



Erie Gay Community Newsletter

Calendar

☛ = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

Apr 3—Dr. Jocelyn Elders Speaks at Edinboro Former Surgeon General will appear at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium. Call (814)732-2477.

Apr 6—The Embers: 2nd Birthday Bash with Sable Chanel (Miss Gay USA 1991) & Michelle Michaels 1711 State St., 454-9171

Apr 6—Womynspace Coffeehouse: Home Maintenance Tips "Come with your questions, concerns, etc. 7:30 p.m. Newcomers welcome! For info call Sal at 454-2713."

☛ Apr 6—Ballot Measure 9 Cinemax 5:10 a.m.: Documentary about how the gay community rallied to stop an anti-gay initiative campaign in Oregon.

☛ Apr 7—Rock and Roll "The Wild Side" WNED (PBS-Buffalo/Ch. 17) 3 p.m. Among the acts explored are David Bowie and The Velvet Underground.

☛ Apr 8—House of Angels (1992) Cinemax 4 a.m. Good-natured Swedish comedy about a sexy young straight woman and a gay male biker who move to an uptight small town.

☛ Apr 9—HIV/AIDS Support Group Meeting Newcomers always welcome! St. Mark's (secluded location) Info from Cheryl Weber 825-1085.

☛ Apr 9—Classroom: Tolerance in America A&E 7 a.m.

☛ Apr 9—The Ballad of Little Jo (1993) Lifetime 2 p.m. A woman passes as a man to survive in the Frontier West.

☛ April 11—Family Stories WNED (PBS-Buffalo/Ch. 17) 10 p.m. "Today, divorce, interracial marriages, gay and lesbian households and other combinations are changing the definition of a family. This program considers how these changes affect children."

☛ Apr 13—Investigative Reports: The New Skinheads A&E 12 p.m.

Apr 11—Reggae Against AIDS (Buffalo) At Nietzsche's, 248 Allen, 9 p.m. Tickets \$10, benefits AIDS Community Services. Info Michelle Rudnicki (716) 847-0212.

Apr 12—Chautauqua County Fish Fry (Fredonia) 7:00 p.m. Purely Delicious Cafe. Call Vince (716) 673-3183 for reservations. BYOM (Bring your own meat)

☛ Apr 13—2 Girls Alone! at Cup-a-Ccino's 18 N Park Row in Erie. 9pm-12am

☛ Apr 13—Menspace To find out more about Menspace, including location and topic or event, call Larry at 835-6712. Newcomers welcome!

☛ Apr 13—North Coast Men's Chorus: "That's Why I Love You—True Colors of the Rainbow" (Cleveland) 8 p.m., Cleveland State University Waetjen Auditorium, (216) 473-8919.

(continued on page 4)



<i>If your event falls this date:</i>	<i>Notify us by this date:</i>
May 16- June 15	April 15
June 16-July 15	May 15
July 16-Aug 15	June 15

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the **Erie Gay
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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 lesbian/gay 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 lesbian/gay publications, we are mainly interested in nonfiction prose. We will be happy to direct you to the many lesbian/gay publications that do welcome fiction and poetry, and we will support through free publicity any local publication that publishes lesbian/gay 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 lesbian/gay 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.

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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 Univer. Congreg/Erie, 7180 New Perry Hiway

Well Being, 710 Beaumont

Edinboro

Book Shelf, 200 Plum

Earthshine, 131 Meadville Street

Identity 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

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

Pride Picnic!

June 8

Presque Isle, Shelter 2

Representatives from all area lesbigay organizations are encouraged to get involved. Come to the meeting April 21 and bring your ideas!

For more information, call Greg at 833-3258.

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Calendar (continued from cover)

♣ **April 14—Integrity** St. Paul's Cathedral, 6 p.m. Info: 774-0903.

♣ **April 14—LGLV Meeting** 7pm. Additional officers (Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) will be elected at this meeting. See article in "Local News - NW PA." Please call 833-3258 for location.

♣ **Apr 14—American Justice: The City Hall Killings** On A&E 3:30 p.m. The tragic story of Dan White, the San Francisco politician who in 1978 snuck into City Hall with a gun, then coolly shot and killed Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor (and gay rights activist) Harvey Milk.

♣ **April 17—HIV/AIDS Service Network of Erie County** Cathedral of St. Paul. 4 p.m.

♣ **April 17—Tracey Takes On...(Romance)** HBO 11 p.m. In this episode Tracey plays the life partner of a professional golfer, played by Julie Kavner.

♣ **April 17—Courtney Love: The Hole Story and MTV Unplugged Presents Hole** Courtney Love at 9:30, MTV Unplugged 10 p.m.

♣ **April 17—Death in Venice (1971)** Cinemax 9:30 a.m. Sumptuously photographed but melancholy drama about a musician vacationing in Venice who finds himself attracted to a beautiful but unattainable youth. The film went on to win the Grand Prix at Cannes.

♣ **Apr 17—Prick Up Your Ears (1987)** Encore 11 p.m. Drama based on the life of gay playwright Joe Orton

♣ **April 18—MTV News: Inside Unplugged** On MTV 9:30 p.m. Includes interview clips with artists who've appeared on the program, including Melissa Etheridge, Nirvana, Hole, k.d. lang, Mariah Carey, and others. (Repeats April 20 at 9:30 p.m.)

♣ **April 18—MTV Unplugged Presents the Cranberries** On MTV 10 p.m.

♣ **April 18—Healing the Hate** USA 4 a.m. How to fight bigotry and hate crimes. Interesting that the same network that produced this and frequently airs it also carries the World Wrestling Federation, which recently has come under fire for promoting homophobia and gay bashing in their "fights."

♣ **April 19—Lizzy Bordon's: AIDS Benefit in memory of DJ Michael** Details in "HIV/AIDS News" page 12. Raffle, jail, and more. Show at 11 p.m. —Kozz (plus guest), Gene Brandt, and others. Admission \$2.

♣ **Apr 20—Chautauqua 10% Network Social Evening (Jamestown)** 7-11:00 p.m. Call John at (716)484-7285.

♣ **Apr 20—Laura at Cup-a-Ccino's** 18 N Park Row in Erie. 9pm-12am

♣ **Apr 21—Pride Picnic Meeting** The initial meeting to discuss the Bridges Pride Picnic involved brainstorming for ideas on activities and how to get area organizations involved. The picnic will likely include information tables and things to do for lesbians and their families. The event will again be held at Shelter 2 at Presque Isle on June 8. We encourage representatives from all lesbigay organizations to get involved in the planning for this community event. The next meeting will be held at 4 pm, at 3024 Post Avenue in Erie. Call Greg at 833-3258 for more info.

