

March 25, 1984

Dear Rick Rudy/High Tech Gays,

Thank you for joining the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals. I will start including your address and news in the NOGLSTP newsletters. We were not specific, but I assume High Tech Gays wishes to be a Supporting Organizational Member. That means sending \$25 to LAGLS for membership dues. I would appreciate it if you could send the dues (if you have not done so already). I expect an active and large High Tech Gays to participate in the national scene. Feel free to make written contributions to the NOGLSTP newsletter. I have asked LAGLS, WAGALS, and HAGLES to send their newsletters to you.

I am sorry to hear of the governor's 11th hour veto of AB 1.

Ed Sebesta sent a letter to LAGLS and me, asking to join "NOLGS". I have enclosed a copy of my response for your information. This is a sensitive topic, and it ultimately comes down to whether Ed will heed the advice and restraint of other coordinators. If he wishes others to listen to him, he must listen to them. If Ed does not wish to heed others, it is best that LGAES-San Francisco and NOGLSTP remain separate.

Sincerely,

Joe

Joe Schreiner, Chairperson
NOGLSTP/GATES
PO Box 14138
Chicago, IL 60614
312-929-9538

cc: NOLGS to Los Angeles
P.O. Box 38582
Los Angeles, CA 90089

February 22, 1983
Edward H. Sebesta
219 Clipper St.
San Francisco, CA 94114

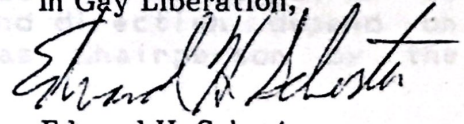
Lesbian & Gay Associated
Engineers & Scientists (LGAES)
P.O. Box 4247
San Francisco, CA 94101

NOLGS
c/o Joe Schreiner
GATES
P.O. Box 14138
Chicago, IL 60614

Dear NOLGS:

It is our understanding that our groups affiliation with NOLGS is merely accomplished by our stating that we wish to be an affiliate of NOLGS. LGAES wishes to be known as an affiliate of NOLGS. Currently are three major projects are the workplace questionnaire (copy enclosed), work on the issues relating to the professional societies, and anti-Gay technology as used by psychiatrists. We are currently organizing Gays Against Psychiatric Assault (GAPA). This will be split off from LGAES as a wholly independent organization for all Gays interested in the issue. Please list us as an interest group for the professional societies and the issue of anti-Gay technology.

In Gay Liberation,



Edward H. Sebesta

cc: NOLGS in Los Angeles
P.O. Box 39582
Los Angeles, CA 90039

March 31, 1984

Edward Sebesta
L.G.A.E.S.
PO Box 4247
San Francisco, CA 94101

Dear Ed,

I received your letter about joining NOGLSTP. We need to discuss some matters.

NOGLS has adopted a charter, established structure, selected officers, and changed its name to NOGLSTP. We are a federation of local gay-tech/science groups with individual members scattered through the USA. I am the Chairperson, Ken Wilson of LAGLS is Treasurer. NOGLSTP has a national committee composed of a representative from each of its supporting (dues-paying) organizational members. The national committee determines policy and structure. The supporting members are LAGLS, GATES, HAGLES, and WAGALS. High Tech Gays is in the process of joining as a supporting member. I have consulted with the coordinators of all NOGLSTP locals to ascertain their wishes, situations, goals, and commitment. NOGLSTP is national and broad-based. The committee structure allows more coordinators to contribute to the national scene.

If LGAES were to join NOGLSTP, it should be as an organizational member, preferably supporting. It would then have the same status as LAGLS, GATES, or the other supporting members. It cannot be the merger of two "national" organizations. NOGLSTP is a federation of relatively autonomous locals; its movement and direction depend on what we see as our common good. I serve as Chairperson by the approval of the other major coordinators.

This structure observes organizing realities. Individual gays and lesbians, for the most part, are brought into the gay-tech network by local coordinators, not a national coordinator 2000 miles away. It is the efforts of local coordinators that make or break a local organization. The local coordinators, for the most part, are also the ones most interested in participating in the national scene. They are in the best position to present national policy on the local scene. It is the local coordinators that broaden the horizons of the individual, who would otherwise care only of local matters. Any viable national gay-tech organization must be based on dialog and consent among the major local coordinators. The local coordinators are also the source of future national officers. A committee of 6 dedicated organizers will have an easier succession process.

There are other realities. No one normally remains in an organization where there is no say in its direction or structure. Local coordinators are the means by which individuals express themselves in national matters. No one remains with an organization when there is no open accounting of income and expenditures, or where services are erratically delivered. In organizations like ours, members will only do or contribute what they want to do or contribute. They cannot be harangued into action; they must be persuaded and convinced. Nobody assists a project they think is unwise, or in which they had no input. Vehemence is no substitute for dialog. If one wishes to be heard, one must be willing to listen.

