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Gay Pride Week draws to close on campus

By JONATHAN GILL

Tonight marks the close of Gay Pride Week, a series of events sponsored by the Columbia Gay and Lesbian Alliance (CGLA) designed to promote unity within Columbia's homosexual community.

The series included a screening of "Before Stonewall," a documentary about the beginnings of the modern gay rights movement, a discussion led by Bishop Paul Moore and a safer sex workshop featuring a film depicting safer sex techniques.

"Gay Pride Week helps us maintain a certain visibility on campus," said CGLA president Frank Elsea, CC '86. "We wanted to present a positive image of gay men and women on campus and to show people who are afraid of being gay or just coming out that we can lead hap-

py, successful lives."

Tuesday's safer sex workshop, sponsored by CGLA and the Gay Health Advocacy Project (GHAP) drew 70 participants. The three-hour session was designed to help participants develop positive attitudes towards safe sex techniques through group discussion and the screening of "Lifeguard", a film produced by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation depicting safe gay sex.

GHAP declined to allow reporters to view the film or attend the discussions following it, citing the need to maintain the participants' confidentiality.

Gregory Tiplady, CC '86, said that overall the film was successful because it encouraged participants to think about safe sex techniques.

Both Elsea and Tiplady said the audience found the film inspiring and non-erotic. The audience, they said expressed its dissatisfaction verbally throughout the film because the actors, former pornography stars, did not accurately portray the erotic possibilities of safe sex.

"It was awful," Tiplady said. "Everyone was turned off by the film."

Tiplady added, however, that the film was a good basis for discussion "in the fact that the workshop was as successful as it was because of the negative focus that the film provided."

Following the screening, the participants broke into groups and discussed and shared their feelings of anxiety and restriction about safe

sex, according to Michael Dowling, GHAP advocate and student at the School of Public Health.

Tiplady said participants expressed their concerns openly. "People were relaxed and open for the most part," he said.

Dowling said that at the end of the group discussions, participants thought up over 300 ways to make sex enjoyable and safe, which they posted on the walls of Earl Hall's Dodge room, where the film was shown.

On Monday night, The Very Reverend Paul Moore, Episcopalian Bishop of New York, addressed a group of 30 students and members of the clergy on the issue of homosexuality and organized religion.

Moore, who also serves as chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS, compared the present day plight of homosexuals to that of Jews and blacks in the past.

"A kind of dignity will come out of the AIDS crisis," Moore said. "It may have a deeply positive contribution in the lives of people."

William Doubleday, a chaplain at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, also spoke about his experience in counseling AIDS victims at the hospital.

Both Moore and Doubleday emphasized the church's role in comforting AIDS victims. The Episcopalian Church, which has ordained homosexual pastors, is the only major religious institution to support gay rights.