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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



Keystone

"The Stone Rejected by the Builders Has Become the KEYSTONE." (Acts 4:11)

The newsletter of DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

After Anita Bryant, then what? What can we do? We can be embittered; after all, some of us, if not all of us have been hurt. A big boo-boo has been put on us. We trusted in the system; we gave of our time, our energy, and even our money. We opened ourselves up; we did all these things, and look what happened. Someone even told me they cried when they heard the news about the vote in Miami.

So now what do we do? Well, we could all retreat into our closets, take a step backwards and withdraw into ourselves as individuals or as a community. It would certainly be a lot safer than the risks that must be taken to carry on the good fight.

We all know how vulnerable exposure makes us and the subsequent pain that it brings. But even openness has its periods of joy and pain. I believe it was Emerson who said something to the effect that life is like a rose garden, the petals wilt and die and fall away but the thorns persist.

Even with the loss in Dade County, there is a certain joy, for me at least, in seeing that so many gay people took risks and got involved to bring about change. One person told me how he sent a check to the Dade County Coalition under the fear that someone in the bank he dealt with would discover that he was gay. It sounds like a bit too

Congratulations

Congratulations



Happy 2nd Anniversary!

much, but many people still live in pseudo-paranoic state. And unlike as some might fear, there'll be no witch-hunt.

The question still remains--what can we do? Well, I don't believe for one minute that any of us should be put back by what appears to be a loss in Miami. Certainly one ego-maniac religious fanatic nut can't put us down. After all, look at the gains we have made since that fateful hot summer night in June 1969.

Those who can will continue to fight up front and openly, but what about those who cannot. Should they be allowed to sit back and do nothing? I should hope not. They could at least put their money there their mouths are. I recently asked

ten people if they sent just one dollar to assist in the fight in Miami. And while all of them were drinking their screwdrivers and wearing their "Anita Sucks Oranges" t-shirts, not one of them gave a single penny. We don't need to cry or complain then about how terrible Anita is; at least she is taking a risk both financially and otherwise (God will get her).

Sure there are few around who can truly afford the risks of openness and exposure and who are willing to bear the pain. But there are fewer who are willing to support those that take these risks, and they're the ones doing the most complaining.

I for one have taken the risk, and I hope and pray I will be able to continue to do so till my death. No longer can we protect ourselves in cocoons of paranoia while others step on our rights to be free in the land of the free. No longer can we not afford to take risks.

In Dignity,
Jerry B.

P.S. Happy Second Anniversary to
DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania!

Telephone Tree

The board of directors is attempting to put together a phone tree for emergency communications. We need the phone numbers of all persons, members and friends, who wish to be alerted (and/or reminded) of meetings, legislative actions, picnics, workshops, etc. Everyone interested please take a moment and send your name and phone number in an envelope to our post office box, attention Phone Tree.

Notes from Paul

From the response given and the increased attendance at our last two functions, it appears that our last column was read and reacted to. May this author offer his thanks to all who were so supportive and generous in their comments on what we said. While the tide of apathy seems to have shifted, there is still a great way to go. It is our prayer that what has begun will continue,

gaining momentum, carrying this chapter to new heights of charity, of concern, and, especially, of action.

By now, you all will have received a special calendar of events for these summer months. As you can see, a quiet, relaxed time is being planned where we can simply enjoy one another's company and the good gifts God has given us in this world. Make no mistake, however; the summer season may be slow-moving, but this is the time when we shall form our programs for the fall and winter. Let us take these opportunities of leisurely togetherness to present ideas to one another and to sound suggestions out, thereby creating plans that will genuinely be a part of us and with which we shall want to be involved. No single person can monopolize insights into the directions this chapter should go. Surely we all have pet projects that could be developed into chapter projects. Share them with us and help to move that idea into a reality.

One idea that has come up is offering a short consciousness-raising session that would run one night a week for four to six weeks. These sessions would be either on a single topic or a group of related topics under a central theme with various 'group leaders.' Suggestions are also needed for the Saturday afternoon workshops as well as for some alternative activities for that monthly meeting day. 'Fund raisers' have to be organized to get the necessary extra income our chapter needs. Possible services for and concrete ways of providing those services to the Gay community are a major focus for the fall. What can you do for your brothers and sisters? Can you be unselfish enough to offer a part of your time, your talents, your self to help them? Since the Friday night liturgies seem rather hopeless, we need some alternatives for a second monthly meeting. Do we want a liturgy at this other meeting time or simply a social? Several members have expressed the desire to have 'at home' masses for the chapter, some, perhaps, during the week. And let us not forget, heaven forbid(!), that social functions for the chapter want organizing too.

