



# Erie Gay Community Newsletter

☛ = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

## Calendar

**Important Note: Events listed here are specifically gay or of interest to a lot of lesbian 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

☛ May 7—"Hundred Family Garage Sale" at the Unitarian (Erie)

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Amazing assortment of items. At the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway.

☛ May 7—Womynspace: Rescheduled for May 14

For months of May and June Womynspace will be rescheduled. After that it will return to normal. Info: Sal at 454-2713 or Deb at 453-2785.

☛ May 7—"Spring Fling" at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula OH) Info: (216) 964-9935.

☛ May 8—Amateur Night at Sneakers (Jamestown) Mostly drag, but other acts too. 10 p.m.

☛ May 8—la bella bistro Mother's Day Buffet at the Warner 100-foot buffet. Call la bella bistro for details 454-3616.

☛ May 10—PA Spring Primary Election

☛ May 10—HIV/AIDS Support Group of Catholic Charities Pharmacist Jim Molczan is scheduled answer questions about medications. Call Cheryl Weber 452-6113.

☛ May 10—Rainbow Connection (Warren) Info: Denny at (814)757-8583.

☛ May 13—"Mystic Divas" at Lizzie's Gene Brandt, Destiny Divine, Traci, Jacque Regina. Showtime midnight \$2 cover. 3412 W. 12th, Erie.

☛ May 13—Men's Coffeehouse Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7:30 p.m. Info: 456-9833.

☛ May 14—

Friends from the Heart Meets at la bella bistro restaurant 11 a.m., West Fourth & Cherry. Info: 838-0123.

☛ May 14—Womynspace Kel will be hosting, and she's going to make it a quiet evening, with atmosphere



## Summer Fun Issue!

## Ad Rates

Businesses and Sponsors! Show your support and reach Erie's lesbian community directly! Advertising space is now available 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) 835-2380 or 456-9833 for further details!

## 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 groups and individuals to help our community develop and thrive.

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Thanks to Paula King for  
lesbodacious 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.



Come early for hot dogs and pop on shore. Benefits Gay and Lesbian Youth Svcs of W. NY. Info (716)855-0221 or (716)885-DARK.

➔ **May 27-30—Memorial Day Celebration at Jones Pond (Angelica NY)** Show and activities at gay men's campground (716)567-8100.

➔ **May 27-30—LucyFest (Jamestown NY)** Auction from Lucy Ball's estate (clothing, personal items) Sat. night (preview 3-7p.m., auction 7-10); free comedy film fest (new films, independent filmmakers) Fri and Sat., Lucytown Tours all day Sat., Smothers Brothers Sun. eve. Info and tickets Reg Lenna Civic Center (716)484-7070.

**May 28—2 Girls Alone! at Cup-a-Ccino's** 18 N. Park Row, from 9 to midnight.

➔ **May 28—Queen Latifah, Fugees and the Solsonics (Cleveland)** Agora Theater, tickets from Ticketmaster.

➔ **May 28—Sister Sledge ("We are Family"), Kool & the Gang, K.C. & the Sunshine Gang in Concert (Pittsburgh)** Star Lake Ampitheater, on sale at Ticketmaster and (412)323-1919.

➔ **May 30—Memorial Day Picnic (Pittsburgh)** At North Park. Includes free beverages, picnic food, dancing, music, games of fun, chance and skill. Tickets \$15 adv/\$20 at gate, available in Erie from Harvey (814)456-3674 or at the Pittsburgh bars and gay-owned businesses. A portion of ticket price goes to the Lambda Foundation's Borelli AIDS Fund.

➔ **May 30—Great Performances: Suddenly, Last Summer** On WQLN-TV. 9 p.m. New rendering of the the grim and artsy one-act play by gay writer Tennessee Williams. The play is heavily autobiographical and revealing of some of Williams' deepest inner turmoils, including remorse over his own sexual exploitation of young men, which he saw as a sort of "devouring" of human beings. The character of Sebastian rep-

resented Williams. Williams, reflective of his own feelings, tended to depict his gay characters in a negative light.

➔ **June 2—Salt-N-Pepa in Concert (Pittsburgh)** With R. Kelly and Kid Capri at A.J. Palumbo Center. Tickets at National Record Mart or (412)391-1111.

➔ **June 4—Pride/Buffalo Parade & Rally (Buffalo)** 2 p.m. leaving Symphony Circle, evening events throughout community. (716)883-4750. It's kind of iffy whether or not the parade is going to happen this year; if you're planning on going up, call the number here to make sure it's still a go.

➔ **June 4—Womynspace Rescheduled for June 18**

➔ **June 5—AIDS Walk '94 (Buffalo)** Sign-in 10 a.m., walk starts 11 a.m. Starts and ends at Niagara Square (downtown) after-walk celebration with food and entertainment. Info (716)847-0212. Some people from Chautauqua Co. participating, John from 10% Network is taking pledges, so if you want to pledge call (716)484-7285. Benefits AIDS Community Services of Western NY.

➔ **June 5—Annual Gearing-Up for Summer Party (Buffalo)** Noon-7 p.m., Ellicott Creek Park Island (shelters 133 & 134), rain or shine. \$8 inc. hot dogs, salad, soft drinks, beer, entertainment, contests. State law prohibits liquor & wine, no glass containers. Sponsored by Unity Alliance. Info (716)883-4750.

➔ **June 7, 8, 9—A Century of Women** On TBS Superstation. Tells the story of American women against the landscape of 20th century change. Its two-hour segments weave three elements in a multi-generational, multi-ethnic, multimedia collage: anecdotal history illustrated with archival footage and photography, diaries and letters, voiced by contemporary performers (like Candice Bergen, Jodie Foster, Meryl Streep, Cicely Tyson), on-camera interviews with Hillary Rodham Clinton, Betty Friedan, Erica Jong, Maya Angelou, Wilma Rudolph. Narrated by Jane Fonda. Stars Olympia Dukakis, Teresa Wright, plus Jasmine Guy, Justine Bateman, Talia Shire, and others.

➔ **June 10-11—Country Hoe-Down Weekend at Jones Pond (Angelica NY)** Dancing & activities at gay men's campground (716)567-8100.

➔ **June 11—Pride '94 (Cleveland)** Cleveland's 6th Annual Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual Pride March and Festival. March, entertainment, dancing, merchandise, booths and displays, food & fun. Info: (216)595-8788 or (216)371-9714.

➔ **June 11—Erie Pride Picnic** At Presque Isle, Waterworks at Cabin 3. Organized by Bridges/EGCN.



## Massage Therapy

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Low-key, low-attitude friendly affair. Bring dish to pass. Follow signs. For more info 456-9833.

✦ **June 11—"From the Heart" Celebration in Perry Square, downtown Erie.** Call Patty at 452-4481. Not a specifically gay event, but gay people are welcome.

✦ **June 11—AIDS Benefit at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula)** Talent show. Info (216)964-9935.

✦ **June 11-12—Allentown Arts Festival (Buffalo)** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Arts festival, attracting 100,00 people ...not specifically gay but attracts a lot of gays, particularly the guys. "It's the beginning of watching-people-in-skimpy-clothes season," laughs Connie Burns from Buffalo *Community Network News*. There's a lot of art there, too.

✦ **June 12—Depeche Mode, Primal Scream (Cuyahoga Falls OH)** Tickets from Ticketmaster.

✦ **June 17-19—Events "Solve the Murder Mystery" Weekend at Jones Pond (Angelica NY)** Whodunnit fun at gay men's campground. Info: (716)567-8100.

✦ **June 18—Womynspace** Theme "Les-Pride" For info call Sal 454-2713.

✦ **June 18—Shades Gala Affair (Buffalo)** DJ Dance, show (including male and female dancers) & other surprises, cash bar, free buffet. Shades is a lesbians of color organization, all lesbians and gay men are welcome to attend this affair. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Hamlin House, 432 Franklin St. \$8 adv./\$10 door. (716)845-6152.

✦ **June 18—Lemonheads, Lenny Kravitz in Concert (Pittsburgh)** Star Lake Ampitheater, Burgettstown, PA. (412)323-1919.

✦ **June 18-25—Gay Games & Cultural Festival (NYC)**

✦ **June 26—Stonewall 25 (NYC)**

✦ **June 29—Depeche Mode in Concert (Pittsburgh)** Star lake Ampitheater. Tickets (412)323-1919.

The Erie  
Playhouse  
presents  
Ben Agresti  
in



May 19-22, 26-29, June 2-4

It's the story of Noah and the Ark...but not the one you're used to! Come see the Erie Playhouse musical written by Richard Rodgers.

Adults-\$14, Sr. Cit-\$13, Students-\$7 Group Rates Available

The Erie Playhouse, 13 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16501

For Tickets Call 454-2852

Bring this ad with you when you buy a ticket to 2 BY 2, and receive \$2 off the price of 2 tickets. Offer good, Thursdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm and Saturday at 5pm.

✦ **July 2 or 3—10% Network Cook-Out (Jamestown)** at Greg Rabb's house (716)484-7285. Details next issue.

✦ **July 3—Toronto Gay Pride Day** Toronto's Pride Week is June 26-July 3.

✦ **July 9—In a New Light '94** Entertainment/educational AIDS special ABC.

✦ **July 10—Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland)** Details next

issue.

✦ **July 14—Elton John & Billy Joel Concert (Cleveland)—CANCELLED!**

✦ **Aug 2—Elton John & Billy Joel Concert (Pittsburgh)** Three Rivers Stadium, tickets from Ticketmaster.

✦ **Aug. 11—"Erie Cares" Gala Benefit for Friends from the Heart.** At the Warner. Details later. Info 838-0123. Need underwriters and sponsors right now.

✦ **Aug. 20—10% Network Picnic** Details later.

## Festivals & Conferences

✦ **May 20—Lesbian In-Touch Encounter (LITE) Weekend (Pittsburgh)** "For people who might be struggling with issues around sexuality. We get a lot of people who are just coming out." Social activities, workshops, discussions, ...it's "structured but in a laid-back way". Areas covered include relationships, spirituality, self-esteem. Register no later than May 15. Info (412)731-7690.

✦ **May 27-30—Bear Pride Memorial Day Weekend (Chicago)** Info: (312)509-8172.

✦ **June 24-26—Eighth Annual Golden Threads Celebration (Provincetown RI)** For lesbians over 50 and their friends. Banquet, dance, Heather Bishop will entertain. Info: Christine Burton, Golden Threads, P.O. Box 60475, Northhampton MA 01060-0475.

