

Back in 1963, Rustin was denounced on the floor of the US Senate for his homosexuality and earlier communist affiliation by Senator Strom Thurmond, just prior to the March on Washington, which the openly-gay Rustin helped organize despite the reservations of some black civil rights leaders. Rustin says that many groups came to his defense at that time because of the coalitions he had built with them.

Valerie Terrigno, the openly lesbian mayor of the City of West Hollywood, and Steve Schulte, one of that city's openly-gay councilmen, thanked BWMT for input in writing their new ordinance which restricts businesses from demanding more than one piece of photo ID for admission. So-called "multiple carding" has been a racially discriminatory policy documented by many BWMT chapters. Atlanta has a similar ordinance in effect, drafted by that city's BWMT chapter.

The NABWMT Health Committee has produced an AIDS brochure targeted at minorities. Health Committee chairman Jon Peterson, of Berkeley, reported that third-world men represent over thirty percent of male AIDS cases nationwide, and third-world women constitute over seventy percent of the national cases among women.

An exciting "leadership conference" is bringing members to grips with the fact that white members and black members bring different styles to interracial gatherings. "No black meeting would be conducted in the formal and restrained manner in which these business meetings were conducted," commented Jim Ivory of San Francisco. "Blacks rely more on dynamic leaders," he said. However, the general sessions often resembled black church meetings, with whites picking up the spirit along with the blacks.

"A terrific high results from a gathering of 200 black and white men who know that the very fact of their meeting is unique — and who know that the causes they promote are just," commented Steve Dorrel, of Los Angeles, chairman of the convention committee.

Fired gay wins settlement

A gay man in rural Maryland has reached an out of court settlement in an employment discrimination case. Frank Rockford had claimed that Carolina Freight Carriers fired him solely because he is gay. Rockford was represented by Susan Silber and National Gay Rights Advocates, the San Francisco based public interest law firm. The case is the first claim of sexual orientation discrimination to be prosecuted under the Howard County Human Rights law.

Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said: "We had a very strong case against Carolina. It was in their best interest to settle. And, while this settlement doesn't set a new legal precedent, it does send a clear message to employers: If you discriminate you're going to be held accountable."

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, commented: "This case is a good example of the importance of local anti-discrimination laws and how we can successfully enforce our rights. I want to encourage gay men and women to file complaints when they have been discriminated against."

Susan Silber, NGRA's co-operating attorney in Maryland, said: "When the Office of Human Rights investigated the claim, they found probable cause to believe that Frank was fired because he is gay. This type of discrimination must end. People should not have to experience the psychological trauma of being fired for an irrational reason."

Rockford was with the Carolina Freight Carriers for eight years and held a managerial position when he was let go during a depart-

mental "Reorganization." NGRA had contended this was a mere subterfuge for discrimination.

Rockford considers the settlement to be a satisfactory compensation for his claim.

Scondras warns Democrats: "Reject us and we'll walk"

Openly Gay Boston City Councillor David Scondras, testifying before the Democratic National Committee's first Fairness Commission Hearing in Boston last month, warned Democratic Party leaders that to ignore justice for gay and lesbian people is to ensure defeat at the polls.

"Justice is not a peripheral issue," Scondras said, "It is the soul of our party. Justice is not political baggage; it is the best way to achieve real power and the only way to keep it"

Scondras drew enthusiastic response from the audience when he asked all gay and lesbian people in the hearing room to stand. Noting the dozens of gay people in the audience contrasted with the complete lack of gay and lesbian representation on the "Fairness Commission," Scondras said, "Here's the problem. Why aren't gay people included?"

Scondras went on to cite rejections by the national and state parties of gay and lesbian caucuses and outreach efforts, the governor of Massachusetts' ban on lesbian and gay foster parents, and the party's virtual silence on AIDS funding and policy as obstacles to full participation by gay and lesbian people in party politics.

Wild applause and cheering briefly halted the hearing when Scondras told the Commission, "As gay people, we are sick and tired of 'leaders' who want our time, our money, our creativity, our commitment, our work, and our votes, but reject us."

"When Democrats act like Republicans they force the groups they have abused and ignored to seek other independent channels to seek basic justice," Scondras noted, referring to growing gay and lesbian opposition to Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis.

Scondras is currently seeking re-election to his second term on the Boston City Council.

Surveys show anti-gay/lesbian violence

In a recent comparison of seven independent anti-gay/lesbian violence surveys, NGTF Violence Project Coordinator Kevin Berrill found that the results of the surveys had a high degree of correlation with one another. The similarity of results between the 1983 NGTF Violence Project Survey and six other separate surveys dramatically underscores the validity of the methodologies used for all seven projects.

The NGTF Violence Project Survey found that 20% of gay men and 10% of lesbians have been physically abused because of their sexual preference. Over 90% of the respondents reported having experienced some type of homophobia-motivated victimization. Results from the NGTF survey were used to gain support for a California bill (AB848) protecting lesbians and gay men from bias-motivated violence and harassment. The bill was signed into law last year. Earlier this year, the survey results were implemental in convincing the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to encourage its State Advisory Committees to examine anti-gay/lesbian violence.



Fall Into Phoenix Rising

Group Sessions

Gay Men's Therapy Group
Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m.

Therapy and Support Group for Gay Men and Lesbians Abused As Children
Thursdays 6-8:00 p.m.

Lesbians Molested as Children: Survivors Group
Mondays 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Orientation Group for Lesbians Molested as Children
Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Adolescent Children Living in Gay or Lesbian Households: Support Group
Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Phoenix Rising Group Program
Wednesdays 6:30-10:00 p.m.

Weekend Workshops

Lesbians and Gay Men Dealing With Chemical Dependency
Saturday, Sept. 14 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Gay and Grey Issues
Thursdays, Sept. 19 & 26 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Partners of Lesbians Molested as Children
Saturday, Sept. 28 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

How to Survive in Social Situations
OR
Everything You Wanted to Know About Small Talk
Saturday, Oct. 13 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lesbians in Transition
Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19 & 20
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Coping With Death and Dying
Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23rd & 24th
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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