

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Education Committee Minutes*

Date: March 31, circa 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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The campus committee of the rural caucus met in Harrisburg on Wednesday, March 31st to set priorities for the coming year, and to review the work done since its founding.

The case of Sam Edmiston at Bloomsburg which began the work of the committee was resolved when Sam moved from the dormitory. However, a strong liason has been formed with Jean Boydston in the State Department of Education. Mary Nancarrow, Janet Cooper, and Sam Edmiston have met with her several times to detail the discrimination against Sam. The result has been a direct call to the Collège President by an aid to the secretary of education, apprising him of the department's concern for the situation on the Bloomsburg campus, and direct intervention by a few college officials on Sam's behalf in the dormitory itself.

It was revealed at this meeting that an in house (intradepartment) committee called the Pennsylvania Department of Education Gay Rights Advisory Committee has submitted to Secretary Pittenger a report and recommendations on gay concerns in education to be implemented this year by the Department. Janet Cooper and Tony Sylvestre have served as members of the Advisory Committee, and a call had been made for more gay representation.

The first task set for the campus committee has been to work closely with the in-house committee on the implementation of the recommendations. The second priority set for the campus committee is to gather as much documentation as possible of gay discrimination on campuses and in schools in Pennsylvania. Details of the report have not been revealed, pending the formal introduction of the recommendations as priority goals for the department. The present timetable calls for the Secretary of Education to make gay concerns a priority in mid-April. This will compel the whole Department of Education to realistically plan fulfillment to the goals. The report will be sent to all campuses and school boards in the State.

The report of the Gay Rights Advisory Committee will be discussed by Mary Nancarrow with the campus committee following the rural caucus meeting on April 10th.

The second and most important priority set off the campus committee is to gather as much documentation as possible of discrimination against gays, on campuses and schools, in order to affect changes in policy. Every member of the campus committee is urged to active contact with the campus persons they can reach, asking for documentation.