

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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LGBT History Project
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The Lancaster Inquirer

Spring Cleanup!
Help out the first
Adopt-a-highway
cleanup of 2001.
Sat. Apr. 21, 9am
 Apria Healthcare Community Room
 240 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster

Volume 8, Issue 1 March/April 2001 **FREE** compliments of the Pink Triangle Coalition

Get Out

Pink Triangle Coalition Meetings
 (4th Tues. of each month), **Mar. 27,**
Apr. 24, May 22 7PM at City Crossings,
 corner of Lemon and Prince St. in
 Lancaster. Enter from parking lot, follow
 signs to Isaac's offices on 2nd floor.
 All are welcome. More on page 2

Mayday! May Day!

For the past three years, PTC folks and Maggie-the-Wonder-Dog have marched in Lancaster's annual Loyalty Day Parade. And, for the past three years, there have been folks sitting on the sidelines who we need to march with us. If you've marched in Washington, D.C., New York City, or anywhere else, marching in Lancaster is no different. You strap on the footwear, lather on the sunblock, and GO!

Being publicly visible achieves some important groundwork for queer rights: people can't deny we exist, people see different types of queer people than what the religious extremists show, and the people who make decisions about our rights see that we support our local area.

So please join us on Saturday, May 5th, and march with Lancaster's ONLY grassroots LGBT group. Please contact Andy Spedden if interested: 295-9988, or andrewspedden@hotmail.com. ▲



Please Volunteer

At least one Sat. Apr. 21
June 16, Aug. 18, Oct. 6

We can't do it without ya! If you would like more info call us at 397-7124. ▲

Years Ahead Across the River

Is the city of York that far ahead of Lancaster when it comes to equal rights for the GLBT community? Yes.

According to Peg Welch, back in 1993, the city added "sexual orientation" to its existing human relations ordinance. Then Mayor William Althouse introduced the amendment. The GLBT community responded to a firestorm of controversy by building a lot of support for the amendment, Welch said. And surprisingly, the city council passed the amendment.

Even more surprising, Welch said that in 1999, the city council approved another amendment to the language—adding gender identity to the list of protected citizens. She said it was voted on and passed with no hint of controversy. "I think they didn't know what they were voting for."

The Human Relations Commission is made up of 11 volunteer commissioners. Welch said that in 1994, knowing that none of the members were openly gay,

she asked the Mayor to be added to the group. She has been on the commission ever since. The group meets eight times a year. Human Relations Commission staff handle fact finding of complaints and then forward them to the volunteer commissioners for review, after carefully blacking out names for anonymity.

Welch said that only a few cases reviewed over the years has been related to sexual orientation, but that is changing. "Just within that past few months, more complaints are being filed dealing with sexual orientation." She attributes that to a changing of the guard at the city offices. "Now there is a very open-minded atmosphere." But, she said, the community needs to be more educated that the ordinance exists.

Any chance of expanding the rights to York County? Welch said recent discussions with their Republican County Commissioners showed there is little interest at this time. ▲

Harrisburg to Host Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer

Suzanne Westenhoefer, comedian extraordinaire, will be back in Harrisburg at a fundraiser for the Pride Festival and The Mautner Project (support organization for Lesbians living w/cancer). Suzanne will be performing at the Zembo Mosque Tile Room in Harrisburg on March 15th at 8:00pm. If you've seen Suzanne before, you know why this performance should not be missed. *The New York Daily News* calls this former Miss Lancaster County Contestant... "a center stage diva who bursts out of her closet with little explosions of outspoken bemusement."

Suzanne has appeared on Comedy Central, Evening at the Improv, Caroline's Comedy Hour, and Politically Incorrect. Her CD, *Nothing in my Closet but my Clothes*, won the prestigious Gay and Lesbian American Music Award for

Best Comedy CD. Her new CD, *I'm Not Cindy Brady*, also won this award in April 2000. Suzanne has hosted and performed at the International Montreal Comedy Festival and recently headlined with Eric McCormack (*Will & Grace*) at the Improv Club in Hollywood. She will be starring in the upcoming internet series *The Tribe*. For more Suzanne gossip visit www.westenhoefer.com

