

EGN

Erie Gay News

Calendar

Nov 1—Samhain 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 black, bring a drinking vessel and dish to pass for the potluck following. Info: Sharon at medhbb@velocity.net.

Nov 1—ManSEX 101: Men SUCK! (Jamestown NY) 7-9 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. Series of discussions and workshop "Love oral sex? Want to learn more about it? Have some tips to share? We'll put our money where our mouth is for a candid discussion about going down including safety, semen, and skills for making you the hottest mouth of the north." For more information, contact: Greg (716) 664-7855 or Bill (716) 488-1917.

Nov 2—Election Day

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

Nov 4—PFLAG Erie meets 7 PM at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. "We will be collecting donations of toys and clothes, preferably new ones, to send out for Christmas gifts to the hurricane/tornado victims. Any winter type of clothes will go to local charities. All donations are due in by December 8, 1999. We will be discussing Chastity Bono's new book. Also making plans for the Christmas party." For more info, contact Nancy at (814) 835-7432 or email npengluv@hotmail.com.

Nov 4—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.

Nov 4—Bette Midler: The Divine Miss Millennium Tour (Pittsburgh) at Civic Arena. Call (412) 323-1919. Tickets on sale at TicketMaster (www.ticketmaster.com)

Nov 5—Coco Vega at The Village Drag performer. 133 W 18th St, Erie PA. For more info, call (814) 452-0125.

Nov 6 & 7—25th Anniversary Dance Spectacular (Mercyhurst College) Mercyhurst College dance division's "25th Anniversary Spectacular" will be celebrated with performances at the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. Classical ballet, neoclassical ballet and modern dance will



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SPOOKY VISION

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c/o EGC Coalition, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA 16502-1105
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 Fax: (814) 452-1392
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 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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This Month's Cover:
Side shot of the family portrait taken on the steps of the gazebo on Perry Square. The great shot at left is just one of the many others you can see on our website.
 Photos by Michael A. Miller

If you want to reprint...

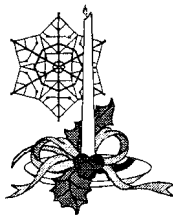
If you would like to reprint original articles or artwork that appeared in *EGN*, please contact us for permission, and please credit *Erie Gay News*. If an article or illustration contains the author's/creator's name, please credit them as well.

Thanks!

Items to send us in November

Nov 15— Deadline for info related to December events:

Hanukkah, Christmas, Yule, Solstice, Kwanzaa, New Year's, "Millennium" Madness



Thanks for the October issue collators!

Thanks to Mark Mintsiveris, Mark Schneider, Greg Knowles, Jim Shiffer, Brian Skelly and Mick Boyle for helping us to collate the most recent issue of *EGN*!

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!*

be performed with the D'Angelo Concert Choir and Chamber Orchestra and the D'Angelo Percussion Ensemble. Reserved seating for Adults at \$10.00 and seniors/students for \$8.00. Nov 6 is at 8 PM, Nov 7 at 2:30 PM

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

Nov 8—ManSEX 101: A Trip to Uranus (Jamestown NY) 7-9 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. Series of discussions and workshop "Top? Bottom? Versatile? All are welcome for a frank discussion of the ins and outs of our love for ass. We'll talk about foreplay, safety, the condom issue, toys, and techniques for keeping it fun." For more information, contact: Greg (716) 664-7855 or Bill (716) 488-1917.

Nov 9—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets: "Healing your body through guided imagery" Presented by guest speaker Deb Monohon. At St. Mark Center. Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Nov 11—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.

Nov 15—ECPC meets "Community-wide planning for HIV/AIDS prevention in Erie County. Meets at Serenity Hall, 414 W 5th St. Refreshments served from 5:30 PM to 6 PM. Meeting from 6 to 7:30 PM. For more info, call Sonny Concepcion at the Hispanic American Council at (814) 455-0212 or hayso@erie.net or Sandra Quigley at the NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance at (814) 456-8849."

Nov 15—ManSEX 101: OUTside (Jamestown NY) 7-9 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. Series of discussions and workshop "Do you like public sex? Sex Clubs? Anonymous sex? We'll talk about places to meet men for a quick hook up, how to score, and how to stay safe and healthy." For more information, contact: Greg (716) 664-7855 or Bill (716) 488-1917.

Nov 18—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.

Nov 18—More Light Presbyterians meets GLBT supportive group within the Presbyterian church. Meets 7:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Waterford PA. For more

info, contact Evon at (814) 864-1920 or email evon@erie.net.

Nov 18-21—Erie Lakeside Gala Transgender event put on by Erie Sisters Club. For more info, browse <http://www.geocities.com/Wellesley/1614/elg99.html>, email lothar.lk@cwix.com or write to 1903 W 8th St, Suite 261, Erie PA 16505.

Nov 19—"Unity in Our Community" Anniversary Celebration 6:30 PM at Cascade United Methodist Church, 1001 W 21st St. Please bring a dish to share for a covered dish dinner. Desserts, drinks and place settings will be provided. Followed by introduction of Unity in Diversity Award nominees, presentation of award recipient, speakers and entertainment. Call (814) 452-3364 for more info.

Nov 20—Menspace: Note date change! Wild story night "Sharing the moment. Tell us your wildest story or just come to listen to the antics of others!" For info and location, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com for more info.

Nov 20—10% Network meets: Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction "We will have our annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner at 7 PM. Bring a beverage and a dish to pass. We will use the tableware at the church. This will be followed by our annual silent auction to raise

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funds for AIDS Community Services Holiday Baskets, Please bring an item for the auction." At Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown NY. For more info, call John (716) 484-7285 or email otto@madbbs.com.

Nov 20—2 Girls Alone at 1000 French 7 - 10 PM. Dinner reservations recommended. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Nov 20—Lambda Ball '99: The Millennial Lambda Ball (Pittsburgh) Grand Hall at the Priory (North Side). For more info, call (412) 521-5444.

Nov 20—Women's Holiday Mart (Cleveland) 12 noon to 5 PM. At Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 3445 Warrensville Center Road, Shaker Heights, OH. This event is a What She Wants (Cleveland feminist newspaper). Admission is \$1. Vendor tables, 50/50 raffle, crafts, fun, fine entertainment, wheelchair accessible, progressive women's, lesbian and feminist information tables, kid's corner, free parking. For more info, call (216) 921-7328.

Nov 21—DuBois PFLAG Thanksgiving Pot Luck You are invited to join us for a Thanksgiving Pot Luck on November 21 at 1:00 PM. Eddie and George, owners of the Royal Cafe in Reynoldsville, have generously opened their

restaurant to us for this event. (The restaurant will be closed for normal business.) Eddie and George will provide turkey, stuffing and hospitality—others are asked to bring a dish. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP Eddie or George by November 14, so that they will know how many people to prepare for, and to coordinate who's bringing what. (Also, please make sure to call again if you've RSVP'd and then can't make it). You are welcome to attend whether or not you are in PFLAG, or if you are from out of the area. Royal Cafe, 447 Main St, Reynoldsville PA (just below DuBois, and (honest!) right above Panic and Desire.) Phone 814-653-8552.

Nov 21—Bette Midler: The Divine Miss Millennium Tour (Cleveland) at Gund Arena.

Nov 22—ManSEX 101: Body Talk (Jamestown NY) 7-9 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. Series of discussions and workshop "Do you feel invisible in a room full of hunks? Feel that you need to be buff to be someone? That beauty is skin deep? Let's talk about the pleasures and pressures of our obsession with body image" For more information, contact: Greg (716) 664-7855 or Bill (716) 488-1917.

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

Nov 25—Thanksgiving

Nov 27—Amateur Stripper Night at The Zone 1711 State St Erie PA. For more info, call (814) 459-1711.

Nov 29—ManSEX 101: The ABC's of Sexual Health (Jamestown NY) 7-9 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. Series of discussions and workshop "Want to know more about all the critters out there? We'll discuss gonorrhea, hep, HIV, warts, and all the rest. How to prevent them, how to recognize them, and how to take care of them. Biology was never this fun." For more information, contact: Greg (716) 664-7855 or Bill (716) 488-1917.

Dec 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.

Dec 1—World AIDS Day Details on page 9.

Dec 1—"Alert" Party at The Zone 1711 State St. HIV Education/Prevention Party. Cocktails at 9 PM. For more info, call (814) 455-2054, email alert@webtv.net or see ad on back page.

Dec 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, Lisa at (440)

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

Northwest Alliance RD #3, Box 75F Clarion PA 16214 nwparaa@penn.com	1001 State, Suite #806 Baldwin Bldg. Erie PA 16501 nwpauids@erie.net
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992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Dec 5—VH-1/Vogue Fashion Awards (VH-1) {don't know what to say, but these were described by *The Advocate* as "gayest show on TV"}

Dec 6—ManSEX 101: / Touch Myself (Jamestown NY) 7-9 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave. Series of discussions and workshop "Do you like to reach out and touch yourself or others? Come learn creative new techniques to use yourself or with a partner. We'll discuss the joy of self-love and how masturbation and erotic touch can be used as a hot method for making love." For more information, contact: Greg (716) 664-7855 or Bill (716) 488-1917.

Dec 4—Womynspace: Trip to Kraynack's We will be meeting 3:30 PM at Wal-Mart in Meadville, (Route 322, west of I-79), in the parking lot on the west side of the building near the garden department and carpool to Kraynack's Christmas Store in Hermitage, PA. We may go to Quaker Steak and Lube in Sharon to eat afterwards. For more info contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

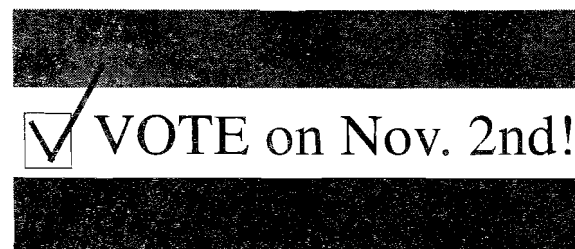
Dec 6—Ricky Martin in concert (Cleveland) at Gund Arena.

Dec 7—Censored! (AMC) "This documentary, narrated by Oliver Stone and William Baldwin, turns the camera on free speech—and the occasional lack thereof—in Hollywood history."—TV Guide.

Dec 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 or 734-3959.

Dec 9—2 Girls Alone at Aroma's 2174 W 8th St. 7 - 9 PM. Dinner reservations recommended. For more info, email TwoGirlsAlone@worldnet.att.net.

Dec 11—Menspace At Brian and Dave's. For info and location, call Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com for more info.



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

Dec 14—HIV/AIDS Support Group meets Call Cheryl Weber at 455-3786 for more info.

Dec 16—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.

Dec 18—10% Network meets: Christmas Party at John's House "Bring whatever you like to drink and a munchie if you'd like. Finger foods will be served. If anyone is interested in a cookie exchange, bring 6 dozen and take 6 dozen." At John's house, 17 Lakeview Ave, Jamestown NY. For more info or details, call John (716) 484-7285 or email otto@madbbs.com.

Dec 23—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.

Dec 31—A GAYLA New Year's Eve Party: Out & Into The Millennium (Pittsburgh) A Benefit for GLCC & PATF.

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Victoria Hall (Friendship). For more info, call (412) 422-0114.

Jan 6—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.

Jan 8—Annual Pizza and Porn Party (Jamestown NY) "A chance to trade videos and magazines. We will collect \$5 at the door to order pizza and pop. If you have nothing to swap, don't worry about it. Just come and take what you'd like." At John's house, 17 Lakeview Ave, Jamestown NY. For more info, call John (716) 484-7285 or email otto@madbbs.com.

Jan 10—Friends from the Heart Meets 6 PM, Well Being Ctr, 710 Beaumont. Info Deb Monohon Cleer 838-0123.

Jan 13—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.

Jan 20—10% Network meets: Planning meeting "We will plan and discuss future meetings and decide who will host them." At John's house, 17 Lakeview Ave, Jamestown NY. For more info, call John (716) 484-7285 or email otto@madbbs.com.

Jan 20—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.

Jan 27—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.

Weekly recurring

Tuesdays—SUNY Fredonia GLBSU 10 PM in Williams Center. Has office in Multicultural Affairs Center, Thomson Hall, Fredonia NY. For more info, call (716) 673-3139 or email GLBSU@hotmail.com.

Wednesdays—Identity (Edinboro University) 8 PM in Hendricks Hall room 101. For more info, call (814) 732-2647 or email dburdick@edinboro.edu or mail Amy Terrizzi, Box 173 Shafer Hall, Edinboro University, Edinboro PA 16444.

Local news

LGLV and TRIPAC combine to create lesbian political powerhouse

The League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV), Pennsylvania's legislative advocates for the lesbian community, and TRIPAC, Southwestern Pennsylvania's lesbian Political Action Committee, have combined to form Pennsylvania's first statewide lesbian PAC.

The new PAC, the Gay and Lesbian Voters' PAC (GLV-PAC), will combine TRIPAC's track record of raising money for, and contributing to, pro-lesbian candidates with LGLV's existing statewide network of contacts and supporters, making the new organization the first true statewide lesbian PAC in Pennsylvania's history.

GLV-PAC will also better allow for the integration of electoral functions with LGLV's legislative and research functions, and result in a more aggressive, and effective, effort to bring about fair treatment for lesbian people in the state of Pennsylvania.

GLV-PAC will principally operate in two ways: by providing money to campaigns it supports, and by directing volunteers to those campaigns. It will also find and support viable candidates to run against incumbents who have a history of anti-lesbian positions and activity.

A statewide PAC has been sorely needed. The Pennsylvania General Assembly, especially the House, remains hostile towards the lesbian community. "To stop the flow of hostile legislation, and to make the General Assembly more receptive to proposals to bring about fair treatment for lesbian people, some House cleaning needs to be done," said the GLV-PAC president Chris Young. "GLV-PAC will help us do that. When GLV-PAC makes its impact on elections, LGLV's legislative work will be much easier to accomplish."

The boards of LGLV and TRIPAC are being combined to form a new board which will govern both LGLV and GLV-PAC. TRIPAC itself will dissolve.

League of Gay and Lesbian Voters info@lglv.org
5819-B Forward Ave. Pittsburgh, Pa 15217 (412) 421-4470 <http://www.lglv.org/>

Mike and Mike stepping down

by Michael Mahler

We would like to thank the many people who have helped us with the newsletter over the years. Erie Gay News has been published in its current form for almost 7 years now (December 1999 will mark the end of 7 years.) I have been involved for virtually all of that time. Micheal has been involved for most of that time. Deb Spilko did a fantastic job as the principal writer for the newsletter from the very start through November of last year. When Deb moved last year, our work load increased. Immediately before Erie Gay News, I did a newsletter for the Society for Creative Anachronism for almost 6 years, which means that I have been doing some form of monthly newsletter for almost 13 years, or slightly more than 1/3 of the time I have been alive. I really feel the need to take a break now.

To explain, Micheal works second shift and I work 9-5 which means that the only time we get to spend with each other is on the weekends. It's pretty difficult for us to work on the newsletter when it isn't the weekend, so we have effectively been giving up 1/4 of our free time together. I have been feeling some telltale signs of burnout for a while and have decided that I need to step down. Plus there are some other things that we both would like to do that can be difficult to work into our schedule while we're publishing the newsletter.

The December 1999 issue will be the last we will be doing in print form. There have been a few people who have voiced a tentative interest, but the newsletter probably would need at least a few people with some skills or aptitudes in certain areas.

