[MS-0087.008.005.008]

ACLU NEWS san diego

OCTOBER 1973

Published by the American Civil Liberties Union
P.O. Box 6233, San Diego 92106 223-3863
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ACLU TO CELEBRATE AMNESTY WEEK

OCTOBER PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH, 7:30 P.M.

WHERE: VILLA MONTEZUMA, 1925 "K" STREET

WHAT: "AMNESTY"

To celebrate Amnesty Week, the SDACLU will sponsor an informational evening on the amnesty question including a film, speakers, and an open discussion. The program will begin at 7:30 P.m. on October 17 at Villa Montezuma, 1925 "K" St.

Amnesty Week, October 14-22, is being celebrated nationally and is involved in a campaign to achieve full and unconditional amnesty for the tens of thousands of young American war resistors either in jail or out of the country.

The 20-minute film, titled "Amnesty or Exile," was put out by the National Council of Churches. The film is excellent in stimulating discussion and features interviews with resistors, parents of resistors, Melvin Laird (former Defense Secretary), and Henry Schwarzschild of the ACLU Project on Amnesty.

The speaker's segment will be made up of Gus Anderson, an active duty naval officer, who will give the "pro" side of amnesty. Meeting planners also hope to get a "con" speaker--possibly someone from the American Legion--and at least one San Diego area resistor.

"TIMES-REVIEW" CARRIES ACLU NEWS

"Civil Liberties" is a column being published in San Diego Times Review, a new monthly tabloid newspaper.

The column is being coordinated by Mary Freske, who will do some of the writing and also arrange for guest columnists.

The first column was in October's issue and dealt with what ACLU is about. The next column is being written by Gus Anderson, a Navy Lieutenant, a member of Concerned Military, and also on the SDACLU Board of Directors. Anderson's piece will deal with amnesty.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY STUDENT RIGHTS

Student rights means a lot of things: Dress codes, demonstrations, self-expression, free speech, pamphleteering, search and seizure, open school records, participation in patriotic ceremonies, club membership, police questioning, press freedom, speeches and petitions, corporal punishment, marriage and pregnancy, suspension and expulsion, sex discrimination, and the right to an education. And many others.

Students, once thought of as second-class citizens under the law, are gradually being recognized as deserving of the same rights as adults. The struggle has been long, however, and many areas are still undefined by the courts.

Probably the landmark case in the area of student rights was the case of Tinker vs Des Moines Independent Community School District in 1969. In it, the U.S. Supreme Court made it clear that elementary, junior and senior high students have the First Amendment right of free speech, and, indeed, all the basic rights guaranteed to adults.

The SDACLU First Amendment Committee is very interested in studying student rights and discovering how San Diego County School districts are protecting students' rights, especially as the First Amendment is concerned.

The committee will obtain copies of such regulations from the major school districts in the county, and attempt to critique the rules as they pertain to the First Amendment. Possible violations of First Amendment rights will be pointed out, and districts will be asked to rewrite the offending sections.

The committee also is continuing its inquiry into the problem of a San Diego-based Atheist organization that is trying to get its views aired on the electronic media. So far, all stations have turned down the group's requests even though the stations continue to carry religious programs.

James Hervey Johnson, head of the group known as the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism, has asked the ACLU and its Legal Panel and 1st Amendment Committee to study the matter. Johnson feels he has the right to air his views under the FCC's Fairness Doctrine.

PANCER, PATRICK DISCUSS "DEPROGRAMMING"

Michael Pancer, ACLU Legal Panel chairman, and Ted Patrick, representing Parents to Free our Sons and Daughters from the Children of God (FREECOG), confronted each other on Telepulse (KFMB-TV) recently.

Pancer contended that FREECOG violated the freedom of religion provisions of the constitution by "kidnapping" individuals from religious cults and "deprogramming" them. He said that if the cults are acting illegally, then law enforcement should be responsible, not FREECOG.

Patrick contended that any means were suited to saving "children" from the groups, which he says turns individuals into "zombies" and turns them against their parents and society.

FREECOG has devised a "deprogramming" procedure which, Patrick says, is rehabilitative.

Patrick was tried and acquitted in New York on assault charges. He has been charged, but not yet tried, in Denver with a misdemeanor in a recent case involving two Denver girls.

