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Title: *The Lancaster Inquiry*

Date: April/May 1998

Location: LGBT-002 Lancaster, PA Activism Collection

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The Lancaster Inqueery

**Come & Help
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Cleanup!
We need you!**

Volume 5, Issue 2

April/May 1998

FREE

compliments of the Pink Triangle Coalition

Meet E — Up real close & personal with Erika Lutwin, PTC's newly-elected Treasurer

IQ Erika Lutwin, who are you? Give us a searing, authorized version (throw in a lie for fun).

E I am E. better teeth than Austin Powers but not better taste in clothing.

IQ You've heard this one billion times, but HEY, what's up with that initial?

E It's a jock thing and has stuck with me for years.

IQ What brought you to our neck of the woods? How long have you been here?

E I've been in Lancaster for almost three years. I came because someone told me it looked like Kenya. They lied. The Amish look nothing like the Masai (native Kenyans).

IQ When did you come OUT? Was the experience full of nasty, Tori Spelling, made-for-TV drama?

E I came out in college my freshmen year—not too exciting...someone informed me that I had been invited to a party where only women would be attending and my response was..."umm, OK." There was no turning back after that. There wasn't any nasty drama really(though I wish Tori had been there for me) , and I eventually found five insane straight roommates who kept me sane. They would approach fluffy sorority girls at parties and hit on them just to see them freak out. Crazy straight girls.

IQ Is lacrosse, one of your favorite sports, really French? What's your favorite aspect of legame?

E Yes, the word lacrosse is French but the sport is actually from the Native American Indians...the best part is that everyone wears kilts and swears a lot!

IQ Who are you pulling for to win an Oscar? Is Kate Winslet a babe or what?

E Kate is a definite babe with that Minnie Driver not too far behind. It must be



those English accents. I'll be cheering for both of them.

IQ How did you make your way to the PTC? How long have you been involved?

E Of course it was my boyz-to-men Mark and John (current co-prezzies and spousal units) who dragged me into the scary web of PTC. Actually, I really wanted to become more involved with the gay and lesbian community of Lancaster and saw this as a good opportunity to be active and to give the group a female voice... well, another female voice anyway. I've been involved since last October.

IQ Have you ever had the lesbian haircut?

E No...I'm not cutting edge like that.

IQ What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the organization? This is kinda like a job interview, isn't it?

E The strengths of the PTC lie with the commitment of the board members and of course, Inqueery co-editors (direct quote here folks). There are some great activities coming up that I hope will interest people and get them involved with the group. The weaknesses would have to be the lack of participation sometimes from the Lancaster community.

IQ What are your LYKES/DISLYKES about living in our Shangri-la known as Lancaster County?

Lykes... yummy places to eat, early summers, good friends, and my big-ass apartment. Dislykes... the funky smell that blows about from those Amish farms in the spring, and that the Spice Girls will never make a personal appearance here.

IQ We hope to develop a regular Grrrls column for the IQ. Which name do you prefer — Bustin' OUT or Hooters Schmooters?

E I like Hooters Schmooters—you could do fun things with those o's!

IQ Tell me the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the following...

- IQ — E**
- dyke — no, lesbian
 - John Wilkins — oh Lucy
 - community — my kitchen
 - meow — King's Buffet
 - scrunchie — good for keeping chip bags closed
 - biscuit — I don't know?
 - sports bra — thank God!
 - Drew Barrymore — phone home
 - PTC — join now!

IQ What are your hopes for the PTC in '98?

E That we encourage more involvement from the gays and lesbians of Lancaster and that John finally makes the phone calls he is supposed to after board meetings.

IQ Do you have E-mail? Uh, you don't have to answer that. Even though they're pretty smelly, Amish girls are sssimmering, aren't they?

E They simply scare me.

IQ You're apartment ROCKS THIS TOWN. Can we have another party there, uh say, maybe on Arbor Day?

E I'm happy everyone had a good time at the pot luck dinner here (February 28); we will be hosting another gathering here very soon.

IQ Thank you for opening yourself up to our IQ readers.

E No. Thank you for such thought-provoking questions.

Life on the Trail

Have you ever dreamed of finding a better way to meet other gays, lesbians, and bisexuals than a smoke-filled room? In Spring of 1989, Tony Bering had the same idea and wanted to start a hiking group that would meet every Saturday for day hikes. Even though the first trips were only advertised via word of mouth, about 15 people showed up. This new venture lasted about a year.

