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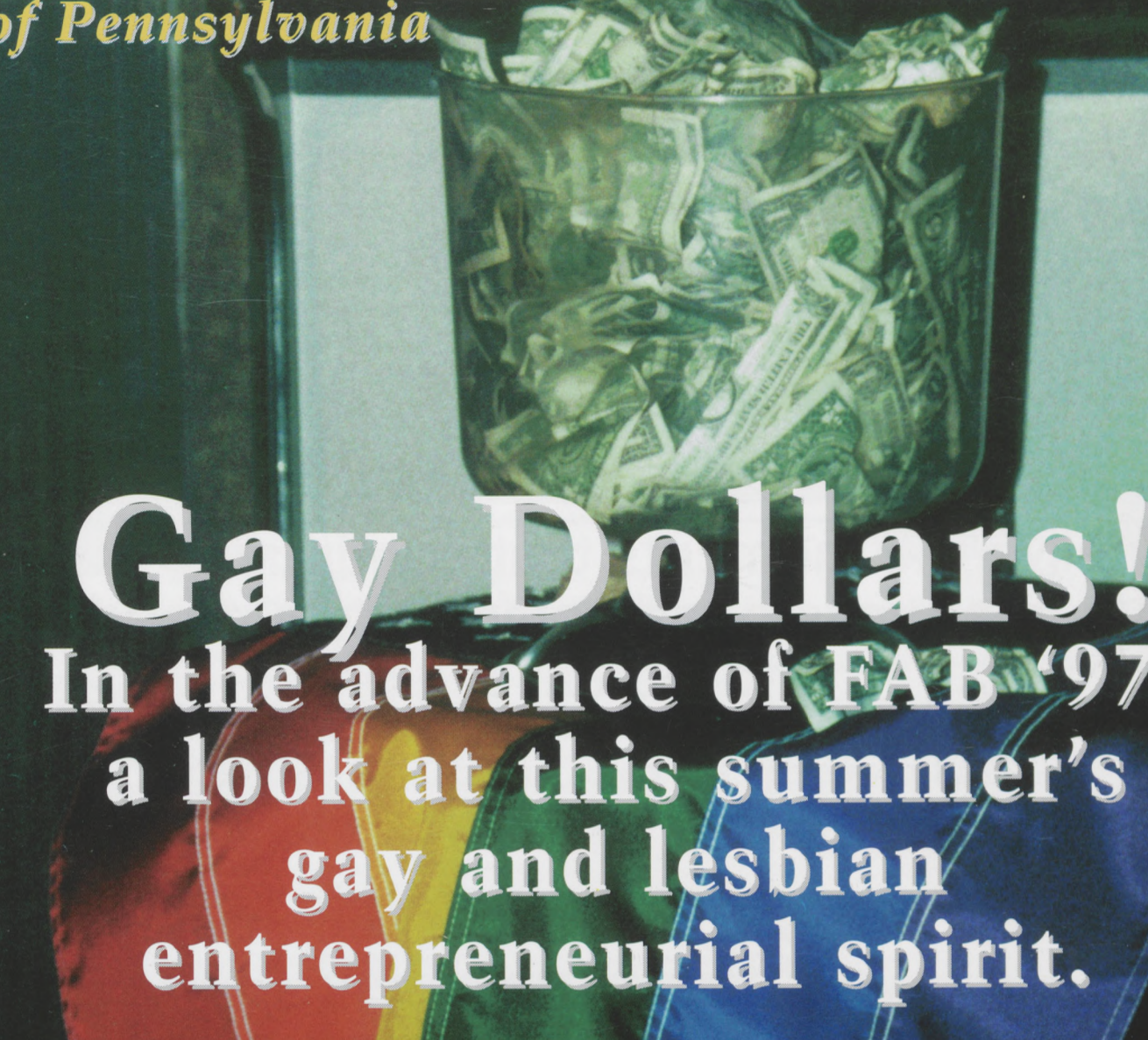
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crossroads

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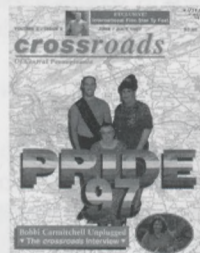
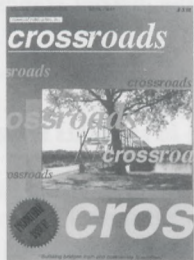
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Coming Out In This Issue of *crossroads*...

7 One year later, the experience in Elizabethtown still intrigues even the most curious bystander. In *E-Town's Crash Course*, first time contributor Andy Spedden takes a long look back to when the problems started and where the district stands at this time.

11 Continuing *crossroads'* look at local education and gay and lesbian issues, Dr. Eric Selvey goes back to his undergraduate school to find a group of students striving to make a difference on their campus and in their lives.

Also, the York School District decides whether or not to add sexual orientation to its existing education and harassment policies.

Finally, concerned teachers and administrators *GLSEN For All Gay Students* in an effort to end harassment in the schools and to bring attention to the plight of gay and lesbian students.

15 York currently boasts a new television program as *GAY YORK!* hits the air.

18 FAB returns with A Touch of Glamour/A Sense of Commitment. Tina Fields reports on the fast growing fund raiser that has already captured the attention of many of Harrisburg area gay and straight men and women.

21 What other was is there to come out when you are the director of music at your church? Contributing writer Kevin Welsh tells the trials and tribulations of Mark Glasgow and how he made it through his baptism under fire with his congregation.

23 Residents in the Harrisburg need not look any further than the Capital City to seek out fine leather apparel. Steele Powers introduces the readers to the owner of the Cock N' Bull.

27 The *crossroads'* Interview: In advance of her Central Pennsylvania visit in October, "America's Most Politically Incorrect Entertainer" Lynn Lavner reveals a multi-faceted individual who's seen it all, done it all and has enjoyed every minute of it.

29 Happy Birthday wishes are expressed as Altland's Ranch's owner Berni shares with J.D. Kennedy's thirty years of experiences as well as what keeps the nightclub in the woods roaring after all these years.

31 Douglas Fauth speaks with authors Will Lecke and *Courage To Love* subject and Hummelstown native Rev. Barry Stopfel. Both men discuss the impact Stopfel's experiences has had on their relationship and their faith.

36 Lancaster County Chooses a Queen and first time *crossroads'* contributor Felicia Bordeleaux Bryant gives us the play by play of the first countywide pageant.

38 Cover Story

"Gay money" is sometimes spoken with disgust within the gay and lesbian community. However, the Summer of 1997 has proven that dollars flow when the cause is just. From the Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania to the JUDY! variety show, the entrepreneurial spirit thrives within the region.

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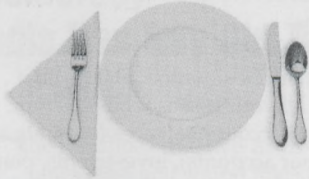
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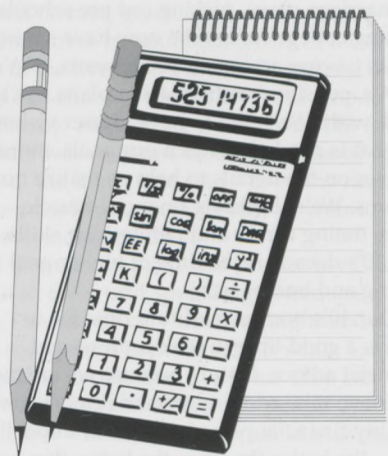
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Money Matters



To Retire Early, Plan Early

Mitch Adams

It seems that retirement is becoming the rule, rather than the exception, these days. Not only are many people choosing to retire before the traditional age of 65, but companies are seeking to reduce costs by offering employees attractive severance packages before they reach 65. And since our lives are quite different from the straight mainstream society; we are largely invisible. Most of us have higher incomes at an earlier age, we are few, if any children to compete with our careers, we have networking possibilities throughout all levels of our society, are we more mobile and adaptable.

In the gay majority, we start life in our 20's usually finding ourselves with spendable surplus income. Disposable income is the norm. Many of us express our gayness through spending, not saving. As working, earning and saving complete with indulging and spending, our money quite often loses ground. We need to remember that our income gives us apparent wealth, our society does not help us to think about long-term life needs.

By our 30's, we come into the transitional "wake-up call". We have more to work with, more to build with. Gays and lesbians at this time in life don't usually have the concerns like the mainstream does, such as working on marriage plans, picking out pre-schools, starting college funds. We now have saving habits (saving accounts, investments, IRA's, 401K's, pension/profit-sharing plans, etc.) to work with. We begin to have clearer visions of what is needed to reach our goals, more focuses on the details to help us realize our dreams. We're building financial muscle, we're toning career and networking skills. The 30's decade is the time of higher goal setting and harder work.

Our 40's become auditing time for us. This is a good time to seek professional financial advice, mainly because we are more inclined to take and understand it more now. Quality financial planning is more important--the better the plan, the better the achievement level. The 40's give us a sense of coming into our own. This is a crucial

period where we spend a hefty amount of money and time--recreating ourselves, taking new directions to better our lives, realizing that retirement could be just around the corner. Now is when we need to push into high gear.

By the time we reach our 50's we need to work on keeping this decade on even-keel. We can't recreate ourselves or anything around us. Momentum is the name of the game. We need to be assertive and add value to our lives. If we've survived the down-sizings and the discriminations, we should be coming into our own. This is the performance period of our lives and we need to use it to the best of our ability. Our careers should be worked with great intensity as we work on one of our last great income pushes. Simply put, make the most of it.

Financial freedom can be the brass ring of our 60's. By separating ourselves from a work income, we can now be free to work and travel as we wish. Free from the necessity to earn money. Now is the time in our lives when our investments must stand the true test of time. Our financial planning has now taken a front seat. The financial safety nets that we have been weaving over the years should now be giving us a long awaited allowance of monthly income.

Regardless of the reasons, early retirement places a premium on sound advance financial planning. Among the many financial realities you must anticipate are:

- Without a full-time job, your current income likely will drop sharply.
- Your company's pension and/or profit-sharing plan probably will pay you less on a monthly basis if you retire early.
- If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), withdrawals taken before age 59 1/2 are taxed as ordinary income and may be subject to a 10% penalty, unless they are paid out in substantially equal payments (based on your life expectancy) for at least five years or you reach age 59 1/2.
- The earlier you retire, the longer the period of your retirement you will need to finance.
- If you accept an early retirement or severance package, you may receive a large sum that will need to be invested carefully over a long term.

The complexity of these and related retirement issues suggest that you start your planning process well in advance of your projected retirement date. But the earlier saving for your retirement begins the better. As you will see, a candid look at your finances may suggest you rethink your retirement plans.

The key to retirement planning, as with any investing, is to set realistic objectives. Lifestyle questions, such as where and how you plan to live are critical, as is your health and that of your buddy or life partner, whichever suits your life presently. Any long-term illness or special medical needs

could place severe limitations on your retirement plans.

Next, make a thorough analysis of your present financial situation. Start with a review of all your assets, which include your home, bank account balances (separate and joint partner accounts), investments, pension/profit-sharing benefits and personal property--anything that can be converted to cash.

Go through the same process with your liabilities, which include any amounts that you owe (mortgages, car loans, credit card balances, etc.). Deduct the liabilities from your assets to calculate your "nest egg"--the funds you can use to finance your retirement.

Here's where the planning process gets tricky. You must match the income and growth potential of your assets against your retirement objectives to see if you prudently will be able to afford your desired lifestyle. If not, you may need to make some trade-offs in your retirement choices, or consider postponing your retirement for a few more years.

If you have ample assets, the next major issue is how you will invest them for retirement. Conventional wisdom has been to invest for income and minimize risk of principal in such fixed-income investments as municipal or investment grade bonds, treasury bills, and Certificates of Deposit. However, this strategy ignores the effects of inflation. Even today's moderate inflation rate can have a devastating effect on the purchasing power of your investment income in 10 to 20 years.

There is no single investment strategy that is right for early retirement. An ideal portfolio will incorporate current income, growth and tax-advantaged investments to help ensure that you do not outlive your assets--a real concern with early retirement.

This is a simplified look at early retirement planning. In reality, few individuals are in a position to accurately assess such variables as retirement costs, tax consequences, health costs and insurance, the impact of inflation and maximized yield from assets.

Therefore, it is always prudent to consult a qualified financial advisor early in the planning process. A professional not only can help you find solutions, but can also help you ask the right questions to help you enjoy the rest of your life. As gay individuals we usually have low start-up costs in life, but we quickly move into high gear, or high costs, as we mature. Find a professional that understands your needs and concerns about your future. It's your life, make it a financial winner. ✕

Mitch Adams is a financial advisor at the Harrisburg office of Prudential Securities, Inc. located in Lemoyne, Pa.

Mediacracy Media Has Gay Old Time With Cunanan

Mark F. Johnson

The headlines titillated us from news stands, while the daily news clips and sound bites lured us to our televisions every night.

Often, based on the headlines or sound bites associated with news reports, one would think that alleged serial killer Andrew Cunanan, committed the murders because he was gay.

"Gay Serial Killer" one headline dubbed him. Several others suggested that the alleged killer was on a "revenge binge" because of a possible HIV-positive status. Then there were the stories that "warned" that he might be dressing as a woman to elude capture. Nearly every conceivable gay stereotype came out of the closet and onto the front pages or television news during media coverage of Cunanan's run from the law. So far about the only negative gay stereotype that hasn't been pegged to Cunanan is that he was a child molester.

Clearly, the press still has much to learn about reporting on the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community.

But, were reporters wrong to point out the fact that Andrew Cunanan was gay? Should they have de-emphasized the fact that he was apparently supported by wealthy older men? Was it improper for them to seek out representatives of the LGBT community to give the "gay perspective" on the story? Was it in bad taste for the media to offer a "glimpse" into the gay world as a backdrop to news reports?

The answer to all these questions is a qualified "no." The fact that Cunanan was gay and was a well-known "party boy" were factors that were important to the story. The press rightfully acknowledged this. It was appropriate and even fair for the media to come to members of the LGBT community as they researched the story or looked for commentary and reaction. It was also appropriate for the media to put the story in some kind of context for most of mainstream America to better understand it. The media was doing its job.

But many times the media was faulty in doing its job or simply overdid it. For example, the press often pandered to many stereotypes of gay men in attempts to "analyze" his motives or offer a "peek into" the gay community. Also, the press focused too much on

the LGBT community and how it reacted to the killings—even after it was clear that not all the murders were of gay people and that anybody could be at risk. There was too strong an association with Cunanan's alleged crimes and the gay world.

An example of the press at its worst? The media went too far in its efforts to determine Cunanan's HIV status. Instead of letting the issue drop with his death, one paper leaked the results of an HIV test done on Cunanan after an autopsy. So now that the "HIV revenge binge" theory has been torpedoed, what will an inquiring press turn to next in their quest to find a motive?

The media missed an opportunity to raise the consciousness of the public around issues concerning the LGBT community to a new level. Violence against members of our community is unfortunately a routine thing. Most of these stories never make the news. Many of them have resulted in death. Currently there are at least five serial killers of gay men still at-large.

Members of the press could have demonstrated that they had finally learned the lesson that lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered persons are just as good or bad, talented or incapable, responsible or irresponsible, beautiful or ugly as anybody else. Instead, they showed that they either know very little about us or that they're too willing to give into the sordid, lurid, titillating images that remain prevalent.

I wasn't surprised that the media took this route. This story had all the elements of a highly-spiced hard-boiled drama thriller. It was guaranteed to capture the interest of most Americans and certainly the media, which would play it for all that it could. Even if the central characters in this drama had been straight the story would still have an element of titillation—perhaps the media would have looked for a drug connection or a Mafia tie-in. But there would be fewer negative stereotypes associated with the story and the type of speculation and innuendo raised in the reporting would never have been broached if we were not talking about so many gay people.

Gay people aren't alleged to have committed the murders, Andrew Cunanan is. That he was gay is only important insofar as most of the alleged victims were gay. Otherwise, that fact should not have taken on a life of its own. X

Mark F. Johnson is Media Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Mediacracy is monthly column of the NGLTF which analyzes and discusses the reporting of gay-related news stories in the national media. Mediacracy will be a intermittent feature of crossroads.

Tony Bucher Those Who Oppose

From time to time I am amazed by people in our society. The so-called loving family oriented persons of the world who can demonstrate such hatred and disgust for another person, generally someone they do not even know, and have a way to justify it. Of course I am speaking of those persons, supposed religious individuals, who display their hatred and disdain with those of the gay and lesbian population. This was a situation that we once again saw at Harrisburg's Gay Pride Day when there was a lone protester at the entrance to the HACC campus.

My upbringing is in the Catholic faith but I am sure that all other religions can make the same comparisons or assumptions I attempt to convey here. I cannot recall the exact wording on the protester's sign but I do remember something about the evil and the fires of hell. These sentiments are the same that we encounter on many occasions in our lives, not just at pride celebrations. I would like very much to sit down and talk to one or more of these persons, as I have many questions.

First and foremost I would like them to show me the exact passage in the Bible that says it is OK to use the Word of God to promote hatred, bigotry, violence and prejudice. I have looked myself and talked to my priest and we both concur that the Bible was not meant to be used in such a way. I would expect that our opponents

would select some verse and loosely interpret to meet their needs. How else could they justify that there is not verse that speaks of promoting hatred in the name of God. I am sure that this would present itself with a lengthy heated discussion.

Second, I would like them to explain to me who their God is. The God I was taught about and raised with was a loving caring person. A person who loved all under his watchful eye with no strings attached, no delineation based on race, gender or sex orientation. My God is one who is watching over me and taking care of me so that I can make a difference in the lives that I touch. Obviously their God must be one who picks and chooses who to love and who to help. He must have a very narrow view of the world as do His followers. I always thought there was only one God regardless of your religion. To recall a verse from the Bible, God said, "Love thy neighbor as thyself," not just those people you seem worthy of your love. This directive was to be an unconditional love.

Third, I would like to let them know that I will pray to my God to forgive them. If I were out in the world spreading hatred and justifying it by using the Bible, I would be very much afraid that God would impose his justice at some point in my life, be it while I am alive or after death. They need to understand that what they are doing is totally opposite of what God wants from his people and that I am not damned to hell, but will enjoy life eternal in heaven.

My point is not to promote religion, but to make the clear com

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J.R. Nevin

Grabbing the Rainbow

I've thought about this issue's subject several times. Recently, I watched a movie on the *Lifetime* network that again brought the subject to the forefront of my mind. The movie was *Any Mother's Son*, which focused on the mother of Allen Schindler and her reactions toward his gay bashing and death. During the movie it showed a news clip of protesters, demonstrating because they wanted no more Allen Schindlers. It made me wonder what Harrisburg and its surrounding areas are doing to remember their Allen Schindlers and how they will tolerate no more Allens on any level.

When I first came to Harrisburg and discovered State Street, one of my first shocks there was to have a policeman stop my car and show me a wanted poster of three young men. These men were wanted in the gruesome murder of a gay public official. Since being in Harrisburg, I have heard of at least three such murders and countless stories of beatings harrassment, armed robberies and extortionistic tactics. With all these stories I have yet to hear of one protest, vigil or demonstration against these *hate crimes*. Granted for several years I had no real dealings in the gay community but had heard of all kinds of gay events and groups but never one in protest against violence directed at our communities.

I used the term "hate crime", but I'm not real comfortable with this term. When I hear the term "hate crime" I think of a pick-up truckload of rednecks, jumping off the back to beat the living crap out of someone for walking down the street. The term is too confining; it doesn't begin to cover the crimes targeted at the lesbian/gay/trans community. I've heard of several muggings in the downtown gay bar area, more so than the straight bars. I don't consider these types of crimes as "hate crimes" but they are specifically targeted at our community. I would be targeted, the stereotypes alone make us seem

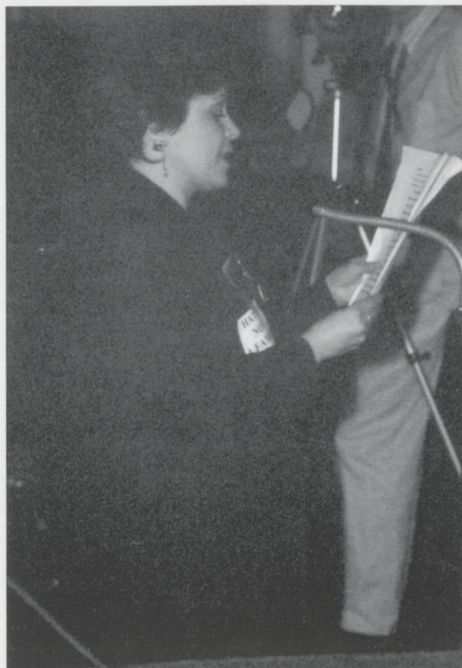
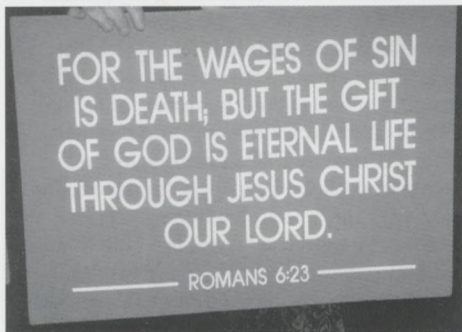
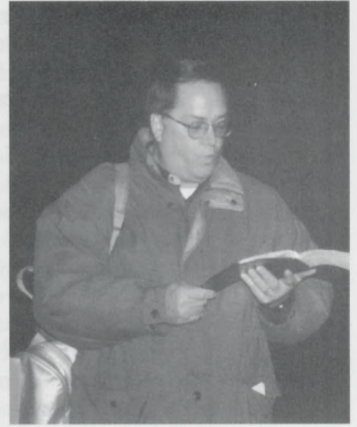
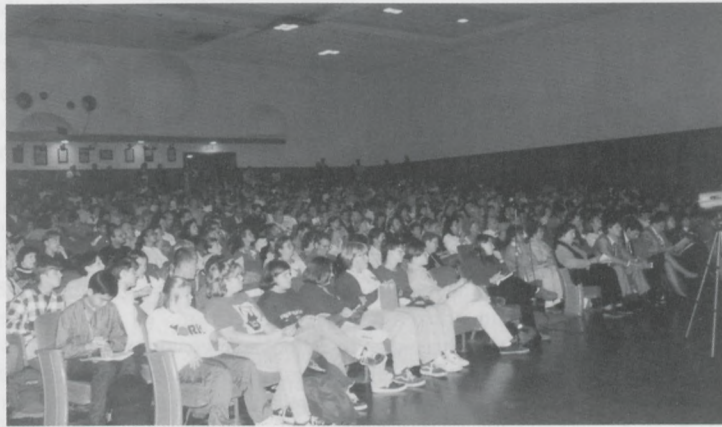
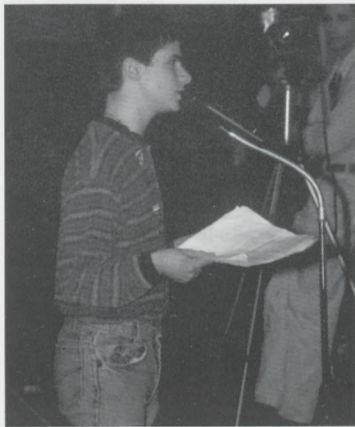
parison that in any form, God does not condone the actions of those who oppose us in this life. They are entitled to their opinion, but to say that they speak for God is a fallacy on these (?) parts. Although I would love to have the opportunity to sit down with some of these people for a discussion, I don't ever see it happening. They would probably be worried that I would be recruiting in an effort to make my quota so that I can get my free toaster oven! X

like an easy target. You all now from what record player the types play like all gay men are effeminate or that most gays are closeted, therefore less likely to fill any kind of report with police, yaddah, yaddah, yaddah---the list of these type of explanations could go on and on.

An acquaintance of mine met a couple of guys and ended up taking them home. One of the bashed him over the head. Luckily he kept his senses and got out of the house. My acquaintance said that the city detectives were very helpful although he could tell that the city policeman was a bit uncomfortable with the situation. I commend the acquaintance for reporting the incident and following through with the complaint. It makes me wonder how many bisexuals, gays and lesbians do not take the correct and legal course of action and remain as the silent victims. When I spoke with my acquaintance over the phone, I asked him if he considered it a "hate crime". He knew the definition of "hate crime" according to the laws and didn't really think that his situation fit the definition. After I explained how perplexed I was about the actual definition, he understood my confusion: had he not been a gay man, more than likely he would not have been in the situation. Now by all means, I am not placing any kind of judgement on his activity. I've done the same thing dozens of times and thank goodness have never been faced with this situation. The truth is that a lot of the lesbian/gay lifestyles open up avenues for crime that most straights don't have to face. Does this or should this make the crime any more acceptable or the victim any less important? Are we educating our own community on the importance of reporting these crimes and preventive measures to avoid them? Are the city police and officials adequately educated as to how to deal with these types of crimes and what kind of emotional and profound (often delicate) effects the crime has on the victim? Who within our community will or should take on the responsibility of education within our community and pursue the necessary educational needs of the city officials that deal with these situations? Is there a need for any of this? I think so, which leads me back to the original point: without our community remembering its victims and taking actions that will help prevent further crimes directed at our community we will continue to be targets. Do we have to wait to educate until we have our next murder, bashing, robbery, etc.? I hope not. One more tidbit and I'll end this article. A friend of mine was a close and dear friend of one of the men murdered. She described where are what kind of condition his body was found. She still grieves for him, when I asked if there was a close and dear friend of one of the men murdered. She described where and what kind of condition his body was found. She still grieves for him, when I asked if there was some kind of memorial or rally in remembrance of him or a community effort to combat this type of crime, she knew of nothing that was done.

Our community deserves the same due process that the straight community receives along with considerations for crimes that specially effect us. If we fail to use the system at all or fail to remind the correct officials of our particular needs and forget or hide our past victims then we should not voice our disbelief when the outside communities say that such problems don't exist in Harrisburg.

Summing it up in rainbow terms: If we submissively continue to let criminals plunder our pot of gold without trying to protect the pot, then when the rainbow fades because its foundational pot of gold is gone, we have no one to blame but ourselves. X



E-Town's Crash Course

Andy Spedden

Lancaster County is a predominantly conservative, agricultural place known for Pennsylvania Dutch culture. It is also known for its tug-of-war relationship between sociopolitical and socioreligious conservatism and moderation. From the county seat, Lancaster City, to the outlying townships and boroughs, the tide of national shifts in attitudes and public policies laps at Lancaster County's feet, and those of its residents. Sometimes, the county is rocked by a wave that leaves the county's laundry out to dry in the light of public debate.

The Borough of Elizabethtown was incorporated in 1826; its current population is 9,952. The Elizabethtown Area School District (EASD) currently serves 3,000 students from Bainbridge, Rheems, Conoy Township, West Donegal Township, Mount Joy and Elizabethtown. EASD is governed by the nine-member Elizabethtown Area School Board (EASB). Elected by registered voters in the 20,000-resident district, incumbent board members are: President John Larue, Vice President John Everhart, Treasurer Thomas Bowen, Robert Enck, Armond Fieni, Carol Miller, Gary Parsons, Andrew Saylor, and Kathleen Weaver. They come from diverse walks of life; they are individuals who collectively function, "...not in operating the schools, but in seeing that they are operated and operated effectively." The EASB members "...plan, set policy, hire staff, and evaluate programs for the entire school district."

The EASB meets twice each month---once for a more informal work session, and once for a formal business meeting; all meetings are open to the public and permit time for "Citizens' Comments."

The story that follows is about how a wave of national debate, about the moral equality of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) people, and the matter of extending rights to them, hit Elizabethtown, and left its laundry hanging to dry in the lights of fiery debates, candle flames and television cameras.

The Pro-Family Resolution - *September, 1996*

WHEREAS the traditional family, of one man married to one woman and their children through birth or adoption, has been the norm in all civilized societies throughout history;

WHEREAS the traditional family bears the primary responsibility for the moral instruction of children; and

WHEREAS the traditional family is under relentless attack by those who want to redefine family to include homosexual and lesbian couples and by those who want to indoctrinate children in pro-homosexual propaganda against their parents' wishes; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that Elizabethtown Area School District hereby endorses this Pro-Family Resolution and affirms that pro-homosexual concepts on sex and family as promoted by the National Education Association will never be tolerated or accepted in this school.

September 1996

At its work session, EASB member Carol Miller introduces a resolution affirming "the traditional family" and stating intolerance and unacceptance of "pro-homosexual concepts on sex and family as promoted by the national Education Association (NEA) in this school." This "Pro-Family Resolution" is provided by Concerned Women of America, a religious extremist organization headed by Beverly LaHaye. The CWA seeks to convert American society to socioreligious and sociopolitical conservatism. For example, the CWA recently joined the Southern Baptist's boycott of the Disney Corporation. With the exception of Robert Enck, the EASB approves the resolution for a vote at its September 17 business meeting, where, with the repeated exception of Enck, the board approves the "Pro-Family Resolution" as its own. Board discussion at both meetings is filled with criticism of President Bill Clinton, the "liberal" NEA, and other "liberal" things. The *Lancaster New Era*, a county-wide newspaper, reports the board's actions on its front page, generating letters of approval and opposition to the EASB's actions.

October 1996

EASB member Thomas Bowen explains the board's action in mainstream public policy regarding the traditional family, as recently affirmed by our national and state legislatures, The Pennsylvania Senate has just voted 43-5 to deny legal recognition of same-sex marriages, an action approved 177-16 by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Although this is not the last time Bowen will assume spokespersonship for the EASB

utilizing the media, he will blame the media for the widespread opposition to the board. In a seemingly supportive action, the New Era editorializes that "the board probably will clarify that it was not criticizing one-parent families, for example, or even homosexuals per se. The object of the resolution was to prohibit homosexual advocacy in the schools."

On October 8, 250 students walk out of Elizabethtown Middle and High Schools in protest of the resolution. They are joined by more than a dozen parents, facing prior threats of a three-day, in-school suspension for participating in the protest. High school principal Lawrence Mayes tells the students, "You have created a media event and I don't know if that is what you want."

At that evening's EASB work session, more than 1,200 district residents and concerned citizens overflow the high school auditorium. During the "Citizens' Comments" segment of the meeting, over 50 residents give the board their opinions for three hours. The result: the board sends the resolution back to the Policy Committee and asks for a new version, preferably with softer wording. Meanwhile, reports of the board's actions have spread to the Internet and the national media.

Attendees of the board's October 15 business meeting are greeted by EASB supporters, some of whom carry signs with Bible verses they claim oppose homosexuals and homosexuality. Attendees are also greeted by speakers from a press conference organized by GLBT people and advocates. Inside, all but 30 minutes of the 4 1/2 hour meeting are filled with citizens' comments, predominantly about the resolution. The only action the board takes is to offer a "clarification": "The resolution was not intended to imply, nor does it state, that anyone or any family is less valuable than another. It was intended to affirm that moral instruction on controversial issues such as homosexuality is to be provided by the student's family and not by the schools."

Thus, the EASB brings discussion of the "controversial issue" of homosexuality into the schools, and requires for more private "moral instruction" than that required for

issues such as pregnancy and the transmission of venereal diseases among public school students. This does not escape the attention of district residents and parents. However, their repeated inquiries as to revisions in district sex education curriculum are not answered publicly. Sometimes, (as in the case of parent Maryann Stanley), the questions aren't answered at all. Other parents urge the board to grant equal attention and effort to overdue and much-needed school construction and renovation projects.

November 1996

Board meeting attendance has dropped considerably, although citizens' comments still abound, and letters-to-the-editor continue to fill the commentary sections of area newspapers. At its monthly work session, the EASB discusses a policy, based on the "Pro-Family Resolution," proposed by the Policy Committee. Its primary conflict is the policy's first guideline: "The district will not promote, encourage, or give special recognition to same-sex sexual relationships or orientation." This doesn't sit well with conservative board members Gary Parsons and Thomas Bowen, who suggest "Homosexuality shall not be taught or promoted as a sexual lifestyle, nor shall it be given special recognition." Bowen states his disappointment with the Policy Committee, and criticizes it for addressing discrimination and sexual harassment based on students' actual or perceived homosexuality. He also admits that he hasn't read any books for school students about homosexuality, like *Heather Has Two Mommies*, and that he doesn't "care to." This prompts few residents to ask why he's opposing something he hasn't more completely researched. EASD student Shawn Rowley, whose father, Jamie, will later declare his candidacy for the EASB, points out that although Bowen says homosexuality shouldn't be discussed in schools, his support and defense of the "Pro-Family Resolution" only increases such discussion.

