



Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Houston, Texas
(713) 464-6663

Meetings - 2 PM Third Sundays
Presbyterian Center, 41 Oakdale

January, 1986

More Convention News.

*** The Fourth Annual Federation Convention at Atlanta, Georgia, 25 thru 28 Oct., was full of warmth, love and enthusiasm. The Convention was a success. We left charged up with valuable information and good fellowship. The message we left was "LOVE our Lesbian and Gay Children, and they are worth fighting for". Bob and Elaine Benov, their sons, Wayne and Jonathon, and his companion Luis, and the Gay Community are to be commended for their efforts, cooperation and contributions to the success of the convention. It was set up as a How-to Convention: how-to start anew group; how-to deal with AIDS crisis; plus the handling of other matters that are the life-blood of Parents FLAG groups. That we all benefited is demonstrated in the newsletters from Parents FLAG groups around the country that have been received at Federation headquarters since the Convention. We repeat our thanks and appreciation to the Benov family for their planning and execution of the work; to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center for its hospitality and welcome party; to the Farr Library Bar for the beautiful dinner party; to the CDC; to the City of Atlanta for its hospitality and proclamation of welcome.

*** As we conclude our '85 Convention, Thelma Macdonald, the new Director of the Pacific Northwest Area, announced that the Portland Oregon group will host the '86 Convention. Thelma has undertaken the responsibility for chairing the event. See you in Portland the 19-21 September 1986.

*** AIDS: The pressure of the media is on the subject of AIDS. Because of this, Atlanta was a fortuitous and appropriate location for our convention. The ready access to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), located in Atlanta, gave us the opportunity to meet with Dr. Donald Hopkins, the Director of the CDC facility. Adele and Larry Starr, together with two other parents who live in Atlanta, met with Dr. Hopkins, in the office. The gay community's concern for the physical and emotional care of gay patients, the danger of disease transmission to health care workers and the general public were carefully discussed. Dr. Hopkins was very receptive and caring. The meeting lasted almost an hour. On Thursday, 14 November, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services released new guidelines on AIDS in the work-place which, in the words of Eunice Cole, president of the American Nurse's Association reflects "... concern for the welfare of the public." Our sincere thanks to Dr. Hopkins, for his discussion with us and to Dr. Neil Schramm, of Los Angeles, for suggesting this important meeting of Dr. Hopkins and Parents FLAG. Thanks also to Dr. James Curran, of CDC, who addressed the Convention on AIDS.

*** HOMEWORK: Following statement on AIDS, adopted by the Convention Board, for use by Parents FLAG groups and contacts, in dealing with the media;

"parents are often asked, 'what about AIDS?' Our answer is that we love our children in sickness and in health. WE shall continue to urge that parents give their love and support to all their children. We invite all of society to join us in fighting to overcome fear and

crisis; plus the handling of other matters that are the life-blood of Parents FLAG groups. That we all benefited is demonstrated in the newsletters from Parents FLAG groups around the country that have been received at Federation headquarters since the Convention. We repeat our thanks and appreciation to the Benov family for their planning and execution of the work; to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center for its hospitality and welcome party; to the Farr Library Bar for the beautiful dinner party; to the CDC; to the City of Atlanta for its hospitality and proclamation of welcome.

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"parents are often asked, 'what about AIDS?' Our answer is that we love our children in sickness and in health. WE shall continue to urge that parents give their love and support to all their children. We invite all of society to join us in fighting to overcome fear and hysteria and in responding compassionately to the suffering of patients and their families".

*** The following statement on AIDS testing, also adopted by the Board at the Convention, is to be sent, from parent contracts, parent groups and their members to local, state and national representatives in appropriate legislative bodies: (At its annual meeting in Atlanta today, the Board of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays adopted the following statement on the AIDS testing; "Parents FLAG opposes the establishment of the testing for AIDS antibodies without effective provisions to protect the rights of those tested. As Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays we have two great concerns

First, the serious health problems require that all available resources be called upon to find the means to prevent and cure AIDS and that Medicaid benefits be extended to people with AIDS and AIDS related illnessrs (ARC).

Second, we are also very much concerned about use of the results of AIDS tests to discriminate against our children and deprive them of their civil and human rights. We call upon our representatives and administration officials to take immediate steps to insure confidentiality of test results and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of any test for AIDS.

The above press release on AIDS testing was mailed, together with a copy of our booklet "About Our Children" to President Reagan, Vice President Bush, and to all members of Congress as well as to 200 newspapers around the country.

