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The Lancaster Inquirer

Volume II, Issue 1

March/April 1995

FREE

compliments of the Pink Triangle Coalition

Adopt-a-Highway
Sat., April 8, 9 am
We need your help!

PTC Rollerskate on
Sun., April 2, 5-7 pm
at the Castle Roller
Skating Rink.

The PTC Welcomes Three New Board Members

For our first issue of 1995, we would like to introduce our three newest board members:

Greg Snyder, John Wilkins, and Chris Mandros. Each of these people saw the need for change in Lancaster and chose the PTC as a positive outlet for that change.



Greg

Please meet:
Greg Snyder-

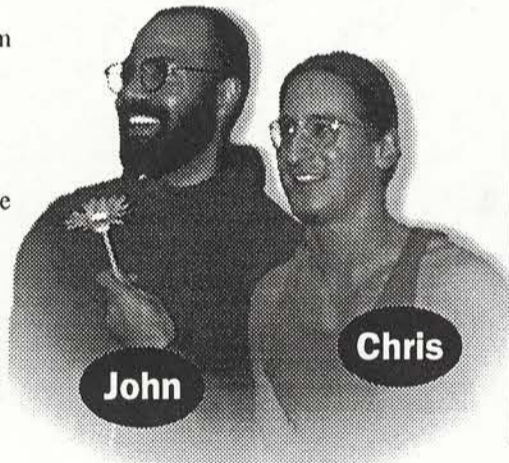
"I'm a 39 year old real estate appraiser for farms. My family includes myself, my lover of 10 years, Jim Kendall, and our 15 year old daughter, Jenni, to whom I am out. I was raised on a farm northwest of Allentown and I hope to own my own farm in the future. I have lived in Lancaster County for the past 9 years. I enjoy gardening with Jim, Photography, and woodworking in my spare time. I recently became involved with the PTC because I have felt the effects of homophobia and discrimination over the years and needed a positive outlet for my anger. I was elected to the board of the PTC and also to the Treasurer's position. I hope to help make Lancaster a better place for gays and lesbians to be out by helping to build our "community".

John Wilkins- "I've lived in Lancaster for three years. I moved from San Diego, CA, to be with a man! Fortunately, things have worked out. Who says you can't take risks and still remain "Diva of all you survey"? The most important thing I've learned while living in Lancaster is that it is very easy to become segregated into small homogeneous groups, where complacency and our own personal biases are not challenged. Hence, the importance of Pink Triangle

Coalition. I feel it is important because of it's commitment to gay rights, diversity and its membership's vigor in addressing biases on all levels."

Chris Mandros- "I'm a 30 year-old single GWM with my own architectural design business, Classic Interior and Exterior Design.(plug, plug, plug!!!) I am also an exhibiting painter and antiques (1920-1970) dealer. My hobbies include lifting, travel, and alternative music. My likes include sex-positive people, life-positive people, white trash fashions, fat-free foods, historic preservation, and a viable third political party. My dislikes are fearful people, bigotry, political correctness, guilt (other people's guilt, I've banished my own). My goal for PTC is that we need to get gay and lesbian people off the bar stools and out to the polls, in the streets, at their desks and into government. We need to be forging social, political, and economic alliances with other Gay/Les/Bi people and straight people alike."

As always, the PTC is looking for fresh, diverse ideas and opinions. If you feel you have something to say, please join us at our meetings! And, by the way, where are all the women out there? To make sure we don't speak for you, come out and speak for yourself! ▲



John

Chris

As the new editor of *The Inquirer*, I am happy to announce the one year anniversary of our paper! I feel *The Inquirer* has achieved many goals, most importantly those of visibility and bringing information to the Lancaster area. We have seen many new faces and heard many new and wonderful ideas at our meetings as a direct result of this paper. If there is anything you'd like to see in *The Inquirer*, please write to us at P.O. Box 176, Lancaster, PA, 17608-0176

Thanks! Kim



What is Our Community?

Have you ever noticed that sometimes you can find enlightenment in the most common of places. I recently attended a holiday party and gained major insight into the importance of the diversity issue in the gay community in Lancaster. Nothing I learned was new or earth shattering, but for some reason it all just made more sense to me in this social setting. After I left the party, I could not stop thinking about not only what was said in discussion, but also about the dynamics of the party and how important these clues were for me as a active board member of a Lancaster based gay/lesbian support group. Increased participation and membership are key goals of the PTC for 1995.

The party was not exclusively gay/

lesbian, however, everyone who attended was aware and accepting of everyone else's' orientations. One of the first observations I made was the way that the guests separated themselves into different rooms and how each choose to entertain themselves. There were those who choose the formal living room and sat on plush furniture and spoke of recent musicals they have attended, and vacations coming up. There were others who stood in the dining room, sipping their cocktails and tasting the desserts, all the while speaking of holiday plans and shopping to be completed. Still others crammed into the busy kitchen/dining areas and drank their beer over conver-

More Community on the next page.

R. U. G.A.Y.?

Lancaster Newspapers
maintain their
discriminatory policies

You may have missed it, but in the January the Lancaster Newspapers ran classified ads that made reference to Female Couples and GM's (Gay Male? Gentle Men? General Motors?). Don't get excited—they decided that treating all their subscribers equally was a



mistake. Advertisers were not allowed to rerun their ads even though the paper received no complaints from any readers.

It is the policy of Lancaster Newspa-

More Newspaper on the next page.



P.O. Box 176
Lancaster, PA 17608-0176

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
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Lancaster, PA

Add me to your list Update my address Remove me from your list

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Other Comments: _____

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Zip _____

Phone _____

Return this card to: P.O. Box 176, Lancaster, PA 17608-0176

DO NOT MISS!
YOUR PH...
8-12 PM. MAY 13 AT 12M

Horrorscopes

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MAR. 20) Concern yourself with your own health now. Volkswagen buses hold special meaning for you. **KEY WORD: BRAUNY**

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APR. 19) Realize that you are very valued and respected by others. Pillows affect your mood this month. **KEY WORD: STAYFREE**

TAURUS (APR. 20 - MAY 20) Material things won't lead to contentment. Take your best friend to the movies, it could change your life. **KEY WORD: BAN DE SOLEIL**

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20) Look objectively at your indecision of the future. Take a breather from those talk shows and eat some lunch. **KEY WORD: Q-TIP**

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22) Could have a breakdown in communication in financial matters. Be wary of chili dogs and tater tots, as they could adversely affect your being. **KEY WORD: MERIT**

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22) One door may close and another may open. Figure skating finals put a wonderful spice into your love life. **KEY WORD: CELESTIAL SEASONINGS**

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22) Invest time into your well being. Go out and count the number of tattooing magazines on the market. **KEY WORD: VOLARE**

LIBRA (SEPT 23 - OCT. 22) You have confidence in your creative skills. Anyone wearing a red sequined sash should be avoided. **KEY WORD: BOBOLI**

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21) Don't give in, secure your future now. Beware the Ides of March. **KEY WORD: IMPERIAL**

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21) Your confidence returns this month. Should anyone with the initials K.A.W. speak to you, run away quickly. **KEY WORD: LA CROIX**

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19) Personal growth is highlighted this month. Tell your neighbors Christmas is past and the lights must be taken down. **KEY WORD: SCHICK**

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18) Your life history should not be rewritten. Please dispose of your toenail clippings properly. **KEY WORD: PERT**

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Kimberli Werner

Contributors: Nikki Evans, Anthony Lascoskie, Mick Kauffman, Martin Menges, Lillie Rizack, Andy Spedden, Mark Stoner,



Ask Anne Drogeny

What is a "Fag Hag"?

**Signed,
Lost in Lancaster**

To be a Fag Hag is both a physical and psychological state of being. Ah! Figure that out! No, really... the term Fag Hag is a noun used to define a heterosexual woman who decides, for any number of reasons, to base most of her life around her gay male friends. Her "Boys", as she affectionately calls them, are ideal escorts (both handsome and fashionable), hair and make-up advisors, and up on the latest gossip, books, movies, and trends. What else can a girl ask for?