♣ **April 21—MTV Unplugged Presents Melissa Etheridge** On MTV 10-11 p.m.

♣ **Apr 22—Northern Chautauqua Co. Gay, Lesbian & Bi Support Group (Fredonia)** Call Vince at (716)673-3183.

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☛ **April 23—HIV/AIDS Support Group Meeting** Newcomers always welcome! St. Mark's (secluded location) Info from Cheryl Weber 825-1085.

☛ **Apr 23—PA Primary Elections**

☛ **Apr 23—Law & Order: Manhood** On A&E 11 p.m., 3 a.m. A hate campaign against homosexuals in the police force is revealed after a gay cop is killed because his backup arrives late.

☛ **Apr 23—The duPonts: America's Wealthiest Family** A&E 8 p.m. midnight. Also looks at John E. duPont, the "bachelor" who ran a training center on his estate for muscular wrestlers, and recently killed one of them.

☛ **Apr 24—Law & Order: Silence** On A&E 11 p.m., 3 a.m. A young politician's death leads police to a blackmailer of gay men, but his victims are too afraid of public scandal to testify.

☛ **Apr 25—Take Back the Night Rally and March** An event to raise awareness about sexual violence. *Rally* will begin at 7pm in Perry Square. The keynote speaker will be Jane Earll and a representative from the Erie Police Department. *March:* will begin after rally and end up at Gannon University Scrounge. *Reception at Scrounge:* Opportunity for participants to process; professional counselors will be there to lend support to anyone who needs to talk. Musical entertainment from Jon Sedelmyer and Denny Nemenz, and Sue Daley will join them for a few songs. *T-shirts and buttons* can be purchased at the Rally and Reception. Cup-a-Ccino's management is supportive of the event, and invite people to come over if they'd like to wait inside before the event begins. For more info call Jacquie Wade at 898-6454 (days) or 898-6232 (eve.).

☛ **Apr 26—Denni at Cup-a-Ccino's** 18 N. Park Row in Erie. 9pm-12am

☛ **Apr 27—Rainbow Families-GLPCI Gathering** Potluck lunch—playtime for kids. Bring a dish to pass (doesn't have to be a cooked dish; fruit & vegetables, snacks, salads, desserts, etc. are okay). Soft drinks provided. Call Christopher for location (Erie County). "If it's a nice day, we'll be outside." Call Judy at (716)366-1453 or Christopher at (814) 868-0069.

☛ **Apr 27—Imperial Court of Buffalo Coronation 96: The Wedding (Buffalo)** Info (716)882-8612 or (716)893-4479.

☛ **Apr 28—Breakfast with the Arts: Gielgud: Scenes from Nine Decades** On A&E 9 a.m. A comprehensive scan of the career of the prolific gay British actor Sir John Gielgud.

☛ **Apr 28—VH1 Honors** On VH1 9 p.m. Benefits Witness, international human rights organization. Features R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe, Natalie Merchant, plus Don Henley, Joan Osborne, Peter Gabriel and Rod

Stewart. If you want to check out what Witness does, catch the documentary on April 17.

☛ **Apr 28—An Evening With Elton John** Disney 9 p.m.

☛ **Apr 29—Joan Nestle of the Lesbian Herstory Archives: "Reclaiming Lesbian History" and Filmmakers Manuela Soares and Sara Yager: "Daughters of Bilitis" video (Allegheny College, Meadville)** Joan Nestle at 8 p.m., Ford Chapel. "Daughters of Bilitis" 4:30 p.m. at Douane 104, Campus Center. For full details, see "Local News - NW Pa" on page 11).

☛ **Apr 30—May Sarton, Woman of Letters** WNEQ (PBS-Buffalo/Ch. 23). A visit with lesbian author and poet May Sarton, who died in 1995. 9:30 p.m.

☛ **May 4—Womynspace: Country Western Dance** "Pull on your boots, find a bolo tie, and get ready to do some boot-scooting. If you have a favorite CD, bring it along. 7:30 pm. C'mon y'all! For info, call Sal at 454-2713. Mark July 6th now for our annual picnic."

☛ **May 6—Chautauqua County Visions Group** Call (716)484-8434 for details

☛ **May 10—Chautauqua County Fish Fry** Call Vince at (716)673-3183 for reservations.

☛ **May 18—Out and About Outdoors Group: Whitewater Rafting in Gowanda! (Chautauqua Co.)** All welcome. Call (716)366-5053 for details.

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☛ **May 18—Laura at Cup-a-Ccino's** 18 N Park Row in Erie. 9 p.m.-12 a.m.

☛ **May 18—Chautauqua County 10% Network social evening** 7-11pm in Jamestown Call John (716)484-7285

☛ **May 18—Unitarian Universalist Garage Sale** 7180 New Perry Highway. Details next month.

☛ **May 18—Menspace** To find out more about Menspace, including location and topic or event, call Larry at 835-6712. Newcomers welcome!

☛ **May 25—Memorial Day Picnic in Fredonia** All are welcome. Hot dogs and drinks provided. Bring a snack, salad, or other dish to pass. For details, call Vern at (716)679-3541

☛ **June 8—Pride Picnic at Peninsula** Details in May issue of EGCN.

☛ **July 23-28—Starwood Festival (Sherman NY)** National pagan gathering, with a good-sized gathering of Radical Faeries. Preregistration a must! Write or call them at ACE, 1643 Lee Road #9, Cleveland Hts. OH 44118 (216) 932-5421. Also note that the Great Lakes Radical Faeries will be getting together in Gowanda (also in Chautauqua Co.) the week before Starwood (Preregistration not a big problem; details in a later issue.

Festivals and Conferences

☛ **May 3-5—Pridefest Philadelphia** Film, performances, sports, literature, seminars, parties, more. 215-790-7820.

☛ **May 24-29—Memorial Day Weekend (Pensacola FL)** 35,000+ attendance, parties in beaches and bars. Info (904) 433-0353 or Christopher Street South, PO Box 2752, Pensacola FL 32513-2752.

☛ **June 1—Gay and Lesbian Day at Walt Disney World (Orlando FL)** Also, there will be events around the area (entertainment, parties, dinners and more. For information call 407-843-4297 or 407-874-5444. email at: questions@gayday.com.

☛ **August 14-21—Provincetown Carnival (Provincetown MA)** Info (800) 637-8696 or (508) 255-7979. Provincetown Business Guild, PO Box 421, Provincetown MA 02657. Make reservations early (call 800 number for accommodations info).