SCHOOL DISTRICT HIT BY ADCOCK CASE

In a rather scathing attack on the San Diego Unified School District, the California State Supreme Court has ruled in favor of Plaintiff Jerry Adcock in his fight to be reinstated as a teacher at Clairemont High School.

In it's 20-page decision, delivered about two weeks after school started, the court said the school district violated Adcock's First and Fourteenth Amendment rights, and acted "arbitrarily, capriciously, and engaged in Entrapment."

Now back at Clairemont, Adcock said the case involved censorship of a paper, regulations regarding grooming and attire, rules regarding an outside speaker policy, and distribution of a pamphlet off of school grounds that dealt with legal alternatives to the draft.

The case is known as Adcock vs. Board of Education and the SDACLU was Amicus in the case. Adcock said the court quoted liberally from the Tinker and Pickering school decisions of a few years ago. Both were important decisions affecting student rights and the power of school districts to inhibit constitutionally guaranteed activities.

The district's Board of Education has accepted the decision and has voted not to carry the case any further. This was done at the recommendation of the district's new legal counsel, Ralph Stern.

Adcock describes himself as an atheist and "philosophical communist." He has long been an active civil libertarian, humanist, and a teacher totally dedicated to the implementation of the Bill of Rights at the high school level. Because of his long history of such activities, Adcock was named the SDACLU "Civil Libertarian of the Year" for 1972.

Adcock said he sees excellent precedent by this case for teachers throughout the state. Describing his feelings, he said, "No teacher should be punished for offering alternative viewpoints — that's what education is all about. We must not silence people for having unpopular ideas, and most of all our teachers must not be intimidated by these things."

Adcock is now continuing his activities back at Clairemont fully reinstated. He said he is very pleased with the new set-up, including his teaching load, his class room, and his hours. He added that the principal (not the same one as in 1969) has been "extremely cordial" and easy to work with.

COURTWATCHING OFF TO GRAND START

The fall term courtwatching program got off with a gang this month. Between 125 to 150 potential watchers showed up for the orientation meeting with an additional 50 or so who have not yet reported in.

Dr. Dan Harris, coordinator of the group, said that most of the watchers are students from San Diego State, Grossmont College, University of San Diego, and the California School of Professional Psychology. The students receive credit for the activity.

The first session was spent in training, dividing up the courts, and going over the newly devised report form.

LEGAL BRIEFS — — POTPOURRI

SDACLU Opposes Chaplaincy—"SDACLU opposes the government-supported presence of the military chaplaincy as a violation of the Constitutional strictures on church and state powers." This policy was adopted at a recent Board of Directors meeting. National ACLU is being urged to participate in a suit to challenge the chaplaincy.

Advisory Committee to be Studied—A committee, possibly the new Legislative Committee under the chairmanship of Jim Lansford, will be looking into proposing an ordinance establishing a citizen's advisory board for the San Diego Police Department.

Jail Facility Hearing Oct. 17—The Board of Supervisors hearing on medical conditions in the jail that was originally scheduled for Sept. 19 has been continued to Oct. 17. ACLU supports the Bar Association recommendations and has written to the Board to that effect.

*** How would you like to help us by reading a book with a large cast of characters but a lousy plot? We need to have phone numbers looked up for our membership files. Call 223-3863 if you have a few hours.

*** Thanks to those who came to the Fun(d) raiser Sept. 21, and to those who donated time and money, and to Dr. and Mrs. Mannis who were gracious hosts. The party netted $365.76 for ACLU.

*** More chances to help: a membership chairman is needed. It's basically a clerical job—keeping the files up to date. Some phoning would be involved. The chairman is a member of the Board of Directors as well.

*** Do you have or know someone who has a large home suitable for a bill of rights celebration in December? Call 223-3863.
At the celebration we traditionally make a Civil Libertarian of the Year Award. Any suggestions? Again, call 223-3863.

*** The Lakeside contigent of ACLU has a renewal rate of 100 per cent. How about it, everyone else? If you have an R in front of the long number underneath the address on your mailing label—you've renewed. But if not, renew now or you'll miss out on this newsletter, not to mention national and affiliate publications. Did you know that membership entitles you to free pamphlets from national? A list is available—call 223-3863.

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