At its business meeting a few weeks later, the EASB approves the Policy Committee's revised submission, an "Instructional Policy Regarding Sexual Orientation," in a 6-3 vote. It also votes to delete portions of the policy that address harassment for actual or perceived sexual orientation, and affirm the district's provision of an education to "all students regardless of sexual orientation." Before the vote, Robert Umble, head of EASD's guidance department, states "many students have been hurt or have a sense of alienation towards the school" because of the resolution." He further remarks, "I believe that the board has shown intolerance."

Previous Page Photos

Top Picture: *The Elizabethtown School Board at its February 18 meeting. Row 2 (l to r): Student speaks out against the resolution, October 8 audience, resolution supporter, Row 3: Sign of policy supporter. Bottom: Elizabethtown Teacher's Union President Nancy Warble speaks out against the resolution at the February 8 board meeting.*

Photo credits: Michelle Haller & Eric Selvey

Inspired by the newly-formed grassroots organization Common Sense, which will monitor EASB actions, district residents await the board's monthly meetings. Although many people are preparing their holiday celebrations, a cloud of tension hangs over the district: the school board will give the "Instructional Policy" a second reading at its December 17 business meeting---the final step prior to its approval.

On December 9, the local news media reports that a letter, dated December 4, has been sent to EASB President John Larue and member and attorney Andrew Saylor, by Rita Addressa, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force (PLGTF). She states, "The policy...is the antithesis of Pennsylvania's commitment to fairness and tolerance. If effected, the policy will teach children who represent various family constellations that they are inferior to other children who happen to live within a 'traditional family.'" She is the first person to offer a legal challenge to the EASB: "I would appreciate the EASB's serious and timely consideration of the moral and legal consequences of a policy intended to harm and exclude any minority group and to delegitimize family formations that are a loving and caring as the misnamed 'traditional family.'"

The letter's effect is immediate. When pressed for comment, Saylor responds, "(The) board is having the (district) solicitor look into the matter."

Although previous demonstrations against the resolution and the policy have

A Just Blow to Anti-Gay Abuse

\$900,000---a figure just shy of a cool million. This figure would mean nothing to you unless you were Jamie Nabozny and you were named victorious in a federal suit against your school district. Nabozny accused Ashland, WI administrators of turning a deaf ear to his pleas help against the spewers of anti-gay epithets and acts of mockery, because he was openly gay.

Nabozny, who told his parents he was gay at age 11, (and who supported their son since), endured verbal and physical abuse through his middle and high school years. The violence was so bad that one time after students repeatedly kicked the effeminate boy (his words), he was rushed to a hospital days later due to the persistent excruciating pains he experienced. Still, the administration refused to lift a finger against the violent teens. In fact, the administration blamed his openly gay personage as an invitation for trouble.

The incidents continued unabated causing the 16-year-old to run away from home and finding sanctuary with a gay couple who were officers in the St. Paul, MN Metropolitan Community Church.

Nabozny, sensing an infringement upon his civil rights, retained a lawyer in 1983 in order to sue the Ashland School District. The federal

Instructional Policy Regarding Sexual Orientation - January/February, 1997

Purpose --- The Elizabethtown Area School District is responsible for providing a sound academic curriculum and recognizes that the family is the primary source of guidance about controversial moral issues,

Authority --- The Superintendent will interpret and enforce this policy subject to the general authority of the Board to modify the policy and its interpretation and enforcement,

Guidelines --- a. The curriculum will not promote or encourage same-sex relationships or orientation. b. This policy is limited to program content and shall not affect the obligations of the District to provide all pupils an equal educational opportunity and to protect all pupils from sexual harassment by taking appropriate disciplinary action.

included local and regional GLBTR leaders, none have been as effective in delaying the "Instructional Policy." At its work session the next week, Mr. Larue announces that the policy is under legal review, and will not receive a second reading until that process is completed. Bowen announces he will suggest amendments to the policy, to shift disapproval of homosexuality from "the district" to "the curriculum." This is a response to the recent federal court ruling that held public school officials liable for failing to address issues of anti-gay harassment in the 1996 case of *Nabozny v. Podlesny* (see below).

Many residents learn of the board's delay through the media: meeting audiences have decreased in size, and the students who walked out of school in protest of the resolution no longer show an interest in the proceedings. At its December 17 meeting, the board announces continued legal review of the policy, due to potential "litigation issues

district court dismissed the case without a hearing. Undeterred, Nabozny, with assistance from the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, appealed the case in July 1996 in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. The court took on the case because, in its opinion, gay people "are an identifiable minority" and found it difficult to believe gay people would choose to be so "given the considerable discrimination leveled against homosexuals."

Four months later, seven jurors were treated to testimony from administrators who felt the verbal abuse not did not warrant monitoring or discipline. One principal in fact stated that they felt the epithets of "faggot" weren't as bad as racial slurs and thus found no reason to stop them. The jury unanimously found fault with the administration of both of Ashland's middle and high schools for and awarded Nabozny \$900,000.

Though he's not comfortable with his new found fame, Jamie Nabozny wants to become a social worker and open up a support facility for gay and lesbian kids who find it tough going through their adolescent years.

Since the ruling, Kansas, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Texas have been treated to stories of abuse of children within their districts since it is not deemed illegal to harass gay and lesbian children.

J.D. KENNEDY

involving the school district."

In response to an earlier inquiry about the song *YMCA* by The Village People, being removed from the high school band's football game repertoire, board President Larue says the decision was a matter of "discernment" on the band director's part. This response from the board comes two months after the removal was first questioned, in light of The Village People's unabashed homosexuality, and only after several residents spoke up.

January 1997

On the afternoon of the EASB's work session, the *Lancaster New Era* reveals the source of the "Instructional Policy's" review: The Rutherford Institute, "an institutional religious-rights advocacy group." What the *New Era* doesn't report will later be a source of much displeasure with the EASB: first, that the board spent \$6,190 for the Institute's services, and second, that the Institute is part of a conglomerate of media, political, legal, educational and other operations overseen by televangelist Pat Robertson, known for his ultraconservative, anti-gay positions. Institute attorney James Cox defends the EASB: "The school board is trying to take their hands out of the issue and say, 'This is an issue we don't think the schools should be dealing with.' They're giving it back to the parents, where it belongs."

GLBT people and advocates in the region, meanwhile, continue their visible protest of the board and its policy. Addressa has been called in by district residents to help organize a comprehensive effort to overturn the policy. Laura Montgomery Rutt, Executive Director of the Lancaster-based Alliance for Tolerance and Freedom, says, "We think this is an assault on our children. It violates the separation of church and state, because the religious beliefs of the school board are becoming part of the school."

Rutt is joined, at a press conference and candlelight vigil, by representatives of the Lancaster Area National Organization for Women, the Pennsylvania Justice Campaign,

the Pink Triangle Coalition, Equality House of Dickinson College, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of Central Pennsylvania, PFLAG of York, and York Area Lambda. GLBT and supportive clergy also join, as do Elizabethtown High School students who begin to realize the long, arduous process of fighting discrimination and, in particular, challenging anti-gay prejudice.

At the meeting that follows the conference and vigil, the EASB passes the "Instructional Policy" on first reading, 7-2. Member Robert Enck moves to delete the original "Pro-Family Resolution," but is superseded by conservative member Armond Fieni, who moves to have the resolution sent back to the Policy Committee.

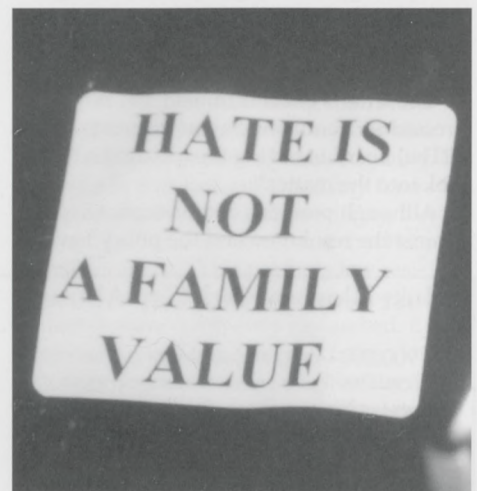
Although this is the extent of the board's action on the policy, for now, the meeting doesn't go by without an uproar. When PLGTF's Addressa approaches the microphone during "Citizens' Comments" time, she is turned down by board President Larue, causing the audience of approximately 250 to erupt in yells of support for her. Larue calls for a 10-minute recess, during which EASD Superintendent Allan Thrush and Deputy Superintendent Marilyn Baker, who has previously opposed the resolution and policy, order Business Manager David Matyas to call borough police to the scene. Matyas later says the board "...just wanted to maintain order. We thought the potential was there for the crowd to get unruly."

Unbeknownst to Thrush, Baker and Matyas, borough police chief Robert Ardner has already assigned an undercover detective to the meeting, and later blasts the call for assistance as a lack of skill on Larue's behalf saying, "A skilled leader of a public meeting can do things (to handle) people like that without calling the police department." However, the EASB's Thomas Bowen offers a different view: "Ardner's comments about the phone call are politically inspired since his wife, Kay Ardner, is a vocal opponent of the proposed board policy." Bowen goes on to call Mrs. Ardner "an ultra-liberal who wants nothing more than to make this board look foolish and replace it with a new board."

A new, humorous question is asked among district residents: how "scary" can Addressa, a 5-foot, 3-inch lesbian grandmother be to a mostly conservative school board dominated by comparatively tall, heterosexual men? The answer, though often unsaid, is that Addressa presented an intellectual, not a physical, challenge. But it would not be the last time she steps foot in Elizabethtown.

The board's January business meeting is

Continued on Page 50



Top to Bottom: Young protesters of the district's policy (Feb.), Board members (l to r) Everhart, Larue and Parsons (?), Sign of the times, EASD parent Maryanne Stanley speaking out against the resolution.

What happens when these two best friends start brainstorming?



Heidi Linn



Shelly D.

You end up with a Brand New Nightclub called Twin Peaks!!!

A new club for women everywhere who enjoy good times every Friday & Saturday night, good Live Entertainment, good service, cheap drinks (\$1.00 Well Drinks & .75 Drafts from 8 -10) & a great sound & light show from 10 PM - 2 AM provided by DJ Heidi's "You're the Star".

Friday, October 17th - Folk Singer Barb Barton from 8:30 - 10:30, Sunday the 19th Twin Peaks sponsors "Grandma's Garden Affair" a benefit show for the Memorial Gardens on the Main Dance Floor at 8:00

Friday, November 7th is Calvin Klein Night Ladies Style, Friday the 14th - Encore Show for Singer/ Songwriter Natalie Darkes: 8:30 - 10:30

Friday, December 19th Commonbond debuts in Twin Peaks 8:30 - 10:30

Twin Peaks
706 N. Third St. Top Floor
Harrisburg, PA
717.232.3060

Open Friday & Saturday
7pm - 2am



Getting It Together at the HACC Campus are Pink Triangle members past president Dee Oakes (l), member Joe Maurer (r) and current president Keith Keppley.

Pink Triangle Group of HACC

Starting Over and Doing It Right

Dr. Eric W. Selvey

There is a movement afoot these days on the campus of Harrisburg Area Community College. A gay/lesbian student group, that recently restarted after a year and a half of inactivity due to a rift between two factions, is working to improve relations between themselves and their straight peers, and at the same time, is striving to build bridges between themselves, people of color and other physically-challenged backgrounds. The Pink Triangle Group of HACC is working to get its act together in an ambitious way.

"We basically just want to make people aware that we are here and we want to break the stereotypes down," says member Keith Keppley, "We want to let people know that we are normal and that we are not freaks. We want to try to educate students on this. We do not want to be politically out there, but we want to make some changes."

Keppley, a 25-year-old first year student and newly elected president of the group, feels he is in a grey area when it comes to the issue of being out. Though he is not out at work, he is to friends and to most of his family exclusive of his mother. "I am working to get the whole way there. I just started to become more and more aware of who I am and what I'm supposed to be doing and what I want to: to be more proud and show more people who I am."

Keppley finds that PTG helps him to achieve a sense of out through the support of his gay peers and from group advisors Cathryn Amdahl and Trum Simmons. In fact, he has found the strength and courage to go to the Office of Institutional Diversity,

which maintains the Building Bridges program---the newest of the college's programs that seeks to improve race relations among the students, faculty and administration---and said there were more issues than African American/White issues, but that gay and lesbian/straight issues need also be voiced by the college.

At its genesis, Pink Triangle started out as a support group that held what became known as "Straight Talk" meetings. The group eventually decided to seek official recognition from Student Government as a college group. Naturally there were those who opposed seeing a group specifically dealing with gay and lesbian concerns on campus. Student Government approved their admittance (9/3/2), but not without problems e.g., PTG posters defaced. Before long, however, the controversy quickly dissipated and the organization eventually received its charter.

(A sidenote: Pink Triangle's acceptance into the Pantheon of student organizations occurred at the same time another hotly contested debate occurred on the HACC campus: the national issue of Gays in the Military. A poll printed in the campus paper, *The Fourth Estate*, revealed that of the 100 students who were asked, "Do you support or oppose President Clinton lifting the ban on gays in the military?," 31% supported the measure, while 58% opposed it. Pink Triangle's admittance was nothing short of miraculous.)

The group disbanded in 1995 only to come back to together in March of this year. Trum Simmons, a 26-year Professor of English at the college, explained that "the group began to split over leadership issues in that there were those who wanted to be politically active and those who wanted Pink Triangle to be a support group." The group fell apart after the president stepped down.

Pink Triangle started up again through Faculty and Staff Allies (FASA) which was concerned about gay and lesbian students on campus and asked faculty and administrators to show support of their peers as well as gay, lesbian and bisexual students; with a prime emphasis placed on the student portion. Simmons gave credit to Robin Stokes of the Lancaster campus who spearheaded this effort and played an important role in the eventual revival of PTG.

From there, fifty-five people, including HACC's then acting president Dr. Paul Hurley, signed on and the group wanted to publish the list of supporters as well as a compendium of stories dealing with issues centering around sexual orientation issues. One of the projects to come out of this was to restart the Pink Triangle Group. Once stu-

dents showed an interest, advisors like Simmons and Cathryn Amdahl, (Associate Professor of English for five years at the campus) came on board.

Amdahl got involved with PTG through an interesting route. By being heterosexual, she did not tend to notice gay people through school. When a male high school friend, went away upon graduation, only to return as a beautiful drag queen, she found the transformation to be "cool." However, the backlash he received by his hometown awakened compassion towards a group that she found could possibly be maligned by the whole society. "Those people who think (of gays as sodomites) that way...I don't know what they think about me. That kind of thinking is so mean spirited in that I don't want to be around them." Amdahl feels that the students are really worth the effort and the time she expends for students who are dealing with sexual orientation issues.

Keppley was unsure about having the organization return because of his uncertainty in how he and other gay and lesbian students would be accepted. All fears subsided when fellow students and faculty supported the group's fund raisers and gave words of encouragement and support to he and his cohorts.

The group, though only four members strong, had not been approached in Spring 1997 by nominees for Student Government for their support. The group, however, has a long memory and remembers those who supported them in the past and would take that knowledge to the polls. "I think it's really important to be on Student Government. They have been very supportive of us and have gotten the funding that we need." PTG received \$500 for the Spring semester because they came along late in the year. This new college year may see an increase in funding for the group's projects. Far range planning helps any organization to get more money and with their plans to bring speakers to the campus, it's a safe bet that PTG will have a greater chance of realizing an increase in their funding.

Pink Triangle wishes to work with other organizations to build the connections that are sorely lacking in a world where people tend to stay within their group. One project that provided a great sense of pride for both the group and its advisors was a two-hour silent vigil held last spring. Slightly modeled after what other gay and lesbian college groups did across the country, PTG took the concept a step further by emphasizing the recognition of members of different ethnic and other backgrounds "who had been quieted throughout history due to ignorance and lack of understanding." The campus clock tower, where the vigil took place, granted great visibility to the group as well as to the Building Bridges program.

The group is currently working to produce program for October's Coming Out

Day that would provide information for their peers as well as feature gay entertainers and speakers who will put gay and lesbian issues in a proper perspective. Keppley believes that "everything we do makes a difference. I may not change the whole world, but I want to do something that helps."

If the other members of HACCC's Pink Triangle keep that philosophy in mind, they will indeed make a difference in their corner of academia and will carry their newfound strength after they graduate as they dive into a society that is slowly altering its opinion about gay and lesbian people. X

York City Schools Says "No" To "Sexual Orientation"

J.D. Kennedy

After four months of sometimes rancorous discussion, the board of directors of the York City School District voted not to include "sexual orientation" in its existing non-discrimination and harassment policies. Before an SRO audience and after both sides had their say, the board voted 5-2 (with two members absent) against the measures.

Prior to the vote, Peg Welsh, member of the newly formed Gay, Lesbian & Straight Alliance and chair of the York City Human Relations Commission, tried to convince the school board that "the most important thing in all this discussion...is the children." Franklin Williams, who formed the Alliance, noted that the board had been beaten down by both sides; apologizing for an issue that had been blown out of proportion.

At the other end of the spectrum, Pastor Gary Hahn, opponent of the proposed addition and head of One Nation Under God, felt the vote showed a sense of responsibility by the board; feeling that the addition of "sexual orientation" could provide protection for pedophiles and necrophiles.

Though board member Russ Crenshaw voted against the proposals, he felt that the issue will probably be revisited and resolution will occur.

The vote came four years after the York City Council added "sexual orientation" to its ordinance banning discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation. The York County Vocational-Technical School is the only school in York County that includes "sexual orientation" in its non-discrimination policy having added it in February. X



GLSENing At A Regular Meeting are (Front: R to L) Neil Beach, Phil Goropolous, Martha Shelly, Linda Ewing, (Rear) Don Brandl, Mary Carson and GailAnn Rickert.

Area Educators GLSEN For All Gay and Lesbian Students

Dr. Eric W. Selvey

Six educators meet in Carlisle in February 1997 to create a local chapter that on the national level has as its mission "to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation." With seven months under their belt, the organization boasts a board of ten and a membership of over 25 teachers in an area that has seen conservative forces successful in the disallowing of rights and protections for gay and lesbian students e.g., Elizabethtown and York.

This is the local chapter of the Gay, Lesbian, Student Educators Network whose 60 chapters and 5,000 members on the national level make it "the second largest network in the entire gay and lesbian civil rights movement." Known initially as the Gay, Lesbian, Student, Teachers' Network, the organization was formed in 1990 by a small volunteer group which was successful in making Massachusetts the first state to ban anti-gay discrimination within its public schools. The organization went national in 1994 with the goal to effect change within the K-12 education systems throughout the country via its support to the local chapters. The organization recently changed its name in order to allow more professionals in the education field to join its ranks without questioning whether only teachers could be members and thus added more voices to the cause.

The local group has recently been recognized by the national as an official chapter of GLSEN (pronounced "glisten") by agreeing to focus on three areas that fulfill its mission: In-School Programming (staff training materials via videos, the lesbian, Gay and Bisexual History Project and sup-

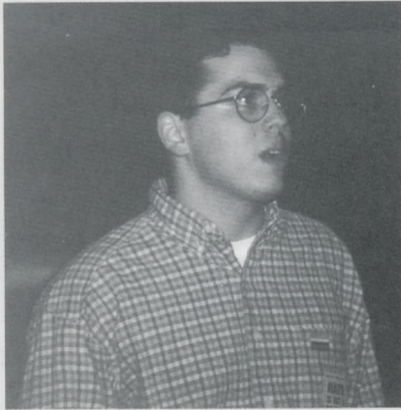
port programs such as their Gay-Student Alliances); Advocacy (attempting to change "the hearts and minds" of policy-makers and educational leaders who control our schools); Community Organizing (bringing teachers and parents on board to change the system for their youth).

The group would not have banded together at all if it were not for the assiduous work of Phil Goropolous who, through his coordination efforts to organize a demonstration with gay, lesbian and straight allies prior to an Elizabethtown Area School District board meeting last Fall, discovered the need for a network of like-minded individuals to raise its voice when the concerns of gay and lesbian students' rights are infringed upon or ignored.

Though discussion of the organization occurred prior to the E-Town controversy, Goropolous, along with his advisor for American Studies at Dickinson College, Lonna Malmshemer, Ph.D. (who currently serves on the GLSEN board), found that the E-Town situation made clear the problem of finding individuals in the local school districts who were sympathetic to the problems of lesbian/gay/trans students within their schools and could rally to the students' needs. He started the local chapter in January during his internship at the Carlisle YWCA whose administrators were receptive to the idea of bringing the chapter under its aegis via its call to social justice. The YW has been so supportive, that GLSEN is currently listed in its program directory (as is a gay/lesbian book discussion group that was formed prior to the onset of GLSEN).

The chapter covers the counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Perry, and York counties. The only other

And a Child Shall Lead Them



He's 21-years-old. A recent graduate of Dickinson College. And Phil Goropolous senses the needs to have something done to protect the classes of youths that will follow him out of the high schools and into the real world. But by all appearances, one would not think that this baby-faced young man could make people aware of the problems facing his up and coming

scholastic brood. Nevertheless, Goropolous is the GLSEN's point person and though he is not the chair of the organization, his ability to do the work and make the contacts necessary to keep the organization running smoothly is well-appreciated by all of the local's board members.

Phil's major at Dickinson was in English and American Studies. He was in a teacher education program but was dissuaded from the classroom because "I did not want to live my life in hiding. To be an openly gay teacher isn't really an option especially in this area." Instead, he wants to make a change in society and therefore wants a position in the social service or civil rights fields. According to the Dickinson grad, "The way I want to lead my life is not the way an educator should lead their life because I may find myself in the newspaper and then I have to worry about damage control with the school." He wants to see Pennsylvania get to a point where if a student has to stay after school with a known gay educator, that the teacher won't be charged with child molestation. And though he knows that as a gay teacher he could be a good role model for gay/lesbian students, he is currently not certified to teach in the state and thus wants to make a change through GLSEN.

Goropolous came out to himself at the beginning of his sophomore year in college at age 19. He told his parents the next year who found the news difficult to take. They claimed to have never met a gay person. He suspected they knew because he invited them to hear Rev. Mel White, author of *Strangers at the Gate*, speak at the college, and was shocked when they didn't have a clue when he finally told them he was gay. Phil's father believes that being gay is a choice whereas his mother and his sole sibling, his older sister, have been

accepting of Phil's orientation.

He never had a hard time with his peers. Though he thought of himself as different from other adolescent boys, he went through the obligatory high school dating scene and thus was never suspect among his peers. He remembered hearing stories, however, of a sophomore who wanted to take his boyfriend to the prom. At college, he told his best friend, a girl who had a crush on him at first, who was dealing with sexual orientation issues of her own. Since then, she has accepted Phil's gay orientation as well as her own lesbian status.

He got "The Big Lecture" from his parents when his name and picture were splashed through the local papers following the E-Town demonstration partly because of their business in Lancaster. A sense of affirmation can be found in his mother remarks of her son's impeccable sense of right and wrong. Mater and Pater Goropolous, however, feel their son would fare much better from employment that will pay big bucks instead of the work he has chosen. The younger Goropolous refused a job offer from his father which would have forced him to quit his job with the YWCA, move out of Central PA and make certain his name would never be associated with gay or lesbian issues via the media. Says the soft-spoken young man, "That's not my life. Whatever I do, it's still my life. If I do my job, I'll be very committed to my job and the job should be a big part of your life, but I still want the final say that if there's a demonstration somewhere, I want to go. No one's going to tell me, 'You can't go.'"

His declaration of freedom does not stop with his parents. Phil also lets prospective employers know about his sexual orientation via his resume that lists his involvement with gay-themed organizations as well as his writings (one of which was his thesis on gay playwright Larry Kramer) that are seen by those who wish to view his writing style.

In reference to gay and lesbian struggles, Goropolous sees a lot of room for improvement throughout society; specifically in the area of education. According to the GLSEN founder, gays and lesbian are not asking for special treatment, but rather to be included in classroom discussions of historical or literary personages when appropriate. Goropolous points to his high school junior class discussions of Walt Whitman and the poet's gay-themed matter. The lack of discussion of Whitman's work, in Phil's estimation, is a disservice to students when Whitman's work is hidden by the teacher or when the meaning is never fully revealed in the classroom.

At first glance, some would see Goropolous as a serious young man who knows his desire to make a change for all gay people despite what people think of him. And if professional educators in the Central Pennsylvania area wish to follow a young gay upstart, they have found no better model than Phil Goropolous.

chapter can be found in Philadelphia becoming both a problem and a blessing for the local chapter. Calls for help have come into the YW for information on who to contact for help in anti-gay student matters within their schools. Goropolous helps as best as possible and gives referrals when possible. GLSEN does not intend to be selfish in its purpose. Since its beginning, the nascent organization has solicited the help and advice of groups such as PFLAG and the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Youth Association of Harrisburg (Bi-GLYAH).

The organization's current dues structure does not allow for the funds to be filtered through the local chapter and to the national offices in New York. At the present time, dues are routed through New York and then to the local chapters---a process that does not allow educators to contribute to the local, but who do not wish to be known as

members. Currently national membership is \$35.00. The local chapter is allowed to ask for an additional \$5 to continue its work. The national organization is currently looking at changing the structure to allow for more money to go through the locals where \$10 of the \$35 can be kept by the chapters. As for confidentiality, the membership list is kept securely by the chapters. Names, however, can be shared with the national organization only if a prospective member gives their consent via the registration form.

This past September has seen the national organization's implementation of its annual Back-To-School program---a college-wide program that asks students to send cards calling on U.S. Education Secretary Richard W. Riley to work with President Bill Clinton to ensure equal opportunity for all students regardless of sexual orientation---to their respective school districts asking to end

homophobia within academia's hallowed halls.

The local group is also looking to last year's successful *Nobozny v. Podlesny* case (see page 9) and hence the revisions to Title IX guidelines of the Office of Civil Rights/U.S. Dept. of Education (those provisions that make it necessary for schools to receive federal funds) to make easy the task of compelling Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Dr. Eugene W. Hickock to publicly call for the Commonwealth's intolerance to anti-gay abuse in the schools. To this end, the local chapter is devising a letter-writing campaign for all concerned citizens that would call for the secretary to move on the issue. Simultaneously, the local chapter seeks the opportunity to work with Hickock to develop a strategy in order to work with the districts to provide safeguards for gay and lesbian youth.

By their efforts, they are looking to have 500 cards and letters signed and sent to the state's and nation's education leaders.

The local chapter finds education as a battleground right now and hence, the group decided to work to make the changes necessary. By making sure that the use of words like "dyke" and faggot" are not condoned by administration silence or used in the classrooms and in the halls of academia, the area GLSEN sees their task as a rough haul. However, their plan of action encourages them that their aim is true and their purpose will find its way to the heart and souls of peers and parents alike. X

GLSEN meets every second Wednesday at the Carlisle YWCA at 7:00 pm.

tears on the sleeve of a man

Don't wanna be a boy tonight
Lost in a world of illusion
Abandoning those who were so dear
to you

One minute
For free penny candy the next
Watching tears roll down
Your Mother's face
As you make mud pies
And ask for an Oreo

The time to be grown has come
Letting the faeries fly away
To leave you standing alone
Realizing what decisions
Have to be made
Ignoring your needs
To meet others
Watching others
Continue on with ease

As you struggle
Behind your walls
To keep existence and/or sanity
You sit in the sanctuary
And
For once
You feel God taking on your role
As her tears fall onto you
In thanks

Though you have lost your childhood
Forever
Though you lose
Your grasp with every
Tear
You are at peace
Though you are the embodiment of
Chaos and hell

CHRISTOPHER MCLAMB

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Pennsylvania Gay Rights: Rita Addressa and the Absentee Governor

Jim Cassell

On July 10th 1997, a meeting was held with 14 Pennsylvanian gay, lesbian and transgendered activists that included only two of his nineteen cabinet members: Department of Health Secretary, Dan Hoffman and Department of Corrections Commissioner, Martin Horn. Several other representatives from the Departments of Education, Insurance, Labor and Industry, Offices of Administration and Legislative Affairs also attended. The major problem being that the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, did not.

Rita Addressa, the President of the Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who headed the meeting, had this to say in response to the governor's absence:

"The lives of lesbian women and gay men are sacrificed on the twin altars of heterosexism and AIDSphobia. It is we who suffer the daily impacts of hatred and bigotry in a state that has failed to embrace the expansion of civil rights laws and that has failed to condemn hate crimes against us; it is we who suffer, as all citizens, the impact of state policy that turns its back on the compelling need for high quality public education, for the distribution of financial resources, and for academic excellence and equity in education; and it is we, as gay and lesbian people who suffer the state's recent codification of our second class

GAY YORK! Is On The Air Dr. Eric W. Selvey

Full usually debuts new television programming that, if the networks have their way about it, will keep couch potatoes content until mid-winter's Second Season. For York, however, the season has already started for *GAY YORK!* is now on the air.

Devised as an information source for the gay community, *GAY YORK!*'s creator Randy Blymire is looking to provide "more visibility for the gay community. That is the big thing that we are currently lacking. Visibility of normal everyday gay people." The idea came about for a few years. The local community access channel allows anyone with the gumption and the money to put anything on the air. On a national level, groups as controversial as the National Rifle Association to the White Aryan Nation as well as gay groups have found the wherewithall to fund and tape programs promoting their agendas.

citizenship through the Governor's imprimatur of marriage as an exclusively heterosexual privilege.

"It is the Governor's responsibility to uphold his oath of office to protect every citizen's health, welfare and safety---he cannot shield himself from this public duty because of his party's antipathy towards our people. It is our responsibility as a community to demonstrate to the Governor and his administration that we will not tolerate any act of contempt, disdain, or degradation by him or his administrators, and that we will, with or without him, have our rights. It is our responsibility to create a critical mass, a visible and vocal community that is grounded in the belief that justice will be ours and nothing less.

"The Governor can lead, follow, or get out of the way. We will continue to prevail on the Governor to meet with us in the fall of 1997; we will keep our commitment to meet separately with the Secretary of Labor, Johnny Butler, and the chief staff in the fall. A critical mass demanding the administration's cooperation is essential over the next several months."

What Addressa and other activists are asking for is a statewide policy that assures job security as well as education and housing. Although this is practice in such parts of PA. As Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, it is not the case in smaller towns such as Allentown or Elizabethtown.

What Addressa plans to have happen is for legislation to not only include discrimination based on sex, religion, age, national origin or disability, but to also include the categories of sexual orientation and gender identity.

While it seems that the several administrators who did attend found it to be interesting, they do not intend on expanding the civil rights statute.

"It was expressed by a member of our administration that gay rights was not on our agenda," said Ellen Yount, Ridge's Director of Communications. "We do not discriminate based on color, gender or sexual orientation." Therefore again, discrimination based on sexual orientation has been banned by executive order since the administration of Milton J. Shapp in the 70's. Presently, Ridge is not supportive of extending these protections to workers of the private sector. Yount continued, "For us to mandate that across the board is not something that we would be inclined to support."

You can help defend your rights as well as the rights of other gay, lesbian and transgendered individuals by sending the governor a personal letter asking him to attend the next meeting slated for the fall.

**The Honorable Governor Thomas Ridge
225 Capitol Building Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120**

**Or voice your opinion toll free:
1.800.932.0784**

Blymire went to York Community Access Television (YCAT) just to help someone produce their show. he got the bug and starting thinking how he could incorporate their services into assisting York's gay community. Cable Four, the regular company that provides cable to York, provides Channel 16 for cable access.

Four shows must be taped and edited before a permanent time is given for the program. As of now, all four shows are in the can, as they say in the TV biz, so a regular time slot will be granted. The first two shows have already aired and have included Pat and Don Brandl and Kathy Weems of MOIRA---York's gay and lesbian youth organization. Blymire, besides acting as interviewer, tapes, directs and edits each program. He is looking to eventually do roundtable discussions with MOIRA and youth members in the hopes of visualizing for the city the problems that gay teens presently have within their schools as well as their coping with the discovery of their sexual orientation.

