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Furor Over S.F. State's Double Agent

By Maitland Zane

Alexander Jason, the undercover policeman-reporter, has applied for entrance to the graduate school of journalism at the University of California at Berkeley this fall. The Chronicle learned yesterday.

Jason, 25, worked as a reporter on the Phoenix, the student paper at San Francisco State University, during the 1972 spring term.

At the same time he was an undercover San Francisco police officer assigned to the Intelligence Unit.

EDITORIAL

Jason's double role at S.F. State was the subject of a bitter editorial yesterday in the Phoenix, which protested "one of the worst breaches of academic freedom imaginable."

"A press cannot be free when such activities are allowed and tolerated. The newsgathering process as protected by the First Amendment is horribly jeopardized when police agencies plant agents and informers on newspapers," the editorial by editor Joe Kante, 21, said.

Yesterday's Phoenix, which caused a furor on campus, carried a photo-

graph of Jason that had originally appeared on a poster put out last December by the Venceremos Study Group, which Jason had infiltrated.

The Venceremos flyer said Jason had been using the name "Al Jensen." "Beware—Police Agent," the flyer warned.

DISCLOSURE

Jason's double role as journalism student and undercover policeman became known last Friday when he testified in a Marin court case that he had been assigned to the campus for infiltration of leftwing revolutionary groups and consequent intelligence gathering.

David Campbell, special city editor of the Phoenix, wrote yesterday: "It probably never will be known if Jason, while posing as a reporter, used Phoenix or Prism as a cover for intelligence gathering. This may never have happened. But by his own admission, Jason was assigned to this campus

for undercover work."

Prism, another publication of State's journalism department, carried a witty piece by Jason in its January issue. "Confessions of a TV Repairman," tips and anecdotes derived from his three years in that business.

Jason could not be reached for comment yesterday.