

To free students of 'devils and demons'

Teachers accused of using exorcism in school

TODAY'S WORLD

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New York Times Service

FALLBROOK — The Pastoral calm of this Southern California town has been disrupted by charges that two of its high school teachers practiced exorcism on frightened students to "free them of devils and demons."

The controversy has made its way into the courts after dividing the town's 12,000 residents, nearly 1,000 of whom signed petitions against the religious activities of the teachers, J. William Grier, 37, and Douglas Smith, 27 at the high school.

Two years ago the two men, members of the Fallbrook Union High School's English faculty, set up a small apostolic religious sect here, the Church of the New Testament. Grier was its pastor and Smith the senior elder.

For converts, they drew heavily on high school and college students.

THE FALLBROOK School Board refused last month to order their removal on grounds that the newest charges against the teachers were

Bilingual education voted \$45 million

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state Senate Education Committee approved \$45 million for bilingual education programs at a Wednesday hearing.

The measure, authored by Sen. George Moscone, D-San Francisco, would provide \$15 million next year and \$30 million in 1975-76 for increased bilingual education.

Teacher walkout

HAYWARD (UPI) — Some 1,100 Hayward school district teachers voted Wednesday to stage a one-day walkout to back contract demands. The teachers said they would walk off the job Friday to demonstrate their solidarity.

largely hearsay. The board stood by an earlier reprimand of Grier and Smith for intruding their religious beliefs into the school.

Although the reprimand appeared to satisfy most people in this community, it failed to appease a parents group known as Fallbrook Concerned Citizens that had been trying to bring about the teachers' removal.

A figure rarely mentioned in the affair — although the teachers insist he was its instigator — is Ted Patrick, who has attracted national attention by spiriting young people away from religious communes and "deprogramming" them.

PATRICK is awaiting sentence in Denver District Court where he was found guilty on May 1 of falsely imprisoning two young women. He was acquitted on a similar charge by a New York jury last August.

Two Fallbrook High School students, Patricia Egger, 17, and Emerson Eads Jr., 18, were turned over to Patrick by their parents after they were drawn into the New Testament sect.

The Eads youth walked out on Patrick's "rescue" efforts and when he became 18 recently, the age of majority under California law, he renounced his parents and went to live at Grier's home.

Patricia Egger received two weeks of "deprogramming" at Patrick's home in San Diego last November but "keeps slipping back under the malicious influence of these people," according to her father, Edward A. Egger, a contractor, who organized the FCC.

"We're terribly afraid that when Patty becomes 18 next Thursday she will turn her back on us and our love and we will lose her completely," said Mrs. Egger. "She keeps going back to them and denouncing us as devils."

Greer and Smith deny

the allegations that they have coerced or brainwashed students. But they acknowledge that since the controversy began, parents have removed 30 to 40 children from their classes, or nearly one-fourth of their former students.

Nationally, asserted Grier, the church has about 40,000 adherents in some 50 congregations, a large part of which are in California.

The allegation that the pair engaged in exorcism

is contained in a suit that has been brought against them in San Diego County Superior Court by Egger. His class action asks \$10,000 in damages for each of 26 unidentified parents.

The suit also seeks an injunction restraining the teachers or any of their teen-aged converts from further "intimidation, coercion or alienation" among the high school's 1,700 students.

The two teachers have answered with a counter-suit against Egger and up

to 100 "John Does" of the community asking \$125,000 each for the manner in which they say they have been "harassed, threatened, maligned and subjected to contempt and ridicule."

Leaders of the citizens organization contend that one student, Mark Dalgian, 18, suffered a nervous breakdown and was hospitalized for four months after being "indoctrinated" and led to believe that he was damned by the devil.

Although not acknowledging that they have engaged in any rituals of devil-purging exorcism with students, Grier and Smith asserted in an interview that such power had been delegated to them through faith as well as the gift of prophesy and the power to work miracles and heal the sick by "laying on of hands."