Blymire claims there is not a political bent to his broadcasts even though he hopes that everyone, community leaders, politicians and

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everyday people, will view the *GAY YORK!*. For instance, his second show was about legal issues and how the gay community can protect itself. "Hopefully along the way, I hope to smash some stereotypes within the larger community."

.. One way Blymire is promoting his show via his web page:

(<http://yourpage.blazenet.net/casque>) as well as posters in Her Story Women's Bookstore, the 14 Karat and news releases to the local media. There has already been a buzz in the area concerning *GAY YORK!* as a result of his advertising efforts.

When asked how he will contend with the Religious Right, Blymire reveals that he has gotten negative letters in the past and has basically ignored all opposition to who he is and what he does within the gay community. In the future, he will include a P.O. Box as well as his email address so that people can express their opinion concerning the programming.

As a member of YCAT, Blymire has not incurred any costs to produce the show, (any expenses were in the purchase of lights). YCAT has volunteers that help with the camera and yaping of the programs. He hopes that people within the gay community will get involved with the technical end as well as sending suggestions on its future content.

Though Blymire's biggest concern is getting people on the show, if *GAY YORK!* is viewed as a positive force within its community, it will only be a matter of time that gay and lesbian York will embrace it as their own and keep the couch potatoes riveted to their screens during this television season. X

IMPORTANT ELECTION NEWS

Oct 6: Last Day to Register to vote in General Election.

Oct. 28: Last Day to apply for an absentee ballot.

Oct. 31: Last Day for county Board of Elections to receive absentee ballots.

(Note: Absentee ballots must be received in their office by this date, postmarks not accepted.)

Nov. 4: General Election

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NOW Passes TransInclusion Resolution

At its National Conference in early July, the National Organization for Women passed a transgender inclusion resolution that calls for, among other things, the elimination "of all sex stereotypes including so-called gender roles." Calling the transgendered community's today's cutting edge," NOW Action Vice President Rosemary Dempsey cited the community's efforts "In exposing artificial constructs of gender and breaking down the stereotypes and barriers which divide us all."

Many compared the passage of the TransgenderInclusion Resolution as historic as NOW's affirmation of lesbian inclusion in 1973. "After all the debate, seven amendments, and scores of compromises and dialogs, it was a truly emotional moment when nearly every hand in the Convention

Oppression of Transgendered People

WHEREAS, the national Organization for Women (NOW) has worked for the elimination of all forms of oppression in our society targeted at groups who are systematically mistreated; and

WHEREAS, the transgendered and transsexual communities confront oppression daily and are systematically mistreated because of artificial gender constructs in our society; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of understanding and information on issues affecting transgendered and transsexual people; and

went up in support," stated resolution supporter Terri McCorcal. "Women who had worked on this for years were crying and hugging in the aisles."

The landmark decision did not come easily. Originally introduced and unanimously passed at New Jersey's 1994 State Conference, the resolution was later introduced, in part by what was termed the "Transsexual Menace," which successfully gathered hundreds of signatures at NOW's

WHEREAS, one of NOW's goals is to eliminate all sex stereotypes including so-called gender roles; and

WHEREAS, NOW affirms and honors the right of people to self-identify;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW and its sub-units encourage education and dialogue within NOW and other organizations on gender and sex stereotypes including those who are transgendered and transsexual people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW reaffirm its commitment to end all sex and gender stereotypes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we acknowledge that gender is a patriarchal social construct used to oppress women.

1995 National Conference in Ohio. The National Board tabled the legislation in spite of its overwhelming support.

Only after a number of NOW state presidents voiced their support for the inclusion at this January's State Coordinators Conference in San Francisco, in the presence of NOW president Patricia Ireland who gave it her personal support, did the resolution make it to the floor of the July conference. X

Transgendered Column Gabrielle's World

Hello everybody. We have something new for you this month. Our first article for the transgendered community. I can tell from your enthusiasm, that you've been waiting a long time for this. Well it's finally here and from a 100% transgendered person. Yep, that's me. Through my affiliation with Lily White & Co., (by the way, I'm the doll baby of the group), Dr. Eric Selvey approached me to write articles for crossroads. His concern was that the magazine had not directed much attention to the transgendered community. I was appreciative of his interest and of the privilege to write for crossroads. After all, it is one of the best publications, focusing their attention on the real interests of gays/lesbians/TG's in our community without a sleazy approach. I had no problem considering writing for it.

In issues to come, I will pass on information that effect the transgendered individual, along with info on support groups, make-up tips, shopping tips, hormone treatments, and any other goodies that may be of interest. For those of you considering Sex Reassignment Surgery, we can supply helpful information on that too.

As you read my articles, you will note that I have a habit of flavoring them with some humor. After all, we have been through tremendous emotional battles accepting ourselves, then facing our ever loving society of hypocrites, judgemental-

ists, extreme hostility, widespread discrimination, person attacks, severe beatings, suicide attempts, ostracization, isolation, job frustrations, medical battles (trying to find the right doctors that don't classify you as a freak), insurance battles (trying to get all this paid for), psychologists (those who handle psychological disorders, "Are we disordered?"), endocrinologists, ("Endo What?" - those that prescribe those funny pills), and finally psychiatrists who say take more pills and you'll feel better in the morning. Did I leave anything out? Why wouldn't we be normal after all of this? All kidding aside, the doctors are needed and they do help you.

Well, I suppose you want to know something about me. It usually helps knowing the writer, making sure that I am normal (hee-hee). I am a pre-op transexual sex reassignment candidate. (Boy, I hate titles. I like to be called human, but I guess I'll have to live with this dumb old title.) I live full-time as a woman (person that is the opposite sex of a man), and am gainfully employed. I am also the program director of a local support group, a non-profit organization for transvestites, transsexuals and others interested in transgender issues, (that means funny people like me.) I will, from time to time, use their expertise to properly handle your concerns.

Please don't take offense to my classification of what we are. I know exactly what you're going through. I transitioned to a full-time woman, January 1, 1996, without the help of any doctor, psychiatrist or support group. I was like a bull in a china closet

(sorry for using the word "closet"), and was determined to make this work. I was successful, but I don't recommend this way to anyone. It was pure hell for the first six months.

The professionals that I have referred to in this article are there to help you. They can assist in the proper way to transition you on the job, and many times, have experienced people to be with you at the time you advise your supervisor. Family members are always difficult to tell, but there is support to help you. You just need to let someone know. Don't try and do it alone. The medications you need to take must be supervised. There have been many cases of liver and kidney failure due to improper usage of hormone treatments. **Don't let this happen to you!**

The last thing I need to address is most important. Suicide is not the answer to your problem. You must realize that we are very special people. As transgendered, our change cannot be camouflaged, and you can fall victim to unscrupulous people that will do their best to destroy you, and again, **don't let that happen to you!**

If you've enjoyed this column, write and tell us your views, concerns and questions. I'll do my best to answer them. Address them to CPI, c/o Gabrielle, P.O. Box 5744, Harrisburg, PA 17110-0744.

Till next time,
Gabrielle



A Touch of Glamour/ A Sense of Commitment: FAB Returns to the Area

Tina Fields

Come and celebrate a dynamic evening of spoken word, amazing music and an exuberant auction.

1996 marked a very special year in Central Pennsylvania for it was the year that the lesbian, gay, and transgender community embarked along a path to make it necessary and appropriate to acknowledge those who have made outstanding contributions. The Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) was formed to achieve this unique endeavor.

FAB '97 co-chairs, Latisha Frederick and Barbara Sunderlin, gave *crossroads* an inside



Accidental Activist and Pennsylvania native Candace Gingrich speaks as Central addresses the FAB '96 crowd.

look to Central Pennsylvania's fastest growing annual full-scale lesbian and gay benefit.

The Fall Achievement Benefit is a non-profit event initially founded on the idea of having a formal event to recognize people from the area who are accomplishing noteworthy contributions as well as raise money for organizations that are achieving the same that are not disease-related. "It seems to me that straight society feels that it is O.K. to treat us as human beings as long as we are dying, but not otherwise. I think that we, as a society, have got to go beyond that...and we've got to understand that we're much more than that and get the rest of the world to see us more than that," says Frederick.

FAB's founding mother and father team, Latisha Frederick, Esq. and Dr. Eric Selvey worked together with the planning committee and a long list of warm and wonderful sponsors and underwriters to develop one of the largest and fastest growing lesbian and gay award events in Central PA. The presence of the 250 individuals who attended FAB '96 confirmed to those in and out of the lesbian and gay community the pride and support held by those who attending this occasion; celebrating what people have accomplished within the region and throughout the world.

FAB's first speakers were recognized for their unwavering commitment to the entire community. Two individuals who have dedicated their lives to creating queer safe spaces for lesbian and gay men to feel free to take risks and explore their personal potential. Also, with the financial help of FAB '96, two organizations were able to go above and

beyond to meet and continue their goals of service to the community.

Keynote speaker and award recipient, Rev. Barry Stopfel, has dedicated the last several years to speaking out in the hopes of creating a safe space that respects all our different needs, away from the pressures of both "straight" society and our segregated scenes. Stopfel's life emphasis is on building bridges between all communities; to move towards a sense of being one community. Some of his previous public speaking engagements included the keynote speaker at the National Gay and Lesbian Role Model Symposium in conjunction with the PrideFest Philadelphia and "Sexual Diversity: Creating Community," at Rider University. Recently he has just written with his life partner, Will Leckie, *Courage to Love: A Gay Priest Stands Up for His Beliefs*. (See interview of Stopfel beginning on page 31.)

FAB special guest and 1996 recipient of the Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania's *Pride of the Susquehanna Award* accidentally became an activist. Candace Gingrich recently published, *The Accidental Activist* which covers her experiences as one of the most prestigious voices of the lesbian and gay community. Gingrich has devoted her time and effort to challenge prejudices over race, religion, color, age, class, impairment or HIV status: to respect difference and celebrate diversity.

The first Fall Achievement Benefit donated \$12,000 to GLSH (The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg) and The Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania--each receiving \$6,000. Of GLSH's proceeds, financial backing went to Bi-GLYAH (Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian Youth Association of Harrisburg) which focuses on the problems facing our youth. GLSH was also able to upgrade their computer systems to not only continue their services, but to expand and provide a 24-hour service to the community.

The Pride Festival used their funds to bring in nationally-known entertainment and to have what is being called "the best Pride Fest ever held in Harrisburg." This year, more people from different walks of society were there and involved; more families were present and enjoyed themselves. "I think that's what's important," said one festival goer. With the tremendous financial support given, the Pride Festival was able to continue the traditions of Pride and to bring together the lesbian, gay, and transgender community as well as encourage understanding. Said one FAB attendee, "FAB is of increasing value in the lesbian and gay community today. Primarily it is of key importance for lesbians and gay men to demonstrate accountability to self, youth and outside of the lesbian and gay community."

GLSH and the Pride Festival weren't the evening's only beneficiaries. It was a chance to bring together and begin building a joint community. "In fact, one comment made at

FAB '96 by a lot of people is that they had never been to an event where the men and women of the community fit so comfortably together," says Frederick. People were able to network between different groups and feel comfortable in such an open event. "With an open event like FAB, we tend to draw more people from all walks of life," Barbara Sunderlin FAB '97 co-chair.

Although the image of FAB has all the glamour and glitz of any posh event held in any ballroom, you don't have to know somebody to be able to attend. In its earlier stages, the committee started with one set ticket price. However, because they weren't certain whether people would actually attend and due to their insistence not to exclude anyone from being a part of this elegant event, the committee opted for a two-level approach. The main event would be \$50.00 and for an additional \$50.00 there would be an elegant one-hour champagne reception prior to the main event known as "Pre-FAB". The same will hold true this year.

The Silent Auction began at the beginning of the main event. There were 62 donated items on which to bid at the auction each had a list beside it where one could write their bid which continued to increase as the night progressed. In the end, the Silent Auction raised \$500.00 proving to be an important element in the fund-raising part as well as a great advertising opportunity for each company that donated an item, they had their name displayed.

FAB is a black-tie optional event. To that



Capping off a successful evening is the FAB '96 Steering Committee (Front L to R: Dr. Michelle Ozbun, Co-Chair Latisha Frederick, Stephen Glassman, AIA, Jackie Kennedy, Benjamin C. Dunlap, Jr., Rear: Co-Chair Dr. Eric W. Selvey, David Solsbery, Jil D. Strang, Gary Muccio, Barbara A. Sunderlin, Patricia A. Bucek) along with FAB award recipient Rev. Barry Stopfel.

end, some wore tuxedos, some business suits and others were arrayed in alternative elegant attire. "I cannot emphasize enough that although this is a champagne event, although it's very glittery, it's not at all snobbish," says Barbara. "In fact, we had a comment from a lot of people who go to the ballroom said, 'it was the most relaxed fun evening they had ever gotten dress-up for.'" Therefore, a \$400.00 outfit is not necessary.

Last year's master of ceremonies was John Paul Shaffer, News Director for WINK 104-FM. The speaker was also the awards recipient. FAB also had a brief presentation from Candace Gingrich, who was the special guest. Live music and dancing from the Baltimore-based group "The Fringe" capped a perfect evening.

Another big feature of the evening are the tables themselves, each headed by a table captain. The table captains are integral to the sales of most the tickets in that they sold to their friends and acquaintances. Therefore, when people arrive, they know from whom they bought their ticket and where they will sit. Some captains got a little creative. Some tables had themes and some even brought little party favors. "There was such a buzz in the air. It was such an uplifting experience and enormous fun. There was always someone new to meet and talk with or someone to hug," said another FAB goer. This year, tables will be reserved this year for any walk-ins that happen to attend.

There will be other changes this year. One big change being that publicity and advertising of the event will be expanded. Expectations of FAB '97's success is so high, that space has been added for one hundred more seats. There will also be a press room separate from the event as to prevent inadvertent outing of participants. The press was interested last year as to the location, but because of confidentiality factors the committee decided not to invite the press since there was no way to segregate them from

the general crowd.

This year FAB '97 wants to be as open to the press as possible. In fact, plans are being discussed to allow the media access to the guest speaker prior to the main event. It is stressed, however, that the media will not be present at the gala. One point that Frederick added was that the no-press advertising policy didn't hurt last year's event. They were able to sell out without the advertising. This year, however, they are trying to make it the biggest event yet, so the advertising will be implemented this year.

In '96, the committee came up with the recommendation for the award recipients. This year, for the first time, the community at-large has an opportunity to nominate in open ballots appearing at the Pride Festival, *The Lavender Letter*, *crossroads*, and The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg newsletter. Also, one should keep an eye out for events, activities, organizations and individuals of the course of the year whom they feel deserve recognition at FAB '98. Lastly, the committee invites the community to feel free to volunteer on one or many of the committees or become a table captain, whose job it is to sift through the many nominations. Greater representation of the community is not just at the nominating level. It must also be at the organizational level.

As we move closer to the next year, FAB is proud to say that they are becoming a viable part of our ever-changing community. The current members of the board adopted the original intent brought to the table by Latisha Frederick and Eric Selvey: to recognize outstanding contributions throughout our entire community. FAB organizers are proud of the rich traditions that have already been established and looks forward to setting new standards and traditions for the future of Central Pennsylvania's lesbian and gay community. X

For more information about FAB or to order your ticket, contact GLSH at 234-0328. FAB '97 will be held at Harrisburg Hilton Ballroom at Second and Market Streets. Pre-FAB will begin at 6:00 p.m. with the main event starting at 7:00 p.m. on November 8th.



WNNK-FM's News Director John Paul Shaffer presents Rev. Barry Stopfel with the first annual Fall Achievement Benefit award.

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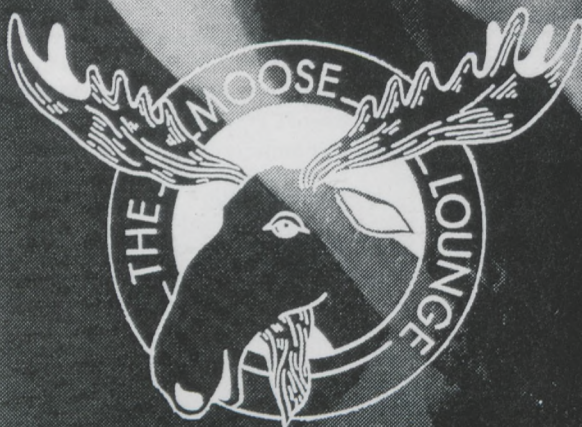
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- *Suede *Red Letter Day*
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Coming Out Is Hard To Do

Kevin Welsh

It has been two years since the news of an openly gay man working with youth at one of its largest churches divided the Carlisle community. Residents wrote letters to the editor of the local newspaper. They called the newspaper's *Comment Line*, in which anonymous telephone messages are published on the paper's editorial pages. A minister from another local church published a commentary disagreeing with the "homosexual lifestyle." And, with local residents and church members alike wrote letters to and telephoned both the young man and the Church's pastors.

"I had a real lesson in hell," explained David Glasgow, 25, of Carlisle.

Glasgow's "lesson" began in February 1995, when, as director of the Allison United Methodist Church Youth Choir, the local newspaper interviewed him regarding a musical drama that the youth were performing. *Love in Christ* explored, among other topics, the misunderstanding and exclusion of people from churches because they are different. One area explored in the play was homosexuality.

"I learned that paying attention to prejudice can sometimes make you believe it," Glasgow recalls. "Sometimes I still find myself thinking, 'what if they're right?' But, I know that they're not."

Glasgow was "out" to several select friends before his graduation from Dickinson College in 1993 with a degree in music. However, during his senior year, he announced to a full house during his senior concert that he was gay.

"I came out to 320 of my closest friends," he explained.

Having been active in Allison United Methodist Church (on the campus of Dickinson College) during school, Glasgow had invited several Church members to his concert. Even then, he did not encounter any direct criticism from his friends, but heard through Don Harper, former minister at the Church, that several persons had criticized his openness at the concert. These critics, however, had not attended the concert, but heard about his statements through others. Reverend(s?) Harper and Dann Caldwell, the Church's former associate pastor and youth leader immediately offered their support.

"Don Harper told them, 'This is Dave's life; let him live it,'" Glasgow remembers.

Besides this limited, anonymous criti-

cism, Glasgow did not encounter any negative feelings following his concert. His parents (his father is a physiologist and his mother is a teacher) were in the audience during the concert. Both already knew that their son was gay and both offered continued support. Nor did he encounter negative reaction from the College community regarding his actions at the concert. Two years later, however, he found that coming out publicly to an entire community can be a far different situation.

In early 1995, Glasgow was planning a large musical drama specifically written for the youth who were to perform it at the Church. The theme of the play was that organized religion sometimes emphasizes the ways in which people are different and "inferior" from one another. Rather than welcoming everyone and creating a sense of unity, churches sometimes foster division. The play included several story lines involving a variety of topics, including dating, premarital sex and homosexuality.

Sales of tickets for the performance were slow and, at the suggestion of an associate pastor, Glasgow sent press releases to local newspapers. In a subsequent interview with a reporter from the Carlisle newspaper (name?), Glasgow explained the message behind the play and mentioned that he was gay.

"I didn't think anyone in the congregation didn't know" Glasgow said. "In a way, I was being very egotistical regarding the reach of my senior concert."

On the afternoon of February 17, 1995, the newspaper published the interview with Glasgow. At once, Glasgow understood that his disclosure troubled many in the community. Since he had provided his telephone number for people to contact him directly for ticket information, Glasgow immediately started receiving calls from people in the community. Several callers accused him of using the musical as a front for child pornography and molestation.

"I was not surprised that I got calls," he remembers. "I was surprised at how much they hurt."

Eventually, Glasgow added another telephone number to his line and could identify calls placed at his old number by the number of rings. If someone was calling at the



old number, he would just let the answering machine take a message. But, for some time after the interview was published, he would have to listen to the calls.

"I got calls from people saying that they just wanted to rescue me," he recalls. "But I would answer them by saying, 'Thank you, but Jesus already did. But, I'll pray for you.'"

Karen Layman, pastor at the Church, was adamant, however, that Glasgow not respond directly to the callers.

"At first I was offended [by her dictate]. But, then I realized that those people making the calls and writing the letters would not be swayed by anything I said. "You have to pick your fights wisely," Glasgow explained. And there were many fights Glasgow could have fought.

Only three days after the article was published, the newspaper published a commentary by Bradley Knepp, Pastor of the Mt. Holly Springs United Methodist Church. Reverend Knepp acknowledged that churches evade difficult issues, as well as exclude the sinner when condemning the sin. However, he strongly disagreed with what he perceived as the musical's affirmation of the homosexual lifestyle. Citing several scripture passages, Reverend Knepp posited that "God is extremely clear in His word that homosexual behavior is a sin."

The controversy also continued within Allison (United). Within a week after publication of the interview, Glasgow received a letter from the so-called "Committee for the Preservation of Allison Church" (which, to anyone's knowledge, did not officially exist) requesting that he resign his position immediately. He also received a letter from a parishioner stating that unless Glasgow recognized that homosexuality is a sin and "repented," he would not be supported in

the congregation.

Other letters were not as critical, but were also not supportive. One couple explained that they had searched the scriptures and "could not find one verse to support [Glasgow's] condition." The writers suggested that he "seek out groups to help...in this sad and lonely time..."

The newspaper also published letters condemning "aberrant sexual behavior." Many opinions were also published anonymously in the paper's Comment Line, criticizing Glasgow, Allison (United), as well as all gays and lesbians.

"There was so much going through my head," Glasgow recalls. "I experienced a lot of self doubt."

Yet, not all the responses to the article were critical of Glasgow. Some of the greatest support he found was from church members, parents of some of the youth with whom he worked and members of the community. The pastor of a local church and his wife wrote Glasgow a very moving letter. "Be assured of our love, concern and support of you, and your ongoing attempts to be faithful to God's call on your life," they wrote.

An elderly congregation member living in a Carlisle nursing home, wrote: "I hope that whatever happens, you continue to be yourself and do not become discouraged by this kind of criticism, tough as it is."

He also received letters from other gay persons, just offering their support and thanking him for his honesty. Several acknowledged his courage in discussing, and admitting openly to others and to himself, his sexuality.

Glasgow recognizes that Pastor Layman "took the brunt" of many of the comments and, in fact, sheltered him from many of his most outspoken critics. In fact, Pastor Layman responded to the news article and to Reverend Knepp's commentary in a letter to the entire congregation. She quoted Paragraph 71 of *The Discipline*--the sole passage regarding homosexuality--among the United Methodist Church's principles:

Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. All persons need the ministry and guidance of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship which enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. Although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice to be incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God's grace is available to all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.



In happier times, Glasgow with Mark Boggs.

On February 26, almost two weeks after the article was published, Glasgow addressed the congregation. In a prepared speech, he explained that like his fellow parishioners, he also was praying that the divisions within the Church caused by the interview and the musical would heal. Yet, he explained, he had not changed. He was still the same person that had been very much involved and welcomed in the Church for more than six years.

So many people were asking Pastor Layman about the opinions of medical doctors, biblical scholars and psychologists regarding homosexuality that the Church organized an evening meeting, at which Dr. David Masland, a physician congregation member, and Dr. David Bechtel, the director of the College's religion department, answered many questions that had been posed to Glasgow and the pastors. They explained that homosexuality was no longer considered a mental illness by the American Psychiatric Association. They also explained that the scriptures could not be read in a vacuum, but had to be read with regard to

their times and context.

Glasgow explains that many in attendance were already more accepting than those who decided not to attend, and were there to offer support. Others, he said, "were there just to make sure that the Church wasn't on its way to hell."

For some time, the newspaper continued to publish letters and Glasgow continued to receive telephone calls. But, eventually, things quieted down at Allison. He has found that despite the critics, most of whom continue to hide behind cloaks of anonymity, he has found friends who offer support and respect. For example, during a Bible study class, he told the group that he was having some difficulties in a particular relationship. A woman in the class turned to him and said, "You know, David, it doesn't get any easier."

"It was a rough statement," Glasgow says. "But it helped to know that she thought I was on par with her."

He said that he is seeing a lot more friendly faces at the Church and that, although many of his earlier critics may not be coming "close" to him, they are at least getting to know him.

And despite the troubles that he confronted during that time, Glasgow found what he describes as a "little bit of heaven that came to me through the fire." During the height of the controversy, Mark Boggs of Carlisle contacted him. He explained that his mother had seen the article, and recognized Glasgow from several productions in which he had participated during college. Mark's mother knew he would be interested in meeting Glasgow. After making contact, the two met for dinner and, as they say, the rest is history. Glasgow and Boggs have been together for over two years and are very happy.

Does Glasgow see himself as a role model for the youth with whom he works? While he admits that he thought about how he would counsel a youth member if they approached him about their own sexuality, he is not preoccupied with the notion.

"I am really happy with my gayness being a small part of me," he said. "There are too many interesting things about me for that to be the only focus."

And what has happened in Carlisle since then? Unfortunately, many people in Carlisle continue to misunderstand and distrust gay men and lesbians. The local newspaper's continued policy of publishing anonymous messages left with its office seems to generate controversy, and recent outcries regarding everything from the local YWCA offering courses on gay and lesbian issues to the famous *Ellen* episode have provoked much discussion in its pages. Yet, one need only look at the conflicts in Lancaster and Elizabethtown to understand that controversy over homosexuality is not unique to Cumberland County. X

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Harrisburg Gets a Leather Master

Steele Powers

Summer has come to an end and so we all are a little depressed about the fact that those hot and hunky men will be hiding their pecs with flannel and their hairy muscled legs with Levi 501's.

Yes, it's that time of year when you have to undress those special few with your eyes and attempt to figure out what is underneath it all!

There is, however, a bright side to the approaching winter. The Cock n' Bull Leather Company has taken Harrisburg by surprise by eliminating the need to go out of town to find that special piece of leather undergear or bondage equipment. You can find custom-made, tailor-fit, fine leathers right in the Capital City.

During the hot and humid month of August while rumaging through my toy box with my partner, I decided that we were in definite need of expanding our leather collection and decided to give the Cock n' Bull Leather Company a call to find out what they could do for us.

Although I obtained this business card at the Pride Festival of Central PA at HAAC on July 26th and realized I had to stop by to satisfy my curiosity. Previous commitments plus a lack of desire to fight the crowd that had formed around this mystery booth supported by the Pennsmen---Central PA's only Leather/Levi club---prevented me from visiting the booth.

Dialing the number, I was greeted by a deep voice on a answering system that asked me to leave my name and number and that someone would get back to me as soon as possible. I left my number and awaited fate. When I finally received the call I could tell it was the same throaty voice as was on the answering machine. He pleasantly introduced himself as Jim Latshaw and agreed to help me in my leather quest as well as grant me an interview for *crossroads'* leather pages.

Grabbing pen and paper (as well as a roll of bills), I was off to his personal workshop where he kept the goods. I arrived at 9 pm on a Tuesday and was greeted by a man whose manner is as inviting as are his rugged good looks.

He invited me in and took me into his basement where his personal workshop is located. Here we had the chance to sit down get to really know each other....

Steele: I noticed at the Pride Festival that your booth was set up in conjunction with



the Pennsmen. How long have you been with this "notorious" group of leather men?

JIM: I have been a member of the Pennsmen for approximately 2 yrs now. A year of that was spent pledging.

How did you ever come up with the company's name?

(He smiles) A cock is proud and full of fire. It is an animal in my opinion that represents the strength and pride of the leather community. The bull, on the other hand, is simply where the leather comes from.

How did you learn this lucrative trade?

Because of my love for leather and leathersex, I have taught myself by studying other pieces as well as making my own pieces. I can look at a harness or a particular piece of bondage equipment and see how it is made. I then recreate it with my own personal touch. If someone were to give me a potential sketch of what they have in mind, I can also produce that by looking at it and realizing how it is meant to fit the male or female body. I cater mainly to gay men, but I can make pieces for women as well.

If I wanted to purchase a leather harness, how long would it take till I could actually pick it up?

It would usually depend on the piece and how ornate or complicated it is. For example, a

difficult piece can take two to five days to triple dye and hand make, whereas a basic top or bottom harness can take as little as one day. All of my products are personally measured and hand cut. There is no electricity used, no machines, except for the treadle machine that is used to sew certain parts during assembly. Each part is triple dyed to perfection, hand beveled and then coated with a type of beeswax used to waterproof and keep the leathers free from damage either by oils or salts in the person's sweat. I then assemble a piece once everything has had a chance to be completed properly and carefully. Not one of my projects are rushed. I enjoy making them and take pride in every piece that has my name on it. I accomplish this expertise by only taking on as many orders as I can handle properly.

Do you have any pieces on hand? For instance, if I wanted to go out on a Friday night and I wanted an arm band or maybe a personal leather 'O-ring', could I just stop by and pick one up?

Of course, as long as you call ahead of time to make sure that I am home, I always have the bare essentials on hand. It's only for more intricate pieces that are fitted for certain body parts that I have to take measurements and cut specifically.

What body parts are you referring to?

Any body part that you want to confine, strap, stretch or enhance! I'm sure that you are aware of the pieces that I am talking about (he laughs). Here, follow me. (He leads me into his workshop in the back.)

Well, by looking at your workshop I can tell that you've got every body part covered.

If you want to strap it in leather I can make it.

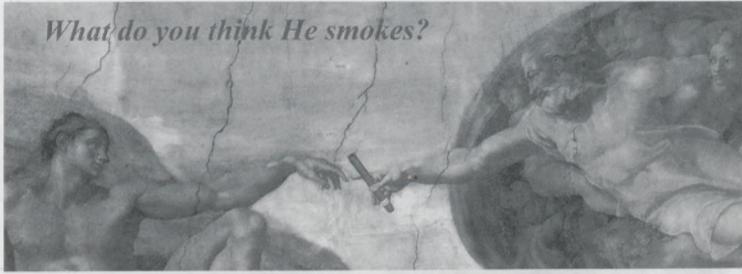
Since all of your pieces are custom fit and hand made then I would imagine that there are no two identical pieces.

That's right; I can make pieces that are similar, but no two are identical.



Posing For The *crossroads'* Camera in front of Harrisburg's Neptune Lounge on Festival evening were the Washington, D.C. Centaur M.C. group.

What do you think He smokes?



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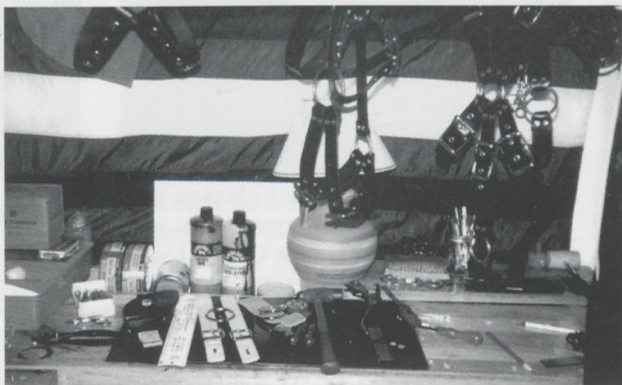
Yes, but like I said, I don't consider this work. I want, at this particular point, to do all of the work myself. That way I am in complete control, and I like control. I can work when I want. I can take a break, have a cigarette and listen to some music until an idea strikes me or I can call it a night when I have had enough, but I rarely have had enough. This actually relaxes me.

I see that you have a leather jacket here that looks like it needs repaired, is that part of your work also?

If you need leather repaired, conditioned or reconditioned, then I can do that also. I also sew club or run patches for people on their jackets and vests as well. For example, I know that the Harley Davidson stores do not sew the patches that they sell onto the jackets that they offer. They, in fact, refer them to a shoe repair store that can take up to two to three weeks for the job to be done. I can do all of these minor repairs and jobs while you wait or at least by next day service.

Are your products guaranteed?

Everything that I make or repair is guaranteed. If something doesn't fit right then all you have to do is bring it back and I will make any needed adjustments.



Latshaw and I finished our interview while I made some very interesting purchases that I couldn't wait to get home and test drive with my partner!

I know that Harrisburg will be very

proud and pleased to have gained such a lucrative business in the area. I know I am, and I'm sure that many a leather man will be glad to save that extra cash spent on trips out of town to purchase leather goods when they can stay right in town and have all their leather needs catered to by a man worthy of the leather trade.

All fittings and purchases are confidential and discreet so what are you waiting for? Give the Cock N' Bull Company a call at 717.233.2344 and satisfy that fetish. X

Bareback Sex

Jim Cassell

(The following is not an endorsement of unsafe practices. Rather, it is printed solely for information purposes.)

