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LGBT History Project  
Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

**[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)**

# The Lancaster Inqueery

**We really do need your help. Please join the Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup on Sat., Aug. 24**

Volume 3, Issue 3

July/August 1996

**FREE**

compliments of the Pink Triangle Coalition

## Sexual Minorities are Still Unprotected in Lancaster.

Five years ago, the Lancaster City Council added the protected categories "sexual preference" and "marital status" to the city's non-discrimination ordinance. In response, the Lancaster County Commissioners disbanded the City - County Human Relations Commission and formed an HRC that doesn't recognize the two added categories. 1991 was a year of development for the local queer communities: many people came out of the closet, our straight allies came out in support of us, The Closet bookstore opened and closed (after two fire-bombings), the Ku Klux Klan marched against us, and the Pink Triangle Coalition was formed. Five years later, PTC is still here and still needs your involvement, queer awareness is on the rise, and Lancaster City and County residents still aren't protected from employment, housing, education and public-accommodations discrimination on the basis of sexual preference or marital status. In May of this year, city residents Jean Kreider and Andy Spedden addressed City Council and the County Commissioners about this problem. While Commissioners Terry Kauffman and Paul Thibault stated their opposition to "special rights", Commissioner Ron Ford spoke publicly of his support of equal rights for all citizens. At City Council, Council members Billie Jo Herr and Ollyn Lettmen urged

Council President Ted Darcus to form a committee, to find a way to enforce the city's ordinance. In June, Councilwoman Herr made the request again, in a memo to Mr Darcus. In a recent interview, Ms. Herr told "Inqueery" that no action has yet been taken on the request. She encourages "Inqueery" readers to write to Mr Darcus and other Council members at: (name), Lancaster City Council, 120 N. Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17602. Ms. Herr also asked that more citizens speak at City Council meetings on this issue. City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday nights every month, at 7:30 p.m., at 100 S. Queen St., Lancaster. At the County level, we must keep pressure on the Commissioners to add "sexual preference" and "marital status" to the County law. You may write to them at (name), County Commissioners Office, 50 Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17602, or attend their meetings every Wednesday morning at 9:15 a.m., on the third floor of the County Courthouse (50 Duke St., Lancaster). Our elected officials must be told how discrimination impacts our lives! Unless they know, and unless we keep the pressure on them to amend and enforce the laws, we'll continue to be targeted for unfair treatment. Securing our rights means your help and involvement are needed, for yourself and for everyone! ▲

## New York City, What a Trip!

On Sunday, June 30, 1996, The Pink Triangle Coalition took a bus trip to the New York City Gay Pride celebrations.

After getting up way too early in the morning to meet the bus at 7:00, we were entertained on the ride by the MTV's Singled Out game show- the gay version. Questions like "would you prefer a chapstick lesbian or a lipstick lesbian," or "what is the more annoying gay stereotype- hairdresser or interior decorator" kept us enraptured while travelling.

When we arrived in New York, we were all on our own to do whatever we pleased. Some chose the gay pride route, some chose shopping, and some visited friends.

For those of us who chose the gay route, we were given the annual parade and festivities. Always campy, always daring, always loud and extravagant, the parade showed all facets of our gay lives in gorgeous color. There were many drag queens, beautiful muscle boys and girls, bands, floats, political figures, celebrities, representatives from hundreds of activists and support groups, and almost anyone else you could imagine. ▲

Anyone who had never been to the New York celebration was exposed to a healthy dose of pride in who we are as a people. Even if you may not have understood or agreed with some factions of the parade, you still knew that everyone there was excited to be visible and proud.

The bus ride home also provided entertainment such as the movies "Strictly Ballroom" and "Xanadu". We hope more people will join us in our upcoming events and bus trips. Celebrate who you are!



Please tell us where to go—on any future bus trips. Drop us a line or come to a meeting to let us know your ideas. ▲

## Picking Up Trash May Not Be Glamorous, But...



...we DO NEED YOUR HELP! When we joined the Adopt-A-Highway Program two years ago everyone seemed to think it was a good idea—although some didn't think the four signs proclaiming "Gays and Lesbians of Lancaster" would remain standing (as they have).

