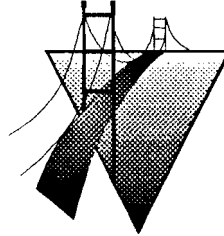


First Anniversary Issue!

Erie Gay Community Newsletter

Published by BRIDGES



January, 1994

Celebrating the goodness & diversity of Erie area's lesbian, gay & bisexual community

☛ = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

Calendar

Important Note: Events listed here are specifically gay or of interest to a lot of lesbian/gay people. If you know of an event that should be listed here, please get the info to us by the 20th of the month. For out of town events, call a day or two before to confirm that it is still on; mistakes can occur and circumstances can change at the last moment. Also, please note our e-mail address! From CompuServe, 70431,1622 or from Internet 70431.1622@compuserve.com

Dec 31-Jan 23—Compassion Quilts: County-Wide AIDS Project (Dunkirk NY)

Exhibition at Adams Art Gallery, 600 Central Avenue, in Dunkirk. Coordinated by Kaelene Olson. (716)366-7450. Hours: Weekdays till 4:00 p.m., Friday till 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

☛ Jan 7—Shades Dance for Women (Buffalo) 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

at Unitarian Church, 695 Elmwood. Donation \$5 (more if you can, less if you can't). Shades is a women of color organization. For info call (716)845-6152.

☛ Jan 7—Jewish Gay Men and Lesbians (Buffalo) Inaugural meeting of a new organization in Buffalo, at 7:30 p.m. For information call Roger at (716)877-3934.

☛ Jan 7—Women's Pro Beach Volleyball On ESPN 12:30 a.m.

Jan 8—"Midwinter Night's Dream" Concert by City of Good Neighbors Chorale (Buffalo) At Unitarian Church, Elmwood and West Ferry. Ticket info: (716)883-1154.

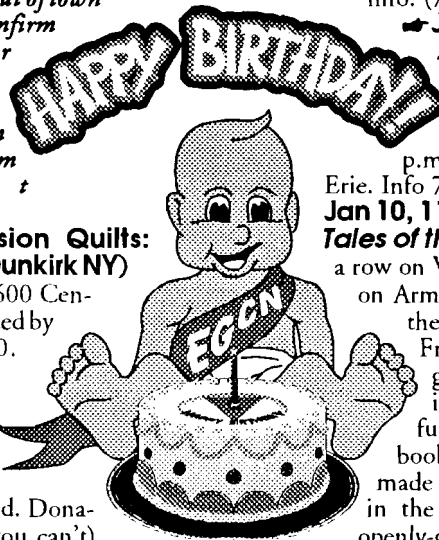
☛ Jan 8—Bodybuilding 1993 American Fitness Pageant On ESPN at 10 p.m.

☛ Jan 9—Integrity: Eucharist and Social Time 6 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Erie. Info 774-0903.

Jan 10, 11, 12—American Playhouse: Tales of the City On 9 p.m. three nights in a row on WQLN and WNED(PBS). Based on Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*, the 1976 novel that takes place in San Francisco. The novel's substantial gay content will pretty much be left intact. If the miniseries is successful, there's a good chance that other books in the Maupin series will be made into films. Among those appearing in the film will be Olympia Dukakis, openly-gay actor Sir Ian McKellen, Karen Black, and *Advocate* columnist Lance Loud.

The major gay character—Michael "Mouse" Tolliver—is played by Marcus D'Amico, from the Tony-winning play *Angels in America*. His lesbian roommate, Mona Ramsey, is played by Chloe Webb (*Sid and Nancy*).

Jan 13—*Lips Together Teeth Apart* (Pittsburgh) Performance of the play on this date will benefit Lambda Foundation/Borelli AIDS Fund. The play will also be shown on other dates in January, though not as



Calendar - turn to page 3

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and our friends & families in the Erie area. We wish this newsletter to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *EGCN* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. *EGCN* is a cooperative effort between lesbian/gay groups and individuals to help our community develop and thrive.

Ad Rates

Businesses and Sponsors! Show your support and reach Erie's lesbian/gay community directly! Advertising space is now available in all issues for just \$20 for an eighth page ad, \$35 for a quarter page ad, and \$65 for a half page ad. Write the address above or call our Advertising Director at (814) 455-0549 for further details!

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Thanks to Micheal Miller for the cover art!

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and each other. Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the staff nor those of the component groups.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support exploitation of minors.

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the authors should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newsletter, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. If you wish to have your full name published, you must send a written and signed note that gives us permission to do so. This publication will not "out" anyone.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit news for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us.

Materials should be sent to: *EGCN*; PO Box 3063; Erie, PA 16508-3063. Call (814) 456-9833 for more information. Email: CompuServe: 70431, 1622.

Before submitting, please send SASE for writer's guidelines.

a benefit. This is the play that had the Cobb County, Ga. County Commissioners so concerned about the arts bringing the "gay agenda" into their community that they cut off funding to the arts. The play is about two straight couples who spend a weekend in the Fire Island home a gay man left his sister when he died of AIDS. Call City Theatre at (412)431-CITY Tickets for this date only are \$50 and \$100.

➔ **Jan 13—Andrew Lloyd Webber Story** Profile of the composer of *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Evita*, and other musical hits. Features excerpts from the shows. On A&E at 9 p.m. and 1 a.m.

➔ **Jan 14—Men's Coffeehouse** 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie.

➔ **Jan 15—10% Network/Jamestown Social Group Game Night (Jamestown)** Bring your favorite game(s) to the Unitarian Church at 1255 Prendergast. For a short time at the beginning, there will be a discussion about what the group wants to do about the Feb. 26 Cause for Celebration! (AIDS benefit). For info call John (716)664-5556.

➔ **Jan 15—Friends From the Heart Meets** 10:30 a.m. at Well Being Center, 710 Beaumont Avenue, Erie. For info 838-0123. Recently-formed group that helps to meet "direct" needs of people with HIV/AIDS (food, clothing, emergency rent, transportation, etc.) Friends, family members, people with HIV/AIDS, and anyone who cares...all are welcome to attend and/or get involved.

➔ **Jan 15—Lawrence of Arabia** On TNT at 10:35 p.m. Epic adventure of the gay British hero T.E. Lawrence, whose sexual orientation is pretty much left in the background except in one scene. 222 minutes long!

➔ **Jan 16—LGLV Meeting** Preparing to push Senate Bill 1218, which is a hate crimes bill that provides stiffer penalties for gay-bashers and other people who commit violent acts against people because of the group they belong to. Your help is urgently needed! Meeting is at 5 pm at 227 West 5th Street, 1st floor. For information call Greg at (814)833-3258. Also, see related article on LGLV-Erie in the local news section of the newsletter.

➔ **Jan 19—Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of WNY Annual Event & Tenth Anniversary Celebration/Reunion (Buffalo)** 6:30 p.m. Hyatt Regency Hotel. Dinner, awards, dancing. Info: (716)855-0221.

➔ **Jan 20—HIV/AIDS Erie County Coalition: First Meeting** 5-7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 134 W. 7th, Erie. All persons and groups working on or having resources for dealing with HIV/AIDS are welcome and encouraged to attend. The convenors of this meeting are hoping that out of it will come a coalition where people concerned with HIV/AIDS communicate and share with each other. Organizations, individuals, businesses...if the issue concerns you, be there! For more info call Stephen Brockwell at the American Red Cross 833-0942.

➔ **Jan 20—International Sweethearts of Rhythm** 9:30 p.m. on Discovery Channel. Documentary about an all-woman multi-racial jazz band in the 1940s.

➔ **Jan 21—"Work the Beach" Summer Fantasy at Lizzie Bordon's Part II** Break the winter monotony! Summer-themed drag show. Starts at 12 midnight. Cover charge \$2.00. Hosted by Chantal Chablis.

➔ **Jan 22—Judgment (1990)** On Lifetime at 4 p.m. Drama about a priest and the eight-year-old boy he sexually abused.

➔ **Jan 22—Light of Day (1987)** With lesbian rocker Joan Jett. Drama about a brother-sister bar-band in Cleveland. On WGN at 4 p.m.

Jan 22, 1994—Bridges Dance/Pizza Party See ad on back page!

➔ **Jan 25—Jamestown PFLAG Meeting** Call (716)488-1264 or (716)1529 for info.

➔ **Jan 26—Best of American Muscle Magazine** 1:30 p.m. on ESPN

➔ **Jan 26—Cat On a Hot Tin Roof (1958)** Neutered adaptation of Tennessee Williams' play, which



featured a gay married man and the problems that that caused in his marriage. The gay aspect was taken out of the film, so you have a story with a husband who's refusing his wife's sexual advances because he's immature or something. A powerful drama anyway. 12:55 a.m. on TNT.

✦ **Jan 27—Maya Angelou Speaks at Behrend** 8 p.m. Penn State Behrend College (Erie Hall), in Erie. Maya Angelou is an African-American woman who is a poet, historian, author of bestsellers, actress, playwright, civil rights activist, producer and director. She wrote the pro-diversity poem *A Rock, A River, A Tree* which she read at President Clinton's inauguration.

✦ **Jan 27—Victor/Victoria (1982)** On TNT at 11:25 p.m. Musical comedy set in the 1930s. A gay man (Robert Preston) convinces a struggling female singer (Julie Andrews) to disguise herself as a gay count who performs as a female impersonator. Into the mix comes a straight man (James Garner) who finds himself mysteriously attracted to "Victor." Robert Preston's character was one of the first positive gay male characters seen by mainstream U.S. movie audiences.

✦ **Jan 27—The Boy With Green Hair (1948)** On AMC at 5:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. A boy's hair turns green overnight, and people suddenly start treating him badly (sound similar to some people's coming out stories?).

✦ **Jan 27-Feb 20—Bent (Pittsburgh)** Martin Sherman's highly-acclaimed play about Nazi persecution of gays. At Upstairs Theatre, 4809 Penn Avenue (412)361-5443.

✦ **Jan 28—Tennis: Australian Open, Women's Finals** On ESPN at 9 p.m.

✦ **Jan 28—Joan Baez in Concert (Cleveland)** Palace Theater, Info and tickets 1-800-766-6048.

✦ **Jan 28—Secrets of Making Love to the Same Person Forever** On Playboy Channel at 2 a.m.

