

## Calendar

**Jul 1—PFLAG Erie meets for dinner** We'll be getting together for dinner at 7 PM at the Hibachi Steak House, 3000 W 12th St. So that we can let the restaurant know how many to expect, please RSVP by Tuesday, June 29 to Michael Mahler (814) 456-9833 or egcn@ncinter.net.

**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](http://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](mailto:info@jonespond.com) or browse [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).

**Jul 2—Underwear Party at Rascals** \$2 cover. 10 PM to close. Wet Underwear Contest at midnight. 1st Prize \$20 bar tab. 2nd and 3rd prize \$10 bar tab. 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY. (716) 484-8816.

**Jul 3—Womynspace-CANCELLED!!!** See you in August. Call Helen 451-0359 or email [aichess@hotmail.com](mailto:aichess@hotmail.com).

**Jul 3—Red, White and Blue Party at The Zone** No cover. 10 PM to 2 AM. 1711 State St, Erie PA. (814) 459-1711.

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@jonespond.com) or browse [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).



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**This Month's Cover:**  
*Loanguing on the Glider*  
by Micheal A. Miller

## 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 July

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

Labor Day events, Picnics, Carnivals, Fairs, Picnics, End of Summer, Back to School Stuff.



c/o EGC Coalition, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105  
Phone: (814) 456-9833  
Fax: (814) 452-1392  
Email: [egcn@ncinter.net](mailto: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 June issue collators!

Thanks to Jerry McCumber, Greg Knowles, Paul Grubbs, Brian Skelly, Dave Amy, Mick Boyle and Mark Mintsiveris 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!*

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

**Jul 11—Drag Show at Rascals** 10 PM. 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY. (716) 484-8816.

**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](mailto:clmiller@usachoice.net).

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

**Jul 15—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](mailto:shifferj@toolcity.net), Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or [lisann\\_27@hotmail.com](mailto:lisann_27@hotmail.com) or email [jnk\\_nj@hotmail.com](mailto:jnk_nj@hotmail.com).

**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](mailto:info@jonespond.com) or browse [www.jonespond.com](http://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](mailto:TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net).

**Jul 17—10% Network meets: Road Rally, Polaroid Scavenger Hunt and fishing derby (Jamestown, NY)** As we went to press, we tentatively had heard some details. Points for fish and points for getting back with the right shots of the right things. Grand prize \$50 - second prize \$25 certificate at the "new" Literary Tea. For more info, call John at (716) 484-7285 or email [otto@maddbbs.com](mailto:otto@maddbbs.com).

**Jul 18—Unity Ball (Pittsburgh)** Benefits Youth Services of Pittsburgh. Theme is "Take Off the Mask". At Westin William Penn Hotel. For more information, call (412) 881-2540 or browse <http://members.xoom.com/yspgh>.

**Jul 19—It's Elementary (PBS-WNED Ch 17)** 9 PM. Public Affairs: IT'S ELEMENTARY: TALKING ABOUT GAY ISSUES IN SCHOOLS is an award-winning documentary that shows what can happen when teachers address lesbian and gay issues with their students in age-appropriate ways. Shot in geographically, socioeconomically

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and culturally diverse schools across the United States, the program goes inside first- through eighth-grade classrooms to hear what students have to say on a topic that leaves many adults tongue-tied. With humor and warmth, the program makes a clear case for the benefits of addressing lesbian and gay issues with students in a safe, non-judgmental environment to reduce name-calling and stereotyping, prevent violence, dispel fears, and support families of all kinds. The one-hour program is designed to help parents and educators grappling with finding a way to raise fair-minded children who have the skills to respond to the diversity around them.

**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: Picnic** See HIV/AIDS news page 6 for details. 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.