Protease, viral load and CD4 have become common buzzwords to the HIV community. However, "bareback", "riding it raw" and "skin-to-skin" are terms that have become phenomenally common on the World Wide Web where Xtreme Sex has become a type of deadly sport.

Xtreme Sex; Take My Gift My Brother, is a website dedicated to the practice of unsafe sex. This particular site offers a table of contents entitled, "pozcum; the f**k of death!" It is here that you can read factual accounts of men that have been recently infected and how erotic the experience was for them. There are also several stories from men who have recklessly infected other men and how powerful it made them feel. One brazenly boasts, "I looked at him directly in the eyes as I laid my bug deep inside him. Knowing that I had made him one of the club, excited me even more." Fraternalizing their accounts, they call themselves "bug brothers."

Included in the table of contents are email addresses for the opportunity to star in, produce or direct an Xtreme Sex video in New York City, Washington D.C. or Pennsylvania. One advertisement in particular is looking for "hotpozguys willing to mainline meth and other chems on film then give and receive infected semen by groups of men."

There are also over 300 introductions of men across the U.S. as well as Europe who are searching for others who are willing to engage in unsafe sex. Nearly all of the personals include phrases such as "into long bareback rides", "hotpozcouple interested in raw sex w/ other pozguys" and most all include, "NO CONDOMS" in all caps.

One can also find over a hundred personals from men who take pride in being "gift givers"---the term implies to top men who are willing to infect others with the HIV virus. One reads: "looking for pozguys but am willing to give gifts to those who want to convert..."

In chat rooms as far as West Hollywood and as close as Bucks County, men are throwing "gift giving parties" for those that wish to infect, be infected or be reinfected. Some of these parties cost \$12-\$15 a person and last for entire weekends. It's as easy as an email away.

It seems that media may have a lot to do with this return to unsafe behavior. The news has basically touted triple-drug therapy as an end to AIDS. The near cure that is just around the corner. With the advent of undetectable viral loads and skyrocketing CD4 counts it seems that gay men are using this as an excuse to throw caution and condoms to the wind in the belief that HIV is just another manageable disease like diabetes and high blood pressure.

Talk show gurus such as Ricki Lake are hosting ironic sensationalized shows entitled: "I'm not having safe sex because I'm tired of worrying about AIDS."

Is this irresponsible behavior going to create a more deadly wave of HIV than ever seen before? A super multi-drug resistant

strain of the virus could be spread to thousands of men and women at an alarming speed wiping out the possible positive use for protease inhibitors as well as any new drug formulation in the lab.

Even if HIV were not the concern, what about the deadly Hepatitis B virus? There are vaccines for hepatitis, but if a someone is already HIV+ then there is a likely chance that the vaccinations will not work. For those individuals who are HIV+ and having unsafe sex, remember that HIV in the presence of another venereal disease causes a great rise in viral load and greater risk of AIDS related complications.

It has also been discovered recently that the occurrence of Kaposi's Sarcoma, (a separate herpes virus) has decreased dramatically in HIV+ men due to the practice of safe sex. This particular virus is found in both HIV- and HIV+ men and is transmitted through sexual activity. However, Kaposi's Sarcoma becomes active only when coupled with a failing immune system.

It has been the AIDS activists and groups like ACT-UP who have contributed endless time to the battle against AIDSphobia and Government ignorance. Now that Xtreme Sex has become "trendy" who will continue to support a gay male community that does not support itself?

Yes, there has been momentous ground gained in HIV research, but these new "promising" drugs do not work for everyone and at best for most, only three to five years before resistance occurs.

There is also the cost of these treatments which can be as high as \$2,000 per month, not to mention side effects that include

Continued on Page 51



Ready for their close-up are the ladies vying for Miss MCC 1997. Seated (l to r) are Charlie Whittington, Bob Lite & K. Smith. Standing are Colin Kreitzer, Fern, L. Stone, Rick Olsen, C. Whitney and S. Thornsley.



Miss MCC of the Spirit Bob Lite (left) with 1st Runner up Charlie Whittington (middle) and 2nd Runner up K. Smith.

"May I have the envelope please?"

The first annual "Evening Gown Competition" of Harrisburg's MCC of the Spirit was a smashing success. The fund raising event, held on July 19 at the church, brought in over \$300 for the church.

Each contestant represented one of the church's committees. During the interview process, each of the contestants was given the opportunity to explain their function and goals of their committee.

A wonderfully dazzling evening crescendoed with the announcement of 2nd and 1st Runner up, K. Smith and Charlie Whittington, respectively followed by the runway stroll of the new Miss MCC of the Spirit 1997, Bob Lite.

CHARLIE WHITTINGTON

The Flaming Susquehanna Squares began in 1995 when Chesapeake Squares (Baltimore) decided to get a new club started in the York/Harrisburg area. Two members (Rev. Eva O'Diam and her partner Mary Kelly) were instrumental in getting the group started in York. After setting up a series of first-nighters over the summer for people to get a taste of what gay and lesbian square dancing was all



about, the group started classes in September 1995. The group has since performed at past Central PA Pride Festivals and the Judy! show, hosted several social dances, attended a fly-in (weekend of square dancing) at Rehoboth Beach, and held a graduation party in June '96. The group is also a member of an international association of gay/lesbian square dancers which hosts socials and fly-ins across the country and Canada.

This year new members have come on board and with "Flaming" dropped from their name, the group has advanced to the next level of dancing during the summer from Mainstream (first level) to Plus (second). However, a Mainstream class began in September and the club will hold a first-nighter on August 23. For more information, call 238.7656 (Hbg.), 394.8761 (Lancaster) or 410.362.6857 (Baltimore).

BRIAN ORSER



"DON'T POINT THAT THING AT ME. I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S BEEN"...

...may have been on the mind of Harrisburg Men's Chorus president Rose Samuels as she, and her trusty sidekick Matt Riley, take their turn at Stand #19/20 of Cultural Avenue during Harrisburg's Memorial Day celebration upon the river front. The organization added close to 200 names to their mailing list during the three-day celebration.



GAY DAY AT KNOEBLES GROVE!!!

Totally Fabulous, is the only way to describe the event of the year. Over 120 people attended this year's event. Attendees were from all over Central PA. including Williamsport, York, Mansfield, Scranton, Hbg., Bellefonte, Mt. Pleasant, Northumberland, Mountville, State College, Mill Creek, Milton, Reading, Wyomissing, Lebanon, Elizabethtown, Mifflin, Montgomery, Lenhartsville, and Southeastern (to name a few). Everyone had a great time in the park and under the tent with this totally awesome "Family Event." The picnic pot luck was unbelievable and, of course, we had the best decorated picnic area in the park. With all the feedback from the attendees and their plans to bring groups of their friends next year, we are sure to be over the 250 mark next year. Mark your calendar NOW! The Third Annual Gay Day, as always, will be the second Saturday in August 1998.

Flash! Andy Egli, got a phone call August 11th from a very nice lady inquiring about Gay Day. She wanted to know if it was an annual event and who the contacts were. He explained the event and she said that she was from the Damron Guide and will include it as an annual PA Event. The Damron is the international gay guide of things to do and places to see. We are now a part of the Damron. Watch for the 1998 edition.

Reprinted from the American Mosaic newsletter.



Lynn Lavner: Shooting From The Lip

Dr. Eric W. Selvey

It was the most uncomfortable position in which to be. The mind was reeling. Here I was about to interview a nationally-known, well-respected lesbian entertainer, one who must have fielded many a question from those more experienced than myself who could do an interview right off the cuff, and yet I was extremely nervous.

The morning of Labor Day found me in the crossroads' office preparing the layout for this issue when the fax on the Compaq rang. The computer told the faxer to leave a message if their message did not get to their intended recipient. Next voice I hear is Lynn Lavner asking for me to contact her. I immediately called her and gave her the code; our computer is so new that some faxers need a code to complete the transmittal. Hearing the bell, I assumed that the fax went through O.K. It did not.

Now, five minutes before I was to call Lynn at her Brooklyn home, I was panicking. However, there was no need to worry. She helped me as if it were my first time (if you know what I mean).

What follows is more of a conversation with who I consider a very down-to-earth individual who I cannot wait to meet in October.

Does your music and comedy routine reflect what's going on not only in your neighborhood, but also in the country?

I don't think "reflect" is the right word because it comes from inside of me and I am a short, left-handed, middle-aged Jewish lesbian from Brooklyn. I think my background and my whole identification are very liberal, Democrat kind of Kennedy whatever. My heroes are from the 60's whether they were war protesters or the black civil rights marchers (You can tell I'm old, I still say "black"). I think that I'm true enough to my own experience that maybe I speak to people whose struggles are happening in other areas. There's no reggae in the act, only in my heart.

You say the term "black" and I have no problem with that, but you have no idea who's politically correct and who isn't. Does the PC thing come up in your act at all?

I am still known as "America's most politically incorrect entertainer" There came a point in my life where I felt the politically correct were followers and I thought what we needed were leaders. So I stuck my head on the block or climbed out on a limb to try to be a little less trendy and a little more true and I guess that's reflected in my music which is very Tin Pan Alley/Broadway/New York cabaret. The message

(in my music) is the same so I guess politically correct would not be the term, but what we all want to be is sensitive to other people so when my friends call themselves "Mrs." instead of "Ms." or "African American" instead of "Black" I say, "Hey, they know their names better than I do."

How did you get started?

I was a kid who came home, threw down her books and played the piano. When they told me it was time for dinner I got rid of them and when they told me it was time to go to bed, I had to cash it in. But I loved music and I loved making up songs. I started playing piano bar in New York City and as long as you had ten songs and you could play *Memory* from *Cats* you were in business. I played mostly at supper clubs, lounges and gay bars that were owned and frequented by gay men and I always said that I cultivated their friendship because some day I might want to cook a meal, go shopping or rent an apartment.

Or even ask them to decorate it.

Yes. (Laughs.) My theory is that "Nothing good happens in a bar until after 2:00 am" and that was when I would play the silly songs I had written and when the regular crowd would pull in and we'd have a party until 4:30 am. Eventually that became the first cabaret act that I began to travel with in 1985.

And that was around the time when a lot of gay and lesbian performers came out on the circuit. Romanovsky and Phillips...

...I toured with them in 1982 doing something called "Leather and Lace" doing a dozen concerts along the West Coast. It was very good because I had the men's audience in my pocket, especially leathermen.

I'm wondering which one were you, the leather or the lace?

I was definitely the leather, they were the lace. It brought out the lesbian audience that discovered me. I am eternally grateful to them.

What I do have is a very surprising appeal and I'm thrilled to say that I'm about to perform for the 25th anniversary of the men's leather club in Minneapolis. I think I am the only woman has done both the Internat'l Mr. Leather and Mr. Drummer (contests). At the same time, I have done a great deal of women's festivals and political events for feminist causes as well as a lot in the lesbian and gay religious community for the MCC's, Dignities and Jewish synagogues. I'm sort of your basic 96-pound human sacrifice.



Are you into leather?

Yeah. The presence of it on stage is another reminder that leather is another stripe in the rainbow flag; a reminder that we can't just say we celebrate our diversity and really mean, "I celebrate my diversity, but your diversity makes me a little nervous." The leather really symbolizes for me the abuse we've taken and the need that we have to have to be individuals for ourselves and our own desires, but very much a community that recognizes it has a shared challenge to stay together and our strength is going to come from that.

What is your latest CD, how many have you released and how are they faring?

Actually, they've put three kids through college. (Laughs.) My lover and I have been together for 21 years and we've raised three little girls together and they're now three beautiful grown young women. Unfortunately, they're all straight and we ask ourselves, "What did we do wrong?"

My first CD is what I call the "Lynn Lavner White Album" which was a feminist musical which was recorded and toured with it on grant money in women's colleges and prisons which after all are sort of like the same thing. That was in 1982 and it was called *Ladies Don't Spit and Holler*.

My solo albums, (I have four of them now), are doing very well. Of course, I will be in Central PA (October 10th) with the usual compliment of CD's, tapes and tee shirts. I'll tell you, it's a pretty scary thing when you're hungover in an elevator and you see your picture on another women's chest.

I've got to tell you about these three kids. We're on a high right now because one of them just got married. One is married to a Jew, one to an Irishman and one is living with and will soon be married to a black man. We like to say that when we talked about diversity, they were listening. I'm very much looking forward to the next generation where we're going to have a little leather diaper, a little motorcycle stroller...

It'll give people something to talk about. You're going to have a little United Nations there.

Straight or gay, I think they are going to benefit from a very loving upbringing.

Are they your children by birth or your lover's?

They are my lover's biological children and remember, I was the performer so while she was on a 9 to 5 schedule, I was at home cooking, writing, recording, and traveling on weekends. I was the one that would get the call when these kids were throwing up in the second grade and the one who sat in the pediatrician's waiting room in a black leather motorcycle jacket. (Laughs.) I think (the kids) have been rolling their eyes so long that nothing phases them anymore. They are really terrific kids and their young men, I might add, are terrific guys who come to the shows and would never have a problem with any of this for I don't think the girls would have anything to do with them.

I guess with the situation with you and your lover they really learned first hand not only the meaning of tolerance of a lesbian relationship, but with whom they're marrying...

The most difficult thing for them was getting their gay uncle out of their closet and away from their sun dresses. (Laughs.) Hey, it happens.

Does any of your music reflect any of society's intolerance?

I don't think any of us grew up in the context of American society without hurt feelings whether we were lesbian or gay, or people of color or disabled people or Jews or Catholics. This is not a wonderfully tolerant society and I hope with the economy looking up, (now here's a politically incorrect statement) I think that has a heck of a lot to do with it. I think that when times are a little better and people come home with a couple of bucks in their pockets, they are less interested in torturing other people. I'm very hopeful of that.

Well, look at Germany 1932-33.

Yes, exactly. And you can follow statistical charts throughout history. It's sort of a thing that when you have your own, you don't covet anyone else's.

The songs certainly are in an act with music and comedy at the piano that I call "Sit Down Comedy" where I sing these songs--be they serious or funny that deal with things that are very amusing or universal like growing up queer, and then also deal with the things that we thought about. I think the most painful thing that I had in my life, and you can imagine this with somebody who was really out in the late seventies and very much involved with performing in New York and on Fire Island in the early eighties was AIDS, is the number of fabulous guys we lost, it's just a constant slap in the face and it doesn't get any less as time goes on. I deal with that in the act as well as the vicissitudes of lesbian and gay parenting and being a queer kid. I certainly try to do it in a way that is real and striking to the audience and which leaves them with an inspirational feeling; a feeling that we have

come a long way and that we can beat this and that the future is going to be a better time for all of us. That's what keeps us all going.

Have you been to Central Pennsylvania, Lynn?

I've been to Allegheny College, Meadville, the Women's Theater Festival, and East Stroudsburg. The one I want to go back to is Pride of the Leigh Valley.

Allentown.

That was in June of '95. That was a community just coming into its own and starting to do pride events and to get significant numbers of people out. That's the kind of things I like to do. NY, San Francisco, Paris, London, and Chicago were thrilling the first three times. Seriously. And it got to be exciting to go to Salt Lake City and the Deep South--to be in the belly of the beast.

Gay Pride in South Carolina couldn't have been a lot more comfortable than boycotts, sit-ins and Freedom Rides. I remember being on stage at the first statewide march for lesbian and gay rights in Columbia, SC and being told that we were going to have the Klan, snipers and being protected by a 40-member SWAT team. It's hard to sing and dance and do comedy while you're constantly moving on stage.

Well, there's nothing worse than a moving target

And I'm small and I think the fact that I didn't get killed helped them to get some bigger people the next. That is, however, the kind of work that's very gratifying and knock wood we're still going.

Do you write your own music?

All of it. I either sing it or play it. People do have standards these days you know.

If there is something out there that someone else did, you wouldn't perform it?

I probably would not feel that I could do someone's material as well as they could do it and the biggest contribution is just for me to do my own stuff.

What is your favorite that you've written and performed and why?

That changes every six months. Right now, my favorite is a tune I wrote is called *Mary Margaret Finnigan*. It's a song that has 3,000 words and if you're not careful, you will trip into the wrong verse. It's a big rehearsal song, but one that actually...are you familiar with the work of Brian McNaught?

Not exactly.

He wrote *Coming Out in the Workplace* and has written books about the challenges that lesbian and gay people face at work and has a lot to say about coming out. The truth is, it's a difficult for a lot of people and I think it is an ongoing lifetime process. A year ago, the focus of coming out day centered around lesbian and gay issues in the workplace and Brian asked me to write something about that. I got the book and a few of his videotapes and took what he had to say about the issue and put them into a song--about being closeted and the human price that it has cost us.

It's a great play on words; I love words. When you're done with it, maybe there'll be a message for people. It's my current favorite right now, but that will probably change.

Will you perform it when you come here?

I sure will. I think it's wonderful, by the way, that the queer Christian churches have made just a wonderful welcome to a Jewish performer. I've done the MCC International Conference twice and I love the idea of people not being forced to choose between their sexuality and their religious traditions. It's a terrific home for gay people.

What is in the future for Lynn Lavner?

The usual mixed bunch of gigs. I just came from an Ohio AIDS service organization, there will be the leathermen in Minneapolis, MCC in Harrisburg and Maryland and to Miami for a gay synagogue. When you travel, you know you're going to find family there.

Absolutely. What is the name of your latest CD?

Butch Fatale.

Is there a theme?

Whatever has inspired me to write. Some of it's funny and this is live so there monologues between the songs.

Are your audiences predominantly male or female?

It's a very mixed audience which is the best audience to play to. I started out by playing to almost entirely gay male audiences in NY and Fire Island. As I began to travel, women started coming to the shows. And, of course, I lost a great deal of that original audience. But I am glad to see so many more men returning, especially the young ones on the college campuses. That male energy, of the early eighties in NYC, was a wonderful entry for both me and my lover. We were very accustomed to be the only lesbian couple at a leather event, at the Saint where I was given an award at a place where women didn't go. We were pretty helpless women when we came on the scene and they basically taught us everything we know. (My shoes even match one another sometimes.) The audience is usually mixed and younger and that's a good thing.

Lynn Lavner will be in concert at the Valencia Ballroom, York Friday, October 10th. Showtime: 8 pm. Tickets are available by mail (see ad on page 33) or by calling MCC of the Spirit at 717.236.7387.



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Altland's Ranch

A Gay Institution Turns 30

J.D. Kennedy

Thirty years constitutes a generation. In that time, area gays have seen the burgeoning of the modern gay rights movement—a movement that began with a riot at a bar and blossomed into creation of organizations, parades and gay pride days from coast to coast. It is the bar, however, that continues to be one of the best means of disseminating information to area gay and lesbian individuals.

Spring Grove's Altland's Ranch has witnessed the shifts in the gay political winds as it continues, 30 years after it changed hands, to be a prime focal point for south central Pennsylvanians. On May 12th of this year, the establishment celebrated 30 years of ownership by Berni and Rodney—two gentlemen who've proudly stated they've always been gay even when the first patrons entered the facility upon the change over. "We were always gay," says Erhart, "People didn't seem to mind one bit because (just because) you go here, (it) doesn't make you gay."

The two met in 1957 and together have bonded not only with each other, but with a community that sees The Ranch, as it is affectionately called, as a safe haven on Friday and Saturday nights for a community that has come under increasing attack by its conservative neighbors. Both men met in the basement of York's Vallencia Ballroom, in the Rainbow Grill that was gay friendly and that had a section that was frequented by gays.

When they purchased Altland's Ranch, they continued to have parties, picnics, class reunions, stag shows, national acts, and other functions, but soon decided to set the last Saturday of every month as a special evening for gays and lesbians. With live bands playing dance music, York and Adams counties' gay population flocked to The Ranch in droves—leaving other gay and lesbian establishments virtually barren for the one night. There was no bar as there is now, and the night was promoted as a BYOB event. Over 600 people could be found on any given last Saturday to be at Altland's.

And though the last Saturday may have been reserved for gays, the heterosexual population came to party with their gay counterparts—a tradition that continues to

this day. Berni feels that Altland's has made a positive impact on the straight community although some come without a real sense of what gay people are really like. Says Berni, "I have a straight neighbor who came with his wife to check out the place. He came back to me a few hours later and was puzzled because no man had shown any interest in him and he is a very attractive man."

Berni is also proud of the numbers of straight women and bisexuals who come to party with the regular clientele.

Altland's Ranch has been affectionately called "a gay VFW" and "a gay bingo hall" by its patrons. Berni laughs admitting that the building is not the Taj Mahal, "but the

and pop operation.

Many ask why the 61-year-old Erhart doesn't retire. One wouldn't deny that the glue that keeps the place together is the music provided by Rodney (also 61 and older than Berni by five days) and the loquacious nature of his partner. "I like to talk to people. I can keep my eye on things, not that I need to, but it does keep overhead down."

The seventies saw the bar open on Fridays, Saturdays as well as Sundays because of food sales. Heavy metal bands made their way in the latter part of the decade and into the eighties and were a large part of the entertainment schedule for five years. And still, everyone knew the rep-

utation of The Ranch.

By the end of the eighties, Berni and Rodney decided to make the place completely gay, but only be only two days. "We have basically always been a two-day-a-week operation and that just suits Rodney and myself fine."

And they've made friends from all over. People from as far away as Pittsburgh and New York continue to stop to say "Hi" The owner's, however, stay connected to the local scene through their support of the area's gay organizations. York Area Lambda, The Harrisburg Men's Chorus and Lily White & Company are but a few of the groups that have profited from Altland's generosity, whether it be in the form of an advertisement or via use of the space for performances.

Berni was one of the prime movers for GUSH—one of York's earlier AIDS organizations—which earned Berni recognition from President George Bush in 1991 as one of the "Thousand Points of Light"—an honor that was granted daily to individuals for their volunteer service to the community.

The former teacher has noticed many changes within the gay and lesbian community over the past 30 years. "We knew about Stonewall years after it happened because we were concerned about our own little world here. We always felt and still do feel that the pride we have in ourselves and the pride in what we do and the pride in who we are with are what we need to emphasize." Words of wisdom from one who has seen thirty years of a gay community grow and mature right before his eyes in his building in the woods of Spring Grove. ✕



Taj Mahal in the middle of the woods would not be the Taj Mahal." People who were at Altland's Ranch 25 years ago would return to find that nothing much has changed. Oh sure there is now air conditioning and there are pool tables and video games, but the spirit has not changed.

The spirit is best exemplified by the lack of turnover that other gay drinkeries experience on a regular basis. In fact, one could say that Altland's Ranch is a family affair. The oldest employee is Yvonne who is the granddaughter of Bert Altland—the man who built the structure—and has helped Berni and Rodney since 1967. Rodney's sister Pat, along with her husband Bob, who works the door, have always helped the owners. Berni calls the business to a mom

The "Family" of Altland's Ranch include (starting upper left, l to r) Earl Lease with Yvonne Luckenbaugh, Berni, Bob Ballinger with patron Kim Cole, Rodney in his D.J. booth with a friend, and Patti Ballinger.

The Making of a Princess

Chenowa

A fluffy grey stray cat came padding across the yard. Both children, seeing a potentially new playmate, ran over to inspect her. My warnings of possible rabies, biting, scratching fell unto deaf ears as they scooped her up and immediately got lost in her soft eyes and purring noises that could be heard from where I stood. Sassy, from Homeward Bound, as she came to be called, had one of the nicest personalities and dispositions we had seen for a stray. She had stolen the hearts of my children from the start.

In the cold Autumn wind, tucked beneath a bush, she felt comfortable enough with her new family that she left us five small bundles of fur. Despite what I had always been taught about touching babies, she allowed us to get close and afraid of the cold weather the whole kitten-kaboodle moved into the garage. Sassy didn't mind and the kittens were now safely tucked into an unused laundry basket. Of course, the children filled the basket with warm mittens and hats to make this haven from the cold a warm place to snuggle into for a nap. The new kittens varied in color and size.

Sassy came to know when the children arrived to play or inspect her litter. She also liked to greet us as we entered the garage, she wasn't afraid of the vehicles, noise or the bright lights that often snapped on just to check if they were alright. One day after arriving home from a sporting event like always I opened the garage door and six eyes were peeled to make sure the kittens were in the basket at the front of the garage. As I moved the van into the garage, and as the children were chatting about the events of the evening, we felt a slight thump.

We three sat frozen in horror, desperately hoping someone had forgotten to put away a toy. Sassy, however, had greeted us by getting too close to the wheels. The children ran upstairs crying, leaving me with the task at hand, filled with questions "Why did this have to happen?," "How do I talk to the kids about death," "Why Sassy? ". As if this wasn't enough, from the distance I could hear the faint mews of five hungry babies now left with only a pseudo-mother, two well-meaning children and a laundry basket full of their mother's smell.

We moved the babies up to the kitchen for round-the-clock care, which when it came down to it was my job. (I was feeling so guilty at that point even my partner couldn't make me realize that it was an accident.) The vet said feeding them with an eyedropper was best. The smallest tiger yellow kitten died first, but he was so small

and wouldn't eat much, the children learned about death even though we desperately tried not to lose any of them. They slept in our hands, ate with gentle fingers wrapped around their warm bodies and slept with the stuffed animals the kids placed in with them, in case they wanted to think it was their mom. They were a source of joy and sorrow at the same time because of the circumstances in which we got them. The babies stepped on each other to gain our attention, mewing at the slightest touch of their box (they outgrew the basket very rapidly).

The largest of the kittens was a calico female, clearly dominant over the rest and "Miss Bossy" to boot. Princess, as she became known as, was anything but a princess. She would want all the attention and we often times had to push her away so the others could be fed and cared for. They all looked healthy but the fact that Sassy was a stray left room to wonder about their health, and the possibilities of kitty disease. By the time they were about four weeks old we thought we were free and they would do fine. They were running around and playing, drinking from a saucer and just doing kitten things (chasing string, etc.) The calico one still was the cat of the walk, racing across the kitchen floor to anyone, sometimes just her shadow.

Destiny? Fate? Whatever you want to call it had taken away their mother and at the

age of five weeks one by one all of the kittens except the princess. We felt terrible that we had pushed her away before, but her survival skills were higher than the rest. Renal Disease? FIP? The vet wasn't sure, but he felt that the one remaining had enough antibodies to fend off what the others couldn't. Was there a lesson to be learned for myself and the children? What was the role Princess would play in our lives?

After I divorced and moved away did I realize Princess' role. She taught us we can adapt to new surroundings, she did by moving in with an older shy cat and two enormous size dogs (which she promptly learned how to tease). Change in our lives is part of growing, it can be good or bad, progressive or sudden. Whatever the circumstances we need to accept change and find positive light in any situation. Princess will continue to prance over the children's pillows to wake them up in the morning, meow at them to include her in the bubble bath in the evening (lovingly pulled into a warm bath by a child who has grown to know that she won't be left out of this fun time), or just patiently waiting her chance to pounce out at the unsuspecting foot passing by the chair behind which she thinks she's hiding. At the end of the day I reach down to scoop her grown body into my arms as she listens to the day's events and we go into the uncertain future together. X

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Courage To Love

A conversation with
Rev. Barry Stopfel and Will Leckie
 Part One

Douglas Fauth, M. Div.

Turning the corner, I did a double take. The red-faced ranting man waving a sign with scripture in one hand and a Bible in the other looked alone and out of place as the lunch crowd scurried about Market Square. Driving to the garage, parking, walking to the Strawberry Square atrium, I kept looking for protesters, certain they must be out to harass my interviewees, Barry Stopfel and Will Leckie, whose story *Courage to Love* recounts their relationship during Barry's pilgrimage to ordination as an openly gay man in the Episcopal Church, as a deacon in 1990, then as priest in 1991. Happily, there were no more protesters. Outside B. Dalton's *crossroads'* publisher Eric Selvey introduced me to Will and Barry.

During this stop of a three month book tour, there was plenty of chatting, hugs and kisses for customers, many, Will told me, who were moms and grandmas buying the book for a gay or lesbian relative, as well as friends from Barry's growing up in Hummelstown, work as a Hershey Corporation executive and local clergy colleagues. When the lunch hour signing wrapped up, Barry, Will, Eric and I retired to the Hilton for a relaxing lunch, followed by a long conversation with plenty of laughter, some catty humor, deep insight and caring observations.

Eric: How did the idea to put your story in book form come about?

Will: It really came about from another local boy, Tom Cantone. They (Barry & Tom) had worked together at Hershey Park. Barry was just telling the story, catching up as old friends do, and Tom goes, "This should be a book."

Barry: It was Tom who said, from a straight man's viewpoint, that this is a story about love and courage that is common to everyone, gay or straight.

Will: Writing is something I've always wanted to do. So, here, we had a book in our laps. What a gift that a writer's first book could be published. Which just means that they'll look harder at the second one (laughs). The reviewers have been very generous with our book. And it is OUR book. We chose to write it in my voice because, 1) I'm the writer in the family...We felt that if I'm writing it, it gave Barry some distance from the events. It allowed the heart of our relation-

ship to the story to be told. If Barry is telling it, it would... Barry tended to be very clinical---This is what happened; this happened. He has a great memory (leaning toward the recorder) which is really hard on our relationship (Barry laughs). Lovers should have short memories. (More laughs). He remembered that the first words I had ever said to him were, "I've always had a thing for men's thighs," which starts the second chapter of the book. I'd totally forgotten that. But for me telling his story...it allows us to distill what was essential...How did those events affect us as a couple?

Doug: ...anybody who tries to write their own story finds it difficult to remain somewhat objective...

Barry: ...a lot of what I give can get real theological...like a theological reflection of the experience. I'd be talking about sin, suffering, redemption---all that sort of thing. And that's not what we do with the book. I think the strength of the book is that we look so much like all of us. And what's so ordinary is what's so holy and sacred.

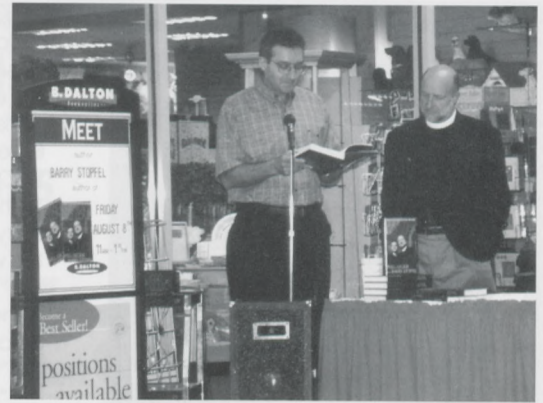
Will: I would write a section and I would give it to Barry to read. I'd offer it up as this finished piece, like from the mind of Zeus this thing has emerged. Barry would take it up to his study, he would come down like two days later...(laughter)...

Eric: ...from the mountain...

Will: ...fourteen, fifteen pages of things that he'd...the memory he's got of these little details! So I would take this really pithy twelve-page chapter and I would expand it...and here's this forty-page chapter. I was supposed to turn in 300 pages to Doubleday. I ended up turning in a 500-page manuscript. (After editing by Doubleday) I'd say, "How could you cut this out? It was Barry's experience." Cut. Cut. Cut. So we learned how to pull the theology of it back into just the telling of the story. How do you tell a story so that people can enter into on their own? And I think that's been some of the great compliments that we got. People read certain stories and they go, "It's my life!" Straight, women, gay...well, no, it's our life, but I'm glad that it resounded with your life, too.

Eric: Did you have to fight to keep some things in?

Barry: One of the reasons we went with Doubleday is because for a period of months you're on network news and you have your face in the New York Times on a fairly regular basis, there's a widely known quality about this story. If we'd written this book and that kind of national publicity hadn't happened, I don't know that Doubleday would have been that terribly interested. The editor of this book is the



senior editor for religion at Doubleday. They wanted to make a niche in the gay religious market. And that was scary for them. And it was scary for us. They wanted a book that was about love and courage and to cross markets...so, there was all this stuff going on, which is why Doubleday picked it up. Then to answer the question, did we have to battle, yeah, we did. Because they were nervous about...

Will: They were nervous about the intimacy. We chose to tell it, do a theology in the story, which is how we do theology, rather than a little bit further removed, intellectually removed. They wanted more of a distance, they didn't want quite as raw a book.

Barry: What they considered "raw"---tenderness. I mean we never had any wild sex scenes.

