

Democrats Adopt Gay Rights Plank

WASHINGTON, D.C. (IGNA) - The Platform Committee of the Democratic Party has adopted a Gay rights plank as part of a list of pledges to voters this November.

Adoption of this plank marks the first time a major Political party has called for an end to discrimination against homosexuals.

The plank was adopted unanimously and cannot be challenged at the convention this summer.

The plank reads: "We must affirm the dignity of all people and the right of

each individual to have equal access to and participation in the institutions and services of our society, including actions to protect all groups from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex or sexual orientation."

"This includes specifically the right of foreign citizens to enter into this country. Appropriate legislative and administrative actions to achieve these goals should be undertaken."

The term "sexual orientation" was proposed by President Carter's domestic

affairs adviser, Stuart Eizenstat. Representatives of Senator Edward Kennedy and Gay activists on the committee had pushed for a stronger plank.

Bill Kraus, head of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club and a member of the platform committee, explained to IGNA that Jimmy Carter sees the Gay vote as critical in California and New York. He can't lose both states and win the election. "It's a political reality that we are important."

Kraus added, "Ever since I was a little kid I've been interested in politics

and political conventions. Now at last I've actually been able to participate in one."

He believes that Gays must turn to politics to gain and keep their rights.

Kraus and the other five Gay committee members urged the President to ban discrimination in federal employment in all areas, to see that Gays are added to the 1964 Civil Rights Acts, and to push the Justice Department to halt the Immigration Service from preventing Gays from entering the country.

MCC Pledges Support For Gay Cubans

TORONTO, CANADA -- Nearly \$60,000 has been pledged to begin work to aid 10,000 to 12,000 Lesbian and Gay Cuban refugees being held at concentration camp-style facilities of three US military camps. Responding to an appeal by The Rev. Troy D. Perry, start-up funds have been pledged by ministers representing Metropolitan Community Churches attending the UFMCC Eastern Ministers Conference ending recently in Toronto, Canada. "At this moment," Rev. Perry said, "there are thousands of Lesbians and Gay men in the Cuban refugee camps who have been stigmatized with the label homosexual. Up to this point, not one social agency has come forward to express willingness to help them. They are in limbo behind barbed wire at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; and Fort Chafee, Arkansas. They are despised and rejected by the other refugees.

"We are appealing to all Lesbians and Gay men to accept the responsibility of caring that we might demonstrate to the world that we are not guilty of discrimination and that we are compassionate. It is our aim to negotiate with government agencies to facilitate the release and relocation of our sisters and brothers. Further, we will arrange for them to be visited now in the camps, ministered to, and reassured that the Lesbian and Gay community in our country really cares."

Working from UFMCC headquarters in Los Angeles, a specially assigned Task Force is establishing official contact with the US Government and other resettlement agencies. The Task Force is also finding sponsors who will assist in finding jobs and homes for refugees and in gathering financial assistance to get the refugees -- who lack families to sponsor them -- out of the camps. Within the next three weeks, teams of Spanish-speaking Lesbians and Gay men will be sent into the three camps. Persons in the vicinities of the camps fluent in Spanish and/or with expertise in Cuban culture are urged to contact UFMCC. The Rev. Bob Arthur, Director of UFMCC's Institutional Ministries, has been deputized to work for six months in this effort. The UFMCC Cuban Refugee Program will be working in conjunction with the

Carter Administration's Interagency Task Force, with the International Rescue Commission, and with the U.S. Catholic Conference to aid refugees from Castroite Homophobia.

"We are getting calls from all around the country," says Dale Leech, Project Facilitator.

"When Castro gave permission for anyone who wanted to leave Cuba to go, the tidal wave of immigrants began," Rev. Perry said. "Boat owners who came to Cuba to pick up friends and relatives were forced by the Cuban government to take as many people as the boats would hold. People were marched at bayonet point and loaded on the boats. Members of the press who have spoken with some of these refugees report evidence of massive physical abuse including

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Several GAZE staff members and friends frame a Gay Pride banner following the Gay Pride Week picnic on June 22. Story on page 6.

Trouble In Overton Park

By Regina Russell

Recent confrontations between police and Gay men in Overton Park have resulted in a tense situation in the Memphis Gay community, according to several Gays who go to the park frequently.

One man interviewed said that he had been recently arrested in Overton Park for "disorderly conduct" when he and a group of friends had been sitting and talking. A group of cops ordered the group of men to "disperse" after receiving a report that someone was "throwing rocks" in the area where the group was gathered. The group dispersed as ordered.

Later, however, one of the cops in question saw the man who was later arrested (John) in the park and said, "I told you to get out of the park." John replied, "No, you told us to 'disperse,' not to leave the park." The cop, Officer J.E. Johnston, then said that he was telling John to leave the park. When John said that the park did not close until midnight and asked why he was being ordered to leave, Officer Johnston

arrested him for disorderly conduct. Johnston said, "The park closes when I close it," and then he handcuffed John with John's hands behind his back and put him in the squad car.

Another officer on the scene asked a friend of John's, "Are you Gay?" The friend replied that he was. One of the officers then said that he intended to "clear all the Gays out of the park" after 4 p.m. daily. When mention was made of getting John "down to the station," one of the officers said, "I don't care about the fucking queer in the car."

Meanwhile, John said, he was having to sit sideways in the car due to his handcuffed position. He also said that the handcuffs made his wrists sore because of the way he was having to sit.

John said that he intends to take "legal action."

Another recent incident in Overton Park involves two men who were arrested on a sodomy charge. The arresting officer handcuffed the two together, cross-armed, saying that he was handcuffing them in that manner

"since you seem to be so close." One of the men said that he, too, intends to take legal action.

GAZE talked with an attorney about both incidents. The attorney said that the handcuffing of the men in such a manner was in itself grounds for a lawsuit. The arrest of John for "disorderly conduct," she said, is grounds for a "false arrest" lawsuit. "And if they try to close the park to Gays," she added, "we will have the biggest discrimination suit this city has ever seen."

"The problem is," the attorney said, "that Gays don't realize fully that they do have legal recourse. People don't like to be in a powerless situation, and when confronted with a police uniform, that is exactly what happens. John had every legal right to ask the officer why he was being asked to leave the park."

The night after John's arrest, several Gays met with a lieutenant from the West Precinct who assured them that the police had no intention of

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The Myth Of Burn-Out

By Bill Johnson

"Burn-out" is one of those phrases that has achieved fad status in the Gay community. It has become the phrase that makes excuses excusable, the phrase that allows us to let someone else do the work.

We become frustrated when, after working to plan an event or a program toward helping the community, we are confronted by people who have hopped their way through the planning process only to crawl out of the woodwork to scrutinize our efforts and make sure that we have planned it properly.

We become frustrated when we seem to be undertaking an oversized portion of the workload while others take the credit.

We become frustrated when criticized by others for what we are doing, particularly when they are doing nothing.

But if we respond to criticisms and fatigue in a manner which causes us to discontinue our efforts toward furthering the cause of human and civil rights for Lesbians and Gay men, then our original motives are subject to question. If we are truly dedicated to the cause, we will enjoy the work that we do.

It is unfair that we should feel the need to spend so much of our time - time that we might otherwise spend enjoying life and living - fighting for rights which should already be ours. It is unfair that I have to be writing this editorial. It is unfair that I feel the need to despair because I am condemned by heterosexist society. But these are reasons to keep going, not to burn out.

The quickest way to kill the Gay rights movement is to concern ourselves so much with individual concerns that we lose sight of our purpose. Items such as personality conflicts and individual differences and major concerns such as racism, sexism and classism must be dealt with; we cannot succeed in our struggle for Lesbian and Gay rights if

we treat them as roadblocks. When we do treat them as roadblocks, we inevitably experience burn-out. Burn-out is the excuse we give for discontinuing our efforts when we are criticized.

Burn-out is a negative phrase. It does nothing and it means nothing. It impresses no one.

A recent letter received by *GAZE* reads: "I am a Gay person. I am from a small town in Mississippi. I am lonely, sad and depressed. I want to relocate but cannot because I don't have a job. I want to meet and socialize with other Gay people. I want to know if there are other Gay organizations in my state. Can you help me, please!"

What would our world be if we were all burned-out? How many lonely, sad and depressed people would have no one

to turn to? How could we, in good conscience, allow such a silly thing as burn-out to destroy the organization and the communications network that we have built?

How can we tell that Gay person in Mississippi that we are "burned-out?" "I'm sorry, Gay person in Mississippi, but we have been doing all the work while others did nothing except criticize our efforts; we are burned-out and can't help you."

One of the major criticisms that leads to burn-out is the accusation of being "politically incorrect." Tell that to a sad, lonely and depressed Gay person from a small town in Mississippi.

"Doing nothing, it seems, would be better than being 'politically incorrect' at any point in our endeavors. Surely those who criticize us on that point must

believe that doing nothing is better, because they always seem to be doing just that.

But of all the reasons we might give for burn-out, by far the greatest is taking ourselves and those who criticize us too seriously. If we lose our sense of humor and our enjoyment of the social side of life - especially Gay life - then we are doomed to find our work in the movement too much a burden. No matter how serious our struggle for equality is - and it is - we cannot lose touch with those things which make life enjoyable. If we do, we will soon find our work is no longer worth the bother. We will stop working with the movement and then say that we are "burned-out." And there is no term more "politically correct" these days than "burn-out."

Burn-out? No such thing.

Turning The Religious Roundtable

By Bill Johnson

An editorial in a recent edition of *The Commercial Appeal* entitled "Preachers and Politics: Blurring of Church, State" says that "New Right" thinking is "reactionary in the most literal sense of the word in that it wishes to return to the old order, the time when homosexuals were in the closet, pornography was under the table, abortions were performed in backrooms by quacks and charlatans and women were in the kitchen."

