



EGN

Erie Gay News



Calendar

This calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html

Jan 23 - Wet n Wild Boyz at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N Main St (716)484-3220.

Jan 24 - Menspace meets (Erie PA) 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814)456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Jan 24 - Winter White Party at Zone Dance Club 1711 State St, Erie PA. "It may be cold outside- but we are going to warm you up with our Winter White Party! - Wear White! -white denim, white lace, white toga, white boxers- just wear anything white!" (814) 459-1711.

Jan 27 - On TV: In The Life "Culture Wars" 10 PM. WNED (PBS-Buffalo) 10 PM. Special guest Lesley Gore travels back to 1950s Greenwich Village, the epicenter of the lesbian pulp fiction underworld. (Repeats Wed., Jan. 28, 4:30 am)

Jan 31 - Buffalo Showgirls at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N Main St. Fanta-see Island, Coco Peru, Sabrina Williams and V. (716)484-3220.

Feb 4 - "Always Our Children" meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Feb 5 - Panel Discussion: "Is the USA a Christian Nation?" (Mercyhurst College, Erie PA) See the article in Community Announcements page 6.

Feb 6 - 5 Empty Chambers at Docksider (Erie PA) Special guests Face Down in High Water.

Feb 7 - Rainbow Cinema (Burke and Rob's, Erie PA) Hosted by Burke and Rob at 536 W. 10th St. (above Dusckas Funeral Home). This month's film will be Sordid Lives. www.imdb.com/title/tt0204640/ For questions about the Rainbow Cinema Club, please contact Peter at paguy@gmx.net.

Feb 7 - OUTRAGEOUS Bingo (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 6 PM - 9:30 PM. Joint fundraiser for PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties chapter and Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. See page 5 for details!

(continued on page 3)



Nathan Smith at January 10% Network

(photo by Mike Mahler)

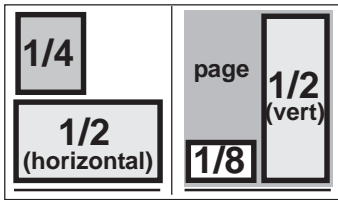
In This Issue...

Calendar	1
On stage	4
Common Ground: Tearing down the walls that divide us	5
PFLAG News	5
Community Announcements	6
Letters	7
National Condom Day	8
Youth	9
List of Black GLBT resources	10
National News Briefs	11
Your Health Focus	13
What do you say?	14
Entertainment notes	15
Love stuff!	16

On the Cover...

Nathan Smith at January 10% Network
Photo by Michael Mahler

EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
Quarter	\$50 (\$45 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 2-7/8" wide
Half (horiz)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 6" wide
Half (vert)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	7" high X 2-7/8" wide
Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

call 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com
 Deadline for ads is the 15th



Erie Gay News
 1115 West 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502-1105
 Phone: (814) 456-9833
 Fax: (270)423-6217
info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

Editors: Deb Spilko and Mike Mahler
Deadline: the 15th of each month.

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBT's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie and Northwest Pennsylvania Area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with any piece that you submit.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication don't necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

Copyright 2004 by Erie Gay News.

Thank You:

To James von Loewe, Tim, Marshall Snyder, Lynnette Latina-Weber, Norm Zymm, Peter, and Deb for folding and Dave S, