



THE

AFCON

SENTINEL



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March 19, 2004

AFCON OFFICERS

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Cathi McMurtry
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David Moshman
Policy Coordinator

Peggy Adair
Legislative Liaison

Barbara Cornelius
Webmaster

Tom Black
Newsletter Editor

Purpose:

To promote academic freedom, defined as intellectual freedom in educational and research contexts. This includes freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—Peggy Adair

When I was a little girl growing up in the South, I was taught in church and in school that books were censored because they were evil, and there were terrible things in them that little girls should not read. I trusted grownups when I was a little girl, so I trusted their wisdom in keeping me safe from the evil books.

My father was an immigrant from a communist country, so he knew real evil. He would tell stories of how the police would break into their house and take their books and their guns, because my father's father believed in democracy. But it was hard for a little girl in the South to work through the conflict of what society said was right versus what one's parents said was right.

Then I got older. As adolescence hit and I began to gain independence, I still respected the censors, but I questioned their secretiveness and their inability to articulate specifically why these censored books were evil. The South still had me in its grip, but the patient teachings of my parents were gaining ground.

One night when I was babysitting for a neighbor, after the children were asleep, I scanned the books in the bookcase for some reading material to assuage boredom. I found nothing much of interest, mostly dry textbooks and business-related nonfiction. And then I saw it.

The Catcher in the Rye. I had heard of this book. One of those evil books adults talked about in hushed, all-knowing tones. **Banned**, was *The Catcher in the Rye*.

The parents for whom I babysat were very nice people. He owned a retail business, and she was going back to school to become a teacher. How could these nice people have such an evil book in their home, I wondered? I felt as though I had discovered Satan himself sitting

there on the bookcase shelf.

"It will hurt you," the voices said. "*Books are censored because they are evil.*"

I wondered what was in this book that made it so evil. I wasn't necessarily afraid of evil. But I was afraid of the unknown, especially the unknown that others said would harm me.

I pulled the evil book from the shelf and read the first page. "*If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born...*" It didn't sound evil, so far. It sounded intriguing. The voice of Holden Caulfield also sounded familiar; sounded a lot like me.

I curled up in a chair and began reading this evil book in earnest. I read and read until the headlights of the parents' car flashed across the front drapes, then I hastily put the book back on the shelf, hopefully in the exact position I had found it. Hopefully, they wouldn't discover I was reading the evil book when I was supposed to be protecting their children.

I couldn't wait to babysit for them again. And again. And every time I did, I played with the children, fed them a snack, put them to bed, all the while anticipating the moment when I could read some more of *The Catcher in the Rye*.

As I read, I kept wondering when I would get to the evil part. Was it the swear words? I was the daughter of a naturalized citizen, for Pete's sake. I knew how to curse in two languages. Was it the whole issue of mental instability? When I was in fourth grade, a boy in our class, Sonny Burnside, got sent to a nut house. Our teacher told us Sonny had stomach problems and would not be back in school. We kids all knew Sonny had had problems for years, and they weren't in his stomach.

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Upcoming Events

AFCON Board Meetings: April 10, May 8, and June 12, 2004
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings—Dwayne Ball

December 13, 2003—

(Dwayne Ball) Minutes of the November 8, 2003 board meeting were distributed. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer: (Cathi McMurtry) Treasurer absent, no report.

Newsletter: The newsletter was present in unfolded, unstamped form at the meeting, and was folded and stamped by Haller and Ritter. Ballots for the election were inserted.

Membership: Krutz reported that the Nebraska Center for the Book was fundraising by selling raffle tickets for a complete 13-volume set of the Lewis and Clark journals. Moshman reported that the ACLU filed a complaint with the State Department of Education regarding the superintendent of the Arnold, Nebraska, public schools, who invited a local minister to speak at a compulsory Veterans Day assembly, and stood by as the minister led a prayer.

Legislative: (Peggy Adair) Adair reported on three bills with academic freedom implications that will come before the state legislature in the coming session that are left over from last year. These are: LB 389, eliminating the Post-secondary Coordinating Committee; LB 512, preventing fetal tissue research by public institutions or employees; and LB 566, creating the offense of doing destructive research on human embryos.

