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## February, 1996

# **Erie Gay** Community Newsletter

# Building comm Calendar

Feb 5-Growing Up Gay WNEQ/Ch. 23 (PBS-Buffalo) 9 p.m.

Feb 6-America's Most Wanted: The John Hopkins Story Real-life crime story. On FOX 8 p.m.

☞ Feb 7— Classroom: Donna Summer A&E 7 am.
☞ Feb 8— Biography: Madonna A&E 8 p.m., midnight. Feb 10—Integrity Valentine Dinner & Dance Cathedral

of St. Paul 133 W 6th St. Open to community. Dinner and Dance: \$10/person, dinner starts at 7:30 p.m. Dance only: \$5/person, and lasts from 9 p.m.-1 am. There will also be a Chinese auction and a 50/50. Info and reservations: 774-0903 or 459-2077. Dinner reservations must be in by February 5-no reservations necessary for dance. Tip: Use the new entrance, which faces the back of Gannon's library.

Feb 10-2 girls alone! at Cupa-Ccino's 18 N. Park Row. Feb 10-k.d. lang in Concert (Cleveland) Cleveland Mu-

sic Hall. Tickets from Ticketmaster.

Feb II-la bella bistro: All-Gay Valentine's Day Serving dinner from 4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Reservations requested, call 454-3616. (See details in "Entertainment Notes," and ad in "What's romantic for you?" page 9). Feb II-LGLV Meeting Will nominate candidates for the upcoming March 3 elections. 5 pm, call 833-3258 for location or info.

Feb II—Sneakers: Drag Show (Jamestown) 10 p.m., \$2 cover. 100 Harrison

**☞ Feb II—***Dress Gray (1986)* TNT 11 a.m., 8 p.m. Gay murder mystery set in a military school. Adapted for television by Gore Vidal.

☞ Feb 12—Caprial's Cafe: Romantic Dinner for Two On The Learning Channel 1:30 p.m. Chef Caprial Pence

shows how to do it. Feb I3—HIV/AIDS Support Group Meeting "Topic: Anger" Newcomers always welcome! St. Mark's (secluded location). Info Cheryl Weber 825-

Feb 14—*Biography:* Rudolph Valentino-The Great Lover Profiles the "effeminate" bi silent film star. A&E 8 p.m., midnight.

14—Leeward Lounge: "Miss Fem Fag Contest" (Ashtabula) Comedydrag. 1022

Feb 15-La Cage aux Folles (1978) & La Cage aux Folles II (1980) Comedy, on TNT. The original is at 8 p.m. and Jef Feb I5— Victor/Victoria TBS 10:05 p.m.

Info from Gifts of Athena (216)371-1937.

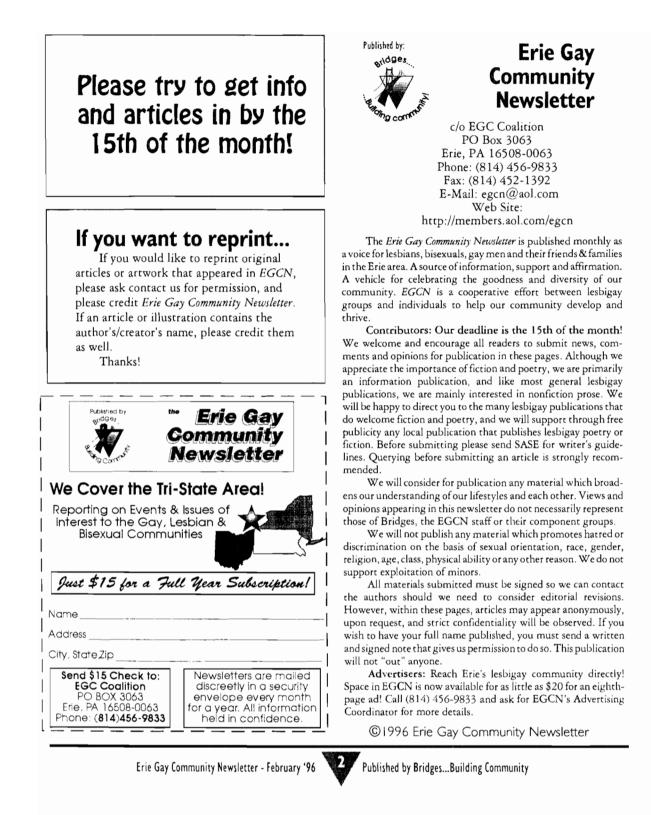
1085



Bridge. 1 a.m., the sequel at 3:05 p.m.

Feb 17—21st Annual Womyn's Variety Show (Cleveland)

(continued on page 4)



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## Places to get EGCN...

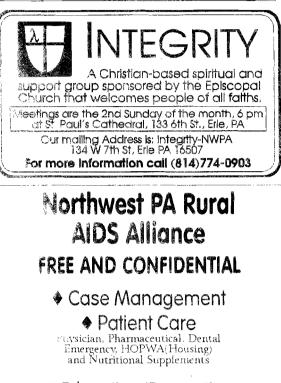
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Coeware Lounge, 1022 Bridge St. Carton S. S. Zer Suita AIDS Alliance, Corbin Vice erre James & Hoble, 5909 Peach Scree Cap-a-Como's, 18 N. Park Row The Embers, 1711 State Street irzie Bordon's, 3412 W. 12th NW. PA Rural AIDS Alliance, Baldwin Bldg. Unitarian Universalist Congreg of Erre. 7180 New Perry Hiway \* "el Baing, 710 Beaumour Edinboro Book Seelf, 200 Plum Sarthshike, 131 Meadville Street identity meetings Poppa Ropp's Home Video, Edinocito Mar (ask at desk) Jamestown NY & Warren PA AIDS Community Services, Tue Mansion Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamen 1944 Rainbow Connection, War en 1984, 193 Soeukers, 100 Harrison, Jachesterset, Meadville PA Jiegheny College Bookstore CSCE3P Meetings New Castle PA PFLAG Meetings, Human Services (Lencer Venango County Oil Region Book Store, Oil City

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## **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.



## Education/Prevention

Providing services in Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren Coonties

## **1-800-359-AIDS or 1-800-400-AIDS** B-3 Wilkinson Hall 1001 State, Suite#808

Clarion, PA 16214

1001 State, Suite#808 Baldwin Building Erie, PA 16501

← Feb 17—7th Annual Cause for Celebration! (Jamestown-10% Network) This auction for AIDS Community Services of Western NY will be held a week earlier than the "Cause" fundraising parties in Buffalo, so Southern Tier people can attend the festivities in Buffalo. If you're interested in traveling up there with them or meeting them on Feb. 24, contact John at (716)484-7285. They'll also be having a **Caribbean Beach Party** that same night! Dress in beach gear if you like (or not, your choice!) There's talk of beach movies, surfer music, etc. (in the background) to set the tone. First Unitarian Society. 7-11 p.m.

➡ Feb 18—Body Atlas: Defend and Repair One The Learning Channel, 9 am. How the immune system works. ➡ Feb 19—Gaylapalooza '96 National Tour Funny Bone (Buffalo) 8 p.m. Stars the Gay Comedy Jam "Freedom Tour" Comedians: Scott Kennedy and Kevin Maye (from HBO), with special guest star Bob Smith (who was the first openly-gay comic to appear on *The Tonight Show* & had an HBO special). Funny Bone is at 800 Alberta Drive, Amherst NY). \$12 adv/\$15 day of show. (716)838-2800.

 ➡ Feb 19—Home Matters: Romantic Gifts Discovery 10 pm.
 ➡ Feb 21—Michael Feinstein: Sing a Song of Hollywood AMC 6:30 a.m. Part 1 of 2.

➡ Feb 21—Just Like a Woman (1982) Straight drag comedy examines gender & gender roles. Cinemax 8 p.m.
➡ Feb 22—Law & Order: "Pride" A&E 11 p.m., 3 am. A gay city councilman is shot dead after a forum to discuss gay and lesbian medical issues.

← Feb 22—Black Is...Black Ain't WNED/Ch. 17 (PBS-Buffalo) at 10 p.m. Final film of late black gay filmmaker Marlon Riggs.

