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ACLU NEWS

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PROGRAM TO FEATURE SOLZHENITSYN TAPE

WHAT: Taped Speech Written By Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
WHEN: Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: 755 Loma Valley Road, Point Loma

A program featuring the acceptance speech that Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn never got to give for his 1970 Nobel Prize for literature will be presented by the SDACLU at 7:30 p.m. March 27 at the home of Jane Elliot, 755 Loma Valley Road.

The speech is given on tape by Paul Scofield, the Academy-Award-winning British actor. The tape, which lasts for about 35 minutes, will be followed by a discussion led by professors Renate Bialy of San Diego State and Larry Schwartz of City College. Ms. Bialy teaches a course on Solzhenitsyn and Schwartz is a history professor and also an SDACLU board member.

The Soviet Union would not allow Solzhenitsyn to travel to Norway to accept his Nobel Prize. He had written an acceptance speech, however, which amounts to a plea for freedom of expression, and it was furtively carried out of the country to be heard eventually by the Western World.

The Soviet Union recently performed "spiritual castration" of Solzhenitsyn (his own description) and banished him from his homeland forever. He is currently living in the quietude of European seclusion, and is deciding where to make his permanent home. The author's wife and family have been promised by the Soviet government that they will be able to join him when certain administrative procedures are completed.

At 55, Solzhenitsyn is no ordinary Soviet intellectual who had gotten tired of the repression and censorship of a totalitarian government. He is a towering literary figure with a worldwide reading public numbering in the millions. The latest of his works to be published in the West, "The Gulag Archipelago 1918-1956," probably pushed the Soviet politburo over the brink.

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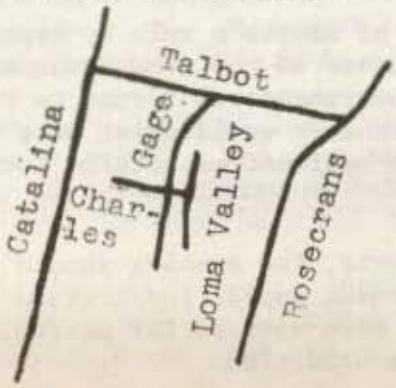

This is a crude map of the way to Jane Elliot's house. Going south on Rosecrans, you turn right on Talbot. Go three blocks and turn left on Gage. You then go two more blocks and turn left on Charles, and go one block to Loma Valley. She is at the corner of Charles and Loma Valley (at 755).

I AM INTERESTED IN JOINING A POLICE PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Send to: ACLU, P.O. BOX 6233, San Diego 92106

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Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

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I want to be a member because _____

_____

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CHAPTER TO FORM POLICE PRACTICES COMMITTEE

As reports of police harassment continue a steady rise with the SDACLU legal panel and board, serious thought is again being given toward establishment of a Police Practices Committee.

Larry Schwartz, SDACLU board member and committee organizer, said that four segments of the population seem to be suffering the most: students, poor people, minorities, and beach residents.

Schwartz, a City College professor, said that recently students he knows have been thrown in jail with no charges, beach residents (especially Ocean Beach) are being hassled in the wake of the recent police shootings, and Schwartz himself was recently intimidated by police after an appearance before the City Council when he advocated impeachment of President Nixon.

Schwartz is looking for committee members and already has held one preliminary meeting to discuss organization and tasks. He said the group must first find out what similar committees in other cities are doing, what kind of funding is available, and what kind of legal assistance is avaible.

Schwartz wants the committee to be made up of a broad base of citizens, including lawyers, students, minority representatives, and other interested parties. He said the main objective will be to guarantee that people's rights vis-a-vis law enforcers are kept no matter who the accused is or where he lives.

Any SDACLU member interested in belonging to such a committee should send the tear-off sheet above to the SDACLU office. You will then be notified by phone of the next meeting.

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SOLZHENITSYN TAPE

"Gulag Archipelago" is the story in documentary style of Russia's rule by repression. The government charged Solzhenitsyn with treason, but because of the tremendous attention the Western press had paid to Solzhenitsyn, the Soviet government was forced to be somewhat lenient. In darker days under Stalin, the author probably would never have been heard from again. The only other Soviet citizen to be so banished was Stalin's rival, Leon Trotsky, back in 1929.

For those who never have read any of Solzhenitsyn's works, the evening should prove valuable. The writing is described as a beautiful and tender appeal for freedom from a man who never really has tasted it. He has increasingly been seen as the personification of a humanistic tradition with deep roots in Western tradition.