Will: This wasn't anything wanted and (leaning to recorder) for those out there who wish they could be doing it like we're doing it, you're nuts (laughter). It's very, very hard to be out front even for a little while, so publicly. We're together 12 years now. It's still work. And people set you up (imitating) "Oh yeah? You think you have it so together as a couple, blah, blah, blah..." And pot shots get taken at you...then we start asking our own questions: "Are we really like this in the book?" You read these stories about yourself---and you wrote them!---and you go on, "But I'm mad as hell at him today..." Some of those stories are in the book (laughs)!

Eric: So, how's the book tour going for you guys?

Will: It's been exhausting. San Fran, LA, San Diego, Boston, Philly, New Jersey (about five stops), New York, Philly, Harrisburg, Harrisburg...you meet wonderful people all over the place.

Doug: Barry, you're still doing your Sunday part during all of this?

Barry: Yes. It's been a pretty amazing chance for the congregation.

Will: ...the church sent us out, sort of like the first century church did, two by two. They commissioned us to go out as missionaries from St. George's with this book, with this Word, to witness...

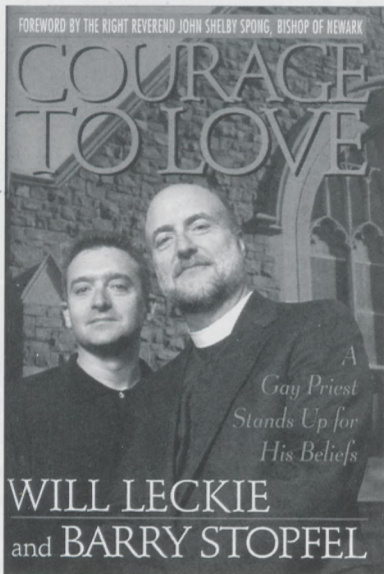
Barry: Sunday, before we went on the tour, we stood up in front of the congregation. They said, "You go with out blessing and go out there and, uh, kick some butt." (laughs)

Doug: Liturgical language!

Will: Liturgical language for "Bring them into the fold."

Barry: Right now, you think about writing, Candace Gingrich

Above: Reading To The Masses at lunchtime is author Will Leckie with partner and *Courage To Love* subject Barry Stopfel looking on at Harrisburg's B. Dalton's bookstore.



Barry and Will are at a dinner with owners of Penns Creek Pottery, Bill and Sharon Lynch---whom they had just met; the Lynch's pre-teens, Ben and Emily; friends from Ghana, where the Lynch's had been in the Peace Corps; and two neighbors.

...We covered international monetary policy toward so-called developing nations, the mean-spirited turn politics was taking in this country, and, inevitably, the failure of Christian churches to provide leadership on issues of hunger, housing, and homosexuality. Coming out to them just flowed right out of the conversation (like they couldn't tell!). Barry explained why we were at the cottage this weekend.

"You're not being ordained? And that's tomorrow?" Sharon was appalled. "Why? What happened?"

"It's kind of a long story."

"I want to hear it," Ben declared.

"Me, too!" Emily echoed her older brother. Having been raised without the dulling influence of television, Ben and Emily were as lively, thoughtful and opinionated as their parents...nearly as comfortable with the subject of homosexuality as they were with politics and macro-economics. I found myself grinning at Bill and Sharon: hippies in the sixties, parents in the nineties. What a gift!

"I was out in my ordination process,"

Barry began slowly. "I have to admit, I wasn't planning on being as out as I was. The Episcopal Church is not exactly straightforward about queers in the clergy."

Ben laughed. His mother shot him a look. "What?" He shrugged. "I just never heard anybody call himself a...you know..."

"A queer?" I prompted him. "It's okay. You can say it. We like the word."

...Once Barry finished, with hardly an interruption, eight people stared back at him. "But why did this happen?" Emily asked, still trying to grasp the complexities of the story.

"Because he told the truth," Ben answered for Barry. "And since he told the truth he's being kicked out. Right?" With one sentence he reduced our experience to its essence.

Everyone sat in silence for a long time, allowing the pain to soak down to the earth...here, deep into the night in an old farm kitchen beneath a mill set by the side of Penns Creek, strangers gave (Barry) a drink of living water---they fed, listened to, and comforted a man they had never met before. Through the hospitality of strangers with compassion enough to revitalize our own, we were powerless no more. X

Excerpted from **Courage To Love**, Will Lecke with Rev. Barry Stopfel, Doubleday Books, ©1997.

out there, Ellen, the ascendancy of the Human Rights Campaign as a highly visible, powerful force...you begin to think that that's where change is happening. But what I've discovered on this tour is something very different...meeting a mom here in Central PA who has two gay sons, a retired Methodist minister who's not giving any sway to homophobia...we've met these folks all over the country.

Doug: In the book you write of telling one priest, early on, "Homophobia is a straight person's disease. You go work with straight people to get over it. And please stop trampling all over us while you figure out whether you're supposed to love everybody or not." Often our voices are not heard...

Will: They're not as powerful, all of us together, as one mother of a gay child, one parent of a gay child.

End of Part I

Douglas Fauth, M.Div., is a 1996 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary and the first openly gay person approved for ordination by the Harrisburg Association of the United Church of Christ. Doug lives in York.



Charles

Bro. Johannes Zinzendorf

Charles died the day Charlie was born. Charlie was the first goat, and the first animal, born at the new hermitage where I live. He was all legs and ears. He was standing on those long legs within five minutes of birth, searching for his mother's milk. She was very proud of him, her own first born. "Mee hee hee hee," she said in her low contralto voice, while Charlie replied in his high soprano. Her dugs were so full and hard with milk that Charlie would not get his mouth over the nipples. I milked her by hand at first until he got the hang of it. And thereafter he grew and grew until his horns stretched so far back that he could scratch his tailbone with them.

Charles was my gay uncle---he died of AIDS. When I heard he was dead, it made sense to keep part of him alive. The rest is scattered ashes, long since mixed with the soil of the Rockie Mountains he loved so much.

Charles was the first man to whom I was sexually attracted. I must have been nine or ten when my family traveled from our Alabama home to Amarillo, Texas where my mother's people lived.

When we arrived at their house, I followed my dad through the back door and into the kitchen. Charles, in his mid-20's, was standing stripped to the waist at the kitchen stove, stirring something. My mouth dropped open. Broad shoulders and a muscular neck which tapered down to a narrow waist where each abdominal muscle was clearly defined. His biceps were large and his pecs stood out from his chest, massive piles of muscle that joined his rib cage under the nipples at sharp right angles. I'd never seen anything like it and the image arouses me to this day.

Even my father was impressed and commented on Charles' athletic build. Charles thanked him with that stuttering voice that never ceased to embarrass us for him.

Charles and I never had sex. Looking back, I wish we had. It would have helped me as a young gay boy to be first touched by someone I knew and trusted. But we didn't. What began was years of competition and comparison that destroyed any hope of reconciliation for a decade.

For Charles was his parents' only son, their only hope for a male heir. And his homosexuality must have hurt and bewil-

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dered them. After all, he was born in the 1930's and came out as a gay man in the 40's and 50's; not a good time to be gay, at least in the panhandle plains of Texas, the buckle of the Bible Belt as we derisively called it. Derision, however, was little hope against his parents' shame and guilt, shame and guilt that Charles internalized and kept lashing himself with until his death.

I've seen pictures of his fathers' parents--- a Methodist preacher whose stern face was bested only by his wife's cruel features, including narrowed eyes and a straight, narrow line for a mouth.

His mother's parents were not as hard---a grandfather who was son of a cattle baron and who himself ranched seven square miles of land. His grandmother was gentle and couldn't keep the ranch together when her husband died in middle age.

Their only child was Laura, Charles' mother. She left the ranch as soon as she could, seeking love and escape in the arms of a tennis player/postal clerk from Amarillo.

And that was the family into which Charles was born. I'm sure they tried to understand, but how could they when the most famous homosexual was still Oscar Wilde? The brittle subtleties of *Lady Windermere's Fan* were lost in that little house on Washington Street where Laura worked to keep sandstorms from dirtying her clean house.

I see Charles as a mama's boy, more interested in dolls and baking than sports. In one family picture, Laura is holding her son in her arms and she seems so proud and loving. And, to paraphrase Eugene O'Neil, they were so happy, for a while.

Perhaps to compensate for his early feminine years, Charles joined the Navy and went to sea, sending home beautiful vases and lacquered screens from the Orient. After the Navy, he moved to San Francisco. That was probably his first experience with a relatively open gay community and I hope he began the healing process there.

In any case, he later moved back to Amarillo and his parents' house, becoming chauffeur, houseboy, cook and general servant. Not that my grandparents could not have done this for themselves, but it was nice to have a son around the house.

At one point he started working for an interior decorator and evidently made some kind of name for himself. But it didn't last and he moved to Denver, finding a long-term lover for the first time, a steady job, also for the time, and AIDS.

As I said, my own relationship with Charles was ambivalent. Left to ourselves, we likely would have grown close. But my grandparents' hopes and dreams for the continuation of the line were smashed by Charles and so they transferred them to me. I became the apple of their eye.

They showed it clearly one Christmas. Charles received only one present while I

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was surrounded by boxes wrapped in brightly colored paper and large ribbons. Even with my own vanity and selfishness, I was able to see the suffering in Charles' eyes

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as it was clear he was no longer loved as I was. In embarrassment I shoved boxes under my chair to open later on. But the damage was done--the last twist of the knife.

It wasn't until I went away to school and came out myself that we began to have a better relationship. He was as glad for me as my parents and grandparents were shocked and disappointed.

That was a difficult time for my family because Charles was our only local role model for a gay and he was considered a complete failure. He at least looked at me positively. We could finally relate to each other on some other scale than our respective number of presents.

A few years later, my lover and I visited Charles and his lover. It was as happy a time as we ever shared. He was so glad to show me off as his gay nephew. He really felt happy for me and I was happy for him with his lover, job and house.

The letter from Mother said Charles had AIDS. He couldn't tell me himself and I'm surprised he was able to tell her. But their parents were dead by then and they were all the family that remained.

In the mid-80's, AIDS was still considered a gay plague, though the deaths of Rock Hudson and Liberace made it somewhat more respectable. Still, it was basically an unknown disease, especially away from the coasts. Mother could not tell anyone about

her sick and dying brother except Dad and me.

Charles fought it as best he could, as best one could at that time when nothing really worked and everyone was grasping at straws.

So did Charles. He tried the medical establishment's ineffectual remedies, then sought some unconventional cures through macrobiotics, herbs and the like. Nothing helped, of course. At one point he changed lovers and changed states, moving to a remote island in Pequet Sound, an area where he'd always wanted to live. He seemed happy there, walking on the beach or puttering around the house, going regularly into Seattle by boat for treatments.

But word spread on the island that a newcomer had AIDS. They made life very difficult for him and his lover and both were forced to return to Colorado, renting a cabin among the pines.

My mother saw him the week before he died. He looked bad, she said, her voice shaking on the phone as she told me. I knew it was worse than she could say. Charles' dying and death frightened her as much as it freed him. She didn't even go to Denver for the funeral or memorial service, preferring to place a stone in the family plot in Amarillo. Of course, he was not there at all. His ashes were scattered in the Rockies, far from grief and pain. Rest in peace, my sweet Charles. Rest in peace. X

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you know you're gonna drive home after a show and you live 35 miles away, take your face off or you maybe pulling off eye lashes as the ambulance driver is asking, "Are you O.K.? Where does it hurt?!"

If I missed anything important, please let me know and I'll be sure to add it next time. Until then, kiss kiss and don't smudge your lipstick.

Lancaster County Chooses A Queen

Felicia Bordeleaux Bryant

I found myself by my curvaceous pool when the telephone rang. I reached down lazily wondering who would rouse me from my doldrums when a recognizable voice uttered a plea for help. It was my sister Biscuit calling from New York. She declared that she was unable to make a certain event and wondered whether I would go in her stead, pull out my trusty pen and paper and record copious notes of an event for you, the faithful readers of my sister's column. (Diva indeed!) Do you recall the whine of a cantankerous six year old? I knew that I had to go otherwise my new found sister would make my life a living hell no matter where I would go.

I, therefore, found myself in Manheim at The Cellar and what did I eye-spy as I entered the premises? The beginnings of what was touted as the Miss Lancaster County Pageant---the first of its kind. The show was to start at 8:00 p.m. and though it took me three hours to primp and prepare, not to mention carefully selecting my wardrobe of the evening (use your imagination, I dress only in the best) I made it with ten minutes to spare. And though there were many people present, a seat was given up to me by a wonderful specimen of male pulchritude. Girls just remember, even though they may say the age of chivalry is dead, a little guilt thrown in the direction of the male ego (deflating it as much as possible) will grant you anything you want.

8:00 came and went. I suppose that was fine since these extravaganza wanna-be's never quite get off on time. Like the news of the advance of the touchdown of a Mississippi twister in a trailer park, you'd be a fool to think drag pageants start promptly; a little annoyance I've learned to live with. Twenty-two minutes later found me staring at what I thought was Judith Light's promo picture. I came to learn that it wasn't the image of the *Who's The Boss* star,

but rather of Miss Pennsylvania 1996.

Victoria Michaels found it appropriate to promote talents and availability. Good thing she passed out these photos in that they made lovely fans in a room that, due to a lack of air conditioning, found the degree of heat seemingly increasing with every passing moment. Thank you, Victoria.

Despite the warmth, everyone appeared in good spirits, partly because of the spirits they were imbibing. Two handsome long-haired gentlemen are seated at my table and are whiling the time discussing Howard Stern web sites (be still my heart!). I must get their names. I am forever on the lookout for proper escorts.

A lady whom I'm told is Miss Gay Pride looks over in my direction and feels the need to saunter over to make her presence known. She could do that from a distance in that you can't miss this buxom beauty. Her charm overwhelmed me. I know that Glenda will be a forever friend. At 8:33, (I try to be a punctual sort), we both notice a parade of wigs and wardrobe sailing through the room towards the stage and disappearing through the curtain. We each suck our teeth and look at each other with incredulous wonder. The audacity of someone keeping us waiting through these sweltering conditions!?

The man who escorted me to the room returns and announces that the show will begin in five minutes. I do say it's about time. After all, I've a certain someone at home waiting when I promised I would not be long. He gets so aggravated when he's not tended to in good time (why do you think I'm so punctual?). One good thing about Ramon, he does relieve his extreme irritation in very imaginative ways.

Ten minutes later the show finally begins with the Queen of the Cellar explaining, "You know how these girls are." "My, what a feeble attempt at an apology," I thought, "My southern sensibilities have been offended for the past hour and you're going to offer such a lame excuse!" If I ever proffered that excuse to my mother, Chante Bourdeleaux, she would have dragged (no pun intended) me down to the town square and tanned my hide. Cassandra, this show had better be good or else my sister won't have anything to report!

The contestants were individually herded on to the stage and introduced to the somewhat irritated audience. The Creative Fashion portion of the evening became the perfect occasion to present Jasmine, Desiree Valentin, Veronica Thorn, Miss Dana, Aurora Storm, and Miss Erica as if they were being foisted upon society for the first time (in fact, Jasmine was making her debut this very evening. How sweet). As Miss Michaels was introduced, I was struck by how lovely she is in person. Child, the pictures do you no justice. Noticing the audience's fanning themselves with her glamour



Top: Victoria Michaels (center) with the new Miss Lancaster County Desiree Valentin (left) and Runner-up Veronica Thorn.
Center: Mistress of Ceremonies Cassandra wows the crowd.
Bottom: Rising to the occasion is Desiree with the help of her two strapping back-up boys.



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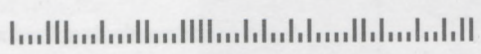
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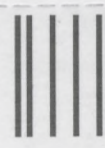
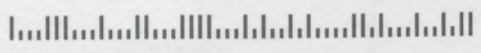
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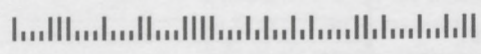
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shot, Victoria joined in which tickled me to no end. She had to. Those stage lights are rather warm and can melt the cheapest of makeup off the roughest of complexions. It's been a while since I viewed a queen with such deprecating wit. You've charmed me to no end, girl.

Performances throughout the evening, in most cases, left me sated. I have always been enthralled by the performances of Miss Cellar. Her unconventional numbers, by way of Broadway, have always endeared me to her. *Don't Tell Mama* was so apropos but dear, a vinyl teddy? Oh well, this buxom beauty carried it off well and proved to me why the locals adore her. Michelle Leigh Sterling gave an enchanting rendition of *You Don't Bring Me Flowers*. However, do we have to have three performances by a single performer? Especially from one who is not a resident of the county highlighted during this show. Surely, there must be other talented ladies in Lancaster County. (Here's the call, Red Rose girls. Send your tapes to Cassandra in care of The Cellar. Tell her Felicia told you to.)

The evening gown portion came and went (which featured a Tickle Me, Elmo moment when, in describing Miss Dana's ensemble, she inadvertently forgot to tell Cassandra that she was not going to wear a jacket) and after Glenda's performance of *Reach*, and the return of Michelle to the stage (spare me), Victoria's deliciously irreverent Philly toast, and the Cassandra/Glenda banter (You almost lost points with me G), we finally got to the talent portion.

It is a fine line one must take when reviewing talent in the context of a local publication. However, since I do have talent, and because I am the long lost sister of the diva, I am going to let it all out. Memo to Jasmine: though I know this was your first time, remember three very important points: Find something to do with your hands, do not continue to inspect the inside of your eyelids and for Pete's sake, girl, SMILE! P.S. Please know what you are singing. A ballad can be very expressive which will give you the perfect opportunity to interpret your lyrics.

Desiree, what can I say? Your number was literally uplifting. The *No More I Love You's/Don't Cry For Me Argentina* medley was imaginative. Your backup boys were delicious. And though I think your number ran over the allotted seven minutes, the audience didn't seem to care as you received a well-deserved standing ovation.

I've wondered if anyone would ever cover Streisand's *Splish Splash*. When I saw the tub I surmised my fantasy would become reality. Veronica, I was initially thrilled that you were going to attempt it. However, why didn't you do more with it? It was fun number, what with the rubber duck and all. But the duck could not carry you through what turned into a tedious exercise in contrived frivolity. Next time,

please take a fun number and carry the spirit throughout. I've seen you do it before, girl. Just remember what Chante said to me years ago, "You know you've done well when genuine smiles line the aisle of your exit."

Suave sophistication complimented the stage as Miss Dana entertained the sweaty mass with *I Want You*. Her foray into *I Will Survive* showed that she could handle juxtaposition rather well. Judges did you notice? Probably not, since Miss Dana chose to leave the stage and entertain in the house. A pageant no-no.

Aurora Storm was noticeably nervous in that she could not remain in one spot for more than five seconds. Girl, did you have Biloxi red ants in your girdle? Our photographer couldn't get a bead on you. The dramatic moments of *I Will Always Love You* would have been best punctuated while standing in one place. To your credit, however, I will admit that you had the audience eating out of your hand and no matter how your performance was judged, you had to be proud of the standing ovation generated by your time on stage.

Miss Erica, what can I say? For your first pageant you did well, but are you a student of the Michelle Leigh Sterling/Tawny Mitchell School of Performing? Get your own style. Be yourself. I know the judges didn't know any better, but your local audience will surely notice these nuances.

Poison's guest performance, sans recorded bass (what up wit' dat?) was later enhanced by the return of the bottom register and her fine twirls on the floor which provided a much needed breeze through the endless stuffiness of the room.

Even with its quirks, when all was said and done, the first Miss Lancaster Pageant turned out to be entertaining and worth a few hours away from Ramon (I'll be there soon, dear). The winners were announced with 1st runner up bestowed on Veronica Thorn (I guess the duck wowed the judges) and 2nd Runner Up honors given to Aurora Storm. With three girls representing Lancaster County and three representing Dauphin County, and with two having already been selected from the former, it was a sure bet that the girl who would be chosen to represent Lancaster County would not be a resident of it. That was proven to be correct as Desiree Valentin graciously accepted the evening's top honors.

I must share an observation at this point. The new Miss Lancaster County became a little too full of herself and tossed her wig during the celebratory Dance of the Cellar. I suppose that could be forgiven. Unfortunately, Miss Valentin proceeded to deliberately lose her foundations as well; much to the chagrin of Miss Michaels which had to have been the second no-no of the evening. Desiree, if I do say so myself, you deserved Miss Pennsylvania's icy glare.

Miss Valentin, I need to share with my readers the conversation I had with you fol-

lowing your win. You need to be the best ambassador you can be for the Lancaster area and since your domicile is not in the Red Rose City, you have an awful lot to prove. Please bring a sense of decorum and goodwill to an area that is in desperate need of it.

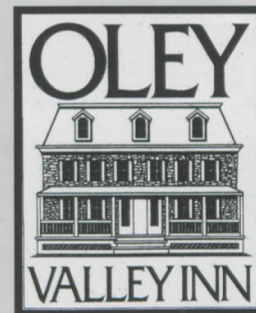
As for you the reader, I'll be around to report from time to time (much to the annoyance of my sister). Biscuit, though you are now the recently crowned Miss Strawberry, I will address you as a little "d"iva until such time you prove yourself worthy of capital "D" status) By the way, thank you dear sister for palming off this writing assignment on me. Maybe I'll find my own readership base and perhaps become as anticipated as you (someday).

Okay, Ramon, I'm on my way (and I know what's coming)! X

OFF STAGE....



RWMiller



**Berks County's
Best Kept Secret**

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Tues. - Sat. / 5:30 - 9:30 401 Main Street
Sunday Brunch Oley, PA 19547
11:00 - 1:30 (610) 987-6400
Rooms starting at \$ 60.00

Central Pennsylvania Shows Its Pride

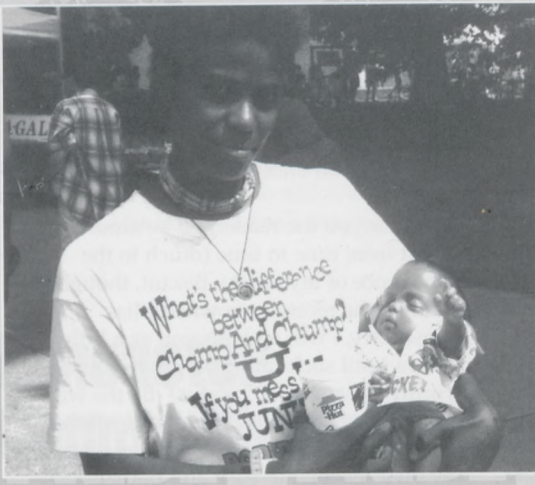
There really wasn't any doubt. Have a festival at the same spot that proved more than adequate both in size as well as its perception of security. It's not that the planners wanted to hide from the world, but where else in Harrisburg was there a place with adequate parking, a level ground for the physically-challenged and which was beautiful to behold?

Plan a festival and they will come. This field of dreams was more than dirt and bases. An area to which over 2,000 flocked to celebrate their diversity---gay, straight, bisexual, transgendered, drag, leather, men, women, black, white, Asian, and so on and so forth. The community came together on a day set designated for the celebration of PRIDE. And though many would say that self pride should be lauded 365 days of the year, still, this one particular day held greater significance for those still trying to figure it all out.

When all was said and done, it would be said that many were ambivalent about the media coverage, the presentation of two drag queens on the front page of a section that confirmed preconceived suspicions about gay men. The smaller pictures, which many thought were more representative of the day, were probably ignored by the community-at-large. Regardless, July 26, 1997 will be remembered when Central PA's lesbian/gay/trans community came out to proclaim their pride.

Portraits Of Pride...(TOP TO BOTTOM) *Mother and Child union, representatives of Pink Triangle of HACC provided assistance for the Festival, PLGTF's Rita Addessa looking for petition signatures, Jan, Rose and friend "man" the Harrisburg Men's Chorus booth, the sisters Carmitchell wow the crowd with their special childhood friends.*

All photos by Eric Selvey unless otherwise noted.





Left: *BETTY* wows the crowd as they wrap up the day's entertainment.

Photo by Tish Frederick



Right: Owners and Patrons of the Somerset County Casa Nova bar leave their troubles behind.

How Sweet It Is. Finally able to rest after a successful day are the members of the Pride Festival committee: Clockwise from bottom: Treasurer Ed Fubrer, Linda Crum, Volunteer Chair Kevin Welsh, Sponsor Chair Dave Snyder, Tina Fields, Vendor Chair Guy Kebler, Festival Chair Eric Selvey, Fund Raising Chair Bill Cooper and Operations Chair Lindsey Mills. Fubrer will head up the efforts of the 1998 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania.

Photo by Ken Oakes



Sharing a Tidbit are Festival Entertainment Chair and M.C. Stormy Scott (l) with Poison.

Having Crowned a new representative, the audience views the new 1997 Miss Gay Pride Aurora Storm (middle), 1st Runner Up Tawny Mitchell (l) and the recent Miss Gay Pride Glenda.



"I'm Ready For Anything" could be one of Michael Grabauskas' thoughts as he assists at the gate greeting incoming Festival goers.

Conducting One of many raffles in support of the Festival, Festival Chair Eric Selvey gets help from one of the younger attendees of the event. The bike was donated to the Festival by Hbg's Strawberry Cafe. The Neptune Lounge weighed in with a Labor Day weekend in Rehoboth complete with accommodations and \$50 gift certificate. The Stallions gave a portion of the evening's door to offset costs.



Stars of Fantasy Shine in Lancaster

Drag and live performers came together on August 2 to raise funds for Betty Finney---Lancaster's AIDS housing project.

Danny Lehne (below), Josie, (above right) Rod and others played to an audience that came out in full support of the AIDS facility. Over \$200 was raised and given that evening to Finney's executive direction.

Stars will be performing in December for the Metaphysical Church of Lancaster.



STARS of FANTASY
presents

Benefit for Betty Finney House

AUGUST 2, 1997 - 8:00 P.M. - 21 N. MULBERRY STREET
MULBERRY ART STUDIO

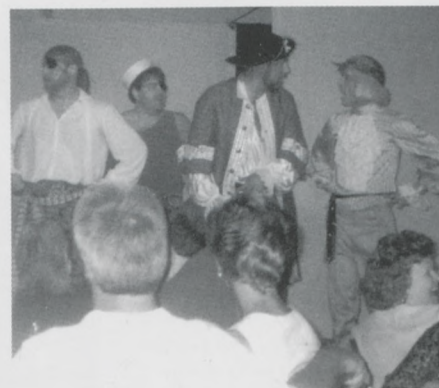


Lily Does It Again

After performing their fourth show at Harrisburg's Ramada Inn, the cast and crew of Lily White & Co. found satisfaction in having raised over \$10,000 for Harrisburg's AIDS Alliance in late July.

With July's success, Lily has raised over \$90,000 within less than ten years with their gang of female illusionists extraordinaire and their professional stage expertise.

As with many gay and lesbian organizations, the future appears cloudy for the once venerable theatrical group for the decrease of its volunteer base has made it difficult to fill board and performance positions.



JUDY! Raises Over \$4,000!

York Area Lambda's fourth annual fund raiser brought in over \$4,000 for two local non-profit organizations during a breathtaking evening full of entertainment both old and new. The July 12th event, YAL's major annual event, played before over 250 audience members who were wowed by return talents including the magic of Ray Girdley, the operatic talents of Divina Pons, the professional theatrics of Lily White & Co., the dancing antics of the Flaming Susquehanna Squares, the folk stylings of Christopher Quigley along with his brother, the gospel stylings of Rodney Martin, the solo efforts of Janie Womack and Cathy Nelson, and the vocal harmonies of 3 J's and a C.

New to the JUDY! stage were the color athletics of Mr. Harrisburg 1997 Rodney Beam, the comedic talents of first time comedienne Bee Barnhart, the Broadway-inspired choreography of the B-Bazzled Company and the guitar work of Craig Byrnes.

Capping the evening's festivities were the members of the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus.

Presiding over the evening's events was four time emcee Stormy Scott who continues to amaze the audience with her stretching abilities.

This year's proceeds benefited OPEN (Ordinary People, Extraordinary Needs)---an AIDS ministry---and the York chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

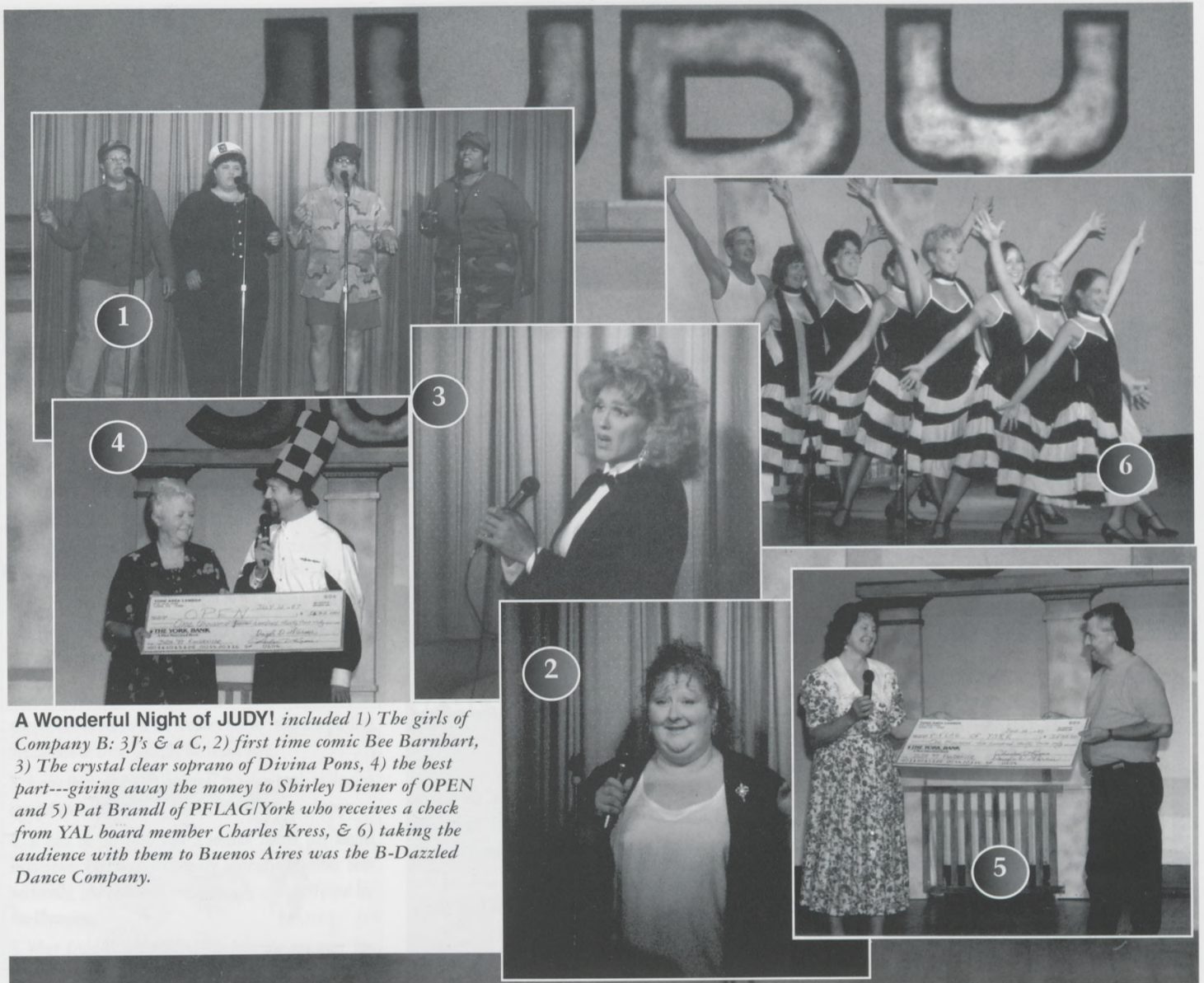
If you missed this year's program, turn the page and take a gander. If you attended the benefit, then relive the magic all over again.

Not been said of the disposable income of the gay and lesbian community. A 1992 survey revealed that gay households, on an average, bring in \$52,624; lesbian households, \$42,755. Many assume, even among both groups, that the money is spent on luxuries such as cars, homes, vacations, jewelry, etc.

That may be so. However, the Summer of 1997 presented proof positive that the region's gay and lesbian community is also generous when it comes to fund raising within like minded organizations.

