

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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TWO STORIES: Jeff Littleboy
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD —

The concept of the worker-lawyer, like the worker-priest, should be in the forefront of every law student's mind, New York attorney William Kunstler told a Stanford Law Forum meeting Thursday, Feb. 18.

"It's the only way to feel your life is worth something and means something," the noted civil rights attorney and defender of the Chicago Seven said. "It is more rewarding instead of being just a 'hired gun' for a big law firm or corporation.

"Reject all clients you can't identify with," he told the students. "There is no difference between a man picking grapes and a man writing a writ. They both serve a useful purpose. You are no better than anyone else because you went to college and then to law school."

He was highly critical of the law profession, calling it "iniquitous and hypocritical." "In fact," he added, "I don't even know why they call it a profession. Its prime purpose is to grease the wheels of the economic system in the mercantile society in which we live."

"Equal justice under law" is a monstrous fraud, he said. "You can live with it if you understand the system. You can destroy it in order to bring another one into being."

Few law students will make the decision to become an egalitarian "peoples' lawyer," he predicted. It will be very hard to see classmates with a wealth of material rewards and top-level jobs from the standpoint of a lawyer barely eking out an existence serving unpopular causes.

Kunstler said he did not regard "the system" as salvageable through the legal structure as it exists today.

"I regard the law as an instrument of social struggle—either a useful tool or a monstrous fraud," he said.

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About 350 persons attending a Black Student Union-sponsored concert by The Lumpen temporarily evacuated Memorial Auditorium at Stanford Wednesday night, following a telephoned bomb threat. No device was found.

The auditorium was emptied after an unidentified male called the campus switchboard at 8:12 p.m. and said: "Two bombs are going to go off in Memorial Auditorium."

After standing outside for about 20 minutes, the crowd returned to the lobby, despite warnings from campus firemen that their investigation had not been completed. As the group returned, they chanted softly, "Power to the people."

At 8:50 p.m. the concert resumed after a performer asked the audience, "Do you want the concert?" and they chorused, "Yes."

Following the incident, BSU CoChairman Willie L. Newberry issued a statement as follows: "When black people give the slightest sign that they are going to stand up and engage in political struggle to change the racist conditions of their environment, the system reacts.

"Such was the nature of the bomb threat on the lives of those at the appearance of The Lumpen at Memorial Auditorium.

"We will not be intimidated. Our struggle on the Stanford campus has been legal and nondestructive. But we are watching the way Stanford treats 'proper' methods.

"But this should not be taken for weakness or lack of determination. For we wish to make it very clear that 'we will be heard.'"