Another editorial in a later edition entitled "High And Impregnable" condemns such evangelicals as Jerry Falwell and the national electronic church for political preaching that would legislate the morality of their "christian" views. "Certainly we cannot," says the editorial, "and will not tolerate any preaching which would deny a Jew access to public office in this country because he (she) is not a 'born-again' Christian."

With the good comes the bad. A letter to the editor of the paper asks, "...isn't the height of hypocrisy and bigotry to wish to deny their right (fundamentalists) to freedom of religious and moral expression through the united political process?"

Well now, we have never before looked upon *The Commercial Appeal* as a comrade in arms, but it seems that the outrageous (if I may borrow the words) "hypocrisy and bigotry" evident in the New Right movement - not to mention the ludicrousness - is helping to open the eyes of intelligent people (such as newspaper editors) to the fact that our country is *not* a free one for all its citizens. It is not free for those who do not happen to fit the mold that the Christian Church has chosen for people - for *all* people.

The fundamentalists, including Falwell's "moral majority," the Southern baptist church, the "religious roundtable" and countless other born-again groups are quick to point out that they cannot be denied their rights to political organization. It seems funny, however, that they do not hesitate in using this "right" to try to deny the rights of others.

It is not enough for them to live their lives by the moral standards they choose, however hypocritical they may be; they are content only when

attempting to ensure that my life and yours fit their distorted guidelines.

We have seen it in Memphis for years with the Southern baptist church (yes, those lower-case letters are intentional) in their political control on the lives of other citizens. This is their *right*, mind you, to control the lives of others through the political process, they tell us.

A Lesbian friend who is Christian tells me, "The fundamentalists are completely ignorant about homosexuality. They are totally closed to what the Bible really says about it, yet they are constantly telling us what they think the Bible says. My God, we are quite well acquainted with their side of

or mis-interpretations thereof.

The New Right christians may not like the fact that I am Gay, but then again, I'm not particularly fond of them either. But they have no right whatsoever to deny my right to individual freedom and protection because I am not one of them.

Turning the religious roundtable for a moment, let us imagine trying to deny entry into the country of fundamentalists. Let us imagine trying to deny the New Righters to teach in public schools, other jobs, public accommodations, custody cases and countless other little things with which we are all familiar. And all because we don't happen to like what they are.

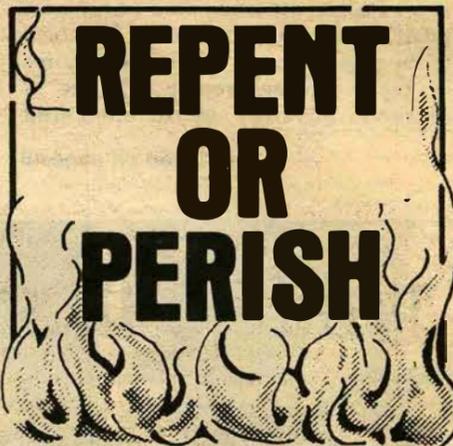
But we aren't trying to deny the rights of anyone. We are simply saying give us our rights as tax-paying Americans and, damn it, leave us alone. The New Right's 11th Commandment must be "Mind they neighbor's business," and, apparently, it's the only one they obey.

We have seen morality legislated to a far greater degree than in our country today. We saw it in Nazi Germany. When Hitler decided that the "morally and racially impure" should be executed, they were. When he decided that Jews were morally impure, they were executed. When he decided that Gays were morally impure, they were executed.

If the New Righters have decided that their god feels that Gays should be denied human rights, let their god deny us those rights. If they do it, they are placing themselves in their god's position.

When humankind decides that it must play God, there is no end to the danger it creates. What the New Righters don't consider is that the same thing could happen to them; someone could come along and decide that they are morally impure (a decision most Gays made long ago) and zap (!) goodbye Mister Falwell. (Or goodbye Mister Rogers - pun intended. Sorry, Adrian, I couldn't resist.)

And by the way, New Righters, the old "recruitment" and "conversion" theories simply do not apply to Gays; if you are looking for recruiters and converters, look in the mirror. If you really think you are that much better than I, you are suffering from the sin that destroyed Sodom.



the story; when are they going to hear ours?"

I don't want to dwell upon Bible interpretations, but I do want to make a point that goes far beyond Christianity, a political point that transcends the comprehension of the fundamentalist New Right. No matter how much they desire it to be, this country isn't, will never be, and never has been a "Christian" country. It is a country in which Christianity and all religions (including non-religions) are allowed to exist; the New Right christians, however, have forgotten that civil liberties are extended only to those who do not infringe upon the rights of others.

The denial of civil rights to Lesbians and Gay men is an infringement upon the rights of American citizens, and the New Right seeks to deny our rights even further. Our laws in this country are (constitutionally) supposed to be based upon protection of the individual - not upon Biblical teachings, interpretations

GAZE

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Sticks And Stones

By Scott Correll

Homosexuality has been called everything; homosexuals have been labeled everything from a to z; and every reason has been given for the cause of homosexuality. For the most part, these labels and reasons have been provided us (Gay people) by the heterosexuals. These terms are often not very flattering and disclose the narrow-mindedness of the user.

A sin, an illness, a way of life, a crime against nature, abnormal variant of sexual behavior, normal variant of sexual behavior, and behavior disturbance are just a few of the terms used for homosexuality. Homosexuals are born that way, have been enticed into homosexuality by an adult, have been turned to homosexuality because of a weak parent, have been made homosexuals because of a dominating parent, are unable to attract the opposite sex, are oversexed, are sexually deficient, are at the lower level of human evolution, are rebellious of the bourgeois, or have been victims of various kinds of traumatic experiences.

Terms used for "the" homosexual are even more bigotted, narrow-minded, and slanderous. The following paragraphs are an explanation of these terms. These are the labels that Gays must help to become obsolete. Some of them originated in the Gay community but have been picked up in the straight community and, when used by a straight, almost always sound dirty.

"Butch" is one label that has been picked up by the straight community from the Gay community. It comes from the slang "butch cut" which means severely cut hair style. Straight and Gay men use the term to denote a lesbian with masculine characteristics or a Gay man with no effeminate gestures.

A "degenerate" in terms of homosexual slang is a homosexual or "queer" since he/she does not procreate. Degeneracy was believed to be a defect in an individual's heredity and often equated with the sudden reappearance of primitive tendencies in civilized human beings. Degeneracy was a reversal of progressive evolution; this theory was justified by the evolutionary concepts advanced by Charles Darwin. The degenerated string involved nervous illness, physical weakness, and deviant behavior. Thus any departure from conventional behavior, whether sexual or social, was regarded as a sign of degeneracy. A sexual degenerate, a homosexual, was a primitive, animal-like person who might do anything.

"Dyke" is another term which originated in Gay slang and has been integrated into the heterosexual slang. It comes from "dite" in hermaphrodite and means the mannish lesbian; however, it is used less and less to denote the mannish lesbian and more and more to any Gay woman.

"Fag(got)" is derived from several terms, but has come to mean a "queer," homosexual, in heterosexual slang. During the reformation of the English public school system in the first half of the 1800's, Thomas Arnold established the perfect system in which the senior boys were expected to control the behavior of the younger boys. The practice of "fagging," which existed in the schools before the reform, was incorporated into Arnold's perfect

system. The term "fagging" originally meant doing something which causes weariness. The small boys had to do tasks for the larger boys such as cleaning boots, running errands, and sometimes sexual services were included. Another derivative is from the World War I slang "fag" which meant cigarette; cigarettes were considered effeminate by cigar-smoking he-men. It is also speculated that the term could have derived from Fagin, Charles Dicken's character in OLIVER TWIST who taught boys how to be dishonest.

The term "Gay" is Gay slang and has been adopted by the straight community. It comes from the 16th century French word *gaie* meaning homosexual man and from British slang *gay girl* meaning whore. Very seldom is it used by straights or Gays to denote "happy." When the term "Gay" first began to appear in slang it referred only to male homosexuals. It is beginning to denote both male and female homosexuals now, and in broad instances, refers to heterosexuals who enjoy living the Gay lifestyles in every form except for the sexual preference.

"Himmer" is a very seldom used term. The user of the term can be dated back to the late '50's and it is solely a heterosexual slang word. The term is based upon the joke of a parishioner who

placed a ten dollar bill in the offering. When the deacon noticed this he announced that the person who placed the bill in the plate could select the next hymn, so the parishioner stood up and said, "I'll take him, and him, and him."

The word "homo" is heterosexual slang from the word homosexual and, of course, means homosexual. "Homosexual" is in turn derived from the Greek *homos* meaning same; it is not derived from the Latin *homo* meaning man.

"Jaisy," another heterosexual slang word from the early '50's comes from combining Jane and Daisy and means homosexual. A "man's man" meaning homosexual male, mocks the male servant attending to the needs of a bachelor. The user of this heterosexual slang word dates himself to the '40's. "Ralph", "Cecil", "George", "Cy", "Seymour", and "Bruce" are proper names used in heterosexual slang to ridicule effeminate, timid, mousey men. "Sissy", derived from sister, is a straight slang term meaning the effeminate homosexuality-bound son. A "three-letter man" is still another straight slang term to denote the male homosexual; it is derived from fag (f-a-g).

The term "Lesbian", meaning female homosexual, comes from the name of the Greek island, Lesbos, where the homosexual poet Sappho was born.

Lesbian is a term that is used equally between straights and Gays; however, when used by straights it is often used in a bigoted connotation.

"Queen", a Gay slang term, from the British word *quean* meaning woman of low morals and previously derived from the Greek word *gyne* meaning woman is used by Gays to designate an effeminate male homosexual. The straight community has incorporated "queen" into their vocabulary to denote any male homosexual.

Perhaps the most degrading of all heterosexual slang terms is "queer." "Queer" originally meant odd or different, something out of the norm, but today the word is seldom used for this meaning. Instead the heterosexuals use it almost exclusively to denote a homosexual, male or female. This term is derived from the British slang word *quare* meaning unusual.

Credits to: HOMOSEXUALITY: A HISTORY, by Vern L. Bullough, C. 1979, New American Library, Inc., N.Y.C., N.Y.

GAY TALK A (SOMETIMES OUTRAGEOUS DICTIONARY OF GAY SLANG), formerly entitled THE QUEEN'S VERNACULAR, by Bruce Rodgers, C. 1972, Paragon Books, N.Y.C., N.Y.

Gays Urged To Support Boycott

Is Nestlé Killing Babies?

By MCG

Declining birth rates in Western nations has sent infant formula manufacturers looking for new markets. Most are in Third World countries.

Only 10% of Third World mothers, those who can't breast-feed, must use this formula. Manufacturers have launched heavy advertising and marketing campaigns to convince these people that bottle-feeding is modern and scientific; breast-feeding backwards and primitive.

This widespread problem is more serious than promoting an unnecessary and expensive product.

Safe use requires pure water, sterilization of bottles and nipples and enough money to buy the necessary amount of formula. Unless formula is to be prepared every few hours, a refrigerator is also needed. In many cases, the only water source is a single public fountain, frequently contaminated. Because parents cannot afford fuel, mothers do not have the facilities to boil water or sterilize the bottles and nipples; the child is exposed to germs and parasites which the breast-fed infant is not. These infants do not receive the natural antibodies present in the mother's milk. If the bottle sits in the sun (most usually do), the result is diarrhea, a cause of malnutrition.

These Third-World mothers must spend as much as 50 to 80 percent of the family's total income on formula for just one child. To make the formula stretch further, it is often over-diluted, again leading to malnutrition.

Malnutrition, even if the child survives, generally causes irreversible brain damage.

Baby-bottle disease has reached epidemic levels, and health officials

hold the formula producers responsible. By the time Baby-bottle disease is diagnosed, it is too late; the mother's own milk has dried up. This disease has killed thousands of Third World babies and caused severe mental retardation in countless others.

Most formula manufacturers have discontinued promotion, but Nestle, a huge Swiss transnational, refuses to accept responsibility and continues its promotions.

A world-wide boycott of Nestle has been encouraged by various groups who urge Gay people, as persons concerned about human rights, to support. The following are part of the world-wide boycott:

COFFEES AND TEAS: Taster's Choice, Nescafe, Nestea, Decaf, Sunrise, Pero.

WINES: Beringer Bros., Los Hermanos, Crosse and Blackwell.

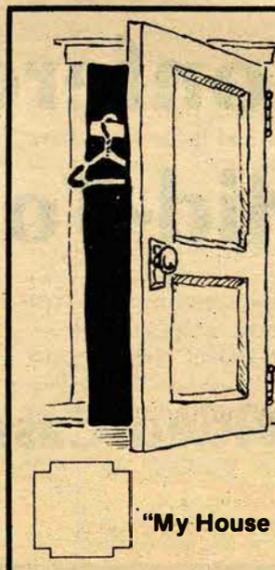
CHEESES: Swiss Knight, Wispride Gerber, Old Fort, Provolone Lacatelli, Cherry Hill, Roger's.

PACKAGED FRUITS, SOUPS, ETC.: Libby's, Stouffers Frozen Foods, Souptime, Maggi Soups, Crosse and Blackwell.

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS: Stouffers, Rusty Scupper.

MISCELLANEOUS: L'Oreal Cosmetics, Nestle cookie mixes, Deer Park Mountain Spring Water, Pine Hill Crystal Water, Kavli Crispbread, McVities, Keiler, James Keller and Son Ltd., Contique by Alcon, Lonax by Owen Labors, Lancome.

(Thanks to *Distaff* and The Infant Formula Action Coalition.)



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Two New Anti-Gay Organizations Form

WASHINGTON - Two new anti-Gay organizations, "Americans Against H.R. 2074" and the "American Family Institute," have kicked off major campaigns.

"Americans Against H.R. 2074" is a project of the Gates Community Chapel of Rochester, New York, a tax-deductible, religious organization. The information that Gay Rights National Lobby has, however, indicates that their campaign is national in nature.

Their first direct mail effort predictably employed distortions about the impact of H.R. 2074, including the spectre of it requiring Gay teachers in religious schools, ordination of Gay ministers and the possibility that H.R. 2074 would require Gay marriages. And spokesperson Pastor Fletcher Brothers stated a blatant lie: "Passage of bill H.R. 2074 could result in the hiring of known practicing homosexuals without regard

to their job qualifications simply because they are homosexuals."

GRNL lobbyist Steve Edean expressed serious concern over one aspect of this development. "Their direct mail package indicates a new level of 'sophistication' - with the letter personalized to the correct Members of Congress, etc. This mailing, plus the information we have from Capitol Hill that Members of Congress are beginning to receive large numbers of anti-Gay mail, only increases our resolve to continue our efforts on the national Constituent Network," Edean said.

The American Family Institute, launched by Senator Gordon Humphrey (R-New Hampshire), has attacked President Carter for "assaulting the American families" by the appointment of Jean O'Leary (GRNL Board Member), Bella Abzug, and Mrs.

Andrew Young to various Presidential Commissions.

Humphrey's letter states: "Believe it or not he has asked Bella Abzug, Mrs. Andrew Young and Jean O'Leary to set further standards for American families! Jean O'Leary was Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force. In simple words, she is a

homosexual. And she is setting future guidelines for American families."

The Humphrey letter appears to be concerned with the White House Conference on the Family, but none of those mentioned in the letter are involved in that Conference.

Further, Jean O'Leary had resigned from her Commission position (which was on the Women's Commission) some time ago, and Bella Abzug had also left her Commission at an earlier date.

British TV Does Gay Series

By Michael Brown

LONDON (IGNA) - British television has, at last, decided to investigate the existence of the Gay community's lifestyles, that is, apart from its traditional depiction of Gays as patients who need curing, as comic jokes, as criminals, and so on.

London Weekend Television formed its Minorities Unit in 1979, which for the first time in the history of British TV, will cover such groups in special programs. Blacks had first attention, followed by Gays, with an initial projected series of 11 weekly half-hour shows called *Gay Life*.

The decision was to screen them late night on Sundays because the subject is "sensitive," a time when most people have retired to sleep for Monday morning work.

The series started in February, 1980 and began with a look into job discrimination in the Civil Service with special emphasis on the security risks of employing Gays. This followed a recent Gay spy scandal, and so was calculated to be topical.

The next program dealt with Gay stereotypes: clones in disco clubs, men in leather, drag queens, all interviewed with an overvoice commenting. Then

came police harassment, followed by another on Lesbians' custody of children and on adoption.

According to Executive Producer Barry Cox, the ratings were typical for a late night Sunday slot.

Criticism has come from some Lesbian organizations and individuals. Major complaints ranged from the predominantly male production staff and male emphasis in content to methods of presentation.

Specific complaints were that the series treated Gays like "wild life" specimens and that the "impartial," invisible, authoritative commentator gave a "common sense" point of view that often cancelled out any pro-gay stance that emerged from the interviews or other information. Also criticized was the use of Gay opponents to present their views, "to create a balance," when those views often get screentime anyway.

The major complaint seemed to be superficiality of approach.

The TV team answered objections at a meeting and admitted mistakes and faults, partly due to inexperience with this type of program. They noted the criticisms, but added that their professional ethics would make them resist undue outside pressure.

Death In Venice Had Gay Overture

LONDON (IGNA) - A world-renowned opera singer has talked openly at last about his 40-year relationship with Benjamin Britten, one of the foremost composers of the twentieth century.

In a story in the *London Observer*, Sir Peter Pears, at the age of 70, agreed to discuss the homosexuality of the two men, who were lovers and also colleagues in various musical endeavors, most notably *Death in Venice*.

Benjamin Britten himself had not been open about his homosexuality before his death in 1976. Even Pears finds it difficult to talk about the

problems facing even so respectable a Gay couple during their years together. Although Britten might joke about being homosexual among close and knowing friends, he never shared the promiscuity and outrageous delight of the Auden/Isherwood circle.

According to a forthcoming biography by Robert Duncan, who wrote the libretto for Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, Britten was "a reluctant homosexual, a man in flight from himself, who often punished others for the sin he felt he'd committed himself."

Benjamin Britten, however, was a careful keeper of diaries, letters, and photos, and turned them over to his biographer before his death.

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Proud Of Us

I am interested in starting a Gay publication in St. Louis and have been reading **GAZE** regularly for the past three months. My friends and I agree that, though yours is not one of the largest or slickest, it is one of the best Gay newsmagazines we have seen. Each page is full of interesting and readable material. Your layout is excellent.

I would like to model a paper for St. Louis after **GAZE**. Please add me to your subscription list.

Stuart Rogers
St. Louis

Thanks For "Talks"

I am a visually-impaired Gay person and want to thank you good people for providing the "**GAZE** Talks" program. A good friend of mine told me that he read an ad in your paper saying that the service was available.

Having **GAZE** read to me is the only way I can keep up with what is going on in the community. I am writing this letter to encourage anyone who might read it to tell their friends who are visually-impaired that this service is available. Just sign me--

A Brother In Need
Memphis

Thanks For Publicity

I thank you folks for publicizing the Gay Pride Week events in **GAZE**. Otherwise, I would not have known about them.