Policy: (David Moshman) Moshman reported that the Lincoln Public Libraries has decided to have both "filtered" and "unfiltered" machines in the Libraries, with the unfiltered machines available to adults and minors with parental permission. Also, as an example of institutionally-controlled media, Moshman showed a copy of the UNL staff newsletter, the Scarlet, published 5 days after Frank Solich was fired as UNL head football coach, that contained no mention of the firing. Adair mentioned that the Omaha World-Herald had published a letter-to-the-editor from the executive director of the Student Press Law Center in Virginia, taking issue with OWH editorial writer Harold Andersen's view that student journalists should be subject to censorship by the school. The writer's point was much the same as Moshman's example of the Scarlet; that institutional control leads to poor journalism and the publication of fluff.

Old Business: 2003 Annual Meeting: The Board commended Peggy Adair for

a well-run and interesting annual meeting, and for the positive publicity generated for AFCON.

501 (c) (3) filing: Ball reported that the IRS form 1023 for AFCON, requesting a tax exemption under section 509 (a) (1) of the Federal Tax code, and thus making AFCON formally a 501 (c) (3) organization, had been filed by the December 10 deadline. Copies of the 1023 application were distributed to officers.

Adair reported that she would be on the Legislative Committee of the Nebraska Library Association.

Annual Planning Meeting

The following ideas were generated, to be evaluated and worked on during 2004:

Anti-Hazelwood Activity (possibly get onto the agenda of statewide school board meetings or meetings of school administrators and make presentations urging them to adopt rules and policies that guarantee student press freedom. Suggestion was made that perhaps Dr. Phil Schoo might be helpful).

Recruit students for AFCON, possibly through the use of speaking in graduate teaching classes at UNL, UNO, UNK, and UNMC, introductory classes for students in teachers' colleges, and other venues.

Get more institutional members, for example, UNMC by approaching fetal tissue researchers.

Get more members at large.

Develop a new member packet.

Get an op-ed piece on academic freedom published in state newspapers at the beginning of the school year in August.

Send acknowledgement and thank-you to members upon receipt of dues.

Increase funding, possibly through more institutional members.

More members from public school organizations.

Approach campus pastors as advocates.

Monitor the effect of the Patriot Act on academic freedom.

Deal positively with threats to tenure at UNL and elsewhere.

January 10, 2004—

Minutes: (Dwayne Ball) Minutes of the December 13, 2003 board meeting were distributed. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer: (Cathi McMurtry) \$1214.34 in account. In 2003, AFCON had 19 member organizations of which 17 paid dues in that year, and 24 individual members.

Officer Election: (Laurie Lee) Lee re-

ported 11 ballots received, unanimous for the offered slate. Moshman elected President Elect for 2004, to be president in 2005; McMurtry as 2004 Treasurer, Ball as 2004 Secretary.

President's Report: (Peg Adair) Adair distributed an updated list of AFCON member organizations and representatives. She congratulated Dave Moshman on his amicus brief to the Supreme Court of the United States in Federal Election Commission v. McConnell, undoubtedly the crucial ingredient that resulting victory for the side of adolescent rights, Dave's second before that Court. Adair also congratulated Nancy Duncan on receiving the "Artist of the Year" Award at the top of the bill at the annual Governor's Arts Award celebration.

Newsletter: The deadline for the Spring 2004 newsletter is February 23.

Membership: Krutz reported that the Nebraska Center for the Book's next quarterly meeting was February 2.

Legislative: (Peggy Adair) Adair reported that so far, there were no bills to monitor for academic freedom implications this legislative session.

Policy: (David Moshman) Moshman reported that the French government intended to ban the wearing of obvious religious symbols, such as Muslim female head scarves, Jewish yarmulkes, and Christian crosses, from the public schools.

Website: (Barb Cornelius) Cornelius reported the website was staying updated. She asked for suggestions and one mentioned the inclusion of the annual Academic Freedom award winners on the website.

Annual Planning Goals:

Collaboration with like-minded groups: Haller reported he was checking to see if other state AAUP's were affiliated with groups like AFCON in their states. Krutz reported that Clark Kolterman was contacting the National Council of Teachers of English to network with other state organizations that expressed interests in intellectual/academic freedoms, especially in the Hazelwood issue.

Maintaining good contact with member organizations: A suggestion was made that the newsletter feature an article on one of our constituent groups each issue, and Krutz agreed was asked to contact Nebraska Center for the Book for the first article.

Anti-Hazelwood effort: Haller reported he was trying to find out if the national AAUP was doing anything on this topic.