Unfortunately, this strange and lovely friendship may turn tragic. The woman believes her boys are able to love her romantically, and becomes jealous of their boyfriends and lovers. But, gay men tend to attract drama into their lives, so this is an avoidable pitfall of being a gay man.

The other side of the coin are known as "Dyke Daddies." These, of course, are heterosexual men who enjoy the company of lesbians. The interests may be different, (i.e. playing pool, cars, harleys) but the basic premise is the same. The dramatic tragedy is the same. ▲

Resources

F&M College LGB's & Allies	285-9070
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg	234-0328
GLORA (Reading)	610-868-7183
Lancaster AIDS Project	394-9900
Lancaster Lambda	299-4705
Lancaster Gay Helpline	397-0691
Millersville Allies	871-2241
PA AIDS Hotline	1-800-662-6080
P-Flag of Lancaster	299-7043
Pink Triangle Coalition	394-0403
SMYLE (Youth Group)	656-4152
Vision of Hope MCC	285-9070
York Area Lambda	Box 2425, York, PA 17405

Newspaper

Continued from page 1.

pers, Inc. not to publicly state their discriminatory advertising policies. Each ad is reviewed when it is submitted. Ads offensive to the newspaper's idea of the "typical Lancaster area resident" are rejected. So far, this includes any reference to relationships that are not heterosexual. No matter how obtuse—alternative life-styles, female couple—anything that may be perceived as non-heterosexual is *verboten*.

Supposedly, this policy is consistent throughout the paper in any advertising. Representatives of the paper would not

Community

Continued from page 1.

sations ranging from the importance of being "out" at work, to the possibility of a "gay pride parade" in Lancaster.

I found myself engaged in a very interesting discussion concerning the gay/lesbian community in Lancaster and surrounding areas. At one point, there were eight different people involved in the discussion with eight different viewpoints. The fact that the eight of us could not even agree on many of the discussion's topics, clearly illustrates the difficulty the gay/lesbian community faces when trying to form a united front.

A community is defined as "a class or group with common interests". Although we have common interests, the gay/lesbian community is as diverse as we are large. There are conflicting views on every issue, from the importance of openness and honesty at work, to the views of same sex marriages. Some standing around the kitchen bought into the "playing by the rules" mentality—believing that social change can only come from within the already established organization, while others felt a better approach is one similar to groups such as ACT UP and Queer Nation. This diversity issue is one that can hinder a community group if allowed to; conversely, if this diversity is harnessed and used to one's advantage, the group can become a nucleus for synergy.

The conversation turned toward discussion of existing gay/lesbian groups in the area and about the positives and negatives aspects of each. Because of my involvement in the Pink Triangle Coalition (PTC), I was very interested in what points were brought up, both good and bad.

The largest obstacle brought to my attention is a perception issue and an image problem. The entire coalition has received a "radical" image in some people's minds, mainly due to rumors and misunderstandings between founding members. There are others, however, who feel we are not radical enough.

There are members of the PTC from

Signs of the Times

This is the 4th in our series discussing lesbian, bi and gay symbols.

The Neo-Amazonian **Labrys** or double bladed ax represents the mythic Amazons and their Goddess Artemis. This symbol has been adopted by many lesbians as a sign of strength in sisterhood.

state if there had been a change in policy since they ran a full-page ad in 1991 which thanked Lancaster residents for their stand against the bigotry of the Ku-Klux-Klan and used the words "gay" and "lesbian." We have no way of knowing if an identical ad could run today without submitting it (with payment of course) to the newspaper.

If you would like to be involved with our effort to change this policy contact Chris at 393-6725. Let the newspaper know that 10% of its "typical" readers are gay. Write Harold E. Miller, Jr., Vice Pres., Marketing, Lancaster Newspapers, 8 West King St., Lancaster, PA 17603. ▲