✦ **June 24-July 3—13th Annual Toronto Lesbian and Gay Pride Week** Church & Wellesley

Streets. 150,000 people expected. Personal care attendants provided. Info (416)214-0232.

➔ **June 28-Jul 3—16th Annual Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) World Conference (NYC)** Gay/lesbian rights on an international level. ILGA is recognized by the UN. ILGA World Conference, c/o LGCS, 208 W. 13 St. New York NY 10011. (212)620-7310.

➔ **July 1-3—6th Northeast Conference of Jewish Lesbians and Gay Men (Montreal)** Contact Chevrei Tikva (216)932-5551.

➔ **July 15-17—Gaylaxicon V (Rockville MD)** Gay/lesbian sci-fi, fantasy, and horror convention. Gaylaxicon V, Box 656, Washington DC 20044. (202)232-3141.

➔ **July 27-30—14th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews (NYC)** Contact Chevrei Tikva (216)932-5551.

➔ **Aug 4-7—National Gay Pentecostal Alliance Northeastern District Conference (Schenectady NY)** Info & registration: Conference Registration, NGPA-N.E. District, PO Box 1391, Schenectady NY 12301-1391 (518)372-6001.

➔ **Aug 7-13—10th Annual International Conference on AIDS (Yokohama Japan)** International Conference on AIDS, c/o Congress Corp. Namiki Bldg., 5-3 Kamiyama-cho Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150, Japan (enclose international reply coupon).

➔ **Aug 19-28—Pittsburgh Pride Week** Moved from its normal time in June in order not to conflict with Stonewall 25 in New York City. According to Pittsburgh's *Out*, the celebration will kick off with a big concert Fri. Aug. 19, parade and rally Sat. Aug. 20, and Sun. Aug. 21 "Gay Day" at Kennywood Park. Other events throughout week. To volunteer or help (412)681-3129.

## Women's Festivals

"Women's festivals" are, despite the name, basically "lesbian festivals" (though the National Women's Music Festival welcomes men and women, of all orientations). The festivals revolve around musical performances, but also feature comedy, films, videos, sports, workshops, speakers, activities, and such. There's a lot of variation in what they offer. If you write them or call they'll send you more details (an SASE would probably be appreciated).

**Virginia Women's Music Festival—May 13-15 INTOUCH**, RT 2 Box 1096, Kent's Store, VA 23084 (814)589-6542.

**Campfest—Mem. Day Weekend** Campfest, RR 5 Box 185, Franklinville NJ 08322 (609)694-2037

**Wimifest—May 27-29** WIMIN, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque NM 87198-0204 (505)265-3297

**Camp Dyke—Mem. Day Weekend** In Santa Cruz CA (904)826-0410.

**Southern Women's Music & Comedy Festival**—Has been Mem. Day weekend, discontinued indefinitely.

**Gulf Coast Women's Festival—Mem. Day Weekend** Overtt Mississippi at besieged Sisterspirit land. The situation is dangerous here...make sure you understand what's going on before heading down. Info (601)344-1411.

**National Women's Music Festival—June 2-5** NWMF, Dept. LC, P.O. Box 1427, Indianapolis IN 46206 (317)927-9355.

**Pacific Northwest Women's Music & Cultural Jamboree—July 1-3** in Bellingham WA. Contact PNWMCJ, 25-6 NW 23rd PL #416, Portland OR 97210 (503)223-3874.

## Cocoon

1164 W 10TH STREET  
(814)459-6608

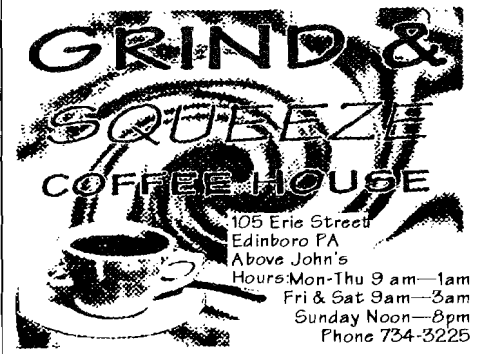
Hours: Mon-Thu 11-7

Fri & Sat 11-9pm

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bumperstickers, buttons, lapel pins

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Edinboro PA  
Above John's  
Hours: Mon-Thu 9 am—1am  
Fri & Sat 9am—3am  
Sunday Noon—8pm  
Phone 734-3225

**Northampton Lesbian Festival—July 22-24**  
WOW Productions, 160 Main St., Northampton MA  
01060 (413)586-8251.

**Michigan Womyn's Music Festival—Aug. 9-14**  
Near Hart, MI. WWTMC, Box 22, Walhalla MI  
49485. (616)757-4766.

**West Coast Women's Music & Comedy Fest—Sept. 1-5**  
Robin Tyler Productions, 15842 Chase St.  
N. Hills CA 91343 (818)893-4075.

**Wild Western Women's Weekend—Sept. 2-5**  
INTOUCH, Rt. 2 Box 1096, Kent's Store VA 23084  
(804)589-6542.

**Rhythmfest—Labor Day Weekend** In rural North  
Carolina. Rhythmfest, 957 N. Highland Ave., Atlanta  
GA 30306 (404)873-1551.

**East Coast Lesbians Festival—Labor Day  
Weekend** In southeastern NY state. Info: Lin Daniels,  
ECLF, 2854 Coastal Highway #7, St. Augustine FL  
32095.

**Ohio Lesbian Festival—Sept. 10** Info: LBA, P.O.  
Box 02086, Columbus OH 43202 (614)267-DYKE.

**Sisterspace Pocono Weekend—Sept. 9-11**  
Info: Sisterspace, 351 S. 47th St. B-101, Philadelphia  
PA 19143 (215)476-2424.

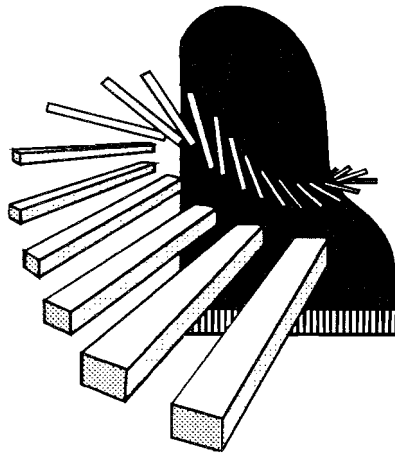
## On TV This Month

These programs appear on TV more than  
once during the month.

☆ **Comedy Hour—Roseanne Arnold:** Features  
comedian Roseanne Arnold. HBO 5/5 (3:45  
a.m.)/5/14 (5 a.m.), 5/17 (11:30 p.m.), 5/23 (11:30  
a.m.)

☆ **Women's Sports: Basketball** High School  
SPC 9 p.m., 11 p.m. 5/6. **Bowling**—LPBT on  
SPC & KBL 5/13 (3 a.m.), 5/21 (8 p.m.), 5/24  
(Noon & 9:30 p.m.), 5/27 (12:30 p.m. & 3 a.m.).  
**Hockey**—Women's World Championships SPC  
5/11 (8:30 p.m.) **Volleyball**—5/9 SPC (2:30  
p.m.), 5/21 (3a.m.) on SPC & KBL. **Pro Beach  
Volleyball** 5/6 SPC & KBL at 3 a.m., 5/7 9 p.m.  
KBL, 5/18 SPC 5 p.m., SPC & KBL 8:30 p.m., 5/  
19 SPC & KBL 3 p.m., ESPN2 2:30 p.m., 5/24  
KBL & SPC 1:30 p.m. & 8 p.m., 5/26 SPC 3 a.m.

# the Embers



1711 State, Erie PA  
459-1711

Now Open Mon-Sat 10pm-2am  
HOUSE DJ BOBBY B MON, WED-FRI  
SAT TAKING REQUESTS  
YOUR BARTENDERS: ROBERT, DOUG & JAY  
KITCHEN 8-11 PM  
Piano Bar Coming Soon!

DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS  
WELL-LIT PARKING LOT IN BACK  
PORTION OF COVER CHARGE WILL GO  
TO LOCAL AIDS ORGANIZATIONS

GRAND OPENING IN MID-JUNE  
ORGANIZING PICNIC FOR MID-JULY  
Gay-owned & operated

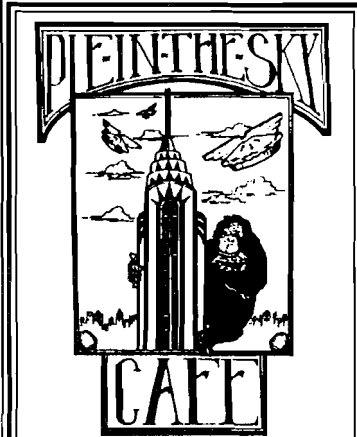
## Entertainment Notes

☆ **SMELLED LIKE GAY SPIRIT:** The suicide of **Kurt Cobain** was tragic enough, but with his death, the gay community has lost a strong friend and ally. In the liner notes for Nirvana's *Incesticide*, Cobain wrote, "If any of you in any way hate homosexuals, people of a different color, or women, please do this one favor for us—leave us the fuck alone! Don't come to our shows and don't buy our records." When a campaign for an anti-gay rights law hit Oregon, Kurt's band Nirvana performed at a benefit to oppose the campaign. When they appeared on *Saturday Night Live*, Cobain kissed Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic in front of America. In an interview with *The Advocate* (Feb. 9, 1993), Cobain said that although he was married, "I'm definitely gay in spirit." Here's hoping his spirit finds more gaiety in the next life than in this one. (Miss ya Kurt!)

☆ **A WEDDING IN CICELEY:** *Northern Exposure's* gay male couple, Erick and Ron (Don McManus and Doug Ballard), should be getting married on the May 2 episode (sorry we couldn't get it in the last in newsletter but we found out about it too late). Well, check out the listings...if you miss it this time you can catch it when it repeats somewhere around August. Plus, it'll probably come out on video, like the series' lesbian episode, called *Ciceley*.

☆ **BAR NEWS:** Erie's new gay bar, **The Embers** opened for business on April 8. Owner Robert Barcio says grand opening will probably be sometime in early or mid-June. He also plans to organize a bar picnic in July. Barcio says he thinks that Erie can support three bars, and that he hopes to

get a lot of the clientele that hasn't been going out much. The bar has a number of environments, will serve food (Barcio's open for suggestions about menu items), and will have a piano player some nights. He hopes to be able to open up on Sundays. DJ Bobby B. says he'll be playing a lot of house, but will take requests. Specifics in our "Bars" section.