The Board formed a working group with

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Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors Minutes (Continued from Page 2)

Holt, as chair, Beckstead, and Comer to investigate sources of advice and influence and brainstorm ideas for getting a sympathetic Nebraska school district to adopt principles of student intellectual freedom that would neutralize some of Hazelwood's effects.

University pastoral contacts: Haller volunteered to invite a university pastor husband-wife team to an AFCON meeting. McMurtry will also make contacts.

University classes: Haller will work on an academic freedom packet to be delivered to relevant university classes by an AFCON speaker.

Speakers list: Adair will work on this.

New institutional members: Ball will invite more Nebraska University Faculty Senate members.

Patriot Act effects on Academic Freedom: Organizational member will monitor their organizations for its effects.

Budget and money: Adair will monitor Threats to tenure at UNL: Haller will monitor and examine what the AAUP and other state universities are doing and recommending vis-à-vis budget cuts.

Old Business

501 (c) (3) filing: Ball reported that the IRS required some additional information on the 501 c 3 application, which he will provide.

Bellevue High School: Beckstead updated the Board regarding the situation at Bellevue High School., in which two teachers decided to start a student Republican Party Club, supervision of which

could be made part of the teacher's official paid duties if the club is chartered in three years. Dick Herman and Peggy Adair volunteered to contact other political groups to see if they would also be interested in sponsoring clubs or speaking at the current club to provide a balance at the school.

February 14, 2004—

Minutes: (Dwayne Ball) Minutes of the January 10, 2004 board meeting were distributed. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer: (Cathi McMurtry) The financial statement was distributed with a balance of \$1,132.41. Approved unanimously.

President's Report: (Peggy Adair) Adair distributed a copy of the AFCON article printed in the *Omaha World Herald*, Wednesday, February 11, 2004, in response to the discipline decision concerning three students in Omaha Westside High School, who conducted an informal campaign for next year's "Distinguished African American Student" award plus copies of letters sent to John Crook, Principal, Westside High School, and to the editors of the Westside school newspaper, *The Lance*, and a copy of the article by Doug Pierson, 30-year teacher at Westside, which first ran in the *Omaha World-Herald* on Sunday, February 8, 2004. Adair thanked everyone for the positive and thoughtful collaboration via email in preparing these documents, especially the op. ed. piece.

The AFCON Board thanked Adair for her writing and her persistence in complet-

ing the job. The President reported that she had received a number of positive responses regarding the op. ed. article. She also shared a negative response from Rod Howe, the journalism adviser at Westside High School

Other Tasks

Nancy Comer received a new "new member packet," and she requested 500-1000 AFCON flyers and prospective member information sheets to be placed in each of the packets for attendees at the Nebraska State Reading Association conference in Kearney.

The Board viewed copies of a prospective member letter, a membership form, a self-addressed envelope, and a thank you note for renewing membership. The Board received copies of the updated list of AFCON member organizations and their representatives plus individual members.

President Adair presented Laura Lee with a framed certificate in appreciation for her outstanding work as president during the previous year.

Newsletter (Tom Black) The copy deadline for the March 19 newsletter (the *Sentinel*) is February 23. There may be a small AFCON article in the next *NSEA Voice*.

Membership Reports: Mel Krutz described the history of the connection between the Nebraska Center for the Book and AFCON. She suggested that AFCON communicate with the Bill of
(Continued to page 4.)

The President's Message

(Continued from page 1.)

We didn't know the name for it, but we understood what mental illness was all about.

I kept reading and wondering what was the big deal about this book. And the more I read, the more powerful I felt. The unknown didn't scare me anymore.

The ending of the book was sad, and revealing, and hopeful. And very, very good. I loved this book. It is, to this day, my favorite.

When I finished *The Catcher in the Rye*, I was suddenly very angry with the censors. They had lied to me. This wasn't an evil book at all. It was

poignant, and funny, and realistic and thought-provoking and well-written and... definitely not evil.

I was angry because the censors had withheld the truth from me. I was angry because they wanted to keep me ignorant. I was angry because they had made me fearful of discovery.

It was like stepping out of the Garden of Eden to discover Knowledge that had been intentionally withheld from me. I wanted to know what else the censors were hiding, what other truths I should learn about, what great things the written word had to offer to me that the censors would deny me access. My thirst for knowledge was in-

satiable after I discovered knowledge is infinite.