✦ **Jan 29—Whoopi Goldberg: Chez Whoop!** Stand-up performance on HBO at 3:45 a.m.

✦ **Jan 30—Tennis: Australian Open, Men's Final** ESPN at 10 p.m.

✦ **Jan 30—Divine Madness!** Bette Midler captured in concert on Comedy Central Channel at 8 p.m. Younger gays—who may only know the Divine Miss M through her Disney/Touchstone films—may be surprised to learn that she got her start in show biz performing at gay baths, and her concerts are really popular with gay men.

✦ **Feb ?—AIDS Benefit at Sneakers (Jamestown)** Benefit sometime in February, date not decided on at this writing, check at the bar.

✦ **Feb 6—Teacher TV: Teaching the Diverse Classroom** On The Learning Channel at 6 p.m.

✦ **Feb 12—Womyn's Variety Show (Cleveland)** At the Great Hall—the Civic. All-lesbian show put on by Oven Productions. Advance tickets recommended...they go quickly. Cocoon is looking into carrying the tickets; also, you may try calling Gifts of Athena Bookstore (216)321-7799.

✦ **Feb 12—Womyn's Valentine Dance (Buffalo)** Unitarian Church 695 Elmwood, 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m., with DJ Cindi Eveleigh. \$5 (more if you can, less if you can't).

✦ **Feb 14-21—National Condom Week** Info: (415)332-4066.

✦ **Feb 18—Concert for Life (Buffalo)** Benefits Life Memorial Park Foundation (AIDS memorial park in Buffalo). Holy Angels Church, corner of Porter and Fargo Avenues. Performances by Madeline Davis, Michael J. Maffei, Anne Marie Szpakowska, The Queen City Chorus, and very special guests. (716)298-4313.

The Erie Playhouse
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THE COCKTAIL HOUR

By A.R. Gurney, the author of *Love Letters*
January 6-9, 13-16, 20-22

THE COCKTAIL HOUR, by A.R. Gurney, is a Broadway long-run hit you will love. Telling of a playwright who returns home to get permission from his rather stuffy parents to produce a play he has written about them, THE COCKTAIL HOUR is both hilarious and poignant, and written with unflinching warmth. Enough warmth to heat up the coldest of January yet!

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- Frank Rich, NY Times
"Sparkling and funny!"
- Eith Oliver, The New Yorker

Entertainment Notes

- ☆ **KIDS IN THE HALL** You may wish to turn in to the Comedy Central Channel sat. 12:30 p.m., Sun. 7:30 p.m., Mon-Fri 2:30 p.m., weekdays to catch the new episodes of *Kids in the Hall*, an improvisational comedy troupe from Canada. One of their members, Scott Thompson, is very openly and proudly gay (he smooched another guy during one sketch recently) and one of his characters, Buddy Cole, runs a gay bar, offers up marvelous monologues, and is flaming and funny. (Comedy Central is 7B on Erie Cablevision.)
- ☆ **AND YOU JUST THOUGHT HE WAS ANNOYING AS HELL:** A new booklet charges that the PBS children's show character **Barney** the dinosaur is "straight out of the New Age and the world of demons and devils." The new booklet, *Barney the Purple Messiah*, is written by Joseph Chambers, a right wing preacher with a radio program that reaches four states. What is it about Barney that Chambers thinks is so sinister? Barney teaches children to appreciate other people, Chambers says, and thus is "teaching kids that we must accept everyone as they are—whether they're homosexuals or lesbians."
- ☆ **COWGIRLS UPDATE:** The U.S. release of the lesbian-themed movie *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* has been postponed, reportedly so that the film can be reworked. But the soundtrack album, recorded by lesbian cowgirl **k.d. lang**, is out now. It's called, appropriately enough, *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, on the Sire label.
- ☆ **GANGSTA RAPPED:** In what will hopefully be trend, two black-owned radio stations have decided to pull the plug on "gangsta" rap, the variety of rap that glorifies violence and degradation of women, gays, and other groups. In his Dec. 9 nationally-syndicated column, African-American writer **William Raspberry** points out that while not all rap is degrading or violent, gangsta rap seems to be driving out the other kinds of rap. He writes, "...it is false that rappers only reflect the violent reality of youthful existence. They intensify that reality and make it more ordinary (and therefore acceptable) than it might otherwise be. Listeners become desensitized to the point where things once unspeakable—gratuitous violence, rape, gay-bashing, sexual objectification—become, well, speakable. And then doable." **Jesse Jackson**, and at least two African-American women's organizations have applauded the move, and more action against gangsta.
- ☆ **COUNTRY AIDS FIGHT:** Country music stars are getting into the fight against AIDS, aiming their message at the rural audiences who think they're safe from the "big city disease." **Mary Chapin Carpenter** and **Mark Chestnutt** are co-chairs of the campaign, which uses 35 country stars who will appear in ads set to debut Jan. 13. Called Country Music Awareness Campaign, the print, radio, and TV ads will promote condoms, sex education, safer sex, and ways to prevent AIDS transmission. Among those appearing in the ads are Dolly Parton, Clint Black, Wynonna Judd, Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette, Kris Kristofferson, the Kentucky Headhunters, and George Jones.
- ☆ **SOAP:** The Comedy Central Channel is running the series *Soap*, a late-1970s take-off on soaps that featured a not-too-well-known Billy Crystal as Jody as one of the first gay characters on U.S. TV. Soap airs Saturdays and Sundays at 6 a.m., weekdays 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ☆ **SISTERS:** This went by without our mentioning it, but a story line in the NBC drama *Sisters* dealt with Alex (Swoosie Kurtz) and her reactions to her new boss, who is a lesbian (Nora Dunn). The series dealt really well with Alex's attitudes toward the lesbian boss. Alex has since been laid off of that job, so for the time being the lesbian boss character may be gone. You may want to watch for it in summer reruns, though.
- ☆ **CHEERS:** To **TV Guide** for giving "Jeers" to the morons who spread and believed rumors that *Sesame Street* characters **Bert** and **Ernie** were gay, and

caused Children's Workshop Television to issue a statement denying it. *TV Guide* suggested, "Maybe it's time for *Sesame Street* to tackle the subject [of homosexuality]. Kids—and a few parents—need to learn that a person's sexual orientation really shouldn't matter." (Dec. 25, 1993 issue).

- ☆ **CELEBS FOR GAY GAMES:** A number of celebrities are making themselves available for Gay Games IV fundraising. At the Art and Fantasy Auction that will be held in Houston on Jan. 12, bidders can go for: a personal tap dancing lesson from **Gregory Hines**, a walk-on role on ***Northem Exposure***, drinks with **Diane Sawyer**, lunch with film actor **Billy Baldwin**, a swimming lesson from Olympic gold medalist **Bruce Hayes**, a trip behind the scenes of ***Geraldo*** with **Geraldo Rivera**, and lunch with **Joan Rivers**.

☆ **SHOWS ON CABLE:**

The Broadcast Tapes of Dr. Peter, in which a man with AIDS keeps a video "diary" of the disease and its effect on him. It's showing on HBO Jan 4 (1:30 p.m.) Jan 14 (11 a.m.) Jan 22 (2 p.m.) and Jan 26 (1:30 p.m.).

Aliens 3 Sigourney Weaver and pals in another terrifying adventure. On HBO Jan. 1, 9, 23.

Backstreet Justice World premiere of a drama about a tough female cop in Pittsburgh who works to clean up the streets and clear her late father's name. On HBO Jan. 6, 10, 15, 18, 28, 31.

Ben-Hur (1959) Written by gay author Gore Vidal, this epic is set in the time of Christ. Vidal says it's a story of two men who are ex-lovers, and how that love turns into hate. On HBO Jan 7 at 10 p.m. and on the Disney Channel (Check listings.)

Follies in Concert Goes behind the scenes of Stephen Sondheim's musical. On A&E Jan 20 (9 p.m., 1 a.m.) and Jan 30 (9 a.m.)

Hof, Sexy & Safer Comedian Susan Landolphi's funny approach to safer sex will be on Playboy Channel Jan. 5 (9 p.m., 2 a.m.) and Jan 21 (12 a.m., 3 a.m.)

Ladykillers Someone is killing the dancers at a trendy male strip joint...On HBO Jan. 10 and 27.

Making of Philadelphia is a behind-the-scenes look at the new Tom Hanks film *Philadelphia*, set to be released nationwide in mid-January. On Showtime Jan 8 (3:05 p.m.), Jan 13 (9:40 p.m.), Jan 17, (8:30 p.m.) and Jan 21 (6:40 p.m.)

Mass Appeal (1984) Set in a seminary, this drama follows what happens to a bright young priest who must leave his position because he is gay. The older priest who deals with the young man ends up questioning his religion and what it stands for. Stars Jack Lemmon. The cable guides contradict each other about whether or not this is going to air this month. Here's the schedule from *TV Host*; if it's wrong, and you really want to see the movie, you can find it in a lot of video outlets. On Encore Jan 23 (9 p.m.), Jan 29 (11 p.m.), Jan 30 (8:30 a.m., 5 p.m.)

☆ **SPORTS IN JANUARY:**

Billiards: On ESPN Jan 5 (1:30 a.m.), Jan. 9 (8 p.m.), Jan 16 (8 p.m.) Jan 18 (3 p.m.) Jan 25 (1:00 p.m.) and women's billiards tournament will be shown Jan. 30 (8:30 p.m.)

Figure Skating: *U.S. Championships* on ABC Jan 6 (9 p.m.) Jan 8 (9 p.m.) *U.S. Open Championships* on TBS Jan 9 (7 p.m.) Jan 16 (3:05 p.m.). *Vail Figure Skating* on USA Network Jan 26 (9 p.m.) and Jan 29 Noon. *Pro Championships* on NBC Jan 29 (4 p.m.)

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Stonewall 25

An Erie area group has formed to help organize and encourage travel to Stonewall 25 and events just before it.

You can make your own travel arrangements, of course, but for those who want to travel and stay with people from the area, there are buses and hotel rooms being arranged for you.

Reserving Rooms

A block of rooms has been reserved for Erie area people at a Days Inn five miles outside Manhattan, (across from the Lincoln Tunnel, and within easy distance of a bus routes). 20 rooms have been reserved, each with a capacity for four people.

