

Wilde statue makes a statement

By Graham Heathcote
The Associated Press

LONDON — Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde has struck another blow against social convention, a century after he was disgraced and jailed for homosexuality.

Britons on Monday unveiled a larger-than-life-size statue of Wilde that depicts him in his favorite pose — talking, and with a cigarette protruding from his upraised right hand.

"A cigarette in Wilde's day was a symbol of a young man's decadence and modernity and is now a symbol of political incorrectness," said actor Stephen Fry, who played the lead role in the film "Wilde."

"Showing him smoking is yet again a big finger shoved in the face of society," Fry said.

The memorial near Trafalgar Square in the heart of London is a bronze head of Wilde rising from a nine-foot-long block of black marble. Its title is "A Conversation with Oscar Wilde 1854-1900."

The marble block is inscribed with a line from Wilde's play, "Lady Windermere's Fan": "All of us are in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." Some of his other well-known works are "The Importance of Being Earnest" (1899) and "An Ideal Husband" (1895).

The statue was unveiled on the anniversary of Wilde's death at age 46 in Paris, where he had been living in self-exile and poverty. He had been sentenced to two years of jail in 1895 for homosexual practices revealed during his abortive libel action

against the Marquis of Queensberry.

The marquis had objected to Wilde's association with his son, Lord Alfred Douglas.

"The fight that he waged for diversity in our society — the right to be different — I think we have made substantial strides towards winning, and it is partly because of him," said Culture Secretary Chris Smith, one of two openly homosexual members of the Labor Party government's Cabinet.

A committee of writers, actors, academics, philanthropists and journalists raised \$249,000 to pay for the statue.

Wilde uttered one of his best-remembered lines when arriving at the New York customs house: "I have nothing to declare but my genius."

Hospital says General Pinochet can leave

By Maureen Johnson
The Associated Press

LONDON — The London hospital where Gen. Augusto Pinochet is being held under police guard said Monday that the former Chilean dictator no longer needs special medical care and should quickly find another place to stay.

The statement by the Grovelands Priory appeared to be a new blow to any hopes the 83-year-old Pinochet had of fighting extradition to Spain on grounds he is unfit for trial.

The private psychiatric hospital, sounding openly impatient, noted at a Nov. 17 bail hearing that lawyers had said Pinochet, who underwent back surgery Oct. 9, was fit enough to appear in court. He is now due to appear Dec. 11.

"It is now the responsibility of Gen. Pinochet's advisers to find alternative accommodation," the hospital statement said. "The management of Grovelands Priory has reminded his advisers of this responsibility and it is hoped that Gen. Pinochet will find alternative accommodation as soon as possible."

Pinochet was arrested Oct. 16 in his hospital bed on a warrant issued by a Spanish magistrate, and has not been seen in public. The former dictator underwent surgery in the London Clinic, a private hospital in London. On Oct. 29, he was moved to Grovelands Priory, some five miles from central London.

There was no immediate word on where Pinochet might go. News reports have said he is planning a move to a nine-bedroom home on the private Wentworth estate in Surrey, southwest of London.

Chilean Foreign Minister Jose Miguel Insulza flew to Madrid on Monday after four days of trying to persuade Britain not to extradite Pinochet to Spain to face charges of murder, genocide and torture by secret police during his 1973-90 rule.

Insulza maintained Pinochet may be tried in Chile if he is allowed to go home.

In Madrid, the Chilean foreign minister said he didn't have "any expectations" from his two-day visit to Spain other than to gain information.

However, Insulza told reporters: "The political climate in Spain is

not favorable to Sen. Pinochet and that carries weight in the judicial process even beyond the will of the judges to be impartial."

A London newspaper, *The Mirror*, quoted Pinochet's nephew as saying that he would rather die than stand trial in Spain.

"He would rather kill himself or be killed by his guards than face the humiliation and indignity of being sent to face trial in Spain," nephew Rafael Pinochet Savedra was quoted as saying.

The general's wife, Lucia, told the tabloid that Pinochet was "very weak and depressed about his position."

A Chilean government report says 3,197 people were murdered or disappeared at the hands of his secret police after Pinochet overthrew a Marxist who had been elected.

Pinochet has immunity from prosecution in Chile. Critics say that even if this were lifted he would appear before a military court packed with his supporters.

Home Secretary Jack Straw has until Dec. 11 to decide whether to permit extradition proceedings to begin.

Aids

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The ASUO Executive supports the need for more education.

"The overall goal is to educate people in hopes of building support for HIV awareness programs," Wortman said.

The HIV virus is especially relevant to younger people, she said. Last year, 50 percent of the reported new HIV infections were found in people ages 15 to 24, according to the

World Health Organization. The national rate is one in every 500 students on college campuses is infected with HIV.

Looking at the statistics, Wortman worries that young people are contracting HIV at an extremely high rate through sexual activity.

But the spread of AIDS is not as prominent an issue as it once was, said ASUO Vice President Morgan Cowling.



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