

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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HOW Calendar:

June 7: HOW monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dan's, Linden. Call 398-7481 for directions. It is important that you make every effort to attend. Note: the last business meeting took just over an hour, so there will be time for a rap and social afterward.

June 29: Gay Pride Parade, New York City.

Report on the Network, and, HOW Visits HOPS

On April 19 five members of HOW visited the Penn State campus and participated in a full day's activities including the monthly network meeting, the film "Gay, Proud, and Sober," a dance sponsored by HOPS, and a visit to the Tomcat bar. The weather was warm and, added blessing, it brought out droves of the campus studs dressed in short shorts, and all so hunky -- Wow!!!

The Network people are already hard, at work, that is, on Pride 80, the annual state gay conference, set for October 3, 4, and 5 in Harrisburg at the Holiday Inn. It is not too early to reserve that date now and plan to attend. It should be bigger and better than last year, and we should have more from this area in attendance. Rodger Beatty and Mary Nancarrow are chairing the whole happening and would appreciate your help and advice.

Their spirit and enthusiasm show in their group's activities, the Central Pa. Gay Alliance, or CAMPA, which was referred to often throughout the meeting. John Zinsmeister in Pittsburgh reports trouble there in trying to co-ordinate, including a loss of money on two events that should have been blockbusters -- a Robin Tyler concert, and Conversations with Pat Bond. And the Lehigh Valley, normally quite strong in numbers and activities, was noticeably missing. HOW members can take some consolation; other areas are struggling too, even though on different levels.

Other topics included a discussion on the election and the positions of the state candidates; it was decided to invite Governor Thornburgh to speak at the September Network meeting. Future meeting dates are May 17, and June 14, and will be held at the Friend's Meeting House in Harrisburg.

The film "Gay, Proud, and Sober," is available free of charge through the Governor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse; call 800-932-0912 for information. This short but very worthwhile film should have a local showing. Anyone interested in arranging this should contact Dan. Churches and social service centers are some alternatives to the gay-bar scene in metropolitan areas, the film points out while admitting that one-third of the gay community has a drinking problem. The film states that we have to turn to gays to treat our problems, such as gay alcoholism, and not to so-called experts, and suggests that even AA chapters may not be able to help the gay alcoholic.

We wish to extend our congratulations and admiration to HOPS for their recent Gay Awareness Week Festival. This seems to be an annual and growing event, as last year it was just a weekend. It was concluded with a highly successful SRO concert given by Holly Near; a dozen members from Williamsport NOW were in attendance.

It's Letter, Writing Time Again

On Saturday, April 26, a CBS TV network special, "CBS REPORTS: Gay Power, Gay Politics" was aired. The ad, prior to the show, showed Robin Tyler's speech at our national march last October, as a positive indicator of an upbeat depiction of gay power. Boy, were we misled! The show portrayed gays as upper middle class white men who were sex-crazy, violent, and powerful. The absence of women and Third World people was only one of the show's shortcomings. The S&M scenes were lurid as was the segment about a park which gays had supposedly taken over as a trysting spot, thus frightening away children. Even the description of the role gays played in electing Dianne Feinstein emphasized the foreboding and misgivings straights are sure to feel in the face of gay power. Throughout the program gays were seen as promiscuous and ludicrously flamboyant. Gay groups and non-gay supportive groups across ^{the country} are mounting a letter writing campaign to CBS condemning the twisted impression the program creates in its portrayal of gays. You must write too. Send your letter to Audience Services Dept., CBS TV, 51 West 52nd St., New York City, New York 10019.

News and Notes

1. HOW has received a flyer announcing the availability of a new book, The Lesbian Path, edited by Margaret Cruikshank. It contains 37 autobiographical sketches celebrating lesbian strength and diversity. It contains sections on young lesbians, finding ourselves, struggles, mothers, Catholic tales, public lives, and adventures. Published by Angel Press, it can be ordered for \$6.95 from Caroline House, 2 Ellis Place, Ossining, New York 10562. Dan has reviews of the book and further information if you are interested.
2. A new national organization for social support for gay whites who are interested in meeting gay blacks and vice-versa has been formed. For information write to B.W.M.T., 279 Collingwood St., San Francisco, CA. 94119. (The group's initials stand for Black and White Men Together.)
3. A new national organization for political support based on grass roots organizing has been created as a result of last October's march on Washington, D.C. to further the cause and spirit of gay rights so much in evidence at the march. Called Lavender Left, the group is calling for a meeting on May 23-May 25. For information write to our own state network, Box 4031, Allentown, Pa., 18105.
4. The next major nationwide march for gay rights, other than the annual gay pride parades in June, is already scheduled to occur in July 1981. It is to be international in scope and will be a march on the United Nations in New York City. We'll be there!
5. A reminder that Dan is keeping an active correspondence file containing many newsletters from other gay and/or supportive organizations. We now have in our file a packet of material from the Gay Rights National Lobby in Washington, D.C. which includes material on how to lobby. There are also position papers from all the major presidential candidates elaborating where they stand on gay rights.
6. Want to go on a vacation trip with other gays? If you have a few thousand dollars that are burning a hole in your pockets (what else would you have in your pocket?), you might be interested in an organization which is planning trips to Greece, Germany, the East Coast Beaches, Egypt, India, and Nepal. Each trip is approximately two weeks long. The organization is Travel Motivators, 3 East 54th St., New York City, New York, 10022. Tell them HOW sent you; we get points for it.