Now there are a few ideas for us all to think about. What can we come

up with? What will we support? What will we work at? There is more method to this summer madness than most of us could guess. During the summer gatherings, let us all take time to reflect on where we've been in the past two years and where we would like to be in this new year coming up. Then, let's find a way to get there.

Finally, I wish to thank all who came to my home Sunday, June 19, for the cookout. My family and I enjoyed your company immensely and trust you too had a good time. A special 'thank you' to Aaron for bringing the extra chairs, and even more so, a thank you to Barry for providing the grill so we could have a cookout, for bringing over the music, and especially for being there when I needed you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you until we are together again.

Pax,
Paul

Election Alert

The election of new officers for DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania will take place in October. A committee has been appointed to prepare a slate of officers. We urge you to submit the names of people you recommend, or to consider running for office yourself. Please contact Jerry B. at 232-2027 for the telephone numbers of the election committee members.

Dates to Remember

August 14 (Sunday)

Picnic at Pine Grove State Park from 11 am until ??? Ecumenical Service with MCC at 5 pm.

August 23 (Tuesday)

Executive Board meeting at 7:30 pm at home of John B. Call Jerry B. at 232-2027 for address.

August 28 (Sunday)

Cookout at Barb and Sandy's at 6:30 pm. RSVP to Jerry B. at 232-2027 or Barb G. at 234-7364.

September 10 (Saturday)

A discussion of rape which will cover victimization, powerlessness, control, anger, and vulnerability. Film--No Lies. Discussion and film from 2 to 5. Pot luck supper at 5:30. Mass at 7 pm. All to be held at Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg.

September 25 (Sunday)

Mass/Social. Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg, 7:30 pm.

October 8 (Saturday)

Workshop, potluck supper, and Mass/Topic of workshop to be announced.

October 23 (Sunday)

Mass/Social. Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg, 7:30 pm.

**MCC meets every Sunday at 8 pm for worship at 1001 North Spring Street, Apt. 1-2, Middletown, PA and on Wednesdays for prayer and a CR group.

FLEA MARKET

8-2 Saturday September 10, 1977 8-2

NORTH STREET between 2nd and 3rd
(in front of the Neptune)

Please bring your items to Jerry B.
by September 9 or on the day of the sale.

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME

Advent Offering	45.00
Easter offering	50.00
Seder Offering	18.00
Memberships	324.00
Mass Offerings	139.56
Donations	25.83
Street Sale	30.75
TOTAL	\$633.14

EXPENSES

Printing	25.00
Rent of Building	25.00
Supplies	66.97
Postage Permit	85.00
Postage	55.04
P.O. Box Rent	25.00
Donation to Sister Kathleen for Kirkridge Retreat	50.00
Donation to Dade County Coalition	10.00
Refreshments	29.80
Memberships to International Office	214.00
Miscellaneous	2.39
TOTAL	\$588.20
BALANCE JANUARY 1, 1977	169.11
TOTAL INCOME	633.14
	802.25
TOTAL EXPENSES	588.20
BALANCE JULY 1, 1977	\$214.05

Coast to Coast

The Miami referendum and its results are history. But talk of defeat seems shortsighted. A look at the record suggests a more positive verdict. Anita Bryant has united the diverse elements in the gay community and infused it with a new sense of purpose. She has shaken it out of its complacency. Unwittingly, she has performed a valuable service.

Now a second and more important stage lies ahead. Confrontation must give way to education. A recent Gallup poll suggests a basic tolerance toward gays. But myths abound in the public understanding of gays and the gay lifestyle. Only a continuing, energetic educational campaign can expose these misconceptions and substitute realities.

Dignity chapter newsletters from coast to coast carried editorials that met the Bryant challenge and refuted her arguments. We would like to share some of these thoughts with you. Here's what they're saying in

CINCINNATI

Now that the smoke has cleared and the dust has settled, we can all start digging ourselves out from under the rubble of the Dade County debacle. What the media billed as the most important

battle to date in the struggle for gay rights is over and after thousands of hours of campaigning and thousands of dollars contributed and spent, what do we have to show for this effort?

First, never underestimate the power of fear and ignorance in swaying voters. The anti-gay forces in Dade County learned Hitler's lesson well: the public will frequently swallow the big lie. We must face the reality that gay rights are unlikely to be obtained by putting the issue to a vote.

However, the ballot box is still the place where significant gay rights efforts must be made. We must work for the election of candidates at all levels who will support gay rights legislation. We must work against homophobic candidates who block such legislation and we must effectively lobby fence-sitters into the realization that the concept of human rights includes gay women and men.

