



Erie Gay Community Newsletter

Falsettos to Premiere in Erie!!!

Falsettos
Erie Playhouse
Starting June 9

By Dave Matthews

Once again, the Erie Playhouse is a leader in local gay theater as it presents the community theater premiere of the Tony award winning musical sensation *Falsettos*.

Falsettos tells the story of family love, concern, and acceptance in an era when AIDS begins to ravage the world.

Beginning in 1979, the play follows the life of a man named Marvin. Although he loved Trina when he married her, and indeed fathered a wonderful son named Jason, he has left his family for his beautiful male lover, Whizzer. His psychiatrist is now married to his former wife, and Marvin's life is convoluted and involved. As the first act ends, Marvin has convinced his young son that love—be it straight or gay—is life's most wonderful gift.



Valabovic (Whizzer) and Corritore (Marvin)
play lovers in the Erie premiere of *Falsettos*

The second act begins in 1981. Jason is ready to have his bar mitzah and life has been complicated by the newly-discovered killer AIDS, which eventually does come into the lives of the characters. Marvin now has two wonderful next-door neighbors, a doctor and a culinary master who happen to be lesbian lovers.

Falsettos is sung throughout, much like *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Miz*, with no dialog.

When *Falsettos* was presented on Broadway to mainstream audiences—many not accustomed to gay-themed plays—the results were staggering. Virtually everyone, regardless of their prejudices, left the theater moved and in tears. The play was a hit, with audiences and critics. *USA Today* wrote, "*Falsettos* is not only the best new Broadway musical of the season, but shows that the American musical can take on serious issues without being trivial or losing pizzazz...a musical and dramatic Broadway landmark."

And now, the Erie Playhouse presents the first com-

Cont'd on page 3

LesBiGay Pride Issue!

Ad Rates

Businesses and Sponsors! Show your support and reach Erie's lesbigay 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 lesbigay groups and individuals to help our community develop and thrive.

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Join us at the Bridges Picnic on June 11. See calendar for more info

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.

munity theater production of *Falsettos* in the nation.

Directed by David Matthews with Julie Bonninger and Christy Sloan Koontz assisting, *Falsettos* features musical direction of Roberta Stoughton and staging by John Burton. As Marvin, Eric favorite Charles Corritore adds to his long list of memorable performances. His wife Trina is played by Brenda McMurray, who was so splendid in the Playhouse production *A Few Good Men*. As the stunner *Whizzer*, newcomer Mark Valholic will have hearts a-thumping. The psychiatrist, Mendel, is played by relative newcomer Andy Yoos who was so wonderful in this season's *I Hate Hamlet*. Son Jason is played by Michael Berlin, also an exciting new personality at the Playhouse. The lesbian lovers from next door are played by Playhouse veterans Karen Nasca and Rae Jean Winkelman.

The Erie Playhouse, now in their 78th year, is regarded nationally as one of the very best of community theaters. Producing an average of 20 shows a year (an unheard of amount, even for professional theater), the Playhouse has garnered the reputation of presenting a wide menu of productions. The Pennsylvania State Council on the Arts considers their work to be of such high quality that they are funded as if they were professional.

The Erie Playhouse really appreciates its hometown. The reason is simple. Where many community theaters would not touch the subject of homosexuality, the Playhouse has embraced it. A few years back, they presented a production of *Bent*, (the play about homosexuality in Nazi Germany) that won the award as the state's best production, went on to win regionals, and then placed the Erie Playhouse in the top ten best community theaters in the nation.

Bent was followed by a phenomenal production of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*, the *The Sum of Us*, and now William Finn's *Falsettos*.

Bring a date and enjoy a thrilling night of theater. If you live outside Erie, consider making the trip—what with Presque Isle and many other Erie delights, you can make a weekend of it.

The Erie Playhouse production is being presented at the air-conditioned Mercyhurst College Little Theatre (the Playhouse mainstage is hosting *Hair* at the same time) and is easily found with directions from the Playhouse box office.

Performances have been scheduled for:

Thursday, June 9 at 8:00,

Friday, June 10 at 8:00

Saturday, June 11 at 8:00

Sunday, June 12 at 3:00

Wednesday, June 15 at 8:00

Thursday, June 16 at 8:00

Friday, June 17 at 8:00

Saturday, June 18 at 5:00 and 9:00

All seats are \$10.00 and reservations can be made by phoning the Playhouse weekdays 9:00-4:30 and Saturdays 9:00-2:00 at (814) 454-2852. Seating is limited so reservations are urged.

**Tickets on sale for
The Erie Playhouse Play Festival '94**

It's our Annual theatre festival and this year includes:

1. WENCESLAUS SQUARE (play): June 1-5, Tickets- \$7

2. FALSETTOS (musical): June 9-12, 15-18*, Tickets- \$10

Starring Charles Corritore

3. THE SHADOW BOX (play): June 22-26, Tickets-\$7

Show times are Wed-Sat at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm

*June 18th show times are 5pm and 9pm

4. A SEPARATE PEACE (play): Tickets-\$5

(June 29,30, July 1,2 at 7pm, July 3 at 3pm)

All shows will be performed at the air-conditioned
Mercyhurst College Little Theatre

PLEASE...Be sure to call the
Erie Playhouse Box Office for Reservations and
a brochure previewing each show.

CALL 454-2852.

Cocoon

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← = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

Calendar

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

June 4—Pride/Buffalo Parade & Rally (Buffalo) 2 p.m. assembles at Kleinhans Music Hall parking lot, evening events and parties throughout community. (716)883-4750. Definitely on! Organized by Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community Network.

June 4—Womynspace Rescheduled for June 18 Info Sally at 454-2713.

June 4—HUGS East Dance (Mentor OH) 8-11 p.m. Come if you can, less if you can't. Non-dance. Info: (216)974-8909

June 4—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)847-0212. Benefits AIDS Community Services of Western NY.

June 5—Annual Gearing-Up for Summer Party (Tonawanda) 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 6—Cup-a-Ccino's Grand Re-Opening

June 7—Northwestern PA Symposium on AIDS and HIV Infection (Bradford) 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, which is sponsoring the symposium. All interested individuals encouraged to attend, though conference is designed for practicing nurses, physicians, mental health professionals, and others involved in treatment of people with HIV. Continuing education credits available. Info Melinda Jones, PhD (814)362-7604. Cost \$20, includes everything.

June 10—Men's Coffeehouse—CANCELLED FOR JUNE!!!!

June 10—Laura Nyro in Concert (Cleveland) Agora Metropolitan Theater. Tickets from Ticketmaster

June 10-11—Country Hoe-Down Weekend at Jones Pond (Angelica NY) Country 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. Admission free. *Festival* - All day 12:30 p.m.-6 p.m. on northwest quadrant of Public Square. Entertainment (Flirtations and North Coast Men's Chorus), dancing, merchandise, booths and displays, featured performer Dianne Davidson, food & fun. *March* (rain or shine) - Assemble at E. 22nd and Euclid Ave., 11:30 a.m., Kick-off program, Noon March step-off. Info: (216)595-8788 or (216)371-9714.

June 11—Cruise Aboard Goodtime II (Cleveland) For *EGCN* readers, since this is late notice, G.I.F.T. says you can send for advance tickets by sending \$16 money order in SASE—right away—and if it arrives too late for them to send the tickets back to you, they'll hold them at the gate. (Send to GIFT, P.O. Box 93784, Cleveland OH 44101—leave at least three days for delivery). For info call (216)252-8933. Boat leaves from North Coast Harbor, East 9th St. Pier, boarding 6:30 p.m., leaves 7 p.m. sharp. \$1 per ticket goes to Health Issues Task Force.

June 11—Erie Pride Picnic At Presque Isle, Waterworks at Cabin 3. Organized by Bridges /EGCN. 2 p.m.-sunset. Low-key, low-attitude friendly affair. Bring dish to pass. Follow signs. For more info (814) 456-9833. NOTE: ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED ON PRESQUE ISLE.

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☛ **June 11—The Void at Goofie's** 12th & Cascade, Erie.

☛ **June 11—Grand Opening of The Embers** With ROZZ and Gina. Showtime 11:30 p.m. Buffet and Punch. \$3 cover charge. 1711 State.

June 11—AIDS Benefit at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula) Talent show, live music, country line dancing. \$10 donation. Info (216)964-9935.

☛ **June 11—Country Western Weekend at Camp Davis (Boyers PA)** Country dancing and stuff at gay/lesbian campground near Slippery Rock/Grove City. Info and schedule (412)637-2402.

☛ **June 11—"Tattoo You!" at Hallwall's (Buffalo)** Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center's notorious annual carnival style celebration of body modification and endurance art. Tattooed and pierced bods, visual art, and media works explore this "modern primitives" movement. Gay and lesbian involvement in the event. Hallwalls, 2495 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14214 Info Kevin at (716)835-7362.