Casual Fine Dining  
463 W 8th St, Erie PA  
459-8638  
Breakfast Mon-Fri 7:30-11:00  
Lunch Mon-Fri 11:30-2:00  
Dinner Thur-Sat 5:30-9:00

☆ **MORE BAR NEWS:** "We're giving the place a face-lift for '94!" says John from **Lizzie Bordon's**. "We've got a new dance floor, new paint, new carpet, different dance lights, and we knocked the walls out and opened the place up a little. Our air purifiers have come in—good news for nonsmokers! Now we're working on a new ceiling, and hope to have the patio open for the summer. Once we're all done we plan to have a grand re-opening." Some changes in the musical menu, too. Country fans now have two nights of fun—Wednesdays from 9 to 12:30 p.m., and Fridays 9-11 p.m. (11 p.m. -2 a.m. regular music).

☆ **ERIE THEATER:** The Erie Playhouse will bring the gay-themed musical **Falsettos** to the Erie stage in June. The Tony-winning play focuses on a married man and devoted father who is in love with a guy named Whizzer. The play is set in 1981, when the world was just awakening to a new disease called AIDS. The play opens June 9, and will probably run June 9-12 and 15-18.. Dates and times couldn't be confirmed at press time, so check *Showcase* in June or call the Erie Playhouse (814)454-2852.

☆ **BUFFALO THEATER:** At Compton's After Dark, the highly-acclaimed play **Lesbian Vampires**

**of Sodom.** May 6, 13, 20 at 9 p.m., May 15, 22 at 8 p.m. Info: (716)885-DARK.

- ☆ **TALES:** According to a piece in *TV Guide*, PBS has decided not to help finance a sequel to **Tales of the City**, nor to air it if the show is financed from elsewhere. The network said the decision was made for financial reasons, and that the network wasn't caving in to conservative pressure. *Tales of the City*, which aired last January, pulled in the highest ratings that any PBS drama has seen in years. It was produced by Britain's Channel 4, and PBS's financial contribution was fairly small; for the sequel, they are being asked to kick in \$3 or \$4 million. *Tales* author Armistead Maupin says he thinks PBS pulled out because it caused controversy in several Southern states where PBS funding is in trouble. Fundamentalist Rev. Donald Wildmon has encouraged members of his American Family Association to write to their representatives protesting use of tax dollars for the program. Probably HBO or another cable channel will finance and air *More Tales of the City*.
- ☆ **HOLLYWOOD GOES LAVENDER:** The May 1994 issue of *Us* has an article called, "Boy Meets Boy: The New Love Story," about Hollywood's sudden interest in taking on films with gay and lesbian themes. According to the article, there are already 60 gay-themed films in the works. Among these are: **Object of My Affection**, about a gay man and a pregnant woman; **The Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer Story** based on the story of the highest-ranking woman in the military, who was drummed out for being a lesbian; **Boys on the Side** road movie with Whoopi Goldberg as a lesbian singer travelling with an HIV+ friend; **Mayor of Castro Street** about assassinated gay activist Harvey Milk; and **Angels in America**, Broadway AIDS epic. **Larry Kramer**, the gay movement's grump-in-residence, had trashed **Philadelphia** for not showing the sexual side of gay relationships; in the article, he concedes that that movie's success probably had a lot to do with this trend. Kramer's play **The Normal Heart**, by the way, will be turned into a film, starting shooting this fall.

☆ **A PULITZER PRIZE FOR EDITORIAL CARTOONING:** Went to **Lynn Johnston**, cartoonist of **For Better or For Worse**, for her sequence on a teenager who was coming to terms with being gay.

☆ **NEW LOVE GODDESS ALBUM:** Rejoice, swine! Petite delicate flower of love, **Judy Tenuta** has a new album out that was recorded at the Gay and Lesbian Festival in Los Angeles. She says radio interviewers are asking her not to say the album's title—**Attention Butt-Pirates and Lesbeterians**—on the air. She told an AP reporter she responds with "Excuse me, squid! It's NOT one of the seven dirty words! It's so typical! I don't get it. They can have naked women exploding on MTV and I can't say *Attention Butt-Pirates and Lesbeterians*."

☆ **PITTSBURGH GAY/LESBIAN ROADTRIPS:** A newly-formed company in Pittsburgh plans to arrange gay group tours to metropolitan destinations. **Metropolitan Travellers** will be planning the trips in the spring, fall, and winter, with itineraries aimed at the gay/lesbian traveller. They're kicking off the summer season with "The City of Brotherly & Sisterly Love Tour" featuring Philadelphia and Atlantic City. A portion of the profits will be donated to the Lambda Foundation and AmFAR. Info (412)653-7979.

☆ **WHAT WOULD ROSEANNE SAY?** At the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) awards ceremony in March, **Marief Hemingway** kissed mild-mannered lesbian comic **Lea DeLaria** so hard that Lea fell on her face.



# Local News

## **Meadville: New Gay Group!**

Interested in a group for the gay community in the Meadville area? A Meadville couple is doing just that. If you are interested, write to RD 5, Box 602, Meadville PA 16335. Meadville really needs a group like this...best of luck to them!

## **No Jamestown Gay AA**

At least for the time being, there is no longer a Jamestown Gay/Lesbian Drug & Alcohol Abuse support group. If somebody decides to start it back up, please contact *EGCN* so that we can let people know.

## **Chautauqua County Pride Month Stuff**

The 10% Network is putting together some events for June Gay/Lesbian Pride month. At this writing they are just firming up the details as regards dates.

A couple workshops are being held on coming out issues and homophobia. One is for gay and lesbian youth, another for "Late Bloomers." The workshops will be presented by two Chautauqua County therapists. They are really concerned about publicizing this to gay and lesbian youth in Chautauqua County, and want to hear from people who have ideas on how to do that. The workshops will be held either on June 11 or June 18; they don't have confirmation on the use of the room yet. The 10% Network will have a talent show the night of the workshop (which will be their get-together for the month), so whether that's held on June 11 or June 18 hinges on the workshop date. Everyone's invited to show off their talent at the talent show, and they're looking for variety there.

A couple weeks after that, a gay man from Colorado is scheduled to speak at Chautauqua Institute on

the gay perspective on pain and healing, and he will be at a 10% Network function.

All hinging on dates we don't have yet.

For info John (716)484-7285.

## **Romanovsky & Phillips Concert**

The Romanovsky & Phillips concert on April 9 was successful, bringing out about 100 concert-goers.

Although the concert was organized by Bridges, Bridges made no money on the concert. We were able to get the duo—who normally play to large halls and command a lot of money for a performance—because they agreed to play for whatever was made above expenses. Bridges brought in the duo solely because they provided us with an opportunity to bring their wonderful act to Erie by giving us an offer we couldn't refuse.

Harry Miller kept la bella bistro open late so that fans and performers could relax together.

To order R&P's music, call 1-800-47-FRUIT, and they'll send you a catalog with their music, and the music of the Flirtations, Joe Bracco, Lynn Lavner, and others.

## **Bridges Bookfair and Dance**

At the Bridges Book Fair on April 23, I bought about \$1,400 worth of books. Bridges gets 20% of that which is \$311.42. It was interesting what people bought or didn't buy...for instance, in many markets Rod and Bob Jackson Paris books are very hot sellers, but they didn't sell a single copy here. But all the parenting books went!

The book sale was brought to us by Eugene Harvey, who used to belong to the 10% Network (then Jamestown Social Group) and now manages a Waldenbooks store in Lockport.

There were other tables at the Book Fair/Dance...Episcopal HIV/AIDS Food Pantry had a bake sale, as did Cocoon and The Maple Syrup Lady.

The dance had a relatively low turnout, though the people attending seemed to be having fun anyway. It's not clear if that's because the weather was so nice that day, or if Bridges needs to have less dances, or what. Bridges would appreciate feedback from people who go to Bridges dances (or who would like to go but are annoyed by some aspect of it). Some changes: some

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people did play cards (last issue it was suggested that people play games and do other stuff besides dance). Many people did pick up name tags but they tended to be the smarty-pantases who said they were Eleanor Roosevelt or the Queen of Sheba or something. There was a suggestion of having of some tables in the dance area, along the walls. Also, how many people prefer having the dances in the sanctuary (which is carpeted but pretty) and how many prefer the Olympia Brown Room (which provides a smooth surface for dancers whose style is less bouncy and more spinny and slidy)?


By the way, if you want to get the maple lady's products call Hurry Hill Farm Pure Maple Products at (814)734-1358. ("Maple Lovers Stick Together!")

## Transitions - Local

**DIED: Catherine Reftger, OSB** on April 18 after an extended illness. She was 63. She was a "founding mother" of the Womynspace coffehouse, and was editor of *CMI (Communications Ministry Inc.)*, a national publication for lesbian and gay religious and clergy. She was an elementary and secondary education teacher for 20 years, ministered at St. Benedict Academy for 14 years, taught at Gannon University, and worked in the Erie Co. Library system. She was co-director of public relations from 1984-1992 for the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, worked at Benet Press, was active on many committees and directed a number of programs for the Benedictines.

**BORN:** To **Phil and Karen Huntley** on March 31, a baby boy, **Phil Huntley II**. ("The 'II' thing is Karen's idea," insists Phil).

**MOVED:** Back to Chautauqua County, gay activist **Patrick McNamara**. He had been living in New Mexico.

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## Lesbian Health

### Lesbian Health Study in Erie Area

Lesbian health care issues are not very well understood, and need to be studied.

Would you like to contribute to improving understanding of our health? You can...

During the months of May and June, Mindy Rothbard will be conducting interviews with Erie area lesbians about lesbian health care issues. Rothbard is putting out a call for lesbians interested in being interviewed about their own health care experiences. The interviews are face-to-face (in person) and will take place in a private setting. An individual interview will take between a half hour to an hour. Note that there will be no questions about sexual practices in these interviews; the study is about lesbian health care, not lesbian sex. To arrange for an interview call Rothbard at 1-800-937-9133 (extension 6187). If you have trouble getting through, call us at *EGCN* 456-9833.

Rothbard will also be interviewing local physicians (M.D.s) about their own attitudes and knowledge of lesbian health care issues. Interested physicians (or people who want to suggest possibly interested physicians) can also contact Rothbard at the number above.

Rothbard, 38, is a medical student studying at Medical College of Pennsylvania. She is a license naturopathic physician, and was involved in the alternative healing community in her home state of Oregon. She is in Erie for a family practice practicum at Hamot, and this is her community project assignment.

During her stay here, she will create a lesbian health care pamphlet to be made available, and on display, at local physians offices (in waiting rooms, etc.)

Rothbard is going to try to be at the May 14 Womynspace, if you'd like to meet to her there.

### Reduced-Cost Mammograms

There seems to be a much higher risk of breast cancer among lesbians than in the general population, and should take breast health very seriously.

The PA Breast Cancer Coalition, Rite Aid Pharmacies, and Prevention Magazine are joining with the American Cancer Society to offer reduced rate mammograms. Pick up a Mother's Day Mammogram Certificate at a Rite AIDS store, to get reduced cost

mammograms at an ACR-accredited facility. The mammograms are available to all women who meet the American Cancer Society guidelines (no, you don't have to be a mother):

-Women 40-49 who have NOT had a mammogram in the past 12-24 months.

-Women 50 and over who have NOT had a mammogram in the past 12 months.

Women with NO apparent symptoms of breast cancer.

-Women who are not pregnant or nursing.

Schedule appointments between May 1 and May 31, 1994. Call early; appointments are necessary and limited.

To schedule, call weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.:

-The Breast Cancer Coalition (814)455-7833

-The American Cancer Society 1-800-ACS-2345

## Take Back the Night March

By Deb Spilko

Over 300 women and men took part in the Take Back the Night events in downtown Erie on April 14. Take Back the Night is a national observance held to heighten awareness about sexual violence. It coincides with Sexual Violence Awareness Month, which is April.

It was held for the first time in Erie last year, on the campus of Penn State Behrend. This year, organizers moved it to downtown Erie. The theme of this year's event was "Enough is Enough: Forever United, Safe and Strong."

The event began with a rally in Perry Square, with several speakers. Then attendees set out on a march, down State, over W. 10th, up Walnut, over W. 6th, and ended at Gannon University, with a celebration at Gannon's cafeteria. People joined the march along the way.

The march alternated between spirited chanting, and stops where a victim of sexual violence would give an account of the violence that she had suffered. After each heart-wrenching account, the march and powerful chanting would start up again. Half-way into the march, candles were lit, as a symbol of a lightened path ("There is safety in the light, and fear in the dark," say TBTN organizers)

The route of the march went past Gannon's fraternity houses. Nationwide, there is a lot of sexual violence that goes on in fraternities, but march organizers say they did not choose their route with that in mind, nor did they wish to single fraternities out. Marching past the houses on W. 6th Street, the fraternity members were conspicuous in their absence; when the march went by the Pike fraternity house on W. 7th, members hooted and applauded; you couldn't tell if they were being sincerely supportive of the march or ridiculing it, because they were hidden by the night. At Wehrle Hall, a men's dorm, a group of about 15 men had gathered outside and were laughing at the marchers. One man repeatedly raised his fist and yelled, "Free Mike Tyson!" A man in a window shouted, "Shut up, you bitches!" From another window, a man yelled, "Cunts!"

The march ended at Zurn Hall, where people in the march who had experienced sexual violence were invited to speak of their own suffering. A number of

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them did, some for the first time. Yeshe Atil from Behrend's Women Today, encouraged Gannon to form their own chapter of Women Today.

The celebration at Gannon's cafeteria after the march featured refreshments, tables by Trigon and Women Today, a women's art show, and dancing, all of which provided closure for an intense evening. There was also a chance for networking, and survivors of sexual abuse who were in pain and who had shared their experiences were hooked up with people who could help them. One woman was so strengthened by the march that she is now pressing charges against the man who had raped her. A couple of the women who shared their stories at the march were able to talk about it for the first time with their parents, which was important to them.

Among those marching were a number of gay men and lesbians, as well as some straight men. Trigon, Penn State Behrend's lesbian/gay organization, was a sponsor of the event. Trigon made up T-shirts for the event that said "Help End Violence ▼ Abuse ▼ Ignorance ▼ Homophobia." There were a number of people from EGO participating. One of the chants was

"Sexist, rapist, anti-gay/Don't you take out night away!" and another was "We have the power/We have the right/The streets are ours/Take back the night!"

"Some people think this is just a movement against men," says Jacquie Wade, Coordinator, Residence Life and Human Relations Program at Behrend. "But this struggle belongs to a lot of different groups. However, of all the things I do year to year, this is the most exciting and rewarding." She describes the strong base of support that allowed Take Back the Night to come out of the Behrend community. "It just so happened that a lot of the groups that were co-sponsoring this event were also in the forefront of fights against sexist, racist, and homophobic behaviors and actions. These particular groups have a strong voice on campus. We hope to have more people involved in the future."

*Rally Speakers:* Pam Magerle, project specialist at Edinboro University's drug and alcohol program and in private practice at the Well Being Center; Becky Durkin, vice-president of Women Today and senior English literature major; Sarah Woodin, senior majoring in creative writing; Chris Rizzo, coordinator of residence life at Behrend; and Jacquie Wade, coordinator of residence life.

*Did Anyone Tape the Rally?* The rally's speakers and other organizers would like to get a copy of the tape. To earn their undying gratitude, call Jacquie at 898-6232.

### ***A Male Marcher Shares His Thoughts on Take Back The Night***

"Night violence is a problem that threatens both men and women in our world today. The monster of hatred lurks behind every dark corner in the night. Women must walk like herds of sheep to keep from being raped by the wolves. Gay men make sure their step is heavy and manly enough to keep from being suspected and then bashed. But the fear doesn't stop there. Date rape, the ultimate breach in trust, is becoming more and more of a threat. Women don't know who they can trust, and men don't know what's right and wrong. Violence will tear our world apart unless people start respecting each other. There is no reason for hatred or violence other than ignorance and stupidity. Take Back the Night is an important event for those who fear the shadows in the parks, or the sound of footsteps in the dark, to stand together in the light of a candle and shout, 'Enough is enough!'"

**-Jonathan Raup**  
Penn State Behrend Freshman



### ***PERSONALS?***

Some folks are asking us to carry personal ads. We are asking our readers what kinds of guidelines they think we should have. So write or call us or stop us in the bars or whatever...and tell us what you think.

## Embers Sparks Controversy

*On April 8, Erie's new gay bar, The Embers, opened up for business.*

*Within the Erie gay community, there has been some controversy about the new bar.*

*First some history. In 1980, Nick Panos opened Lizzie Bordon's as a gay bar. In about 1985, Nick sold the business (but owned the building) to Robert Barcio and his lover. They called the bar R&K's Club 13. The bar remained gay for about a year, and then a decision was made to change it over to a straight bar, which was given the name Sneakers. The change happened suddenly, and a lot of people in the community were upset about the way the changeover was handled. Sneakers went under in 1987, and Nick got the bar back, naming it Lizzie Bordon's Part II).*

*When news spread of Robert opening The Embers, a number of people asked EGCN to write about what happened (the letter included here is an example of that input).*

*None of us at EGCN were going out to R&K's when this happened, and to be perfectly honest, none of us really wanted to touch this story. But among the major goals of Bridges/EGCN is encouragement of good communication within the LesBiGay community. Also, one of our major concerns is how we treat each other.*

*And so it became clear that to remain true to what we're about, we had to cover this.*

*We have really tried to handle this issue in as fair and even-handed a way as we could. Hopefully, this feature will contribute to understanding and reconciliation.*

*-Greg Valiga*

## Letter

Dear Editor,

I don't think that it is much of a secret that a new night spot for the gay community may soon be opening in Erie. Our community, more than not, welcomes any gay owned and operated business as long as the intent toward our community is good. . .even noble.

Several years ago, Erie's premiere gay night spot was opened. The intent of the new owner toward this gay-owned and operated night club and its anticipated customers was indeed good. After less than a year, however, the new, well-intended owner became less than tolerant toward those he was serving...to the point that he reverted to using less-than-flattering slang terms in talking about his clientele; even to the eventual point of closing the club without any notice to anyone. This gay club owner immediately changed the club's name and it became, within only a few short days, a place where only non-community friends could gather...all our sisters and brothers were turned away at the front door simply for no other reason than they were gay.

Well, this was the past...and in the spirit of free enterprise, this former operator of this once popular night spot will try again. Hopefully he has discovered with the passage of time that respect toward someone goes a long, long way in maintaining a good business...and good friends. Hopefully his new business venture will thrive. He may, however, find that he'll need to work harder than ever before to erase the taste of bad memories left from his last gay-targeted night club adventure. People are willing to forgive. But respect must be earned. To successfully operate a business such as a night spot for any segment of any community, great toleration and respect must be always on exhibit.

No one would fault anyone in Erie's gay community if they were very slow in making this new gay-owned and operated night spot a success...the jury may be out for some time with this verdict. We need to work together, no matter who we are...it will only benefit everyone in society in the end.

Your newsletter is a huge asset to the Erie gay community and to areas that surround us here in this part of the state. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your ongoing support.

*-Name withheld*



## 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 6 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

# Embers Interview

**Greg Valiga:** *There is some information that Bridges wants to relate to its readers and, of course, we talked on the phone about what you were willing to talk about and stuff. If there's anything here you feel uncomfortable talking about or answering, just say so.*

*We don't want to do anything that's going to affect any of the bar businesses. That means all of them. We're not going to bad-mouth anyone. If your business is going to succeed or fail, we feel the patrons can determine that, and we don't want to have anything to do with that.*

*Still, there are things in the community that people are talking about, and I tried to take out all the questions about the [former] bar and stuff, but there might be something here. Just let me know if you don't want to answer something, and you don't have to answer. It's that simple.*

**Greg:** *Why did you decide to open another bar and what do you have to offer?*

**Robert:** Well, I just think that there's two bars in town and I don't think that they offer enough for gay people. I've met a lot of people over the past seven years, who'd say, "Gee, I hear you used to own a bar and it used to be so nice and you did this and you did that." I'd say, "Yeah, I did," and just kept thinking about it, so I decided that I was gonna do it. And being gay, I think we can do more for the people, because they can come and talk to me. You can say whatever you want to get the business, but if you don't come through with it, you're screwing the people.

**Greg:** *Well, I think that's the way most people feel. If someone says they're going to do something, and they don't deliver, then...*

**Robert:** I said I was gonna buy a bar and people said "Oh no, he's not, oh no he's not. It's still for sale." It took me almost three months to wrap this deal up...I put a downpayment on this. I knew I would get approved, I have a clean slate with everybody, and I bought it. I had it completed in my mind...

