

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003
February 1, 1977

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

The YSA convention decided to launch a broad, nationwide campaign in defense of three young socialists -- Brigid Douglas, Jim Garrison, and Tom Smith -- who were victimized for political activity last fall at Central Michigan University. Our aim is to bring to bear the weight of public opinion in support of academic and political freedom, forcing the CMU administration to drop all charges against the three.

Articles in the Militant and Young Socialist have reported our initial progress gaining prominent sponsors of the Committee for Free Speech and soliciting protest letters from concerned individuals and organizations. The issues raised in this case offer an opportunity to enlist the support of a wide range of people, both on and off campus. CMU is attempting to put socialists behind bars for the "crime" of distributing socialist literature outside a public meeting. If successful, it would strengthen the hand of university officials everywhere in suppressing the rights of all campus organizations and political activists. Every effort should therefore be made now to step up the defense campaign.

Attached are four items to aid chapters in this work:

1. A copy of a letter from the Committee for Free Speech, appealing for support to publicize and raise funds for the case. This letter may be used along with the committee brochure, "Defend Free Speech," to introduce people to the facts of the case and the broader constitutional issues involved.

2. An up-dated list of sponsors of the Committee for Free Speech. Efforts should be made to reach individual professors and student leaders; teachers unions and faculty groups; congresspeople, state legislators, and other elected officials; chapters of the NAACP and the National Organization for Women; Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and women's student groups; and other prominent civil liberties advocates. Sponsorship in no way implies endorsement of the YSA's political views or activities.

3. A sample protest letter to CMU President Harold Abel, demanding that all charges against the three YSA members be dropped. All sponsors should be asked to send

such letters. In some cases it may be helpful to circulate a single letter that can be signed by several individuals. Organizations can be asked to adopt resolutions based on the letter. Copies of all letters or resolutions should be sent to the Committee for Free Speech in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

4. A sample news story explaining the defense case and the federal court suit that has been filed challenging the constitutionality of university regulations that restrict academic and political freedom. Efforts should be made to have the story printed in campus newspapers, whether in the form of news articles, opinion columns, or letters to the editor.

The Militant will continue to report on new developments in the case each week. Reports on defense activities should be directed to the YSA National Office.

Comradely,
Chuck Petrin 
Chuck Petrin
YSA National Office

SAMPLE NEWS STORY

Students at Central Michigan University (CMU) in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, filed suit in federal court January 21 against campus regulations that restrict the free distribution of literature.

The suit asks the court to declare these rules unconstitutional and for an injunction barring the administration from enforcing them.

Plaintiffs in the action are the CMU chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance; other CMU students; and three YSA members who were arrested at CMU last October -- Brigid Douglas, Jim Garrison, and Tom Smith.

The three socialists were charged by the CMU administration with trespassing on university property and disrupting a university function. Actually, the YSA members were simply handing out socialist election campaign materials outside a campus meeting for former CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr.

The three each face possible jail terms of six months and fines up to \$1,650 each.

At a news conference on January 21, defense attorney Ron Reosti blasted the university's restrictive rules concerning literature displays, posting and distribution of leaflets, fundraising events, and other means of promoting an organization's views and activities.

"Such regulations are not related to preventing 'disruption' of the educational process, but are, in fact, designed to short-circuit that process by giving the university the power to censor ideas and regulate who can engage in political activities when and where," Reosti said.

The Committee for Free Speech, a non-partisan group of students, professors, and civil liberties advocates, is stepping up its efforts to build a broad defense movement, demanding that all charges against the three socialists be dropped.

Sponsors of the committee include professors and student leaders from across the country, as well as noted scholars Noam Chomsky and John Henrik Clarke; journalists Dwight McDonald and Murry Kempton; National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee director Edith Tiger; and leaders of several Black, women's, and labor organizations.

The committee is asking that protest letters be sent to CMU President Harold Abel, Warriner Hall, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48859, with copies to the Committee for Free Speech, P.O. Box 626, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858.