June 11-12—Allentown Arts Festival (Buffalo) 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Arts festival, attracting 400,000 people. This is Buffalo's largest outdoor festival, and although it isn't gsay per se, it's held in Buffalo's gay district, (Allentown) and *lots and lots* of gay people come out and enjoy themselves. Allentown is on Allen,

Franklin, and Delaware Streets. Because of the festival being there, you'll have no problem figuring out where Allentown is. Tip: because festival parking might be tight around the neighborhood, you might want to park your car at the foot of Main Street and take the subway back (get off at the Allen stop).

☛ **June 12—Integrity Meets** St. Paul's Episcopal, 133 W. 6th, 6 p.m., info 774-0903.

☛ **June 13—And the Band Played On** HBO 8 p.m. AIDS docu-drama.

☛ **June 14—P.O.V. "One Nation Under God"** WQLN-TV 10 p.m. This acclaimed documentary takes a look at the "ex-gay" movement, which claims to help "cure" gay people with religion. Looks at some of the so-called therapies currently used by religious groups as well as those attempted by the mental health profession in the not-so-distant past. (*Chautauqua Co. viewers: WVED is broadcasting this July 5*).

☛ **June 14—Bette Midler in Concert (Cleveland)** Blossom Music Center, Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Tickets

☛ **June 14—NY State Gay & Lesbian Lobby Days (Albany)** Chautauqua Co. people going up, people across state will be lobbying for Gay & Lesbian Anti-Discrimination bill. See article page 17. Interested

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in carpooling or other info? Call Patrick (716)679-3430.

➔ **June 14—HIV/AIDS Support Group of Catholic Charities** Info call Cheryl Weber 452-6113. Transportation if you need it.

➔ **June 14—Rainbow Connection (Warren)** Info Denny at (814)757-8583.

➔ **June 15—Women's Economic Exchange at Grind & Squeeze (Edinboro)** At 7 p.m. Third meeting of group of women interested in establishing a network for bartering of goods and services. All women welcome. For more info: Donna at 825-8639. Grind & Squeeze is above John's Pizza.

➔ **June 16—Judy Garland and Friends** Performance on A&E 9 p.m., 1 a.m.

➔ **June 17—Annual Miss Erie Pageant at Lizzie Bordon's MC Traci, Miss Erie 1993.**

➔ **June 17-19—"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: "Lez Pride." "We'll sit around small tables and chat. Bring goodies to share if you like." For info call Sal 454-2713.

➔ **June 18—Gay Pride Workshops (Jamestown)** In celebration of Gay Pride Month. The 10% Network, in cooperation with the JCC G/L/B Support Group, is holding a workshop to share and/or to listen to coming out experiences. "All gay, lesbian, bisexual men and women are welcome. Where are you in the process? Let's affirm our pride and tell our oral history."

12:30-2 p.m.—"The New Generation" Coming Out Workshop (for teens through early twenties)

3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.—"Prime Time" Coming Out Workshop (for late bloomers).

The workshops will be held at Jamestown Community College in the Jamestown Campus Library Building, Room #254. Beth and Judy will facilitate the discussions. For info contact 10% Network (716)484-7285 or Greg Rabb (716)665-5220 (ext.204) or (716)664-9174.

➔ **June 18—10% Network Potluck & Talent Show (Jamestown)** Members are invited to share their talents—poetry reading, humor, music, piano, karaoke, "whatever strikes your fancy." Info John (716)484-7285. 7 p.m. Unitarian Church.

➔ **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—Friends from the Heart Meets at la bella bistro** 11 a.m. at W. 4th & Cherry. Info 838-0123.

➔ **June 18—Social Night at Camp Davis (Boyers PA)** Dance and big group campfire at lesbian/gay campground. Info call Jim or Keith at (412)637-2402.

➔ **June 18—Party on a Lake Freighter (Cleveland)** Fundraiser for Health Issues Task Force. Tickets start at \$30, feature dinner, entertainment, and cash bar aboard the William G. Mather. East 9th Street Pier at 7 p.m., call Fran at HIT for reservations (216)621-0766.

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

➔ **June 19—Kids in the Hall** Noon to 7 p.m. on Comedy Central.

➔ **June 19—Columbus Pride March and Festival (Columbus OH).** March, rally, and Gayfest, 4 p.m. Native American union ceremony, Bat-n-Rouge Drag Softball Game 6 p.m.. Info (614)299-7764.

➔ **June 21—Whitney Houston in Concert (Buffalo) RESCHEDULED! New Date TBA** Memorial Auditorium. Tickets and new date info 1-800-457-1688.

➔ **June 22—Before Stonewall** WQLN-TV and WNED-TV 9 p.m. (10:30 p.m. for Ashtabula viewers of WVIZ). Award-winning, highly-acclaimed documentary. Traces five decades of the cultural, social, and political development of the gay and lesbian community from an isolated underground to an active visible force in society. Timely, too: after seeing what gay people's lives used to be like, viewers will be able to understand the significance of the Stonewall rebellion



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

and why so many people are celebrating its anniversary. Narrated by Rita Mae Brown. (Ashtabula readers: One of the people they interview is a native of Ashtabula!).

✦ **June 23—Judy, Frank, and Dean: Once in a Lifetime** 1962 TV special on A&E, 9 p.m., 1 a.m.

✦ **June 23—Janet Jackson in Concert (Pittsburgh)** Coca-Cola Star Lake Amphitheater. Tickets from Ticketmaster.

✦ **June 26—Stonewall 25 (NYC)**

✦ **June 26—Breakfast with the Arts "Annie Lennox: Diva"** On A&E at 9 a.m. Concert footage, video, and interview with the gender-bender singer.

✦ **June 28—HIV/AIDS Support Group of Catholic Chairities** Attorney Julie Bandecca will speak on issues related to public assistance, medical assistance, social security disability and SSI. Info from Cheryl Weber 452-6113

✦ **June 28—P.O.V. "Memories of Tata"** WQLN-TV 10:30 p.m. Documentary that looks into an immigrant family's story and reexamines what it means "to be a man," and if machismo, infidelity, and violence are inseparable. (On WVED July 26 10 p.m.)

✦ **June 28—Rainbow Connection (Warren)** Info Denny (814)757-8583.

✦ **June 28—Biography: James Dean** On A&E at midnight. Looks at the gay movie cult hero.

✦ **June 29—The Living End (1992)** Tale of two young gay men with HIV who take to the road and travel across the country together after one of them kills a gay basher. "The sex scenes are provocative and explosive"—*A Different Light Review*. On CineMax 10 p.m.

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

✦ **June 30—Romanovsky & Phillips in Concert (Buffalo)** Marquee at the Traf, 100 Theater Place. Tickets \$14, available at all Ticketmaster locations or at Traf box office. Seating limited, so advance tickets recommended. Info (716)885-5980. (*Chautauqua Co. Readers: You can catch R&P on WKBW-TV at 10 a.m.*)

✦ **July 1-4—July 4th Weekend at Jones Pond (Angelica NY)** Holiday weekend at gay men's retreat/campground. Info (716)567-8100.

✦ **July 2—Talk on Anti-Gay Rights Movement (Jamestown)** Starts at noon, call for location. Presentation from Chris Moore, Director of Equality Colorado. Equality Colorado was formed in Jan. 1993 after Colorado passed a state anti-gay initiative. Chris' presentation will include: stories from his life and how his experiences have moved him to activism and orga-

nizing; a talk about the "Stealth" organizing conducted by the far right; and will conclude that Colorado's position as the flashpoint in the gay rights struggle could be replicated in other states. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by JCC Gay Lesbian Bisexual Support Group. Info/directions (716)665-5220 (ext. 204) or (716)664-9174.

✦ **July 2—2 Girls Alone! at Cup-a-Ccino's** 18 N. Park Row, 9-midnight.

✦ **July 2—Male Order at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula)** Male revue at 11 p.m. \$3 cover. 1022 Bridge St.

✦ **July 2-3—At Camp Davis: Flea Market Weekend (July 2) & Independence Day Covered Dish (July 3)** July 4 weekend at gay and lesbian campground. Flea market 10-4 and covered dish at 7 p.m. Info: (412)637-2402. Near Slippery Rock/Grove City (Boyers PA)

✦ **July 3—Toronto Gay Pride Day** Toronto has a very large gay and lesbian population and they throw one heck of a pride day! Much of the celebration centers around Church & Wellesley. Different parade route this year. Entertainment, booths, dancing. Tom Robinson ("Glad to be Gay") will perform. Info (416)214-0232. Toronto's Pride Week is June 26-July 3.

✦ **July 3—Picnic at Fourth of July Concert (Cleveland)** Cleveland Orchestra at Blosson, sponsored by Interweave (Unitarian) Info (216)871-4676.

✦ **July 5—P.O.V. "One Nation Under God"** WVED 10:30 p.m. Looks at the "ex-gay" movement.

✦ **July 8—Indigo Girls in Concert (Cleveland)** Nautica Stage. Tickets from Ticketmaster.

✦ **July 9—Potluck Picnic & Party (Youngstown)** Birch Hill Cabin, Mill Creek Park in Youngstown. 4 p.m.-midnight. Alcohol-free, children welcome, scavenger hunt. Info: Jean (216)744-4126.

✦ **July 9—In a New Light '94** Entertainment/educational AIDS special ABC, check listings for time.

✦ **July 10—Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland) NOT!!!! Rescheduled for July 17!**

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

✦ **July 14—Elton John & Billy Joel in Concert (Buffalo)** Tickets on sale at Ticketmaster

✦ **July 17—Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland)** Music, dancing, entertainment, booths, T-shirts, etc. \$5 donation. Tenth anniversary of this annual fundraiser for Health Issues Task Force. W. 9th between St. Clair and Lakeside. Couple thousand people. Info (216)621-0766.

July 23—Boat Cruise at Conneaut Lake Park 3 hours. DJ dancing, beer and snacks provided. "If you'd like to bring something else to drink or eat, feel free to bring it on board!" \$15 per person. Seating is limited to 60 people. 9 p.m.-midnight. Loading up 8:30-9 p.m. Info: Kelley or Chick at (814)437-6412. Organized by the same folks who put on the Franklin picnic last year.

July 31—GROW Lesbian Picnic (Buffalo) Chestnut Ridge Park, Casino side, shelter 7A, rain or shine. They're extending a special welcome to lesbian readers of EGCM. Info Mary Lou (716)675-6046.

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 14—9th Annual Community Picnic & Games (Depew NY) More details later.

Aug. 20—10% Network Picnic Bring table service and dish to pass. Info Jon (716)484-7285.

Festivals & Conferences

July 2—Crazy Feats/July 4th Celebration (Kent's Store VA) Team fun at women's space in VA. Bring a team of 10 or join one of theirs. Beach volleyball tournament, evening golf tournament, 2nd Annual Regional Golf Tournament. Info InTouch, Rte. 2, Box 1096, Kent's Store VA 23084 (804)589-6542.

July 18-22—Women's Motorcycle Festival '94 (LeRoy NY) Pre-registration due by July 5, WMF, 7 Lent Ave., LeRoy NY 14482 (716)768-6054

Aug 19-28—Pittsburgh Pride Week Moved from normal time in June so as not to conflict with Stonewall 25 in NYC. Concert Aug. 19, rally Aug. 20, Gay Day at Kennywood Park Aug. 21. Other events throughout week.

Oct 7-9—Affirmation: United Methodists for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns (Los Angeles) National gathering. Theme "Outing the Bible" Info: P.O. Box 1021, Evanston IL 60204 (213)969-4664.

Can Chiropractic Help Me?

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

We are often asked "What's the best way of finding out whether or not a doctor of chiropractic can help my problem?"

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- ✓ An explanation of our treatment procedure if we determine

chiropractic can help you

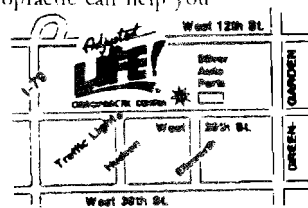
These Conditions Are

Some of the Danger Signals

- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Arthritic pain by stiff neck
- ✓ Loss of sleep
- ✓ Tension
- ✓ Scoliosis (Curvature of spine)
- ✓ Leg pain and numbness
- ✓ Backache
- ✓ Whiplash injury

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, call our office today for an appointment.

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814-455-6262

On TV This Month

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

- ☆ **TV Coverage of Stonewall 25 and Gay Games:** *EGCN* called all over trying to get information about who was doing TV coverage of Stonewall 25 and the Gay Games. Unfortunately, at this writing, we couldn't get anything more specific than this. Please excuse the conflicting stories. According to people at Stonewall 25 and Gay Games, several networks are interested in covering the events. C-SPAN apparently told Stonewall 25 it will cover much of the Stonewall 25 Rally (especially 4 p.m.-7 p.m.) and the March (from around 11:30 a.m. till 1 or 2 p.m.) They said CSPAN may cover other events, so check throughout the week (June 18-26). However, On May 28, C-SPAN told *EGCN* they probably weren't going to cover it! As for the Gay Games, CNN has expressed interest in the Closing Ceremonies (June 25, about 8 p.m.) as well as other coverage throughout the week. The sports departments of NBC, CBS, ABC, MTV, and Fox will probably have some coverage. Also, ESPN (1 and 2) and Pay-Per-View have expressed some interest. The Gay Games run between June 18-25, so you might want to surf through those channels a bit during that week. Starting about the 16th or 17th of June, it might be a good idea to call the sports networks and news networks to get updated information and to get the message through to those lunkheads that there are a lot of people in the heartland who want to see this stuff! (And don't worry about homophobic responses on the other end...the networks all know about these events, and you're being gay isn't any big thing to them). Ask for the programming department.

ESPN (both 1 and 2) (203)585-2000.
SportsChannel America (516)921-3764 or (516)364-3650
C-SPAN (202)737-3220.
- ☆ **Amelia Earhart: The Final Flight (1994)**
Life and mysterious disappearance of the famous woman pilot. Diane Keaton. TNT June 12, 15, 19, 20, 24, 26.
- ☆ **American Justice—"Jim Bakker: Crime in the Name of God"** On A&E June 15 (9 p.m., 1 a.m.) and 18 (11 a.m.) Documentary about Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker and others who use religion to rip people off.
- ☆ **Basic Instinct (1992)** According to a recent issue of *Us* magazine, this movie about a lesbian man-murderer caused Hollywood to really look at how poorly it portrays gay people and helped create the turnaround that we're seeing this year (finally!) Stars Meadville's Sharon Stone. On The Movie Channel June 19 (10:40 p.m.) and 27 (1:10 a.m.). On Showtime June 11 (10:30 p.m.)
- ☆ **Century of Women:** Changes in the lives of women in the twentieth century. On TBS. *Part I* June 7 (8:05 p.m., 12:05 a.m.) June 18 (12:05 p.m.); *Part II* June 8 (8:05 p.m., 12:05 a.m.), June 18 (2:05 p.m.), *Part III* June 9 (8:05 p.m., 12:05 a.m.), June 18 (4:05 p.m.)
- ☆ **Go Toward the Light (1988)** Drama about a couple whose young son is dying of AIDS. On Encore June 3, 12, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 28.
- ☆ **Lifestories: Families in Crisis "A Child Betrayed: The Calvin Mire Story"** Drama based on the true story of Calvin Mire, an 11-year-old altar boy who was sexually abused by one of the people he trusted most—his parish priest. On HBO June 6 (3:35a.m.), 7(10p.m.), 15(4p.m.), 19(3:30p.m.), 24(6p.m.), 28(4:30p.m.)
- ☆ **Out There** On Comedy Central Channel June 19 (11 p.m.) and June 23 (10 p.m.). Showcases the performances of lesbian and gay stand-up comics. This is *Out There I*, taped last year; *Out There II* is being taped at the Gay Games and will air this October 11 (National Coming Out Day).
- ☆ **Skinheads USA: Soldiers of the Race War** Looks inside the Skinhead hate organization. On HBO June 3 (2:30p.m.), 22 (8a.m.), 27 (9a.m.), 30 (8p.m.)

Entertainment Notes

☆ **FALSETTOS SOUNDTRACK:** If you fall in love with the music from *Falsettos*, you'll be happy to know that it's on a double CD of the same name. You can probably order it through your favorite record store, or you can order it from Lambda Rising. Lambda Rising is selling it for \$26.30 plus \$3.00. Lambda Rising, 1625 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington DC 20009 (202)462-6969. Credit orders 1-800-621-6969.

☆ **ZELDA RUNS FOR OFFICE:** She played a girl hopelessly in love with Dwayne Hickman on TV's *The Lives of Dobie Gillis*, now out-lesbian Sheila "James" Kuehl is running for the California State Assembly. An article in the May 16 issue of *People* carries a profile of Kuehl, which traces her life from the sad years of the closet and lack of self-acceptance to recent years of self-acceptance and pride. Kuehl had a relationship for several years with high-profile lesbian activist Torie Osborn, the person who engineered last year's meeting between President Clinton and national gay/lesbian rights activists.

☆ **NEAR-KISSES:** You know, it's great that gay and lesbian characters are getting parts in network TV programming. But what is the hang-up with the gay on-air kiss, anyway? Two programs in May had gay male story lines and avoided the kiss. *Northern Exposure* showed their gay male couple getting married on May 2. Now, that was probably a network first, and the producers are to be commended for bringing that to the air as tastefully as they did, but they wouldn't show the newly married couple kissing, and that left a bad

taste in some gay viewers' mouths. And then there's *Melrose Place*. There was a lot of publicity in May about whether or not the series' regular gay character Matt would kiss a man on the May 18 season finale. So hordes of gay viewers tuned in, only to find the much ballyhooed kiss never happens—Matt looks into the eyes of another man and looks like he's getting ready to kiss, but he could also be getting ready to sneeze or bark, for all they show. Instead of a kiss you see a man looking out of a window, shocked. Now what gives here? Would a kiss have been too disturbing for the audience to see? In this particular episode, viewers are treated to seeing a failed murder, a successful murder, a murder frame-up, perjury, a young man using an older woman for her money and feeling contempt for her, a young woman suddenly remembering being dragged into the basement by her rapist-father, the father threatening to kill her if she ever revealed what she remembered, three prostitutes brutally attacking another prostitute, one woman stealing another woman's boyfriend, and, of course, a number of heterosexual couplings and spit-swappings. So

what's the deal with showing a kiss? *Melrose Place* producer Darren Star said it was a decision that came from Fox Network execs. That makes sense. After all, the network that brings viewers such highbrow delicacies as *Married with Children* and *In Living Color* has standards to live up to. If you're in the mood to jump Fox for chickening out, write or Luscie Salhaney, President, Fox Broadcasting, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills CA 90213. (310)277-2211.



☆ **MARGE SCHOTT HERSELF IN THE FOOT AGAIN:** Last year she was suspended for making ethnic slurs against Jews and African-Americans, and now Cincinnati Reds owner **Marge Schott** has made an ass of herself again. On May 18 she told players not to wear earrings because, "Only fruits wear earrings." The ruling executive council for baseball is investigating.

☆ **THE OTHER 25th ANNIVERSARY:** June marks not only the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, another quarter-century anniversary as well. On June 22, 1969, **Judy Garland** died. Judy was *adored* by her gay fans, especially gay men. What accounted for Judy's appeal to gay people? Although she reportedly had affairs with women, she wasn't gay, and her songs are certainly not rallying cries for anybody's liberation movement. But Judy had a certain *je ne sais quoi* that strongly appealed to the sensibilities and pain of her fans. Like Kurt Cobain, Judy's appeal doesn't easily translate to another generation, but her fans have remained fiercely loyal. A recent fundraising mailing from Stonewall 25 was headed with "Judy, Liza, & You," an obvious appeal to Judy's gay fans. An excerpt from the letter said that if Judy "were still alive she would be on the front lines of AIDS activism and be leading the fight for equal rights side by side with Liza, you, and everyone in our community. She would be proud to see how far we have come in our struggle for justice." The letter said that Judy's daughter, Liza Minnelli, was hoping to participate in the closing ceremonies of Stonewall 25 on June 26. Note that there are Judy Garland listings in our calendar for June 16 and 23.

HIV/AIDS News - Local

Judy Lynch Responds to Valiga's Letter

Concerned about TV cameras at the Health Department's STD and HIV clinics during last April's AFSCME strike, Greg Valiga wrote to Erie Co. Executive Judy Lynch and Health Dept. director Joe Trzybinski. Valiga wrote as a representative of LGLV-Erie.

Lynch responded to Valiga's letter, and offered statistics showing that attendance at the clinics wasn't affected, and that TV crews were not and are not given access to the waiting room area unless it is empty. She added that they may only film the clinic area during non-clinic hours.

Lynch also wrote that "The Health Department tells me that only about 10% of those tested each month for HIV report male homosexual or bisexual behavior. We need to reach more of the people with these high risk behaviors and get them tested. We're thinking of doing HIV testing on the 'street' and in the gay bars, i.e., we go to them instead of their coming to us. Perhaps you might have some ideas of how we can reach those that need to be tested."

Friends from the Heart News

Last month *EGCN* mentioned that Friends from the Heart has donation cans at various local establishments. Two places were left out and should be noted: Pal Prescription Pharmacy, 1238 W. 6th and Glass Growers Gallery, 701 Holland.

Stonewall 25 and People with HIV/AIDS

There will be some specific activities, resources and projects for visitors coming to Stonewall 25 and the Gay Games. For information contact PWA Coalition of New York, 50 W. 17th St. 8th Floor, New York NY 10011. (212)647-1415.

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Residence: 814-734-7003

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Coming Out in High School: The Closing Chapter

Editors' Note: Mark is a 15 year-old gay teenager who has been writing about his life for EGCN. What he writes about may disturb many readers, and may not always reflect the opinions of EGCN editors, but we believe it needs to be brought out into the open.

By Mark

Hello again. I am sad and relieved to inform you that this will be my last time writing this particular column for the newsletter. I hope that this column helped people to understand that gay youth are here and that this one refuses to remain silent. I can only hope that this column managed to reach a few kids and let them know they are not alone in this world. I also hope that the Erie gay community will come to the aid of gay kids who can't even find acceptance within themselves. And I pray every night that these kids won't kill themselves and will realize that they can survive on this world and love themselves while they do it.

What I had written in my articles before was only part of the whole story of what was going on in my life. Now I feel that the time has come when I can tell the whole story. I hope you understand that with these words I am not looking for sympathy, nor am I looking to become a martyr. These words come from my heart and are the hardest things that I have ever written about.

I guess I'll start from the beginning. Recently, I began to have memories of being sexually molested as a child. It was not by a family member, but by an older kid when I would go out to play at the park. I know that this does not make sense now but bear with me, the pieces all fit together. Also this was the time when I started to get depressed constantly. There would be times when I would feel like crying for no reason at all. I was never able to tell my family about this, because I didn't even know what was going on with myself.

I started to have major feelings towards men when I was about eight or nine years old. That makes sense because I started puberty when I was eight years old. This really confused me. My body was constantly changing and I had a crush on Michael Jackson while my friends couldn't be bothered with sex. A couple years later when I was about 12 I finally realized, holy shit, I'm gay. Needless to say, I was shocked. I had such

a hard time accepting this that I became severely depressed. When I was 13 years old, I tried to commit suicide twice, once by slitting my wrists, and once by swallowing pills and alcohol. Neither of these attempts were successful. And with that I began my first therapy sessions. My therapist tried to teach me how to respect and love myself, but I was never able to admit I was gay. Now we jump ahead a couple of years. Even though he may be unaware of it, I met a very unique man at a very unique spirituality group who quite literally saved my life. When I went to this group looking for a religion that would accept me for who I was, I found it. Anyway, this person who I said saved my life might sound a little dramatic but I guess it fits. When I found this group I was in a state of severe depression, and I was once again severely suicidal. But here I found something I hadn't seen before, a gay man who was comfortable with being gay, and who really didn't fit with any of the stereotype. (He was also the person who introduced me to the first lesbian I had ever seen.) He was proof that a gay person could lead a normal life. So, on the night of February 2, 1993 at 9:16 PM, I came out of the closet to my parents.

My parents were very understanding and after the first few questions they began to accept it, they might not like the idea, but, love me, tolerate my sexuality.

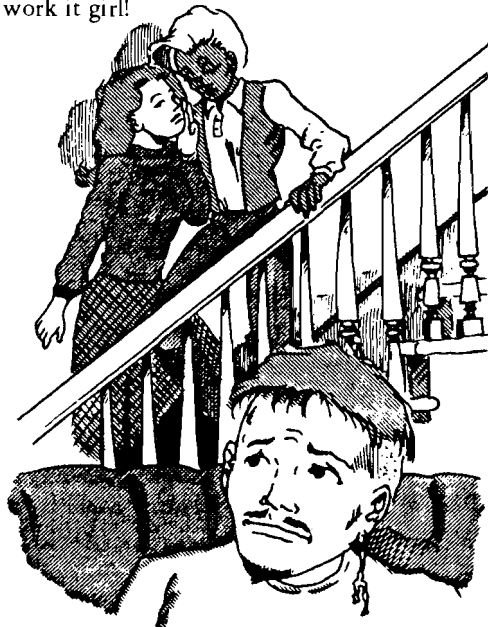
That year of my life was rather uneventful until I met "John." John is not his real name. John was my first lover. He was a straight person who got his kicks from chicken. John was also the person who raped me when I dared to say no and to tell him that it was over. I was in such denial about this rape that I did not even remember it until the next January when I was in the hospital.

Before we get into the hospital I am going to tell you what it was like to be an out gay kid in a redneck high school. It was hard. Do you know how it feels to be called "fag" every time you walk down the hall or even move into someone's line of vision? It hurts. I always tried to tell myself that it didn't matter, they were just narrow-minded bigots, but that never kept it from hurting. But I never let them know how they affected me, no, to show them that would be showing them that they won. But they did. I became severely depressed and had many suicidal thoughts, it was

during this time that I remembered the abuse as a child. That pushed me over the edge. There I was overmedicated, under constant therapy, yet my counselor there, couldn't get past the matter of my being gay. So I never got any therapy for my depression. One day after I was discharged I slit my wrist with an X-acto knife, took 10 aspirin and a sleeping pill. I wasn't even able to return to my own school and after I was discharged from Hamot (I was admitted there 8 days after I was discharged from Saint V's), I began home tutoring which I will be doing until school ends. On June 20 I will begin going to a special school for kids with emotional problems. I guess I'm looking forward to school again, just as long as it isn't my old one. As of the night I wrote this article I am doing okay.

Also in June I will be getting my second test for the HIV virus. This scares me. I don't know if I could handle having the virus. All of this because I made the mistake of having a lover who was 23 years older than me, and who decided to rape me. If I do end up having the virus, at least I know that he will have to suffer as much as I will.

So this is Mark, 15 years old, out and proud gay youth, and a survivor, saying good-bye for now. Blessed be and work it girl!



