

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

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## **Documents Online**

**Title:** *Dignity, Central PA Keystone*

**Date:** May 1979

**Location:** LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

**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](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)**



# KEYSTONE

DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania  
P. O. Box 297  
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Vol 4 No 4  
May 1979

"The Stone Rejected by the Builders Has Become the Keystone." (Acts 4:11)  
The newsletter of DIGNITY/ Central Pennsylvania

# WE SURVIVED TMI

**TMI Nuclear Catastrophe**  
leads the nation

JRB '79

**Life Vanishes to N-power**  
*Middletown:*

*Center of the Universe*

**The Agony**  
Hangs Over Area

Curfews lifted



**Daily life in capital city**

President, Governor Receive Briefing on Reactor

**TMI T-shirts**

Area Termed Safe for Pregnancies

**Bubble Builds**

River's radioactivity

Accident  
THE BUBBLE IS GROWING!

EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL!

WE CAN'T COOK THE COME!

PREPARE TO EVACUATE!

Radiation Threatens Our Area



**Disaster**  
harrisburg

**TMI EVACUEES**

What's Going on Here?



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Three Mile Island has been on my mind not only since March 28, 1979, but for the past ten years. I've been concerned about nuclear power and its uses for a long time, and what happened on March 28 did not surprise me; it angered me. In my opinion it was inevitable since power companies, as so much of capitalism, put profits ahead of human concerns. When I first heard of the accident at TMI, I became concerned, and my concern was deep because I had reason to believe that something more than a transient (accident) had happened. I felt deep down that Met-Ed was up to its old tricks of lying to the general public and possibly to the government. After all, at hearings on Reactor 1 and 2 they had lied about informing the public of the dangers of a nuclear power plant in their backyards. The fact lies with us that for 18 hours Unit 2 Reactor was out of the control of the operators of the plant. Death and life became meaningless, and the name of the game was profit at all costs. And I hadn't even seen China Syndrome.

What does this have to do with gay people? gay Catholics? As the events of TMI began to unfold like some fiction story and as individuals became aware of the danger around them and alarmed for the safety of themselves and their families, an eerie mood prevailed. It's hard to describe. Where was this danger, what will it do, and should I evacuate? Unlike floods which I had been through before, a radiation leak and the threat of a nuclear holocaust was an invisible partner. It was like discovering your gayness. At first I just couldn't put my finger on it, but I knew it was there just the same. Finally on Saturday night after so many had left town for parts or places unknown, including my brother, sister, and their families, I couldn't take it anymore. The eeriness and danger was there, but where? I began to ride around the countryside, finally winding up on the road just across the river from TMI, about 1000 feet away, at 5 am. There it was, all lit up like a glowing candle. It finally hit me that this invisible danger was real. It was like discovering my gayness was real, and like the first knowledge of my gayness, it was confusing and was uncertain. I knew no other gay person to help me with my struggle, and with TMI there wasn't another person around who knew anymore than I did. In my first coming out of the closet to myself, I felt pitifully helpless. After all, who could I turn to? Looking at Reactor 2 from the banks of the Susquehanna River also left me with the feeling of being pitifully helpless. And finally my first reaction to the knowledge about being gay was to run away. It was too confusing, uncertain, and frightening, and besides it was always the easier way. The same holds true with many people in relation to TMI--they just wanted to run away.

It seemed to be the only sane thing to do. But I didn't run away from my gayness but rather embraced it as a gift. I was not about to do the same for TMI. It was no gift to anyone, including us anti-nuclear people. I knew I did not want to experience another six days as I just did. While the confusion and uncertainty, the fright of the unknown, the helplessness and the desire to run away from the knowledge of my gayness only served to strengthen me, the threat of being wiped out by a nuclear accident only made me more angry and determined that I will do what I can to stop it from happening again. As I drove away from TMI that morning yelling choice epitaphs at TMI and Met-Ed, I already began to feel better. The eeriness began to fade away.

In dignity,  
Jerry B.

