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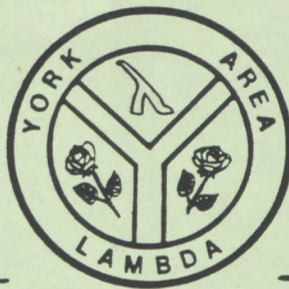
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YORK AREA LAMBDA, INC.
P. O. Box 2425
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March-April 1993

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Healthcare is a national and timely issue- we hear about it nightly on the news and read of it daily in the paper.

I was amazed the other night to hear a friend say she does not see a doctor regularly-- I assumed that all of us were very aware of the value- sometimes life-saving- of medical checkups.

Why is healthcare a matter that some do not address? Is it because this is one more area to "come out", and you are unsure what type of response you'll get from the doctor or nurse?

Well, take a stand-- educate the nurses of tomorrow. Dr. Elva Winter of York College has requested three or four people to speak as a panel, to nursing students. Questions will range from the specific (what have been your experiences and what are your needs and feelings when seeking healthcare?) to the general (about being gay or lesbian). All of us who have participated in these panels have left feeling enlightened and rewarded- and that we helped ourselves and others.

These classes will be:

April 26, at 10:30 am

April 27, at 2:45 pm

If you are interested in speaking as a panel member, please call Renee at 846-3271.

AND FROM CHERYL....ON NAME-CALLING

Have you been reading the newspapers? Who among us would choose to be called disgusting, immoral or perverted? Would you prefer to be called right-wing, a moralist, or a bible-thumper?

I have never before been called so many names and lumped into so many categories by so many people I don't even know. It really makes me angry. These names and prejudices cut to the bone. They strike at my very being, not my behavior, but at my core. They attack my self-image, devalue my worth and put me a step below other people. I can't believe that someone labeling me in such ways could accept me at any level.

I've read several letters to the editor recently from Christians complaining
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OUR FINEST HOUR?

By a vote of 4 to 1 on February 16, York's City Council added sexual orientation to the city's anti-discrimination law. Mayor Althaus has signed the bill, and it will become law by mid-March. An effort to undo the action failed, when a petition gathered only 389 of the required 1,252 signatures by the February 26 deadline.

For those of us heavily involved in supporting this action, the past two months have been both frightening and encouraging, tiring and exhilarating, expensive and rewarding. While it is impossible to know just how much they affected the outcome, the efforts led by Lambda were ambitious and numerous.

We obtained extensive information on Paul Cameron's record and reputation, and distributed it among the Council and the media, along with our own Position Statement. The special edition Lambdan helped mobilize our community to attend the Council meetings, and the signature ad we sponsored in the Sunday News just before the vote gave nearly 400 citizens an opportunity to express their support. And we responded to numerous media requests for information and interviews.

We believe we have already reaped benefits beyond anything in the law itself. Whenever people fight for their rights, their feelings of integrity and self-worth are strengthened. During the last few weeks, many closet doors were cracked open, many were opened a bit further, and some were totally shattered. When Theta came out at the Council meeting, she also helped educate a certain anti-Gay minister she has known for years. When Kate and Cindy had their picture in the Sunday News and appeared in television interviews, they showed that happy gay couples do exist here. Every gay person whose name appeared in the signature ad or in letters to the editor helped strengthen the community- and showed true pride. The more we stand up for ourselves, the more we will accomplish together, and the more positive we will feel about ourselves.

A surprising and gratifying number of
(to p. 2....)

(Finest hour...)

non-gay individuals and organizations went out of their way to support the ordinance, and to help educate the general public. A student at York Country Day School got 20 classmates to sign on the ad form. Even though we wouldn't use minors' names in the ad without parental permission, these students showed us a glimpse of, and gave us hope for, a future without ignorance, prejudice or hate.

(Name-calling....)

about being labeled. They view these labels as judgemental and demeaning. These labels, however, describe beliefs and values held by people-- not the persons themselves. If I were called right-wing, conservative and rigid, I would probably be offended. I might even feel hurt, but my integrity as a human being, my self-worth and my value would not be diminished.

I can live in society with conservative, right-wing bible thumpers. They bother me, not because I disagree with their position, but because they are mean and disrespectful. However, I do hold onto the hope that, with patience and education, they will begin to open their minds and try to view differences as less terrible and threatening.