Graphic by Rupert Kinnard, appearing in *Young, Gay and Proud* (Alyson Publications)

Teen Suicide in Chautauqua County

This past February, a 16-year-old gay youth from Chautauqua County committed suicide. Below is a memorandum about the suicide, written by Greg Rabb, a professor at Jamestown Community College who is the advisor for the student group there and does some work with gay and lesbian youth. He sent the memo to his colleagues at the college, who do not understand his involvement in gay youth issues. The memo has been slightly edited for clarity.

Date: February 10, 1994

From: Gregory Rabb

On Tuesday morning, a JCC student came to see me as advisor to the JCC GLB Group. A friend of hers, a 16 year old high school student ("Joe"—not his real name), was thrown out of his "home" by his "parents" when they found out he was gay.

Joe called his friend (the JCC student who came to see me) but he wouldn't tell her where he was. He was scared and confused and talked to her of suicide. She pleaded with him to tell her where he was but he refused.

The JCC student came to me to see if there wasn't something I could do through Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Buffalo—the group that works with me in support of our youth group. I told her that I was not a professional counselor but that I work with lesbian counselors in the community and gave her my home and work numbers to give to Joe in the hopes that he would call her again and she could convince him to talk with me as the first step toward getting on with his life. Apparently he had never heard a gay-positive statement in his life and he felt bad about being gay.

For two days I ran to my phone at home and work in the hope that it was Joe.

He never called.

His friend the JCC student came to see me this morning to tell me Joe shot himself.

Follow-up:

Two days later a suicide note arrived at Joe's parents' house. The note said that Joe didn't want to live in a world where he would be rejected simply for being himself. He also said he felt no one would ever love him because he was gay because in his short 16 year life Joe never heard anything positive about being gay. Joe died as a result of the gun shot.

Local & Area News

Cup-a-Ccino's Grand Re-Opening

Cup-a-Ccino's coffeehouse looks a little different these days.

Non-smokers will be happy to learn that the coffeehouse has expanded and now has a no-smoking section. The new area is bright and airy...and very breathable! Owner Jerry Quigley explains that performers will now be able to choose if they want to perform in the smoking or non-smoking section.

As you walk in, you'll see shelves have been made available for books, magazines and other reading material that customers can read as they sip.

Cups' retail store—which sells all sorts of mugs and teapots, plus T-shirts and poetry books—has been moved onto the other side.

Also, Kim Piper is the new manager. She takes over for Christelle DeCrease, who left to take a position as supervisor at the cafe at the soon-to-open Barnes & Nobel Bookstore.

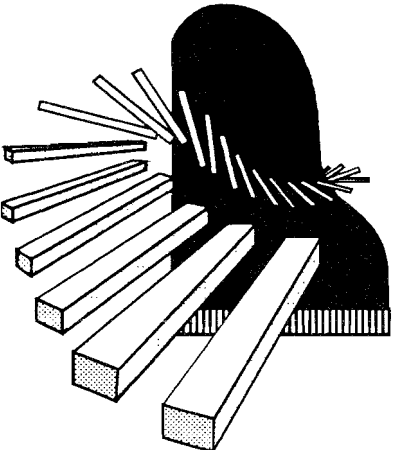
Bridges Talks about Dances and Pot Lucks and Dances and Stuff

From Bridges Organizers

Following the low turnout at the April Bridges dance, Bridges folks got together to talk about dances and other get-togethers. Since most people at the January dance said they really enjoyed themselves, it was not clear why there weren't many people at the April dance. A number of explanations were offered: the day of the dance it was the first nice day after a rotten winter, it was the night of the Erie Philharmonic's season finale (apparently the Phil has a strong gay following, imagine that!), a new bar opened up, and we're just holding too many Bridges dances.

Between the low turn-out, and the fact that some of us need to take a rest from dance organizing (it's more work than you might think), we decided that two dances a year (rather than the present three) made more

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sense. The dances would be a little more special then, and organizers wouldn't risk burning out either.

We also discussed bringing back the Pot Luck/Discussion gatherings, too. These events give people in the community a chance to connect with each other, and are not difficult to coordinate. We haven't had a pot luck since last August, so the time is right.

Our next Pot Luck will be at the Unitarian on September 23. We'll give you reminders as the date draws closer. We had originally scheduled a dance for that date, but it seems people are more up for a pot luck than a dance. The January '95 dance is still on, though! Stay tuned!!!

Waldenbooks in Erie Starts Gay Section

Waldenbooks at the Millcreek Mall will be starting up a gay/lesbian section.

The decision was largely a result of the success of the Bridges Book Fair, according to Eugene Harvey, assistant manager for Waldenbooks Lockport. It was Harvey who brought the Book Fair to Erie. "Everyone was thrilled about how well the Book Fair did," said Harvey. "It shows there's a real market in Erie for these kinds of books." He said the Mall store will start with one shelf, and see how it goes over.

Harvey said that if people want to see the gay section stay or expand, they need to support it by buying the books and by writing letters to the Millcreek Waldenbooks manager praising the decision. Write: Manager, Waldenbooks, Millcreek Mall, Erie PA 16509.

Regional PFLAG Conference

By Patrick McNamara

The PFLAG Regional Conference held in Buffalo May 22-23 was attended by parents and friends from a five-state region including Pennsylvania and New York. John S. and Patrick McNamara, gay activists from Chautauqua County, attended. There were also parents from the Pittsburgh and Jamestown PFLAG chapters.

Highlights of the conference included an update on legal issues, info on gay and lesbian youth groups, sharing about running local PFLAG chapters, and a wonderful talk about being true to yourself by Neal Rzepkowski.

In the discussion on facilitating PFLAG chapters, parents discussed how they allow new parents a chance

to feel welcome, listen to others, and share their own story when they're ready. Members of the Buffalo chapter discussed the importance of establishing confidentiality with new parents, as coming to a PFLAG meeting can be a scary experience for new parents. The Pittsburgh chapter described their success in reaching parents through the media and a mailing to local schools. For more information on PFLAG, contact Kathy Harris in Erie (814)838-6020 or John or Wilma in Jamestown (716)488-1264.

The presentation on Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Western New York (GLYS) was very impressive. The director and several gay youth spoke about their experience working with gay/lesbian/bi youth—it touched our hearts to hear the impact this program has on the lives of so many youth. Their office, located in the downtown Buffalo YMCA, is open for drop-in or discussion/support group three evenings a week and Saturday. They provide some structure for the youth and do their best to make it inclusive and welcoming.

In the early days, the program was attended mainly by white gay youth with an average age of 20. Now, the participants are a racially-diverse group of male and female youth with an average age of 17. This presentation was particularly of interest to attendees from Chautauqua County, as we had a 16-year-old gay youth commit suicide this spring after his parents kicked him out of their house. For information on the Chautauqua County youth group, contact Greg Rabb at (716)665-5220.

Religious Fanaticism Week at Chautauqua Inst.

The Chautauqua Institution will present "In the Name of God: Religious Fanaticism at Home and Abroad" between June 27 and July 1. Among the speakers will be Chris Moore, a gay activist seminary student with the United Church of Christ. For times for Moore and other info call (716)357-6250 or 1-800-836-ARTS.

Chautauqua Co: Native Spirituality

A lot of local gay people enjoy visiting Lilydale.

This summer there'll be two out gay people to check out.

Patrick McNamara will be doing therapeutic massage there one day a week. Call him at 1-800-735-2986. Men and women welcome.

Throughout the summer, Neal Rzepkowski, M.D. will be presenting Inipi (Sweat Lodge) Building and Ceremony at Lilydale in Lilydale NY.

Rzepkowski is a gay physician with HIV, and an ordained Spiritualist Minister who has a special interest in Native American teachings. He has participated in lodges conducted by native elders Bear Heart and Wallace Black Elk. People interested in alternative healing and Native American spirituality may be interested in this. There will be ceremonies held throughout the season, and each time the ceremony and its symbolism will be explained. Ceremonies held on June 30, July 6 (for kids), July 11, 17, 21, 31; August 4, 7, 17, 24, 31 ("Recommended love offering \$15"). Pre-registration required, participants meet at Assembly Hall 8:30 p.m. Info (716)595-2042.

Transitions - Local

MOVED: To downtown Erie from North East, gay-affirmative counselor **Dale Algeier**. He has begun his own practice, called Lake Erie Counseling Associates, at 350 West Tenth Street, phone 455-4009.

Places to get EGCN...

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St.

Erie

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

Our Rights

PA State Hate Crimes Bill—Act Now!

Greg Valiga, LGLV-Erie

Criminals convicted of hate crimes committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation would be subject to stiffer penalties, according to Pennsylvania's Senate Bill 1218, known as the "Hate Crimes Bill."

The legislation, which was introduced into the PA Senate last fall, has been dormant since its referral to the Judiciary Committee.

Despite local efforts by the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters, Sen. Buzz Andrezeski (Erie-49) has not yet committed his vote to the legislation when it hits the floor of the state Senate.

The Erie County les/bi/gay community can have a dramatic impact by calling Sen. Andrezeski at 452-4783 and urging him to support SB-1218.