From the Pride Festival to the annual JUDY extravaganza, and from new fund raisers to spur of the moment causes, Central PA's gay and lesbian can be counted on to put its money where its mouth is; to help their fellow brothers and sisters.

Our cover story is devoted to those groups and their efforts.



A Wonderful Night of JUDY! included 1) The girls of Company B: 3J's & a C, 2) first time comic Bee Barnhart, 3) The crystal clear soprano of Divina Pons, 4) the best part--giving away the money to Shirley Diener of OPEN and 5) Pat Brandl of PFLAG/York who receives a check from YAL board member Charles Kress, & 6) taking the audience with them to Buenos Aires was the B-Dazzled Dance Company.

Performers Say "Tally Ho" To A Patron's Woes

Performers came out to raise fund for Brian Manning--a well-known patron of Lancaster's Tally Ho Bar who found himself in critical condition following an automobile accident involving a buggy and a horse.

As drag queens are want to do, they donned their makeup, wigs, dresses and heels to entertain and draw tips that went toward Manning's hospital care. Some even



performed the previous evening's Stars of Fantasy benefit for Betty Finney house. Over \$300 was raised as well as a good time which was had by all.



Mikey Memorial Blossoms Into Garden Bonus

It was, as one patron put it, "a friendly drunk." That may have been the dearest tribute given to the recently deceased Mikey McGeehan at

Harrisburg's Paper Moon. His memorial show, which coincided with the restaurant's *Oscar Meets Tony* show, raised funds for the ongoing Harrisburg Riverfront Memorial Garden.

Mikey's partner, Gary Forry, accepted a plaque in Mikey's honor from Moon owner Frank Iadecola during the course of stellar entertainment--both live and lip synch.

McGeehan's spirit, and memories of him, helped raise over \$2,700 for the gardens. The generosity bloomed effortlessly on this particular evening. X



Vinton's Call

Vinton Ash

Well readers I am back. Have you missed me? Your movie and drama critic has been on the move hither and yon picking up vital information for you, my loyal fans.

Now for this issue, we are going to play a game of *Jeopardy* with gay and lesbian film trivia. Get your pencil and paper ready before going on to the next paragraph.

Remember, your answers must be in the form of a question. Each response must begin with the phrase "Who is" or "What is." The answers can be found on page.... This quiz might be fun during your smart fall dinner parties.

Now on to the first part of trivia quiz!



Gay Icons



1. The "Queen" of Hollywood in the 30's and 40's, this female star can bring gay audiences to their feet with "bitchy" roles in such roles as *Jezebel*, *The Little Foxes* and the film, where she utters her famous line "What a dump," *Beyond the Forest*.
2. Sex goddess of the 50's, this star may be more popular today with reruns of such films as *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Some Like It Hot* and *All About Eve*.
3. 1960 icon sings, directs, acts, writes and gets her start, entering a singing contest in a gay bar called "The Lion" which leads to an appearance in the Off-Broadway revue *Another Evening with Harry Stoones*.
4. Another icon that got her start in a gay establishment, this time a bath house in the 70's, became known as Trash with Flash and made it big in the 1979 film *The Rose*.
5. This icon of the 80's sings like no other, making her film debut in the film *Desperately Seeking Susan* which leads to the leading role in *Who's That Girl*.



Film Directors



1. Known as the "Woman's Director," this gay film maker coaxed "career performances" from such greats as Greta Garbo (*Camille*), Judy Garland (*A Star Is Born*), Audrey Hepburn (*My Fair Lady*), and Joan Crawford (*The Women*).
2. During Hollywood's "Golden Era" of film making, she was an overt lesbian who directed such stars as Katherine Hepburn in 1933's *Christopher Strong* and Joan Crawford in *The Bride Wore Red*.
3. As well as a successful songwriter, this gay director was responsible for getting Garbo to utter the famous line from *Grand Hotel*, "I want to be alone" as well as directing Ronald Reagan in 1939's *Dark Victory*.
4. A protege of Andy Warhol, this gay director was responsible for such hits as *Trash*, *Flesh*, *Heat* and *Beethoven's Nephew* which delved into the destructively possessive relationship between Beethoven and his handsome young nephew.
5. Coming out in *The Advocate* several years ago, this film director, who rumor has it, has been in a relationship for years with his mentor Luchino Visconti, lifts his viewers from the doldrums into opulent worlds of beauty in such films as *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet* with Mel Gibson.

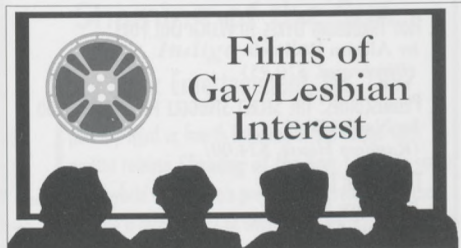


Favorite Stars



1. A very popular Spanish actor who takes it all off in the movie *Law of Desire* by compatriot gay film maker Pedro Almodovar.
2. Possibly no other actor of his renown has played more gay parts in films which include *Nijinsky* (he plays Nijinsky's lover) *We Think The World of You* (part-time lover of Gary Oldman) and *The Caretaker* (leather-attired sadistic brother of Robert Shaw).
3. "Like many men, I too have had homosexual experiences and I'm not ashamed," was stated by this premiere American rough-edged actor who brought "T" shirts into vogue with his performance in gay author Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
4. Having had several lesbian affairs (including one with Garbo), this silent screen star with a helmet of short black hair appeared in 1928 in *Pandora's Box* as a sexually insatiable prostitute who beguiles both men and women.
5. Having died from complications of AIDS in 1991, this actor played a gay sailor in the openly gay director Fassbinder's *Querelle* and received a kiss and an invitation for sex from a fellow prisoner in *Midnight Express* which won him a Golden Globe Award.





1. Ugo Tognazzi and Micheal Serrault star as gay lover's in this '78 French film which gets a Broadway treatment and a subsequential highly successful 90'; remake.
2. In this '82 film, (which was originally a Broadway smash murder mystery), Michael Caine gives a full-mouthed passionate kiss to his lover Christopher Reeve, who are plotting the demise of Dyan Cannon, Michael's wife.
3. A gay thief, Al Pacino attempts to rob a bank so that he can get enough money to pay for his lover's sex change.
4. A film of the 80's with a lesbian theme pits Mariel Hemingway and Patrice Donnelly against each other both personally, professionally and physically as they try out for the Olympics.
5. What *Cruising* in the 80's did to infuriate gay men, this sexually explicit thriller starring Michael Douglas, Sharon Stone and an ice pick did to incense lesbians in the 90's.

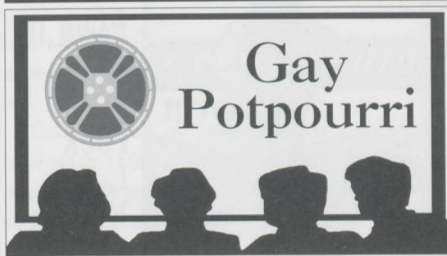
"OUT OF THE PAST is the best introduction to the lesbian and gay past and present that I know of. Its scope is vast, its style lucid, its understanding extraordinary." —EDMUND WHITE

OUT of the PAST

Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present

Neil Miller

crossroads



1. George Hamilton vamps it up as twin sons of a famous swash-buckler, one like his father and the other a gay bon vivant in this '81 non-offensive film.
2. Amazing film career, this knighted supporter of gay rights and a live-in companion with Martin Mealer is still going strong at the age of 90 in such films as *Prospero's Books*.
3. Billed as "Valentino's Greatest Rival", this gay actor, opera singer and film director was the strikingly handsome nude galley slave in the 1926 film *Ben Hur* and the subject of Garbo's attention in *Mata Hari* in which he speaks the famous line, "What's the matter, Mata?"
4. The gay author who was fast with the one liners and with society in the 70's and 80's, who saw two of his books become box office successes, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *In Cold Blood*.
5. The first film to win an Academy Award for Best Picture, this 20's silent WWI drama deals with the relationship of two handsome young men who constantly gaze lovingly into each other's eyes before, during and after the nude enlistment scene.



Images in the Dark An Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Film and Video

Completely Revised and Updated

More than 3,000 films and videos included • Over 400 photos Fully indexed and cross-referenced by titles, directors, stars and themes

Raymond Murray

OUT OF THE PAST
Neil Miller
Vintage Books, 1995
Paperback, 560 pgs., \$16.00

Those who cannot remember the past are condemn to repeat it. - George Santayana

The backward look behind assurance of recorded history, the backward half look over the shoulder, towards the primitive terror. T.S. Eliot

In order to accurately detail the gay and lesbian history of the seventies, I quickly discovered that I needed to seek a source that would give me not only a cursory outline of the decade in question, but how we as a people got to the seventies in the first place. Standing on my shelf, collecting was a book that I was dying to read, what with writing, editing and proofing work for other issues, never had the time to

How did you do? I hope it didn't make you too hot and bothered. And where did I get all of this interesting information, you might ask?

The secret is the second edition of *Images in the Dark* by Raymond Murray. This encyclopedia of gay and lesbian film and video contains info on over 3,000 films along with over 400 photos that are cross-referenced by directors, stars, titles and themes.

This book is indeed a must for the serious minded film goer. This is a Philadelphia-based production and therefore, if you want more info, you can contact TLA video at 1.800.333.8521.

This book comes highly recommended by this critic. I can't think of a better way to spend a lazy fall evening than to sit down with a cocktail pursuing this book while playing the latest CD from countless contemporary chanteuses.

'Til the next issue, enjoy!

pick up until now.

Out of the Past is the best book to date that chronicles the gay and lesbian history of America. Covering the period from 1869 to mid-1993, Neil Miller's 560-page work is a masterpiece outlining the best and the worst of America's instances of discrimination through blatant prejudice and ignorance, but also the struggles within the gay/lesbian itself.

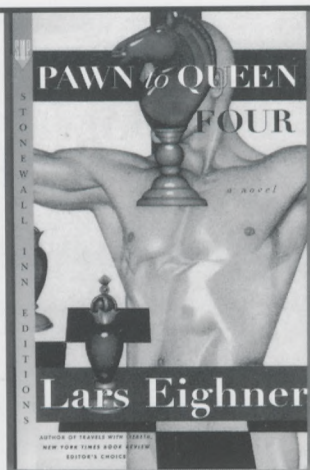
Through Miller's work, the reader is not only caught up in the sweeping complexities of what it was like to be homosexual through late 19th and 20th century America, but also how the culture was influenced by those who either wrote fictional accounts that seemingly marginalized their gay experiences to an unsuspecting public (Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, James Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry) or those who were blatant of their identification in their American gay world (Larry Kramer, Rita Mae Brown, Edward Albee).

Out of the Past also brings into sharp focus the inner political changes that were wrought by homosexual pre-Stonewall groups, the men's Mattachine Society and

Daughters of Bilitis. Both groups whose 1950's genesis gave rise to the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay Task Force of the 1970's and the Gay and Lesbian Anti-Defamation.

Neil Miller's stunning historical work successfully strikes that delicate balance of capturing the essence of both the homosexual male and female struggle for civil rights and how the two tended to mesh in the 1980's. The political struggles, the influence of culture by and upon U.S. gays, the aura of each period and a brief look at the worldwide struggle for gay equality is easily attained in the very entertaining and readable text.

ERIC W. SELVEY



PAWN TO QUEEN FOUR
Lars Eghner
St. Martin's Press,
1995
280 PGS.,
\$11.95

PAPERBACK

Although the summer reading season's slipped away (does anyone actually read at Rehoboth?) you'll be well-served by deciding to squeeze in one last novel before fall settles in.

Quirky and thoughtful are apt descriptions of Lars Eghner's *Pawn to Queen Four*. Actually, ridiculous comes to mind also...especially since the protagonist is Queen Agnes of the Realm of the Jade Court. Yes, the book is a farce that portrays America as seen from a drag perspective with the country divided into various regal realms. Underlying the campy tone however, are surprisingly poignant issues concerning gay life and homophobia. No doubt you'll recognize someone you know in Eghner's bar scenes, exaggerated as they are.

Queen Agnes taken it upon her royal self to thwart Brother Earl, Chancellor of the Holy Word of God University, and a notorious homophobe. Both Agnes and Earl make use of shifting alliances and circumstances that serve as thin analogies to 'real' life as they seek to implement their competing agendas (both the KKK and Hell's Fairies, a gay biker gang, are woven into the plot). Eghner deftly caricatures fanatic extremism at both ends of the spectrum, and does so in a way that drains them of their capacity to poison. While *Pawn to Queen Four* is a spoof we're subtly reminded of the power of absolute beliefs, and the ability of that power to twist lives and wreak damage. Just as a weakened virus can be transformed into a vaccine; Eghner depletes the virulence of hate through satire and allows it to be examined in a safe, comfortable environment.

Eghner's touch is so light however, that *Pawn to Queen Four* isn't a morality play; but rather a lighthearted and entertaining fantasy with a nifty premise—that drag queens exercise real power and influence on behalf of lesbigay folks everywhere. So go ahead and treat yourself to a fun read! I rate it as 3 1/2 pink triangles on a scale of 5.

JIM AKERS



WHAT'S HOT!

Titles Enjoyed Mostly By Women

1. **LIBERTY SQUARE**
by Katherine Forrest
(Berkley, \$5.99)
2. **HOT THROBBING DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR!**
by Allison Bechdel
(Firebrand, \$10.95)
3. **PROMISCUITIES: THE SECRET STRUGGLE FOR WOMANHOOD**
by Naomi Wolf
(Random House, \$24.00)
4. **THE LOVING LESBIAN**
by Claire McNab
(Naiad, \$14.95)
5. **DEADLY GAMBLE**
by Diane Davidson
(Rising Tide, \$11.99)

Titles Enjoyed Mostly By Men

1. **VERMILLION**
by Nathan Aldyne
(Alyson, \$10.95)
2. **NOT LIKE OTHER BOYS: A MOTHER AND SON LOOK BACK**
by Marlene Fanta Shyer and Christopher Shyer
(Alyson Publications, \$11.95)
3. **IF THIS WORLD WERE MINE**
by E. Lynn Harris
(Doubleday, \$23.95)
4. **NOW THAT I'M OUT, WHAT DO I DO?**
by Brian McNaught
(St. Martin's, \$22.95)
5. **BECOMING GAY: THE JOURNEY TO SELF-ACCEPTANCE**
by Richard A. Isay
(Henry Holt, \$14.00)

Titles Enjoyed By All

1. **GAY AND LESBIAN ONLINE**
by Jeff Dawson
(Peachpit Press, \$16.95)
2. **OUT FACT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GAY AND LESBIAN CULTURE**
by Jeff Dawson
(Peachpit Press, \$15.95)
3. **ONE TEACHER IN TEN**
edited by Kevin Jennings
(Alyson, \$9.95)
4. **STRANGER AMONG FRIENDS**
by David Mixner
(Bantam, \$13.95)
5. **HOMO ECONOMICS: CAPITALISM, COMMUNITY AND GAY AND LESBIAN LIFE**
edited by Amy Gluckman and Betsy Reed
(Routledge, \$19.95)

Information for this list was compiled exclusively for crossroads by Her Story Women's Bookstore, 2. W. Market St., Hallam, Pa.

You're Invited



10th Anniversary

Concert

featuring



ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY

December 9th
8:00 pm

"Ann Hampton Callaway's voice is a beautiful dramatic soprano in the same league with Barbra Streisand's."

- Stephen Holden, *New York Times*

Tickets \$22, \$18 & \$14

call the Box Office
after October 13th at (717) 846-1111

Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center
50 North George Street,
York, Pennsylvania
(Not part of regular Strand season)



Shaming of the Sun
Indigo Girls
Sony Music Entertainment, Inc. 1997

Upon my third or fourth listening of the Indigo Girls' newest release *Shaming of the Sun*, I came to see it as a hybrid of the duo's previous two releases. From me, this is quite a compliment of what the folk-rock based pair has accomplished. The Indigo Girls have woven together the energy and urgency of their double disc live compilation *1200 Curfews* while maintaining the haunting and ethereal qualities of 1994's *Swamp Ophelia*.

Shaming of the Sun is at its most successful when these two elements meet and peak on certain tracks, showing the listener that the Indigo Girls are finally coming into their own both lyrically and musically.

When listening to earlier Indigo Girls recordings, I always felt like something was left unsaid. Although I enjoyed many of their tunes, I usually found them lyrically vague as if they were hiding something even though their collective voices were crying for truth and justice (both internal and external). This search captured my attention and made me follow their call. *Shaming of the Sun* is the album that made me glad I stayed. This, their eighth, is confrontative, political and liberal (no, it's not a curse word to me). The songs, and their delivery, deal with complex territory of the human condition. Personal revelations are made here as well as the socio-economic observations which we have come to expect from the duo. One high-point on the CD is on track four titled *It's Alright* penned by Emily Saliers in which she unabashedly states "hate me cause/I'm gay Truth of the matter come/ around one day so it's alright..." Not only is Saliers confrontative, but when Ray harmonizes on the word "gay," the pronouncement becomes emphatic. A brief shout, then a sigh of relief.

But make no mistake, the music woven behind these lyrics is rich and rewarding. At first, the music was lost to this listener due to the new-found directness of the lyrics. After the words became more commonplace, as the disc has been given many spins, the realization came that the lyrical release has allowed the Indigo Girls a certain amount of musical freedom that creates an atmospheric and contagious intensity. The Saliers-penned *Get Out The Map* boasts the use of a bazoooki, mandolin and flintstone. Although not knowing exactly what these instruments are, or what exact sounds they illicit, the music on the track is rich yet somehow sparse, melodic without belying its folk origins. In one word, original.

With *Shaming of the Sun*, we see the Indigo Girls reaping the fruits of their labors. Before, on prior releases, the duo seemed to be on a quest, searching for answers to life and the

spiritual questions it frequently forces us to pose. Maybe they haven't found all of the answers on their most radio friendly album to date, but they have certainly gained a strong foothold.

Check this CD out, take comfort in its strength and pride. And if you can't find it in the Indigo Girls' music maybe you can utilize one of the gay/lesbian/women's support organizations whose email and mailing addresses are listed in the liner notes. Either way, enjoy.

M.S. VIGUERS



**Oscar Winners:
The Lyrics of Oscar
Hammerstein II**
Barbara Cook
DRG Records

Barbara Cook turns 70 this October. True to form, Barbara's giving us the gifts, a CD filled with songs by lyrics Oscar Hammerstein II. Rest assured: Barbara Cook is still a song's best friend. At 70, she finds more in a song than anyone can imagine, and while she may not soar quite as high quite as often, there are no disappointments here. She still connects with your soul and holds you breathless right where you both want to be.

The songs are largely what you'd expect, but why not? For the most part, these are songs one hopes will be around for a good time to come. The partnership between Hammerstein and Richard Rodgers was a remarkably long and productive one. Add to them songs from his collaborations with Sigmund Romberg and Jerome Kern, plus songs we all assume someone else wrote the words to, and we have CD to enjoy over and over.

Maybe it's an age thing on my part, but I looked at the list of Rodgers and Hammerstein tunes and thought, "Oh, no...not that one." And then she sang *The Surrey With The Fringe On Top* and it's obvious why it's there. *Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin'?* Works like a charm. *Edelweiss!* It's almost like hearing it for the first time, like you never had to sit through those merciless concerts with the kids of your straight friends, or work in those god-awful productions of *The Sound Of Music*.

The ballads tear your heart out. *It Might As Well Be Spring* couldn't be more tender. *This Nearly Was Mine* takes on a whole new life of its own. Oddly, the old reliable torch song *Bill* is something of a disappointment, but the reason has more to do with Peter Matz' orchestration than her singing.

New to me is *Nobody Else But Me*, written for the 1946 revival of *Show Boat* and, apparently, never used again, at least not that I'd heard. Fun to hear again is *The Gentleman Is A*

Dope from one of the few Rodgers & Hammerstein non-hits, **Allegro**. In addition to the *Show Boat* tunes, the Kern songs include a most appealing version of *I Won't Dance* and a medley of *Don't Ever Leave Me* and *All The Things You Are*. Romberg's *Lover, Come Back To Me* rounds out the CD.

Mention should also be made of the amazingly informative and ample notes by Hammerstein expert Hugh Fordin, who also served as the CD's executive producer. They're a wonderful combination of what you need to know plus delightful anecdotes and funny trivia.

Some singers have recorded a little longer than they should have, but, as she approaches her 70th birthday, that's clearly not the case with Barbara Cook. Her voice has taken on an even more mellow and lovely quality, if that's possible. There are still those miraculous moments when she's singing and the whole rest of the world stops, goes away, the only thing is Barbara Cook's amazing voice. Years ago she gave us *Glitter And Be Gay*. Now she has other songs to sing, and we're ready to hear them. Happy Birthday, Barbara Cook, and many, many more.

DAVID WALKER

Better Get This Now!

Various Artists
Intersound Records 1996

"Live"

Junior Vasquez
Pagoda Entertainment, Inc. 1997

Okay, I admit, I am hopelessly addicted to various artist dance compilations. I love Them! Enough said.

The idea behind *Better Get This Now* is that you hear a club song or remix that you just have to possess, go to the record store and you can't find it because it is no longer made. Let's face it, dance music has a very short shelf-life. *Better Get This Now!* is a compilation of club mixes and tracks that either very rare or just simply hard to find. The producers of this compilation did an excellent job, the remixes are spectacular and some of them have never been released commercially in the U.S. until now except that is, on vinyl. One such mix is Livin' Joy's *Dreamer* which can still be heard steaming up the dance floor at Stallions and Strike's *The Morning After (Free at Last)*. Now back to Rollo and Livin' Joy, Rollo is most famous for his work with Kristine W (he produced her first album and remixed all of her singles) and the Pet Shop Boy's *Absolutely Fabulous*. Rollo's is currently working with his friend, Sister Bliss, in a little band called FAITHLESS (you may have heard of them, you know *INSOMNIA a.k.a I Can't Get No Sleep*).

Other noteworthy favorites: Shades of Loves' *Body to Body (Keep In Touch)* (10/31 mix), remix by Junior Vasquez, which features samples of the house classic *I'll House You* by The Jungle Brothers, Tony Dibart's *Why Did YA?*, Roughneck Feat. Yavaughn's *Everybody Be Somebody* and my personal favorite, Strike's *U Sure Do*. This is one bonafide, slamm'n', dance til' you drop remix compilation. This compilation is all that, and like the title says You Better Get This Now!

Dance fans rejoice! Vasquez, who has remixed songs for Madonna, Annie Lennox and John Mellencamp, steps behind the board to offer us a two CD set which will be sure to add to excitement to any summer event. If it's remixes



SCORPIO, THE SCORPION

The eighth sign of the Zodiac

Scorpio, the Scorpion, is also symbolized by the Phoenix, which is reborn from its own ashes. (River Phoenix fans, this does not mean that Elvis-like sightings of your hero are likely.) Scorpio is imaginative, determined and occasionally just plain stubborn and obstinate---all qualities that make you an achiever. Scorpio also rules the human sex organs---a nice time the next time you meet someone...

CELEBRITY SCORPIOS

*Barbara Boxer
Augustus Caesar
Truman Capote
Willa Cather
Montgomery Clift
Divine
T.S. Eliot
Jodie Foster
Harriet Hosmer
Derek Jacobi
Louis XIII
Johnny Mathis
Robert Patrick
Helen Reddy
Eleanor Roosevelt
Camille Saint-Sans
Gore Vidal
Oscar Wilde*

October 1997

ARIES (March 20-April 19): Achievement is in the air for Rams this month; you're in the lead for problem solving. Relationships are highlighted this month; all bodes well for romance, as well as for dealings with friends.

TAURUS (April 19-May 20): Most of this month is excellent for scheduling business trips. If you're planning to mix business with pleasure, that's an equally successful-looking prospect...There's no reason you shouldn't be having a great month!

GEMINI (May 20-June 20): Early October is a great time for Gemini to make plans---business or personal. Later in the month, Mercury in Scorpio aids you in carrying plans out. Beware of overhelpful friends and companions, especially if they're the Tim Taylors of Central Pennsylvania; play your cards close to your chest this month.

CANCER (June 20-July 22): The month begins with Sun and Moon in Libra; your ruling sign says "party time," Cancer. (If you miss it, Moon is back in Libra on the 28th-30th when Sun's in Scorpio---now there's a party I'd like to be at.) This is an excellent time for Cancerian business or financial planning.

LEO (July 22-August 22): The Lion is purring like a kitten most of this month. Plans should begin coming together nicely for you. You may find yourself called in to arbitrate a friend's dispute; don't let it spoil your good mood. By the way, Leo---is that romance in the air?

VIRGO (August 22-September 22): Your keyword is "harvest", Virgo; you should see some of your old long-range goals paying off this month. You've probably even forgotten a couple of them; they're that old. Your partner or a close friend may be less pleased than you are; you'll just have to win them over with charm.

LIBRA (September 22-October 22): Well, birthday child, ruler Venus in Sagg means an interesting month, especially if you can get away for a few days. Heck, just go to the races; you'll probably win. Take that trip, or

meet a visitor; there's certainly a marked interest in "foreign affairs" on your agenda this month.

SCORPIO (October 22-November 21): Exercise caution, Scorp; Mars in Sagg makes you likely to say just what you're thinking these days. You know what's what, and that just may incline you to share the truth; maybe that's best avoided. You enter into projects up to your elbows right now; go for it, but just be sure you can finish them by month's end.

SAGITTARIUS (November 21-December 21): Sagg is all for having a nice time these days, and after the first week of the month, that's a definite option. If you've got a pet charity project, Sagg, this is the time to plunge on in. Indulge your artistic bent while you're at it.

CAPRICORN (December 21-January 20): The month may seem to have a slow start for you---but wait for later! Scorpio energy at the end of the month livens matters up for you---just resist the urge to act out about it. Capricorn stubbornness and Scorpio's sting? Watch out, world!

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 19): Jupiter goes direct in your sign after a nice, long retrograde. Expect improvement in life as you know it, especially in interpersonal matters. Charity begins at home, Aquarius---start improving things around you before improving others.

PISCES (February 19-March 20): Work on communication skills, Pisces; you can anticipate everything being put on your shoulders this month, so learn that word "no" thoroughly and put it to use this month.

November 1997

ARIES Go for it this month, Aries; ruler Mars in Cap most of this month sends out those "no guts, no glory" messages to the universe. Just be careful, that's all; you don't need to get yourself hurt. Be willing to shoulder a few extra responsibilities temporarily; matters workout in your favor.

TAURUS Business looks good this month, Taurus; it's a good time for you to get out there and do some networking. You find a few more differences with your partner than you thought were there; be diplomatic (send flowers). An interesting surprise is in store at Thanksgiving.

GEMINI Twins find themselves vacillating this month over a project; results are tending toward the best, so take a chance. Don't rush in, though; take matters one step at a time. Consider going away over Thanksgiving, either with family or old friends.

CANCER You may feel that it pays to be skeptical these days, Cancer; take the news with a large grain of salt. Determination is key and brings you out of your famous shell. If you find yourself determined to buy out the store on Black Friday, though, take a deep breath first and count to ten!

LEO What's bothering you, Lion? Leo feels surrounded, and the urge to claw is starting to appear. If you can avoid your favorite source of conflict right now, it's worth it to you. Save your energy for attacking a real problem (like those turkey leftovers).

VIRGO Virgo leans towards the less detail-oriented this month; are you seeing the big picture these days or just relaxing? You may surprise yourself with your impulsiveness this month; it's not your usual style. It's okay to be spontaneous and not analyze the whole thing first; just go with your feelings today.

LIBRA It's gratifying to know you're trusted, but it can also be a burden. Libra balances

the responsibility neatly this month. Earth-sign friends or business associates are in close proximity these days; listen to their suggestions.

SCORPIO Feeling inclined to stick your neck out, Scorpio? Go ahead; just make sure that your stinger is armed and ready. Perhaps that difficult supervisor of yours has stepped into range? Just be sure to think when you sting, Scorp; watch the temper when you make your move.

SAGITTARIUS You seem a bit more reserved than usual this month, Sagg; fortunately, that's all over in plenty of time for Thanksgiving. This is the time to book a cruise, Sagg; make some plans to enjoy yourself!

CAPRICORN Practical Cap is doing the organized thing this month; you're all set to out-Martha Stewart Martha herself for Thanksgiving if you've put your mind to it. And admit it, you've got half of your Christmas shopping done already. But we don't hate you, really; we admire you--- from a safe distance...

AQUARIUS The water-bearer is restless these days; there's a lot of bottled-up energy that needs to be released. Get outside, do some risk-taking; go out of town and watch people in action. There's a bit of a sharp edge on that ever-charitable attitude, Aquarius; keep your eye open for a friend who's taking advantage of your good nature.

PISCES Pisces looks anti-social to friends this month; why so shy? Go ahead; say "boo" to a grasshopper---don't hide away like a Cancer. You may find a great opportunity to put some of that imagination of yours to practical effect these days.

Marakay Rogers, Certified Tarot master, is a registered Tarot advisor and astrologer with over ten years' experience in the Harrisburg and York areas and offers consultations and workshops through Divine Light Books in Steelton.



SAGITTARIUS, THE ARCHER

The ninth sign of the Zodiac

Sagittarius, the Archer, is always aiming at great heights. Sagg is ruled by Jupiter, making you self-expressive, friendly and outgoing---sometimes needing to control the enthusiasm. Watch out for sliding into tactless or high-handed behavior; that's your downside. Sagg usually loves the great outdoors and plenty of free time.

CELEBRITY SAGITTARIUS

St. Augustine
Dr. S. Josephine Baker
Richard Burton
Willa Cather
Stephen Crane
Casey Donovan
Erte
Andre Gide
Robert Goulet
Terence McNally
Sir Walter Raleigh
Ned Rorem
Sophocles
Tiberius
Marisa Tomei
Gianni Versace
Evelyn Waugh
Katarina Witt





Disco Queens: The 70's

Disco Queens: The 80's

Various Artists
Rhino Records, 1997

Why should anyone purchase a 16-song compilation of what one touts itself as the best representation of female disco? Why do we buy the never ending releases of Motown's past glories or repackaged collections of artists from the Big Band era or, for that matter, soundtracks and original cast recordings from past movies and shows? Recorded compendiums are mirrors of a time with each selection; reflecting what we as a society were at a certain period of time.

Such is the case of the recently released *Disco Queens* series by Rhino Records. From The Pointer Sisters' *Yes We Can Can* to France Joli's *Come To Me*, the listener will

find quite a few chestnuts that will get the blood flowing and the memories harkening back to a time when life was simple (despite a gas shortage that caused an increase in the price of vinyl).

One listen will convince one of the disparate nature of both the music and its performers who crafted the signature of the decade. *Disco Queens: The 70's* includes Chic's *Good Times* (the party song of summer 1979), Rose Royce's *Car Wash*, *Odyssey's Native New Yorker* (full-length album version) and *Hot Shot* by Karen Young show the reemergence of rhythm and blues which was relegated to the burgeoning black radio stations of the nation's greater urban centers. *More, More, More*, *The Best Disco In Town and Dance (Disco Heat)*, (the Andrea True Connection, The Ritchie Family and Sylvester respectively), provide the camp side of the genre. *Doctor's Orders* (Carol

Douglas), *Ring My Bell* (Anita Ward), *Come To Me* (France Joli) and *Boogie Woogie Dancin' Shoes* (Claudia Barry) demonstrate the intensity of the one-hit wonder as well as proving to many what the standard disco single was all about--to have fun while shaking your groove thing on the dance floor.

In an exclusive interview with *crossroads*, Brian Chin, former writer for trade music publications *Radio & Records* and Dance Editor for *Billboard Magazine* (1982-87), told us he chose the selections by listening to what disco oldies were playing on contemporary radio. Chin crafted the liner notes that gives the listener a crash course on the music of the disco era and showing how some of the songs intertwined with others. For instance, Chin's favorite of the period appears to be Cissy Houston's low charting *Think It Over* which "has all of the elements that are textbook examples of how a really great female voice, great songwriter, and talented arranger can bring this whole array of weapons to bear." Song writing credits are given to Houston, Alvin Fields and Michael Zager. Zager's *Let's All Chant* (not included on this disc) drove dancers to the dance floor at same time Houston's hit was struggling to chart. The late Bernard Edwards and Nile Rodgers are spotlighted instrumentally on the aforementioned *Good Times* and on the production board for Sister Sledge's *He's The Greatest Dancer*.