### Seeking Room-Mate

GWM seeking Gay or Gay-friendly Person(s) to share a two-story, 4 bedroom home. Living room, Dining room, Kitchen, 1 Bath w/shower, full attic and basement. Access to all. West 26th, near St. Vincent Hospital. \$185 a month, plus utilities. Contact Rick at rtblair@hotmail.com or cort2000@webtv.net. SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY. Available July 1, 1999.

**Jul 30-Aug 1—BlackOut 99 (Cleveland)** See the article in Q-List, page 13.

**Aug 3—Lughnassadh 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.

**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—PFLAG Erie goes to Waldameer** We'll be getting together at 7 PM at Waldameer Amusement Park. For more info, contact Michael Mahler (814) 456-9833 or egcn@ncinter.net.

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

**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.

**Aug 10—SAFER (HIV/AIDS) meets (Oil City)** For more information, call (814) 677-9601 or email clmiller@usachoice.net.

**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](mailto:info@jonespond.com) or browse [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).

**Aug 13—Lilith Fair concert (Pittsburgh)** Featuring Sarah MacLachlan, Sheryl Crow, Queen Latifah, Dixie Chicks, etc. At Starlake Amphitheater.

**Aug 14—Menspace: Bonfire at Paul's** Call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email [egcn@ncinter.net](mailto: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](mailto:goddess@newageexpress.com) or call (814)836-8024.

**Aug 18—"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 19—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](mailto:shifferj@toolcity.net), Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or [lisann\\_27@hotmail.com](mailto:lisann_27@hotmail.com) or email [jnk\\_nj@hotmail.com](mailto:jnk_nj@hotmail.com).

**Aug 20-22—Jones Pond Campground: Naturist (Angelica NY)** "Best buns' Contest" For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com) or browse [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).

**Aug 21—10% Network meets: Annual Picnic (Jamestown, NY)** For more info, call John at (716) 484-7285 or email [otto@maddbbs.com](mailto:otto@maddbbs.com).

**Aug 24—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets** Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

**Aug 25—REM in concert (Cleveland)** at Blossom Music Center (330) 920-8040.

**Aug 26—BYKOTA meets** At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at [julie.sue@juno.com](mailto:julie.sue@juno.com) or 734-3959.

**Aug 27-29—Jones Pond Campground: Bear Weekend (Angelica NY)** "Taste of Jones Pond and Pajama Party. For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com) or browse [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).

**Sep 1—"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.

**Sep 2—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](mailto:shifferj@toolcity.net), Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or [lisann\\_27@hotmail.com](mailto:lisann_27@hotmail.com) or email [jnk\\_nj@hotmail.com](mailto:jnk_nj@hotmail.com).

**Sep 3-6—Jones Pond Campground: Labor Day Weekend (Angelica NY)** "400 Block Hat & Cock-Tail Party, Pool Closing." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com) or browse [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).

**Sep 4—Womynspace** Call Helen 451-0359 or email [aichess@hotmail.com](mailto:aichess@hotmail.com).

**Sep 6—Happy Labor Day**

**Sep 9—BYKOTA meets** At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Christian Spirituality Group. Contact Julie or Sue at [julie.sue@juno.com](mailto:julie.sue@juno.com) or 734-3959.

**Sep 10-12—Jones Pond Campground: Country Western Weekend (Angelica NY)** "Scavenger Hunt, Hayride." For more info, call (716) 567-8100, email [info@jonespond.com](mailto:info@jonespond.com) or browse [www.jonespond.com](http://www.jonespond.com).

**Sep 11—Happy Rosh Hashanah**

**Sep 11—Menspace** For info and location, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email [egcn@ncinter.net](mailto:egcn@ncinter.net) for more info.

**Sep 13—Friends from the Heart Meets** 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

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# HIV/AIDS news

## Support group picnic on July 27

from Cheryl Weber

Please note that the HIV/AIDS support group's July 27th meeting will be a picnic for all past and present attendees. Please feel free to bring a friend or a family member. Call Cheryl Weber for more info at (814) 452-6113 or (814) 455-3786.