A very easy and discreet way of voicing your concern (if, for instance, you are not OUT) is by calling the office after 4:30 p.m. The answering machine will pick up, and you can simply say, "Senator Andrezeski, please support SB-1218, the Hate Crimes bill. If you would like to be contacted by his staff about the legislation, leave your name and address. If not, don't. This is a very painless way for ALL OF US to contribute to a better life and a safer environment here in the Erie area.

Erie Co. Republicans Reject Christian Coalition in Elections

Only one Christian Coalition member won in Erie County for Republican State Committee posts. They *had* two seats; now they only have one.

The Christian Coalition is a nationwide conservative Christian group headed by televangelist Pat Robertson; their state headquarters is in Erie County. They and other right-wing Christian groups are actively trying to gain control of the Republican Party. They are interested in state committee posts, because those positions are key to controlling the party (state committee people affect policy and select and endorse candidates).

In Erie County, the Coalition ran four candidates for state committee posts. These were Richard Schenker, Samuel Zeisloft, Cathy Jean Preston, and Georgeann

Gornall. Schenker is executive director of the state Christian Coalition. Zeisloft and Preston are employees of the Coalition office, and Gornall says she supports the Coalition's stands. Schenker was the only candidate who won.

Moderates in the Republican Party became alarmed over the candidacies and worked to defeat them. The day before the primary election, the Republican Future Fund took out an ad in the *Morning News* and *Erie Daily Times* encouraging Republican voters to support the moderate candidates who were endorsed by the Erie County Republican Party. A mass flier, apparently paid for by the endorsed candidates, was mailed out to registered Republicans, urging voters to support them and to reject "single issue extremists." Elsie Hillman, from the county Republican Party, sent two mailings to every registered Republican in Erie County, urging them to support the moderates. "Concerned Republicans" took out a full-page ad in the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters *Voters' Guide* alerting readers to right-wing candidates not only in Erie County but in Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties as well.

The Coalition had tried to take over the Erie Co. Republican Party in 1992, but was defeated through the efforts of moderate Republican John Cooper, who was then county chairman. At the county Republican Party's re-organization meeting in May, Coalition member James Gornall was defeated in his bid for vice-chairman of the party.

NY State Gay Civil Rights

By Patrick McNamara

The state non-discrimination bill has passed the New York State Assembly again this year and should go to the Senate before the end of the session this summer. The bill bars discrimination in Housing, employment, credit and public accommodations (hotels, restaurants, etc.) Last year, the bill never made it to the Senate floor because it was tabled in a closed-door meeting of Republican senators.

Current laws in New York are as follows:

(1) No agency of the State of New York shall discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation (by executive order of the Governor).

(2) Discrimination based on HIV status or AIDS (or perceptions thereof) is protected under the disabilities act.

(3) It is not illegal (double negative) to discriminate based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit, etc. (this means employees who don't work for the state have no legal recourse if discriminated against).

Lobbyists for this bill say we have enough votes for the bill to be passed if it comes to the Senate floor for a vote. *If you live in New York State, you can help get this bill passed.* This is what you can do:

(1) Call or write senator Jess Present TODAY and tell him that the Gay & Lesbian Anti-Discrimination bill is very important to you. Urge him to ensure the bill gets to the senate floor for a vote. You could ask him why the bill did not come to a vote last year as he was involved in this decision. You could also remind him that your vote hinges on his leadership in getting this bill to the Senate floor...and that there is a large number of gay men and lesbians in Chautauqua County to whom this bill is important.

These are suggestions of what to say when you call or write. If you're still closeted, you don't need to "come out" when you contact him—and your concern for the bill does not imply that you are gay or lesbian. His address is:

The Honorable Jess Present

New York State Senate

Albany NY 12247

(518)455-3563 or (716)664-4603 to leave a message.

(2) Come to the Gay & Lesbian Lobby Days June 14 in Albany. So far, Greg Rabb, Beth R. and Patrick McNamara are attending from Chautauqua County. For more information, contact Patrick at (716)679-3430.

(3) Report any hate crimes or hate letters to the Hate Crimes Hotline (US Justice Dept.), 1-800-347-4283.

One day, it will be commonplace to see gay men and lesbians walking hand-in-hand in Jamestown and Fredonia. Your writing Senator Present can be a first step in making this dream reality.

Stonewall 25/Gay Games Update

Travel tips

The Happy Marcher

The best way to ensure a comfortable time at the March and other events is to consider yourself on a day hike. You're going to be on your feet a lot, and it won't be easy to get back to your vehicle or room, so plan accordingly.

✦ **Day Pack.** A pack will allow you to carry a jacket or sweater, a map, schedule, souvenirs, guide to the city, and anything else you might need, buy or acquire along the way.

✦ **Keep Valuables in Front.** Keep valuables (like keys, wallet, camera, binoculars) in front of you to discourage pickpockets. A belt pack worn in front can be helpful here.

✦ **Comfortable Shoes.** You'll be standing and walking a good bit, so be kind to your tootsies!

✦ **Summer in the City.** It gets hotter in New York City than it does here, so be prepared.

Take *sun block* or *sun screen* (loads of people came back sunburned from last year's March on Washington), *light colored clothing* (long sleeves protect arms with sensitive skin), a *light hat with wide brim or bill*, and *beverage* (lots of it, 'cause you'll be thirsty!). An *umbrella* provides protection from rain and sun. A *poncho* is a versatile item to include in case the weather gets wet.

Accommodations

✦ **Write it Down!** Everybody should write down and keep with them the name, address, and phone of the place they're staying at. This is *very* important: imagine getting separated from your traveling companions and not knowing where you're staying!

✦ **Be Considerate of Roommates.** If you're sharing a room, be considerate of each other. If you want to party and your roommate wants to sleep, find

a party somewhere else—there certainly will be enough of them going on that you won't need to deprive someone of sleep in order to have fun.

✦ **Nail Down Reservations NOW!** Don't think you'll be able to pull into New York City and check into the nearest Holiday Inn. A million

people are expected at this event, and the World Cup will be going on at the same time, so take care of it as soon as you can. Go through a travel agent—they'll be able to guide through the accommodations and/or travel arrangements, because they are up on what the situation is. Check the Directory in this feature for travel agents who are doing Stonewall 25 stuff.

✦ **Key Issues.** If you've got several people staying in a room, you're probably not going to all get keys. So, unless you all plan to hang around together for your whole stay, you need to decide who gets keys and when people expect to be back.

Getting There

✦ **Agree on Arrangements.** People who are traveling together need to get together and agree on and write down travel arrangements. That includes: expenses (how will they be divided?) Is driving split up? When and from where will you be leaving for New York? When and from where will you be heading back?

✦ **About Cars.** DON'T TRY TO DRIVE IN MANHATTAN DURING THE GAY GAMES OR STONEWALL 25. You'll have to worry about incredible traffic congestion, no place to park your car (and if you park illegally you'll get towed immediately), world-famous crazy drivers, one way streets, and theft. Find out what sort of mass transit comes by where you're staying. Travel guides often have good advice on mass transit (not *Mobil Travel Guides* though, since they're geared to car travel). Or contact a visitors center. Subway and mass transit maps abound in NYC. If you don't like the idea of going on a bus or subway, taxis are still better than trying to use your own car.

✦ **Get a NYC Guidebook.** Bookstores and libraries, plus Tiple A and travel agents carry travel guides to New York City. These are great because they'll help you

GAY GAMES IV & CULTURAL FESTIVAL



JUNE 18 - 25, 1994
NEW YORK CITY
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get your bearings. At the very least, you'll want a map. NYC Convention & Visitors Bureau will send you stuff free Call (212)397-8200.

Danger Zones

New York City does have certain very dangerous neighborhoods, like the South Bronx. Find out from the travelers services or other New Yorkers where these neighborhoods are, then steer clear.

Attitude Check

The main purpose of Stonewall 25 is to take a stand for our human rights. If problems arise on the trip, let's try to keep that in mind and deal with each other in a cooperative and positive way.

Directory

Emergency Help in NYC	911
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard (open noon-mid-night).....	(212)777-1800
If you're lost	Gay Games at (212)633-9494
Travel Help	
Airport (Transportation to & From	1-800-AIR-RIDE
Gay & Lesbian Visitors Center of NY	1-800-395-2315
NYC Convention and Visitors Bureau	(212)397-8200
Official Stonewall 25 Travel Agent (Travel and/or Accomodations).....	1-800-SW25-NYC
Official Gay Games Travel Agent (Travel and/or Accomodations).....	1-800-368-8412
Subway/Bus Info	(718)330-1234
Info & Tickets	
Gay Games General Info.....	(212)633-9494
Gay Games Tickets	1-800-GAY GAMES
Gay Games Unity Pass	Ticketmaster at 1-800-450-9494
Stonewall 25 General Info	(212)626-6925
Special Projects	
March with a Buddy	1-800-313-8485
Raise the Rainbow	1-800-NYC-1994

Events

There will be zillions of events going on in and around NYC during the Gay Gaymes, Stonewall 25, and after. We listed some last month. Here are more.

