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York Area Lambda

VOLUME X - Issue Number Three

May-June 1996

Peg Stoppard resigns as York Area Lambda President

Members of the York Area Lambda Board of Directors were saddened to learn of the resignation of Peg Stoppard from the presidency of the organization. The news came at the beginning of a board meeting following her February leave of office due to illness within her family. Peg said it was a difficult decision for her to make, but she needed more time on a regular basis because of the continuing illness of one of her parents, her responsibilities at work and her need to spend more time with her partner, Delma. Peg explains her reasons in her own words in her final "From the President" letter found on page 2 of this issue.



Peg Stoppard, resigned YAL President, presents a token of appreciation to Doug Warner during last year's Judy! Show. As vice-president, Warner succeeds Stoppard as the new YAL President.

Doug Warner, vice president of York Area Lambda, will, in accordance with the by laws, serve the remainder

of Peg's term as YAL President. Warner responded to Peg Stoppard's resignation in a statement released to the YAL Lambda.

"Receiving the torch from Peg, I am saddened to see her departure, but grateful that I had the opportunity to work with a true leader.

One of Peg's talents that I still marvel at is her ability to lead a diverse group of board members, some extroverts-some not, some out, some not and reach consensus, where compromise was a virtue.

They say organizations are as strong as their leaders and I believe this is true.

Continued on page 2

'96 JUDY Show tickets on sale this month

Roll up the rugs and dust off the spotlight!! August is coming and that means 'Showtime!!' York Area Lambda's third annual JUDY! Benefit will be presented on Sunday, August 25, 1996. A fun-filled day is planned, beginning with a tea dance from 2:00-5:00 PM. at York's Valencia Ballroom. At 7:00 PM the doors will reopen for a cabaret-style show featuring many of your favorite local entertainers. The show will start at 7:30 PM.

The annual fund raiser will again benefit the OPEN program and the YWCA. Discussing the two benefiting organizations, Kris, the Publicity/Tickets Chairperson for the event, said, "These programs are very valuable to the community. The OPEN program assists people with Aids in meeting many of their needs. They include housing, the buddy program, getting to medical appointments and many other services. The YWCA has

been a leader in innovative programs. It plans to stage a health fair and the money received will help defray the cost. The fun part is you can support them and have an enjoyable evening as well." See Page 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE....

Retiring President Peg Stoppard explains why she decided to step down so early in her second term in her letter on page 2.

Its easy to register to vote in PA with the new Motor Voter Law. See the story on page 3.

What's happening in May or June? See the Calendar of Events on page 4.

See page 5 of this issue to learn what is happening around the country.

Resigning President Urges: Seek equality for all sexual Orientaions

Dear YAL Members and Friends,

Many of you know that I have been dealing with my father's cancer diagnosis and his declining health since radiation treatments. Since my mother's death in 1992, he has been managing alone, but that independence appears to be coming to an end. Practical matters aside, we have had to negotiate a new relationship, one that neither of us is completely comfortable with. It has all been stressful, to say the very least.

The stress level led me finally to some decisions about how my limited time can be spent. With mixed emotions, I have resigned as president of YAL, six months into my second term. When I say mixed emotions, of course one of them is regret- at not finishing out my term after your vote of confidence, and at losing the sense of being part of a great team, namely your board.

According to the process laid out in the YAL bylaws, Doug Warner is now your president. I have every confidence in the world in Doug's leadership abilities. And I have every confidence that board members will continue on as we learned to do together-brining their various viewpoints to the table, engaging in respectful and meaningful dialogue with one another, taking individual responsibility for mutual problem solving, and supporting decisions once they are made. Being part of such an amazing group was a wonderful experience for me. Thank you, each one of you.

I will continue as a member of the York City Human Rela-

tions Commission. It is vital that the lesbian and gay community, as a protected class covered in the ordinance, have a representative on the Commission. Having been appointed by the Mayor, I feel it is imperative that I continue to serve there.

I mentioned mixed emotions, and another of them is hope. This is a time of "two steps forward, and one step back" for sexual minorities. Okay, sometimes it's been "one step forward, and two steps back"! But the fact remains that in spite of most people's almost complete ignorance about us, and a hostile political climate, we continue to make gains in acceptance. So, I am

hopeful. As a normal, happy, contributing member of American society, I will continue to work for the day when my sexual orientation is not seen as an impediment to my humanity.

