

This Passover

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

At sundown Monday, March 31, the Jewish people throughout the world begin the observance of Pesach, or Passover, the oldest and undoubtedly the most influential of the Jewish festivals. Known in Jewish tradition as Zman Cherutenu, the Season of Freedom, Passover commemorates the Liberation of the Israelites from bondage of Pharaoh in Egypt.

The term Exodus conventionally is understood to stress the physical aspect of liberation. But the Exodus from Egypt was more truly and profoundly an act of liberation from intolerable spiritual bondage. The Exodus involved unalterable opposition to the spiritual values of Egyptian civilization. In Egypt, the king was regarded as a god, a divine mediator; he was the source and master of the law of the land, never its servant. In that worldview, men and women were enslaved to the authority of mortal kings with divine pretensions, and were foredoomed to the whims of capricious and unpredictable cosmic powers.

The rejection of Egypt by Moses and the Israelites was thus a declaration of spiritual independence, an act of self-determination of a people to seek a life of human dignity, personal responsibility and hope. Hence the Biblical story of how a God of justice and freedom espoused the cause of brick-making slaves against a royal oppressor has become a universal parable, and a decisive turning point in the spiritual orientation of mankind.

But Passover celebrates not only the redemption as a past event; it is celebrated as much through the Jewish ceremonies as the Seder family service, as a present-day experience. And that is why this Passover, the plight of the Jews in Iran, the Soviet Union and of Jews in Arab countries will be uppermost in the minds and hearts of Jewish families everywhere.

When the fourth matzo of hope is uncovered at the Seder table, and when the words "Next Year in Jerusalem" are recited, these will not be acts of ceremonial remembrance of the ancient Exodus alone, but a fervent recommitment of resolve to the unending struggle for liberation and justice, until the Exodus of Soviet Jewry and that of all people who seek freedom and self-determination are realized everywhere.

Passover Observations

BY RICHARD MAASS
PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

As Jews the world over prepare to celebrate the Passover holiday, marking the anniversary of the first recorded struggle for national liberation, we are acutely aware of the many people throughout the world who are held in bondage

today. The front pages of our newspapers report each day instances of hostages being held against their will, either as individuals, or in groups, or even entire nations.

Our hearts go out at this season to our fellow Jews who are Prisoners of Conscience in Soviet Russia; to the Jews in the ghettos of Syria still subject to persecution and discrimination; and to Jews in other lands still oppressed for no other reason than the fact that they are Jews.

As we breathe the air of freedom in our American democracy, we are also particularly sensitive to events in Iran and in Afghanistan, two recent instances in which hostages have been subject to seizure. After thousands of recorded history, man seemingly still exhibits uncouth displays of inhumanity to his fellow human beings. The hearts of many modern Pharaohs are still unyielding to those whom they hold in bondage. The eternal hope of man to be free still must contend with oppression, hostility and injustice.



BLACK TIE AFFAIR...MRS. VANDAAN (MARY-AN STEPHENS) FUSSES OVER PETER'S TIE (CENTER, ROM WATSON) IN SPITE OF MALE RESISTANCE IN A SCENE FROM "THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK" BY FRANCES GOODRICH AND ALBERT HACKETT AT THE MEADOWS PLAYHOUSE MARCH 11 THROUGH APRIL 5. MR. VAN DAAN (VIC VALLARO) SUFFERS SILENTLY BUT HE IS DEFINITELY SUFFERING. THE PULITZER PRIZE WINNING PLAY WAS BASED ON THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, WHO ALONG WITH HER FAMILY AND THE VAN DAANS, SPENT TWO YEARS IN THE WARTIME HIDE-OUT FROM THE NAZIS. CURTAIN TIME IS 8:00 P.M. TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY WITH A 2:30 P.M. SATURDAY MATINEE. ADMISSION IS \$7.50 EVENINGS AND \$5.50 MATINEES, \$2.00 DISCOUNT FOR SERVICEMEN, STUDENTS AND SENIORS WITH I.D. DISCOUNTS FOR GROUPS OF TEN OR MORE. FOR INFORMATION AND TICKET RESERVATIONS CALL THE PLAYHOUSE BOX OFFICE 739 - 7525.

SEARCH FOR PERFECT "11"

The Frontier Hotel's search for the "Perfect" -- called "11" continues with hundreds of entries from around the world. Inspired by the success of Blake Edwards, "10," hotel PR Director Red McIlvaine launched a world-wide search for the girl who will be the zenith of fantasy. The deadline date for entries has been set for May 15, 1980. A two-day "Eleven-Off" event will be held at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas during the first week of June.

A panel of celebrity judges is being set, who will select the "11." The winner will be given a costarring role in the motion picture, "The Bounty Girls" to be filmed in Greece, and produced by Academy International of Beverly Hills. The film stars Caesar Romero, George Chakiris, and Fernando Rey with the story line revolving around the 'daring exploits of 12 beautiful pirate girls who strip a party yacht clean.

Some of the entrants are doing all they can to better Bo Derek, star of the movie "10." Some have braided their hair, been photographed while beach-running, and changed their names. One girl, who says, she has the most beautiful limbs in the world has changed her name to "Bo" Legs.

Another, with obvious assets selected "Bo" Hind.

Jack Meyer of Pacific Video will produce a one hour TV Special of the event with the host yet to be named. Special will include one day of location shooting, where the girls will compete in athletic events to earn points and final day in the Music Hall Showroom of the Frontier.

Assistance in judging is being set up with editors of Playboy, Penthouse and Gallery with coverage by People Magazine.

"Skin deep beauty is what we want," said Red McIlvaine, coordinator of "11." No talent is required, but would be a nice extra," he continued. "Radio and TV stations are asking permission to be appointed as "11" collectors in their area. We are delighted at the national response to an idea we thought would just be a nice local contest."

Those interested should contact the PR Office at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas or call 702-734-0385.

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