Spirituality Events

June 24—"Hands Around the God-Box" Peaceful prayer event condemning continued exclusion of lesbian and gay people, sponsored by gay and lesbian Christian organizations: Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox. At Inter-Church Center, 475 Riverside Drive, noon-1 p.m. Info Rev. Kit Cherry (213) 464-5100.

June 25—Celebrating Stonewall 25: A Generation of Faith and Freedom Worship service with gay activist Rev. Troy Perry and a 100-voice choir, at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. Rev. Perry is founder and moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches, a Christian denomination of nearly 300 churches in 16 countries, with a primary ministry to the lesbian and gay community. Participants include gay men and lesbians from around the world, plus representatives of numerous lesbian and gay organizations like Dignity/USA and Unity Fellowship Movement. Info: Rev. Kit Cherry (213)464-5100. Service is free, seats are first-come, first-served.

More Parties

June 18—Global Rave International dance party at the Vault, world-renowned underground club. \$15 (212)463-8717.

June 24-Stonewall 25 10,000 men from around the world, presented by Tracks, at The New York Coliseum. Advance tickets from Ticketmaster 1-800-551-SEAT \$50.

June 25—Girls Invade Mars Thousands of women, 4 dance floors, performance artists, fireworks. Ticketmaster (212)307-7171.

June 25—Dance 8: The Countdown outdoor dance, DJs, Ms. Laura Branigan, fireworks afterwards. \$16. Benefits NYC's annual pride celebration Tickets from Ticketmaster. Tickets from Ticketmaster PA & OH residents (800)450-9494, NY res. (212)307-7171.

June 26—Dance 8: The Party After Outdoor dance, special guest, fireworks. Info same as Dance 8: The Countdown.

Out in NY—For info on events jointly sponsored by DIFFA, Broadway Cares/Equity Rights Fights AIDS, and *Out* magazine. Info (212)869-4490.

She-Scape's "Hot Dates" Party Guide for Women— Call 212-645-6479.

Cruises

June 23 & 24—Sunset Cruise \$38 ea., 2 for \$69. Call (212)633-8898 or 1-800-GAY-0010.

June 25—Moonlight Cruise \$43 ea., 2 for \$79. Call (212)633-8898 or 1-800-GAY-0010.

Band Performances

June 23—Here and Now! Lesbian and Gay Bands of America presents the largest international lesbian and gay band in New York City history. International choruses hosted by The Stonewall Chorale, special guest soloist James Adler, and cheerleading squad the Bay Area Raw Rahs. At the Paramount at Madison Square Garden, tickets \$15 and \$20, available at box office (212)465-MSG1) and all TicketMaster locations.

Last Minute News

Gay Games Special Issue

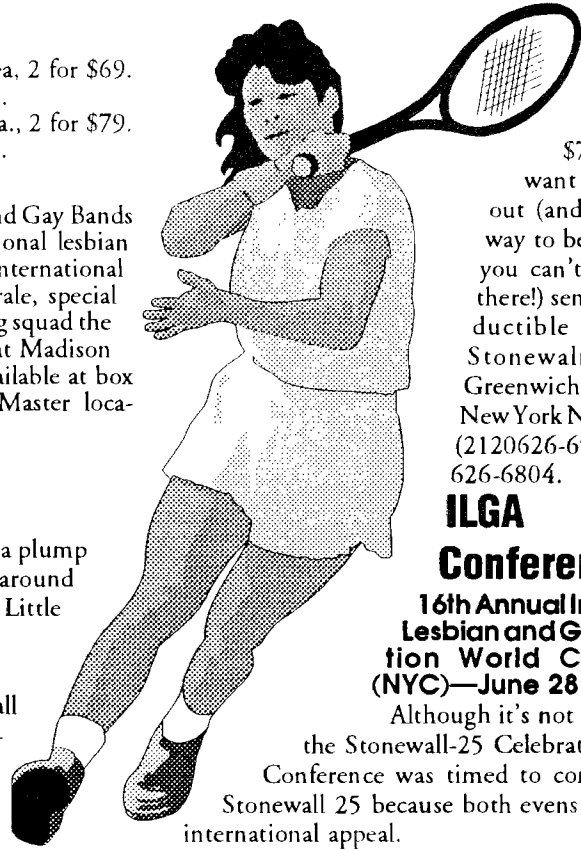
The June issue of *Out* magazine has a plump special section on the Gay Games. *Out* is around at a lot of local magazine stands like Dee's, Little Professor, and Al DeLuca's.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for Stonewall 25. Areas that need help Interpreter, General Helper, Legal Observer, Marshaling, March Crew (assign variety of tasks needed to make March run well) Rally Crew (same as March Crew) and Direct Action. For info call Marc Rubin at Stonewall 25 (212)741-0132.

Stonewall 25 Needs Money

The organization that is organizing the Stonewall 25 celebration has found itself short of funds and is



putting out a call for donations (they're short \$72,000). If you

want to help them out (and what a great way to be participate if you can't physically be there!) send your tax-deductible donation to Stonewall 25, 70-A Greenwich Avenue #330, New York NY 10111 Phone (212)626-6925 FAX: 212-626-6804.

ILGA

Conference

16th Annual International Lesbian and Gay Association World Conference (NYC)—June 28-July 3

Although it's not exactly part of the Stonewall-25 Celebration the ILGA Conference was timed to come right after Stonewall 25 because both events have a strong international appeal.

You needn't belong to the ILGA to attend the conference or pre-conferences. If you are really interested in the world-wide fight for gay/lesbian rights, you might find this an interesting event. 300 member organizations from 60 countries will be participating. ILGA was recognized by the UN last year. This year the big issue will be removal of NAMBLA and other pedophile organizations from ILGA membership. ILGA's UN status is threatened by the presence of those groups, and there's been a lot of effort made in recent years to get them to leave. (212)802-802-8446.

June 24—Disabled People's Pre-Conference (NYC) Part of LGA Conference. Open only to disabled people and attendants. (212)620-7310.

June 25—Women's Pre-Conference (NYC) Part of ILGA Conference. (212)620-7310.

June 27—People of Color Pre-Conference (NYC) Part of ILGA Conference, open only to people of color. (212)620-7310.

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Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

The title of this column is probably more appropriate than normal as we prepare for the wedding.

It sure has been a busy couple of months with the Romanovsky & Phillips concert, the Book Fair/Dance, the picnic coming up on June 11th, and preparing for the wedding. I was really very excited to see two such major acts as the Flirtations and Romanovsky & Phillips play the Erie area within a month's time. It was also great seeing folks turn out to enjoy these nifty happenings. The picnic should also be a neat, low key day to spend with friends.

I would like to take some time to talk about Micheal's and my wedding. This was not a decision we came to lightly. It has really made us evaluate the nature of relationships and commitments and ways of recognizing them. A few folks we know, both gay and straight, have asked about whether the marriage is legal. (Really from genuine curiosity, rather than anything negative.) In no place in the United States are same-sex marriages recognized legally currently. Although some very few areas and companies have domestic partnership provisions, this is not at all the same thing. I have to admit that this bugs me because it is a materialistic approach to evaluating relationships. Silly me, I think that relationships should be evaluated on trivialities like shared and complementary interests and traits, commitment, love and respect for each other and stuff like that. Officially, we are going on "Do you have different genitalia?" Wow, deep.

However, more important than this is how we feel about our relationships and how valid we perceive them to be. Our wedding may not be "legal", but it is *real*, which is infinitely more important. We love each other and we want to spend the rest of our lives with each other. It is just that simple. I still feel, however, that being in no relationship whatsoever is much, much better than being in a bad relationship. I hadn't been in a relationship for quite a while before meeting Micheal and had sort of given up on the idea. I was okay with this; my happiness didn't depend on finding the right person. I am however, glad for the relationships that didn't work out, because I see how I learned from what went wrong.

I have heard some arguments from folks in the past that by referring to our partners with traditional terms like "spouse" or "husband" or "wife" we are simply aping a heterosexual institution and we need to develop our own ways of representations and relationships. Other folks want to pretty much follow what the straights do. Micheal and I will be doing a ceremony we have devised on our own that incorporates elements we personally believe to be important and relevant to us. Folks who are expecting the traditional minister (we are having a couple act as priest and priestess, who are very close friends of ours) or to see tuxedos (we will be wearing robes that a friend made and Micheal airbrushed) or a lot of the usual wedding trappings will probably be disappointed.

But guess what? This really doesn't have anything to do with being gay or not. We are all made up of a lot of different parts. Even if I were straight, I don't think the wedding would be much different. (Okay, one of us would be a woman.)

Nor is this in any meant that all gay weddings have to be different from most straight weddings. We are doing things the way we are doing them because it is right for us. Other folks can and should do what is right for them. Part of this goes back to the whole "Should gay relationships be modeled on straight relationships?" question. We shouldn't feel that our relationships should be based on heterosexual marriages because everything else is meaningless, nor should we feel that, because we are gay, we have to be completely different. All of us, gay and straight, need to be true to who we are.

