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Title: *Here's How Newsletter*

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HERE'S HOW

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During June HOW had its regular monthly business meeting, a social, which was a picnic supper, and a special speaker. The picnic was tureen style and served as a guide for the upcoming larger picnic on July 9.

HOW members voted to make two contributions to outside sources. \$25.00 was sent to the Dade County Coalition in Florida to help in the crusade against Anita Bryant. A \$10.00 contribution was sent to Joe Burns c/o the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus to help reduce the deficit incurred through Human Rights Day.

HOW CALANDAR::

July 9: Rural Gay Caucus meeting. Picnic at 1:30, Dan's, 659 Beeber Street. Picnic is tureen style; bring a platter and a friend. Open to new members.

July 11: Political meeting, Gary's, 656 Beeber Street, 7:00 p.m.

July 21: Regular monthly business meeting, Dan's, 659 Beeber Street, 8:00 p.m.

August 4: Regular social meeting, 8:00 p.m.

August 18: Regular monthly business meeting, Dan's, 8:00 p.m., 659 Beeber Street.

POLITICAL:

HOW is hosting the July meeting of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus. It will be held July 9, at 1:00 p.m. at Dan's, 659 Beeber St. This is the first visit by the caucus to Williamsport and we are delighted to host the meeting. HOW members are asked to help cater and serve a picnic for those attending, and hopefully, more HOW members than usual will sit in on the business meeting. Co-operation is needed and gratefully appreciated.

Gary, Linda, and Pat recently visited Senator Henry Hager's office in Harrisburg to speak to him about Senate Bill 531. The bill has been tabled by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

SPEICAL EVENTS::

Tony Silvestre's recent talk at the Brown Library was exceptionally well attended, with a capacity audience of approximately 50 people. Many regular HOW members were present, as were members of NOW, part of a WACC class, and others.

Tony told of his own coming out and beginnings in gay activists groups. He gave a brief, interesting history of gays in America and

Germany, where they were persecuted.

In February, 1976, the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities, of which Tony is chairperson, was created. He summarized the three main purposes as "to end all kinds of discrimination, to educate the public, and to accept complaints."

Some inspiring quotes from the speech: "Raising the expectations of gay people is the goal now." "We need to stand up." "We need to be active, and creative." "We need to keep our dignity, and to keep screaming." "Our greatest oppression is our silence."

HOW - To Change A Life

Is it possible for a gay organization to change a life? Yes, and this is my story. I am personally and eternally grateful just for the existence of HOW, the Homophiles of Williamsport, which has brought the greatest change in my life to date.

A gay organization in this city was something I had desired for some time. I am very pleased to have been in on the first regular meeting, to see its beginnings, and to watch it grow. It has grown substantially in its nine month existence. We have grown steadily in size and stature among our fellow gay organizations.

But I'm writing this to tell a little of myself, and not of the group. How has HOW changed my life? Not really being a bar person, my acquaintance with fellow gays in the area was very limited. Also, it was a lengthy process for me to "come out" and be myself, and to accept myself as I am. This coming-out process would have been strengthened, no doubt, by gay friends and alliances, as it has been recently. I hope that others do not have to suffer unnecessarily in the closet for years.

I have really come into my own as a gay person during these months. I have established several very close relationships, which are near and dear to me. I have formed what I consider to be a family around me, and we are together quite frequently. This social aspect has been tremendous for me, even just getting together in my home or others.

My only hope is that HOW will continue to grow and to help others to be free to be themselves, to discover themselves at an earlier age than I did, and to make beautiful lasting friendships and kinships. My love goes out especially to those who, upon reading this, will know who and what I mean.

Daniel E. Maneval

IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE, have a VD check up - now.
Call Penny Cupp, State Health Department, 326-2681.

You can write to HOW, P. O. Box 1072, Williamsport, Pa., 17701.
We want your suggestions and criticisms. Where do you want to go?