I was only 15 years old when great truth was revealed to me through a censored book. Ever since that time, I have felt an obligation to assure all children have the same opportunity I had; to overcome fear of the unknown, to widen one's horizons, to discover new worlds, to read freely.

And to that end, I humbly participate in this great and inspiring organization of brave and sagacious souls, the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska.

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors Minutes (Continued from Page 3)

Rights Defense Coalition, a group of people in Lincoln who oppose the US Patriot Act. The next Nebraska Center for the Book meeting is on February 21.

Bob Haller said the Nebraska AAUP will hold a conference March 5 in Omaha at the UNO Alumni House. The conference will be mainly on privacy issues, including the discussion of e-mail use by professors. There will be a Leadership Summit at UNL on February 28.

Beth Ritter distributed a copy of a speech presented by Robert Smith, a UNO professor and a member of the UNO Faculty Senate, discussing the relevance of AFCON's opposition to LB 512 and LB 566, two legislative bills that seek to protect unborn human life. Discussion followed.

Nancy Comer suggested a breakout session dealing with AFCON and academic freedom issues at the NSEA state conference. Peggy Adair said that she had presented before and would be glad to do so again.

Legislative: (Peggy Adair) Adair distributed a brief description of the following Carry-over Bills: LB 389, LB 512, LB 566, and LB 602 followed by discussion.

Policy: (Dave Moshman) Dave distributed a copy of an article in the *Lincoln Journal Star* that described a GLBT Teach-in at UNL, including a presentation he made concerning AFCON's policy on sexuality and academic freedom. He noted that concerns have been expressed about mandatory attendance at sessions of the Teach-in.

Website: (Barb Cornelius) Cornelius said that she would add the information from the

Banned Book Week: (Mel Krutz) Krutz shared the importance of spreading the information about Banned Book Week throughout Nebraska and asked that the Board members be thinking of ideas to promote it.

Old Business

Bellevue: Tabled until Linda Beckstead attends.

Speaker's Bureau: Tabled until next meeting.

New Business

Bob Haller is going to invite a husband-wife chaplain team to the next AFCON meeting. They are chaplains at Nebraska Wesleyan.

AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU (As of December 2001)

Dwayne Ball:
"Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"
3120 Jasper Ct., Lincoln, NE 68516
adball@alltel.net

Linda Beckstead:
"Freedom of Student Press Issues"
611 North 42nd Street, Omaha, NE 68131
BecksteadL@aol.com

Bob Haller:
"Money Talks: Ideas in the Political Process"
and "Religion, Intellectual Freedom, and the University"
4000 S. 56th St., Lincoln, NE 68506
rhaller1@unl.edu

John Bender:
"The Nebraska Student Freedom of Expression Bill"
3609 S. 20 St., Lincoln, NE 68508
jbender@unl.edu

David Moshman:
"Principles of Academic Freedom" and "Student Rights"
1901 Pepper Ave., Lincoln, NE 68502
dmoshman1@unl.edu

Presentation of the Readers' Theatre production of *A Tangled Web: Student Freedom of Expression* (a cast of adults and students)

ADDRESS FOR THE AFCON WEB SITE

<http://www.AFCONebr.org>

FOR SALE BY AFCON

Send orders to Mel Krutz, 2625 Bluff Road, Seward, NE 68434-9801

T-shirts with a Paul Fell "banned books" design; Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL; \$15.00. Packaging and postage: \$2.00 each.

Note cards with a Paul Fell design; \$1.50; four for \$5.00. Packaging and postage: \$0.75 per packet.

Reader's Theatre Script of a TANGLED ISSUE: Student Freedom of Expression. \$10.00 buys the book with rights to duplicate the script and produce the play. Packaging and postage: \$2.00 each.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS—Dwayne Ball

University of Connecticut: According to surveys of 306 American university administrators and 1037 students, conducted by the Center for Survey Research and Analysis (CSRA) at the University of Connecticut, "students and administrators lack the most fundamental understanding -- let alone appreciation -- of the free exercise of religion and of the deep importance that devout individuals attach to their faith." (FIRE newsletter). "Only six percent of administrators and two percent of students correctly named freedom of religion as the freedom that the First Amendment addresses before all others. Worse yet, only 36 percent of administrators at private institutions and 50 percent at public institutions reported that their administrations took the view that religious individuals should spread their beliefs "by whatever legal means they choose." Students were similarly intolerant of those who would communicate their religious views: only 32 percent of all students surveyed believe that religious people should use any legal means to spread their beliefs." Other survey results of pressing interest include:

* 24 percent of administrators believe they have the legal right to prohibit a student religious group from actively trying to convert students to its religion.