I attended all of the events that I could fit in my schedule, but I especially enjoyed the Gay Pride Riverboat Cruise. I had a special thrill and a real burst of pride when the boat traveling along side us spotlighted the Gay Pride banner that was hanging on the side of our boat.

It's about time we let them know that we are here and that we aren't going away.

I love you--our--paper, and I love you all for making it happen

Jean Jones
Germantown

Censored No More

Your editorial in June **GAZE**, "When Can We Say 'No' To The Media?" was exceptionally well-written and well said.

Your statement that "The truth about homosexuality, the reality of being Gay and the Gay lifestyle has been censored..." really hit home with me. The Bible-thumpers, however they choose to mis-interpret the Bible, have no business censoring us. All hell (forgive me) would break loose if we should try to censor them!

Your editorial burned a hole right through my closet door. No more will I be censored. I am proud to sign my name to this letter.

Linda O'Conner
Memphis

Where The Bars Are

Thanks for putting your paper in Walden books. I finally found out where the bars are in Memphis.

Name Withheld
Arlington

Gay Bigots

When it comes to unthinking prejudice, we Gays often give just as good as we get--and the resulting alienation of potential friends is just as harmful to the Gay cause as the hatred of the most anti-Gay redneck.

No one needs to tell us that we have had a difficult life; that we find ourselves fighting society for a right to live in peace, undisturbed by law. Nor would the average Gay person disagree with the suggestion that we can use all the help in this fight that we can get. Both statements seem so obvious as to make their reputation unnecessary.

Yet, in our very behavior, many times we as Gay people alienate or threaten to alienate the strongest allies we could possibly have. We often put

these people on the defensive to such an extent that they finally abandon Gays and our struggle for civil equalities.

Ridiculous? I can hear many Gays now laughing superciliously up their sleeves. We aren't that stupid! We are alert to using any ally we can get. But I would like for you to consider these consciousness-raising thoughts; Gays in our struggle for recognition as a bona-fide alternative lifestyle, expect straights to be more tolerant of homosexual love, yet we are ourselves often contemptuous of heterosexuality; Gay sex practices are of little concern to straights who would be our friends, but the least they can expect from us is equal tolerance. Many homosexuals who are thoroughly revolted by the idea of heterosexual love-making, likewise thoroughly enjoy many of these same acts with a homosexual partner.

Speaking from a male point of view, when is the last time you men were in the company of a female friend and made a little remark about the repulsiveness of female genitals? Don't hide behind the suggestion that your friendship is too "refined" to permit sexual references to interfere with your friendship. Most women who are intelligent and sensitive enough to be our friends, are also

sensitive and intelligent enough to pick up on any such negative references.

We all know that women have been going through their own struggle for civil equalities. Gay people need to cultivate women as our friends and allies in the battle for Gay rights. I would suggest that a lot of us need to analyze our attitudes. If you discover that you've been letting your deepest dislike for the female body show, tone it down. After all, how long would you want to remain allies and friends with someone whom you knew thought that parts of your body were the most unpleasant, ugly, disgusting flesh they have ever seen. Think about it.

J.R. Finney II
Memphis

Better And Better

GAZE just keeps getting better and better. Your "Censored" editorial and the article about "What CBS Didn't Tell Us" were especially good in the June issue.

Lorri Foster
Southaven

A Review

Women's Music Festival "Like A Dream"



By Carol

Imagine Holly, Meg, Teresa, Rhiannon, Robin Flower, Gwen Avery, and Nancy Vogl all singing Chris Williamson's "Waterfall." Sound like a dream? That is exactly what the fortunate audience at the Seventh National Women's Music Festival (NWMF) in Illinois heard. Holly Near brought out all of these artists for a grand finale during her set, and just as generously, she and Meg came back out to finish with "The Road I Took to You."

That was surely one of the high points of the NWMF this May. There were others. The workshops: the members of Alive! talking about what it's like to drive over 30,000 miles a year as a six woman jazz group; Robin Tyler, the only Lesbian comedienne touring today, discussing comedy and women; producers comparing notes on new acts, financing, wider audiences, and outreach to handicapped groups; Holly Near listening to new performers and giving criticism of their work; and many more.

The open mike: everyone was free to sign up for a time to talk, sing, or play with full sound equipment. A Lesbian soap opera group, old timers like Maxine Feldman and Therese Edell, and a continuous stream of new performers took advantage of this unique opportunity.

The atmosphere: the 1400 women who participated all seemed like old friends. The campground where we stayed was exclusively women in town for the festival, and the place seemed comfortable and safe.

However, Shangri-la just doesn't exist in Champagne either. The NWMF did have its pitfalls. The publicity was misleading, with a week's price really meaning only four days. Worse, racism is evident within the women's music network. According to Mary Watkins (formerly of Olivia Records), the festival organizers decided a quota of Third World (including black) performers must be included. However, they callously told these performers why they were chosen. Ironically, one of the groups added to fit this formula was two women from Oakland named Castleberry and Dupree who raised the roof and nearly stole the show.

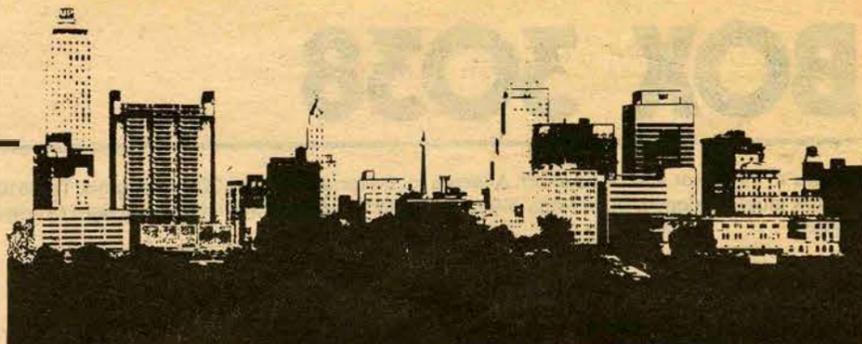
Personally I was dismayed by emcee Robin Tyler's jokes about men and her defense that it is all right to ridicule men sexually since they have done it to women for so long. Surely imitating insulting behavior isn't our answer.

One of the most meaningful parts of the festival for me was listening to a history of how it evolved from a counter-event (the men in town told the women

there was no female performer good enough to be in their folk festival) in 1974 through a \$6,000 debt the second year to a more devastating blow in 1976 when two groups formed and began struggling for control. This year the registration for the festival far exceeded all previous years. The women in Champagne-Urbana and other women's music centers in the country are questioning what to do with the music now that they have established a strong, active, successful core of support.

Memphis is a different story. Alternative Productions came together last October as an all-woman production collective to promote and produce women's concerts and events. In some ways we are back where the women of Champagne were in 1975-76. Struggling to get out of debt, developing an effective network of information, and finding acceptable, affordable space and equipment have been some of the common problems. However, we are proud that within six months of our beginning we've produced two major concerts and an all day media fair with films, workshops, and a concert. If we can learn from the women at the NWMF to avoid the power struggles that nearly destroyed them, we can leap ahead to narrow the gap between us and them.

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Dignity-Memphis To Celebrate Liturgy

Members of Dignity-Memphis will help celebrate the liturgy at St. Peter's Village Chapel, 1805 Poplar at McLean, Sunday, July 27 at 11 a.m. Brunch will follow the liturgy. All are invited to join in the celebration of Christ's Mystery. For information please write Box 3733, Memphis 38103 or call 327-4965.

Dignity, Inc. is an international movement of Gay and Lesbian Catholic men and women and friends working within the Church for the development of its sexual theology, for acceptance of Gays and Lesbians as full and equal members, and to elicit responsive approaches both inside and outside the Catholic Church.

Summer Holiday Reigning "Miss George's"

Summer Holiday claimed the title of "Miss George's" at the annual spectacular June 27. According to several members of the audience, Summer literally "stole the show."

The show, however, contained some exceptional talent. One onlooker said, "I missed it last year, but I won't miss it next year."

Gay Switchboard Celebrates At Schlitz Belle

The Memphis Gay Switchboard volunteers celebrated their recent recognition by Volunteers In Action at a free beer-for-all at the Schlitz Belle June 30.

Said Ric Sullivan, a member of TGCHR and a Switchboard volunteer, the TGCHR had attempted to reserve the Schlitz Belle, which is offered free to groups in the city, but was turned down because of "political connotations" of that group. A meeting several weeks ago by TGCHR representatives and the Vice-President of Public Relations from Schlitz home offices in Milwaukee, helped to reduce the company's apparent homophobia.

TGCHR was told, however, that political groups were not permitted to use the Schlitz Belle facility. It was the suggestion of company executives that a non-political group, such as the Switchboard, apply for the facility.

"I'm just happy to see that they would allow an openly Gay group to get in there," said a TGCHR representative.

Leonard Matlovich, Lea Hopkins To Appear On Marge Thrasher Show

Leonard Matlovich and Lea Hopkins, two of the keynote speakers for the fifth Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men (Conference '80), will appear on the Marge Thrasher Show on Friday morning, August 1, marking the second time this year that open Gays have been guests on the program.

The Conference '80 Planning Committee arranged the interviews with Leonard and Lea. The other keynote speakers for the Conference will not arrive in Memphis until later that day.

Earlier this year, three members of the Memphis Gay Speakers Bureau appeared on the show and spoke about Gay lifestyles and local concerns of the Gay rights movement.

6-GAZE-July, 1980

"Electric Woman" To Perform At Conference Dance

Conference '80 organizers announced in June that "Electric Woman," an up-and-coming group from neighboring Little Rock, will play for the Friday, August 1 dance in Holiday Hall at the Rivermont.

