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The Lancaster Inquirer

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Volume 5, Issue 3

July/August 1998

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PTC Marches in Loyalty Parade

On Saturday, May 2, twelve people, one dog, and the Statue of Liberty marched in Lancaster's annual Loyalty Day Parade under the PTC Banner. Included in the group were friends from the Alliance for Tolerance and Freedom. The Alliance's Executive Director, Laura Montgomery Rutt, said, "The Alliance was pleased to show support for PTC. We were also pleased that the crowd responded positively, sometimes with applause."

Also in the group were students from the Lancaster County Academy, Elizabethtown College, Franklin and Marshall, and Millersville University. Academy student Chad Davis said, "This is a good first step for me. I want to become more involved in PTC's activities."

The 1998 Loyalty Day Parade Committee's open invitation to community groups truly expressed the theme of the parade, which was "My Country, Your Country, Our Country — 30 Years of Patriotism." PTC marching Unit Coordinator Andy Spedden said, "Compared to the exclusion of gay groups from the Boston and New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parades, it's nice to know that fairness exists in Lancaster."

A few days after the parade, PTC received a "Thank You" letter from the Parade Committee, and an invitation to march in next year's parade. Mark your calendar now, and consider joining us on Saturday May 1, 1999. ▲

WANTED: Thigh Guys

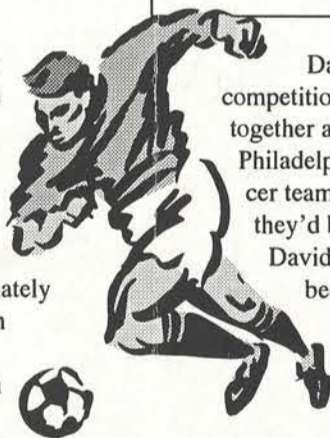
Do you get a kick out of soccer? Did you watch the recent 1998 World Cup action in France and wish you were there? Wish you could knock a winning goal in with your head? Wish you were that Brazilian guy's athletic supporter?

Well, fantasize globally, act locally.

David Walker, a soccer enthusiast from Hershey, has recently been recruiting fellow gay soccer-wannabes from the central PA region. His hope is to form a regional team which eventually would compete just

for the fun of it or maybe even for the Pink Cup (if there were such a trophy).

In the spring he distributed notices to several PTC-like organizations, gay-friendly churches, and even local gay bars. Unfortunately the initial planning meeting in Harrisburg brought only one person out of the locker room closet.



David says he's got some competition lined up if he can pull together a team. "I contacted the Philadelphia Falcons, the gay soccer team from Philly. They said they'd be happy to play us."

David said the Philly team has been together for 10 years. Don't you wanna at least kick that smooth, black and white checked ball once? Pretend it's the

head of an ex-lover? Benefits include: getting fit, lots of delicious camaraderie, and you get to wear those cool tube socks with the vertical stripes that oft times can be stretched all the way up to your increasingly muscular thighs.

If even slightly interested (experience not necessary), contact David Walker at P.O. Box 5, Hershey, PA 17033 or call 717-566-9237. If you thought soccer Moms were trendy, wait until you become a soccer Daddy. ▲

Author Rita Mae Brown Will Speak at FAB 98

Rita Mae Brown, author of the groundbreaking novel *Rubyfruit Jungle*, will be the featured speaker at the 3rd annual Fall Achievement Benefit to be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center on November 14, 1998.

Her recent autobiography, *Rita Will: Memoir of a Literary Rabble-Rouser*, recounts a life of a woman who was instrumental to the formation of the modern feminist and lesbian rights movements.

She was born in Hanover, Pa and adopted by Ralph and Julia Brown. Some of her early childhood memories center around shopping visits to York.

She came to national prominence in 1973 when *Rubyfruit Jungle*, published originally by the small feminist firm Daughters, Inc., sold a surprising 70,000 copies and demonstrated that there was a mass-market for literature that dealt openly with lesbian themes.

