

Radical groups react

Support of Hearst to continue

Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO - Radical groups reacted with skepticism Wednesday to Patricia Hearst's sworn statement that she was tortured and driven to insanity by her Symbionese Liberation Army captors.

"Our feeling is, we haven't heard anything come out of Patty's mouth since she's been arrested except when she identified herself as an urban guerrilla," said Kathy Stroom, a spokeswoman for the Prisoners of War Offense-Defense.

"We don't know anything

about the circumstances of how the affidavit was made," she said. "We still support her until she says something herself to prove we shouldn't."

The newspaper heiress, arrested here Thursday, swore in an affidavit presented Tuesday in support of her request for a reduction in bail that she lied under duress when she told of her rebirth as the revolutionary "Tania."

She declared in her affidavit she was tortured mentally and physically by her kidnapers, that she was blindfolded, bound and locked in a closet for weeks while constantly threatened with death.

"From everything I know about the SLA, I just don't believe they would treat her the way the affidavit described," Miss Stroom said.

She said her organization was active in the legal defense of SLA members Joseph Remiro and Russell Little in their murder trial on charges of assassinating Oakland schools Supt. Marcus Foster. It also is one of three groups that issued a

statement of support immediately after Miss Hearst, fellow SLA members William and Emily Harris and Fugitive Wendy Yoshimura were captured last Thursday.

The United Prisoners Union, another group that joined in that statement, "doesn't believe that she turned on people we consider comrades," said spokesman Sleepy Bailey.

"If she gets up in court and starts saying those things, or if we hear them confirmed by other SLA members like the Harrises, then she would no longer be considered a comrade," Bailey said.

"It's immaterial whether Patty Hearst became a willing accomplice or was merely a victim of the SLA," said a spokesman for the Progressive Labor Party, which describes itself as a Communist organization dedicated to violent revolution. "The real issue is how this gang

of police agents and informers was used to discredit the entire left movement in this country."

Radical attorney Dan Siegel, who defended a group of Berkeley activists questioned by police pursuing the SLA, said, "I don't know whether I believe or disbelieve her statements."

"As a lawyer, I'd say her attorneys are following the strategy most likely to result in her being acquitted. But as an activist, I think what's going on reflects the bankruptcy of the kind of politics the SLA and similar organizations represent."

Attorney Charles Garry, who has defended Black Panther Huey Newton and other activists, said, "I have a reaction, but I don't intend to make it public. I'm afraid if I was to make any comments, it might be misconstrued."

Two black community groups that worked with the People in

Need food giveaway designed to free Miss Hearst shortly after she was kidnaped said they would have no comment. Leaders of the Black Muslims and Western Addition Project Area Committee said they had pledged at the time of the food program not to become involved in other aspects of the case.

Ironically, the underground terrorist New World Liberation Front, in a communique apparently sent before the affidavit became public, urged Miss Hearst to "adopt the tactics of silence" and refuse to cooperate with her father's lawyers.

The NWLF, which has claimed responsibility for numerous local bombings, said in a message to a television station that it had given the communique to her attorneys on Monday and accused them of withholding it from the imprisoned heiress.

HEW collects on loans

Associated Press
AUSTIN — Atty. Gen. John Hill says the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has finally agreed to change its methods of collecting unpaid federal student loans.

Hill said Wednesday that HEW had notified him that from now on their collection efforts will "be broadened to encompass all responsible parties."

Hill protested last March 10 about the existing policy of the Office of Education of "looking solely to the student for collection of indebtedness while ignoring altogether other parties equally liable."

The attorney general said there have been a number of conferences in recent months between federal and state officials and the Office of Education has now agreed to "collect from the student only that amount which represents earned tuition; tuition refunds due the student by the educational institution will be credited to the student's account upon assignment of the refund right by the student to HEW."

Hill said the recommendations were made after an investigation by his department into violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices act by a number of proprietary schools. Among other things the investigation revealed that some schools owed large sums of refunds for students who did not take or complete courses they signed up for.

Meeting set with Hopson

The College Hills Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) has scheduled a meeting for Oct. 6 with School Supt. Fred A. Hopson and the school board.

PTO publicity chairman Roger P. Sindt said several projects are being planned along with six more regular meetings.

Projects to be discussed include a money-making project for October and November, additional tables for classrooms, more bike racks and carpeting for the school library.

A special Drug Abuse Program sponsored by the Texas Dept. of Corrections will be presented Nov. 3.

Plans for other meetings include: ✓ The annual Christmas program, Dec. 1.

✓ Discussion of the testing program, Feb. 2.

✓ Open House, sometime in March.

April meeting plans will be announced later.

Election of new officers will be held May 3.

Officers for this year are Elliott Bray, president; Gail Hanselka, vice-president; Charlie Hill, treasurer, and Nancy Karickhoff, secretary.

Supreme Court rules landmark decision

Associated Press
AUSTIN - The Texas Supreme Court began a new term Wednesday with a landmark decision that business firms cannot commit injustices and then hide behind "corporate fictions" to avoid lawsuits.

In so ruling, the court also upheld a \$140,000 judgment against Credit Plan Corp. of Houston, Colonial Finance Corp. and Kelcor Corp. and in favor of the late John B. Gentry Sr. and his wife, Ellen.

