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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Report*

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PENNSYLVANIA RURAL GAY CAUCUS

P. O. Box 1505

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

The May meeting of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus will convene at 1:00 P. M. in room 225 of the Hertz Union Building (HUB) on the main campus of Penn State at State College on Saturday, May 7. Under consideration will be some budgetary matters and Human Rights Day, scheduled for May 24th, for which the Caucus has assumed full responsibility.

BYLAWS ENCLOSED

Copies of the Bylaws of the Caucus adopted November 6th, 1976 have been enclosed with this mailing. As these have been promised since since December of last year, we apologize that they are completed only now. On the other hand, space and time limitations have precluded their mailing with other issues of the newsletter. Additional copies are available upon request.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond the control of any person in the Caucus, the minutes for the April meeting are not available for publication in the newsletter.

Human Rights Day

Although the concerns of the Caucus are various and of great importance- each of them- the issues of Human Rights Day when we go to Harrisburg to lobby the Senate for repeal of the "sodomy" statutes, has to be the most important task we may ever undertake. Passage of Senate Bill #531, according to the best analysis the gay leadership can make hangs in precarious balance in every step. The judiciary Committee which now has the Bill is thought to be evenly split between those who will oppose it and those who MAY favor it. S.B. 83 which just passed the Senate missed by a single vote of being recommit to Committee. It then passed by an overwhelming majority, with only twelve votes opposed. There are many reasons why the vote to recommit is taken to reflect the temper of the Senate on Gay Issues. But, in lobbying, we have often found that legislators who would not have a gay policeman, would vote to repeal these laws.

Soon, an appeal for participants, money, and cooperation will be sent out. Five thousand copies are being printed for mailing both within the movement and to womens groups, ACLU, and others sympathetic to the cause. They will also be available to distribute in the gay bars. But, we haven't even the money to pay for printing, let alone for mailing and other costs for the effort. This one appeal will cover the costs of two Human Rights Days, the second being for the House of Representatives after it has been passed by the Senate. We are asking people to be generous both with time and money for this campaign.