However it has been increasingly hard to find the number of people we need to do the job. We don't need many

people to make the job easy for all involved and we only do it four times a year. If you have helped in the past, THANKS and please consider doing it again this year. If you've never done it PLEASE HELP OUT. It really is very rewarding and fun.

Our next clean-up starts at 9 a.m. on Sat., Aug. 24 at the Homedco Building, 240 Harrisburg Avenue in Lancaster. We'll be completely done before lunch. ▲

## How Can We All Stay Better Informed?

If you haven't noticed things have not been great politically for lesbian and gay rights this year. On a state level the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters has been fighting to keep the anti-gay marriage bill from progressing through the

**See Informed** Continued on page2.



If you are helping to make the world a better place — **THANKS!**

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## Ask Anne Drogeny

I've always considered myself heterosexual, but recently I've met someone of the same sex that I am drawn to emotionally and sexually. Does this make me gay?

Society wants us to believe that our sexuality is a two sided coin – you're either straight or you're gay. When, in actuality, our sexuality is in constant motion. People have the capability of loving and being attracted sexually to many different people throughout their lifetime. Whether they choose to act on these feelings is totally up to the individual. Labels are limiting, you don't have to give yourself one if you don't want to. Other people will have plenty of labels that they are more than will to hand out. Being open about your sexuality is definitely not easy, but you must be true to yourself. Go with your heart, make that move right now, baby. ▲

## Horrorscopes

- ARIES** (MARCH 21–APR. 19) Communication is essential this month. Read your tarot cards, the message is found within. **KEY WORD:** TRIOS
- TAURUS** (APR. 20–MAY 20) You make things happen this month. Go with the flow but don't get caught in the current. **KEY WORD:** WATER
- GEMINI** (MAY 21–JUNE 20) Friends are very important to you, The color blue will hold a major significance for you this month. **KEY WORD:** SKY
- CANCER** (JUNE 21–JULY 22) It's time to make that career change. Beware of bicycles colored green. **KEY WORD:** TIRES
- LEO** (JULY 23–AUG. 22) Legal matters are in the picture now. Barter or trade for new toys. **KEY WORD:** FLEA MARKET
- VIRGO** (AUG. 23–SEPT. 22) Love is in the air. Bizarre truths reveal themselves now. **KEY WORD:** CHAT
- LIBRA** (SEPT. 23–OCT. 22) Relationship issues are resolved. Be sure to wear clean underwear. **KEY WORD:** TIGER
- SCORPIO** (OCT. 23–NOV. 21) Approach things in moderation. Search out friendly retail clerks for their wisdom. **KEY WORD:** WATERFALL
- SAGITTARIUS** (NOV. 22–DEC. 21) Creative and romantic energies are high. It's time to make that dramatic change. **KEY WORD:** TICKET
- CAPRICORN** (DEC. 22–JAN. 19) It's time to tell the important people in your life who you really are. Be careful of people whose names begin with J. **KEY WORD:** CHAINS
- AQUARIUS** (JAN. 20–FEB. 18) Speak up and out this month. Masking tape figures prominently in your life. **KEY WORD:** STICKY
- PISCES** (FEB. 19–MAR. 20) Time to invest time in yourself. The moon brings you luck this month. **KEY WORD:** PLASTIC

## What's Happening

**Sat., July 27, 1996 Central Pennsylvania Pride Festival.** This year's festival promises to be new and exciting and the location has been moved to the Harrisburg Campus of HACC. Come and enjoy a fun afternoon. Call the G&L Switchboard of Harrisburg for the latest info. 717-234-0328

**Sat., August 24, Adopt-a-highway,** 9:00 a.m., meet at Homedco Bldg.—240 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster. **HELP!** (See article page 1) Finished by lunch.

**Tues., Aug. 27, Pink Triangle Coalition General Meeting.** 7 p.m. LAP Offices, 44 N. Queen St. Lancaster.

**4th Sun. of every month** is the new regular meeting time for Lancaster Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). Does Mom need someone to dish with? Have her call 299-7043 for further information.