The controversy arose from an incident nearly two years ago when one of the school's athletes was

dying of cancer that proved terminal.

"With his father's permission, I prayed over the boy and laid on hands in a classroom during the noon recess, anointing him with some oil I got from the cafeteria while two girl students joined in the prayers," Grier related.

After a stormy meeting of a group of 10 or 12 parents with the school board in January of last year, the teachers were reprimanded for their activities.



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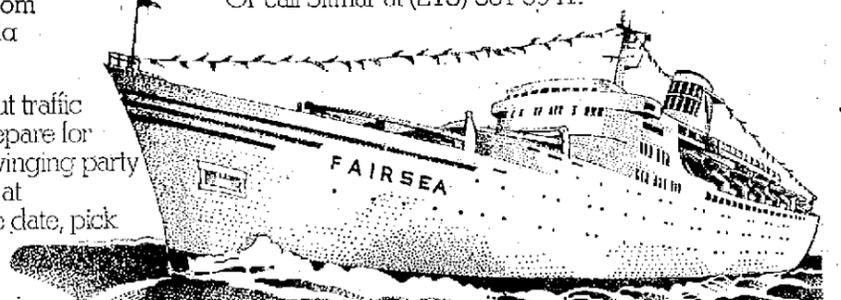
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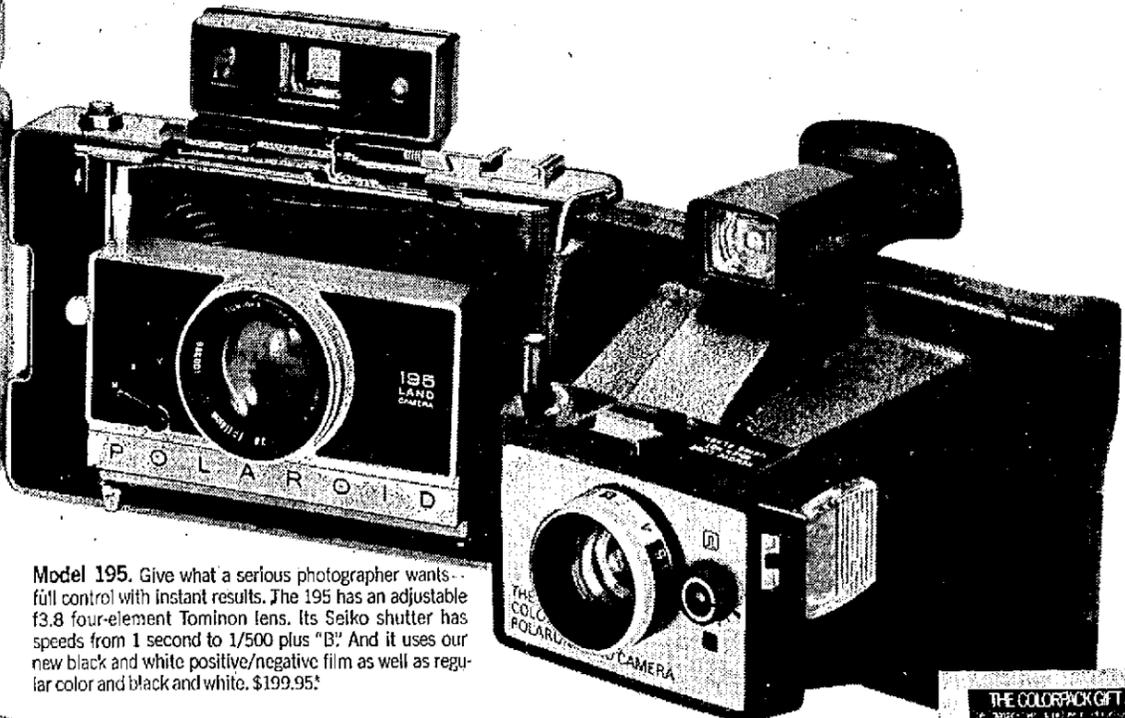
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