



ORGANIZED MAY 20, 1956
Fred W. Phelps, Pastor

Westboro Baptist Church and Library

3701 West 12th • P.O. Box 1886 • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66604
Office: 913/273-0325 Library: 913/273-0338

July 18, 1989

To the Honorables
Mayor, Council Members, and Chief of Police
City Building
Topeka, KS 66604

Dear Friends:

A malodorous sore with the scab off is open and running at the extreme southwest corner of Gage Park. It is a wooded area with foot paths and bush-shrouded coverts affording privacy for indecent conduct. "At any hour of the day or night," a park official told me, "male couples may be seen entering and exiting the area." He regularly passes along citizen complaints to his superiors, in vain. My children, grandchildren and I are offended and embarrassed by this flagrant situation as we bike and jog in the park.

Gage Park is officially touted as a wholesome family place, home of a "world famous zoo" and a newly-refurbished carrousel. To which we should all say, Amen. Gage Park also appears on a nationally-circulated clandestine "list", as a homosexual "rendezvous point" and "safe house." Out-of-state plates on the cars perpetually parked by the wooded area testify to the existence of this undercover "list." To which we should all say, Shame.

When President Reagan visited Governor Landon a while back, his motorcade passed by this wooded area. In preparation for the presidential visit -- and lest the national media focus on the shameful running sore of Topeka's Gage Park -- the area was purged of its unnatural visitors for about a month prior to and including the day of Reagan's visit. This proves two things: Our local leaders know of the situation, and they know how to clean it up when they want to. State police powers aplenty exist to fix it.

My question: Do you think Gage Park's running sore could be permanently fixed? Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Phelps

FWP:arp



CITY OF TOPEKA

Harry "Butch" Felker, Mayor
215 E. 7th Street Room 3502
Topeka, Kansas 66603
Phone 913-295-2805
Fax Number 913-295-2850

July 21, 1989

Mr. Fred W. Phelps
Westboro Baptist Church & Library
3701 W. 12th
P.O. Box 1886
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Dear Fred:

Thanks for your colorful letter concerning Gage Park. We are well aware of the situation. We cleaned it up when I was Park Commissioner, but it was allowed to return over the last four years. We are in the process of putting together a program to bring the situation to a halt.

Keep us posted.

Sincerely,

Harry "Butch" Felker
Mayor

HF:fr

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