RESOURCE CENTER

If you're not into winter sports, and if your indoor projects are just about done, there might still be time to read a couple of good books before you have to do the spring planting.

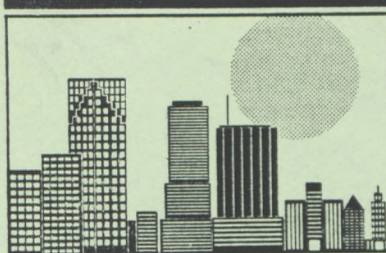
If any member has not received a listing of our Resource Center library, call Randy (843-3285) for a copy.

We are working on a videotape of all the news coverage we could find of the debate and passage of the ordinance in York-- it should be available through the Resource Center soon after this newsletter is out.

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TALK OF OUR TOWN

ON
COMING
OUT

By Kate

As many of you know by now, Cindy and I "came out" in a big way in the York Sunday News on January 17, 1993. It was a difficult decision to make, and neither one of us did so without considering the potentially negative effects of taking such a bold step. We worried (Cindy by day, and me by night) about the reactions of our families, co-workers and non-gay friends. We were concerned that some of our Lesbian and gay sisters and brothers might not want to be associated with folks who were so open. But the pictures were taken and the article was written, so there was nothing left to do but wait and see.

I didn't sleep much that Saturday night. When I went downstairs Sunday morning and retrieved the paper from the front steps, my heart skipped a beat-- the first thing I saw was my name under a quote that was printed **BIG AND BOLD** on the front page! I turned the paper over with trepidation, expecting to see our faces. I was relieved when that wasn't the case. I read the article, which was continued to page 4. I opened to that page, and nearly fainted-- the picture was **SO BIG!** I rationalized, "It doesn't look that much like me, but Cindy is so photogenic, anyone would recognize her."

We agreed that the reporter had done a good job, and that our views were accurately reported. The only thing to do was wait for the phone to start ringing... and it did, at 8 a.m. It was a dear friend of ours, offering her congratulations! Of the five or six calls we received that day, only two were negative, and they were the only ones we've ever gotten. One was from a woman who said, "yous should be run outta town. If yous weren't so fat and ugly, yous could get a man." The other call was left on the machine, and neither caller would give their name. The tone was menacing, but made no real threats of violence. I guess anonymity, with or without white sheets, is still the refuge of cowards.

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(On Coming Out....)

Our friends and families are still speaking to us, the sky has not fallen and the world still turns. The support and encouragement we have received has more than compensated for those two phone calls. But the best result of all is that a number of our friends and acquaintances were able to come out too, to their bosses, their families and their non-gay friends.

We are not advocating that everyone come rushing out of the closet. Each person must know where they are in their evolution, and how important not having to hide such a major aspect of their lives is to them. We can attest to a great feeling of freedom. We feel that our young people need visible role-models. We feel that if the non-gay world gets to know us as responsible, productive, law-abiding friends, neighbors and loved ones, the less we will be burdened with the debilitating effects of homophobia. It's easy to fear and hate the unknown. It's hard to hate people that you know to be worthwhile human beings.

I know that you won't know what to think about what's going on in the country and the world until I tell you what to think about it. My show has no experts. We don't need any-- I'm the expert on everything. How d'ya like my studio? All the furniture's made from trees cut in the tropical rain forest! Ha! How'd you environmental nuts like that? Whoops, just about fell over my bearskin rug. Sure, it's real! Take that, you animal-rights idiots! Now, we have a film clip to show you what our draft-dodging, gay-loving, tax-raising president has been up to. Whoops! How'd we get that ugly shot of Chelsea? Sorry, we didn't mean to show you that. But it was funny. Ha, Ha! Well, he went and appointed another of his gay friends to be assistant secretary of something or other. We have a picture of her here, getting some sort of award. Whoops! That's the shot of the Young Gay Commies in Leather and Chains having simulated sex in a parade in San Francisco! Our mistake! But you get the idea..... Tune in tomorrow.



Billy Douglas came back for four scenes in one show of the ABC soap "One Life to Live" in mid-February. He was absent so long that you may have forgotten that he was the openly and courageously gay teenager who played prominently in the show

last July and August. Anyway, Billy appeared at lunch with his folks. And with a very likeable young man named Rick. Billy's dad said he was glad his son found someone "like Rick" to hang around with-- because Rick is a sports fan and can keep up with Mr. Douglas' conversation on football and basketball. So that must mean that he's straight as the old arrow, right? Mrs. D. says: "Walter, they're more than just friends-like you and I were back when we were in college." Walter has a conniption, but returns to the table, having regained his composure and apparently his resolve to fully accept his son.