For those who lived the era, the music is quite familiar; thankfully, nothing new has been added or remixed to give it a 90's feel. This is a blessing for those acquainting themselves to the music for the first time for, in order for one to clearly experience the era, one needs to have as much of the original material to strongly focus one's senses on the period.

One will quickly notice the absence of Donna Summer, Gloria Gaynor and the Bee Gees. Since their respective company know of the cash potential for these classics, they refuse to release them for other company compilations. Therefore, Rhino was unable to get permission from Polygram Records to use their music on these CDs.

The disco era spawned the dance music of the eighties and surprise a similar Rhino's *Disco Diva's: The 80's* reflects this recent era as well. Reading like a who's who of dance, the 80's CD boasts the likes of Laura Branigan (*Gloria*), Patti LaBelle (*New Attitude*), Taylor Dayne (*Tell It To My Heart*), Paula Abdul (*Straight Up*), Jody Watley (*Looking For A New Love*), Samantha Fox (*I Wanna Have Some Fun*), and Deniece Williams (*Let's Hear It For The Boy*). Again, one-hit wonders abound in the personage of Pebbles, Stacey Q, Nu Shooz, and Pajama Party. The Pointer Sisters, Sheila E, Kim Wilde, Pretty Poison and Lisa Lisa who round out a disc that is not yet nostalgic, but who all deserve their moment in the sun.

Both '70's and '80's versions of *Disco Queens* are now available for purchase and a 90's compilation was recently released.

J.D. KENNEDY

you like, blended together to make one long and strong dance recording, then this one is a sure bet.

The twenty-two track set has many unknown dance artists on it, but it also hails mixes of Cyndi Lauper's *Come On Home*, k.d. lang's *If I Were You*, and Cher's *One By One*. Also included is a mix of the Ab Fab girls shouting *I Am Thin and Gorgeous*. Don't be misled, these are not full-length versions of these songs. The emphasis here is placed on Vasquez's vision of these songs. He uses parts of the vocalists' delivery, but only where it enhances the driving backbeats and bass lines Vasquez deftly employs to lure you to the dance floor with drink in hand.

Even if you just like dance music occasionally, this collection offers a fine sampling of current club music while still remaining fresh and interesting. Most of today's dance compilations offer a monotonous blend of unoriginal or overplayed titles. How many times can one listen to La Bouche's *Be My Lover*, or Everything But The Girls' *Missing* before they become mundane or, dare we say, boring? Therein is where Vasquez's talent and style are brought into play. This is not one man merely sampling another artist's work, this man has a vision and bends these songs to his will thereby accomplishing his mission; a full floor in the club (or at your next party).

Throughout the set, it is obvious that Vasquez is enjoying himself, too. One can be sure that if the man behind the board creating the remixes is bored, this apathy will be translated into the music thereby instilling that same mood in the listener. But it is Vasquez's innovation and experimentation that seem to have breathed new life into a genre this reviewer thought had all but

exhausted its resources thereby forcing consumers to shout "on to the next trend!" Even though this inevitable eventuality is somewhere off in the future, Junior Vasquez seems to be doing his best to prolong the dance music craze. And he's succeeding!

SCOT FROST

Brass Knuckles

Tony Caramia, pianist
Albany, 1997

One assumed it was only a matter of time before the academic composers would try their hands at writing piano rags. The differences between the University professors and the professors of the original ragtime school make one shudder. As one who comes from the old school, this reviewer can only ask that the college composers go back and take the course again.

A rag, by definition, is a heavily syncopated melody (right hand) over a near-invariably steady oom-pah bass (left hand). How one could take such a simple idea and screw the heck out of it and still call it a rag is beyond me.

Me "getting with the times" has nothing to do with. If one is going to write a sonnet, there are certain things that apply, not the least of which is 14 lines. At least two poets have tried to convince the reading public that they were writing 10-line sonnets. "It's a sonnet because I say it is." No, it's a sonnet if it follows the guidelines. We once received a recording of what the



composer called a string quartet in two movements played by a clarinet, oboe and bassoon. J. Edgar Hoover was not a drag queen just by putting on a dress.

Trebzor Joy Tichenor, Max Morath and Glenn Jenks are ragtime pianists and composers. They make their living at it; they know what they're doing. And pianist Tony Caramia, who has recorded for Stomp Off Records in York, does well by their works. Caramia's own composition is marginal, but he's a good enough ragtime pianist that his *Travelin' Two-Step* is convincing. Caramia also does a good job of playing the earlier works of William Albright and William Bolcom. Caramia's reading of Bolcom's *The Graceful Ghost* is quite nice. Bolcom's *Dream Shadows* is played well, too, and Albright's *Morning Reveries*

sounds lovely.

Stride Piano is a wonderful and difficult style, but it's not a rag. A right hand only syncopated novelty piano piece is not a rag, no matter what the composer wants to call it (see the 10-line sonnet above). Kevin Putz' *Minimalist Rag* is a funny idea, but it's also more at home at home on a CD of funny ideas.

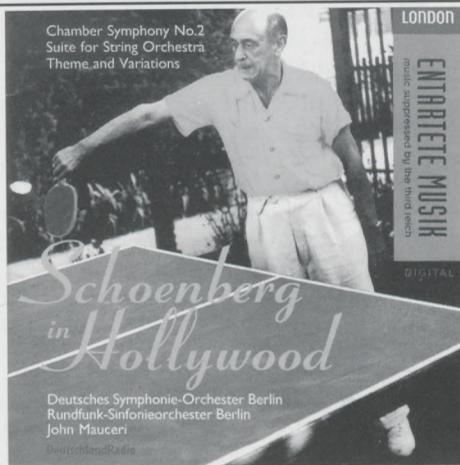
It's rare enough to get a piano rag CD with a competent pianist. It's even rarer to find a CD of contemporary rags. Sue Keller has recorded some; a few other pianists have championed contemporary composers, or at least occasionally included a contemporary rag in their acts. There are a lot of people writing real rags who are denied a market because the old-guard pianists feel their acts wouldn't be genuine if they played anything written after 1920.

Then along comes this exercise from Eastman School of Music, where several of the composers come from. "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach" is sadly, given some validity in this attempt that shows the professors aren't professors. My comment in red ink in the margins would be, "Guys, learn what you're supposed to do, then give it a shot. It isn't a rag because you say it is; it's a rag when you've mastered the discipline."

DW

Schoenberg In Hollywood Entartete Musik Series (448 619-2) London

The cover photo of *Schoenberg In Hollywood* shows the composer engaging in a game of ping-pong. A more incongruous image probably couldn't have been found for the man who created the twentieth century's most problematic musical form: the Twelve Tone System. Fanatically espoused by some and violently denounced by others (including the Nazi regime), the system often produces work which seems to have more in common with mathematics than music. Even in a gifted



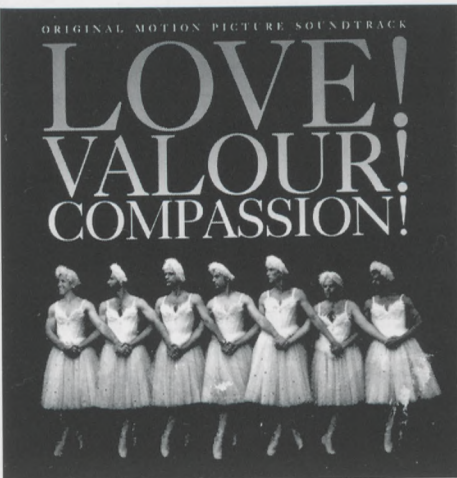
hand such as Schoenberg's the results, more intellectual than emotional, seem more destined for analysis than enjoyment (a characterization which might easily be applied to the bulk of modern art of every persuasion). In fact, the system is so cumbersome that many of its best-known practitioners abandoned it; even Schoenberg didn't always strictly follow its rules.

The good news for some will be that, although these are pieces from later in the composer's life, the music is all of the tonal variety as a result of the specifics of the commissions under which they were created. It is still, however, not music for casual listening; it is after all Schoenberg, and this music never asks anyone to like it.

The *Suite for Orchestra* opens with a near-classic severity and both it and the *Chamber Symphony #2* are marked by an ascetic coldness, perhaps the pieces are reactions to the composer's ouster by Hitler from his homeland, finding himself in a strange land, financially insecure and his talent unappreciated. Musically these two pieces never take flight, although they come close, and exhibit absolutely no joy of music-making. Musically they are the equivalent of a dull toothache.

At the opposite end of the scale is the *Theme and Variations* which completes the disc. While no less "intellectual" or "abstract" than the other two pieces, there is an energy and enthusiasm for composing here which is entirely absent in the other pieces. It provides a satisfying culmination to the collection. Whether it justifies buying the CD is another matter. Those whose palates are educated enough for this music will probably adore the whole thing. Still any music which upset the Nazis is worth trying to appreciate.

HARRY R. LONG



Love! Valour! Compassion! Original Soundtrack London 1997

There was probably no film more eagerly anticipated by the gay community than the adaptation of Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning *Love! Valour! Compassion!* Some of us are just curious to find out how the plays four hours have been streamlined into two, and whether if it will even screen time outside the major cities. In recent years it seems movies of plays die a hasty death once they leave the metropol. Did *Six Degrees of Separation* play at a theater near you? At press time, the movie had as of yet to play in the Southcentral PA area. The soundtrack, however, has found its way to local stores.

For some unknown reason it seems every soundtrack must include a known pop tune or two (*Star Trek: First Contact*, for instance, included Steppenwolf's *Magic Carpet Ride* and Roy Orbison's *Ooby Dooby*). And *LIV!* is no exception. The real oddball here has to be Mungo Jerry's *In The Summertime*. Not only is it stylistically at odds with the rest of the music, but

just exactly what is a song with the repeated phrase, "You got women, you got women on your mind," doing in a film about gay men? And in the 90's just what are we supposed to make of a howler lyric like, "If her daddy's rich/Take her out for a meal/If her daddy's poor/Then just do what you feel?" lck!

Ella Fitzgerald's surprisingly straightforward performance of *Bewitched, Bothered & Bewildered* is a far better match. Composer Harold Wheeler also provides a lyrical adaptation of *Beautiful Dreamer*, and a swinging jazz version of *In The Good Old Summertime*.

No biographical material on Wheeler was provided so, as far as can be determined, this may be his soundtrack debut. If so, it's a promising one, though hardly any real test of his abilities. The music all falls into the vein of light classical or light jazz, with little in the way of more expressive underscoring. (As compared to, say, Carter Burwell's score for *The Hudsucker Proxy*, which falls into the same mode, but includes more support for the dramatic moments.) Fans of Vince Guaraldi, W.G. "Snuffy" Alden and Stuart Levin will find a welcome new addition to their libraries here.

If you're currently using Marvin Hamlisch's boring and sticky score for *The Mirror Has Two Faces* for those low-key romantic dinners, for heaven's sake toss it out and substitute this. Just remember to program the player to omit that horrendous Mungo Jerry track.

HRL

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less frazzled than its work session. The Policy Committee presents its "clarification" of the original "Pro-Family Resolution," which reflects the legal realities made clear by Addressa's December letter: "The board affirms that all students, regardless of their family circumstances, shall be provided an equal education opportunity, and that all students are to be protected from sexual harassment, including same-sex sexual harassment, through appropriate disciplinary action."

The board's statement about "same-sex sexual harassment" doesn't impress residents and activists as a step forward, because it's not what was addressed in *Nabozny v. Podlesny*. Rather, sexual and other harassment on the basis of a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation were the issues.

Board member Bowen, in yet another round of criticism, says, "I think the media owes an apology to this community," and blames the local teachers' union for bussing in "outsiders" to board meetings. He goes on to defend himself and the board, saying, "Our intent was pure. We do not owe an apology, and I will never vote for a rescission (of the resolution and/or the policy)." He is sharply countered by moderate board member Kathleen Weaver, who suggests an apology to the community is in order. In the end, no apology or any form thereof is offered, not even by Ms. Weaver.

February 1997

The Elizabethtown Area Republican Committee reports that conservative EASB members Thomas Bowen, Gary Parsons, John Everhart and Armond Fieni have not sought endorsements from the local GOP for the upcoming May primary, in which four school board seats will be open.

District residents, and local and regional GLBT rights activists organize yet another press conference and candlelight vigil. By this time, though, key organizers Addressa and district parent Linda Kinney Poss choose to focus on "academic excellence and educational equity," leaving the issues of anti-gay discrimination and sexual-orientation harassment out of the spotlight.

Addressa says there are five goals: To rescind the "anti-family diversity passed in September, 1996, and still stands; to withdraw the proposed anti-gay policy of January, 1997; to adopt the Pennsylvania Department of Education's statement of equity principles adopted in January, 1993; to support the principles of diversity and pluralism; to uphold the laws and regulations of the state and the nation."

Conspicuously missing from this list were the specific goals of amending EASD non-discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment policies to include the category

Clarification - January 28, 1997

WHEREAS on September 17, 1996, the board adopted a pro-family resolution; WHEREAS on October 15, 1996 in response to concerns about the resolution, the board unanimously approved a statement of regret about any misunderstanding and affirming that the resolution does not state or imply that any family is less value than others;

WHEREAS on January 21, 1997 the board passed on first reading the instructional policy on sexual orientation, and voted to send the resolution to the policy committee for clarification;

WHEREAS a resolution may express a principle or intent of the board, adoption of a board policy is the sole means by which the board exercises its rule making power under the public school code;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED: this resolution shall clarify the "pro-family resolution" passed on September 7, 1996; marriage is the union of a man and a woman which is the foundation of a family; the family is the foundation of society and bears primary responsibility for the moral instruction of children; some organizations and schools have actively promoted homosexuality programs and activities in the public schools; such programs and activities have not been presented in the EASD; the board affirms that the EASD curriculum shall not promote homosexuality with programs and activities; the board affirms that all students regardless of their family circumstances shall be provided an equal educational opportunity and that all students are to be protected from sexual harassment, including same-sex sexual harassment through appropriate disciplinary action;

The board expects the administration to vigorously enforce these policies which are contained in Policy 105, instructional policy regarding sexual orientation, and Policy 248.

"sexual orientation." However, these are not considerations when dealing with a heterosexual school board, and mostly heterosexual EASD residents and parents who, despite their opposition to extreme anti-gay prejudice made into public policy, still hold on to their own biases.

Board action on the pending policy is minimal this evening, consisting only a brief discussion about the second reading and final vote. On Friday, February 14--- Valentine's Day---Thomas Bowen again utilizes the media to explain his views. First, he blames opponents of the "Pro-Family Resolution" for the "Instructional Policy": "If the opponents of the resolution never raised their voices, I'm not sure we'd have a policy that we're enacting Tuesday night." He goes on to assert that "reasonable" people are also anti-gay people: "Unless one favors using taxpayer money to promote or encourage homosexuality to minor children, what reasonable person can be against it?" To finish his comments, Bowen rationalizes his and the EASB's actions with a justification that, ironically, is also used by the Ku Klux Klan for its actions: "I saw it as a mom and apple pie type of thing. I certainly didn't anticipate the reaction we've had."

Finally, the February 18 board meeting arrives. Last minute instructions are given to policy opponents, and the falling cry of "academic excellence" is repeated. However, those who support "academic excellence" demonstrate, in the meeting, opposition to board debate over district non-discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment

policies as they pertain to GLBT students' issues. Several activists assert that organizers Rita Addressa and Linda Kinney Poss are sacrificing equal-protection and safety issues for a board vote overturning the "Instructional Policy."

Following three hours of citizens' comments, the EASB brings the "Instructional Policy Regarding Sexual Orientation" to the floor for a vote. At one point, when it appears that a second reading and vote may be delayed further, Thomas Bowen complains, "I don't want to spend another month on this," and indirectly criticizes conservative EASB member Carol Miller for introducing a "poorly-worded resolution." His action-seeking to save himself from extremism---doesn't escape notice by many in the audience. The board takes a separate votes on the finer points of the whole matter. First, it votes 6-3 that the "resolution clarification" should "replace," not "rescind," the original "Pro-Family Resolution." Then, it approves the new version of the clarification, 7-2. Moderate board member Kathleen Weaver moves to add a sentence to the policy stating protection for students from harassment. Thomas Bowen objects and the motion is defeated 6-3.

Moderate Andrew Saylor then moves for a similar change, this one stating protection for students from "sexual and sexual-orientation harassment." Bowen again objects, but Saylor's motion is approved 5-4. Finally, the policy is approved in its final version, 9-0. Extremists are delighted. Opponents are numb, angry and upset. EASB President

Larue calls for a recess. Reporters scramble for interviews. Interview subjects complain about the delayed construction and renovation projects, the \$6,190.00 tax dollars paid to the Rutherford Institute to "clarify" the policy, and express generally ill feelings towards the EASB. Some subjects look to the future, to the EASB elections in 1997 and 1999, when incumbent member's terms expire. Very few subjects, though, discuss the impact on GLBT students, district staff and faculty, residents and others. Fewer still discuss any possible surge of heterosexism in residents and others. Fewer still discuss any possible surge of heterosexism in district policy and curriculum decisions. Their laundry has been hung on the line. It's just beginning to dry.

EPILOGUE

In May, 1997, Thomas Bowen made a motion that the EASB rejoin the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, (PSBA), and the board votes in favor. This sharply contradicted his motion of December, 1995, which resulted in the EASB leaving the PSBA, and his motion against rejoining in November 1996. He cited financial reasons for his change of heart, although he still disagrees philosophically with the PSBA. He further backed his motion by stat-

ing confidence that the EASB can better affect conservative changes in the PSBA via its membership, instead of being outside.

Also in May, Elizabethtown Area High School teacher Daniel Paul Fahringer was acquitted of "indecent assault and corruption of minors" after a 14-year-old female student alleged he placed his hand inside her shirt and touched her breast. Despite testimony from another female student that affirmed the plaintiff's claim, a jury finds Fahringer "not guilty." He will return to teaching in the high school in September.

EASD residents have been presenting public forums and panel discussions on how best to revise district sex education curriculum. The biggest question throughout this process has been, should the program be abstinence-promoting or abstinence-based? This approach has not and will continue to not take into account the sex-related issues faced by GLBT students, and demonstrated, from its beginning, a definitive bias against GLBT educational-equity issues, even by those who claimed to stand for "academic excellence."

On May 20, 1997, voters in the EASD overwhelmingly endorsed four moderate Republican candidates for the EASB: Barbara Hippensteel, Michael Moulds, Thomas Troutman and Jamie Rowley, (all

four also ran on the Democrat ballot). It was also in the spring that EASB President John Larue and Vice President John Everhart smiled for the cameras as they broke ground for a much-delayed district construction project. Elizabethtown officials and business people are finalizing plans on how to incite growth and progress in the borough.

The EASB, meanwhile, has yet to discuss if and how they intend to address different presentations of homosexuality in different curricula and programs in the district. They do have some relief from one of their "problems," though Lancaster activist Danny Lehne recently received a "cease-and-desist" order from Thomas Bowen's lawyer, pertaining to mailings Lehne had been sending to EASB members. The mailings' content? How closeted homosexuals maintain their closetry via anti-gay actions.

The tide of national debate over GLBT rights and equality, hallmarked by the congressional votes on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Defense of Marriage Act, and the Supreme Court ruling in *Romer v. Evans*, made its way into a small borough in a mostly conservative county, in the first state to have a civil rights law. Whether the tidal waters were clear or colorless is beside the point. Along the way, the waters were muddied unnecessarily. X

Continued from Page 25

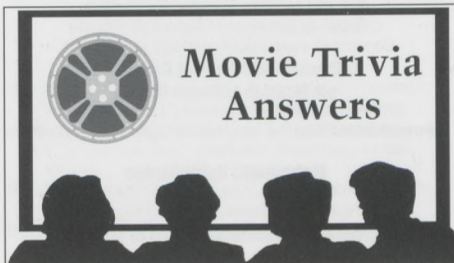
chronic diarrhea, kidney stones, liver failure and even death. The ADAP programs (AIDS Drugs Assistance Programs) have been cut dramatically due in part to the media labeling HIV as a manageable disease. There is not enough money in these programs to support hundreds of new cases where "feeling it raw" was more important than using a condom.

There are countless alternatives to enhance safe sex such as S&M, leather and fetish. One is limited only by their imagination. Let it run wild.

As long as a condom is used for that final penetration then you can spare your own health as well as the health of others. We, as a responsible gay male community, cannot throw away what little respect society gives to us in the name of the ALMIGHTY O. X

Next issue we will be taking an objective look at the use of anabolic steroids and its treatment for HIV wasting.

**Send us your feedback
via email
xroads@ptd.net**



Movie Trivia Answers

Film Directors

1. George Cukor
2. Dorothy Arzner
3. Edmund Goulding
4. Paul Morrissey
5. Franco Zeffirelli

Favorite Stars

1. Antonio Banderas
2. Alan Bates
3. Marlon Brando
4. Louise Brooks
5. Brad Davis

Gay Icons

1. Bette Davis
2. Marilyn Monroe
3. Barbra Streisand
4. Bette Midler
5. Madonna

Films of Gay/Lesbian Interest

1. La Cage Aux Folles
2. Death Trap
3. Dog Day Afternoon
4. Personal Best
5. Basic Instinct

Gay Potpourri

1. Zorro, The Gay Blade
2. John Gielgud
3. Ramon Novarro
4. Truman Capote
5. Wings

Check Us Out On The World Wide Web At

<http://www.compustrat.com/xroads>

HEALTH RESOURCES

AIDS Community Alliance (Former SCAAN)

- 118 Washington St., Harrisburg 17104, 233.7190
- 44 N. Queen St., Lancaster 17603 (Former LAP)
394.3380 / Hotline: 394.9900

AIDS Community Resource Program

P.O. Box 3116, 963 Biglerville Rd., Gettysburg 17325,
334.8344

Providing education/prevention, outreach, case management services and support groups for people living with AIDS, their family and friends.

Support Group: Every Thursday for people living with HIV/AIDS. Call for time.

AIDS Planning Coalition of South Central Pennsylvania

Suite 200, 3461 Market Street, Camp Hill, 17011-4441
761.7628 FAX: 761.3238

AIDS Resource Alliance, Inc.

416 W. 4th St., Williamsport 17701, 322.8448

Living Room: A social gathering every Wednesday for people with HIV/AIDS, their family and friends. Call for time.

Support Group: Every Thursday for persons with HIV/AIDS in recovery. Call for time.

Board Meeting: Every second Thurs. at 7:00 pm (Open)

AIDS Project of Centre County

301 S. Allen St., Suite 102, State College 16801,
1.800.233.AIDS

Support Group: Tuesdays for people with HIV. Call for time.

AtlantisWeb.Org

Nationwide non-profit internet and intranet web server.
FREE subscriptions for those living hiv/aids.
Additional information at <http://www.hivnalive.org/synergy.htm>
A Bell Atlantic Internet Solution
sponsored by Positively HIV, Inc.
email: synergy@hivnalive.org

Berks AIDS Network

429 Walnut St., P.O. Box 8626, Reading 19603-8626,
610.375.6523

Comprehensive AIDS services and prevention/education.

Community AIDS Network

102 Hartline Science Center, Bloomsburg University,
Bloomsburg 17815-1301

Encoreplus Program

Free mammograms and pap tests for women ages 50+
Free educational programs and speakers.
YWCA, 301 G Street, Carlisle 17013
243.3818

Footprints in Time

- P.O. Box 292, Reading 19603, 610.376.1510
- P.O. Box 1565, Allentown 18105, 1.800.889.6148

Housing, support groups and referral services available for HIV-infected individuals.

Franklin Area AIDS Network

P.O. Box 356, Chambersburg 17201, 261.1800

Support Group: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm for persons infected with and affected by HIV disease and AIDS.

Board Meeting: Every first Thursday (Open to public).
Classroom 1, Chambersburg Hospital, 112 N. Seventh Street,
Chambersburg. Call for time.

Positively HIV

P.O. Box 88, Lemoyne 17043-0888
731.LIVE (5483) email: gmhite@hivnalive.org
World Wide Web: <http://www.hivnalive.org>

A support system of choice giving hiv-infected individuals the opportunity to live with HIV rather than die of AIDS.

Rainbow Home of Berks County

Building 27, Wernersville State Hospital, P.O. Box 300,
Wernersville 19565-0300, 610.678.6172

Rape Crisis Services

Counseling and advocacy services for survivors of rape and/or sexual assault and their partners, friends and family.
Free educational programs and speakers.

YWCA, 301 G Street, Carlisle 17013
24-Hour Tollfree Hot Line: 1.888.727.2877
258.4324

Wellspring of Lebanon, Inc.

230 Chestnut Street, Lebanon 17042, 273.8826
FAX: 394.9915

A hospice open to all persons who have HIV disease.
Not limited to Lebanon County.

York Health Extended Social Services (YHESS!)

101 E. Market St., 2nd Floor, York 17401, 846.6776
An AIDS social service organization providing case management services for infected individuals.
Support groups, individual and couple counseling and educational outreach also provided.

CULTURAL ARTS

Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

P.O. Box 60426, Harrisburg 17106

Glenda & Friends Productions
Harrisburg, 232.8032

Harrisburg Men's Chorus

P.O. Box 3302, Harrisburg 17106, 236.SING (7464)

Rehearsals: Mon. at 7 pm at Second UCC,
Green & Verbeke Sts.

Bingo: Fridays at 9:30 pm at Riverside Hall,
Uptown Shopping Center

Lily White & Company

P.O. Box Harrisburg 17110-0703, 232.2918/731-5483

An entertainment troupe that produces drag shows, as well as mainstream gay plays, while raising money for HIV/AIDS service organizations and gay and lesbian groups.

The Phoenix-Ravening Company

1130 Church Street, Lebanon 17046-4662, 273.3404

A theatre company presenting bold, provocative plays in full productions and as staged readings. Frequently presents work of interest to the gay/lesbian community.

Silletos-N-Boots

P.O. Box 156, Enola, PA 17025, 691.7643

A theatre company presenting female impersonators who perform to collect tips to benefit area gay organizations.

Women's Theater Guild

P.O. Box 3042, Shiremanstown 17011
737.7104

RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL AFFILIATIONS

Bretheran/Mennonite Council for Gay & Lesbian Concerns of Central PA

6214 Lemon Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520

Chalice Orchard Coven

Contact Phone: 854-8714

Wiccan/neo-Pagan religious group with a gender- and orientation-mixed membership which is LesBiGay supportive.

Dignity/Central PA

Box 297, Harrisburg 17110-0297

Gay and lesbian Catholics and friends

Worship Service: Sundays at 5 pm

Potluck Dinner: Sundays at 6 pm

Dignity/USA North Central PA - Lycoming County

94 Kinsey St., Montgomery 17752, 547.1329

A support, worship and social group for gay, nongay & bisexual people and friends. Also providing HIV support.

Worship Service: Sundays at 7 pm at the AIDS Resource Building, 507 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport.

Gay and Lesbian Spiritual Fellowship

Call Dennis at 814.949.5852 for information
Conducted every third Friday at 7 pm, Altoona.

Lutherans Concerned of Central PA

c/o Messiah Lutheran Church

6th & Forster Streets, Harrisburg 17102, 232.4819

Second Sun.: Mtg. for gay / lesbian Lutherans and friends at 7 pm

Mahantongo Spirit Garden

R.D. 1, Box 149, Pitman 17964

Pantheists who believe everything has a spirit.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit

2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg 17110, 236.7387

Worship Service: Sundays at 10:30 am & 7 pm.

Christian Education Classes: Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Every Second Thursday: Lesbigantrans Parenting Group at 8:30 pm

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg,

Lesbian & Gay Concerns Committee

1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg 17113, 564.4761

Worship Service: Sundays at 10:30 am

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York

Honoring the worth and dignity of every human being.

49 E. Springettsbury Ave., York 17403, 845.8212

Worship Service: Sundays at 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster

538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster 17603

United Church of Christ

Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns

Contact Doug @ 755.0451

Unity Center for Spiritual Growth

Unity Church of Harrisburg

4696 Charles Rd., Mechanicsburg 17055, 737-8875

A church that honors the diversity of each individual and creates a space for exploring personal spirituality.

Worship Services: Sundays at 9 and 11 am

Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church

130 E. Main St., Mountville 17554, 285-9070

Worship Services: Sundays at 10:30 am and 7 pm
Social and bookstore follow services.

SOCIAL GROUPS

Gay/Lesbian Book Discussion Group

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg 17110, 236.7387
Every third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm to 9 pm

January thru November.

Harrisburg Area Women's Night Out

Call Lavender Letter at 691.5577 for more information.

Lancaster Area Ladies Night Out

392-0441

Lancaster Men's Cover Dish

304 N. Hoover Ave., New Holland 17557
For information, send request with \$2 for postage and handling.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Book Discussion Group

Meetings: Third Thursday of each month.
Borders Books, Lancaster, 7 pm.

Northeast PA Leathermen

Bringing together men for the purpose of mutual support, brotherhood and bear and leather pride.
P.O. Box 1492, Scranton 18501
489-3012 (Mark) or 344-4259 (Silhouette Bar)

Lebanon County Lesbians

A social group for women
Meetings: 10/12, 11/16 & 12/14.
865.6944

Pennsmen

P.O. Box 401, Harrisburg 17108

Private Club Bowling

ABC Lanes, 1001 Eisenhower Blvd
\$8 fee, open to all
233-0211

Reading Railmen

P.O. Box 13124
Reading 19612,
610.921.8764 (After 4 pm)

Susquehanna Club

P.O. Box 10122, Lancaster 17605-0122
Camping and hiking for gays & lesbians.

Susquehanna Squares

Square dancing social group
Harrisburg 238.7656
Lancaster 394.8761
Baltimore 362.6857

Susquehanna Valley Bears

P.O. Box 958, Lebanon 17042
854.3212 / email: svbears@pttd.net or susqvbears@aol.com

Triangle Book Club

YWCA, 301 G Street, Carlisle 17013
243.3818

Meeting: Fourth Monday of each month

Volleyball

Salvation Army Gym, Penn & Cumberland Sts.,
Harrisburg 17102
Every Tuesday and Friday.

York Area Single Women's Potluck

R.D. 1, Box 13588, Zeigler's Church Rd.,
Spring Grove 17362, 225.6042
Call Thursday for reservations.

York Area Women's Potluck

825 S. Newberry St., York 17403, 848.9142

SWITCHBOARDS

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg

P.O. Box 872, Harrisburg 17108, 234.0328, (M - F 6-10 pm)

Board Meeting: Every third Thursday at 7 p.m. at
1514 N. Second Street, Harrisburg.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of North Central PA

Box 2510, Williamsport 17703, 327.1411 (M - F 6-9 pm)

Meeting: Held every Wednesday at 6 pm for new and current volunteers. Call Rick at 322.1786 for information.

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of State College

P.O. Box 805, State College 16801, 814.237.1950 (6-9 pm)

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Helpline

c/o Family and Children Service, 2022 Broad Avenue,
Altoona 16601, 814.944.3583

Lancaster Gay & Lesbian Helpline

20 Toll Gate Station, Box 14, Lancaster 17601, 397.0691,
(Sunday, Wednesday & Thursday at 6-10 pm)

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Allies/Dickinson

Dickinson College, Carlisle 17013-2896

Allies/Millersville

P.O. Box 134, Millersville University, Millersville 17551

Allies/Franklin & Marshall

P.O. Box 3220, Lancaster 17604-6192

BLGLASS & SDAC

Box 58, Susquehanna University, Selingsgrove 17870, 372.4302

October

5 Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force PA Civil Rights Initiative Statewide Conference. Conference for the amending the PA Human Relations Act and PA Fair Educational Opportunities Act with regards to sexual orientation. Penn State Conference Center, University Park, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. \$10.00 in advance, \$5 for students and low income individuals. \$25.00 door registration. For more information, call 215.772.2000, email plgtf@op.net or fax 215.772.2004.

10 Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit Lynn Lavner Concert. Nationally renown singer/comic. Valleria Ballroom, York. Call 236-7387 for time and ticket information.

11 Interweave Retreat. The beginning of a "Welcoming Congregation" for the lesbian/gay/trans community by the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. Everyone is welcome. Workshops conducted. 8:00 am to 6 pm. Registration: \$25 includes lunch (vegetarian meals available.), snacks, workshops and entertainment. Register by Oct. 5 by calling Danny at 872.2637 or via email at GEODAN97@aol.com.

