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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

cover



GAY COORDINATING SOCIETY OF BERKS CO.

JUNE 1976

GAY PRIDE MONTH

June is Gay Pride month. And we urge all gay people everywhere to be conscious of their special heritage. Eight years ago, on June 27, 1969, the modern homophile movement was born, when GAY people fought the police in protest against a raid of the Stonewall Bar on Christopher Street in New York. The Stonewall Riots, as they have come to be called, lasted for three days, but the spirit has lasted for years. The young (radical) groups which sprung up overnight took over from the older (large and conservative) groups like Mattachine and One of Los ANGELES. The leadership and much of the membership of the movement. They were "out".

This month, two important Celebrations of Gay Pride invite your attendance. G. C. S. will be there. And would be proud if you were there too. March with G. C. S. in Gay Pride 76 in Philadelphia and New York. Look for the G. C. S. Banner!

We will be marching with other groups clustered behind the banner of the Rural Gay Caucus. See you there!

ALTERNATIVE BOOKSELLERS

A feminist bookstore featuring pocketbooks, crafts, jewelry, posters, records, T-shirts, and a complete selection of non-sexist children's toys and books.

Ten North Fourth Street, Reading, Pennsylvania 373-0442

June 1976

E.R.A. FREEDOM TRAIN by Jan Sweat

On May 14, 1976 five hundred women, men, and children from the Eastern states packed themselves and their luggage aboard an Amtrak train to travel to Springfield, Illinois for the first national rally for the Equal Rights Amendment. This writer was among the travelers and would like to relate some of the feelings that were shared by this large group of wonderful people.

In Harrisburg at 10 P.M. our train linked up with other trains from New York and Washington D.C. Television cameras focused on all sizes, shapes, and colors of women carrying candles, chanting, singing, and showing their concern for the passage of the E.R.A. Upon departure from Harrisburg we learned of a small group of women that missed the train in New York due to car trouble, however, THESE WOMEN DETERMINED WOULD BE TAKING A PLANE AND MEET WITH US IN PITTSBURG AT 4A.M.

Upon arrival in Chicago, Illinois, after fifteen hours of traveling we were greeted by camera crews and reporters from NBC, CBS, and ABC television. We were televised marching and singing from the train to the eleven buses that would carry us for another four hours to Springfield.

The rally, held Sunday, did not consist of the people from our Freedom Train alone, but of 12,000 women, men, and children from over 30 states who traveled hundreds, and some, thousands of miles to show the citizens of Illinois that people everywhere want and need their support and their state's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.



THE GLASS DOOR



221 N. 5TH ST.

373-9062

This month, G.C.S. is initiating two great programs passed long ago. The first is our Speakers Bureau. Letters are going out this week to organizations all over Berks County announcing that we provide speakers on the topics of Gayness, Lesbianism, Gay Liberation, and Feminism. But, we aren't really ready. You can help by volunteering to represent gayness to straights. No experience is necessary. The best sales pitch is just be yourself. Naturally you have to give some thought to your presentations, but only You can do it. Gays are the experts on GAY.

The other program becoming a reality for G.C.S. is its library. A very small seed has been planted by a few members which we would like to see grow. Six books, so far, (all paperbacks) have been donated to the G.C.S. library effort. They are, The Persian Boy by Mary Renault, Lesbian Woman by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, Sappho Was a Right on Woman by Sidney Abbott and Barbara Love, The Rights of Gay People by the ACLU, The Gay Mystique (on male gays) by Peter Fisher, and the 1964 gay classic, City of Night by John Rechy. Many, many more books are needed to make the library even a small collection. We suggest that dusty books on your shelves don't liberate anybody. Share a little.

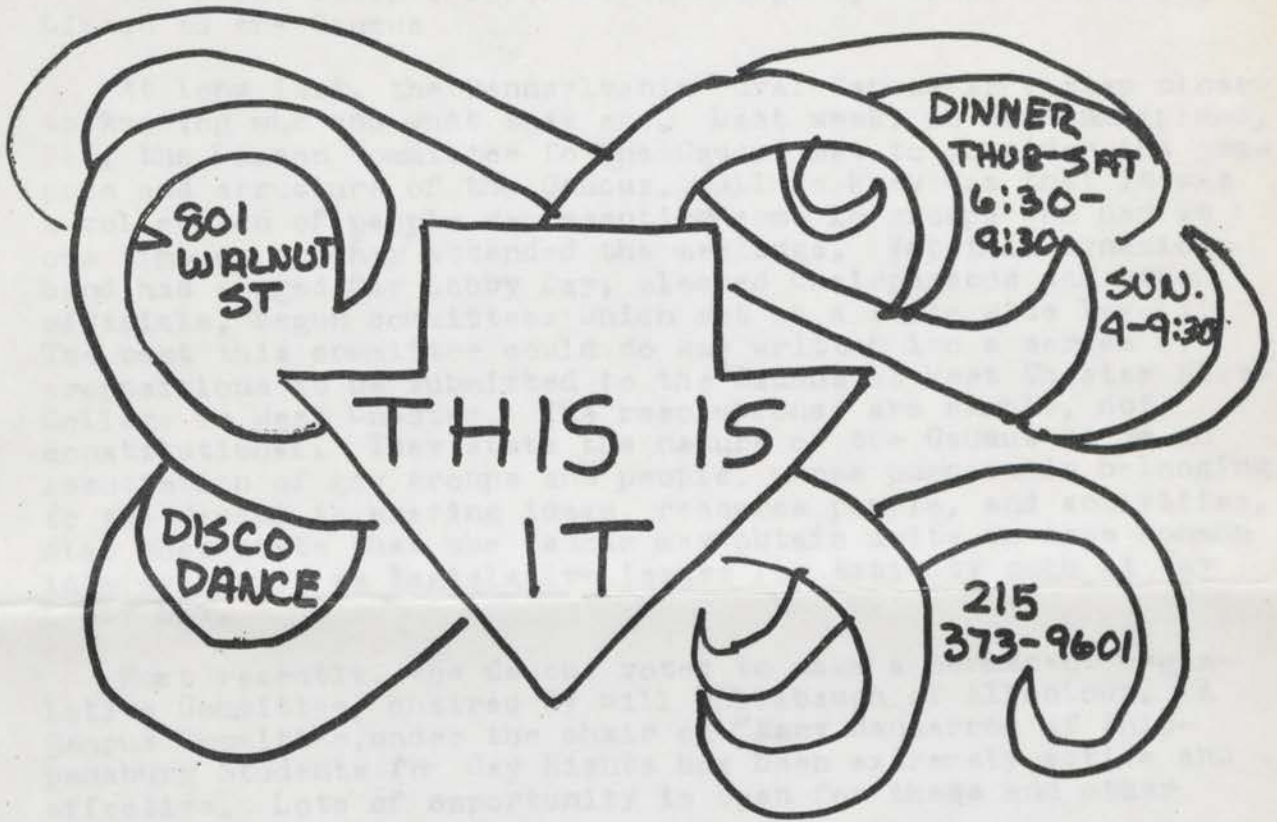
G.C.S would like to plan a weekend at the shore. We need a approximate idea of how many people would like toggo, so we can determine if it is feasible or not.

If you are interested call Sue 372-2811 or Jo 373-3643.

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| June 20th | Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M. 616 Locust |
| June 27th | General Meeting, 7:00 P.M. 616 Locust |
| July 10th | Rural Caucus, 1:00 P.M. Friends Meeting House, Harrisburg |

PATCHES

Anyone who still has patches please turn them in to Sue. Also give her the money for any you have sold.
Thank You



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL

A really exciting opportunity has come out of the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities. Committees are being formed to deal with the work of the Council, and hundreds of volunteers are needed for them. We have often said that the Reading Community had a lot to offer in committee workers. They sure have done a lot for G. S. S.

The Council is in a position to do some really exciting things in this state through Committees on Legislation, State Police, Liquor Control, Health and Welfare, Corrections (Prisons), Youth, Education, Finance, Community Relations (with gay groups), and a Task Force on Transsexuals, Transvestites, S & M, Fetishists, et al. Most of these Committees meet during the day with State Representatives present. All of them, however, meet other times as well. And there are to be subcommittees to extend the work further. We would be happy to lend some of your talents to the State.

To qualify for the Council committee, send resume letter telling a little about yourself to the following address:

Tony Silvestre, Chairperson
Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities
110 East Foster Avenue, Apt. 401
State College, Pennsylvania

The Rural Caucus, reported by Joseph W. Burns, the G.C.S. Liason to the Caucus

At long last, the Pennsylvania Rural Caucus is a step closer to knowing who and what they are. Last week, in Northumberland, Pa., the Liason Committee fo the Caucus met to consider the pun* pose and structure of the Caucus. All we knew was that it was a collection of people representing some 16 groups who had at one time or another attended the meetings. Yet this dynamic band had staged Gay Lobby Day, elected Chairpersons and other officials, begun committees which act on a state wide level. The best this committee could do was written ino a series of propositions to be submitted to the Caucus at West Chester State College in West Chester. The resolutions are simple, not constitutional. They state the nature of the Caucus to be an association of gay groups and people, whose purpose in belonging to the Caucus is bharing ideas, resource people, and activities, Also they state that the Caucus may obtain unity on some common interests such as legislative issues for activity such as Gay Lobby Day.

Most recently, the Caucus voted to make a permanent Legislative Committee, chaired by Bill Hollabaugh of Allentown. A Campus Committee, under the chair of "Mary Nancarrow of Ship-pensburg Students for Gay Rights has been extremely active and effective. Lots of oppportunity is open for these and other committees.

The first elected Chairperson of the Caucus, Ray Stickles d GUL in Lancaster resigned even as he was conducting an election for a woman Co-chair the Caucus with him. So, at this meeting another election is being held for male Co-chairperson. Joe Burns, Council member of G.C.S., and Ken Burke of LE*HI-HO are the only announced endidates, so far. For friends who may be worried, Ray is moving to Boston.

The Caucus is almost as much fun, and as interesting as G.C.S. Last time at State College, I was the only Reading person there. Would love to see some more people from G.C.S. turn out for West Chester.

Joe

Oops! forgot to mention that Ruth Steck from Sunbury was elected as the Co-chairperson last time.

MON-SAT
143. N. 10TH ST.
READING
RED STAR
SALOON
3 PM TO 2 AM