**Greg:** *Do you think the LesBiGay community can support three bars in Erie?*

**Robert:** I do. Because the crowd that I had Friday, like I said, were a lot of people who don't go out.

**Greg:** *Are you targeting the same bar crowd that the other bars are, or are you going for a market niche or just who are you targeting here?*

**Robert:** I want everyone to come. But I would like the people who don't come out anymore.

I want everybody together. I want everybody to get along and I'm tired of these people saying, "I'm not going there because so and so's there and I don't like him." You've gotta get along. That person's gonna need help someday and the one you don't like's gonna be the one that'll help you. But you try to tell people that...

**Greg:** *Do you feel you'll have to work harder to attract individuals who may have felt betrayed by circumstances at R & K's Club 13?*

**Robert:** I can't work any harder than I am right now. Maintaining the bar, keeping the bar clean, offering good drink prices, straight liquor... I don't know what else I can offer. I'm here to stay, that's it.

**Greg:** *How do you feel about LesBiGay community involvement?*

**Robert:** Well, like I said, I just felt that everyone should just get together and say, "Hey, we all need help now, someone's gonna need help down the road, let's pull together."

**Greg:** *Will your establishment promote tolerance and be involved with community events?*

**Robert:** Yes.

**Greg:** *You'll probably end up doing things, having shows or whatever...*

**Robert:** Yes.

**Greg:** *You'd be willing to co-sponsor events?*

**Robert:** Mm-hm.

**Greg:** *Are you willing to allow different organizations to come in and maybe hold events here? Are you willing to have them come in and put up posters to promote other events in the community?*

**Robert:** That's fine.

You know, I need to get a bulletin board put up.

I put one up when I had the club. I had the Pitt Men's Study come up for two days, when it all started with AIDS. [I said] "Come on up, stay for two days!"

**Greg:** *How about space for newsletters and things like that. Obviously, you already have them here...*

**Robert:** I would've had some on the piano, but having a busy night...I figured they'd just get thrown here and there so I just put them on the cigarette machine...mine's pretty well lit up in that corner.

**Greg:** *Are you going to be actively involved with fundraising and promoting AIDS organizations?*

**Robert:** Yes. My first intentions were...have a cover on Friday and Saturday night. Half of my cover'd go

towards AIDS on Friday. And everybody said, "You can't charge a cover on Friday because no one else does," so I just forgot it. Well, being a new business, I can't really afford to give away a lot of money now. But I'd say within a month to two months, I would present them with a check, or I'd pay their utility bill for a month. I've been told there are two AIDS groups in Erie. And that would be putting money back into the community, that I made from the gay people. It'd be their money, my money would be *our* money. Who knows who's gonna need to go to that group. Like I said, you're gonna need help. So that's my intention, helping people.

**Greg:** *Gays and lesbians are really conscious of their safety. Do you feel that your bar is in a good location and if any safety concerns arise, what are you willing to do?*

**Robert:** I think it's a very safe neighborhood. People say, "18th and State, yuk!" You've got the biggest branch bank with lighting. I left a five-bedroom home in Millcreek to come here. I live here, my pets are here, it's lit up very well, there's parking in the back, you've got the Holiday Inn parking lot, you've got parking all over. The police are always here, because of the cigar store...There was a time when I had the club, if there was a problem, I hired a security guard. I also hired a security guard when I held the gay picnic. I'm not afraid to spend money. I'm the first one to say, "Hey, there's gonna be trouble, take care of it." And all the neighbors already know it's a gay bar and I've had no problem. Nobody hanging out front, nobody throwing bricks or whatever...

**Greg:** *Do you have any special events planned?*

**Robert:** Grand opening. [no date set at this time]

**Greg:** *How was your opening weekend?*

**Robert:** Very good, very successful. I'm very pleased.

**Greg:** *Do you think the LesBiGay community can support three bars in Erie?*

**Robert:** I do. Because the crowd that I had Friday like I said, there were a lot of people who don't go out...

**Greg:** *I always thought the gay community was a lot larger than what we can actually see.*

**Greg:** *The newsletter's been informed that there is resentment in the LesBiGay community regarding the previous club. Are you willing to address this issue and answer questions pertaining to that changeover?*

**Robert:** It was just a business decision, and I wasn't by myself. I had to go along with my lover, and the people that worked for me. They knew what was going on, and it just wasn't a wise move. It wasn't a fair move. But it was also seven-eight years ago. I've learned a lot since then.

**Greg:** *Do you think that maybe it could've been handled in a better way?*

**Robert:** I don't think it really *should've* happened. I've taken the full blame for it, which isn't fair. But you know, that's like if something would happen here, I would get the blame for it, because I'm the owner. Before, I had a lover. I don't expect that I should've taken all the blame for this. It's like, "Robert Barcio did this or Robert Barcio did that..." I was not in it alone. And I feel very hurt that my name is the one that got tarnished. That bothers me. That's why I really don't want to talk about it. And I feel like I'm still taking the full blame. Granted, I went along with it. But one thing people don't understand...to maintain a bar as well as I do and offer what I did—! I mean, I had buffets, anniversary parties, I went all out for flowers, everything.

But it was just to the point, with the very high rent and mortgage I had out there, I really had no choice but to try another option. Here, you know, it's my building.

**Greg:** *From what I understand, I don't think that the actual changeover is the real issue. I think it's just...the way it happened. I mean, we keep hearing from people, "We went there and we were thrown out," or something like that.*

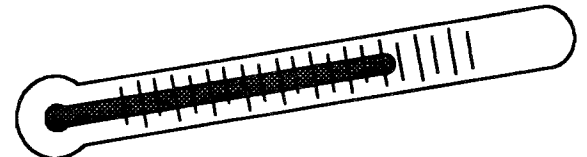
**Robert:** No one was *ever* thrown out of that bar. One person was asked to leave because they'd come in there and they started talking real queer, and I had quite a few straight people in there and I said "You're more than welcome to come in here. Please just don't dance. You can come in here and visit, you can do whatever you want, but I have to make it a straight bar at this point."

**Greg:** *Was there adequate notice of the changeover?*

**Robert:** No.

**Greg:** *That's what we keep hearing.*

**Robert:** Right. No, there was not. No.



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**PLAY SAFE. GG BOO!**

**A healthy sex message from EGCN, 1994**

## HIV/AIDS News - Local

### **Friends Benefits**

On August 12, Friends from the Heart will host a gala fundraising event called "**Erie Cares**" The event will be held at the Warner Theater, and will feature performers. An art show in the lobby. Benefit organizer James Markiewicz sees the event as a way to raise funds for Friends. But he also notes that it will cost \$1,400 to rent the Warner for the night, and is looking for underwriters and sponsors. If you are interested in helping to either underwrite or sponsor this worthy event, call Friends from the Heart at 838-0123.

Don Joint has put jars in various Erie establishments to collect donations for Friends. These establishments include Cocoon, Cup-a-Ccino's, The Embers, la bella bistro, Lizzie Bordon's, Silver Slipper, and Well Being Center. If you'd like to keep a jar in your establishment, contact Friends.

### **HIV/AIDS Ministry - Cathedral of St. Paul**

Sue Kuebler reports that the April spaghetti dinner to benefit the AIDS Food Pantry was very successful, raising \$1,800. Most of this will stay in the Erie community. At the same event, African-made crafts were sold and raised \$927, which will be sent to Uganda, which is being devastated by AIDS.

Sue also wanted to make sure that people with HIV/AIDS—and those who are caring for their needs—understand that they can have food delivered to them by the AIDS food pantry. She said that she would hate to see people not getting food just because they didn't have transportation, or were too sick, or were afraid of being seen at an AIDS food pantry. (As regards the last one—the food pantry St. Paul's food pantry services a general low-income clientele, and people seen at that food pantry are not marked as having HIV/AIDS. Also, workers at the food pantry observe confidentiality in dealing with people with HIV/AIDS). People do need a referral form from their targeted case manager.

To talk about it more, call Sue Kuebler at 452-3779.

### **Confidential HIV Testing?**

Two thumbs down to the Erie County Department of Health for their botched handling of the media during the local AFSCME strike. Spokespersons for the Health Department had widely publicized the

location and times of the STD and HIV clinics, and gave TV crews access for filming—making the clinics highly visible and a place to avoid for gays and lesbians.

LGLV-Erie responded by faxing Erie County Executive Judy Lynch and Erie Co. Health Dept. Director Joe Trzybinski, requesting that no filming be allowed, and to "refrain from actions which might expose individuals to embarrassment, harassment, and violence."

### **AIDS Council Volunteer Arrested for Theft of Funds**

A former volunteer of the AIDS Council of Erie County was arrested in April and charged with theft from the now-defunct agency.

Clarence Andrew Szoszorek, 27, was charged with six counts each of theft by deception, receiving stolen property, theft, and theft by failure to make disposition of funds. Szoszorek is charged with taking the money from the general accounting fund between November 1993 and Dec. 31, 1993. Theft totalled \$6,200. The Council suspended operations on Dec. 31, 1993 for lack of funds.

People who contributed to the Lizzie's benefit Dec. 3 may be concerned about whether that affected the money that was donated to the AIDS Council. At this point, it appears that the theft occurred only to the agency's general account. Money raised at Lizzie's went into the direct client services account, which is separate.

Szoszorek had been a full-time volunteer at the Council for about a year.

Police would not release any further information at press time. *EGCN* will update further revelations and developments.

### **Friends from the Heart Reacts to Theft**

*A response to the theft of AIDS Council funds from Deb Monohon, a board member and one of the founders of Friends from the Heart. She had been on staff at the Council, and resigned in January 1993:*

Dear *EGCN* Readers:

I am saddened, but not surprised at yet another unfortunate example of the inability of the AIDS Council to meet the challenge of HIV in our community.

This is not the first time in the AIDS Council's history that there have been "questionable misappropriations" of funding. I speak primarily of direct client services monies. At this March's meeting of Erie County's HIV/AIDS Task Force, AIDS Council board member Jackie Kocz told us the status of the \$5,000 direct client services fund that the Council had when it closed: the monies were used by the Council to pay outstanding bills and would be replaced when the Council was reimbursed. (through the Northwest Rural AIDS Alliance). Robbing Peter to pay Paul? We are waiting...

Friends from the Heart was the response to a need in the community.

Our purpose is to *directly* provide money, clothing, bus tokens, nutritional supplements, food, and such for those in need in our community. We have also simply given time, like getting volunteers to help someone who needed to move. Our volunteers are those of us who have sat with frightened, lonely, ill, and dying people in our community.