We need to take our fight to the courts to challenge existing laws and practices which deny us our rights. Hopefully, in this arena we can minimize the demagoguery and scare tactics which were used against us in Florida.

We need to mount a massive public education campaign both in the media and on a personal level to effectively illustrate the positive aspects of the gay lifestyle. To do this each of us must become better informed; we cannot combat lies unless we have the facts to refute them.

from The Cardinal
DIGNITY/Cincinnati

WASHINGTON

I'm depressed.

I'm working for equal rights for homosexuals in a country that hasn't really decided what to do with its Indians. That's a cheap shot, but it is hard to think of a minority that has been welcomed and well treated on first arrival on these shores. Even former South Vietnamese premiers end up looked down on by their neighbors. No majorities have ever voted for any other minorities. That's the catch: they're the majority 'cause there are more of them and they don't like you for some reason. Catch on?

Most minorities could do something

about it, though. They dressed properly; learned to speak English well and unaccented; straightened their hair; lightened their skins; and eventually married your sisters. The reasons you didn't like them disappeared. As an Irish-Czech by-product, I am now equal to my Anglo-Saxon lover because a few generations after my people washed floors for his people, there is no way to tell us apart, except he's shorter. That's assimilation. The Melting Pot.

The problem with Gays as a minority is we've got to do the whole thing backwards. We blend in all too well. So much so that your boss doesn't know any gay people and your sister only knows about the one who does her hair. And as long as they don't know any, they are free to dislike those foreigners in that exotic affectional preference group.

The story goes: what if we all turned purple one day? Most of us would try to put make-up over it. An accent, we'd lose. Hair or none, we'd fix, because nobody really cares all that much to be different in a culture that punishes deviation.

So how to be accepted? If we follow the assimilative pattern, we ought to be accepted now because we blend in so well. But there's that one identifying thing that we can't change: I love my fellow man. And that brings division because I'm not supposed to do that, for God's sake. I don't want to marry your sister, but I might be interested in your brother.

Jesus said there's be problems.

And answers.

One seems to be to remain honest. Not "excuse me, total stranger, I'm a homosexual," but "Mom, I'd like you to meet the man I love." Another is to appeal to fairness: muggers, rapists, dope addicts and former Nixon Cabinet members have their rights under the law. Perhaps even lesbians might be included in such illustrious company. It is 1977. Realistically, though, the only answer seems to be hard work and taking risks and perhaps getting hurt. Jesus didn't get his picture on all those holy cards until after he was crucified.

from DIGNITY/Washington

DETROIT

I ACCUSE Anita Bryant of being a rank demagogue who defiles truth.

I ACCUSE her of being a bigot who seeks to use the issue of sexual orientation for some form of profit.

I ACCUSE her of being the new self-proclaimed "Messiah" of the ultra-right-wing.

I ACCUSE her of being a religious huckster; using a truly perverted sense of religion to promote hatred.

I ACCUSE her of being the catalyst of a potential danger of mass sexual genocide.

I ACCUSE her of hysterical and inflammatory speeches which have only served to divide communities and families.

I ACCUSE her of inciting possibly dangerous and unstable forces which will quite probably mount physical attacks on gay leaders and the gay community.

I ACCUSE her of probably being the instrument of a grab for power by national right-wing forces.

I ACCUSE Anita Bryant of being the facade which serves as a front for an attempt to "ghettoize" gays and to engender repressive laws against gays!!

The air of repression is abroad in our land. Evil, masquerading as some form of "revealed truth," is grasping at the frail skeleton of democracy. We are now entering a "Time of Trouble" when our constitutional rights are being attacked and our God given dignity slandered and basely ridiculed. Now is not too early (and I hope not too late) for ALL gays to band together to fight the present danger. It is not being too alarmist to state that the trumpet-call of survival is being sounded. We have an inherent right to live as free men and women. We have a duty to safeguard our liberties and to route the anti-democratic forces symbolized by Anita Bryant. We live free and without the false sense of shame that our detractors would force on us!

The "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" ride through a troubled night of American democracy. Let not a Fifth Horseman (Sexual Repression) join them on their journey. The times demand a true sense of

loving, caring, and belonging within the gay community. Join us, Help us, and Pray with us so that in the immediate future the forces of our attempted repression will be totally routed and we may loudly and joyfully proclaim: "We have truly overcome!"

from DIGNITY/Detroit

BOSTON

I have always liked to rally around somebody, a symbol or a cause. Americans have rallied around "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember the Maine" for the cause of freedom. Our people now have "Remember Anita."

We have been an oppressed people for centuries but we still live on. What happened in Florida was like a massacre because of fear and lack of education. I wonder how many on the other side voted against their own loved ones because they "didn't know."