I hope and believe that you are working for that day, too.
Most Sincerely,

Peg Stoppard



Peg Stoppard Resigns as YAL President

York Area Lambda was in a period of transition when I first met Peg. I remember stepping out with Peg and others to ask the York City Council to enact a civil rights ordinance to protect lesbians and gays from discrimination.

If I can say one last thing to Peg, it would be to say "Thank You" for giving us courage for many things, from civil; rights to selling Lemonade at the York Street

Fair, from decorating Library windows to meeting with the York newspapers and to hold benefits such as Judy!

Each of these steps has allowed us to hold our heads a little higher and say that we are wonderful people. I know that there are many more challenges be-

fore us and York Area Lambda is capable of meeting them."

Stoppard first served as YAL treasurer and was subsequently elected president. After serving her first term, she was re-elected to serve a second term as president during the 1995 Fall election. She had served six months of her second term. Warner will fill her post until it expires in the Fall of 1997.

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The York Area Lambdan

Volume X, Issue No. 3
May-June 1996

Send all Newsletter-related material to:
R.J. Nare, YAL Editor
P. O. Box 37
Glenville, PA 17329

The York Area Lambdan is published by York Area Lambda, P.O. Box 2425, York, PA 17405-2425. York Area Lambda's purpose is to unite gay men and lesbian women and those supportive of them, to promote a sense of community among ourselves and better understanding and acceptance in the greater community in which we live through social, educational, political and charitable activities.

The York Area Lambdan is issued every other month in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Deadlines:

Columns, Photos, Letters to the Editor, Advertizing Insertion Orders, and Press Releases are due *three weeks* before issue date.

Calendar of Events items, and ad slicks or final copy are due *two weeks* before issue date.

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Registering to Vote is easy in Pennsylvania

Exercising the right to vote has always been important. Given the current conservative political climate, it may also be vital to retaining the Gay and Lesbian rights won during the past few decades.

In Pennsylvania, the "Motor Voter" law has been established to ease the voter registration process. Karen Holk-Stewart, director of Elections in York County, told the *Lambda* registering to vote is as easy as taking a trip to one of your usual stops.

Stewart says voter registration cards are readily available at banks, libraries and many Rutter's Farm Stores in the area. Since last October when



Registering to vote is vital to preserve the Civil Rights we have won during the past few decades.

the new law took effect, more than 7,000 new voters have been registered. If you know you will be out of the area on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, you can apply for an absentee ballot. The deadline for both

absentee ballots and Voter registration in October 7.

The registration card asks for your name, address, and how you want to be registered. You may select a political party or simply register as an independent. It's important to remember that in order to participate in a primary election, you must be a registered member of that same party.

If you are unable to locate Voter registration cards in any of the areas mentioned, write the Board of Elections or stop by the office located at 1 West Market Street in York. The office is open weekdays 8:30 to 4:30.

WITF to televise Gay/Lesbian Magazine Show

Public Television Channel 33 will broadcast a segment of the Gay and Lesbian magazine show, "In the Life" on Sunday June 9, from 12:30 to 1:30 A.M. The monthly show features Kate Clinton as host.

Clinton talks about the new series in a newsletter published to promote it to both stations and viewers. Clting it as the "first real-live, regularly-scheduled, refreshingly-produced and outrageously-entertaining gay and lesbian magazine show," "In the Life" is being produced for public television without any commercial sponsors.

The host describes the program as a mix of *60 Minutes*, *Ed Sullivan*, *Oprah* and *Saturday Night Live* which contains a kaleidoscope of Theater, comedy, film, people, music, health, politics ; and debates. It's taped before a live studio audience of 200 high-energy folks who spark some real fireworks when address-

ing controversial issues.

The Executive Producer of *In The Life* is John Scaglotti, the Emmy-award winning director of *Before Stonewall*. Other members of the *In the Life* team come from *Showtime*, *Comedy Central*, *A & E*, *HBO*, *USA*, *Gay Cable Network*, and advertising and production staffs on both *East and West coasts*.

