

Thousands support gays, AIDS victims through city parades

Supporters of homosexual rights marched in New York City yesterday in a parade dedicated to victims of the deadly disease AIDS, while thousands of their counterparts in San Francisco staged a festive parade of costumes and floats.

At New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral in midtown Manhattan, a group of Roman Catholics who objected to the parade as blasphemous gathered for a prayer vigil. More than 700 police officers were assigned to the parade to prevent disturbances between the marchers and anti-homosexual demonstrators, but it was generally peaceful.

In San Francisco, police had no immediate estimate of the number of people attending the 13th annual "Gay Freedom Day Parade," but parade co-chairman Konstantin Berlandt said about 350,000 people joined or watched the event. The parade also was dedicated to AIDS victims, and a group of AIDS sufferers rode a motorized cable car near the head of the parade.

"It is the policy of the Lesbian-Gay Freedom Day Committee to reach out to (AIDS victims) with respect, support and love, and to strengthen the ties between them and the community," said a resolution adopted by parade organizers.

About 30,000 people lined the streets on Chicago's North Side lakefront for the city's 14th annual Gay and Lesbian Parade.

"We are appalled that it took a couple of years before the government was able to take some action and start funding research on AIDS," said Craig Covey of the group that sponsored the march.

AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — has afflicted more than 1,600 people, more than 700 of them New Yorkers and many others in San Francisco. Seventy percent of the often fatal disease's victims have been male homosexuals.

Tom Wicker, an AIDS victim from Illinois, marched in the West Coast parade wearing a T-shirt that read, "I have AIDS not leprosy."

"It's important for us to show our strength and unity," he said. "And it's also important to be effective in public, to be seen and get the message across."

Despite the serious overtones brought by the disease, more than 200 floats were entered in the West Coast parade, marked by festive costumes.

Mounted police lined New York's Fifth Avenue as marchers with balloons, signs and slogans marched in the 14th annual "Lesbian and Gay Pride" parade, commemorating riots in 1969 that gave birth to the gay rights movement.

"God is Gay" banners at a previous parade prompted opposition to the event by the Catholic War Veterans, who with the Rabbinical Alliance of America sought unsuccessfully to stop this year's parade.



A large crowd gathers on Fifth Avenue in New York City yesterday to watch proud participants march in the 14th annual "Lesbian and Gay" parade, which was held to show support for gay rights and AIDS victims.

Abortion amendment goes before Senate tomorrow

WASHINGTON — The Senate votes tomorrow on an anti-abortion amendment to the Constitution, but even its strongest supporters give the proposal no chance of passage this year.

Supporters and opponents alike say the amendment will fail to attract the two-thirds vote needed in the 100-member Senate before it can be sent to the House.

"If we get 51 votes, it will be a victory," said Paul Smith, a spokesman for the proposal's chief supporter, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

"Senator Hatch isn't fooling himself that we have the votes to pass it," Smith said.

Nonetheless, those seeking to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court decision permitting most abortions are going ahead with a simply worded amendment reading: "A right to an abortion is not secured by the Constitution."

If passed by Congress and ratified by the states, the amendment would allow a state to more strongly regulate, and even ban, abortions.

It was approved on a 99 vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee. While a tie usually kills legislation in congressional committees, the members decided to send it to the floor without recommendation.

One reason the amendment is given little chance is the deep division within the anti-abortion movement. Some organizations want a tougher federal law or constitutional amendment giving a fetus the same rights as a person — thus making abortions the same as murder.

"This isn't going to do anything to save 1.5 million lives which are snuffed out each year," said Gary Curran, an official with the American Life Lobby, an anti-abortion group.

Last year, Senate Democrats and moderate Republicans defeated a legislative proposal, requiring only a majority vote, that would have defined life as beginning at conception.

While even Hatch gives his amendment little chance; the issue could provide the focus for one of the last major congressional battles by the New Right before the 1984 elections.

Similar efforts to allow voluntary prayer into public schools and to ban busing as a tool for desegregating schools have also failed since the election of President Reagan in 1980.

A number of conservative critics have faulted Reagan for not making such social issues a major priority of his administration.

"If we get 51 votes, it will be a victory," — Paul Smith, spokesman for Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah

state news briefs

SEPTA strike enters 105th day
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — As Philadelphia's commuter rail strike enters its 105th day, a key issue blocking an agreement appears to be management's right to contract out certain types of signal work. Eight other issues, all of them less significant, also must be resolved before the Brotherhood of Railway Signalmen agree to a tentative contract, said John Hansen, a negotiator for the union.

The 44-member union is the only one of 13 Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority unions that hasn't come to terms.

Rail service hasn't resumed because of a pre-strike pact in which all 13 unions vowed not to cross the picket lines of any holdouts.

Hansen's hold-out is placing him at odds with other union leaders, some of whom are under increasing pressure from their financially-strapped members to return to work.

A handful of the nearly 1,000 workers on strike reportedly have defied their leaders and returned to work.

SEPTA's top negotiator said he plans no more talks with the signalmen.

College students good credit risks

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — "Charge it" could be the next campus battle cry, now that major retailers are encouraging college students to sign up for credit cards.

Retailers now consider college students to be good credit risks, says one official in a credit card marketing company. Retailers also are wooing college students with an eye toward their post-graduate shopping days.

