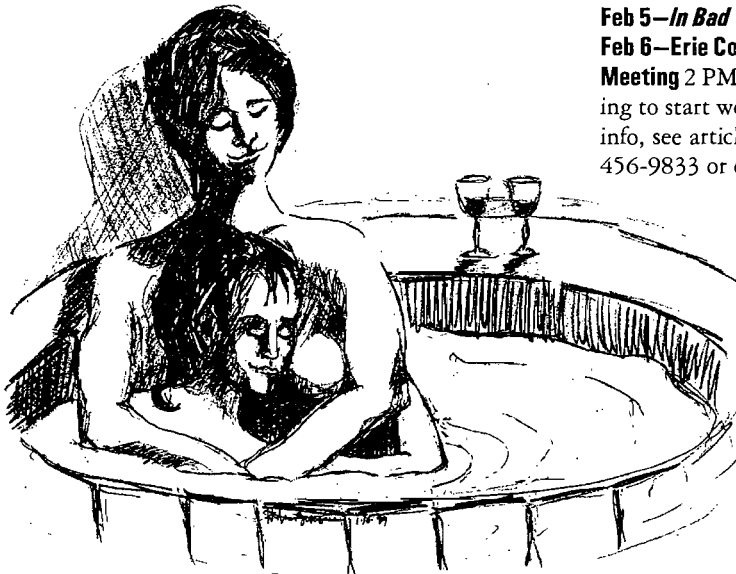


EGN

Erie Gay News

Calendar

Feb 2—Nova: Surviving AIDS (PBS-WQLN/Ch 54-Erie & WNED/Ch 17-Buffalo) 8 PM. Profiles Robert Massie, one of the longest-surviving HIV-infected patients known to science. This program reports new data uncovered through studies of Massie and others who have natural resistance to HIV. The information is being applied to treatments designed to replace or enhance the intensive drug therapies that are responsible for keeping many of today's AIDS sufferers alive. (Repeats Feb 4, 1:30 pm).



Feb 3—Imbolc at the UU 7:30 PM. Pagan holiday celebrated by GLBT-friendly Coven of Brighidshaven at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Wear black, bring a drinking vessel and dish to pass for the potluck following. Info: Sharon at medhbh@velocity.net

Feb 3—Margaret Cho (Comedy Central) 2 PM.

Feb 4—PFLAG-Erie meets 7:00 PM Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: Elaine Hill at 864-0184 or email loislane@velocity.net.

Feb 5—A Streetcar Named Desire opens at the Roadhouse Theatre 145 W 11th St. See last month's *Q-list*. Call the box office at 456-5656.

Feb 5—In Bad Taste: The John Waters Story (Bravo) 9 PM.

Feb 6—Erie Community Pride Organization (ECPO) Kickoff Meeting 2 PM at Blasco Memorial Library. We'll be meeting to start work on existing and new projects. For more info, see article page 6 or contact Mike Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net

Feb 6—Womynspace: Dinner and Movie Night Please bring a potluck dish to share (enough for about 8 people will probably be fine). We'll eat together and watch a movie - considering showing the new-ish and wonderful *When Night Has Fallen*. If you have other suggestions, or questions, call Helen 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com.

Feb 7—Patti LaBelle at State Theater (Cleveland) With Gerald Levert. Info: (800) 766-6048

Continued on page 3

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This Month's Cover Art
by Helen

If you want to reprint...

If you would like to reprint original articles or artwork that appeared in *EGN*, please contact us for permission, and please credit *Erie Gay News*. If an article or illustration contains the author's/creator's name, please credit them as well.

Thanks!

Items to send us in February

Feb 15— Deadline for info related to March and early April events:

St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Passover,
End of Winter, Spring Break



c/o EGC Coalition, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105
Phone: (814) 456-9833
Fax: (814) 452-1392
Email: egcn@ncinter.net
Web Site: <http://www.eriegaynews.com/>

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of information, support and affirmation for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, transgendered people, their friends, families and allies 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 EGN 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 *nonfiction* article or illustration graphic which broadens our understanding of our lives and each other. We won't 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 EGN staff.

© 1999 Erie Gay News

Thanks for the January issue collators!

Thanks to Stan King and Ro for helping us to collate the most recent issue of *EGN*! It was during the holidays and on an odd night, so we really appreciate them for pitching in!

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!*

Feb 8—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Feb 9—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Feb 9—Biography: Liberace (A&E) 8 PM & 12 midnight.

Feb 10—Venango-Forest AIDS Support Group meets 6:30 PM at Rowe Building at Northwest Medical Center in Oil City. For more info, call (814) 677-9901 or email clmiller@usachoice.net. The VFASG does have a phone at the office, but an answering machine has not yet been obtained. If you can help out in any way with donations or volunteer time, please contact us!

Feb 11—BYKOTA meets Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Feb 12—National Freedom to Marry Day Sponsored by Lambda Legal Defense, Freedom to Marry Coalition, and Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Check out <http://www.lambdalegal.org> or call (212) 807-1700.

Feb 13—Red Hot Valentine's Dance Party 10 PM to 12 midnight at The Zone, 1711 State St. Door prizes, prize for best costume, no cover. See ad on back page!

Feb 13—Menspace Jeff Hill has graciously offered to host. "This will be a 'sleepwear' themed party. This gives you plenty of time to find that hot little red lace number you received for Valentine's Day last year; or maybe some plaid head-to-toe flannel is more to your liking. Either way, anything goes! And, if you would normally wear nothing at all to sleep in, that's fine by us—just don't dangle that thing in any of the food!" Call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net for more info.

Feb 13—Valentine's Dance (Reno PA) Jimi Winger and Brenda Miller invite you and your friends to a dance at the Coon and Fox club from 7 PM until 1 AM. Raffle/admission tickets sold at the door for \$5. For more information, please call (814) 677-0020 or email jameswinger@hotmail.com DJ Garbo will run the show. Raffle proceeds will benefit AIDS charities.

Feb 14—Happy Valentines Day

Feb 17—Natalie Merchant & Bob Dylan at CSO Convocation Center (Cleveland) Info: TicketMaster (216) 241-5555

Feb 18—La Cage Aux Folles opens at the Erie Playhouse and runs Thursdays through Sundays through March 13. At 13 W 10th St. Call the box office at 454-2852. See details in this month's Q-list, page 11.

Feb 18—In The Life (PBS-Ch 13/WQED, Pittsburgh) 11 PM. Details will run next month.

Feb 18—Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde at City Theatre (Pittsburgh) Cocktails 6 PM. Fundraiser for Shepherd Wellness Community & Frank Borrelli AIDS Fund (Pittsburgh). \$25 general admission or \$50 Benefactor. Event includes open bar (top shelf), food and Hors d'oeuvres. A raffle will also be held with over 20 prizes. Raffle tickets will be 3 for \$5. 100% of proceeds will be split between these 2 organizations. Performances continue through March 14th. For more info or reservations for Feb 18th benefit, call (412) 682-9869 or email loueros@brigadoon.com. For other performances, call (412) 431-2489.

Feb 20—1999 Womyn's Variety Show (Cleveland) For more info, contact Oven Productions at (216) 321-7799.

Feb 20—10% Network meets (Jamestown, NY) 7 PM at the Unitarian Church in Jamestown, 1225 Prendergast Ave. For more info, call John at (716) 484-7285 or email otto@maddbbs.com.

Feb 20—Chinese New Year Banquet (Cleveland) 6:30 PM. Sponsored by Asians and Friends. Dinner and show at Lai Lai Restaurant, 3040 St. Clair Ave. \$27/person (Advance Purchase Only). For more info, call (440) 891-9121.

Feb 21—Bowl-a-Thon for Venango-Forest AIDS Support Group (Tentative) (Oil City) 12 lanes open from 1-3 PM &

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12 lanes open 3-5 PM. For more info, call (814) 677-9901 or email clmiller@usachoice.net.

Feb 23—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Feb 23—"Lust in the Dust" (Comedy Central) 9 AM. Features drag queen Divine and Tab Hunter

Feb 24—Wilde (1998) at D'Angelo Center at Mercyhurst College 8 PM. \$3 adults, \$2 students and seniors. Drama about the life and loves of wit/author/playwright Oscar Wilde.

Feb 25—BYKOTA meets Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Feb 27—"Cause for Celebration" (Jamestown & Buffalo) Annual AIDS fundraiser with activities in both Jamestown and Buffalo. For more info, call (716) 847-0340.

Mar 2—Love Janis opens at the Cleveland Playhouse Drama about 60's bisexual singer Janis Joplin. Check out their web site at <http://www.cleveplayhouse.org> or call box office at (216) 795-7000. At 8500 Euclid Ave, email is_cph@en.com.

Mar 3—"Always Our Children" meets Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Meets 7-9 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. 456-2091 for more info.

Mar 4—PFLAG-Erie meets 7:00 PM Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: Elaine Hill at 864-0184 or email loislane@velocity.net.

Mar 6—Womynspace "We are meeting for sure, but have no specific plans at this time. Ideas and suggestions welcome." Call Helen 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com.

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Mar 17—Happy St. Patrick's Day

Mar 20—10% Network meets (Jamestown, NY) 7 PM at the Unitarian Church in Jamestown, 1225 Prendergast Ave. For more info, call John at (716) 484-7285 or email otto@maddbbs.com.

Mar 23—Ostara (Spring Equinox) at the UU 7:30 PM. Pagan holiday celebrated by GLBT-friendly Coven of Brighidshaven at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Wear green, bring a drinking vessel and dish to pass for the potluck following. Info: Sharon at medhbh@velocity.net

Mar 23—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Mar 23—Ignite '99 Rally at the Rotunda (Harrisburg) Part of NGLTF's Equality Begins At Home (EBAH) program. Sponsored by Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition. Check web site at <http://www.lions.psu.edu/sparc> or email Deni Scott at dscott@pgh.net or call her at 814-863-8415.

Mar 25—BYKOTA meets Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Mar 26—Glass Menagerie opens (Roadhouse Theatre) Drama by openly gay playwright Tennessee Williams. For more info, call the box office at 456-5656.

Mar 27—Renaissance City Women's Choir: Women's Fest '99 (Pittsburgh) at Jewish Community Center. For more information call (412) 362-9484 or email RCCchoirs@aol.com.

Mar 26—Into the Woods opens (Academy Theatre, Meadville) Musical by recently-openly gay Stephen Sondheim. Runs Mar 26, 27, Apr 1,3,9,10,11. Adults \$8, seniors and children \$7, matinees \$7 all seats. Details (814) 337-8000.

Mar 28—In The Life (PBS-Ch 54/WQLN) 11 PM. Details next month.

Apr 1—PFLAG-Erie meets 7:00 PM Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: Elaine Hill at 864-0184 or email loislane@velocity.net.

Apr 2—Passover starts

Apr 4—Happy Easter

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Apr 7—"Always Our Children" meets Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Meets 7-9 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. 456-2091 for more info.

Apr 7—Fences (Pittsburgh) At Pittsburgh Public Theatre. April 7th will be 13th annual Pittsburgh Public Theatre's benefit for AIDS Task Force, call (412) 242-2599 for more info on this night. Performance continue April 8th through May 9th. For more info on subsequent performances, call (412) 321-9800.

Apr 8—BYKOTA meets Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Apr 10—Menspace Call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net for more info.

Apr 10—Renaissance City Mens's Choir: Spring Concert (Pittsburgh) at Jewish Community Center. For more information call (412) 362-9484 or email RCChoirs@aol.com.

Apr 12—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Apr 13—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Festivals and conferences

Feb 11-Feb 14—12th Annual Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference (Atlanta) Registration deadline January 21. Kenyatta Dorey Graves (202) 483-6786 or ForumConf@aol.com.

Feb 26-Feb 28—15th Annual Interweave Continental Convocation (Atlanta) Unitarian-Universalist GLBT group. Workshops, Urvashi Vaid-keynote speaker, youth programs. UUA has the largest percentage of GLBT ministers and is the only established denomination to formally endorse legalization of same sex marriage. For more info, email nowestuu@aol.com, or write to George Adams, 336 McGill Place, Atlanta GA 30312, (404) 688-2242. Interweave is at <http://www.uua.org/ROOM/room9.html>.

Feb 26-Feb 29—OutWrite '99 (Boston) GLBT writers' conference. Boston Park Plaza, Boston MA. <http://www.bsef.org/outwrite> or outwrite@bsef.terranel.com or (617) 262-6969.

Feb 26-Feb 29—True Spirit Conference '99 (Laurel MD) "For people born female for whom that is not an adequate or accurate description of who they are" and friends and allies. Best Western Hotel, Laurel MD; PO Box 1118 Elkton MD 21922 or transman@netgsi.com.

Scapers closing

by Ross

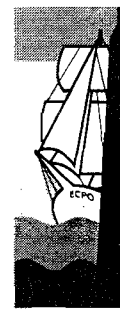
After almost one year in business, we have decided to close up shop. Coming into a new year always gives you the opportunity to look back and reflect on your past year, both the good times and the bad. It also gives you the chance to look into the future and plot the new course you want your life to take.

As we look into the future and plot new courses in life, we do not see Scapers being a part of that future. We have decided to concentrate on doing more things like traveling and getting out of town every now and again; working seven days a week has shown not to be conducive to that desire.

It's not that the store wasn't a good idea for Erie, or that it doesn't work - I think we've shown that it does. We've just realized that we're not the ones to do it and we wish anyone who might take this on in the future the best of luck.

Thanks to everyone who supported us during this year, especially ECPO and the EGN. See you all at the picnic in June!

Ross and Jeff



**Erie
Community
Pride
Organization**

ECPO Kickoff Meeting Feb 6

At the Blasco Memorial Library 2 PM

To work on projects for 1999

Call Michael at (814) 456-9833 or email
egcn@ncinter.net

Letters

From a straight friend

Dear Mikes,

My name is Adam Trambley and I just returned to Erie after almost 10 years in Boston. I just recently stumbled across your Web site and was glad to see there was one and find out what was going on. My wife Jane and daughter Lily (18 months) were at the Gay Pride rally and thought it was a wonderful event and were very glad to see it in Erie. One of my fears about moving back to Erie with my family was that I wanted my daughter to grow up around diversity, including growing up with the sense that gay people and gay relationships are normal. Although my family raised me with that sense (I think you know my dad, Jerry), I wouldn't say it was the norm I remember in this area. Leaving gay friends in Boston (Lily's godparents are two gay couples) and a relatively tolerant atmosphere there, I was glad to see things happening here as well. So thanks for all you are doing, not just for yourselves but for straight people and their children (of as yet undetermined sexual orientation) who need you, too. I hope to get a chance to meet you both in person at some point relatively soon. Please let me know when other events are occurring as well. With a little one, it is hard to commit to showing up at any particular place or time, but we would at least be there in spirit.

Have a Happy _____ (fill in the winter holiday of your choice)!!!

Peace,

Adam Trambley and Family

ECPO meeting

The Erie Community Pride Organization (ECPO) will be having its kickoff meeting for 1999 on Saturday, February 6 at 2 PM at the Blasco Memorial Public Library, Admiral Room. All people wanting to work on projects benefiting our community are welcome!

This should be a relatively brief and results-oriented meeting. Our main purpose will be to form committees for various projects and pick coordinator(s)/contact(s) for each committee. We won't be getting into the details of particular projects at the open meeting itself: that tends to be much more efficiently handled at a time and place when attention is focused on one particular project.

We had a successful Pride Picnic and Pride Rally last year. It is very likely that these will be two of the committees. What other committees form will be the result of what projects people want to work on.

We have had a few suggestions already. Some of us could march as a contingent in Cleveland's Pride Parade or in the Erie St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Other suggestions have included a chorus, visiting an AIDS care facility, and a fundraising event to bring in a bigger name for this year's Pride Rally.

It would be nice for there to be a variety of activities at this year's Pride Rally, both speakers/performers and free form events.

Speaking of the Pride Rally, a tape of the event ran on Public Access! Thanks to Dan Conley and Al Richardson for their help. If you would like a copy, get me a blank tape.


For more information, call (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net. See you there!



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In the zone

by Jared Kroto

Well, it's a new year and with it comes a new attitude here at The Zone. Bob Regan's license transfer and legal paperwork are finally done and that means new changes and fun events for the coming year. Out with the old, in with the new. The "Embers" signs will be coming down in a few weeks and the new "Zone" logo will go up in its place. The interior painting is almost complete. If you haven't been in a while, the drab pink and grey are gone, replaced with a trendy new look of bright colors and fun patterns, just like the bigger dance clubs in other cities. Above the dance floor, the awesome new light show complements the great mixing done by DJ's T.C. and Ernie, playing your favorite music by request.

Almost every inch of the bar has been redone for your enjoyment. Have you seen the bathrooms? This isn't your grandmother's house, it's a dance club and we want you to have fun! Stop in and see the transformation, it's just the beginning.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped out with this year's New Years Eve Party. Bob, T.C., Carl, Lee and Jack, Michael, Ernie, Jeff and Jeff, and also Tara. It's nice to know so many people support the bar with helping hands. Those of you that weren't there don't know what you missed. Great food, great music and a great start to 1999. It was the best party I've ever been to! PS there was no cover and we're still finding confetti everywhere!

As for February... dust off your boxer shorts with the hearts on them because we're throwing another party, a Red Hot Dance Party! Saturday, February 13 in the "Red" Zone. Valentine's drink specials and door prizes. Be a sexy cupid, drag queen of hearts or a horny little devil but dress in red (or undress in red underwear!) Don't miss out on a night of hot fun! No cover and prize for best costume. Come on baby, light my fire!

Finally, I'd like to thank Bob Regan for buying the bar and keeping an open door to the gay community. It's a place where we can be comfortable being ourselves and meet others like us in a friendly atmosphere. We're lucky Erie still has 2 choices in gay bars. It would be boring going to the same place every night, Variety is the spice of life! It's nice to see more of you rediscovering and enjoying Erie's other gay nightspot, The Zone!

See you in The Zone!

Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

◆ Case Management

◆ Emergency Financial Assistance

Emergency Financial Assistance includes physician and dental care, HOPWA and other housing, and nutritional supplements

◆ Education/Prevention

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




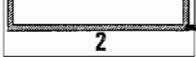
1-800-359-AIDS or 1-800-400-AIDS

Northwest Alliance
RD #3, Box 75F
Clarion PA 16214
nwparaa@penn.com

1001 State, Suite #806
Baldwin Bldg.
Erie PA 16501
nwpaids@erie.net

Advertise in EGN!

Below is a table of our ad rates and sizes. Any ad prepaid by the 25th of the month previous to the month of the issue in which the ad is run qualifies for a 10% discount. Make checks payable to "EGC Coalition".

	1/8 Page: \$25 (\$22.50 prepaid) 3" wide X 1-3/4" tall
	1/4 Page: \$45 (\$40.50 prepaid) 3" wide X 3-1/2" tall
	1/2 Page: \$75 (\$67.50 prepaid) 6" wide X 3-1/2" tall or 3" wide by 7" tall
	Page: \$145 (\$130.50 prepaid) 6" wide X 7" tall

Any art or already laid out ad copy must be high contrast camera ready black and white to reproduce. No faxes, please. We can also help lay out your ad for you. Call Michael at 456-9833.

Local news

Chautauqua County info sources

The two infolines for Chautauqua County NY are back in service. They have been getting about 40-50 calls a month. The phone number for the North is (716) 679-3560 and for the South is (716) 484-8434. Please also note that John, the coordinator for the 10% Network, now has email. You can reach him at otto@maddbbs.com

Erie Sisters update

by Connie Jo Wolf

The Erie Sisters Club had a productive (yet fun) meeting in December. Our Prez. Lisa K. prepared us a German feast to celebrate the holidays. Then we got down to business.

We held our yearly elections and created some new positions. Lisa has been reelected as our President for another year. Pam D. remains Treasurer, Dianne L. stays on the web (although she now has fewer pressures than before), and Kara will remain our newsletter editor.

Our newly created positions were appointed as follows. Marsha M. is the Assistant Editor of the newsletter and our Outreach Coordinator for Ohio. Amber R. (our second youngest member) is our Activities Coordinator. I (Connie-the youngest) am now Outreach Coordinator for PA.

We plan on reaching out to the local media, but are not yet sure to what extent. Most definitely we will be writing into the EGN to keep everyone updated.

We also plan on holding a large event, the Erie Lakeside Gala (formerly Riverside Gala Weekend), in Erie in November. We plan to make it bigger and to have

more events. We may have smaller events before then and always have our "Girls' Night Out" at a local bar. Contact Lisa or Connie for more details.

We are also looking forward to Erie Pride Rally '99, where we hope to be represented again this year.

Finally, our web page is being revamped as I write this. Stop by and check it out. We have renamed ourselves Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group. [Ed. note: the website for the group is <http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley/1614/> and Connie's email is biwnvegdg@hotmail.com]

Pedigree dog group forming

by Ron

We are looking to start a group for anyone who is involved with showing or breeding pedigree dogs. If you show or compete in any AKC or UKC trials, we will be having meetings once a month and start traveling to shows together and try to take the organization national. If you are interested or would like more information please email homesk1@penn.com or call (814) 837-8284.

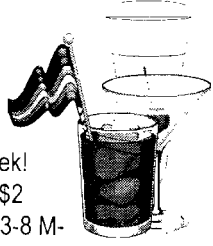
Riverside Gala Weekend

by Lisa Kelly

On Nov. 19-21 the Erie Sisters held its annual convention, the Riverside Gala. It is an event for the transgendered (TG) and their families. Though it is intended to be educational, it is primarily an entertaining event. Friday nite was the welcoming buffet followed by a talent show. Once again Connie showed us what a professional show girl she really is, the rest of us well... lets just say I did a comedy routine. Then it was off to party in the lounge. Saturday, we held seminars, one of them featuring Kris Holt. We also enjoyed a grand banquet and awards ceremony then we partied in the lounge! Events like the Riverside Gala Weekend hold an important purpose for the TG community; it was the first time out of the closet for some of the girls. Although attendance was down, we have decided to revamp the Riverside Gala Weekend. The time has come for Erie to have a Transgendered event and this year it will. Look forward to the new Erie Lakeside Gala in November.

Rascals

701 NORTH MAIN STREET
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(716) 484-3220
Open 3 PM to 2 AM 7 days a week!
Suns Drag shows 11 PM - 1 AM \$2 cover. DJ Fri - Sun, Happy Hour 3-8 M-F, 25¢ off mixed drinks, draft and bottled beers



What's romantic?

We recently asked folks to tell us what they thought was romantic. This is what they wrote back:

Well, I do have a girlfriend now, and for our first date, her car hadn't been inspected in a year and a half. So she got that done and got the car all cleaned and fixed up, and if you've ever seen the car, this is no small job. She did all of this so we could go out

~Amy

My boyfriend and I were in Minnesota for a Fraternity Conference. I arrived two days before he was supposed to, but he got there early and didn't tell me. He showed up at the door to my hotel room (that I was sharing with another brother) and told me he'd rented us a single room for the night.

~Daniel

It was my birthday, and I really hate my birthday. You know. Another year, and what do I have to show for it besides a few more wrinkles? That kind of junk. Well, it had snowed, which made me feel even more cheery. I wasn't looking forward to coming home at 3-4 AM to park in 2 feet of snow. They never plow my street, so I just knew I was going to get stuck.

When I got home, there was a large spot on the street completely cleared of snow. My lover braved the elements at 2 in the morning to clear me a safe parking spot on a day when he knew I would be feeling down. Now, that is love.

~Alan

The most romantic thing my man has ever done for me????? Hmmmm!!!! I would have to say the first night we spent at my place and he treated me like I was the only man in the world and his sole purpose in life was to be there for me, to take care of me, and see that all my needs were met without me lifting a finger. It made me feel very special and loved. It continues to this day and the feelings get stronger all the time!!!! I love you Pat and hope all of your dreams have come true as mine have. HAPPY VALENTINES DAY TO YOU AND ALL LOVERS EVERYWHERE

~Daddy47

I got a note delivered to work with a package...the note said to wear what was in the package to a nearby florist at 4 pm. I got off from work at 3, put this sundress on that was in the box, and went to the florists. When I got there, I wasn't sure what to do. I waited in the parking lot. The clerk came out and gave me another note and a dozen long stemmed red roses. The note said to go to my favorite Chinese restaurant. I went there, wondering what next... I got there and went in, thinking my girlfriend would be there. She wasn't. A worker there came over and handed me a bag, full of food, and another note. It explained that my girlfriend had to work late that night and would meet me at 6:30 at home for dinner. I thought it was a pretty creative thing to do... She had called the places from work and charged it all and told them what the dress looked like so they would know it was me. (She had bought the dress some time earlier and left it in her car, and when she realized she was going to be late- she had a cab drop it and the note off at my work.)

~Chickbabe

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HIV/AIDS news

Outreach Project and CLD

from Tom Lee

Tom is working with 2 different groups: Erie's MSM Outreach Project, which is open to all gay, lesbian, bisexual and gay friendly individuals. This group promotes AIDS/HIV education and safer sex at the grass roots level.

The other group is Erie's Community Leadership Development (CLD) MSM group, which is open to all gay/bi males and gay-friendly men. This group also promotes AIDS/HIV education and safer sex programs in Erie and neighboring counties.

MSM stands for Men who have Sex with Men. Health professionals use this term because some men may engage in sexual behavior with other men, but not label themselves as gay or bi.

For either group, contact Tom Lee at 455-2054 or write to 1305 Holland Street, Erie PA 16503-1038.

Valentines Day

by Potty Puline, HIV/AIDS Educator (ECDH)

One out of every 20 Americans will contract an STD this year— that's 12 million Americans. Once you know the facts, why would you take a chance?

Speaking of love and romance in February, because it will soon be Valentine's Day, be careful of what you do this year with your Valentine. Some STD's will love you for life.

Herpes has no cure, it loves you for life. Herpes is a viral infection that is transmitted through direct contact

with a sore, but can be transmitted when any body surface, such as a hand, makes contact with a herpes sore and then transfers the virus to the mouth or genitals. Approximately 500,000 cases of genital herpes are diagnosed every year in the United States. There is no cure.

HIV has no cure, it loves you for life. Don't risk it. An estimated 1 out of every 250 Americans is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. HIV is a viral infection that is transmitted through blood, semen and vaginal fluids. HIV attacks and destroys the immune system. In the early stage, there are no symptoms. As the virus attacks the body, flu-like symptoms develop. In the last stage, various diseases (opportunistic infections) take over your body due to a weakened immune system. A person with HIV can live from several months to 10 years before developing AIDS. AIDS is always deadly and there is no cure. There is treatment, through medication, but no cure.

Syphilis is still hanging around. With the exception of HIV, syphilis is the deadliest STD and one of the oldest known human diseases. More than 115,000 new cases of syphilis occur in the United States each year. Early signs and symptoms of syphilis are mild or not even noted and will disappear without treatment. Second and third stage syphilis can have life-threatening results. It can attack the heart, arteries and the brain. At this final stage, syphilis is incurable and fatal.

Don't become a statistic. Avoid the risky behaviors of having unprotected sex or sharing drug needles and syringes. Use a latex condom during sex to help reduce the risk of STD and HIV infection. You can't tell by looking at someone whether or not they are infected with HIV or another STD. The safest behaviors are waiting to have sex with a lifelong, faithful, uninfected partner and avoid intravenous drug use. "Luv Carefully!"

Information from: Health EDCo, WRS Group, Waco, TX 76702-1207

Suite
204
LE SALON
233 W 8TH
454-4691

Keep us updated on what your group has been up to!

Q-list

by Mike Miller

Theatre and film

La Cage Aux Folles opens at the **Erie Playhouse** Feb 18th and will run Thursdays-Sundays up through March 13th. In case you've been living under a rock, *La Cage* is about a gay night club owner and his drag queen hubby who try to play it straight for a night to gain the acceptance of their son's conservative parents-to-be, all to disastrous hilarity. Originally a French play, then movie, then worked into an American stage musical and finally retranslated into 1996's **The Birdcage**. *La Cage Aux Folles* (which can also be translated as "madhouse") has a long history of attracting great talents, both gay and straight. This Playhouse presentation directed by David Matthews promises to be no exception. Although some politically correct critics dismiss the play's characters as too stereotypical, these are characters that have been free to dress in various states of masculinity and femininity and proclaim "I Am What I Am" to straight and gay audiences alike for over 20 years. For tickets or information contact the Erie Playhouse, 13 W 10th St, 454-2852.

Love Janis shines light on the tortured electric soul of late '60's bisexual singing legend **Janis Joplin** as revealed in her letters and songs, playing at the **Cleveland Playhouse's** Drury Theatre March 2nd - April 4th. Another famous tortured gay soul will be illuminated in **Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde** playing at **Pittsburgh's City Theatre** Feb 18th-March 14th, and in a showing of the Excellent 1998 movie **Wilde** at Mercyhurst's D'Angelo Center Feb 24th. Details on all three events can be found in this month's Calendar.

Music

Last month you were promised details about the upcoming **2 Girls Alone** CD **Invisible Me**, but, as of this writing, production has been held up by some of the recent bad weather, and the CD has yet to be released. We do still plan to run an article on the 2 girls CD, and will certainly let you know as soon as we find out it's available for purchase. Stay tuned.

Fans of singer/songwriter **Ani DiFranco** have something to feel up about with the release of her new CD

UpUpUpUpUpUp on her own Righteous Babe label. Included in this latest effort by the bisexual tunesmith is the story of a lesbian romance gone bittersweet and a plea against blind conformity.

What do **Judy Garland**, **Ethel Merman**, **Billie Holiday** and **Shirley Bassey** all have in common? Besides the fact that they're all divas, a standard sung by each of them is featured on the soundtrack to the movie **Little Voice** (Capitol). Believe it or not, singing a couple classics right along with them - and very competently - is Jane Horrocks, the zany Bubble from **Absolutely Fabulous**. Camp on!

Just Out

Is it officially a trend? In December **REM** lead man **Michael Stipe** came out queer, saying "I thought it was dead obvious to everyone all along" on *VH1*. Now **Nathan Lane**'s out on the cover of the Feb 2 **Advocate** and telling interviewer Bruce Vilanch "I just assume a lot of people know. It's never been something I kept secret." Both felt compelled to publicly announce they're orientations af-

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ter years of hounding by the press. But before we join the masses that cry "it's about time" perhaps we should think about it and admit that they are both right when they say that it shouldn't matter. In a world where there are no Fred Phelps' or Matthew Shepards, it *shouldn't* matter. But, since there *are* Matthew Shepards, Lane decided that it does matter. We should honor and applaud that decision, no matter how long it may have taken to be made.

Also fresh out of the closet are Olympic gold medal swimmer **Mark Tewksbury** and silver medal skater **Brian Orser**.

Books

In the mood for love, but unsure what your next move should be? Maybe you're confident of your abilities but feel that you can never be too informed, especially when it comes to relationship/sex issues. For women there's **Lesbian Sex** by Joann Loulan, illustrated by Barbara Johnson and Maria Quackenbush (Bookpeople, \$12.95) or **The Lesbian Sex Book** by Wendy Caster illustrated by Julie May (Alyson, \$15.95), and for men there's Jack Hart's **Gay Sex: A Manual for Men Who Love Men** (Alyson, \$17.95), all of which are supposed to be excellent resources regardless of your level of commitment.

More interested in a titillating read, a potential ice breaker, or just plain mind candy? There are several compilations of erotic short stories. Women can curl up with **Pillow Talk: Lesbian Stories Between the Covers** edited by Leslie Newman (Alyson \$12.95) or **Best Lesbian Erotica 1998** compiled by Jenifer Levin and edited by Tristan Taormino (Cleis Press, \$14.95). Men may want to get worked up with **Friction: Best Gay Erotic Short Stories** edited by Gerry Knoll (Alyson, \$14.95) or **Best Gay Erotica 1998** edited by Christopher Bram and Richard Labonte (Cleis Press \$14.95) or take a look at their

forbears in **Affectionate Men: A Photographic History of a Century of Male Couples 1850's to 1950's** by Russell Bush and designed by Ron Lieberman (St. Martin's Press \$24.95). Both gay men and lesbians curious of how the other side might conceive of their sex lives will want to scan through **Switch Hitters: Lesbians Write Gay Male Erotica and Gay Men Write Lesbian Erotica** edited by Carol Queen and Lawrence Schimel (Cleis Press \$12.95).

Lest we forget that what we celebrate on Valentine's Day includes more than just the romantic or sexual, there's the newly released **Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual and Transgendered Parents and Their Families** by Gigi Kaeser and Peggy Gillespie (University of Massachusetts Press \$40).

Gift giving

What do you get your sweetie on Valentine's day? Candy? What if Sweetie is trying to lose the 10 pounds gained during the Holidays? Roses? Pretty, for a week or two. A card? Sure, but try finding one that isn't too lame or too *hetero*. Jewelry? Expensive, especially if work is slow, you have post-holiday debt, or you have to pay taxes this year. Besides, that might send a stronger message of commitment than either of you is planning for right now.

In my experience the most romantic and most appreciated gifts I've given or received have not been gifts of things, but gifts of thought or of time. Judging from the responses we've received to the "What's romantic?" article on page 9 and in previous February issues, I'm not alone in this experience.

If money's tight or even if it's not, think about cooking a romantic candle lit dinner at home for your sweetie. Read to each other from a book of erotica by the fireplace. Rent an instruction video on massage and take turns being guinea pigs. Work together on putting together a photo album complete with silly captions. Arrange to go to a bar/restaurant separately, "accidentally" meet, then pick each other up.

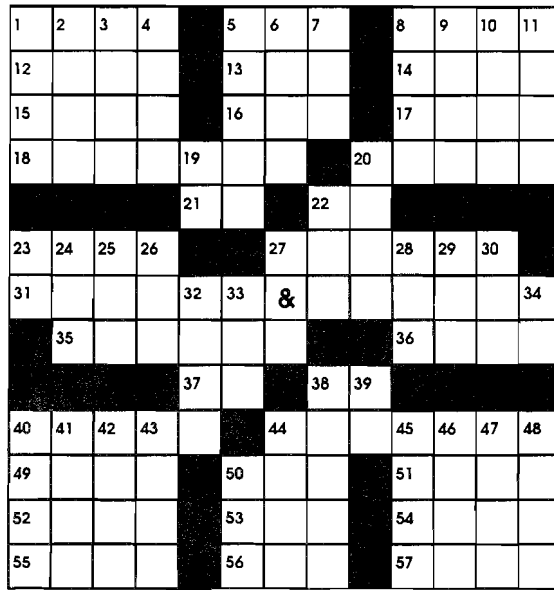
If you have no idea what to do, try this. Each of you think up the wildest/sweetest/most romantic or fun thing that your partner could do for/with you within a pre-agreed upon time/monetary limit (2 hours, \$15, whatever). Write it down on a slip of paper and trade with your partner. Then take turns doing what's on the paper. You'll learn something about each other, and hopefully have a good time.

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Across: *Themed clues

- 1 Good things to keep up one's sleeve if one wishes to keep one's sleeve in a game of strip poker
- 5 Must-have for lesbians who play safe*
- 8 Requisite lighting for romantic dancing?*
- 12 Essential to keep any friction from ruining romance*
- 13 Avenue, to a postmaster
- 14 Game, Jai _____
- 15 Tropical oil-producing tree
- 16 Can and foil material, formerly
- 17 Local Area Networks in geek-speak
- 18 Requisite light sources for a romantic dinner?*
- 20 Don't lose these before the commitment ceremony*
- 21 '98 Nicholson-Hunt-Kinnear flick _____ *Good As It Gets*
- 22 Letters after an electrical engineer's name
- 23 Telephone code
- 27 Needed to mail a love letter*

- 31 Venues expected on a traditional date*
- 35 Necessity for gay men who play safe*
- 36 1111, to Caesar
- 37 Part of the mind that's really talking during a Freudian slip
- 38 Veteran's Administration
- 40 Customary graphic on a Valentine*
- 44 Preferred attire for romantic fetishist?*
- 49 Famed director Preminger
- 50 Problem prone Russian space station
- 51 Dynamic prefix
- 52 French words, especially *bon*, or good, ones
- 53 May cause your lesbian lover to *not* feel romantic
- 54 Every book begins with a single one of these
- 55 Music needed to put your New Age lover in the mood?*
- 56 Farm implement
- 57 Greek god one must invoke to inspire love?*

Down:

- 1 Actor Guinness or Baldwin
- 2 Castro's country
- 3 Black, like the wood
- 4 What you sow
- 5 Romantic appointments
- 6 Car rental company
- 7 Beefcake mag, *Advocate* _____
- 8 Surrealist Salvador
- 9 Actor Ladd or Hale, Jr.
- 10 Produced mechanical resonance
- 11 Expected ending to successful first date?*
- 19 Singing syllable
- 20 Bundle of paper
- 22 Estimated Time of Arrival
- 23 Commercial
- 24 Former Cars lead man O'Casek
- 25 Influential musician/producer Brian, who cowrote the original *Heroes* with David Bowie in '77
- 26 Dance legend Miller of *Follies* fame
- 27 Essential romantic activity for kinky couple?*
- 28 '94 Campy John Waters-Kathleen Turner romp *Serial* _____
- 29 Polyvinyl chloride, to an environmentalist
- 30 Just after five
- 32 Abridge
- 33 Bab Paris' ex. Jackson
- 34 _____-e-i-o
- 38 The hallmark interior element of a Valentine's Day card?*
- 39 Alcoholics Anonymous
- 40 Where the heart is?
- 41 English preparatory school, or type of jacket
- 42 Lawyer
- 43 '60's Bus riding activist Parks
- 44 VIP's mode of travel?
- 45 Goes with scotch or video
- 46 What ears do
- 47 Therefore
- 48 Deer (plural)
- 50 What your car's speedometer measures, if it's American

EGN

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All information held in confidence.

Michael dithers

I opened the mail recently to see the cover story of *The Advocate* be about Nathan Lane officially coming out (finally!) It is part of an interesting trend. Lane said that he wasn't really closeted and he figured everyone already knew. Tommy Tune said some similar things, as did Michael Stipe. Nathan Lane said that the brutal murder of Matthew Shepherd moved him to finally say publicly what he figured many already knew.

I know some people who figure that their families, friends or co-workers probably have guessed their story, so why say anything when everybody knows?

Our lives do make a difference. Being honest makes a difference. True sometimes people fear losing their jobs, families and friends and sometimes with very good reason.

Micheal and I have been getting our hair cut at a salon run by two straight women for a few years now. One of them was telling us a few months ago about two friends (1 male and 1 female), both of whom she was pretty sure were gay. She was perplexed that they hadn't confided in her. We suggested that she ask each of them about the other one as a way to bring the subject up and show that she was cool. She did talk with the guy, but he didn't volunteer any info. I think she felt sad or maybe hurt that he would keep this from her.

I know that each of us needs to make decisions in our own time, but sometimes we aren't as much in the closet as we think we are. Sometimes there is just as much anxiety on the other side of the closet door about discussing the issue. Sometimes by coming out, you send the message that you trust and care about a person enough to share the truth with them. Then you can laugh together about how anxious you both felt.

**Crossword
solution**

A	C	E	S	D	A	M	D	A	R	K		
L	U	B	E	A	V	E	A	L	A	I		
E	B	O	E	T	I	N	L	A	N	S		
C	A	N	D	L	E	S	R	I	N	G	S	
A	R	E	A	A	S	E	E					
D	I	N	N	E	R	&	A	M	O	V	I	E
C	O	N	D	O	M		M	C	X	I		
				I	D	V	A					
H	E	A	R	T		L	E	A	T	H	E	R
O	T	T	O		M	I	R		A	E	R	O
M	O	T	S		P	M	S		P	A	G	E
E	N	Y	A		H	O	E		E	R	O	S

Let us know...

You may have noticed the Resource Directory is abbreviated this month. It has occurred to us lately that much of the information contained in the resource directory is pretty static and probably doesn't get looked at too much except by those who have just come out or moved to Erie. It has also occurred to us lately that publishing 3-1/2 pages of the same information that most people probably don't read every month is probably an unnecessary expense. It costs a fair amount of money to print the *EGN* and we think it would be preferable to put as much timely information in it as possible.

We are trying to decide what makes the most sense. We can run the full Resource Directory every month as we have been for the past few years, which is expensive and difficult to keep up to date. Or we can run an abbreviated listing like you see on the next page every month, and maybe publish a separate Resource Directory annually or something. Or we can stop printing any directory at all in the newsletter and just send out copies when we get inquiries. The full list of resources is always available on our web site and we always include contact information whenever we list a group meeting in the Calendar.

We would like some feedback on what folks read and use in *EGN*. Our guiding philosophy has been that the most important items to include are those that are GLBT-specific, timely and local (defined as the greater Erie area, including Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Buffalo). Our top priority is getting in news about upcoming events that people can participate in. Would you agree with that or not?

What do you read when you pick up an *EGN*? The Calendar? Local News? Entertainment Notes/Q-List? Michael Dithers? Also, what don't you read or feel shouldn't be in the newsletter? What you have to say about what goes in *EGN* means a lot to us.

Take our TV listings for an example. It takes a while to look through all the general TV listings to pick out the gay stuff. We usually can't get those listings until the end of the month so we always have to do it last minute. Do you or does anyone you know really make a point of reading our TV listings and then watching those shows? If so, then it's worth the effort. If not, then we'll stop running them.

What do you, our readers think makes the most valuable use of the *EGN*? Write us and let us know!

Resource directory

Please note that this an abbreviated listing! For a more complete listing, either check <http://www.eriegaynews/arearesc.html> or mail a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA 16592-1105 or call us at (814) 456-9833.

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

Bars

- Nite Spot ▼
 201 Winsor, Jamestown, NY. Open Tues-Sun 7 PM - 2 am.
 Rascals ▼ (716)484-3220
 701 North Main St, Jamestown, NY. Open 3 PM to 2 AM 7 days a week.
 Sneakers ▼ (716)484-8816
 100 Harrison, Jamestown, NY. Open Mon-Sun 2pm-2am.
 The Village ▼ 452-0125
 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. Open Mon-Sun 8 PM - 2 AM.
 The Zone Dance Club ▼ 454-9171
 1711 State St, Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat 8 PM - 2 AM.

Counseling

- Family Service of Jamestown N.Y. (716)488-1971
 Fredonia Office (716)679-3455
 Gay and Lesbian National Hotline (6 PM.- 11 PM. Mon.-Fri.)
 1-888-THE-GLNH (1-888-843-4564)
 Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
 Well Being Center ▼ 838-0123 (Deb Monohon)

Info-Lines

- Chautauqua County NY (North) (716) 679-3560
 Chautauqua County NY (South) (716) 484-8434
 Erie 456-9833

Religious Organizations

- BYKOTA- Be Ye Kind One To Another 734-3959 (Susan Laurie)
 Ecumenical. Open to Christians of all denominations/orientations.
 Temple Anshe Hesed (Reform Congregation) 454-2426
 930 Liberty St, Erie PA.
 Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal) 452-3779
 134 W 7th St, Erie PA
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie ▼ 864-9300
 7180 New Perry Highway.
 "Always Our Children" 456-2091
 For the Catholic parents of GLBT children. Supportive, but for parents only.

▼ = Erie Gay News available here! ☺ = Handicap accessible

Social Organizations

- 10% Network ▼ (716)484-7285 (John)
 Chautauqua County, NY.
 Menspace 456-9833 (Michael)
 Monthly social group for Erie area gay/bi men.
 Womynspace Coffeehouse ▼ 451-0359 (Helen)
 Alcohol, smoke-free environment for lesbians. Monthly theme, topic or activity.

Student Organizations/Youth

- Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People (CSGLBP,
 Allegheny College, Meadville) ▼ 332-4368 (Nancy)
 Closet Culture (GLBT's 22 or younger, Erie) 899-6528 (Mark)
 Covenant House Teen Hotline 1-800-999-9999
 Identity (Edinboro U.) ☺ email: dburdick@edinboro.edu
 Jamestown Comm. College Grp ▼ (716)665-5220 ext 204
 or 664-9174 (Greg Rabb)
 Mercyhurst College Gay/Straight Alliance ▼ 824-2700 (Tara)
 National Runaway Switchboard 1-800-621-4000
 SUNY-Fredonia GLBSU (716)673-3139 or (716) 673-3149
 Teen Hotline (412)771-8336
 Trigon (Penn State Behrend) ▼898-6030 or (Sue Daley) 898-6164

Support Groups

- Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group (TV/TS/CD)
 write Erie Sisters, 1903 W 8th St, Suite 261, Erie PA 16505
 Lambda Group—Gay AA ▼ 452-2675
 Partners (LesBiGay group, Corry PA) (814) 664-7090 (Luella)
 PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
 PFLAG-DuBois PA Karen or John Kressley at 371-8962
 PFLAG-Erie Elaine 864-0184
 Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) 453-5656 (Erie Hotline)

HIV/AIDS Resources

- AIDS Factline (National) 1-800-324-AIDS
 National AIDS Hotline 1-800-662-6080
 Spanish AIDS Hotline (National) 1-800-344-7432
 AIDS Action Team (AACT) Gannon 871-7233
 AIDS Bereavement Support Group 452-3779 (Sue Kuebler)
 Sponsored by HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul.
 AIDS Network Information 451-6700
 Friends from the Heart 838-0123 (Deb Monohon)
 HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cath. of St. Paul (Episcopal)452-3779
 NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance (Erie Ofc) ▼ 456-8849/(800)400-AIDS
 St. Mark's/Catholic Charities Support Group ☺
 Cheryl Weber at 455-3786, if no answer 825-1085
 AIDS Community Services (Jamestown, NY) ▼ (716)664-7855
 Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition 337-3241
 HIV+ Support Grps (Meadville PA) 333-5800 (Rosemary Buzzard)

- We Are Closing -

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