



Erie Gay Community Newsletter

☛ = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

Calendar

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

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 Blossom, sponsored by Interweave (Unitarian) Info (216)871-4676.

July 5—P.O.V. "One Nation Under God"

WNED 10:30 p.m. Looks at the "ex-gay" movement.

July 8—Indigo Girls in Concert (Cleveland)

Nautica Stage. Tickets from Ticketmaster.

☛ July 8—Men's Coffeehouse

Mike Mahler sez: "Guys, is there anyone out there who'd be into taking this over from me? My schedule is really killing me.

Maybe someone else would be able to put the time and commitment into this that

it deserves. Call me—I'd like to hear from you—and then let's meet and talk this over!" Meet-

ing 7 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway. Phone 456-9833 (Mike's home number).

☛ July 8-10—Foot-O-Cross Rally at Jones Pond (Angelica PA)

Info (716)567-8100.

☛ July 8 & 9—Dying for Sex

A look at the Thai sex industry and the catastrophic AIDS explosion it is starting to create. On A&E, 7/8 9 p.m., 1 a.m.

7/9 Noon.

July 9—Potluck Picnic & Party (Youngstown)

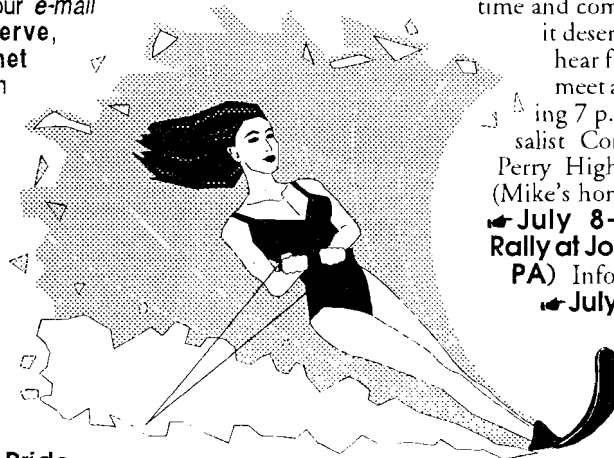
Birch Hill Cabin, Mill Creek Park in Youngstown. 4 p.m.-midnight. Alcohol-free, children welcome, scavenger hunt. Info: Jean (216)744-4126.

July 9—In a New Light '94

Entertainment/educational AIDS special ABC, check listings for time.

☛ July 9—Imperial Court Miss Buffalo Boat Ride (Buffalo)

Leaves at 3 p.m. from Miss Erie marina.



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at 456-9833!**

In This Issue...

<i>Calendar</i>	1
<i>Ad Rates</i>	2
<i>Editorial Policy</i>	2
<i>Statement of Purpose</i>	2
<i>On TV This Month</i>	4
<i>Festivals & Conferences</i>	6
<i>On-Deck Softball Team Works Together</i>	7
<i>Traveling Helps</i>	7
<i>Michael Dithers</i>	8
<i>Entertainment Notes</i>	9
<i>Letters</i>	11
<i>Places to get EGCN</i>	11
<i>Local & Area News</i>	12
<i>Transitions</i>	13
<i>Abuse: Not Just a Straight Problem</i>	14
<i>HIV/AIDS News - Local</i>	16
<i>HIV/AIDS News - World</i>	17
<i>Religion</i>	18
<i>National/World News Bits</i>	19
<i>Transitions</i>	20
<i>Groups & Organizations</i>	21
<i>HIV/AIDS Directory</i>	22
<i>Community Directory</i>	23
<i>Subscription Form</i>	24
<i>Area Bars and Places</i>	24

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.

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!

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.

July 9—Parents Day at Camp Davis (Boyers PA) Bring parents & covered dish dinner at 7 p.m. Gay/lesbian campground. Info (412)637-2402.

July 9—*The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes (1970)* CineMax 11:45 a.m. Mystery that portrays the fictional sleuth as gay but unhappy.

July 10—League of Gay and Lesbian Voters Meets 227 W. 5th, Erie. Info: Greg 833-3258.

July 10—Dancin' in the Streets (Cleveland) RESCHEDULED FOR JULY 17!

July 10—Integrity Meets St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 133 W. 6th. Info (814)774-0903.

July 11—Toni Childs in Concert (Cleveland) At the Odeon. Tickets at Ticketmaster.

July 12—P.O.V. "The Heart of the Matter" AIDS and sexuality through the eyes of an HIV-positive African-American woman. WQLN at 10 p.m.

July 12—Rainbow Connection (Warren PA) Info: Denny at (814)757-8583.

July 12—HIV/AIDS Support Group Info: Cheryl Weber at 452-6113. Transportation if you need it!

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 15—*Is It Safe?* Examines issues about mandatory HIV testing for health professionals. 7 a.m. A&E.

July 15-17—Christmas in July at Jones Pond (Angelica NY) Info (716)567-8100. Holiday fun at gay men's campground. Illuminate your campsite: Christmas theme or other.

July 15-18—Great Lakes Faeries Eighth Annual Ganuwungo Gathering (Chautauqua Co.) "A camp-out for gay men held on private land...Faerie magic in a gentle wilderness..." This will be very rustic camping ("no running water other than creek and no electric"), so bring drinking water, vegetarian food, candles, and camping gear. The organizer is asking that no alcohol, meat, or drugs be brought onto the land. For more info: (814)456-9833 or (814)453-2785.

July 16—The Void in Concert (Edinboro) At Edinboro Fest, tentatively scheduled for 5 p.m., at Mallory Run.

July 16—10% Network (Jamestown) Info: John at (716)484-7285.

July 16—Social Night at Camp Davis (Boyers PA) Dance & group campfire at lesbian/gay campground. Info (412)637-2402.

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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. Info (216)621-0766.

✦ **July 19—Melissa Etheridge in Concert (Cleveland)** Nautica Stage (216) 621-3000

✦ **July 19—Janet Jackson in Concert (Richfield OH)** Richfield Coliseum, tickets from Ticketmaster.

✦ **July 20—EGCNDEADLINE** We're not rigid about this, but please aim for it. Thanks!

✦ **July 20—First Meeting of New HIV/AIDS Support Group** See article in our HIV/AIDS News-Local section. For information call 455-8846 and ask for Bob or 833-3764 and ask for Laurie. Page 16 for details.

✦ **July 20—The Life and Times of Allen Ginsberg (1992)** At Mercyhurst College, Zurn Aud. \$3 gen admission, Mercyhurst community free. 7:30 p.m. Info 824-2401. Film about the life of gay Beat poet/ professor/writer/activist, whose works did a lot toward opening literature up to explicitly gay content.

✦ **July 20—Village People, the Tramps, Retro Dance All Stars in Concert (Pittsburgh)** I.C. Light Amphitheater. Tickets at National Record Mart. By the way, if you're turned off by the Village

People because of reports last year that their straight lead singer was charged with rape, don't let it spoil your enjoyment of this concert: the band got rid of him a few years ago (to make the band's identity gayer), and hopefully they haven't taken him back.

✦ **July 22-24—Leather 1 at Jones Pond (Angelica NY)** Gay men's camp ground. (716)567-8100.

✦ **July 23—2 Girls Alone! at Barnes & Noble Cafe (Erie)** 5909 Peach Street Time not known at press time, call 864-6300 or just make an evening of it.

✦ **July 23—Boat Cruise at Conneaut Lake (Meadville PA)** 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 23—Christmas in July-Polyanna Exchange at Camp Davis (Boyers PA)** Holiday fun at lesbian & gay men's campground 8 p.m. Info (412)637-2402.

✦ **July 23-24—Softball: Women's Major & Class A & B State Championship (Erie)** 11th & Hess field. Games all day both days. More info Erie Parks Dept. 870-1401.

✦ **July 24—George Michael's Concert of Hope** Disney 9 p.m.

✦ **July 25—Biography: Bette Davis** A&E 8 p.m. & midnight.

✦ **July 26—HIV/AIDS Support Group** Info: Cheryl Weber 452-6113.

✦ **July 26—Rainbow Connection (Warren PA)** Info: Denny at (814)757-8583.

THE ERIE PLAYHOUSE
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Bring this coupon to the Erie Playhouse Box Office when picking up tickets and receive \$2.00 off the regularly priced ticket to...



SHE LOVES ME is currently the SRO musical that is sweeping Broadway. Written by the same team who wrote FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, Bock & Harnick, SHE LOVES ME tells of two Budapest parfumerie clerks who are secret pen pals. Well, the plot twists and combined with the heavenly music, charm and humor, you don't want to miss the most glorious Broadway musical to hit the Erie Playhouse in some time!

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On TV This Month

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

- ☆ **HBO Comedy Half Hour: Bob Smith & Suzanne Westonhoeffler** First *HBO Comedy Half-Hours* featuring openly-gay and lesbian comedians. They're scheduled back-to-back, but we don't know who's playing when. So watch 'em both! July 14 (11 & 11:30 p.m.), 16 (3:40 a.m. & 4:10 a.m.), 17 (5 & 5:30 a.m.), 19 (9:30 & 10 p.m.)..

♣ **July 27—PFLAG-Erie Meets** Info: Kathy at 838-6020.

♣ **July 29—Stevie Nicks in Concert (near Pittsburgh)** Coca-Cola Star Lake Amphitheater, tickets from Ticketmaster.

♣ **July 29—Peter, Paul, and Mary (Buffalo)** At Artpark, Lewiston NY 1-800-659-PARK.

♣ **July 29-31—Mardi Gras Weekend at Jones Pond (Angelica NY)** Info Bring costumes, there will be prizes. (716) 567-8100

♣ **July 30—Lollapalooza '94 (near Pittsburgh)** L7, Smashing Pumpkins, the Breeders, Beastie Boys, George Clinton & the P-Funk All-Stars, A Tribe Called Quest, Nick Cave & the Boredoms. 2nd Stage: Luscious Jackson, Flaming Lips, Girls Against Boys, the Verve, Palace Songs. Coca-Cola Star Lake Amphitheater, tickets from Ticketmaster.

♣ **July 30—Foundation Fest Weekend at Camp Davis (Boyers PA)** Food, beverages, entertainment, tattoo artist at gay/lesbian campground. Info (412)637-2402.

♣ **July 30—2 Girls Alone! at Grind & Squeeze (Edinboro)** 9-midnight. 105 Erie Street (upstairs).

♣ **July 31—Aretha Franklin: Queen of Soul** Disney 9 p.m., 3:30 a.m.

♣ **Aug 1—Bette Midler in Concert (near Cleveland)** Blossom Music Center, Cuyahoga Falls OH. (216)566-8184. This concert is rescheduled from June 14. If you already have a ticket for that date, it will be honored. For refunds, contact Blossom before July 16.

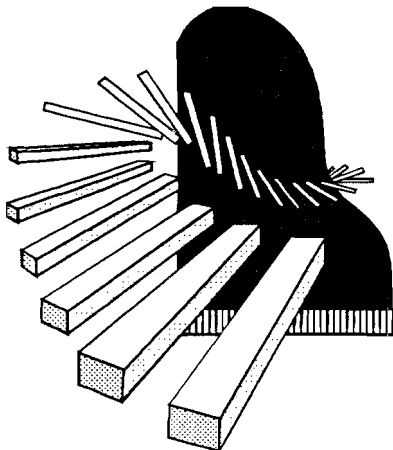
♣ **Aug 5-7—Craft Display at Jones Pond (Angelica NY)** Displayed and sold Sat & Sun. Gay men's campground (716)567-8100.

♣ **Aug 6—Leather Weekend at Camp Davis (Boyers PA)** Info (412)637-2402. Lesbian/gay campground.

♣ **Aug 6-7—Buddies Summer Festival (Buffalo)** AIDS fundraiser put on by popular Buffalo bar. Food, beverages, games, casino gambling, music, entertainment. 31 Johnson Park (716)855-1313.

♣ **Aug 10—Womynspace Core Group Meets** If you're interested in helping to keep Womynspace healthy and happy as it enters its 6th (!) year, roll up your sleeves and bring your ideas, visions and commitment to this meeting. At 7 p.m., call Deb at 453-2785 for location.

the **E**mbers



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♣ **Aug 10—Stevie Nicks in Concert (near Cleveland)** Blossom Music Center, tickets at Ticketmaster.
 ♣ **Aug 11—"Erie Cares" for Friends from Hearl—POSTPONED!** Details later.
 ♣ **Aug 12-14—Classic Car Show Weekend at Jones Pond (Angelica NY)** At gay men's campground. Sunday is family day: bring kids, parents, whoever (free). Info (716)567-8100.
 ♣ **Aug 13—Oldies But Goodies Weekend at Camp Davis (Boyers PA)** Dance 8 p.m. at gay/lesbian campground (412)637-2402.
 ♣ **Aug 13—2 Girls Alone! at Cup-a-Ccino's** 9-midnight 18 N. Park Row
 ♣ **Aug 14—9th Annual Community Picnic & Games (near Buffalo)** At Joseph's on Columbia St, Depew NY. Food, beverages, fun. Info (716)883-4750.
 ♣ **Aug 18-28—Pittsburgh Pride Week** More info next month or pick up Pittsburgh's Out or call Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Pgh. (412)422-0114 (Mon-Fri 6-9:30 p.m., Sat. 3-6 p.m.)
 ♣ **Aug 19-21—run jane run (Cleveland)** American's biggest women's amateur sports event, with lots of lesbian participation. Golf tournament at the Links, recreational softball at Softball World, 5K Run and pledge walk Sun. at Metroparks Zoo. Presented by Women's Center of Greater Cleveland. For info, entrance, or to volunteer: (216) 651-1450.
 ♣ **Aug 20—10% Network Picnic** Bring table service and dish to pass. Info John (716)484-7285.
 ♣ **Aug 21—Gay Day at Kennywood Park (Pittsburgh)** Part of Pittsburgh Pride Week. Details next month.
 ♣ **Aug 21—Gay and Lesbian Support Picnic (Niagara Falls)** Noon to dusk at Whirlpool State Park. (716)883-4750.
 ♣ **Aug 27—Pittsburgh Pride Parade & Rally & Carnival** Details next month.

♣ **Sept 5—Pittsburgh Labor Day Picnic** Details next month.
 ♣ **Sept 5—Rochester Gay Day at Breezewood (Tentative Date)** Date is pretty certain but not confirmed. Details next month, or call (716)244-8640 after late July.
 ♣ **Sept 11—"We are Family" Picnic (Cleveland)** Huge picnic. Details next month, or call NOCI (216)771-0369.
 ♣ **Oct 14—Lambda Ball (Pittsburgh)** Pittsburgh's Grandest Black and White Ball at the Westin William Penn Hotel (Grande Ball Room). Info: (412)521-5444.
 ♣ **Oct 29-30—U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Trip (from Cleveland to Washington)** Presented by the Gay & Lesbian Interfaith Community. For more info call Chevrei Tikva at (216)932-5551. \$199 includes transportation, religious and social events, accomodations at Sheraton City Centre hotel, group tour of Museum with focus on Nazi persecution of Gays & Lesbians. Space is limited and expected to sell out quickly.

Festivals & Conferences

♣ **Sept 2-5—Wild Western Women's Weekend (VA)** Second annual Crazy Feats Rodeo, hayrides, line dancing, horses, country music and dance! InTouch, Route 2, Box 1096, Kent's Store, VA 23084 (804)589-6542.

**Did you go to
 Stonewall 25 or Gay
 Games IV?
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On Deck Softball Team Works Together

In the On Deck women's softball team, they're proving that straights and gays can get along together just fine.

"It's a wonderful group of women," says coach Bill Dewey. "The whole bunch likes each other, and it shows in the great way they play the game. Mutual respect, that's the key to a good team."

And what a team they are—they're defending major champions, ninth in the nation!

"It's not me," insists Dewey. "Just a bunch of women with good attitude."

Dewey, 43, has been coaching women's softball for eight years—five for On Deck. He started playing when he was 17. Bad knees made him quit about ten years ago.

He admits that he wasn't too sure about what to expect when he started coaching women's softball. "I hadn't been around gay women before and I wasn't sure I'd be comfortable," he says. "But I found they're just human beings like everyone else. Actually, I could honestly say I came to love and respect just about all the gay women who've been on the team over the years."

The gay women, straight women, and coach all party together, do New Year's Eve, sometimes even do Lizzie's.

Do any of the husbands or boyfriends ever get jealous or concerned about their wives and girlfriends being on a team with gay women? "I've never heard anything," Dewey says, laughing. "But if I did we'd probably tell them to get out of our faces!"

The team plays about 50 games a year. Here's where you can catch them:

July 6— 5:45 p.m. at E. 2nd & Pennsylvania

July 9-10—Invitational (Franklin PA) Get details from On Deck 459-8706.

July 11—7:10 p.m. at E. 2 & Pa.

July 13—8:45 at E. 12th & Hess

July 18—7:10 at E. 2 & Pa.

July 20—7:10 at E. 2 & Pa.

July 23-24—Women's Major & Class A&B State Championship 12th & Hess. Call On Deck for times, teams playing all day both days.

Aug 3—5:45 at E. 12th & Hess

Aug. 6-7—Invitational Tournament Western Auto Field (Waterford PA)

Aug. 8—7:10 at E. 2 & Pa.

Aug. 10—7:10 at E. 12th & Hess

Aug. 25-27—National Championship (Worton MD) Info from On Deck 459-8706.

Traveling Helps

When you see a listing in our calendar for something out of town do you wonder what else there is to do when you get there? Most communities of any size have offices that will send you free information, maps, accomodations information and other helpful stuff. Here are some:

Greater Buffalo Convention & Visitors Bureau
107 Delaware
Buffalo NY 14202
(716)852-0511

Convention & Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland
3100 Terminal Tower
Cleveland OH 44113
(216)621-4110 or (800)321-1004

Pittsburgh Convention & Visitors Bureau
4 Gateway Center
Pittsburgh PA 15222
(800)366-0093 or (412)281-7711

Toronto Convention & Visitors Association
Queens Quay Terminal at Harbourfront
207 Queens Quay W.
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1A7
Canada
(800)363-1990 (USA & Canada)

Youngstown/Mahoning Co. Convention & Visitors Bureau
101 City Centre One
Youngstown OH 44503
(216) 747-8200

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

And what a busy, busy month it has been! The Bridges Picnic on June the 11th was a very pleasant, low-key affair. We did have some folks come all the way from Bradford. Folks had a good time. We had a volleyball game that had to be seen to be believed. It might have appeared to have been a mass tryout for the Athletically-Challenged Olympics. Most important was that we all had great fun, sort of what I have heard about the Gay Games—the point is to enjoy the activity and the friendship, and not necessarily to be the Jock from Hell.

I would like to thank everyone who came to Micheal's and my wedding/handfasting or who offered their best wishes. It was very moving for both of us and we are very glad we did it. It was truly nifty having so many folks we cared about (families, friends, folks from the community, co-workers) recognizing and celebrating with us. Mike's mom and brother were there, as were my mom, sister, brother and aunt. This was really moving for me because My had some problems accepting Micheal and me at first. Things have been fine for a while and she even gave him a very genuine hug and a kiss! Thank you all so much! Muchas smooches! We are going to honeymoon at the Rocking Duck Inn this month and may do a few side trips.

Micheal and I had a wonderful at the Erie Playhouse production of *Falsettos*. Not only was it very well done, but they collected donations for Friends from the Heart. After hearing about places like Cobb County, Alabama that are so hostile to lesbian lives being portrayed at all, it is nice to have theater that presents gay folks as human beings and not generate controversy for doing so.

I have really been feeling like my schedule has been pretty hectic of late. I sort of ended up some time ago kinda being in charge of the Men's Coffeehouse (probably because I happen to have the key to the UU because of the Spirituality group I am involved with there.) It seems to me that I have not been really giving it the attention and effort it deserves and someone else needs to take the reins. Maybe a change of locale or format? Anyway, please give me a call before the next meeting, guys, and let me know what you think. (The number is 456-9833, as always.)

There is something I have been musing about for this past month or so. I have heard from some folks how "backwards" they think Erie is. I admit to being far from impartial on this point. No matter where you live or what the circumstances, there will always be good points and bad points. If you live in southern California, you can worry about earthquakes. If you live in Florida, you can worry about heat and crime. If you live in large metropolitan areas, you can worry about a divided lesbian community, some of which seem to spend more time being annoyed than anything.

Another reason I feel the way that I do is because I know that even the most progressive areas had to develop. San Francisco was not built in a day. All the progress happened because folks did stuff. Look at all the things that are going on here- we have a newsletter and folks who advertise in it, the student groups out on wonderful celebrations for Coming Out Day last year and probably will again. We have had Margie Adam, Leah Zichari, Susan Herrick, the Flirtations, Romanovsky & Phillips, the national community theater premiere of *Falsettos*, and other speakers and acts I can't even remember. LGLV has gotten out the *Voters Guide*, a nice reception for Tom Paniccia and a very successful skating party. Allegheny College is having a course on "Before and After Stonewall." There are groups that have started or are starting in Meadville, Bradford and Warren (members of whom have been heard to comment on how much there is to do when they visit Erie.) We have a community that basically gets along with each other relatively well.

Just think about it, okay?

One final non-related item: Micheal and I frequently catch Comedy Central, which has actually a fair amount of gay and gay-themed stuff, especially *Kids in the Hall*. Scott Thompson is fab! One sketch had Scott smooching another very nice guy. After seeing *Melrose Place* and *Northern Exposure* wimp out of showing same-sex kissing between guys, it was a refreshing change to see it at any level. (If seeing thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of opposite sex kisses haven't made me straight, why would seeing one gay kiss make anyone gay?)

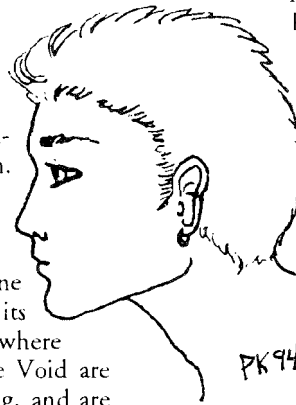
Entertainment Notes

☆ **NOW OUT:** Local alternative band **The Void** has a new recording out called *Now*. On this album, which has been dubbed a work of self-discovery, one of the most popular cuts is a song called "Closet Land," about gay/lesbian identity. Greg Ropp, who composed and wrote the song, says the individual in the song is a composite of several people he has known. "The person is questioning who they are," explains Ropp. "They decide that they are going to accept themselves regardless of what Mom or Dad or anyone else thinks." The song has even found its way onto the jukebox at the Boro Bar, where it gets a lot of play. Members of the Void are straight, but they have a gay following, and are very gay-positive. "We're for everyone," says Ropp. "It's so ridiculous that people would discriminate against someone because they're gay. I agree with Kurt Cobain when he told his fans that if they didn't like gays and others they could just get lost. I say, 'Keep on living!'" The Void's *Now* is available on tape or CD from Digg Dios, Record Den, Record Country, Home Video Exchange (Edinboro), Graham's Used Records and Tapes, and Boro Tunes. It can also be bought at the Void's performances.

☆ **ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHERS:** In a survey of *Details* magazine's Generation X readers, men were asked who they'd most like to make it with. They named **Janet Jackson, Madonna, Tori Amos, Natalie Merchant, Juliana Hatfield...and RuPaul!**

☆ **REAL LOVE:** The third season of MTV's *Real World* was taped at a house in San Francisco. Among the seven real people living together for five months is a two gay men named Pedro. Pedro meets Sean, they end up falling in love, and Sean proposes marriage to Pedro. Both men are AIDS educators and Pedro is shown speaking to groups. He also is a person with HIV, and talks about that. *Real World* is on MTV Thursday nights.

☆ **MICHAEL EHRENS ART SHOW:** Local artist Michael Ehrens will be showing some of his works at Cup-a-Ccino's starting in July. There is one piece with two men embracing, but the gay sensibility of most of his pieces is much more subtle. "Being gay is significant in my life, and therefore it comes through in my pieces, but not all of my work has something to do with being gay," says Ehrens. "Also, there is an ambiguity of gender in many of my paintings, so you can pass by the gay aspect of it." The works being shown were done over the past year—during which time Ehrens came out and transferred from Gannon University to Edinboro, where he felt freer to be himself.



That may somewhat explain the vibrant colors in his recent works. The artist works with watercolors, colored pencil, charcoal, and acrylics. He credits artist Don Joint with having the greatest influence over his work. "Although our styles are not the same, Don has really affected my work more than anyone else," says Ehrens. Ehrens does have some erotic works, but these will not be on display at this show. "I'm proud of that work," he says, "but it's not appropriate for this particular show." The show will be on display July 17 till August 7.

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- ☆ **MORE TONYS FOR ANGELS:** At the June Tony awards, *Angels in America: Perestroika* won for Best Play. That play is the second part of **Tony Kushner's** gay AIDS epic. The first part of the epic, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*, also won a Tony for Best Play last year. In receiving the award, Kushner said, "I'd like to dedicate this award to my gay and lesbian brothers [sic] the world over who are fighting for both a cure (for AIDS) and for citizenship." **Steven Spinella** won for Best Actor in his role of a gay man fighting AIDS (Spinella won Best Featured Actor in *Angels* last year). This year's *Angels* also received Best Featured Actor.
- ☆ **BUFFALO THEATER:** Hag Theater will present *Hollandia 45*, a play by lesbian writer Sarah Dreher. July 29 & 30, and August 5 & 6. At TheaterLoft, 545 Elmwood Ave.
- ☆ **ERIE THEATER:** The Roadhouse Theater will present *Inherit the Wind*, which is based on the 1925 Scopes Trial, or "monkey trial," which was considered the Trial of the Century. A school teacher in Tennessee had broken that state's fundamentalist law by teaching his class the theory of evolution. The actual trial was theatrical in and of itself, providing a fascinating clash of ideas and value systems. The play will be performed in Courtroom H of the Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. 6th, and will run from mid-July to early August. For days and times call Roadhouse at 456-5656 or consult *Showcase*.
- ☆ **MELISSA NEWS: Melissa Etheridge** is doing the theme song for the new Ellen Degeneres sitcom, renamed *Ellen*...VH-1 honored Etheridge for her work with PWAs in the *VH-1 Honors Show* (broadcast June 26)...if you'd like to catch M.E. in concert, she'll be in Cleveland July 19 (check *EGCN* calendar for details).
- ☆ **GAY DAY AT DISNEYWORLD:** About 20,000 lesbians and gay men showed up at the 4th "Gay Day at Disney." The event was not sponsored by Disney, and the corporation put up signs saying so. Disney did meet with the Gay Alliance, a group of gay theme-park employees, to talk about behavior guidelines. They said holding hands would be acceptable, but "passionate activity" would not be acceptable by anyone. "The purpose of the day is for our community to get together and have a good time and show the people attending the park that we're just like everyone else" said Gay Alliance member Richard Sullivan. Some Christian right activists protested before the event. About 30 protesters—mostly from Rev. Donald Wildmon's American Family Association and the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue—held up banners on the day of the event.
- ☆ **EURO-MTV GETS OUT THE VOTE:** Europe's MTV carried on a campaign encouraging their young viewers to get out and vote in the June European parliament elections. Among the appeals were interviews with young people talking about how much the new European parliament had done for equality of gay couples.



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Letters

The following letter was sent to Dr. William Garvey, President of Mercyhurst College:

Dear Dr. Garvey:

Last evening, I attended a performance of *A Canterbury Feast* and while I enjoyed the performances of the actors themselves, I found many of the characterizations and situations offensive.

As a former counselor, I did not find the beating scenes funny in the least, particularly the gay-bashing scene which served no purpose than to amuse an obviously homophobic audience. I have counseled too many abused people to see any humor there. Neither did I appreciate the stereotypical "flaming queen" characterization which once again did not work into the story line, and proved to have no purpose except to appeal to a low level of homophobic intelligence. The characterizations of the women would also make Eleanor Roosevelt turn in her grave.

Shame on Mercyhurst for producing such trite gutter rubbish. Certainly you could have found a better story line.

I am certainly surprised that a college group in 1994 America would stoop to such degrading antics to supposedly amuse an audience. Your thinking is obviously medieval. I ask that you look into this production immediately and make a few changes before you offend more enlightened members of your audience.

Harry Miller

Hi Mike!

What a great time we had on Saturday [at Bridges picnic]! I'm so glad we made the trip. It was great meeting you and Mike, and I'm sure we'll look forward to seeing plenty of you both in the future!

Gosh! Everyone was just so wonderful to us all day long. Almost like a family reunion. Networking is truly a wonderful thing.

As I'm always apt to say, "It was so beautiful!" (What can I say? I was raised by flower children).

Too bad y'unz couldn't make it to The Embers that night. It was great! I'd never seen female impersonators before—well, not in a show I mean—and I just

loved it. What a fun time! I thought Brenda was going to try to kidnap then and take them home with us.

Brenda and I are talking about going to Lizzie Bordon's Friday for the Miss Erie Pageant...maybe we'll bring some friends.

Kerry
Bradford PA

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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

Local & Area News

Allegheny Group News

From Roy of Allegheny College's Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual People:

The Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People received Allegheny's Outstanding Organization Award for this year.

We received a \$2,000 Innovation and Development Grant from the Lambda Foundation in Pittsburgh towards our Stonewall Celebration last March.

We hosted a reception for members of our Alumni Caucus on Saturday, June 4. This is a group of approximately 50 gay/lesbian/bisexual alums and allies which was organized in October 1993. The group exists to support the goals and activities of our campus group and to serve as a resource network.

For the 1994 fall semester, a liberal studies course, "Before and After Stonewall" is being offered. The course is a historical exploration of gay and lesbian issues in the context of artistic, intellectual, social, and political movements in the U.S., England, France, and

Germany. This class will form part of a proposed concentration in the Gay and Lesbian Studies which is currently being reviewed by the Curriculum Committee.

Plans are underway for National Coming Out Day Activities on campus Sunday, October 9 through Thursday, October 13, 1994. Details to come.

PA Hate Crimes Bill Stalled

Despite the support of the majority of members on the Senate Judiciary committee, the Hate crimes Bill, SB 1218, was pulled from the committee's June 14th agenda at the last minute. The move prevented a vote on the bill and significantly diminished hopes for its passage in 1994. The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters, lead advocates for the bill, set sites on preparing for 1995 while exploring what, if any, potential options are available during the current session.

The request to pull the bill from the agenda came from senator John Shumaker (R-Dauphin), and was encouraged by Senators Michael Fisher (R-Allegheny)

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and Tim Shaffer (R-Butler). All three were expected to vote against the bill. Shumaker indicated he wished the bill be pulled from the agenda and to schedule a public hearing, despite the fact that a hearing was held in 1992 on the same legislation. "The public hearing was clearly an excuse to pull the bill from the agenda, rather than a serious proposal," said Chris Young, chair of LGLV. "I think that he just wanted to block the bill."

The setback came just as LGLV-Erie was preparing to blitz area bars and organizations with leaflets and last minute appeals to call Senator Andrezeski, who had not committed his vote.

Despite the disappointment in the Senate, the League encourages people to continue to let their Senators know how they feel. In addition, they should contact their state Representatives and urge their support of the House version, HB 2312, to provide momentum into 1995.

Little Bits

The new Barnes and Noble Bookstore has 200-300 titles in its gay/lesbian section!

In response to the Surgeon General's misinformed remarks about the Girl Scouts discriminating against lesbians, the Penn Lakes Girl Scout Council sent a letter to both Erie papers stating that the Girl Scouts do not discriminate against anyone

Transitions

MARRIED: Kathleen Anne Harris and Robert Allen Chapman at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on June 11. Kathleen is the facilitator of PFLAG-Erie.

MARRIED: Micheal Miller and Michael Mahler at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation on June 18.

MARRYING: Sarah L. Fasimpaur and Daniel W. Hill on July 30. Sarah had worked at Cup-a-Ccino's for the past three years. The couple will make their home in Buffalo.

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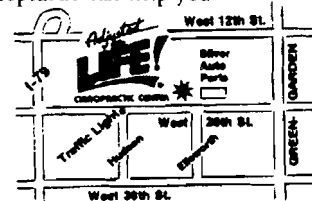
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Abuse: Not Just a Straight Problem

By Deb Spilko

If there is a silver lining to the revelations about O.J. Simpson's relationship to his murdered ex-wife, it is the attention it has brought to the issue of domestic violence.

Although most domestic abuse that happens in this county goes on between straight people, it certainly happens within same-sex couples as well.

Abuse isn't talked about much in our community. When I started telling people I was writing this article, some people expressed concern about "the wrong people" getting ahold of information that gay and lesbian abuse exists. They were concerned it would make us look bad.

Actually, straight homophobes have absolutely no room to put us down for having abuse in our community. The statistics on straight domestic violence are horrifying. For instance, every 15 seconds, a woman in the U.S. is beaten by her husband ex-husband, or boyfriend. Up to a third of the women who visit emergency rooms do so because of repeated assaults by boyfriends or husbands. In Canada, which has a less violent society ours, a massive study found that 29 per cent of women who were ever married or in a common-law relationship with a man had reported violence from a partner. Clearly, if anti-gay people really did care about "immoral relationships," they would put domestic abuse at the very top of the list.

There. Now, that "the wrong people" have been given the what-for, let's talk.

Understanding Abusive Relationships

As with O.J. Simpson, abusers—of all sexual orientations—can often have a charming, wonderful side to them. When they're good they can be very, very good, and when they're bad...well, they're capable of causing an awful lot of misery to the people who love them. It's that good side of the abuser that can cause abuse victims to stay in a relationship.

If you're dealing with an abusive relationship, it helps to understand what's going on. Lenore Walker,

Deb Spilko is a former director of Horizon House women's shelter in Union City.

in *The Battered Woman*, described the five parts of the cycle of abuse:

1. Conflicts and problems.
2. Tension builds.
3. Abuse takes place.
4. Abuser feels remorse.
5. Abuse victim feels hopeful that things will get better.

It's easy to see how this combination of fists and flowers, of rage and tenderness can be confusing. Having the component parts laid out like that, it's easier to get control over the situation.

Physical Abuse

This doesn't need as much explanation as sexual and emotional abuse, because it's a lot more obvious. Punching, kicking, restraining, choking, striking with an object, are examples of physical abuse. Sometimes the violence and the injuries get worse.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse can sometimes be more destructive than physical violence. Unfortunately, the destructiveness of emotional abuse is not widely recognized; in fact, some supposedly non-violent people emotionally abuse others without dealing with the fact that they are inflicting harm. Emotional abuse includes threats of physical abuse, humiliation, accusations, insults, ridicule, "crazy-making" lying, spying, and isolating someone from friends and family.

Sexual Abuse

Sex should feel good for both partners.

Sexual abuse has more to do with abuse than sex. If your partner is coercing you into having sex that makes you feel anger, helplessness, humiliation, pain or fear, it is abusive sex.

There are those "differently-pleasured" folks who get sexual pleasure out of play-acting abusive sex. That sort of sex may disturb some people, but if two people *both* seek out that sort of sex play, *both* get enjoyment out of it, and in reality are *both* in control of what's going on, it isn't really sexual abuse. Lumping real sexual abuse and consensual sex-play together harms the cause of getting people to take sexual abuse seriously.

One issue of particular concern for abused gay and bisexual men is safer sex. Victims of abusive men often have unprotected sex because of the very real fear that they will end up being beaten if they insist on condoms. Although people in abused relationships sometimes stay with their abuser in the hopes that things will get better, this is one area where that thinking is absolutely dangerous: bruises and hurt feelings may go away with time, but HIV infection does not.

Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is a big problem for abuse victims. An abuser can tear down a victim's self-esteem, by constant ridicule, accusations, insults, and saying things like "You're ugly and no one else would want you." Also, the victim may start to feel stupid for staying in an abusive relationship, and that causes more loss of self-esteem. To get the strength to get out of an abusive situation, you need to take to heart that you do deserve something better. It's not all that easy, especially if you've started believing what your abuser tells you about being undesirable or incredibly stupid, but that's where you have to start. Get counseling, choose the company of people who treat you well, and check out the self-help sections at book stores and libraries. You really do deserve better.

Excuses

Abusers tend to blame others for their abusive behavior. They had a bad childhood, things are bad at work, they got laid off, their partner screws up so much that they have to kick them around to get them to straighten out, the booze did it, the drugs did it, and on and on and on.

Certainly if bad things have happened to the abuser, that's a shame. But it's not an excuse for abuse. Whatever their partner might be doing that bothers them, it's not an excuse for abuse. Alcohol and drugs also are not excuses for abuse.

If your partner is okay till he or she gets drunk or high, find out about living with someone who has this problem. One thing you need to understand is they probably aren't going to change until they're good and ready, and even then they're going to have to work at recovery. Recovery is something that takes a lifetime commitment, not just a month or two. Read and/or

Continued on Page 17

Domestic Abuse Resources

Materials Specific to Our Community

Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them: Battered Gay Men and Domestic Violence. By David Island and Patrick Letellier (Haworth \$19.95)

Naming the Violence: Speaking Out about Lesbian Battering. Edited and with intro by Kerry Lobel (Seal Pr Feminist, \$12.95)

Closeted Screams: A Service Provider Handbook for Same-Sex Domestic Violence Issues. (Smith-Fleisher Soria \$20)

How to Get Out

Getting Free: You Can End Abuse and Take Back Your Life. By Ginny NiCarthy (\$12.95 New Leaf Series)

How to Survive the Loss of a Love. Melba Colgrove et al. (\$7.95 Bantam).

You Can Be Free: An Easy-to-Read Handbook for Abused Women. Ginny NiCarthy (Seal Pr. Fem. \$12.95).

Where to Get Help

This is not a complete list. If you know of other places to get help please contact EGCN and we will list them. Particularly of interest would be group therapy for abusers who want to stop abusing.

Erie

Hospitality House (814)454-8161. Provides counseling and legal help for men and women. Shelter for women only, though they can help men find shelter. Free.

Dale Allgeier, 350 West Tenth Street, 455-4009. Gay-affirmative counselor.

Peninsula Counseling Services, 2700 West 21st Street, Suite #7, Erie PA 16506. 835-5204.

Jamestown

YWCA Alternatives to Violence, 401 North Main Street. Help for men and women. Business hours call (716)484-1314 (this is the general YWCA business number so ask for the Alternatives to Violence program). Evening hours/24-hour crisis hotline switched over to Mental Health Center. (716)484-0052. Free.

Meadville

Women's Services (814)333-9766. For survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, women and men. The shelter can only take women, though they will try to help male abuse victims find shelter. Free.

HIV/AIDS News - Local

Erie Playhouse Raises Funds

The Erie Playhouse raised \$1,768 for Friends from the Heart. The monies were collected by cast members of *Falsettos*. A little talk would be given after the show, and cast members would collect from members of the audience. The Playhouse does these collections (they call it "Playhouse Cares") after certain productions. Another charity "Playhouse Cares" recently raised money for was the cancer hospice.

The Embers Donates

The Embers donated over \$209 to Friends from the Heart.

Person with HIV Forms New Support Group

By Robert Saunders

When I returned home from L.A. in 1990, just finding out I was HIV positive, I had a lot of fear of being rejected from friends and family. I learned Erie had an AIDS Council and quickly got in contact with them. I found that they had support groups for individuals with HIV and AIDS. I attended these support groups every week. They offered two kinds of group meetings. One was a type of spiritual healing and the other more of an education type which kept us alert of new drugs and therapies. Eventually, a lot of my fears about HIV and AIDS began to diminish and the groups allowed me to take on my responsibility to change my thinking and remain healthy. I can honestly say that attending those meetings contributed greatly to my good health today. They gave me a positive foundation on which I based my positive outlook on living, even on a day-to-day basis. After about two years, these group meetings were terminated. It was a real shame, because I believe every individual who has HIV has the right to have these meetings available to them. The group that I'm getting together is much different than some support groups that are now being offered, in that this group will be run by the people attending the meetings. It is very important that everyone attend the first few meetings to offer their input and help shape the group into what is needed most. (For example, will this be a group geared toward education or geared toward keeping a good mental outlook?) I am glad to be able to organize a support

group of this nature. If you need information or transportation to this group, please call 455-8846 and ask for Bob or call 833-3764 and ask for Laurie. The first meeting will be on Wednesday July 20.

AIDS Alliance Opens Satellite Office in Erie

Acting upon client requests and a growing Erie area caseload, the Northwest Rural AIDS Alliance (NRAA) has opened an office at the Baldwin Building in downtown Erie.

The Alliance was founded in 1991 in response to a PA mandate which required the formation of seven regional coalitions to distribute AIDS monies equitably throughout the state. Clarion university was awarded the contract to administer state and federal Ryan White AIDS funding to organizations within the 13 northwestern counties serviced by the Alliance.

NRAA had provided funding for the now-defunct AIDS Council of Erie County, and currently channels funds to the Erie County Department of Health.

The services provided by NRAA include: case management and referrals, patient care funds (pharmaceutical, physician, dental, emergency, rent, utilities, supportive services, and nutritional supplements), a speakers' bureau, hotline, conference calendar, library, and an educator (currently funded only for minorities, women, and substance abuse organizations).

The Northwest Rural AIDS Alliance is located in Room 321 of the Baldwin Building, 10th and State Streets, in Erie. Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Although walk-in services are available, call 456-8849 for an appointment if possible.

Persons with HIV: AIDS Clinical Trials in Cleveland is Interested in You.

From Kathy Citrano at Case Western Reserve Unit/ University Hospitals of Cleveland, AIDS Trials Unit

Situated on the east side of Cleveland, our AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (one of the top eight in the country) helps HIV positive people throughout the Great Lakes Region.

We focus on new treatments and preventive therapy; but we also offer free medications, follow-up care, and blood tests (when specified by study guidelines).

You will work with a friendly team of professionals who have been carefully selected and who are dedicated to providing the best care for you. With your participation, together we can gather data necessary to find the cure for AIDS.

Please call and talk to one of our staff nurses at 216/368-AIDS (216/368-2437). Give us the chance to help you while you help us find the cure for AIDS.

Thank you

"Blades for AIDS"

Some Millcreek elementary and junior high school students got some practice giving to organizations serving people with HIV/AIDS. Students at J.S. Wilson Middle School, West Lake Middle School, and Chestnut Hill Elementary raised money through a roller blade event, and donated \$1,000 to three organizations. Joe Trzbynski, director of the Erie Co. Health Dept., said the county would match the monies. About ten kids met with representatives from Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, HIV/AIDS Outreach of the Cathedral of St. Paul, and St. Martin's Center. They asked the representatives some pretty pointed questions. They decided to give St. Martin's \$1,000, Hospice \$500 (saying it could only be spent for prescriptions), and the HIV/AIDS Ministry received \$450 (stating that \$150 was for educational materials, \$150 for the HIV/AIDS food pantry, \$150 for AIDS work in Uganda). "The teachers guided them," said Sue Kuebler of HIV/AIDS Ministry, "but these were some pretty sharp kids and they knew what they were doing."

HIV/AIDS News - World

Bishop Condemns Condoms in AIDS-Ravaged Uganda

NAMUGONGO, Uganda, June 6—Roman Catholic Bishop Edward Baharagata condemned the Ugandan government's use of condoms in their efforts to fight AIDS. Uganda has one of the highest rates of AIDS in the world; about nine percent of the Uganda is infected with HIV, and the population has been decimated. The government distributes millions of free condoms in an attempt to control new infections. The Bishop stated that condoms encourage immorality and cause death. He chose to make his point at the commemoration of the 1889 martyrdom of 22 young male Christians, who were killed when they rejected the advances of a tribal king.

Abuse, from page 15

get counseled about living and loving someone with an alcohol or drug problem. Don't try to deal with it alone.

Getting Help

When an abused partner is ready to seek help, they are usually ashamed and afraid. Lesbian and gay abuse victims may also worry that the people they seek help from will look down on them because they are gay. If you're a victim of abuse, don't let this concern keep you from getting help. Counselors and agencies are becoming much more enlightened about dealing with same-sex abuse. Consult the list in this article for help from gay-friendly counselors and agencies.

Hospitality House in Erie has a very strong policy of treating clients and employees equally, specifically naming sexual orientation several times in their affirmative action policy statement. Executive Director Linda Lyons King says, that the agency has experience in dealing with lesbian and gay clients, though they tend to need legal aid more than any of the agency's other services. "Domestic abuse draws its strength from the power of silence of the abuse victim," she says. "The abuser counts on it. When the silence is broken, the abuser loses some power."

Brenda Olson, Program Assistant for YWCA Alternatives to Violence in Jamestown, says "When people come to us for help, we deal with the issue of abuse, not their sexual orientation. Being the YWCA, we believe in equality for all. We believe you have the right to own your own body, you have the right not to be hurt by someone. I would really hate to think there are people out there who need help and aren't coming to us because they think we'll look down on them."

What if the abuser really wants to change? Getting the abuser to go to couple counseling usually doesn't work. Help that deals specifically with the abuser is not that easy to find, either. The emphasis has been on the abuse victim, because they've had the greatest need. If you know of providers of therapy for abusers, please contact *EGCN*, and we'll pass it along to our readers.

Hopefully this article will help people who need and want it. Best of luck and much happiness in your life!

Religion

Medieval Gay Christian Wedding Texts

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—A newly-published book is already turning Christian teachings about same-sex relationships on their ear. *Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe*, written by respected Yale historian John Boswell, claims to have found early Christian ceremonies for male couples, which bear remarkable similarity to heterosexual wedding ceremonies. Critics say that the ceremonies are for blessing friendships or swearing brotherhood, not marriages. An excerpt from an 11th century Greek ceremony included in Boswell's book: "For this holy place, we beseech Thee, O Lord. That these thy servants (names) be sanctified with thy spiritual benediction, we beseech Thee, O Lord. That their love abide without offense or scandal all the days of their lives, we beseech Thee, O Lord. That they be granted all things needed for salvation and godly enjoyment of life everlasting, we beseech Thee, O Lord."

Surgeon General Elders and President Clinton Blast Religious Right

NEW YORK, June 22—Attacking what she calls "the un-Christian religious right," Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders said "We've got to be strong to take on these people who are selling out children our in the name of religion. We've got to be as aggressive as they've been." Elders made the remarks in a speech opening the four-day Lesbian and Gay Health Conference. Two days later, 87 Republican House members called for her resignation, partly in response to these remarks.

ST. LOUIS, June 22—President Clinton took off the gloves and criticized the religious right, naming Rev. Jerry Falwell. "I'm going to be far more aggressive," he promised. Clinton indicated he was fed up with being attacked by people who "put on the mantle of religion and then (use it) to justify anything they say or do."

Catholic Catechism

The new English translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church encourages compassion and justice for gay people, calling for people with "deep-seated homosexual tendencies" to be "accepted with respect,

compassion, and sensitivity," and stating that "unjust discrimination" should be avoided. At the same time, it condemns "homosexual acts" as being "grave depravity" and is clear in stating that such behavior can never be approved of.

Vatican Lashes Out at Lesbian Moms

VATICAN CITY, June 22—After an Italian physician announced he had artificially inseminated a lesbian, the Vatican condemned lesbian mothers, lesbian artificial insemination, and homosexuality. "Homosexuals have as much love to give children as heterosexuals," said Giuseppe Ambrassa, the gynecologist who performed the procedure.

Presbyterian Uproar

WICHITA, Kan.—At the Presbyterian Church's 206th General Assembly in mid-June:

Gay activists were able to cause the rejection of a proposal that single people abstain from sex and married people remain faithful. The activists objected to the proposal because it was unfair to gays: the day earlier the assembly voted to prohibit Presbyterian pastors from blessing same-sex marriages.

A big, mostly-unresolved clash over last November's "Re-Imagining" conference on women and religion. Organizers saw it as a new look at women and spirituality; critics condemned the conference as a celebration of lesbianism and paganism.

UCC: Gay Couple Hired as Joint Pastors

SEATTLE—A United Church of Christ congregation has hired a gay male couple to share an associate pastorate. Reverends David Shull and Peter Ilgenfritz have been together about eight years. They will serve the 1,200-member University Congregational Church. It is probably the first time a church in a major denomination has given a joint pastorate to a gay couple. The United Church of Christ is a liberal Protestant denomination that allows gay and lesbian ordination. It has 1.5 million members. Following the ordinations, the church received a \$10,000 donation from a family who supported the hiring.

National/World News Bits

Sweden OKs Gay Marriage

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—The Swedish parliament voted June 7 to allow same-sex couples to marry. Gay and lesbian couples will now have the right to civil marriage ceremony, and have the same benefits and obligations as heterosexual married couples, but the bill does not allow adoptions or artificial insemination for same-sex couples. In 1989, Denmark became the first country in the world to allow same-sex marriages. Norway followed suit in 1993.

Surgeon General and the Girl Scouts

WASHINGTON—In an interview with *USA Weekend* magazine, Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders said that lesbians should be allowed to join the Girl Scouts and become Girl Scout leaders. The Girl Scouts stated that while they do not recruit lesbians, they have never discriminated against them. Elders also defended an interview she did with *The Advocate*, in which she criticized the Boy Scouts for not allowing gay boys; the Boy Scouts do, in fact, discriminate on sexual orientation grounds. The *USA Weekend* interview also dealt with other issues like cigarettes and diet.

Discharged Lesbian Colonel Reinstated, Justice Dept. Appeals

SEATTLE, June 1—A federal judge reinstated a highly decorated former colonel who had been discharged from the National Guard when she revealed she was a lesbian. Former Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer was discharged in 1992, cutting short a 26-year career in the Army and National Guard. The judge ruled the discharge unconstitutional, concluding that “the sole motivation for the exclusion of acknowledged homosexuals from the service is prejudice.” The Justice Department is appealing the decision.

Navy & Coast Guard Ban Discrimination for Civilian Employees

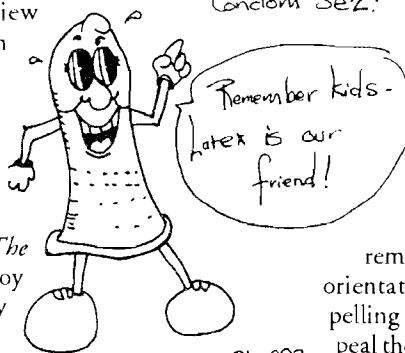
WASHINGTON—The Navy and Coast Guard have banned sexual orientation discrimination for their civilian employees, though uniformed personnel remain under the Pentagon’s “Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

Lesbian Mother Regains Custody of Son

RICHMOND, Va., June 21—A lesbian mother has her son back after the Court Appeals of Virginia reversed an earlier ruling. A judge in a lower court had awarded Sharon’s mother, Kay, custody of the boy because Sharon is a lesbian. The court ruled that parent and child have the right to be together unless there are compelling reasons for removal of separation, and sexual orientation does not constitute a compelling reason. Kay said she would appeal the ruling to the Virginia Supreme Court.

Ontario Nixes Civil Rights

TORONTO, Ont., June 10—In a close vote, the parliament of the Canadian province of Ontario rejected a bill that would have granted equal rights to same-sex couples. Supporters of the bill had dropped



PK 1993
▽



INTEGRITY

A Christian-based spiritual and support group sponsored by the Episcopal 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

gay adoption rights in hopes of getting at least employment rights. The gay and lesbian communities in Ontario responded in shock and anger, with activists vowing to take the civil rights fights to the courts and to work against those who defeated the bill.

Same-Sex Couples OK Here

Places that have recently approved benefits for partners of employees in same-sex couples

San Diego, California, June 3.

For city workers.

Portland, Oregon, June 8—

While efforts to squelch gay rights go on in the state of Oregon, Portland's city council unanimously gives same-sex couples health coverage.

*Vermont, June 11—*First state to offer health benefits to partners of state workers in gay/lesbian relationships.

RICHMOND, Va., June

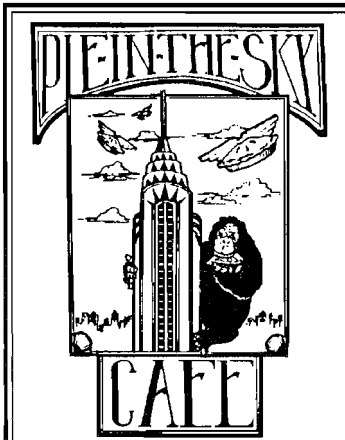
21—Virginia Governor George Allen overrode Virginia objections from state housing commissioners approving new regulations that allowed same-sex couples to jointly obtain state housing loans.

Daughter of Anti-Gay Leader Comes Out

*ATLANTA, June 22—*Last year, Cobb County Commissioners became a national symbol of homophobia when they voted to stop funding the arts, which they claimed were bringing the "gay agenda" into their community. Gay activists are trying encourage businesses and organizations—most notably the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games not to hold conferences in Cobb County. Those activists were given a boost when Shannon Byrne, daughter of County Commission Chairman Bill Byrne, came out publicly with her lover as a lesbian. "They're not speaking about family values at all," she said in an interview, "and I just feel the need to correct that."

U.S. May Give Asylum for Gay Refugees

*PORTLAND, Ore., June 14—*Attorney General Janet Reno stated that the Justice Department is



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considering offering political asylum to gay people in situations "where someone is being persecuted in their country because they are homosexual." She said decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis.

Italy: Ravidly Anti-Gay Candidate Loses European Parliament Bid

*ROME—*A candidate who said gays should go to concentration camps lost his bid for a seat on the European parliament. One of the reasons Piero Buscaroli decided to run for the seat was because he was angry about pro-gay decisions that the European parliament had been making. Buscaroli's comments provoked a firestorm of protest in Europe, and embarrassed Italy's new right-wing government.

France: No Artificial Insemination for Lesbians

*PARIS, June 28—*The French parliament passed a bill setting limits on a wide variety of conception and genetic technologies. Now artificial insemination is available only to couples in which both members are alive, of child-bearing age, and married or living together for two or more years. Lesbian couples and post-menopausal women may not receive test-tube fertilization.

Albanian Rights

TIRANA, Albania, June 6—"Albania. The only country in Europe without a gay organization. No longer." This was the motto of the Gay Albania Society, announcing their existence to the world. Homosexuality is still illegal in this country, punishable by a maximum prison term of ten years.

Transitions

DIED: *Kristen Pfaff, 26,* bassist for Courtney Love's band Hole, on June 16. She was found in her bathtub with drug paraphernalia nearby.

Groups & Organizations

10% Network (Formerly Jamestown Social Group)

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

Bridges

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

Chautauqua Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers

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

Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People

A committee of students, faculty, & administrators who work together to educate, bring speakers, offer films, and address concerns that relate to gay and lesbian issues specific to the Allegheny Community. ✍ CSGLP, 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:* Suspended for summer. (☎). ☎ Jim MacCluskie MW 2-pm, TuTh 1:30-2:30 at (814) 732-2590.

Erie Sisters

Non-sexual social support group for TV/TS/CD. Good manners, taste & common sense expected. Monthly meetings, newsletter, Meetings in even numbered months are social events held at accepting establishments. Changing room provided. Interview with a club officer required before first meeting. ✍ Erie Sisters, 2115 West 8th Street, Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505.

Friends from the Heart

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

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

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

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

No longer meets.

HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of St. Paul Cathedral

Call 452-3779.

HUGS East (Mentor, OH)

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

Integrity

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

Jamestown HIV Positive Support Group

☎ Eric Anderson at (716) 664-7855.

Jamestown PFLAG

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 AA (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. We are currently looking for cases of lesbigay related discrimination in the workplace. Contact us if you have been fired from your job. ☎ 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.

← Meadville Group

Now forming. ☎ Tex at (814) 337-5122.

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.

← Pitt-Bradford/BIGALA

Support group for students. ☎ (814) 362-7643 or write to: University of Pitt Bradford BiGALA, Attn: Director of Student Activities, 300 Campus Drive/235 Commons, Bradford, PA 16701.

Rainbow Connection (Warren, PA area)

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

SUNY-Fredonia Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Student Union

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

Support Groups for Persons with HIV/AIDS

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

Trigon

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

Continued on Page 22

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

Case Manager - Debbie Miller ... (800)359-AIDS
Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition 337-3241
HIV+ Support Groups Rosemary Buzzard at 333-5800

Erie PA/Erie County

Case Manager - Deb Monohon 838-0123
Case Manager - Mary Richardson 456-8849
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
N.W. PA Rural AIDS Alliance (Erie office) .. 456-8849 or 1(800)400-AIDS
Well Being HIV+ Support Group 838-0123

Venango/Forest County

Venango-Forest AIDS Support .. 1-800-359-2437
Case Manager - Debbie Miller ... (800)359-AIDS

Warren County

Case Manager - Deb Monohon 838-0123
Case Manager - Tammi Shilling1(800)359-AIDS
or (814)226-2743

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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227 W. 5th Street
Erie, PA 16507
(814) 455-3436

Groups, from Page 21

Venango-Forest AIDS Support

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

Womynspace Coffeehouse

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

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
Peninsula Counseling Services 835-5204
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 & Lesbian Youth of Buffalo .. (716)855-0221
Jamestown Comm. College Grp... (716)665-5220
National Runaway Switchboard . 1-800-621-4000
Pitt-Bradford BiGALA 1-362-7654
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.*
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
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Residence: 814-734-7003

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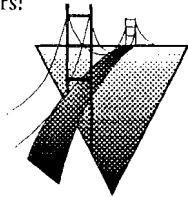
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Area Bars and Places

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Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St. Open 7 days, 7 p.m. - 2:30 am, food til 1:30 am. (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-Fri. 7:30 am-12 mid., Sat 9 a.m.-midnight. A gay-friendly coffeehouse. Poetry every other week. Bike rack for cyclists.

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-midnight, 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. 9-11p.m. w/ live DJ. 90s dance music DJ on Fri. (11-2 a.m.) & Sat. (9pm-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. Nitely 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 Fri and Sat 10-2. Sundays: Pool tournaments, starting 4 p.m.



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