Our books are open to anyone. At each meeting, a report of monies raised and services provided is read. We feel it is very important for those who have donated their talents, time, and money to have the knowledge of where the money went, and the kinds of services their efforts have made possible.

Out of the ashes of the AIDS Council of Erie, our community has responded to the AIDS crisis. It has been gratifying to see that response.

Let's learn from the past, and build for the future...

Deb Monohon

Board member

Friends from the Heart, Inc.

### **March With a Buddy**

Want to give a hand to someone with HIV who can't participate in Stonewall 25?

Are you HIV+ or have AIDS and can't attend the march but would still like to be part of it?

Then contact the March with a Buddy Project. People in that section of the march will each carry a picture of someone who can't be there.

If you want your picture to be carried, or want to carry the picture of a loved one, send a photo before May 27 to March With a Buddy, P.O. Box 3248, Grand Central Station, New York NY 10163. Best

reproductions made from 4x6 photo (color or b&w). To participate, contact March with a Buddy and tell them one of these:

-I can't be there. Enclosed is my picture or the picture of a loved one.

-I want to march in the parade *and* carry my friend's picture. Enclosed is the picture. (Enclose name of friend if you want to carry his/her picture)

-I want to volunteer to march in the parade with the picture of someone who can't be there.

This program is being paid for entirely by Priority Pharmacy.

For info or registration forms: 1-800-313-8485.

## **Take Out a Classified!**

For \$10, you can take out an ad to find a job, get rid of your old *Advocates*, 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! 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 the newsletter at (814)456-9833. ▼

Sue & Gina—Happy First Anniversary! Love You Bunches, Dee
John—Happy 21st!!! from U-Know-Who
Your ad here!!!

## On Campus '93-'94!

This was a banner year for campus L/B/G organizing in our area. Let's hope next year brings more of the same.

### **Edinboro**

This past year was one of the best (most "fruit"ful?) in the 16-year existence of the Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO). They held an art show in April, hosted a meeting of area LesBiGay organizations, had tables and educational materials available for National Condom week, participated in AIDS Awareness Week, started putting out a newsletter, and had a Coming Out Day observance. During the alternative film festival, black lesbian filmmaker Cheri Dunye was brought in to speak and to show her films.

### **Penn State Behrend**

Penn State Behrend's LesBiGay organization, Trigon, kicked off the school year with a big event called Aily Day, which was held on Coming Out Day, but offered "straight but not narrow" supporters a chance to support gay people; other activities were available as well. Trigon members also spoke at *Sweet Daddy's World*, a talk show at Behrend. They co-sponsored and participated in the Take Back the Night March (see article this issue) organized "Queer Talk" (where straight people's sexual orientation was questioned in a turnabout consciousness-raiser).

### **Allegheny**

In March, Allegheny College's Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People put on a big celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, bringing in speakers, videos, and performers. Also, the campus bookstore store started up a gay studies section. And gay historian Martin Duberman revealed that Allegheny may soon offer a gay studies minor.

### **Mercyhurst**

This year, on the small, quiet campus of Mercyhurst College, student Nick Krayger came out in his column in the campus newspaper (see article in this section). That probably makes him the first Mercyhurst student to ever come out publicly.

### **Fredonia**

SUNY-Fredonia observed National Coming Out Day in October by bringing gay male celebrity-role

models Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris to speak. The event brought together an audience of about 500, making it probably the biggest gay event ever in Chautauqua County. During that week, there were presentations on homophobia around the campus—in dorms and some classrooms. In December the group co-sponsored a techno-rave with two other campus groups: Students Against Racism and Prejudice and Black Student Union. During the Fredonia Fest on April 30 lesbian comic Delphina Aldama was brought in. The group changed its name a couple months ago, to B-GLAD.

## Coming Out at Mercyhurst

*Last February, Nick Krayger, a 19-year-old student at Mercyhurst, became the first gay person to publicly come out at that college. This is his account.*

**By Nick Krayger**

I came to Mercyhurst over a year and a half ago bearing many of the same prejudices you do about the school. It's small, it's Catholic. The people are probably all snotty, far-right-wing homophobes. So I didn't expect to publicize the fact that I was gay on any of the countless billboards grounded around campus.

Sure, I decided to come to Mercyhurst. I was gladly accepted to every school that I applied to, and many of them had Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual support groups on campus. Still, I chose Mercyhurst. I had intended to spend my undergraduate years in the closet, since being a gay activist was something that I never thought I would be.

But I have come a long way since I came to Erie. Being a "big city" boy from Philadelphia, I quickly grew tired of the stereotypes people in Erie (and at Mercyhurst) had about gay and lesbian men and women. Being a popular and public person on campus, I began to see that it was time someone spoke up in support of the struggle of the gays and lesbians in our society. And I took the job upon myself.

Being a columnist on the editorial page of the *Merciad* newspaper, I thought that there would be no better way than to confront the homophobia present on the campus head-on. I wrote my biweekly column in the same format and in much the same tone that I write all of my columns for the *Merciad*. Only this time,

when confronting the issue of homosexuality, I added in my own personal, informed perspective. And the crowd up at Mercyhurst went wild.

I received countless letters. My phone rang endlessly. My days and nights were full of people who wanted to talk about me being gay, and about what I see as the struggle of homosexuals in our society. And I also got something else.

Support. Unconditional, genuine, unprecedented, empowering support. Support from students; from administrators; from professors; even from the ladies in the office. I got support from everyone at Mercyhurst in multitudes, excluding one group: Other lesbian, gay, and bisexual students themselves.

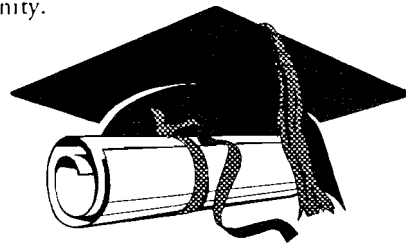
When I wrote my column back in early February of this year, it wasn't meant to be an attention-getter. It wasn't meant to pull all of the members of the straight community to stand behind me, but it did.

The purpose of outing myself in our campus newspaper was very simple: to show other gays, lesbians and bisexuals that they are not alone. My column was an invitation to all the gay members of the Mercyhurst community to candidly attend our on-campus GALA-10 meetings.

Since my public display of courage in February, I have had ONE new student contact me about the on-campus group. What that says to me is that no matter what you do to reassure people that it's okay to accept your identity, that the internalized homophobia ingrained from our society will prevail and force people to stay in the closet.

Many say that what I did was a valiant action for a nineteen-year-old man, and I agree with them.

It just saddens me to think that I cannot share in my own personal victory with members of my own community.



**Best of Luck to Class of '94 from  
Erie Gay Community Newsletter!**

## Youth

### Open Letter to Mark

*Ed. Note: Mark is a gay teenager who has written several times for EGCN, and shared his experiences of coming out to his classmates at school. After he received a death threat from classmates, his life began to fall apart. Dee Dee Foll, a local lesbian, had never met Mark but read and heard what was going on and wanted to connect with him. She shares her feelings here. (By the way, Mark's doing a lot better these days, and plans to resume writing for EGCN next month)*

Mark,

Through reading the articles you have entered into the *EGCN*, I have developed an increasing need to reach you. I have several different views I wish to express to you.

First of all, I must commend you on your courage to stand up without shame. Your presence in our community has certainly been noticed by many. I deeply regret, however, that you have been the victim of so much violence and abuse from the heterosexual Erie community.

It is a terrible shame that we must, in many cases, be the victim of abuse or classified a minority to understand how to live without judgment, but asking people to live in harmony seems to be incredibly idealistic. Hopefully someday, with more courageous people like yourself on our side, we can achieve peace at a higher level.

I think back to when I was in high school (almost too long ago to remember!), and how I wish I could have come out so as not to live a life full of shame and secrets. The feelings of being so different were terrible feelings to live with. I have found through coming out and accepting my sexuality, that I no longer feel different, instead I am proud to live as I was intended without reservation.

Maybe this is why your articles touch me in the way that they do. I see the gay bashing you are going through, and even though I was not subject to this behavior until a much later age, I have still experienced gay bashing. I wanted so much to be out at your age, but I don't know if I could have handled the situation. I admire your strength to stay with your cause.

Even though the gay communities throughout our country have been making great strides towards

acceptance, your experiences show us just how much farther we really need to go. This inspires me to work harder to gain acceptance. Then maybe the next generation of teenagers won't have to deal with so much abuse.

My understanding of the steps you have taken in your personal coming out process is that they have been rather outspoken ones. I, a reader of the *EGCN*, hear and understand the pain that you've been through. But Mark, I also want to express to you how important it is to take care of yourself before anyone, or anything else. Self-acceptance is just as rewarding when expressed only to yourself or a close relation as when expressed openly. Giving yourself the time and space to explore and understand yourself is a means of growing in strength. We all need these times in our lives.

I feel that what you've done has produced a new awareness concerning the younger of our Erie gay community. We'll need you in our upcoming struggles of the future.

Stay strong,  
Dee Dee

## Legal Victory for Franklin Transsexual

HARRISBURG—Civil protections for the transgendered community took a giant leap forward last month in Pennsylvania.

In an unprecedented move, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, on 3-29-94, handed down a ruling which affirms the right of a transsexual in transition to 'crossdress' on the job. The case at hand was Northwest PA Training Partnership Consortium v. Unemployment Compensation Board of Review, no. 2297 C.D. 1993. In his Memorandum Opinion, Judge Pellegrini held that, "We have consistently recognized that a medical problem or illness may establish good cause for an employee's failure to comply with a work rule...transsexualism is a recognized medical condition for which there are established guidelines for treatment... Which require Claimant to participate in a 'trial period' of cross-gendered living". The Court concluded that, "under these circumstances... Claimant's actions were medically necessitated and, as such, did not constitute willful misconduct."

In a separate but related matter, Robert Barnett, Secretary of the PA Department of Labor and Industry, designee of the Governor, ruled on 3-15-94 in the matter of Kristine W. Holt v. Northwest PA Training Partnership Consortium, Governor's docket no. 123311. In his discussion of the case, Mr. Barnett stated, "Holt's treatment was different from that of all other employees and that difference had nothing to do with her performance, attitude or abilities...neither the causes used to justify Holt's dismissal nor the unique restrictions applied to her were reasonable or, appropriate in light of the circumstances." The State found that NPTPC had violated the Federal statutes under which they operated by disregarding their own merit-based personnel policies, and ordered Ms. Holt's reinstatement.

