

NewsDigest

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► COURTS

Students don't have to fund offensive groups

► The University of Wisconsin cannot force students to pay an activity fee if students object to the ideologies of groups funded by the fee, a Wisconsin appeals court has ruled.

Several Christian students sued the University of Wisconsin at Madison because they did not want their money going to groups supporting gay and abortion rights.

"Forcing objecting students to fund private organizations which engage in political ideological activities violates the First Amendment," stated the 7th U.S. Court of Appeals in its ruling in August.

The appellate panel emphasized that the deci-

sion does not affect nonideological or nonpolitical groups, such as a student union or health centers.

"I am very pleased," said Scott Southworth, one of the students who sued, *USA Today* reported. "We were told, 'If you don't pay your fees you're not going to graduate.'"

The decision affects public institutions in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Jordan Lorence, a lawyer for the students, said he is representing students in a similar case pending at the University of Minnesota.

"Before the end of the year you might see a few more popping up," said Lorence, of the Northstar Legal Center, a conservative Christian public interest firm in Fairfax, Va.

"The court's unanimous decision is a big victory for free speech," Lorence said in a statement. "No student, whether conservative or liberal, should be forced to subsidize student advocacy organizations which violate their deeply held beliefs."

—Religion News Service

In the media

■ "The only forms of Christianity Hollywood understands are Catholicism and right-wing conservative politics dressed in religious terminology."

—Coleman Luck, Hollywood screenwriter and Christian, in an interview with *Christianity Today* (August 10, 1998)

► FELLOWSHIP



Ralph Allen

Opening ceremonies were kicked off with a huge parade. This cavalry troop was just one of many unique entries.

Royal Rangers 1998 Camporama touches thousands

► They stood on the grass in a natural amphitheater and watched as fireworks streamed above a huge American flag. They sang patriotic songs. They honored the veterans among them. Most important, they experienced the transforming power of God.

On July 16, at the concluding service of the 1998 National Camporama for Assemblies of God Royal Rangers, thousands of boys and men pledged themselves anew to the gospel of Christ.

Royal Rangers boys and commanders look forward to Camporama every four years, coming with tents, cots, camping supplies, district pins and patches to trade, and boundless enthusiasm. Camp Eagle Rock, a

1,500-acre wooded reserve in southern Missouri, was transformed into a city of neatly arranged tents.

American Rangers were not alone among the 5,200 participants. Delegates from Australia, Germany, Guyana, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, Spain and Switzerland were there. The 1998 Camporama was an international event displaying the kind of cross-cultural unity reflected in the Ranger Code as well as in the gospel.

National Commander Ken Hunt was thrilled at this year's level of participation.

"We've had a great response to the altar calls," Hunt said. "On the first night, a great number were

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