This leads to a principle you must accept to be a participating member of NOGLSTP. You must heed the advice of the other major NOGLSTP coordinators in national matters. You must be willing to work with the other coordinators, not against them. NOGLSTP cannot have a shooting loose cannon. I am accountable to the other major NOGLSTP coordinators, and I abide by their wishes. You must be equally accountable.

Given this principle, what are the issues to be resolved? There are many. They involve coordinators, projects, and methods. They must be resolved by dialog with all the supporting member organizations.

One issue is the AAAS. You are being counterproductively combative with a relatively enlightened professional organization. The AAAS allowed other gay-tech groups to meet at conferences, referred inquiries to them, and issued a positive statement on gay-rights in Science magazine. You seem obsessed on harassing them on contrived grounds with picketing and poorly-written letters. Several GATES members have asked me, "Why don't we have contact with the AAAS?". All I can say is that we once did, but the relationship has been poisoned by another group. This combative attitude also seems to be the driving force behind your contacts with other professional organizations. Consider GATES's letter to the ACM. We made a reasonable request, signed by ACM members. We received a response. Have you received a response from the AAAS?

Another issue is your obsession with combative tactics. The AAAS and professional organizations are examples of this. You also have written letters challenging Jerry Falwell, SEEQ representatives, and others to debate you under conditions absurdly favorable to yourself. You demand responses to poorly-written, vitriolic letters. Your diatribes reflect poorly on other gay-tech organizers. Of what benefit is this? Why is a picket your standard approach? We are not personal picket squads. What will happen when you make a actual threat, and legal action is taken? Are we at NOGLSTP to be responsible for these actions?

Another issue is the anti-gay science project. Science and technology are not inherently anti-gay. There is only technology that is used against gays. Pupilometry is not inherently threatening, only possible applications. Pupilometry could even be used for gays, to help individuals "come out", to realize their gayness. When I presented your anti-gay science ideas to GATES members, many thought it inappropriate, for the reasons I've given. It is easy to chant "anti-gay science", but what do you really mean by it? You can't expect us to rally around an empty phrase.

Another issue is the poorly-written letters you send at the slightest pretext. Your correspondence is replete with misspellings and poor grammar. What type of image do you want to present? Your letter asking to join NOGLSTP has "NOLGS" instead of "NOGLS", "organizint" instead of "organizing", an incorrect possessive spelling, a missing sentence subject, and other clumsy phrases. Your very letter to Governor Deukmejian has "valueable" instead of "valuable", "theorectical" instead of "theoretical", a floating "a case of", missing commas, and other faults. Do you think such a letter makes a good impression on the governor or professional groups?

Other issues could be confined to LGAES alone, but are likely to
ect NOGLSTP. LGAES has been run erratically. Twice in the last
years, no newsletters came out of LGAES for four-month periods.
ES members outside San Francisco hear nothing of the organization.
n you dropped out during the summer of 1982, LGAES members were
ally disenfranchised. LGAES also seems to waste alot of money.
n we spoke of the Scientific American ad, you stated that you
eived 20-25 new members because of it. Its minimum cost was \$1500.
members means \$625 in membership dues. So you lost at least \$900
that venture. Yet you talk about doing it again. Meanwhile, you are
ogged down amidst your workplace questionnaires with no funds to
rocess them. Some coordinators have questions about your judgement.
t is well and good to state opposition to anti-gay discrimination,
ut the cases that come before us have different merit. In your rush
o combat over Ghilvai's case, you first stated that Seeq circulated a
defamatory brochure. You then had to retract that statement.

You do make positive contributions, however. You obviously put
the most time and effort into gay-tech organizing. Your enthusiasm
and willingness to work are precious commodities. With other gay-tech
groups, I must worry about torpor. I have no such worry about LGAES.
You have also acquired much relevant information, and have many
contacts. No one can deny that we would all be better off if there
were one, not two, national organizations. It is better that we work
together. For me, the optimal solution would start with LGAES a
supporting member of NOGLSTP, with you as its representative in the
national committee. Ken Wilson and I would still handle the
organizational matters. You would then be free to pursue special
projects, with the advice and consent of the other supporting members.

There are two possibilities before us. It all depends on whether
you want to work with a national network, or separate from it. We can
continue the status quo, where you run your affairs, and we run ours.
Or you can work with the other coordinators, and join NOGLSTP. Either
of these options is better than a meaningless "affiliation" where we
still operate separately. The decision to permit LGAES to join NOGLSTP
is not mine alone. I am willing to abide the judgement of the other
supporting members. May I suggest that you further your dialog with
LAGLS, WAGALS, HAGLES, and High Tech Gays? I have written alot, and
we need to discuss it personally. I will call you in a few weeks to
discuss these matters. You can call me before then, if you wish.

Sincerely,

Joe Schreiner
GATES/NOGLSTP
PO Box 14138
Chicago, IL 60614
(312)-929-9538

Copies to: LAGLS
WAGALS
HAGLES
High Tech Gays