

MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release June 6th, 1997

Contact: Cathie Sullivan (982-7144) or Greg Mello (982-7747)

Free Speech Activists Return To LANL's Bradbury Museum

Supporters of the Los Alamos Study Group anticipate arrest or citation by Los Alamos National Laboratory security forces at Bradbury Science Museum when they peacefully begin handing out anti-nuclear leaflets to Museum visitors at 1 pm Saturday afternoon. The leafleting will be similar to an April 19 incident which resulted in the arrest of two other Study Group members for leafleting at the same location. LANL officials have told the Study Group that anyone who leaflets will be arrested.

Cathie Sullivan, arrested on April 19th along with Greg Mello, said the current leafleting, is intended to try to focus attention on the free speech issue at the Museum. Although the two were arrested well over a month ago and are out on \$300 bail, no date has been scheduled for their trial. According to Mello, "This delay defers our leafleting for no good reason and prevents us from offering visitors an alternative to the Museum's pro-nuclear propaganda. Leafleting at the Museum is a free speech activity protected by the United States Constitution." The Bradbury Science Museum, part of the Laboratory's public relations effort, has an annual budget of almost 1 million dollars and claims 130,000 visitors per year. "We intend to pursue this issue until citizens presenting their opinions on nuclear weapons are welcome at the Bradbury," said Sullivan.

At the last minute, LANL has offered "mediation" if leafleting is postponed, proposing the DOE Office of Dispute Resolution as a neutral forum, and hinting that charges against Sullivan and Mello might be dropped if attempts to leaflet were halted. Mello and Sullivan have told the Lab that constitutional rights are not subject to mediation by the DOE or anyone, and that it is the Laboratory, not they, who have broken the law.

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