

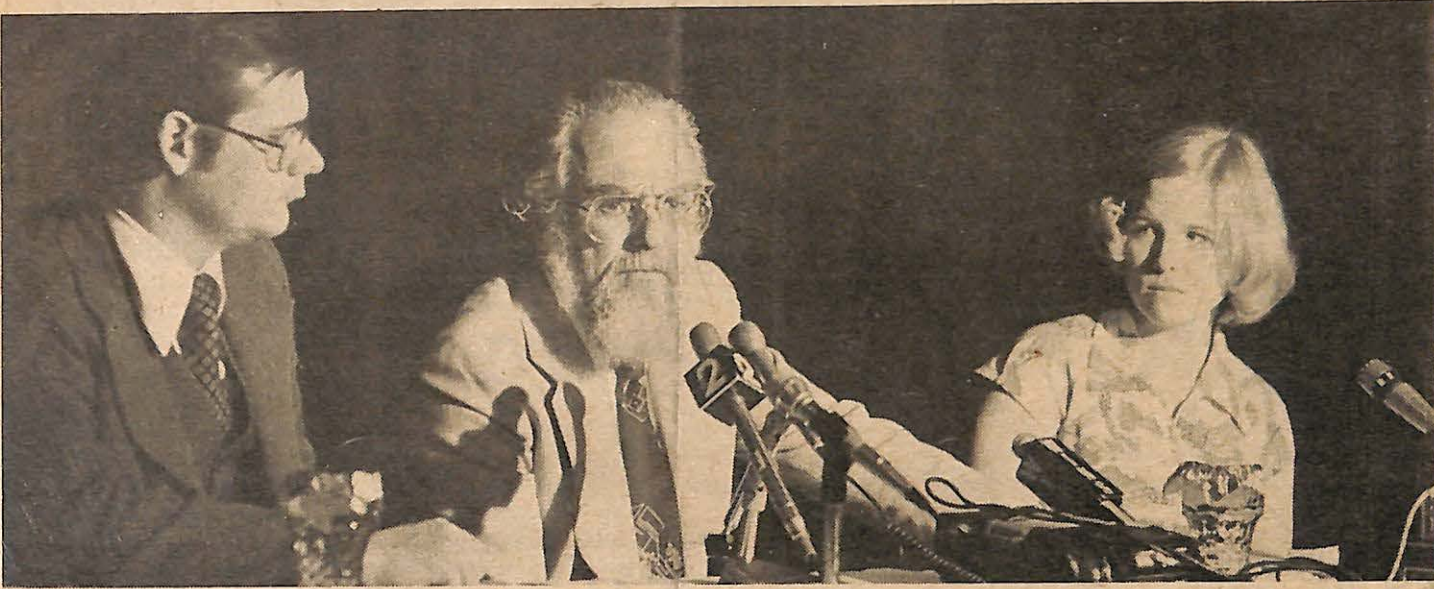
New Hope News

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The Struggle for Civil Rights

Church Prepares Suit Against Bard College



Jeremiah Gutman eloquently elaborates on the threat which "deprogramming" poses to freedom of religion. Wendy Helander is on the right and Dan Holdgreive on the left.

At a press conference on May 13, President Salonen announced that the Unification Church was considering suing Bard College for violation of state and federal civil rights acts and the public accommodations act, as well as for harassment and false arrest. The action was a response to Bard College's charges of trespassing against Father and nine other Church members on May 5 and its subsequent exclusion of any member of the Unification Church from Bard property.

On Thursday, May 5, Father and other visitors to the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) went to see a scenic waterfall on Bard property. On their return they came upon a roadblock, where they were detained until the arrival of the state police, and then arrested for trespassing. At no time prior to this were they asked to leave the property or given any warning, explained UTS general affairs director Richard Sirny, who was with the group.

This was followed up by a telephone call by Bard president Leon Botstein to Richard Sirny informing that any UTS student or member of the Unification Church going on Bard College property

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Wendy Helander Sues Her Kidnappers for Nine Million Dollars

On Monday, May 16, Wendy Helander publicly announced a major nine-million dollar lawsuit against five "deprogrammers" and Citizens Engaged in Reuniting Families (CERF).

Wendy, a member of the Unification Church since early 1975, has twice been the victim of kidnapping and "deprogramming." In the first episode, she was confined for several weeks and escaped by pretending to be "deprogrammed." In

the second instance, she was imprisoned for three months and moved to twelve locations. It is in connection with the second kidnapping that the suit was brought.

The suit asks for one million dollars in compensatory damages of each of three counts and two million in punitive damages for three counts, for a total of nine million dollars. The parties being sued are Ted Patrick, Joseph Alexander

Sr., Joseph Alexander Jr., Esther Alexander, George Swope, and CERF. Wendy is also seeking an injunction (prevention) from further kidnappings by the defendants and also by her parents.

Wendy's action is a civil suit filed in the Southern New York District Court. The suit contends that the five deprogrammers, Dr. Swope, and CERF conspired to violate Wendy's civil rights

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May 15 Sermon

"Belong to The Living God!"