So please consider yourself welcome to join Micheal and I for for wedding/handfasting from 11-3pm on Saturday, June 18th at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Please don't feel you have to bring a gift. We will be having a pot luck reception. Celebrate with us!

National/World News Bits

LA Gay Prom a First

LOS ANGELES, May 21—About 100 couples attended what was probably the first gay and lesbian prom to be sponsored by a school district. The Los Angeles Unified School District sponsored the prom, whose theme was "Live to Tell." Funding for the event came from ticket sales and donations from lesbian/gay organizations.

Psychiatrists Convention and Sexual Orientation Cures

PHILADELPHIA, May 21—A decision calling for restrictions on cures for homosexuals has been delayed by the 240-member governing body of the American Psychiatric Association. The resolution was sent back to a subcommittee because the resolutions language was "so ambiguous." The council will discuss the new version in a meeting in September.

BBC Same-Sex Wedding Gifts

LONDON, May 23—The British Broadcasting Company has stopped giving wedding gifts to employees because of criticism it received when it extended the benefits to same-sex couples. Rather than stop giving benefits to the gay couples, the BBC simply stopped the practice altogether. The BBC is a government-owned corporation, and thus is sensitive to criticisms about spending taxpayers money.

Group Asks for Wilde Pardon

LONDON, May 23—A gay organization in England is asking for a posthumous royal pardon for Irish

playwright Oscar Wilde. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of his being jailed in England for being a homosexual. The imprisonment is widely believed to have contributed to the brilliant writer's premature death.

Campus Recruiting

WASHINGTON, May 23—The House has voted to take action against those educational institutions that ban military recruitment on their campuses, barring such campuses from receiving contracts from the Department of Defense. The action comes following a decision by a New York court that bars military recruiting on state campuses because of the military's anti-gay policy.

Gay-Bashing May Become Federal Crime

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department is considering asking Congress to make gay-bashing a federal crime. Deval Patrick, head of the Justice Dept. civil rights division, made the remarks on Court TV's *Washington Watch* program. He said that Congress could simply add sexual orientation to its already existing hate-crimes law.

Transitions

DIED: John Preston, author, editor, and national gay rights activist, of complications due to AIDS. He was 48. He was an editor of *The Advocate* in the mid-1970s, and he wrote and edited over 40 books—mostly gay-themed—including *Hometowns: Gay Men Write About Where They Belong*, *The Big Gay Book: A Man's Survival Guide for the 90s*, *Flesh and the Word*, and the Alex Kane gay mystery/action series. His first novel was *Franny, Queen of Provincetown*, which was turned into a play. Some of his books were written under pseudonyms. Preston learned he was HIV+ in 1987.

EXECUTED: John Wayne Gacy, 52, on May 10. Gacy had murdered 33 young men and boys between 1972 and 1978. He lured his victims with promises of drugs, employment or money; after having sex with them, he killed them, burying most of the victims beneath his house.



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Homophobia in School: Speaking Its Name

By Laura Bean

Editors Note: This opinion article was originally written for another publication over a year ago, but was never published.

While it refers to specific situations from 1992 and 1993—and since then the student she interviewed has graduated, and Sr. Antoun has passed away—the basic situation with youth and education has not changed, and the author has expressed that she'd still like to see it published.

At the time that this was written, the author was employed at Tri-State Intermediate Unit. She has since gone back to school.

TO: SEX EDUCATION TEACHERS
FROM: SCHOOL DISTRICT TECHNOCRATS
RE: TACIT POLICY STATEMENT ON
HOMOSEXUALITY

Homosexuality will be treated in the most cursory fashion possible, if addressed at all. By no means should students be led to believe that homosexuality is a viable, equal lifestyle to the norm, heterosexuality. Students troubled by questions of sexual identity should be left to muddle along. Extreme caution should be exercised in attempting to make these children feel worthwhile. Respect homophobia...

HOMOPHOBIA: FEAR OF SAME-SEX EROTIC
AND EMOTIONAL ATTRACTION.....

Given the potency of Erie's homophobia, education on the subject of homosexuality equals promotion. You may wonder what is so exquisite about being gay that we dare not mention it to the children for fear that simply uttering the word homosexuality in front of them will turn into ditzy queens and diesel dykes.

While extreme homophobes...

HOMOPHOBE: PERSON WHO FEARS
SAME-SEX EROTIC AND EMOTIONAL AT-
TRACTION IN THEMSELVES OR THEMSELVES
OR OTHERS OFTEN PRONE TO VIOLENCE

...are resolute in note letting the cat out of the bag, students such as Jamie Pifer suffer. Pifer, a senior from McDowell, endured so much harassment from stu-

dents (and select faculty) that he was forced to be home-schooled.

People's ignorance of homosexuality has followed Pifer since middle school. And his frustration shows. He points out the absurdity of not discussing homosexuality for fear that students will get on the bandwagon. "If you get bored, you could be choose to be gay," he says, jokingly. "You could maybe get beat up, lose your job. Who wouldn't choose to be gay?"

The pain of being gay in high school is not lost on administrators, either. Clarence Metzgar, Director of Secondary Education for the Erie School District, admits that as a teacher, he found that openly-gay students were severely abused.

Still Metzgar seems to have no idea how to right the wrongs these kids suffer in school. Addressing the issue of homosexuality with the school board doesn't appear to be an option. "I wouldn't even begin to bring that [gays] up," he says.

Yet, members of the school board agree that gay youth need help. Says Claire DeCecco, "gay kids are in

Respect Yourself!



Insist on Safer Sex Every Time!

A Healthy Sex Message from
Bridges and Erie Gay
Community Newsletter

more pain than any other part of the [student] population”

But the idea of educating students about sexual diversity does not seem appropriate for even the most liberal of school board members. “Such a tone would turn the school district upside-down,” DeCecco fears.

Whether we are educating or indoctrinating our children when it comes to issues of sexuality might be called into question given the information we conceal from them. The bell-shaped sexual continuum, with ten percent of the population exclusively heterosexual or homosexual, and the other eighty percent experiencing some degree of sexual fluidity between either pole is not a lie. Censorship is.

The intense fear and hatred of what is factual human experience can be seen in the recent debate on outcome-based education. Members of the Pennsylvania Coalition for Academic Excellence, or the Christian Coalition as it's known, have managed to delete from the proposed state regulations not only tolerance of different lifestyles, but also the goal of getting along with self, family, and others. According to Sr. Lawrence Antoun, chair of the Pennsylvania Board of Education, the Coalition felt that this statement could be construed as lending support for homosexuality.

Antoun herself felt that tolerance should be a goal of public education. “We live in a diverse society,” she said. “Some people are different from ourselves.”

The Christian Coalition masks its hatred behind the argument that school is not the place to impart morality. However, school is the place to fight hate, born of prejudice, born of fear, born of ignorance. If we can't start from that simple premise, I submit that the educational machine in Pennsylvania is truly broken. While the debate rages on in Harrisburg, the boys at McDowell can take pride in the fact that they've driven a bright, energetic classmate from school. With the hate perpetuated indifferent or hostile leaders, Pifer is relieved to be home-schooled. “It's not fun to be a fag in a locker room,” he says.

Gay Youth Guide

Young Gay and Proud (Alyson Publications)

This resource book helps young people deal with questions like: Am I really gay? Am I the only one?

Send \$5.00 postpaid to: Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston MA 02118.

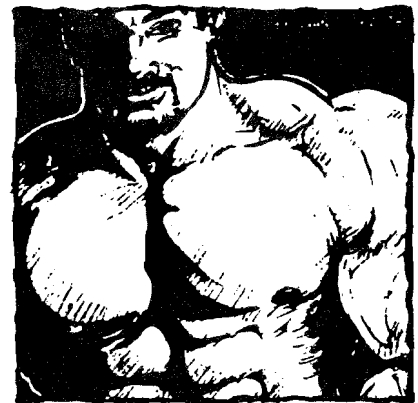
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LOBBY DAY
ON JUNE 14

For info, call (716) 679-3430

See info on page 17

Join us for Sun n' Fun!
Bridges Picnic on
June 11th at Presque Isle.
See Calendar for details

**GAY GAMES IV
& CULTURAL FESTIVAL**



**JUNE 18 - 25, 1994
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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 16505-3063. ☎ (314) 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 3rd 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) 838-0423 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 44050 ☎ (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

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 BGLAD. ☎ (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, 18 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 Sara 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)
..... (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 Groups..... Rosemary 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

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evening & weekend appointments • insurance accepted

455-4009

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
- Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
- 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

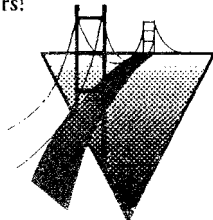
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Help make Gay-bashing illegal in Pennsylvania.

See page 16 for details or call Greg/LGLV at 833-3258.



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Area Bars and Places

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St. Open 7 days, 7 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. food til 1:30 a.m. (216)964-9935. Fri & Sat - \$1 cover, half goes into 50-50 drawn at end of night, other half goes to person taking 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, Kitchen 9-midnite, Beth at the piano Thurs 10-midnite.

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.

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