## Elton John AIDS Foundation

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

Elton John – a name known around the world for the best in music, the best in style, manners and dress. He is synonymous with class and distinction, and AIDS. Elton John was one of the first people in the world to emotionally and financially back the AIDS awareness movement. Check out his website at <http://www.ejaf.org/>  
Their mission is to provide funding for:

1. Educational programs targeted at AIDS prevention, and/or elimination of prejudice and discrimination against HIV affected individuals.

2. Programs that provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

My friend is HIV positive and has been living with AIDS for over 10 years. I teach HIV/AIDS Education & Training for the Erie County Department of Health. Together we present education programs in various learning institutions in our city.

Number one in the Elton John AIDS Foundation is presenting educational programs targeted at AIDS prevention. That would mean we qualify to apply for EJAF monies. I am bringing this to your attention as readers because maybe you know someone who may apply for funding in one of the above categories. If so, call me and I may be able to provide further information, guidelines, etc.

The Elton John AIDS Foundation is an international nonprofit organization funding direct patient care services and AIDS prevention education. The charity was established in 1992 by Elton John, who serves as its Chairman.

Funding from the Elton John AIDS Foundation encompasses a broad spectrum of direct care services supporting men, women, young adults, children, infants, and entire families living with HIV/AIDS. Grants support services ranging from food banks, meal delivery programs, legal aid, hospices and housing to counseling and support groups, education outreach programs, at-home care and pediatric treatment centers.

"Let's continue to be hopeful for a vaccine and a cure for AIDS and, eventually, the eradication of the AIDS epidemic. I encourage you all to support the many effective programs, both domestically and globally that are dedicated to achieving these goals."

—Elton John

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

# Local news

## Pride Picnic 99 a success

by Michael Mahler

First of all, many thanks to everyone who helped make the Pride Picnic a success. I am missing names here but thanks to Brian and Dave for cooking and clean up, Tina for helping with cooking, Helen and Georgia for clean up and running the 50/50, Coca Cola for donating pop, Uniflow/Coldraft for donating ice, Tops - Eastside for making a donation towards groceries, and my husband, Micheal Miller for stuff too countless to name. There were many people who helped with clean up, set up, and who made donations whose names I did not catch. Many thanks to the 100-120 people who attended and made the day such a pleasure!

WICU TV 12 (NBC) and WSEE TV 35 (CBS) both ran stories on the Pride Picnic on each of the 6 PM and 11 PM news broadcasts that night. Both pieces were perceived by many in our community as positive, non-sensational and fair. You might want to contact the stations to thank them.

WICU-TV-12 NBC: 3514 State St, Erie, PA 16508-2834, (814) 454-5201, Fax: (814) 455-0703 and WSEE TV Ch 35: 1220 Peach St, Erie, PA 16501-1808, (814) 455-7575, Fax (814) 459-3500.

TV 12 interviewed Richard Guy, John Bebko, Tina Phillips and Jeremy Snyder. At least 3 of these had not appeared on camera before, but everyone who was interviewed used their full name. The folks who saw them said that they did a great job. What a wonderful sign of the times that everyone could speak fully identified!

## PFLAG in July and August

The recent PFLAG dinner at Ali Baba's was a very pleasant evening out for those of us who attended. Our next outing will be on Thursday, July 1st at 7 PM to the Hibachi Steak House, 3000 W 12th St. We will also be going to Waldameer on Thursday, August 5th at 7 PM. If you will be coming to the Hibachi Steak House on July 1, please be sure to RSVP by Tuesday, June 29 to Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or egcn@ncinter.net. We should let the restaurant know how many people to expect. Everyone is responsible for their own dinner.

Feel free to join us!

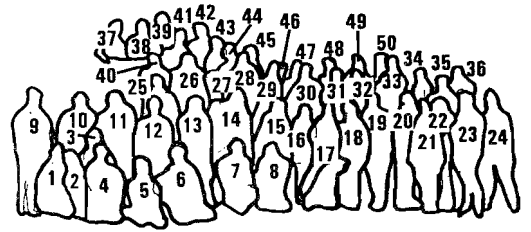
## A snapshot...

We've been taking "family portraits" at every pride event in the Erie area and publishing them in *EGN* since 1995.

The number of people willing to stand proudly before the camera has steadily increased since then - to a head count of 50 for this year's picnic.



*Sitting on ground:* 1) Lee V 2) Donnie 3) Steve 4) Jack Hall 5) Micheal Miller 6) Michael Mahler 7) Robert Joseph Matthew Tredway 8) Josh. *Standing in first row:* 9) T.C. 10) Bob Regan 11) Carl Larese 12) Amber Newcomer 13) Gayle Labrozzi 14) Jeremy Snyder 15) Tina Phillips 16) Suzanne M Pessa 17) Jerry McCumber and his dog, Katy O'Hara 18) Marilyn J Borawski 19) Chris Lonyo 20) Nancy Rickeard 21) Julie Bruno 22) Patti 23) Amy Terrizzi 24) Marko. *Next row:* 25) Tina Smith 26) Abra Bender 27) Unknown 28) Paul Grubbs 29) Greg Knowles 30) Rick Blair 31) Richard Guy 32) Dave Amy 33) Brian Skelly 34) Georgia Carpenter 35) Gary Snyder 36) Helen. *In back:* 37) Peggy S Davis 38) Amy Matthers 39) Mark Leffingwell 40) Unknown female 41) Rox 42) Marshall Snyder 43) Katie Barrett 44) Rod B. 45) Ken P (partially obscured by Paul) 46) John Mark Bebko (partially obscured by Greg) 47) Ross 48) Jim Shiffer 49) Bill Shade 50) Bob.





Erie Gay News - July 1999





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Erie Gay News - July 1999

# Michael dithers

by Mike Mahler

I would like to thank everyone who made this year's picnic such a success! See the article in the Local News on page 7 for more info.

We weren't expecting coverage by local TV news, but I thought it was incredibly cool that four people all chose to speak on camera and everyone of them chose to use their face and full name. I am trying to remember how many years it has been since we last had anyone use only their first name or an alias or have their face/voice obscured.

There are still those who are afraid. One person I was speaking to the night of the picnic was worried he might have been in a crowd shot and possibly lose his job. I checked with the Erie City Solicitor, the Erie County Human Relations Commission and the Pennsylvania State Human Relations Commission. Existing state and federal statutes do not cover discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment, etcetera. The Erie County Human Relations Commission currently only enforces laws that exist at the state level. However, the

contact at the Pennsylvania State Human Relations Commission said that the city of Pittsburgh has an ordinance that forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. It makes you wonder if they can take a stand for equal rights in Pittsburgh, why can't we do it here?

Micheal and I recently celebrated our fifth wedding anniversary on June 18th. We had a nice dinner out, and then went to Cleveland Pride the next day. There was a pretty good showing from Erie folks.

I think that it is pretty much common knowledge that my family seems to produce more than a few GLBT folks. I was recently talking with my great uncle (who is gay) about my direct maternal great grandfather (also gay). It turns out that my great-grandfather, Nelson Drogan, had been gay bashed in the late 30's. It was sort of a similar situation that happened with my late bisexual father in the mid 1970's: we both knew that our father had been assaulted, but we didn't find out until years later that the motivation was anti-gay.

I hope that everyone who came to the Pride Erie Picnic had a good time. I think we're all looking forward to the 2nd Erie Pride Rally on Saturday, October 9. Helen has been doing a great job of coordinating this.

The March on Washington should be exciting too. It is set for Sunday, April 30, 2000. Hopefully, we will be able to get a good contingent of Erie folks there. Micheal and I have a particular interest because the last March occurred just a few weeks after we met. He wasn't able to get time off from work, so this kind of represents the first trip together we would have liked to have taken together. We just had to wait a while, that's all. We might also get to see the aforementioned great uncle, who lives in Laurel, MD.

You may have read the article about the decision by Judge Shad Connelly to not allow a second parent adoption to a local gay man. There is at least one aspect of this decision that I find to be quite irritating. Judge Connelly made his decision without even having the scheduled hearing or doing the home study. Jeff and Joey didn't even get their day in court. After hearing them speak at a PFLAG meeting some time ago, it was incredibly obvious that they loved and cared for their children. Maybe if people looked at all of the human beings in a family and didn't stop at the genitals, they might gain a greater degree of understanding.

## Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

### ◆ Case Management

### ◆ Emergency Financial Assistance

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nwparaa@penn.com	nwpaaid@erie.net

# Local man denied 2nd parent adoption

by Michael Mahler

In an article on the front page of the Sunday, June 20th edition of the *Erie Daily Times* (ironically, on Father's Day), Ed Palattella wrote about the recent decision of Judge Shad Connelly not to grant a second parent adoption of two children to Jeff, an Erie man, simply because he and his partner are gay. His partner, Joey, is currently the legal parent by adoption. Judge Connelly made his decision on Friday, June 18, without having the hearing or a home study. The *Times News* became aware of the decision before what should have been the home study on Monday, June 21 or the scheduled hearing of Thursday, June 24. Ed Palattella had contacted Michael Mahler for comment, who recognized the couple. Mahler then contacted Jeff and learned that the court date had not taken place. Jeff and Joey could have elected to pull the petition and were effectively denied that option. It was the couple's belief that the judge should at least have heard the case and made a decision based on the individual circumstances and the best interests of the children. If it had not been for a series of coincidences, they would not even have been aware that a legal decision had been made about their family without so much as a hearing or home study until reading it in the Sunday paper.

Jeff and Joey had been raising the boy and the girl almost since each was born. The children are 6 and 8. They call Joey 'Daddy' and Jeff 'Dada'. They may appeal Judge Connelly's decision that only one man may be the adoptive parent. There have been other cases in Pennsylvania, one of them in Erie County, where a judge granted a same sex partner a second parent adoption. Judge Connelly cited the Pennsylvania law prohibiting same-sex marriages. He also disputed the validity of the decision of Judge John T. Miller of York County who granted a second parent adoption to a woman in December 1993. No other decision granting a second parent adoption has been appealed currently. The decisions are not considered to have set a legal precedent because they came from lower court judges. Judges traditionally have had discretionary powers in adoption cases with regard to applying statutes.

Jeff was trying to make sure that the children would be entitled to insurance and other benefits of both parents, rather than just the currently legally recognized parent. Jeff went so far as to have his last name changed to Joey's surname. President Judge Michael Palmisano granted this request in June of 1998.

Both Judge Connelly and Judge Stanley Ott of Montgomery County stated in decisions quoted in the *Times News* article that because the law does not explicitly permit second parent same sex adoption, and because of the ban on same sex marriage and because of other laws, that the Pennsylvania State Legislature would have to explicitly permit such adoptions. Currently, only Florida bans gay and lesbian people from adopting children. Adoptions by the legal parent's partner is unclear or forbidden in many areas. Decisions have gone both ways in Pennsylvania.

Judge Ott said in his January 1996 decision to deny a second parent adoption to a lesbian couple that arguments about serving the best interests of the child "are better addressed to the Legislature, which, if it agrees,

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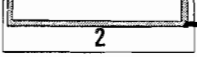
can easily amend the existing adoption statute. Until it does so, the Orphans' Court is powerless to approve a 'second parent' or 'same sex' adoption."