The group of charter members decided the second year to start planning camping trips once a month. On their first camping adventure, the five brave souls got completely rained out and ended up in a hotel room in Altoona! Not to be hampered by a little rain, the gang went out to the local watering hole and rumor has it that some got friendly with the natives that evening.

The group sure has grown. An average trip has about 25 attending and everything is so organized that it takes hurricane force winds to force anyone into a hotel room.

The season starts off with a fabulous potluck dinner/ planning meeting. In the past these parties were hosted by Chuck Adams in his incredible farm house — and most recently it was hosted in the Attic Bar in Manhiem. These planning meetings are more fun than some parties I've been invited to — and you get to have your opinion heard, everyone present gets a vote toward the season's schedule.

This year's season runs from April to November. (Check out the schedule on back for specifics.) These trips include something for everyone. We camp, hike, swim, go tubing, shopping, site seeing, nightlife, eat out, cook out, meet the natives, play games, listen to music and the occasional talent show (You have to experience this to fully understand). There are those who play board games and sit around the campfire singing songs and telling jokes — while others get dolled up and hit the neighboring towns for a little nightlife.

Although the group was founded by **On the Trail** Continued on the back page.



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In Search of the -Spot

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.

VII. LIKE BROTHER AND SISTER CONT'D

"Do you think you could get 'em to change that awful station identification? Maybe scrap the Michael Bolton trying-to-be-guy. Get a girl commercial singer to belt out a Sheena Easton-kinda promo?"

"Sure. Wasn't she the one who's baby took the morning train?"

"Yep."

"I'm alarmed that you know this," she said calmly. "Why don't you come with me to the station sometime? You could probably give the guys a whole new cheesy lineup."

"Hey, Salinéa baby (He liked pronouncing her name with a Spanish accent). You name the day and I am so there." He took the last slurp of coffee and sat his mug on the porch. "Have you ever thought of guest deejays? Like as a prize for some goofy contest? Maybe just let the person co-deejay—do some hoo-haw banter with the regular guy and get to play and introduce your favorite 10 songs or something."

Salina sat up in her chair and grabbed his arm. "You know, that's not a bad idea. Lou, the general manager guy with the Sansabelt slacks, is always pushing for some new way for us to show we are truly listening to our listeners."

"You mean that whole: You-asked-for-it, you-got-it thing?"

"Exactly. What a great incentive."

"It's the ultimate in customer appreciation," he said craning his neck to see who was mowing two lawns over. "Like fulfilling a fantasy or something. It's one of mine, you know."

"Sorry. Roommates of employees are deemed ineligible."

"Who deemed this? No one has to know we live together in all this sin. I'll give someone else's address. Come on. Please deem me. I have so many songs to be heard."

Salina stretched her smooth feet out for her last bit of sun. She answered with resignation. "You can enter the contest just like everyone else. But if you win, you have to promise to go by DJ Eggy McP."

"More like the Pezmaster of Fluff," he said, pointing a defiant finger at her before he picked up his mug and went inside to shower.

Salina wiggled her toes at the last edge of sun as if to say good-bye to her squirrels.

VIII. REHOUSEHOLDING

The hardwood floor of Andrew's new, third-floor bedroom was littered with magazines, sweaters, CD's, picture frames—mostly containing the pretend photos from when they were bought—and bits and pieces of hardware from his bookshelf leaning against the wall. It was another Saturday morning of not riding bike, not meeting friends at Market, not sitting in a favorite spot to read yesterday's edition of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Andrew counted in his head. This was the fifth Saturday in a row spent rehouseholding. There were two Saturdays of apartment/househunting, one of packing, one to move, and this one devoted to kinda reversing the process.

With every box he cautiously opened, Andrew marveled at the natural lid constructed by the four overlapping flaps—"overlapping," he wondered—

and worried that some queer contents might come popping out, lifelike, at the wrong moment. The moment that one of his new housemates chose to pop up and say, "Hello."

