

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - University officials have filed affidavits for civil contempt of court charges against five individuals and shortly will bring campus judicial charges against approximately 50 students involved in protests against ROTC during the past two weeks.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge George H. Barnett Saturday (APRIL 11) ordered "show cause" citations on contempt charges issued for: Janet Weiss, 23, a graduate student; Michael Sweeney, 22, a former student; John Shoch, 21, a junior who is chairman of the Student Senate; Leonard Siegel, 21, a suspended student; and Art Busse, a senior.

Judge Barnett set Thursday morning for a hearing on the charges, which stem from an 11-month old injunction against disruptive activities. The University chose to seek the civil remedy for violation of the injunction, which carries a maximum penalty of five days' imprisonment, a \$500 fine, or both for each contempt.

The University has not chosen to press for criminal contempt charges, which may be done if the contempt warrants. Its action does not preclude the District Attorney on his own motion filing criminal contempt charges, if he chooses.

The defendants issued a statement charging the Defense Department, University President Kenneth S. Pitzer, and the Board of Trustees with "intimidation and terror" in trying to stop the "Off ROTC Movement."

"The administration has attempted to single out 'leaders' because they think that without them there would be no anti-ROTC movement. They are wrong," the defendants said. "They are incapable of understanding a people's movement at Stanford, just as they are unable to defeat a people's army in Vietnam. In a way, we are in contempt of court. We have contempt for any court that allows itself to be used as a tool to defend the war in Vietnam. We will not be intimidated by these tactics. We will redouble our efforts to end military training at Stanford."

Events planned Monday (APRIL 13) include guerilla theater-style demonstrations at Navy ROTC drills, scheduled for 7 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. in the parking lot behind Encina gym; a noon rally in White Plaza, with talks by those facing contempt charges; a teach-in on "Southeast Asia: War, imperialism, and Our Trustees," featuring Prof. Franz Schurman of Berkeley and "new findings on university counter-insurgency research" from 2:15 to 4:15 p.m. in Dinkelspiel Auditorium; and joining a march against violence, planned by moderate students at 7:30 p.m. from White Plaza to Memorial Church.

On Tuesday (APRIL 14), the movement plans a "presence" at the Board of Trustees meeting, scheduled for 9 a.m. in Room 74, Graduate School of Business, followed by an "open microphone" on ROTC at 3 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium. A student referendum on ROTC is planned Wednesday and Thursday. Last year, by a 3-to-2 margin, students said ROTC "has a legitimate place on campus" and deserves credit "for all those parts of the program that are of genuine academic interest."

Responding to an unsigned suggestion from the movement's coordinating committee that the entire Board of Trustees attend the Monday night meeting and Tuesday afternoon session, Board President W. Parmer Fuller III pointed out that "the faculty decides what courses are worthy of credit toward a degree at Stanford." He noted that the Board's only action with respect to ROTC was an expression of opinion in March, 1969, preceding the Academic Council vote in April, 1969. The trustee action made no mention of academic credit.

The present status of Army ROTC stems from actions of the Faculty Senate and the Academic Council this year, he continued. "Since the issue of credit is the central issue in the controversy over Army ROTC, and the only one to come before responsible decision making bodies, it would be quite inappropriate for the Board to take any action other than to express its views. It has done this, as have many others in the community. The faculty has acted. There the matter rests, as it should."

The campus charges, which will go to the Stanford Judicial Council, stem from disruption of the April 3 Academic Council meeting and from three separate instances involving ROTC classes or attempts to enter the building housing ROTC offices. University officials pointed out that disruption policy is violated whenever a disruptive act is committed on campus. It is not necessary for an announcement to be made that a disruption has occurred. Indeed, it is a separate violation of the policy not to leave after such an announcement and a request to disperse.