We both feel that the newsletter has been useful and think it should continue to be. We are asking for others to step forward to continue the publication. The job can be extremely rewarding and a lot of fun. If you are interested in doing this, please contact us at your earliest convenience. We're willing to help and give advice if you wish or not if you don't. The newsletter may not need to remain in its current scope, form or frequency. Someone might have an equally valid or even better way of doing things. The newsletter developed most of its current form when there were 3 of us working on it.

At this point, I am planning on maintaining the emailing list, the web site and being the contact person for Menspace. I have kind of made a vow to myself that I won't do any major organizing for 2000. The Pride Picnic is relatively easy to put together and the Pride Rally isn't so tough either. I am willing to give help and guidance, but I really need to not be in charge of anything for a while.

Many thanks for the years of support we've enjoyed and hope that you will help keep it going.



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HIV/AIDS news

World AIDS Day – December 1

HIV - by the year 2000, over 40 million people will be infected with the virus. "AIDS – End the Silence, Listen, Learn and Live"

In 1981 a young gay man died of PCP-*Pneumocystis Carinii* Pneumonia, a rare form of pneumonia. PCP is known as an opportunistic infection. His death was determined to be from this opportunistic infection due to a severely compromised immune system. Today we call that a diagnosis of AIDS. More people came forward with rare forms of opportunistic infections. They died. This was the birth of AIDS.

Following research by Dr. Luc Montagnier and Dr. Robert Gallo, the virus was named HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Following a misnomer of GRID – Gay-Related Immune Disorder, the Centers for Disease Control renamed the diagnosis AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

We found out about AIDS before HIV. Medical personnel started to take a second look at the basics of the immune system. Research teams began to study the HIV genetic structure. Everyone was in search of a vaccine.

Educators started to look for a causal effect, and they found two answers. There is a direct relationship of HIV to drugs / alcohol. There seemed to be a specific correlation of users to HIV infected individuals. Second, unprotected sexual activity transmitted the virus through vaginal and seminal fluids.

Drug and Alcohol Services and HIV/AIDS groups both grew out of grass roots organizations. "ACT UP" and "GAY MENS HEALTH CRISIS" became involved by rolling up their sleeves and immediately going to work educating people about this virus.

Nineteen years later, we are still in search of answers. We are still hoping for a cure. We are still educating people about HIV infection and AIDS. We know three things:

1. HIV is not a death sentence – people are living longer with HIV and avoiding a diagnosis of AIDS. They are taking medications, which prolong their lives, boost their immune systems and lower the viral load in their system.

2. AIDS can be prevented, it's not who you are but what you do that puts you at risk for HIV infection. Choices affect HIV risk. We always know what the right choice is, but we do not always choose the right way.

3. AIDS is not over. We still need to get out the message to the masses of people worldwide – 6 billion of us now.

WORLD AIDS DAY in Erie is a day to reflect on a global epidemic. It is a day of observance, remembrance and awareness of HIV/AIDS in our community. It is affecting our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors. It is affecting blacks, whites, Latinos, Asians, Europeans. It cuts across all socioeconomic boundaries.

This year, the Erie County Department of Health will observe World AIDS Day with a remembrance in the East Park of Perry Square, Wednesday, December 1st, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Once again this year as we have done in the past, we will commemorate persons who have died of AIDS by hanging red ribbons on the "Tree of Hope", following with a candlelight vigil from the East Park to the West Park Gazebo where a short program will be held.

The program will begin with County Executive Judy Lynch issuing a proclamation of World AIDS Day. There will be students from area schools to present oral and written messages on HIV risk prevention and artistic impressions of AIDS. A person living with AIDS will discuss issues and effects of the disease and a local religious representative will deliver a message of hope and inspiration.

Please join us on December 1st to actively participate in this year's World AIDS Day Observance. Call Patty Puline at 451-6543 if you have any questions or would like to be a part of this year's program.



World AIDS Day events

MSM/The Zone

from Tom Lee

Editor's note: Please note that health care workers use the term MSM (Men who have Sex with Men) to include as well men who may not happen to identify as gay.

The Erie's AIDS OUTREACH Project in conjunction with MSM Community Leadership Development have joined forces in planning for their observance of World AIDS Day 99.

The MSM Community Leadership Development will sponsor, "MOMENTS OF SHARING" on the eve of World AIDS Day 99. This year will feature a new play by Rita Kilbane and a one act monologue by Tom D. Lee. The performance will begin at 9 PM in the west room of Cup-A-ccino's on 18 North Park Row. The "MOMENTS OF SHARING" service will be held in Perry Square West at 11:30 PM on November 30, 1999.

Erie's AIDS OUTREACH Project will sponsor "ALERT", an HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention Party that will close the observance of World AIDS Day. Featured at the event will be 6 underwear models, Toronto's top DJ, Blackcat and Disco Diva Temperance, local performances by Grand Hostess Bobbi B, Jelly Bean, Scott Z. and DJ Dart. Cocktails will begin at 9:00 PM at the ZONE on 18th & State Street in Erie, PA. There is special admission for College Students under 21 yr. For more information contact: Tom Lee 814-455-2054 or email alert@webtv.net

AIDS End The Silence. Listen-Learn & Live

from Mark Mintsiveris

World AIDS Day observance is designed to show support for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The Tree of Hope in Perry Square will be decorated with red ribbons to symbolize hope for a cure. There will be a candlelight procession from Perry Square to the Episcopal Cathedral of Saint Paul for a memorial service. Panels of the AIDS memorial quilt will be on display in the sanctuary. A dinner will follow at the Episcopal Cathedral for everyone in attendance.