WITF says it often gets complaints when they air Gay/Lesbian friendly programming. You can support such efforts by writing Tom Keck, WITF Program Director, at P.O. Box 2954, Harrisburg Pa 17105. It is also a public membership station. Memberships start at \$45. Benefits include receipt of the monthly *Apprise Magazine*, a membership card offer-

ing discounts at a wide variety of businesses and services, and the program listings. For more information on joining WITF call (717) 236-6000 and ask for Member Services. Comments about programming should be addressed to Tom Keck or a member of his staff in the Programming Department.



New Data System!!

YAL has taken another step into the modern age with the computerization of its membership list. Your name, address, and membership record have been placed in a computer file which even allows us to address your newsletter envelope. Please check your name, address, and expiration date appearing on the envelope. If there are any errors, let us know. If so, we apologize for the mistake!!

Rick Nare

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Calendar

May

WED 8 -YAL Board Meeting at 7:15 P.M. YWCA in York. Call Doug at 846-9636 for details

SAT 18- HARRISBURG MEN'S CHORUS presents "Sing with the Spirit" with the Central PA Womyn's Chorus. 6 PM Mitchell Memorial United Methodist Church, 2221 N. 6th Street, Harrisburg, PA. Admission \$10/ Seniors/Students \$8. Call 236-7464 for Information.

SUN 19 -Membership Meeting and Picnic. Farquhar Park, York. PA. Ave side towards Kiwanis' Lake, from noon on and eat at 1:00 PM. Call Frank for info: 292-1665.

SAT 25-Lancaster Men's Covered Dish at the Tennis and Yacht Club. Call Lael at 354-6370 for information.

Jun

WED 12 -YAL BOARD MEETING at YWCA, York. Call Doug at 846-9636 for time and details.

SAT 15 - WOMYNS POT LUCK- 6:30 PM. Call Cindy or Kate at 848-9142 or Grace at 845-6596.

SUN 16- Membership Meeting & Picnic- Noon to 6:00 P.M. - Eat at 1:00 PM. at Frank's Farm . Call Frank at 292-1665 for details & directions.

SAT 22-Lancaster Men's Covered Dish 7:00 PM For more info call 949-2447.

SUN 23- Baltimore Pride Festival -Wyman Park Dell, between Charles and Howard at Art Museum Drive. Noon to 6 PM. YAL to have booth. For Pride info call 410-835-5445.

SUN 23 -Lehigh Valley Pride Fest Cedar Beach Park, Allentown, PA, Noon to 6 PM. Call 610-770-6200 for Info & Directions.

FRI 28- Gay/Lesbian Film Festival sponsored by York Productions. 7 PM at Capitol Theater, York. Advance Tickets \$5, Door \$6. Call Randy at 843-3285.

Jul

WED 10-YAL Board Meeting YWCA, York. Call Doug at 846-9636 for time and details.

SUN 21- YAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC 2 to 8:00 PM Eat at 3:00 PM . Pete and Rick's in Glen Rock. Call 235-8454 for directions and details.



On going Events

Support & Educational Groups

MOIRA (Support Group for Lesbian, Gay and Bi-Youth). Call 854-6613 for information.

PFLAG, Harrisburg 7:00 PM (3rd Monday) Tressler Lutheran Services, 960 Century Dr. off of Wesley Drive

PFLAG, Susquehanna (4th Monday), Lewisburg. Call Candy

717-742-9530 for Information.

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meets the 1st Tuesday at 750 Kelly Drive on the Campus of the Lutheran Home in York. Call 848-9142 or 843-3793.

Lambda AA -7:30 PM Mondays at Friends Meeting House 6th & Her St.s., Harrisburg.

Lambda AA-Thurs. at 8 PM Otterbein United Methodist Church 301 W. Philadelphia St., York and/or Sat at 8 P.M. Trinity Lutheran Church 415 N. West Street, York. **Many more meetings in area. Call 854-4617 for information.**

Renaissance Education Association/LSV (1st Sat.) transgender/cross-dresser group, call 780-LSV.

Religious Services (Sunday unless otherwise noted)

Vision of Hope MCC - 10:30 PM & 7:00 PM Worship 130 E. Main Mountville. Sunday School 10:30 am

MCC of the Spirit-7:00 PM Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr St.s. Harrisburg. Call 236-7367 or 232-0671

Unitarian Society of York - Call 845-8212 for information.

Dignity, Central PA. - (1st Sunday) worship 5 PM, Potluck at 6, Program at 7 PM. Gay & Lesbian Catholics and their friends. Friends Mtg. House, 6th & Herr Sts., Harrisburg.

Lutherans Concerned - (2nd Sun.) in Harrisburg with meeting at 7 PM. Call 232-4819 for information.

American Catholic Church - Mass every Sunday at Harrisburg Holiday Inn at 10:30 AM. Call Fr. Mike at 731-1015 for directions and details. (An inclusive non- Roman Church.)

Social Groups

Harrisburg Men's Chorus-(Mondays) 7:00 PM; 2nd UCC; Green and Verbke, Harrisburg. Call 232-9299 for info..**Dialogue** - (1st & 3rd Mon.) Lesbian and Gay discussion group, 1514 N. 2nd St. (side door), Harrisburg. 561-8689

Volleyball - (Tuesdays) 6:30 PM Salvation Army Gym, Penn & Cumberland St., Harrisburg.

LivingRoom - (3rd Thursday) 6 to 8 Social Group for people living with AIDS. AIDS Resource Alliance 507 W 4th St., Williamsport, 717 322-8448 or 1-800 773-AIDS.

Bowling - (Thursdays) 9:00 PM The Private Club, ABC Lanes East, 1001 Eisenhower, Hbg. \$8 fee. Call Rick 233-00211.

Bingo - (Fridays) 9:30 PM Riverside Hall, Uptown Shopping Center to benefit Harrisburg Men's Chorus, Call 236-4613.

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Gay/Lesbian Pinochle Club Forming in the York area which will meet monthly for an evening or afternoon of cards and conversation. No need to know how to play when joining. If interested call Rick at 235-8454.

News Briefs From Across the United States.

California Mother of ten authors

Mother's Day gift for parents of gay children

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.--Mother's Day is always one of the biggest holidays of the year for Mary Ann Cantwell, a 74-year-old retired teacher who is the mother of 10 children. This year's event marks a special celebration for Mary Ann and her fifth son, Mike, who is gay -- the publication of Mary Ann's book.. Called: "Homosexuality: The Secret A Child Dare Not Tell," (Rafael Press), the book discusses a subject once taboo, the guilt-ridden childhood of most gay youngsters, and the lengths they go to keep their homosexuality a secret from their parents.

Approximately one in 10 children is homosexual. "Homosexuality is usually a natural unfolding that occurs during the early years of childhood," she said. Through her own experience, she tells parents how to recognize signs their child may be gay, how homosexual children protect parents from the truth, and why parents who ignore the truth can cause lifelong problems for their children.

Rhode Island Cadets Get Diversity Training

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - A Rhode Island Police department is fighting a bad reputation among minorities with diversity education for its trainees. Cadets' training at the Providence Police Academy included a visit from a police official who is gay. During the cadets' 21 weeks of training, each receive 2 weeks of diversity training. They also perform six hours of volunteer service in community agencies where they learn to deal with different ethnics groups, the poor and the sick.

Poll Shows 3.2% OF U, S. voters are gay

WASHINGTON, D.C. -The first detailed profile of the gay vote pegs it at 3.2 percent of the national electorate - ahead of Asian Americans, equal with Latinos, just behind Jews and well behind African Americans.

The profile, based on exit polling from the 1992 election, confirms the conventional wisdom: The gay vote is heavily urban, Democratic, liberal and concerned with social issues. In towns of 5,000 to 10,000 people, they make up 1.3 percent of voters. In cities of more than a million people, gay men numbered about 8.5 percent of voters, while slightly fewer lesbians voted.

Two Lesbian women beaten by neighbors

LONG BEACH, CA -Two women live on Temple Avenue in Long Beach were allegedly beaten by a dozen of their neighbors with sticks that resembled police batons. Their transgression, according to those who live nearby, is that they parked a little too close to some neighbors -- and that they were lesbians. What those in the neighborhood say is that the two women exchanged words with neighbors, possibly over where a car was parked, and that the bloody incident ensued from there.

The incident occurred about 12:25 a.m. when 10 to 12 people from the next block attacked the women after an argument. Long Beach Police spokeswoman Maria Mendez said that during the attack derogatory remarks were made about the sexual orientation of the two women.