Ten 4-occupant rooms have been set aside for people who want to make a little gay mini vacation out of the trip. These rooms have been reserved for June 23, 24, 25, and 26 (4 nights and five days, i.e., from noon on Thursday till noon on Monday). The entire stay will cost \$81 per person. This does not include the cost of the bus trip (bus trip + hotel costs \$151 altogether).

If you are mainly interested in attending the big Sunday event (that is, the actual Stonewall 25 march) you can stay over on Saturday night for \$20. There have been ten rooms (also for four occupants) set aside for this arrangement as well. Bus trip + overnight stay will cost \$70 altogether).

Bus

A bus will cost \$70 for round trip. For the 4-night, 5-day stay, buses will leave early Thursday and go back Monday. For the overnight trip, buses will leave early Saturday, people can have some time to relax and have fun on Saturday evening, stay over Saturday night, go to the march on Sunday, leave Sunday night, travel throughout the, and arrive early Monday morning.

Making your own arrangements

If you want to make your own arrangements, call Unity 94 at (212)633-9494 and they can tell you where there will be vacancies.

Vacancies are running out fast. For that reason, you are strongly encouraged to make your reservations

now. Remember, event organizers are expecting up to a million people, from all over the world, and those people are going to be taking up a lot of rooms!

Important

The rooms for Stonewall 25 have to be reserved *very soon* and partial payment *must* be paid fairly soon. If you want to do this, call Deb at 453-2785 or Michael at 456-9833. Plan now! The rooms are filling up *fast!*

Black History Programs

All people who strive for human rights and dignity can learn from and be inspired by the history of African-Americans. Here are some of the programs that are showing this month:

King: A Filmed Record from Montgomery to Memphis On Disney Jan 4 (9 p.m., 4:15 a.m.), Jan 17 (11 p.m.), Jan 27 (12 a.m.). Follows King and achievements and setbacks of the civil rights movement that he led from 1955 till his death in 1968.

My Past is My Own Two black teenagers time-travel to 1961 to experience the civil rights movement firsthand. With Whoopi Goldberg. On Showtime: Jan 4 (8 a.m.) Jan 5 (5:55 a.m.), Jan 8 (8 a.m.) Jan 16 (8 a.m.) Jan 28 (10 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.).

The Vernon Johns Story (1993) Drama about the black minister who started the civil rights movement in the 1950s. James Earl Jones. On WGN Jan 17 at 8 p.m. and Jan 23 at 5 p.m.

The Ernest Green Story (1993) Based on the true story of a black youth who struggles to get a better education at a newly desegregated school. On Discovery Channel Jan 17 at 3:35 p.m. ▼

Thoughts for the New Year

by Lynne S

Hiya! They asked me to contribute to the *EGCN*, but this time I'd like to share someone else's writing with you...the author is unknown to me, but the words are some of my favorites. Sometimes I think we get caught up and forget what's really important. May this new year be a year of peace - between countries, planets, people and Nature, and you and me. Enjoy.....
Lynne S.

Let this coming year be a little better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do, but couldn't find the time. Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge and replace it with some pleasant memories.

Share a funny story with someone whose spirits are dragging. Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Pay a debt. Give a soft answer. Free yourself of envy and malice. Encourage some youth to do his or her best. Share your experiences and offer encouragement. Make a real effort to stay in closer touch with family and good friends. Resolve to stop magnifying small problems and shooting from the lip. Find the time...all of us are given the same allotment - 24 hours a day. Give a compliment. It could make someone's day. Think things through. Forgive an injustice. Listen more. Apologize when you realize you were wrong. An apology never diminishes a person. It elevates him or her. Don't blow your own horn. If you've done something praiseworthy, someone will notice sooner or later. Try to understand a point of view that is different from your own. Few things are 100% one way or another. Examine your demands on another. Lighten up. Take a quiet walk alone when you feel like you're blowing your top. Laugh the loudest when the joke is on you. The sure way to have a friend is to be one. We are all connected by humanity and our needs for one another. Avoid malcontents and pessimists, they drag you down and contribute nothing. Be kind. Be gentle. Don't discourage a beginner from trying something risky. Nothing ventured means nothing gained. Be optimistic.

The can-do spirit is the fuel that makes things go. Go to war against animosity and complacency. Express

your gratitude. Read something uplifting. Deep-six the trash. You won't eat garbage; why put it in your head? Don't abandon your old-fashioned principles. They never go out of style. When courage is needed, ask yourself, "If not me, who? If not now, when?" Take better care of yourself, remember you're all that you've got. Pass up the second helping - you really don't need it. Vow to eat more sensibly. You'll feel better, and look better, too. Don't put up with second hand smoke, nobody has the right to pollute your air or give you cancer. If someone says, "this is a free country," remind him or her that the country may be free, but no person is free if he has a habit he can't control. Return those books you borrowed. Reschedule that missed dental appointment. Clean out your closet (haha). Take those photos out of the drawer and put them in the albums. If you see litter on the sidewalk, pick it up instead of walking over it. Get real. Phoniness is transparent as well as tiresome. Take pleasure in the beauty and the wonder of Nature. A flower is God's miracle. Walk tall. Look people in the eye. Don't be bound by superstitions or fears. Smile more. You'll look ten years younger. Don't be ashamed to say "Have a good day." Don't be afraid to say "I love you."

Say it again. Say it still one more time. They are the sweetest words in the world. ▼

Have a Healthy New Year!

South Shore Counseling Group
55 E Main Street
North East PA 16428
Warm, gay-affirmative counseling for a full
range of individual, couple & family problems
Dale A. Allgeier, MSW, LSW
(814) 725-8504
Fees based on a sliding fee scale

Other Voices: A Year of the Newsletter

By Jacquelyn

Several years ago, I went to visit a friend one warm summer night. We sat on her front porch, watching the cars going by, rocking on her glider and talking. We talked about many things, including our dreams, our fantasies, our hopes for the future.

I can still remember how nervous I felt when I said I dreamed of one day being part of a newsletter for the Erie lesbian community. I had never stated that dream aloud before, new to another person, and it felt at the time like an impossible, almost ridiculous, fantasy. The newsletter I imagined was patterned on Cincinnati's newsletter, *Dinah*, with which I had had all too brief contact while living in a Cincinnati suburb.

The newsletter that I dreamed of has since become very real. I am proud to be a part of *EGCN*. This newsletter that you hold in your hand has far eclipsed the newsletter that I imagined. Michael is in part responsible for that because his skills with the computer are indeed formidable. His talent with PageMaker, his access to a scanner, gives the newsletter the look of polish and sophistication that it currently has. He is to be applauded. Deb is in part responsible for the quality of the newsletter because her tireless dedication to the accuracy of what we print gives us a confidence in the information we provide that we would not otherwise have. Her ability to think, write and research are indeed formidable. Our advertisers, who have the courage to be gay friendly in a relatively small city, are to be applauded. We could not move forward nearly as well without their very important financial support. As I look back at the issues that we have done over the past year, I am truly amazed by what I see. I see a newsletter that has begun a very real

maturation process. From what was once little more than a calendar of events, it has evolved into what it is today. Hopefully, as we have grown, the appeal of the newsletter has grown as well. The support of our advertisers has helped us to achieve this growth. We thank them.

In May of this year, *EGCN* received a grant from the Lambda Foundation. I will never forget the day Michael called and said, "We got the grant!" I had to excuse myself and put the phone down. I remember twirling, whirling and spinning through my living room. Screaming "Yes! Yes! Yes!" in a not-too-bad imitation of a jock. And why not? It was one hell of a touchdown. The grant meant many things and different things to each of us, but for me, it was an incredible emotional high. I believe the newsletter is important because I believe it can be used to bring us all together, to give us a sense of community and of belonging that is all too lacking in modernized America. The grant money gave us a new credibility in our own eyes, hopefully in the eyes of our community, and in the eyes of some of our advertisers, who then started to buy yearly ads. The validation of the Lambda Foundation strengthened us by renewing the sense of commitment and dedi-

cation that we already had.

In the coming year, I will be alternating this space with a guest columnist. Next month, someone new will be here and the following month, I will be back. I am hoping that the sharing of the space will help to give us all a sense of the rich diversity within our own subculture.

So, until the next time, live well and laugh a lot.



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Dinner Thur-Sat 5:30-9:00

Jewish Reform Congregations Adopt Gay Positive Resolutions

by Larry Sawdy

Larry Sawdy is an active member at Temple Anshe Hesed in Erie, PA and co-chairs its social action committee. The Temple is an affiliate of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which held its biennial convention in San Francisco in October 1993. The UAHC adopted two gay-affirmative resolutions at this convention. Mr. Sawdy brings these resolutions to our attention in an attempt to show the community another religious organization that is not homophobic and anti-gay.

In 1977, 1987 and 1989, the Union of Hebrew Congregations Biennial Convention strongly affirmed the right of gay men and lesbians to equal protection of the law and to full protection of their civil rights. Because of the growing numbers of state and local referenda and statutes which could deny civil rights protections to gays and lesbians, the UAHC felt obligated to register a strong protest by resolving.

1. To actively oppose state and local referenda and statutes restricting the civil rights of gays, lesbians, or bisexuals;
2. To work in coalition with other national and local organizations (including, but not limited to, religious organizations) to mount a national campaign to counter the anti-gay rhetoric of the Religious Right;
3. Not to hold regional or national meetings in any state or municipality which has a law in effect on or after January 1, 1995, denying legal protection to the civil rights of gays, lesbians or bisexuals. If a regional body cannot comply with this resolution within its own boundaries, it will be exempted;
4. To call upon its affiliates and the Central Conference of American Rabbis to adopt a similar position;
5. To call upon the Commission on Social Action to join in amicus briefs to strike down judicially such referenda and statutes.

In addition, because committed lesbians and gay couples are denied benefits granted to heterosexual couples; the UAHC resolves to:

1. Call upon our federal, provincial, state and local governments to adopt legislation that will:
 - a) Afford partners in committed lesbian and gay partnerships spousal benefits, which include participation in health care plans and survivor benefits;
 - b) Ensure that lesbians and gay men are not adjudged unfit to raise children because of their sexual orientation, and;
 - c) Afford partners in committed lesbian and gay relationships the means of legally acknowledging such relationships, and;
2. Call upon our congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion to join with us in seeking to extend the same benefits extended to the spouses of staff members and employees to the

Places to get EGCN...

