

GAYS PROTEST BRYANT'S VISIT

TORONTO (CUP) - The National Gay Rights Coalition had asked the federal government to deny anti-gay crusader Anita Bryant entry into Canada, but she visited Toronto anyway Jan. 15.

More than 900 gay men and women marched in the street while Bryant delivered a brief address and sang hymns in an evangelical church at the invitation of its founder, Kenneth Campbell.

"The sole purpose of Anita Bryant's visit is to stimulate prejudice against lesbians and gay men," coalition spokesperson Mike Johnstone said in a Jan. 11 press release. "Her fanatical campaign against homosexuals has already increased the level of violence and intolerance against gays in some parts of the United States."

Federal Immigration

Minister Bud Cullen refused to act on the gays' request to deny entry, saying the Immigration Act would not permit it.

Johnstone pointed out that Ontario Attorney General Roy McMurtry last year asked the federal government to refuse entry to Northern Ireland activist Ian Paisley on grounds that Paisley's visit would only foster prejudice.

"We feel that the Bryant visit, like Paisley's, will simply encourage hatred," said Johnstone.

But Bryant avoided the

topic of homosexuality in her address to the congregation and stuck to God's love. "We never intended to make this visit into one against homosexuals," her husband said.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission has attributed one murder - the stabbing of Robert Hillsborough, a 33-year-old San Francisco man - to the hysteria generated by Bryant and her followers. Witnesses to the murder reported hearing one of Hillsborough's four assailants shout, "This one's for Anita" during the stabbing.

THE RETURN OF THE PANTHERS

The athletic department of the University of Prince Edward Island, after much consultation with the university community, has decided to play its remaining home hockey games at the Charlottetown Forum, as was originally scheduled. The department had earlier announced that Saturday's game against Mount Allison would be played at the University rink because it was felt that the UPEI student body had not supported the Panthers adequately at the Forum.

UPEI Athletic Director Ed Hilton said the switch was made back to the Forum because the Panthers wanted to maintain the link that they had

established with the local community. The UPEI Student Union, through president George McGibbon, felt that the wishes of the students leaned heavily towards remaining at the Forum. Hilton said that the work of the Student Union had a lot to do with the decision to remain at the Forum.

One of the main reasons for the proposed switch was that the UPEI Student Body had not supported the team as well as had been

anticipated. Hilton said that a survey showed that support for the team would not really change with the change in game location,

result of advertising

WOMEN SMOKING MORE

CHARLOTTETOWN (IIS) - The PEI Council on Smoking and Health, working with student councils, Allied Youth, the Red Cross, Public Health nurses and the local media will be promoting projects and activities to make people in the province more aware of the hazards of smoking. This year's National Education Week on Smoking was January 22-28 and it focused on women smokers.

The reason that women are being singled out this year is that smoking is on the increase among young women, almost a rampant increase. Not too many years ago comparatively few women smoked. It was the manly thing to do. But soon the "You've come

a long way, baby" type of promotion greatly increased the number of women smokers.

For one thing, anti-cigarette information was not aimed at women. Men were the ones who had lung cancer and heart attacks which could be linked to smoking. Perhaps women felt too secure. But the truth of the matter is that smoking-related lung cancer and heart disease are increasing dangerously among women while they are decreasing among men.

The death rate from lung cancer among women has doubled in the past 15 years, with the greatest percentage increase in the middle age, rather than in the older age groups.

Mortality rates for lung cancer in women is now about the same as those for men in the early 1940's - the takeoff point for the "male epidemic of lung cancer".

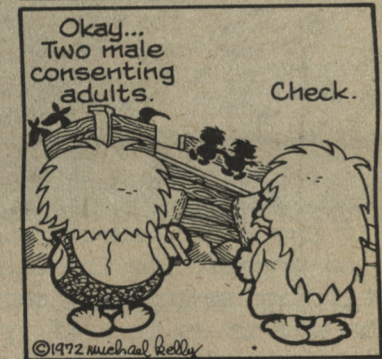
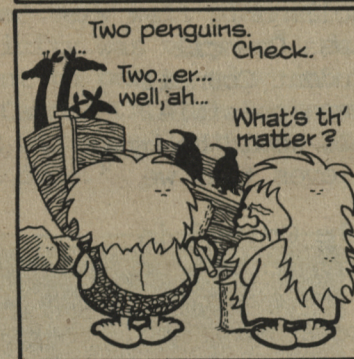
The foetal effects of smoking are very serious. It has been known for some time that babies of mother mothers who smoke tend to be born earlier and to be smaller. But this is just one aspect of it. Pregnancy complications are more numerous and more severe in mothers who smoke. It is estimated that 500 new-born babies die in Canada every year because of smoking mothers.

The problem does not stop at birth. On the average, if the mother smokes the child will be

more susceptible to respiratory diseases, will be slightly retarded in reading skills and psychological development, and will be more likely to become a smoker. This likelihood is doubled if both parents smoke.

Non-smokers are now the majority among males in Canada. This has taken place just within the past few years. The trend is strong and this non-smoking majority is growing. Unhappily this cannot be said about women, and the picture is worsening.

For more information, you can contact the Department of Health or the Department of Education or one of the voluntary health organizations.



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