Judy Tickets

from page one

Tickets are on sale this month and are priced as follows: Tea Dance tickets are \$8 per person if purchased individually. The JUDY! Show tickets will be \$12. Everyone attending is asked to consider being a Patron. Patrons start at \$30 and include one ticket for both the Tea Dance and Judy! performance. Patron classifications are as follows: Sequins (\$30); Pearls (cultured!!) \$50; and Diamonds \$100 and over.

Don't miss the Ticket/Patron flyer mailed with this issue or stuffed inside those placed in area businesses.


For more information on tickets, call Kris at 854-4018. Seating will be on a patron classification and first-purchased basis.

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Leader of Human Rights Campaign Sees

A Grand Paradox for the Gay Community

From *THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER*
FEATURES MAGAZINE / LIFESTYLE

By Denise Cowie,
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

For the gay community today, says Elizabeth Birch, there exists what she calls "a grand paradox."

"On the one hand, Pat Buchanan is lobbing emotional grenades to ignite a hateful spirit," says the leader of the Human Rights Campaign, "but on the other hand most Americans have gone through an enormous education process."

Many thousands of families have had to grapple with the reality of their sons' and daughters' homosexuality. "It has been painful and difficult, but mostly parents come out the other end and embrace their child."

As a result of that education process, homophobia has gone down in the last three years, she said, quoting a *Times Mirror* poll. But legislation doesn't necessarily reflect that.

Citing the yet-to-be-passed Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ensure that people could not be fired solely for being gay, lesbian or bisexual, Birch added that Congress is way behind the rest of the country on such civil rights: "About half of the Fortune 1,000 companies have nondiscrimination policies."

Last week, Congress and Birch were in tune on one issue: Lawmakers agreed to repeal a law requiring the military to discharge service members with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Birch, whose organization had lobbied hard against the law, was jubilant. But the fight may not be over.

A panel chaired by ultra-conservative Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R., Calif.) quickly tacked a similar discharge measure onto next year's defense budget, and added a bid to ban gays from the military. Such battles are among the reasons that politics and the future of the gay civil rights movement are central to PrideFest Philadelphia's first National Gay and Lesbian Leaders Symposium.

The seminar was taped at the Old City studios of cosponsor WHY-FM, and will be broadcast later on National Public Radio.

"Our goal is to have PrideFest

among those newcomers..

She and her staff chalked up speaking tours, intensive lobbying, grassroots get-out-the-vote campaigns. They got House Speaker Newt Gingrich's lesbian half-sister, Candace, to speak out for AIDS funding and gay rights. Nurtured gay and lesbian employee groups in the workplace. Earmarked \$1 million in nonpartisan PAC money. Come August, they'll launch a political convention in Chicago.

For the first time, the organization will stage out vote '96, to rally support and train members to work to influence national, state and local political campaigns this fall.

"If people can't hear you, there's no use in speaking ... If we can't find ways to talk to Middle America and traditional institutions, there's no point in taking the podium. Because that's where change occurs."

as the major national annual symposium on the discussion of gay and lesbian issues," said Malcolm Lazing, founder of the three-day political, educational, cultural and social festival held May 3, 4, and 5 in Philadelphia..

Elizabeth Birch is well known for her background as chief litigant for Apple Computers Inc., and as one of the highest-ranked openly gay corporate officers in the country. She has a reputation as a negotiator with a conciliatory style who nevertheless seems to get what she wants. Last year within days, of the start of the new Republican led Congress Birch took the helm of an organization that could expect to find few friends

Birch points out that HRC's membership has doubled in a year - up from 80,000 to 150,000 and climbing - and that this year's budget is \$10 million, compared to last year's \$6 million.

"I think all new solutions for this country are going to have to take the best of the left and the right," she said.

Just a few weeks ago, she spoke at the University of Notre Dame in support of gay students and faculty. "A lot of faculty had to sign on to get me on campus, but once I was there I think the leaders were disarmed," she said.

"If people can't hear you, there's no use in speaking," she adds. "If we can't find ways to talk to Middle America and traditional institutions, there's no point in taking the podium. Because that's where change occurs - at the Rotary Club and the Jaycees and the Junior League. That's where change occurs."

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