"They're excellent credit risks," said Ted Erfer, a spokesman for Sears, Roebuck & Co., one of the early retailers to court the college market. "They are stable, responsible, are entering the job market and in five years will be in the market for much of what we sell."

One Philadelphia firm, the College Credit Card Corp., specializes in marketing the cards on campuses.

Irvin Penner, president of the firm's parent company, GLS Inc., said students probably have a better chance of getting a credit card than consumers in general because they "have nothing against them" in the credit marketplace.

Challenger crew ready for debriefing

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The five Challenger astronauts rested up yesterday for an intensive 4½ days of debriefings while technicians in California worked overtime in hopes of speeding the spacecraft's cross-country return to Florida.

Flight Seven commander Robert Crippen and his crewmates face grilling from the boss starting early today, but, even so, their debriefing is the shortest ever for an American space crew.

Officials said the debriefing schedule, which has been three weeks or more for the earlier space crews, has been cut only 4½ days because Flight Seven was almost flawless and because the space shuttle is now "matured," with few engineering questions remaining.

Book: Rather made \$25 million deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — CBS Evening News anchor Dan Rather accepted a 10-year package deal at close to \$25 million to stay at CBS instead of defecting to ABC, according to a yet unpublished book profiling the personalities, wealth and influence of the best known television stars.

ABC president Roone Arledge was prepared to offer Rather a 10-year package deal for close to \$25 million a year, but Rather could not bring himself to leave CBS "when the torch passed from (Edward R.) Murrow to (Walter) Cronkite was about to be passed to him," writes author Barbara Matusow.

The book, "The Evening Stars: The Rise of Network News Anchors," published by Houghton Mifflin, describes the competition between the networks for star-quality journalists. It also offers a behind-the-scenes peek at the networks' office politics.

Matusow, a former radio and television producer for CBS and NBC and now a freelance writer in Washington, said she spent two years on the book and interviewed all the major network anchors.

The book will be in stores Aug. 1.

Mother continues weight rule battle

CHANNELVIEW, Texas (AP) — A woman whose daughter was suspended twice from a high school drill team because of her weight is challenging the rule she says has driven some girls to make themselves sick.

Barbara Blackstock's 15-year-old daughter, Laura, exceeded the weight limit for her height three times in the past year. Laura is nearly 5 feet-6 inches tall and, under the team rules, may weigh no more than 120.

Blackstock, who has another daughter on the Channelview High School drill team, has asked the Texas Board of Education to intervene with the school board in this southeastern Texas community. She has also asked the American Civil Liberties Union to challenge the rule.

She said several squad members "are making themselves sick to stay under the weight limit. I can see having a guideline and working with a kid on a weight problem, but kicking them out is a little crude."

Pete Brady, chairman of the Channelview Independent School District school board, said yesterday that district officials are reviewing the policy.

world news briefs

Habib arrives in Israel for talks
TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Special U.S. envoy Philip C. Habib arrived yesterday for talks with Israeli leaders on American efforts to persuade Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon, Israeli Radio reported.

Habib was accompanied by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Fairbanks and Special Ambassador Morris Draper, the radio said.

In Damascus, Syrian sources said the government has invited former Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Salam for an official visit, which could be an indication that Syria is willing to discuss the U.S.-mediated troop withdrawal agreement between Israel and Lebanon.

Salam is one of Lebanon's most influential Moslem leaders and is closely involved in government policy-making.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said the invitation was for sometime in the next few days, but would not say whom Salam would meet.

Prelate: journalists' deaths exploited

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — A Salvadoran prelate said yesterday that the deaths of two American journalists on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border were being "exploited" for political reasons by the two countries.

In his weekly homily at San Salvador's Metropolitan Cathedral, Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez, said the deaths of Dial Torgerson of the Los Angeles Times and freelance photographer Richard Cross were "an occurrence we lament."

He then said, "Honduras as well as Nicaragua are exploiting" the deaths for "political reasons," but did not elaborate.

Torgerson and Cross were killed last Tuesday when their rented car exploded during a shell attack as they drove along an isolated road in Honduras, a few yards from the Nicaraguan border.

Honduras has claimed the Sandinista army was responsible for the deaths, but Nicaragua has denied its forces shelled the journalists' car and implied instead that the CIA or Nicaraguan rebels based in Honduras killed the reporters.

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR
Monday, June 27
 Penn State Scholars Program. Also June 29
 P.S. Aikido Club workout, 7 p.m., IM Wrestling Room.
 Students for Reproductive Rights meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 227 HUB.

Tuesday, June 28
 Registration (6 week session).
 GSA Explazaganza film, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, dusk, Fisher Plaza.
 Gamma Sigma Sigma meeting, 6 p.m., Rooms 318/319 HUB.
 P.S. Science Fiction Society meeting, 7 p.m., Room 317 Boucke.

Wednesday, June 29
 Pass-Fall (8 week session), through July 1.
 Commons Concert, Poe Valley Drifters, noon, Kern Lobby.
 P.S. Aikido Club workout, 7 p.m., IM Wrestling Room.
 Commonsplace Theatre, *A Night at the Opera*, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern. Also June 30.
 P.S. Stamp Club, 7:30 p.m., Room 207 Sackett.

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