"Electric Woman" is one of few openly-Lesbian bands in the country today. Their music, all danceable, is a mixture of original compositions and familiar songs. The group created much excitement at this year's National Womens Music Festival with their style of music. The ensemble includes electric keyboards, guitar and drums.

Conference Fundraising "Better Than Expected"

Conference '80 organizers say that local fundraising events and other income sources have raised over \$3,000 for the Conference during the past 4 weeks.

"A Very Special Day" at the Psych-Out on June 29, "La Cage Aux Fools" at George's on July 15, the "Art-Junko" sale during Gay Pride Week and some undisclosed income has helped put the Conference in the black. Organizers say that registration fees should pay the remainder of the cost, which is estimated at \$7-8,000.

Baptists Praying For "Homosexual Convention"

An informed source has told GAZE that local fringe Baptists are "putting pressure" on Holiday Inns, Inc. to allow them to hold religious services on the Rivermont parking lot during the Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay men.

Believed to be behind the fundamentalist movement is Rev. Charles Britt who, in an early-July radio broadcast, encouraged listeners to call Holiday Inns' corporate headquarters on Lamar Avenue and express their opinions about the corporation's allowing the Rivermont to be used for a "homosexual convention."

Gay Pride Week, 1980

By Marcia Kearn



Gay Pride Week in Memphis was termed "a great success" by organizers (TCGHR), including a Gay Pride picnic, Gay riverboat cruise, an educational seminar at MSU for the helping professions and other events. The theme for Gay Pride Week 1980 was "Positively Gay, Positively Memphis," reflecting the positive attitudes of local Gays in themselves and their city.

The Gay Pride picnic on June 22 was a fun-filled afternoon with plenty to eat and drink, games and a volleyball tournament pitting men against women. The riverboat cruise on the

The person to call is Ann Wilson, Corporate Public Relations Director for Holiday Inns, and the number is (901) 362-4505, for those who wish to call and express opinions contrary to those Rev. Britt has in mind.

A member of the Conference Planning Committee said, "We are prepared to deal with the fundamentalists. This is nothing that we didn't expect, and we discussed the probability of it with Rivermont personnel from the very beginning. We are prepared, also, to file suit against either the fundamentalists or the Holiday Inn for any unlawful actions by either party."

The committee member said, also, that the Conference is represented by attorneys and the American Civil Liberties Union. There will be ACLU observers throughout the Conference to bear witness to any illegal actions by outsiders. Security, also, has been "stepped up" by the Rivermont.

Chapman Cancels, Re-schedules Engagement

Police Director Buddy Chapman, scheduled to speak to the Memphis Chapter of TGCHR (Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights) on July 7, cancelled the engagement at the last minute due to "an unexpected trip out of town."

At press time, Director Chapman had agreed to speak at the July 21 meeting of TGCHR. Chapman is scheduled to speak about the relationship between the Memphis Police Department and the local Gay community and answer questions from the group.

TGCHR representative Linda Ott met with the Police Advisory Commission in mid-June and has been invited to attend future meetings. It is hoped that such a liaison will ensure that Gay/Lesbian community concerns are recognized by the police department.

Freda Smith To Speak

The Rev. Elder Freda Smith, Vice-Moderator of the Board of Elders for the Universal Fellowship of the Metropolitan Community Church will be in Memphis on Aug. 13 and Aug. 27.

The Aug. 13 meeting will be a covered dish dinner. For time and locations call the MCC at 358-5433. For information about the dinner, call Terry Shepherd at 398-0250.

Miss Black Gay Tennessee Slated For Beale Street Cabaret

The Miss Black Gay Tennessee Pageant will be held on July 26 and 27 at the Beale Street Cabaret at the corner of historic Beale and Fourth Streets with prizes totaling over \$1,000.

Tickets are on sale for \$10 at Boss Ugly Bob's, Michael's Records, Poplar Tunes, D & D Lounge, Family Affair, George's, 10 N. Cleveland, Sharon's, the Pendulum and the Psych-Out. Narrating will be Lily Christine and special guest will be Lisa King. The pageant begins at 9 p.m. on July 26, and is sponsored by T.W.O. Productions, Inc., Box 847, Memphis 38107.

Other Special Events Scheduled...

The Miss Gay Female Memphis Pageant, sponsored by G.O.P.S., will be held at the Psych-Out beginning at 4 p.m. on August 10.

Apollo-Memphis will sponsor a "Pasta Party" at Sharon's on Saturday, August 16 from 5-7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The Miss G.O.P.S. Pageant will be held at the Psych-Out on September 14 beginning at 4 p.m.

Memphis Queen II was equally fun-filled and fell by chance on the night of the June full moon. The cruise lasted 4 hours and much of the time the Queen II traveled down river alongside the larger showboat which was hosting a party of interested onlookers, particularly after the showboat spotlighted the TGCHR and Gay Pride Week banners hanging along the railings of the Queen II.

Other events at local bars and by local social clubs helped to make the week one of festivity. A member of TGCHR's Gay Pride Week committee told GAZE, "We tried this year and hope to try harder next year to work with

other groups to plan and schedule Gay Pride Week events. It is hard to unite the Gay community. People don't always realize that working together doesn't mean we have to be more or less out-of-the-closet than we want to be. But even with the problems we had, Gay Pride Week 1980 was even more exciting than we had predicted."

Voter registration tables were set up at some of the week's events. A table staffer termed the voter registration drive as "very successful" and said that registration drives will continue at future events.

MSU Hosts "The Gay Client"

By Ric Sullivan

"Being Gay is a very positive, very exciting lifestyle" was the message delivered to 60 counseling, medical, pastoral and other professionals on June 27 at a Memphis State University seminar entitled "The Gay Client: Issues and Awareness."

Welcoming remarks by Dr. John Dill, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, revealed the administration's homophobia and initial reluctance to permit the day-long event. "This conference is not necessarily welcomed to the University," Dr. Dill indicated. However, he felt that the seminar's existence reflected "a major important step on the part of the University."

Dr. Alice Moses, Professor at UT's School of Social Work, discussed in her keynote address how helping-professionals have traditionally emphasized negative feelings of their Gay clients. Exploring three common myths concerning Gays--that all assume "butch" or "femme" roles, that all are hypersexual, and that Gays are "sick and pathological"--she admonished those working with Gays to be "willing to accept sexual alternatives" and recognize that "Gay is healthy and normal," or get out of the business.

Dr. Moses announced to her

audience, "I am a Lesbian," and stressed that professionals must help their Gay clients realize their own individual needs rather than molding them into any stereotypical roles. Gays seeking help must see themselves as individuals with choices, not as products of pathology or mythology.

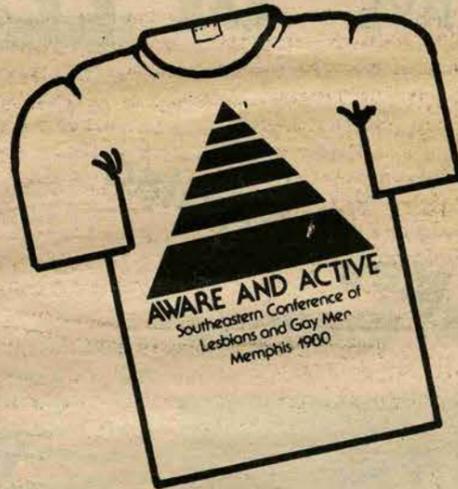
Dr. Graves Enck, MSU Assistant Professor of Sociology, discussed the implications of society's determinations of moral/immoral behavior upon those who do not fit into society's "preferability" for acceptable behaviors. He reminded the group that "a possibility that's different shouldn't be stigmatized just because it's different," especially when a questionable behavior such as homosexuality is "arbitrarily defined as unacceptable."

Participants also discussed needs of Gay clients through workshops examining counseling, legal and pastoral issues relevant to Gay men and women.

The seminar was cosponsored by several MSU academic departments, Office of Continuing Education, Center for Student Development and the Memphis Chapter of TGCHR in recognition and celebration of Gay Pride Week in Memphis.

Memphis Gay Switchboard
726·GAYY

Order Your "Conference '80" T-Shirts!



Blue-on-blue commemorative t-shirts with Conference '80 logo 50% cotton, 50% polyester--no shrinkage, \$6 (plus 50¢ postage & handling)

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Conference '80

THE FIFTH SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

A Concert By Meg Christian

A Dance Featuring Electric Woman

Workshops

Films

And Much More

Tee Corinne

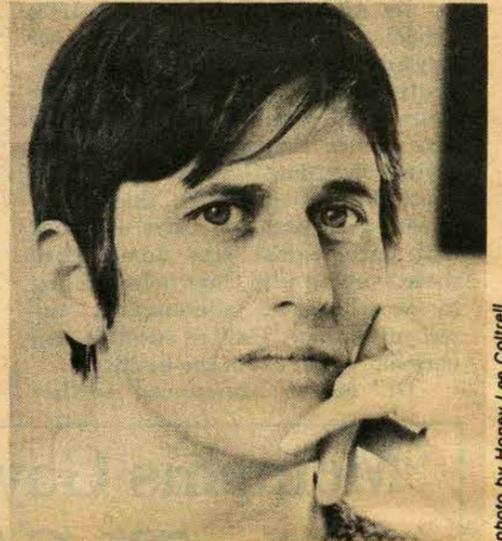


photo by Honey Lee Coltrell

Schedule Of Events:

Friday, August 1:

- 2 pm-Midnight, Registration
- 3 pm-5 pm, Workshops on the following topics:
 - How Not To Organize; Pitfalls For Beginning Groups*
 - Librarian's Caucus; Dealing With Anti-Gay Books, Etc.*
 - Organizing A Gay Switchboard*
 - Lesbian Sexuality; Nationwide Survey Results*
 - Peer Counseling For The 80's*
 - The Alcoholic Gay; Can AA Help The Gay Alcoholic?*
 - Organizing Consciousness Raising Groups*
- 5 pm-7 pm, Dinner, Free Time, Caucuses
- 7 pm-9 pm, Keynote Lea Hopkins (Holiday Hall)
- 9 pm-(?), Dance Featuring "Electric Woman" (Holiday Hall)

Please Note: Films and an open coffeehouse will be held during much of Conference '80. The schedule of workshops and caucuses is subject to minor changes.

