

# BRIEFS:

## NLG SUMMER PROJECTS

The Summer Projects Committee is pleased to announce that the brochures describing the 1975 Summer Projects of the National Lawyers Guild are ready. Law Students should attempt to obtain copies from their school chapters, which have each been given a supply.

In addition, the Regional Office of the Guild, 558 Capp Street, San Francisco 94110 (415) 285-5066, has additional copies.

This summer's projects include: the Appalachia Project, with the Black Lung Association; an Attica Project, in upstate New York; a Boston Anti-Racism Project; a Gay Rights Project, in Los Angeles; the Georgia Power Project, in Atlanta; the Hampton-Clark Project, in Chicago (working on the federal court trial on behalf of the survivors of the police raid which killed Mark Clark and Fred Hampton, leaders of the Chicago Black Panthers); an Immigration Project, in Los Angeles; a National Labor Project, in Chicago; a National Prisoners' Rights Project, in Atlanta (jointly sponsored with the National Conference of Black Lawyers); a New Jersey Housing Project, there; a St. Louis Women's Project, also there; a Texas Valley Legal Project, in San Benito, Texas; a Women's Labor Project, in Oakland, California; & a project with the Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee, in the three or four cities where legal work is being done.

The Application Form is included with the brochure. As applications are to be filed by April 15th, time is of the essence. If you can't obtain a copy of the brochure easily, call or, better still, stop by the Regional Office as soon as possible.

## NLG JURY SELECTION SEMINAR: APRIL 12, SAN FRANCISCO

On April 12th, the National Lawyers Guild and the Criminal Jury Trial Project will sponsor a seminar on "Jury Selection: Law and Techniques," at Golden Gate University Auditorium (5th Floor, 536 Mission St., San Francisco), from 9 AM to 4 PM. The seminar will provide a comprehensive view of jury selection in criminal cases. Speakers will be: Charles Garry, Michael Kennedy, Richard Christie and David Kairys.

Fees are \$20 for attorneys and \$10 for students. NLG members will receive a \$5 discount. Included in the registration fee is a comprehensive manual on criminal jury selection prepared by experts working with the Project, in Los Angeles.

For further information call Susan at the Regional Office of the Guild: 285-5070.

## STOP THE EXTRADITION!!

Two young Americans, William Roger Heller, 26, and Catherine Marie Kerkow, 23, were arrested in Paris on January 24, 1975. They were charged with having hijacked a Boeing 727 to Algiers on June 2, 1972. They are currently awaiting a hearing on the demand for extradition to the United States. Presently, they are incarcerated in Fleury-Merogis Prison, Paris.

## SexuaLaw Reporter

The SexuaLawReporter, a bi-monthly newsletter which started publication on April 1, covers a field that has been long neglected by the general news media and the specialized press.

In an age in which sexual awareness is developing rapidly, there is a strong impetus toward sexual law reform that requires a reliable line of communication if it is to grow and be successful.

The SexuaLawReporter is developing a nationwide communications network that will, through the newsletter, inform sexual law reform activists, members of the bench and bar, law school professors and students, and others, of judicial and legislative efforts -- both successes and failures -- on the federal, state and local levels.

In addition, the SexuaLawReporter will cover related fields, such as sociology, theology, literature, medicine and psychology, among others. The newsletter will explore how various disciplines contribute toward strengthening or loosening current sexual laws and attitudes -- and what role they play in reshaping those laws and attitudes.

This newsletter, published by a non-profit corporation, is not a totally neutral publication. While it will not take positions on legislation or lobby for specific changes, its editorial policy contends that many legal sexual restraints, as currently written and enforced, are often detrimental to the exercise of democratic rights.

The first issue of the SexuaLawReporter -- April/May, 1975 -- is indicative of the direction it will take, although it must be stressed that the newsletter will cover the entire country and all sexual categories -- heterosexual, homosexual, ambisexual. In fact, it will cover asexual and transsexual, when appropriate.

For further information, contact:  
Thomas F. Coleman, 3701 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA. 90010 -- (213) 386-7855, or  
Joel S. Tlumak, 4215 Army Street, San Francisco, CA. 94131 -- (415) 647-8000.

## ANTI-GAY CUSTODY DECISION

In blatantly anti-gay language, Justice Fleming of the Court of Appeal, Division 2, Second District, denied a gay woman custody of her two children. (Chaffin v. Frye, 2 Civ. 43862).

Lynda Mae Chaffin, who lives with the woman who is her lover, sought to regain custody of her children from her parents, who had been granted custody in 1969, as part of a marriage dissolution proceeding.

Justice Fleming stated, "In exercising a choice between homosexual and heterosexual households for purposes of child custody, a trial court could conclude the permanent residence in a homosexual household would be detrimental to the children and contrary to their best interests."

In the past, courts denying custody to lesbian mothers have found other "reasons" for denying custody, other than homosexuality. Although in the Chaffin case the court does cite other factors, the language used will be harmful in future cases.