As an early member and executive officer of the National Organization of Women, she forced the women's movement to deal with the open participation of its lesbian supporters. She eventually left NOW and went on to help found organizations such as the Redstockings Radical Feminist Group, the National Gay Task Force, and Radical Lesbians.

Her private life also was intertwined with some of the foremost icons in contemporary lesbian identity. Two of her most infamous relationships were

with tennis star Martina Navratilova and Fannie Flagg, author of *Fried Green Tomatoes*. (You may also remember Ms. Flagg as she and Paul Lynne kept it under the wraps for years as regulars on Hollywood Squares.)

The Fall Achievement Benefit was started to celebrate the central Pennsylvania lesbian community and to benefit local gay and lesbian organizations.

In the past two years proceeds have



been given to the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg, The Central PA Pride Festival, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

This year's benefit will start with a Pre-FAB reception, from 6 -7 PM, featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres with Rita Mae Brown followed by the FAB main event from 7 till midnight.

FAB 98 Continued on the back page.

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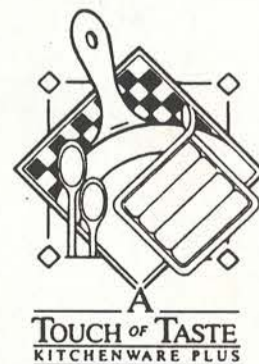
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In Search of the Q-Spot



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.

VIII. CONTINUED

Andrew was about to defend himself when a big gust of noise came quickly out of the night sky. "What the hell?" Tommy shouted.

Andrew, having lived throughout the city, calmly recognized the phenomenon. He pointed towards the nearby hospital. A lifeflight helicopter was circling, coming in for a landing. It's spotting lights were hitting several points of the landing area, like a hunter spotting for deer along a roadside.

Tommy and Andrew settled into their shingled perch, becoming hypnotized by the whipping air less than ten rooftops away. An ambulance in flight.

After the last of the propeller noises floated by, Tommy said, "Wow, what a way to make an entrance."

Andrew shook his head acknowledging the observation. He silently prayed that the passenger was not a little kid.

Out of a shoebox came something smaller than Andrew's hand, wrapped in an old page of comics. He carefully unwrapped it, not quite sure what it was but guessing it was probably fragile. It turned out to be the Wonder Woman pez that Tommy had gotten him two birthdays ago. It came attached to a package with twine coiled around it. Tommy told him the string was Andrew's lasso of truth. He could choose any man, rope his penis, and find out how the guy truly felt about him. The joke came about after Andrew had a string of dates with men who seemed to like him but eventually stopped calling.

He placed Wonder Woman, the pez, on the corner of his window sill and, just for a second, imagined how the string would look around John's finger.

IX. WATCH ME SPIN

"Hey, watch me this time," Kate said with a grin going directly into a whirling spin. She held the skirt of her dress with her forefinger and thumb of both hands. She umbrellaed aimlessly near the alleyway which kissed the rented backyard of her new home. Her dirty-blonde pigtailed which usually fell below her shoulder blades rose to the occasion.

The happiness that showed on her face was enhanced by a cherry Kool-Aid mustache. And by the fact that she imagined some unknown force pulling her around and around.

"Look at my shadow! Look at my shadow!"

Kate's three playmates pointed and giggled. "Your dress is getting fat," Shauna said. It had taken Kate exactly three days to make a new set of friends in her new neighborhood. Shauna and her little brother, Tyrell, lived three houses away. And Bekka lived halfway up the intersecting street.

Kate fell out of orbit onto the grass face and mustache up. "Whew, I'm so dizzy," she said throwing her arms over her head.

Little Tyrell, who was only five, tried spinning, too. He held his baggy, hand-me-down pants as far out as he could, but made it around only twice before landing on Kate.

"Tyrell, you're gonna smush Katie," his big sister hollered sternly before busting into a laugh. Kate was very ticklish

and having a tiny body land on her threw her into convulsive giggles. Shauna and Bekka seized the opportunity to pile on.

"Tickle me Elmo," Ty stuttered as he giggled.

"Yeah, tickle me Kate-mo," Bekka joined in.

Exhausted, the girls fell head-to-head looking up at the sky, breathing heavily. Ty tried to tickle their toes, not ready for the silliness to end.

"Why did you move?" Shauna asked.

"My Dad wanted a smaller place. We used to live in a house on Fourth Street with two floors and an attic. They let me finger paint on my bedroom walls. Then last year my Mom left."

"She just left?" Bekka asked, rolling around to her stomach.

"Where'd she go?" Shauna added.

"Well," Kate took a deep breath and began to explain as if she'd explained this 100 times before and wanted to get the details right once again. "It's not that she stopped loving me. And she still loves my Dad. But she got lost inside and had to find herself again."

"Huh?" Bekka asked, wrinkling her nose. "Do you know where she is? Do you see her?"

"This week she's in Oklahoma. I got a post card from her, um, the other day. It had a cowgirl on it ropin' some kind of dirty cow. I think she might call me Friday night."

Kate's Mom, Pearl, took up driving truck after her younger brother, Pete, committed suicide at age 27. She had loved him dearly. After several weeks of silent grief, she packed a few things and told her husband and daughter she had to keep moving. Keep ahead of her sadness and try and figure out why. Why her brother would jump off Chickies Rock. Why she didn't know why. Why she was left in the world to continue on.

Though she was only seven, only finishing up first grade, Kate found a way to make sense of her leaving with her father's help.

"Do you miss her much?" Shauna asked, picking grass with her left hand.

"Uh-huh. We both do," she flipped and propped her head up with one hand. "But I think, and Dad says I'm right, that she'll be back soon singin' and dancin' with us like she used to."

Kate began braiding Bekka's brown hair.

"Well, why are you and your Dad living with this other man?" Bekka asked, relaxed at having her hair organized.

"Oh, you mean Andrew."

"Yeah, that little bald guy," Shauna said.

"He became one of my Dad's friends a little while ago. He's like an uncle only better cause he reads to me and is gonna teach me field hockey like the high school girls play. He's gay, too."

"What!?" Bekka rolled around, unloosening her braids. "You mean like Elton John?"

"Does he wear sparkly dresses?" Shauna asked.

"No," Kate answered matter-of-factly. "He just likes other men better than women. But I don't think he has a boyfriend."

"A boyfriend?" Bekka said smiling.

"Does he like your Dad?" Shauna asked sitting up, waiting anxiously for the answer.

Kate squinted. "Well, yeah. They're friends. But they don't hug and kiss or

hold hands on the couch." She concentrated on smoothing her dress between her legs. "But if my Dad were gay, I'd definitely want him to be with Andrew."

All three heads turned as the screen door slammed shut. Andrew wandered out with some empty boxes.

"Hey, Katie Kate. Whatcha girls doin'?" Bekka whispered, staring at him, "He doesn't look like a man that would kiss another man."

They all giggled and ran to their bicycles propped against the fence and scooted down the ally. Kate flashed her Kool-Aid smile at Andrew, waved and peddled down the half grass, half gravel miniature boulevard.

Continued next issue. ▲

From the Mailbag

Dear PTC,

Just came back to Berkeley to find another *Lancaster Inquery* in my mail. I can't tell you how good it is to have the *Inquery* to keep me up on Lancaster's latest. I might be a California girl now, but I left my heart in Lancaster.

And yet it was disappointing to see your slam on Amish women in the interview with E. Substitute "Queer Girls" or "Black Girls" for your statement that "Amish Girls...simply scare me!" and you'd deservingly get a lot of shit. Have some respect for your neighbors—remember "we're everywhere!"

Barb Wenger,
Berkeley CA

Ed's Note: Although this remark was meant in jest...your point is well taken.