## FOR SALE RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

THIS UNIQUE PRIVATE ISLAND IN THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER OFFERS:

- \* FENCED IN ACREAGE APPROXIMATELY THREE MILES IN LENGTH
- \* ACCESS BY MODERN BRIDGE
- \* CLOSE TO SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, CHURCHES, AIRPORT, GOLF COURSE, AND STATE CAPITAL
- \* RADIANT HEAT
- \* TOTAL ELECTRIC LIVING -- COMES WITH OWN ELECTRICAL GENERATORS (ONE OPERABLE, THE OTHER NEEDS WORK)
- \* MAID SERVICE AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON (REMOTE CONTROL ROBOT)
- \* THIS NATIONALLY KNOWN LANDMARK -- VISITED BY PRESIDENT CARTER -- IS BEING SACRIFICED BY OWNER FOR HEALTH REASONS!

CALL NOW!! HOT BARGAIN!! WON'T LAST LONG!!

(PHONE M.T. EDISON, 944-3902, MIDDLETOWN, PA.)

## WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR



...Dinner (Dutch Treat) at the Riverboat, South Front Street, Wormleysburg, on Saturday, May 19, at 8:30 pm. If you plan to attend, please call Father Sawdy (238-5380) before 9 pm on Friday, May 18, so that he can make reservations.

Gay Switchboard of Harrisburg needs volunteers. For information, call 234-0328.



# REFLECTIONS

Jesus was condemned as a blasphemer by the highest religious authorities of His day. They appreciated that He was a tender and compassionate man. He wept at the tomb of His friend, Lazarus. The law demanded that the woman caught in adultery should be stoned to death. That was bloody business and they were glad that He had intervened on her behalf. If this law, which had come from God, had not been carried out in this instance, they could nicely shift the blame from their consciences to Him.

But, when He claimed to be the Son of God, equal to the Father, that was too much. The implications of such an idea were preposterous. This would imply that the transcendent God, who rules the universe, is caught up and shares somehow in our sorrows and sufferings. This would imply that God would even set aside His sacrosanct law to show compassion and mercy to a poor sinful adulteress.

So, they condemned Him as a blasphemer and said: "He deserves to die."

Twenty centuries have passed. The dilemma of the Pharisees and other religious people of the first century is still with us today. The Good News is that God has revealed Himself to us through and in Jesus. God the Father tells us: "Look at my Son and realize that He and I are identical. Just as He is loving, tender, compassionate, patient and understanding, so am I."

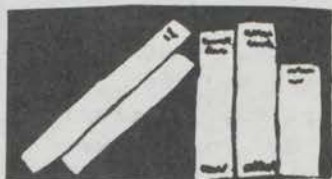
That's the Good News. Many find it too true to be true.

Society says to the homosexual: "You are sick, sinful, criminal." God says to the homosexual: "I love you."

Those who fear gay people and want to ostracize them won't believe that. And, unfortunately, many gay people will not buy that either. They have been told so often that they are sick, sinful, criminal, that they have come to believe it.

DIGNITY's task is to convince our gay brothers and sisters that the Good News--too good to be true--is true.

Father Sawdy  
DIGNITY/Co-Chaplain



## KEYSTONE GAY LIBRARY

Brown, Howard

Familiar Faces Hidden Lives: The Story  
of Homosexual Men in America Today

Brown, James R. and Butwill, Rev. N.

Religion, Society and the Homosexual

- Enroth, Ronald M. and Jam'son, Gerald E.  
The Gay Church
- Gramick, Sr. Jeannine, Nugent, Fr. Robert,  
Oddo, Fr. Thomas  
Homosexual Catholics: A Primer for  
Discussion
- Krantruwitz, Arnie  
Under the Rainbow--Growing Up Gay
- Kopay, David and Young, Perry Deane  
The David Kopay Story
- Nugent, C. Robert S.D.S. and Gramick,  
Jeannine S.S.N.D.  
A Time to Speak--A Collection of  
Contemporary Statements from U.S.  
Catholic Sources on Homosexuality,  
Gay Ministry, and Social Justice
- Martin, Del and Lyon, Phyllis  
Lesbian/Woman
- McNeil, John S.J.  
The Church and the Homosexual
- Warren, Patricial Nell  
The Front Runner
- Warren, Patricial Nell  
The Fancy Dancer
- Weinberg, Dr. George  
Society and the Healthy Homosexual
- Woods, Richard  
Another Kind of Love--Homosexuality  
and Spirituality

