

# PACT-Youngstown

## Newsletter

People of All Colors Together

July 2002

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### **Nineteen Years Young PACT-Youngstown's 19th Anniversary Weekend, May 17-19**

—John Vivo

—Van Ford

**P**ACT-Youngstown celebrated its nineteenth anniversary on the traditional third weekend in May.

Friday night's welcome reception at our house was casual, comfortable, and enjoyed by all. We had renewal memberships from Bobby and his new beau, Willis from Pittsburgh, and the honorable member of PACT-Youngstown, Russell from Chicago.

After enjoying good food and camaraderie, we ventured off to our annual welcome party at The Queen of Hearts. Tristan and Bobby had a little buffet for all to enjoy and a special dancer for us to enjoy more. After a fun-filled evening for everyone, it was time to get home and sleeeppp. Yeah, right!!

Saturday's day-lonnnng party at Queen Acres was great!! Just sitting around in the rain and cold breeze was fun, relaxing, and just what the doctor ordered. Everyone did

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**P**ACT-Youngstown held its nineteenth anniversary on May 17-19: just a casual affair with a small attendance. A welcome party was held at John Vivo and Sterling Anderson's home at eight o'clock Friday night. How wonderful it was talking to old and new friends and eating some good food made by our members.

Everyone then prepared for a short trip to The Queen of Hearts in Warren. Our gracious hosts, Tristan and Bobby, set out a buffet table, and at midnight there was a dancer for our entertainment.

Family obligations limited Jim's and my attendance to the bar outing and the visit the following afternoon to Queen Acres, where cold weather could not diminish the warmth of Chuck and Bob's hospitality.

I am truly looking forward to our twentieth anniversary next year. In the mean time,

Continued, p. 2, col. 1

### **Spring Midland 2002**

—John Vivo

**C**hicago is my kind of town, as the song goes. The spring Midland meeting was hosted by MACT-Chicago. The whole weekend was very enjoyable. It's always nice to see our brothers from our sister chapters, many of whom we see only two or three times a year. The Friday-night reception held at the hotel was a nice beginning for a great weekend. After rounds of the hello hugs and kisses and good conversations, all ventured into the streets. And do you know how the girls are when they're out of their norm? Hot and wild! Let's just say everyone had a good time.

The meeting, since we did not meet last fall, was a little more intense than usual for some. Chip (St. Louis) turned over the co-chair spot to Eric Lee from Detroit, and Victor from Cincy will take over for Brian of Kansas City in the fall. Our new secretary is from Dallas, and DA remains the

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**Vivo, 19**, cont. from p. 1

what they wanted to do. Clifford from Cleveland made his annual venture to Y-Town and spent the day with us. Some even visited the mother-in-law's cabin. All we did was eat and drink and eat and drink more. The food came and went as quickly as the hours flew by.

For those of us who aren't a grandma or grandpa, Club Blue Note was our place to party that night. After the after-hours cocktails at our house, those who didn't pass out finally went to bed.

Sunday morning, when at least I was expecting Willis to cook the way he did Saturday, boy, was I wrong! All I got was a bagel. Thanks, Willie! After a Bloody Mary or two, we decided to get moving. Off to the Pyatt Diner for, yes, you guessed it, more cocktails and food. Since Willie didn't make breakfast, we had a wonderful late lunch, and it tasted sooo good! My house guests left one by one, and the house was very quiet when we got home, but you can tell it was a weekend with lots of love: good times spent with lots of friends.

**Ford**, cont. from p. 1

let's think ahead to the twenty-fifth, thirtieth, and fortieth anniversaries and work to increase membership in PACT-Youngstown.

**Vivo, Spring**, cont. from p. 1

treasurer. The normal bickering and complaining and bitching was performed by the masters during the meeting, but in general all went well. Youngstown was nominated by our honorable sister Russell from Chicago to host next year's spring regional for our twentieth anniversary celebration. We were approved 100%, and people are already preparing to come home for a family reunion.

The banquet was superb, and the entertainment was fantastic. Oh, by the way, Sterling sang. Off to the streets we went, and who knows what time we came home?

Before we left for Youngstown, Les and Steve provided the setting for a delicious breakfast buffet, complete with the bubbies.

The committee should be commended for a job well done, for it was a successful and wonderful weekend. I even hit the lottery while there!!

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## **Cleveland Pride 2002**

—Tom Copeland



une 15, 2002, was the first time that a mayor of Cleveland honored a Cleveland Pride demonstration by appearing

at the step-off ceremonies and the first time that a rainbow flag has ever flown over the statehouse in honor of the day. Many distinguished speakers addressed the small, umbrella-carrying crowd, the most celebrated being Barney Frank. Of course, the rain dampened everything (except our spirits), and the sound system brought to our ears only a few scattered



words of the no doubt stirring speeches.

Once the parade started, our little party—Jim B., Lynn C., Chuck F., and I—fell into line with Chuck M. and Bob T. and the All Saints group, but we soon left them behind, for Lynn's wheelchair required complicated steering by committee, and it took all of our combined efforts just to stay out of the gutter. Jim pushed the wheelchair while I held the umbrella, moving from side to side as the wind shifted. Lynn, meanwhile, clad in a bright yellow pancho, waved with delight at spectators (yes, there



were five or six spectators), motorists, and the drivers of the floats that we passed in our reckless dash for the finish line.

We made very good time, covering a good fifteen city blocks in under half an hour. At last we had no one before us but a tired and bedraggled Dorothy staggering in her stiletto-heeled ruby slippers, a tin man who had lost his drawers and whose shoulder piece had sunk to his elbow, a sodden scarecrow and lion, and an aged but beaming tiara-ed



Glinda in a motorized wheelchair in the form of a large shell, who frolicked and careened backwards and forwards in loops and pidoodles. At this point I begged Jim to slow down. I didn't exactly know where we were going, and I didn't want to be first.

Eventually, as we approached the lake, it was impossible to use an umbrella because of the wind, but the downpour had eased to a steady rain, so we endured. Police were friendly and sympathetic; after all, misery loves company, and they did not blame us for the weather.

After we arrived, the rain stopped, and eventually the sun even came out so that we did dry off and were able to enjoy some food and entertainment, including a comedian whose jokes brought smiles to the security guards as well as to the crowd. Lynn pointed out on the ride home that the mood was very different from that of Columbus's pride celebration, where rows and rows of Christians shouted and preached against the partiers. We had some Christian booths at our affair, but they were on "our side." We did have a moment of alarm when we saw someone carrying a large cross, but as it neared, we saw a rainbow scarf on it and were reassured.

### Who's a Wheel-Watcher?

—John Vivo



Vanna, here I come!! On Monday, June 24, I was in Cleveland for a *Wheel of Fortune* contestant search. Was I thrilled and excited! There was a room filled with seventy-some people, mostly bubbly fun and excited about just being there. We played the game like on TV, and whoever solved the puzzle got a prize. I got an embroidered T-shirt (Dinner Roll of Dimes). Next came a written

test, twelve puzzles in five minutes. Some were hard but most easy. Then the hard part: cutting the crowd down to thirty. I made it! Boy, was I sweating it! I was the next to the last called. Now the real fun. We were called to the front, where we had to pretend to be on TV. The whole time we were judged and watched and scored on our ability to follow instructions, scream and shout, play the game correctly, and just have fun. The judges wouldn't promise to make anyone in particular a contestant, but those chosen to be possible contestants were sent letters to that effect. Yes, I received my letter on Saturday, July 6, two weeks before they said the letters would be mailed. Anyhow, they give you notice of from fourteen days to a year before you are scheduled. Believe me, if I'm going to see Vanna, you'll know.

### Ryan's on Our Side

—Chuck Mauric

Dear Senator Ryan:

During your campaign I often saw you on the corner of East Market St. and North Rd., seeking our support. Today I stand on the corner of this information superhighway seeking your support—support against H.B. 234 or similar Senate legislation. This bill is divisive, mean-spirited and far



more sweeping in its effects than it might appear. By tightening restrictions on the benefits available to unmarried persons, it threatens the welfare of single-parent families and foster children as well as that of hundreds of thousands of persons, both heterosexual and homosexual, who currently maintain committed, monogamous relationships of mutual support and love.

Hundreds of major corporations extend nondiscrimination as well as partner benefits to gay and lesbian employees. Please impress upon your fellow Senators that this bill can be bad for business and could deter a company from locating in our great state. I was extremely disappointed in my representative Mr. Latell for voting for this bill. June Lucas whom he replaced would never have voted for it. I thought any good Democrat would have voted NO on this legislation. I would never support Mr. Latell for Congress.

Let me assure you, Senator, that we gay and lesbian people have the same hopes and dreams, trials and tribulations as every other American. The rights we seek are not special, just equal. Please do not support this effort to legislate bigotry.

Dear Mr. Mauric,

Thank you for your e-mail regarding House Bill 234, proposing to establish state policy against same-sex marriages, a bill sponsored by State Representative William Seitz. As you are aware, and I have also been informed, this bill is a priority to some Republican House members, however Senator Richard Finan, President of the Ohio

Senate has shown little interest in this legislation. I appreciate you contacting me on this important

The opportunity to be threatened, to be humiliated, and to live in fear of being beaten to death is the only "special right" our culture bestows on homosexuals.

—Denver Post columnist Diane Carman

issue and I would like to share my views on H.B. 234.

Currently, H.B. 234 has been passed out of the House and has been introduced in the Senate, however it has not been assigned to a committee as of now. I have many reservations with provisions within this bill, and therefore would not vote in favor of this legislation should it reach the floor of the Senate for my consideration. First, I must point out that same-sex marriages are currently not recognized by the Ohio constitution and that no U.S. state allows for same-sex marriage. This bill provides

that Ohio may not recognize other state's unions, however in 1996 the U.S. Congress passed legislation that did just this. Therefore, these provisions in H.B. 234 are unnecessary.

I am also concerned about the constitutionality of this legislation as it attempts to discontinue the rights of the political process to a particular group of people. H.B. 234 also prohibits the Ohio legislature from ever making laws that would afford nonmarital relationships the "specific benefits of marriage." I believe this action is unconstitutional and has been deemed so in previous court cases as a violation of the Equal Protection principal.

Furthermore, as our budget crises still remains and the economic status here in Ohio and nationwide is in flux, I do not believe this should be a priority to the State of Ohio. I personally do not feel it is my position to legislate on the individual liberties of whom people choose to marry.

Again, thank you for expressing your views regarding this legislation, your comments are welcomed and I will take them into consideration as the legislative process continues. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any other questions or concerns in the future.

Timothy J. Ryan

State Senator , 32nd District





## Tips on Writing to Your Legislative Representatives

**Y**ou are strongly encouraged to hand write your letters and fax them to the state or Washington office, or both offices. Snail mail has been compromised on Capitol Hill by anthrax. HINT: Congressional reps always read handwritten letters from their constituents FIRST. Hand-write your letters and fax them; don't mail them.

## Toronto Pride 1,000,000 Strong

—Tom Copeland

**T**he Pride Parade in Toronto brought out about a million people according to a television broadcast. A police sergeant said in an interview that only six arrests were made, at the end



of the parade, for public nudity. The laws of Ontario permit women to show their

breasts, and there were plenty of breasts bared, but the number of naked penises in the parade itself could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

The parade lasted a good



two hours and included religious, commercial, and supportive groups (like PFLAG and educational organizations) as well as GLBT groups. The cosmopolitan atmosphere was exhilarating, with the Gay Muslims (see above), Portuguese, South Asians, Pacific



Islanders, Palestinians, Jews, and South Americans.

Since the city's garbage collection agency is now on strike, volunteers went about collecting toonies (two-dollar coins) for cleanup after the parade.

It was gratifying to see so many straight people there, mostly supporting their gay family members (and PFLAG's representation in the parade itself was significant), but there

were also the het couples, girls generally holding boyfriends firmly by the hand. One idyllic couple sat in a grassy corner away from the beer gardens and sound stages. He held her cradled in his arms and legs, his eyes roaming over the sea of flesh before them, while she chatted cheerfully into her cell phone.



## Sterling & the Indian

—John Vivo

**R**ecently Sterling sent a tape of his singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" to the Cleveland Indians' front office as an audition to sing before a home game. Gus, a friend of ours, made the connection through his friend who is general manager of this department of the Indians franchise. Sterling has received the confirmation letter stating that he is being considered and will be notified with a few dates for him to choose from. So, oh, say can you see Sterling on home plate with a "few" people watching him sing? We'll send an update when we hear something more. Batters up! Hopefully there'll be no strike, only balls.



