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The Lancaster Inquirer

**Mark Your '97 Calendar!
Roller Skate
Sun., Feb. 16,
5-7 pm at the
Castle Rink.**

Volume 3, Issue 5

December 1996

FREE

compliments of the Pink Triangle Coalition

On the Front line in E-town

Over the past few months, various folks in Elizabethtown have found a common cause: opposing the E-town School Board's blatant targeting of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. In late September, board member Carol Miller introduced a "Pro-Family Resolution" from the national religious extremist group Concerned Women of America. This resolution explicitly attacked single parents, queers, and the National Education Assoc. (NEA), and was accompanied by board members' verbal attacks on the government and President Clinton at its introduction.

Since that meeting, the resolution has been made into an "Instructional Policy Regarding Sexual Orientation" by the District's Policy Committee, which included clauses defending students' rights to educational services, free from harassment and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Unfortunately, at the board's November 19th meeting, religious extremists on the board voted to do away with these provisions, leaving only a policy that states: "The District will not promote, encourage or give special recognition to same-sex sexual relationships or orientation." This policy is expected to be forwarded to a second reading and final approval in December.

Local queers and our straight allies have been fighting for justice in E-town from early on. E-town High School students walked out in protest of the board's actions, and on the evening of the board's October 15th meeting, regional queer groups had a press conference on the high school's front lawn. Represented were P-FLAG, the PA Justice Campaign, E-town College, Dickinson College, Bi-GLYAH (a Harrisburg youth organization), the Alliance for Tolerance and Freedom, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and The Pink Triangle Coalition. Later, at the board meeting, a majority of E-town School District residents spoke out against the "Pro-Family Resolution," some calling for the extremists' mass resignation.

Despite a very big setback to equality and civil rights in E-town, the extremists' actions have been, in a way, productive: a new group has formed, Common Sense, which will oppose fundamentalist "sleath candidates," and support moderate and fair-minded School Board candidates. Conservatives and religious folks have argued for Christian values such as love and tolerance, and the fact that parents' rights to teach their children what they want to about queerness and queer people, are secure.

Perhaps most importantly, folks have been able to see religious extremists for what they are: not merely church goers, but people who have a broad agenda to preserve heterosexism by any means necessary, and at any cost. They have no time for what parents, students, guidance counselors and teachers have to say. They don't care that E-town High School's average student performance has declined because of general anxiety over the "Pro-Family" conflict. In fact, they aren't even concerned that the "Instructional Policy's" indirect endorsement of opposite-sex sexual relationships is antithetical to "family values": what about the problem of teen pregnancy, or the spread of venereal diseases, including HIV? What they do care about is the preservation of heterosexism, even if it means a queer student is driven to drug/alcohol addiction, isolation/loneliness, suicide, etc., by anti-queer policy.

What can queers and straight allies outside of the E-town District do to help? First, be prepared to mobilize against a "Pro-Family Resolution" in your own school district: you pay taxes, you have a say. Second, support fair-minded School Board candidates in your district; find out who your district's board members are, where they stand on equality issues, and when their terms expire. And finally, find out what policies exist in your district that protect queer students and staff; if the policies are insufficient, start attending board meeting and ask your School Board to amend them. And never, ever give up the fight for equality and justice! ▲

Lancaster City Council Reviews Anti-discrimination Ordinance

In November the Lancaster City Council began a long-awaited review of the city's existing Human Relations Ordinance. Protection against discrimination because of sexual orientation and marital status was added to the ordinance in 1991. This led to the county commissioner's dissolution of the then joint city/county Human Relations Commission and its replacement by a county-funded Commission. As a result, the city's ordinance is still on the books but there is no way to enforce its protections. The city council is studying ways to allow for enforcement of the statute.

Such legislation is vital for the protection of sexual minorities. Please, let the current council members know why it is important to you!

PTC, community members and three of the seven council members attended the meeting. They were: **Billie Joe Herr, Olyn Lettman and Nelson Polite, Sr.** (Of course we will need at least four supportive members to enhance the ordinance.)