On Sunday, May 15, Father spoke on "Things that Belong to God and Things that Belong to Man." First he explained that there are two basic concepts of ownership prevalent in the world today. One philosophy is individual, private ownership. This approach characterizes the free world today. The second concept is state ownership, found in Communist countries.

God intended man to be supreme in the world, said Father, taking dominion over creation. But from the Communist point of view the party, not man, is in the central position, assuming ownership of all things. The world, according to Communist theory, should belong to the party. Therefore man has value only in relationship to the party. But only unchanging, eternal entities contain truth, and the party is always changing. The reality, Communism is the enemy of both human and material rights. If it would change by putting man in a supreme position, Communism could conquer the world, and more.

The free world also has its problems, he pointed out. While the free world has material rights, individual rights, and freedom, its individualism, apart from religious values, can lead people into a stone wall. Right now the individualism of the free world is still centered on the

national rather than the cosmic level. The free world should put God at the center, he said, to find greater harmony.

While America has evolved from a spirit of individualism, he explained, it has been trying to help the world. But America's commitment has been half-hearted. America has backed down at critical moments, handing our one-time allies over to the Communists. And while America is declining internationally, it is also experiencing an internal lack of brotherhood.

Americans must realize, said Father, that "God cannot fail, but God's chosen champion can fail." Through this, God is waiting for Americans to realize that America and the world should be centered upon God. Unfortunately, many Americans are not thinking about the sake of the world. Because the philosophy of individualism has created a disjointed society, many Americans are especially attracted by materialistic totalitarianism -- today embodied in the Communist ideology.

A movement must emerge to bring God to the center of the world, "Satan has reduced God to matter. We cannot allow this to continue," said Father. "Under God, America must be strengthened. Then there is hope." Unselfishness

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Happenings

On Sunday, May 15, international leaders from twelve European countries were honored at Belvedere. That day, they went for an outing on the "New Hope" with Father. The following day, the leaders participated in a conference called by Father.

The *Interfaith Committee* of the Unification Church worked in conjunction with Rev. Donald Henriquez, pastor of the First Reformed Methodist Church of Passaic, New Jersey to put on "The Ecumenical Pentecost Crusade" May 14-15 at the Manhattan Center. Each evening opened with gospel choirs, including singers from the Unification Theological Seminary and the Voices of Freedom. Then, on each of the two nights, twelve participating ministers from the New York area and Washington D.C., gave messages on the themes of the twelve tribes of Israel, often calling the people to return to a pure religion of the heart in anticipation of Christ's return.

On May 12, the *New York City Symphony* entertained over six hundred guests in the Manhattan Center with its third "Maznu."

"Maznu" is a nonsense word chosen to convey a spirit of informality and spontaneity to the performances. The programs vary from standard concerts in that they have include a variety of entertainment -- dances and vocal solos as well as selected portions of popular classical orchestral works.

The "Maznu" series represents efforts of the City Symphony, under the conductorship of Unification Church member Tom Ludwig, to gain a following among New Yorkers and to offer high quality, inexpensive cultural events to the garment district neighborhood surrounding the Manhattan Center.

The first program featured music by Bartok and Tchaikovski. Beethoven and Stravinsky were highlights of the second performance on April 21. The May 12 "Maznu" had selections from, among others,

Bartok and Brahms, and the next program, in June, will feature Beethoven and Copeland.

The orchestra hopes to continue its performances regularly throughout the summer, filling a cultural gap at a time when many orchestras are dormant.



"Belong to The Living God!"

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must be a cardinal principle. "As much as belongs to the individual should belong to America and to God...God works only through the nation which is totally dedicated to the service of mankind."

The whole world, said Father, is searching for goodness. The common goal of mankind is the absolute prosperity of one world. Goodness is measured by the individual's contribution to the well-being of the whole. We should think of our missions as expanding the territory of goodness, he

suggested to us.

The narrow viewpoint of sectarianism, said Father, has been detrimental to the creation of unity. For the sake of God and mankind, he said, we must transcend the barriers of nationalism, racism, and religious sectarianism to promote a God-centered way of life. If we do this, we can help save both the free and Communist worlds.

Father stressed the importance of the role of the prophet; prophets, he said, were influential from Old Testament times through the middle ages. He explained that he came to America not because he enjoys persecution but

because God is desperately trying to prevent mankind's doom. "My purpose is to break the deadlock in America," he said.

Father challenged us to make God's will our will. "You must strive to live for the sake of God and humanity. When you find God and humanity, you find yourself. After giving God everything, you receive God himself. That is the goal of the Unification Church. I aim to bear witness to God's way of life. Today we sweat to make America God's America. Slowly but surely our goals are becoming known.

"To whom do you belong?" he asked,

addressing himself to the topic. "You must belong to the living God. Every cell of your being must live for the living God. Your heart and soul must grow every day. In order to have lordship and dominion, you must be God-centered. We have come to the time of the great leap forward. God needs adventurous men and women. Are you in the position of Jesus, who remained faithful, or his disciples, who ran away?"

Father concluded by asking the members to pledge to belong absolutely to God, and charged them with the responsibility of being God's ambassadors.

