

Calendar

Feb 3—In the Life 9 pm on WNEQ (PBS-Buff./Ch.23) Monthly gay and lesbian newsmagazine.

☛ **Feb 6—New Jamestown HIV/AIDS Support Group Meets** For HIV infected & affected people at 1115 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown NY. Call Hop and Cindy Chase at (716)488-1070 for more info.

☛ **Feb 8—Menspace meets "Shades of Scarlet" Valentine's Party** Wear something red. New members welcome. This month's gathering will be hosted by J&J! They are looking forward to hosting their first Menspace event. 7:30 pm. For information and location, call Michael at 456-9833.

☛ **Feb 9—LGLV-Erie Meets** Winter meeting time is now 6:00pm. Call Dave Mulholland at 898-4210 for more info.

☛ **Feb 9—Intimate Portrait: Queen Latifah** Lifetime 1:30 p.m.

Feb 10—Friends from the Heart Meets 6pm at Well Being Center, 710 Beaumont. Call Deb Monohon at 838-0123 for more info.

Feb 11—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets: Note new winter hours: 6:30-8pm (same location.) Call Cheryl Weber at 825-1085 for more info.

Feb 11—Mardi Gras Benefit at Nietzsche's (Buffalo) Costumes, bands, Cajun food, New Orleans drinks. Cover charge not determined at this time. Benefits Amy Clinic (alternative

health clinic). For info call Jamie at 716-881-6604 or AIDS Community Services 716-847-0340. Nietzsche's is at 248 Allen.

☛ **Feb 11—The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love (1995)** HBO2 at 2:45 am.

☛ **Feb 11—You Can Do Anything** A&E 7am. "Role models of our time share the ingredients that enabled them to find their personal paths to success. Features Maya Angelou and Julius 'Dr. J' Erving."—A&E Monthly

☛ **Feb 13—Party Girl (1995)** Showtime 1:50 am. Comedy about a straight party-loving woman; lots of gay guys and transvestites in her scene.

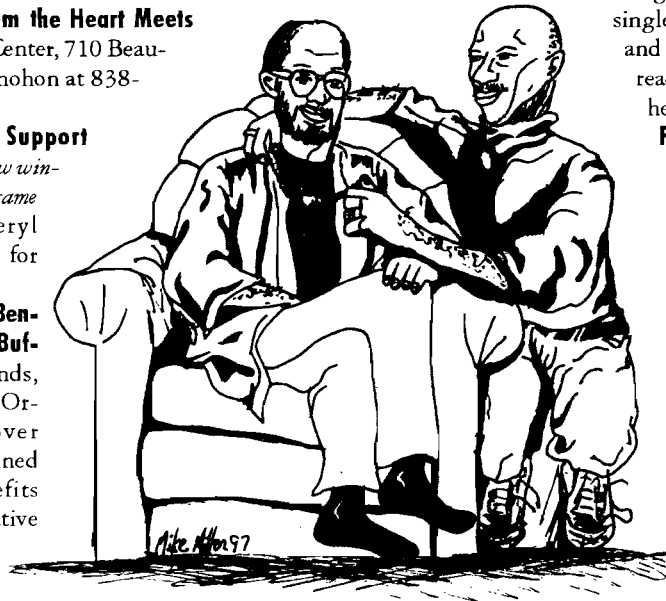
☛ **Feb 13—Tracey Ullman Show** None of us here has seen this episode ("Girl Bar Brawl") but it looks like it could be funny. Comedy Central 12:30 p.m.

☛ **Feb 14—Nobody Loves Me (1995)** German comedy centering around a straight white single woman looking for love, and a gay black psychic palm-reading healer who tries to find her a mate. Cinemax 4:15 am.

Feb 15—10% Network: BUS TRIP CANCELLED!!!! May be rescheduled for spring. Instead there will be a regular 10% Network gathering at the Unitarian Church. Call John at (716) 484-7285 for more info.

☛ **Feb 15—Designing Women: "Killing All the Right People"** Lifetime 2 p.m. A young man with AIDS comes to Sugarbaker's with

Continued on page 3



In this issue...

Calendar	1
Repeating TV progs	5
February at Cups	5
Theater Review	6
Entertainment notes	6
Local news	8
Michael Dithers	8
Gannon's New Policy towards Gays	9
I'm a Believer	10
Shades: A Lesbians of Color Organization	11
HIV/AIDS News - WNY	12
Sex & Health	13
MediAction	14
EGCN Personals	16
Resource Directory	16
E-Mail	19

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Thanks!

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/>



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The *Erie Gay Community News* is published monthly as a source of information, support and affirmation for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and their friends & families in the Erie area.

Contributors: Our deadline is the 15th of the month! We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to the Erie and surrounding area's LesBiGay community for publication in these pages.

We **STRONGLY** recommend sending SASE for writers' guidelines or at least inquiring of the *EGCN* staff before submitting articles! Please include contact information with any submissions (name, phone, email address, etc.) so we can contact you if we have questions.

We will consider for publication any non-fiction article or illustration graphic which broadens our understanding of our lives and each other. 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.

Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of *EGCN* staff.

Thanks to those who helped out with the January issue!

Thanks to Bernie Bright, Greg Olknowles,
Paul Grubbs, Dave Mulholland, and Micheal
Miller helping us to collate the January issue
of *EGCN*!

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

Calendar

an unusual request, Mary Jo runs for school board as the safer sex candidate, and Suzanne makes an enlightened remark. This may have been the first time a US sitcom dealt with the issue of HIV/AIDS.

☛ **Feb 16—Gay Valentine's Day at la bella bistro** See details in Entertainment Notes page 6.

☛ **Feb 17—Paula Poundstone: Live from Harvard Yard** Comedy Central 5 p.m.

☛ **Feb 18—Bar Girls (1994)** HBO 2:30 am.

Feb 19—Luther Vandross in concert (Cleveland) Playhouse Square Center

☛ **Feb 19—Elton John in concert from Rio** 9 p.m. Disney.

☛ **Feb 20—Designing Women: "Suzanne Goes Looking for a Friend"** 7:30 p.m. Suzanne decides she needs to find a new friend and looks up an old pal from her beauty pageant days. The friend turns out to be a lesbian, and the humor in the situation is not made at her expense.

☛ **Feb 20—A Man of No Importance (1994)** Showtime 1:45 am. Albert Finney plays a closeted gay Dublin bus driver who has a midlife crisis, puts on Oscar Wilde's play *Salome*, and discovers self, love, and life.

Feb 21-22-23—Olympus '97: "The Biggest Dance Party in the North" & Circuit Party (Cleveland) Friday - Kick Off Block Party at Club Visions The Grid and Metronome (midtown bars). Saturday is Olympus '97, with promoters say, "thousands in attendance." Held at Cuyahoga County Courthouse, Lakeside Avenue. Admission taken 8:30-10 p.m. At 10 p.m. "World-renowned DJ Warren Gluck" hosts this huge dance party, with lights by Michael Trullo of NYC and Fire Island. Tickets \$25 adv. (Available from Ticketmaster), \$30 at door. Benefit The Lesbian/Gay Community Service Center of Greater Cleveland. Sunday is a Tea Dance at Numbers Night Club. For information call Olympus Hotline (216)556-5525.

☛ **Feb 22—1997 Womyn's Variety Show (Cleveland)** Doors open at 6, show starts at 7:30 p.m. Limited seating, reservations recommended. Info/reservations Oven Productions at 216-321-7799. Music, comedy, skits. Variety show party will follow.

Feb 22—HUGS East Valentine's Dance (Mentor OH) Refreshments and snacks provided, donations \$5. Info 216-974-8909 (especially Wed. nights).

Feb 22—Cause For Celebration! (Buffalo) Gala fundraiser for AIDS Community Services of Western New York, 5,000 expected. Dancing and elegant desserts at the spacious Buffalo State College Sports Complex. Formal attire recommended. Details in HIV/AIDS News. More info from AIDS Community Services 716-847-0340.

☛ **Feb 23—PFLAG-Erie: Gay 90's History** The meeting is at 2:00 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: Call Elaine Hill at 864-0184.

☛ **Feb 23—The Color Purple (1985)** Lifetime 1:30 p.m.

☛ **Feb 24—Chautauqua North County Social Group Meets.** Call Vince at (716) 673-3192 for more info.

☛ **Feb 24—Dr. Katz** Comedy Central 8 am. and 1:30 p.m. Dr. Katz analyzes Sandra Bernhard and Todd Barry.

☛ **Feb 24—Happy Birthday Elizabeth: A Celebration of Life** ABC 8-10 p.m. Helping to pay tribute to this legendary performer on her 65th birthday are Whoopi Goldberg, Ellen DeGeneres, Rosie O'Donnell, Drew Barrymore, Michael Jackson, and others. All proceeds from the sale of tickets to this event will go to the Elizabeth



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Taylor AIDS Foundation (which distributes to a wide variety of AIDS research and treatment organizations).

☛ **Feb 25—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets:** Note new winter hours: 6:30-8pm (same location.) Call Cheryl Weber at 825-1085 for more info.

☛ **Feb 28—PFLAG-Ashtabula meets** Call Sharon at (216) 964-335- for more info.

☛ **Mar 2—LGLV-Erie Meets** Call Dave Mulholland at 898-4210 for more info.

☛ **Mar 3—In the Life** WNEQ (PBS-Buff./Ch.23) 9 p.m. Lesbian and gay newsmagazine.

☛ **Mar 6—New Jamestown HIV/AIDS Support Group Meets** For HIV infected & affected people at 1115 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown NY. Call Hop and Cindy Chase at (716)488-1070 for more info.

☛ **Mar 6—Lisa Koch comedy concert (Pittsburgh)** At Rosebud, 1650 Smallman St., performance 7:30 p.m. One half of the feminist comedy duo, Dos fallopia (see below). Info/tickets (412-363-5TNL or email shawn@woodworks.com)

☛ **Mar 8—dos fallopia comedy concert (Pittsburgh)** At Hilton, concert 8 p.m., dance 10 p.m. "Outrageous kamikaze comedy duo" and comedy performers/recording artists (*My Breasts are Out of Control*) presented by the Association of Women in Psychology. Tickets 412-795-5141.

☛ **Mar 8—Womynspace: Food, Fun and a Flick!** "Popcorn and a movie night. Bring your gal and enjoy a good movie. Title to be announced in next issue. Movie starts at 8 p.m. For info call Sal at 454-2713. Bring a friend!"
NOTE: THIS IS A CHANGE FROM THE FIRST SATURDAY FOR THIS MONTH ONLY.

☛ **Mar 10—Friends from the Heart Meets** 6pm at Well Being Center, 710 Beaumont. Call Deb Monohon at 838-0123 for more info.

☛ **Mar 11—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets** Call Cheryl Weber at 825-1085 for more info.

☛ **Mar 15—Menspace meets** 7:30 pm. For information and location, call Michael at 456-9833.

☛ **March 19—Breaking the Surface: The Greg Louganis Story** USA Network, time not known. Biographical drama about four-time Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis. Deals with childhood, being gay, an Olympic athlete, and having AIDS. Based on his book of the same name.

☛ **Mar 20—GEGASHI (Gays Educating Gays About Sexual Health Issues) meets** 3:30 pm. Meets at Erie County Health Dept. See article in HIV/AIDS News.

☛ **Mar 23—PFLAG-Erie: (Topic TBA)** Meeting 2:00 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: Call Elaine Hill at 864-0184.

☛ **Mar 24—Chautauqua North County Social Group Meets.** Call Vince at (716) 673-3192 for more info.

☛ **Mar 25—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets** Call Cheryl Weber at 825-1085 for more info.

☛ **Mar 28—PFLAG-Ashtabula meets** Call Sharon at (216) 964-335- for more info.


☛ **Mar 29 & 30—Pennsylvania Partners Summit: Statewide conference on same-gender couples' issues** Sponsored by Center for Lesbian and Gay Law and Public Policy. Currently in planning stage. Contact CLGLPP@aol.com (Andrew Park) for more info.

☛ **April 11-13—Allegheny conference "History and memory: gay and lesbian literature since World War II"** Info on page 8.

Always check TV listings against your weekly or daily listings. Sometimes the information we get is incorrect or changes; sometimes, since we are a very small group of volunteers here, we make mistakes and don't catch them.

We have noticed a good number of gay and lesbian publications in other communities have been reprinting our TV listings and accompanying blurbs. Permission is granted for doing so, but because a good bit of time is invested in locating these listings, we request that you give credit to EGCN where it is due. Thanks and Happy Viewing!

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Days		2
a		Days
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Founded for the purpose of assisting individuals, and their families, who are HIV+. The underlying foundation of this organization and the services it provides are caring, dignity, and respect.

Repeating TV progs

Investigative Reports: Same-Sex Marriages A&E 2/15 at 9pm & 1am, and 2/22 3pm. "Host Bill Curtis looks at the growing controversy over gay marriages. Viewers will meet gay couples and learn their often poignant stories, as well as hear from those who say that same-sex marriages should be banned." —*A&E Monthly*

Love at First Sight Cinemax 2/14 6:30pm, 2/25 noon. Cinemax2 on 2/20 6 pm. Light documentary with couples (straight and gay) telling about the moment they fell in love. Features a wedding between two black lesbians.

Mr. and Mrs. Loving (1996) Showtime 2/9 12:05pm & 8pm, 2/18 at 8am & 6pm; 2/22 at 2:10pm, 2/28 4pm Based on the true story of a white man and black woman who were married in Virginia about 30 years ago, and spent their wedding night in jail because mixed marriages were not allowed in that and many other states. This incident had a lot to do with overturning these ridiculous laws.

A Perfect Couple (1979) Encore 2/3 1am & 11:15am; 2/9 7:15am & 4:30pm; 2/20 10:46pm, 2/21 8:45am & 5pm 2/25 6:45am This Robert Altman comedy about a straight couple who meet each other through a dating service features a happy lesbian couple played by Tommy-Lee Bradley and Heather MacRae.

Poison Ivy (1992) Drew Barrymore plays a young she-devil in this trashy drama, tempting a teenage girl who might be a lesbian (played by Sara Gilbert), seducing the girl's father and doing some very nasty things. TNT 2/22 11pm 2/23 2am.

Women's Sports

College Basketball, ESPN 2/17 4 pm, 2/19 at 4:30am ESPN2 2/9 5 pm, 2/16 5 pm (Penn State v Iowa).

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February at Cups

2/1 - Gemini.... From Cleveland, Twin sisters harmonize originals.

2/3 - Internet

2/6 - Poetry reading, open mike

2/7 - 5 Believers / Progressive Folk

2/8 - Steve Trohoske Trio / jazz Fusion

13th - open house jam

2/14 - Doom Town Jugsluggers - Mountain Blues Band

2/15 - WINK! Unplugged. Original Seattle Sounds. visit them on the web address <http://users.aol.com/wstreaktom>

2/20 - Open Mike Comedy

2/21 - Stan Green

2/22 - Tom Stahl

2/27 - Powdered Toast JAM - Featuring Special Guests

2/28 - Garrett Clark Guitar

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Theater Review

Dressing Room Divas
Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You.

Presented by the Directors Circle Theatre

Reviewed by Michael Mahler

Directors Circle Theatre is presenting a delightful evening of two 1 act comedies through Saturday, February 15. Micheal and I saw them and laughed out loud.

The first play, *Dressing Room Divas*, features 5 divas (Meryl Streep, Julie Andrews, Bette Midler, Elizabeth Taylor and Joan Collins) sharing a dressing room with two florists and (eventually a hunky gunman.) Suffice to say that with two gay characters and at least 4 of the 5 divas being relatively major gay icons, that there are loads of gay references. The play was energetic, funny and campy. The actors were all talented and seemed to have a lot of fun with this wonderful bitchfest.

The second play, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You*, was written by openly gay playwright, Christopher Durang. Jo Laurie, who played Elizabeth Taylor in the first play, was wonderful as the apparently psychotic nun. She presents a rather unique interpretation of Catholic dogma and is confronted by 4 former students. (One of them a gay man who was seduced in a seminary and is now in a relationship.) There are some rather surreal moments and lots of laughs. I won't spoil the ending by revealing it, so you'll have to catch it yourself.

So, why not spend an evening out with your sweetie or friends and enjoy some excellent local theatre?

Directors Circle Theatre is located at 1505 State St, Erie PA and the box office is 454-0636.

Entertainment notes

by Deb Spilko

Romance

First, this announcement from **la bella bistro**: "La bella bistro will again be having a **Gay Valentine's Day** on Sunday, February 16. We will be serving from 5:00-10:00. It will be exclusively gay again and we will be screening reservations as to where callers heard about the event so that we don't mistakenly get a family of straight people in here who just think that they are going out to dinner on Sunday. Please be sure to say when you are making a reservation that it is for *Gay Valentine's Day* on the 16th. Everyone here is cool with it. People can be as outrageous as they want. We are going to try to have entertainment but there is nothing lined up yet. Remember BYOB. Guests can feel free to hold hands, kiss, etc., without feeling like they are under scrutiny."

Buying rings together is a special moment in a relationship. Unfortunately, many same-sex couples have that moment marred by jewelers who are weirded out by their love. Well, if you don't mind driving a little way, let me tell you about a couple of jewelers that will be very happy for you. **Aurum Precious Metals and Jewelry**, 487 Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo, is gay-owned and operated. Owner Paul Michaels tells us that the store is very happy to be a part of honoring a same-sex couple's relationship, and they offer the couple a glass of champagne to celebrate that relationship. Michaels says, "Our jewelry is handmade, one-of-a-kind pieces in gold, silver and platinum. We specialize in antique jewelry and do a fairly good business in commitment rings." Their hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday till 11 p.m. by appointment. Phone 716-886-1300. (Don't set yourself up for disappointment: there is a jeweler with a similar name in Jamestown and they are *not* connected with these Buffalo people in any way.) If you are closer to Cleveland, check out **Rinaldi Jewelers**, 2028 East 9th Street. They advertise in the *Gay People's Chronicle*, and sell commitment rings and rainbow jewelry. They have a sale during the two weeks before Valentine's Day. Open Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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If you're still looking for a sweetie, perhaps you might consider a personal ad? EGCN now offers personals...see page 16 for details. If you take out an ad during the month of February, an ad will cost you only \$10, rather than the normal \$15.

Theater

Buffalo's **Hag Theater** is performing *Supporting Roles* in February. Here's the blurb they sent us: "A romantic comedy about working class lesbians. 'When Kate Crutchley commissioned *Supporting Roles*, the brief was a difficult one—an examination of the menopause and an in-depth study of the relationships between women. I couldn't handle this combination unless I made the play a comedy. I wanted to write about a generation of lesbians who had found no theatrical voice, because when they were younger such plays were impossible and now they are older they don't really think about their lesbianism anymore. They have become involved in careers and mortgages. Whatever their day-to-day problems, their sexual inclinations are no longer a major issue. Lesbianism is not here offered as a radical alternative to established society, it is shown functioning comfortably within that society. The characters are not consciously rebelling, they are simply trying to get on with their lives.'" Performed at Hallwalls February 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and March 1 (\$10 reg. \$8 student). Catered dinner at Lavendar Door bar for Feb. 14 performance. Reservations/info 716-874-1220. Some folks from Womynspace may be driving up by the way.

Cyberspace

Kurt Sahlmann from **Cup-A-Ccino's** tells us, "We now have several computers ready for use on the Internet. We are starting Cup's CYBERBEAN Club. Members will register and attend an orientation workshop plus get some additional special privileges. Orientation classes are every Monday & Wednesday evenings and Saturday late morning." For more info, stop by and speak with Kurt.

Just for the record, when I mentioned that people might not be comfortable bringing stuff up on the Internet computers at the **Erie County Library**, I was not encouraging pulling up the kind of porn stuff that made the local news this past month. I think regardless of what you think of porn or censorship, most people in

the gay community don't think the library is the place for explicit pornography. And there's something creepy about the idea that a kid can't get to the computer to do research for his global warming report while some guy is taking up computer time drooling over the "Ass-Capades Web Site." On the other hand, there are a number of sites that are not sexual at all but truly disturbing, like those that tell how to make a bomb or get into things like decapitation. No easy answers on this one.

Film & Video

The Movie Stop recommends these titles in honor of Valentine's Day. Guys: *Wedding Banquet, Parting Glances, Maurice, The Sum of Us, It's My Party, Torch Song Trilogy, A Very Natural Thing, Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. Women: *The Incredibly True Story of 2 Girls in Love, Go Fish, Claire of the Moon, Salmonberries, Fried Green Tomatoes, Desert Hearts, Siren* [note: don't confuse this last title with Hugh Grant's *Sirens*].

Fran Drescher's new film *The Beautician and the Beast* is coming out soon. Drescher is afraid that the film is so bad it will ruin her career.

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Local news

Closet Culture has new address

Please note that the PO box for Closet Culture has changed. The new mailing address is PO Box 529, Edinboro PA 16412.

Allegheny College conference

Allegheny College is hosting a conference titled "History and Memory: Gay and Lesbian Literature Since World War II." Organized by Sonya Jones, the conference will feature a keynote address by John DeCecco, from San Francisco State, an Allegheny alum and editor of *The Journal of Homosexuality*. The conference will also feature readings by author Bertha Harris, a lecture by Dorothy Austin of Drew University, various other speakers and panels on such topics as Coming Out Stories and Conversation Narratives, Gay and Lesbian Film, Gay Literature During World War II, Multicultural Gay Narratives, Bisexuality, Queer Theatre, Religion and Homosexuality, etc. The cost is \$90 for the full three days. Conference fee: Day \$35, evening \$15). Students can attend free. Conference Registration Deadline: 15 March 1997


Contact: Sonya Jones, Conference Director
(814) 332-4339 (sjones@alleg.edu)

Kristy L. Whisker, Assistant to the Conference Director

(814) 332-2604 (whiskek@alleg.edu)

EGCN now has Personal Ads!

See page 16!



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Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

Hey there! Micheal and I are looking forward to once again enjoying Gay Valentine's Day at la bella bistro (this year it's on Sunday, Feb 16th). We always have a super time whenever we dine there. I am quite grateful we have nifty folks like Harry Miller and his staff in our community.

A few of us have also begun some of the prep work for this year's Pride-Erie event. The tentative dates for this are Sat-Sun June 14-15 1997. We are planning on a picnic on Presque Isle on Saturday. Also planned on Saturday will be taking another family portrait, which we will print in the July issue. In the works for Sunday are an interfaith gay pride service and an outing. More details as these develop.

At the meeting, Christopher Sargent commented that he was really proud of the fact that our Pride events have been so inclusive and family oriented. Christopher is, of course, the father of Micah and one of the coordinators of North Coast Rainbow Families, a lesbigay parents group. I couldn't agree more. I am proud that people have always been able to bring their parents, their children, and their friends. The meeting in question was held in the home of Elaine Hill, a straight woman. I am thinking of asking my mom and my family to this year's picnic.

A silly story: I was talking with a co-worker and friend at work, Greg, recently about doing our taxes. Micheal has already gotten his W-2's, so I had sent in his federal taxes, and went home over lunch to file his state. When Greg heard this, he momentarily looked puzzled and then asked, "Well, why didn't you just file jointly?" Then, he remembered why and said that it was pretty silly we couldn't. It was just nice knowing that other folks thought of us as being just like any other married couple.

Gannon's New Policy towards Gays

by **Rebecca**

"The Catholic Church and Gannon University deplore violence, harassment and ill treatment of gays and lesbians, and call for society in general, and the Gannon community in particular, to demonstrate respect and compassion... We are challenged to examine our prejudices regarding sexual orientation, including homophobia, and in doing so, to develop a climate reflective of a Christian community where all individuals accept, respect, and value others."

The above statements are part of a two page release issued by Gannon University in December entitled, "Pastoral Statement to Gannon Community: Sexuality as God's Gift and Our Response to Gay and Lesbian Student Concerns"

This statement, endorsed by Bishop Trautman, was written by an ad hoc committee that had been appointed by University President, Msgr. David Rubino.

The statement was one awaited eagerly by many gay students on campus who had met with committee members earlier last year in hopes of attaining a gay-friendly policy statement from the University. It includes a statement of commitment saying that the University intends to "provide a secure and appropriately supportive environment where gay and lesbian students can pursue their education," and "develop programs to heighten awareness of and sensitivity to issues of sexual identity."

This statement has been almost two years in the making. Some who read it may criticize it as not going far enough, or as saying just enough to hopefully con-

tent those who have been calling for its incarnation, but being a Gannon student I disagree. I believe that this statement has the potential to have a far reaching effect on campus. Whereas before gay students had nothing, we now have something official that speaks out against homophobia and violence against gay persons. And with this, our concerns and complaints must begin to be taken seriously by the University staff.

When we, the seemingly few, decided to speak out about the problems that gay students were facing on our campus, Gannon chose not to close its ears and eyes to student concerns, but rather it chose to listen, and to take action to address those concerns. This statement is something positive for the benefit of not only the gay and lesbian students, but for the entire Gannon community.

**EGCN NOW HAS PERSONAL ADS!
SEE PAGE 16!**

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm
UUC of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway
Erie Hotline: 453-5656
<http://www.sca-recovery.org/>

Lake Erie Counseling Associates

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Gay-Affirming Individual, Family & Couples Therapy

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evening & weekend appointments
medical assistance & insurance accepted

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I'm A Believer

by Sharon Sutter

Okay—I'm not ashamed to admit it—not really. I'm a Monkee fan. And last July, while they were on their 30th anniversary tour, I went to the Warner to relive some good old days.

Oh, those good old days. When the only gay characters on TV or in the movies were “happy” ones. How bleak those days were. Back then, I knew I was different, I just didn't have a name for it. I didn't even know, in the very early days, that I was physically attracted to women. I just knew—somehow—I was an outsider. I was the Indian to everyone else's cowboy, the misunderstood, troubled youth on police shows, the only brunette in a sea of blondes—different.

Searching the screen in those days, it was only the underdog, the sidekick, the “different one”—Tonto, for instance—that I could identify with. Then came the 60's and the Beatles and Star Trek (with its ultimate outsider, Spock) and the Monkees.

A manufactured musical group, put together for the teeny boppers of America, a mad marketing grasp for youthful dollars—and it worked—for a few years.

Their music was okay—I liked it well enough, and their TV show was entertaining enough for a fourteen year old. And, oh, the fourteen year olds who were in love with Davy—with those dreamy starry eyes—innumerable. But I wasn't one of them. And while I admired Mike's cool head in any crisis, and though he had the best singing voice of the bunch, I didn't dream of dating him. And Micky. Funny. I wished I had his energy. And, always being a fan of drums, I played air drums many times in front of the TV—and, while I dreamed of writing a song that Micky would sing, I didn't dream of being kissed by him.

But, oh, Peter. Peter. The quiet one. Seldom sang solos. Rarely got the girl. A part of the group, but not. No, I didn't dream of being Peter's date, either. But I identified with him. He didn't quite know how to get girls—well, neither did I. Back then, he was the closest thing I had to a gay role model on TV—a shy person, wanting love, but not sure how to get it. And he epitomized all my teenage angst—wanting to belong, join-

ing in, playing along with the group, yet not quite with them, a person who looked like everyone else and acted like everyone else, but inside, was quite different from everyone else.

I work the evening shift, so I don't get to watch much TV, and right now I'm unsure if Ellen's character has come out, as the hype early in the season hinted she might. If so, great! I believe all of us who are gay—pre-teens, teens, adults—need to see positive gay characters on TV and in the movies. People, just like us, who struggle with relationships, stumble, yet triumph in the end. I know that seeing someone like that on TV when I was growing up would have helped me tremendously.

But we also need acceptance from straight stars whose fans we are. I have occasionally read reports of straight stars who get a bit touchy when interviewers remind them of their strong gay following (usually these are males, women tend to be less upset by gay fans, it seems). But, hey, we buy your records, read your books, watch your shows—please respect us. **And accept us.**

So there I was, on a hot July night, front row center at the Warner—with Micky, Davy, and Peter right in front of me—so close, I could almost touch them. And, oh, I could almost touch all those old feelings, too—the fear, the wondering, the denial, the doubt, and finally, the self-acceptance. And yes, Peter was one of the people who helped me get there.

He moved to the left of the stage and spoke. The girls screamed, the crowd roared; on stage, someone strummed a guitar.

“I love you, Pete,” I shouted, in gratitude for all he'd helped me through.

He surveyed the front row—and smiled. With the thunderous noise it was impossible to tell who had shouted out to him—me, or the young man sitting next to me. He looked out over our heads, scanning the rest of the crowd, then saying a few words, bringing laughter and cheers. Then he looked down at us again—me, the young man. “And whoever said ‘I love you,’” he said, “I love you, too.” Whoever you are.”

I hope he meant that.

Shades: A Lesbians of Color Organization

A Historical Perspective

In a well-established gay community, such as that present in a city the size of Buffalo, why would there be a need for an organization such as Shades? Well, sometimes in a room full of people, one can feel isolated and alone if one is the only person of color there. Despite the degree of acceptance and welcome by the white gay community, there is nothing like having one's own support group and/or network. Self-definition is essential for any ethnic group regardless of its sexuality. Thus the need for a lesbians of color organization became evident in June 1992, the groundwork was laid.

The genesis of Shades was at a breakfast given by an activist white woman for five lesbians of color. The women of color that came to the breakfast were women who were in relationships with white women and lived mostly in a white world. The host decided it would be a good idea to get them together after she'd attended a workshop with two of the women in Washington DC about diversity in the gay community.

It turned out that one or two of the women knew each other but no one knew everyone. That in itself was interesting since it was such a small group and they were in the same community. The women talked about wanting to connect with other lesbians of color and how that could be done.

Thereafter, the women had meetings in each other's homes practically every Sunday afternoon for the next five months and realized that they needed to expand this interest and energy into the community. They decided to make and hand out flyers, call old contacts, and just in general pass the word that a lesbians of color meeting would be held in the upper room at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Elmwood and Ferry Streets in December 1992.

To their surprise and delight, 25 lesbians of color showed up at that first meeting. Some were old friends, some were new faces. What was apparent was that there definitely was a need for a lesbians of color organization in Buffalo. Everyone in the room took turns telling a little about themselves and why they were there. The responses were as varied as the people. It was as though the women had been waiting for something to bring them together.

A few more meetings were held, but it soon became obvious that the group lacked direction. In May of 1993 it was finally decided that officers should be elected to get this thing going. A president, treasurer, and secretary were elected. After that, things began to fall into place. Some time later a name was chosen.

With the creation of Shades came the task of forming an agenda diverse enough to include and work for lesbians of color from all walks of life. To be successful we did not want a 'clique' but a club representative of our lesbianism and the same time be an extension of the community, and family of lesbians of color.

Shades first major event was a dance for all lesbians and gay men. It was a huge success, in part, because previous dances had been women only dances and we think that the community was ready for a non-exclusionary affair. We've also had a baseball team, a bowling league, a bus trip to Toronto's gay pride parade/festival, book club, potluck dinners, and social events for our non-drinking, non-smoking members. Some of these events have worked and some haven't. As with any organization, it takes a lot of work to keep a group viable and responsive to our members' needs. Even though our president recently resigned due to relocation for employment, Shades has a core group of members that are determined to keep it going because we know that it fills the needs for a lot of women who would not otherwise be involved in the gay community.

To this end we are still going strong, have plans for many events and activities for the coming year, and have a bi-monthly newsletter.

For those of you who would like a copy of our newsletter, called *The Shades Connection*, or anyone who wants to contact us, we can be reached by the following ways:

Snail mail: Shades, PO Box 608, Buffalo NY 14209
telephone: (716)882-7373

e-mail: shades-buffalo@juno.com

We'd love to hear from you.

Janice W., Editor

Joan L., Treasurer, Ass't. Editor

HIV/AIDS News - WNY

New Jamestown Support Group

There is a new group for HIV infected and affected people and it will meet the first Thursday of the month at the home of Hop and Cindy Chase, 1115 Prendergast Ave in Jamestown NY. Phone (716) 488-1070 for more info.

Cause for Celebration!

Buffalo's gala fundraiser, Cause for Celebration!, will be held February 22, 1997 at the Buffalo State College Sports Complex. The complex is located in the back of the college campus at 1300 Elmwood Avenue. The main room is approximately 30,000 square feet and is sure to accommodate this year's anticipated crowd of more than 5,000 people.

There will be plenty of convenient parking available in the Buffalo State parking lots located off Grant Street.

The Cause evening begins with a large number of dinner parties held. All attendees write a check (mini-

mum \$30) to donate to AIDS Community Services for which they receive a ticket to the big event. For people who don't live in Buffalo, here are some tips. The usual way that people do the Cause for Celebration! is to hold or attend a party that raises money and then you are given a pass into the big event. Non-Buffalonians probably won't be able to do this, so you can (1) Just go to the event and make your donation there, or (2) Go to a party beforehand. We are aware of one party at Buddies (31 Johnson Park, Ph. 716-855-1313), at 7 p.m. A minimum of \$30 donation gets you in. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and you can buy drinks. There will be a shuttle bus to the main event. (Call AIDS Community Services' Buffalo office for other establishments that might be throwing a party)

Two of Buffalo's premiere caterers Rimme St. George of Red Balloon Enterprises and Liz Kolken of Quaker Bonnet team up again as dessert Co-Chairs to bring you over 15,000 pieces of the area's tastiest desserts. Donated from the region's finest restaurants, bakeries, and caterers, the view alone will be worth the admission.

A gallery will display local and regional art for the Silent Art Auction. There will also be over a dozen casino-style games of chance.

Info from AIDS Community Services Buffalo Office 716-847-0340.

Panel exhibit

National Interfaith AIDS Quilt of the NAMES Project Foundation and the Mending of the Hearts Project present an exhibit of panels at the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University from February 9 through March 2, 1997. Museum hours are Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Exhibit highlights include: Opening and Interfaith Prayer Reception on February 9 (2-4 p.m.); Evening of Remembrance, Poetry by Brother Augustine Towey, CM Friday February 14 at 7 p.m.; and Exhibit Closing/Inclusion Ceremony for New Quilt Panels and Interfaith Prayer Service for Caregivers on Sunday March 2 from 2-4 p.m. For more information call the Office of Campus Ministry at 716-286-8400.

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Serving the HIV-Affected Community

Sex & Health

Almost from the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, people were told that being in a monogamous relationship was the best way to avoid being infected with HIV.

Although educators thought it was a simple and easy piece of advice to follow, it turns out that it's not that simple. Many people who have been faithful to their partner end up being infected by them. The World Health Organization says that the major risk factor for women getting AIDS is being married. Why?

In the case of many women in the world, the problem is that they live in societies where men may have other partners, and wives must submit to their husbands' sexual demands and cannot insist on condoms.

There are a number of other issues in our society complicating the whole issue of monogamy and safer sex.

In our society, there are indeed some people who are subordinate to their partners and do not feel free to insist on safer sex.

This is not the only complication of the monogamy issue, though. Some partners may feel that if they insist

on safer sex, the other partner will be insulted and may leave them.

Some people simply toss out common sense when they fall in love, thinking (if you can call it that) that their love will protect them. These couples stop using condoms without getting tested together. They think that their beloved is so wonderful that they would never do anything like knowingly expose them to the HIV virus. The key word here is "knowingly," because many people infected with HIV do not know they have it, and some will be surprised when they finally learn they do.

Some people simply are not made for monogamy and invent all sorts of rationalizations for having sex outside of a supposedly monogamous relationship. Recently a study found that a number of gay men who say they are in monogamous relationships have multiple sex partners. Probably the best thing for these people to do is be honest with the fact that they are not monogamous, cannot or don't wish to be faithful to one person, and to not lie to themselves or others about being some-

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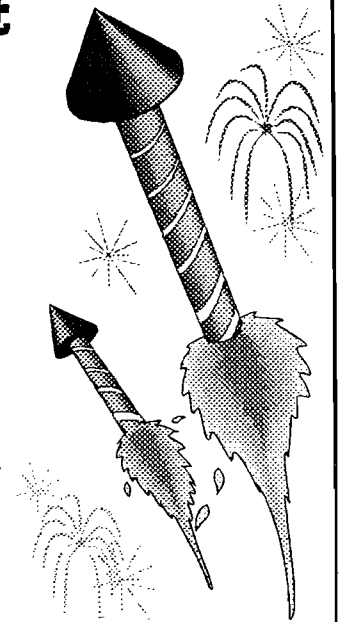
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MediAction

NEWS NOTES

thing they are not. The gay community, and the general population, needs to stop making value judgements about people who are honest about not wanting to be in a monogamous relationship. As long as these people are honest about what they want, their partners will know what they need to do to keep uninfected.

For couples who really do want a one on one relationship, and want to dispense with condoms, it is recommended that they get tested together. The Erie County Health Department can counsel and test couples together, as can some other sites.

A wise plan for dispensing with condoms in a relationship is to keep having safer sex until the *second* test comes back negative. If the second test comes back negative, you will both have reason to celebrate and have some great unprotected sex. If one or both of you turns out to be positive, it is still good to know, so that you can both take steps that will protect your health.

It also isn't a bad idea for couples to get checked out for other STDs ...especially hepatitis B, syphilis, and herpes.



GEGASHI Meetings

Beginning in January, 1997, meetings for GEGASHI (Gays Educating Gays About Sexual Health Issues) will be held at the Erie County Department of Health, 606 West 2nd Street, Erie, PA. The agenda will consist of educational informational sessions, updates, outreach strategies, and special events.

Anyone interested in participating or desiring additional information can contact the HIV/AIDS Education & Training Program at 451-6727.

Below is a list of the dates for the meetings. All meetings will begin at 3:30pm

- January 30, 1997
- March 20, 1997
- May 29, 1997
- August 28, 1997
- October 30, 1997
- November 20, 1997

The tenth installment of "MTV News: UNFiltered" premiered December 22, and has been re-broadcast on several dates since. Once again the show prominently includes queer content.

According to MTV, this series "turns the cameras around and puts viewers in control of the content, pictures and words that make the news." The latest "UNFiltered" episode opened with a segment on Portland's "City Nightclub," which has come under fire from local authorities.

According to club patron Patrick Hill, the harassment is utterly homophobic "as most of the clubgoers are gay, lesbian or bisexual." Hill's segment effectively argues the urgent need for places — other than the street — where queer youth can gather affirmatively.

"UNFiltered" debuted in 1995, and the series "invites viewers around the country to call a special toll free number (1-800-296-2445) with their story ideas;" selected viewers are provided with a camera to document their story on tape. Previous episodes of "MTV News: UNFiltered" have covered such issues as teenage suicide, squatters' rights, sexual harassment and gay drag.

"UNFiltered" is a production of MTV News. According to "TV Guide" (Dec. 27), the music network's news division — which has "tackled subject matter hard and soft in its 15 years" — is currently undergoing "an extensive overhaul." Reportedly, \$10.5 million will be slashed from the MTV News budget in the coming year. However, MTV president Judy McGrath insists that "the network's commitment to news remains as strong as ever."

"We will actually be upping the amount of news on the network," McGrath promises. "Normally, we do 16 half-hour specials. This year we're adding another 10 to that number as part of a regular Sunday night 'MTV News Presents...' show."

"MTV News: UNFiltered" aired seven times in 1996, but will be cut to four installments in '97. The series will be merged with "MTV News Presents..."

MTV is a unit of Viacom Inc., which also owns and operates VH1, Nickelodeon/Nick at Nite, and TV Land.

Other network programs that offer affirmative lesbian or gay content include VH1's "RuPaul" show (hosted by the gay drag diva/singer of the same name), and MTV's "Loveline" (a nightly sex advice/talk show), "The Real World" (documentary series) and "Rodman World Tour" (celebrity interview/talk show). In addition, a recent (December 29) episode of the VH1 biography series — "Storytellers" — featured lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge.

***** ACTION ALERT!:** Encourage MTV to continue programming queer news and music. Send comments to Judy McGrath, President, MTV Networks, 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, fax 212-258-7955, e-mail mtvnews@aol.com; copy correspondence to Sumner M. Redstone, Chair, Viacom International, Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, tel. 212-258-6000. Calls can also be directed to Andrea Smith, Manager, Communications (MTV Networks/East Coast, tel.

212-258-8768) or Vanessa Reyes, Manager, Corporation Communications (MTV Networks/West Coast, tel. 818-505-7812). Questions, comments or suggestions can be e-mailed to "Loveline" (Loveline3@aol.com), VH1 (vh1@here.viacom.com) and "MTV News: UNFiltered" (unfiltered@aol.com).

MEDIA / BRIEFS

***** QUALITY PRODUCE? . . .** The MSNBC network has renewed its contract with "Imus In The Morning," a New York based radio show. Each weekday MSNBC simulcasts the nationally-syndicated series, which is hosted by Don Imus.

Unfortunately, the radio series — and now, the TV network — also provide a platform for snide on-air comments from "Bernie," the show's producer.

Acting as something of a side-kick for Imus, Bernie regularly interjects homophobic asides.

In recent MSNBC simulcasts, for example, Bernie suggested that homosexual marriages will only "pave the way for man-boy weddings. That's coming next!" Following a news report on IBM's decision to extend domestic partnership benefits to lesbian and gay employees, he remarked: "Instead of a mouse, you can have a gerbil on the pad. Go all the way with it!" By contrast, host Imus has been more supportive — or at least less hateful — than his producer.

Contact: Mark Harrington, Vice President, MSNBC, 2200 Fletcher, Avenue, Fort Lee, NJ 07024, e-mail opinion@msnbc.com.

***** COSTLY FREEDOM. . .** "Journalists around the world found themselves under increasing threats of both violent and legislative assaults in 1996," according to the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists (CCPJ). In its recently-released annual report, CCPJ notes: "In 1996 alone, 163 journalists were charged and brought to trial for their work, 79 were sentenced, and 8 were handed suspended sentences. These numbers show a marked increase over 1995." "While scores of journalists are murdered every year for their work, the more common threat for journalists is the courtroom, and the enemy, more often than not, is their own government," said Wayne Sharpe, executive director of CCPJ.

For more information, including "complete statistics on freedom of expression violations in 1996," contact the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists/International Freedom of Expression Clearing House, 490 Adelaide St. W., Suite 205, Toronto, ON, Canada M5V 1T2, tel. 416-703-1638, fax 416-703-7034, e-mail ccpj@web.net, web <http://www.web.net/ccpj/>.

ABOUT MEDIALERTS

Distributed as a community press service since 1992, "MEDIALert!" [TM] (formerly the "GLAAD Media Watch") is a biweekly, advocacy-oriented column of media criticism, primarily focused on lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender issues. Recipients may print, publish or post this material, in whole or part, under this or any title, without prior permission. When appropriate, attribution can be made to "Al Kielwasser" and/or "MEDIALert!" File copies of publications using all or part of any "MEDIALert!" are always appreciated (and can be sent to the address below).

Contact: A. P. Kielwasser, MEDIAAction, 163 Park Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-5835, voice-mail 415-826-5203, fax 415-826-5203 (ext. 8), e-mail mediaction@aol.com.

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TO PLACE AN AD send text of your ad with check payable to EGC Coalition to:

EGCN Personal Ads
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Erie, PA 16508-0063

Personals are \$10/month for first 150 characters including spaces plus \$1 for every additional 10 characters.

ALL Ads must be accompanied by check, return address, phone number, and signed statement saying that you are over 18 years of age. This information will be held confidential.

EGCN reserves the right to edit ads for length or objectionable content.

TO REPLY TO AN AD send your reply in a sealed, stamped envelope with the Box # of the ad to which you are replying printed on the center. This envelope must then be placed inside another sealed envelope addressed to:

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Erie, PA 16508-0063

EGCN will then forward your reply. Any ads or replies not containing all necessary information will be returned to sender or, if there is no return address, discarded.

EGCN assumes no further responsibility for outcome of ads or forwarding of replies beyond that outlined above.

About EGCN Personals

Up to now we've never really been sure we had the resources to carry personal ads and we also weren't sure if some of our readers would object to having personals in EGCN. But, since we've had so many requests in the past to run them, we thought we'd give them a try.

We have had a limited response thus far. If we don't get more ads for our next issue, we may drop them. So we're offering them at a special rate of \$10 for the March Issue.

If you would like to see EGCN Personals continue, please send one in by February 15. If the personals are successful, we'll continue to carry them. If not, then we won't. It's up to you — our readers.

Resource Directory

All phone numbers are area code 814 unless otherwise noted. Not all resources are necessarily gay-owned nor serve primarily lesbian/gay people; some may be just gay-friendly

▼ = Erie Gay Community News available here!

♿ = Handicap accessible

24 Hour Counseling

Erie Hotline 453-5656 or (800) 628-0190
Saint Vincent 452-5151
Family Crisis 456-2014
Hamot 877-6136
Victims of Anti-Gay Hate Crimes 1-800-259-1536

Accommodations, Bed & Breakfasts, Campgrounds

Camp Davis (412) 637-2402
317 Redbrush Rd, Boyers PA. Campground
DunDonald House (800) 260-7227 or (416) 961-9888
35 DunDonald St, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Bed & breakfast
Jones Pond Campground (716) 567-8100
9836 Old State Rd, Angelica NY. Adult male camping, 135 sites, water & electric, camp store, pool, DJ weekends, theme events
Rocking Duck Inn (716) 968-3335
28 Genesee Parkway, Cuba NY. Near Olean, 100 miles from Erie. Gay-owned Bed & Breakfast.
Whistle Stop Bed and Breakfast (905) 871-1265
Niagara Region, Ontario, Canada. \$65 / Night including breakfast for two.

Bars

The Embers ▼ 454-9171
1711 State St, Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat 8 pm - 2 am. Live DJ music Wed thru Sat 10 pm - 2 am. Pool table. Email TheEmbers@aol.com or browse http://members.aol.com/TheEmbers/
Leeward Lounge ▼ (216) 964-9935
1022 Bridge St, Ashtabula OH. Open 7 days, 7 pm. - 2:30 am, food till 1:30 am. 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.
Lizzy Bordon's Part II ▼ 833-4059
3412 W 12th St, Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat. 9pm-2am. DJ Music. Wed. Country Line Dancing. Fri & Sat-90's Dance Music. Shows on some Fridays.
Nite Spot ▼
201 Winsor, Jamestown, NY. 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.
Sneakers ▼ (716) 484-8816
100 Harrison, Jamestown, NY. Open Tues.-Sun. 2 pm to 2 am. DJ Fri & Sat 10-2.

Coffeehouses and Restaurants

Aroma's Coffeehouse ▼ 456-5282 (452-JAVA)
2164 W 8th St, Erie. M-Thurs 7am-11pm Fri 7am-1am. Sat 9am-1am, Sun 9am-4pm. Gay friendly, non-smoking coffeehouse, retail store, whole bean sales. Sandwiches, salads, soups and desserts. Large quiet deck in good weather. Bike rack. Plenty of free reading material and games. Smoking permitted on deck.

la bella bistro 454-3616
 556 W 4th St, Erie PA. Lunches Wed-Fri 11:30 pm-2:00 pm. Dinners Wed-Sat 5:00-10:00 pm. No liquor license, but welcome to bring own alcoholic beverages. Fine dining restaurant, price range from 10.00-25.00, average \$12.00 per entree. Gay friendly, transgendered individuals welcome. Romantic ambience, wheelchair accessible. Smoking and non-smoking sections available. Catering services and party rooms available.

Coffeeright © 451-6976
 Located in the main concourse of the new library/maritime museum complex, 17 East Front Street. Hours: (Same as the library-will change as library/museum hours change) Mon & Tue 9-9, WT & F 9-8 and Sat 9-5. Gay friendly, non-smoking coffeehouse serving a wide array of baked goods, desserts, sandwiches, soups, salads and snacks. Wheelchair accessible.

Cup-a-Cino's ▼ 456-1511
 18 North Park Row, Erie PA. Mon-Wed 7:30 am - 11 pm, Thurs-Fri. 7:30 am - 12 mid., Sat 9 am-midnight. Sun 10 am-5 pm. 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.

Counseling

Chautauqua Co. Gay Infoline (716)679-3560
Counseling Center ▼ 898 Park Ave Suite 12, Meadville PA
David J Johnson MA MS 838-9408
Family Service of Jamestown N.Y. (716)488-1971
Fredonia Office (716)679-3455
Christine L. Gagliano LSW 836-9622
Gay and Lesbian National Hotline (6 pm.- 11 pm. Mon.-Fri). 1-888-THE-GLNH (1-888-843-4564)
Great Lakes Counseling-Ashtabula (216)992-5995
Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
Family Medical (Warren PA) 726-3310
Well Being Center ▼ 838-0123 (Deb Monohon)

Erotica/Adult Bookstores

Body Language ▼ (888)GAY-PRDE (429-7733) or (216) 251-3330
 3291 W 115th St, Cleveland OH
Filmore News ▼ 2757 W 12th St, Erie
Modern News ▼ 1115 State St, Erie

Financial Advice

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

Funding and Fund-raising

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

Health

PA Breast Cancer Coalition 455-7833
Patrick McNamara, Lic. Massage Therapist (716)679-3430

Info-Lines

Buffalo (716)883-4750
Chautauqua County (North) (716)679-3560
Chautauqua County (South) (716)484-8434

Cleveland (216) 781-6736
Gay and Lesbian National Hotline (6 pm.- 11 pm. Mon.-Fri.) 1-888-THE-GLNH (1-888-843-4564)
Erie 456-9833
Pittsburgh (412) 422-0114 (M-F 6:30-9:30 pm, Sat 3-6 pm)
Toronto (416)964-6600 (M-S 7-10 pm)

Legal

David Baxter, Esq. 774-4163
Solymosi Law Offices, PC 452-4473
John Cooper, Esq. 455-3436

Miscellaneous

Avenue Gifts & Collectibles 454-1629
 1027 East Ave, Erie PA
Barnes & Noble ▼ 864-6300
 5909 Peach St, Erie PA
Karen A. McLoughlin 838-4802
 Licensed Esthetician, skin care specialist, facials & body treatment
Movie Stop 453-7696
 1229 State St, Erie PA. Also stores in McKean, Meadville & Oil City
Pal Prescription Pharmacy 455-8597
 1238 W 6th St, Erie PA
Poppa Ropp's Home Video ▼ 734-3014
 Edinboro Mall, Edinboro PA
Poster Annex 455-1999
 717 Liberty St, Erie PA Poster, prints, cards, ceramic tiles
Rainbow Pride Gift Shop ▼ (716) 881-6126
 175 Hodge St (corner of Elmwood Ave), Buffalo NY
Roadhouse Theatre ▼ 456-5656
 145 W 12th St, Erie PA
Roses & Lace Floral & Gifts 838-8518
 3424 W Lake Rd Erie PA
Talking Leaves ▼ (716) 837-8554
 3158 Main St, Buffalo NY

Political/Advocacy Organizations

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters 898-4210 (Dave Mulholland)
 Nonpartisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for elections, voter registration/education, lobbying, advocacy. Meets first Sun. Call for location. Write to LGLV-Erie, PO Box 8083, Erie, PA 16505-0083. Email to lgverie@ncinter.net

Publications

Erie Gay Community News 456-9833
 PO Box 3063, Erie PA 16508-0063. Fax 452-1392, Email egcn@ncinter.net

Religious Organizations

Integrity 774-0903 (Dorothy)
 or 452-3779 (Rev. Kay Johnson, Chaplain)
 A Christian-based spiritual and support group, sponsored by the Episcopal Church that welcomes people of all faiths. Write to Integrity-NWPA, PO Box 1782, Erie, PA, 16507-1782.
Unitarian Universalist Congreg of Erie ▼ 864-9300
 7180 New Perry Highway. For Commitment Vows, ask for Terry Kime.

Social Organizations

- 10% Network ▼** (716)484-7285 (John)
Chautauqua County, NY. Meets 3rd Saturday of the month 7-11 pm at First Unitarian Society of Jamestown. No smoking or alcohol.
- Chautauqua N County Social Grp (NY) (716) 673-3192 (Vince)**
..... or N County Infoline 716-679-3560
Social group for lesbians in northern half of county. Meets 4th Mon 7 - 9 pm, also fish fry 2nd Friday of the month.
- Menspace 456-9833 (Michael)**
Social group for gay/bi men. Meets second Sat (unless otherwise noted), location varies. Call 456-9833 for more info or email egcn@ncinter.net
- Rainbow Connection Fred or Marshall at 726-1808**
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. Write to 220 Onandaga Avenue, Warren PA 16365.
- Womynspace Coffeehouse ▼ ☺ 454-2713 (Sal)**
An alcohol & smoke-free environment for lesbians, with a theme, topic or activity for each month. Meet 1st Sat at 7:30pm. at Unitarian Univ Congreg of Erie.

Student Organizations/Youth

- Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People (CSGLBP, Allegheny College, Meadville) ▼ 332-4368 (Nancy)**
..... or 332-4375 (Erny)
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. Email to csglbp@alleg.edu
- Closest Culture 899-6528 (Mark)**
Focuses on social activities. Open to any lesbian, gay or bisexual 22 or younger in Erie or surrounding area. Write to: PO Box 529, Edinboro PA 16412. Email ClosestCltr@aol.com
- Covenant House Teen Hotline 1-800-999-9999**
- Identity ☺ 732-3779 (Christie Hudson)**
..... or 732-2555 (Dr. Dave Herendeen)
Student group for lesbian & allies at Edinboro Univ. Meets every Wed at 8:30pm in 125 Hendricks Hall. Write to Identity, c/o Dr. Herendeen, Edinboro Univ, Heather Hall, Edinboro, PA 16440
- Informal Lesbian Student Group of Erie**
Email to ILSGErie@aol.com
- Jamestown Comm. College Grp ▼ (716)665-5220 ext 204**
..... or 664-9174 (Greg Rabb)
Peer counseling & support attempting to live fulfilling, open, integrated lives as lesbian people in W NY & NW PA. Open to college & non-college people. Meeting date, time & place vary. Write to JCC, 525 Falconer St, PO Box 20, Jamestown NY 14702-0020. Email to Greg at rabbgp@jccw22.cc.sunyjc.edu.
- National Runaway Switchboard 1-800-621-4000**
- SUNY-Fredonia GLBSU (716)673-3139 or (716) 673-3149**
Meets Tuesdays at 8pm in Williams Center. All welcome. Email to glbsu0000@fredonia.edu.
- Teen Hotline (412)771-8336**
- Trigon (Penn State Behrend) 898-6030**
..... or (Sue Daley) 898-6164
For Behrend students, faculty, alumni. Write: College Mailroom, Box 1054, Behrend College, Station Rd, Erie, PA 16563. Email to Danny at trigon@psu.edu

Support Groups

- Erie Sisters**
Nonsexual social support group for TV/TS/CO. 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, 1903 W 8 St, Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505.
- Lambda Group—Gay AA ▼ 452-2675**
Alcoholics Anon for Lesbians. Open discussion. Meets Sunday at 8:00 pm at Unitarian Universalist Congreg 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.
- Northcoast Rainbow Families 868-0069 (Christopher)**
..... (716) 366-1453 (Judy)
Support, advocacy, and education group for lesbian parents and their families; play group for kids in western NY, northeast OH, and northwest PA. Affiliated with Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International. Write to: NCRF, PO Box 254, Fredonia, NY 14063. Email to: glpcerie@aol.com
- PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) see below**
- PFLAG-Ashtabula OH (216)964-3350**
Meets the last Friday of each month, 7:00 pm., Conference Room at Donahoe Center, Rt 20 East. Email: ssimmen@interlaced.net
- PFLAG-DuBois PA Karen or John Kressley at 371-8962**
Meets 7 pm on 2nd Tues of month at St. John's Oklahoma Lutheran Church at the corner of Maple Ave & Shaffer Road in DuBois. Write to PFLAG-DuBois, 1191 Treasure Lake, DuBois PA 15801 Email: peanutx@aol.com
- PFLAG-Erie Elaine 864-0184**
Meets last Sun of month 2:00 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. Write to PFLAG-Erie c/o Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, PO Box 3495, Erie, PA 16508.
- PFLAG-Jamestown (716) 488-1264 or 763-1529**
Meets last Tues of the month, call for site.
- PFLAG-New Castle PA Lois at (412)652-6893**
Meets 7-9 pm on 3rd Thurs of month at Human Svcs Ctr, 130 West North St, New Castle.
- Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) 453-5656 (Erie Hotline)**
Meets Tuesdays 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Web site: <http://www.sca-recovery.org/>
- Violence and Domestic Abuse (Women & Men)**
- Erie Hospitality House (814)454-8161**
- Jamestown - YWCA Alternatives to Violence
..... Daytime (716)488-2237, evenings (716)484-0052.**
- Women's Center of Warren & Forest Counties 24 hour Hotline (Sexual Assault as well) 800-338-3460 or (814)726-1030**
- Women's Services of Crawford County (24 hour) ▼ (814)333-9766**
- National Domestic Violence Hotline (800)799-SAFE (7233)**

REMEMBER: THE DEADLINE
FOR GETTING STUFF INTO THE
MARCH ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 15.

HIV/AIDS Directory

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 Grp (216)350-2554

Erie PA/Erie County

Case Manager - Sharon Cooper 456-8849
 Case Manager - Cheryl Weber 825-1085 or 455-3786
 AIDS Action Team (AACT) Gannon 871-7233
 AIDS Bereavement Support Group 452-3779 (Kay Johnson)

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

AIDS Network Information 451-6700

Friends from the Heart 838-0123 (Deb Monohon)

Direct Client Services. Volunteers helping deliver help with food, rent, transportation, moving and clothing to people with AIDS. Call to see how you can help. Donations *greatly* appreciated. Meets 2nd Monday of the month at Well Being Center, 710 Bequmont.

GEGASHI 451-6727

Gays Educating Gays About Sexual Health Issues. Sponsored by Erie County Health Department. Meets 3:30pm on selected Thursday in selected months.

HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cath. of St. Paul (Episcopal) 452-3779

NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance (Erie Ofc) ▼ 456-8849/(800)400-AIDS

1001 State St, Suite 808, Erie PA. Email them at nwpaids@erie.net

St. Mark's/Catholic Charities Support Group &

..... Cheryl Weber at 825-1085 or 455-3786

Open to people of all faiths. Meetings: 2nd & 4th Tues 6:30-8:00 pm (Note winter hours!) at Catholic Charities, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd.

Jamestown NY/Chautauqua Co.

AIDS Community Services ▼ (716)664-7855

Jamestown AIDS Group (716)488-1070

For HIV infected and affected people. Meets 1st Thursday at the home of Hop and Cindy Chase, 1115 Prendergast Ave in Jamestown.

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

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)764-6066

HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing Programs (free):

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


HIV/AIDS Anonymous Testing Sites

(Ashtabula) Family Planning Assoc (\$30) (216)992-5953

Painesville OH (216)354-AIDS

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (412)242-2500

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EGCN



Erie Gay Community News

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 PO Box 3063
 Erie, PA 16508-0063

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

E-Mail

To get on our emailing 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".

Our Web Site is our one stop for lesbigay local info! <http://www.ncinter.net/~egcn/>

Want to take your sweetie out for Valentine's but feel uncomfortable being the only gay couple? la bella bistro will be hosting an

All Gay Valentine's Day

Sunday Feb 16th

Dinner 5:00-10:00pm

Please feel free to be as Gay as you want to be &

Please be sure to specifically request "the All-Gay Valentine's Day" when reserving

la bella bistro

556 west fourth
erie, pa 16507

reservations
814-454-3616

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

◆ **Case Management**

◆ **Patient Care**

Physician, Pharmaceutical, Dental Emergency,
HOPWA (Housing) and Nutritional Supplements

◆ **Education/Prevention**

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

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

Northwest Alliance
RD #3, Box 75F
Clarion PA 16214

1001 State, Suite#808
Baldwin Bldg
Erie PA 16501
nwpaaids@erie.net

Rainbow Pride Gift Shop

175 Hodge at Elmwood, Buffalo

♥ 716.881.6126 ♥

**Say 'I Love You' with a
card on Valentine's Day**

♂♂ **February 14, 1997** ♀♀

Hours of Operation

Wednesday	5 PM-9 PM
Thursday	5 PM-9 PM
Friday	5 PM-9 PM
Saturday	1 PM-9 PM

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