Ms. Holt, who represented herself in these actions, characterized the rulings as "groundbreaking. We have now established, under case law, the fact that transsexualism is a recognized medical condition, and that the standard course of treatment demands 'crossdressing' on the job. The justification some employers have used to defend their discriminatory actions, that is, the 'dress code' issue, has been eliminated. It can be argued that, in effect, a 'protected class' of transsexual persons has been created in Pennsylvania.

As to the Order of the Department of Labor and Industry, Ms. Holt reports that Northwest Training has yet to comply with the Order. "It is my understanding that they wish to appeal this administrative ruling to the Commonwealth Court, also. In this eventuality, I feel confident that the Court will affirm the Secretary's decision, and give further support to the creation of a 'protected class' of transsexual persons."

A third action is being pursued with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, currently in the fact-finding stage. The intention is to establish in the private sector the same protections that have been realized in the public (i.e., government and sub-contractors) sector. These recent rulings give overwhelming support for the case set before the Commission.

In an effort to offset some of the expenses associated with these legal actions, a legal fund has been established: the Kristine W. Holt Legal Fund, c/o Northwest Savings Bank, 13th and Liberty Streets, Franklin, PA 16323.

# National/World News Bits

## **Dartmouth ROTC**

HANOVER, N.H.—Dartmouth College will allow Army ROTC to stay on campus, but will work to pressure the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy toward gays in the military. The faculty was in favor of actually throwing ROTC off campus until the military adopted a policy of non-discrimination. Although the Ivy League school's board of trustees voted to keep ROTC on campus, they made clear they were contradicting their own equal opportunity policies.

## **Marketing to Lesbians and Gay Men**

NEW YORK—The May 30 issue of *Advertising Age* will carry its second annual "Marketing to Gays and Lesbians Special Report." The report will acknowledge that this is a \$500+ billion market, and will help corporate advertisers understand how to appeal to this important and growing market. *Advertising Age* is available at libraries and on some newsstands, or by contacting the magazine at (212)210-0287.

PHILADELPHIA—In what was probably the first TV ad targeting the gay audience, the Ikea furniture company showed two gay males shopping for a table. The ad is part of the Swedish-based company's "Lifestyles" ad campaign; other "Lifestyles" ads have included a divorced woman, an adopted child, and a married couple who are retiring.

## **Ex-Lover's Visitation Rights Turned Down**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 13—The state Supreme Court upheld a decision made by the appeals court that denied visitation rights to a lesbian who

helped raise her ex-lover's child. In Jan. the appeals court ruled that although the child regarded both women as parent, the non-biological parent had no parental rights.

## **Prof Group President Pro-Gay**

WOOSTER, Ohio, April 19—The new president of the American Association of University Professors listed the goals he has set for his two-year term. One of his nine goals is ensuring that lesbian/bisexual/gay faculty are treated without discrimination.

## **Japan: Landmark Gay Ruling**


TOKYO, March 30—A Japanese court told the Tokyo city government they were guilty of discriminating against a gay organization when they prohibited them from using a public lodge, and fined Tokyo \$2,600 in compensation. The Tokyo government said they barred the group because other guests would be disturbed by the idea that the gay group was having sex.

## **Transitions**

**DIED: Marlon Riggs**, 37, of complications due to AIDS, on April 4. Riggs was a filmmaker who won Peabody and Emmy-awards for his films about African-Americans and gays. He produced a 1992 documentary for PBS called *Tongues Untied*, which was about black gay men.

**RETIRED:** Supreme Court Justice **Harry A. Blackmun**, who joined the Court 24 years ago. In 1986, he denounced the anti-gay *Hardwick* decision, in which the Court upheld the right of the state of Georgia to make gay sex a crime. About that decision, he said he saw no justification for "invading the houses, hearts and minds of citizens who choose to live their lives differently."

**DIED:** English Olympic and world champion figure skater **John Curry**, of AIDS complications, on April 15. He was 44. He went public with news of his illness and in recent years had come out as a gay man.



**A Bed and Breakfast Inn...with Country Spirit**  
Springtime in the Allegheny foothills—beautiful! Spend some time with someone special! Four comfortable guest rooms with private baths; breakfast at individual tables. Cozy up to our fireplace with someone special. Dinner option available. Triple A Approved. Gift Certificates.  
Cuba NY 14727 For reservations: 716-968-3335  
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# Condoms Save Lives

## Stonewall 25 News

Here are some of the many, many events that will be going on during the Gay Games, Cultural Festival, and Stonewall 25 celebrations. Some of these may not have tickets available at the event, so reserve tickets now. Of course, if you wait till the last minute, you can be sure you'll find many events going on that you'll be able to get into. There will certainly be free events going on all over the city, and that certainly includes the Stonewall 25 March.

Time to start looking for a guide to New York City, too. Check out your bookstore or library.

### **Out in NY '94**

Events are produced by *Out* magazine and others, benefit AIDS organizations nationwide. Reserve thru Ticketmaster. By phone 1-800-450-9494, in person from Ticketmaster location nearest you.

**June 22—Boy Oh Boy** \$15

**June 22—Lea DeLaria in Concert** \$14

**June 22—Phranc in Concert** \$14

**June 23—Dykes on Top** Underground dance for dykes \$15

**June 23—Sunset in Manhattan Cruise** Romantic 3-hour cruise. \$25

**June 23—Stonewall Sober** Sober dance, with Romanovsky & Phillips, and other performers \$15

**June 24—The Stonewall Generation** NRG-ized East Village party for under-25 set, teens welcome. No-alcohol event. \$15

**June 24—The Butch Ball: The Tom of Finland Event** \$25

**June 24—High Sobriety** Dance, comics Lynn Lavner and Suzy Berger, Flirtations, more. \$15

**June 25—Girlworld** Massive party with Fem 2 Fem, comic Karen Williams, Alix Dobkin, Annie Sprinkle, other performers, DJ dance. \$15

**June 25—Homo Hoedown** Country party with Doug Stevens, The Outskirts Y'All, more. \$15

**June 25—The Carnival** Price not known at press time

**June 25—Identity Dance with the New Age Cabaret** \$15

**June 26—The Girl Ball at Stonewall (women)** Thousands of women at the Copacabana: singer Janis Ian, comics Marga Gomez and Kate Clinton, actress Kathy Najimy, dance diva Crystal Waters, more being lined up. Plus massive dance. \$15

**June 26—The Stonewall Revolution (men)** Humongous dance with live performances from gay

legend Jimmy Somerville, C+C music Factory, Ultra Nate, Shannon, others, MC Kathy Najimy. \$20

### **Gay Rites 2**

Presented by The Advocate, HX Magazine, Marc Berkley, Matthew Bank. Tickets at Ticketmaster 1-800-450-9494.

**June 17—The Ultimate Kick-Off Party** \$10

**June 18—Countdown to Insanity at Nocturnal** \$15

**June 19—Hot Summer Night at Bump!** \$10

**June 21—Wet, Wild & Whatever! The Swimmers' Party** \$15 (Benefits Gay Games IV)

**June 22—Bang a Gong Drag-a-Thon** \$15

**June 23—Spiked! The Volleyball Bash** \$15

**June 24—Liberty & Justice for All** (NY State Ball benefitting Empire State Pride Agenda) \$25

**June 25—The Under 21 Party** Hosted by Y.O.U.T.H. Magazine \$10

**June 26—What a Riot!** A Benefit for Stonewall 25 \$15.

### **Gay Games Special Events**

For more info on these events and reservations call the Gay Games Special Events Hotline (212)727-6076.

**June 17—Out of Towners Ball** \$10 advance/\$15 door

**June 22—Opening Night Jock-Sock Knockout (Men)** \$15 adv/\$20 door

**June 18—Opening Night Jockette Sock Knockout (Women)** \$10 advance, \$15 door

**June 20—Spike It!** Volleyball party \$3 min. donation.

**June 20—Second-Wind Runners Dance** \$10 adv., \$15 at door.

**June 21—OUTrageous Comedy Festival** Sandra Bernhard, Karen Williams, others \$75, \$50

**June 21—Swish and Swing at Gay Games' Ballroom Competition and Swing Dance and Battle of the Bands** \$25 competition spectators (inc. dance afterwards) \$15 dance only.

**June 23—Lesbian World Newspaper Dance** \$12 adv./\$15 door

**June 23—Tie One on! National Leather/Deaf Association** Benefit \$10 adv/\$15 door

**June 23—Serve it Up!** with Men's Volleyball Teams at Club USA. \$10 adv/\$15 door

**June 23—Homo on the Range!** One of world's largest country & western dance competitions. \$30 competition spectators, \$15 dance

**June 23—Caramba at the Copa** Women's party \$10 adv/\$15 door

**June 24—Pasta and Black Party** with the marathoners. Benefits Games and Community Research Initiative AIDS \$10 adv/\$15 door

**June 25—Pump it Up! Physique Team Party** \$10 adv/\$15 door

**June 25—Closing Night Blowout Bash!** \$40 adv/\$50 door

### **Other**

**June 26—Big Guns: Dance Cruise** Aboard USS \$50 adv/\$75 at gate. Benefits AMFAR Tickets from Ticketmaster Outside NY 1-800-450-9494 within NY 212-307-7171.

### **Gay Games Events**

For information on specific sports—where and when they're being held, etc.—call Gay Games IV (212)633-9494.

### **Stonewall 25 Events**

For info related to Stonewall 25, contact Stonewall 25 at (212)626-6925. For calendar of events send \$1 to Global Calendar of Events, Stonewall-25, 208 W. 13th St., New York NY 10011-7799.

**June 24—Stonewall 25 Awards Gala** at the United Nations, will honor 25 lesbian and gay people who have made a difference.

**June 25—Commemoration of the Stonewall Rebellion** Candlelight celebration at the Stonewall Inn, site of Stonewall rebellion

**June 26—Rally after the March**



### **Directory**

#### **Stonewall 25 (June 26)**

*General Info* ..... 212-439-1031

*Merchandise* ..... 800-IS-PROUD

*Official Travel Agent (Travel & Accomodations)*  
..... 800-SW25-NYC

#### **Gay Games & Cultural Festival (Unity '94) June 18-25**

*General Info* ..... (212)633-9494

*Ticket Information* ..... 1-800-GAY GAMES

*Unity Pass* ..... Ticketmaster at 1-800-450-9494

*Official Gay Games Travel Agent* (to reserve rooms or for travel help, plus they're organizing a cruise June 24) ..... 1-800-368-8412

*Merchandise* ..... 1-800-622-0066

#### **Travel**

*Gay & Lesbian Visitors Center* ..... 135 W. 20th, 3rd Floor, NY NY 10011 (800)395-2315.

*The Travel Place* ..... (216)521-4733

*Stonewall 25-Ohio* (helping Ohioans who can't afford it get there) ..... (216)921-8130 (Tue-Thu Noon-4p.m.)

#### **Special Projects**

*March With a Buddy* ..... 1-800-313-8485

*Raise the Rainbow* ..... 1-800-NYC-1994

### **Places to get EGCN...**

#### **Ashtabula**

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St.

#### **Eric**

Cocoon, 1164 W. 10th

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

The Embers, 1711 State Street

Lizzie Bordon's, 3412 W. 12th

Perceptions, 328 W. 6th

Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street

#### **Edinboro**

Book Shelf, 200 Plum

Earthshine, 131 Meadville Street

EGO meetings

Grind & Squeeze Coffeehouse, 105 Erie St.

#### **Jamestown NY & Warren PA**

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown

Rainbow Connection, Warren 723-1719

Sneakers, 100 Harrison, Jamestown

## 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.

### **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.

### **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. ↗CSGLBP, 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 MW 2-pm, TuTh 1:30-2:30 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 for 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)**

No longer meets.

### **HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of St. Paul Cathedral**

Call 452-3779.

### **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 (6:00pm) 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**

A support group 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 pushing Senate Bill 1218, which provides stiffer penalties for gay bashers. **We urgently need your help!** ☎ Greg at (814) 833-3258. ↗LGLV-Erie, PO Box 8083, Erie, PA 16505-0083. *Note new address!!!*

### **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.

### **PFLAG-Erie**

Support group for Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Meets last Wed. of month. ☎ Kathy Harris at (814) 838-6020 or ↗PFLAG-Erie c/o Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, PO Box 3495, 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. Group renamed B-GLAD. ☎ (716) 673-3424

### **Support Groups for Persons with HIV/AIDS**

One group for Persons with HIV/AIDS, other for their families and loved ones. Open to people of all faiths. *Meetings:* 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at Catholic Charities, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd. For more info, call Cheryl Weber at 452-6113. ☎

### **Trigon**

Support group for Behrend students, faculty, alumni. For more info, call (814) 898-7050. or ↗College Mailroom, Box 1054, Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.

### **Venango-Forest AIDS Support**

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 16 Center Avenue, Oil City, PA For more info, call 800-359-2437

### **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 meet at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. Presently looking for/open to new location. Contact Deb at (814) 453-2785 or Sally at (814) 454-2713.

## HIV/AIDS Directory

### AIDS Organizations & Services:

#### National

AIDS Factline ..... 1-800-324-AIDS  
National AIDS Hotline ..... 1-800-662-6080  
Spanish AIDS Hotline ..... 1-800-344-7432

#### Ashtabula OH/Ashtabula County

AIDS Task Force..... Mary Ellen Conigli at (216)  
998-1020  
HIV+ Support Group ..... (216)350-2554

#### Jamestown NY/Chautauqua Co.

AIDS Community Services ..... (716)664-7855  
Jamestown HIV+ Support Group (716)664-7855

#### Meadville PA/Crawford County

Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition ..... 337-3241  
HIV+ Support Group & Family Support Group  
Rosemary Buzzard at 333-5800

#### Erie PA/Erie County

Case Manager - Deb Monohon ..... 838-0123  
Case Manager - Cheryl Weber ..... 452-6113  
Catholic Charities Support Group Cheryl Weber  
at 452-6113  
AIDS Network ..... Jackie Tamarro at 451-6700  
Friends from the Heart (Direct Client Services)  
838-0123

HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cathedral of St.  
Paul (Episcopal) ..... 452-3779  
Well Being HIV+ Support Group ..... 838-0123

#### Venango/Forest County

Venango-Forest AIDS Support .. 1-800-359-2437

#### Warren County

Case Manager - Deb Monohon..... 838-0123

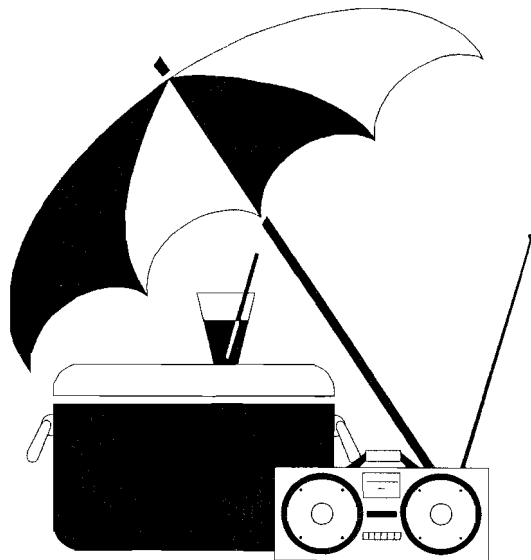
### HIV/AIDS COUNSELING AND TESTING PROGRAMS (free):

*The following locations offer free, confidential counseling, testing, and referral.*

(Erie) Dept. of Health—STD Clinic ... 451-6700  
(Erie) MHEDS ..... 453-6229 or 453-4728  
Jamestown or Buffalo ..... (716)847-4520  
Meadville PA..... (814)332-6947  
Pittsburgh ..... (412)578-8332  
Sharon PA..... (412)983-5150  
Youngstown OH ..... (216)747-4805

#### Anonymous Sites:

(Ashtabula) Family Planning Associates (\$30)  
(216)992-5953  
Painesville OH ..... (216)354-AIDS  
Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force ..... (412)242-2500



*Join us for Bridges'  
Pride-Erie Picnic on  
Saturday, June 17th  
from 2:00pm til?  
We will be at Cabin 3  
across from Beach 6, at the  
Waterworks.  
Just bring a disk to pass,  
games to play and a smile  
to share.  
See You There!*

# Community Directory

## 24 Hour Counseling:

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

## Bars:

*See back page!*

## Community-Building Organizations:

- Bridges ..... 456-9833

## Counseling:

- Deb Monohon ..... 838-0123
- South Shore Counseling Group ..... 725-8504
- For more info, call Greg ..... 833-3258

## E-Mail for EGCN, LGLV, Bridges:

- From CompuServe ..... 70431,1622

## Funding and Fundraising:

- Lambda Foundation .. P.O. Box 5169, Pittsburgh PA 15206 (412)521-5444
- Imperial Court .... 266 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo NY 14222

## Health:

- PA Breast Cancer Coalition ..... 455-7833

## Legal:

- John Cooper, Esq. .... 455-3436

## Political/Advocacy Organizations:

- League of Gay & Lesbian Voters ..... 833-3258

## Publications:

- Erie Gay Community Newsletter ..... 456-9833

## Religious Organizations:

- Commitment Vows ..... Terry Kime at 864-9300
- Dignity ..... 864-4627
- Integrity ..... 774-0903
- Unitarian Universalist Congreg. of Erie 864-9300

## Social Organizations:

- Men's Coffeehouse ..... 456-9833
- 10% Network (formerly Jamestown Social Group (716)484-7285 or (716)664-5556
- Rainbow Connection (Warren PA) ..... 757-8583
- Womynspace Coffeehouse 454-2713 or 453-2785

## Student Organizations/Youth:

- Cmte. in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People (Allegheny College, Meadville) .. 332-4368
- Covenant House Teen Hotline .. 1-800-999-9999
- Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO) (*suspended for summer*) ..... 732-2574
- GALA 10 (Mercyhurst College) *suspended for summer* ..... 824-2572

Gay Youth Pride Erie .. *suspended operations for the time being*

- 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 Comm. College Grp... (716)665-5220
- National Runaway Switchboard . 1-800-621-4000
- SUNY-Fredonia B-GLAD .. Dr. Susan Malone at (716)673-3424

- Teen Hotline ..... (412)771-8336
- Trigon (Penn State Behrend) ..... 898-7050

## Support Groups

- Chautauqua Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers..... (716)672-6682
- Erie Sisters ..... 2115 W. 8th St., # 261, Erie, PA 16505
- Jamestown Gay/Lesbian Drug & Alcohol Abuse.. *No longer meets!*
- Lesbian Moms Support Group..... 796-3535
- Lambda Group—Gay AA (formerly Life's Blood) *Every Sunday, 8:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.* ..... (216)964-3350
- PFLAG-Ashtabula OH ..... (216)964-3350
- PFLAG-Erie ..... Kathy at 838-6020
- PFLAG-Jamestown NY .. (716) 488-1264 or 763-1529

## Violence and Abuse:

- Hate Crimes (US Justice Dept.).... 800-347-4283
- 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!***

## Wills, Living Wills, Closings & Cohabitation

**John E. Cooper, Esq**  
**227 W. 5th Street**  
**Erie, PA 16507**  
**(814) 455-3436**

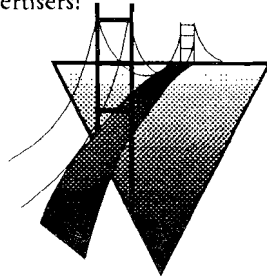
## Subscription Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The cost of your subscription includes the 12 months of newsletters mailed discreetly to you in a security envelope for 1 year. Please send this with your check for \$15 made payable to "EGC Coalition" to EGCN, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. CompuServe: 70431,1622. Please remember to support our advertisers!



Contribute to EGCN—Tri-State Area's Own Lesbian/Gay Publication! Your donations very much appreciated and needed!

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GAME DECKS TOO!

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**SPECIAL ORDERS ARE NEVER A PROBLEM!**

## Area Bars and Places

### Ashtabula

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

### 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.

**The Embers**, 1711 State St. 459-1711. Open Mon-Sat. 8pm-2am. Live DJ music Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10 pm-2am. Pool table, soon food & piano bar.

**Lizzie Bordon's Part II**, 3412 West 12th. Open Mon-Sat. Bowling on Tuesday 9 pm till ? Country Line dancing Wed. & Fri 9-11p.m. w/ live DJ. 90s dance music DJ on Fri. (11-2 a.m.) & Sat. (9+++2a.m.) Shows on some Fridays. Carries *Out & GPC*

**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. Carries *GPC*.

### 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, 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. DJ Fridays and Saturdays 10-2. Sundays: Pool tournaments, starting 4 p.m.

## 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