SAMPLE PROTEST LETTER

To: President Harold Abel
Warriner Hall
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48859

Dear Sir,

I/We protest the arrest and prosecution of Brigid Douglas, Jim Garrison, and Tom Smith -- members of the Young Socialist Alliance -- on the charges of "trespassing" and "disruption of a university function" as an attack upon academic and political freedom. The right of students to examine, challenge, and express any viewpoint freely, without restriction or penalty, is essential to the educational process and must be defended. I/We therefore demand that Central Michigan University drop all charges against the three socialists.

Endorsers (partial list)

EQBAL AHMAD
Harrisburg 8

JOHN ANDERSON
Past president, UAW 15, Detroit

ERNIE BENJAMIN
AAUP President, Wayne State
University

RICK BERMAN
Young Socialist Alliance
National Organizational Secretary

LEHMAN BRIGHTMAN
Native American Studies
Contra Costra College

PERRY BULLARD
Michigan State Rep., 53rd District

NOAM CHOMSKY
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

BOB DALRYMPLE
Student President, Western Michigan
University

TOM DICKEY
Student President, Lansing Community
College

MIKE EINHAUSER
Board of Governors, Wayne State
University

HENRY FAGEN
Dean of Student Life, University of
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Attorney, AAUP, Michigan State
University

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Student President, Michigan State
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Wayne State University

ALICE LITTLEFIELD,
Anthropology Professor, Central Michigan
University

FROVEN LOZADA
Chicano Studies, Merit College

ROBIN MAISEL
Michigan State Secretary, Socialist
Workers Party

JAP MARSHALL
Detroit Youth Association

IDA MELTZER
ACLU, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
Detroit Chapter

NORM RASULIS
English Professor, Central Michigan
University

CARLTON SMITH
Director of Michigan Association
for Higher Education

HARRY SMITH
Student President, Wayne State
University

ROSALIE SULLIVAN
Detroit Area NOW

EDITH TIGER
Director, National Emergency Civil
Liberties Committee

ELIAS VASQUEZ
Chicanos Organized for Progressive
Action, Central Michigan University

GREG WILLIAMS
President, Organization of Black Unity,
Central Michigan University

ROBERT F. WILLIAMS
Civil Rights Leader

MALCOLM WRIGHT
Executive Vice-President, Michigan
Federation of Teachers

Committee for Free Speech

Box 626, Mt. Pleasant, MI. 48858

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PAULA REIMERS
Vice-President, AFT 2000

ROSALIE SULLIVAN
National Organization for Women

Dear Friend:

The Committee For Free Speech was formed at Central Michigan University in response to the arrest of Jim Garrison, Brigid Douglas and Tom Smith - three campaign supporters of the Socialist Workers 1976 presidential campaign. The three were arrested for merely distributing campaign literature at a public meeting. Supporters of the Committee believe that the administration's actions are a direct violation of the Bill of Rights protection of freedom of speech. For your convenience a brochure put out by the Committee is enclosed.

To counter this blatant attack on free speech and academic freedom, professors and students at Central Michigan University have circulated hundreds of petitions demanding that the charges be dropped. What is needed now is a massive nation-wide campaign of all civil liberties supporters to demand that these frame-up charges be dropped.

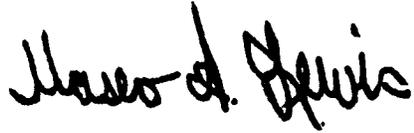
The Committee For Free Speech is launching such a campaign. To date support has come from civil liberties advocates from a broad political spectrum. However, the work has only begun. Support is needed from all advocates of civil liberties, regardless of political point of view, to counter this serious attack.

To support the Committee For Free Speech you can send a telegram demanding that all charges

(over)

be dropped as well as becoming a sponsor of the Committee (see brochure). In addition, funds are urgently needed to cover the cost of publicizing this case as well as for the legal defense. Please send your contribution today! Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



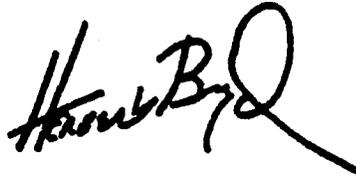
Ilaseo Lewis
President, Association of
Black Students, WSU