Jeff and Joey have taken as many legal steps as possible to provide for the well being of their children. Joey, who is currently the legally recognized parent, has named his partner Jeff as the children's guardian in his will. However, even with these and other attempts to provide for the children, it is still possible that an insurance company or other agency could challenge Jeff's parental standing in court. Even with a will, there are still special rights that married heterosexual couples enjoy that are denied to gay couples. Jeff recognizes that the real measure of a family is how they love each other and concluded by saying "That's the one thing about the ruling, it won't change the way we live. And that's the neat thing."

In a recent unrelated case in Indiana, a married man got the support of his church and others in fighting the adoption of his foster daughter by a gay couple. He later admitted to having sex with the girl 'many times' in the past year after being reported to the police by his wife.

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## Q-list

by Mike Miller

### Theatre and film

The **Directors Circle**, 652 W 16th St, Erie, PA will be putting on a production of **The Boys in the Band** in August. *Boys...* presents a night in the life of a gathering of gay men in the '70's. When it first played on stage and later as a movie, it was a landmark, offering many mainstream audiences their first glimpses of gay characters interacting with each other for more than 5 minutes, let alone an entire play. The only problem was that most of the characters weren't very positive role models even back then, spending much of the play bitching, catfighting and feeling sorry for themselves. Nevertheless, the play has some moments that, even today, shine a light on gay men, internalized homophobia, and not-so-internalized homophobia. There's also a great deal of camp value. For show times and ticket info, call 454-0636.

For Gen-X cartoon camp, Big Gay Al promises to be "just (th)super, and thanks for asking" in **South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut** which just hit theatres.

Those expecting/dreading another straight-boy-athon from **Adam Sandler** may be surprised by his latest movie **Big Daddy**. Early in the first reel and reappearing throughout the movie are a pretty straightforward, (sorry - gayly forward), gay couple played very handsomely by **Allen Covert** and **Peter Dante** who get to kiss, hold hands and help out the main plot-line, while another character's homophobia is matter-of-factly brushed off by Sandler's character who says, "That's what gay guys do, they kiss."

Fans of gay playwright **Oscar Wilde**, gay actor **Rupert Everett**, or of fabulous costume and set design can catch all in **An Ideal Husband** out at theatres now. Or you can pick one Everett, omit the Wilde, and add one **Madonna** as co-star in **The Next Best Thing**, which the two ideal paparazzi magnets should soon be wrapping up filming.

I know this probably seems early, but the **Annual Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival** will take place October 21-28, 1999. You will probably want to get information and tickets worked out early, though, if you're interested in attending. Call (412) 232-3277 for more info or browse on over to <http://www.pilgff.org>.

## Events

Cleveland will once again be hosting **BlackOut** an event focusing on the African American Same Gender Loving (SGL) community. The event kicks off with an Evening of the Arts on Friday, July 30 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM at The Cleveland Health Museum, 8911 Euclid Avenue. The cost is \$5 and celebrates talented singers, performers, dancers, poets and other artists. On Saturday, July 31, The Exchange 1999, the 3rd Annual Cultural and Educational conference for the African American SGL Community, will take place at the Greater Cleveland American Red Cross, 3747 Euclid Avenue from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. The cost for this is \$25. That night from 7:30 PM to 10 PM, there will be a soiree with music, food and friends. The location hasn't been announced yet and the cost will be \$15 or \$10 with Exchange 1999 registration on or before July 16. The weekend concludes with a picnic from noon to dusk at Edgewater Park (upper pavilion). The cost is free. For more details about these events, call (216) 462-0257 or (888) TALK2BO or email [blkout@hotmail.com](mailto:blkout@hotmail.com). You can also write to BlackOut, PO Box 14553, Cleveland OH 44114-0553.

## Just out

**Jar Jar Binks?** Me-sah don't get it, but the **Village Voice** outed the *Star Wars* character, which I'm not sure is positive or not, if he is queer. Sure, he's sort of likeable and figures prominently in the highest profile movie of the year, but he's also flighty, clumsy and doesn't have very good language skills. Now do gay folks constitute a *Phantom Menace*? Sorry, with his gold outfit, fastidiousness and fey speech, I'll still put money on C-3PO.