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St.

Eric

Cocoon, 1164 W. 10th

Cup-a-ccino's, 18 N. Park Row

Lizzie Bordon's, 3412 W. 12th

Perceptions, 2654 Peach

Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street

Edinboro

Book Shelf, 200 Plum

Earthshine, 131 Meadville Street

EGO meetings

Jamestown NY & Warren PA

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown

Rainbow Connection, Warren 723-1719

Sneakers, 100 Harrison, Jamestown

Want to make newsletters available in your group, community, or business? Call us at (814)456-9833!

Coming Out in High School

by Mark

[Editors note: Mark is a local high school student who in December publicly acknowledged to his school that he is gay]

My coming out at school was a painful and happy experience. It was a time when I learned who my true friends were, and found acceptance in strange places. This time was also one of the best times of my life. I finally got to know what it was like to be free of the burden of the closet. To be able to tell the absolute truth about myself, and to let others know the absolute truth about myself. Now I don't have to lie about who I am. I don't have to use the closet door as a protection from the outside world. Now I can be who I am, inside and outside of *our* community.

I was asked by the staff of *EGCN* (bless their dear hearts) to write a day by day account on my coming out at my high school. (I won't give the name of the school for obvious reasons.) So far the responses have been such: 22 accepting, 7 non-accepting. Most of the accepting were friends already, but unfortunately, some of the non-accepting were also my friends. One thing that really shocked me though, was that one of the accepting was an Assembly of God. So much for the stereotype.

I think that the reason it was so easy for me to come out is that there is a general air of acceptance around kids my age (15 or so.) Of course, there have been some times when I had to dodge questions that I thought were too personal. (e.g., one person asked me if I was a moaner or a screamer. My response was that it depended on the size.)

Okay, enough with the background. This is my first week from beginning to end. Enjoy.

Thursday Dec. 9: This was the day I went to the counseling office to give them the information on the

Gay Youth Pride group I was starting. The half-dense secretary practically yelled out, "There's a kid out there with information on a gay youth group. Are ya interested?" There were about six people in the waiting room with me. So I just ignored the looks. And the race was on.

Friday Dec. 10: Nothing much happened today. Just some curious looks and some whispered comments.

Monday Dec. 13 & Tuesday Dec. 14: I was sick and I wasn't in school. The rest of that week was rather uneventful except for Friday when I came out in French class.

Monday Dec. 20: I came out in my math, typing, study hall and again in French class.

Tuesday Dec. 21: This day was the most eventful. I came out in my science class. (That was where I got asked the question) and at the lunch table. They both went well. At the lunch table there

was one person who moved to another table but he came back later. He said just for me not to come on to him. I told him that was about as unlikely to happen as me coming on to a girl. Later, though, he said something that surprised me.

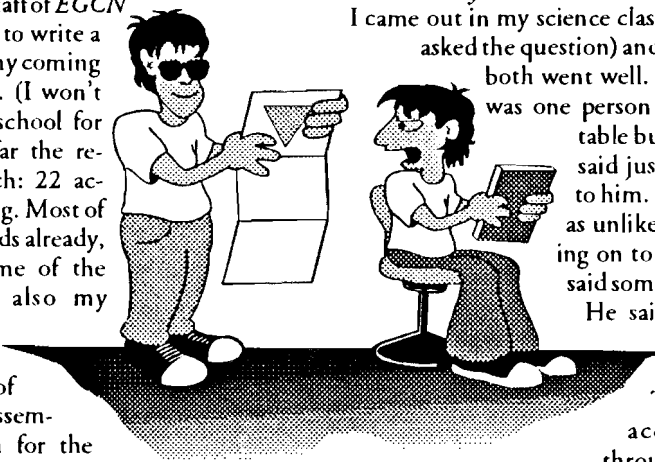
He said, "You know, it's just like sitting with you before you told me."

That gave me a feeling of acceptance that lasted through the whispers in the

hall.

Then in my last class of the day, something horrible happened. I came out *again* (it's starting to get tired) in French class and there were about six people who were real assholes about it. But these were also six people whom I didn't really care about what they thought. Oh well, here is the ratio at the end of the days.

47 people who accepted me and don't make a big deal out of it. 17 people who let their ignorance guide their minds. May your closets hold only your clothing. *Play Safe!* ▼



Area AIDS/HIV News

AIDS Council of Erie Suspends Operations

Citing funding shortages, the AIDS Council of Erie's board of directors decided to suspend all services effective Dec. 31, 1993. The board is hoping that this will be a temporary measure while new and additional funding sources are explored.

In the meantime, persons with HIV/AIDS and people concerned about the work the council had done will want to know where to go from here. So here are some leads:

Case Management. Targeted case managers help people with HIV/AIDS to coordinate the various resources (health care, financial, etc.) that are needed. Jeff Schwenk had served tirelessly as case manager at the AIDS Council.

Before leaving, Jeff shredded all the records of clients, and sent each client a list of various case managers to choose from. People—AIDS Council clients or not—can also get the targeted case manager list through the Erie County Department of Public Assistance. Another way to locate case managers is through the Rural AIDS Alliance, which you can call at 1-800-359-2437. Friends from the Heart can also help; call 838-0123.

Direct Client Services. This means help given directly to a client in need: transportation, food bank, emergency financial assistance, nutritional supplements, etc. People with HIV/AIDS in Erie Co. can turn to Friends from the Heart (838-0123), which recently formed to provide direct client services (See next article). Also, individuals with HIV/AIDS are entitled to have access to direct client services moneys through the Rural AIDS Alliance (call 1-800-359-2437). Catholic Social Services and the Episcopal Church have expressed interest in this area. There are also a number of food pantries in the county that can provide free food to persons in need. The AIDS Council at this writing has reportedly \$5-6,000 in their special direct client services fund (this is where money from recent fundraisers went, and it's not mixed with other moneys at the Council). This will go to another group doing direct client services; Friends From the Heart is going

to apply for that money, and unless it's already been promised to some other agency, Friends would be the logical choice.

Until Friends From the Heart's food pantry is up and running, people with HIV/AIDS may want to know where they can go for free food. Bridges/*Erie Gay Community Newsletter* has put together a list of local food pantries, which will include information that can help people figure out what would be the most convenient for their needs. Call 456-9833 or write *EGCN*, P.O. Box 3063, Erie PA 16508. Confidentiality will be respected.

Education. AIDS Council staff members Mary Lee Brooks and Jeff Schwenk provided an enormous AIDS education service to the Erie County area, speaking before groups as varied as employer associations, elementary students, and church groups. They developed a large inventory of educational resources that could be made available to concerned people in the area. It is unclear who will pick up that function. Printed materials are being divvied up (*Bridges/EGCN* inherited a good bit of this). The AIDS Task Force will be taking over at least some of the educational work that Mary Lee and Jeff had been doing.

Volunteers. People who want to do volunteer work can contact Friends From the Heart (838-0123, see related article in this section) and/or Stephen Brockwell at 833-0942.

New Group: Friends From the Heart

A newly formed group in Erie will provide direct assistance for people with HIV and AIDS.

Friends from the Heart will provide help with rent, food, special nutritional supplements, clothes, transportation, shoes, moving, and other needs that a person with AIDS might have trouble with. "When a person with AIDS calls you about needing help, they usually need that help desperately," says Deb Monohon, an HIV/AIDS case management worker, who is helping to organize the group. "We intend to do our best to help meet that need."

Friends From the Heart is made up of family and friends of people with AIDS, and other people who just care. Volunteers are encouraged to get involved.

Help and donations are needed in the following areas:

Transportation. This is the biggest need right now.

Food. Non-perishable items.

Storage area. Place to keep food for food pantry.

Personal care products. Toilet paper, paper towels, soap, etc.

Money. Checks payable to Friends From the Heart, send to FFH, c/o Well Being, 710 Beaumont Ave., Erie PA 16505.

For more information call Deb Monohon at 838-0123.

AIDS Task Force

A new organization is looking to provide AIDS education to younger people. Stephen Brockwell, from the Erie chapter of the American Red Cross, says that there are two things that the task force is interested in:

Youth/peer education program. This would identify youth leaders who would in turn provide peer education for their peers. Peer education has proven to be one of the most effective ways to reach younger people.

Community presentations in high schools. These would be done by volunteer instructors.

For info call Stephen Brockwell at 833-0942.

AIDS Coalition

A new coalition will bring together organizations, individuals, professionals, and others who are working on or concerned about the issue of AIDS. The purpose of the coalition will be to share information about what everybody is doing and what resources are out there.

The first meeting of the coalition (it hasn't even been named yet) will be on January 20 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 134 W. 7th, from 5 till 7 p.m.

For more info call Stephen Brockwell 833-0942.

World AIDS Day in Erie

Along with the rest of the world, Erie observed World AIDS Day.

Gannon University had an AIDS Awareness Week in last days of November and the first days of December. This came out of the Social Concerns office.

For several days before World AIDS Day, the AIDS Council had made available black armbands with red ribbons. They were distributed at numerous locations throughout Erie.

On Nov. 30, a Memorial Service was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. They had clergy from seven different denominations participating. Mayor Savocchio, County Executive Judy Lynch and a Gannon student each gave readings as a part of the service. After the service, the clergy held a laying on of hands (a healing service). The service itself was videotaped, but only the service was taped, out of respect for confidentiality, attendees were not taped.

On Dec. 1, there was a World AIDS Day observance in Perry Square. There were speeches by Rep. Linda Bebko Jones, Erie Mayor Joyce Savocchio and AIDS Council staff member Jeff Schwenk. Several plaques were presented to the AIDS Council in recognition of their work. At the conclusion of Schwenk's rousing speech, the church bells around Erie could be heard ringing in observance of the day, and those present in Perry Square rang bells that had been passed out. The bell-ringing was to symbolize the breaking of silence around the issue of AIDS in Erie. The World AIDS Day observance, the memorial service the night, and the black armband/red ribbon distribution were all organized by the AIDS Council of Erie County.