Calendar listings are free. and open to gay, lesbian and bisexual events in our area.

Please try to have info to us by the 15th of the month. Written info is always *strongly* preferred!

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Repeating Programs

Best of Tracey Takes On... HBO 4/7 3pm 11:30pm 4/11 7pm, 4/15 1:30pm

Boys on the Side (1995) HBO 4/7 9:30pm, 4/12 2:35am, 4/15 11:30pm, 4/25 4:35am

Ed Wood (1994) Showtime 4/18 1:35am, 4/29 2:20am.

George Michael's Concert of Hope Disney 4/7 9pm, 4/8 3:30pm, 4/17 12:15am, 4/28 12am. For Britain's National AIDS Trust and Crusade.

It's Pat (1994) Showtime 4/6 8am & 6:35pm, 4/11 9:25am, 8pm 4/14, 2:30pm, 4/25 4:45pm, 4/26 5:30am, 4/30 8am & 6:30pm

Interview With the Vampire (1994) Cinemax 4/10 8 p.m., 4/14 10pm, 4/24 12am, 4/26 10pm.

Johnny Guitar (1954) AMC 4/13 8:30pm, 4/14 2am. Joan Crawford gets ready to shoot 'em up in this western with lesbian overtones.

Marlene Dietrich: Shadow and Light AMC 4/20 12am, & 5am, 4/25 1am. Dietrich became a lesbian icon and role model for lesbians of the 1930's because of her many androgynous appearances in film, and also because of rumors (now confirmed) that she was part of Europe's lesbian scene. How much (if any) of this will be discussed in this program, we don't know.

Michael Feinstein: Sing a Song of Hollywood AMC 4/12 7:30pm, 4/25 7:30pm.

Mr. and Mrs. Loving (1996) As the gay community enters into a struggle to have their relationships made legal, it is interesting to look back on the American taboo against interracial marriage. This movie is based on a real story that overturned some terrible laws about who could marry and who could not: In the early 1960's a white man and black woman were married in Virginia, were thrown in jail on their wedding night, and were banished from the state. Why? Because until 1967, 18 states, including Virginia, outlawed interracial marriage. The woman contacted then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who brought it to the attention of the Supreme Court, which overturned these laws. On Showtime 4/9 10pm, 4/17 11:45pm, 4/26 3:05am

The Real Mr. and Mrs. Loving Profile of the couple that inspired the movie *Mr. and Mrs. Loving* (see above). Showtime 4/9 11:35pm, 4/18 1:20am, 4/26 4:40am.

Women's Basketball 4/6 1 p.m. on ABC; 4/13 at 2 p.m. on ESPN (USA vs. China).

Thanks to the people who helped with the March issue of *EGCN*!

Many thanks to Dave Mulholland, Danny, Christopher Sargent and ally Lynne Rhodes for helping us to collate the March issue of *EGCN*!

If you would like to volunteer, please give us a call at 456-9833. You needn't feel obligated to become a regular or even to stay from start to finish. Any help is always appreciated!

"We must make it clear that a platform of 'I hate gay men and women' is not a way to become president of the United States."

Former President Jimmy Carter

in an Op-Ed piece in the Los Angeles Times

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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
134 W 7th St, Erie PA 16507

For more information call (814)774-0903

Letters

I just finished being involved in a production of *The Normal Heart* at the Academy Theatre in Meadville, PA and I want to commend the Academy Theatre for being courageous enough to put on such a powerful play in a town that is not open to gays or AIDS.

I am sure that many eyes were opened to the tragedy the AIDS epidemic has put on gays and the frustrations many went through in the early 80's and are still going through now.

The production got good press and good reviews but very little support from the gay community in the area. A production about the plight of gays being affected by a strange epidemic that was causing death. A production that showed gays can love, suffer, and die just like everyone else. We are no different than anyone else. I really feel that the gay community could have shown more support.

I realize that this is a very difficult show to watch because of the rage, frustration and death (try doing it every night for five weeks) but it is enlightening and something all of us should be furious about.

For those who supported us I thank you. For those who missed the production, you missed an enlightening and very special show.

If theatres in this area are to continue to run shows of this caliber they must have support from everyone.

Thank you
Rob Santos

Editors reply:


Do any of our readers want to address this?

The Erie Playhouse's wonderful production of Falsettos (1994) was also poorly attended by the local gay community. Both The Normal Heart and Falsettos received major publicity in the local media (and were publicized and advertised in EGCN), so the gay community was certainly aware of them.

On the other hand, there was a lot of gay support for the Roadhouse Theater's productions of Vampire Lesbians of Sodom and The Rocky Horror Show.

Is it simply that we have a strong preference for lighter material?

What do you think?



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Erie, PA 16501

Additions to Time Capsule

By Deb Spilko

In the December issue, which was included in the Bicentennial Time Capsule, I wrote a short history of the LesBiGay community in this area.

There were a number of landmarks that were left out of that history. These additions will also be included in the Bicentennial Time Capsule which will be buried in April (the Capsule's burial was originally scheduled for First Night Erie, but will be rescheduled). Anyone using the first history article from the Bicentennial Time Capsule issue should include add these items.

There are certain terrible things which must be omitted from this article because we simply do not have enough information at this time. For example, a number of people in the Erie area have been killed because they were gay. Research still needs to be done in tallying those lost to homophobic violence. More—countless more—have been attacked verbally or physically. Some, filled with a self-hatred instilled in them by a homophobic society, have taken their own lives.

Again I must point out that there are bound to be other omissions to this history, even with the additions I am including here. Also, again, I apologize in advance for anyone who belongs here but was left out. If you feel something should have been included but was not, send the information to EGCN. It will not arrive in time for the Time Capsule, but will be included in an addendum to institutions that will be receiving sets of EGCN for their collections.

Hopefully, others more knowledgeable about local history will improve upon these first attempts, and people will come forth and tell their stories and experiences. I would like to see people coming forward with their own memories of times past, to move beyond this simple outline and bring our histories (and "her" stories) to life.

1974—Correction: Homophile League (Edinboro) Ted Goodman and Harry Miller helped to get this organization started (the League would later become Edinboro Gay Organization, then Identity). In the history article that I wrote, Ted was mistakenly referred to as Ted Matthews.

circa 1985-86—Liza's Hideaway For a short time in the mid 1980's Meadville had a gay bar, located near Conneaut Lake Park.

1986—Gay Catholic Conference A conference of lesbian and gay Catholics, and Catholics who support their

inclusion in the Church, was held at Mount St. Benedict. Nationally-known speakers were in attendance.

1987—Leeward Lounge opens in Ashtabula A gay bar, and center of Ashtabula's gay community, it is still in existence today.

1992 and 1994—Pioneers in HIV/AIDS Awareness in Erie County At this writing, HIV and AIDS still carries with it a stigma, and for people in the Erie area who have the disease, it is still difficult for them to acknowledge their status. At this writing, only two people have acknowledged in the mass media that they have HIV. In 1992, **Walter Kramer** became the first person in Erie County to publicly state that he had HIV. **DonPaul Lucas**, who was infected with the virus by blood products he uses because he has hemophilia, announced on television on World AIDS Day 1994 that he had HIV. He has stayed in Erie and become a tireless HIV/AIDS educator and the first openly HIV-positive "AIDS activist" in this community.

1993

May—Erie Gay Community Newsletter: Lambda Foundation grant In the description of the early days of this publication, omitted was the fact that EGCN received a \$1,500 grant from the Pittsburgh-based Lambda Foundation, which helped the new publication get off the ground.

October—First to come out publicly on "Coming Out Day" Because most lesbigay people are still "in the closet" at this point in time, a yearly event called Coming Out Day (October 11) calls for lesbians, bisexuals, and gays to come out about who they are. In October of 1993, two lesbians, Dee Dee Foll and Kim Manno, bravely appeared on WLKK-radio to come out.

(continued on next page)

Children of the future Age
Reading this indignant page.
Know that in a former time
Love, sweet Love! was thought a crime.

William Blake
(1757-1827)

1994

January—Three area college groups meet Perhaps for the first time ever, three LesBiGay college groups meet to discuss networking. They are Allegheny's Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People, Penn State Behrend's Trigon, and the Edinboro Gay Organization.

February—Nick Krayger becomes first out gay student at Mercyhurst Krayger came out in an article in the school paper.

February—Allegheny College observes Stonewall 25 In observance of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, Allegheny College's Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People brought in historian Martin Duberman, nationally-known gay singing group the Flirtations, plus workshops, videos, lectures, and a production of Cabaret. Also during this time, work was being done to establish a gay and lesbian studies program at Allegheny—making that school one of the few in the country to do so.

April—Edinboro Gay Organization celebrates Stonewall 25 EGO sponsored an art exhibit to celebrate Stonewall 25.

June—First publicly-announced same-sex wedding Micheal Miller and Michael Mahler were married (they also use the term "handfasted", the Pagan term) on June 18 in a ceremony at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie.

Summer—Gay-friendly store in Chautauqua Co. Pathways, located in Fredonia NY, was probably the first bookstore in Chautauqua Co. to carry a gay and lesbian books section.

September—Clarification: First same-sex 2nd partner adoption This appeared in the original article I wrote. However, it seems to indicate that this was the first such adoption in Erie County. In fact, it was probably the first in western Pennsylvania, and was certainly one of the first in the state.

October—Cocoon Opens October. First store in Erie to carry a sizable amount of merchandise geared to LesBiGay customers. (Rainbow flags, jewelry, buttons, etc.)

October—Gay Psychiatrist comes out in Jamestown On Coming Out Day, Dr. Chris Kaczmarek came out in a guest editorial in the Jamestown *Post Journal*. The editorial discussed the importance of coming out.

November—Jamestown activist receives social justice award Gregory P. Rabb was awarded the T. Richard Parker Award of Social Justice by the First Unitarian Society of Jamestown, for his work in protecting the civil rights and psychological well-being of gays and lesbians.

1995

Spring—Franklin Pa. transsexual runs for office Kristine Holt, a transsexual who had been fighting for the job she said she lost because of a gender change, ran for Venango Co. Commissioner. Although she lost the election (she was about in the middle of the field in terms of votes), but she won national attention.

Fall—Informal LesBiGay Group at Gannon University A group that was not officially recognized by the University began meeting to address the needs of students there. There was some criticism, particularly from some of the priests on the faculty.

November—Hate crimes article appears in Erie Sunday Times In a feature on hate crimes, a separate article dealt with Greg Valiga, head of LGLV-Erie was interviewed. The article was pretty sensitive.

1996

January—Start of Erie area chapter of Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International There was a call put out for people to organize this parents support group, which at this writing seems to be generating a lot of interest.



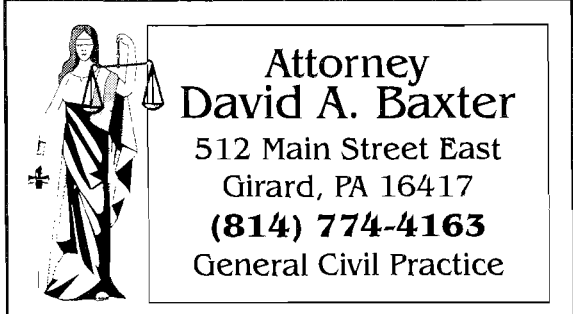
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Lesbian "Herstory" at Allegheny

"Reclaiming Lesbian Herstory—The Lesbian Herstory Archives: its vision, its resources, its 20 year herstory," a slide show and lecture, will be presented by Joan Nestle, Archive cofounder and coordinator, at Allegheny College Ford Chapel, 8:00 pm on April 29.

The Lesbian Herstory Archives was founded in 1973 "to gather and preserve records of Lesbian lives and activities so that future generations will have ready access to materials relevant to their lives (Feminist Review 34, Spring 1990)." The slide show has been developed as a tool for bringing the texts of the archives to the public. Images of the great diversity of identities—from lipstick and butch lesbians to separatists and Goddess-worshippers—give representation to and engage the entire lesbian community.

In addition to cofounding the Lesbian Herstory Archive, Joan Nestle is a well-established scholar and author, with special emphasis on works of interest to lesbians. Joan Nestle has won such prestigious awards as the 1994 Sappho Award of Literary Distinction, presented by Astraea, National Lesbian Action Foundation. Her books include *Sister and Brother: Lesbians and Gay Men Write About Their Lives Together*, 1994 Lambda Book Award winner for Best Non-Fiction Anthology, and *Worlds Unspoken: A Collection of International Lesbian Short Fiction*. Joan Nestle teaches at Queens College, CUNY.

Prior to Nestle's lecture, Manuela Soares and Sara Yager will speak about their work on the Daughters of Bilitis documentary video project at 4:30 pm in Doane Hall Room 104 at the Campus Center. The Daughters of Bilitis, founded in San Francisco, is the oldest Lesbian group in the United States. Soares and Yager will show clips from their soon-to-be-released video and speak about "The Ladder," the group's magazine no longer in existence. Soares will also speak about her newly released book of photographic images documenting butch-femme images in Lesbian culture. Both events are free and open to the public.

The presentation is sponsored by the Allegheny Concentration in Lesbian & Gay Studies and the Committee in Support of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals with a grant from The Lambda Foundation. For more information, contact Ernest Schwartz at (814)337-2307.

LGLV elections

The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters will be holding elections at their next regular meeting, April 14. Positions of Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer will be filled at that time. Any paid active League member is eligible to vote.

The League would also like to thank Greg Valiga, who will remain an active member of the League but is not seeking reelection to the chair, for his years of hard work and leadership.

For those interested in taking a more positive active role in the struggle for lesbian rights, now is the time to consider becoming a League member. Several projects are in their initial stages and people of all talents are needed. If you can do nothing else, the League urges you to consult our *Voters Guide* before you vote.

Gannon Student Group seeks survey respondents

The Informal Lesbian Student Group is looking for students from Gannon University to fill out official surveys, designed to aid in the writing of the new Pastoral Statement concerning gay and lesbian students. These forms can be obtained from Jill Alexander in the Counseling and Career Services office, or from anyone else on the committee.

These need to be filled out immediately, so please take the time to do so, and help make Gannon a better school for everyone.

Obituary

Wilfredo Rodriguez, a.k.a. Sasha Vega, died on March 19 of AIDS complications. He was 32. An actor, dancer, choreographer and female impersonator of national stature, Sasha toured drag show venues from coast to coast. He also held many drag pageant titles, including Miss Pennsylvania Female Impersonator USA 1994-1995. Sasha is survived by his family, friends, the many performers he unselfishly encouraged, his Pennsylvania promoter Mathius Gertz and his New York promoter and longtime friend, Carlos Guerra. Donations in his name can be made to We the People Living with AIDS/HIV of the Delaware Valley,



HIV/AIDS News

Lizzy's memorial AIDS benefit

By Mary

On April 19, 1996, Lizzy Bordon's will host an AIDS benefit. The benefit is being held in honor of Michael who was employed at Lizzy Bordon's as our DJ. Michael passed away on February 3, 1996.

The evening's events will include a raffle, our infamous jail and a show. The show will start around 11:00 and will include Rozz (and guest), Ginger, Gene Brandt and others. Cover for the benefit will be \$2.00.

As part of the benefit, we will also be selling rainbow flags. These flags can be purchased in the coming weeks, through April 19, for a \$1.00 donation. The flags will then be displayed throughout the bar.

All proceeds from the benefit and the sale of the flags will be donated to the Northwest Rural AIDS alliance in Michael's name.

If anyone would like to make a donation to the benefit or would like more information, please see Stevie or any staff member at Lizzy Bordon's.

Please come out on April 19 and show your support in the fight against AIDS.

My Tear for AIDS

By Kelvin Wheeler

I have a tattoo on my face. It is a small tear drop painted in red. This is my tear for AIDS. I wear it much like the pink triangle gays had to wear or the tattoos put on Jews.

People will tell me that I got something on my face. Or why do I have that red tear drop. I will tell them it is my tear for AIDS. I will also tell them that I have AIDS, therefore introducing yet another person to AIDS. I hope that they will not be afraid to ask, to be curious or want to learn.

My tear is also symbolic of the tears that have been shed for those who have died. I know these tears will not last forever. And if you see a red tear on my face, think of AIDS and what you can do to help.

Condoms save lives

Dr. Jocelyn Elders to speak

Former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders will be speaking at Edinboro on April 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Memorial Auditorium. (Info: 732-2477).

Also, she will be appearing at a conference on HIV/AIDS in October. The conference will be held at Chautauqua, and is a joint effort of several organizations. More details as they become available.

Sexual assertiveness training promotes safer sex

By Rick Guasco, reprinted from *Positively Aware*

A study conducted by a University of Alabama behaviorist finds that African-American women who took sexual assertiveness classes were twice as likely to use condoms consistently as those who had taken a two-hour AIDS information course. The classes taught women how to put a condom on their partner, to express their desires more firmly, and to cope with sexual situations in which one or both partners have been drinking.

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Just some thoughts

By DonPaul Lucas

This month I'd like to address a few topics that have been concerning me.

First off, a commercial message for the HIV support group, which is held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a meeting I try to attend as often as possible. (Because of my educational schedule, I can't always make it). Cheryl Weber and/or Father Mike McGraw make the evenings lively and informational. The support group has taken on a new face recently, so to speak. There are now scheduled topics each meeting. Recent discussions have focused on families, spirituality and a local dermatologist. Future topics are printed under the Calendar section of the EGCN. We're an informal group, so open discussion is always encouraged. Don't be dissuaded from coming just because of a week's topic. And there is ample time before and after the meeting to network or to get any questions answered. For more information, call Cheryl Weber at 825-1085. New people are always welcome.

I was very concerned by the information released by the President's Commission on AIDS a few weeks ago. 80,000 new HIV infections a year predicted, one-half under the age of 25, one-fourth under the age of 19. 40,000 new infections a year in people under the age of 25. And school districts are afraid to let anybody talk to their preteens about HIV/AIDS. When are people going to wake up?

A second protease inhibitor was approved by the FDA on March 1, 1996. The newest studies indicate that the triple drug combination (AZT, 3TC, and one of the protease inhibitors) is very effective at controlling HIV disease. A third protease inhibitor is expected to be approved in the next few weeks. Many doctors now feel that HIV disease may become a chronic but manageable condition. Some good news for a change.

As was mentioned last month the entire NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in Wash-

ington DC the weekend of October 11-13, 1996. The Quilt will be displayed on the Mall running the thirteen blocks from the Capitol to the White House. It promises to be a powerful statement and unforgettable sight. Hopefully plans can be made to take a group from the Erie area. Stay tuned for more information.

On a related note, the panel makers are still meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. If you have someone you would like to remember by making a panel, or if you are interested in remembering all those who have died, please contact Sue Kuebler at St. Paul's at 452-3779. Panel making can be very healing (and the group tries to make it enjoyable.)

Until next time,

Safe Journey
DonPaul Lucas

**Remember: NAMES Project AIDS Quilt
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What makes a family?

By Sharon Sutter

I work at a local nursing home, and for a year or so my aunt was a resident there. Most of my co-workers knew this, although some were unsure.

One night, my aunt's granddaughter (my cousin's daughter) came in to visit. After passing a few pleasantries with me at the desk, she went back to see my aunt.

"That's your cousin, right?" a co-worker asked.

"That's right," I affirmed.

She nodded. "Nice girl. I knew she was your cousin."
"Oh?"

"Yep. I could tell. It's in the eyes. She looks just like you around the eyes."

"The eyes," I smiled.

"The eyes," my co-worker stressed, then returned to her duties.

I was reminded of this incident while reading the Advocate recently. The article discusses the nation's "10 Worst Congressman." Two of the congressmen profiled make remarks about families. One refutes domestic partnerships with the idea that it is "not the definition of family" that he grew up with. The other wants only to "honor traditional families."

But what, after all, is a family? My cousin and I may resemble each other about the eyes, but we are not connected in any biological way. Her mother, my aunt's daughter, and my first cousin, was adopted over 40 years ago. We share no genetic history, just family history.

We share traditions, such as the big family picnic in July at my uncle's house. We share memories, such as

visits to Florida, past holidays, and family tragedies. We share my aunt.

I think the one thing the congressmen (and others) forget is that family is not made of genetics, it is made of love. If the person I love is of the same sex, so what? Through the years, we will share traditions, build new ones, and (if we choose) raise a child. That sounds like the definition of any family I know of.

People don't become "family" because of any convention of society. Instead, they become family because they choose to love another person unselfishly, making that person's happiness a primary goal in life.

My eyes are blue. My cousin's daughter has hazel eyes. But we've seen the summer heat shimmer off the water at my uncle's picnic. We've laughed with delight at my aunt's jokes. We've smiled in joy watching the youngest members of the family as they've taken their first steps. Our eyes have shared a lot. Take a close look at the person you love most—I'll bet you see a resemblance around the eyes, too.



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Families

GLPCI has new number

Please note: Erie's Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International has a new contact number: It's (814) 868-0069. Contact person is still Chris Sargent.

Same-sex marriage update

The Hawaiian State Senate passed the nation's first domestic partner bill that would cover same-sex couples. Commentators noted that the action, was taken because of legislators' nervousness over a court ruling that could legalize same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

The Hawaiian Supreme Court will rule on a case involving three gay couples who wish to be legally married. If the Court rules in their favor, it would set a precedent, and other states might have to recognize those marriages.

Reacting to concerns over same-sex marriage, almost half of all states are considering or have passed legislation banning same-sex marriages. Utah and South Dakota have already passed such laws, but they were defeated in Alaska and Virginia. No such legislation has come up in the state legislatures of Pennsylvania, New York or Ohio.

Study: Sibling order may determine sexual orientation

A recent study indicates that the more older brothers a male has, the more likely he is to be gay. The study was published in the January issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry.

PFLAG News

The national office of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has warned Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network to stop trying to prevent PFLAG's ads off the air. The ads make the connection between anti-gay violence and Robertson's anti-gay message. PFLAG alleges that Robertson and CBN have applied enormous pressure on broadcasters that might air the ads. PFLAG has hired a legal firm to see their threat through.

PFLAG is also testifying before congress about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

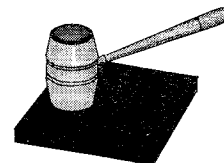
Sharon Bottoms denied custody again

Once again, lesbian mother Sharon Bottoms has been denied custody of her son, Tyler. Two years ago, Bottoms lost custody of her son because Judge William G. Boice considered her "lesbian lifestyle" rendered her an unfit mother. Bottoms lost a series of appeals, and then ended up in front of Boice again, who again denied her custody. Boice was particularly critical of the fact that Bottoms and her partner April Wade had been involved in the making of an ABC made-for-TV movie about the case, called *For the Love of Tyler*.

Tyler, now four years old will remain with Bottoms mother Kay Bottoms, who sued Sharon for custody of the boy.

Judge Boice's decision contradicts the advice of Torrence Harman, the guardian appointed to monitor Tyler. Harman said she felt that Kay Bottoms was doing a poor job of raising the boy, and told Boice, "This child

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is not doing well...Unless there is some radical change, my gut feeling says the child is going to be an abusive young boy."

Earth Day Notes

If you want to support an environmental organization that supports gay rights, note that the Sierra Club last year gave domestic partners benefits to same-sex partners of employees.

Judge: Killer dad gets custody, not lesbian mom

PENSACOLA, Fla., January 31—Circuit Court Joseph Tarbuck, a Florida judge has ruled that an 11-year-old girl would be better off with her killer father than her lesbian mom. In discussing his decision, Tarbuck did not mention the fact that the father, John Ward, is a convicted murderer who served eight years in prison for killing his first wife. He did cite the fact that Mary Ward lives with her partner, and that "R" rated movies are watched in the household. The decision will be appealed

and, Ward's 24-year-old daughter plans to testify that he tried to sexually molest her when she was 14 years old.

Does the gay marriage issue matter to Republican voters?

The issue of same-sex marriage has been thrown around during this campaign year, especially in the Republican primaries. But does a candidates stand on that issue affect how people will vote? According to a Human Rights Campaign survey of New Hampshire Republicans, only a minority would support a candidate who came out against same-sex marriage. Here's how the numbers broke down.

49% The issue of legal makes no difference.

32% Somewhat or much less supportive of a candidate who signed a pledge opposing "gay marriage."

18% Much more supportive of a candidate who signed a pledge opposing "gay marriage."

62% Strongly disapprove or feel it is wrong to use gay to score political points.

20% Were glad the politicians were raising the anti-marriage issue.

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—Lucinda Marsh

AIDS

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Entertainment Notes

Film & Video

There's a little bit of controversy regarding **Lily Tomlin** and her participation in the production of **The Celluloid Closet**. It seems that Tomlin, who narrated the documentary, had agreed to come out publicly when the documentary was released, and now she's apparently changed her mind. (*The Celluloid Closet* examines the depiction of gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the movies.) Armistead Maupin, who wrote the narration, is furious with Tomlin's balking. In an article in *The Village Voice*, he said "My feeling was it [the narrator] should either be an open gay person or a sympathetic straight person. Instead, I have to endure the cruel irony of a film called *The Celluloid Closet* narrated by a closeted person!"

The **Kids in the Hall's** new movie **Brain Candy**, will be in theatres April 12.

Birdcage began its first week of release at #1 on the movie charts, and continued that in its second week (the only weeks we have info for). Although **Nathan Lane** (who

played the flamboyant Albert in the movie) dodged the question of his own sexual orientation in an interview with *The Advocate*, in an article in the March 25 *Newsweek*, reviewer Jack Krul basically outed him. In explaining why Lane would have such a feel for the role of Albert, Krul wrote, "As a gay man he would know."

The Movie Stop reports "lots of 'Girlfriend' movies this month": **Moonlight and Valentino** ("a bittersweet talkfest"), **Now and Then** (4/16), and **Waiting to Exhale** (4/23). Some other recent acquisitions: **Belle du Jour** (re-release of the sensuous Catherine Deneuve film), **Unzipped** (humorous documentary about gay fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi), **Just Like a Woman** (straight drag comedy), **Goodnight Sweet Marilyn** (about Marilyn Monroe's death), **Safe and Prelude to a Kiss** (both have been called an AIDS allegories), and **Rocky Horror Picture Show** (uhhh, defies short descriptions).

(continued on next page)



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Theater

Right now, there is an explosion of theater with gay themes (particularly gay male themes) going on. One playwright said homophobic Broadway fans are out of luck these days, because gay subject matter is all over the scene.

Most Americans—gay or straight—aren't aware of the special pleasures of live theater. If you haven't tried the theater experience, why not check it out? Dinner and theater can make a delightful date or activity with friends. A good place to start would be with the Roadhouse Theater's production of the gay comedy *Jeffrey*, playing through April 20.

If we want to see works that reflect our lives and our community, let's support productions that do that! It's one of the most enjoyable ways there is to help our community!

Sports

Even if you aren't into figure skating, the story of out gay skater **Rudy Galindo** is truly inspiring. The new men's national skating champ and winner of the bronze medal in the world competition, this guy truly beat the odds. Coming out of poverty, he (with the help and support of a loving family) won the world junior championship in 1987 and the national pairs-skating title (with Kristi Yamaguchi) in 1989 and 1990. After his coach and mentor died of AIDS, Yamaguchi split with Galindo, and his fortunes began to change. He attributes some of his lowered scores to the judges' homophobia and dislike of his balletic and "light" (read "effeminate") style of skating. Then a second coach died of AIDS. He turned to his sister and told her she was the only one he wanted as coach. Still struggling (he didn't have the

money to buy new skates for the U.S. competition in January), Galindo became the national men's champion figure skater, beating out three-time champ Todd Eldridge in an upset of historic proportions. And while Galindo didn't win the gold medal in March's world competition (Eldridge was won the big prize), his stunning performance brought the crowd to its feet. By the way, Christine Brennan recently published *Inside Edge: A Revealing Journey Into the Secret World of Figure Skating*, which contains an interview with Galindo.

Professional golfer **Muffin Spencer-Devlin** came out in the March 18 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, making her the first LPGA player to do so. In the article, Spencer-Devlin described the importance of coming out and announced plans to marry Lynda Roth in May.

Travel

We'd like our readers to tell us about their travel experiences. Don't get intimidated over it...just tell us about your trip(s) as if you were writing a letter to a friend! Also, check out some of the travel info on the next page.

Television

Roseanne's new variety show (*Saturday Night Special*) will premiere on FOX on April 13 (at 11pm) and run for six weeks. Look for plenty of LesBiGay content (gay comedian **Bob Smith** says he has been contacted about writing for the show). Also, Roseanne's ABC sitcom has been renewed for a ninth season.

Speaking of gay writers, the Writers Guild recognized gay writer **Joe Keenan** for his work on the NBC comedy *Frasier*.

Ellen DeGeneres seems to be getting a little bolder in regards to gay issues. Since appearing in *Mr. Wrong*, she says this will be her last romantic comedy, indicating she'd have a hard time with certain romantic scenes. She's also making more remarks about her friends accepting her just the way she is (!) The February 28 episode of *Ellen* showed the show's occasionally recurring gay male characters getting engaged. Also, during that episode, which centered around Paige's engagement, the three female characters are seen looking at bridal magazines. The following dialog took place.

Ellen: (*pointing to a photo*) I like that one.

Paige: Ellen, that's a tux.

Ellen: So?



Toronto Correction

There was a type in last month's issue article about visiting Toronto. Please note that the correct number for general visitors info is **1-800-363-1990**. Also, credit for that article should correctly go to Tourism Toronto/Metropolitan Toronto Convention & Visitors Association.

Free Travel Info

These places offer general travel info (i.e., not geared toward LesBiGay travelers or any other particular group). Ask for visitors information, and they'll send you a packet about places to sightsee, museums, restaurants, events, accommodations, places to shop, interesting neighborhoods, maps, parks, and such. Allow two weeks.

And have a nice trip!

Ashtabula Ashtabula Area Chamber of Commerce, 436 Main, Ashtabula OH. 216-998-6998

Buffalo Greater Buffalo Convention and Visitors Bureau, 107 Delaware Ave., Buffalo NY 14202-2801 716-852-0511

Cleveland Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland, Terminal Tower, Cleveland OH (800)321-1001.

Erie Erie Area Chamber of Commerce 1006 State Street, Erie PA 16501 (814) 454-7191

Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, 101 West 5th, Jamestown NY (716)484-1101.

Meadville Crawford Co. Chamber of Commerce, 211 Chestnut, PO Box 1288, Meadville PA 16335. (814)333-1258.

No. Chautauqua Co. Northern Chautauqua Chamber of Commerce, 212 Lakeshore Dr. W., Dunkirk NY 14049 (716) 366-6200.

Pittsburgh Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau, 4 Gateway Center, Pittsburgh PA 15222 (412)281-7711 24-hour activities hotline (800)366-0093.

Toronto Metropolitan Toronto Convention & Visitors Association Queens Quay Terminal at Harbourfront, 207 Queens Quay W., Toronto Ontario M5J 1A7 Canada (use 46¢ postage!) or call (800) 363-1990.

Warren Warren Co. Chamber of Commerce, 315 2nd Ave., Warren PA (814) 723-3050.

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

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

Hey ho and happy spring!

Micheal and I are planning on going to see *Jeffrey* at the Roadhouse Theatre, which looks like it should be pretty good.

I am writing this just after we got back from seeing *The Birdcage* with a group of friends. Micheal and I were the only gay people in our group. We all enjoyed it immensely, as did the rest of the audience, which included a nice cross section of people-senior women, straight, etc. There was something nice about seeing women who could have been your grandmother at a film that validates a gay couple and gay folks in general.

The night before I was watching *Politically Incorrect* on Comedy Central and the topic of same-sex marriage came up. There were 5 people sitting on the panel and they were all straight. The only person who thought that gay people should continued to be denied marriage rights was a Republican women. She prefaced the statement by stating she expected to be booed and she had no problems with gay people doing commitment ceremonies or making legal arrangements. Bill Maher, the host, asked why we should have to make special arrangements for something straights can get as a matter of course. He also cited polls and films such as *The Birdcage* as evidence that maybe the people of this country were ahead of politicians. Incredibly cool, huh? A mainstream program (among a growing number) takes it for granted that gay people are real people who fall in love and want to make lifetime commitments and should have equal access like everybody else.

Check out the EGCN Web Page!

Latebreaking news, Pointers to area
lesbigay resources, and more.
Help us develop this idea with your input
or just check us out!
Web site address is

<http://www.ncinter.net/~egcn/>

MediAlert

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

Classy video . . . "A Safe Place For Questions" is a new video and resource guide developed by Support Services for Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Youth, a program of the San Francisco Unified School District. The package is "intended for educators who are interested in creating a safe school environment for sexual minority youth."

The resource guide is comprehensive in scope, covering everything from counseling issues to curriculum development. The video, suitable for classroom use, features students who describe the program's benefits.

For more information, contact: Support Services for GLB Youth, School Health Programs Dept. - SFUSD, 1512 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115, tel. 415-749-3400, fax 415-749-3420.

Rights & wrongs . . . Homophobes are especially fond of the claiming "gays want SPECIAL rights." Because homosexuals suffer from no extraordinary discrimination, they argue, we deserve no "extraordinary protections." Unfortunately, this argument has been repeated regularly — often without serious challenge — in the mainstream press.

Yet, the anti-gay legislative efforts orchestrated by various Religious Right cabals clearly reveal the truth behind this lie. Across the country, professional homophobes are seeking the SPECIAL RIGHT TO DISCRIMINATE against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens; at the local, state and federal levels, anti-gay legislation hopes to secure and advance THE EXTRAORDINARY PROTECTIONS AND PRIVILEGES OF HETEROSEXUALITY.

People For The American Way (PFAW) recently issued a "State and Local Anti-Gay Initiatives & Legislation Report" (February 1996). Useful as a resource for media makers or media watchers, this report provides "a sample of the range of anti-gay activities taking place and a source of selected information."

For more information, contact: Alison Streit, PFAW, 2000 M Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036, tel. 202-467-2338, fax 202-293-2672, e-mail astreit@pfaw.org.

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 egcn@ncinter.net 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 4th Mon 7 - 9 pm, also fish fry 2nd Friday of the month. Call Vince 716-6733183 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 CSGLBP, Box 186, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA 16335. Call Paula at (814) 332-4356 or Erny at 332-4375. Email to Roy Cerise at csglbp@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.

Gay & Lesbian Parents Coalition International
Erie Chapter of GLPCI now forming. Support, advocacy, and education for gay and lesbian parents and their families. All parents interested, please call 814-868-0069 for information or email glpcerie@aol.com

HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of St. Paul Cathedral
Call (814) 452-3779.

Identity
Student group for lesbian & allies at Edinboro University. Meets every Wed at 8:30 pm in Hendricks Hall, Rm 125. Social activities (☺). Call Christie Hudson at 732-3779 or Dr. Dave Herendeen at 732-2555. Email to Christie at C602897H@edinboro.edu or write to Identity, c/o Dr. Herendeen, Edinboro University, Heather Hall, Edinboro, PA 16440

Informal Lesbian Student Group of Erie
Now forming. Email to ILSGErie@aol.com

Integrity

A Christian-based spiritual and support group, sponsored by the Episcopal 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/gay 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 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. 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 kidithart@aol.com

Menspace

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

P F L A G

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, 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)366-1453 or Patrick at 881-1878. Write to: PO Box 254; 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 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

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 Coffeeshouse

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@ncinter.net). 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 lesbian/gay resources and web searchers. We're your one stop for info. The Web Site address is:

<http://www.ncinter.net/~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

CISGLBP/Allegheny College jgolden@alleg.edu
Chautauqua Cty NY Groups courtney@fredonia.edu
Closet Culture j586113s@edinboro.edu
EGCN/Bridges egn@ncinter.net
GLPCI-Erie glpcier@aol.com
Identity C602897H@edinboro.edu
Informal Lesbian/gay 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
Trigon vls121@email.psu.edu
..... or alr126@email.psu.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/Columbia County

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 - 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

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 Wed thru Sat 10 pm - 2 am. Pool table.

Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th. 833-4059. Open Mon-Sat. 9pm-2am. DJ Music: Wed-Country Line Dancing. Fri & Sat-90's Dance Music. 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
 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
 (412)521-5444

Imperial Court 266 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo NY

Health:

PA Breast Cancer Coalition 455-7833
 Patrick McNamara, Licensed Massage Therapist
 716-595-3801

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 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
 Rainbow Connection ... Fred or Marshall at 726-1808

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 16514*
 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)366-4153 or 881-1878
 EAGLES (Gay/Lesbian Elders) (716)882-2959
 GLPCI (Lesbigay parents) 814-868-0069
 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.

***If your event falls
 on this date:***

***Notify us by
 this date:***

**May 16- June 15
 June 16-July 15
 July 16- Aug 15**

**April 15
 May 15
 June 15**

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paul
RUDNICK

directed
by
richard
DAVIS

In this, the most out (and outrageous) romantic comedy written today, Paul Rudnick skewers every gay stereotype imaginable while fearlessly celebrating that makes the gay lifestyle so compelling and controversial.

"Wildly funny...Just the sort of play Oscar Wilde might have written had he lived in 1990's Manhattan." —*Stephen Hold, NY Times*

"The hottest ticket off-Broadway...even with AIDS lurking in the background, JEFFREY sparkles...Mr. Rudnick...has come up with some of the funniest lines and deftest gimmicks on stage today...He is a master of one-liners" —*Wall Street Journal*

"the laughter along the way is a battle cry, a defiant expression of who these idiosyncratic characters were before AIDS arrived, and who they will still be after it has gone," —*Frank Rich, NY Times*

The Story

Jeffrey, a gay actor/waiter, has sworn off sex after too many bouts with his partners about what is "safe" and what is not. In gay New York, though, sex is not something you can avoid. Whether catering a ditzy socialite's "Hoe-down for AIDS" or cruising at a funeral; at the gym or in the back rooms of an anonymous sex club; at the annual Gay Pride Parade, or in the libidinous hands of a father-confessor, Jeffrey finds the pursuit of love and just plain old physical gratification to be the number one preoccupation of his times—and the source of plenty of hilarity. Suddenly, after he's reconciled himself to celibacy, Jeffrey's flamboyant friends introduce him to the man of his dreams, who also happens to be HIV positive. What follows is an audacious and moving romantic comedy with a difference—one in which the quest for love and really fabulous clothes meet, and where unflinching humor prevails even when tragedy might be just around the corner.

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