* 49 percent of administrators at private universities and 34 percent of administrators at public universities report that students at their institutions must undergo mandatory non-curricular programs, "the goal of

which is to lead them to value all sexual preferences and to recognize the relativity of these values compared to the values of their upbringing."

Gonzaga University in Washington disciplined the College Republicans for posting fliers with allegedly "discriminatory" language. In response to a letter from FIRE, Gonzaga agreed to lift the punishment of the group for posting fliers containing the word "hate." The word was used merely as part of the title of the speaker's book, "Why the Left Hates America." (FIRE Newsletter)

Texas Tech: "In response to the pressure of a free-speech lawsuit and student demands for constitutional rights, Texas Tech University is backing away from at least some of its severe restrictions upon free expression. In July, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) coordinated a lawsuit to force Texas Tech -- a public university with 28,000 students -- to eliminate a speech code that had designated only one 280-square-foot gazebo for free speech. In response, the university has greatly expanded the number of free speech zones from one small area to six substantially larger areas." (FIRE Newsletter).

"Joining FIRE's battle for free speech rights on Texas Tech's campus is a new campus group, Students for Free Speech (SFS). SFS pressured the Texas Tech administration throughout the fall semester,

organizing a campus-wide petition drive that attracted more than 900 student signatures in support of free speech. When administrators failed to respond, SFS members organized a creative protest event: a "funeral procession for free speech," complete with eulogies, a clergyman, and a full-size wooden coffin. SFS is also conducting a public information campaign that places accurate information about Texas Tech's speech code in the hands of students, the public, and the local media. FIRE also has publicly exposed Texas Tech's repressive policies in both local and national media and in testimony before the US Senate."

University of Washington: "College Republicans holding an "affirmative action bake sale" -- where baked goods are priced differently according to the race and ethnicity of a hypothetical buyer -- were physically attacked. Campus police eventually intervened in the melee, but instead of defending the values of free expression, police followed the administration's orders to halt the satiric bake sale. At least four other major institutions have shut down similar protests of affirmative action this fall.

"Subsequently, in a frightening betrayal of their fiduciary duty and their obligations to the Bill of Rights, UW's Board of Regents released an open letter condemning the College Republicans for being "hurtful" while failing to mention the
(Continued to page 6.)

REQUEST FOR NEWS FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The editor of the AFCON SENTINEL invites all AFCON individual and organizational members to send news about academic freedom issues in Nebraska or editorial comments for inclusion in this newsletter and/or announcements of organizational meetings for the UPCOMING EVENTS column.

Due date for submissions to the **June 18, 2004**, issue is **May 24, 2004**.

Send to Tom Black, editor, 610 West Park, West Point, NE 68788-1624 or wpc6296@cableone.net

(Continued from page 5.) counter-demonstrators' disruption of the College Republicans' peaceful expression of their political views on a matter of pressing public concern. The letter was signed by Board president Jerry Grinstein. "This is outrageous. It sends a chilling message to students who wish to engage in honest disagreement," said Thor Halvorssen, Executive Director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. "Had this been a protest in favor of affirmative action -- and thus likely to offend the College Republicans -- would hurt feelings have had any standing whatsoever in the hearts and minds of the Board of Regents? The double standard is breathtaking."

"FIRE has begun a campaign to expose UW's double standards and its contempt for the Bill of Rights. This will include mailings to alumni, parents, university donors, and state legislators. FIRE will see this matter through to a just conclusion." (FIRE Newsletter)

Similar protests of affirmative action have been shut down at the University of California, Irvine, Northwestern University, Southern Methodist University, and the College of William and Mary. Indiana University, however, got it right. "Damon Sims, associate dean of students at IU, told the Indianapolis Star, "It is a freedom-of-speech issue...This is one of the more significant social and political issues of our time...It is exactly the kind of dialogue that should be encouraged on college campuses." Bake sales also occurred without official attempts to censor at the University of Texas-Austin and Texas A&M University." (FIRE Newsletter) The College of William and Mary later reversed itself.

