

USA PATRIOT ACT ISSUES FOR CAMPUSES

A guide to issues within the PATRIOT Act that directly affect campus life

Privacy of Campus Records

- According to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), about 200 colleges and universities have turned over student information to the FBI, INS, and other law enforcement officials.
- Educational institutions are permitted to disclose "directory information" to anyone who asks. Information such as name, phone number, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, dates of attendance, the most recent previous educational institution attended, and other information which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy (FERPA).
- Your school also collects a wealth of more personal information ranging from your medical records to your family's finances to disciplinary records; they may also release this information to federal authorities.
- Your school library and bookstore must turn over borrowing and sales records on individuals to the FBI or other law enforcement agency, *and* they can't tell you they have done so.

Campus Police Cooperation with the FBI

- The FBI is employing campus police on a part-time basis to monitor political and religious activities on campus and investigate student, faculty, and staff backgrounds or are active in political organizations.
- Under the guise of "terrorism investigation", campus police may search your room/office and belongings without notifying you or the college administration.

Surveillance

- Universities may be permitted to monitor e-mail and Internet communications, particularly in cases where a student, faculty member or staff person is using university or college-owned equipment, even if that individual is not the target of a criminal investigation.
- Law enforcement agents may employ video surveillance to track and record an individual's activities on campus.

Academic Freedom

- Universities may institute policies that restrict when and where students, faculty and staff may rally, protest, or speak about a certain issue.
- Universities may sanction students or faculty for written or spoken commentary.
- The government or universities may institute policies that prohibit the research and writing around certain topic areas in the interests of "national security."

Immigrant Rights

- Colleges and universities are required to compile records for all international students and enter them into an INS database.
- All non-citizen men over the age of sixteen from a specific list of mainly Arab and Muslim nations are required to participate in special registration with the INS. Of those who have registered, some have been arrested without a specific warrant, held without access to a lawyer, and/or deported without the right to an open hearing.

Prepared by the ACLU of Utah - To find out what you can do to oppose the PATRIOT Act and stand up for FREEDOM visit www.acluutah.org



Under the USA PATRIOT ACT the government can now:

Label Us “Terrorists” if We Belong to a Student Activist Group

The USA PATRIOT Act broadly expands the official definition of terrorism, so that student groups that engage in certain types of civil disobedience could very well find themselves labeled as terrorists (Sections 411, 802). The Sheriff of Hennepin county, Minnesota declared that the student groups “Anti Racist Action”, “Students Against War”, and “Arise!” were potential terrorist threats.

Seize Our Student Records

The USA PATRIOT Act gives law enforcement access to student educational records without probable cause of crime. (507) The Government refuses to disclose how many times it has done this.

Collect information about what books we take out of our school library, what we study, and what we purchase from our school bookstore

The USA PATRIOT Act gives law enforcement broad access to *any* types of records – sales, library, financial, medical, etc. – without probable cause of a crime. It also prohibits the holders of this information, like University librarians, from disclosing that they have produced such records, under the threat of jail time (Section 215, 505). A University of Illinois survey of U.S. public libraries found that at least 545 libraries had been asked for records by law enforcement in the year after September 11, 2001.

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Search Our College Dorm Rooms, Apartments or Homes and Not Even Tell Us

The USA PATRIOT Act allows the law enforcement to conduct secret “sneak and peek” searches of a dorm, apartment or home. Investigators can enter a place of residence, take pictures and seize items without informing the occupant that a warrant was issued for an indefinite period of time. (Section 213)

Monitor Student E-mail and Internet Activity

The USA PATRIOT Act permits the government to monitor Internet traffic and e-mail communications on any Internet service provider without probable cause of crime by obtaining detailed “routing” information like a web address. While this provision is supposedly aimed at lawbreakers, it sweeps broadly because e-mails and Internet traffic information of innocent students cannot be separated from the activity of targeted individuals (Section 216). The government refuses to disclose how many times it has used this power.

Spy on Student Political Meetings or Religious Ceremonies

The USA PATRIOT Act permits a vast array of information gathering on student political meetings and religious ceremonies to be collected—often by campus cops on behalf of the FBI—and shared with the CIA (and other non-law enforcement officials) without proper judicial oversight or other safeguards. This law effectively puts the CIA back in the business of spying on students, including US citizens (Sections 203 and 901).

