



Cork Gay 9/84
Collective News
c/o 24 Sullivan's
Quay Cork (tel. 967660)

With the lack of a regular newsletter, the absence of the Conference/Campaign meetings - we thought it would be useful if we put down on paper and circulated information about what we are doing at the minute, what our needs and priorities are and what we would like to see happening. We would like to hear from other individuals and groups in different parts of the country. We feel that this kind of written communication would lessen our sense of isolation and would make our infrequent get togethers more useful because each group would be aware of what the other is doing and thinking.

Meetings every Thursday at 8.00 in the Quay Co-op. Five of us have been involved for a good many years. New people have been coming along recently and this is encouraging. Most of us have a lot of other commitments: to the Quay Co-op., the trade unions, Criminal Justice Campaign etc. There is a separate Lesbian group and we work together on specific projects such as Lesbian/gay pride week.

The social situation for gay men in Cork is not great: there is no gay bar, one friendly bar (Loafers); discos. at McCurtain St.; the Co-op provides a bookshop, cafe, a "centre"; the loos are now locked at 6.00

Recently we changed the organisation of our meeting so that 6.00 to 7.00 is for business and 7.00 to 8.00 is for discussion on topics such as relationships, living in a straight world etc. Up to now all the meetings were taken up with business. This was felt to be unsatisfactory, sterile, too impersonal and meetings became a chore. So we decided that the Collective as a unit would not take on so much work and where a group of people were interested in a particular project they would meet/organise separately but keep the Collective informed.

This arrangement has worked fairly well. the discussions have been enjoyable/useful but they have been difficult at times because of different ideas about their role, lack of preparation and the difficulty of speaking about the usually unspoken parts of our lives.

A lot of our business is around the issue of "information". We have circulated groups colleges etc with information relevant to gay men, offering speakers etc. We are getting material together for the Alternative Ireland Directory. We are looking at how the potential of the Co-op bookshop could be developed more. We are preparing a short list of books to be circulated to libraries and bookshops. An ad. will be put into Hot Press for a postal service.

We will be involved in the anti-Criminal Justice days of action

Finance is a major problem, we have none and a lot of debts. Quare Times will about break even.

There is a general agreement that we should look more to our own needs and that local work should be our priority. We feel that we have tended to ignore the local situation and that if it is not growing/strong it is not good for ourselves and also it does not make much sense to be concentrating on national issues.

There is also a feeling that we should be more analytical before we take on new work i.e. questions like "what do we hope to achieve?" "is this feasible given our energies and resources?" We hope to be more determined and realistic and less "all over the place".

We tend to be isolated from many of the gay men in the city - for this reason and because of our own need for a good social and to raise money we would like to organise a social offering something different. This would take a lot of work and commitment.

We are still waiting for feedback on the draft submission to the Minister for Health but we will go ahead by the end of the year in any case.

The ad hoc trade union group is discussing basics and preparing a report on the Waterford meeting.

As regards relationships between groups we would like:- better communication - to meet more people more often whether through workshops or socials - co-operation on projects

LEAFLETTING IN →
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