

At least three Free U members have been hassled for allowing their homes to be used for courses listed in the MFU Catalog and taught by themselves or by friends. Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Woodside have at one time taken the position that use of private homes for courses is tantamount to use as a school building. This apparently arose as a semantic confusion, because we sometimes abbreviate the descriptor "Courses taught by Free U Members and Listed in the MFU Catalog" as "Free U Courses." According to our By-Laws, the Free University has no control over the conduct and content of courses; courses are offered by people as their own responsibility not by the university as an organization. This is not intended to evade zoning laws; it is an essential principle of the Free University that education is an act of sharing among individuals, not a commodity sold by an organization. The role of MFU in education is to encourage people to share their knowledge; we do this by publishing a catalog and a newsletter and by organizing related administrative activities.

IF YOU ARE HASSLED BY CITY HALL OR BY "AUTHORITIES", WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CALL YOUR ATTORNEY AND/OR THE FREE U FOR THE ADVICE WHICH YOU MAY REQUIRE. IT IS THE OPINION OF OUR LAWYER THAT ZONING LAWS MAY NOT BE USED TO KEEP YOU FROM HAVING A COURSE TAUGHT IN YOUR HOME. HOWEVER, "DISTURBING THE PEACE" AND OTHER CHARGES COULD BE VALID IN APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES.

At one time, the City of Menlo Park considered revoking the Use Permit of our headquarters because we were using for classes not only its back room, but also other locations in Menlo Park. The ACLU offered to defend us because they felt that revocation of the use permit was an extralegal way of enforcing laws affecting private homes and the individuals who have decided to teach in them. However, the City changed its mind after talking with our lawyer, Jim Wolpman. L.T.

## PFP to meet Feb. 24th

by Gaylord Smith

The Peace & Freedom Movement of San Mateo County will hold its first county-wide convention this weekend. The session will begin on Saturday, February 24, in the theater of the College of San Mateo (1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd.) at 9:30 a.m. and will last all day with a series of workshops and meetings. The convention will reconvene on Sunday at the McKinley Jr. Hi Auditorium (corner of James Ave. & Duane, Redwood City) at 1:00 p.m. Sunday to vote on platform proposals, elect officers, and endorse candidates.

Persons between the ages of 16 and 21 may register with P & F at the door and participate as equals with qualified registered voters if they are residents of the county. Saturday afternoon, a meeting of high school students will be held at CSM to organize P & F clubs at high schools throughout the county. P & F recently distributed leaflets at Woodside High advising students of their civil rights if questioned by the police. P & F Clubs have already begun to organize in Pacifica and Daly City high schools.

Rumor has it that Larry Tesler of the Free U is seeking endorsement as the P & F candidate to the state assembly. Free U members who would like to support his candidacy (or oppose it) should make a point to attend this convention.

Saturday night at 8:00 p.m., there will be a sensitivity awareness session led by Mike Young at CSM for convention participants (Free U influence on P & F already?). Also at 8:00 p.m. Felix Greene's "Inside North Vietnam" will be shown at the CSM auditorium. Admission is \$1 for convention participants and \$2 for others.

## Well now, ABOUT THAT PARANOIA....

This letter was written and mailed on Feb. 12. So far we have received no reply.

by Larry Tesler, Member & Associate Coordinator  
"The Honorable Ramsey Clark, Attorney General of the United States of America, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

It has come to our attention that several of our nine hundred members, as well as some prospective members, have been told by social and business acquaintances that membership in our university would somehow affect their present or future eligibility for security clearances or for employment.

Our organization does not advocate overthrow of the government of the United States by violence or by force. We do take political stands; presently, our stands are:

- (1) non-violent resistance to the draft;
- (2) none-violent resistance to the war in Viet Nam;
- (3) opposition on constitutional grounds to certain laws controlling marijuana;
- (4) endorsement and support of California's new Peace and Freedom Party.

In theory, any democratic organization could vote to take subversive stands. We wonder if you could clarify whether such an act would reflect on the members of that organization. (No effort to take subversive stands is indicated in our university, because most of our constituents, like most people of the world, believe in non-violence and in democracy.) It is unfortunate that some in our society, whatever their motives, instill in others fear of involvement in experimental education by playing on their need for job security. We would greatly appreciate your helping to allay this fear by correcting the misconceptions that have been circulating. To this end, we respectfully request a letter which:

- (1) explains the grounds for denial of security clearances, and
- (2) assures our community that we are on no "subversive list" and that you are aware of no reason that we should be on one."

## Membership: 4 more to 1000

Written by Larry Tesler

The last membership card issued (as of February 17) was No. 996. However, there were 15 refunds this quarter; so we have 981 members. When some teachers as well as other non-members pay their dues, we expect to have about 1000 members.

This indication of widespread community support for the Free U is certainly encouraging. However, we feel that quality of service to the community, not quantity of membership is more important. We still welcome new members and hope that old ones will wish to rejoin each quarter. However, rather than driving for more and more members, our time is possibly best spent coping with the problems of an organization of the present size.

More recently, John Wills Tuthill, our ambassador to Brazil, recoiled when he realized that his embassy staff numbered 924. He suggested that it be cut by 35% to 50%. Explaining that the US had taken "much too wide an operational role in Brazil," Tuthill proposed his own third corollary to Parkinson's Law--"Any organization that grows to a thousand people no longer has need of contact with the outside world."

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