Gonzaga University president, Father Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., permitted the School of Law's Student Bar Association (SBA) to refuse to recognize a Christian student organization. According to the SBA, the Gonzaga Pro-Life Law Caucus's requirement that its

leadership be Christian" is "discriminatory."

The U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals (AAUP release) "issued its decision in *Axson-Flynn v. Johnson (University of Utah)*. The court clearly embraced the notion that courts should defer to the professional judgment of faculty to determine what is pedagogically appropriate in the college classroom, so long as such academic decisions are not pretextual. While the court did not recognize a separate right of academic freedom under the First Amendment, it nonetheless observed that the First Amendment must be applied within the context of the university. Unfortunately, the court analyzed this case under the *Hazelwood* decision, which arose in the K-12 setting, and applied that analysis to curricular speech in colleges and universities.

"As you may remember, this case involved the right of individual faculty to establish course requirements. Christina Axson-Flynn is a former student at the University of Utah. She is also a member of the Church of Latter-Day Saints. Axson-Flynn had sued her university theater department professors for violating her right to free speech and free exercise of religion under the First Amendment by requiring, as part of the curriculum, that students perform in-class plays, even when they have religious objections to the content of the play. As part of the theater department curriculum, the professors asserted that 'it is an essential part of an actor's training to take on difficult roles, roles which sometime[s] make actors uncomfortable and challenge their perspective.' The student alleged that she told the theater department before being accepted into the "Actor Training Program" that she refused to "take the name of God or Christ in vain" or use certain "offensive" words. After she was accepted into the program, she changed some words in assigned scripts for in-class performances so as to avoid using words she found offensive. Her professors warned her that she would not be able to change scripts in future assignments. Axson-Flynn dropped

out of the special theater program, and sued her professors.

"In August 2001 the district court ruled in a summary judgment motion against the student. The district court recognized that "[i]n the academic context . . . judicial intervention in any form should be undertaken only with the greatest reluctance." The court hypothesized that if the curriculum requirements were to constitute a First Amendment violation, "then a believer in 'creationism' could not be required to discuss and master the theory of evolution in a science class; a neo-Nazi could refuse to discuss, write or consider the Holocaust in a critical manner in a history class." A copy of the federal district court opinion is available at <www.nysd.uscourts.gov/courtweb/pdf/d10utxc/01-08418.pdf>.

"Despite its expressed deference to faculty control of classroom speech that is reasonably related to pedagogical goals, the court ultimately concluded that "[v]iewing the evidence in a light most favorable to Axson-Flynn, . . . there is a genuine issue of material facts as to whether [the professors'] justification for the script adherence requirement was truly pedagogical or whether it was pretext for religious discrimination." In addition, the court reversed and remanded the district court on the free exercise claim. A full copy of the decision may be downloaded from <http://pacer.ca10.uscourts.gov/opinions/main.php>; the opinion is 01-4176."

Drake University, Iowa (AP) – "In what may be the first subpoena of its kind in decades, a federal judge has ordered a university to turn over records about a gathering of antiwar activists. "In addition to the subpoena of Drake University, subpoenas were served this past week on four of the activists who attended a Nov. 15 forum at the school, ordering them to appear before a grand jury Tuesday, the protesters said."

AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue
Oakland, NE 68045.

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ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

HELP AFCON PROMOTE ACADEMIC FREEDOM

As a member of AFCON, you can help us

- ◆ support applications of the First Amendment in academic contexts, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.
- ◆ educate Nebraskans about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom, intellectual diversity, mutual respect, open communication, and uninhibited pursuit of knowledge, including the role of these ideals in academic contexts and in democratic self-government.
- ◆ assist students, teachers, librarians, and researchers confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of ideas.
- ◆ act as liaison among groups in Nebraska that support academic freedom.

MEMBERSHIP (To become a member, send dues, organization or individual name, address, and phone number to Cathi McMurtry, 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045)

Organizational Membership (\$100) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board and one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, and eligibility for office and chairing standing committees and provides newsletter subscription for the board member to share with the organization's information director and reduced rates to AFCON conferences for its members.

Individual Membership (\$10) provides newsletter subscription, eligibility for office and for chairing standing committees, reduced rates for AFCON conferences, and one vote at annual meetings.

Student Membership (\$5) entitles full-time students to the same privileges as provided by the Individual Membership.

**AFCON ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS, PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR MEMBERS.
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT.
ENCOURAGE HIM OR HER TO JOIN AFCON**