Saturday, August 2:

- 8:30 am-12:30 pm, Registration
- 9 am-11 am, Workshops on the following topics:
 - Support Systems*
 - Southeast Lesbian Network*
 - Defining A Lesbian Political Strategy*
 - Pagan Revival: Witchcraft For Lesbians And Gay Men*
 - Living In Community*
 - Homophobia: Why Straights Hate Gays And How To Eliminate Hatred*
 - Psychological Assessment of Adolescent Gay Males*
 - Coming Out ("Public or Perish")*
 - Sexual Harassment On The Job*
 - The Status Of Lesbian Research*
 - Financial And Tax Concerns For Lesbians And Gay Men*
- 11 am-12:30 pm, Keynote Leonard Matlovich (Holiday Hall)

Welcome To Memphis

CONFERENCE

N August 1, 2 and 3, Holiday Inn--Rivermont



Barbara Grier



Lea Hopkins

Leonard Matlovich



Saturday, August 2:

12:30-2:30 pm, Lunch, Free Time, Caucuses

2:30-5 pm, Workshops on the following topics:

Slide Show And Presentation
(Tee Corinne--Holiday Hall)

Gay Male Sexuality

Male Prison Sexuality And Homosexual Rape

Homosexuality And The Bible

Attaining A Positive Gay Identity

Transvestites And Transsexuals

Journal Writing

What's Happening With NGTF

Rape And Mugging; Keys To Prevention

Presidential Positions On Gay Issues

Gay Male Lifestyles

5 pm-7 pm, Dinner, Free Time, Caucuses

7 pm-9 pm, Keynote, Barbara Grier
(Holiday Hall)

9 pm-(?), Concert Featuring Meg Christian
(Holiday Hall)

Sunday, August 3:

9 am-10 am, State caucuses, special services

10-11:30 am, Workshops on the following topics:

Lavender Therapy

The Christian Gay

Coordinating State Coalitions

Gay Community And Life In The Country

Gay Materials And Libraries; How And Why

*Electing John Anderson--Strategies For
Gay Support*

*Organizing Statewide Groups And State
Lobbying*

The Gay Socialist

11 am-12:30 pm, Feedback Session
(Holiday Hall)

The Conference '80 Planning Committee wishes to thank the Memphis Lesbian/Gay community for helping raise over \$3,000 in June and July to help finance the 5th S.E. Conference. Special thanks to the Pendulum, the Psych-Out and George's.

Navy Attempts To "De-Lesbianize" Ship

LONG BEACH, CA. (IGNA) - The Navy is moving to discharge eight women crew members of the missile test ship Norton Sound for homosexual conduct.

"Of course we will file a complaint, and we may end up going to court," said Susan McGrievy, an ACLU lawyer who is representing the women. "They can't be discharged for homosexuality."

McGrievy said that a U.S. District Court decision in Wisconsin directed the Army to reinstate a woman who had been discharged for being a Lesbian because the Army could not show that homosexuality disqualified her for service.

But Lieutenant Commander Mark Baker said that no such court decision has been applied to the Navy, where regulations call for dismissal of anyone for moral and security reasons.

A hearing will be arranged before an administrative board. If the board approves their discharge, the women can appeal to the Secretary of the Navy.

An investigation began when a female crew member told a superior that some women were engaging in homosexual acts.

Lt. Commander Baker said the investigation resulted in 8 of the original 24 women under investigation receiving letters stating that they would be processed for discharge for reasons of misconduct.

Sixty-one women are aboard the ship, which has a total crew of 375. The ship is in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard for maintenance.

The Navy said that the investigation of the other 16 women originally "suspected" has been dropped.

Thus Gays are getting conflicting decisions about their status in the United States Armed Forces.

Fundamentalists Dominate WSU Hearing

PULLMAN, WA (IGNA) - Bible-toting fundamentalists dominated a public hearing in this university town on a proposed amendment to the Washington State University administrative code to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals.

The religionists read Scripture into the hearing record and contended that Gays were "a minority of choice." Those favoring the amendment argued that it is needed to end discrimination at WSU in such areas as employment, housing, and tenure.

Not all the Christians at the hearing opposed the amendment, however. James Nielson of the Common Ministry spoke in favor of protecting homosexuals. "They live and breathe fear and rejections," Nielson said.

Others, such as Leslie Little, a WSU staff member, spoke out forcefully against the amendment. "I believe it is a sin and it is wrong. We should not encourage sinful behavior," said Little.

A speech instructor, John Salvana, spoke up to say, "I am openly saying that I am Gay. I am here because I'm afraid of losing my job."

He said he was speaking in behalf of other professors and staff members who were also Gay but who were afraid to attend the public meeting.

The campus Christians said they feared that the university would force their organization to accept Gay members if the amendment were adopted. This, they argued, would be an infringement of religious liberty.

Peter Pasquale, a student and a principle opponent of campus Gays, said the language of the amendment based on "sexual preference" was too vague.

Pasquale said it could be used to outlaw discrimination against those involved in prostitution, incest, and sex with animals as well as homosexuals.

The dispute grew out of an attempt by the Associated Students of WSU to give \$100 to help fund the Gay Awareness Committee. A campus vote against the Gays resulted.

"Personal Best" Not Good Enough For U of O

EUGENE, OREGON (IGNA) - The university that served as the setting for a slovenly fraternity in *Animal House* has rejected the request of Academy-Award-winning filmmaker Robert Towne to film his version of life and love among women athletes (entitled *Personal Best*) on the University of Oregon campus.

University officials twice turned down the Warner Brothers project, allegedly because of language, use of drugs, and Lesbianism.

The official turndown came in an April 8 letter from Vice President for Public Affairs Kurt Simic, with the encouragement of the university's athletic department. Simic said the movie, to star Mariel Hemingway of *Manhattan*, might damage the university's image.

A member of the athletic department told *The Oregon Statesman* that the Lesbian theme was the reason for the rejection.

Writer-producer-director Towne told the paper that the film "tries to say that whatever incidental contact occurs between people of two sexes -- either sex, both sexes -- the important thing in the relationship is affection, courage, and loyalty."

Towne wished to film sequences at the June 21-29 Olympic Trials, an event that may end up as the American tract world's version of the Olympics.

He was quoted in the *Register-Guard* newspaper as saying he is no longer interested. "I am deeply offended by the U of O," Towne said, "I think they are obscene. I think they have been incredible monsters. I feel like I've been treated like some sleezo, pornographic film operator."

Working For Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK -- Arkansas Gay Rights, Inc., although almost four years old, has become an established and viable group at last with plans to become an even stronger force in the struggle for human rights in Arkansas.

Several members of the Tennessee Gay Coalition of Memphis met with AGR in Little Rock on June 13 to discuss Arkansas' participation in the upcoming Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay men to be held in Memphis August 1-3.

The Arkansas group outlined their recent activities at the meeting. AGR has worked with the local police and newspapers to lodge complaints against Gay harassment, waged letter-writing campaigns on matters regarding Gay rights to local and national politicians and the media, and have been heard on local "talk shows."

The group has presented educational seminars to college and technical classes to help them better understand Gay and Lesbian lifestyles. The group was instrumental in ensuring an Arkansas contingent to the National March on Washington last October,

forming the Little Rock Gay Counseling Service Crisis Line, and in establishing the Metropolitan Community Church of Little Rock.

For more information, write AGR, Box 3115, Little Rock, AR. 72203.

World Airways Flying Again

OAKLAND, CA. (IGNA) - The controversial president of World Airways, Edward Daly, has reversed an earlier outburst against Gays and pledged his company to non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Late last year, the International Gay News Agency (IGNA) broke the news of Daly's memo to his employers in which he wrote; "This company doesn't need hoodlums, racketeers, queers..." IGNA obtained a copy of the memo from an employee of World.

In response, the Golden Gate Business Association, a primarily Gay organization, wrote a letter to Daly calling him to task for his remarks. When no response came from Daly, the Golden Gate Business Association's Board of Directors approved a boycott of World Airways. Major Gay organizations across the country endorsed the planned boycott.

On June 9, 1980, President Daly broke his silence and wrote to the GGBA: "Neither World Airways nor I (have) ever or will ever discriminate against anyone on any basis, including their sexual orientation."

In view of Daly's statement, the boycott will not be implemented.

Arkansas Runs Gay Pride Ad

LITTLE ROCK--The Arkansas Gay Rights group in Little Rock placed an ad in a local newspaper titled "Arkansas Celebrates National Gay Pride Week."

The ad read: "We celebrate the birth of the Gay movement each June in commemoration of the Stonewall rebellion of 1969. We can thank those who have dared to be Gay in a hostile environment and who have worked diligently to change that environment for giving us something to look backward to with pride and something to look forward to with hope. We are your children and we are everywhere and we remind you that the freedom to love is second only to the freedom to live."

The ad represents the first major advertising campaign in the local straight media.

MCC Surprises Jerry Falwell

COLUMBIA, SC -- According to an article appearing in a recent issue of North Carolina's *The Front Page*, organizers of Columbia, South Carolina's "I Love America" rally mistakenly invited the local Metropolitan Community Church to participate -- and they did participate.

