

Ohio Lesbian Festival 2000 a day of entertainment and relaxation



Outlook news was one of the sponsors of the festival. On right are friends Laurie Tapper and Janice Hanusik in front and Rita Kilbane in center.

Photo by Heather Malobisky

By Rita Kilbane and Heather Malobisky

After reading about the 12th annual Ohio Lesbian Festival in this newsletter, we decided that we should broaden our proud horizons and make an appearance.

So we quickly made the arrangements, cashed the week's paycheck and began our journey.

Strangely enough when we stopped at a rest area we encountered two lovely womyn. We looked at them and they at us, instantly making the connection.

"You girls going to the festival?"

"Of course", we replied, "We'll see you there."

This was going to be fun.

At about 5 o'clock in the evening we arrived in the vicinity. However, we somehow managed to misplace our hotel.

Considering we are females, we made the decision to stop at a gas station and ask for directions.

Low and behold we had only passed up the inn by a few blocks. Like angels from heaven, our companions from home had stopped at the same gas station.

We followed them to the hotel since we had arranged to stay at the same establishment.

At the hotel we were greeted with an enthusiastic "Hi girls" by another group of sisters who completely overlooked the

religious group waiting to check in behind them. WE were everywhere!

That evening we convened in the pool area, mingled with kindred spirits, retreated to our rooms and got a good night's rest.

In the morning, the four of us ate at Bob Evans. Rather than perusing the morning paper, we occupied ourselves with a stimulating session of "dyke spotting."

The festival itself has been located in Kirkersville, Ohio at the Frontier Ranch for quite a few years. This year was the last at that location. The day kicks off at 11 am and runs until 11 pm and is run by the Lesbian Business Association. This year I would estimate that between 3,000 to 4,000 womyn attended; most staying for the whole day.

We carpooled with our friends and arrived a bit early. We had purchased our tickets in advance so we drove up the dirt road, showed our tickets and got in line with the other cars and settled in. Someone was playing Melissa Etheridge's *Breakdown* and most were out of their cars and mingling. Never had we seen so many pickup trucks and SUVs in one location; almost all bedecked with pride stickers of some form.

At 11 am, the gates opened, horns honked, and we all got moving. We parked in one field and walked down a flight of

Continued on pg 6

KODAK, FORD WIN GAY WORKPLACE AWARDS

National Conference Geared for HR Professionals, Workplace Advocates San Francisco — (Sept. 14, 2000) — Eastman Kodak Company and Ford Motor Company will receive gay workplace-ights awards next month at a national conference that will arm HR professionals and employees with strategies to create workplaces friendly to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) workers.

OUT & EQUAL WORKPLACE AWARDS

The Conference will present awards to leaders in LGBT human resource matters who have helped create workplaces that support LGBT employees by offering domestic partner benefits, mandating sensitivity trainings related to LGBT workplace issues, supporting company LGBT employee organization, and/or prohibiting discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation,

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Local News Of Interest

By Michael Mahler of www.eriegaynews.com

Womynspace update

Please note that there is a new contact for Womynspace, the lesbian/bi women's social group. Please contact Tanya at tjunger@toolcity.net. Please also note that they have some events scheduled. On Saturday, September 2, they are getting together at JR's Last Laugh. They will meet for first show around 7 pm (7:30 show time). The other events are tentatively scheduled for the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. They include: October 7: Murder Mystery-The Good, the Bad and the Guilty—we are the suspects, November 4: Game Night and December 2: Learn to Drum. Again, for more info, please email Tanya.

Chautauqua County Creates New Resources

Please note that there is a new web site with information about GLBT resources in Chautauqua County, NY. Set your browsers for <http://www.gaychautauqua.org> and check it out! Also please note that there is a new youth group in that area called PRYSM - Chautauqua County Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority. It's a discussion and support for youth ages 14-20 in Chautauqua County, NY and meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in Jamestown, 7-8:30 PM. For more info, call Bill Reese, coordinator, at (716) 488-1917.

PFLAG Erie update

By Luella Clayton

PFLAG-Erie will be meeting at the Cathedral of St. Paul's, 134 W 7th St, Erie PA on Monday September 25, 2000. This meeting will be from 7-9 PM. Later in November we will be holding a seminar on sexual harassment of gays and lesbians in educational settings such as schools and colleges. Any professionals that are interested in being a speaker should please contact me before September 28, 2000. We are looking for speakers from an attorney right on down to health educators. We have a couple already. Also looking for a place to hold this at. If you know of any one or want to pass this on please do so. For more info, please contact Luella Clayton at (814) 664-7090 or email faceofanangel_me@yahoo.com.