Please attend this special evening and help support two great organizations. Advance tickets: \$25. At the door: \$30. To receive a ticket form by mail, leave a message at the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at 717-234-0328 with name, address, phone number and email address or email contact info to: hbgpride@harrisburgpride.org. Check or money order payable to PFCP. ▲

LERN

Lancaster Equal Rights Network

LERN is continuing its efforts to ensure that all Lancaster residents are protected against discrimination like those in York. On Feb. 20, Cathy Ash, Executive Director of the York City Human Relations Commission, spoke to the Lancaster City Council. The tone of the meeting was very optimistic. If you'd like to stay informed about this effort email us at PnkTriCoal@aol.com.

Ongiini everyone (Hello everyone)

Greetings from Erica, former PTC treasurer- current Peace Corps. Volunteer stationed in Namibia, Southern Africa.

Met some great people ... and there is a group of 5 sassy women I became really good friends with. We've had many adventures in the past 3 months- an "almost mugging," plucking chicken together, attending a soccer match between Namibia and S. Africa where tear gas canisters were used in the stands!!!! We are able to get a fair amount of traveling done on the weekend. (Cheetah Conservation, Swakopmund {swam with seals}, sand-boarded, minisafari, saw elephants, zebras, and warthogs.) I do have my work cut out for me... I am way out in the bush! I am going to be training/ assisting 18 teachers at my school as well as working in a health clinic doing HIV/AIDS outreach programs. I am going to be on the PCorps diversity committee and we are setting up a conference for all of the PCV's in the Southern African countries next March! I think a PTC fieldtrip is needed!!! Have been hearing of Cape Town and Pretorinin, S. Africa as "gay" Meccas... I miss everyone...

Until the next letter... ...E. ▲

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In Search of the -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.

XIII DAIRY QUEEN

Unwilling to lock eyes, Andrew began a tour of his admirer at the feet. Black sneakers with white stripes, kinda like Adidas. The dark blue corduroy pants were all frayed and bunched atop his sneakers. Andrew followed the tracks of corduroy up his legs, past the thighs. At his waist the pants were both too big and fitting just right. He wore a white thermal shirt with a Dairy Queen t-shirt over top—a fitting combination that hugged his almost curvy chest but hung delicately around his belly.

Andrew smiled to himself as he took in the dripping brown curls of hair framing his youthful face. The Dairy Queen does have a curl on top. But Andrew was the one who started melting when the ice cream cone with soft brown eyes and long eyelashes caught him staring, smiled wide and nodded. He turned and said something into the ear of the hippie girl beside him. She looked at Andrew and smiled, too. Andrew's mouth was dry. He wanted another beer but couldn't move. The ice cream boy said something else to his friend and began walking towards Andrew.

Andrew coached himself to try and act unaware of the handsome young boy coming at him. He turned around for Tommy who was in serious conversation at the bar with a drag queen in a black bobbed wig and fur-trimmed boots. He thought about desperately sneaking into the conversation. What if he was wrong and the ice cream boy wasn't noticing Andrew but some other, not as old, maybe taller boy near him. He glanced behind him for anyone more worthy than he.

"Hey, how's it going?" the ice cream boy asked Andrew looking directly into his eyes.

"Oh, uh, not bad," Andrew replied, trying to appear together.

"My name's Nathan," he said, sticking out his hand.

Andrew grabbed his hand and leaned in a bit. "I'm Andrew." Nathan moved in much further so that his hair brushed Andrew's cheek. Andrew caught a scent something like patchouli but not quite. "Do I know you?"

"Not yet," Nathan replied taking his fingers through the curls around his ear. "I noticed you when you came in. Do you spend much time on a bike?"

"Yeah," Andrew answered dumb-founded.

"I thought so. I've seen you around."

"Really?"

Nathan nodded his head and put his hand on Andrew's shoulder. "What kind of beer you drinkin'?"

"Oh, you don't have to..."

"No, really," Nathan interrupted. "I want to buy you a beer."

"Lager...draft." Andrew threw in late thinking a boy this young can't afford a bottled beer. And besides, he noticed Nathan drinking a draft earlier.

"I'll be right back, Andrew," he said before wiggling up to the bar beside Tommy.

