

Church OKs showing of homo film

For the third year in a row, the annual meeting of the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church has been challenged by the Gay Liberation movement.

In the latest development, the Church and Society Committee of the Conference authorized screening of a film dealing with homosexuality.

The screening will take place at 9 p.m. Tuesday. It will be on the same program that is to screen a film on amnesty for draft evaders.

Authorization to screen the film is not a sanction nor an endorsement of the homosexual movement but merely an "educational exercise," explained Jess Mothersbaugh, chairman of the committee.

Heading the Gay Liberation group that sought permission to show the film is Gene Leggett, a suspended Methodist Church minister who is trying to clarify his status with the denomination.

Monday afternoon Leggett appeared before the Austin Council of the Conference to protest his defrocking as a minister. He said he has asked Bishop O. Eugene

Slater for an appeal of the termination.

Two years ago, members of the gay lib demonstrated inside Travis Park Methodist Church while the Conference was in session.

At the May 31, 1971 Conference, the gay lib representatives invaded the church, got into a yelling match and finally were given 10 minutes to talk. The motion to allow the talk,

however, died, and a later one passed giving the gay lib representatives five minutes.

The group, at the time, said they were representing Leggett.

Bishop Slater, at the time, responded:

"We do not want to be thought of as rejecting any person. We may not agree with their life style, but we do not reject any person for whom Christ lived and died."

Last year, on the same date — May 31 — the Conference voted to table a 10-page report on the church and homosexuality. The study had required a year's work.

Under rules of the Conference a vote to remove from the table is expected to be made at the current meeting.

Oser again head of school board

HOUSTON (AP) — Dr. George Oser, a past president of the Houston School Board, has assumed the presidency again because of the death of Dr. Herman A. Barnett.

Barnett, 47, the first Negro president of the Houston

board, died Sunday when his twin-engine plane crashed after takeoff from an airfield at Wichita, Kan.

Oser, who was serving as vice president, was board president in 1971.

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