"Hate Speech & Love Songs" at Mercyhurst College on October 5th

The Mercyhurst Gay-Straight Alliance will be bringing in lecturer/singer Tom McCormack on Thursday, October 5 from 8 to 9:30 PM. The entertaining program will address gay life and coming out. Admission is free and the performance will be at Mercyhurst College Taylor Little Theatre. For more info, contact Tim McNichol at (814) 454-7320 or tmaussie@hotmail.com. Kudos to the group for putting on the first sponsored GLBT event at Mercyhurst!

Comic Jason Stuart in Youngstown OH

Someplace Else, a gay club in Youngstown OH, will be having several gay comics performing over the next few months. They are at 10 LeClede, Youngstown, OH. Next up is Jason Stuart, who appears on Friday, September 22 & Saturday, September 23 for 2 shows each night at 8 PM and 11 PM. Jason has appeared in movies, sitcoms...talk shows...HBO specials, festivals...you name it!!! For more info, browse to <http://www.someplaceelse.org> or email spe@neo.rr.com. They will also be having Dina Salzer and Lorne Newman on October 14 and are working on others.

Looking for your suggestions/ input

P.R.I.D.E. has now been up and running for 8 months. So far we get some much appreciated help from Rita Kilbane, Mike Mahler and Mike Miller and decent printing rates from CopyMax. Other than that we have been running this as a team of two. This issue is the "What we did on our summer vacation" issue. You get to read about the fun and interesting things we have found to do and now we want to hear from you. Is there an organization or event you attended that you think people should read about? Then let us know! Our contact information is on the bottom half of this page. We would love to hear from you.

P.R.I.D.E.

Mission Statement:

P.R.I.D.E. is a nonprofit communiqué aimed at informing and entertaining the gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and ally community, we realize that we are limited to what we know. If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions, send them our way. You can contact us by pager at: (814) 461-3102 or Email us at pridenews@hotmail.com. Submissions are gladly accepted but we ask that you contact us first for writing guidelines. When sending submissions please include your name, Email address, and phone number for contact. Anonymous submissions will not be printed. Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the P.R.I.D.E. Staff. We will not publish or reproduce any submissions that include the context of anger or discrimination against sexual orientation, gender, race, spirituality, or physical ability. We do not support the exploitation of minors. Subscriptions are available for \$15.00 per year. Check or money orders can be made out to P.R.I.D.E. and mailed to P.R.I.D.E. Subscriptions, 3882 Hereford Road, Erie, PA 16510-2457. Please include your mailing address when sending payment. Subscriptions will begin the month following receipt of payment.

Positively Representing Identities of Diversity in Erie



Student conference to take place in DuBois

By Jack Kressley

PFLAG-DuBois & Penn State (DuBois Campus) have organized a conference for educators titled "Protecting Students, Protecting Schools: Issues and Concerns of Gay Students". It will take place on October 10, 2000 at the DuBois Campus of Penn State University. The primary audience will be middle & high school educators (Teachers, Health Care Providers, School Psychologists, and Administrators) and those studying or planning for this kind of work. Anyone wishing to learn how to make the schools safer for our Lesbian, Gay, Bi or Transgendered (LGBT) students & Staff are welcome. A huge difficulty in this kind of endeavor is getting the word out and this is where we hope to solicit your help. Please do any or all of the following plus feel free to employ your own ideas:

1. Make any supportive professor aware of this conference, and encourage them to allow students to attend. (Possibly offering extra credit).
2. Speak directly with students you may know who could use this kind of information in their future.
3. Pass the word along to other groups who may help get the word out.
4. Help organize transportation. (Student activity Funds?)
5. Contact myself or Dr. Eugene C. Boman for more information regarding the conference and registration forms. Dr. Eugene C. Boman, Penn State University, DuBois Campus, College Place, DuBois Pa. 15801 or Mr. John W. Kressley (Jack), 1191 Treasure Lake, DuBois Pa. 15801, Pflagdubois@keynet.net (814) 371-8962 (home) (814) 938-2990(work).

P.R.I.D.E. ▼

Newsletter is currently printing with a run of approximately 425 issues each month. Information on advertising is available by leaving a message for the staff on voicemail at: 461-3102 or email: pridenews@hotmail.com

Transitions

This month's issue has modified again and for several reasons. Number one, the "beast" reared its ugly head with a lovely virus program problem that decided some of our much needed files were dispensable. Number two, we have decided to begin a new timeline to have each issue actually cover two months at a time but on a 6 week-cycle versus the bi-monthly route most would expect us to take. Hey, what can we say, 'We're unique!'

In response to last month's query on what the subscribers and readers enjoy versus dislike from the newsletter, the staff has come to the conclusion that everything is going along just fine. There have been discussions in the community of how some feel the last newsletter was 'better' than the one we are

presenting currently. On the flip side, we have also been informed that others find our version 'fresher and more enjoyable.' Basically, the community doesn't really seem to be siding one way or the other. Therefore we are going to continue to try new things, cover different stories that we think are of interest to your our readers and subscribers.

This month's issue was to have more original articles with focus on specific topics that directly affect our daily lives. But alas the space and time gave us what we have put together for this issue. If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact us. Check the Mission Statement on pg. 2 for contact info. We look forward to hearing from you.

ART AUCTION

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27TH
6:00 PM



The Roadhouse Theatre unveils its 3rd Annual Art Auction. We hold what is regarded as the premiere art auction in the region. Top artists in the area donate major works of art to The Roadhouse as a fundraiser for the Theatre. Why is our auction so highly regarded? Three reasons: we hold it biannually instead of every year; local artists are glad to support the artists at The Roadhouse Theatre; and we offer a percentage of the sale price to the artist. These factors contribute to developing an art auction that features some of the highest quality fine art in the tri-state area.

So, grab your checkbook and come to our auction/party — it's FREE! Phone 456-5656 for more information and be sure to check out all the art on the walls of the Theatre when you are at *Night of the Living Dead*. See you there!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

By Michael Mahler from
www.eriegaynews.com

Sept 15-Nov 4 Roadhouse Theatre World Premiere: Night of the Living Dead Live on Stage! *In a world where the dead walk, can anyone living survive?* Adapted to the stage by Erie's own Lori Allen, from the 1968 film by George A. Romero. Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$5 Students. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays 8PM. Special show on Tuesday Oct. 31st, Halloween Night at 8PM. Roadhouse Theatre, 145 W 11th St, Erie, PA. Please note there is a special reservation phone number to call for tickets! 456*5658.

Sept 21-More Light Presbyterians meet (First Presbyterian Church, 112 W 3rd St, Waterford, PA). For more info, call (814) 864-1920 or email evon@erie.net.

Sept 22-23 Comic Jason Stuart (Youngstown OH) Gay comic Jason Stuart appears at Someplace Else, 10 LeClede, Youngstown, OH on Friday, September 22 & Saturday, September 23 for 2 shows each night at 8 PM and 11 PM. Jason has appeared in movies, sitcoms...talk shows...HBO specials, festivals...you name it!! For more info, browse to <http://www.someplaceelse.org> or email spe@neo.rr.com

Sept 25-Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)-Erie Meets (St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 134 W 7th St, Erie PA). Meets 7-9 PM. For more info, contact Luella Clayton at (814) 664-7090 or email faceofanangel_me@yahoo.com

Oct 5-Tom McCormack: "Hate Speech and Love Songs" (Mercyhurst College, Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E 28th St, Erie PA) 8-9:30 PM. Lecturing and signing about gay life and coming out. Free admission. Sponsored by Mercyhurst Gay Straight Alliance. For more info, contact Tim McNichol (814) 454-7320 or email tmaussie@hotmail.com.

Oct 5-2nd Annual "Stop the Hate Vigil" (Erie County Courthouse, Erie PA) Sponsored by Citizens Against Racism in Erie

(CARE). For more info, call (814) 452-3364 or write to Cascade United Methodist Church, 1001 W 21st St, Erie PA 16502.

Oct 8-Pittsburgh Boat Cruise (Pittsburgh PA) Annual cruise sponsored by Pittsburgh Tavern Guild. Tickets should be available at the Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA

Oct 14-Womynspace: Murder Mystery: The Good, The Bad and the Guilty (UU Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway). "We are the suspects." For more info, contact Tanya at tjunger@toolcity.net.

Oct 14-Menspace: International night at Marshall's For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Oct 14-Gay comics Lorne Newman & Dina Salzer (Youngstown OH) Gay comics Lorne Newman & Dina Salzer appear at Someplace Else, 10 LeClede, Youngstown, OH on Saturday, October 14 for 2 shows at 8 PM and 11 PM. Lorne was featured in the March issue of The Advocate...has appeared nationally at several events...USA Up All Night, HBO specials, comedy clubs, as well as colleges...! For more info, browse to <http://www.someplaceelse.org> or email spe@neo.rr.com

Oct 19-Nov 11 Stephen King's Misery The Directors Circle Theatre 5th Anniversary Show. Directed by Michael Weiss. Adapted for the stage by Simon Moore. Starring Larry Lewis and Kathy Hubbard. For ticket and theatre information call the reservation line at 814*451*0036.

Coming in November

"Ways in Being Gay" Festival (Buffalo) Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center will be presenting their biannual festival. For more info, browse the web at <http://hallwalls.org> or call them: 716*835*7362, or write Hallwalls, 2495 Main St, Buffalo NY 14214.

Groups

10% Network (Jamestown NY social group) Usually meets third Saturdays. Contact John at (716) 484-7285 or otto@madbbs.com for more info.

"Always Our Children" First Wednesday (Aug 2) at 7 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Call (814) 456-2091 for more info.

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) (Ecumenical Christian Group) 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7. Contact Sue or Julie at (814) 734-3959.

Chautauqua County Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority (PRYSM) (Chautauqua County, NY) Discussion and support for youth ages 14 to 20. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7-8:30 PM. Contact Bill Reese at (716) 488-1917.

Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. Write to 1903 W 8th St Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, email Lothar.lk@cwix.com or browse www.geocities.com/Wellesley/1614 for more info.

HIV Counseling and Testing (Free) Erie County Department of Health, 606 W 2nd St, Erie PA. Mondays 12 to 3:30 PM, Thursdays 9:30 AM to 1 PM. For more info, call ECDH at (814) 451-6727. Other times can be arranged.

Menspace (gay/bi men's social group) Usually 2nd Saturday at 7:30 PM at varying locations. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Womynspace (gay/bi women's social group) A particular Saturday at varying locations. For more info, contact Peggy at zippywahoo@conline.net or call Robin at (814) 868-8969.

TV Listings for September 2000

By Deb Spilko, reprinted from
www.eriegaynews.com

For information on the new fall season visit the GLAAD website at www.glaad.org and enter a search for "TV Scoreboard." Times are generally omitted because we are trying to keep this listing up without the annoying part, and that means dealing checking and double-checking on air times. So just check your TV Guide or whatever for correct time.

Also, shows airing in the wee hours are problematic because some sources give their date as the day before and some give it (correctly) as the morning of the next day. That is, if a show is on at 2am on the 14th, some sources list it as the 14th, while others will use the date from the night before, or the 13th. Clear as mud? Try working with this information every month!

September

17

Gia – *HBOS*
Philadelphia – *TNT*

18

Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss – *HBOP*
Beyond the Valley of the Dolls – *MoMax*

19

Bedrooms and Hallways – *HBO*.
Romantic comedy, Tom Hollander – *HBO*.
Les Voleurs – *Bravo*
101 Rent Boys – *MAX*
Madonna: Innocence Lost – *FMC*
Wild Reeds – *Sundance*
Biloxi Blues – *TNT*.

20

Madonna: Innocence Lost – *FMC*
Wilde – *Showtime 2*
Next Stop, Greenwich Village – *MAX*
Biloxi Blues – *TNT*

21

Next Stop, Greenwich Village – *MAX*

Trick – *MAX*
I'm Losing You – *MoMAX*

22

The Wild Party – *Flix*
Heavenly Creatures – *IFC*
Divine Madness! – *Bette Midler at her raunchiest and funniest, in concert.*

24

Get Bruce! – *Starz*
Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss – *HBOP*
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof – *TCM*.
Somewhat neutered adaptation of Tennessee Williams' play, which gave the audience a clear idea of why Brick couldn't fulfill his husbandly duties and why he was so concerned about his friend Skipper.

