



Rally participants protest Bryant appearance

— Post photo by Roger Powers

Bryant's visit spurs protest

By ED JAHN
Post Reporter

More than 600 supporters of the Gay Liberation Movement braved freezing temperatures and icy winds Monday on the eve of another visit to Houston by Anita Bryant.

Many at the "pro-human rights" gathering at the steps of City Hall huddled around candles for warmth, but the cold weather didn't contain their enthusiasm.

"I don't want to mention her name but I see her picture," said the Rev. Jeri Harvey of the Houston Metropolitan Community Church which ministers to homosexuals. The picture of Bryant was titled "Human Garbage."

Rally organizers, who brought 5,000 persons together last June to protest Bryant's appearance at a State Bar of Texas meeting, had hoped to attract 6,000 before a cold front put the chill on Monday night's activities.

Bryant was scheduled to sing for Farm Bureau Federation of America members Tuesday morning at their national convention here.

There were no incidents Monday night. One protester with a sign saying "God Bless Anita" stood on a street corner handing out leaflets.

A surprise speaker was a transvestite named Phyllis who said he was braving arrest by appearing "cross-dressed" in public.

Ray Hill, a leader in the Houston homosexual community, said the rally was an example of the growing "gay consciousness" in Houston.



Jim
McCONN
mayor

19 FEB 78 EL Paso Appearance Anita Bryant's Crusading Agenda

By CRAIG PHELOM

Singer Anita Bryant is scheduled to appear in El Paso Feb. 19 as part of a Revive America Crusade sponsored by a Joplin, Mo., based religious group.

The crusade's director, the Rev. Cecil Todd, told The Times in a telephone interview Thursday the event will be part of a tour of Southwestern cities. The crusade is scheduled in San Antonio Feb. 18.

Miss Bryant became a controversial figure last year for helping to organize a successful campaign to repeal a gay rights ordinance in Miami, Fla., and leading a Save Our Children campaign urging the firing of gay teachers.

The ex-Miss American contestant's role as spokesperson for the Florida Citrus Commission also has stirred controversy. Pro-gay forces have boycotted Florida oranges, while other groups have threatened boycotts if Miss Bryant were punished for her stand.

Organizers say gay rights is not expected to be the central issue of the revival.

Todd said the revival would involve mostly gospel singing and preaching. Miss Bryant's role will be primarily entertainment, thought what she talks about on stage will be entirely up to her, he said.

Miss Bryant and her husband, Bob Green, have been active in religious revivals after the singer decided against pursuing her anti-gay campaign on a national scale.

She has claimed the entertainment industry blacklisted her because of her stand. "I am clearly a victim of a religious persecution and this is another evidence of the moral decay in America," she was quoted in one newspaper story.

However, Miss Bryant has been accused of persecution herself by gay rights groups who see her stand as bigotry. The gay rights measure she helped repeal in Florida

made it illegal to discriminate against gays in housing and employment.

Miss Bryant has said her opposition to gays is based on her interpretations of certain passages in the Bible, which she believes indicates that homosexuality is a sin.

The issue has brought widespread disagreement in the religious community.

Only a handful of Old and New Testament passages are used as texts on the subject, and interpretations of these span a broad range of opinions.

The way churches lean on the issue of homosexuality generally depends on the way members view the Bible. For fundamentalists groups that take the Bible literally — that the world was actually created in six days, that the Red Sea actually parted, that Jonah actually spent three days in the belly of a great fish — homosexuality is an abomination.

In other churches, where biblical interpretation ranges from conservative to liberal, the issue is more complex.

Southern Baptists praised Anita Bryant at their annual convention. But the United Church of Christ, at its convention, deplored "the use of scripture to generate hatred and the violation of civil rights of gay and bisexual persons." The church called for an "end to discrimination based on sexual or affectional preferences."

Scriptures cited by Miss Bryant and others appear in Leviticus Chapter 18, verse 22, and Chapter 20, verse 13.

The first passage reads, "You shall not lie with a male as a woman; it is an abomination." And the second: "If a man lies with a male as a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them."

Many modern biblical scholars say that such condemnation of homosexual acts has to be seen in context. That context is a relatively small community, whose survival depended on high rates of reproduction.



ANITA BRYANT

**Jim
McConn**

HOUSTON'S
NEXT GREAT MAYOR

- Businessman
- Experienced in city government
- Independent
- Proven record of civic and professional achievement



Gay Community News, August 4, 1979

gay archives in need

HOUSTON, TX — The Gay Archives of Texas, a project of Integrity/Houston, is a research and information center for the gay community. Currently operating in the Montrose Activity Center, the Archives consist of over 400 books, hundreds of news clippings, and collections of publications not readily available in Texas.

Staffed by volunteers from the community, the Archives also depends on community donations for funding and materials. In addition to monetary and personnel needs, the Archives needs file cabinets, shelves, and workers and materials to renovate the facilities, which are described as "run down."

To contribute, or for additional information, contact Integrity/Houston, P.O. Box 16041, Houston, TX 77022.



(McGraw-Hill,
1977, 214 pp.,
\$8.95)

Meet the Author . . .

DR. CHARLES SILVERSTEIN, author of

A FAMILY MATTER

. . . a Parent's Guide to
understanding homosexuality

will be guest at a reception in his honor

FRIDAY, OCT. 21, 5:30-7:30pm

at **WILDE 'N' STEIN**

819 Richmond, Houston 529-7014

(hosted by Integrity/Houston)

OCTOBER 14-20, 1977

NOON TO NINE - CLOSED MONDAYS

WILDE 'N' STEIN

..... a bookshop for Gay People
and their friends

819 RICHMOND
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

(713) 529-7014
CHARLES GILLIS, MGR.

Integrity/Houston social/fellowship organization for gays meets every other Thurs. night, 7:30, at Wilde 'n Stein Bookshop, 819 Richmond. (713) 529-7014.