Rosalie Sullivan
National Organization for Women



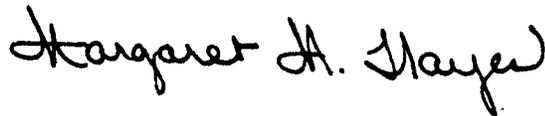
Paula Reimers
Vice-President, AFT 2000



Herb Boyd
Black Studies, Wayne State University



Joe Madison
Civil Rights Activist
Member of NAACP



Margaret H. Hayes
Secretary, Committee for Free Speech

ENDORSERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR FREE SPEECH
February 1, 1977

JAYNA ABDOO, Philadelphia National Lawyers Guild*
EQBAL AHMAD, Harrisburg Eight
YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, Albany, New York
MICHIGAN ACLU
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Department, University of Houston
JOHN ANDERSON, past president, UAW Local 15, Detroit,
Michigan
ERNIE BENJAMIN, AAUP president, Wayne State University
RICK BERMAN, National chairperson, Young Socialist Alli-
ance
HERB BOYD, Black studies professor, Wayne State University
LEHMAN BRIGHTMAN, Native American Studies professor,
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Michigan University
WILLIAM BULGER, professor, Central Michigan University
PERRY BULLARD, Michigan State Representative
DAVID CANWRIGHT, journalist, Chesterton, Indiana
GABRIEL CHAIN, professor, Central Michigan University
CHICANOS ORGANIZED FOR PROGRESS IN ACTION, Cen-
tral Michigan University
NOAM CHOMSKY, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
NANCY CHRISTENSEN, Wayne State University coordina-
tor of Students Associated for Lower Tuition
CITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BOARD OF DI-
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DAVID COHEN, Wayne State University Labor School
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government president
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HENRY FAGEN, University of Detroit Dean of Student Life

ZOLTON FERENCY, professor of criminal justice, Michigan
State University
WILLIAM FITZGERALD, professor of mathematics, Michigan
State University
LUIS FUENTES, former superintendent, New York City School
District 1
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Michigan
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LEONARD GROSSMAN, ACLU, Detroit
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GARY HATCH, Project Alpha, Central Michigan University
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WILLIAM JAMESON, Philadelphia coordinator, Philadelphians
For Equal Justice
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DAVID KAIRYS, Philadelphia National Emergency Civil
Liberties Union
MURRAY KEMPTON, author, New York City
LOUIS KESTENBERG, Professor Emeritus of history, University
of Houston
CAROL W. KOHFELD, professor of political science, University
of Houston
STEVE KOHN, president, Boston University Student Union
PHILLIP KORTH, professor of English, Michigan State University
JAMES LAFFERTY, attorney, Detroit
DAVID LAWTON, professor of English, Central Michigan Univer-
sity

* Organizations listed for identification purposes only

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FROBEN LOZADA, Merritt College, Oakland, California
DONALD LUTZ, Assistant Director of Honors Program, University of Houston, Department of Political Science
JOE MADISON, Detroit NAACP
ED MARGIN, Texas State Student Association
CÁNDY MARLAND, C. S. Mott student government
JAP MARSHALL, Detroit Youth Association
JOHN MASTERSON, professor of mathematics, Michigan State University
MARY MATHER, professor, Central Michigan University
BERNARD MELTZER, professor of sociology, Central Michigan University
IDA MELTZER, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan ACLU
WILLARD MEMERING, professor, Central Michigan University
TATCHO MINDIOLA, JR., assistant professor of sociology, University of Houston
MINNESOTA CITIZENS REVIEW COMMISSION ON THE FBI
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JERRY MOODY, professor of anthropology, Florida Atlantic University
JOSEPHINE B. MORAN, professor of speech, University of Houston
CLAUDIA MORCOM, Michigan Alliance Against Repression
CAROLINE F. MORRISON, instructor of English, University of Houston
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DWIGHT MCDONALD, author, New York City
JAMES MCKEE, professor of sociology, Michigan State University
NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD, Detroit
KAREN OLSEN, student government president, University of Minnesota
BOB OURLEAN, managing editor, Michigan State News, Michigan State University
WILLIAM PARLE, professor, Central Michigan University
JAMES PETRAS, professor, Central Michigan University
JOYCE PILOTE, professor of philosophy, Central Michigan University
MICHAEL G. PRICE, department of botany, University of Michigan
JOHN RABON, professor of sociology, Florida Atlantic University

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MALCOLM WRIGHT, former vice-president American
Federation of Teachers
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