Why not send them a letter of

thanks for the courage they have shown in addressing this potentially volatile subject. AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT... write or call the members who have avoided this issue and tell them to start doing their job - making sure that all city residents and workers are treated equally. They are:

C. Ted Darcus (Council Pres.),
Russell Miller, Gene Duncan and Larry Roskos

All Council members may be contacted at 120 N. Duke St., PO Box 1599, Lancaster, PA 17608. Phone: 291-4711 ▲

After numerous complaints, the Lan. County Library removed a PTC window display, *Celebrating Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Stars*, featuring eight notable queers, for review. Please come & show your support next Mon., Dec. 16, 7 pm at the Library. 125 N. Duke St. in Lancaster



Holiday Hottie

Brown and orange combos Spam flavored Combos
Grassroots activism Active brassy rootism
"Tickle me" Elmo Personal massagers
Partridge Family Christmas Album E-town pro-family resolution
Aromatherapy - Nose Candy Physical Therapy - Icy Hot
Evita - Madonna's Star Vehicle *The Preacher's Wife* - Need we say more!?
Mudd Pack Sleepovers Political Mud Slinging
Curtain rods and new window dressing Dennis Rodman - Crossdressing
Lancaster Gays on the internet Tired gays in fishnets
Running paranoid through the rain, bows in your hair Rainbow paraphernalia
Countdown Lancaster '97 Sitting down to count reasons to stay in.

Holiday Nottie



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What's Happening

Throughout Dec., NOT! Celebrating Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Stars is the big, new, PTC window display in the big, front window at the Lancaster Public Library on Duke Street. Which, for the moment, has been taken down and is under review. With your help it should be up after the review meeting next Monday (See below).

Mon. Dec. 16th, 7 pm, Meeting to review "educational value" of library window display. At the Lancaster Public Library. Please come to show your support.

Sun., Dec. 22, 8pm, RAVE dance, Chameleon Club, 223 N. Water St., Lanc. \$adm
Tues., Dec. 24th, No Pink Triangle Coalition Meeting. It's Christmas Eve! Make someone's holiday merry.

Tues., Jan. 28th, Feb. 25th, 7 pm, Pink Triangle Coalition Meetings. All welcome. Lancaster AIDS Project (LAP), Queen Street Lancaster, down the hall from Isaac's Deli. Board elections **Sun., Feb. 16th, 5-7pm, Queer Skate** at Castle Roller Rink, 1400 Elm Ave. Lancaster. \$4+\$1 skate rental.



Don't Miss These Upcoming TV Programs on WITF, Channel 33. Watch them and then call Tom Keck, Director of WITF TV Programming and let him know what you think! 1-800-366-9483.

Sun., Jan. 5, 12:30 am, (actually Mon. morning) *In the Life*, You may need to set your VCR to catch this one, but it's worth it. This program is made by lesbians and gays for lesbian and gays.

Sun., Feb. 2, 9 pm, Breaking the Code, Mobil Masterpiece Theatre, The true story of Alan Turing, the brilliant British mathematician, who's success in breaking the Nazi's secret code, ENIGMA, was vital to the allies' victory in World War II, and who was later persecuted by his government for his homosexuality.▲



Ask Anne Drogeny

▲▲▲▲▲ Ask Anne's Predictions for '97: ▲▲▲▲▲

An unfortunate ankle break will befall one of South Central PA's drag queens due to the height of her heels and her handkerchief hem.

Gay, lesbian, and transgendered Lancastrians will be inspired to join the Pink Triangle Coalition. So much so, that the PTC will be forced to expand and meet at the newly built Gay and Lesbian Resource Center in the old Watt and Shand Building.

A prominent, conservative religious figure, with the initials R.R., will come out publicly.

Newt Gingrich and Jesse Helms will retire due to the ongoing symptoms of dementia.

The Titanic will be recovered and it will be revealed that it was actually an Olivia cruise ship that had met with disaster.

Hems will rise, hair will grow.

The word "cool" will be replaced with "gotcha kitty".

Jezebel and Felicia's national tour will kick off in Lanc. as a tribute to their roots.

Gay Pride month will be changed to Gay Pride Trimester to account for the actual gay population. ▲

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Kimberli Werner

Contributors: Tim Erdley, Nikki Evans, Anthony Lascoskie, Andy Spedden, Mark Stoner, John Wilkins

Holidays – Single and Loving It!?