St. Paul Episcopal Cathedral

Quilts will be on display at St. Paul Episcopal Cathedral November 27th through December 4th (Caretakers will be present at all times for questions about the quilts.)

Youth Day at St. Paul Episcopal Cathedral December 4th with pizza and pop. 6 PM to 8 PM. Adult Day at St. Paul Episcopal Cathedral November 29th. 6 PM to 8 PM. Personal perspectives will be ongoing.

Service at St. Paul Episcopal Cathedral to begin approximately 6 PM. Kelvin's dinner immediately after service at the church all welcome to attend "free."

Perry Square

At approximately 5:30 PM County Executive Judy Lynch will proclaim World AIDS Day. At approximately 5:40 PM Jackie Tamarro, Program Director and Patty Puline, Health Educator will speak. After these short speeches we will proceed to the tree of hope in the East square to attach ribbons that will be provided. Candlelight procession from Perry square to St. Paul Episcopal Cathedral approximately 5:55 PM.

Counseling and testing news

HIV Counseling and Testing is available free of charge through your Erie County Department of Health on a walk-in basis. For your comfort and to accommodate specific needs, other sites are available:

HIV counseling and testing is also offered on an outreach basis. Please call 451-6727 for information. If you choose not to have the standardized blood test done, an oral antibody test known as *ORASURE* is now available for HIV testing. A small pad is placed between your cheek and gum for two minutes, the test measures the amount of interstitial fluid found in that area.

More than 34 million people are now infected with HIV/AIDS in the world today. Most of them live in countries where testing is not an option. *Exercise your right to know.* If you have reason to suspect you might have been exposed to HIV, find out today for your own peace of mind. Get tested!

Pride rally

by Michael Mahler

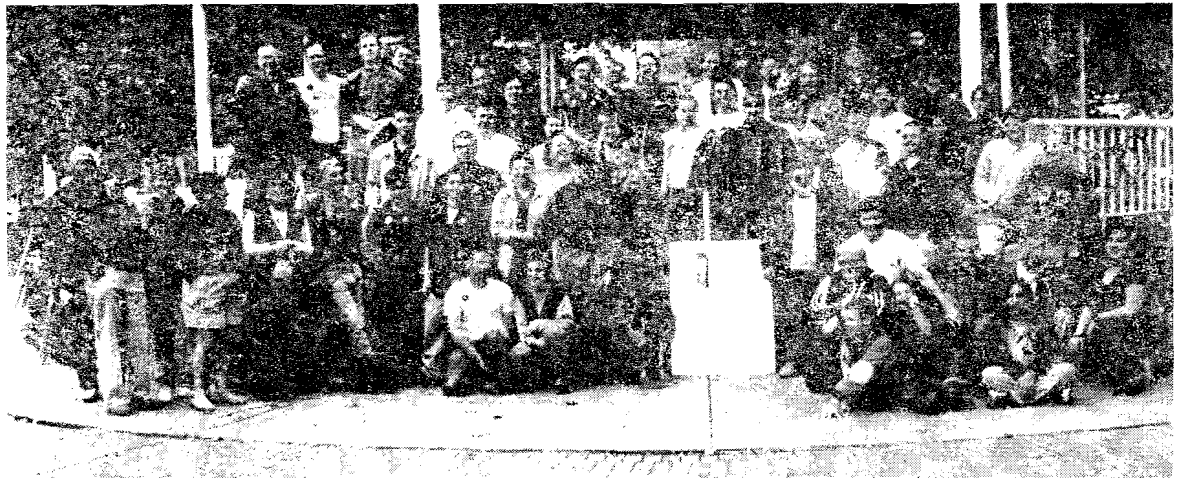
About 150 people gathered on Saturday, October 9 for Erie's second Pride Rally. The event opened with an inclusive prayer by Rev. Terry Kime of the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. A color photo of Rev. Kime was featured in the Erie Times News article on the first page of the local section the next day. Other speakers included Robin Green of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Erie; Dr. Sal Parco of Citizens Against Racism in Erie (CARE); Gary Horton, speaking on behalf of Mayor Joyce Savocchio; Dan Hawes of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who flew up from Washington DC; and Bob Cogan, of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Erie Chapter. There were more performers this year than last year. HAG Theatre of Buffalo presented a scene from a one woman show "The Second Coming of Joan of Arc", local musical favorites 2 Girls Alone and Chris Miller performed, and Clumsi Clemsi, Bobbi B and Sharon Sharalike presented "Bosom Buddies", a drag/clown performance. We also had our traditional family portrait!

Kudos goes to this year's organizer, Helen Streett, for putting together a fabulous event. The weather ended up being fine, but thanks go out to Scott McClelland and the Roadhouse Theatre for the extremely generous offer of a backup site in case of rain. Special thanks also to Jeff Hill for hosting Dan Hawes at his home, and for

various errands Jeff took care of at the last minute. Thanks also to Abby Conley for providing transportation. A big thanks to Greg Knowles for providing and managing the PA system, and to Dave and Brian for ordering the plaque awarded to me & Micheal, which was a total surprise to us! (Thanks also to everyone who contributed!) All three local network affiliates had camera crews there, as well as the Erie Times-News. Many different groups had informational tables and displays, including Womynspace, the area chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW), Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, More Light Presbyterians, Menspace, Trigon (Penn State Behrend GLBT group), who also had a bake sale, Mercyhurst College Gay Straight Alliance, and the Erie Chapter of the ACLU.