Two minutes into the conversation, Andrew thought, and he's already said my name. And remembered it.

Tommy looked over his shoulder and noticed Nathan—every inch of Nathan. He then stepped over to Andrew and positioned himself back-to-back. "Well, well, someone's going to have a little chippy to kiss goodnight." Anticipating Andrew's protests, he interrupted, "Uh, uh, uh...don't turn around. We need to keep you single at this critical point in time."

"Oh, he's just, uh..."

"Adorable? A young hottie named Scottie? A dreamy slice of..."

"No. A nice guy," Andrew said trying to explain and understand what was happening to him. "He said my name," Andrew whispered, "and it was without that am-I-right inflection at the end."

"What? He's memorized your name already?"

"Yes!"

"Oh, he's good," Tommy said noticing Nathan looking back at Andrew. Tommy casually swiveled himself in the other direction and spoke into Andrew's right ear. "Enjoy this. It could be the last time it ever happens to you."

"How old do you think he is?"

"Hmm..." Tommy thought quizzically, looking around for an assessment. "Try not to think about it. I'll visit you in prison."

"Tommy..."

Tommy gasps and covers his mouth, wide-eyed. "I see London, I see France..." He grabs Andrew's shoulders and spins him around to face Nathan who's stretching his body on his toes to talk to the bartender. His shirt shifted up past his waistband revealing a wide white strip of underwear and a small patch of skin. "Do you need me to faint for you?"

Andrew just stared blankly at Tommy.

"I think I need to dance this off to Whitney Houston," Tommy says decidedly.

"But you hate her."

"I know. More than Mariah As Carrie," Tommy said heading for the dance floor. "Let me know how his breath is."

Continued next issue. ▲

Surviving Dick and Bush

Like it or not, we have Colin, Dick and Bush for the next four years. How will this affect queer people? First, let's look at some of the big-wigs, (no, not the drag queens!), who'll shape the federal government: Gale Norton, Interior Secretary, is all about "states' rights," which is why she defended Colorado's unsuccessful "Amendment 2" all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. ("A-2" would've denied queers the right to expand non-discrimination laws.) Tommy Thompson, Health/Human Services Secretary, takes a non-ideological approach to politics, which has won him respect from liberals. Dick Cheney, Vice-Prez, got the military's anti-queer ball rolling in the 80s. Lesbian daughter or not, don't expect too much support from him. Christie Todd Whitman, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, is a mixed bag. She was governor of NJ when the James Dale/Boys Scouts case made its way through the courts, and supports basic civil rights, but opposes legalizing same-sex marriage. Colin Powell, Secretary of State, likes "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This mix of people seems very "center," at best.

Now for Dubya. He once said that Texas's anti-sodomy law was "symbolic of our values." Don't look for him to sign the Employment Non-Discrimination Act or put an end to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This is someone whose idea of "compassionate conservatism" is praying for the souls of the people whose death warrants he signed. He works well with the Christian zealots who want to make our's a "Christian" nation, according to their narrow beliefs. So if HRC thought it had a challenging time making queers palatable to the mainstream under Clinton, perhaps it'll make us even more boring for Bush. The next four years will be no yellow brick road at the federal level. But at least we won't have a lying, wussy-on-gay-rights, pain-feeling Slick Willy on top. Instead, we'll have someone who will have the opportunity to perhaps sign a major queer-positive bill into law. Opportunity knocks only once, and Dubya will have to hear from you about how not having rights affects your lives. So get those pens, envelopes and stamps ready, kids, 'cause it's gonna be a bumpy ride.