At the same time, VIP members of the clergy were sent materials dealing with religious matters.

HOUSTON POST:

Clergy to Help AIDS patients.

A band of Houston-area ministers launched a new group Wednesday to help AIDS victims and stamp out what they described as irrational fears about the deadly disease.

About 30 religious leaders were on hand at a press conference at the South Main Baptist Church to announce the formation of the Clergy Consultation on AIDS.

"The group was created in an effort to address in an informed and compassionate manner the public's concerns about AIDS, their families, friends and health-care professionals," said Monsignor Jim Jamail of St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church.

Organizers said the group, an offshoot of the Institute of Religion at the Texas Medical Center, plans to offer spiritual, emotional and physical support to victims of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

That help will include caring for terminally ill patients, and providing meals, light housekeeping and transportation for patients who can no longer fend for themselves.

TWT Houston: Gay-endorsed Candidates Win Big Elections in Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

The top TWT NEWS story of 1985 praises the many election victories of pro-gay candidates in the state's major gay communities. Clearly in the city elections there was much to celebrate in 1985.

Although some of the candidates for mayor and city council were reluctant to admit the power of the gay bloc vote, the reality at the polls proved that gays are still decisive in helping candidates win elections.

AIDS Levels off across Texas:

As 1985 was drawing to a close, it became apparent that the dramatic increase in the number of AIDS cases across Texas was leveling off. No longer was AIDS doubling every six months or even every year.

Texas Homosexuals remain criminals under law:

It is still against the law in Texas for two people of the same sex to engage in sexual contact, even in the privacy of their own home. Although there were times in the past five years when Texas gay men and lesbians thought their sexuality was legal, the conservative courts overturned favorable rulings every time.

On June 17, 1985, plaintiff Don Baker of Dallas went to New Orleans where the 5th Circuit Court heard the controversial case.

Most Texans thought the matter was settled in September of 1984.

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On June 17, 1985, plaintiff Don Baker of Dallas went to New Orleans where the 5th Circuit Court heard the controversial case.

Most Texans thought the matter was settled in September of 1984 when a three-judge panel ruled that 21.06 was unconstitutional. But unfortunately, that favorable decision was appealed forcing the case to be heard in June by all the judges—not just three.

Two months later, on August 26, the unfortunate development was reported to TWT NEWS that the full banc of judges had decided in a 9-to-7 decision that the Texas sodomy law—21.06—was still constitutional and still enforceable. Thus, one million homosexuals in Texas were re-criminalized.

With all options exhausted at the circuit level, the only avenue left to take the 21.06 case to the United States Supreme Court. That will happen in 1986, after a similar case involving the Georgia sodomy law is heard this spring.

TWT HOUSTON:
Federal Law Protects Ill

Persons in Texas who have been denied emoloyment, subjected to discrimination at work or denied admission or services by any federally funded agency because they have (or are thought to have) AIDS may be protected by federal legislation prohibiting discrimination against the disabled.

Here's why: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) provides wide-ranging protection of the rights of persons who are disabled or perceived as being disabled. The law applies to employs, applicants for employment and service beneficiaries of federally-funded agencies.

Parents Flag-Houston:

"Homosexuals Anonymous" an anti-gay group who claims to "cure" gays was on channel 11 TV a couple of weeks ago. Freda called and asked for equal time, so on Feb. 5 at 8a.m. Freda, Rev. John Gill pastor of MCCR, Ray Hill of K/S AIDS Foundation and Anise Parker of Gay Political Caucus will be on AM Houston.

Our next meeting will be the 16th of Feb. All are invited!



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March, 1986

***** TWT magazine-Houston April 4-10---Dallas-- Debra Julian, M.S. of the Oaklawn Counseling Center, has been duly confirmed as the regional director and official representative of the National Federation of Parents and Friends of Gays, Inc. The region covers the south central, including Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. The Dallas chapter is called Friends and Relatives of Gays (Frög). It is open to all people who are related to a person of homosexual orientation- that is, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, wives and children, she said. PLEASE DO NOT ASSOCIATE THIS ORGANIZATION IN ANY WAY WITH NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS, Inc.. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is also known as Parents Flag, our acronym.