The Gentrys' suit alleged that Credit Plan had committed illegal loan collection practices in 1969. In 1972, they added Colonial, as Credit Plan's parent, as a defendant. Kelcor was added in 1973 after Colonial merged into that corporation.

Colonial and Kelcor sought exclusion from the suit on the ground the two-year statute of limitations had run out before they were added as defendants.

But the high court ruled they were automatically parties to the suit when it was first filed against Credit Plan. A long analysis of Colonial and, later, Kelcor's structure ended with the conclusion that their subsidiaries - including Credit Plan - were "regarded not as separate business entities but as simply offices of the parent company."

The court noted that a subsidiary is usually not regarded as its parent corporation's "alter ego."

"On the other hand, where management and operations are assimilated to the extent that the subsidiary is simply a name or conduit through which the parent conducts its business, the corporate fiction may be disregarded by the courts

to prevent fraud or injustice," the unanimous opinion said.

Opinions were not issued in the other 113 cases decided by the court as it ended a two-month working recess with a heavy clean-up of pending business.

The court affirmed lower court decisions that blocked Galveston millionaire Shearn Moody Jr.'s attempt to regain personal trust fund income that he had signed over to his now insolvent Empire Life Insurance Co. of Alabama.

Moody had assigned 40 per cent of his share of the income from the Libbie Shearn Moody trust to Empire in 1963 when he was the sole voting shareholder. When Empire went broke, its receiver negotiated a reinsurance program with Protective Life Insurance Co. of Birmingham, Ala., to continue policyholders' coverage.


The court-approved reinsurance plan required Empire to transfer to Protective its share of the Moody trust income. A Galveston district court and the Houston Court of Civil Appeals agreed that Moody had no claim on the income because he had guaranteed it as an asset of Empire in representations to stockholders, policyholders and the public.

In other cases the court - Ruled that a life insurance company that requires a policy applicant to take a physical examination cannot later deny benefits because of an alleged misrepresentation of his health in the application form.

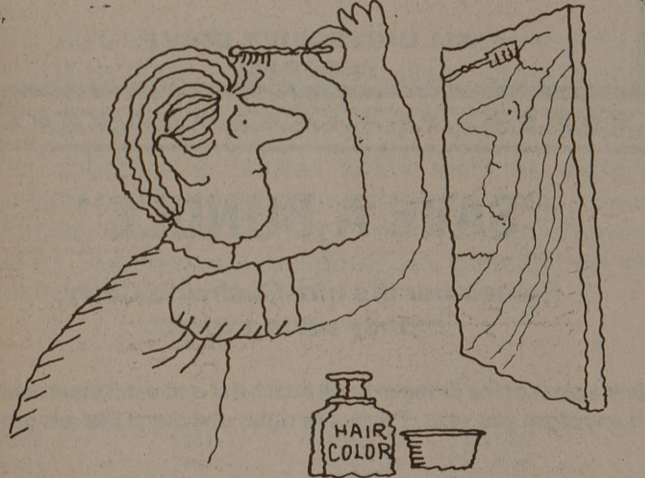
Signal Life Insurance Co. had sold Robert Lee Dalby a \$10,000 policy after requiring him to get a physical exam first. When Dalby died of a brain tumor two years later, in 1973, Signal refused to pay up, claiming Dalby had had the tumor since 1962 and knew it.

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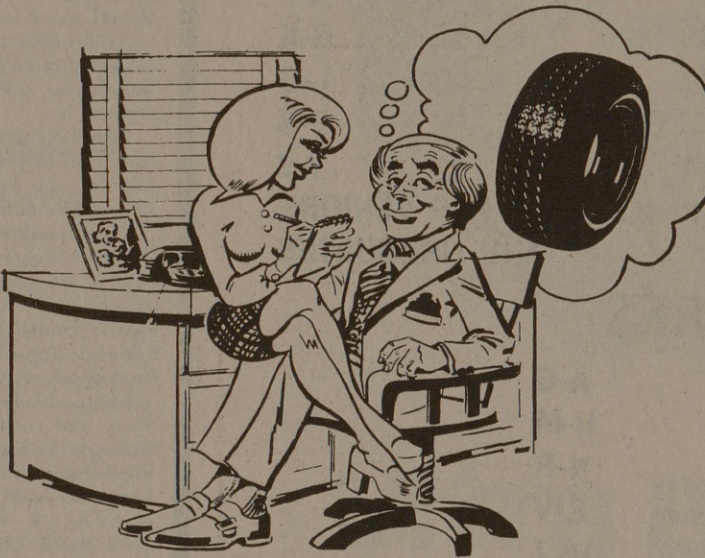
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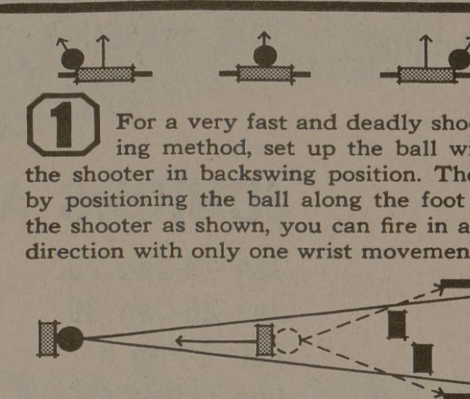
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