Nine Million \$ Suit Against "Deprogrammers"

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as a U.S. citizen under federal and state civil rights acts. Part of her case states: "...plaintiff (Wendy) has been intentionally and wrongfully denied the equal protection of the laws and the enjoyment of her rights, privileges, and immunities as a citizen of the United States and of the State of New York, including, but not limited to, freedom of speech, freedom of travel, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and the right to counsel."

Wendy appeared at the May 16 conference at the Church headquarters with one of her attorneys, Jeremiah Gutman, and the Church's Public Affairs director, Dan Holdgreiwe. At the beginning, Mr. Gutman explained the importance of the

issues involved in this case. "I am concerned with the broader picture than this particular case which, exaggerated and bizarre as it is, is just an example of a growing disease in this country. This has been diagnosed by Dean Kelly of the National Council of Churches as the greatest threat to religious liberty in this country today. That is the practice of parents or others, well-meaning and others, to use force or threats of force and devious means to attempt to interfere with the religious beliefs of grown-ups. Perhaps parents have the right to force religion or to prevent certain religious practices by an infant. But when that infant becomes a child and that child becomes an adult, the right of the parent to impose or prevent religious

practices, as distinguished from the attempt to persuade, becomes a very serious deprivation of fundamental constitutional rights. The very first clause of the very first amendment of the Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion and freedom from having religion imposed or established. That is what this lawsuit is about."

Wendy then described in detail her second kidnapping and "deprogramming." For quite awhile, she said, her parents were disapproving of her unconventional religious beliefs. After she joined the Unification Church, they were increasingly influenced by the "deprogramming" movement, believing that the longer she remained with the Church, the more her "mind would deteriorate." Consequently, they hired Ted Patrick to "deprogram" her. After this failed and she returned to the Church, her parents charged in a lawsuit that the Church and actually kidnapped her back and demanded her appearance before a Washington, D.C. court through a writ of Habeas Corpus. The court denied the action and said that there was no evidence that Wendy's association with the Unification was based on any form of coercion.

Wendy sued Ted Patrick for her first kidnapping and won the suit - the judge gave a strong opinion against Patrick's tactics. Her parents tried to convince Wendy that they had renounced association with the "deprogrammers," but the November, 1975, she was again kidnapped. Until mid-February, she was hidden in twelve locations, including two houses connected with Dr. George Swope and subjected to many "deprogrammers," including Ted Patrick, and the three Alexanders. Upon questioning, she told the techniques used to to "deprogram" her, including confinement, harassment, sleep and food deprivation. She also related her escape from the "deprogrammers" with the help of another kidnapped Church member who

pretended to cooperate with the "deprogrammers" in order to help Wendy.

Wendy gave a very sobering reflection from her experiences to the press: "I observed the most frightening thing. That was that these people (the "deprogrammers" and their cooperators), through their lying, have the power to destroy the young people of America. They will do anything to separate you from your religion. Their ideology is not just against the Unification Church but against religion, against God, and against America."

When asked to elaborate on the nature of the threat posed by "deprogramming," Mr. Gutman commented on the growing use of "deprogramming." Just recently, he pointed out, Episcopalian parents have kidnapped their son from a Jewish Hasidic group. "This has become a widespread business," he said, "... If you can "deprogram" your child if you don't like his religion, you can do the same if you don't like his politics, or social contacts, or spouse."

It is hoped a favorable outcome to this suit with will protect Wendy from further harassment, act as a significant deterrent to the "deprogrammers" and expose their philosophy and tactics.

Bard Dispute

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for any reason would be prosecuted for trespassing. This situation was immediately brought to a head with the scheduling of a basketball tournament involving a UTS team on the Bard campus on Saturday, May 14. The Seminary had paid \$70.00 at the beginning of the season to be part of a ten-team tournament, also including a team from Bard College. Immediately after the May 13 press conference outlining this situation, President Botstein, rather than have UTS basketball players and spectators set foot in the campus for the scheduled game, cancelled the game without explanation.

In explaining the proposed charges, Mr. Salonen explained to the press that the harassment and false arrest suits would be brought in response to the college's "lack of respect for our founder and their shoddy treatment of him and his guests." Discrimination against our members, "for no reason other than our faith alone," was a possible violation of civil rights acts, carrying a penalty of

jeopardizing any federal funding received by the college. "President Botstein, who calls himself a civil libertarian, has shown a basic hypocrisy in his action," said Mr. Salonen. He said that the decision was especially surprising, considering that it was coming from a college proud of its liberal, open-minded philosophy and religious beginnings (Episcopalian).

Mr. Salonen stressed to the media that for the previous week the Church had been trying in a quiet way to resolve the situation with Bard. But, he said, finding the college unresponsive to our overtures, "We have no choice but to express our frustration and offense at this clear case of religious discrimination." He further said that he was sorry if he had offended the college in any way. "I would be glad to apologize. As a matter of fact, I make an apology now." But, he said, as long as the college continues to press the trespassing charges and bar Unification Church members from the campus, "we have no choice but to respond."

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REV. SUN MYUNG MOON,
Founder

NEIL A. SALONEN
President

Louise Strait EDITOR

Published by
The Unification Church
Office of Communications
4 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036
(212) 730-5750