On Dec. 2, Cup-a-Ccino's held an AIDS poetry reading. People read their own poetry and the works of other poets. The place was packed.

Bridges/Erie Gay Community Newsletter and Dignity went in a shipload of condoms that were made available free at the Silver Slipper and Lizzie Bordon's. Condoms at first weren't taken to the Jamestown bars because of a mistaken notion that another organization had been supplying them with condoms; Jamestown bars later got some condoms. The free condoms went over well, and Bridges will looking into ways provide the bars with free condoms on a regular basis. Leeward Lounge has had free condoms available for awhile.

The Bars

Area bars helped out a lot with AIDS causes on World AIDS Day and during the month of December:

Lizzie's. The AIDS benefit at Lizzie's on Dec. 3 brought in \$790. There will be government money to match it so that the benefit in effect resulted in \$1,580. The money went to the direct services fund of the AIDS council, and even with the AIDS Council closing, that money and that fund will still be used for direct client services (through another agency).

The benefit featured a drag show, featuring Bobbi B., Gene Brandt, Dorian Crystelle, Destiny Divine, Candy Kiss, Cherry Lane, Jackee Regina, and others. The AIDS Council of Erie had a literature table set up with information on safer sex issues. A board member from the AIDS Council took donations at the door.

There was a raffle, with a TV, stereo, and dinner for two being given away. Prizes were donated.

Roy at Lizzie's organized the benefit.

Silver Slipper took up a collection on World AIDS Day, with funds going to the AIDS Council of Erie, and again, the money will be going to direct client services. There will be an AIDS benefit at the Slipper, probably in mid-February. Check at the Slipper or in our calendar for further details.

Nite Spot. The Nite Spot held a drag show on Dec. 18 to benefit AIDS Community Services.

Sneakers. In December, Sneakers set up a red ribbon Christmas tree. People bought a big red ribbon for a dollar and wrote something on it: in memory of someone they knew who died of AIDS, or their own names, or some message. By the end of the month the tree was covered with red ribbons. The money will be donated to AIDS research.

Leeward Lounge. Donated money towards AIDS quilt (Mentioned elsewhere, see Ashtabula Co. stuff, this section).

Ashtabula Co. AIDS News

There's some important AIDS organizing going on in Ashtabula these days:

Food Pantry. Ashtabula County now has a food pantry for people with HIV/AIDS. You can leave non-perishable food items off at *Leeward Lounge* (there is a box permanently set out for food collection), the *Ashtabula County AIDS Task Force* (Mary Ellen Coneglio at Red Cross Building, 433 Center Street, Ashtabula. Phone 216-998-1020) or at *Kent State campus* (Hal

Darwimple 216-964-3322). The food pantry is administered through the Ashtabula Co. AIDS Task Force.

AIDS Quilt. The northeast Ohio section of the AIDS quilt was brought to Ashtabula by the Ashtabula Arts Center. The quilt cost \$600 to bring in; funds were provided by the Ashtabula Arts Center Foundation and supportive individuals, and Leeward Lounge donated money that it raised at the bar on National Coming Out Day. As part of the quilt exhibition, a memorial panel for Ashtabula native Donald Vanek was dedicated.

Support Group. There is now a support group in Ashtabula County for people with HIV/AIDS. The group is very discreet; if you want to participate, contact the Gail Anderson at (216)350-2554. ▼



INTEGRITY

A Christian-based spiritual and support group sponsored by the Episcopalian Church that welcomes people of all faiths. Meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 7 pm at St. Paul's Cathedral, 133 W 6th St. Erie, PA. Our mailing address is: Integrity-NWPA, PO Box 1782, Erie, PA 16507-1782. For more information, call (814) 774-0903

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**Congratulations to EGCN on
their 1st year!**

National/World News Bits

Reno: FBI May Not Discriminate

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Janet Reno has ordered the FBI not to discriminate against gay men and lesbians. The order reverses a longstanding FBI policy, which regarded homosexuality as a "negative factor" that required more scrutinizing security checks and made it "significantly more difficult to be hired."

Reno wrote, "no inference concerning susceptibility to coercion may be raised solely on the basis of the race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or sexual orientation of the applicant or employee."

The order came just as the trial of a fired gay FBI agent began in San Francisco. The trial was a federal class action lawsuit on behalf of all gay FBI employees and applicants.

Frank Buttino, 48, is a decorated 20-year veteran of the FBI who was fired in 1990 after he revealed he was gay. His supervisors had received an anonymous note telling them that Buttino was gay. Buttino denied it at first, then later told the truth, explaining that he had lied because he knew the truth would cost him his job. The FBI insists Buttino was fired not because he was gay, but because he lied.

A settlement with Buttino came one week after the Reno announcement. Under the settlement, Buttino will receive a cash settlement and partial restoration of his pension rights. Buttino will not be reinstated; instead, the FBI will hire a lesbian it turned away in 1988. She will reportedly be the first openly gay applicant that the FBI has ever hired. The settlement also pushes Reno's anti-discrimination order a little further, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of "homosexual conduct" (i.e., it is not only acceptable to be gay in the FBI, gay agents may also *act* on their feelings as long as it's done in private and takes place between consenting adults).

Violence Against Lesbian Farm

OVETT, Miss.—The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has asked the the Justice Department and Attorney General Janet Reno to help protect a lesbian-owned women's retreat in rural Mississippi from homophobic violence. The Justice Department has assured the women that they will monitor the situation, and said that they have alerted the FBI. Gay activists are describing the situation as a civil rights battle.

Conservative Christians in Jones County, where the retreat is located, have been organizing against Sister Spirit retreat, which provides assistance to women in need. Two married lesbians—Wanda Henson and Brenda Henson—own the land.

There have been numerous incidents that show there is reason for concern: Drunken armed men and boys have come onto the Hensons' land, there are helicopters hovering low overhead, they have received threatening and harassing phone calls, and a female dog was shot and placed over the Hensons' mailbox. The Hensons have installed lights and security cameras on their land, and have announced their intention to arm themselves.

A recent meeting of 250 local residents revealed a lot of fear, hatred, and ignorance. Some attendees stated that they were afraid the lesbians would recruit their daughters, others said they feared their community would be turned into a lesbian colony. The Hensons did not attend out of fear for their safety.

Brenda Henson is determined to stay on the land, characterising the local harassers as being the same people who were in the Ku Klux Klan 30 years ago.

Mass. High School Students Protected

BOSTON—Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to bar discrimination or harassment against gay students in public schools. Gov. William

Weld, under pressure from fellow Republicans to not sign the bill, quietly did so anyway.

Massachusetts already has a gay civil rights law, but it didn't deal with the situation in public schools. The law adds "sexual orientation" to its anti-discrimination law. Under the law, gay students will be able to sue schools if they have discriminated against them.

Much of the credit for the bill's passage goes to the hundreds of Massachusetts gay and lesbian high school students who had organized for three years, marching, holding candlelight vigils, lobbying, and testifying to the state senate about their own experiences with harassment and discrimination.

"Gay and lesbian students will feel safer in school because this law is a public acknowledgement of their personal dignity and right to equal education," said Mark DeLellis, a 17-year-old high school student from Boston.

Supporters of the legislation argued that the harassment and discrimination that gay teens face cause some teens to drop out (it's estimated that 28% of gay youth drop out) or to commit suicide.

For more information contact: BAGLY (Boston Alliance of Gay/Lesbian Youth, P.O. Box 814, Boston MA 02103 1-800-422-2459. If you're sending for information by mail, be sure to include self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Arizona Anti-Gay Rights Campaign

PHOENIX—They're at it again.

The Christian right is trying to put another anti-gay rights amendment on the ballot, this time in Arizona. The Traditional Rights Organization, a California-based organization that is fighting gay rights in ten states, has a very close relationship with the Arizona group.

The amendment (to the state's constitution) would prohibit local and state government from enacting ordinances protecting lesbian and gay people from discrimination.

So far, Colorado is the only state that has passed such an amendment. That amendment was struck down by a Colorado judge early in December.

London Gay Slayer Sentenced

LONDON—The serial killer who killed five gay men last spring has been sentenced to life in prison.

Colin Ireland, 39, said he wanted to become known as a serial killer. He said he victimized gay men instead of straight women because he thought the public would have less sympathy for gays. He emphasized that he is not gay and did not have sex with any of his victims.

Ireland apparently chose men who enjoyed bondage, because he could immobilize his victims with no resistance. After each murder, he placed calls to police, a national newspaper, or a suicide hotline, giving specific details of each murder and promising to commit a new one each week. On July 19, police released a security camera photo of Ireland walking behind his fifth victim; the next day, he turned himself in.

The High Court judge had more sympathy for the victims than Ireland counted on, telling Ireland, "To take one human life is an outrage; to take five is carnage. In my view, it is absolutely clear you should never be released."

Big Russian Victory

MOSCOW—In a libel suit filed by a gay man, a Russian court ordered the government-run television station to pay a half million rubles (\$400). It is the first time that a gay person in Russia was able to sue a government agency successfully. Until just this past May, homosexuality was a crime in Russia, punishable by imprisonment.

The gay man charged that the television station had aired an interview with him without his permission.

Romania Dragged into Civilized World

BUCHAREST—Amnesty International has "adopted" three gay men who were imprisoned for up to two and a half years for having homosexual sex in private.

Amnesty International pointed out that Romania's anti-gay law goes against the European Convention for the Protection of Fundamental Freedoms and Human Rights, which Romania signed November 4. Amnesty

International is appealing to the Romanian president to release the two men.

P-FLAG Alters Name

At P-FLAG's annual convention in New Orleans, their name was changed to Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The acronym P-FLAG will remain, and the logo remains unchanged for the time being.

Rotten Conservative Texas Commissioners Gets the Apple

GEORGETOWN, Tex.—Economics beat out homophobia in conservative Williamson County, Texas.

In a Nov. 30 vote, the county commissioners had voted 3-2 to not offer Apple Computer tax incentives to build an \$80 million facility in the area, because the company offers health benefits to same-sex couples.

After news of the vote was made public, Apple began receiving offers from all over the country. But Gov. Ann Richards applied pressure on the commissioners, stating that their action might scare away other businesses wanting to locate in Texas. 50% of the voters in the county were opposed to the vote, and business, economic and political leaders rallied to turn the vote around. On Dec. 7, one of the commissioners changed his vote, and Apple got the tax benefits.