25

Wild Reeds – *Sundance*
Gia – *HBOS*
Opposite of Sex – *TMC*

26

We're Funny That Way – *MoMax*

Manhattan – *TNT*. *Meryl Streep plays Woody Allen's lesbian ex-wife.*

27

Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss – *HBOP*
Wild Reeds – *Sundance*

28

Comedy Hour: Kathy Najimy & Mo Gaffney: Parallel Lives – *HBOS*
Come Back to the 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean – *Bravo*

29

High Art – *HBOP*
Doing Time on Maple Drive – *FMC*
Opposite of Sex – *TMC*

30

The Wild Party – *Flix*
Reality Bites – *USA*.
Twentysomething angst.
Only When I Laugh – *MAX*

Workplace awards

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among a variety of other issues.

The Out & Equal Workplace Awards will go to:

* Kodak – Historically Supportive Workplace for LGBT employees * Ford – "Significant Strides" for progress in LGBT worker issues

* Ethel Batten, director of diversity for Lucent Technologies – Friend of the LGBT Community

* LEAGUE of AT&T – LGBT Employee Organization of the Year

* Tom Ammann, Susan Leal, and Leslie Katz – Individual Activists, who as San Francisco Supervisors played pivotal roles in passing

a landmark equal benefits law for LGBT workers.

NEW STRIDES, CONTINUED CHALLENGES

A 1999 survey by the Human Rights Campaign shows that just over half of the Fortune 500 companies include the term "sexual orientation" in their non-discrimination policies. In light of some advances, and in search of continued progress, a wide variety of workshops, discussions, case studies, and presentations on key workplace issues will explore:

* How shareholder activism impacts LGBT workplace policies

* Creating a diverse workforce and implementing diversity programs

* Changing gender identity and gender roles

* How to implement federal workplace protection laws

* Developing effective LGBT employee groups

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

More than 400 human resource professionals and LGBT workers will gather in Seattle, Oct. 13-to-15 for the tenth annual Out & Equal Leadership Summit. The first day of the conference is specifically tailored for HR professionals. Registration information can be found at <http://www.outnequal.org> or by calling 415.439.4272. In addition to producing the Out & Equal Leadership Summit, the Pride Collaborative also sponsors LGBT awareness and sensitivity workplace training and coordinates networking opportunities for LGBT employee associations and other organizations across the nation. Their mission is to build and strengthen safe and equitable workplaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

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Ohio Lesbian Festival 2000 was a day of fun and relaxation

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wooden stairs into a valley complete with outdoor stage, merchants and mown hay.

We picked our spot up front, stage right and set out our chairs as "home base" then proceeded to browse the 70 plus merchant booths.

Everything from Pride wear to jewelry to a life-size stand-up of 7 of 9 from *Star Trek: Voyager* were there for our shopping pleasure. We only wish our budget could have allowed us the freedom to buy all the cool things we saw.

We did end up with a few items including a Planet Pride hat, playing cards, bumper stickers and the photo of us at the bottom of the page.

Aside from the merchants there was also some entertainment in the form of two carnival games; Dunk the Dyke and Putt the Pussy (The putting green had a clay sculpture to aim at not the real thing).

Food was very affordable at the grill area. Everything from chili to chicken and veggie burgers were offered though we learned a little late to get our food early. They ran out of just about everything by 7:30 pm.

Also offered throughout the day were different workshops at Lesbian University. There were four areas on the side of the valley for womyn to attend different workshops from Lesbian Feminist Activism to Auto Care 101 and Israeli Folk Dancing.

At some point during the morning a volleyball net was set up and Heather ended up playing in five or six competitive games. The wisdom of having a doctor on call at the event was realized when one of the players broke her finger and wrist during one rough volley.

Entertainment began at two pm and continued for the rest of the day. The perform-



Laurie and Janice take a moment to show their pride posing in front of the rainbow flag.

ers we took note of started with the incredible and soulful Jazzmyn. Her jazz and blues singing kept us by the stage for the entire performance.

Jamie Anderson acoustic guitarist, bellydancer, comedian et al. brought laughs to the audience with selections such as the "Menstrual Tango."

