

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Hello! Here is "HERE'S HOW" after an absence of several months. What if they gave a HOW meeting and nobody came? The answer to this occurred in June when no one showed up for the monthly meeting. Attendance had been meager in months prior to June, several regular members were away for the summer, and there was the usual summer drop-off in interest. So we decided to suspend temporarily the monthly meetings until members indicate a desire to meet. Likewise we put off publishing the newsletter until important material for publication came along.

This by no means indicates a lack of things happening on a national, state, or even local level. We hope all our readers have been following the many stories about gay activities in the straight press such as the very successful New York City gay pride parade in June; there were also items about gay Cuban refugees, the stands taken by the presidential candidates on gay rights, as well as numerous Ann Landers columns.

On the state level, the Pride '80 conference is shaping up. With our good friends and extremely hard workers, Rodger Beatty and Mary Nancarrow in charge, along with other network members, we are excited about the prospects for the weekend of Oct. 3-5 at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg. Seven HOW members have made definite plans to attend and we hope for even more. The workshops and speakers have been determined, as well as the registration fee which is set at \$18.00.

On the local level we are witnessing a steady exodus of both gays and straights from the area. Williamsport has lost 5,000 people in the last five years. Some folks you may know are now located in diverse places: Gary Norton, Cindy C., and Mike D. in Harrisburg; Keith N. is a deacon in an Episcopal church near Chicago; Rick S., Dale, Pat B., and others are in Houston; Eric B. was working in Harrisburg for the summer; Richard P. was vacationing in Vermont the past summer; Michael W. is in Chicago; and Jim M. is in Buffalo. If we missed you, please write and let us know where you are.

As for your newsletter subscriptions, we have always extended your subscriptions when we have skipped months of publishing. Many have been getting a free ride for too long anyway. With about \$150 in our savings account we are fiscally sound for the moment. But it takes money just to exist (about \$20 per month). We need your continuing support not only financially but more importantly as active, participating members of the organization. Get into the act! With so few active members at present, your role and influence could very well be decisive.

Enclosed with as many of these copies of the newsletter as we can, we are sending a pamphlet giving information about the Pride '80 conference as well as a registration form. We think that when you read the prospectus for the conference, you will want to join those of us who have already made plans to attend. Please do! It's a chance to meet gays from all over the state who share your interests and concerns. We might add that one other scheduled activity is a welcoming Hospitality Suite on Friday night hosted by Dignity of Central Pennsylvania.

Our Address: HOW, P.O. Box 1072, Williamsport, Pa. 17701

The address of the Pride '80 Conference is: Pennsylvania Lesbian/Gay Conference, P.O. Box 822, Federal Square Station, Harrisburg, Pa. 17101