The Columbia rally, part of a series of rallies being held in each state capital by Rev. Jerry Falwell, was apparently unaware that the MCC ministers primarily to Gays and invited Rev. Nancy Radcliff of MCC to take a place on the podium with 70 other local ministers.

Rev. Radcliff was introduced to the crowd along with the other ministers.

Gay picketers in the crowd carried signs which were carefully worded to be inoffensive and non-confrontational. When asked why they were there, one participant replied, "We love America, too." (Thanks to Don King and *The Front Page*.)

Gay Paper Back In Libraries -- Somewhere

VIRGINIA BEACH -- On June 24 Virginia Beach libraries began accepting a single display copy of the monthly Gay newspaper, *Our Own*.

Following a three-month controversy the libraries began accepting the display-only copies which are "displayed" in a file box labeled "community newsletters" at some branches and unlabeled at others. "The effect," says *Our Own* spokesperson Jim Early, "is to make it virtually impossible for a reader to find *Our Own* without asking for it by name. The name of the newspaper is not in any index nor on file anywhere in the library. While many people in Virginia Beach are praising a system that 'withstood' the pressures for censorship, it is little noticed that a major concession -- in the decreased visibility of the Gay newspaper -- has been made to the fundamentalist lobby."

The Virginia Beach library, which has a policy of accepting unsolicited material for distribution, permitted small stacks of *Our Own* to be placed in the library branches for an 18-month period. During that time several objections were made against the practice, but both the library administration and the library board upheld the eligibility of *Our Own* for distribution.

The Unitarian Universalist Gay Community, publishers of *Our Own*, (Norfolk-Virginia Beach area) has retained the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia to represent the paper in an effort to restore distribution rights. Donations to the legal defense fund are welcomed. Checks should be made payable to ACLU of Virginia and mailed to UUGC, 739 Yarmouth Street, Norfolk, VA. 23510. Please specify that the contribution is for *Our Own*.

Gay Synagogue Inducted

MIAMI (IGNA) - The Metropolitan Community Synagogue of Greater Miami, a congregation serving the Jewish Gay community, was formally inducted into the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on June 7th.

In the midst of the Havdalah service, which marks the separation between the conclusion of the Sabbath and the rest of the week, Rabbi Lewis Bogage presented the U.A.H.C.'s charter to the Gay synagogue.

Unanimously elected to membership by 4,000 delegates at the last conference of Reformed Jews, the Miami synagogue became the second such synagogue to achieve membership. The first was Beth Chaim Chadashim of Los Angeles.

The ceremony was marked by Hebrew singing, a reading from the psalms of a special prayer about the emergence from hiding, a telling of the history of the M.C.S. congregation, and a reading of congratulatory telegrams and messages.

White House Responds To NGTF Complaint

NEW YORK -- On behalf of President Carter, Anne Wexler, Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, responded to an April National Gay Task Force letter protesting the participation of the West Point Glee Club in a television program sponsored by Anita Bryant Ministries.

The program, "Anita Bryant's Spectacular -- My Little Corner of the World," was aired in March on indepen-

dent stations across the country (Channel 24 in Memphis). Because Anita Bryant Ministries is a religious organization, the cooperation of the military raised serious questions relating to the traditional separation of church and state.

Wexler said, "The Department of the Army has concluded that...the Glee Club's appearance was not consistent with Department of Defense's guidance concerning the Department's support of and participation in events and activities in the civilian sector."

In concluding, Wexler said, "...the Department of the Army is studying the matter to see whether changes in procedures are necessary to avoid repetition of the event."

Mississippi Gays In "Conservative Caucus"

JACKSON, MS. - An article in the June 16 issue of the *Jackson Daily News*, titled "Gays Question 'Family' Definition," quotes Eddie Sandifer of the Mississippi Gay Alliance about Gay concerns and the White House Conference on Families.

"I was well-pleased with what happened in Baltimore," Sandifer said. At the recent Baltimore meeting, the first in a series of national conferences on the family, resolutions were passed supporting Gay rights, abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Sandifer says that none of Gov. Winter's nor the elected Mississippi delegates reflect the Gay segment of the population, particularly the open homosexuals who have families and children. Sandifer believes some of the conservatism is hypocritical. "I went to the Utica (regional conference)," he says. "I wouldn't deliberately identify anybody, but Gay people were there in the conservative caucus." Most of them, Sandifer says, are married Gays living in traditional family settings, but who "cruise the park or go to New Orleans. They would never speak up for Gays in a family conference or anything else. With them, it's strictly on the sly."

Gay Rights Ordinances Defeated

SAN JOSE, CA (IGNA)-Voters in Santa Clara County and San Jose rejected twin ballot propositions recently that would have banned discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The proposals, previously enacted by the San Jose City Council, were brought to voter referendum after local church groups and Anita Bryant Ministries challenged them. Also active in the anti-Gay push was the Moral Majority of Santa Clara County.

The ordinances were defeated by 3 to 1 margins in both cases. According to Mike Morris, an attorney for the Santa Clara County Coalition for Human Rights, the anti-Gay forces "simply lied about what the ordinances said."

Army Can't Discharge Gays -- Lesbian Reinstated

MILWAUKEE (IGNA) -- A U.S. District Court Judge has ruled that the Army may not discharge a soldier simply because she is homosexual. The Army's discharge of an acknowledged Lesbian whose sexual orientation did not affect her performance violated the First Amendment, he ruled.

Judge Terrance Evans ordered the immediate reinstatement in the Army

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GAY VOTE 1980

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Every four years, the nation's attention turns to the Democratic and Republican national conventions — two weeks of drama and debate that determine our political direction for the next four years.

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- Elect delegates who support gay rights.
- Establish GAY VOTE 1980 Headquarters at the conventions to increase media and public visibility.

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- Ask questions of the Presidential candidates and their campaign staffs. Encourage them to support gay rights.
- Get your local gay organizations and businesses involved in the Project.
- Run for delegate from your state. Call the Project or your local party headquarters for information on how to run.
- Help lobby your state's delegates, especially those on the platform committee. We can tell you how.

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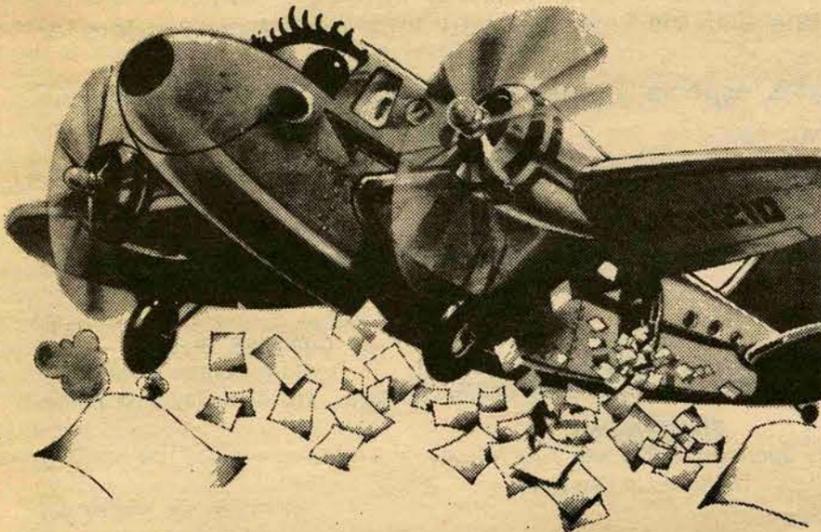
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Residents Storm Gay Bar

A Gay bar on the edge of the Tenderloin (a run-down section of San Francisco) was boarded up and closed after a mob of angry residents tried to storm the place when they thought a 9-year-old boy had been enticed into the tavern.

Owner Howard Bloomfield of the Kokpit said that he boarded the front door because he was afraid of retaliation from people in the neighborhood.

Bloomfield said that a horde of "40 people with baseball bats and knives"

tried to crash the bar. "We held them off until the police arrived."

He said the boy in question had been firing firecrackers with a slingshot into the bar all day.

The police said that the Gays inside the tavern had laid a trap for the boy and that locals had broken the door down and released him just as the police arrived.

Police called an ambulance to treat the combatants, but everyone refused aid.

Legal To Promote Gay Rights

The minority leader of the California State Senate has been rebuffed in his effort to have Governor Jerry Brown's executive order banning discrimination against Gays declared illegal.

William Campbell, R-Hacienda Heights, had asked Attorney General George Deukmejian to see if the executive order infringed on legislative authority over the civil service system.

But the Attorney General ruled that Brown's order that no state agency should practice job discrimination on

the basis of sexual orientation is "wholly consistent" with state civil service laws.

He explained that the state's constitution "precludes arbitrary selection standards" for state employment and added that state and federal court decisions have forbidden denial of a government job for reasons unrelated to job performance.

Attorney General's opinions do not have the force of law, but generally are followed by government agencies in the absence of a court ruling.

NATIONAL

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Reserve of 32-year-old Miriam Ben-Shalom, who had been in the reserve for 3 years.

Evans ruled that the Army regulation requiring the discharge of soldiers who exhibit "homosexual tendencies, desires or interests," even if they do not engage in homosexual acts, violated the First, Fifth, and Ninth Amendments to the Constitution.

Florida Gay Group Hires Lobbyist

MIAMI (IGNA) - Florida's Gay people will have a lobbyist vying for the attention of the state's legislators

because of a series of fund raisers.

The Florida Gay Task Force held a series of parties around the state in late March to raise the \$10,000 needed to pay a lobbyist.

"We feel this is the next step in the battle for assuring equal rights for all men and women," said Bernie Berkowitz, president of the Broward County Coalition for Human Rights.