X-RATED FUNDRAISER SETS $$ RECORD

A packed house of slightly over 300 people watched the two best known X-rated films in American cinematic history as the SDACLU made a little history of its own. As a fundraiser, it was the chapter's all-time moneymaker, bringing in a gross of $1,213.03.

For the films, "Deep Throat," and "Behind the Green Door," more people were turned away than could attend. Checks for about 360 tickets--over $1,400--were returned because the theater could not accommodate that many people. For those attending the experience seemed to be educational, enlightening--and a bit tedious at the end.

The previous most successful fundraiser was the last Bill of Rights banquet, where the chapter made about $850. According to Ceile Podoloff, chapter executive secretary, the additional output of this fundraiser will just about meet the inflationary rising costs of postage, printing, etc.

The event also put the chapter on the map, publicity-wise. Not only did it get wide play in ACLU circles nationally, but also went out on the Associated Press national wire service and appeared in a number of newspapers across the country. One board member received a news clipping from the "Milwaukee Journal" from friends who had clipped it out.

Our thanks again to chapter member and theater owner, Russel Hoelscher. He provided the theater and films at no cost. The challenge for the next fundraiser is, of course, can you top this. How do you follow an act like Linda Lovelace?

LEGAL BRIEFS

RALLY SUIT CONTINUES

The suit resulting from a Rally for Nixon in August of '72 has taken a step forward. A motion by the U.S. Attorney to have the suit dismissed was denied. However, the number of respondents, which did include some federal agencies, was reduced to those people named specifically--L. Patrick Gray, former FBI head, for example.

The suit, which has at least 11 plaintiffs asking for damages ranging from $15,000 to $100,000 per person, rose out of the denial of entrance of supposedly anti-Nixon persons to a campaign rally at Lindbergh Field.

BOB WILSON ABUSED FRANKING

Judge Gordon Thompson, U.S. District Court, decided recently that Congressman Bob Wilson abused his franking privileges in the past election with a mailing that cost $36,000. Frank Caprio, Wilson's opponent, brought the suit, and asked that the money be paid back to the taxpayers through the U.S. Post Office. Judge Thompson denied the financial aspect of the suit. And the Legal Panel and the Board of Directors have approved an appeal of it. The ACLU volunteer attorney handling this suit is John Stephens.

ADVOCATES BACKED BY CHAPTER

The SDACLU will file an amicus brief for the Advocates, a defunct group of attorneys who are facing a disciplinary hearing in June by the American Bar Association (ABA) for soliciting business. Attorneys Lou Katz and John McGuane, with the help of legal students Helen Fortson, Bill Andrus, and Carol Muehling, will prepare the brief.

The Advocates offered legal services to those people unable to afford high legal fees and to those who were not poor enough to receive free aid. The ABA canon of Ethics prohibits any solicitation of business except in a dignified manner. The Canons are not actually laws but they have the force of law.

ACLU's brief is based on freedom of speech and association, equal protection of the law, and due process. In this case it will be argued that attorneys have the right to solicit business and that the public has the right to accept or reject the solicitation.

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LEGAL BRIEFS Continued from Page 3

BOARD VOTES TO OPPOSE We TIP

The SDACLU opposes We Turn In Pushers (We TIP) on constitutional grounds, the board of directors decided at its past meeting. We TIP is a privately funded project designed to encourage the public to report drug pushers. We TIP receives anonymous "tips" and forwards them at its discretion to the Sheriff's Department.

The constitutional grounds SDACLU is standing on are that the project opens the door to violations of privacy, and that due process is jeopardized by the possibility of false arrest. The request for a stance from ACLU came from Dr. Peter Frank who is chairman of the Substance Abuse Committee of the Comprehensive Health Planning Association of San Diego, Imperial and Riverside Counties.

Michael Pancer, SDACLU legal panel chairman, has spoken before that association board in support of a motion by Frank to oppose We TIP. The motion was tabled. Interestingly, support for the motion also came from Joe House, supervising special agent for the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement. He said that the program doesn't work and that his agency prefers its own methods of investigating and apprehending pushers.

THE VERY LEAST—RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

April will be membership month. If you haven't renewed by then, you can expect a phone call. You can jog your memory of renewing by checking the number below your address. It has a letter preceding it, if you have renewed. If not, use the coupon below to do so.

As far as the recruitment of new memberships go, the newest wrinkle is that the Affiliate will return to the Chapter $3 of every new $15 or more membership. In the past, the chapter has not received a direct return of money from the affiliate. So, if each of the some 2100 members brought in one $15 member, that would be $6300 for the chapter, enough to support the chapter activities and to be creative. Call 223-3863 for membership envelopes or use the coupon.

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