**Tues., Sept. 24, Pink Triangle Coalition General Meeting.** 7 p.m. LAP Offices, 44 N. Queen St. Lancaster.



## In Search of the Q-Spot

Hollister Cole's continuing saga of life and lifeless times in this town of fruited streets. Q-Spot takes you on a Lazy Boy journey of the loves, lives, and daydreams of people, perhaps familiar — or maybe it's déjà vu.

### III. MR. P

Terrie broke out of her trance and walked into another room. He followed her feeling a bit awkward, and saw she was in a cozy bathroom of pink tiles on the wall with a narrow chair rail of black tiles. She grabbed a tissue, sat on the lid of the toilet catching the end of her hair. She dabbed at her eyes and looked up at Andrew.

"I'm sorry. I don't think I'm ready to do this."

Do what? He was thinking. Smoke in a 50's style bathroom while sitting on you hair?

"We don't have to ..." he started but she looked at him and interrupted. "We loved that damn poodle!" she muttered hoarsely, blowing her nose which reverberated off the shower walls. Andrew sneezed twice adding exclamation to her very real confession. He thought the dog smell had gotten stronger, along with something just a tad bit sweeter that the essence of spring garden-scented air freshener.

She stood up and threw her tissue in the commode. "I'm sorry Andrew. I tried not to get like this. Come on over here." She took his hand with her ice tea-drinking hand and led him out of the bathroom and through a small avocado-applianced kitchen. As they rounded the corner, he heard the outside door from the kitchen open. A tall man about his age with long, naturally curly hair found Andrew's curious befuddled eyes. "Hey," he said in a low greeting. "You checkin' the place out, too?"

Andrew gave him a half-smile and turned toward Terrie whose attention was focused on the wall of what appeared to be the dining room. Mr. P's dining room to be exact. The two visitors joined Terrie on a extended, studied gaze at the larger-than-life portrait in oils on the wall of a tall, white, stately poodle sitting proudly— and powder puffily— light-blue ribbon atop the head keeping fur bangs out of the eyes. Andrew's eyes followed the ornate, gold frame to the middle of the bottom. He read the inscription out loud: "Our Mr. P."

Terrie repeated the inscription as if the comfort herself and turned her head noticing the newcomer for the first time.

"You know? We're not ready to have someone take over Mr. P's place." She looked from one to another in gradual realization. "Maybe you two should find a nice place together?"

The tall man smiled at Terrie and looked down at an embarrassed Andrew. "Hey maybe."



The sky was turning a watermelon pink, the sun almost consumed within the rind. Andrew pedaled faster past the volleyball players in cool-down formation. He hoped his quickened pace would settle his anxiety as well as a homemade bromo-seltzer of baking soda and water. He hadn't even given a thought to having a roommate. Roommates expect conversation. Explanations of where you've been, where you're going. They're in the way while you're trying to get in the refrigerator when cooking. You have to close the door to pee and you find funny hairs on and around the toilet seat that are not familiar.

So why did he agree with barely a pinch of reluctance to meet a total stranger for coffee—rather herbal tea—to talk about maybe living together? And exactly what kind of person would extend such an invitation so off-the-cuff— on the recommendation of a Turkey Hill Ice Tea drinking' landlord to big, furry poodles?

Andrew coasted down West Lemon St., avoiding the wide, open door of a parked, dingy grey Camero, and answered his own question. The kind of person with shoulder-length, light brown curly hair adorable feet encased in old, worn buffalo sandals, and the nicest, warmest brown eyes which seem to hug you hello. He knew he wasn't feeling the light euphoria of sexual tension but rather the pangs of comradeship that's just so—a brotherly friendship, intimacy that yields excitement and contentment, never entering the sexual arena. And Andrew was sure this friend would smell so soapy good walking from the steaming bathroom into the kitchen as he swabbed his ears. Yes, he would be holistic. Kinda like aromatherapy in a housemate.

He braked and put his feet back on the ground. As he chained his front wheel to the handrail he rehearsed his lines in his head to graciously decline the offer. ▲

## Informed

Continued from page 1.

Legislature. The Hate Crimes Bill has been stalled for the year because Senators expressed concern about casting a vote before the November election.