Rita Mae Brown Coming to FAB 98

Cont'd from the front page.

In addition to Ms. Brown, the Main Event will include dinner, a silent auction, an award presentation and dancing with live music by the Headliners. Individual tickets are \$65 for the main event and \$125 for both Pre-FAB and the Main Event. Reservations will be coordinated through Table Captains. If you are not contacted by a Table Captain by Oct. 1, 1998, call 1-800-406-3321 to make your reservations. FAB 98 is certain to be the best ever. Don't miss your chance to attend this exceptional event. ▲

Resources

F&M College LGB's & Allies399-6192
G & L Switchboard of Harrisburg.....234-0328
Interweave (Unitarian Universalist)393-1733
AIDS Community Alliance394-3380, 394-9900
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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Men's Covered Dish Dinner

Welcomes new friends to dinners on Sat. Aug. 22 and Sept. 19. Good fellowship, great food, and fine conversation. Call Tony at 656-0801 for more information.

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Homoscopes

ARIES (MARCH 21 – APR. 19) Finish up lingering tasks. If you believe in what's around that corner, it will be there. **KEY WORD:** SWEET TARTS

TAURUS (APR. 20 – MAY 20) Change your point of view and the answers will become clear. If you feel like changing your name, go ahead and do that too. **KEY WORD:** TWIX

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20) Don't put off the jobs that need to be done now. Decorate with purple streamers and balloons, and the party is already started. **KEY WORD:** CRUNCH

CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22) Money figures prominently this month. Look for green, triangle shaped logos to bring you good fortune. **KEY WORD:** JU JU BEES

LEO (JULY 23 – AUG. 22) It's time to negotiate a deal. How many times have I told you? Never, ever wear white pumps with dark slacks. **KEY WORD:** IKE & MIKES

VIRGO (AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22) A job you've done recently is bringing you attention. Pink tie-dyed chiffon surrounds you. **KEY WORD:** GOOD & PLENTY

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 – OCT. 22) A very busy, creative time is ahead. Your big coming out ball is being planned complete with confetti. **KEY WORD:** PIXIE STIX

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 – NOV. 21) A good time to make a romantic commitment. If there is a puddle, you'll find it. **KEY WORD:** GUMMY BEAR

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 – DEC. 21) Some work needs to be done at home. Big, furry, dog-like creatures fill your waking moments. **KEY WORD:** MILKY WAY

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 – JAN. 19) Learning about romance is a priority this month. For some odd reason, ragtime music plays loudly in your head this month. **KEY WORD:** THREE MUSKETEERS

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 – FEB. 18) It's time to buy that something you've been admiring for a while. Dust off those plaid, glittery gauchos, you're going to need them. **KEY WORD:** KIT KATS

PISCES (FEB. 19 – MAR. 20) Don't put off any decision making any longer. Whirling dervishes are your playmates this month. **KEY WORD:** SNICKERS

Get Out

Tues., July 28, Aug. 25 and Sept. 22, 7 pm, *Pink Triangle Coalition Meetings.*

All welcome. Always 4th Tues. of the month at AIDS Community Alliance (formerly LAP), 44 N. Queen St. 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. Upcoming Books: Aug – *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil;* Sept – *Wonderbread & Ecstasy;* Oct – *Drag Queens of New York.*

Sat. Aug. 1, Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, 9am-12. Meet at Apria Healthcare Community Room, 240 Harrisburg Ave. WE NEED YOU! The more the merrier. Participants are welcome to join us afterwards for lunch at *Wish You Were Here.*

Sun. Sept. 20, Queer-Skate, 5-7 pm. Mark your calendar and join us at The Castle Rollerskating Rink, 1400 Elm Ave. behind the Stone Mill Plaza, Lancstr.

Sat. Oct. 10, Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, 9-12am. Meet at Apria Healthcare Community Room. Last of year, honoring Nat. Coming Out Day—mark your calendar. ▲

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