

Discourses of Homophobia at the University of Alabama

Camryn Walker
Dr. John Giggie

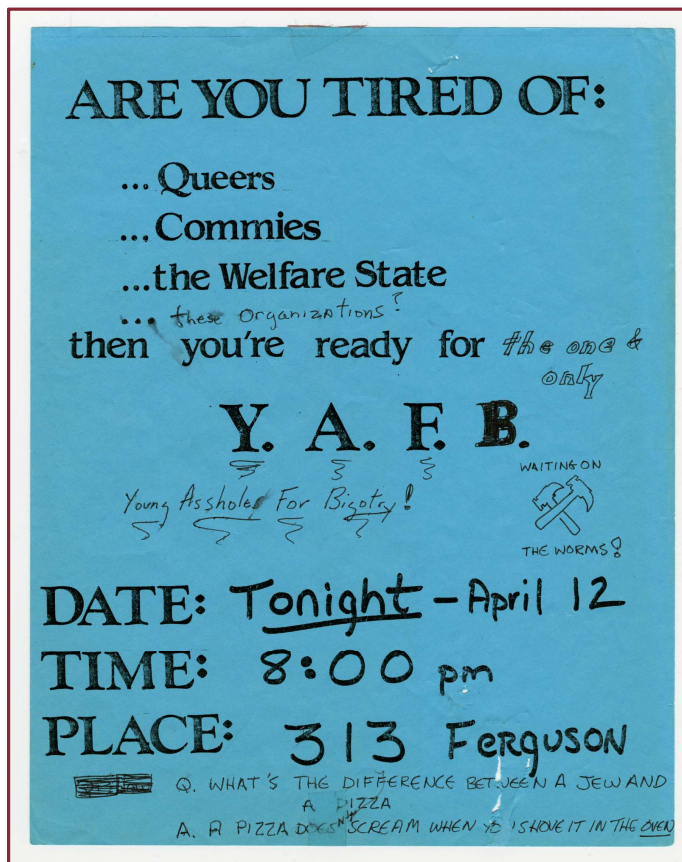
The University of Alabama + Invisible Histories Project

ABSTRACT

Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) were the radical edge of student opposition to the founding of the Gay Student Union (GSU) in 1983 at the University of Alabama, threatening both lawsuits and arrests against GSU members. Their critics included other students who, although they opposed YAF, also did not support the GSU, calling on the Board of Trustees to make it harder for the GSU to become a University-sponsored student group.

METHODS

I examined every published "Letters to the Editor" from *The Crimson White* in 1983, along with opinion pieces about the GSU and all correspondence between David Miller and Joab Thomas, UA President, located in the Miller-Stephens collection.



This image shows both the extreme YAF response to the founding of the GSU, and the backlash to the YAF.

"Let's say you don't like the Gay Student Union. Fine. But threatening legal action is going too far..." (*The Crimson White*, 1983)

"They (Young Americans for Freedom) are all extremists. I do not agree with them or their tactics ... but I also do not support the Gay Student Union." (*The Crimson White*, 1983)

REFERENCES

Miller-Stephens LGBTQ UA Student Organization collection, University of Alabama Libraries Special Collections

Frank Susko Papers, Birmingham Public Library, Department of Archives and Manuscripts