

PROTECT AMERICA'S CHILDREN
P.O. Box 402/45
Miami, Florida 33140

"When the homosexuals burn
the Holy Bible in public...
how can I stand by silently"

Dear Friend:

I don't hate the homosexuals!

But as a mother, I must protect my children from
their evil influence.

And I am sure you have heard about my fight here
in Dade County, Florida -- and nationwide -- for the
rights of my children and yours.

But I had no idea my speaking out would lead to
such frightening consequences:

...ugly persecution at the hands of militant
homosexual groups.

...the attempted blacklisting of my career.

...constant bitter threats to shut me up
for good.

...misguided individuals hounding me and my
family -- even when we go to church.

All this, because I stood up for my children --
as a mother -- as an American -- as a Christian.

Then, when the militant homosexuals lost the public
vote in Dade County, their friends in New England burned
the Holy Bible!

And now there is even a motion picture being
produced that portrays Jesus Christ as a homosexual...

That's why I am writing you today -- because I cannot
remain silent while radical, militant homosexuals are
raising millions of dollars and waging a campaign for

Enclosed: 1 (one)
Official Public Opinion
Survey Ballot
Immediate Response Requested

New approaches needed to counseling homosexuals

By BRENDA STONE
Post Reporter

Mental health workers need to develop new approaches to counseling homosexuals, a panel of authorities urged here Monday.

No longer should counselors attempt to "cure" people of homosexuality "because homosexuality is not a sickness," asserted Ralph Blair, director of The Homosexual Community Counseling Center, based in New York City and believed to be the largest of its kind in the nation.

"Many straight therapists have finally come down off this conversion-to-heterosexuality trip and now just try to find out what the client wants and needs in the way of help," said Paula Beck, a clinical social worker at Houston's Jewish Family Service.

Blair and Beck were among speakers Monday at a day-long seminar on "Counseling and Homosexuality" at the University of Houston. The program was sponsored by the university's department of psychology; the Gay Activists Alliance of Houston; the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, Houston; and The Homosexual Counseling Journal, a quarterly publication of Blair's organization.

The seminar, attended by some 50 representatives of local social service agencies, private counseling units and other interested parties, was held in attempts "to upgrade the preparation that in the past has been lacking in the training of mental health people and to enable people in the mental health field to render more realistic counseling to homosexuals," said Blair.

The meeting also was an attempt to focus public attention on problems homosexuals face in society and to "emphasize the need for community understanding -- that people should be accepted as human beings and judged on their credentials as human beings, rather than on the basis of their sexuality," said the Rev. Robert Falls, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church.

"A lot of gays would be happy and satisfied if they could just live their lives, go about their own business," said Katy Feller, president of the Gay Activists Alliance.

"But like Mary Jo Risher of Dallas, who had her child taken away from her because of her homosexuality, or (T.Sgt.) Leonard Matlovich, who was kicked out of the Air Force, people are being denied jobs, their children, housing -- every day because of their sexuality."

"The law and society will not leave us alone," she said.

Said Dr. James McCary, University of Houston psychology professor and author of numerous books on sexuality and homosexuality:

"Today I feel that probably the most important thing we can do is to broaden community education and understanding about homosexuality through the news media."

McCary and several other speakers sharply criticized local and national news

Often, she added, a person's homosexuality is not the basic prob-

lem for which counseling help is being sought, but rather "may be a tangential kind of thing -- the person may not be getting their needs met in any kind of relationship, they may have problems of maintaining any kind of relationship, problems of intimacy." They added that mental health counselors also need to realize that while many homosexuals need help to lessen their anxieties about living in a society that in general looks upon their sexual desires as "strange" or "evil," many others need help with the same types of problems that bring heterosexuals to counselors, such as marital problems, feelings of insecurity, inferiority, and failure.

media for identifying persons in news stories as homosexuals, particularly in murder reports.

"You never see 'Heterosexual Murders Three' in a headline, though far more murders are committed by heterosexuals than homosexuals. It's uncalled for and absolutely unfair to further plant a negative attitude about homosexuality in people's minds," she stated.

"Maybe financial pressures need to be placed on the media if they won't cooperate otherwise, perhaps a financial boycott of advertisers," he added in an interview.

"I used to think that counseling of the individuals was the answer and certainly it is necessary and is called for, but it reaches too few people."

Thus a broad community education campaign is needed to dispel many myths about homosexuality and to promote changes in laws and policies that discriminate against homosexuals, McCary said.

"And in some cases homosexuals have brought some of the misunderstandings about by themselves," he added. "Some homosexuals have tended to say homosexuality is more common in society than it is, in attempts to make it appear to be the norm."

"But any exaggeration or dishonesty comes home to roost and the public winds up saying that if that argument is erroneous, all other arguments from homosexuals -- such as their rights to jobs, freedom from harassment, freedom to be accepted as human beings and feelings about their ability to love -- also must be false."

According to Blair, among the most common misconceptions about homosexuality is that it is a disease; that the gay community is "all the same;" that homosexuality can be and should be "cured" through psychotherapy; and that the cause of homosexuality is known -- involving an indulgent mother and a distant father.

"Theories that hold that homosexuality per se is psychopathology or a symptom of mental illness are based on ignorance, value judgments, skewed samples of patients disturbed enough to require medical or psychological attention and not on cross-sections or random samples of normally functioning persons who also happen to be homosexual," said Blair.



Dr. James McCary

No one yet knows the "cause" of homosexuality, there are many theories, "none is universally applicable and often they are contradictory," he noted. "There is hardly a condition or interpersonal relationship that has not been blamed for homosexuality."

"Moreover, no one raises the question of what causes heterosexuality. This fact does not mean that anyone knows any more about the etiology of heterosexuality than they know about the etiology of homosexuality. But most people still assume the normality of the one and the abnormality of the other," he criticized.

Several Papers Ban Doonesbury

Doonesbury, a comic strip which frequently deals with such controversial subjects as politics, drugs and sex, has been suspended for a week by at least three major newspapers because of the inclusion of a homosexual character.

A survey by UPI showed the Columbus (Ohio) Citizen-Journal, the Cleveland Press and the Houston Post all suspended the comic strip written by Garry Trudeau and syndicated by Universal Press Syndicate in nearly 450 newspapers.

"We felt the subject matter was not appropriate for the comic page," Charles Egger, editor of the Citizen-Journal, said in a Thursday message to readers, published in the place where the comic strip usually appears.

"WE DON'T BELIEVE the subject of homosexuality belongs on the comic pages," said Tom Boardman, editor of the Cleveland Press. "It's not a subject that can be treated in a flip way."

But both Egger and Boardman said they had received thousands of responses from readers about the suspension.

Boardman said his newspaper received nearly two thousand letters and telephone calls after a notice advising readers of the suspension was printed. Egger said about 1,600 telephone calls were received when his newspaper failed to print the strip Wednesday.

BOARDMAN SAID the letters were "about 50-50 on the matter," but most of the telephone callers tended to object to the newspaper's decision.

Lee Salem, managing editor for Universal Press, said the series involving homosexuality was sent to the newspapers about two weeks in advance of the publication date "because we knew some editors might be concerned."

"We felt it (the strip) was handled with taste and humor that could stand by itself," Salem said. "Editors, however, may elect not to carry it."

"BUT WE ARE NOT really concerned to have only three or four newspapers drop it," Salem added. "We had newspapers drop it last spring when he ran a series about Henry Kissinger in a 'This is your life' situation, which caused quite a bit of consternation in some editors."

The Houston Post dropped the strip

without comment and then published a notice to readers saying the cartoon would resume on Monday.

"This week's strip dealt with homosexuality," the Post said. "This is a subject Post editors believe to be inappropriate on a comic page. The Post will continue to treat this subject in a serious manner in the news columns rather than in comic strips of a popular cartoonist."

HOWEVER, THE STRIP was being read over a local radio station, and the Gay Activist Alliance at the University of Houston was reading the strip to telephone callers.

"We've been getting about 50 calls a day," an alliance spokesman said.

In Boston, Otto Zausmer, associate editor of The Boston Globe, said his newspaper would continue to print the comic strip.

"We have had a lot of complaints," Zausmer said. "We register the complaints and appreciate them."

"But," he added, "if we drop a feature each time someone complains, we'd have an empty newspaper pretty soon."

(Editor's Note: The Texan will continue to print Doonesbury each day on its editorial page.)



Controversial episode

Friday, February 13, 1976

Bath house arrests made

DALLAS (AP) — Undercover police arrested 14 men in a bath house where officers said they observed homosexual acts. Among those taken into custody were a labor lawyer, a college professor, a school counselor, a painter, a dresser and a building contractor, police said. Officers said the men will be charged with indecent exposure and public lewdness.

ONESBURY

