

Gaytek  
P.O. Box 1351  
New York, New York 10185  
March 21, 1987

Dear NOGLSTP Board Member:

At its meeting earlier this week, the Gaytek board, comprising Steve Peduto, Bill Blumberg, Barry Weinstein, and myself, regretfully but unanimously voted not to renew our membership in NOGLSTP for the coming fiscal year. Since there was a small amount of money left over from the NOGLSTP conference call budget for fiscal 1986-1987, it has been divided seven ways among the original full contributors. A check is enclosed for those contributors and an accounting for both full and part contributors.

Most of the reasons for our not renewing were spelled out in the letter you received recently from High Tech Gays, whose decision we fully support. However, we would like to add the following: Joe Schreiner, in his letter to you, implied that he had asked for an insignificant amount of money during the February conference call. Those of us with better memories will recall he asked for \$1,200 over and above the annual dues, a rather large sum for most NOGLSTP member organizations. It was poverty, not piety, that was behind the suggestion that Joe engage in fundraising beyond the member organizations. Of course, an accounting for the expenditures that led to that request, should it have been seriously intended, is entirely reasonable.

The conference calls, far from being contrived to prevent real business from being accomplished - and why would anyone contrive to do that? - were intended to make NOGLSTP a meaningful organization, with the full participation of all member organizations. We needed to talk directly to each other, not through an intermediary who might be entirely self-interested and who should have been responsible, not just accessible, to all of us. As for the implications in Joe Schreiner's letter that he was purposely shut out of the February call, I strongly suspect that he was, but that he was himself responsible for the "troubles" on his telephone line reported to me by the conference operator. It would be idiotic of me not to include him on the call - the fact that I didn't can be easily verified with the conference operator - whereas he has been vociferously opposed to the conference calls from the beginning and, as can be elucidated from his recent letter, has tried to discredit them, if not to sabotage them outright.



In light of the present circumstances, it is difficult - and wrong - not to engage in personalities. Joe Schreiner has needlessly alienated an increasingly large part of the activist gay technical community, first the members of his own regional organization, GATES. and now those of at least two other regional organizations, High Tech Gays and Gaytek. Several years ago, he responded to the friendly overtures of Ed Sebesta of LGAES with a vicious, vituperative attack - all in an effort to remove a rival more imaginary than real from the national scene. His idea of leadership is autocratic, his scruples nonexistent. He writes his own report card and modestly gives himself an A-plus. And he seeks to be a force on the national gay rights scene.

His stated plans to initiate activities with the IEEE, ACS, NCC, and ASA, apparently intended to cheer us, should make us apprehensive instead. It is up to those of us who no longer belong to NOGLSTP to make it clear to the outside world that Joe Schreiner is not talking for us and is not our chosen leader. Moreover, it is up to us to monitor his activities on the public scene and ensure that he fails to use the gay rights movement for his personal benefit. And it is up to those of us who remain in NOGLSTP to ask themselves how they can continue to support a relationship with him.

*Mort La Brecque*

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for Gaytek