I used to feel a certain sense of urgency every October. (No it wasn't just because I didn't know what I wanted to be for Halloween which is even more important than which female in glamour history to impersonate.) I was pressured by the need to find a partner for the Holidays. I used to dread the idea of flying solo from Thanksgiving through New Years morning. From television Shows and commercials, to catalogs in the mail, everywhere you turn, there are images of couples and families celebrating the many different events that make this season so festive. After reading every self-help book on the shelves of the Library I have discovered a new sense of independence and self-worth that has convinced me that this season will be different. I plan on creating a holiday season for me, one that is enjoyable and less stressful than the over-commercialized mess that the season has become. Here are a few of my ideas:

Sit on my bed and perform some long overdue personal maintenance – no, I'm not talking about that – I mean a manicure or pedicure or even just a mudd pack. I think I'll paint my nails jungle red while talking on the phone with a good friend—preferably long distance.

I'm also going to have a movie night and rent only movies with fiercely independent and glamorous heroes and heroines.

I'm going to splurge and buy some great new CD's – anything I like – and I'm actually going to take time to sit and listen to them – on my couch – not in my car rushing between appointments. I think I will plan a few bubble baths (1/2 hour min.) and listen to either a book on tape – or tape a "letter" to a friend that I need to catch up with. What could be a better present at this crazy time of the year?

When I do get around to picking up a few trinkets for friends and relatives this year – I'm going downtown – to all the great little specialty shops and art stores available. The personal service you receive there is unmatched at any mall.

I may be single this holiday season, but I certainly will not be alone. Friends, single and otherwise, will be around to spread good cheer and toast to the upcoming year. God... this all sounds so desperate and lonely... I hope I find a snuggle bunny soon! ▲

Resources

F&M College LGB's & Allies	399-6192
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg	234-0328
GLORA (Reading).....	610-868-7183
Interweave (Unitarian Universalist).....	393-11733
Lancaster AIDS Project.....	394-3380, 394-9900
Lancaster Gay Helpline	397-0691
Millersville Allies	871-2241
PA AIDS Hotline.....	1-800-662-6080
P-Flag of Lancaster	299-7043
Vision of Hope, Metropolitan Community Church.....	285-9070
York Area Lambda.....	Box 2425, York, PA 17405
Pink Triangle Coalition	394-6260
PTC on the web: http://lancaster.net/community/ptc/ and http://155.68.3.11:80/CampusLife/Organizations/Allies/Gay_Lancaster/Home.html We want to hear from you! Send any correspondence to: P.O. Box 176, Lancaster, PA 17608-0176	

Horrorscopes

ARIES (MARCH 21 – APR. 19) Answers arrive in unexpected ways. Don't let collages frighten you. **KEY WORD: MISTLETOE**

TAURUS (APR. 20 – MAY 20) People genuinely like you for what you wear. Don't let distance keep you from what is important. **KEY WORD: TREE**

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20) A curve in the road is ahead. Be careful of slippery leaves. **KEY WORD: JINGLE**

CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22) Finances look grand for you. Manila envelopes hold special meaning. **KEY WORD: BALL**



Hollister Cole's continuing saga of life and lifeless times in this town of fruited streets. Q-Spot takes you on a Lazy Boy journey of the loves, lives, and daydreams of people, perhaps familiar — or maybe it's déjà vu.

IV THESE CLOGS WERE MADE FOR CLOGGING

Salina stood absent-mindedly behind the register studying her many silver rings as she dried some silverware. She took a step back and glanced all the way to the very bottom. It was a very long way down. Her favorite black clogs looked so perfect with these rather wide-legged khakis.

I never even considered this combination before, she thought, quite pleased with her choice in outfits. It seems the less you think about it—the less you try to put together a stylish outfit you feel pleased to sport—the easier it is to do. But Salina rarely thinks about looking good. It just happens. Her fashion karma was in perfect balance.

In lieu of tapping her finger to pass the time, Salina began to tap her clogged right foot ever so faintly—heel to toe, heel to toe—not necessarily to the music playing, but simply for the pleasure it brought her as if to celebrate her good fortune in hitting an easy fashion bull's-eye. She loved the sound of her clogs on the wooden, oak floor of *7 of Cups*. Smiling faintly inside, she felt childish pleasure in knowing that her customers were not invited to her private percussion set as she was on stage only from the waste up.

"I know I told you that fall was my favorite season," said Ruby disapprovingly, plopping her round tray and rag on the counter, "but it's really emotionally distressing trying to adjust to this early nighttime. If I was the sun, I'd stay up to at least 8:30 or 9, except for maybe Sundays or something."