The conservatives who opposed the same-sex policy received substantial advice and support from the right-wing Christian group Colorado for Family Values. That is the group that sponsored Colorado's anti-gay legislation (Amendment 2), and has become active in supporting other anti-gay actions around the country, offering videotapes and seminars, and contributing \$75,000 to the group that was working on Cincinnati's anti-gay rights campaign this past fall.

Psychologists Group: Lesbian Moms OK

WASHINGTON—The American Psychological Association is asking a Virginia court to give a lesbian mother custody of her two-year-old son, saying that a

parent's sexual orientation doesn't affect their parenting abilities.

The APA, which is the largest psychological association in the world, filed a brief with the Virginia Court of Appeals in the case of Sharon Bottoms, who lost custody of her two-year-old son because she is a lesbian. Sharon's mother, Kay Bottoms, fought for and won custody of the boy in September 1993.

The APA conducted a study on lesbians as parents and children of lesbians and gay men. "There are no significant differences in psychological or mental health," said the APA's Clinton Anderson.

The most recent study on lesbian mothers showed that they score significantly higher than heterosexuals on the Parent Awareness Survey, an index of parental sensitivity to common childhood problems.

Homophobia Bad for Health

NEW YORK—Homophobia is "a health hazard [for] all individuals," says a position paper on lesbian health issues approved by the 12,000-member American Medical Women's Association at its annual meeting in New York City Nov. 4.

NAMBLA Jeopardizes Gays' UN Recognition

NEW YORK—After two years of struggling for recognition in the United Nations, the International Lesbian and Gay Association was given roster status as a non-governmental organization in July of 1993. Shortly after that, however, it was revealed that one of the organizations in ILGA was the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which advocates repeal of age-of-consent laws.

ILGA is an international federation of 350 gay and lesbian groups in 50 countries; it was formed in 1978. After a Nov. 5 meeting with NAMBLA, ILGA said it had refunded NAMBLA's 1993 dues and asked it to resign from the organization. However, in a defiant statement issued Nov. 15, NAMBLA indicated it will fight the action at the ILGA's Annual World Conference, being held in New York City in June. The refusal of NAMBLA to leave could mean that ILGA will have its status revoked by the UN.

ILGA passed a resolution in 1990 that specifically condemns exploitation of children, and ILGA's

cosecretary general points out that many groups within ILGA have been trying to expel NAMBLA and a Dutch pedophile group for years.

Lutheran Sex Study Update

The 5.2 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is taking a closer look at the 11-member task force that was appointed to study and make recommendations about sexuality.

In October 1993 that task force released a report asserting that same-sex marriage is supported by the Bible, masturbation is healthy, and teaching teens about safer sex and condom use is morally imperative.

The report drew a lot of criticism from members, mostly against same-sex marriage. However, the Church's legislative body voted against halting work on a sexuality statement. The director of the study has been removed.

Transitions

MOVED: David Neubauer, former president of Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO) to his hometown of Colden, NY. David, together with Scott S., was largely responsible for making April March on Washington bus trip a success. Good luck, David!

PASSED AWAY: Michael Callen, recording artist, activist for gay and AIDS causes, of complications due to AIDS. He was 38. He had toured and recorded with the gay acappella group the Flirtations, and recorded a solo album called *Purple Heart*.

Escape to the Tropics!



Bridges DJ Dance Party
Sat, Jan 22

**at the Unitarian-Universalist
Congregation of Erie**

7180 New Perry Highway

Dance 8 - Midnight \$5

Pizza 6:30-8:00 & Dance

at 8:00, both for \$8

Please call ahead for Pizza

*(\$1 discount for non-perishable donation for
people with AIDS)*

Call Michael at 456-9833 for info

& to reserve for pizza

The Year in Review

January

Erie Gay Community Newsletter publishes its first issue as a Bridges publication.

Lesbian moms group starts meeting.

February

Bridges holds first pot luck/discussion, where people ate and talked about ideas and projects and other stuff. It worked so well Bridges decided to do it regularly.

March

The *Erie Daily Times* put an article about the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters on the top of their front page.

AIDS Council of Erie board of directors meets with clients, volunteers, executive director Craig Bennett, and interested members of the community to discuss the critical seriousness of some of the problems that the organization was having.

April

At least 200 people from the Erie area went to the March on Washington, joining hundreds of thousands of people in a demonstration for gay, lesbian and bisexual civil rights. A bus from Erie was pulled together with a lot of hard work from EGO.

LGLV Skating Party.

May

Lambda Foundation gives the *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* a grant.

June

Bridges "Somewhere Over the Pride Rainbow" Dance, celebrating Pride Month.

Erie Playhouse presents *The Sum of Us*, a play about a father and his gay son.

July

Jamestown Social Group invites Erie people to join them in a picnic in Westfield. From here Erie and Jamestown start developing closer connections.

Bridges cancels its Labor Day weekend festival, realizing that it was a poorly thought-out project.

LGLV-Erie was successful in getting Erie's cable community access channel to air *To Support and Defend*, which was a video documentary presenting information on gay men and lesbians serving in the military.

WJET and WSEE interviewed Mike Mahler about gays in the military, and Flagship 1560 interviewed Chris Young, head of LGLV.

August

AIDS Council of Erie walk raises \$2,000.

September

Pink Sands, an Erie County-based women's music production group, put on their inaugural concert, with Leah Zicari.

LGLV-Erie conducts a survey of Erie County employers with more than 500 employees. The survey was conducted to find out attitudes of employers to sexual orientation discrimination.

Dr. Craig Bennett resigns as executive director of the AIDS Council of Erie. The incident is reported prominently in the Erie media.

October

The big news for October was National Coming Out Day observations going on in the area. Trigon held a very successful and very open Ally Day. EGO held a party and celebrated with Trigon, then held another Coming Out Day in November. SUNY Fredonia held events, including bringing in Rod and Bob Jackson-Parris, who spoke to an audience of 500 (Probably the largest gay event ever held in Chautauqua County). Allegheny College also held events. And Kim Manno and Dee Dee Foll came out on WLKK-AM.

Warren PA starts a group for people in their community, called The Rainbow Connection.

Susan Herrick performs in Erie, at a concert put on by Pink Sands.

Womynspace had to move out of its downtown location.

Opening of Cocoon, gay-friendly Erie store.

AIDS Council of Erie staff members rescind their resignations.

Perceptions announces it welcomes gay and lesbian customers, and will carry women's music.

A Franklin transsexual sues her employer for discrimination.

November

Tom Paniccia speaks at Gannon University on gays in the military. Following the talk, Paniccia came to a reception put on by LGLV-Erie.

Margie Adam, one of the biggest names in women's music, is brought in to Erie by Pink Sands.

"Homophobia" panel discussion at Penn State Behrend's program *Sweet Daddy's World*.

Roadhouse Theatre puts on *Cabaret*.

Gannon University holds AIDS Awareness week in last days of November and early December.

December

Local World AIDS Day events and observances (either on December 1 or in month of Dec.) held in Erie, Meadville, Jamestown, Ashtabula, Dunkirk.

Gay Youth Pride Erie starts up, offering gay, lesbian and bisexual teenagers a place to connect with other teens.

10% Network holds gay and lesbian book sale in Jamestown.

AIDS Council of Erie closes.

Local News

Erie Gay Youth Group

A new group plans to meet the needs of gay, lesbian, and bi youth in the Erie area. The group is called Gay Youth Pride Erie, and is being initiated by Mark, a local high school student.

"Gay kids have no place to meet to just talk about what's going on with them and how their lives are affected by being gay," says Mark. "The gay groups that already exist are more oriented to adults, and gay kids have specific needs that aren't being met.

"We'll start out as a support group, but we'll see what else happens. I'd like to see us do activities together, like bowling, day trips to Waldameer and Presque Isle, family days, things like that. I think we need to do fun things, and not just be sitting around talking all the time."

That said, Mark doesn't minimize the importance of a place for gay kids to be able to talk. "I'm outraged by the incredibly high rate of gay teen suicide. It's ridiculous that kids are killing themselves over something they can't change and other people won't accept."

Gay Youth Pride Erie will have their first meeting in mid-January. For more information call Mark at 899-6528.

What You Can Do For Gay Rights!

After a period of inactivity, the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters seeks to revitalize interest and continue the important work which needs to be done to insure our rights. Topics to be discussed will be the push for the Hate Crimes Bill (which will be introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate in January), membership development, and fund raising.

Lesbians and gays in the community are urged to get involved. Although much of the work done by the League is political, don't let it put you off. LGLV-Erie has many tasks which can be accomplished by individuals who are not OUT or who do not wish to get involved in politics. Our organization is interested in finding motivated individuals who wish to empower the lesbian community by providing information and support.

There will be a meeting to discuss all this at the next League of Gay and Lesbian Voters on Jan. 15. The meeting will be at 227 West 5th Street, first floor.

To find out how you can become involved in the League, or for more information, please call 833-3258 during the day (leave a message otherwise.) If you have called previously and have not been contacted recently, we urge you to call again. ▼

WHY NOT RESOLVE
TO SEND A
CONTRIBUTION TO
EGCN?

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

A gracious "hello" and Happy New Year! Was everyone's respective holidays brimming with seasonal cheer? We look forward to seeing you at the "Escape to the Tropics" Pizza/Dance thing on Saturday, January 22nd. Pizza is served at 6:30 pm and the dance starts at 8. This is an important way to help support nifty Bridges projects, like the condoms in the bars and the newsletter you are reading right now.

We had a good time gadding about the area this past month. Snookie Bear, Deb and I went up to 10% Network's book fair (the Jamestown group), which was oodles of fun. It turns out that the organizer for the book company was someone I know from the medieval/renaissance group I used to belong to. (The stories of the Jamestown/Warren area and the apparent suspension of the Laws of Probability are too long to annoy you with here.) After talking things over at the December Bridges meeting, we decided that we will be having a book fair at our dance on April 23. The theme of the dance will be "Spring Informal" and you will have a great selection of lesbian/gay books to choose from. Please, bring extra money and know that you are helping us out.