I don't want to feel like I can't be myself, he coached himself, but he didn't want to be quite so loud so fast. Not that he was ever very out and loud. But after just seven days, he didn't think he was ready to scream, "Look at me, I'm Mr. Gay Man. I read gay magazines with beautiful men, I have a few tight shirts I wear that accentuate my gay body that I dwell on much too much in my big gay mirror, I wear a few pieces of slightly-chunky silver jewelry, and, if that wasn't a loud enough commercial, sometimes I even burn big, long, smoldering sticks of gay incense—smell how gay it is!"

Andrew knew he was overreacting. He knew that's what his best buddy, Tommy, would tell him. Tommy was always his life simplifier, the weight attached to his shoes that kept him on the ground. And Andrew did the same for Tommy.

Two nights earlier they both threw on three floor sweaters each of snug to sloopy proportions and ventured into his bedroom window onto the second-floor roof. They both felt like smokers escaping to the cold but neither smoked.

"Oh, I don't know," Andrew said, lightly tormented, tugging at his outer sleeves to cover his hands. "They both seem so nonchalant about the whole thing. John was very curious at first about the typical life of a gay man, asking all kinds of questions from dating to common myths to even sex. It was like he was newly fascinated with a religion."

"Maybe he was fascinated with the church of St. Andrew?" Tommy taunted.

"No, uh," Andrew stopped to consider the possibility. "I mean I kinda wish you were right, but at this point I'd have to so no way. It just seems that since we've been busy with the house, the move and all, he's already skipped a few of those someone-came-out-to-me steps and settled right into acceptance. Or indifference?"

Tommy took a swig of his Yuengling Lager and handed Andrew his. "He doesn't seem the least bit uncomfortable with me, even though I'm the first real gay guy he's ever gotten to know."

"Uh huh, so he says," Tommy said with mock sarcasm. "Well, what about little Kate?" Kate was John's daughter and Andrew's second housemate. "She really is the sweetest, most delightful seven-year-old on the planet. And you know I hate children."

"Yes she is, and no you don't,"

Andrew quickly responded. "I don't really know if John told her about my dark side. But we seem to be hitting it off famously. She told John the other night that she wanted to have me start teaching her field hockey."

"Hmm, could be a future star."

"I really wasn't sure how I'd react to having a seven-year-old around so much of the time; but I have to admit I like the attention."

"I think someone's feeling all 30-something and paternal," Tommy said.

Continued next issue. ▲

Men's Covered Dish Dinner
Welcomes new friends to dinners on Sat. April 18 and May 16. Good fellowship, great food, and fine conversation. Call Tony at 656-0801 for more information:

From the Mailbag

Thanks to the following for their contributions: *Billie Jo Herr, Doug Byler, Ted Neal, and friends at Miglino Associates!*

Dear PTC,

I am writing this immediately upon hearing that Maine repealed its gay right amendment. I've never felt the need to fight back until now, but I've realized none of us can afford to ignore this growing problem.

I want to live in a world where I can be a drag queen and a gay singer without fear, and that can't happen without action and education.

One day in September (1997), there was a booth in Park City (Mall) for the PTC. I stopped by and signed in, but I regretted not doing more. Now I'm ready to stand.

Thank you for standing up for our rights.

Sincerely,
Stehman Schenck

Resources

F&M College LGB's & Allies399-6192
G & L Switchboard of Harrisburg.....234-0328
Interweave (Unitarian Universalist)393-1733
AIDS Coalition Alliance394-3380, 394-9900
Lancaster Gay Helpline397-0691
Millersville Allies872-3157
P-Flag of Lancaster299-7043
Vision of Hope, MCC285-9070
Pink Triangle Coalition 394-6260
Send any PTC correspondence to:
P.O. Box 176, Lancaster, PA 17608-0176

MISSION: The Pink Triangle Coalition of Lancaster is a local organization whose purpose is to promote and support the lives of gay, lesbian, bi, transsexual and transgender people, and to educate the public about our community through increased visibility and awareness.

Newsletter Staff

Editors: Tim Erdley,
Anthony Lascoskie

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On the Trail

Cont. from front page.

men, it is definitely open to all. The ladies who joined us in the past can tell you all about the adventure! Everyone needs to supply their own tent and sleeping bag — and of course personal items and clothes! You will also be assigned a meal (along with other campers). The Club supplies the paper goods, stoves, grills, utensils in common areas for use by all.