Thanks also to Jeremy Snyder & Season, for face-painting, UU of Erie for loaning the podium, chairs and tables, and to all who bought 50/50 tickets or donated cash, especially Martin Swalboski, everyone who helped set up and clean up, and most of all, we would like to thank the people who attended this year's Pride Rally and supported our community.

PS by Helen Streett: Again, special thanks to MIKE & MIKE for all their support, guidance, commitment to our community, and for the surprise bouquet of flowers given to me! Thanks to all who signed the card & contributed for the flowers! I miss Erie GLBT folks!



Erie Gay News - November 1999

Letters

'Pornographic' content

Dear Michael,

Although I am not a member of the Gay/Lesbian community, I've always considered myself "gay friendly" I have access to the "gay News" every month & have always liked reading it, since I've known many G/L's over the years. I'd go so far as to say a lot of G/L's are better friends than "straights"

Please know that what I am about to say is with a loving spirit.

The past several months it seems that the "News" has been leaning progressively toward pornography-at least that's the way it's coming off to me. Especially the October issue. It used to contain interesting and informative articles, i.e. Deb Spilko and Don Paul Lucas. Now it seems every page is geared towards male sex habits.

I know you put a lot into this and it is appreciated by many, I'm sure. But would it be possible to make it a little more "woman friendly?"

Thanks!

Sincerely,

[Name and address withheld by request]

A response and a challenge

I'm sorry, but I could not let this just go by without saying something. I'm always glad to hear of straight allies who enjoy the newsletter and, believe it or not, I welcome criticism, even when it's not very positive, because it lets me know that people are at least paying attention. But I found the above comments completely out of line. "Pornographic?" Not "woman-friendly?" and "Especially the October issue?!"

I read this letter while eating tabouleh and hummus just after watching 2 Girls Alone perform at the Pride Rally, so I was feeling pretty "woman friendly" at that particular moment if I may be forgiven for catering to a stereotype. I've been called an "honorary lesbian" by some because of my appreciation of women's films and music, and I even like Audre Lorde, but I still am a gay man with a gay man's penchant for sexual innuendo, so I immediately pulled out a copy of October's issue and looked at all the articles, submissions and bylines to see if this reader might have a point. Hmm. A thank you from

Directors Circle, a letter and an article on the future of WOMYNSPACE, an update on Partners gay-straight alliance and PFLAG, a plea for contributions to Friends From the Heart, articles about the Walk Against Domestic Violence and the performance of The Second Coming of Joan of Arc at HAG Theatre. Almost all were by women, at least 2 of whom identified as straight. None of them "geared towards male sex habits" at all. Now I was becoming agitated by this reader's comments.

All that remained was the Q-list and ManSEX 101. Aha! Yes, October's Q-list included a nod to the newish polyurethane condom and an editorial comment by me about increased reports of HIV infection from "lower risk" sex activities. It also included my gushing review of the British TV series *Queer As Folk* and its frank portrayal of gay male characters. Aha! Only thing is, much of the rest of the Q-list was dedicated to things of interest to women or general audiences, like Melissa Etheridge's and Queen Latifah's shows, the Indigo Girls' great new album and the Holly Hughes performance in Cleveland. And I gushed just as much about the frank and fun por-

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Serving the HIV-Affected Community

trayals of lesbian, straight and transsexual characters in *Better Than Chocolate* in the previous month's issue. So, what gives?

ManSEX 101. Aha! Sounds like the name of a gay porno, huh? There was an ad on page 3, a brief snippet on page 10, and listings peppered throughout the Calendar. Funny thing is, ManSEX 101 was/is actually "a series of fun and informative discussion groups for men dealing with issues including sex (AND) relationships, self-esteem, physical health and safety." (My emphasis). This was and is an admirable HIV/AIDS prevention and information outreach sponsored by AIDS Community Services and Interweave of New York State. And the titillating way that they advertised it, I think, could only have helped make it more attractive and therefore more successful in reaching its target audience - men who have sex with other men. I had a couple of people ask about it at the Pride Rally.

I ask the reader, if your tax dollars were being used to fund a healthy eating program among teens and twenty-somethings to reduce the risks of obesity, diabetes, cancer and heart disease in later life, would it make sense to have a campaign showing 60 year olds suffering from all the terrible diseases that might happen if you

eat wrong with a stern voice-over by a doctor admonishing to "Just Say No" to fatty, salty, sugary foods? It didn't work for Nancy Reagan. Wouldn't it make more sense to have a campaign entitled "Sumptuous Cooking for Health" with a couple of fit, smiling 20 year olds eating delicious looking foods? I know which campaign I would find more cost effective for my tax dollar.

I also challenge the reader to look at ANY ostensibly "straight" magazine, whether it be *Time*, *Rolling Stone*, or *Woman's Day*. I'll give you a dollar if you can find even ONE that doesn't have a depiction of "straight sex habits" in any of its advertising. The same goes for every billboard with a cigarette ad and every prime time television show, and every social conversation for that matter. Try listening to a straight conversation for five minutes without hearing "so how's your wife/husband/girlfriend/boyfriend?" How do you think it makes a gay person feel to be bombarded every minute of the day by all that straight sexuality when even a few instances of gay sexuality are declaimed as "pornographic"? Take a look around and think about it. Why does a single kiss between men shock and upset, when it goes happily on between men and women, very publicly, without a second thought?





