

EGN

Erie Gay News

Calendar

Jun 2—"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.

Jun 2-6—"Be All" Transgender Conference (Cleveland) International transgender conference, seminars from serious to just fun! at The Radisson Hotel in Cleveland. For more info call 330-923-3413 or <http://www.beall.net>.

Jun 3—*Alive and Kicking* (Cinemax) AIDS counselor, HIV-infected dancer fall in love. 12 AM.

Jun 3—*Citizen Cohn* (HBO) 2:05 AM. Chronicles the life of flamboyant defense lawyer Roy Cohn, who was closeted in his lifetime and died of AIDS.

Jun 3—PFLAG-Erie meets for dinner at Ali Baba's 7:00 PM at 3602 West Lake Road. RSVP to Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or egcn@ncinter.net. See article in Local News, page 9. For more info, contact Nancy at 835-7432 (email npenglurv@aol.com).

Jun 3—Interweave meets (Jamestown) 7 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. For gays, bisexuals, lesbians, families and friends.

Jun 3—LGBU at Kent meets (Ashtabula) At Kent State-Ashtabula 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults...everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Jun 3—*Real Sex 13* (HBO) 11 PM. S/M, lesbian erotica.

June 4-5—2 girls alone at The Highland's Inn (Bethlehem, NH) Women's B&B. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Jun 4—*Polyester* (Bravo) 10:30 PM, repeats at 3:30 AM.

Jun 4-6—Jones Pond Campground: Friends and Family (Angelica NY) "No Nudity, Foot-O-Cross Rally, Yard Rally." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

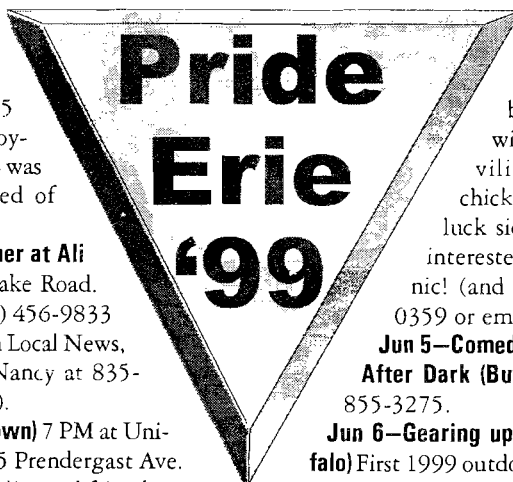
Jun 5—Womynspace "A bike trip and picnic is scheduled to be held in Oil Creek park. We will meet at noon at the only pavilion there. Rox is providing chicken to bbq. Please bring a potluck side dish to share. If you're not interested in biking, come for the picnic! (and vice versa)." Call Helen 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com.

Jun 5—Comedian Michele Balan at Compton's After Dark (Buffalo) 1259 Niagara St. (716) 855-3275.

Jun 6—Gearing up for Summer Party/Picnic (Buffalo) First 1999 outdoor fundraiser/event for Buffalo's gay community. 2 PM to 8 PM at Front Park-Porter Ave. Downtown. Lunch, music, entertainment. Call (716) 882-7471 for more info.

Jun 6—5th Annual AIDS Walk (Pittsburgh) Sponsored by Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF). Flagstaff Hill (Oakland). For more info, call (412) 242-2500.

Jun 8—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.



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Join us Saturday June 12th for Erie's Annual
Pride Picnic 2 PM to Sundown at the Pavilion
at Beach 11 on Presque Isle
Sponsored by ECPO



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 June

June 15—Deadline for info related to July and early August events:

Fourth of July Events, Parades, Picnics,
Summer Sporting Activities



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 GLBT 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.

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Thanks for the May issue collators!

Thanks to Jerry McCumber, Jim Shiffer, Paul Grubbs, Neal, Richard Mentz, Stan King, Mick Boyle and Veronica Ledoux for helping us to collate the most recent issue of *EGN*! An extra special thank you to Gary for proofreading.

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!*

Jun 8—SAFER (HIV/AIDS) meets (Oil City) For more information, call (814) 677-9601 or email clmiller@usachoice.net.

Jun 9—Out at Work (HBO) 3:25 AM. 3 gay people cite alleged discrimination as the reason they lost their jobs.

Jun 10—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Jun 10—Inside the Actor's Studio: Nathan Lane (Bravo) 11 AM, 6:30 PM, repeats at 4:30 AM.

Jun 11—Biography: Anthony Perkins: A Life in the Shadows (A&E) 8 PM, repeats at 12 midnight.

Jun 11—Drop Dead Gorgeous: Power of HIV-Positive Thinking (HBO) 3:25 AM. Performance by openly gay, openly HIV positive comedian Steve Moore

Jun 11-13—13th annual Gay Invitational Fellowship Tournament (Cleveland) Lesbian and gay bowling, Buckeye Lanes on Lorain Ave., N. Olmsted; Bob (216) 226-3471 or Blair (330) 865-9763 or Jim (216) 252-8933.

Jun 11-13—Jones Pond Campground: Country Western (Angelica NY) "Gong Show Amateur Night, Hayride." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Jun 12—Annual Pride Erie Picnic Sponsored by Erie Community Pride Organization (ECPO). At Presque Isle State Park Beach 11 Pavilion. For more info, call Mike Mahler at 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net. See page 12.

Jun 12—Menspace: CANCELLED!!! See you at the Pride Picnic! Call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net for more info.

Jun 12—Elton John in concert (Cleveland) at Blossom Music Center (330) 920-8040. Check Ticketmaster at Giant Eagle.

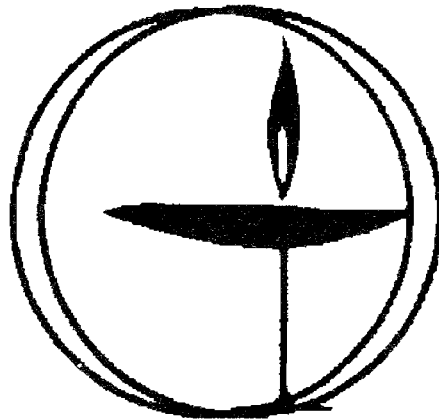
Jun 13—Country Line Dancing and Instructions at Rascals (Jamestown) 6 PM-? 701 North Main St (716) 484-3220.

Jun 13—Orag Show with Sabrina and Company at Rascals (Jamestown) 10 PM. 701 North Main St (716) 484-3220.

Jun 13—Tea Dance (Buffalo) Benefit for Empire Pride State Agenda. \$25/\$30. (716) 852-2297.

Jun 14—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Jun 14—Pride Workshops (Buffalo) Sponsored by *Outcome*, Western NY's monthly gay newspaper. Time schedule and location TBA. (716) 441-7476 or outcomewny@aol.com. Free.



Unitarian Church of Jamestown
1255 Prendergast Ave.

Invites gays, bisexual, lesbians,
families, and friends

Interweave Meetings:
Thursday June 3
and Thursday June 17
at 7 PM at the church

Jun 16—"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.

Jun 16—"Victor/Victoria" benefit (Cleveland) Join the Cleveland Gay and Lesbian Center for a theater production of "Victor/Victoria" at the Cleveland Playhouse with a private meet the cast reception after the performance at the Wyndham Hotel. Performance is at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$95 per person. Please call The Center for tickets 216-522-1999.

Jun 17—2 girls alone at Aroma's 7-9 PM, 2174 W 8th St. Email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Jun 17—LGBU at Kent State meets (Ashtabula) 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults...everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Jun 17—Interweave meets (Jamestown) 7 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. For gays, bisexuals, lesbians, families and friends.

Jun 17—Pride Show (Buffalo) Variety show featuring local singers, actors and drag artists. New Phoenix The-

ater on the Park. 95 N Johnson Park. Free. For more info, call (716) 862-8115.

Jun 17—Real Sex 15 (HBO) 11 PM. Making erotic videos; San Francisco street fair salutes leather; photographing Rio de Janeiro nudes.

Jun 17—M. Butterfly (Starz) 2:50 AM. Deception marks French diplomat and his Asian lover.

Jun 18—Renaissance City Choirs Women's Concert (Pittsburgh) For more info, call (412) 362-9484 or email RCChoirs@aol.com.

Jun 18-20—Jones Pond Campground: Mardi Gras (Angelica NY) "Carnival, Ice Cream Social." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Jun 18-19—Musical Theater (Buffalo) Performance by TNT Productions at The Marquee (Theatre Place, 600 Main St.) Benefit for Empire Pride State Agenda and for AIDS Community Services. For info, call (716) 862-8115.

June 19—2 girls alone at Cup-a-Ccino's 9-11:30 PM, 8 North Park Row. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Jun 19—10% Network meets: Silent Auction (Jamestown, NY) 7 PM at the Unitarian Church in Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. For more info, call John at (716) 484-7285 or email otto@maddbbs.com.

Jun 19—Cleveland Frontrunners 1st Annual Pride 5k Run and Walk At Edgewater Park. For registration forms, call (440)979-0151.

Jun 19—"Peace, Love, Pride" (Cleveland) Pride march and festival. For more info call (216)371-0214 or check <http://www.igcsc.org/commlcal.html>. Erie will be marching as a contingent. See Pride events, page 12 for more info.

Jun 19—Pride Fest 99 (Pittsburgh) Pride march and festival. For more info call (412) 422-3060, email giccpgh@aol.com or browse <http://trfn.clpgh.org/trp/>.

Jun 19—Pride '99 Parade (Buffalo) Marchers line up 12 noon at American Red Cross Parking Lot (corner of Delaware and North), Parade steps off at 1 PM, down Delaware Ave to Niagara Square. Rally begins at Niagara Square with a show presented by Imperial Court of Buffalo (716) 862-8115. See page 12.

Jun 19—Shades Gay Pride Dance (Buffalo) Lesbians of color group. At Hamlin House, 432 Franklin St. 9 PM to 4 AM. \$8 adv/\$10 door. Students and seniors \$8. DJ, free buffet, raffles For info, call Ann (716) 882-7373 or Linda (716) 894-3202 or Janice (716) 836-7441.



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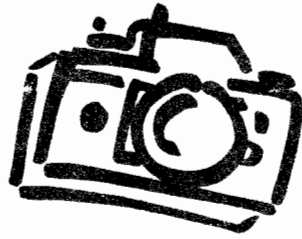
Congratulations

and

Happy

Pride Erie

Picnic!



from

Delta Foundation

and

Pittsburgh's

GLBT

Community



See you at the July 11th Boat Cruise!

Jun 19—GLYS Youth Pride Dance (Buffalo) Club E Chippewa and Ellicott. Benefits Gay and Lesbian Youth Services of Western NY. For info, call (716) 855-0221.

Jun 20—Father's Day

Jun 20—Gay Day at Cedar Point (Sandusky OH)

Jun 20—Summer Solstice Celebration of Spirit (Buffalo) 10:30 AM at Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave. (716) 876-4531, cspeser@buffnet.net.

Jun 20—Queen City Softball League (Buffalo) Game and picnic. (716) 862-8115.

June 22—Litha (Summer Solstice) at the UU 7 PM. Pagan holiday celebrated by GLBT-friendly Coven of Brigidshaven 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.

Jun 22—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Jun 24—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Jun 25—Go Fish (Bravo) 8 PM, repeats at 1:30 AM.

Jun 25-27—Jones Pond Campground: Bears (Angelica NY) "200 Block Mexican Fiesta Party." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Jun 26—Picnic at Treasure Lake (DuBois) For more info, contact Tawney at (814) 378-7276 or tawney4@juno.com.

Jun 26-28—Gay Pride Days (Toronto) One of the largest Pride events in North America. Parade on Sunday. Check out <http://www.torontopride.com> or (416) 927-7433. A contingent is being organized from Erie. Contact Paul Grubbs at (814) 922-3058 or pgrubbs@erie.net or Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net.

Jun 27—Country Line Dancing and Instructions at Rascals (Jamestown) 6 PM-?. 701 North Main St (716) 484-3220.

Jun 27—Drag Show with Sabrina and Company at Rascals (Jamestown) 10 PM. 701 North Main St (716) 484-3220.

Jun 27—Shades bus trip to Toronto Gay Pride (Buffalo) Lesbians of color group. \$15.50 round trip. Bus leaves corner of S. Elmwood and Johnson Park across from Buddies at 9 AM returns at 7 PM. Proper ID needed to enter Canada. Only 47 seats. For info, call Ann (716) 882-7373 or Linda (716) 894-3202 or Janice (716) 836-7441.

Jul 1—LGBU at Kent meets (Ashtabula) At Kent State-Ashtabula 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults...everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Jul 1—In The Life (Pittsburgh PBS WOED/Ch. 13) 11 PM. Check www.inthelife.org for more info.

Jul 2—Westside Story opens at Academy Theatre (Meadville) For details, call (814) 337-8000.


Jul 2-5—Jones Pond Campground: 4th of July (Angelica NY) "300 Block Independence Day Party." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Jul 3—Womynspace-CANCELLED!!! See you in August. Call Helen 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com.

Jul 3—Cher in Concert (Burgettstown PA) With Cyndi Lauper and Wild Orchid. Starlake Amphitheater. Contact Ticketmaster at Giant Eagle.

Jul 4—Independence Day

Jul 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.

Jones Pond Campground	
9835 Old State Rd Angelica NY 14709 (716) 567-8100 www.jonespond.com info@jonespond.com	
	
Upcoming:	Adult Male Camping
Jun 11-13 Country Western	138 Camp Sites
Jun 18-20 Mardi Gras	Water & Electric
Jun 25-27 Bear Weekend	Tents / RV's
	Rentals / Guest House
	Camp Store, Pool

Jul 8—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Jul 8—2 girls alone at Aroma's 7-9 PM, 2174 W 8th St. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Jul 9-11—Jones Pond Campground: Leather & Levi (Angelica NY) "Best Butt & Basket in Levi Contest." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Jul 10—Menspace At Brian and Dave's. Call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net for more info.

Jul 11—Boat Cruise (Pittsburgh) Annual fundraiser, more details next month.

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

Jul 13—SAFER (HIV/AIDS) meets (Oil City) For more information, call (814) 677-9601 or email clmiller@usachoice.net.

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

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Jul 16—"Summer Heat" Drag Show (Village) Showtime is midnight. Features Bobbi B and Miss Ginger. 133 W 18th St, 452-0125 for more info.

Jul 16-18—Jones Pond Campground: Pride Weekend (Angelica NY) "Roman Night Toga Party" For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Jul 17—2 girls alone at Relay for Life (Gus Anderson Field) 4-6 PM, 2174 W 8th St. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Jun 17—10% Network meets: Outdoor Day or Road Rally/ Scavenger Hunt (Jamestown, NY) 7 PM. For more info, call John at (716) 484-7285 or email otto@maddbbs.com.

Jul 21—"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.

Jul 22—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian

Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

Jul 23-25—Jones Pond Campground: Illumination Weekend (Angelica NY) "Christmas in July Parade, Hayride" For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Jul 27—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Jul 30-Aug 1—Jones Pond Campground: Can/Am. Naturist Weekend (Angelica NY) "Annual Mud Party." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Jul 30-Aug 8—Jones Pond Campground: Vacation Week (Angelica NY) "Rocky Horror Picture Show' Night, Bingo, Road Trip and other events" For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Aug 3—Lughnassadh at the UU 7 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.



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Aug 4—"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.

Aug 5—LGBU at Kent meets (Ashtabula) At Kent State-Ashtabula 8 PM, room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults...everyone welcome. For info, contact Jim at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Aug 6-8—Jones Pond Campground: Beach Party Weekend (Angelica NY) "100 Block Hawaiian Luau Party." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Aug 7—Womynspace-Special Event! "A performance by HAG Theatre (from Buffalo) to be held at WOMYNSPACE's usual place & time. The performance is *GERTRUDE STEIN and...A COMPANION*. The show will begin promptly at 8 pm, so come early! Please come & enjoy this remarkable performance by some remarkable womyn!! Donation: \$3.00 - more if you can, less if you can't." Call Helen 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com.

Aug 12—BYKOTA meets At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian

Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at julie.sue@juno.com or 734-3959.

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Aug 10—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Aug 13-15—Jones Pond Campground: Leather & Levi (Angelica NY) "Pity Party' and Jock Contest" For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email info@jonespond.com or browse www.jonespond.com.

Aug 14—Menspace: Bonfire at Paul's Call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net for info.

Aug 14—Celebrating the Goddess Within: A Woman's Conference at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. 10 AM to 8 PM. 3 sessions of workshops, closing ritual, vendors, vegetarian dinner. \$40 fee. For more info or to register, email goddess@newageexpress.com or call (814)836-8024.

Aug 25—REM in concert (Cleveland) at Blossom Music Center (330) 920-8040. Tickets likely to sell out soon after they're available. Check Ticketmaster at Giant Eagle.

Repeating programs

As Good as it Gets (1997) A waitress, a gay painter and a dog help a misanthrope. **The Movie Channel:** Jun 12 9 PM, Jun 16 9 PM, Jun 22 6:35 PM, Jun 27 9 PM.

The Dresser (1983) Bravo: Jun 7 11 PM, Jun 8 12:30 PM, Jun 18 12:30 PM.

Even Cowgirls Get the Blues (1993) Bravo: Jun 8 8 PM, Jun 9 2:30 AM, 4 PM, Jun 25 10:30 PM, Jun 26 3:30 AM.

Evita (1997) Encore: Jun 19 8 PM, Jun 23 3:50 PM, 4 PM, Jun 28 11:35 AM, Jun 29 1:35 AM.

High Art (1998) Cinemax: Jun 24 12 AM, Jun 20 1 AM.

In & Out (1997) Cinemax: Jun 3 6:30 PM, Jun 12 8:30 AM, Jun 16 12:30 PM, Jun 21 1 PM, Jun 27 3 PM.

Silkwood (1983) Cher plays a lesbian. **The Movie Channel:** Jun 1 9 PM, Jun 6 6:05 AM, 2:35 PM, Jun 11 5:10 PM, Jun 17 3 AM, Jun 19 12 PM.

Trevor Teen comes to terms with his homosexuality. **HBO:** Jun 1 11:30 AM, Jun 18 6 PM, Jun 20 3:30 PM.

Video Diaries: Before You Go: Daughter's Diary A young woman chronicles her father's death from AIDS **HBO:** Jun 1 2 PM, Jun 11 7 PM, Jun 27 10 AM, Jun 30 11 AM.

Lake Erie Counseling Associates
301 West Tenth Street, Erie

Gay-Affirming Individual,
Family & Couples Therapy

Dale A. Allgeier, LSW, ACSW
William D. Stanley, LSW, QCSW
Deanne Christiansen MD
Angela Tirpak, LSW Vicki Komar, MS
Ken Wiler, LSW Debra Brown, LSW

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Betty Teltenberger, LMT

455-4009

Local news

PFLAG meeting changes

PFLAG Erie has decided to do more social events for the summer months and resume meeting at the Unitarian church in the fall. To kick off the summer, we'll be meeting for dinner at Ali Baba's, 3602 W Lake Road on Thursday, June 3 at 7 PM. They serve great Middle Eastern food and have both vegetarian and entrees with meat. Please RSVP to Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net by the Tuesday before so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. Everyone will be responsible for their own dinner. We will also be talking about activities for July and August that night.

Hope to see you there!

Shades/Lesbians of color

Shades, an organization in Buffalo for lesbians of color, is having a few special events in June, see the entries in the calendar for the Gay Pride Dance on June 19 and the bus trip to Toronto Pride on June 27. For more info, contact Ann at (716) 882-7373, Linda at (716) 894-3202 or Janice at (716) 836-7441. Their regular monthly events include Shades Night at Buddies Backstreet Bar the last Friday of the month at 10 PM/ Admissions is \$2 and \$1 for students and seniors. The music is a mixture of Old School, R&B and Dance. They also have a Lesbian to Lesbian Coffee and Discussion Group the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at The Roanoke, 206 S Elmwood in Buffalo.

Suite
LE
SALON
233 W 8TH
454-4691

Bike Ride

by Fred L May

Date for bike ride to Jamestown has been set for June 18th, 19th. We will make the returning on the 20th. For more information, please contact Fred at (440) 599-1460, fax the same. Or write 202 W Main Rd, Lot #21, Conneaut, OH 44030. Still looking for suggestions on other rides. Hoping to hear from you out there.

DuBois social events

The Central PA PFLAG chapter out of DuBois is currently spearheading an "alternative to the bar scene" monthly event for gays, lesbians, allies, friends.

The Saturday Theme Parties came out of a brainstorming session conducted at a PFLAG meeting last year. Consensus amongst members was that there was a need for organized, social activities for the gay community in rural, central PA. At that time, packets stuffed with PFLAG info and a query letter about the dinners were

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Voice: 212-674-0120 Fax: 212-420-1126

Email: GAYE.LO@BANET.NET

<http://gayellowpages.com>

sent out to about 75 people. After that, the idea grew of its own accord and the second mailing will be sent out for the July, August, and September parties with about 100 names.

In June, PFLAG facilitators, Jack and Karen Kressley are having "Summer Solstice Celebration" at Treasure Lake. We'll picnic and pontoon. Kids too.

The idea of potluck dinners is that everyone brings a covered dish to share or beverages if you so choose. Alcoholic beverages OK., but pick a designated driver.

To get on the list, host a party or get further information about our dinners, please contact Tawney at 814-378-7276 or tawney4@juno.com.

We hope that this is just the beginning of something wonderful. We hope that not only will the dinners continue to be planned monthly, but that other fun days will be planned also. Peace and hope, DuBois PFLAG members.



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Erie County Department of Health
606 West Second Street, Erie
(Corner of 2nd & Cherry Streets)

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Monday 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Tuesday 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

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Call (814) 663-3891 for appointment

For additional information on HIV testing or Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) testing, call the Health Department at (814) 451-6760

HIV/AIDS Education & Training Program
phone: (814) 451-6727 • fax: (814) 451-6774
email: aidsed@ecdh.org • www.ecdh.org

Domestic violence

Protection From Abuse Coordinated Services (PFACS) is the legal unit for SafeNet, Inc. SafeNet is the Erie County umbrella agency (formerly known as Hospitality House) encompassing services to victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence does not exclude same gender relationships, as most people know. PFACS wants to be sure that all victims have access to the most used legal remedy to partner violence — the Protection From Abuse Order (PFA).

Physical violence, and living in fear of physical violence from a partner is not acceptable in any social structure. If you are living with this fear, PFACS would like to invite you to discuss the problem and get the facts.

Calling PFACS does not "lock" you into anything. Gaining knowledge, however, can "unlock" you from victimization. PFACS staff can be reached by calling 455-1774, extensions 231, 232, or 234.

PFACS staff understands the more complex concerns of victims of same gender partners. We want to assure you that everyone who access our services is treated with the very same concern and respect. PFACS has been processing Protection Orders on behalf of women and men for more than ten years. We would also like you to know that Erie County Courts hear petitions from gay partners in no different manner and with the same respect as non-gay relationships.

Sincerely,
Nancy Shaw-Jordan Director

What are

GLBT and **LGBT?**

Because there are people who prefer to be called gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgender, and because this can be a little unwieldy in talking about our community, more organizations and publications are abbreviating the term to GLBT or sometimes LGBT. You will be seeing this abbreviation more often in this publication.

Pride Events

Pride Erie '99 picnic

Saturday, June 12th Pride Erie Picnic Once again, the Pride Erie Picnic will be held at Presque Isle State Park at the Beach 11 Pavilion from 2 PM to sundown. Beach 11 is an uncrowded picnic and beach area. The beach is guarded. If you are not sure of where Beach 11 is, stop at the Park's Administration office (near Beach 6.) Also, signs will be posted throughout the park.

Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Paper plates and plastic silverware will be available. Donations gratefully accepted.

As always, straight friends and families are most heartily welcome. Feel free to bring your children or parents, but parents are responsible for taking care of their kids. (There is playground equipment near the shelter.)

We'll begin at 2 PM with games (including the perennial favorite, volleyball.) The annual Family Portrait will be taken promptly at 4 PM and anyone who wants to be in the picture can be or not, as they prefer. We will be including the picture on Erie Gay News' home page.

We are planning on having a literature table. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, rollerblades and sunscreen. Volunteers are asked to help with clean up, cooking and set up. If you would like to volunteer, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email egcn@ncinter.net.

Because of state law, alcohol and sales by outside vendors are not permitted. Please respect this. If you bring alcohol, or are obviously drunk, you will be asked to leave the picnic.

The Interfaith Pride Service will not be happening this year. Plans are also in the works for a contingent of Erie people to make the day trip to march in the

Cleveland Pride Parade the following Saturday, June 19. We will convoy from the West Erie Plaza (meet near Pizza Hut) at 10 AM, Saturday, June 19th. Some people are also planning on going to Toronto's Pride Weekend the weekend of June 26th. This is one of the largest in North America. For more info, contact Paul Grubbs at (814) 922-3058 or pgrubbs@erie.net or James at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net.

Buffalo

Prelude to Pride- Friday, June 11th, from 7 PM to Midnight The Second annual Gay and Lesbian Youth Services (GLYS) Gala to benefit Gay & Lesbian Youth Services of WNY. To be held at the Delaware Park Casino, presented by The Board of Directors of GLYS. Cash Bar ~ Cigar Bar ~ Creative Black Tie ~ RSVP by June 4 - Champagne Reception, 7 PM to 8 PM - Dancing to the Can Gambino Combo, 8 PM to Midnight. Reception and Dance at \$50 per person or \$90 per couple. Dance Only

Rascals

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at \$35 per person or \$60 per couple. For more information, Please call GLYS evenings at (716)885-0221

PRIDE WEEK - "Together with Pride" - Monday, June 13th through Sunday, June 20th

Pride Tea Dance - Sunday, June 13th - a fund raising party with live and recorded music, a fundraiser for Empire State Pride Agenda. Time and location to be announced. (716) 852-2297.

Pride Workshops - Monday, June 14th - an evening of seminars, classes and speakers on subjects of interest to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. Time and location to be announced. (716) 441-7476 or outcome@aol.com.

Pride Show - Thursday, June 16th - a variety evening featuring the talents of local musicians, performers and drag artists. Time and location to be announced. (716) 862-8115.

Musical Theatre Production - Friday, June 18th, and Saturday, June 19th - "La Cage Aux Folles" The Musical, Live in Concert, presented by The Members of TNT Productions. Two shows only!! June 18th & 19th at 8:00 PM at The Tralfamadore Café (Theater Place, Buffalo 14201). A benefit for Empire State Pride Agenda and for AIDS Community Services. Post Show Reception sponsored

by Seagrams at Club Marcella. Please call Guy Tomassi at (716) 847-2441 ext. 319 for ticket information. Please call Tom Kazmierczak for program ads before June 4 at (716) 681-2892.

Pride Parade - Saturday, June 19th - Line-up for the parade is at noon at the American Red Cross parking lot at the corner of Summer Street and Delaware Avenue. The parade steps off at 1:00 PM, heading down Delaware Ave. to arrive at Niagara Square, in front of Buffalo City Hall. The show following the parade will be produced by Imperial Court Of Buffalo. For additional information call (716) 862-8115

Summer Solstice Celebration of Spirit - Sunday, June 20th - a multicultural, multi-denominational reinvigoration of our inner flame; to be held at Temple Beth Zion, on the corner of Delaware Avenue and Summer Street.

For general info about Pride '99 call (716) 862-8115

Cleveland

Get your group, business, family and friends to join us on Saturday, June 19, 1999 for our **11th Annual Pride Parade**. The Parade Committee is encouraging all community groups to have a float in the this year's parade.

GATHER

12:30 pm Assembly on Euclid at East 18th.

1:00 pm Rally on steps of CSU Marshall Law School.

2:00 pm Step-off parade to Voinovich Park.

ROUTE: WALK west on Euclid Ave., north at East 9th St. and proceed to Voinovich Bicentennial Park.

Rally Entertainment/Speakers: Silent Legacy, Candace Gingrich.

In order to keep the Parade progressing smoothly through the streets of downtown Cleveland, all groups registering to be in the parade must assign two individuals to act as peacekeepers. Peacekeepers are responsible for keeping group members inside the parade perimeters throughout the length of the parade, as well as organizing your lineup and float parking.

Should you have any questions, please call the Parade Hotline at (216) 371-0214.

Festival 2 to 8 PM *Music, dancing, food, drink.*

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Northwest Alliance
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Clarion PA 16214
nwparaa@penn.com

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

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT
[HTTP://ERIEGRAYNEWS.COM/](http://eriegraynews.com/)

Pride Rally Update

by Helen

Hi Pride Rally enthusiasts!

Here is a list of entertainers and speakers that are secured so far:

Entertainers: Greg Ropp, Bobbi B, HAG Theatre (out of Buffalo), 2 Girls Alone.

Speakers: Robin (PFLAG), Bob Cogan (ACLU), an Erie Sisters member, probable speakers from GLAAD and LAMBDA and a probable White House Rep.

I still haven't heard from a number of contacts for speakers. I am planning to contact them again this week.

Other things that are happening:

Mark Ricker has a friend who has volunteered to do face-painting. Mike Miller has volunteered to make signs and to work with others to make signs. Amy Matthers and Mike Mahler have made contacts to various organizations to set up info booths. Rick Blair is contacting book and/or gift vendors.

A number of activities will require some funding, such as face-paint, paint & supplies for signs, the permit (\$125) and transportation & board for one, possibly two speakers. To date, no one has volunteered to sell tickets for the first 50/50 drawing, which will be drawn on June 12 at the pride picnic. This is just around the corner, and to my knowledge, we have sold maybe \$10.00 worth!! PLEASE, PLEASE WILL SOMEONE STEP FORWARD AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY for this portion of fund-raising?? I am still in the process of contacting potential grantors via various organizations and commercial sponsors, but so far, have had no response. If we don't raise at least \$100 from this first raffle, we're going to have problems. (That means we need to get \$200 of sales, cuz its a 50/50.)

Another task still not being tackled:

Contact snack/drink vendors/request donations from local stores, etc.

Things are generally looking very good, with the exception of the funding issues, which is a biggy. Many thanks to everyone who has put in so much time so far. We can make this happen with continued cooperative effort!

For more info or to volunteer, contact Helen at (814) 451-0359 or email aichess@hotmail.com

Primary election wrap-up

from your straight friend Abby B Conley

I don't remember a more confusing election night when it comes to waiting for election results. The thunder storm on election night apparently knocked out the phones at the Erie County Court house and it played havoc on the numbers coming in. The local TV stations were confused as well. Now that the dust has settled here are the local Candidates of the higher profile races that will head off into the general election:

In the Judges race there will be three candidates for two seats open. The candidates are Elizabeth Kelly, Charlie Barber and Mike Dunlavey.

District Attorney's race: Jim Vogel and Brad Foulk.

County Council 1st Dist: Joy Greco and Bill Baughman. County Council third dist: unopposed, Fiore Leone. County Council fifth dist: Clarence Metzgar and James Terrill. County Council seventh dist: D. Kim Olszewski and Carol Loll.

City Council: Mario Bagnoni, Mel Witherspoon, Joe Borgia and David Pamula.

Erie City Treasurer: unopposed Ortenzia Keller.

Erie School board: Nancy Nielsen, Sam Vona, Richard Hilinski, Casmir Kwitowski, Tom Casey, Ann Grunewald and Denis Coan.

Millcreek School board: Kathleen Benson, Joseph Cuzzola, Karen Haas, Thomas Albert, Gordon Starr and Richard Laskowski.

The general election is November 2nd and you can vote for any party's candidates, matter what your political party is. There will be many Candidate events that will be open for the public to attend. So the opportunity to meet these folks and to question there attitudes on Gay and Lesbian rights will be available, if you choose to be informed before you vote.



Make your voice be heard...
VOTE this November!

Michael dithers: An Invitation/Challenge

by Mike Mahler

I was recently thinking about what has changed and what hasn't happened yet in our area. It was 7 years ago this past May that I appeared on WSEE TV 35 News with my name and face fully disclosed. Since then, there have been quite a number of people who have also come out in local mainstream media. Before the newsletter, no one had ever used their full name in a local GLBT publication. I counted something like 200 back in 1995 when we did the Bicentennial issue.

I have never regretted coming out. It makes life so much simpler and I feel that others (as well as myself) usually appreciate honesty.

There are some public figures who are out to some groups of people or who are generally out to the GLBT community, but not to the community at large. To the best of my knowledge, there has not as yet been someone who has been relatively well known for something else who has come out as a member of the GLBT community in local mainstream media. I think that our region is more than ready for this.

Probably one of the local political figures who has shown the greatest amount of actual support is former Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee member Abby B. Conley. She has also run for Erie City Council. Abby has also talked on the radio about her lesbian sister. She happens to be straight, but she is a very good friend to our community.

Some of you may remember the gay float for the 1995 Erie Bicentennial Parade that was vandalized and rebuilt less than 48 hours before the parade. Abby was

on the Bicentennial Committee and rode in the truck. Everyone in the truck was afraid of injury or possibly death because of the vicious phone calls that had been received and the vandalism. As it turns out, everyone along the parade route cheered the float (only one person held out a thumbs down) and everything was fine. Needless to say, I have voted for Abby and will support and vote for her for whatever she will run for in the future. I think people will respect someone who unequivocally stands up for their principles. One of the lessons I took from this was that being out is usually the safest thing that you can do.

There are other local political figures with out family members. The first in this publication was Matt Robison, who came out in a letter about the vandalized and rebuilt Pride Float in July of 1995. Matt is the son of former County Executive Robby Robison and former Erie City Council Member and current Ridge administration staff member Denise Robison. Two of the political speakers at the Pride Rally talked about their gay children. Interestingly, most of the local politically related people who have been open about being gay/having gay children happen to be Republican. Please also note that none of these incidences triggered any major problems.

You would be surprised at how many closets have glass doors. One of Micheal's straight co-workers asked about one public figure's lover by name. Sometimes when talking with local journalists, we end up dancing around public figures that they pretty much have figured out.

And before someone starts trying the old chestnut of "But Erie is so conservative / provincial / behind the times", allow me to point out that Greg Rabb has already run for City Council in nearby (and smaller) Jamestown NY. Many people were telling him that they were going to vote for him because he was out. They figured if he would be honest about that then he would be honest and have integrity about other issues. It's ironic that what some feel would be some kind of cataclysm could earn respect and may very well already be known or suspected.

So, the invitation that I am issuing is just simply for folks to be honest about who they are. Many have already done this in some arenas and have done quite admirable things. I think it's time that we move on to the next level.



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HIV/AIDS news

HIV/AIDS and Sports

Patty Puline, Health Educator HIV/AIDS Education & Training
Erie County Department of Health

"Within a two-week span in early 1996, professional basketball player Magic Johnson returned to the Los Angeles Lakers after an absence of more than four years due to an HIV-positive test result." The "welcome back" he received from players, fans, and media illustrated how much attitudes toward, and education about, AIDS had changed in the previous four years.

While these developments have highlighted the increased need for education of both professional and amateur athletes about the risks of HIV transmission, they have also led to increased and often irrational fears about transmission on the playing field.

Playing sports is an all-American tradition, and as we approach summer games, it is important to remember that there is a very minute risk of HIV/AIDS infection through blood to blood contact during sports activities. However small, it is important to practice universal precautions at all times. Coaches and sports attendants need to wear latex gloves while cleaning up body fluids or dressing wounds. Body fluids from injuries sustained during the game may be splashed or sprayed on open cuts or wounds. These body fluids may contain HIV, Hepatitis, germs or other bacteria. Wearing latex gloves affords protection from other person's body fluids coming in contact with cuts or tears in your skin.

Transmission and Steroid Use A significant risk of becoming infected with HIV is present when sharing needles or syringes. The virus from an infected person can remain in a needle or syringe and then be injected directly into the next person who uses the needle. Those drugs include steroids, hormones, and vitamins. Two cases have been reported in which bodybuilders who shared needles to inject steroids became infected with HIV. Detailed personal histories given to the CDC revealed that neither individual had participated in any other risk behavior.

HIV-Infected Players and Participation in Sports HIV-infected individuals can participate in sports; in fact, exercise is often encouraged. Each HIV-infected athlete's case should be judged on an individual basis depending

on the overall physical and mental health of the player and the nature of the sport he or she plays; the athlete, doctor, trainer, and coach should make this decision together.

HIV Testing of Players The issue of mandatory HIV testing of athletes has arisen in discussions of HIV and sports. Most professional and collegiate athletic organizations encourage, but do not require, testing. The exceptions are in boxing. "There is no medical or public health justification for testing or screening for HIV infection prior to participation in sports activities," according to the World Health Organization. Routine HIV testing of all athletes is unnecessary, impractical, unmanageable, and costly for many reasons.

One thing is for certain, we still need education on and off the field. Unless game players are sharing needles or practicing unprotected sex with each other, the chances of them becoming infected in other ways are minor.

Play sports and don't worry too much about HIV infection on the field. Practice universal precautions, follow the rules and regulations of your sport, and have fun.

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Serving the HIV-Affected Community

Don't be afraid of HIV infected team players. They cannot harm you and, in fact, your germs and bacteria are more likely to infect them. Please have compassion and understanding for fellow players who are HIV positive or diagnosed with AIDS. They need your support and acceptance. Remember to keep confidential any information you may have on players who are HIV positive or diagnosed with AIDS.

Pittsburgh events

Join us on Sunday, June 6, for AIDS Walk '99. Check-in at 9:30 AM at Flagstaff Hill, Walk begins at 11:00 AM. The AIDS Walk is a 5-mile pledge walk, rain or shine, through Oakland, Squirrel Hill and Shadyside. Walk by yourself, or gather family members, friends and coworkers to form a team. Of the money collected by walkers, 100% benefits the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and local AIDS service organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Call 412-242-WALK for more information or online at <http://trfn.clpgh.org/patf/events/aidswalk/walkinfo.htm>

On Saturday, June 19, at 7:00 p.m., the historic Newington Estate and Gardens in Edgeworth will host a cocktail party and auction. Plus, new this year, four panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed. The party was rated as one of the top ten events of 1998 in Pittsburgh. Cost: \$40 per person includes Sunday garden tour.

On Sunday, June 20, 1999, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, ten Sewickley area gardens will open to the public. The gardens are large and small, formal and cottage, Japanese and Italian, English and eclectic. Cost: \$10 per person. Tickets for both events are available at PATE. Call 412-242-2500 for more information.

**Celebrating the Goddess Within:
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- * 3 Sessions of Workshops
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\$40 fee; for registration forms contact us at
goddess@newageexpress.com
or call 814-836-8024



Q-list

by Mike Miller

Theatre and film

The classic musical re-telling of *Romeo and Juliet*, ***West Side Story*** will be opening at the **Academy Theatre in Meadville** on July 2nd. Though the play has no real overtly LGBT-specific content, it does deal with the tragedy faced by people who dare to love those that society came to life as a collaboration between **Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Robbins** (all gay, Jewish men) has endeared *West Side Story* to queer audiences for years. For details about show times and tickets call (814) 337-8000.

Do you like irony? Right now, you can catch **Ellen DeGeneres** on screen in a storyline that basically reaches its conclusion due to a lesbian subplot, only she's not the lesbian. She's playing yet another ostensibly hetero smart-mouth in ***The Love Letter***. Meanwhile **Lily Tomlin** plays an out lesbian in ***Tea With Mussolini***. Ironic, don't you think?

If you hurry you might still be able to catch ***The edge of Seventeen*** or ***Get Real*** at the nearest neighboring city's art-house theatre. Both are candid, well-done stories about coming out and coming of age. If not, keep your eyes out for them to hit video by perhaps fall.

Another gay villain? **Sir Ian McKellen**, who played the Nazi in **Bryan Singer's *Apt Pupil***, will team up with Singer again to play the maleficent Magneto in the upcoming ***X-Men*** movie. Now, if they could just get Carl Hardwick to play the Beast....

Okay. Last year, Hollywood's gimmick for including same-sex intrigues in major motion pictures was to make the female lead have a gay sidekick. As irritating as being relegated to second banana may have been, at least that gimmick gave general audiences some fun, and positive images of gay men in movies like ***Object of My Affection***, ***My Best Friend's Wedding***, and others. Now it's beginning to look like this year's gimmick is to make the two male leads into heterosexual buddies who are for some reason compelled to pretend to be gay. That's the tired plot twist to two new movies. In ***Happy, Texas***, two hetero jailbirds play gay in order to "pass" while trying to escape, and in ***I Now Pronounce You Joe and Benny***,

Nicholas Cage and **Will Smith** play gay in order to reap domestic partnership benefits. (What?!) After Smith's much reported disgust the last time his acting duties called for him to engage in a same-sex kissing scene, you think he would shy away from another man-to-man role. I guess it's OK because this time he's not *really* playing a gay man, just a straight man pretending to be a gay man.

On a more heartening note, ***The Adventures of Sebastian Cole***, due out at theatres near the end of the month, offers a positive portrayal of a male to female transsexual in the form of the title character's step-dad, Henrietta (played solidly by **Clark Gregg**).

Online

Queer web surfing moonoggies may have noticed that **Buffalo** recently lost their previous web site, www.buffalopride.com :- (The good news is that there is a new web site for Buffalo area stuff. Check out www.gaybuffalo.org. You might find it useful if you're planning a Buffalo day trip since Buffalo publications don't currently circulate here in Erie.

If your travel plans take you through northwest Ohio, specifically the **Toledo** area, you might want to check out <http://www.fripro.com/gaytoledoohio.html>

Bar stuff

If you can't travel all over the globe to march in pride parades, or prefer to light up the nights of summer closer to home with friends and a few potent potables, you'll have more chance to do so. **The Zone** has changed its hours and is now open from 4 PM to 2 AM Monday - Saturday with Happy Hour 5-7. Their kitchen is also now open Monday to Thursday 4 PM to midnight and Friday and Saturday 4 to 10 PM. According to Bobbi B., most of the plans for the summer at **The Village** are still up in the air, but they will definitely be having a "Summer Heat" drag show Friday July 16th at midnight.

For the Jamestown crowd, **Rascals** will have Country Line Dancing and instructions the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 6 PM to whenever. That's followed by drag shows with Sabrina and Company at 10 PM on the same days. On Wednesdays, there's Karaoke with Dels Moonbeam from 10 PM to closing, also Busch Bombers \$2.00 all night and show specials.

TV and video

Young Gay Son: Thanks, Mom, for showing me the *truth* about homosexuality.

Self-righteous Voice-over: This boy's homosexuality *could* have been changed with the help of our Ex-Gay Ministry.

Mom: *It's too late!* Michael has AIDS!

This is the kind of thing that TV viewers and Newspaper readers are being subjected to in several cities as the **Center for Reclaiming America**, with the help of the **Christian Coalition**, the **Family Research Council** and a host of other zealots, continues its latest campaign of ads for its "ex-gay ministries."

If you'll allow me a brief rant, their actions are nothing less than gay-bashing, just as vicious as what happened to **Matthew Shepard** or **Billy Jack Gaitner**, perhaps more hateful because they masquerade it as "help." Due to the vicious nature of these ads, each ad should appear with a "bigotry advisory", perhaps a paraphrase of the following quote by **Roseanne** in May 25th's **Advocate**: "Rest assured if you hear this in your head - 'They must die!' - that is a message from Satan, OK, not God! You stupid, dysfunctional, nasty, secret-keeping, shaved-head mother****ers!" Just a suggestion.

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HIV vaccine trials actively enrolling

Phase III clinical trials of the world's first HIV vaccine are currently in progress in Buffalo, NY. The research is being conducted at the Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) under the supervision of medical director Ross Hewitt. Current local enrollment is nearing 60 with a targeted total of 90 - 100 participants. Overall nationwide enrollment has achieved over half of the targeted goal of 5000. Well designed studies rely on large numbers of participants for accurate statistical interpretation. Based on the national rate of enrollment, the study is expected to remain open until late summer-early fall when the study quota has been reached.

HIV **negative** individuals who are considered at high risk will be eligible to participate. Definition of "high risk" for this particular study are men who have sex with men (MSM), sexual partners (male or female) of an HIV positive male, and other females who are defined high risk according to lifestyle.

Participants will be given a series of vaccinations over the course of three years with frequent monitoring of their HIV status and production of potentially protective antibodies. Prior phase I and II clinical trials revealed antibody production in populations of **low risk** individuals who were not subsequently exposed to the actual virus because of lifestyle risks. By targeting a high risk population for this phase of the study, it is expected that the actual protective effect of the vaccine can be studied. This is a double-blinded study in which two thirds of the population will receive real vaccine and one third will receive placebo (non-real) vaccine. It is impossible for the participants to distinguish one from the other. Neither local medical personnel nor participants will know until the end of the study which vaccine was given. Given the delicate nature of this scenario, it will be approached with the highest of ethical standards. All participants are informed of their "blinded" status, and an extensive risk reduction/safer sexual practice program is built into every step of the vaccination process. Since the protective effect of the vaccine is not known, the well-being of all the participants is of prime importance, and a false sense of immune-security is strongly discouraged.

The vaccine is made using biotechnology that incorporates nonliving protein markers (GP120) found on the outside of the virus. This process uses **NO** reproduc-

tive structures (DNA or RNA) of the HIV virus. It contains **no** living or dead HIV virus, and there is absolutely no chance of contracting HIV from the vaccine. Large numbers of low risk individuals given the vaccine in earlier studies revealed no adverse side effects from the vaccine. Side effects such as short-lived soreness in the arm and mild flu-like symptoms are typical of many vaccines and last only days after a vaccination. Many patients note no side effects whatsoever.

Other vaccines that are being developed have been reported to have possible reproductive capabilities. The public should be aware that these vaccines are **not** being used in this study. Another concern is the possibility of testing false positive on the ELISA screening test for HIV. It is possible that a small percent of people given the vaccine could test false positive but this is **ALWAYS** noted as a **negative** on the confirmatory Western Blot test. There is never any question as to a participant's true HIV status, and laboratories nationwide will become more accustomed to watching for HIV vaccine markers as more vaccine trials are conducted in the future. This testing phenomenon may even be short lived, but nonetheless participants are asked to be HIV tested only through the study so that their "blinded" (real vs. non-real vaccine) status can be maintained until the end.)

Eligible individuals age 18-60 may call for a short telephone screening. All calls are confidential, and confidentiality is maintained throughout the course of the study. After a telephone screening is performed, candidates are scheduled for a thorough medical history and physical. After the initial screening and enrollment, visits are brief lasting only 15-20 minutes. Participants are modestly reimbursed for their time and travel for office visits. The convenience of two sites is made available. The main site is located at ECMC and there is a downtown satellite at AIDS Community Services (ACS) in the historic Roanoke Hotel Building. Interested individuals are encouraged to call the AIDS Vaccine Hotline at (716) 898-5680.

Remember: Deadline for submissions to July's EGN is June 15!

Resource directory

Please note that this an abbreviated listing! For a more complete listing, either check <http://www.eriegaynews/areas.html> or mail a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to 1115 W 7th St, Erie PA 16502-1105 or call us at (814) 456-9833.

24 Hour Counseling

- Erie Hotline 453-5656 or (800) 628-0199
 Saint Vincent 452-5151
 Community Integration Crisis Services 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 ▼ 459-1711
 1711 State St, Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat 4 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.
 Unitarian Universalist Congreg of Jamestown ▼ ... (716) 488-1902
 1255 Prendergast Ave.
 "Always Our Children" 456-2091
 For the Catholic parents of GLBT children. Supportive, but for parents only.

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)
 Alchohal, 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 Coilege Gay/Straight Alliance ▼ 824-2371 (Dr. Watters)
 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
 Gay AA 459-7262 (Bernie)
 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 Gary & David 898-4210
 Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) 453-5656 (Erie Hotline)

HIV/AIDS Resources

- 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)

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

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