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## From the Archives of The Advocate

### August 2, 1972: Convention recognizes gay delegates, speakers

Today, gays participate in the national conventions of both major parties. In 1972, during the early days of gay liberation, a few brave gay men and women broke new ground by becoming the first openly gay delegates at the Democratic National Convention held in Miami Beach, Fla. Before daybreak on July 12, Jim Foster of San Francisco's Society for Individual Rights and Madeline Davis of Buffalo, N.Y.'s Mattachine Society stood at the

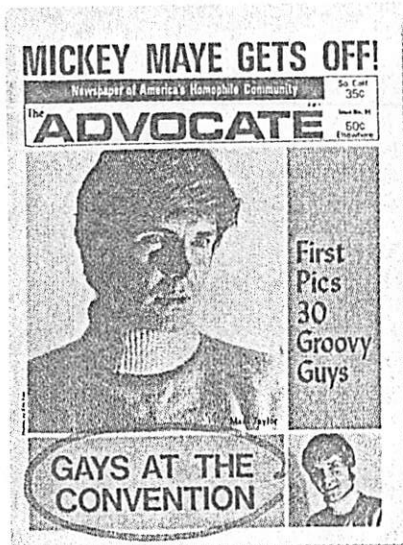
rostrum and, as *The Advocate* reported, "spoke seriously for nearly half an hour about gay rights."

With heady gay liberationist grandeur, the young "newspaper of America's homosexual community" added, "For the first time in nearly 2,000 years, homosexuals are back in the mainstream of the political process, stating their case before a national audience that has finally begun to listen."

"We come to you affirming our rights to participate in the life of this

country on an equal basis with every other citizen," Foster told the convention. He also urged passage of the "gay minority plank," which called for an inclusion of sexual orientation in antidiscrimination laws. Davis reminded delegates about the "20 million [gay] Americans who would vote in November."

The DNC overwhelmingly rejected the gay minority plank following an opposition speech by an Ohio McGovern delegate who linked gay rights with child molestation, pandering, and white slavery. —*Don Romesburg*



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