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TUITION REFUND POSSIBLE--YAF

Students Can Sue When Class Disrupted, View

Tuition-paying college students have a right to demand refunds if their education is denied by class disruption, representatives of the Louisiana Young Americans for Freedom said here Friday.

YAF spokesmen declared at the Press Club of New Orleans that the parents of disruptors who are minors are legally responsible for any damages caused by their children.

The press conference conducted here was one of several held across the nation by the YAF Friday to alert students and parents of the possible legal consequences of student disruption on the campus.

The time is ripe for massive lawsuits against certain universities, according to Maurice R. Franks, legal adviser to the Louisiana YAF.

Under a 1968 federal court decision in Louisiana, he said, "College officials have a legal duty to expel students for attending meetings of groups conspiring to breach the peace."

Franks added that other federal appeals court decisions and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution "are not a license to trample on the rights of others" and that any unlaw-

ful obstruction which denies the majority of students the right to attend classes for which they paid "constitutes illegal interference with the contract between the students and their university."

YAF representatives from Tulane, Loyola and Louisiana State University in New Orleans attended the conference.

Franks called a college catalog a binding contract between the students and the university.

He said that whenever the class schedule listed in the catalog is altered, "as for example by leftist campus disorders, any student has the right to sue to force a tuition refund to each and every student for the days on which classes were interrupted."

Franks said that this could amount to a quarter of a million dollars in a short disruption at the larger private universities.

He urged students to file "representative suits" on behalf of their fellow students when disturbances occur.

In the case of public high schools which do not charge tuition, Franks said students should "file for a mandamus to compel the school's leaders to hold classes."

Franks said the national YAF has prepared several briefs to help the student who feels he is being deprived of his education by class disruption but that the YAF does not file suits or act for the student in such cases.