recognized student group of about 46 members, announced this week that they would hand out several thousand handbills Monday in protest over an old university curb against this form of communication.

INSTITUTED about 30 years ago when administrators worried about handbills for student elections and beauty queens, the regulation is now under attack for being in violation of constitutional rights of free speech and press.

Handbills can be distributed by recognized groups from booths on the University and on desks at the University Union under a liberal interpretation of the regulation, John Bonner Jr., executive dean of student relations, said Wednesday.

Despite a liberal attitude by the administration, the written regulation is unconstitutional and should be removed, David Kettler, political science professor and SLA adviser, contends.

ALTHOUGH the issue was raised by the student members of SLA, Kettler reported that he agrees with their stand "Under the democratic system, the proper action to take would be to challenge the regulation by public protest," Kettler said.

An invitation to the SLA to attend the Feb. 2 meeting was transmitted to Kettler Wednesday by Bonner. Kettler said he would forward it to the student group for consideration.

Until the invitation is considered by the student group, it cannot be known whether Monday's protest distribution of handbills will be conducted Kettler said.
In other action, CSA passed a resolution instructing all organizations to label posters and handbills with their organization's name. The resolution is in accordance with an existing University rule.

Under this rule, such groups as the Independent Student Union (ISU), an unrecognized campus group that registers with the University as a subcommittee of the recognized Free Student Federation (FSF), must include FSF identification on all posters or handbills.

It was also announced that Student Assembly will sponsor a mock presidential election and will conduct a series of forums on the presidential race.
Vet charged with posting handbill on South Oval

By ANN SHELDON
11-12-70 Lantern Staff Writer

A member of Veterans Against the War (VAW) was arrested Wednesday morning and charged with posting a handbill without permission on campus.

Terry K. Webber, a graduate student in history, was picked up by campus police while allegedly putting up an announcement on a post on South Oval Drive. He was released on $150 bond and is scheduled to appear in court Tuesday.

In protest to Webber's arrest, representatives of VAW brought to Ted Robinson, vice president for student affairs a list of eight other organizations which have illegally posted handbills.

Calling the arrest unfair, Timothy Holder, president of VAW, told Robinson that it was an example of 'discriminatory action' by campus police against their organization.

Holder said that his organization was being singled out by the police and that members of other organizations were not being arrested for the same offense.

Robinson said that he had never heard of anyone being arrested for this before and that he would investigate Webber's arrest.

Donald C. Hanna, campus director of public safety, denied Holder's charges and said that campus police weren't discriminating against VAW or any other organization.

Hanna said that Webber was arrested when an officer observed him posting the announcement.

In most cases, Hanna said, the identity of the person who posted the handbill is not known. Hanna said that unless the police officer observes a sign being put up no arrest can be made.

"If any person is observed in the act of unlawfully posting a handbill, he will be arrested regardless of any organization to which he might belong," Hanna said.

According to Hanna, to legally put up a sign on campus a person must have the permission of President Fawcett or Ronald Thompson, executive dean for student statistical services.

Any recognized student organization does not need permission to post a sign on a campus bulletin board.

City and University say posting leaflets is illegal

By LINDA HALSEY
Lantern Special Writer

The posting of handbills and leaflets on public property, for which one arrest and two warnings were made recently, is controlled by city and state law and University regulations.

According to Donald Hanna, director of public safety for the University, the laws must be enforced because there are so many places in the area where announcements and ads could be posted.

"If there isn't some regulation you'll have all types of signs and paper posted in public areas -- areas visible to passers-by."

He also said any change in the laws would have to be in the form of city and state legislation.

Any questions, however, or requests for special permission can be made to Ted Robinson, vice-president for student affairs.

Dan Metzger and Gale Finley, both freshmen from Columbus, were taken into custody Dec. 2 for posting leaflets in campus parking lots and were "advised" that the action was "unauthorized," Hanna said.

Terry K. Webber, a member of Veterans Against the War, was arrested Nov. 12 for posting a handbill on South Oval Drive.

When asked how many arrests had been made under similar charges, Hanna said it was impossible to know since cases are not filed by the type of incident they involve.

The penalty under the Columbus City Code for posting leaflets and handbills is a fine not to exceed $300 and/or imprisonment for not more than 90 days.

Under the Ohio Revised Code it is a fine of not less than $10 and not more than $50.

The University regulation in the Student Handbook reads "posters, signs, handouts, brochures, handbills, pamphlets, folders, or other communications are prohibited on any surface, inside or outside campus buildings (except for bulletin boards), trees, shrubbery, lawns, sidewalks, light posts, traffic signs, statues, parking meters, motor vehicles, telephone booths or other unspecified locations."

According to the city law, "no person shall stick, paint, brand, stamp, attach, hang or suspend upon any house, building, fence, wall, light standard or vehicle, without the consent of the owner thereof, or upon any pole used for the purpose of carrying electrical conductors, or upon any street or sidewalk pavement or other public place, any printed, written, painted or other advertisement, bill, notice, sign or poster."

Under the state law, "no person shall paint, print, paste, stencil or otherwise mark, place upon or affix to a building, fence, wall or tree without the consent of the owner thereof, a word, letter, character, figure, sentence or device or a handbill."