The Keystone Gay Library is a service of DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania. The library is open to members only. Material may be checked out by contacting the secretary. Items may be kept for one month only. Donations either financially to purchase books or of books on gay subjects are gratefully appreciated.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT  
January 1 - March 31, 1979

Adjusted Balance, 1-1-79	\$216.29
Receipts	183.00
Expenditures	237.70
Balance, 3-31-79	161.59

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 1 - April 25, 1979

- The following did not renew their membership:  
Robert S. William K.
- The following have renewed their membership:  
Jerry B. John A.  
Joann G. Richard F.
- We welcome the following new members:  
Joseph B. William C.  
Richard H. Shirley H.  
Linda Z. Donald P.  
Colin K.

The total membership of our chapter is 27.  
Father Sawdy  
Treasurer



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 17 (Thursday)  
Bible Sharing/Prayer group at Father Sawdy's home, 920 Green Street, Harrisburg, at 7:30 pm.
- May 19 (Saturday)  
Mass for the Gay Community at Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg, at 7 pm followed by dinner (Dutch Treat) at Riverboat at 8:30 pm at South Front Street, Wormleysburg (north of the Harvey Taylor Bridge). See article for further details.
- May 25-28 (Friday-Monday)  
DIGNITY East Coast Conference in New York City.
- May 31 (Thursday)  
Bible Sharing/Prayer group at Father Sawdy's home at 7:30 pm.
- June 2 (Saturday)  
North Street Sale. See article for further details.
- June 6 (Wednesday)  
DIGNITY board meeting at Jerry B.'s at 257 Boas Street, Harrisburg, at 7:30 pm.
- June 17 (Sunday)  
Mass for the Gay Community at City Island, Harrisburg, followed by a picnic. Mass is at 4 pm. For picnic bring food to share with others.
- July 15 (Sunday)  
DIGNITY/Central Pennsylvania's Fourth Anniversary Picnic at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Details to be announced later.
- August 31-September 3 (Friday-Monday)  
DIGNITY National Convention in San Diego, California

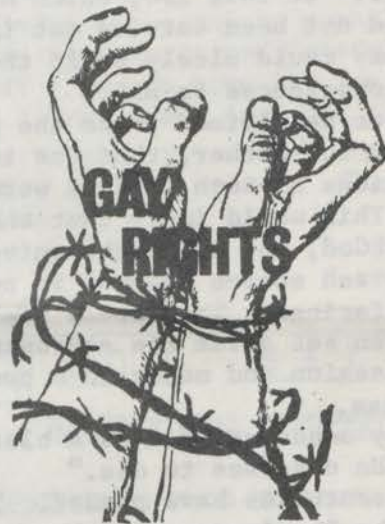
For further information about the calendar or any other announcement, contact Jerry B. at 232-2027.

### FLEA MARKET

Keep DIGNITY in mind as you begin your spring housecleaning. Items are needed for the upcoming Flea Market Sale on June 2. Let us recycle your discarded treasures. The money will be used to underwrite the expenses of DIGNITY-sponsored summer events. For more information, contact Jerry B. (232-2027) or John B. (233-8105).

WATCH FOR OUR "SUMMER WITH DIGNITY" PROGRAM

## The elusive dream



## FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand--one belonging to him and the other to the Lord. When the last scene had flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints and noticed that many times along the path there was only one set of footprints in the sand. He also noticed that this happened during the lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk all the way, but I noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you most, You deserted me." The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Author unknown  
DIGNITY/Los Angeles