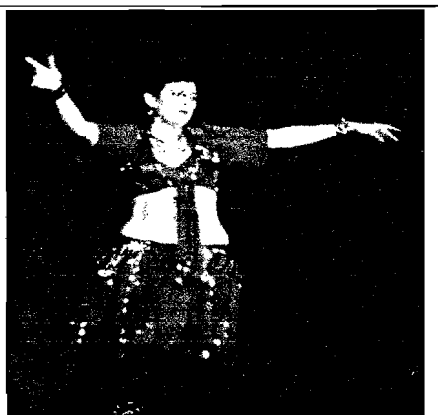
The big performer of the night was Susan Westenhoefer, femme comedian, best



Out lesbian comic Susan Westenhoefer charms the audience with her humor (among other things)

known for being the first out lesbian with an HBO special. She is the first comedian to really hit home with her topics. She is one of the best comedians we have ever heard.

After Westenhoefer's performance we headed back to the hotel for a dip in the pool. Straight people were already there and at that moment we realized what a free, relaxed time we had all day. 11 hours of being ourselves without worries. For that alone the trip was more than worth the effort.



Comedian/musician/singer/songwriter/bellydancer, Jamie Anderson displays a few of her talents.

Merchants to check out

These are just a few of the organizations and merchants at the festival. Check out their websites for information or shopping ideas.

Lesbian Business Association -- "Keep your business in the Community. Keep your Community in business." www.ohiolba.org.

March of Women's Rights -- Information about the world march of women to be held Sunday, October 15, 2000 in Washington, D.C. www.worldmarch.org.

KB Designs -- Handcrafted jewelry including mail order, custom order and Commitment rings. www.kbdesigns.org.

Rainy Day Creations -- Gifts, Crafts, Planters, Seasonal and Pride items. www.RainyDayCreations.com

Natural Fantasies -- Natural skin care products, incense, romance and relaxations kits. www.hp-productions.com.

Out!Wear -- Lesbian pridewear to promote pride in who we are. www.outwear.com

Armory & Dragon Claw -- Costumes, makeup, swords and props. www.starbase1.com

Out in Ohio -- Ohio's gay/lesbian/bisexual interactive website. www.outinohio.com

Wisdom 4 Women -- A site dedicated to the lesbian heart. www.wisdom4women.com.



The colors of love (use your imagination)

Burgh Bears: Grizzly Guys Just Havin' Fun in the City of Rivers

By Gary N. Snyder



Recently, I decided that in light of the local community's lack of creative functioning for meeting the needs of some members, including me, I joined via email the Burgh Bears. For those of you reading this article, you may not be aware of what a 'bear' is or that they even existed. To help explain this distinction within the community, there are separate groups of individuals that exist. Some may be familiar with the femmes, bull dykes, etc. 'Bears,' for all intents and purposes, are hairy men who like other hairy men.

Now to clarify, I'm not talking about Saskatchewan here, I'm describing men who have (egads!) body hair and/or facial hair. Also 'bears' are known for being bigger men. (No I don't mean 'that' you size queens.) Bigger means that they don't subscribe to being on a constant diet of binging and gorging for the sake of being tan, primped and perfect. Bears find it more enjoyable just being men. Now, it is true that most of them are older, but that's where I, as a cub, come into the group. *See it's bears and cubs (older and younger), get it?*

Joining a group with a bunch of guys I knew nothing about via email was a new and exciting adventure for me. I came to know them rather quickly. Our discussions are usually focused on upcoming events, the who/what/where/when things.

The very first interaction I had with the Burgh Bears was going to Camp Davis after the Menspace function down state near Butler, PA. ARKTOS from Ohio was hosting a Bear Weekend at the camp. This is where I ran into an old friend of mine, Thom. We talked briefly and exchanged business cards with phone numbers. This led to me looking up the group on the web <http://www.spdcc.com/home/burghbears/>



The gang at the WOOF Weekend Picnic in the Burgh during Labor Day Weekend.

Now attending my first event was intimidating, yes I said intimidating. But Thom, was helpful in having great conversation about various past memories. Although I did make my presence known when I exclaimed a rather rude and loud comment about my friend in front of the group, to which they all quieted down and took notice of me. (Suddenly all eyes and ears were on me, and trust me, it's not like the E.F. Hutton commercial.)

The potluck dinner though was much fun and the food was great! The best time to be had of the events I attended was our trip to Kennywood Amusement Park in Pittsburgh during WOOF! (Weekend of Outrageous Fun) The group classically drew attention, what with Paul Bunyan look alikes making much jovial times out of riding the Steel Phantom twice and competing with the cars on the Racer as well. The best fun was on the water rides! Wet hairy men, ahh. . .

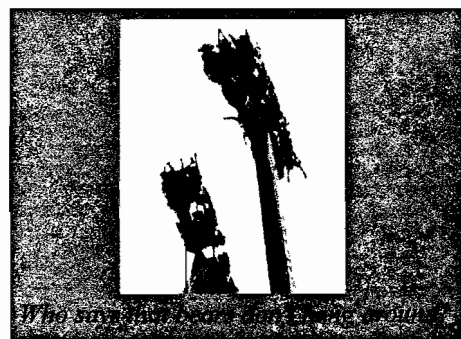
The day after Kennywood was our WOOF Picnic at Schenley Park - and no it was not near the 'fruit' loop. Much food was spread out for a superb picnicking buffet. A water balloon toss and games of poker were highlights. Personally I enjoyed the brief walk on the trail with a certain 'ursaSRU.'

My suggestion is that those who want something different to do, be a little adventurous. Join a group or truly start a new one and get active in doing the things that keep us young and healthy - laughter, friends and good times with those we love

Burgh Bears Purpose

The Burgh Bears is a social group intended to provide a place for bears and their admirers to meet each other. Some people have defined "bears" as "big, hairy men"; while this is certainly a working definition, we aren't particularly hung up on it, or about it.

We're based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but have members from Ohio, West Virginia, and Alabama as well. We try to keep the club reflexive to its members' wishes, and tend to plan events in the short term rather than the long term. In the past year, we've had a couple bar nights at the Leather Central, gone to dinner, camping at Camp Davis, Kennywood, as well as the annual Burgh Bears picnic, among other things, and we're always open to suggestions from members. We try to make the club a reflection of what the members want, so the more involved folks get, the better the club will be.



News Pieces from Across the Nation

New Law for Couples in AZ

Arizona: A new law guaranteeing same-sex partners coverage under the state's domestic violence laws took effect. Previously, only members of the opposite sex could claim domestic violence. Advocates say the new law should help victims in abusive same-sex relationships get quicker access to restraining orders and shelters.

USA Today 071900

Lawmakers challenge Boy Scout's charter

Washington,DC: Some Democratic lawmakers who support gay rights want Congress to repeal an 84-year-old honorary charter of the Boy Scouts because the organization has a policy against gays.

Rep.Lynn Woosley, D-Calif., said she planned to introduce repeal legislation. She said Boy Scouts Of America claims to be open to all boys but, in a recent Supreme Court case, scouting officials defended their right to exclude homosexuals.

A charter from Congress is an honorary recognition given to about 90 patriotic, charitable and education organizations. The Boy Scouts got its charter in 1916, six years after it was founded.

The Cincinnati Enquirer 071900

Transvestite's Mother Agrees to Appeal Settlement

Washington,DC: The mother of a transvestite who died when firefighters mocked

him after an automobile accident agreed to settle a lawsuit against the District of Columbia. "No one should suffer because they are different from other people," said Margie Hunter who will receive \$1.75 million from the city.

The settlement ended an ordeal that began when she learned that her son was denied life saving treatment as firefighters stood by and laughed. Tyrone "Tyra" Hunter, 24, a hairstylist, was wearing women's clothes when the vehicle he was riding in crashed on August 7, 1995. A jury awarded Margie Hunter \$2.9 million in 1998 but the city appealed the judgement.

Beacon Journal 081100

Akron

The Pennsylvania Civil Rights Initiative

On July 10, 2000, the Task Force, joined by thirty local community organizations, released the Year 2000 Pennsylvania-wide Study of Discrimination and Violence at a well-attended press conference. The study found that one of every two women and men experienced some form of discrimination over their lifetime. Among the Pennsylvania sample, both male and female respondents were three times more likely to experience criminal victimization. I hope you will support the task force, as I do, so that it can now use this important study, its findings, and its recommendations to encourage policymakers and newsmakers to create an environment in which our lives and kinship are respected and honored. It is easy to give by check or credit card by mail or through the web site - anonymously if you wish. Thanks,

Their Address: PLGTF. Suite 1005. 1616 Walnut Street. Philadelphia, PA 19103-5310. 215-772-2000. In Pennsylvania, toll-free 1-877-PRIDE-2000. Discrimination and Violence Hotline 215-772-2005. Web site: www.op.net/plgtf and plgtf@op.net

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includes physician and dental care, HOPWA and other
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Providing services in Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield,
Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence,
McKean, Mercer,
Venango & Warren Counties

