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New dates set for 2002 Gay Games

by Wanda Pico
 Special to Q-Notes

MONTREAL, CANADA—New dates for Gay Games VI and a change in Federation of Gay Games leadership were the major pieces of business handled at the Federation's recent meeting in Montreal.

"Gay Games VI and Cultural Festival — Under New Skies" will now be held in Sydney, Australia November 2-9, 2002. Although the original September dates coincide with the end of the northern hemisphere summer, Sydney organizers cited warmer local weather and longer daylight hours as the deciding factors for the change.

"At the Gay Games last summer in Amsterdam, the streets were filled with people having a great time late into the evening," said Tom Seddon, Sydney 2002 board member. "In September the sun goes down in Sydney around 5:30pm, but by November there are an extra two hours of daylight. We're convinced this change is the right thing to do, and we're happy the Federation Board has approved it enthusiastically."

Sydney 2002's representatives announced ambitious outreach goals for the Asia/Pacific region, an area underrepresented at previous Gay Games. They also described their staffing structure, with many volunteers already in place, and their plans for obtaining government support and corporate sponsorships.

Sports competitions will be clustered in two main zones, one at Olympic Park in Homebush and the other at Sydney Harbor, making it easy for participants to attend a number of different events. Plans are to also bring some cultural events directly to the athletic sites.

In a separate development, the Federation of Gay Games Board of Directors replaced its Executive Committee when the officers stepped down to permit a change of leadership.

"The Federation is a very different organization now than when it was founded 10 years ago," said Acting President Gene Dermody. "We have more and more sports and cultural groups joining the Federation Board and fewer individuals. The groups have taken an increasingly active interest in the day-to-day business of the Federation and that's requiring us to examine our internal management structure."

"Over the next several months we're going to look at improving communication between the Acting Executive Committee officers, the other directors and the Federation's various committees," Dermody added. "It's a tribute to the commitment of our former officers that they have remained on the Board to help us go forward with the Federation's work."

The Acting Executive Committee consists of Dermody (San Francisco; International Wrestling Alliance), Vice President Derek Licety (Oakland, CA; Individual Federation Director), Treasurer Joseph E. Pasquarella Smith (Seattle, WA; Team Seattle), Recording Secretary Charles Carson (New York; International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics) and Corresponding Secretary Roy Vestal (Denver, CO; Lesbian & Gay Bands of America).

The acting officers will serve until regular elections are held at the Federation's Annual Meeting in Berlin, Germany October 18-22. The meeting organizer will be Team Berlin which had one of the largest contingents at Gay Games V in Amsterdam.

"Our transition team has a lot of work to do over the next six months," said Dermody. "We got a good start in Canada...thanks to our host, Equipe Montreal. It will be great to take the Federation back to Europe for its next meeting."

For information about the Federation of Gay Games and its committee projects, access their web site at <http://www.gaygames.org>. ▼



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Female	May 28
Impersonation	Seduction
Show at Midnight!	June 4
Featuring: Leslie Lain,	Studzz
Angel Austin &	June 11
Special Guests	Erous
	June 18
	Billy and the Boys

Saturday, June 5 - Super Saturday Variety Show
Saturday, June 12 - Super Saturday Variety Show
Saturday, June 19 - Super Saturday Variety Show
Saturday, June 29 - AIDS Walk '99 Benefit Show

Patio Bar is Open!
Every

Saturday Super Saturday Shows	Sunday Karaoke at 11:30	Tuesday Karaoke at 11:30	Wednesday Mystery Nite!	Thursday Local's Night with Bubbles No Cover; \$1 draft
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"COURTYARD AT TIME OUT!"

the art of meeting women

More talk on small talk

by Rhona Sacks
 Special to Q-Notes

A woman told me, "I always stammer when first meeting a woman. I can never think of anything to say; it's as though my mind goes blank. Once we get the conversation going, I'm fine. But, until then, I sound like an idiot."

A perfect ice breaker for this woman (and the rest of us) is a pertinent question because it stimulates interest. The question can be about anything going on around you. Take a look at your surroundings; it will supply you with an ample number of conversational starters.

A good question invites discussion. This is why an open-ended question ("who," "what," "when," "where," "why," and "how") is preferable to a closed-ended question (requiring a "yes" or "no" answer). An open-ended question encourages a woman to talk. Make the question positive and non-intrusive. You don't want to make a woman feel uncomfortable with a question which is negative or too personal; she may become closed and defensive.

"What do you think about...?" is a great

question with which to strike up a conversation. Every woman enjoys being asked her opinion. Asking an open-ended question shows a woman you care about what she thinks. This helps to forge a bond between the two of you. Another benefit of asking an open-ended question is that it helps you to discover common ground. Whenever you and another woman identify mutual interests and values, an emotional connection is created. We all like being around women who share our enthusiasms.

If you ask a closed-ended question, you will get a "yes/no" answer. Your question may be answered, but your interaction may also be over. Ask closed-ended questions to get information ("Do you like the exhibit?" "Are you a friend of the hostess?"); ask open-ended questions ("What is your favorite piece in the exhibit?" "How do you know the hostess?") to get a dialogue going.

However, there are some open-ended questions which are conversational killers, such as: "How are you?" "What's up?" and "What's new?" These questions are not only vague, their overuse has virtually stripped them of all meaning. Likely answers you'll hear are, "Fine" and "Not much." The conversation dies, right in front of you. Stay away from such mind-numbing questions. ▼

[Rhona Sacks is the author of the #1 Bestseller *The Art of Meeting Women, A Guide for Gay Women* (Slope Books, 1998).]

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