

Atheist says Iran situation shows stupidity of religion

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Timothy Gilmore, the director of a newly formed chapter of American Atheists, said Wednesday the hostage situation in Iran demonstrates the "stupidity and injustices of religion."

"We have no argument with those who believe in a religion and who practice it," Gilmore said, "just as long as they don't infringe on other people's rights and use other people's tax money for their purposes."

"The present situation in Iran is a perfect example of a state being con-

trolled by a church, and it points out the stupidity and injustices of religion."

Gilmore said the New Mexico chapter formed following the visit of noted atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair last month. He said the reception given O'Hair generated support for the group. O'Hair was hit in the face with a pie by a man who said he was opposed to atheism.

"Not only atheists, but agnostics, free-thinkers and civil libertarians in general were ashamed of the behavior of a few New Mexicans when O'Hair spoke here," Gilmore said.

the nation

High court rules search law illegal

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Wednesday ruled 6-3 that when police obtain a warrant to search a public place, such as a tavern, they do not necessarily have a right to frisk patrons who happen to be there.

The justices reversed a state court ruling that upheld the constitutionality of an Illinois law permitting police executing a search warrant to detain and search any person on the premises.

"A person's mere propinquity to others independently suspected of criminal activity does not, without more, give rise to probable cause to search that person," Justice Potter Stewart wrote for the majority.

The case arose in March 1976

when agents of the Illinois Bureau of Investigation and Aurora, Ill., police obtained a warrant permitting them to search the Aurora Tap Tavern and its bartender for evidence of illegal controlled substances.

During the search, police officers proceeded to pat down about a dozen customers, including Ventura Ybara. Police found six tin foil packets of heroin in his pocket.

Ybara unsuccessfully challenged the Illinois statute and was convicted of heroin possession and sentenced to two years' probation.

The high court Wednesday found that his search was in violation of the Constitution's 4th and 14th Amendments.

"Each patron who walked into the Aurora Tap Tavern on March 1, 1976, was clothed with constitutional protection against an unreasonable search or an unreasonable seizure," Stewart wrote.



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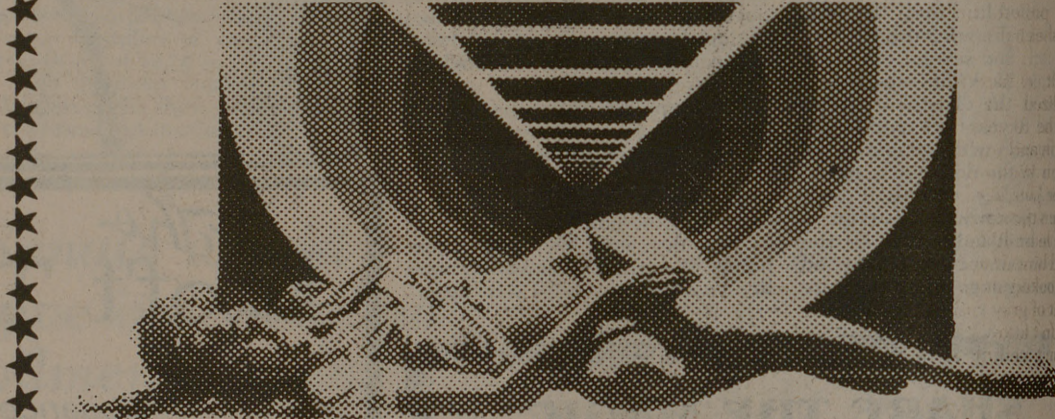
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Battalion photo by Pat Tompkins

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Fishing museum opens in Wales
United Press International
CARDIGAN, Wales — A museum devoted entirely to fishing — including rods, reels, nets and other curiosities — has just opened in a cottage five miles from Cardigan.

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