We have recently had to change printers due to circumstances beyond our control. It was probably the most inconvenient possible juncture, as it was both the holiday season and we were preparing to put out this, our first anniversary issue. This will doubtless increase the cost of our printing, so your subscriptions and donations are more important than ever! We had divided up new printers to research at the last Bridges meeting and discussed other fundraising ideas. Actually, between the fantastic job that Jacquelyn has been doing with the ads and those of you who are subscribing, the newsletter is paying for itself at present. The day after the meeting, I went to the PO box to find a card from two extremely generous donors who each gave us a check for \$150!! Wow, talk about divine signs



that we are on the right path! From all of us, THANK YOU!!!!

The *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* was published by a member of our community as a double-sided sheet of calendar and group information and news snippets from April/May through December of 1992. The present staff has been publishing it as a Bridges project since January of 1993. This therefore marks the one year anniversary of this newsletter in this form. In that time, we have had

tremendous support and growth. This happened because *a lot* of people contributed in many different and extremely important ways. It is so gratifying to all of us at Bridges to hear how it is helping people make connections with our community, to come out, to grow. Note how many people have chosen to put their name in print for the first time here. It has been exhilarating hearing about all the new groups and projects happening in our local community. We are thrilled to be a part of it all!

As I write this, the news about the AIDS Council of Erie ending just came through. Deb and I had been helping out with their newsletter. I have had some mixed experiences with the organization; I have experienced and heard nothing but good about Mary Lee Brooks and Jeff Schwenk, and my heart goes out to them for their hard and long work. Some of the board members have really been dedicated and effective individuals. Dealing with the AIDS epidemic, particularly in light of the tremendous homophobia out there, is no small task. The main concern that I myself have is that the services that need to be provided will be available. I was delighted to hear about the formation of Friends from the Heart, a local group which works on getting food and needed materials to PWA's in crisis situations. They are listed in the new groups section. Bridges will be donating the items collected at our January 22 dance to them. We have been assured that this will go to people who need it.

At the December board meeting of Bridges, we brought up the topic of what potential groups that might form in the area that we would *not* support. We had heard about so-called "recovery groups" like Courage which purport to help gay people not be gay (which is basically homophobia with a happy face) and groups which would condone relations between adult and children (such as NAMBLA). It was the unanimous decision of the board that *neither* of these types would receive any sort of support from Bridges. Please be aware that to the best of our knowledge, there are no current plans by anyone to form either sort of group. It is important to work out policies before they are needed. We are very firmly against the exploitation of homophobia in gay people and also minors. Some gay and lesbian people are the survivors of child-molesting, most of it perpetrated by straight males, as is 90% of the all cases according to statistics compiled by the FBI. (Hmm, one wonders why no one links pedophiles with heterosexuality, given the statistics...)

Has everyone read about the furor revolving around rumors circulating in the radical Religious Right that Barney the Dinosaur is satanic because he encourages toleration of all people including gays and lesbians and pedophiles (note above paragraph in regard to straight/pedophile link)? And that Bert and Ernie are supposed to have had/ will have a gay wedding? It seems to me that some people have too few brain cells and too much leisure time. It is unbelievable silly, although this sort of paranoid delusional thinking is eerily similar to what went on during the Red scare in the 50's, the persecution of Jews and other minorities in Germany in the 30's and 40' and the witch trials of medieval and renaissance Europe. Still, one wonders if the Tooth Fairy is a secret tool of the Homosexual Agenda and there is also the fact that Santa and Satan are anagrams. Mr. Rogers Neighborhood: Pleasant Children's Fantasy or Depths of Hell???

I am concluding with very happy news indeed. Micheal/Snookie Bear and I are firming up plans for our wedding/handfasting this June. We are, you can imagine, euphoric. More details as they develop. Huggers to all! ▼

Opinion: What Happened to the AIDS Council?

By Deborah Spilko

Why did the AIDS Council close? How did the Council pass a \$173,000 budget in the spring only to have to close abruptly in December, because there was no money to go on?

I've been talking to various people who are were close to the organization, to try to get a handle on it.

Whatever went wrong, it was going on for a long time. The AIDS Council has a reputation as an unhealthy organization, and that doesn't just happen overnight. Some members of the board seem to be blaming Dr. Craig Bennett, who recently resigned as executive director. But it went on before him.

The board of directors has to be held accountable for a good bit of this. It seems like there is a real problem around how the board has functioned, how much they are willing or able to give, how they communicate to each other, and how accountable they are to the organization or the community.

What the AIDS Council has needed is a working board, with members who roll up their sleeves and do the work that's needed, who pay attention to what's going on, who coordinate and oversee projects, records, and committees. The AIDS Council needs a board with members who care enough and who have enough time to give it the attention it needs.

The board as it has been set up has not been a working board. Most of the board does little except attend meetings, and because people weren't showing up at the evening meetings, they had to be scheduled for 7:30 a.m. to fit into the schedules of the predominately professional board. To the best of my knowledge, the only committee that actually met was the executive committee.

The first time I ever attended a meeting of the board of directors was in March of 1993, when a meeting was called because of very serious complaints by angry and hurting clients and former volunteers. I remember being shocked by two things. The first was that most board members seemed completely unaware

Continued on Page 24

Opinion, cont'd fr pg 23

of all the problems that had been going on, even though they'd been going on for quite some time. Second, some board members actually fought against committing at that meeting to doing something about the problems.

I don't know if board members deserve criticism, because I wasn't around when they were recruited, and I don't know what they were told would be expected of them. As it is now, it seems like the board is mainly composed of representatives—from various health and social service agencies and from different professions. Perhaps it is their understanding that the reason they are on the board is to represent their professions and agencies and nothing else should be expected of them. Maybe, in fact, they would *like* to leave the board, but feel they have to be there as a representative.

Or perhaps they are simply falling into familiar behavior. There are many boards that function like this, and some people think this is how boards are supposed to be.

And, actually, there is some validity to the idea of having representatives sitting on a board, but it works best if those people are on an *advisory* board. The business of the organization, however, should be done by a working board.

What is clear is that if the AIDS Council starts up again, and if it is going to be an effective organization, it can't be the same old board with the same old way of doing things.

Who would be on the new board? Well, first, the AIDS Council organization needs to get past this idea that people need "professional qualifications" to be on the board. A lot of people who have wanted to get involved with the AIDS Council have been hurt or offended by this bias about professional qualifications, and I think some of the appeal of Friends From the Heart is that you don't have to have a degree or title to be involved. And, obviously, professional qualifications don't add up to an effective board, or the AIDS Council would still be open.

The new board should keep those members of the present board who are willing and able to work for the organization (and there are a few...that needs to be recognized).

I know that some members of the present board will be deeply offended by my writing this, and that this will damage my relationships with some of them. None of what I have written has been meant to be critical of individuals or their intentions. But this combination of people just hasn't worked. I hope some of my observations will contribute to a constructive discussion about where we need to go from here.

Deborah Spilko was co-editor of the AIDS Council of Erie's bimonthly publication Red Ribbon News. ▼

Take Out a Happy Ad!

For \$10, you can take out an ad to declare your love, wish someone a happy birthday, or happy anniversary, celebrate coming out, send congratulations, announce a group forming...or use your imagination!

Ads must have no more than 25 words and no sleaze, puh-leez! Ads are \$10, pre-paid, and should be in by the 20th of the month.

Because we won't out anyone, we will not publish someone's full name unless they've already been out in our pages at their own request.

Send your ad copy with your check for \$10 made out to "EGC Coalition" to EGCN, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. For more info, call our Advertising Director, Jacquelyn, at (814)455-0549. ▼

Ralph: Happy 1st year anniversary!
This year has been the best—can't wait for another year. I love you!

John-Ish

Don't hide those copies of *Advocate Men* or *Lesbian Connection*! Gay-friendly housecleaning at reasonable rates. Call Lynne at 454-8820.

Groups & Organizations

↪ 10% Network (Formerly Jamestown Social Group)

For men & women. Smoke & alcohol-free. Meets 3rd Saturday of the month at 7 pm at First Unitarian Society of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast. ☎ (716) 484-7285 or (716) 664-5556.

↪ AIDS Council of Erie

Closed as of December 31, 1993!!!

Bridges

A coalition of organizations & people which seeks to use networking and communication skills to build a better community. Also publishes *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* and puts on community dances and quarterly potluck dinners/forums. ✂ Bridges, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. ☎ (814) 455-0549 or (814) 456-9833.

Chautauqua Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers

A support group for gay & lesbian parents in Chautauqua County & neighboring counties and a play group for their kids. ☎ (716) 672-6682.

Chautauqua Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Youth Group

Those interested in forming a youth group for Chautauqua county gay, lesbian & bisexual youth, please call Patrick McNamara at (800) 735-2986.

Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People

A committee of students, faculty, & administrators who work together to educate, bring speakers, offer films, and address concerns that relate to gay and lesbian issues specific to the Allegheny Community. ✂ CSGLB, Box 186, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA 16335. ☎ Paula at (814) 332-4356 or Erny at (814) 332-4375.

Dignity/Erie Tri-State

A national organization for lesbian, gay and bisexual Roman Catholics, their families and friends. ✂ Dignity/Erie Tri-State, PO Box 3746, Erie PA 16508-0746 ☎ (814) 864-4627.

Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO)

Student group, meetings include a business hour followed by a social hour. Meetings: Thursdays at 8:45 pm at Butterfield, Rm 302 (♣). ☎ Jim MacCluskie MWF 11am-1pm at (814) 732-2590.

Erie Sisters

Non-sexual social support group for TV/TS/CD. Good manners, taste & common sense expected. Monthly

meetings, newsletter, Meetings in even numbered months are social events held at accepting establishments. Changing room provided. Interview with a club officer required before first meeting. ✂ Erie Sisters, 2115 West 8th Street, Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505.

↪ Friends from the Heart

Volunteers helping deliver help with food, rent, transportation, moving and clothing to people with AIDS. Call Deb Monohon at (814) 838-0123 to see how you can help. Donations greatly appreciated.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance - the Other 10% (GALA 10)

Support group for gay men and lesbians and friends and family. Open to public. Meetings: Call site & time. Confidentiality respected. !GALA-10/Sr. Maria Lucia Serrano, 3409 Garden Avenue, Erie PA 16508 ☎ Sr. Malu at 864-4889 around 7 pm or 824-2290 between 11am and 1 pm.

