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Report on February 5, 1980 Meeting

We are still here and alive, but At this meeting plans commenced to dissolve the HOW organization as such, pending the successful creation of a steering committee to analyze and to foster a new and better organization to serve our area and its gay people.

Five members were present at this meeting, four of whom were active local voting members. There are at most five or six voting members total at present. All decisions reached were unanimous in the two hour meeting.

The two major concluding motions are being published here intact for everyone's perusal:

1. That HOW commit itself and advertise the creation of a steering committee, to become the recipient of all HOW's resources, for the purpose of forming a new gay organization in the Williamsport area.

2. Be it resolved with the successful establishment of the steering committee, the present officers of HOW tender their resignations, thereby fully entrusting their offices to the steering committee.

Via this newsletter we are advertising for members of this committee. We are actively seeking a committee to be between six and ten people. Dan stated that the ideal combination would be two members from HOW (non-officers), two members of Williamsport's NOW chapter, and two other individuals concerned about the gay community. Gay and/or non-gay people may be on the committee.

A date for what could very well be the last meeting of HOW was set for Saturday, March 8, at 7:30 at Dan's new location in Linden. Anyone not knowing directions and desiring to attend should call 398-7481. This meeting is not to coincide with a meeting of the steering committee nor is it to be construed as a first meeting of such. Members of the steering committee or those interested may attend, however. A small scale social hour will be held after the meeting. However, no one will be admitted after 8:30 (we want to avoid having people show up only for the social).

Other business and discussions did occur. The throwing of a brick through the front window of Kelly's Bar (the gay watering hole of Williamsport) was compared to Dan's former attacks. Dan stated that "No one and no thing can seem to declare itself openly gay in this area without such events happening." Dan wished to issue a challenge to all organizations reading this, and especially the state-wide network, its members, and NGTF to tackle the multitudinous problems of being gay in rural and conservative areas. Thousands of lives have not even been touched by HOW and many are still very isolated and alone.

Also, Eric mentioned that all gays and gay rights supporters should boycott the movies Cruising and Windows for their anti-gay themes and their poor portrayal of the gay lifestyle. Dan mentioned that Cruising, with Al Pacino, is scheduled soon for the Lycoming Mall theater.

Also Dan wishes to remind everyone that Pat Bond will be appearing in Harrisburg on March 15. Please contact him to arrange a car pool or two.