

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

22 East 40th Street New York, New York 10016 (212) 725-1222

Dear Friend:

As part of his class reading list, English teacher Bruce Severy selected three books: Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut, Deliverance by James Dickey and Short Story Masterpieces edited by Robert Penn Warren. The Drake School Board didn't like the books. So they burned Slaughterhouse Five and recalled the other two. Severy then substituted Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451, which is about book burning and censorship. It too was prohibited because it would be "a slap in the face of the School Board."

Severy lost his job.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued on behalf of Bruce Severy. We aim to help him stay in Drake, get his job back and use the books he chose for his class (and which most of the students petitioned to read).

Thousands of times every year, ACLU lawyers go to court on behalf of the rights of Americans. Mostly, we win. For example we won the Supreme Court decisions which state that:

- women are entitled to equal protection of the laws;
- juveniles are entitled to due process of law;
- free speech is permissible in schools;
- loyalty oaths are unconstitutional;
- one person - one vote is required in state legislative elections;

. . . and many more of the great cases that mark the history of American freedom.

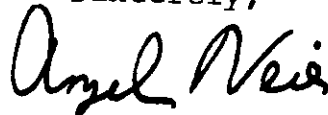
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We hope you will join the American Civil Liberties Union. You will be joining 275,000 of us in defending the rights of all Americans in the courts, and who find our ACLU membership makes us an increasingly effective force in the Congress and the state legislatures.

ACLU members were instrumental in getting started the campaign for impeachment of Richard Nixon. We didn't stop with the success of that campaign. We got Congress to act on specific legislation to prevent any repetition of the Watergate events. No future President should have the power used by Richard Nixon to intrude on privacy. Congress is adopting ACLU-backed legislation to protect privacy. No future President should have the power used by Richard Nixon to mask his administration's actions in secrecy. The ACLU helped persuade Congress to override President Ford's veto of a law to expand public knowledge of what the government is doing.

We need your help. Join the ACLU today. The more you contribute, the more we can do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aryeh Neier".

Aryeh Neier
Executive Director

AN/ag