Last year the state's Gay activists hired a part-time lobbyist. Now they are interviewing candidates. "We hope it'll be a woman," Berkowitz said. "We want her to work to remove some of the stupid laws that are on the books now and perhaps work on some laws that will help promote equal rights."

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"The Worst Thing is Hiding..."

By Ric Sullivan

This is the third in a series of interviews exploring experiences relating to Gay people in their various professions. Names may or may not be the actual names of those interviewed.

Courtney -- An Attorney

"It would be a cold day in hell before the courts in Shelby County would grant custody to a Gay parent," says Courtney, a Memphis divorce attorney. "The legal profession is a bastion of right wing conservatism."

"If they knew that I were Gay the other lawyers and judges would..." she shrugs, and a look of despair completes her sentence. "It is bad even being a woman, much less being Gay. The only way Gay lawyers can ever be out in Memphis is if Gays have the political

"Women almost have to be associated with a man in order to make it as an attorney in this city."

power to defend themselves. A certain responsibility comes with political clout."

When asked about discrimination she faces, Courtney says, "Women almost have to be associated with a man in order to make it as attorney in this city."

Courtney has listened to remarks made in her office by other lawyers who are unaware of her sexual orientation.

One lawyer talks about how "ridiculous" Gay marriages are. Her office, however, once divorced 2 legally married women who had been married as a man and a woman; one woman was dressed as a man at the time of the marriage. "I've heard numerous disparaging remarks made about Gays by court personnel," Courtney added.

The state Bar Association requires that attorneys must avoid even the "appearance of impropriety."

"It would be devastating if judges and other lawyers I work with knew about me. Going to Gay bars is uncommon for me, because the state Bar Association may say that being with another Gay person or being inside a Gay bar is improper conduct."

The state Bar Association requires that attorneys must avoid even the "appearance of impropriety."

"The hypocrisy of this society," Courtney explains, "is that such things as child abuse and pornography are heterosexually oriented. I deal with these unpopular issues every day. Face it, children are not safe around many heterosexuals -- not homosexuals; let's look at who's doing the abusing..."

"People I work with have an image of Gay women as 'bull dykes,' and I don't happen to fit their stereotype," she says. "We need to educate the community as to what Gayness really is."

Cliff -- A Professor

Until 3 years ago, Cliff, a professor at a university in North Mississippi, was "totally miserable" because he wasn't aware that other Gay people existed. Unable to establish Gay social contacts, he "put everything into my work." By accident he learned of the existence of *The Advocate*, obtained a copy, and drove to Memphis to visit a Gay bar. "For the first time in my life I knowingly saw another Gay person."

Since that time, Cliff indicates he has "put dynamite to my closet doors." He experienced "a great deal of fear...in accepting myself," expecting to be "discovered" either on the job or in his town.

Discussing his present job, Cliff says that he is "not at all" out at work,

Some co-workers were cruel to an administrator at the school...and "crucified" him because he was "suspected" of being Gay.

although one colleague knows and "everybody suspects." Some co-workers were cruel to an administrator at the school, however, and "crucified" him because he was "suspected" of being Gay.

Cliff feels he has been spared vicious gossip because he has devoted so much of his time to his work.

Although he has not experienced open discrimination for being Gay, his self-imposed exile from the Catholic church had a significant impact on his life. Cliff left the church, "which would not confine its opinions to the pulpit," because it was "slandering twenty million of our citizens." Expressing that he is "not sorry for what I did," Cliff

"Sure, it's alright to be Gay...but keep them out of the classroom."

states simply that "that's a part of my life that's over and I can accept it."

Cliff reveals strong feelings concerning Gays in education, whom he believes make "excellent teachers." He sums up the attitude of most people, however, as "sure, it's alright to be Gay...but keep them out of the classroom." He firmly states that individuals should be permitted to "go to the limit with their talent in their field."

When asked why he feels Gays make good teachers, Cliff explains. First, teaching provides an outlet for expressing concern and fondness for children, as most Gays are not able to have children of their own. Secondly, the most talented in any field throughout history appear to be Gay. He feels that Gays are "a gifted set."

"What I'm doing in Gay life now (is) so the next generation can be happier than I am...that's all I could hope for."

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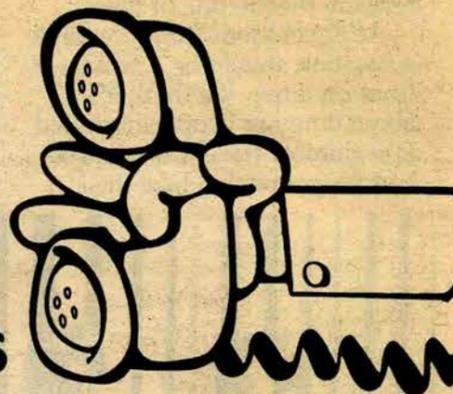
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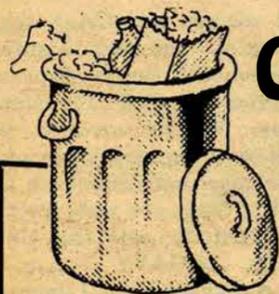


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Homosexuality Punished By Death In Iran

TEHRAN, IRAN (IGNA) - Iran's mullahs (Moslem clergymen) are imposing strict Moslem standards of morality on the 35 million subjects of that country with a vengeance.

Homosexuality is considered a major breach of morality, and the Center for the Abolition of Sin, a kind of national vice squad run by the Ayatollah Sadegh Khalkhali, punishes homosexuality with death.

Recently, according to Doyle McManus of the *Los Angeles Times*, a male homosexual was buried up to his chest in the ground, covered with a white cotton hood and stoned to death with rocks as big as grapefruit.

It is a sign of the mullahs' dominance at present that President Bani-Sadr and the moderate minority on the Revolutionary Council can only keep an embarrassed silence when

Khalkhali, whom the president once tried to fire, announced that there may be thousands of executions for immorality.

The moderates do not dare to object for fear of being labeled "anti-Islamic" -- the religious leaders' favorite charge in the present wave of Moslem

McCarythism.

At the Center for the Abolition of Sin, the prosecutors say that their highest goal is to get prostitutes to marry their customers, drug addicts to replace their habits with faith in Islam, and whiskey drinkers to switch to Coca-Cola.

Health Department Comes Out

The first syphilis screening program reaching out to the Gay community was set up at George's July 6, by the Memphis-Shelby County Health Department.

According to Gary Bledsoe of the VD Clinic, the "strictly voluntary" blood screenings will be available the first Sunday of every month at George's. Eighty-four people were screened on

July 6, yielding a 4.8% positivity rate.

The screening procedure was repeated July 8 at Ten North Cleveland. About 50 samples were taken. Screenings have also been scheduled for the Family Affair Club, 835 Vance Avenue, and Raiford's, 115 Vance.

These successful screenings come after several attempts by members of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human

Many of the strictures against "sin"--stronger than those in any other Moslem country--have been announced before. But only recently have the mullahs sent Revolutionary Guards into the homes of suspected libertines.

Moslem crimes include the following:

Drinking alcohol, playing cards, mixed swimming, listening to music, adultery, taking drugs, and prostitution.

Rights to establish such a program in local bars in cooperation with the Health Department.

Labelled the "great imitator," syphilis is largely an asymptomatic disease. In most cases, the disease is present but not easily detected. "In Gay society," Gary indicated, "the big problem is that lesions are (often) in the throat or in the rectum" and therefore cannot be readily noticed.

"If you have a positive (screening), do something about it...it can be cured," Gary said. He emphasized that "black market ampicillin" will suppress the symptoms but will not cure the disease.

"I feel that syphilis can be wiped out in the Gay community," Gary told *GAZE*. Unlike the majority of VD carriers, Gays are "highly intelligent, motivated people." Yet one of the biggest barriers is "breaking down mythology and ideas about the Health Department."

These recent screenings mark a major advance in relations between the Gay community and the VD Clinic. Many Gays have complained in the past of insensitive treatment by Clinic staff.

When you're gay, vacations are no fun if you have to play it straight.

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Until now, gay men and women who wanted to travel with a group have had two equally unpleasant choices. Taking an all gay tour and feeling like a flaming stereotype. Or taking a tour designed for straights and pretending they're one of them.

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GAY CUBANS

continued from page 1

bayonet marks. They are our sisters and brothers who have suffered this abuse.

"We have a tremendous job ahead of us," Rev. Perry said. "We are asking for help from throughout the Lesbian and Gay community in the United States."

Checks may be made payable to "UFMCC Cuban Refugee Relief Fund," a special tax-deductible account, which will be administered separately by the UFMCC. For further information, contact Dale Leech, c/o UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029, (213) 464-5100.

OVERTON PARK

continued from page 1

closing the park to Gays. A reliable source said, also, that Officer J.E. Johnston, at least for the time being, has been taken off the Overton Park beat.

The harassment of Gays in Overton Park continues, however. Entrapment by vice squad officers is common. About three years ago, for example, a Methodist minister was "ruined" after having his name published in a front-page article in a local newspaper; he had encountered a vice cop in the park. "The situation is getting out of hand," said one Gay man, "and the Gays are getting angry -- very angry." Another said, "We can use their same tactics by using 'plants' in the park, including a couple of attorneys who are more than willing to be arrested and more than willing to take it to court."

Informed sources told *GAZE* that vice cops "cruising" the park in autos are using late-model Dodge Aspens, usually with out-of-county or out-of-state license plates. Anyone arrested in Overton Park or encountering obvious harassment or discrimination (such as being ordered to leave the park for no reason), is urged to call the Gay Switchboard at 726-GAYY (7 p.m.-1 a.m.) or the American Civil Liberties Union at 521-9875.