This is a news magazine with information targeted towards gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people, their family, friends, supporters and straight allies. You've got to expect to see SOME gay male content. We try to be as evenhanded as we can, but may not always succeed. At least we make the attempt. I wish we could have greater input from ALL of the sexes, including transgender. Our biggest concern when Deb left the area and could no longer serve as principal writer, was that we were losing a woman's point of view, but, to let out an amusing secret, most of the sex-positive articles and titillating condom ads that appeared in these pages over the years were written or conceived by Deb anonymously because she was concerned that gay men would have a problem with a woman talking about such matters. Ironic when the shoe is on the other foot, isn't it?

I hope you're still listening, because this has not been intended to bash you, the reader, or straight allies in general, but to provoke you to recognize that gay people deserve to enjoy the same rights to express their sexuality as straight people do - no more and no LESS.

Thank you.
Mike Miller

Advertise in EGN!

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

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

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

Q-list

by Mike Miller

Theatre and film

Journey to a Hate Free Millennium is the title of the recently released documentary of **Matthew Shepard** and two other hate-crime victims, **James Byrd, Jr.**, and **Rachel Scott**. Producers/directors **Brent Scarpo** and **Martin Bedogne** have not only captured the heart-wrenching pain felt by the surviving friends and family, but the hope they have for a future where hate no longer fuels such tragic violence. The film will probably run to a pretty limited release, but a shortened educational version is planned to be released on video. Check out **New Light Media's** home page at www.newlightmedia.com to find out more.

If you hurry to the movie theaters, you can see the much praised telling of another tragedy - **Brandon Teena**, the Nebraska transgendered youth killed for "posing" as a male. *Boys Don't Cry* is no glitzy Hollywood romanticization. It's a no holds barred telling of the horrific murder, with **Hilary Swank** so believable as Teena that you'll find it difficult to remember that this is a fictionalized account. **Lana Tisdale**, Teena's real-life girlfriend (played by **Chloe Sevigny**), is threatening to sue distributor **Fox-Searchlight Pictures** because her revelation of Teena's real gender is portrayed in the movie as the instigating cause of the murder.

From the bigotry of 1990's Nebraska to the bigotry of 1670's England... **Pittsburgh's City Theatre** will be presenting *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* which dramatizes the hate faced by **Ned Kynaston**, the last great male actor to play female parts on the English stage before such practice was declared illegal by royal decree. Kynaston went literally overnight from being celebrated as one of the great actors of his time to being beaten and reviled as a freak. ...*Beauty* will play through November 14th at the City Theatre, 57 S. 13th Street in Pittsburgh, Tuesdays-Fridays at 8:00, Saturdays at 5:30 and 9:00, and Sundays at 2 PM. Call (412)431-2489 for tickets and info.

The Broadway musical *Rent*, which contains much gay content will be playing at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo December 7th - 12th. For info and/or online tickets browse www.sheas.org/ or

www.ticketmaster.com or call Ticketmaster at (814)456-7070 or (716)852-5000 to charge by phone

Lily Tomlin will be performing her latest stage collaboration with **Jane Wagner** at **Cleveland's Playhouse Square** November 26th and 27th. For tickets or info browse www.playhousesquare.com or <http://tickets.advantix.com> or call (330)972-7595.

Back to movies, there's *Three to Tango*, a bit of fluff with **Matt Perry** trying to pull off the, "Haha, I get to spend time with the girl (**Neve Campbell**) because everyone thinks I'm gay, haha," plot-twist made so tiresome in the 70's by *Three's Company*. Watch for **Oliver Platt** to steal every scene he's in as the business partner who actually *is* gay.

In limited release the Swedish import *Show Me Love* shows us all the ups and downs of lesbian love among teenagers in a small town. Love first unrequited, only to emerge in backseat fumbblings, be turned away again due to fear of ridicule, and eventually embraced in what amounts to a real coming of age. An old story, but rarely so well told.

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American Beauty in wide release as of this writing can probably still be found at dollar-theaters by the time you read this. In it you will find a dark and surprising look at suburban somnambulism what it sometimes takes to break that stupor and discover happiness, and beauty. **Scott Bakula** and **Sam Robards** play a happily out gay couple early on, but look for another subplot involving a man-to-man kiss to exert a major impact upon the climax of the film.

TV and video

Apparently **Peewee Herman** has his career back in, um, hand. The ultimate victim of the victimless crime has signed on as the host of a new TV game show based on the very popular computer trivia game "**You Don't Know Jack**." In the same spirit of Comedy Central's *Make Me Laugh* the show will focus more on silly paroxysms of goofiness than on taut battles of wits. Look for the off-beat comedian's TV comeback in syndication.

Music

Pin-up cuties to gay men and 13 year old girls everywhere, the **Backstreet Boys** will be at **Buffalo's Marine Midland Arena** November 14th. For tickets or info browse www.marinemidlandarena.com or call Fantastix toll free at (888)223-6000. **Ricky Martin**, who has also captured the imagination of gay men, as well as club DJ's everywhere, sparking the latest Latin craze, will be playing **Cleveland's Gund Arena** December 6th. For tickets/info browse www.gundarena.com or www.ticketmaster.com or call Ticketmaster at (814)456-7070.