Northwest Alliance
15808 Route 322
Suite 1
Clarion, PA 16214
nwparaa@penn.com
Call: 1-800-359-AIDS

CASE MANAGEMENT

Northwest Alliance
1001 State
Suite #806
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501-1828
nwpaaid@erie.net
Call: 1-800-400-AIDS

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P.R.I.D.E. Resource Directory

24 Hour Counseling

Erie Hotline
(814)453-5656 Toll Free (800)628-0190

Hamot Health Center (814)877-6136

St. Vincent Health Center (814)452-5151

Bars and Restaurants

Sneakers (715)484-8816
100 W. Harrison ST., Jamestown NY
14701-6615 Open 2pm-2am 7 days/ week
Email: artemistoo@mindspring.com

Rascals (716)484-3220
701 N. Main St., Jamestown NY 14701-
5031 Open 3pm-2am 7 days/week

Matthew's Trattoria (814)459-6458
153 E. 13th St., Erie, PA Contact for res-
ervations and entertainment listing.

The Village (814)452-0125
133 W. 18th St., Erie, PA
Open 8pm-2am 7 days a week

The Zone Dance Club (814)459-1711
1711 State St., Erie, PA
Open 8pm-2am Monday to Saturday

Counseling

Virginia Ayres, Ph.D. (814)835-3829

**Family Service
Jamestown NY Office** (716)488-1971

Fredonia NY Office (716)679-3455

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline
(6pm-11pm Mon-Fri) 1-888-843-4564

Lake Erie Counseling Associates
(814)455-4009

Well Being Center (Deb Monohan)
(814)838-0123

Info Lines

Chatauqua County NY (North)
(716)679-3560

Chatauqua County NY (South)
(716)484-8434

Erie (814)456-9833

Religious Organizations

BYKOTA Be Ye Kind One To Another
(Susan Laurie) Ecumenical. Open to Chris-
tians of all denominations/orientations.
734-3959

**Temple Anshe Heses
(Reform Congregation)**
930 Liberty St., Erie PA (814)454-2426

Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal)
134 W 7th St., Erie PA (814)452-3779

More Light Presbyterians
Evon Lloyd McJunkin evon@erie.net
Meetings are on certain Thurs. at 7:30 P.M.
at the First Presbyterian Church 112 W 3rd
St., Waterford PA. (Day) (814)864-1920

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Erie** 7180 New Perry Highway Erie, PA
(814)864-9300

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Jamestown** "Always Our Children"
For the Catholic parents of GLBT children.
Supportive, but for parents only. 456-2091

Social Organizations/Youth

10% Network (John)
Chatauqua County, NY (716)484-7285

Burgh Bears Pittsburgh, PA
<http://www.spdcc.com/home/burghbears>

Menspace in Erie (Michael) (814)456-9833

Womynspace in Erie
info@eriegaysnews.com (814)456-9833

Student Organizations/Youth

Covenant House Teen Hotline
1-800-999-9999

Erie Gay Youth Website
<http://www.angelfire.com/pa3/ErieGayTeens>

National Runaway Switchboard
1-800-621-4000

**Chatauqua County PRYSM: Pride &
Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority**
See Calendar of Events on pg 4. For more
info, call Bill Reese (Coordinator) at
(716)488-1917 or check out the web site
at: <http://www.gaychatauqua.org>

Teen Hotline (412)771-8336

Support Groups

Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group
(TV/TS/CD) Send mail to Erie Sisters,
1903 W 8th St., Suite 261, Erie PA 16505

GayAA (Bernie) (814)459-7262

Partners (LesBiGay group, Corry, PA)
(814)664-7090 (Luella)

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
PFLAG-DuBois PA Karen/John Kressley
371-8962

PFLAG-Erie P.O. Box 418, Columbus, PA
16405 Luella Clayton (814)664-7090

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)
453-5656 (Erie Hotline)

HIV/AIDS Resources

**AIDS Bereavement Support Group and
HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cath.
of St. Paul** 452-3779 (Sue Kuebler)

AIDS Network Information HIV test-
ing at Health Department Monday Noon-
3:30, Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Evening hours by appt. only 451-6727

Is your Group/Organization Missing? Is there anything we should add?

Comments/Suggestions can be sent to:

P. R. I. D. E. 3882 Hereford Road Erie, PA 16510-2457

Email us: prideneews@hotmail.com or leave a message at: 461-3102