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ACLU NEWS san diego

MARCH 1973

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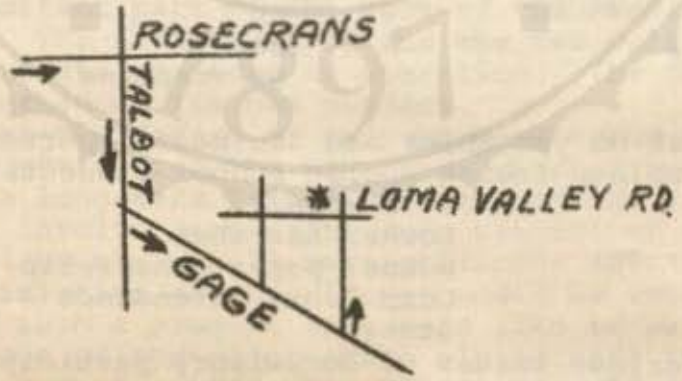
JAILED REPORTER TO SPEAK

The current national crisis involving the right of a newspaper reporter to protect his (or her) sources will be the topic for the March membership meeting. One of the first reporters to be jailed for refusing to reveal confidential sources was a local reporter. Vi Murphy, a reporter for the Union-Tribune, was jailed for 30 days in Colorado several years ago. At the time she was working for a Colorado newspaper. Ms. Murphy will discuss her case with ACLU members. She will also discuss the implications of the current conflict between the judiciary and the press for the news gathering function of the media.

WHEN: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1973 AT 7:30PM

WHERE: IN THE HOME OF JANE ELLIOTT
755 LOMA VALLEY RD. (IN THE PT. LOMA AREA)



PRESS FREEDOMS COMMITTEE FORMED

A few years ago the ACLU was defending underground newspapers and their reporters. Throughout the U.S., attorneys appeared in support of alternative media requests for press passes. ACLU officials condemned harassment of underground newspaper vendors and reporters by police officers.

Today the ACLU has been in courts defending the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, and other newspapers which could hardly be considered underground. Attacks on underground newspapers did not cause great concern to many people. But the situation is different today.

The San Diego ACLU has established a First Amendment Committee to review problems of the Press in the San Diego area. The ACLU has been, and will continue to be, concerned about the increasingly severe attacks on the media. The local committee will be charged with determining the proper role of the ACLU in First Amendment conflicts.

Anyone interested in serving on this committee should call the ACLU at 223-3863. Board member Larry Schwartz will chair the committee which already has some issues before it.

SATISFIED WITH THE SCHOOLS?

In the last newsletter members were requested to send in comments about civil liberties problems in the public schools. Only 17 members responded. Generally, the respondents expressed satisfaction with the situation of students. Some of the responses:

1. Are girls permitted to take shop classes in the schools you have knowledge about?

Yes	10
No	2
Some	2
No response	3

2. Are boys permitted to enroll in home economics classes in those schools?

Yes	11
No	2
Some	0
No response	4

3. What do you think are the most important civil liberties problems facing public school students?

No response	7
Locker searches	3
School paper censorship	3
Compulsory attendance	2
Other*	9

*various issues of compulsory participation in the pledge of allegiance, dress and grooming codes, and mandatory classes.

Specific violations were not indicated on the responses. The ACLU continues to welcome information about civil liberties violations in the public schools.

LEGAL PANEL REPORT

Below are some reports on the activities of the ACLU Legal Panel:

"Jesus Freak" de-programming--There have been reports of an organization kidnapping persons who have joined religious communes around the country. A parental group called "Free Our Sons and Daughters From the Children of God" has been involved in returning youngsters to their parents. The group is headed by San Diegan Ted Patrick. ACLU Legal Panel Chairman Mike Pancer has been investigating the de-programmers for the past month. Pancer has turned over his information to the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. The ACLU believes that the activities of Patrick constitute kidnapping. According to Pancer, "Kidnapping a kid over 18 is illegal, and that's that. What these [Jesus] kids are doing beyond the age of consent is their business." Pancer has been interviewed by the New York Times and Newsweek among other publications. For more details of the de-programmers' activities see Newsweek (March 12th issue).

computer classification of pre-delinquents--There have been stories in some local newspapers about a program organized by the schools and law enforcement agencies to determine if very young children might later become delinquents. According to the reports the federal government is financing the project utilizing computer storage of information about potentially delinquent youngsters. The ACLU has investigated these reports and concludes that there is no such program. The articles were the product of a little-known and apparently unreliable news service.

campaign expenditure controls--The local ACLU has set up a committee to investigate the many ordinances and laws being considered to control campaign spending. The committee will also continue the ACLU investigation of laws requiring the registration of lobbyists. The ACLU is concerned about the effects of such laws on free speech and privacy.

PRISON PROJECT

The problems of prisoners and ex-convicts have become an increasingly important part of the work of the American Civil Liberties Union. The national ACLU and the two California affiliates now have prison rights projects in operation. The San Diego ACLU has now embarked on its own project.

Responding to the desire of many members to be able to participate in ACLU activities, the San Diego chapter board of directors voted to create a long-term Prison Rights Project. Although much of the work will involve legal action to protect of rights of the convincted class, there will be significant efforts in the educational and legislative areas. If you would be interested in participating in such a project and would like to be involved in the planning stages of the undertaking please mail the tear-off below to: ACLU, P.O. Box 6233, San Diego, Ca. 92106.

PLEASE CONTACT ME TO WORK ON THE ACLU'S PRISON RIGHTS PROJECT.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ _____

IS YOUR LETTER SHOWING?

PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR ADDRESS LABEL BELOW. IF THERE IS NO LETTER PRECEDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T SENT US YOUR RENEWAL CHECK. PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY.

The primary source of income for the American Civil Liberties Union are the annually renewable memberships of its 200,000 supporters. Your $15 (or more) supports most of the ACLU's national and affiliate activities. Any decline in membership would result in a cutback of the ACLU's lobbying and legal program throughout the United States.

When you renew your membership please consider the needs of the San Diego ACLU. LOCAL ACLU ACTIVITIES ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY GENERAL MEMEBERSHIP INCOME. The San Diego chapter must raise its own funds from its members. Ordinary membership income is divided between the national ACLU and the Southern California affiliate. Local chapters must raise money for any local projects.

In order to be effective the ACLU must have strong national and local programs. Your membership renewal is essential for an effective nationwide civil liberties effort. Additional contributions to the San Diego ACLU helps to bring those efforts to our area.

PLEASE RENEW TODAY

☐ Enclosed is my check for $15 (or more) in order to renew my membership for 1973. (limited income membership of $5 available to students, retired persons, etc.)

☐ Enclosed is an additional contribution of $_____ to by used by the San Diego ACLU for local projects.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

Please mail to:

ACLU
P.O. Box 6233
San Diego, Ca. 92106

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