Me'Shell NdegeOcello brings her talents to **Akron's E.J. Thomas Hall** November 30th. You can reach the Thomas Hall box office at (330)972-7570.

I didn't know whether to put this with theater or with music because it definitely promises to be some of both. In any case, fans of the busty bete-noir **Bette Midler** can take in the diva's **Divine Miss Millennium Tour** show at the **Pittsburgh Civic Arena** November 4 or at **Cleveland's Gund Arena** November 21. For tickets to the Pittsburgh show call (412) 323-1919 or 24/7 Ticket Service at (404)815-1888. For tickets/info on the Cleveland show browse www.gundarena.com or www.ticketmaster.com or call Ticketmaster at (814)456-7070.

Books

Okay, it may be a little late unless you're picking up this issue on Halloween weekend, but if you want to sit by the fire and read some ghost stories with a *pink* flashlight pointed at your face, then try **The Ghost of Carmen Miranda and Other Spooky Gay and Lesbian Tales** (Alyson \$11.95) edited by **Julie K Traveyan** and **Scott Brassart**. It's a collection of sometimes scary sometimes funny spook tales with a decidedly gay spin. Men with a sense of the macabre and just the slightest touch of the erotic can also look through **Jeffrey N McMahan's Somewhere in the Night** (Alyson, \$9.95) which features tales of ghosts, goblins, vampires, and occasionally even gay men that, um, go bump in the night.

For women who may want to go bump in the night, there's **Felice Newman's The Whole Lesbian Sex Book: A Passionate Guide for All of Us** (Cleis, \$16.95) just out in paperback and **Lip Service** (Alyson, \$12.95) edited by Lambda Literary Award winner **Jess Wells**, featuring erotic stories from some of the hottest, brightest lesbian authors around like **Wendy Caster**, **Anne Seale** and **Karen X. Tulchinsky**. Speaking of Karen Tulchinsky, for Jewish lesbians who want to go bump in the night, too, she has edited a compilation of short stories entitled **Friday the Rabbi Wore Lace: Jewish Lesbian Erotica** (Cleis, \$14.95). And if that doesn't pack enough hot chutzpah to make a steamy Jewish goyl out of even the most gentile of shiksehs, then try reading a different story from **Marcy Sheiner's The Oy of Sex** (Cleis, \$14.95) every day of Hanukkah.

The Survivor's Guide to Sex: How to Have an Empowered Sex Life After Child Abuse (Cleis, \$21.95) by **Staci Haines** helps women of all persuasions with some very real ghosts in their closets learn to accept and celebrate themselves as sexual beings. And **Women on the Verge: Lesbian Tales of Power and Play** (St. Martin's Press, \$13.95) edited by **Susan Fox Rogers** looks at stories of peak experiences that are not necessarily sexual, but very lesbian and self empowering.

Men looking for a by turns exciting and disturbing tale of raw sexuality from an *institution* among gay story tellers, sink your teeth into **John Rechy's** newest novel **The Coming of the Night** (Grove Press, \$24). It promises to be every bit as controversial as his debut classic **City of Night**. For a more madcap romp through the mistaken mores of a sleepy New England town, check out **William Corlett's Two Gentlemen Sharing** (Alyson, \$12.95).

Resource directory

Please note that this is 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

Virginia Ayres, PHD 835-3829
 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.

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)
 LGBU/Kent (Ashtabula) (814) 763-2022 (Jim Shiffer)
 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) ▼ trigonpsu@hotmail.com or (Sue
 Daley) 898-6164

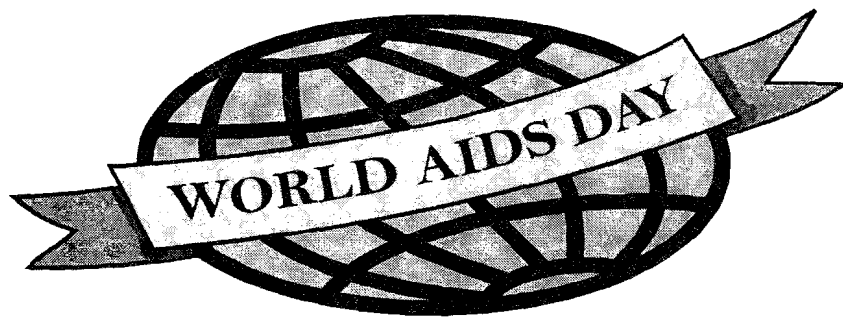
Support Groups

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 Mary or Robin 868-8962
 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

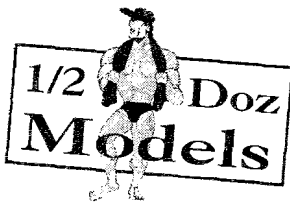
▼ = Erie Gay News available here! & = Handicap accessible



“ALERT”

HIV EDUCATION/PREVENTION PARTY

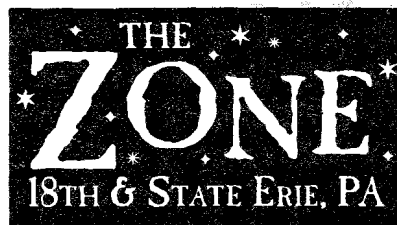
live performances by:



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JELLY BEAN

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Dec. 1, 1999

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