

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Coming Events

Meeting - January 27, 1980 - 2PM Tom's House

N.E.P.G.A., with Tom's direction and Peter's assistance, made another step toward educating the public on understanding the Gay Community through a radio talk show called Speak Up. Speak Up, which is aired nightly by WBAX and covers a large variety of subjects, asked Tom to speak and answer questions on "The Rights of the Homosexual".

The program was aired with great enthusiasm, and the audience participation was greater than any other program they had aired.

Catherine, the announcer for the show, was equality enthusiastic especially when the show, which aires normally two hours, was given another half hour by the station manager.

Because of the large response, the manager asked Tom to do another show in April when the Networks have their ratings.

Good work fellows, we're all proud of you.

Also, anyone who may have missed the show can listen to the tape, if desired, by contacting Tom.

Because of the above and other publicity N.E.P.G.A. has been receiving, PM magazine may do a report on N.E.P.G.A. in the future.

Give and yea shall receive -- how true especially at Christmas time. Since supplying an add sheet to the newsletter, we've received a few thoughtful surprises. Our thanks to Washington Florist for the beautiful flower arrangements which adorned Tom's house for the Christmas Party, and Dolly's Catering for the delicious baked ham which we all enjoyed. Also, for those interested, The Times Printing Service will do any type printing at a reasonable fee to members of the organization (of course folks - this means no vulgar material).

At this months meeting, it was voted to put aside the profit from the 50-50 chances in a fund to be used to purchase a printing machine of our own. We especially would like to thank Linda for handling this for us at the present time. We really do appreciate what you're doing.

N.E.P.G.A. received happy news - J.J. is expecting a baby. Hon, all our prays are with you.

Election of new members was held with three for acceptance and one rejection. We welcome Carol, Jed, and Elizabeth -- sorry to say Bernie W. was rejected until further notice.

For Decembers meeting twenty-seven members were in attendance, with the close of the old year and start of the new, time to give some thought to new members. If you know someone who is not a member of N.E.P.G.A. but you think may like to be, why not approach them? Remember - "United we stand, divided we fall".

The past year has been very good for N.E.P.G.A., the coming year could be better but your donations are needed.

Following the regular meeting - elections of officers was held. Elected were as follows:
Director - Tom Schmidle
Sec.- Treasurer - Phil Weaver
Editor - Mary
Publicity - Patrick Lockett
Social Director - Judi
Legal Director - Bernie V.

Mary appointed Elizabeth as Co-Editor to the newsletter plus (2)
Jean and Carol to the committee.
Congratulations to all!

The winner of this months 50-50 was Richard Green. Some guys have all the luck.

With business taken care of, the annual Christmas Party was held. It was a beautiful affair with everyone in a festive mood. Food and drink were to be had, dancing, plus a sing along to Christmas Carols. The members that were present also signed a Christmas card to be sent to our boys in Iran, to show our support.

On Tuesday Dec. 18th at 10PM, ABC News Closeup presented a program titled: Homosexuals. It was to be "An intimate and unusual portrait of how certain gay men and women saw themselves", according to the brief write up in TV Time and Channel.

We of the Gay Community thought the show was badly done. One reason is the fact that a poor cross-section of gay people were presented. It showed mostly the negative aspects of gay life; and unfortunately this is the impression which will be left on the mind of the TV viewer. Also, they interviewed mostly swishy type gays who couldn't hide their homosexuality if they tried.

A woman was interviewed at a gay bar while another woman in the background appeared rather drunk; we found this to be quite tasteless too. Another interview, which was held in a male disco bar, showed a large majority of gay men without shirts. This, in itself, gives a bad impression of what gay disco's are like, it certainly isn't what we're used to.

The cities represented in the film covered the larger more populated areas in the U.S. In our opinion, showing smaller areas, such as ours with some settled types, would have made far more favorable impression on the TV audience.

Poem of the day

ONCE

Once I knew you not.
Now I feel I know you well.
Once you were on my mind occasionally.
Now you're in my thoughts constantly.

Once we shared our separate sorrows.
But now our lives seem to have combined as one.
Once we talked about our separate interests.
Now I find we're working for one common goal.

Once I fell and picked myself up.
Now I fall and find your hand extended to meet mine.
Once I hid my sorrow and cried alone.
Now I find the wonder of you giving me comfort.

Once I felt I walked alone.
Now I look and find you by my side.
Once with you I made a friend.
But now I look and find I've discovered love.

Elizabeth

"Welcome Stranger"

When I had to move my home in NYC to Wilkes-Barre, P.A. I thought that my gay identity would have to go so far back into the closet of my life that I would never again escape the straight world.

At first I was indeed very lonely and alone here but then a friend from Bethlehem told me about N.E.P.G.A. She had heard it through the grapevine that there was a swinging group of gays alive and well in my neck of the woods.

Well, I have only attended two meetings but already I feel as though I have found a home. And although not yet a member, of course, I look forward to lots of meaningful friendships and fun times with all of you.

It is so wonderful to see so many talented, beautiful, friendly, gay men and woman join together to give love and support to each other.

Rita