Contributed by Andy Spedden. ▲

2001 Red Cross Oscar Party

A glamorous Hollywood-style fundraiser that has attracted up to 250 individuals, the Sixth Annual Oscar Party will be held on Sunday, March 25 at McFly's Pub in Lancaster in conjunction with the Academy Awards ceremony. A new addition to this year's American Red Cross Oscar celebration is the Pre-Oscar Party at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harrisburg! A silent celebrity auction, several contests, raffles, and the live telecast of the Academy Awards on several big screen televisions highlight the Lancaster Oscar Event. At the Harrisburg event, Bob Troxell's Big Big Jazz Band headlines an evening of music and fine art, compliments of the renowned Gallery 444 of Harrisburg. Proceeds from the events will support the Red Cross HIV/AIDS Education Programs for the Susquehanna Valley. Come and check out the auction items... and go home with some Hollywood favorite. Dressing up is optional, but sure is fun! Dinner, appetizers and live band ticket options are available. For additional information and tickets, call the Red Cross at 299-5561. ▲

John Waters to visit Harrisburg

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in association with FilmSpeak.com and Moviate will present film director JOHN WATERS (*Pink Flamingos*, *Hairspray*, *Cry Baby*, *Polyester*, *Female Trouble*, *Serial Mom*, *Pecker*, *Cecil B. Demented*) LIVE at the Sunoco Performance Theater on Sat., May 26 as part of their Third Annual Film Festival. John's lecture, "Shock Value" will start at 4:00 pm followed by a reception at 7:30 pm in the Science Center at Whitaker Center. Tickets are on sale at the Whitaker box office or can be purchased by calling 214-ARTS (2787). \$16 (Lecture Only), \$37.50 (Reception), \$50 (Lecture and Reception). For more information visit www.FilmSpeak.com. ▲

Alliance for Tolerance & Freedom Events

Forum on Teaching Creationism in Public Schools 7:30 pm, Thurs., Mar. 22, Manheim Twp Middle School Auditorium. National figures debate proposed curriculum guidelines in PA allowing the teaching of creationism as science. Don't Miss! Apr. 1: Nomination Deadline for **Progressive Voice Awards** to be presented at **5th Annual Kit Howell PVA Banquet Sun., May 6, 6pm** For more info contact freedom4@voicenet.com

OUT reach- A safe place for diverse and accepting teens affirming and supporting sexual minorities and their allies in a confidential setting. Starting March 1st (meeting monthly), 7 pm, Lancaster County Academy in the Park City Mall (a room near the food court) Questions? Please contact Denise LeGrande @ 717-871-2333 or email Outreachlancastr@hotmail.com

House of Phalopia Benefits:

The Dope Show Sun., Mar. 18, 10pm at Tally Ho, 201 W. Orange St., Lanc. benefits N.O.R.M.L.
Spring Fling 2001 Fri. Apr. 27, All-age benefit for local queer youth. More info call Andy 295-9988.

Newsletter Staff

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Homoscopes

ARIES (MAR. 21 – APR 19) Love seems to be making its way back into your house after a lengthy absence. There are hidden messages to be found on the Discovery channel. **KEY WORD:** CANDLES

TAURUS (APR. 20 – MAY 20) Don't let yourself be commitment-phobic this month. Go with the flow. Get take out food with your favorite honey. **KEY WORD:** RED HOTS

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20) Tackle your opposing forces with the same enthusiasm you put into getting laid. Only positive energy can follow. **KEY WORD:** CANDY HEARTS

CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22) Be prepared to get bumped in the head by Cupid's arrow. He will show you no mercy. **KEY WORD:** TEDDY BEAR

LEO (JULY 23 – AUG. 22) You may get a second chance at love. Some things are worth repeating. **KEY WORD:** CHOCOLATES

VIRGO (AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22) You are about to have true fulfillment literally laid at your feet. Make sure your toes are freshly manicured. **KEY WORD:** AROMATHERAPY

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22) Try your best to get over your self-centeredness and selfishness. Good things are in store for your efforts. **KEY WORD:** LOLLIPOPS

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 – NOV. 21) Take some time off for yourself and a cherished one. You need the attention. **KEY WORD:** FEATHER BOAS

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 – DEC. 21) Be careful of being caught with your pants down. An ex could make a dramatic reappearance. **KEY WORD:** JEWELRY

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 – JAN. 19) It is time to get in touch with those that have been helpful professionally. Just do not step on any toes. **KEY WORD:** LINGERIE

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 – FEB. 18) Love is pointing you in the right direction as long as you are willing to acknowledge it. **KEY WORD:** ROSES

PISCES (FEB. 19 – MAR. 20) You have something wonderful to hold onto. Don't let anyone tell you anything different. **KEY WORD:** KISSES

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