Gay and Lesbian Drug & Alcohol Abuse Support Group (Jamestown, NY)

Meetings: Thursdays at 7:00 pm at Jamestown Community College (in Chautauqua room at the Library). ☎ (716) 664-5556 or (716) 483-0749.

↪ Gay Youth Pride of Erie

First meeting will be mid-late January. ☎ Mark at (814) 899-6528.

HUGS East (Mentor, OH)

Activities, events & groups for the gay and lesbian community of Ashtabula, Lake & Geauga counties. Newsletter published. ✂ HUGS East, PO Box 253, Mentor, OH 44060 ☎ (216) 974-8909.

↪ Integrity

A Christian-based spiritual and support group, sponsored by the Episcopal Church that welcomes people of all faiths. Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month (7:00pm) at St. Paul's Cathedral, 133 West 6th Street. ✂ Integrity-NWPA, PO Box 1782, Erie, PA, 16507-1782. ☎ (814) 774-0903.

Jamestown HIV Positive Support Group

☎ Eric Anderson at (716) 664-7855.

Jamestown PFLAG

For parents & friends of lesbians & gays. Meets last Tuesday of the month, call for site. ☎ (716) 488-1264 or (716) 763-1529.

JCC Support Group

A support group run by Jamestown Community College for gays and lesbians. Open to all community

members. Meets off-campus. Contact: Greg Rabb. ☎(716)665-5220.

☛ **Lambda Group (formerly Life's Blood)**

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for Gays and Lesbians. *Meetings:* Sundays at 8:00 pm at Unitarian Universalist Church of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. ☎

☛ **League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)**

Non-partisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for elections, voter registration/education, lobbying. Currently reorganizing, preparing to push Senate Bill 1218 in January, which provides stiffer penalties for gay bashers. *Next meeting:* January 16, 5:00 pm at 227 West 5th, 1st Floor, Erie. ☎Greg at (814) 833-3258. ☞LGLV-Erie, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-0063.

Lesbian Moms Support Group

Support group for lesbian moms, co-parents and women interested in parenting. Meets 3rd Saturday of each month. ☞Lucinda Marsh, 214 Walnut Street, Waterford, PA 16441. ☎(814) 796-3535.

Men's Coffeehouse

The Men's Coffeehouse is an alcohol & smoke-free environment with a particular theme, topic or activity for each month. They get together on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:00 pm. Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. ☎(814) 455-9049 for more info.

NW PA Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Now forming in Tionesta/Titusville area for political/media advocacy. Write to: PO Box 213, Tionesta, PA 16353-0213.

Out & Proud

Support group for media issues, those dealing with coming out. ☞OP, PO Box 3063, Erie PA 16508-3063 ☎(814) 456-9833.

PFLAG-Erie

Support group for Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. *Next Meeting:* ???? ☎Kathy Harris at (814) 838-6020 or ☞PFLAG-Erie c/o Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508.

☛ **Rainbow Connection (Warren, PA area)**

Warren, PA and surrounding area. Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at the YWCA. ☎Denny at (814) 757-8583.

SUNY-Fredonia Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Student Union

A support group for students at SUNY Fredonia. ☎(716)673-3424

Trigon

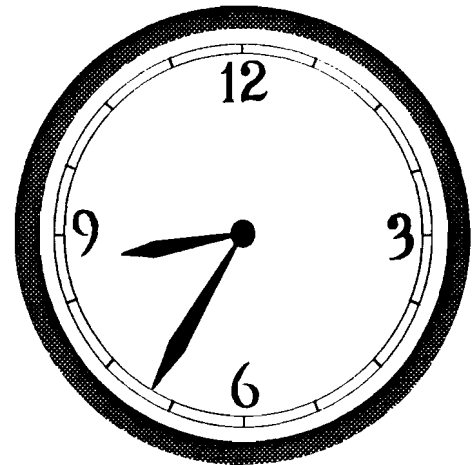
Support group for Behrend students, faculty, alumni. For more info, call (814)866-7387 or ☞College Mailroom, Box 1054, Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.

Womynspace Coffeehouse

The Womyn's Coffeehouse is an alcohol & smoke-free environment for lesbians, with a particular theme, topic or activity for each month. They get together on the 1st Saturday of each month at 7:30 pm. They'll meet at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie at least until March. Presently looking for/open to new location. Contact Deb at (814)453-2785 or Sally at (814)454-2713.

Venango-Forest AIDS Support

All welcome! Meets every Tuesday at 6:300 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 16 Center Avenue, Oil City, PA For more info, call 800-359-2437 or ☞PO Box 834, Oil City, PA 16301



**5 months 'til
Stonewall 25!!
See article on
page 8 for
details!**

Community Directory

24 Hour Counseling:

Saint Vincent 452-5151
 Family Crisis 456-2014
 Hamot 877-6136

AIDS Services:

AIDS Council of Erie, Inc. *Closed as of 12/31*
 AIDS Comm. Svcs of Jamestown. (716)664-7855
 AIDS Factline 1-800-324-AIDS
 Friends from the Heart..... 838-0123
 National AIDS Hotline 1-800-662-6080
 Venango-Forest AIDS Support .. 1-800-359-2437

Bars:

See back page!

Community Service Organizations:

Bridges 455-0549
 Out and Proud (Speakers' Bureau) 456-9833

Counseling:

South Shore Counseling Group 725-8504
 For more info, call Greg 833-3258

E-Mail for EGCN. LGLV, Bridges:

From CompuServe 70431,1622

Hotlines/National:

Hate Crimes (US Justice Dept) 800-347-4283
 Spanish AIDS Hotline 800-344-7432

Medical Services and HIV/AIDS Testing:

Erie Co. Dept. of Health (STD Clinic/AIDS
 Testing; confidential and anonymous); 2nd &
 Cherry St., walk-in (Mon. & Thurs., 9:30-3:30)
 451-6700

Political/Advocacy Organizations:

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters 833-3258

Publications:

Erie Gay Community Newsletter 456-9833

Religious Organizations:

Dignity 864-4627
 Integrity 774-0903
 Unitarian Universalist Congreg. of Erie 864-9300

Social Organizations:

Men's Coffeehouse 455-9049
 10% Network (716) 484-7285/664-5556
 Rainbow Connection (Warren PA) 757-8583
 Womynspace Coffeehouse 454-2713

Student Organizations/Youth:

Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian &
 Bisexual People (Allegheny College, Meadville)
 332-4368

Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO) 732-2574
 GALA 10 (Mercyhurst College) 824-2572
 Gay Youth Pride Erie Mark at 899-6528
 Gay & Lesbian Youth of Buffalo .. (716)855-0221
 Indianapolis Gay Youth Hotline 1-800-347-8336
 (Under 21; Available Thu-Sun 7pm to Midnight)
 Jamestown Community College Grp (716)665-
 5220

National Runaway Switchboard. 1-800-621-4000
 SUNY-Fredonia G/L/B Student U(716)673-3424
 Teen Hotline (412) 771-8336
 Trigon (Behrend College) 866-7387

Support Groups

Chautauqua Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers
 (716)672-6682
 Erie Sisters 2115 W. 8th St., # 261, Erie, PA
 16505
 Gay/Lesbian Drug & Alcohol Abuse 716-483-
 0749
 Jamestown HIV+ Support Group (716) 664-7855
 Jamestown PFLAG. (716) 488-1264 or 763-1529
 Lesbian Moms Support Group..... 796-3535
 Lambda Group (formerly Lifes Blood (AA)
 Sundays, 8:00 PM, 110 W 10

*All numbers are area code 814 unless
 otherwise noted. Are you a lesbian-
 friendly physician or professional? Please
 let us know so we can list you!*

A Foundation for the Community

**Providing Grants and
 Scholarships to the Gay, Lesbian
 and Bisexual Community.**

For information on applying for grants, scholarships,
 making donations or simply getting involved contact:

The Lambda Foundation

PO Box 5169, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • 412/521-5444

Area Bars and Places

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge Street. Open 7 days a week, 7 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. (216)964-9935. Food served from 7 p.m. till 1:30 a.m. Fri & Sat - \$1 cover, half goes into a 50-50 raffle drawn at the end of the night, other half goes to person taking the cover. Carries *Gay People's Chronicle*.

Erie

Cup-a-ccino's, 18 North Park Row. Mon-Wed 7:30am-11pm, Thur-Sat 7:30 am-12 mid. A gay-friendly coffeehouse. Poetry every other week.

Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th. Open Mon-Sat. Bowling on Tuesday nights from 9 pm till whenever. Country played on Wednesdays. DJ with dance instruction 9:30 to 11. DJ on Friday & Saturday. Shows on some Fridays. Carries Pittsburgh's *Out*.

Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street. Open Mon-Sat. Live DJ music 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. On Friday the DJ plays oldies till 10:30 p.m. (50s, 60s and 70s). Food served. Slipper will be expanding as soon as the PA LCB okays it. It will mainly be a seating area, with tables and booths.

Jamestown & Southwest NY

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown. Open Tues-Sun 7pm-2am. Closed Mon. DJ Fri & Sat 10pm-2am. Sun Drag show, DJ after 9:30 pm, no cover. Nightly specials.

Rocking Duck Inn, 28 Genesee Parkway, Cuba NY. Near Olean, 100 miles from Erie. Gay-owned Bed & Breakfast. Call (716)968-3335 for more info.

Sneakers, 100 Harrison, Jamestown. (716)484-8816. Open 7 days a week, 3:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. DJ Fridays and Saturdays 10-2.



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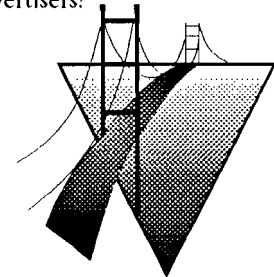
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Bridges DANCE!!



"ESCAPE TO THE TROPICS" DANCE ON SAT, JAN 22
JOIN US AT THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway!
DANCE STARTS AT 8:00 pm. TICKETS ARE: \$5 OR \$4
with a non-perishable item for friends from the
HEART. OR join us for both pizza at 6:30 pm and
the dance for just \$8!

BENEFITS ERIE GAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER.

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