"Oh, yeah, I know. I still haven't recovered from falling back," Salina replied, hanging up her towel. "What about on holidays like Halloween?"

"Well, Halloween is definitely an early darkness, sun-go-down, night. It's one of those dark, dark starry-night, full-moon nights that can be beautiful and mysterious. I guess for me it signals the true, official end of sunny, warm days and the beginning of wintriness—the season of layering and, hence, extra laundromating."

"Hey, maybe you should come out with your own calendar," Salina replied, just watching Ruby scooping some beans into the grinder.

As Ruby ground the beans and smoothed her bobbed, carrot-orange hair behind her ear, she used the staccato grinding noise as accompaniment for thought. "Well you know what," she said abruptly without missing a beat after taking her finger off the button. "I wouldn't just 'put out' a calendar—not twelve faces of Ruby Winters—but I'd take it a step further and move the solstices around, or whatever, for some more daylight. I imagine the farmers would be into it."

"Speaking of farmers," Salina said, bringing up her alto voice and stepping down next to Ruby, leaning with her elbows on the counter to get closer to earshot. "How's our new little Mennonite doing?" She took her eyes off Ruby and then motioned with her eyes to a girl of about 20 dutifully wiping down and cleaning the empty tables. She was just taller than Ruby at 5'5" and even paler—not the really burns-at-the-beach pale but the pigmentally-impaired that just gets no color from exposure to sunlight. Natural sunblock. She wore Lee jeans, an oversized white t-shirt that still caught her farmer girl breasts, and what can only be described as sensible, dark brown shoes indicative of a crossing guard. Her dull brown hair was short, ears shaved out, more common for a woman in her 40's than a girl freshly harvested from high school.

Ruby answered back joining the low-volumed conversation. "Well, she may not be establishing herself as a hot new color in Revlon's lipstick lesbian line, but she sure can wipe down a mean table," she said accentuating her meaning with her eyebrows. "I think it's time to progress to step 2 of on-the-job training."

"What's step 2? I already showed her how to make coffee."

"No, no. Step 2 of table service; flirting while bussing."

"Ruby!" Salina replied semi-shocked. "It's only her second day."

"Don't you know anything about motivation theory?"

"Well, yeah. Intro. to Psych., freshman year."

"How happy do you think she is, wiping tables and washing dishes? We must introduce her to the perks of this low-paying job."

"Do you really think she's gay?"

Salina asked staring at Ruby who was grabbing for a fresh, clean cup. "I mean, I know she looks the part, but she's so Mennonite. Are they allowed to be?"

Ruby straightened herself up after hunching down to retrieve a filter. She looked directly up into Salina's eyes. "Mennonite, Amish, or Hessian girl—you don't need no permission." With that she dropped her full cup of fresh coffee onto her tray and headed toward the tables. Salina laughed a quiet laugh. And then it occurred to her, "What's a Hessian Girl?"

Catching the delayed question, Ruby turned her head and in stage whisper, answered, "Big, bad bully girls. They're everywhere!"

Salina did her best to conjure up an image, but she didn't think she had it quite right. She turned her attention and her lithe body on her wooden heels in retrieval of some more dripped-drying dishes. Then she clogged her way to the kitchen, matching her rhythmic steps to the beat of "big, bad bully girls; big, bad bully girls; big, bad bully girls..." ▲

LEO (JULY 23 – AUG. 22) You always have a smile for everyone except him. Ballroom dancing brings tears to your eyes. **KEY WORD: EGGNOG**

VIRGO (AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22) Relationships improve with no snags. The letters L and R could hold a special significance this month. **KEY WORD: LIGHT**

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22) A new career direction is highlighted. Concentrate on burning candles. **KEY WORD: NICK**

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 – NOV. 21) Your self-esteem is improved this month. Big dogs are an asset. **KEY WORD: GIFT**

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 – DEC. 21) Going home for the holidays holds an interesting significance. Don't worry if you hear bells. **KEY WORD: RED**

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 – JAN. 19) Returning borrowed items is imperative now. Keep in mind that apologies usually work. **KEY WORD: FRUITCAKE**

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 – FEB. 18) Earnings will most likely increase. Be careful of furniture that has no corners. **KEY WORD: HAM**

PISCES (FEB. 19 – MAR. 20) An all around improvement of your state of affairs is expected. Remember to put all of your cards on the table. **KEY WORD: FAMILY**