If you are interested in more information on the Susquehanna Club, contact the President, Rob Leayman at 503 General Sutter Ave., Lititz, PA 17543. When you sign up for the club (a measly \$10 fee) you receive a fabulous booklet with trip descriptions, camping checklists as well as recipes and camp meal suggestions. As a member your registration for trips are \$5 less than non-members. Don't delay, act now, supplies are running out!

1998 Club Schedule:

Apr. — Tioga State Forest, Wellsboro, PA. — \$20 due 4/13/98

May — Ricketts Glen State Park, PA — \$20 due 5/11/98

June — Ohiopyle State Park, PA — \$90 1/2 due by 4/20/98 Bal. 5/4/98

July — Bull Island State Park, NJ \$25. due 7/13/98

Aug. — Rainbow Mountain, PA — \$25. due 8/10/98

Sept. — Assateague Island, MD — \$20 (2 days) per person, add \$5pp/day due 9/1/98

Oct. — Cape Henlopen State Park, DE — \$10 per person + \$20. per/night site fee due 10/1/98

Nov. — Harpers Ferry, WV — \$30 due 11/9 ▲

Homoscopes

ARIES (MARCH 21 — APR. 19) Critical information is coming your way. Take control of your life before it takes control of you. **KEY WORD:** STEAK

TAURUS (APR. 20 — MAY 20) No one can out-wit you this month. Contact friends that are dear to you, they might have something brilliant to tell you. **KEY WORD:** LETTER

GEMINI (MAY 21 — JUNE 20) Interesting adventures come your way. When your heart is in the right place, you get the best washers at the Laundromat. **KEY WORD:** SAPPHIRE

CANCER (JUNE 21 — JULY 22) Seize the abundance that surrounds you. Temperatures over 80 call for sandals and toe-polish. **KEY WORD:** DESERT

LEO (JULY 23 — AUG. 22) Love will rear its strange head to you this month. If there ever was a time to place an order with International Male, now is the time. **KEY WORD:** PLASTIC

VIRGO (AUG. 23 — SEPT. 22) Be very aware of word play nowadays. Take up quilting as a hobby, it reeks of snobbery. **KEY WORD:** COLORING BOOKS

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 — OCT. 22) It's a good time to conspire with others now. Be wary of clowns, some have evil intentions. **KEY WORD:** CIRCUS

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 — NOV. 21) Be content with the knowledge you have. Let your goldfish pick out her own plastic seaweed after all, she's the one that must live with it. **KEY WORD:** THREAD

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 — DEC. 21) Communication is the key this month. For fun, shave all the hair off your body, chortle at people's reactions. **KEY WORD:** RAZOR

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 — JAN. 19) You will have a tremendous spiritual awakening soon. Travel to a dusty place is in your immediate future. **KEY WORD:** DRAMA

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 — FEB. 18) They say today is the first day of the rest of your life. Who are "they"? Buy a Barbie townhouse for your favorite pet, it will provide hours of enjoyment. **KEY WORD:** MUSE

PISCES (FEB. 19 — MAR. 20) You will be in the right place at the right time. Experiment with tape, there are many kinds. **KEY WORD:** SNOW PEAS

Get Out

Tues., Apr 22, May 28 and June 25, 7 pm, *Pink Triangle Coalition Meetings.* All welcome. Always 4th Tues. at AIDS Coalition Alliance (formerly LAP), 44 N. Queen Street Lancaster, down the hall from Isaac's Deli.

3rd Thur. of each month, L, G & B Book Discussion Group, 7 pm at Borders Book Shop, Across from Park City.

Sat. Apr. 18, Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, 9-12am. Meet at Apria Healthcare Community Room. WE NEED YOU! This is our first cleanup of the year! Participants are welcome to join us afterwards for lunch at *Wish You Were Here.*

Sun. Apr. 19, Betty Finney House Benefit Dinner & Auction, 5:30 pm, \$35. Call 396-8689 for more info.

Sun. Apr. 26, Queer-Skate, 5-7 pm. Mark your calendar and join us at The Castle Rollerskating Rink, 1400 Elm Ave. behind the Stone Mill Plaza, Lancaster.

Sat. May 2, Lancaster's 30th Loyalty Day Parade starts at 1 pm in downtown Lancaster. PTC will join celebration of "My Country, Your Country, Our Country — 30 Years of Patriotism." ▲

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