

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Documents Online

Title: *Gay Era* (Lancaster, PA)

Date: September 27, 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection Periodicals Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

GAY ERA

Sept. 27, 1977

FREE



FAG RAG

Dear Friend,

If you were looking for the September issue of the GAY ERA — so were we. We think we owe you an explanation:

On August 31st we were finally able to make an appointment with our printer. One week later (the issue was already very late) we found that they had printed it the wrong size.

Reason — They didn't have the right size paper to print the GAY ERA so they printed it on a smaller size. For some reason they didn't notify us.

We drove three blocks from the printer, turned around and unloaded the papers on the dock. We refused to accept what they had printed since that was not what we wanted in the first place. Deciding that it was already the beginning of the 2nd week of September, we changed the pages so we could have it re-printed as the October issue.

The next week we were told that they were phasing out small runs and we would have to have a minimum of 10,000 copies printed. They did recommend another printer to us. That printer decided not to print the GAY ERA because he didn't feel it would be fair to his employees. Why? Take one guess. At least he had the honesty to say so rather than giving us a run around the bush.

We then proceeded to find another printer. After making arrangements with a printer in Lebanon, driving there to drop-off the layout sheets and talking about those arrangements, we were called the next day and told to come and take it back. They decided that they didn't want to print it.

We have run out of printers in the area who had the machines to print the GAY ERA. We cannot have it printed at a quick printing shop because of the expense. We even went so far as to shop around Baltimore. We came home disappointed. No one turned us down because we were a gay publication. We just can't afford the prices they quoted.

We asked our printer to return the \$300.00 we had given them for the September issue since they require payment in advance. THEY WILL NOT! We are printing the letter we received from them which does not even come close to the reasons they gave us for not having a printer any more. By the way, they publish THE GUIDE. Please do not buy their paper.

We have given thought to giving up. We won't. We will not allow ourselves to be driven out of this state. We cannot disappear. One of the staff members has offered to finance a printing press of

our own if that is what will be necessary to insure that the GAY ERA continues. We hope to have a November issue soon. Please be patient. If you know of a printer who will not be offended by printing a gay newspaper, let us know immediately. You can call Dave Leas at 717-426-9811 any time.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to the Metropolitan Community Church of the Harrisburg area for allowing us to print this on their machine.

In the spirit of the GAY ERA...

*Harry
Martin
Dave*

Harry H Long
Martin Rock
Dave Leas
Gay Era staff



Fry Communications

West Street and Strawberry Avenue
Post Office Box 190
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055
717/766-0211

September 27, 1977

David Leas
332 North Mulberry St.
Lancaster, PA. 17603

David:

In regards to your complaint of a product that was too small we must find it unjustified. It was printed with other jobs and we could not do it on the larger paper because of stock problems. Had you not picked up then you could have a point for a refund, we accept the pick up as an acceptable job. Also had you not pushed our principals as we did not question yours you would have a printer now.

Please accept this letter as a thank you for your business.

Les Lutz
Les Lutz