# Garage Sale

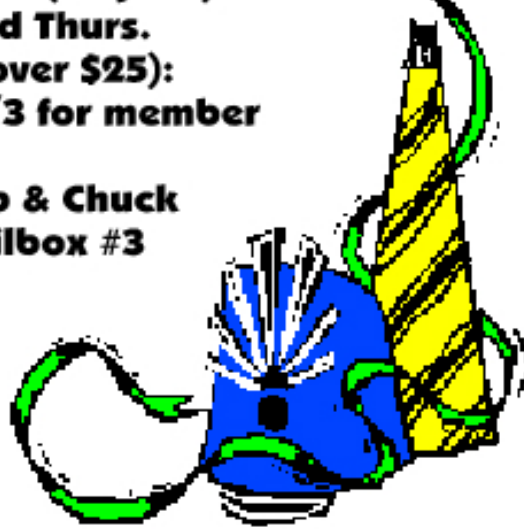


**Saturday & Sunday  
August 17-18  
724 E. Boston Ave.  
10 a.m. till ?**



**A benefit for PACT-Youngstown  
Bring clean, good items (no junk)  
for set-up Wed. and Thurs.  
High-priced items (over \$25):  
1/3 donated to PACT, 2/3 for member**

**Questions? Call Bob & Chuck  
330-534-5904, mailbox #3**



# **GLBT AUGUST FEST**

**A GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDERED, AND QUESTIONING  
PICNIC AT YELLOW DUCK PARK, SPONSORED BY PFLAG  
AND THE PRIDE CENTER OF GREATER YOUNGSTOWN**



**Saturday, August 24, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.**

**Tickets can be purchased in advance at meetings  
of PFLAG or Pride, from bar-tenders, or at the door.  
Price (\$10) includes park entrance fee, pavilion rental,  
food, and soft drinks.**



**Yellow Duck Park is located on Route 46  
past Fairgrounds and Western Reserve Rd.  
It is a family-oriented park with water slides,  
swimming, volleyball, bocci, softball  
(bring equipment).**



**For details, call Cathy  
at 330-782-4520.**



## NGLTF Releases Largest-Ever Survey of Black GLBT People



If you ever wanted to know about the demographics of black GLBT people in the United States, how they live, and how they perceive their major challenges and issues. The book is called *Say It Loud: I'm Black and I'm Proud*. This and related works can be obtained at [www.nglftf.org/library](http://www.nglftf.org/library).

### Disclaimer

The views expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of the executive board, editor, or chapter.

### Contributions to the Newsletter

Send articles, letters, notices, reviews, poems to Tom Copeland, 313 N. Belle Vista Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44509 ([tcopeland@neo.rr.com](mailto:tcopeland@neo.rr.com)).

## Member Survey

Would you like to be an officer? Yes No Which one?

Where would you like to see our chapter go?

What activities would you like to see us participate in?

What do you think we should stop doing?

What restaurants do you frequent?

What fund-raising activities would you like to see our chapter do?

Are you ready for a dues increase in May? Yes No  
(Too bad. It has to come.)

Are you willing to plan/host a fund-raising activity? Yes No  
Are you pleased with the current officers and activities? Yes No  
Are you satisfied in general with PACT-Youngstown? Yes No  
If no, do you have other suggestions on how to improve?

Send answers to John Vivo, 724 E. Boston Avenue, Youngstown, OH 44502, or e-mail to [jvflwrnm@aol.com](mailto:jvflwrnm@aol.com)

### Calendar of Events

(PACT/Youngstown Events in Bold)

**Th 7/23 Dine-out, 7 p.m., Pyatt Street Diner, 66 Pyatt Street (off Market at the bend). Dinner specials \$4.95 to \$12.95 till 8 p.m.**

**Sn 7/28 Pot luck, 5 p.m., at Jim and Van's, 1821 Old Furnace Rd.**

F-Sn 8/3-11 NABWMT convention, Miami, FL

**W 8/14 PACT-Youngstown general membership meeting, 7 p.m., Club**

**Blue Note**

**St-Sn 8/17-18 PACT-Youngstown benefit garage sale (see flyer)**

**Th 8/22 Dine-out, 7 p.m., The Gatsby, 54 Westchester Dr., Austintown.**

**Daily dinner specials from \$5.95**

**St 8/24 Party with the Pride Center and PFLAG at Yellow Duck Park (see flyer)**

**flyer)**

**Sn 8/25 Pot luck BBQ, 5 p.m., Bob & Chuck's, 1890 N. Fox North Rd., Hubbard. Expect 12 hearty eaters. Bring covered dish. Meat to be provided by PACT.**

**W 9/11 PACT-Youngstown general**

**membership meeting, 7 p.m., Club**

**Blue Note**

**F-Sn 8/20-22 Fall Midland regional meeting, Dallas, TX, in conjunction with Dallas Gay Pride**