PERSONS

Omega House is a hospice offering care to AIDS who have come to the terminal stage of their illness. It is nonsectarian in nature and supported by contributions and grants from foundations, individuals, and many groups in the religious community, including the Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Jews, Lutherans, Baptists, United Church of Christ, Methodist, Unitarians and the Institute of Religion. Its goals are (1) to provide loving care to those dying of AIDS in simple but beautiful surroundings where they may experience acceptance and nurturance and (2) to provide a ministry of reconciliation for the dying, their families, mates, and friends. Omega House relies on a deeply spiritual foundation in its ministry to and care of souls but does not seek to indoctrinate with any particular religious creed or statement of faith. Persons dying of AIDS are accepted without regard for ability to pay. Tax deductible gifts may be made by sending checks payable to Christ Church Cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral-Omega House, 1117 Texas Avenue, Houston, Tx 77002 From Integrity Houston Newsletter.

***** The Houston Post... NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL OKs GAY RIGHTS BILL. The city council approved a gay rights bill 15 years a similar bill first was introduced in the early days of the homosexual rights movement. The bill passed 21-14, would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, jobs or public accommodation. "Their conscience must have told them they were doing the right thing," Councilman Samuel Horwitz said of his fellow members. "I feel great. It was a hard fight." The gay rights bill grew out of a police raid on a gay bar, the Stonewall,

which set off riots in 1969 and is considered the flashpoint of the movement. Similar bills have become law in 50 other cities, counties and in Wisconsin. Houston voters defeated a similar proposal in January 1985.

The Houston Post... GAY RIGHTS SUPPORT REBOUNDS FROM 1985... With 1985's divisive referendum on gay job rights well behind them Houstonians have grown more supportive of equal civil rights for homosexuals, according to the fifth annual Houston Area Survey. The latest Rice University Houston Post poll suggests area residents have returned "to the position of tolerance they continue to express in other areas of civil rights" said Stephen L. Klineberg, the Rice sociologist who directs the survey... In 1984 50% of Houstonians supported equal rights for homosexuals compared to 41 who did not. In 1985 it was 59% not supporting and 27 who did, 1986 showed 47% against and 43% support.

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Have a
Happy Springtime





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April, 1986

Parents Flag Federation Statement--- " Parents are sometimes asked What About AIDS? Our answer is that we love our children in sickness and in health. We shall continue to do all in our power to work for prevention of AIDS and for discovery of a cure. We shall continue to urge that parents continue to give their love and support to all their children. We invite all of society to join us in fighting to overcome fear and hysteria, and in responding compassionately to the suffering of patients and their families.....

In UnityStrength

How do we overcome prejudice against our children? Tell people the true facts. That sexual orientation is not chosen, but part of each persons nature from early childhood(if not indeed from birth). That scripture says nothing about homosexual orientation. that the laws are gradually changing to protect homosexuals civil rights and their right to the pursuit of happiness in the way that is natural to them. That the vast majority of lesbians and gay men are healthy, well adjusted, productive members of society. Each of us parents and family members can do his or her part to make the true facts known to all those who we come in contact with. This is why it is so important to become a regular member of Parents Flag. It can and will help us overcome our fears of Coming Out to our family and friends...and from there we hope to enlist their support and understanding so that we can combat the prejudice and ignorance that exists about homosexuality. We can build our Parents Flag into a stronger organization so that we have more clout. Perhaps then society will listen more carefully will take more notice, will pass the necessary laws against discrimination. Together we can make this place a better world for our children and all of society....In unity there is strength.... strength in numbers.....Chicago Newsletter..... After the initial shock, pain and anguish parents go through on learning that their son or daughter is gay, comes the realization that this child, loved and cherished, is still the same person. Sexual orientation is not by choice but part of natures plan. We are all Gods children. Now we have to change our way of thinking. We must forget our preconceived ideas. We must not believe all the misinformation, the myths, and misconceptions we grew up with. AND WE MUST NOT FEEL GUILTY. It is such a waste of emotion. Better that we educate ourselves, read, go to meetings of Parents Flag, talk to and LISTEN to other parents, exchange information. Most important of all-be supportive of our children with our love and hope. Remember, when we all join together, there is strength in our numbers. As we educate ourselves, we can then redefine our priorities and our values. We in turn can then try to educate the hostile society which is still unenlightened and prejudiced through its ignorance about homosexuality. We want to make this a better world for our children. What we need is understanding, not sympathy. So reach out and touch someone. We all will be better for it.....NYC Parents Flag Newsletter.....

Houston, Texas.....

