

Colorful parade marks gay rights observance

June 28-

By JOHN GUERNSEY
of The Oregonian staff

About 1,500 Portland homosexuals, terming their weekend activities a "modern gay civil rights movement," launched the events at noon Saturday with a colorful seven-block-long parade up Southwest Broadway.

"I'm proud to be a gay" was the theme of the parade and day, with the parade aptly led by the "Imperial Rose Court" of Joey, Emperor VII and hand-waving Misty Waters.

The parade route was well-patrolled by police and by two dozen "monitors" from the gay community, but there were no incidents despite the presence of a few hecklers. Most spectators viewed the parade with smiles and good humor.

The Imperial Rose Court float was pulled by a bright red 1959 Cadillac, and many rented limousines were part of the fun. Police said the parade was about three times as large as the 1980 gay parade.

"What do we want?" the marchers chanted. "Gay rights now," they answered. There were many banners and posters, one turning to the poetic: "Gay or straight, what difference does it make?"

Children waved to the huge teddy bear atop a parade automobile, and the spectators applauded loudly as the band belted out "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

The Portland Gay Men's Chorus pleased the crowd, and the dogs in the parade seemed to be enjoying it as much as or more than anyone.

Afternoon activities in Waterfront Park included brief speeches, dancing and beer drinking.

The speakers included Portland City Commissioners Margaret Strachan and Mike Lindberg and Rep. Gretchen Kafoury, D-Portland.

"I've always believed in civil rights, your issues are civil rights, and I'm there," Ms. Strachan said to a roaring ovation. Just as she concluded her talk,

a fusillade of eggs was thrown into the crowd by people in a passing boat.

"I don't think the eggs coming at that time had anything to do with my being there," Ms. Strachan said. "But I do think it's a shame to waste eggs like that when they cost as much as they do today."

Sunday activities include a noon to 4 p.m. book sale at 530 S.W. Fifth Ave. and a performance by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus at 8 p.m. in the Northwest Service Center.

The festivities are being jointly sponsored by the Portland Town Council, Town Council Foundation, Metropolitan Community Church, Flash Magazine and the Diversity Alliance.

2433 S.E. Caruthers St.,
Portland, Ore. 97214
July 3, 1981

Commissioner Margaret Strachan
City Hall
Portland, Ore.

Dear Mrs. Strachan:

I was indeed shocked when I learned of your participation in the gay rights observance, June 27.

We are facing the most crucial time in our country's history. If ever there were a time when we need to cry out against the decadence in our society, it is now. We must speak out against the evils of our day that seek to destroy this great land of ours. If the women's libbers get their way, the American home will go down the drain.

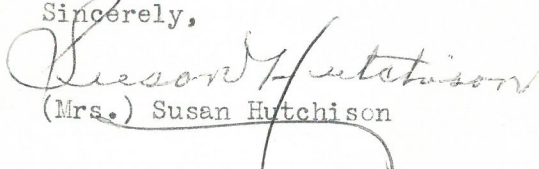
Just 25 years ago the mere mention of the word "homosexual" was so revolting that most people would not dare say it above a whisper. The act of homosexuality represents the lowest form of human behavior.

Referring to the poster: "Gay or straight, what difference does it make?" What a whale of a difference it makes when we understand just how God views this matter. We don't have to debate concerning our participation in this or that. It's no more a question as to what pleases us, but will it please Him?

To learn how God views homosexuals, read Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 - Romans 1:26-27 and I Corinthians 6:9-10.

How can God bless America when sin rules the high and the low? The blessings of God upon this America can be purchased only through clean living, high-toned morals, uprightness and holy ideals.

Sincerely,


(Mrs.) Susan Hutchison

July 22, 1981

Draft
for
m

Mrs. Susan Hutchison
2433 S.E. Caruthers Street
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Mrs. Hutchison:

Thank you for your letter of July 3rd. I am always interested to hear the views of the public, but at the same time, I too know what the Word of God says about how we are to love one another as He has loved us and no restrictions were put on that love.

I understand what you are saying and agree that the world is changing rapidly, and there are a lot of things going on that are not what God is calling for, but if you read a little further down into the New Testament (from Mathews to Revelations) you know that these are signs of the end of times, which must be fulfilled, and it is for us "not to judge, lest ye be judged", but instead...pray. You see, Mrs. Hutchison, I realize that homosexuality is an unnatural act in eyes of God and the general public, but that is not the reason I support homosexual rights. My reason is, first, regardless to what their personal beliefs are, they still have a right to life, to work, to equality and only God has the right to judge. Second, just like Jesus did, "with love and kindness have I drawn thee", not with judging and name calling. I'm not saying that God's word isn't right in terms of homosexuality, I'm just saying who am I to tell someone what's wrong with their life. According to the Word, if I "let my light so shine before all men, He will take care of the rest. I am a person who believes in the equal rights of all of God's children.

Thank you, again for your interesting letter. You sound like a Christian and I have faith that you believe in all of God's word, I'm sure you will be praying for me and my staff and that God's will be done in all of our lives.

Sincerely,

MARGARET D. STRACHAN
Commissioner of Public Utilities

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