And now, we have a special guest.....

Hi! My name is Rash Windbagh, and my new talk show has just come into your TV-viewing area. Which is great, because



SERVICES OF UNION

As an ordained Unitarian-Universalist minister, I have done, and am offering to do, services of union for people who have committed to life partnership. I am the Rev. Suzanne Dougherty, interim minister for the Unitarian Society of York, located at 49 E. Springettsbury Avenue.

I have a very eclectic style and philosophy for creating the words, readings and service, depending on the needs and tastes of the couple. I believe in a partnership approach, so that the couple and minister work together to create the service. I bring experience in doing weddings and services of holy union, a wealth of varied resources (including modern writings, the Bible and other religious works, Native American songs, the Prophet), my religious background and training and the ministerial presence. The couple bring themselves, their love for each other, their interests and ideas. Together, we make something really special to commemorate a lifetime commitment of love. I usually expect to meet with the couple at least twice before the service. I can be contacted at 843-2560 (office) or 764-8368 (home)

WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN

Certain words and phrases have been used repeatedly these past weeks by opponents of the city ordinance. It took us a little while, but we believe we've now come to understand exactly what they mean, and we offer the following definitions and explanations:

GAY RIGHTS: Refers to any law seeking to protect all people on account of sexual orientation.

SPECIAL RIGHTS: When used in conjunction with GAY RIGHTS, refers to the right to hold a job you can perform, or to obtain a home or apartment you can afford and will maintain. Special things like that.

TRADITIONAL FAMILY: Father and Mother, legally married, with from 2 to 12 children. Threatened with extinction whenever any people not fitting the formula are offered any recognition or respect.

FAMILY VALUES: Love, devotion, work, honesty, loyalty-- but only when found in a TRADITIONAL FAMILY .

GAY LIFESTYLE: The most bizaare dress and behavior ever seen in San Francisco or New York City parades.

CHOOSING GAY LIFESTYLE: Remember when you were 12 or 14 years old, and after considering your options and the life-long consequences, you decided to be gay? Evidently, that's how straight people get to be the way they are.

PROMOTING GAY LIFESTYLE: (1) Gay people seeking any legal protection or feeling any sense of worth, or (2) Gay people being accorded any protection or recognition.

FLAUNTING GAY LIFESTYLE: Gay people no longer willing to pretend to be straight and to laugh at anti-gay jokes and remarks.

"LOVE THE SINNER, BUT.." As long as you're gay, we think you should burn in Hell, and be refused shelter and a job.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

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DELICIOUS DESSERTS

WEDDING CAKES
BIRTHDAY AND ALL OCCASION CAKES
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IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM.....

Buy 'em! Some folks down in Atlanta have come up with the idea of buying up single shares of Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.-- the restaurant chain that fired 15 to 20 employees a couple of years ago for being-- or appearing to be-- gay. The stock has been selling between \$45 and 50 a share of late, and you would also pay a broker's commission in the transaction. Mark Melvin, a broker who offers to handle this small transaction for the least cost and fuss, can be reached at 800-423-6435. There was a report some time ago that Cracker Barrel had ended its policy of affirmative discrimination. I wrote to them several weeks ago to confirm this, and have yet to hear anything from them. I'm seriously thinking of buying one or two shares-- if I write as a stockholder, rather than on behalf of Lambda, I might get an answer!

YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

Gay/Lesbian Switchboard Harrisburg is sponsoring a support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth from 14 to 25. Facilitated by a highly qualified professional (also the mother of six), the group will hold its first meeting at the Planned Parenthood Bldg, 1514 N. 2nd St., lower level on Friday, March 5, 7 pm. It is planned to meet at the same place on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.

READ MY LIPS--NO NEW LOGO

Not just yet. Because of the bad weather, the February potluck/general meeting had to be moved. A surprising number of brave souls enjoyed the usual warm hospitality at the charming home of Jim and Doug. But it was decided to put the selection of the logo off until the potluck/general meeting of March 21, so that more members could participate. Entries will be accepted until that time.

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KARAT

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and Make New Friends*