While coming out with a new album entitled **Play** (V2), alternative musician **Moby** also came out as bi.





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## Music

**Lilith Fair** has popularized women's music for mainstream audiences, bringing modern day divas, lesbian, straight and bi, to audiences and venues that might not otherwise have seen them. But, according to the *National Liberty Journal*, the same brain(?) trust publication of **Jerry Falwell's** that outed Tinky Winky, Lilith Fair represents some kind of subversive lesbian menace because "lesbian imagery has become quite synonymous with the legend [of Lilith]" and because "Many paintings and depictions of Lilith present her in lewd poses, often times kissing a female demonic figure." Women and men who wish to be 'subverted' by the likes of **Indigo Girls**, **Me'Shell Ndegeocello**, **Natalie Merchant** and **Luscious Jackson**, can pick up **Lilith Fair: A Celebration of Women in Music, Vol. 2 and Vol. 3**. You might also want to check out Lilith Fair founder **Sarah MacLachlan's** latest live album **Mirrorball**. Both are on the Arista label and out at the stores now.

If that doesn't whet your appetite for crooning lesbians, then maybe **Melissa Etheridge's** new album **Breakdown** (Island) will.

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## Comics

The popular political comic strip *Doonesbury* by **Garry Trudeau** has recently been running a story about Mark Slackmeyer asking a priest friend of his to perform a wedding ceremony for him and his partner. Slackmeyer's character came out of the cartoon closet a few years ago and not long after found a partner and comic foil in the form of Chase, a conservative Republican.

## Books

Now is the time, if you haven't already, to think about picking up that gay travel guide to help you find fun stuff to do or places to stay during your summer, or fall, travels. There are lots, and you can find them at large mainstream booksellers like Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com or Little Professor just as easily as your local adult or 'alternative' book store.

Damron, Ferrari and Odysseus offer everything from maps of gay night spots in large foreign cities to listings of GLBT friendly inns at the most rural of destinations. And then, of course there's the GAYELLOW Pages which lists all kinds of GLBT-friendly spaces, goods and services in a national edition as well as several regional editions for the United States.

## Web browsing

Walk in so many Pride parades last month that your rainbow rings got all tarnished? Christopher Lonyo, who was/is the Christopher in PrideGifts by Christopher has a new web site, **AllPride.Com**, where you can find a new set, among many other things, to show your pride.

The Internet is increasingly becoming a boon to LGBT's and the people who have things of specific interest to them. Many companies with products targeting gay people are finding it easier to reach their audience directly through the web. Now there's a service called **eCommunity** whereby companies can learn online how well they are marketing their products to the LGBT community using message boards, chat rooms, emails and the like in which gay people are free to voice their opinions about products and ad campaigns directly to the companies that produce them. eCommunity is a part of the **www.Gay.com** Network.

In the same spirit of direct marketing, many musicians with queer or 'alternative' audiences are finding a

niche for reaching their LGBT fans by releasing their albums through the Internet, sidestepping the usual big record company marketing costs. The music is downloaded from the Internet in what is called an **MP3** format, which has near-CD quality sound but requires only a fraction of the memory space or download time that would be taken up by a typically huge music file. The MP3 files require a special program that can read and play the format, but there are plenty of programs on the Internet that can be downloaded at low cost or even no cost - WinAmp, for Windows users and MacAmp for Mac users are the 2 most popular. Go to **www.MP3.com** and you will find lots of info, programs, and lists of artists with MP3 music to download. You can also try going to home pages of your favorite artists and seeing if they have any MP3 releases available. **Boy George, Taylor Dayne** and **Pete Townsend** are all good candidates. Oh, and lest you're worried that you have to be stuck in front of your PC to listen to MP3's, there's also a portable player.

Another service in the direct web marketing spirit is **www.DLSIJP.com** which publishes books by women authors which you can download directly onto your PC or buy in print versions.

## And finally...

A very PC response to yet another one of **Jerry Falwell's** homophobic rants. If you look at June 22's *Advocate* you'll see a great ad with a back shot of two guys holding hands with what appear to be other parade celebrants ahead of them. The ad is sponsored in honor of Pride Month by **Anheuser-Busch** with a tag line of "Be yourself and make it a Bud Light" in rainbow colors. Falwell urged a protest and boycott against Anheuser-Busch for its campaign which appears in numerous other gay-targeted publications besides the *Advocate*. As reported in the same issue of the *Advocate*, Anheuser-Busch responded to Falwell's attack by stating, "Today's consumer is not one of a specific gender, race, geography or orientation. We appreciate and respect the views of all our customers." Cheers. And cheers to all of the other advertisers that placed gay-affirming ads during the month of June and especially those that continue to do so throughout the year. As for Falwell, what the hell (purgatory?) are we going to do with this guy and his followers? Someone needs to invent a time machine to send them back to the stone age, or maybe the flood - without an ark.

# 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 16502-1105 or call us at (814) 456-9833.

## 24 Hour Counseling

- Erie Hotline ..... 453-5656 or (800) 628-0190  
 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)  
 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 ▼ 824-2371 (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

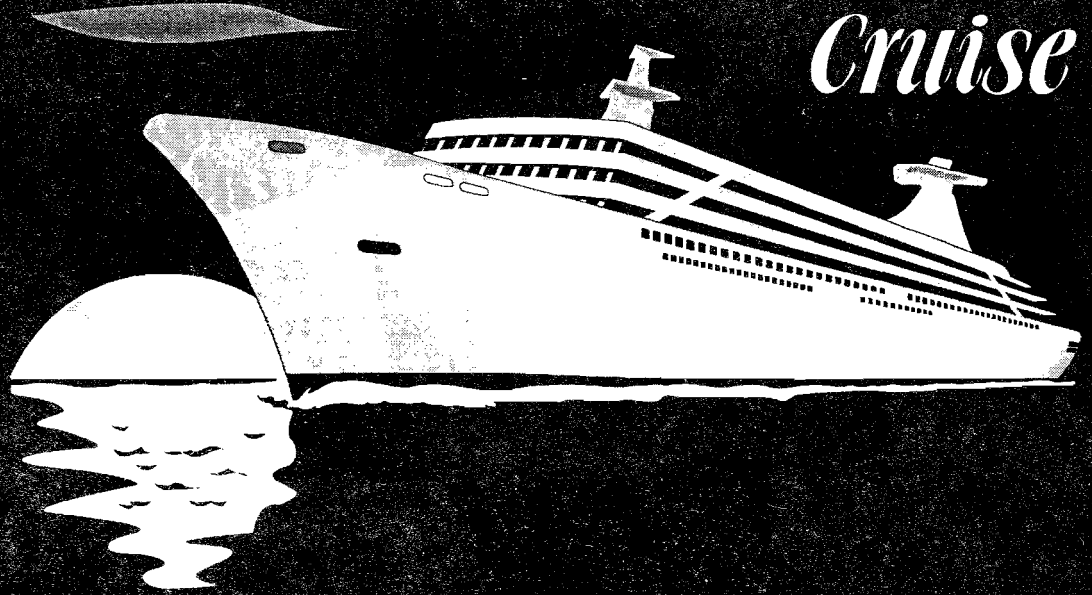
- Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group (TV/TS/CD) .....  
 ..... write Erie Sisters, 1903 W 8th St, Suite 261, Erie PA 16505  
 Gay AA ..... 459-7262 (Bernie)  
 Partners (LesBiGay group, Corry PA) ..... (814) 664-7090 (Luella)  
 PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) .....  
 PFLAG-DuBois 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 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  
 HIV testing at Health Dept Mon Noon-3:30, Tue & Thur 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Evening  
 hours by appt. only 451-6727.  
 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

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

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