### Feb 22—Indigo Girls in London Disney 2:45 a.m.

**Feb 24—7th Annual Cause for Celebration! (Buffalo)** Big fundraiser for AIDS Community Services of Western NY. Parties held throughout the community from 7-10 p.m., then everybody gathers for a gala celebration (admission \$15) from 10 p.m.-2a.m. at the beautiful atrium of the Erie Community College city campus (121 Ellicott), featuring dancing, drinking, eating, gambling, bidding and partying. The Underground bar will have an open party from 8 p.m.-10 p.m., then bus everyone over at 10 p.m. (Admission to the Underground is \$30, and this will cover the cost of getting into the main event. Note: this is a formal affair; you can dress how you like, but most people are dressed in tuxes and dressy dresses. For more details see "HIV/AIDS News-WNY" (page18) or call Michelle Rudnicki at 716-847-0212.

➡ Feb 24—*Positive: Living With AIDS "Identity"* 10 p.m. WNEQ/Ch.23 (PBS-Buffalo) 4-part series.

← Feb 24—*Investigative Reports: Jack Anderson—The Fall of J. Edgar Hoover* A&E 9 p.m., 1 am. How reporter Jack Anderson exposed FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover's many abuses of power. Includes interviews with G. Gordon Liddy, a former FBI agent who talks about his plan to kill Anderson, and former policeman Joe Shimon, the source of reports that Hoover was gay.

✓ Feb 25—Integrity Meeting: Spiritual Reflection 6 pm at Cathedral of St. Paul 133 W 6th St. Info: 774-0903
 Feb 26—Northern Chautauqua County Gay, Lesbian & Bi Support Group (Fredonia) Call Vince (716)673-3183.
 ✓ Feb 27—Breast Cancer: Speaking Out WQLN/Ch. 54 (PBS-Erie) 10:30 p.m. Women who are struggling with breast cancer speak out about in hopes of getting the attention of a political system that isn't responding well to the epidemic.

➡ Feb 27—HIV/AIDS Support Group Meeting "Topic: Relationships with Family" Newcomers always welcome! St. Mark's (secluded location). Info from Cheryl Weber 825-1085



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Pittsburgh's Upstairs Theatre presents The 1996 New Play Festival - 4 New Plays in 4 Weeks Walleye Fishin' in Hells Kitchen Sideshow Feb 1-4 Feb 8-11 Killer Month The Boundary Feb 15-18 Feb 22-25 Feb 1 thru Feb 25 Thur - Sat 8pm Sun 3 pm & 7pm

Tickets \$10 Festival Pass \$35 Reservations: 412-361-5443 Visa/MC/AE

■ Mar 2—Womynspace Coffeehouse "A Good Lesbian Flick" We're not sure which video we'll get but hopefully one you haven't seen yet. By the way, for women who aren't into watching videos, there'll be a pleasant separate environment to hang out and socialize. 7:30 pm. Newcomers welcome. For info call Sal 454-2713.

Some Start Strain S

we税ar予一に記**! Elections** at regular meeting, 7 pm. Info 833-3258.

ser-Mar 5—Yilp to Camp Sister Spirit Some people from Ideotity are organizing a trip to Camp Sister Spirit in Missission. The cop is being made to offer help and support to the Camp which for the past couple years has been these get of a keye or homopholic harred. His also have the anational sympolic fielding a stend optimic this total of mag. Effect walls of hisp, participate, or make a contraction (footbarn integrate especially needed in the stendard fielding tail Christie Hudson at Theory of

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(a) Moth C— Positive: Living With AIDS "Fighting for Our Linter"10 p.m. "WNEQ/Ch.73 (PBS-Buffalo) Conclusion of Contents taries

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Church, 875 Mill Road Busti NY (just outside Jamestown). Sponsored by AIDS Community Services, located at 413 N. Main in Jamestown. Family, friends and partners are invited to gather to construct fabric panels to honor loved ones who have died of AIDS. Mending of the Hearts Memorial Project is a collection of 70 fabric panels designed in memory of someone. The project has become an important way for AIDS Community Services to raise awareness of the epidemic. If you're interested in constructing a panel on March 23, please call Kathleen Whitmore at (716) 487-2498.

**Mar 26—HIV/AIDS Support Group Meeting "Topi**c; **Dr. Baxter Dermatology"** Newcomers always welcome! St. Mark's (secluded location). Info from Cheryl Weber 825-1035

## Repeating Programs

Absoluta Begin, ets. (1986) London's 1958 pop culture, includes englishma characters. On TMC 2/6, 2/5, 2012, 2/17, 2/17.

Annie Sorich's The pagan lesbian sex goddess is supposed to be on H.30 in February but we can't find when. A good bed would be **Roal Sett Wild Cards** Described as "Smart, cell" withien who are changing the way the public looks at cm. HBO 2/24, 2/27, 2/19.

Billoxi Blues (1956)) Boos camp dramm. Pro. 2/3, 2/11.
 2/12, 2/20, 2, 11, 1/25, 2/26.

The Brady Bunch Movie (1995) HBO 2/10, 2/18-2/ 16, 2/18, 2/22, 2/26

**The Dresser (1983)** 2/5, 2/6, 2/16, 2/17, 2/20, 2/21. **Galaxis (1993)** Pans of female hero fantasy: Brightee Nielsen is a matrix of gloting to save her civilization. THC 2.7, 2/11, 2/2010, 2.25.

Higher (222012) (1973) HBO 2/17, 2/20, 1/25, 2/20, Diversity issues on compus.

Women's Score: GOLF: 2/21 SportsChannel 1 p.m. SOCCER: ESPNI2 2/5 4 p.m. COLLEGE BASKET-BALL SportsChannel is running women's games a lot this month. Check your listings.



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## **African-American History Month**

### **Events**

## 9th Annual National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum

This year's theme is "Black Lesbians and Gays: Continuing the Struggle" Conference will be in Dallas, February 15-19. More than 1,000 participants from across the country will participate in the nation's largest gathering of African American lesbians and gays. Men's and womyn's issues, the radical right's efforts to exploit black churches, young adult issues, personal development, spirituality, more. For info contact Keith Boykin (213)964-7820.

## BWMT- Pittsburgh adds gay dimension to Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, Black and White Men Together/Pittsburgh will host a special panel presentation entitled "Before Stonewall: Recollections of Black Gay Life in Pittsburgh." A panel of black seniors will describe life experiences of black gay/bisexual men Real life recollections from as far back as the 1930's will be offered to the audience, and questions will be entertained.. Friday, February 16, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and it's free. For more info call Paul Hawkins at (412) 441-4441.

## Womyn of Color Land Project

MAAT DOMPIM Womyn of Color Land Project, set up space for a community of women of color. The land is in an area of West Virginia that has a lot of diverse, "alternative" type people living in it. Auto Road, Auto WV 24917 (713) 992-0248.

## National Conference BWMT Conference: Cleveland

The National Conference of Black and White Men Together will be held in July 22-28, 1996 in Cleveland, Ohio at the South Hilton Inn. The theme for this year's conference is "Unity = Power = Accomplishment" For more information, call them at 1-800-NA4-BWMT.

### New Books

*Black Unicorn*, by Audre Lotde (Norton \$9.00. Back in print— poems of the late black lesbian visionary, Audre Lorde.

*Pearls of Passion: A Treasury of Lesbian Erotica*, by C. Allyson Lee, ed. by Makeda Silvera (Sister Vision \$12.95). Canadian anthology of prose, poetry and graphics celebrates the sensuality of lesbians of color.

*Rituals: Poetry and Prose*, by Craig Hickman (Parfait de Cocoa Press \$12.95). Verse, autobiographical writing, short fiction and commentary on being black and gay in America.

Stuck Rubber Baby, written and drawn by Howard Cruise (Warner \$24.95). Novel-length cartoon set in the Deep South of the 1960s, tells the story of a young gay white man who is involved with the civil rights struggle while coming out.

## Letters

This letter was sent to Congressman Donald Payne of the Congressional Black Caucus in response to a positive column by national lesbian columnist Deb Price. The writers of the letter are members of PFLAG-Erie.

Dear Congressman Payne:

We read with great interest and pleasure a column by Deb Price, "Congressional Black Caucus is All-Weather Friend to Gay People".

We want to thank you and commend you, individually and as a group, for your inspiring behavior and conduct. The quotes from caucus member John Lewis (D-GA) and from you are like a burst of sunshine from an otherwise rather "cloudy" congress.

It is our hope that various so-called minorities can learn to work together for the common good of our communities and nation.

So we thank you and send to you all our appreciation of your positive words and actions.

Sincerely, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Keiller

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## **Programs & Videos**

The following programs are about racism and black civil rights will be appearing during Black History Month. They are not gay or lesbian programs, but people involved with or interested in the efforts to gain civil rights for LesBiGay people can gain insights and inspiration from black civil rights experiences.

Feb 13-Mississippi, America WNED/Ch. 17 (PBS-Buffalo) 10 p.m. The story of how a coalition of civil rights organizations and thousands of white Americans joined forces during the summer of 1964—Freedom Summer to assist blacks in Mississippi in their fight for the right to register to vote. (Repeats Feb. 15, 2 p.m.)

Feb 15—This Century: Nightfighters On The Learning Channel 8 p.m., 11 p.m. (Repeats 2/17 5 p.m.) The Tuskegee Experiment was concocted to show that African Americans could not fly fighter planes. Instead, the Tuskegee Airmen came to be regarded as among the world's finest pilots.

Feb 24—Justice Files: Crime and Prejudice Discovery 10 p.m., 2 a.m. Today, waves of hate crimes continue to surge. Lawyers like Morris Dees and his Southern Poverty Law Center are attempting to reverse the tide.

Feb 24—Rivals! Martin Luther King & Wallace 11 p.m. on Discovery. Alabama Governor George Wallace was the national voice of bigotry in the mid-1960s, using his "bully pulpit" to fuel racial antagonism throughout the South, while Martin Luther King reminded all Americans of the need to confront hatred.

Feb 28—Howard Beach: Making the Case for Murder (1989) HBO 6:55 a.m. Drama based on a hate murder that actually happened.

Throughout the month on HBO---Journey of the African-American Athlete Depicts the struggles against discrimination faced by black athlete. 2/12, 2/16, 2/18, 2/19, 2/ 22, 2/25, 2/27, 2/29

At the Movie Stop:

Black History-Lost, Stolen or Strayed Glory (1989) Story of an all-black regiment in the Civil War.

Malcolm X Story of the black Muslim leader; offers poignant insight into the phenomenon of trying to "pass." Mandela about the leader of the movement for racial equality in South Africa

#### Mandela: A Man and His Country

#### Martin Luther King Jr.

A Woman Called Moses The story of Harriet Tubman, an amazing and brave black woman who time and time again ventured back into the South to free others.

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"What bothers me is that the so-called religious right represents a small part of the population, but we let them dominate the debate almost entirely.People need to understand who these people are. They are the same people who were against my people, blacks, when I was growing up in Arkansas. They used to go around saying that God says there should be a separation of the races.'

---former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders in The Advocate.

## Transitions

Interestingly, this month, all the notices we received of the national figures who have passed away are African-American women. These woman all made the world a better place, and will be sadly missed.

Barbara lordan, on January 17, of leukemia complications. She was 59. The former Congresswoman was a strong supporter of gay and lesbian civil rights, and was to have spoken at the National Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum this month. Jordan, who was single, was an eloquent and powerful speaker, delivering keynote addresses at the 1976 and 1992 Democratic National Conventions. Her speech at the 1976 convention was so powerful that she was considered as a possible vice presidential candidate.

Terri L. Jewell, 41, of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, on December 1. She was a widely published black lesbian feminist poet and writer. She edited The Black Women's Gumbo Ya-Ya: Quotations by Black Women, and had been working on another anthology entitled Dred Woman/Lock Sister, as well as a black women's herstory calendar. She was also co-editor of the black lesbian and gay poetry publication Kuumba #3, and her works had appeared in many publications and anthologies.

Toni Cade Bambera, on December 8, from cancer of the colon. She was 56. She was a writer, a filmmaker and dancer who was among the first to bring together African American issues and feminism. She edited The Black Woman anthology in 1970. She won an award for her 1980 novel The Salt Eaters. Her works have appeared in other anthologies like This Bridge Called My Back by Gloria Anzualda and Cherrie Morgan, and Five for Five by Spike lee. She was the coordinating writer for W.E.B. DuBois: A Biography in four voices. She was also a strong opponent of homophobia.

## Local News - NW PA

### **Group heading to Camp Sister Spirit**

A group of Identity people are organizing a trip to offer help and support to Camp Sister Spirit in Ovett Mississippi. The Camp, which is owned by two lesbians, has been under a serious, somewhat violent siege from homophobes who want to drive the camp out (the Camp is owned by two lesbian partners). If you want to participate, to make donations (money, food, etc.) or for more info call Christie Hudson at 732-3779.

### **GLPCI-Erie searching for parents**

The newly-forming Erie chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International is interested in connecting with parents who seek support and growth for their families.

GLPCI is a coalition of parent groups in eight countries that provide support, advocacy, and education for gay and lesbian parents and their families. The organization provides an impressive inventory of information and resources for individuals and their children. GLPCI is also involved with lobbying and protecting the rights of families.

All parents interested are requested to call 835-4532 for information. Please remember that this organization is not a dating service.

### LGLV nominating & election meetings

The League will nominate Board Representatives and local officers at its February 11 meeting. The meeting will begin earlier than usual—3 pm—for initial analysis of data collected for the Violence and Discrimination Study, with nominating to follow at the regular meeting commencing at 5 pm.

According to League bylaws, nominees will be selected: from the floor if accepted in person or, by submitting in writing their desire to be on the Board or, by appearance on the recommended slate of officers. They must be a voting member by paying membership dues (unpaid members may bring their membership dues of \$20 to the meeting) and attending three League meetings in the previous six months prior to the election, or participating in a major League activity six months prior to the election. Elections will take place at the March 3 meeting, 7 pm.

Please call 833-3258 for the location of the meetings or to see if you are eligible to vote in the March elections.

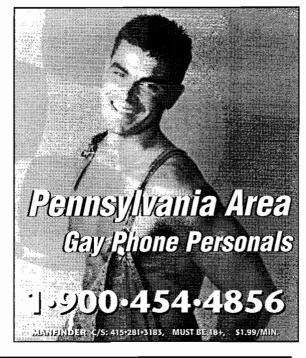
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### LGLV political education forum

Do you feel that lesbigays in this corner of the state don't have a chance against the radical right? What exactly is the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters doing to change the situation? Want to get involved but don't understand the political process? Is it possible to introduce and gain passage of a gay-rights ordinance for the city of Erie?

Join the League in an educational forum to learn how our local and state governments operate, the election process, supportive legislators, and League goals and projects. Erie LGLV members and state Chair Chris Young will make presentations, lead discussions, and answer questions. This is a great opportunity to learn first hand how area gays and lesbians have already made a difference in the political landscape.

The forum will be held on Saturday, March 9, beginning at 6 pm at the Jeff Hill residence, 231 West 21 Street in Erie. Hors D'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. Admission is free.



## What's romantic for you?

We had asked our readers to tell us what they thought romance meant to them. We got responses from male and female readers, single and coupled. There was quite a variety, too. Here's what they had to say!

### **Sharon Sutter**

You know how it is. For most of your life, you've thought you were a little different. You were the one cheering for the Indians instead of the Cowboys all those many Saturday mornings ago. You were the one who picked the runt of the litter for your first puppy. When the score was 20 to 5, you still hoped they'd come from behind, whoever "they" were. And then, when you were 16 or 17, you fell in love for the first time. She had long, soft, brown hair. Or he was tall, muscular, blonde. Trouble was, you were the same sex. See, you knew you were different.

I was 16 when I first fell in love. She was, of course, beautiful. Thing is, I was a naive 16, and didn't really know what was happening. My mother, did, though, and before I really knew what was happening, my love and I were separated. Ouch. Broken heart.

But I survived and grew. When next I really fell in love, I was 25, and the mother of a four year old daughter. This time, I knew what was happening. And, everything was great, for a while. But good old Mom stepped in again, threatening to take my daughter away from me. My love, trying to prevent more trouble, left. Ouch. Big broken heart.

But I survived again. A little gun shy this time, though. I was afraid to fall in love. I'd risk my daughter,

my self, if I did. So I shut myself, my heart away. Ouch. Lonely.

Time passed, my daughter grew up (as did I), my mother died. Still, I was shy, afraid to take the leap. Too many hurts. I returned to college, and one day, she whispered into the classroom on silver wings—or so it seemed to these love-struck eyes. She was beautiful. And a teacher. Out of reach. Ouch.

So, I thought there would never be anyone, any chance to love again. I thought she'd be the last this heart would fall for. Then, around Christmas, as I was recovering from surgery, the strong smell of gas permeated the house. The gas company sent someone, and when I opened the door, there stood the cutest girl I'd seen in two years. Wow. Thud. My heart fell.

After she left, I was grateful—not because she'd shut my gas off in the middle of winter, but because she'd given me new hope. I could fall in love again. So, if sometime you see me at Lizzie's this year, and the sparks fly, and you hear a thud, fear not. It's just my heart falling at your feet. Pick it up if you dare.

### Rochelle Kacek

After 8 months of a long distance relationship that began over the Internet, then to the telephone, on to the nervousness of meeting and then a move of 420 miles, I have ended up in Erie after spending all of my life in Indiana.

This Valentine's Day I'm just happy to be in the same city as my partner!

Whatever we do this Valentine's, whether it's a quiet home cooked dinner, a nice dinner out or a trip to Atlanta



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together, just being together will be enough. The fact that we have survived our on-line bills, long distance phone bills and traveling expenses, as well as the trials and tribulations of a long distance relationship is reason enough to celebrate.

This Valentine's Day will be that time to celebrate what kept us both going, our love.

### Kurt

On romance, some of my favorite things: Going out for a big Sunday breakfast, followed by a visit to the flea market or a museum, and a full afternoon of cuddling and lazy lovemaking. Move into the evening with a nice cup of hot soup, and some still-warm and gummy homemade bread shared under a nice thick warm comforter. Moving the weeknight nothing-special dinner from the kitchen into the dining room for no particular reason. Use the good china, light the candles, put on some dinner music, and open a bottle of wine too. Seeing how good your favorite shirt looks on him. Decorating your first Christmas tree together. Watching him get ready for work. Campfire marshmallows off the same stick, and sharing a sleeping bag. Watching him sleep while you drive.

## John G.

What's romantic? How about the case when someone that you have had a crush on for a long time turns out to be gay and feels the same way about you!

### Mary

The most romantic gesture a person could bestow upon me would be a surprise that is simple but at the same time also well-though out.

A young lady that I was dating a few years ago surprised me on Valentine's Day when I had returned home from work. The gesture was not an expensive gift, but instead it was a thoughtful surprise. She made me close my eyes, and I placed my trust in her to lead me up the stairs to my surprise.

She had arranged a variety of presents that I truly enjoy and appreciate even until this very day. The presents were arranged on the desk, and the arrangement looked very festive in a Valentine sense. There were a number of packs of flavored coffees that I enjoy drinking. Also, my favorite cinnamon candy hearts were in a bowl arranged along with my coffee and candy hearts. I was surprised, and my heart was touched by the romantic

## ♥ More ideas ♥

For more ideas about how to enjoy your partner or bring enjoyment to them, you might want to look into some of these items. All of them are gender-neutral (meaning any combination of genders can play them), except where indicated.

The Couple's Comfort Book, by Jennifer Loudan (Harper-San Francisco \$14.00). All kinds of special things to do with one another.

An Enchanting Evening. This is a board game that lovers can play to get them to be more playful. \$28.00. Passion Play Board game for lovers. There are versions for lesbians, gay males, and hetero couples. \$34.95. More Love Coupons. Not as tacky as it sounds. Ideas for erotic/romantic activities. Close your eyes and see what you come up with today! \$4.95.

Good Vibrations Sex Checks, \$3.50. Along the same lines as More Love Coupons.

Romantic Sensations Game. A celebration of sensual delights; includes More Love Coupons, bath gel and massage lotions etc., \$24,00.

KissMe Pack. Contains Sex Checks, Chocolate Raspberry Love Cream, and dirty dice. \$18.00.

The Key to Everything: Classic Lesbian Love Poems, Gerry Gomez, ed. and The Name of Love: Classic Gay Love Poems, Michael Lassell, ed. Published by St. Martin's Press (\$10.00, hardcover), these books feature poets from ancient to modern times. Read them with someone you love.

You can get the books from your favorite bookstore. The other items can be found at "love boutiques" or ordered from Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St, SF 94108 (415)974-8990. Credit card orders 1-800-BUY-VIBE. (Postage is \$4 for orders \$0-20, \$5.25 for orders \$20.01-\$40, etc.)

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gesture that I took in on that special evening that still stands out among the special memories that I hold dear to me.

[other romantic acts:]

...wash my vehicle without me knowing it until I see it later, clean!

...throw a surprise birthday party for me without ever giving away a single clue.

I enjoy the simple and thoughtful things in life.

## John S.

At this point, anyone who wanted to go on a date with me would be romantic!

### Anonymous

True romance has at last found its way into my life, and I think I've discovered why. Stumbling upon the right partner with the perfect blend of humor, looks, intelligence, adventurous spirit, compassion, respect, and dedication is the major reason. But the things that have collectively enhanced romance for me are the breathing room, aloofness, and openness of our love. With that, I'll share one of the most romantic moments of my life: relaxing with my same-sex partner on a bench in Perry Square, broaddaylight, arms wrapped around each other. Sharing the glorious afternoon with many others in the park. My boyfriend gently singing "Lucky One" while the emotion of the moment washed over us. And we had not a care or fear in the world.

### **Michael Mahler**

Romance is smiling at work in the middle of the day just because I remember his smile. Romance is falling asleep snuggling. Romance is the great crescendos of



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emotion and the quiet everyday happiness. Romance is taking care of each other when I cut my leg and he cut his thumb and we walked over to the emergency room. (On different days, thank Goddess.) Romance was him reading Clive Barker's *Imajica* to me when I had the flu and making dinner and getting *Sister Act*. Romance is him being the first person in my life to send me flowers (and me sending him flowers at the same time, unknowing.) Romance is planning on buying a house together and bringing him dinner at work even though it *is* impossible to find in the dark!

Romance is finishing each other's sentences and knowing he *will* use that line from *What's Up Doc?* and private jokes about the cats (Miss Kitty: Ahhh! It's the weird guy!) It's being an old married couple *already* and liking it.

### "Didier"

What's a romantic evening for me? I'm thinking of a nice, home-cooked meal—naked on the bed. Candles, placed around the room, would be the only light, and the fragrance of the roses in the room would fill the air. Pushing my lover onto his back, I would ooze chocolate sauce onto his body. Next, I would dip strawberries into

556 west fourth street, Erie, pa 16507 814-454-3616 "If you're one of those people who feel conspicuous going out with your partner on Valentine's Day, la bella bistro will host an All-Gay Valentine's Day on Sunday February 11. Serving dinner from 4:30 till 10.00 p.m. Reservations Requested Mention this ad when making your reservations."

this special ecstasy sauce and feed them to him. With him still on his back, I would pour champagne onto him. Each bubble would give him a mild massage as the champagne cascaded down his body, drizzling onto the black satin sheets. As I licked his entire body, savoring each drop of the champagne and his own richness, I would faintly taste the sweet remnants of the chocolate, which hadn't been washed away.

After our light dinner, this night of romance would take a turn onto my darker side. After tying my lover's wrists and ankles to the bed, I would pluck a candle from its holder and slowly drip hot wax on his body. Dripping, with the candle held close to the flesh, would ensure the hottest wax, allowing each wave of heat to deliver the most pleasure. Next, taking the riding crop down from the wall over my bed, I would whip my lover until his skin became very warm and rosy in color. Finally, I would untie my lover, and we'd make slow, passionate love all night.

> Slowly she leans to me. I meet The passion of her gaze anew, And then her laughter, clear and sweet., Thrills all the hollow silence through. Marie Madelaine (1881 - ?)

### Christopher

Chef Christopher's recipe for love and romance-Ingredients:

÷	Friendship	Concern
	Respect	Humor
	Freedom	Space
	Fun	Honesty
	Conversation	Attraction
	Communication	Sexual Anticipation

1) Start with plenty of self-love and respect.

2) Add one healthy hunk of man (for me, this would be Greg—you'll have to find your own).

3) Add above ingredients and mix thoroughly. Be careful not to blend too quickly; this may cause light-headedness or a comatose-like state.

4) Let mixture settle to a comfortable level and enjoy, making sure to stir on a regular basis to prevent stagnation.

Note: this recipe does NOT call for any obsession, possession, or smothering insecurities. If any of these make their way into the blend, please remove promptly so as not to ruin the final product.

Berdaches \bə(r)'dashəs\ are males who do not conform to a society's normative expectations of behavior....Native Americans often respected berdaches as sacred people, honoring them with special ceremonial roles as healers....Berdaches held important economic and social positions as well, and their homosexuality flourished.... from The Spirit and the Flesh

## Robert A. Santos Jr., M.A.

Helping you to realize your own sacredness and power.

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## **Reviews**

#### Melissa Etheridge, Your Little Secret (Island Records) Reviewed by Rochelle Kacek

Following up a CD smash like Yes *l* Am is never an easy feat for any artist, but after two years, Melissa has done it with her recent release, Your Little Secret.

Melissa has gone a different route this time. She has gone electric. Not many performers tend to stray from a style that works well for them, one that has gained them support of fans over years, but Melissa seems to be straying on this CD. Maybe it's a yearning to play electric that she had kept her little secret, or maybe she is trying to bring back rock and roll as it was in the hey day of her friend, Bruce Springsteen. Whatever the case, *Your Little Secret* has a different feel than any of Melissa's previous CD's.

While songs like, "All the Way to Heaven", "Shriners Park", "Change" and "This War is Over" are reminiscent of Melissa's earlier work, *Your Little Secret* is far off the unique blend of gutsy folk/rock the singer had become known for. Also missing are the soft ballads that highlight Melissa's soft, raspy vocals as well as her writing talent.

The title cut, which is the current single out with a video also playing on MTV and VH1 is very symbolic of the CD as a whole.

Hard rocking songs with little lyrical depth. There are a couple surprises, which oddly enough, are the songs that reflect back to Melissa's previous style.

"All The Way To Heaven" is one of the surprises. Simple, honest lyrics, "I want to find me a carnival outside of town, a Tilt-A-Whirl set up with a merry go round. Cotton candy fingers and a snow cone mouth. I want to roll you in saw dust until they run us both out. All the way to heaven" and strong acoustic guitar make this one of the best tracks on the CD.

Change of style is nothing new to Melissa. Your Little Secret may be reminiscent of an earlier Melissa CD, *Never Enough*, because she strayed from her style on that as well. And as with *Never Enough*, *Your Little Secret* will grow on you, after all, it is still very much Melissa.

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#### k.d. lang, All You Can Eat (Warner Bros.) Reviewed by Rochelle Kacek

After three years, k.d. lang is back with her first CD release since the tremendously popular 1992 release, *Ingenue*.

All You Can Eat has k.d teaming up with coproducer Ben Mink, (long time music partner, co-producer on Ingenue). This CD keeps with the same smooth, soft-rock style as Ingenue, with k.d's sultry vocals shining through on all tracks. There are some very strong, upbeat songs, such as "World of Love" and the current single, "Sexuality", however, neither of them grab the listener and give them the energy k.d. has shown in the pasr. The CD never quite gets to the climax that Ingenue had with "Constant Craving".

Though what the listener will notice first off is the stunning vocal ability of k.d., she also shows her versatility by playing harp, banjo, keyboards and ukulele on many of the tracks.

All You Can Eat is a strong CD, and one worth checking out, as k.d shows us her vocals are still beautiful, but with 10 tracks, all only around three minutes each, All You Can Eat left this listener wanting seconds.

## **Classifieds**

Roommate needed. Lg mobile home in quiet park, fully furnished, double parking area. \$195 + 1/2 utilities. Full privacy. Close to Edinboro College. Phone 796-6295 Chris (mornings).

## Thanks to these people who helped with the January EGCN!

Many thanks to Rochelle Kacek, Kim Piper, Dave Mulholland, Danny and Heidi for helping us to collate the January issue. The weather had been nasty but these folks braved the cold to extend a hand. If you'd like to help please call us at 456-9833.

## **Entertainment Notes**

#### Music

**Diana Ross** pairs up with **RuPaul** on a new version of "I Will Survive." The music video has Ms. Ross and Ru performing amidst a sea of adoring drag queens and gay men, who hold banners and signs proclaiming their gayness. It's wonderful that these two have reclaimed the song—which in the late 1970s became an anthem for gay people and abuse survivors—from the homophobic Gloria Gaynor. It's also worth noting that Ms. Ross has always appreciated her many gay fans, unlike some other divas (e.g., Gaynor and Donna Summer), who made their money off the gay community and then trashed them.

### Romance

People with same-sex partners or lovers may feel self-conscious about holding hands and gazing into one another's eyes during a romantic evening out. So Harry Miller and Jim from **la bella bistro** have decided to open up the restaurant on Sunday, February 11 for an "All-Gay Valentine's Day." Dinner will be served from 4:30 till 10 p.m., and if you wish to have alcohol with your meal, you should bring your own. Reservations are requested (814-454-3616). Located at W. 4th and Cherry Streets, and entrance is just to the left of the atrium.

Also, one of our newest advertisers is the **Rose and Lace Floral and Gift Shop**, at 3424 West Lake Road. Keep them in mind for that nice floral arrangement or gift item!

### **Television**

Tracey Ullman's new show on HBO, called *Tracy Takes On...* will include gay and lesbian characters, like Midge Dexter the golfer (played by *Julie Kavner*, voice of Marge Simpson), and Trevor the flight attendant. It's on Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m., and various other times (check your listings).

Montel William's Wednesday classroom drama, *Matt Waters*, features a young gay teen (Felix Pire as Russ Achoa). On CBS.

Watch for **John Fleck** to come out on Stephen Bochco's *Murder One* in February. Fleck plays Louis the legal secretary, a recurring character. Fleck is gay in real life, and has a partner of eight years. He's currently

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battling with the Screen Actors Guild to get them to offer domestic partners benefits.

A supposedly-gay character bit the dust in **NYPD Blue**. Lesniak (**Justine Miceli**) who announced she was gay a few months ago decided in the January 9 episode that she just hadn't met the right man. On behalf of all the lesbians who get pestered by straight men convinced that lesbians just need to meet the right guy, thanks for nothing, Bochco! The previews for the episode showed Lesniak telling the guy who'd been pursuing her, "Come on inside, Jim" Arrgh!

In an interview in the February issue of the national magazine Out, Roseanne promises that one of the main co-stars on the show-whose heterosexuality would never have been questioned- will turn out to be gay or lesbian. "It's a real shocker," she says, "and I'm doing it for all you kids our there." By the way, it turns out the sitcom that made gay/lesbian cultural history may be on for another season; John Goodman will leave after this season, but Roseanne envisions making turning her character into a single mom. The January 13 TV Guide pointed out that the gay wedding episode got the highest rating of any episode since the season premiere. They add, "Our fave touch: June Lockhart as the perplexed mother of groom Leon (Martin Mull). After playing mom to Lassie's Timmy and Lost in Space's Will, we're glad June finally got someone normal for a son.'

The January 17 episode of **Party of Five** sensitively and realistically depicted the pain of a lesbian teen visiting from England.

### Film & Video

At **The Movie Stop**, *The Priest* is now in. It explores the human side of four priests, including one who is gay. Other videos they've recently acquired: *The Brady Bunch Movie* (a baby dyke has a crush on Marcia), *Clueless* (features a well-adjusted gay teen), *The Garden* (Derek Jarmen's stunning depiction of the Church's persecution of homosexuality, while not being disrespectful to Christ), *Red Ribbons* (features three items with Quentin Crisp: an AIDS story, an interview with him, and Crisp as the ghost of a 90-year-old lesbian), *Higher Learning* (diversity issues on campus; includes the story of a relationship between a lesbian and bisexual

woman), *Glen or Glenda*? (Ed Wood's wonderfully awful transvestite tale), *Kids* (looks at being a kid in today's world, includes a promiscuous straight boy who doesn't know he has HIV). Other movies arriving this month are the AIDS-age comedy/love story *Jeffrey* (2/13), *Lie Down with Dogs*(2/13), and the drag comedy *Too Wong Foo* (2/20).

## Shopping

The January 21 issue of *The Erie Sunday Times* had Khaki Racks featured as the front page story in the "Business Section." If you haven't had a chance to check out this cool clothing outlet (J. Crewe, Woolrich, Banana Republic), do so!

## Theater

### Meadville

The Academy Theater will present Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* on February 23, 24, 25 and March 1, 2, 8, 9. This powerful play deals with the early years of the AIDS epidemic, particularly how it affected gay men. For information and reservations, call (814) 337-8000 Tues. through Sat. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## Pittsburgh

The Upstairs Theatre will present their inaugural 1996 New Play Festival beginning February 1 and running through Feb 25. Four new, full-length plays will be presented; one new play per week. All shows are Thursday to Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 3 pm and 7 pm. The price is \$10/week or \$35 for a festival pass. They accept Visa, MC, and American Express. Call 412-361-5443 for reservations. Walleye Fishin' in Hells Kitchen (Feb. 1-4) The play deals with a gay priest and his best friend. Sideshow (Feb. 8-11) is a play from the "sixth dimension," challenging one to take a leap of faith into the next realm! Killer Month (Feb. 15-18) Comedydrama dealing with The Darling Children's Theater December will never be the same! Our last play is a haunting story of one family's response to the tragedy of the Persian Gulf War in The Boundary (Feb.22-25)

## Reading

The national lesbian magazine *Deneuve* has changed its name to *Curve*. French actress **Catherine Deneuve** had sued the magazine over the use of the name.

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Larry Kramer's explosive drama about the AIDS epidemic. This riveting play dramatizes events from the time of the disease's discovery to the present. This passionate indictment of government, the media and the public is electrifying theatre--a play that breaks through the conspiracy of silence with a shout of stunning impact.

## Feb 23-24-25-Mar 1-2-8-9 Fri & Sat at 8:15 pm, Sun at 3:15 pm Charge by Phone

# 814-337-8000

Adults \$9, Seniors \$7, Students \$5

\*ACADEMY\* \*.THEATRE\*. 275 Chestnut Street

Meadville, PA 16335

## **CHAMPS:** an informed opinion

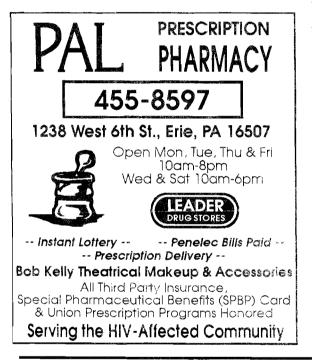
#### **By DonPaul Lucas**

According to the Center for Disease Control, as of October 31, 1995, the number of AIDS cases has surpassed one half million. And for the second year, AIDS is the number one cause of death for persons aged 25-44. In Erie County seven new cases of AIDS were reported during October.

As the numbers continue to rise, new strategies are being explored to not only educate, but to also help people realize the risk in their choices.

The Millcreek School District is considering taking a bold step to address this. The C.H.A.M.P.S. program starts in kindergarten with basic hygiene information. (Scrubby Bear type stuff. Washing hands, don't touch blood spills, etc.) The program builds, giving more information every year until in the fifth grade, the students are given the complete AIDS curriculum.

This program, which uses puppets, music and worksheets, has caused quite a bit of controversy. Five newspaper articles, numerous TV news stories and a local talk radio show have made much ado about very little.



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The main point of contention seems to be telling fourth graders AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease. The Millcreek School Board has been accused of "robbing kids of their innocence." Because of the controversy and my work as an AIDS educator, I decided to try and find out what the hoopla was about. I attended two of the three information meetings for parents and the community.

There were 25 parents at one meeting and 23 parents at the other. If these numbers held for the first meeting, that means a total of about 75 parents that showed an interest or a concern about this program/With an estimate of 1400 students in Millcreek elementary schools that makes about 5% of the parents showing up to find out about such a newsworthy program.

The comments and concerns were about 50-50. The media didn't deal with those parents who agreed with the program because there isn't much of a story if there isn't much of a controversy. There were also a few parents concerned over all the attention C.H.A.M.P.S. created, who attended the meetings. After seeing the puppet shows and worksheets their fears were eliminated.

After attending the meeting and viewing four of the five puppet shows, I don't understand what all the fuss was about. C.H.A.M.P.S. is a program that gives age appropriate information to students about a serious subject. Like the drug and alcohol awareness programs that are already in place, this gives students what they need to know without alarming them.

As an AIDS educator, I applaud Millcreek's effort to address AIDS. As a parent, I don't understand how some people think that giving students factual information can undermine a parent's moral and religious instruction to their children.

> Safe Journey DonPaul

Notice: The entire NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in Washington October II-I3, 1996

People from area are talking about traveling together to see it. Watch these pages for more details!

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## A new Patient Zero?

#### **By Sharon Sutter**

I read recently that the young man who received a bone marrow transplant from the baboon was well enough to leave the hospital. I'm glad. I wish him health. But I'm concerned, too.

As you may recall, this young man, suffering from AIDS, agreed to the experimental procedure in an attempt to save his life. I can't blame him. And I certainly don't blame science for trying anything they think may help. But sometimes, I think science rushes in where angels fear to tread.

Bone marrow transplants work by replacing a patient's diseased cells with "new" cells that (hopefully) grow in the patient's body without any trace of the old disease (usually leukemia or Hodgkin's Disease). These new cells, if all goes well, will mature into the disease fighting cells found in the marrow.

In this young man's case, a baboon was used because baboons do not get AIDS. Hopefully, the baboon's cells will give this young man's immune system the boost it needs.

Maybe it will help. I certainly hope so. But, no one really knows where AIDS originated. The theories, of course, are boundless—some even believe AIDS was "invented" by the government as a method of "control" against African-Americans and gays. There are theories that it has always been around, and only recently has science identified it. Some think it may have been present in the African green monkey, and somehow made a trans-species jump to humans. And one of the more interesting theories is that science accidentally caused AIDS itself.

In the early part of the century the disease that most concerned science was polio. It was a devastating illness, robbing both children and adults of life, or if it spared their lives, often left them with some form of lasting paralysis. Scientists were determined to eradicate it. And they did.

Love can't stop HIV. Use condoms. Get tested and counseled TOGETHER. And communicate. A lot.

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They succeeded in developing a vaccine that has made us, and our children, free from the threat of this disease. A vaccine they grew in monkey serum. Some species of monkeys are known to harbor a disease, known as Simian Immune Deficiency Virus. Could that virus have been transmitted to humans, innocently, in the vaccine, then mutated to what we now call AIDS? Was the real Patient Zero a young child, vaccinated against a devastating illness, freed from one curse, only to be saddled with another?

Although most researchers believe the real Patient Zero was a British sailor who died in the late 1950's we may never really know. Is it important to know the origin of AIDS? Some scientists don't think so. They think the main goal now is to find a cure. Like scientists did for polio.

So, I wish the young man with the bone marrow transplant well. And I'm glad baboons don't get AIDS. But I wonder what else they might get. And I hope they keep it to themselves.

## **HIV-INFECTED ADULTS**

with CDC-defined AIDS wasting may be qualified to participate in a treatment investigational drug (TIND) program utilizing mammalian cell derived recombinant human growth hormone in AIDS wasting.

Participants must be at least 18 years old, and meet specific medical criteria. For more on this controlled clinical trial, call Roger D. Anderson, M.D. at

## (800) 711-5878 or (412) 371-7768

(All information kept strictly confidential)

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## HIV/AIDS News - Western NY

### **Cause for Celebration '96!**

Hold onto your hats— Western New York's big AIDS fundraiser is on its way! The event benefits AIDS Community Services of Western New York. This year's event is sponsored by The Positive Care Network of Western New York and the Evergreen Foundation. For more info call Michelle Rudnicki at (716)847-0212.

**10% Network Auction (Jamestown)** The 10% Network will hold their Cause activities a week before the main one in Buffalo, so that people can attend the Buffalo events as well. The 10% Network's Cause for Celebration event will be an auction, held February 17 at the First Unitarian Society in Jamestown. If you'd like to donate an item, there's still time. To donate or for more info call John at (716) 484-7285.

**Gala Celebration in Buffalo** On February 24, people from across Western New York will gather in Buffalo from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m. to the gala celebration at the atrium of Erie Community College's City Campus. You



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can dance to the music of Me & the Boyz (live) and DJ Jeff Page. A fabulous array of desserts will be offered by Buffalo's finest restaurants, bakeries and caterers, plus there'll be a Silent Art Auction and casino gambling. Admission to this event is \$15. There is a coat-checker and greeter to guide you. Note: Guests may dress as they wish, but you will feel most comfortable if you dress formally (tux, nice suit, or dressy dresses).

Parties Before the Gala Celebration (Buffalo) Earlier in the evening (7 p.m.-10 p.m.), parties are held in homes, restaurants, dorms, galleries and elsewhere. Non-Buffalonians should know that The Underground, a gay bar on 274 Delaware, will be having an open party (a black and white party with food and drinks) from 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Admission \$30...and once you have paid at the Underground you won't have to pay at the main event Erie Community College (unless you want to!) At 10 p.m., The Underground's owners will take party-goers on a bus to the main event, so they won't have to worry about parking. For information or reservations, call Erie Gay Community Newsletter at 814-456-9833 by no later than February 19. (The owners wanted us to tell our readers that there will be lesbians at the party; i.e., it won't be an all-male affair).

## WNEQ presents 4-part series on HIV

Starting February 17, WNEQ (PBS-Buffalo, Channel 23) will begin airing the four-part series *Positive: Living With AIDS*. The series will be on at 10 p.m. on the following dates: February 17 ("Community"), February 24 "Identity"), March 2 "Care", and March 9 "Fighting for Our Lives." The series was put together by over 20 independent producers, and includes music, interviews, performances, animation and documentary pieces. Garrett Glaser, reviewing the series in *The Advocate*, remarked, "At it's best, *Positive* is insightful, funny and transformational. When it's less, it's merely groundbreaking. Undeniably, it's the most successful attempt yet to humanize the epidemic."

Mending of the Hearts Panel-Making March 23 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Info (716) 487-2498

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## <u>MediAlert</u>

By Al Kielwasser Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation San Francisco Bay Area

**Heel of fortune**...Game show host Pat Sajak — of "Wheel of Fortune" fame — is active in several Right Wing groups and causes. Recently, he participated in a ceremony honoring William F. Buckley, which was broadcast by C-SPAN (Dec. 31). Media watcher Stephen Bickford reports that, during the awards ceremony: "Pat Sajak brought up the topic of gay and lesbian civil rights. He said that he had noticed that bisexual rights had now been added to the cause and that, in his opinion, bisexual rights are tantamount to 'adulterer's rights." "Wheel of Fortune" ranks among the top-rated syndicated TV shows Contact: "Wheel of Fortune," 3400 Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91505, tel. 818-972-7931, fax 818-972-0394.

Economic affairs ... A wedding cake, topped with the figures of two men holding hands, fills the cover of the January 6-12 issue of "The Economist." Inside, the magazine editorializes in favor of legalizing lesbian and gay marriage; one article ("Straightforward Homosexuality") examines "the extraordinary new ordinariness of homosexuality," and another ("Let Them Wed") argues that "there is no compelling reasons to exclude homosexual couples from marriage, and several compelling reasons to include them." Significantly, "The Economist" is a conservative business weekly, in publication since 1843, and now distributed worldwide. Contact: "The Economist," Editorial Offices, 25 St. Jame's Street, London SW1A 1HG, tel. 44-171-830-7000, fax 44-171-839-2968/9; copy correspondence to "The Economist," U.S. Offices, 111 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019, tel. 212-541-5730, fax 212-541-9378.

Web watch . . . An ever-increasing range of queer print media — newspapers, magazines, newsletters can now be accessed electronically. A few examples of this vital, far-flung diversity:

(1) "Echo" — a biweekly "Magazine of the Southwest" — covers a broad range of news and commentary, both local and national in scope (http:// www.ComeOut.com).

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(2) Small yet substantive, the "Erie Gay Community Newsletter" is a monthly source of "information, support and affirmation ... A vehicle for celebrating the goodness and diversity of our community" (http:// members.aol.com/egcn).

(3) "Diversity!" is the newsletter of Digital Diversity, a nonprofit British group "aimed at encouraging more gay/les/bi individuals and organizations to get online." Digital Diversity's web pages feature electronic versions of the newsletter, as well as other queer news and information about the UK (http://www.diversity.org.uk/ diversity/).

(4) The glossy, contemplative "insideOUT Magazine" is one of a small but growing number of publications created by, for and about queer youth (http:// www.youth.org/io/).

(5) "The Guide" is a Boston-based but globallyfocused monthly. The magazine blends a unique mixture of "Gay Travel, Entertainment, Politics & Sex" (http:// www.guidemag.com).

(6) Over 300 publications are referenced in the third edition of Jim Sorrells "Directory of Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Community Publications." Information about this essential media list is available online (http://home/ aol/com/GayPubDir) as well as off (P.O. Box 1946, Guerneville, CA 95445, tel. 707-869-1146).

Out of the mouths of bigots . . . "Conservatives: How Christian Are They?" is a handy new handbook that provides "Biblical Refutations of Conservative Quotes." According to author Mel Thompson, "the basic goal of the handbook is to use the Far Right's own texts against them." For more information, contact: Mel C. Thompson, P.O. Box 640552, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Fool Service ... In recent press announcements, the CompuServe company has continued it's official cop out — deceptively acting more like a victim than the agent of censorship [see "Bad Newsgroups," GLAAD MediAlert, Jan. 1-7]. Publicly, the company has vowed it will "continue working" tirelessly to restore banned Internet newsgroups. But in an internal memo, CompuServe president Bob Massey cautioned his associates NOT to expect expedient remedies. "We must

#### MediAlert, continued

proceed slowly, carefully and deliberately," Massey said, "to ensure that we fully understand the implications of any actions we take."

Such empty and unconvincing rhetoric is hardly encouraging. It seems more likely that CompuServe will "continue working" to impose sex-negative, homophoble ind otherwise intolerable restrictions on Internet access. Indeed, in a recent statement Mussey made this croubling, nonspecific point: "I want to make it clear that conardless of how this issue is resolved, there are certain newsgroups that will not be added to our index."

Ironically, CompuServe's new advertising campaig a od slogan --- "Sometimes life calls for deeper answers" --- attempts to position the consolicity company as an information-rich, full service provider. The ade berth that. CompuServe gives you interact access and mandetailed information on the subjects while interested in than any other online service. Because CompuServa has sh - strongest relationship with the case sources . . . you're Li vays plugged in ... El en a la lett only half-informed

 cver again. Sign up today."
 \*\*\*\* ACTION ALERT 1 Orbital deedback snot m continue to be sent directly to Bol. plassey. Presidenci CEO, CompuServe, Inc. 3000 Mediagion Center Blvd., Columbus, ОH 45302. e-modil 0003.1371@compuserve.con. (c) to Naoni Cubatrubia, CompuServe Customer Service Representaave, percell 70006.101@ compusame com). Protests can and be logged on the "Passibard," pay a of Compase verweb site (URL http://www.computerys.com:??? be mepage html/ or theore in using the company stollfree Customer Service In Cast. 1-312 (1940-68300).

#### Shout GLAD ....

To notify (ELAAD)/SFBA of any defamatory of affirmative media coversize, or to requise GLAAD membership information, please call our I whose MediAlett Ubdine (415 861-4588) or write all Gaw & Lesbran Allance Against Defamation, 1360 affistein Street, Suite 200. San Francisco, CA 9-205, tel. -15-861-2244, fix 415-861-4893. e-mail glaadsfba@aol com, URL http:// www.gavtrel.com/gaytrek/glaad/html/

To assist our on-going monitoring and response efforts, GLAAD/SFBA appreciates copies of any correspondence individuals send to, or receive from, the media.

Erie Gay Community Newsletter - February '96

## **Groups & Organizations**

10% Network and Social Group (Chautaugua County) Pleets 3rd Saturday of the month 7-11 pm at First Unitarian Society of Jamestown. He smoking or alcohol. Cult john at (716) 484-7285.

AIDS Bereavement Support Group

spensored by HIV/AIDS Outcosch Ministry of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul. For families, partners, spouser friends & caregiver: with loved ones/friends who have died with AIDS, ColorProsted by The Rev. Canon 1. Ray Johnson and Sue Buebler, Meets isc and 3re filles, 8 - 9:30 pm, Safe & Longidential Call Kay Johnson at the Catheors, Cic. 1814, 452-3779

Bridges

Community building, also with their Erro Say Community Newsletter and sponsors community events. Write to Bridgen, PU Box 3043, To et 74, 45508-0063, Call (214) 456-9833. Enelli to rech Jack on a fax m (214) 452-4893. Chautauqua County Cay Losbias & M Community Sves Works to increase visibility & support for lesbigny citizens in Chautanqua County, W. Heets ist Mon of many, at 7 pm . 716-484-2401 . 579-2500 Chanadada Manthi (Chang Samester)

pepport for leveligans in non-cere unit of county, deere and doe 7 - 9 and Cell Sice 716-672-63.15 or 6 Sec. 7, infoline 716-679-3536

#### Closes Culture

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#### Srie Sisters

Hensexual social support group or TV/TS/CD. Menther meetings on 6th Sacurday, newsletter, literings to even numbered months are sucial events held at accepting establishments, Interview with a clob officer required her a lot rang. Where Bile listers 2118 Willis, Judre Her, Brie, CA 16505.

#### Do**stas from** the door

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ad Lusian par an troi creative fall parents interested, press cui 414 FRA 4532 (o. informative) - const GEPCERIE (CAS 1000) REFV/ASDB Destrocker, - the strong of 600 million - Castradoval

Call (814) 452-575

#### **identity**

raident group for resbigay & calles at Edinboro University, Heeds every Wed at 5:30 pm in Hendricks Hali, Rm 125, Nocial actuation (1874), Call Dove at 734-9273 or Christie Hudson at 732-3719 er Dr. Dave Herendeep at 732-2555, Email to Dave at d660375s@edinborn.edu or write to Identity, c/o Dr. Hyrendeta, Edinboro University, Heather Hall, Edinboro, PA 16440 Informal Lesbigay Student Group of Srie Now forming. Email to ILSGEric@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 lesbigay 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. Email to Greg at rabbgp@jccw22.cc.sunyjcc.edu.

#### Lambda Group AA

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

#### League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)

Nonpartisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for elections, voter registration/education, lobbying, advocacy. Contact us for questionnaires. Meets first Sun. Call Greg at (814) 833-3258. Call before faxing to (814)833-3258.. Write to LGLY-Erie, PO Box 8083, Erie, PA 16505-0083. Email to kidithart@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 Ostrowksi 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, social group, activism, gay rights advocates, AIDS education & support for Warren, PA and surrounding area. Meets once a month. Call for meeting info. Fred Adams or Marshall Snyder at (814) 726-1808 or write to 220 Onandaga Avenue, Warren PA 16365.

#### **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-

Charities, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd. Fax to (814)825-1075. For more info, call Cheryl Weber at 814-452-6113 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. Email to Ginny at vls121@email.psu.edu or Al at alr126@email.psu.edu

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#### 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.

## E-Mail

Now you can get vital information for EGCN through the Internet! To get on your e-mailing list, all you have to do is send an email message with a subject of "Subscribe to Mailing List" to us (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.

The Web Site is back! We have the Calendar of Events, Latebreaking News and pointers to area lesbigay resources and web searchers. We're your one stop for info. The Web Site address is:

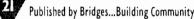
http://members.aol.com/egcn/

If your group has an email 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!

### E-Mail Addresses

CSGLBP/Allegheny College jgolden@alleg.edu		
Chautauqua Cty NY Groups courtney@fredonia.edu		
Closet Culture		
EGCN/Bridges egcn@aol.com		
GLPCI-Erie		
Identity d660375s@edinboro.edu		
Informal Lesbigay Students of Erie		
ILSGErie@aol.com		
Jamestown Community College Group		
rabbgp@jccw22.cc.sunyjcc.edu		
LGLV-Erie kidithart@aol.com		
Pitt/Bradford-BiGALA mhost4@vms.cis.pitt.edu		



## **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
🖝 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)
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 - Tami 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

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P'ttsbargh
Sharon PA
Youngstown CE
Anonymous Siten
(Achtebale) Femily Planning Assoc (\$30)

Painesville CH
Pinsburge AIDS Task Force 212)242-2500
#=Mamper of HIV AIDS Service Network for Erie
County PA

## Area Bars & Places

#### Ishtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St. Upen 7 days, 7 p.m. -1.30 am, food til 1.60 das (216)964-9935. Fri & Sat - \$1 cover, half goes mix 50-50 disaon at end of relyral, other half goes to person taking cover - 20% Food Parry collection site.

#### Erie & Edinboro

Cup-a-Ccino's, 18 North Park Row. Mon-Weg 7:30 am -11 pm, Thurs-Fri. 7:30 am - 12 mid., Sat 9 am-midnight. 456-1511. A gay-friendly coffeehouse. Monsmoking section, retail store. Poetry and story nights on alternating Thursdayn, are musi most Securdays, some dridays. 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.

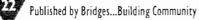
Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th. Open Mon-Sat. Pool night on Tues. County Line Danking on Wed 9:30-12, regular dancing 12-7. Dart night on Thurs. 90's dance music DJ on Fri (10 pm - 2 am. ) & Sar. (9 pm - 2 am.) Shows on some Fridays.

#### Jamestown & Southwest NY

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestowa, Open Tues-Sun 7 pin - 2 am, Closed Mon, DJ Fri & Sar 10 pm - 2 am, Sun, Drag show, DJ after 9:30 pm, no cover, Nitely specials. Recking Duck Inn, 28 Genesee Parkway, Cobe NY, Near

Olean, 100 miles from Eric. Gay-owned Bed & Breakfast. Call (716)968-3335 for more info.

Sneakers, 100 Harrison, Jamestown. (716):484-5816. 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
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
Fredonia Office (716)679-3455
Great Lakes Counseling-Ashtabula (216)992-5995
Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
Family Medical (Warren PA) 726-3310
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
Imperial Court
PA Breast Cancer Coalition 455-7833 Legal:
David Baxter, Esq 774-4163
Solymosi Law Offices, PC 452-4473
John Cooper, Esq 455-3436
Political/Advocacy Organizations:
League of Gay & Lesbian Voters
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
Menspace Larry at 835-6712
10% Network (716)484-7285 or 664-5556
Womynspace Coffeehouse Sal at 454-2713
Rainbow Connection Fred or Marshall at 726-1808
Student Organizations/Youth:
Cmte. in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People
(Allegheny College, Meadville)
Closet Culture Mail to PO Box 10274, Erie PA 16514
Covenant House Teen Hotline 1-800-999-9999
Gay & Lesbian Youth of Buffalo (716)855-0221

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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
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
GLPCI (Lesbigay parents) 814-835-4532
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)
Jamestown - YWCA Alternatives to Violence
(Domestic abuse, women and men) Daytime
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.

"Tom and I are becoming more militant. We want the same rights as straight couples to hold hands and make a public display of affection, even if we do avoid intimacy in the privacy of our own home."

---Gay comic Bob Smith



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