One weekend earlier this year the LGLV had requested that we get as many people as possible to fax or call the Senate Judiciary Chairman Stewart Greenleaf's office in order to voice objections to the anti-marriage bill. Currently there is no way for us to quickly carry out such an action. As a result we discussed setting up a phone tree to handle such instances. We are planning to conduct a poll of our mailing list to see who might like to participate. If you don't want a call, call us first or send in this issue's



mail-in card. If we don't have your phone number you may send it to us on the same form. Let us know what you think about the idea. ▲

## Resources

- F&M College LGB's & Allies .....399-6192
- Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg .....234-0328
- GLORA (Reading).....610-868-7183
- Interweave (Unitarian Universalist).....393-11733
- Lancaster AIDS Project.....394-3380, 394-9900
- Lancaster Gay Helpline .....397-0691
- Millersville Allies .....871-2241
- PA AIDS Hotline.....1-800-662-6080
- P-Flag of Lancaster .....299-7043
- Vision of Hope, Metropolitan Community Church.....285-9070
- York Area Lambda.....Box 2425, York, PA 17405
- Pink Triangle Coalition ..... 394-6260**
- E-mail the PTC at: [ptc@lanaster.net](mailto:ptc@lanaster.net) and visit us on the web at: <http://lanaster.net/community/ptc/> and [http://155.68.3.11:80/CampusLife/Organizations/Allies/Gay\\_Lancaster/Home.html](http://155.68.3.11:80/CampusLife/Organizations/Allies/Gay_Lancaster/Home.html)

## Dodge Family Memories

Gay life at the Franklin and Marshall College did have its Camelot, in the late 60's and early 70's. That was when a former student named Dennis Manley Kimball moved back to Lancaster — after a year in San Francisco — and established the Dodge Family. Here is a personal account continued from our last issue

Kurt Everhart '74: "Waldo and I had a way of walking around campus—" "We had matching clogs," said Waldo.

"—and students would scurry," said Kurt. "We were pretty shameless. But this was in the middle of Vietnam. We all thought we might be dead soon. The campus was a cauldron of creative activity—Treat Williams was here, and Jim Lapine. The campus was always so alive."

"Dennis was practically in drag all the time," Bruce Sussman '71 added, "and he was always high as a kite by 10 o'clock in the morning." In those days, said Bruce, "Drugs were the great leveler of all kinds of prejudice."

Dennis founded the Dodge Family after returning from San Francisco. Some of its surviving members say the family name was inspired by a car commercial urging people to "Join the Dodge Revolution," but others disagree. In any event, Dennis conferred drag names on family members according to an intricate set of rules. One's name had to begin either with C or end with A, but only Dennis's name—Cassandra—could do both. The name had to have literary or operatic allusions linked in some way with one's character. And the name had to have or contain some masculine equivalent, for use as necessary in mixed company. Cassandra, for instance, could become Cass. Bruce Sussman's name, Adriana Naomi Dodge, could become Adrian.

Mark McManus '71 remembers clearly the day he learned about the Dodge Family names. He and Dennis and two of Dennis's friends were sitting in the library when someone noticed Bruce Sussman and Professor Hugh Gault leaving Diagnosthian Hall. "Well," Dennis exclaimed, "look who's tooling away together—none other than Ruth and Naomi!" Outrageous laughter ensued. Someone explained the Dodge names to Mark. "At that point I became accepted," Mark says, "and all of a sudden I belonged." He was not given a name immediately because Dennis needed to know more about him before concocting a name, Mark remembers, "but to me it was the day I started to fit it." The Dodge Family, he adds, "was on many levels the most important thing that happened to me at F&M. These people changed my life." The were regular parties at the house on Prince Street for several years, but family members are as likely to remember the easy camaraderie of less formal moments, like sitting on the porch and watching cute guys pass.

In the mid 70's, Dennis and several other members of the Dodge Family moved to New York, where they continued a tradition that had by then become Dionysian. Dennis died of cancer in 1985, at the age of 40, only a few months after finding his own Camelot—the King's Head Hotel in Great Bircham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, England, which he had just purchased. ▲

## Newsletter Staff

**Editor:** Kimberli Werner  
**Contributors:** Lawrence Biemiller, Tim Erdley, Nikki Evans, Anthony Lascoskie, Andy Spedden, Mark Stoner