11 Vision (United Campus Ministries) National Coming Out Day Affirmation Service for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, friends, family and supporters. Eisenhower Chapel, Penn State Campus, State College. Call American Mosaic at 321.9223 for more information.

12 Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit Rev. Mel White, author of *Stranger at the Gate*, will speak at the 10:30 am service.

12 York Area Lambda Pot Luck Social. Gathering and Frank and Harold's. Call 846.6618 for info.

13 Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Youth Assoc. of Hbg. Conference. "Creating a Safe Place For Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Youth." Day-long Bi-GLYAH conference focusing on community, youth and education issues with workshops. Adults: \$25, Students: \$15. Scholarships available. Call Melinda at 540-1313 to register.

16 Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition Conference. Annual conference to discuss the latest in breast cancer and its effect within the Commonwealth. Guest speaker: Dr. Richard Klausner, Director of the National Cancer Institute. Harrisburg Hilton, 2nd & Market Sts., Harrisburg. Registration \$35/person. Call Dolores Magro at 796.3374 for time and information.

17 Business Association of Gays and Lesbians Regular Meeting. Hosted by Sharp Jewelers, Lancaster. Food provided by Isaac's Deli and Restaurant. Contact Ben at 795.9038 for location and time.

17 Northeast PA Leathermen Mr. Northeast PA Leatherman Meet the Contestant Party. Held in conjunction with the Mr. Northeast PA Leatherman Contest. Silhouette Lounge, 523 Linden St., Scranton. 10 pm - 2 am.

17-19 Susquehanna Club Delaware's Trap Pond Trip. Camping, boating, hiking, night life excursion at Delaware's Trap Pond State Park. \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Reservations requested. Write the club or call Rob at 626.7836 for further details.

18 Northeast PA Leathermen Mr. Northeast PA Leatherman Contest. Silhouette Lounge, 523 Linden St., Scranton. 9 pm to Midnight. Celebration Party held afterwards. Applications are available at the Silhouette. Donations accepted with all proceeds benefiting the Wyoming Valley AIDS Council.

23 Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force 20th Anniversary Celebration. Cocktail reception, buffet and dance party. Warwick Hotel Grand Ballroom, 17th and Locust Sts., Philadelphia. Reception: 6 - 7:30 pm, Dance 7:30 to 11 pm. Tickets: \$50/person. Check, Master Card/Visa accepted. Send reservation to PLGTF, 1616 Walnut St., Philadelphia 19103-5310. Call 215.772.2000 for more information.

November

2 York Area Lambda Picnic & Hike. Outdoor gathering at the Pine Grove Furnace. Turkey Hot Dogs provided. Call 225.3735 for details.

8 Fall Achievement Benefit 1997 FAB '97. A black tie optional event to support PFLAG, Bi-GLYAH & GLSEN. Pre-FAB champagne reception with an opportunity to meet the evening's speaker. Begins at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$100/person. FAB event with dinner, speaker, awards presentation and dancing begins at 7:00 pm. Tickets: \$50/person. Call 236.8241 during day or 234-0328 M-F, 6-10 pm for location and ticket reservation.

21-23 Susquehanna Club West Virginia Outing. Camping, hiking, shopping, sightseeing, and night life in Harpers Ferry, W VA. Reservations requested. Write the Club or call Rob at 626.7836 for details.

Bi, Gay & Lesbian Youth Association of Hbg. (Bi-GLYAH)
c/o GLSH, P.O. Box 872, Harrisburg 17108, 234.0328
For youth 14-25.
Meeting: Every first and third Friday at 1514 N. Second Street. (Use side entrance.)
Center for Counseling and Human Development
Ben Franklin Hall, Room 17, Bloomsburg Univ., Bloomsburg 17815, 389.4255

Free Spirit
150 East 9th St., Suite 1-247, Bloomsburg 17815-2708
389.2747 V, 389.2094 F Email: fsbu@planetx.bloomu.edu
Social group for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered on and in surrounding communities.
Meeting: Every Tuesday at 7 pm at the Bloomsburg University Alumni House

GALA
P.O. Box 3220, Lancaster 17604-3220, 399.6192

Gay & Lesbian Youth Group
Meeting: Every Other Wednesday at 7:30 pm at UU Church, 416 Franklin Avenue, Reading.

Gettysburg College Lambda Alliance
Gettysburg College, Gettysburg 17325, 372.4302

Global of Lycoming College
Meets every Monday. Call 321-4258 for details.

Kutztown Women's Center
Room 138, Old Main, Kutztown 19530

Kutztown University Lesbian, Gay, Bi Support Group
610.683.4655

Lesbian/Gay/Bi Concerns Office
Bucknell University, Box A-252, Lewisburg 17837, 524.1609

LGBSL, Office of Human and Cultural Diversity
Box 122, Parsons Union Building (PUB), Lock Haven University, Lock Haven 17745, 893.2154

Matrix
Franklin & Marshall College, C-2373, Box 3003, Lancaster 17604-3220, 399.6192

MOIRA
Lesbian, gay, bi youth in York.
Meeting: Third Tuesday at Unitarian Society of York
Call 852-8543, 684-6310, or 757-4270 for more information.

Office of the Chaplain
Bucknell University, Lewisburg 17837

Penn State Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay Student Alliance
310 Hetzel Union Bldg., University Park 16802, 814.865.3327

Meeting: Monday at 6 p.m. held in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center.

Pink Triangle Group of HACC
Student Activities Office, HACC, 1 HACC Drive, Harrisburg 17110, 238.5833

Shippensburg University Counseling Center
Wright Hall, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg 17257, 532.1481

SMYLE (Sexual Minority Youth of Lancaster and Environs)
656.4152

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Adult Children of Alcoholics Gay/Lesbian
What If Cafe, 3424 N. 6th Street, Harrisburg
Meeting: Sundays, 9 am

American Mosaic
Support organization forlesbiaytrans individuals promoting pride through communication, integrity and enthusiasm.
P.O. Box 3003, Williamsport 17701-003
321-9223, e-mail amosaic@usa.net
Awareness meeting first Sunday of every month at Newberry United Methodist Church, 909 Diamond Street, Williamsport, 6:30 pm

Business Association of Gays and Lesbians (BAGAL)
Gay and lesbian people offering networking, social and community service opportunities for itsmembers and friends.
P.O. Box 135, Harrisburg 17108-0135, 795.9038

Berks Gay & Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 417, Reading 19603, 610.775.0214

Dialogue
P.O. Box 297, Harrisburg 17108-0297, 561.8689
Discussion Group: For lesbians and gays held every second and fourth Tuesday. Call 561-8689 or GLSH for location and time.

Gay and Lesbian Community Awareness Council of Central PA
200 North St., Harrisburg 17101, 234.2250

Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Transgendered / Friends (AA State College)
Meeting: Sundays at Centre Region Senior Citizen Center, 120 S. Fraser Street, State College

Gay/Lesbian Organization Reading / Allentown (GLORA)
P.O. Box 1952, Allentown 18105

Gay, Lesbian, Student, Education Network/Central PA (GLSEN)
A community-based organization dedicated to eliminating homophobia and assuring that each and every person is valued and respected in the schools of South Central PA.
c/o YWCA, 301 G. Street, Carlisle 17013
Call 243.3818 for meeting times.

Interweave
c/o Unitarian Universalist Church, 538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster 17603, Hotline 859-4481
Meets first Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Lambda AA / Harrisburg
c/o GLSH, P.O. Box 872, Harrisburg 17108, 234.0328
Meeting: Every Monday at 7:30 pm and Fridays at 8:30 pm at Friends Meeting House, Sixth & Herr Streets.

Lambda AA / Chambersburg
Meeting: Every Tuesday at 8 pm at 240 N. Seventh Street.

Lambda AA / Lancaster
Meeting: Every Tuesday at 8 pm at Friends Meeting House.

Lambda AA / York
Meeting: Every Thursday and Friday.
Call 292.1665 for time and location.

Lambda Alive
Box 4313, Reading 19606

Lancaster Lambda
Box 8283, Lancaster 17604-8283

Lancaster Pink Triangle Coalition
Box 176, Lancaster 17608-0176, 393.2883 / 392.2729
Meeting: Every fourth Tuesday at 7 pm at Lancaster AIDS Project, 44 N. Queen Street.

Lavender Letter
Box 60184, Harrisburg 17106, 691.5577
A newsletter by and for women.

Lehigh Valley Homophile Organization
P.O. Box 1633, Allentown 18105

Live and Let Live Gays in AA
Meeting: Wednesdays at 8 pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Front & Windsor Streets (Entrance rear of the church.) Reading.

Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt
1906 North Second Street, Harrisburg 17102, 234.0629
Quilting room open the third Sunday of each month.
Hours 2:00 pm to 4 pm. Call 236.1990 for appointment if room is requested for other than the regular time.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/Central Susquehanna
Call Candy at 742.9530.

Meeting: Every fourth Monday at 7 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, Rte. 45 (near Brookpark Farm), Lewisburg.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/Harrisburg
3641 Brookridge Terrace, Apt. 201, Harrisburg 17109, 657.1712

Meeting: Every third Monday at 7 pm at Tressler Lutheran Services, 960 Century Drive, Mechanicsburg.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/Lancaster Red Rose
Unitarian Universalist Church, 538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster 17603 Hotline 397.1095

Meetings: Every fourth Sunday at 2:30 pm

PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action
A politically-based group working to enact changes for the gay/lesbian community.
1322 Center Street, Bethlehem 18018
610.432.5449 or 215.735.0852

PA Justice Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights
200 North St., Harrisburg 17101, 234.7273 / 234.2250

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays/York
Call Charles at 846.2560 for more information.
Lutheran Village, 750 Kelly Drive

Meeting: Every first Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Pink Triangle Coalition
P.O. Box 176, Lancaster, PA 17608-0176

Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 5065, Harrisburg 17110, 238.8112

REACH (Recreationally & Educationally Active Community Heroes)
P.O. Box 184, Scranton 18501
A community of lesbians, gay men & friends sharing through social and recreational activities.

Renaissance Education Association/LSV
Box 2122, Harrisburg 17105-2122, 780.1578
Email: akira@ezonline.com

A non-profit support organization for transvestites, homosexuals and others interested in transgender issues.
Meeting: Every first Saturday.

Susquehanna Lambda
P.O. Box 2510, Williamsport 17703, 327.1411

Meeting: Every second Sunday at 6 pm at the AIDS Resource Alliance Office, 507 W. Fourth Street.

York Area Lambda
P.O. Box 2425, York 17405-2425, 846.9636

22 Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus
Wild Women Don't Get the Blues. Annual Fall concert.
 Unitarian Church, 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg. Call Yvonne at
 730-9331 for tickets and further information.


December

**6 Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
 World AIDS Day Service.** A service of remembrance to
 remember those who've died from AIDS. Panels from the
 NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be available for viewing*
 beginning at noon. A service of special music and speakers will
 begin at 5:00 pm. MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson St.,
 Harrisburg. Call 236-7387 for more information.

**9 Harrisburg Men's Chorus
 10th Anniversary Concert.** Annual Christmas concert fea-
 turing nationally renowned vocalist Anne Hampton Callaway.
 Strand Theater, 50 N. George St., York. Tickets \$22, \$18 & \$14.
 Call 236-SING for tickets and further information.

Listings are free to all non-profit organizations.
 Boxed organizations/support services are additions
 or updated (underlined> since last issue.

Next Deadline: October 17, 1997



BOOKS & VIDEOS

ALL THAT VIDEO
Alternative Videos - R - Us...
 Sell*Rent*Trade
 Celebrating our 10 year Anniversary
 224 N. Second St, Harrisburg 17101
 234.3456 • Mon - Sat: 11 - 7 PM
 See our display ad inside crossroads.

HER STORY WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE
By, for & about Women
 Open 7 days. 2 W. Market Street
 Hallam, York County • 757.4270



GIFTS/TREATS

THE HERB MERCHANT
Carlisle's favorite gift shop!
 Monday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
 70-72 W. Pomfret St. • Carlisle, PA 17013
 1.800.404.HERB (4372)

THE GARDEN PATH
Leading to the extraordinary.
 717.671.0644 • 1.800.467.0561
 FAX 717.671.0375



BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

It's YOUR LIFE -
Make the most of it!
 Start your own business in the fastest growing
 industry in the U.S.
 Dale Denton
 202.986.1510/ toll free 888.448.0530 ext 6846

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS
 Here's your chance to join a fast growing telecom-
 munications company. Make money without losing
 your personal freedom.
 Call today: 232.1293
 See our display ad inside crossroads.

Classifieds

All phone numbers are of the 717 area code unless otherwise noted.



DRINKERIES

ALLENTOWN

STONEWALL & MOOSE LOUNGE
 Featuring 2 Floors of Entertainment
 Intensified Light, Sound, Video Dance Bar
 28 N. 10th Street • 610.432.0706
 See our ad within crossroads.

HARRISBURG

BTL'S
 Thursday 7:30 pm - 1 am
 Friday & Saturday 7 pm - 2 am
 891 Eisenhower Blvd. • 939.1123

NEPTUNE LOUNGE
 Monday - Saturday 4 pm - 2 am
 Sunday 2pm - 2am
 268 North St. • 233.3078

STALLIONS/TWIN PEAKS
 4 pm - 2 am Daily
 Dance floor open Thursday - Sunday
 706 N. Third St. (Rear Entrance) • 232.3060
 See our display ads inside crossroads

STRAWBERRY CAFE
 Monday - Saturday 2 pm - 2 am
 Closed on Sundays
 704 N. Third St. • 234.4228

LANCASTER

TALLY HO
 Monday - Saturday 6 pm - 2 am
 Sunday 8 pm - 2 am
 201 W. Orange St. • 299.0661

THE GALLERY LOUNGE
 Tuesday - Thursday & Sunday 9 pm - 2 am
 Friday & Saturday 5 pm - 2 am
 10 S. Prince St. • 299.3456

PHILADELPHIA

BIKE STOP
 206 S. Quince Street • 215.627.1662
 See our display ad inside crossroads.

KEY WEST & KEY WEST FOR HER
 207 S. Juniper St. • 215.545.1578

SISTERS
 Monday - Saturday 4 pm - 2 am
 Sundays 12 pm - 2 am
 1320 Chancellor St. • 215.735.0735

12TH AIR COMMAND
The headquarters for men
 254 S. 12th St.
 215.545.8088
 See our display ad inside crossroads.

READING

CHANCES ARE
 Fridays & Saturdays only 8 pm - 2 am
 935 South St. (below Adams Apple) • 610.373.7929

THE RED STAR
 Tuesday 8 pm - 2 am
 Wednesday - Sunday 5 pm - 2 am
 11 S. 10th St. • 610.375.4116

SCARAB
 Monday - Saturday 8 pm - 2 am
 724 Franklin St. • 610.375.7878

SCRANTON

SILHOUETTE LOUNGE
 Monday - Saturday 10 am - 2 am
 523 Linden St. • 344.4259

STATE COLLEGE

CHUMLEY'S
 Monday - Saturday 4 pm - 2 am
 Sunday 6 pm - 2am
 108 W College St. • 814.238.4446

PLAYERS
 Gay Sunday only 9 pm - 2 am
 112 W. College St. • 814.234.1031

WILKES BARRE

RUMOURS LOUNGE
 Wednesday - Sunday 5 pm - 2 am
 Tuesdays 8 pm - 2 am
 315 Fox Ridge Plaza • 825.7300

SELECTIONS
 Monday - Saturday 7 pm - 2 am
 45 Public Square • 829.4444

WILLIAMSPORT

PEACHIE'S COURT
 Monday - Saturday 9 am - 2 am
 Sunday 11 am - 2 am
 320 Court St. • 326.3611

THE RAINBOW ROOM
 Monday - Saturday 1 pm - 2 am
 761 W. 4th St. • 320.0230

YORK

ALTLAND'S RANCH
 Fridays & Saturdays only 8 pm - 2 am
 Country Dancing Every Friday
 P.O. Box 6543 RD 6 • Spring Grove • 225.4479

Tell 'em you read about 'em in **Crossroads!!!**



COMMUNICATIONS

YEAH? Uh, HUH! Oh REALLY?
 With Excel Long Distance this conversation could
 go on for hours. With a variety of long distance
 plans to exciting paging services & equipment, we
 believe in giving you more than you expect from
 one company. Call 232.1293 today.



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SPECIALTY CAKES BY BOB MILLER
Cake for all occasions
 5246 Simpson Ferry Road • Mechanicsburg
 795.9391
 See my display ad inside crossroads.

Classifieds

All phone numbers are of the 717 area code unless other-

ACCOMMODATIONS

ANCHOR INN

Provincetown's Finest Inn on the Beach
175 Commercial Street • Provincetown, MA
1.800.858.2657

See our display ad inside crossroads.

INDEPENDENCE PARK INN

Philadelphia's most gracious inn
235 Chestnut St. • Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.4443

See our display ad inside crossroads.

OLEY VALLEY INN

Berks County's Best Kept Secret!!!
Rooms starting at \$60.00
401 Main St. • Oley, PA • 610.987.6400

See our display ad inside crossroads.

RAINBOW HOUSE KEY WEST

1.800.749.6696 • 1.305.292.1450
Key West's **only** women's guest house

Call for a free color brochure.
See our display ad inside crossroads.

LEGAL SERVICES

LATISHA K. FREDERICK, ESQ.

Attorney & Counselor At Law
Estate Planning & Administration,
Divorce & Custody, Real Estate,
General Civil Litigation
Harrisburg • 236.8241

See my display ad inside crossroads.

AUSTIN F. GROGAN, ESQ.

Domestic/Family & Criminal Law
Evening & Weekend Appointments Available
Camp Hill • 737.1956

See my display ad inside crossroads.

DAVID HALLER, ESQ.

Taxes, Estate Planning
1 East Penn Street • Cleona, PA
272.5849

BEINHAUR & CURCILLO

John R. Beinhaur
Business Law
Health Care
Criminal Defense
651.9100

See our display ad inside crossroads.

WILLIAM PATTON

Non - Attorney Bankruptcy Preparer
Only \$250 • 12 - 9 Daily
1.800.815.0085 PA & MD / 1.800.815.0085 DC

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HEALTH SERVICES

JAN M. DRUMMOND, M.S.

Specializing in the distinct needs of
our community.

Treatment is individualized & may include:
Traditional Psychotherapy, Hypnosis, & Holistic
Healing of the Body, Mind & Spirit
For more information please call 800.800.9724

BUSINESS SERVICES

COMPUTER STRATEGIES

Experienced professional business and
home computer upgrade, training and software
installation, Internet consulting and
World Wide Web page design.
Call 230.8469 • Email: CStrat@ptd.net

ELECTRIC BEACH...TANNING CENTRE

5205 B Simpson Ferry Rd Mechanicsburg
Open 7 Days a Week
Call For An Appointment
790.9999

HEIDI LINN'S "YOU'RE THE STAR" DJ & Karaoke

Professionally licensed, bonded & insured
Entertainment Services for all occasions
P.O. Box 5675 • Harrisburg • 234.4211
See our display ad inside crossroads.

LEE AH GRAPHICS

Specializing in Newsletters, Flyers & Print ads
for over 10 years
Leah Gazzana • Dallastown, PA • 246.7975

MAIL BOXES ETC.

717 Market St. Suite 111 • Lemoyne, PA
737.6777

MAKING BUSINESS EASIER. WORLDWIDE
See our display ad inside crossroads.

JACK GAUGHEN REALTOR

President's Club
Ray Davis
4099 Derry St. • Hbg
Office: 564.5101 Voice Mail: 565.2012
See my display ad inside crossroads.

ROBERT'S FLOWERS

Fresh cut & dried flowers & silk plants
404 N. Second Street • Harrisburg, PA 17101
232.5401

This space is available
to your business.
Call 221.1220 or
1.888.976.2372
for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Miss Lily White & Co. NeedsYou!

Another season, another show. Join in the fun that has
raised over \$90,000 for local AIDS and gay/lesbian organi-
zations. Call Paul Foltz at 232.2918 for rehearsal times and
other volunteer possibilities.

Support Your Local Gay/Lesbian/Transgender Organization

Men and women in the area are giving their time and
energies toward improving the quality of life.
How about you? crossroads supports their work and
asks that you get involved.
Check out Resources and give them a call.

HOUSE & HOME

AREA - WIDE

Plumbing/Electrical/Heating/AC
For service or installation in
commercial or residential call
Toll Free 1.888.696.4243

CARLO J. DiTONNO, ARCHITECT

776.6502
Residential/Commercial/Institutional
New Construction/Additions/Interiors
See my display ad inside crossroads.

FULL SERVICE ALARM COMPANY

Burglar - Fire - CCTV - Free Estimates
1.800.275.8738 - Est. 1978
\$16.00 monthly alarm monitoring

HARVEY LANDIS HOME BLDG. & REMODELING

Serving Central PA for 22 years
Call Toll Free 1.888.696.4243
for Free Estimates

LANDSCAPE WITH FLOWERS

Distinctive garden design &
installation for all spaces.
Professional landscape maintenance service.
Unique floral combinations are our specialty
653.9562

RODNEY BEAM

Ceramic Tile Contractor
Kitchens, Baths, Patios and a whole lot more.
Free Consultation
249.6157 | Cellular 877.2132 (8am-5 pm)
See my display ad inside crossroads

TOPPER

General Remodeling & Repair. No job too small,
interior or exterior, incl. mechanical work.
Free Estimates • 732.4000

RESTAURANTS

HEAVEN IN STALLIONS/TWIN PEAKS

Open Thursday thru Saturday
5:00 pm - 10:00 pm 717.233.4681
Elegant Atmosphere, Casual Dining
Ask about our new Rainbow Menu with
Special Prices for a special community
We do Holy Union Receptions!
See our ad inside crossroads.

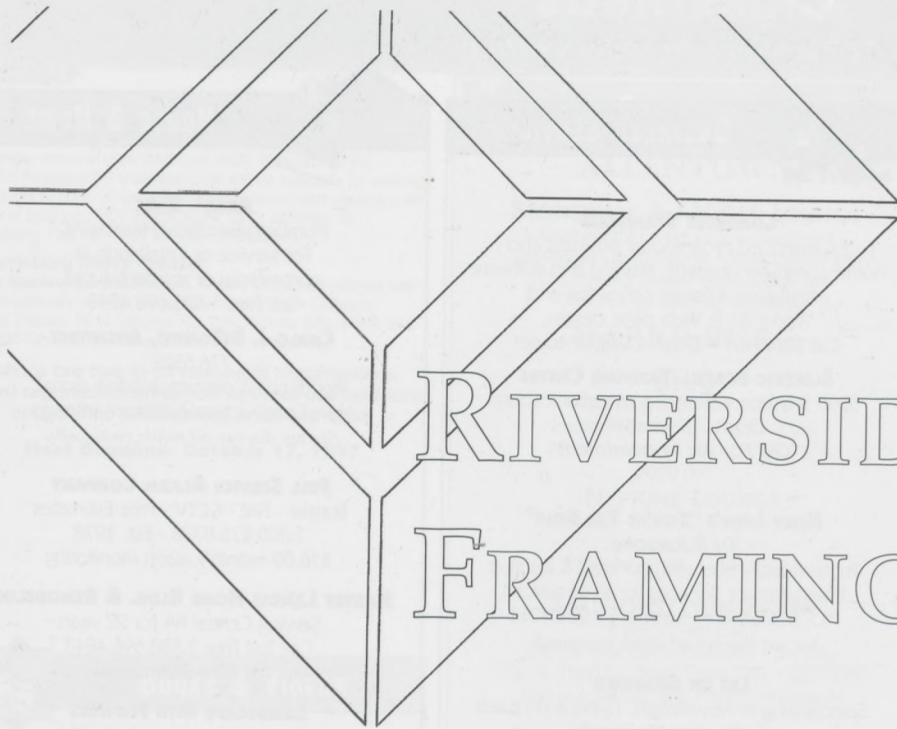
ROXY'S CAFE

Catering Available
Mon - Fri: 6:30 am - 3:00 pm
Sat & Sun Brunch: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
274 North St. • Harrisburg • 232-9232
See our ad inside crossroads.

TRAVEL

ZELLER TRAVEL / BROWNSTOWN

Ephrata, PA • 800.331.4359
A Full Service Travel Agency
Contact - Terry Bigler, CTC



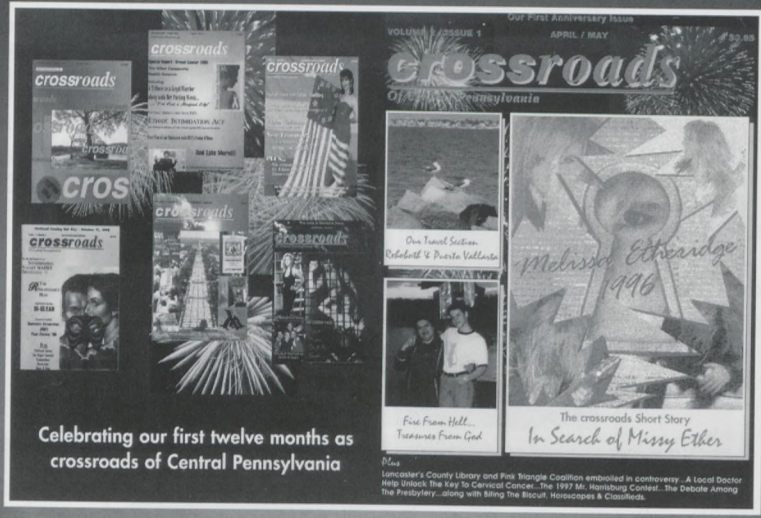
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- Custom Made Frames*
- Shadow Boxes*
- Needlework*
- Diplomas & Certificates*
- Mirrors*
- Photos & Portraits*
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LIMITED EDITION FIRST ANNIVERSARY PRINT ORDER FORM

Only 100
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available!
Last chance
at cost of
only \$40



Each
individually
numbered &
signed by
Eric Selvey
& Michele
DeCampli

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 *Phone Number: _____
 *Best Time To Call: _____

(only necessary if picking print up)
 please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery

Amount Due

____ \$40.00 (print matted & framed)
 ____ \$10.00 (shipping & handling)
 ____ \$0.00 (pick up at home office)

____ Cash ____ Check ____ *Bill Me

*(will not be available until payment is made in full)



**Don't get
behind the
eight ball
this holiday
season!**



Let crossroads help!

crossroads of Pennsylvania is looking for energetic individuals to help sell advertising space within our bimonthly publication on their own free time!
Excellent commission is available!

Sales experience is **not** necessary!

Here's an opportunity to help support the magazine that supports the community.

Join the company that's having fun working with the lesbian/gay/trans community of Pennsylvania.

Call us at 717.221.1220 or toll-free at 1.888.976.2372 and ask for either Shelly or Eric.

crossroads of Pennsylvania

"Our commitment to the community begins today."

Tired of all the Games?
Looking For A New Love? A New Friend?
How About a Relationship with Meaning?



The crossroads' Personals!

An opportunity for you to find that special someone. A special section that can make all the difference in your romantic world!

Only \$30.00 per issue for four lines!

Your ad will be listed for a two month period and viewed by all those who keep up with what's happening within the lesbian/gay/trans community of Pennsylvania!

List your ad in **2** consecutive issues and get the **3rd** ad for free!

Roommate Wanted

Lancaster County, Lititz, PA
GWM seeks same to share 3,100 sq. ft. quiet country home, own B/R, bath - AC w/d. No smokers, pets, drugs.
Write to B.B. c/o CPI

Line one: 30 characters bold
Lines 2-4: 35 characters per line
Additional lines: \$3.50/line

Send your personal ad, along with check or money order, to:
CPI, c/o Personals, P.O. Box 5744,
Harrisburg, PA 17110-0744

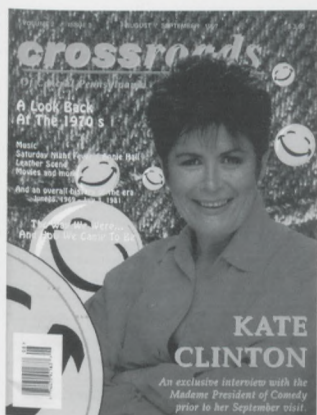
Deadlines: October 31, December 29, January 30, & February 27.

crossroads of Pennsylvania

"Our commitment to the community begins today."

crossroads of Pennsylvania reserves the right to edit all personal ads.

crossroads of Pennsylvania...



...is looking for talented individuals who have a flare for writing and who would love see their work published for all of Pennsylvania to see.

crossroads is now crossroads of Pennsylvania and the opportunity is present to have your poem, short story and/or feature printed within the magazine that's making a difference within and outside the lesbian/gay/trans community.

Give us a call a call if you would like to be a reporter. It doesn't matter how amateur you may think you are (we are too!). And that's the fun! You'll meet very interesting people and learn a lot more about our community.

Photographers are needed. Also, if there are photos that you would like to share of an event, please give us a call. (Subjects should first be asked for their permission to be published).

Send your submissions and/or photos to:
CPI, c/o Editor, P.O. Box 5744,
Harrisburg, PA 17110-0744

Deadlines: October 17, December 5, 1997, February 6, & March 6

crossroads of Pennsylvania

"Our commitment to the community begins today."



Is there an event that you would like crossroads of Pennsylvania to cover?

Let us know about the event by press release, newsletter or simply by calling us at 717.221.1220 or toll-free 1.888.976.2372.

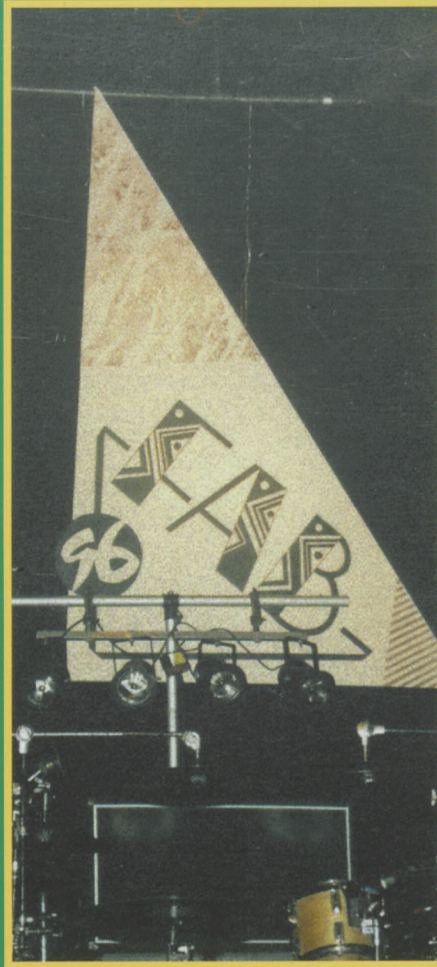
Is there an event we could not get to, but photos that can be shared with the crossroads' community?

Send your photo to our office and we will treat it with care.

Photo credit will be given upon request.*

Just another way for crossroads of Pennsylvania to truly become the magazine of the lesbian/gay/trans community.

*Photos must be sent with a form with the consent of the subjects.



It Was The Best Of Times...And They Will Come Again! Saturday, November 8, 1997

Get ready for the 1997 Fall Achievement Benefit...a glittering evening of fun, food, fantastic folks, and fund raising. Last year over \$13,000 was raised in a single evening at FAB '96, with proceeds going to the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, Inc. and The Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania.

Guest Speaker: James B. Stewart, author of *Blood Sport* and writer for *The New Yorker* magazine.



A ticket for both *Pre-FAB* and *FAB* is \$100.

Pre-FAB begins at 6 P.M. and includes an elegant Champagne Reception with butlered hors d'oeuvres and an opportunity to meet the evening's speaker.

A ticket for *FAB* is only \$50. *FAB '97* begins at 7 P.M. and includes a buffet, silent auction, guest speaker, awards, dance, and cash bar.

CALL 717.236.8241 OR THE GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD OF HARRISBURG AT 717.234.0328 FOR THE LOCATION OF FAB '97 AS WELL AS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE YOUR RESERVATION TO ATTEND THE PARTY OF THE YEAR!



Live Music by
HEADLINERS
Variety Dance Band

sponsored by: **B & B**

Proceeds from FAB '97 will benefit The Gay, Lesbian, Student Education Network (GLSEN), Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians/Central Pennsylvania (PFLAG) and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg