

Published by

December, 1995



Erie Gay Community Newsletter



Special Time Capsule Issue!

Dedication

This special time capsule issue of EGCN is dedicated to Abby B. Conley.

Abby is a member of the Erie Bicentennial Commission, and is responsible for allowing the Erie Gay Community Newsletter to be placed in the time capsule. She also took an active role in allowing into May's Bicentennial parade a float representing the gay and lesbian community of Erie, and in fact, rode with the float.

She remained a staunch and outspoken defender of the right of LesBiGay people to be represented in Erie's Bicentennial events, even in the face of a lot of hysterical criticism.

Her actions have helped to create an Erie that is more enlightened about the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual citizens who live in this community with them.

We are forever grateful, Abby!



Erie Gay Community Newsletter

c/o EGC Coalition
PO Box 3063
Erie, PA 16508-0063
Phone: (814) 456-9833
Fax: (814) 452-1392
Internet: egcn@aol.com

The *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* is published monthly as a voice for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and their friends & families in the Erie area. A source of information, support and affirmation. A vehicle for celebrating the goodness and diversity of our community. *EGCN* is a cooperative effort between lesbigay groups and individuals to help our community develop and thrive.

Contributors: Our deadline is the 15th of the month! We welcome and encourage all readers to submit news, comments and opinions for publication in these pages. Although we appreciate the importance of fiction and poetry, we are primarily an information publication, and like most general lesbigay publications, we are mainly interested in nonfiction prose. We will be happy to direct you to the many lesbigay publications that do welcome fiction and poetry, and we will support through free publicity any local publication that publishes lesbigay poetry or fiction. Before submitting please send SASE for writer's guidelines. Querying before submitting an article is strongly recommended.

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 Bridges, the EGCN staff or their 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 these pages, 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.

Advertisers: Reach Erie's lesbigay community directly! Space in EGCN is now available for as little as \$20 for an eighth-page ad! Call (814) 456-9833 and ask for EGCN's Advertising Coordinator for more details.

Places to get EGCN...

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St.

Clarion

NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance, Clarion Univ

Erie

Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach Street

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

The Embers, 1711 State Street

Lizzie Bordon's, 3412 W. 12th

NW. PA Rural AIDS Alliance, Baldwin Bldg.

Unitarian Universalist Congreg of Erie,

7180 New Perry Hiway

Well Being, 710 Beaumont

Edinboro

Book Shelf, 200 Plum

Earthshine, 131 Meadville Street

Identity (formerly EGO) meetings

Poppa Ropp's Home Video, Edinboro Mall (ask at desk)

Jamestown NY & Warren PA

AIDS Community Services, Tue Mansion

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown

Rainbow Connection, Warren 726-1808

Sneakers, 100 Harrison, Jamestown

Meadville PA

Allegheny College Bookstore

CSGLBP Meetings

New Castle PA

PFLAG Meetings, Human Services Center

Venango County

Oil Region Book Store, Oil City

In This Issue...

<i>What's Romantic for You?</i>	3
<i>Letters</i>	4
<i>Get Late Breaking News via E-Mail!</i>	4
<i>Calendar</i>	5
<i>New Year's Eve</i>	7
<i>Entertainment Notes</i>	8
<i>Local News</i>	10
<i>Erie County Election Analysis</i>	11
<i>Fear, Activism & Survival</i>	12
<i>Families</i>	13
<i>Michael Dithers</i>	14
<i>BiCentennial Time Capsule Section</i>	15
<i>A Family Portrait</i>	17
<i>About the People in the Picture...</i>	18
<i>Some Local History</i>	19
<i>A Look Back, A Look Ahead</i>	24
<i>Living with AIDS</i>	25
<i>Ain't Life Funny?</i>	26
<i>EGCN Crossword</i>	27
<i>National News</i>	27
<i>My Dinner with Bernie</i>	28
<i>Groups & Organizations</i>	29
<i>HIV/AIDS Directory</i>	30
<i>Area Bars & Places</i>	30
<i>Community Directory</i>	31

What's Romantic for You?

What's the most romantic thing anyone's ever done for you? What would you like your partner to do for you for Valentine's Day? How do you celebrate your anniversary? Do you enjoy being courted with flowers or chocolates? If not, then what? What's your idea of a perfect romantic evening? Do you have a romantic fantasy? Want to share it?

We'd like to look at "What's Romantic?" in our Valentine's issue (February 1996). Please send us your answers! They can be short responses or little articles—and you needn't limit yourself only to what was asked here. Sign them if you like, or not. Whatever you do, please note that you need to get it to us by January 15, 1996.

With all our love, the EGCN Editors



INTEGRITY

A Christian-based spiritual and support group sponsored by the Episcopal Church that welcomes people of all faiths.

Meetings are the 2nd Sunday of the month, 6 pm at St. Paul's Cathedral, 133 6th St., Erie, PA

Our mailing address is: Integrity-NWPA,
PO Box 1782, Erie, PA 16507-1782

For more information call (814)774-0903

Lake Erie Counseling Associates

350 West Tenth Street, Erie

Gay-Affirming
Individual,
Family &
Couples Therapy

Dale A. Allgeier, LSW, ACSW
Suzanne Csop, MA
William D. Stanley, LSW, QCSW

sliding fee scale - free initial consultation
evening & weekend appointments
medical assistance & insurance accepted

455-4009

AIDS

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?
WE HAVE ANSWERS!!!

Call the Health Dept.
451-6700

Letters

A Mother Speaks

As I think about what to say, I realize how short and how precious life is and how fast our kids grow into adults. They never seem to do in life what we had planned for them at their births. They are their own persons and we give them their lives to be theirs, not ours. When we look back on our plans for them and compare it with their plans for themselves, we must realize that their plans are better than ours were for them. We give them values. They take those values and turn them into something more majestic than we could have envisioned. My kids did not turn out as I had planned, they turned out better than I had dreamed. They are taking their lives to greater heights than I had ever dreamed possible and I love them very much.

Anne Bretz, mother of Michael Mahler

CREDIT: Most of the designs appearing in the Bicentennial section are by Micheal Miller.



We Cover the Tri-State Area!

Reporting on Events & Issues of Interest to the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Communities



Just \$15 for a Full Year Subscription!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Send \$15 Check to:
EGC Coalition
PO BOX 3063
Erie, PA 16508-0063
Phone: (814)456-9833

Newsletters are mailed discreetly in a security envelope every month for a year. All information held in confidence.

Get Late Breaking News via E-Mail!

We here at EGCN have always felt rather passionately that it is vital to keep our community informed about what's going on. Sometimes events or late breaking news come in too soon to be gotten out in print.

We now have an e-mailing list so we can let folks know about this kind of information. Although we would obviously prefer getting info far enough ahead so that we can print it and let many more people know, there are more and more lesbian people in cyberspace and some people are definitely better than nobody.

So here's what we are doing. We will send out news and events that will not be able to be adequately publicized in print to folks who want them. All you have to do is send an email message with a subject of "Subscribe to Mailing List" to our new email address (egcn@aol.com). If you hear of an event, please also send it to that address and include a first line of "Publish EMAIL". We'll take it from there.

We're trying this as an experiment as a supplement. We won't send all of EGCN in email format; just late breaking bulletins.

If your group has an e-mail contact address or a Web page, please let us know so we can include it. We want everyone to be included.

Thanks for your help!

**Erie Gay
Community
Newsletter**
**Beginning our 4th
Year of Keeping
You Informed!**

Calendar

☛ = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

☛ **Dec 6—Allegheny College Single Voice Reading Series: Diane Hume George (Meadville)** George is professor of English and women's studies at Penn State Behrend, feminist critic, poet, scholar, essayist and editor. She was recently awarded creative writing fellowship by the Pa Council on the Arts and NY Foundation for the Arts. Ford Chapel 8 p.m. Free, open to public.

☛ **Dec 7—Lecture/Slide Presentation on Beijing Women's Conference (Meadville/Allegheny College)** Presented by Lois Goldstein from the International Women's League for Peace and Freedom. Brooks Alumni Lounge 7:30-9:30 p.m. Free & open to public.

☛ **Dec 8—Law & Order: "Silence"** A&E 11pm, 3am. A young politician's death leads to a blackmailer of black gay men, but his victims are too afraid of public scandal to testify.

☛ **Dec 8—Sneakers: "No Family Values" Comedy Show (Jamestown NY)** "OUT comedy with MASS appeal!" Showtime 10:30 p.m., \$3 cover. 100 Harrison. Info (716)484-8816.

☛ **Dec 8—Leeward Lounge: Bad Obsession (Ashtabula)** One female dancer and one male dancer. 1022 Bridge.

☛ **Dec 8 & 9—North Coast Men's Chorus Concert: "Holiday Flourishes" (Cleveland)** Euclid Ave. Congregation Church, 9606 Euclid Ave. (216)473-8919.

Dec 9—Womynspace Coffeehouse "Yes, Dec. 9 not Dec. 2. Brave the cold and try your luck at Xmas bingo. We'll have cookies and eggnog and Xmas prizes. Can't wait to see you there! Newcomers welcome. For info call Sal at 454-2713 weeknights."

☛ **Dec 9—Menspace Meets** 7:30 p.m. For more details about this social organization and this month's get-together, please call Larry at 835-6712.

☛ **Dec 9—Leeward Lounge: C.C. Rae (Ashtabula)** Drag comedy artist, back by popular demand. 1022 Bridge.

☛ **Dec 9—2nd Annual All-Star Imperial Court Christmas Show (Buffalo)** Stage Door, 20 Allen. (716)886-9323.

☛ **Dec 9—That's Entertainment III** WNED (Ch. 17 PBS-Buffalo). 8 p.m. Fabulous clips from over 62 musicals and 100 films, plus never-before-seen footage from over 70 years of film history.

☛ **Dec 9—Man Who Fell to Earth (1976)** David Bowie as an alien androgyne. Sci-Fi Channel 8 p.m. & 12 a.m.


Dec 10—Integrity Meeting Meeting 6 pm. Scripture reflection. At St. Paul's Cathedral, 133 West 6th Street

☛ **Dec 10—Fried Green Tomatoes (1991)** Based on Fannie Flagg's story about friendship between women in the South; the movie's fun, but her novel of the same name is has more lesbian content. USA 3 p.m.

☛ **Dec 10—Interview With the Vampire (1994)** HBO 9:30 p.m.

☛ **Dec 12—Roseanne: Leon's wedding** On ABC. This is the scheduled date for Leon's marriage to a man from his past; check listings to be sure, though.

☛ **Dec 12—HIV/AIDS Support Group** "Newcomers welcome!" Info: Cheryl Weber 825-1085.



Attorney
David A. Baxter
 512 Main Street East
 Girard, PA 16417
(814) 774-4163
 General Civil Practice

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

- ◆ Case Management
- ◆ Patient Care
Physician, Pharmaceutical, Dental
Emergency, HOPWA(Housing)
and Nutritional Supplements
- ◆ Education/Prevention
Providing services in Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield,
Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence,
McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties

1-800-359-AIDS or 1-800-400-AIDS

B-3 Wilkinson Hall Clarion University Clarion, PA 16214	1001 State, Suite#321 Baldwin Building Erie, PA 16501
---	---

Calendar

- ☛ Dec 14—**Poetry Night at Cup-a-Ccino's** Open mic. 18 N. Park Row.
- ☛ Dec 14—**Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (1995)** The Movie Channel 12:30 p.m., 9 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 15—**Christmas Party at Lizzy Bordon's** Hors d'oeuvres, cheese & meat tray. Snacks, music. Doors open at 9 pm. 3412 W 12th Street, Erie.
- ☛ Dec 15—**Barbara Walters: Interviews of a Lifetime - Bette Midler** 8 p.m. Lifetime.
- ☛ Dec 16—**T-Nougat at Cup-a-Ccino's** (Cups' employees and their friends). 18 N. Park Row
- Dec 16—**Christmas Party at Leeward Lounge (Ash-tabula)** "Everybody brings a covered dish. Food galore!" 1022 Bridge.
- Dec 16—**10% Network Christmas Party (Jamestown)** First Unitarian Society of Jamestown. Cookie exchange for those who wish to participate in it. For info call John (716) 484-7285.
- Dec 16—**Lost and Found: "Amnesia Lane"** On Fox. A lesbian is reunited with a girl she had a crush on long ago.
- ☛ Dec 16—**American Playhouse: "Tru"** Robert Morse plays gay literary giant Truman Capote. 9 p.m. on WNEQ (PBS-Buffalo Ch. 23).
- ☛ Dec 18—**Michael Feinstein: Sing a Song of Hollywood (Part I)** AMC 5:35 a.m. Gay crooner does movie tunes.
- ☛ Dec 18—**The American Experience: "One Woman, One Vote"** WQLN (PBS-Erie) and WNEB (PBS-Buffalo Ch. 17) On the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage, this documentary looks at the infighting, fledgling alliances, betrayals, defeats and victories in the struggle for women's voting rights. 9 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 19—**Paula Poundstone** Comedy Central, noon.
- ☛ Dec 20—**Applauds: Fight Against Breast Cancer** Lifetime 9 p.m. Repeats 12/22 8 p.m., 12/23 11 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 23—**Ed Wood (1994)** Showtime 8 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 24—**A Peter, Paul & Mary Holiday Concert** 2:30 p.m. WNEB (PBS-Buffalo Ch. 17).
- ☛ Dec 24—**Tapestry Revisited: Tribute to Carole King** Lifetime 10 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 25—**A Christmas Memory** A&E 11 a.m., 5 p.m. A warm autobiographical tale by gay author Truman Capote of a small boy and his elderly relative who send Christmas fruitcakes every year to their favorite people.
- ☛ Dec 25—**The Color Purple (1985)** Lifetime 2 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 25—**Auntie Mame (1958)** Encore 1:30 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 26—**Frontline: "Rush Limbaugh's America"** WQLN (PBS-Erie) and WNEB (PBS-Buffalo, Ch. 17). Examines the phenomenon of right-wing commentator Rush Limbaugh.
- ☛ Dec 26—**Chantilly Lace (1993)** Showtime 3:15 a.m.
- ☛ Dec 26—**Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994)** Showtime 8 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 27—**Law & Order: "Manhood"** A&E 11pm, 3am. An anti-gay hate campaign within the police force is revealed after a gay cop is killed because his back-up arrives late.
- ☛ Dec 27—**Belle Epoque (1992)** Showtime 2:25 a.m.
- ☛ Dec 28—**Poetry Night at Cup-a-Ccino's** Open mic. 18 N. Park Row.
- ☛ Dec 28—**Championship Ballroom Dancing 1995** WQLN (PBS-Erie) 1995.
- ☛ Dec 28—**Philadelphia (1993)** Showtime 12:45 a.m.
- ☛ Dec 29—**Zorro, the Gay Blade (1981)** Encore 7:15 p.m.
- ☛ Dec 30—**Rebel Without a Cause (1955)** A&E 3pm. James Dean, Sal Mineo, Natalie Wood.
- ☛ Dec 31—**Tchaikovsky: A Life** A&E 9am. Profile of the gay Russian composer, who composed *The Nutcracker*.
- ☛ Dec 31—**Choices of the Heart: The Margaret Sanger Story (1995)** Lifetime 10 a.m. Dana Dalany.
- ☛ Dec 31—**Gotta Dance!** AMC 12:30 p.m. Fox trot, Viennese Waltz, swing.

la bella pistro

a restaurant where you can be free
to be yourself...
...or martina dietrich,
whichever you prefer!

west fourth
at cherry
454-3616

bring your own alcoholic beverage

THE POSTER ANNEX

POSTERS • PRINTS • CARDS • CERAMIC TILES
W&L POSTCARDS

ART YOU CAN AFFORD!

717 LIBERTY STREET • ERIE, PA
(2 DOORS NORTH OF U FRAME IT)
(814) 455-1999

Dec 31—**NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENTS & SHOWS:** See New Year's box on page 7.

Jan 6—**Womynspace Coffeehouse: Wild Womyn Go Comedy Improv!** "Prepare your jokes, stories, acts... We promise to laugh and have a great time. For more info call Sal weeknights at 454-2713."

Jan 6—**Laura at Cup-a-Ccino's** 18 N. Park Row.

Jan 6—**City of Good Neighbors Chorale (Buffalo)** Buffalo's gay/lesbian chorus will perform at the Unitarian Church Elmwood & Ferry. Info (716) 883-0128.

Jan 8—**Visions Meeting (Jamestown)** 7-9 p.m. Leave message at (716)484-8434 for details. For more info about Visions see article in our "Local News" section.

Jan 20—**10% Network (Jamestown)** 7-11 p.m. Call John at (716)484-7285 for details.

Jan 22—**North County Support Group (Fredonia NY)** 7-9 p.m. Call Vince at (716)673-3183 for details.

Jan 27—**Out and About: Cross Country Skiing Outing (Chautauqua Co.)** Call (716)366-5053 for details.

Festivals, Conferences etc.

Jan 4-7—**9th Annual Retreat for Gay & Bisexual Men (Bangor PA)** Presentations, small groups, storytelling, prayer, singing and worship. Attn: Janet Lewis, Kirkridge Retreat Center, Bangor PA 18013-9538 (610)588-1793.

Important Note: Events listed in this calendar are specifically gay or of interest to a lot of lesbian people. If you know of an event that should be listed here, please get the info to us in writing by the 15th 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. *New email address!* From Internet egcn@aol.com or fax to (814) 452-1392.

Designated drivers
save lives

KHAKI RACKS CLOTHING OUTLET

J. CREW—L.L. BEAN
WOOLRICH—BANANA REPUBLIC
BILL BLASS—GEOFFREY BEENE
LIMITED EXPRESS & MORE

1-800-837-2926
Dan Crisafulli
Proprietor

314 Washington St. (Between 3rd & 4th)
Jamestown, NY 14701 • (716)665-2992
M-F 10-5:30 Sat. 10-4

New Year's Eve

Cup-a-Ccino's Enjoy fresh brewed while you bring in the New! 18 N. Park Row

Embers 1711 State, Erie.

First Night Erie All kinds of alcohol-free events in downtown Erie...\$5 button gets you into all participating establishments. Detailed schedule in the December 28 *Showcase* and where First Night buttons are sold.

la bella bistro Reservations recommended! West 4th & Cherry. 454-3616.

Leeward Lounge \$5 cover: champagne, pork & sauerkraut, party favors, entertainment. 1022 Bridge Street in Ash-tabula. *NOTE: The Leeward will be closed from Jan. 1 -4.*

Lizzy Bordon's Regular bar hours. Music starts at 10pm. Door opens at 9 pm. 3412 W 12th Street, Erie.

Nite Spot 201 Winsor Street, Jamestown NY

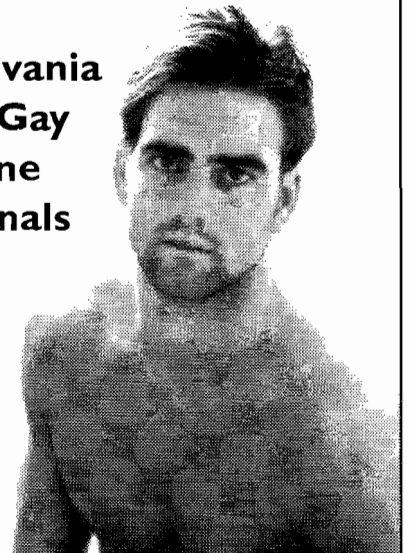
Sneakers Drag show. Showtime 11 p.m.

Television:

CBS: The State Drag-intensive comedy troupe The State will do a New Year's Special on CBS. Check listings.

WQLN: Reality of a Dreamer: River North Dance Com-pany 10:30 p.m. Combining athletic jazz dance w/music by variety of artists including Judy Garland, Cole Porter, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Luther Vandross, Neville Bros.

Pennsylvania
Area Gay
Phone
Personals



1-900-454-4856

MANFINDER C/S: 415-281-3183, MUST BE 18+, \$1.99/MIN.

Entertainment Notes

Music

The first-ever prestigious Michael Callen Medal of Achievement Award of the newly-formed **Gay and Lesbian Music Association** went to lesbian music pioneer **Cris Williamson**.

The first gay and lesbian show was performed at Opryland on October 14 in observance of National Coming Out Day. Performers like **Tret Fure, Romanovsky & Philips, Cris Williamson, disappear fear** and **Diane Davidson** packed 'em in and got three standing ovations.

Rolling Stone magazine recently dubbed the controversial lesbian band **Tribe 8** one of the 15 "Alternative Bands to Watch."

Recent albums of interest:

Various Artists *Winter Moon* (Streeter) A "seasonal album" of gay & lesbian performers, plus some straight allies. Holly Near, Howard McGillin, Lea DeLaria, etc.

Tracy Chapman *New Beginning* (Elektra)

Ace of Base *The Bridge* (Arista)

C&C Music Factory *C&C Music Factory* (MCA)

Sweet Honey in the Rock *Sacred Ground* (EarthBeat)

Queen *Made in Heaven* (Hollywood). The last album recorded with late singer Freddy Mercury.

Erasure *Erasure* (Elektra)

Echobelly *On* (\$50)

Various Artists *Give Your Body Up: Club Classics & House Foundations* (Rhino) 3 CD set of dance music from the 70s and 80s, many in their original 12" format. Sylvester, Patti LaBelle, the O'Jays, etc.

Television

On an upcoming episode of *Friends*, **Newt Gingrich's** lesbian sister **Candace Gingrich** will guest star. She'll play a minister who marries the lesbian couple. No details on date yet, though Jan. has been mentioned; watch listings (*Friends* is on NBC Thursdays at 8 p.m.).

A subplot on the November 7 episode of *NYPD Blue* showed Lesniak (**Justine Miceli**), a not-out lesbian officer, dealing with being pursued romantically by one of the guys at work. Medavoy has a heart-to-heart talk with her about why she doesn't give the guy a chance, and she answers that she's gay. When Medavoy asks her why she didn't tell the guy who's after her, Lesniak responds, "I shouldn't have to *tell* anyone. 'NO' should be enough!" The cop answers, "Point well taken," and passes it along to the guy who's barking up the wrong tree. That guy later sees the woman, and tells her he knows and wishes her well.

The recent *Cagney & Lacey* TV movie was a real disappointment, but part of the plot involved someone outing another officer, and it was dealt with very well.

The CBS drama *Courthouse* has been canceled, taking with it American television's first African-American lesbian couple. In the November 8 episode, the homophobic, religious parents of Judge Rosette Reide (**Jenifer Lewis**) are coming for a visit, and she sends her partner Dannie (**Cree Summer**) off to stay at a motel. Dannie needless to say, is very hurt by this. Rosette comes out to her unaccepting parents, and then she goes off to the motel to stay with Dannie. The two are shown snuggling and making up.

DARE TO BE SEXY!!!

RECEIVE SENSUAL REWARDS
OR YOUR MONEY BACK.
SIMPLY WEAR THIS EMBROIDERED
EROTIC EMBLEM...
\$5.00, ORDER: A. TREASURE,
5605 SHORE BLVD.
GULFPORT, FL 33707



A Bed and Breakfast Inn...with Country Spirit

Special occasions... or Anytime...
...a place for *you* in New York's Southern Tier!
And try our new Valley Point Restaurant for lunch or dinner.

For Reservations: (716)968-3335
Cuba, NY 14727

Only 2 hours from Erie: Exit 28, Rte. 17, So. Tier Expy.
Triple A Approved, Major Credit Cards, Gift Certificates

Movies

The new lesbian love story *When Night Is Falling* has been given the restrictive NC-17 rating by the Motion Picture Association of America. Lesbian and gay media activists are condemning the rating as a form of censorship, because the lesbian love scene that the MPAA pointed to as the reason for its restrictive rating is much subtler and less raunchy than straight films that receive the less-restrictive R rating.

Some of the movies available at **The Movie Stop** *As Is, Four Weddings and a Funeral, The Wedding Banquet, Paris is Burning, The Bostonians, The Best of Kids from the Hall, Night Rhythms, Orlando, Torch Song Trilogy, Zorro the Gay Blade, Peter's Friends, Parting Glances, Victor/Victoria, And the Band Played On, Fried Green Tomatoes, Olivier Olivier, Farewell My Concubine, and Without You, I'm Nothing.*

Shopping

While doing your **holiday shopping**, consider giving gifts from the businesses that support our community, many of which are listed in or advertise in this publication! Many of them offer gift certificates, too!

The **Rainbow Card** is a new Visa credit card that will provide funding for lesbian and gay organizations through an organization called The Rainbow Card Foundation. It's sponsored by Subaru, which found through focus groups that their car company is highly regarded in our community, especially among lesbians. **Martina Navratilova** is the volunteer spokesperson for the Rainbow Card. For more information call 1-800-99-RAINBOW.

Not to play favorites, we'll tell you about another Visa Card that benefits our community. It's called the

Uncommon Clout Card, and you can get information about it at 1-800-GAY-CLOUT (1-800-429-2568). If you use credit cards, you may want to look into these, and compare what they have to offer.

Theater

Buffalo

Kiss of the Spider Woman will be performed by Buffalo Ensemble Theater late in January. At Hallwalls. for more info call (716) 884-5984

Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh's Upstairs Theater will present *My Night With Reg*. The play involves six gay men who, through the course of the events of the play, disclose that they have all slept with the same man, Reg, and their friends around them are dying. While it is an AIDS play, the author maintains a sense of British farce throughout, including a beautiful scene *au naturelle* between Eric and John. Winner of England's Olivier Award. Runs November 29-December 17, playing Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. at 3 and 7 p.m. Info and reservations (412)361-5443.

Erie

Directors Circle Theater presents *Run for Your Wife*, directed by **Michael Weiss**. It's a hilarious British farce, with **Bobbi B.** playing a gay character (imagine that!). Runs Nov. 30-Dec. 16, Thurs., Fri., and Sat. Seniors and students \$6 Thurs. only. 1505 State, second floor. Reservations 454-0636.

WILLIAM B. MOORE

Attorney at Law

128 S. Franklin Street
Cochran, PA 16314
(814)425-7849

304 North Street
Meadville PA 16335
(814)333-2398

the Upstairs Theatre presents

My Night with Reg

by Kevin Elyot

Directed by Thom McLaughlin

Nov 29 — Dec 17 Wed — Sat 8pm Sun 3pm & 7pm
Tickets: \$10 \$18 Call (421)361-5443 for Reservations
the Upstairs Theatre Pittsburgh, PA Free Parking

Local News

Western NY

Chautauqua County Visions Group Summary of Current Projects 10/95

OUTREACH

Brochures - We now have a brochure listing the support and social services available to gay men, lesbians and bisexual people in Chautauqua County. We are distributing the brochure in several public places and through service providers in the county. For a copy, call (716) 484-8434.

Infoline - Our telephone information line is available in both north and south county areas with recorded information on social and support services available in the county. These telephone numbers appear in the phone book and are often the first place people call when coming out or moving to the area. The numbers are (716) 484-8434 and 679-3560.

Support & Social Groups, Newsletter - There are support groups in both north and south county areas and the 10% Network (social group). These provide a way for community members to support each other and maintain a social network. The 10% Network also has a monthly newsletter. For more information call (716) 484-7285.

Youth Outreach - As an extension service of Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Western New York (GLYS), there is a social worker who is dealing with gay and lesbian youth in need of counselling services. We feel the youth in this county are especially at risk and that more resources need to be placed in the area of youth outreach. For info, call (716) 855-0221.

Out & About - Some members of the north county support group have begun an outdoors group called Out & About. They recently had their first "outing," a day of hiking, and are joining efforts with community members in Buffalo for future excursions. For info call (716) 366-5053.

Welcome Wagon - We are putting together a welcoming package to give to new gay and lesbian people who move into the county. It will be so fabulous, straight people will want to come out just to get the package! It

will include: intro letter, services brochure, newsletter, list of contacts, gift certificates for gay-owned businesses.

Publicity

National Coming Out Day ad - We placed an ad in both the Jamestown and Dunkirk/Fredonia papers on Coming Out Day (October 11) in support of gay, lesbian & bisexual residents of Chautauqua County. About 150 individuals, businesses and politicians signed their names in support.

Building Community Support & Education

The Visions group is also working in other ways to provide educational materials on homosexuality and to build support in the wider community. If you would like to learn more about the vision group, please leave us a message at (716) 484-8434.

Northwest PA

LGLV Mexican dinner a success

LGLV-Erie wishes to thank everyone who volunteered, contributed, and attended the Mexican Dinner fundraiser held on November 11 at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. The event drew about 55 people, and raised \$225 for the League. Larry Sawdy was the winner of the Cappuccino/Espresso maker.

Special thanks go to Wegmans, Cup-a-ccino's, The Movie Stop, Gary, and Rich D. for their donations and support. We also thank these volunteers who devoted so much time and energy in preparation for the event: Jeff and Shotz for cooking, organizing, and food donation; Heidi, Chris, Laura, Larry L., Dave, Jim, Rich, Dave W., Ray, and Larry for help setting up, cooking, serving, cleanup, mailing, ticket sales, and door help; and our sponsor of the Church, Dan.

LGLV Chair Chris Young spoke on the need to give Senator Andrezeski a call to remind him about his promise to co-sponsor the PA Hate Crimes package, SB-701 and SB-702. Three days later, the League learned that Andrezeski had officially become co-sponsor number 15. We commend all of our dinner guests who called the Senator's office and finally accomplished a task we had worked on for months!

Erie County Election Analysis

From LGLV-Erie

The overall election results in the county show that the Christian Coalition and other right wing candidates are making progress in gaining control of school boards and municipal offices. County Council now is controlled by the GOP, but these Republicans aren't necessarily totally anti-lesbigay. One office to pay particularly close attention to is that of Millcreek Supervisor, won by Joe Kujawa. We know that this man is radically right-wing and very homophobic. It will be interesting to see how his agenda plays out during his term of office. The Democrats have targeted Phil English (R) in next year's Congressional race. Unconfirmed reports have Erie Mayor Joyce Savocchio and Senator Buzz Andrezeski considering entering this race with already declared candidate Ron DiNicola.

The results of the recent municipal election and its impact on the local lesbigay community:

District Attorney—Joe Conti (D) defeats Jane Earll (R) narrowly. Earll had endorsed the Hate Crimes Bill at the LGLV Wine and Cheese Party, and vowed to actively support it. Conti has indicated he is willing to talk to us, which is good news to the community. Outgoing DA Cunningham was not willing to dialogue with LGLV, and Assistant James Vogel refused to accept or return phone calls after the League spoke with the media concerning the murder trial of Robert Grinnell and Daniel Wygant, who were convicted of murdering a gay man, Donald Kremer, in 1992.

Millcreek Supervisor—Kujawa (R) defeats Maciulewicz (D) easily. Kujawa is radically right wing and denied being a member of the Christian Coalition in the Erie Morning News. He claimed people were approaching him at the polls to ask him about his ties to the Christian Coalition. Kujawa won because of three reasons: the radical right campaigning at Churches, the fact that Maciulewicz was not a strong candidate, and the divisive primary in which Maciulewicz defeated incumbent Jess Juliante.

Millcreek Schools—Starr, Iaquina, Penna, Robertson, and Shimek win School Director seats. Starr is a member of the radical right. Penna had been endorsed by

a Millcreek taxpayers organization (MCAA) but lost that endorsement when he attended a negotiating meeting in which the school board negotiated an early bird contract with the teachers. Robertson was the incumbent. Millcreek had been targeted by the Christian Coalition; another right winger, Miaczynski, apparently lost. MCAA's goal was to elect all five endorsed candidates to control the school board. MCAA ends up with three on the board, not enough for control.

County Council—GOP takes over control; biggest surprise is Okicki (R) upsetting incumbent Foust (D). This race may have enormous impact on the direction of the county; it is the first time since the Home Rule form of government began that Republicans preside over Council. John Mizner, head of the Erie County Republican Party, has stated that County Executive Judy Lynch (D) will be a major target of the GOP next year.

Erie City Council—Democrats win easily and now have total control. The only close race was the two year race, with Democrat appointee Jim Casey squeaking by Ned Smith (R). Rumors developed during the election that Casey is very anti-lesbigay, something the League cannot confirm. Casey did not return a candidate questionnaire from LGLV. Smith is generally supportive of our community.

Union City Schools—Joel Boleratz is now officially on the board, thanks in part to the lack of candidates and cross-filing. This was another Christian Coalition targeted race.

HIV Positive?

Need help with medical assistance? Doctors?
Dentists? Medicine? Rent?

You needn't be alone.

Caring, confidential help is available.

Call Deb Monohon at 838-0123

and leave your first name and phone number.



Fear, Activism & Survival

by Greg Valiga

Tune your radio to 1330 AM during a weekday morning and chances are you will hear a shrill, intolerant individual, engorging his ego by preying on gays. He'll bombard you with the latest evidence that gay men are sexually obsessed. He'll claim huge proportions of gay men eat feces and are pedophiles. He'll prove we weren't victims of the holocaust, we earn more than our straight counterparts, and we are already entitled to every constitutional right that he has. He preys on his listener's ignorance and exploits their (and our) fear.

In the course of activism, some of us have encountered those who choose to belittle community leaders and negate efforts involving local lesbian/gay advocacy. They feel that no action will affect change and no effort is worth the energy, especially given the homophobia and bitter attitudes we have to endure in Erie. In my opinion, this ridicule and apathy are more often the result of fear . . . fear of losing a job, loved ones, or respect. Even

fear that your life or property will be jeopardized because of incendiary speech by a radio jock.

Our advancement may be directly related to our ability to conquer that fear. My initial interest in LGLV was simply connecting with people who were fighting for lesbian/gay equality. I offered support to those who were on the "front lines" of the organization, since I was fearful of coming out. As my involvement grew, I took on other small projects that forced me to connect openly as a gay man with straight people--things like getting prices for printing, finding venues for fund-raising, etc. I learned that most people are fair and respectful, and this helped to breach the notion that I'd be outed. My treatment not only allayed my fears, it *emboldened* me. I couldn't have grown without confronting that fear, and in turn I couldn't have offered increasing help to the community.

Despite the current climate, many have given their time to advance the social and political lives of area lesbian/gays. Many events and activities come to mind as verifiable proof that this community has the means to overcome its fears; to unite and prosper. Consider the bicentennial float--it was the most significant event and has had the most far-reaching benefits of any so far. We received public support from Mayor Savocchio, William Garvey, John Horan, Abby Conley and many other individuals and organizations. Both awkward and ambitious, it presented us in a very positive, human light. Our community was drawn together as it had never been before. Make no mistake about it: larger communities than Erie would have loved to have been in our position.

Great changes have, are, and will continue to take place. A few short years ago, only individuals with strong resolve would publicly display affection or acknowledge their sexuality. It was an unwritten law: Erie would tolerate the existence of lesbians and gays, but in *no way* should we speak of or show it. We would be spared embarrassment and humiliation only if we attended private parties, met at discreet bars, or took to slinking around Griswold Plaza at night (and only then if we weren't beaten, harassed, or murdered). Violence was a given--we took our lumps and hobbled home, sharing our bruises with straight friends as evidence of a nasty fall down the stairwell. Reporting gay-bashing wasn't an option, in fact it might only lead to more abuse at the

Offering quality services and programs
to people and families challenged by HIV



AIDS Community Services
OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.

413 North Main Street
Jamestown, New York 14701

Counseling • Case Management
Support Groups • Education

Client Services: (716) 664-7855

Education & Volunteer Services: (716) 487-2498

FAX Line: (716) 484-2295

Most services available in English & Spanish.
All services are free of charge and confidential.

Help for Today. Hope for Tomorrow.

hands of local police. We were led to believe that we were a perverse, immoral lot condemned to death by AIDS, and we swallowed the bait. Our community had been shamed and held hostage by the fear of being discovered . . . until the swirl of organizing which began in the fall of 1991 that is.

Pockets of concerned lesbians organized and networked with existing groups to provide a crude foundation for individuals seeking support and social outlets. Groups such as Bridges and LGLV have expanded and contracted, reflecting the dynamics and enthusiasm of their members. Bridges took over publishing a community listing and expanded it into the *Erie Gay Community Newsletter*. EGCN became a major player in the growth of the community, documenting our successes and setbacks. The newsletter's availability has ensured that straight readers as well as lesbians have access to community insight and information.

When I look around now, I see safe areas for people to go. I marvel at Closet Culture's ability to provide a positive experience for the area's lesbian youth. I hear of adoptions and families. I see rainbow flags on private homes, and pink triangle bumper stickers on vehicles. Lesbian and gay publications can be found easily in the Erie County Library, bookstores, and even supermarkets.

Erie *has* changed, and for the better. Our community has the ability and resources to continue this evolution. Capitalize on the strengths of the various organizations--that is why they exist. *You* are part of this community. *You* help define who we are. Consider making some sort of contribution on a regular basis, especially if you haven't before. It's the only way we will evolve and survive as a community.



**The Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Erie**

invites you to join us for worship
10:30 am, Sundays
7180 New Perry Highway
Childcare provided
Rev. Terry Kime, Minister

Since 1970, our denomination has welcomed the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities and supported them in their struggle for equal rights and acceptance. We recognize gay and lesbian ceremonies of union, and affirm openly lesbian and gay clergy. For further information, call 864-9300.

Families

Same-sex adoptions okay in New York, New Jersey

On November 2, the New York State court of appeals has ruled that same-sex couples may adopt children. In New Jersey, an appeals court made a similar ruling.

TV stations reject PFLAG ads

Nov. 8—Representatives from PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) took ads about gay bashing and gay teen suicide to TV stations in Houston, Atlanta, Tulsa Okla. and Washington D.C. No station would accept the gay teen suicide ad. In both Tulsa and Washington, the gaybashing ad was accepted by only one cable station and one network affiliate.

Right to marry guide

To Have and To Hold: Organizing for Our Right to Marry is a new booklet published by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. To get yours, contact NGLTF, 2320 17th St NW, Washington DC 20009-2702 (202)332-6483, fax (202)332-0207.

DC Partners Act repealed

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—The U.S. House of Representatives voted to repeal the District of Columbia's domestic partners act. The law gave spousal benefits to same-sex couples and unmarried heterosexuals.

Danish lesbian and gay man marry to prove point

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 22—Although Denmark has legalized same-sex marriage, same-sex couples are not allowed to adopt children or to receive artificial insemination through the state health care system. To show the inequity of this law, a lesbian and a gay man who head Denmark's largest gay organization got married. Within their bogus marriage, they now have the same rights as heterosexual couples.

Baptists to boycott Disney

Tampa, Fla.—The annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention asked its 1 million members to boycott Walt Disney's parks and products prompted by the fact that the corporation recently extended benefits to same-sex couples.

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

We had an absolutely super group of folks show up last month to help collate the newsletter. Michael Dithers, the main person in charge, had a great idea to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter. This was a great idea because it would allow us to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter. This was a great idea because it would allow us to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter.

It was a great idea because it would allow us to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter. This was a great idea because it would allow us to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter. This was a great idea because it would allow us to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter. This was a great idea because it would allow us to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter.

Nope, our successes and progress were earned by us and all we had to do was to work at it.

One of the reasons I am so passionate about having this newsletter is because I know that it was because of the people who were in charge of the newsletter. This was a great idea because it would allow us to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter. This was a great idea because it would allow us to have a "secret group" of folks who would be in charge of the newsletter.

We have been able to get information out about what is going on here to resources across the state & the nation. People here have done brave and deeply human acts and we are glad that we can celebrate this. But we would not be as far as we are now if all the folks that went before us (both locally and beyond) hadn't put in the effort and work. We owe folks like Harry Miller and Ted Matthews and the other folks a tremendous debt of gratitude. And the best way we can repay that debt is by following their example. Come out to someone as a gay human being. Volunteer to help out some group.

Just do it! The future starts *now!*

Oh, and one more thing. For now and forever, in front of Goddess and everybody, Micheal Alan Miller—I love you!



Happy Bicentennial Erie
from
The Chautauqua County NY
Gay, Lesbian & Bi Infoline



(716) 484-8434
(716) 679-3560

BiCentennial Time Capsule Section

This issue of the *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* will be buried in the Time Capsule on First Night Erie. That Time Capsule will be opened at Erie's Tricentennial Celebration in the year 2095.

EGCN invited people to take out ads speaking to the people of the future. These wonderful messages can be found over the next few pages.

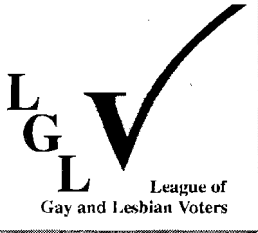

We also invited people to appear in a group photo. Although appearing in a LesBiGay publication is intimidating for most people of our time, many people did show up on that miserably cold rainy day in October. Some of these people are our non-gay supporters. The photo appears on the next two pages.

There is also a very basic history of Erie's LesBiGay community, and two articles by men with HIV. To the children of the future—Greetings! We wish you only the best!

—EGCN staff

We can't always be young, but we can always love. They can only stop us if we let them.

Closet Culture—
Erie's LesBiGay Youth Group.




Political Advocates for Erie's Lesbian and Gay Community since 1991

Advancing in 1995...
Unnecessary in 2095?

(814) 833-3258

In an absurd life, my precious people, let us live, love and fight our battles, but let us never forget to laugh.
- **Jeremy R. Snyder**

Love letter to a wild Amazon artist: I love your quick wit and your slow touch. Come dance with me, I am your woman. **Sal**



Best wishes to you from 1995

John Wetzel
Ralph Esch
John Young
Michelle Anderson
Michelle Anderson
Michelle Anderson
Michelle Anderson
Michelle Anderson
Michelle Anderson

Here and Proud since 1984

Happy Tricentennial! - **Jim, Chelsey and Maggie Foster**

Jesse, B.J., Michael, Ish, Ralph, Seanie, Amy, Identity and Closet Culture—thank you for helping me “out.”
Happy Bi-Centennial! --**Kimmy**





A Family Portrait

The picture you see on this page was taken on Saturday, October 28, 1995 on the steps of the Erie County Courthouse. The portrait was taken by Jay Pees of Impact Photography in Warren, PA and was open to all lesbian and gay people and our friends, families and supporters.

First Row (Ground): Micheal A. Miller [1], Michael K. Mahler [2]

Row A (First Step): Terry Dollivar [3], Frank Dollivar [4], Paula J. King [5], Stephan D. Mahler [6], Anne Bretz [7]

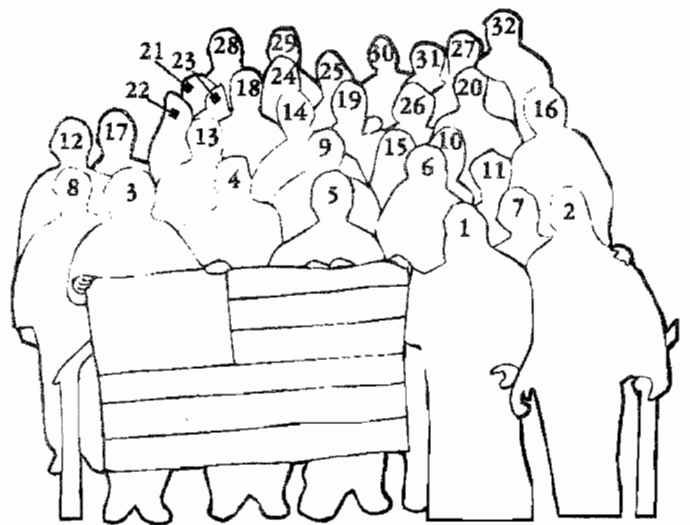
Row B (Second Step): Patricia Rae Sharrer [8], John King [9], Conrad/"Connie" [10], Cherie [11]

Row C (3rd Step): Georgi Ann Rice [12], Larry LeVasseur [13], Dave Mulholland [14], Kimberley Heidler [15], Jeremy R. Snyder [16]

Row D (4th step): Anonymous [17], David A Wood [18], Deb Spilko [19], Eric Hetz [20]

Row E (5th Step): Dr. Lucinda Ann Marsh [21] and daughters JoEllen [22] and Mollie [23], Sally Meiser [24], Kel [25], Kelly Lowe [26], John Golden [27]

Row F (main level): Christopher Sargent [28], Greg Valiga [29], Jeffrey D. Hill [30], Mark R. Ricker [31], Larry Sawdy [32]



About the People in the Picture...

Micheal Alan Miller is active with Erie Gay Community Newsletter and has worked with Bridges and other groups. He and Michael Mahler were handfasted/married on June 18, 1994 at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie.

Michael Kenton Mahler is one of the editors of the Erie Gay Community Newsletter. He has been active with Bridges, LGLV, Menspace and most groups at one time or another. He became the first voluntarily & publicly out lesbian person in Erie County when he was on WSEE-TV News in April of 1992.

He came out of the broom closet as a Pagan on the radio and in the Erie Daily Times in late 1995.

Terry Dollivar is an artist, a writer, and an advocate for the elderly, disabled and homeless.

Frank Dollivar was in Gen. Patton's 3rd Army.

Paula King is an artist for EGCN.

Stephan Mahler is "younger brother of Michael Mahler (and proud of it) and is currently in school learning to be a chef."

Anne Bretz is "wife of Carl Bretz, the proud mother of Michael and Stephan Mahler, and also of Susan Pellitieri of Toledo, OH."

Patricia Rae Sharrer organized social gatherings for women, which planted the seeds for Womynspace.

John King is the husband of Paula.

Conrad "bisexual, Wiccan, nudist, vegetarian and a Drag Queen. >snap!< Call me Connie!"

Cherie has been a coordinator for Closet Culture.

Larry LeVasseur is active with Menspace and LGLV. He was one of the principal organizers of the lesbian float that was in the Erie Bicentennial Parade. The float was built, vandalized and rebuilt at his house.

Dave Mulholland is active with Trigon, Menspace, and LGLV.

Jeremy Snyder is the co-founder and active secretary of Closet Culture.

David Wood is active with LGLV and Menspace.

Deb Spilko Active with Erie Gay Community Newsletter and an environmentalist.

Eric Hetz is an active member and former coordinator and treasurer of Closet Culture and a friend of Identity.

Dr. Lucinda Marsh became Erie's first voluntarily out lesbian parent when she appeared on 2 parts of a

3-part special WSEE-TV 35 did in December of 1992. She spoke and was shown with her daughter JoEllen. She has been participated with Womynspace and was active with the Lesbian Moms' Group.

Sally Meiser has been active in Bridges and LGLV and remains the welcoming contact person for Womynspace. She has been a participant in sex education and diversity panels at local universities. She was a bus organizer for the 1993 Lesbian March on Washington and was interviewed on TV. She was a core creator of the lesbian float for the Bicentennial parade.

Kel is a former coordinator for Womynspace and was the artist who originally designed the Bridges/Erie Gay Community Newsletter logo.

Kelly Lowe is a member of Closet Culture.

John Golden is Assistant Professor of Economics at Allegheny who teaches the Lesbian/Gay History Course in the College's Concentration in Lesbian & Gay Studies. He is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Committee in Support of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People at Allegheny.

Christopher Sargent is active with LGLV; he spearheaded a collection which raised over \$500 for a former Erie resident who was the victim of a hate crime in Pittsburgh. Christopher is the father of Micah and the partner of Greg Valiga.

Greg Valiga is active with Bridges, LGLV, *Erie Gay Community Newsletter*, is on the Friends from the Heart Advisory Board, and was active with the defunct AIDS Council. He was spokesman for the lesbian float that was in the Erie Bicentennial Parade and is pictured next to his significant other, Christopher.

Jeffrey Hill is active with LGLV; he hosted the first LGLV Pre-Election Wine and Cheese Party in the spring of 1995 that drew 6 political candidates from Erie County.

Mark Ricker is active with Closet Culture.

Larry Sawdy is active with LGLV.

Some Local History

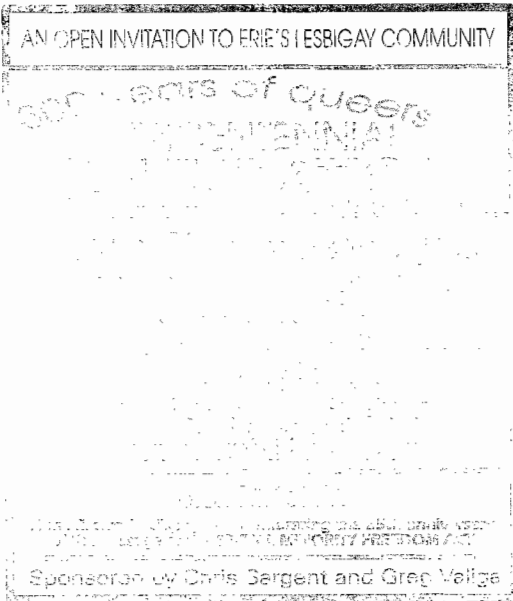
Historical Context

The history of the gay community in Erie, Pennsylvania, is a rich and varied one. It is a history that has been shaped by the experiences of individuals and the actions of institutions. The history of the gay community in Erie is a history that is still being written. The history of the gay community in Erie is a history that is still being written. The history of the gay community in Erie is a history that is still being written.

People of a more enlightened future may not be able to understand why there are so many bars mentioned here in this listing of important events. In fact, for a long time, the gay bar was a very important entity for lesbians and gay men. In a society where you could not be yourself, where you were isolated from others like yourself, this was the one place where it was okay to be gay, and where you could socialize and meet others. That's not to say they were always the healthiest environments. But their importance in giving LesBiGay people some sense of belonging in the world is unmistakable.

It may also seem curious that this history only starts within the past few decades. This is because until recently, gay people led secret lives because society could be very harsh to gay people who were open. Openly-gay people could lose their jobs, have their children taken away, be subjected to psychiatric mistreatment, become social pariahs, and suffer vandalism or physical violence. There were gay people who somehow found other gay people, and some of these remember the old days with fondness. Many others, though, lived lonely lives, isolated from others, often without ever having loved. For

(continued on next page)



Dear Bridges & EGC Coalition...

Namasteh! (Nepalese greeting, "hello" or literally, "I greet the Gods within you.")

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

— **Margaret Mead**

... *Thank you for all you have done.*

— *Paul*

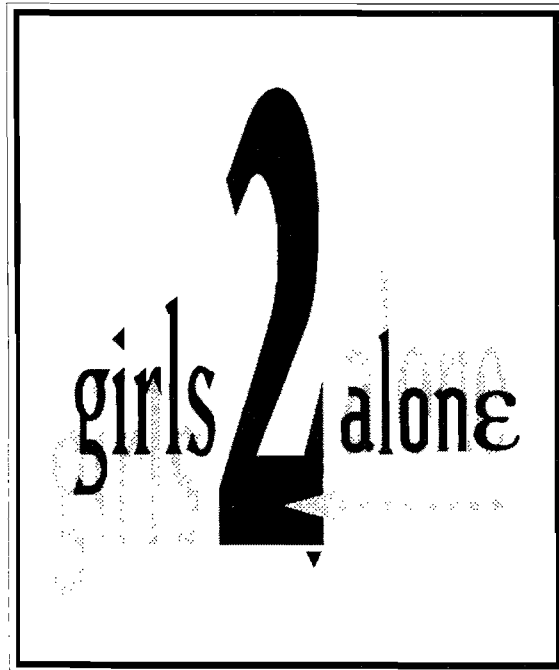
Rainbows come after the storm.

*My child was taken from me,
my friend beaten up.
AIDS has claimed many.
Joked about, we face great losses
if we open the closet door.*

Future Friends:

*Remember our struggles,
and be proud of who you are.
May you only know rainbows.*

Sharon Sutter



details about earlier these eras, you may wish to look for the books of Martin Duberman, one of our era's most respected gay historians, whose works are likely to still be available a century from now.

Early 1960s?

Bar at 1108 Liberty Perhaps the first Erie bar that had a gay clientele. Gay customers had the back area of the bar. reportedly, same-sex dancing was forbidden.

1965 - 1980

Washington Bar & Grille Gay bar and long-time center of the gay community. Located at the southwest corner of 10th and Washington.

1972

First local article on the new gay liberation movement Published in the local alternative newspaper *Sunshine-Aura*, the gay man who authored the article signed it "Pink Panther."

1974 - ?

Kern's, Midtown Lounge For a few years in the mid-1970s, the bar at 723 French Street was a gay bar.

1974

Edinboro University: Founding of Homophile League (later renamed Edinboro Gay Organization, and then Identity) Edinboro students Harry Miller and Ted Matthews, along with others, started an organization for gay students which was called the Homophile League.

Over the years, the organization has died out and then risen again and again. Around 1980, it was renamed EGO, and in 1994 it was renamed Identity. It is the longest running LesBiGay entity in Erie county,

1974

WQLN-radio: Harry Miller and a woman appeared on a WQLN-FM radio talk show to discuss being gay. Audience members were invited to call in. The response from the audience was so intense that the station allowed the show to run for four hours. It was the first time the subject was discussed on area radio.

Around 1976

City Squire Club A membership-only club that was open all night. It was located at 1248 Brown Avenue.

1977

Erie Daily Times Series on "Gay Life in Erie" The author of this series made an attempt to create an understanding look at the lives of gays in Erie, though she was personally uncomfortable with the subject, and did use dishonest sensationalizing in at least one instance. All the subjects interviewed, including myself, used first names only, or pseudonyms.

1978?

Kelso Beach Hotel A short-lived bar on Kelso Beach.

1980 - present

Lizzy Bordon's opens 3412 W. 12th. In 1979 and 1980, vandals were attacking the cars of customers of the Washington Bar & Grille. Around this time a bar named Lizzy's opened, and many of the customers from "the Grille" started going there instead. The Grille closed around this time.

1980 - 1981

Erie Gay Task Force A group of lesbians and gay men formed this organization, which was a sort of combination advocacy and discussion group. It put out a newsletter (people writing in the newsletter used their first names only), and met for discussions and information sharing.

1981

When Most of Us Started Hearing About AIDS Although it hadn't hit Erie yet, through the gay press we started hearing about a form of "cancer" that was just hitting gay men. It would later come to be called AIDS, and it has since claimed many Erie people.

Vincent's Short-lived gay bar at the southeast corner of 11th and State. Lasted for about a year.

1984 - 1990

P&ALS Formed in 1984 by a handful of Episcopalians who wanted a "gay space" that was an alternative to the bars. They met at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 133 W. 6th and received support and funding through the Episcopal Church. They also put out a newsletter; like the earlier Erie Gay Task Force newsletter, contributors to the newsletters did not use their last names. The Episcopal Church also provided funding to the P&ALS organization to provide AIDS education to the gay community.

1985

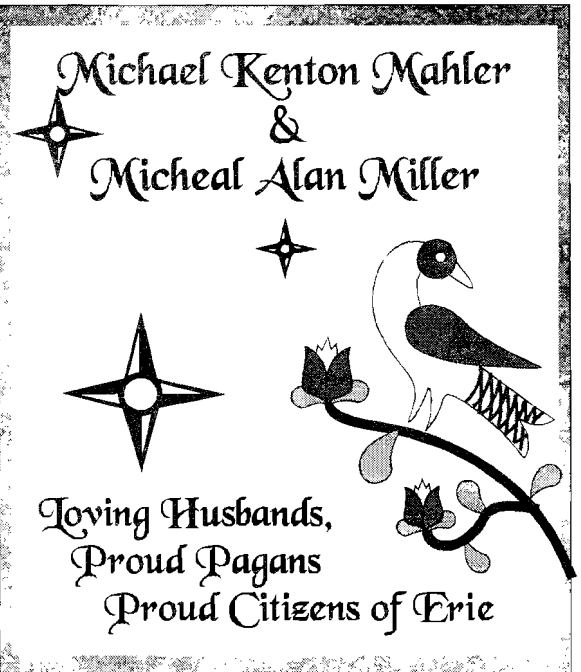
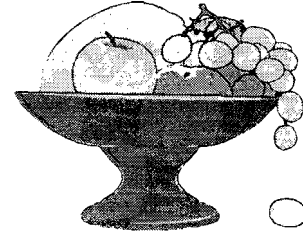
WSEE-News Series: "AIDS & the Gay Community" This 4-part series was probably the first local news story to look at the Erie gay and lesbian community. For a variety of reasons, none of the interviewees felt comfortable revealing their identities, so they spoke behind screens or had their voices altered. Footage of a P&ALS meeting was used, showing only the backs of people's heads. Footage of people dancing at Lizzy's was shown, but the identity of those shown was obscured (in both cases, people knew they were being filmed). The series kept the subject of AIDS and the gay community intertwined, even though at that point it was known that the disease was not just hitting gay people, and that lesbians were at very low risk. Still, the reporter (Joan Murray) showed a good bit of sensitivity to the subject.

Sal,

I love to taste your face;
Eyes of fire and cool water
Sweet buttery skin
Your smile, a cautious curve
Leading finally to confidence and trust
Hungry, I needed to know you
And to know myself with you.

I am well-fed by the fresh abandon
of our comfort together

-Helen



Smitty's Short-lived gay bar at 340 W. 26th.
circa 1985 - 1988

Parents and Friends of Gays (PFOG) This group offered support to people whose children and friends were gay, and also offered support to the gay community. Mary Scott Tarbell was the main mover and shaker behind this group, and she had a gay hotline at her house for some time. The *Erie Daily Times* did a feature article on the organization.

1987

AIDS Council of Erie The first AIDS organization in Erie County. It had a number of problems, and closed in late 1993 amidst scandal.

1989 - Present

Womynspace Formed as a space to allow lesbians to meet in a non-bar atmosphere (no alcohol, smoke, or loud music). Their activities have included picnics, parties, talent nights, dinners, dances, trips, video showings, and presentations. They used to produce a newsletter.


1989

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie becomes the first Erie religious community to call by congregational vote an openly-lesbian minister, Terry Kime. In recent years this congregation has become very supportive and important to the Erie LesBiGay community, providing a

In loving honor of the
special children of my life

My own:	JoEllen Lovisa	9-18-90
	Mollie Grace	5-9-95
My partners:	Janessa Grace	4-4-83
	Daniel John	5-4-88
Previous Partner's:	Shane Lee Taylor	6-9-79
	Jessica Jo	7-19-78

Lucinda Ann Marsh, D.C



place for meetings and events, as well as a spiritual home that welcomes people of all sexual orientations.

1989

HIV/AIDS Ministry of the Cathedral of St. Paul Episcopal ministry to people with HIV/AIDS is established.

Silver Slipper Bar at 1317 State St. becomes gay. Closed late 1994..

1990

Cup-a-Ccino's Located at 18 N. Park Row, this coffee-house welcomes people of all kinds, and encourages an atmosphere where diverse people accept each other. It is not a gay establishment, but it is a place where LesBiGay people can come and be themselves along with everyone else.

Integrity Sponsored by the Episcopal Church, Integrity provides a space for gay, lesbian and bisexual Christians.

1991

League of Gay and Lesbian Voters - Erie Chapter Non-partisan voters group, publishes a Voters Guide for elections, registers and educates lesbigay voters, lobbies, advocates for lesbigay civil rights. LGLV-Erie was thrown into the spotlight in the 1992 elections for 1st assembly seat: Republican candidate Jerry Knight's campaign focused on attacking Democratic candidate Linda Bebk-Jones for her pro-gay responses in the Voters Guide. Knight lost the election.

Allegheny College Group (Meadville, Pa.) forms Founding of Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People

1992

Cascade Street Playground Volunteers from the lesbian and gay community put in 100 hours of labor into building this playground, and, along with other groups putting in that sort of work, earned a plaque honoring their contribution (It reads, "Erie's Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Community").

Men's Coffeeshouse Forms (later renamed Menspace) Providing a nonalcoholic place for gay and bisexual men to meet.

Life's Blood (later Lambda Group): LesBiGay recovery group Because feeling safe about being open and honest is so important in succeeding in recovery from substance abuse, a special group for this community was created.

GALA 10 (Gay and Lesbian Alliance - the Other 10%) Informal (unofficial) group for the Mercyhurst College community. Lasted till about late 1993-1994.

Kremer Murder, First Out Gay Spokesperson Donald Kremer, a gay man, was murdered in the vicinity of Griswold Park. During his trial, the defense tried to use the "gay panic" defense, which means the alleged murderers killed Kremer when he made sexual advances.

When the jury came back with a second degree murder conviction, they contacted Michael Mahler, who was then the contact person for the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters. He decided to let the media use his full name and go on camera, which was a first for Erie media.

Pride Picnic The first Gay/Lesbian Pride Month event is held, at Presque Isle. Bridges now organizes the event.

Bridges Forms In 1992, the number of gay/lesbian organizations was growing, and activities were flourishing. Bridges originally came together (in late summer of 1992) as a sort of council where these groups could communicate with each other and work together cooperatively. The first project was to be a dance, which was originally seen as a unity-building project. Another project was the *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* (see below).

Erie Gay Community Newsletter - Parts I & II It is confusing, but there were actually two different publications called the *Erie Gay Community Newsletter*. The first started in the fall of 1992, was a one-page leaflet that listed information about lesbian and gay organizations that were meeting in northwestern Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1992, Mike Mahler suggested that some of the money that Bridges made from the dance it had just held be used to put out an actual publication that could publicize all the important developments going on in the newly-burgeoning lesbigay community. Some wanted the name changed, others wanted to keep the name, even though it was going to be an entirely different publication. In January 1993, the new *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* came out.

Jamestown Social Group Forms (later known as 10% Network) Social group for lesbians and gay men in Jamestown.

WSEE Series: "Erie's Gay '90s" Reporter Randy MacIlwain did this three-part series on lesbians and gays in Erie. The difference between this series and the one that WSEE had done in 1985 was that now there were people willing to go on camera. Lucinda Marsh became the first lesbian to use her full name and appear on camera. Also, a gay man named Bobby Burford spoke on camera.

Trigon: Penn State Behrend Campus Group forms In December 1992, the student government voted unanimously to make this an official student organization.

1993

Lesbian Moms Group Starts Meeting The group met for about a year.

1993 March on Washington At least 200 people from the Erie area went to Washington DC for the 1993 March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights. The effort in this area was spearheaded by an ad hoc committee. *EGCN* provided a lot of the publicity for the march (in fact, publicizing the March was one of the main reasons *EGCN*

was expanded). The committee went through the Edinboro Gay Organization in organizing and chartering a 48-passenger bus from Erie.

Pink Sands Forms A woman's production company began bringing "Womens Music" acts to Erie.

Rainbow Connection A support group for gay people forms in Warren, Pa.

Friends from the Heart Formed to meet the needs of people with HIV and AIDS, like food, transportation, emergency rent, and such.

1994

HIV/AIDS Service Network of Erie County A group of agencies and individuals formed to meet and coordinate their efforts around HIV/AIDS.

PFLAG-Erie formed (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Support group for friends and family of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals.

Embers LesBiGay bar opens at 1711 State Street.

NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance sets up local office here

Barnes & Noble Bookstore Opens Their "Gay & Lesbian Studies" section, carries hundreds of titles.

Visions forms Community-building LesBiGay Chautauqua Co. organization (see page 10, of this issue).

Grind & Squeeze Coffeehouse 105 Erie St., Edinboro Gay-friendly coffeehouse, early 1994, closed late 1994.

First same-sex 2nd partner adoption An Erie Co. woman legally adopts her partner's biological child. Both partners now had legal parental rights.

Closet Culture Local group for LesBiGay people under 21 starts.

AIDS Quilt panels brought to Erie By HIV/AIDS Ministry of the Cathedral of St. Paul. The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt commemorates those lost to AIDS.

1995

Lesbian & Gay Float in Bicentennial Parade A float representing the lesbian and gay community of Erie was allowed to appear in the Bicentennial parade. A full account of the events surrounding this can be found in the June 1995 issue of *EGCN*.

I am content since I discovered my sexual orientation. I am not attracted to a person's gender. I am in love with an individual's personality (23MJS24/ETERNITY).

I hope that when I hug you
That my arms reach into your heart
When I cannot give you peace with my words
I hope that my hands and body give you
The peace that you are searching for...

Love
Mary L. McDade

A Look Back, A Look Ahead

By DonPaul Lucas

I'd like to begin by saying I'm honored to be considered part of the *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* that will be enclosed in the Bicentennial time capsule.

I am a 42 year old male. I've been married for 22 years to the same woman. We have three teen aged sons, Shawn, 19, Timothy 15 and Zachary 13. I am also a person living with hemophilia and HIV disease.

I was infected with HIV through the use of Factor VIII clotting factor used to control bleeding, sometime in late 1982 or early 1983. Although the early prognosis was grim, I have learned to successfully live with this disease for over 12 years. Using medicines developed to fight the virus and a program I developed from reading (vitamins, good nutrition, stress reduction and a spiritually based world-view), I found a regimen that has worked for me.

I also had a brother who was two years my senior. My Brother Richard's story is quite different. He was also a person with hemophilia, also infected with HIV, and also a father of one son. His infection progressed more

quickly though. He suffered his first bout of pneumonia in 1987, before the first medications for HIV disease were discovered.

By 1989, he had pneumonia 3 times. In October of 1989 he was hospitalized for the last time with this particular opportunistic infection. He was admitted to the hospital on Saturday. He asked that no heroic measures be taken to prolong his life. He asked that he just be made comfortable. He was tired of fighting, he was tired physically, mentally, emotionally.

Early Sunday afternoon, he woke from an uneasy, painful sleep. He called to my mom, She walked up beside his bed and took his hand in hers.

He said, "It hurts. I'm tired."

My mom replied, "I know. Try to relax."

With that he leaned his head on her breast, took a slow painful deep breath and died.

On that day my mom lost her son, my nephew lost his father, my sister and I lost our brother, and my kids lost their uncle. I lost a fishing buddy and a friend. The world lost a promising and bright life. My brother was 38 years old.

By 1995, different versions of this story could be told in the U.S., about over 100,000 men, women and children. It is estimated that this story will be told over 1 million more times. Worldwide, those numbers will probably be 10 times those numbers.

But I have hope. Hope that when this article is read 100 years from now, HIV will have joined the ranks of the Black Plague, polio and other diseases as just a part of history. My hope is that those who read this will come to value each person for their unique qualities, their individual talents, and worth as a person. My hope is that each will be regarded and valued as a person no matter what their race, spiritual preference, sex or sexual orientation. My hope is that people realize that what happens to one affects all.

My hope is that each individual let their Higher Power, no matter what name it is called by (God, Buddha, Great Spirit, etc.) touch their heart with the true love of enlightenment.

This is my hope. Love is my hope. Acceptance is my hope. You are my hope.

Safe Journey
August 21, 1995

PAL **PRESCRIPTION
PHARMACY**

455-8597

1238 West 6th St., Erie, PA 16507

Open Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri
10am-8pm
Wed & Sat 10am-6pm



-- Instant Lottery -- -- Penelec Bills Paid --
-- Prescription Delivery --

Bob Kelly Theatrical Makeup & Accessories
All Third Party Insurance,
Special Pharmaceutical Benefits (SPBP) Card
& Union Prescription Programs Honored

Serving the HIV-Affected Community

Living with AIDS

by Kelvin

My name is Kelvin and I am a person living with AIDS.

I have a T4 count of 12, which is about 1%. A healthy person has over 1,000 T4 cells per cubic centimeter. T4's are the indicators of the deterioration of one's immune system. With a lowered immune system we are susceptible to diseases like toxoplasmosis, Pneumocystis carini pneumonia, Tuberculosis, Mycobacterium Avium complex and Karposi's Sarcoma. These are just a few of the many things that can go wrong with persons who have AIDS.

I was first touched by AIDS in the fall of 1989 when my partner Doug came down with Pneumocystis Pneumonia. He was in bed for a week and took a longer time to recover. Doug was in and out of the hospital for the next few years suffering with PCP and Neuropathy. Neuropathy is a loss of sensation, numbness, tingling and muscle weakness of the arms and legs.

We went through Doug having severe headaches, being irritable and fatigued until June of 1992. That month he started having seizures at night which scared me and I took him to the hospital. Doug continued having seizures throughout the night which left him with little use of the right side of his body and unable to have the words come out of his mouth correctly.

We had to bring in a legal person to prove he was competent to sign a living will form.

We found out that he had toxoplasmosis and he died in early July, just weeks before his 37th birthday. The night Doug died I had to call my parents and tell them 1) that I was gay, 2) Doug died of AIDS and 3) I had AIDS. We had visited them for several years during vacation and they had liked Doug.

I found my parents supportive and I decided to move back to Pennsylvania the summer of 1993. I have been living with the disease for 9 years now. In reflection, I was found to be infected in late 1986. I was tested in January 1991. Doug and I had been together for 4 years by then and without the test I knew I was also infected.

When tested my T4 count was at 500 and I started on AZT, which is the first drug approved for controlling HIV by fooling the virus to attach to the drug instead of the T4 cells.

In the past year I have had chicken pox, shingles and pneumocystis pneumonia. Some of the things I deal with on an almost weekly basis are fatigue, diarrhea, and depression. Before I came home my parents contacted the HIV/AIDS Ministry of the Cathedral of St. Paul's for an AIDS 101 course. They set it up for the Episcopal church in Waterford and invited the community. Because of that, a lot of people know about my infection.

I am lucky in the fact that I haven't been discriminated by anyone. Many people are discriminated by their families and other people. I heard of a story where a person with AIDS was allowed to come home to his parents' home, but only allowed to use certain things like 1 plate, spoon, fork, knife and cup. When he died, they put all his belongings plus the furniture from his bedroom out on the street.

For me staying active with the HIV/AIDS Ministry of the Cathedral of St. Paul and other AIDS activities keeps me healthy. I would be spending more time at home lying on the sofa watching TV. And would probably be having more complications than I have had.

In Erie county, the number of people diagnosed with AIDS has risen 20 percent since last year. The Erie County Health Department estimates that between 600 and 1,200 people in Erie are HIV positive. Nationally, one in 250 people is believed to be HIV positive. At one time or another, we have all been with or near a person with AIDS. Looking at me you would not know I have AIDS if I hadn't told you.

In conclusion, be careful out there. We now have the knowledge on how to protect ourselves. When I was infected, AIDS information was not out there.

Ain't Life Funny?

by Paula King

Hello! I'm an avid comic book reader (Well, put anything down in front of me & I'll probably read it if it's nothing concerning Rush Limbaugh or someone/something else that doesn't make me want to yak up a hairball...) & I recently picked up some material that I thought might be of some interest to *EGCN*. (And Mike said sure, so...)

I've been reading (inhaling, devouring.....) *Elfquest* for many years now. Originally, there was just *Elfquest*, but recently, the Pinis (Richard & Wendy) have branched out into other titles-they still concern the elves, but explore different time frames & what have you.

There's *Wavedancers* (recently, that title wrapped up it's run, but people said "Bring it Back!-And so it is, sometime soon..) *Hidden Years*, *Blood of 10 Chiefs*, *Rebels*, *Two-Spear*, *Shards*, *New Blood*, *Kahvi*, And the one that I'm really writing about, *JINK*.

I recently got *Jink* #8 & there is a very interesting scene in there. First, in the beginning, there is a fellow by the name of Belroyd Zuhn, who finds himself attracted to one of the main characters in *JINK*, who also happens to be male. "On almost all of Abode (the planet), same gender love is accepted..." States Thilar Path Miomonde (a female character) ANYWAYS.. further on in the



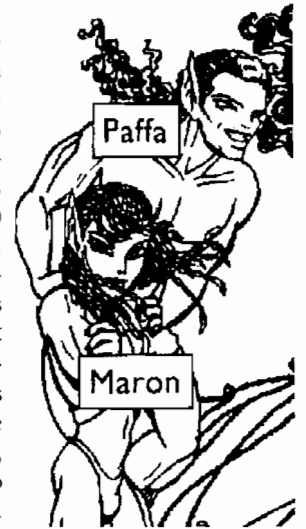
All graphics in this article copyright by WARP Graphics

comic *Jink* (a shape-shifting elf "Pops" into the bedroom of Tamia-A human female-Oh-*Jink* is a female elf, by the way.. & tells Tamia she can have a particular male character in this story-(details, details..) Tamia becomes very upset, thinking *Jink* is more attractive than she is-*Jink* tells Tamia to open her mind & shows Tamia how beautiful she is. From there, things get intimate between the two. It's not real graphic, but there's no doubt as to what's going on here. Hm. Interesting...not only is this same-sex intimacy, but there's also some inter-species stuff as well! (Richard Pini, by the way, agreed with the inter-species description.) You can pick up *Jink* at Subatomic Comics on Peach Street. Books Galore no longer carries the *Elfquest* series.

There was also an ambiguous male-male companionship in *Wavedancers*-Paffa, a strong, muscular-looking fellow & Maron, a much daintier-looking sort, with Bo-Derek like hair, white, all in braids & little coral beads.

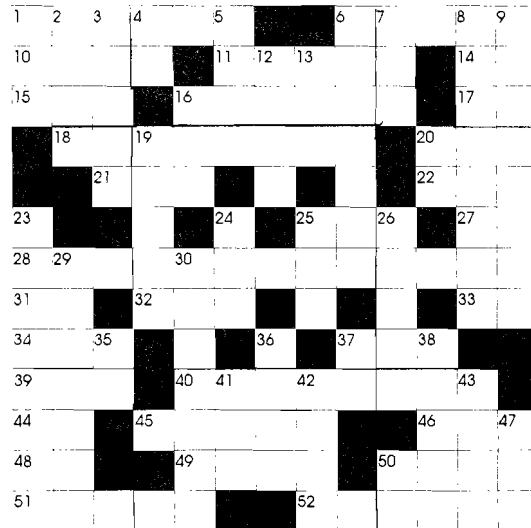
One more non-*Elfquest* comic I've seen interesting characters in was *Sandman*. You can get the graphic novel, *A Game of You* at Subatomic (or they can order it for you).

There's a lesbian couple, Hazel & Foxglove in it, as well as a pre-op transsexual "Alvin" who is known as Wanda. There's also a witch who has a bad habit of peeling people's faces off, but that's another newsletter..... I'll be keeping my eye on *Jink* & letting people know how the character develops. I'd be curious to hear from people on what they think of these books, if they purchase them. Get up to Subatomic & Tell Steve or Ken or Vicki or John that Paula sent you ...Shade & Sweet Water!



EGCN Crossword:

"Gay December" by Mike Miller



- Across**
- 1 Timid gay playwright?
 6 The *Naked Civil Servant*
 10 *Phyllis'* beau
 11 AIDS activist grp.
 14 "___" Miss"
 15 SW Amer. Native
 16 Veritable fact
 17 Russian "yes"
 18 Jewish holiday

- 20 Miss Piggy, to herself
 21 "Krazy ___" (cartoon)
 22 K—O connector
 25 Type of income (abbr.)
 27 For example (abbr.)
 28 Said homosexuality not an illness in 1973
 30 Coach ____, "Bum" Phillips
 32 Thanksgiving side dish
 33 Spielberg film
 34 Genetic material
 37 Egypt, formerly (abbr.)
 39 10 out of 10 dentists belong to it
 40 Gay actor knighted by Queen
 44 550 (Roman)
 45 Type of incense
 46 3 (Roman)
 48 See 27 across
 49 Author Hawthorn to friends?
 50 ___ *Homo*
 51 Toys in the attic
 52 Lesbian author Willa
Down
 1 Actor Gallagher
 2 Clinton took it
 3 Inflict
 4 ___ *You Like It*
 5 Murky
 6 Actor Peter
 7 Record speed
 8 Biblical gay epithet
 9 Least ornamented
 12 Salad veggie
 13 Spanish Aunt
 16 Famous boy king
 19 Victorian gay epithet
 20 150 (Roman)
 23 Intermittent
 24 Male turkey
 25 Charged particle
 26 ___ wave
 29 Man responsible for *Making Love*
 30 Flirtations' forte
 35 12-step program
 36 Feline command (var.)
 37 Underwriters Laboratories (abbr.)
 38 Hitler's third
 41 Accountant (abbr.)
 42 It's shocking (abbr.)
 43 Pleasant
 47 Comparative suffix
 50 Ate (slang)

National News

Talk Back to hate radio

Tired of the Right getting the last word on radio talk shows? Here's your chance to talk back. The Mobilization for Survival, a nonprofit progressive alliance of Milwaukee, WI has developed a kit to help listeners stand up to airwave bullies. Based on a training model used by the group, the guide is full of useful tips on getting past program screeners, getting the host to misstep, and running training programs in your area. Contact the Mobilization for Survival, 1001 E. Keefe, Milwaukee WI 53212 or call (414)964-5158.

—From National Gay & Lesbian Task Force *Action Alert*

Bombing plans thwarted

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Nov. 14—The head of militia group proclaimed that Jesus Christ would be his defense attorney as he and three others were charged with plotting to blow up welfare offices, civil rights groups,

abortion clinics, and gay bars. An undercover law enforcement agent said Willie Rae Lampley stated that "if you have God's blessing when you kill, then it's all right."

Iranian put to death

TEHERAN, Nov. 14—An Iranian man was executed after being found guilty of a homosexual act and adultery.

Transitions:

DIED: Essex Hemphill, African-American poet and performance artist, on November 4 of AIDS complications. He was 38. Among his works: a compilation of black gay male writings called *Brother to Brother*, and a collection of his own writings, called *Ceremonies*.

DIED: Eric Garber, writer and editor, of AIDS complications, on Oct. 8. He was 40. He is best known for his gay and lesbian science-fiction, horror and fantasy anthologies, like *Worlds Apart*.

My dinner with Bernie

by Michael Mahler

I was recently privileged to finally meet my Great Uncle Bernie (who is my maternal Grandmother's baby brother at the age of 70) Bernie has been out to the family for a while and I had written him. So, while he was visiting here with my Great Aunt Ruth, we went out for dinner and chat.

It really meant a lot to me to hear from someone 2 generations back what it was like to be gay, and even more so for being a relative. Now, I knew that it is the case that not all lesbigay people from any era are representative of all people in that era. He lives near Washington DC, as he has since after World War II. I recently read "Out of the Past" by Neil Miller (great book, by the way), which details the history of lesbigay people over the last 125 years. One of the points mentioned in the book is that World War II played a large role in building gay community by bringing together gay folks from all around. Sure enough, Bernie first made real contact with the gay community when he was in the Navy. One of the reasons he chose to settle in Washington was because he had contact with the gay community there when he was in the Navy.

He remembered gay bars/restaurants like the Chicken Hut (we both smirked over that one) and cocktail lounges, which seemed like they were more likely to be more of a shared space with straight folks. There were a fair number of cruising areas, like LaFayette Square, (which is across from the White House) and DuPont Circle. He said the cops generally only went after folks on the periphery of these areas, although that varied with how anti-gay the officer was. He had never really belonged to any organizations. When I asked him how he met other gay people, he mentioned the bars, the lounges, circles of friends and parties. Folks would throw a party and everyone would chip in 5 bucks for liquor.

He is currently living platonically with a man he had been involved with in the past. When I asked him how many of the men he knew were coupled or had had a commitment ceremony, he said that there were very few couples and that it would never have occurred to most gay men to even arrange some kind of ceremony. It seems that there a lot of options that we take for granted now that might not have been considered because of concerns

over job or reputation or impact on family members. Bernie never really talked about being gay with any of the straight family members (though my mom told me once great-grandma Emma referred to Bernie's lover Mark as being like a son to her.) He isn't out to many people.

His father, my great-grandfather Nelson, was also gay it seemed. Nelson died while living with another man. His mother, my great-grandmother Emma, used to say that he "was just like his father", which he never knew what she meant, but figured eventually she meant being gay.

We also talked about general family history stuff and all kinds of topics. He ended up giving me some genealogy materials his sister had found that traces one branch of our family tree back to France in the 1600's, which was extremely cool.

So, what did I learn from all of this? It is amazing how much times have changed. The impression I came away with is that these days, the gay part of our lives is much more likely to be integrated with the rest of our existence. It seems like in the not too distant past, you had to maintain separate lives rather than being the same person all the time. People are doing things today that would not even have entered the minds of our predecessors. And we owe it to those who follow to pass the torch on and make our own contributions.

Crossword Solution:

```
C O W A R D      C R I S P
L A R S      A C T U P O L
U T E      T R U I S M      D A
H A N U K K A H      M O I
      K A T      E E I      L M N
S      N T      I N T      I E
P S Y C H O L O G I S T S
O A      Y A M      N      D E T
R N A      R      S      U A R
A D A      M C K E L L E N
D L      C O P A L      I I I
I E      N A T E      E C C E
C R A Z Y      C A T H E R
```

Groups & Organizations

10% Network and Social Group (Chautauqua County)

Meets 3rd Saturday of the month 7-11 pm at First Unitarian Society of Jamestown. No smoking or alcohol. Call John at (716) 484-7285.

AIDS Bereavement Support Group

Sponsored by HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul. For families, partners, spouses, friends & caregivers with loved ones/friends who have died with AIDS. Cofacilitated by The Rev. Canon F. Kay Johnson and Sue Kuebler. Meets 1st and 3rd Tues, 8 - 9:30 pm. Safe & confidential Call Kay Johnson at the Cathedral Ofc, (814) 452-3779

Bridges

Community building, also publishes *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* and sponsors community events. Write to Bridges, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-0063. Call (814) 456-9833. Email to CompuServe 70431,1622 or from Internet: egcn@aol.com or fax to (814) 452-1392.

Chautauqua County Gay Lesbian & Bi Community Svcs

Works to increase visibility & support for lesbian citizens in Chautauqua County, NY. Meets 1st Mon of month at 7 pm. 716-484-8434 or 679-3560

Chautauqua North County Support Grp (NY)

Support for lesbians in northern half of county. Meets 3rd Mon 7 - 9 pm. Call Vince 716-672-6355 or N County Infoline 716-679-3560

Closet Culture

Focuses on social activities. Open to any lesbian, gay or bisexual 22 or younger in Erie or surrounding area. Write to: PO Box 10274, Erie PA 16514-0274. Email to j586113s@edinboro.edu

Cmte 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. Write to CSGLP, Box 186, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA 16335. Call Paula at (814) 332-4356 or Erny at 332-4375. Email to Roy Cerise at csqbp@alleg.edu

Erie Sisters

Nonsexual social support group for TV/TS/CD. Monthly meetings on 4th Saturday, newsletter. Meetings in even numbered months are social events held at accepting establishments. Interview with a club officer required before 1st mtg. Write: Erie Sisters, 2115 W 8 St, 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.

HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of St. Paul Cathedral

Call 452-3779.

Identity

Student group for lesbian & allies at Edinboro University. Meets ever Wed at 8:30 pm in Hendricks Hall, Rm 125. Social activities (☺). Call Christie Hudson at 732-3779 or John Wetsell at 398-8005 or Dr. Dave Herendeen at 732-2555. Email to John Wetsell j663104w@vax.edinboro.edu or write to Identity/EGO, c/o Dr. Herendeen, Edinboro University, Heather Hall, Edinboro, PA 16440

Informal Lesbian Student Group at Gannon

Now forming. Email to llsGatGU@aol.com

Integrity

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

JCC Support Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

Peer counseling & support attempting to live fulfilling, open, integrated lives as lesbian people in W NY & NY PA. Open to college & non-college people. Meeting

date, time & place vary. Contact: Greg Rabb. Write to JCC, 525 Falconer St, PO Box 20, Jamestown NY 14702-0020 or call (716)665-5220 ext 204 or 664-9174.

Lambda Group AA

Alcoholics Anon. for Lesbians. Closed discussion. Meets Sunday evenings at 8:00 pm at Unitarian Universalist Church of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Open to all Lesbians who think they may have a problem with drugs and/or alcohol. You are not alone. For more info call 452-2675 ☺

League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)

Nonpartisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for elections, voter registration/education, lobbying, advocacy. Participate in our 1995 Violence and Discrimination Study-completely anonymous, takes ten minutes. Contact us for questionnaires. Meets first Sun. Call Greg at (814) 833-3258. Call before faxing to (814)833-3258.. Write to LGLV-Erie, PO Box 8083, Erie, PA 16505-0083. Email to kidthart@aol.com

Menspace

Meets once a month. Call (814) 835-6712 for info.

PFLAG

Support group for Parents & Friends of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals & Transgendered. **Erie PA:** Meets last Sun of month. Call Elaine at (814) 864-0184 or Kathy Harris at (814) 838-6020 or Write to PFLAG-Erie c/o Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, PO Box 3495, Erie, PA 16508. **DuBois PA:** Meets 7 pm on 2nd Tues of month. Call Jack & Karen Kressley at (814) 371-8962 or write to PFLAG-DuBois, 1191 Treasure Lake, DuBois PA 15801 **New Castle PA:** Meets 7-9 pm on 3rd Thurs of month at Human Svcs Ctr, 130 West North St, New Castle. Call Lois Skuta at (412)652-6893 **Jamestown NY:** Meets last Tues of the month, call for site. (716) 488-1264 or 763-1529. **Ashtabula OH:** (216)964-3350

← Pitt-Bradford/BiGALA

Support group for students. Meetings are Fridays from 12 noon. Call Melanie Ostrowski at (814)398-9119 or write to: University of Pitt Bradford BiGALA, Attn.: Director of Student Activities, 300 Campus Drive / 235 Commons, Bradford, PA 16701 email to mhost4@vms.cis.pitt.edu.

Rainbow Connection (Warren, PA area)

Support group for Warren, PA and surrounding area. Meets once a month. Call for meeting info. Fred or Marshall at (814) 726-1808.

Rainbow Families

Support group for gay & lesbian parents in Chautauqua County & neighboring counties and a play group for their kids. Call Judy at (716)679-0380 or Patrick at 881-1878. Write to: 9856 Porter Road; Fredonia NY 14063

SUNY-Fredonia B-GLAD

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

Support Groups for Persons with HIV/AIDS

Open to people of all faiths. *Meetings:* 2nd & 4th Tues 7:30-9:30 pm at Catholic Charities, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd. Fax to (814)825-1075. For more info, call Cheryl Weber at 452-6113 or 825-1075 ☺

Trigon

Support group for Behrend students, faculty, alumni. For more info, call Al & Ginny at (814)825-8211 or Sue Daley (814)898-6164, or write: College Mailroom, Box 1054, Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.

Venango-Forest AIDS Support

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

Womynspace Coffeehouse

An alcohol & smoke-free environment for lesbians, with a particular theme, topic or activity for each month. Meet 1st Sat. at 7:30 pm. at Unitarian Universalist Congreg of Erie. Contact Sally at (814)454-2713.

HIV/AIDS Directory

AIDS Organizations & Services:

National

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

Ashtabula OH/Ashtabula County

HIV+ Support Group (216)350-2554

Jamestown NY/Chautauqua Co.

AIDS Community Services (716)664-7855

Meadville PA/Crawford County

Case Manager - Debbie Miller (800)359-AIDS

Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition 337-3241

HIV+ Support Grps 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 825-1085

☛ St. Mark's/Catholic Charities Support Group

..... Cheryl Weber at 825-1085 or 452-6113

☛ AIDS Action Team (AACT) Gannon 871-7233

☛ AIDS Network Information 451-6700

☛ Friends from the Heart (Direct Client Services)

..... 838-0123

☛ HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cathedral of St.

Paul (Episcopal) 452-3779

☛ NW. 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 Shilling 1(800)359-AIDS

or (814)226-2743

HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing Programs (free):

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

☛ (Corry) Erie Co. Dept. of Health 663-3891

☛ (Erie) Erie Co. Dept. of Health 451-6700

☛ (Erie) Hispanic American Council 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 Assoc (\$30)

..... (216)992-5953

Painesville OH (216)354-AIDS

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (412)242-2500

☛ = Member of HIV/AIDS Service Network for Erie County PA

Area Bars & Places

Ashtabula

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. AIDS Food Pantry collection site.

Erie & Edinboro

Cup-a-Ccino's, 18 North Park Row. Mon-Wed 7:30 am - 11 pm, Thurs-Fri. 7:30 am - 12 mid., Sat 9 am-midnight. 456-1511. A gay-friendly coffeehouse. Nonsmoking section, retail store. Poetry and story nights on alternating Thursdays, live music most Saturdays, some Fridays. Wheelchair accessible. Bike rack for cyclists.

The Embers, 1711 State St. 454-9171. Open Mon-Sat 8 pm - 2 am. Live DJ music Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 10 pm - 2 am. Pool table. Country Line Dancing on Tuesday nights.

Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th. Open Mon-Sat. Pool night on Tues. County Line Dancing on Wed 9:30-12, regular dancing 12-?. Dart night on Thurs. 90's dance music DJ on Fri. (10 pm - 2 am.) & Sat. (9 pm - 2 am.) Shows on some Fridays.

Jamestown & Southwest NY

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown. Open Tues-Sun 7 pm - 2 am. Closed Mon. DJ Fri & Sat 10 pm - 2 am. 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 Tues.-Sun. 2 pm to 2 am. DJ Fri and Sat 10-2.

Community Directory

24 Hour Counseling:

Erie Hotline 453-5656 or (800) 628-0190
Saint Vincent 452-5151
Family Crisis 456-2014
Hamot 877-6136

Community-Building Organizations:

Bridges 456-9833
Chautauqua GLB Svcs 716-484-8434 or 679-3560

Counseling:

Deb Monohon 838-0123
Chautauqua Co. Gay Infoline (716)679-3560
Family Service of Jamestown N.Y. (716)488-1971
Great Lakes Counseling-Ashtabula (216)992-5995
Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
Family Medical (Warren PA) 726-3310

E-Mail Addresses

CSGLBP/Allegheny College jgolden@alleg.edu
Chautauqua Cty NY Groups courtney@fredonia.edu
Closet Culture j586113s@edinboro.edu
EGCN/Bridges egcn@aol.com
Identity j663104w@vax.edinboro.edu
Informal Lesbigan Students at Gannon Univ
..... ILSGatGU@aol.com
LGLV-Erie kidithart@aol.com
Pitt/Bradford-BiGALA mhost4@vms.cis.pitt.edu
Trigon mxy122@psu.edu

Financial Advice:

Justine R Raker (814)454-5856 or (216)593-6431

Funding and Fund-raising:

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

Health:

PA Breast Cancer Coalition 455-7833

Legal:

David Baxter, Esq. 774-4163
Solymsi Law Offices, PC 452-4473
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
Integrity 774-0903

Unitarian Universalist Congreg. of Erie 864-9300

Social Organizations:

Menspace Larry at 835-6712
10% Network (716)484-7285 or 664-5556
Womynspace Coffeehouse Sal at 454-2713

Student Organizations/Youth:

Cmte. in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People
(Allegheny College, Meadville) 332-4368
Closet Culture *Mail to PO Box 10274, Erie PA*
Covenant House Teen Hotline 1-800-999-9999
Gay & Lesbian Youth of Buffalo (716)855-0221
Identity 732-3779 or 398-8005 or 732-2555
Jamestown Comm. College Grp .. (716)665-5220 ext
204 or 664-9174

National Runaway Switchboard 1-800-621-4000
North County Support Group (716)679-3430
Pitt-Bradford BiGALA 362-7694
SUNY-Fredonia B-GLAD (716)673-3424
Teen Hotline (412)771-8336
Trigon (Penn State Behrend) . 825-8211 or 898-6164

Support Groups

Rainbow Families (716)672-6682 or 881-1878
EAGLES (Gay/Lesbian Elders) (716)882-2959
Erie Sisters 2115 W. 8th # 261, Erie, PA 16505
Lambda Group—Gay AA 452-2675
Every Sun, 8:00 p.m. Unitarian Univ. Congreg of Erie.
PFLAG-Ashtabula OH (216)964-3350
PFLAG-DuBois PA Karen or John at 371-8962
PFLAG-Erie Elaine 864-0184, Kathy 838-6020
PFLAG-Jamestown (716) 488-1264 or 763-1529
PFLAG-New Castle PA Lois at (412)652-6893

Violence and Abuse:

24 hour Hotline (Domestic abuse/Sexual Assault,
women and men) (814)726-1030
Erie Hospitality House (Domestic abuse, women and
men) (814)454-8161
Jamestown - YWCA Alternatives to Violence
(Domestic abuse, women and men) Daytime
..... (716)488-2237, evenings (716)484-0052.
Women's Center of Warren & Forest Counties 24
hour Hotline (Domestic abuse/Sexual Assault,
women and men) 800-338-3460 or (814)726-1030
All numbers are area code 814 unless noted.

**We Appreciate Your
Business!**

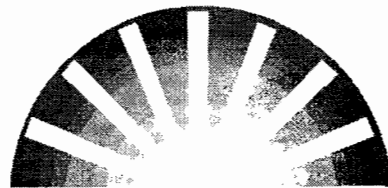
Hotel Lenox

140 North Street Buffalo NY 14201

(800) 825-3669

Bring this Ad in for Preferred Rates

**GREAT LAKES
COUNSELING**



**Hal Dalrymple, Ph.D.,
CCDC I**

6002 State Road
P.O. Box 132
Ashtabula, Ohio
44004

Phone:
(216) 992-5995
Fax:
(216) 992-5949

Smart shoppers stop here first!



DOWNTOWN 13TH & STATE 453-7696

Non-Smoking Section

Expanded Space!

18 North Park Row
Erie, PA
Phone
456-1151



Mon-Wed
7:30am-11:00pm
Thu-Fri
7:30am-12:00mid
Sat
9:00am-12:00mid

A little escape... a stopping place in a modern world.
A great cup of Java, a little Donovan and Dylan.
A Place to hear the Poets, see the Art, feel the Beat...

New & Healthy Lunch Menu!

Turkey on a Dill Roll	Soup of the Day	Tuna Salad Pita
Veggie Pita	Spicy Noodles	Hummus Pita
Quiche	Pastries	Cold Drinks
Bottled Spring Waters	Mochas & Hot Cocoas	Herbal & Non-Herbal Teas