Our speaker for our April meeting was Frank S. of AIDS Foundation in Houston. Frank is a man who has AIDS himself and lives at the Houston home for AIDS patients therefore his presentation was very

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Our speaker for our April meeting was Frank S. of AIDS Foundation in Houston. Frank is a man who has AIDS himself and lives at the Houston home for AIDS patients therefore his presentation was very enlightening for the sixteen people present. Of course there were many questions which he so well responded to. We enjoyed having him as our guest and we wish him well..... The guest speaker for May will be a Grandmother of a Gay..Our dear Elinor who is THE Mother of the Mc Adory House. We are pleased that she WILL. She is loved by everyone in the Gay community and beyond. She is a terrific woman..... Houston....WE NEED GAYS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARENTS TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS IN HOUSTON.... GAYS AND LESBIANS NEED TO BRING THEIR PARENTS and OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS IF THAT IS WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THEM THERE.We have so many calls for information all the time so we know there is a real need to get those parents there. We are in a private area where we see noone except the ones who come to our meetings.Your name is kept confidential.



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October, 1986

Freda Jerrell and Pat Wilson both attended the National Convention of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in Portland, Or. It seems that each year the convention is better than the previous year. There was a great plenary session on AIDS moderated by Gary MacDonald, Executive Director, AIDS Action Council, Washington, D.C.. National. Political, Medical, Social, Psychological, Meeting Local Needs. Presentors were Mathilde Krim, Ph.D. Co-Chair American Foundation for AIDS Research, New York, N.Y., Estill Deitz, M.D., Suburban Medical Clinic, Portland, Or., and Tom Koberstein, Executive Director Cascade AIDS Project(CAP), Portland, Or.Also a good Plenary on Politics and one on religion. There were more workshops and they were all good. It was hard making decisions to go to the workshops because one could not go to all of them. The convention next year will be in Washington, D.C.

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Earthman Funeral Home at 8303 Katy Freeway is presenting a "Practical Seminar Series On "Bereavement and Healing.". It began on Oct. 2 and will go through Dec. II. On Nov. 13 the session will be "The Effects of the AIDS Experience on Family and Friends" given by Earl E. Shelp, Ph.D. with the Center for Ethics, Baylor College of Medicine, has been lecturing and writing on Gay issues since 1979. Co-author of AIDS: Personal Stories in Pastoral perspective, Dr. Shelp specializes in religious and medical ethics. Earthman Funeral Home has asked Parents Flag to be there on Nov. 13 at 7 P.M. ← to help any parents who may need information or just someone to talk to. We will be there. ..Call 464-6663 or 465-8900 for Info. Remember 7 p.m.

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On Saturday, Oct. 4 Freda attended "LIVING WITH AIDS in HOUSTON", a Symposium for people with AIDS, ARC, Their FRIENDS, LOVERS, FAMILIES, CARE GIVERS and CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS. This symposium was sponsored by Montrose Counseling Center, AIDS Foundation of Houston, Inc., Caremark, Graduate School of Social Work, U. of H. and was held at the University of Houston. There were 18 workshops-all very good. I wish that I could have attended all of them. I do hope that this symposium will be repeated perhaps three times per year.

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I believe that somehow I gave the wrong impression when I referred to "our dear Eleanor" and the Omega House because she is now known across the country as a Parents Flag Member, which she is not. We do wish that Eleanor could be a member but the work that she is doing in the Gay community far exceeds anything that she, or we can do in our Organization. That LADY is doing life and death work every day with a heart as big as the universe. God bless her and keep her well. I love and respect her so much.

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Our outreach for the coming year is to educate Jr. High and Sr. High

Psychological, Meeting Local Needs. Presentors were Mathilde Krim, Ph.D. Co-Chair American Foundation for AIDS Research, New York, N.Y., Estill Deitz, M.D., Suburban Medical Clinic, Portland, Or., and Tom Koberstein, Executive Director Cascade AIDS Project(CAP), Portland, Or.Also a good Plenary on Politics and one on religion. There were more workshops and they were all good. It was hard making decisions to go to the workshops because one could not go to all of them. The convention next year will be in Washington, D.C.

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Our outreach for the coming year is to educate Jr. High and Sr. High School teachers and counselors about the sensitive issues of homosexuality. Freda was invited last year to return to H.I. S. D. again this year which I will do. They are a neat group to talk with and eager to learn more.

Freda contacted the Administrator of Spring Branch I.S.D. and was given the biggest run around one could ever expect....that was not a shock knowing how conservative Spring Branch is. What is a shock is having someone like that tell you all about homosexuality and how parents are the ones who make their children gay. Some day I am going to get into that school but until that time let us all keep people like that in our prayers; especially those homosexual youngsters.