The largest newspaper in Boston, in an editorial about the massacre in Florida, said that our people might have lost a battle, but victory will be ultimately ours. God has made us and we will always be. Amen to the end of oppression and human rights for all.

Just the other day when Anita was in Virginia preaching about the ways of our people, more than 300 were so moved about what she was saying that they left together. Anita, in seeing this, was so moved that she cried.

Every day, in all the news media, something is being said about our people, for and against and everyone is talking about us like a household word. In Massachusetts, the state senate passed "House Bill 3676" to give our people some of our basic rights. If the state House of Representatives passes it, it will become "LAW" and our people will have some protection.

I always liked sayings like "God helps those that help themselves" and "We shall harvest the fruits of our labor." No matter how small we can contribute to the cause of our basic human rights, it's more than nothing.

Our people have come of age; we are coming out for we hear a voice in the wilderness crying "Let my people go." We are what we are by the will of God and

"We shall overcome" for I do believe that God does things in strange ways. "My people" will always keep their heads high in dignity no matter what.

Thank God and "Remember Anita."

from DIGNITY/Boston

LOS ANGELES

"Dear God, my Father, I know You sent Your Son to earth to teach me to love and forgive. I know I learned the first lesson, but I really am struggling with the second. I talk to You and I find love and compassion. Others say they talk to You and they spread a Gospel of "Hate and Loathing." God, WHO are THEY talking to?"

My dear friends in Dignity, He hasn't answered me yet. I know He hears me and I realize He sees what is happening. I am not a Theologian or Philosopher, but I think when His Son taught me to turn the other cheek, He was not telling me to fall in the mud. I think when His Son drove the money-changers and merchants out of His Temple, He was telling all to beware of His Wrath of those who, for their own benefit, use His House or use His Name to spread other than His Word.

I talked to my mom in Miami twice on the night of the vote in Dade County. I couldn't believe what was happening. I was depressed and in a rage. How could people believe the lies and distortions that Anita and the "disciples of hate" were spreading? After these few weeks I finally realize why.

People only know Gays the way she wanted them to see us. Who knows me? I go to work to pay taxes and the rent, I live with a loving man who has shown me all the happiness one person can handle, I join my brothers and sisters in Dignity to see the love of God and find that love spreading to me. I live in my own loving, safe world. I have taken all the riches God is giving but I have not repaid them like He taught me. I forgot that not all the Gay people of the world live in Los Angeles, San Francisco or New York. They do not have the advantages I have.

God taught me to stand proud and with Dignity. I refuse to give up my rights as a child of God or a citizen of

a country that has a constitution to protect all her citizens. I refuse to be the "Nigger" of the 70's. I refuse to be the pawn of an assemblyman who has achieved nothing in that position but wants to be governor. I refuse to let my child be schooled in the ways of Anita.

There are many organizations we can join to combat the "disease" spreading to California from Florida. Come with me. Help save OUR children. Help save MY child. Help save ME!

from The Gay Catholic
DIGNITY/Los Angeles

The KEYSTONE is an educational and communication feature of DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania, Inc. All opinions expressed are those of the individual author and not necessarily those of DIGNITY. Your letters, remarks, and suggestions are welcomed. The KEYSTONE is available free to members and friends of DIGNITY, and to others at a nominal charge of \$3.00 per year. Write: DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 297, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

Membership in DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania is open to everyone who wishes to see Christ's love extended to all women and men regardless of their sexual preference. Our members are women and men, gay and straight, Catholic, Protestants, and others. If you feel you would like to associate and contribute to this organization and its goals or if you wish to be kept informed of the gay movement in the Church, please let us know.

DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania meets twice monthly at stated times for Mass, socials, discussion groups, or other programs. All programs are open to interested persons.

Membership entitles you to receive our monthly newsletter, our International publication, DIGNITY, and associates you with a vital movement designed to bring all of us closer to each other and to God.

The Officers of DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania are:

President	Jerry B. (232-2027)	Members of the Board
Vice Pres.	Barb G. (234-7364)	Sr. Kathleen, Chaplain (717-582-2712)
Secretary	Paul F. (939-3531)	John O., Editor (Keystone)
Treasurer	John B. (233-8105)	Jan M., Editor (Keystone)
		Aaron S. Member-at-Large
		S. L. Member-at-Large

If you are interested in joining DIGNITY, please fill out the membership application and mail it to DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 297
Harrisburg, PA 17108

I wish to become a member of DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Dues are as follows: \$15.00 Single Membership
\$25.00 Couple Membership
\$25.00 or more Generous Person