all walks of life, gender, race, religious, and social status. Our meetings, which are held the fourth Tuesday night of every month, are open to the public... and all are encouraged to attend. The best way to assure that **your** concerns are being addressed, is to become involved. Our meeting start at 7:00 P.M. and finish up around 9:00. After introductions of everyone sitting around the table, the first hour is usually set aside for discussion of past and current business. If you read this newsletter, most of the items will be familiar. This is the time of the meeting during which you can express your interest in working specifically with a certain committee, or in setting up a committee to deal with a concern or item of interest to you. The second hour is set aside for an open discussion of a topic published in the newsletter. Topics in the past include; "Internalized Homophobia", "Religion/Spirituality and the Gay/Lesbian Community", Gay Community... is there one in Lancaster", and "Gay Dating... is there such a thing?" These discussions are free flowing and I find them surprisingly enlightening. We (The PTC) love new faces and ideas. All ideas are welcome and given a chance to blossom into Coalition projects. Some of the ideas brought to life in the past year include; the active "Adopt-a-highway" program, the **sold out** bus trip to "Stonewall 25", and "The Inquery" you are reading now!

I realize that The PTC, no matter how hard we try, can never be everything to everyone; however, we would love to hear about what you would expect from a Gay/Lesbian group in Lancaster. Anything from what kind of topics you would like to see discussed, to what kind of social or community events you would like to see organized would be of interest to the PTC. Please take time now to jot down a few lines and send it off (to the P.O. Box on the front of this newsletter). We encourage your constructive criticism. Lets all get involved to make this community as strong and united as possible.

Much thanks. ▲

Dishin' with G.P.

Well Darlings, at long last another holiday season has past, and it's time to reflect on the past year. First let me explain where I've been for so long. I tried to keep it quiet, but my dear friend Kim L. had to open her mouth and tell the local papers she had plastic surgery, so, I guess I should come clean. It was just a tiny, little operation...

Getting back to all the wonderful times we had in the past year, How about watching Joey's fan club get kicked out of the Ho? Or getting to hear Tabby's life story that same evening? And then there was the absolutely fabulous party thrown by the U.S.M.? What a great mix of people, music, and dancing! I danced so much I almost ripped open some Lypo-scars.

I hope it's not too late for a few New Year's resolutions:

1. As a close friend said to me, "Watch how you swing that stall door at the Ho. You never know who is standing on the other side with a full drink."
2. This year I will hint hard that "Secret Hair" is the perfect gift.
3. I'll remember that beer and champagne still do not mix.
4. I have to get Anthony Lascoskie to stop impersonating me. I hate it when he gets my free drinks.
5. I'll get those pictures of Jesse Helms in my strapless Halston back from the Photomat.

Well into the news of this year. The other Friday night, a friend asked me to join him at the Ranch for C&W night. I said "Sure", because I thought C&W meant Cocktails and Weinies. How could I have known it was Country and Western? And it is the best kept secret around? All those good-looking men in tight jeans and those fun high-heeled boots. Oh yeah, there were women there too.

Back to my world of high fashion. How about Robert Altman's "Pret-a-Porter"? Here's a tip: next time, less acting and more runway. Madonna and Meisel are back together in a wonderful new Versace ad in the February Harper's (my new bible!).

I'm glad to see a new positive role model on T.V. again. There has not been a best friend like this since Rhoda. Naturally, I'm talking about Maryann, Cybil's best friend on CBS. Finally, one of the networks is not afraid to show a hard-drinking, ex-husband stalking women.

Kudos to our own media darlings and PTC members John and Nikki, for appearing on **LIVE** on WGAL TV 8.

Till next time...ta, ta.



PTC Happenings

- Tues., March 28—**PTC meeting**, 7 pm @ LAP (above Isaac's on Queen St.) *Topic—Grassroots Politics, What we must do.*
- Sun., April 2—**PTC Rollerskate**, 5-7pm at Castle Roller Skating Rink 1400 Elm Ave., Lancaster. Join us afterwards for a special pizza dinner with Interweave. \$4 + \$1 Skate Rental
- Sat., April 8—**Adopt-a-Highway Spring Cleanup**, 9 am, Homedco Bldg. Comm. Room, 240 H-burg Pike. It's FUN! We need your help to keep Rte. 23 neat and tidy.
- Tues., April 25—**PTC meeting**, 7 pm @ LAP, 144 N. Queen St. *Topic—Lesbians, Gays and the Media*
- COMING IN MAY—THE PROM Don't Miss It!**
- Questions? Call us at 394-0403