

# Gay Conference

(cont. from p. 9)

One fundraising event has already been held in Memphis; another one is upcoming. "We desperately need people in other states to hold fundraisers and help us out financially."

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Rivermont on the Mississippi River. A conference registration fee of \$10 has tentatively been set.

The Committee has arranged convention rate accommodations in the hotel and hopes that most people can stay there. Some free housing in private homes is being arranged for people who do not stay in the hotel.

Exhibit space in a lockable room will be available to merchants. A

flat fee of \$25 has been set for commercial exhibitors, with no commission to be taken from sales.

People who want to conduct a workshop are asked to send their topic to the Conference '80 Committee.

Registration information will be mailed by May 1. People who did not receive the preliminary mailing in mid-March and who want to be included on future mailings should send their name and address to:

Conference '80  
P.O. Box 3038  
Memphis, TN 38103

Or call Bill Johnson in the evening at (901) 744-4453; this number will change in June.

(cont. from p. 11)

In a sense, his fear of loving is not only an individual dilemma but a problem of gay culture. Throughout history gay people have been prevented from establishing a tradition of complete reciprocal relationships, with the responsibilities of full emotional and life-committed personal bonds. Without such a supportive tradition, some gays are faced with the temptation of by-passing these new and frightening responsibilities for the simpler world of expanded sensual titillation.

For Max it is too hard to make love, so he "makes pain" instead, hiding fear and vulnerability behind a screen of aggression and an aura of super-machismo.

Only in the play's final scene is he able to articulate his love.

When Max is putting Horst's body in the pit at the guard's orders, it is the first time he has been able to hold Horst.

"I think . . . I think I love you. I think I loved (Rudy) . . . I think I loved him too. I love you. What's wrong with that?" he says.

## Bent

When, wearing Horst's pink triangle, Max commits suicide, his act is the ultimate defiance against the Nazis.

Sherman implies that Nazism was not the isolated result of specific political and economic circumstances but was the manifestation of a societal rage at the instability of the modern world. This rage still exists in potential--and is manifested in both the gay community and in the "mainstream."

In 1934 homosexuals formed a core of Ernst Roehm's "Brownshirts," the shock troops of Hitler's New Order. Having found the essence of ultimate masculinity in fascism, they went to celebrate the revolution they had helped to create, only to be gunned down by Goering and the SS in the "Night of the Long Knives."

When Sherman shows these things, he raises the question: Is fascination with power, strength, and aggressive machismo symptomatic of a mindset that opens the door to a new American Ernst Roehm? Who would be the new Goering, the new Hitler?

"It can't happen here," we may say. Sherman answers, "Why not?"

## Contact Numbers

Carolina Gay Association (UNC-CH) - Women call 967-2189; men, 929-4997  
 Chapel Hill Gay Men's Social - 942-3909  
 Chapel Hill Women's Potluck - 942-6886  
 Dignity-Chapel Hill - 929-3730  
 Dignity-Raleigh - 469-0373 or 851-8766  
 Duke Gay Alliance - 684-3043  
 Folk-dancing - Call Allan in Durham at 489-3798 or 688-8167  
 Gay Gathering - (Raleigh) 834-3302  
 Gay Students Union (UNC-Greensboro) - 274-4442  
 Metropolitan Community Church - (Raleigh) 787-1046  
 Raleigh Women's Coffeehouse - 832-3565  
 Triangle Area Gay Communication & Planning Committee - 834-3302  
 Triangle Area Gay Scientists - 967-9626  
 Triangle Area Lesbian Feminists - 942-6886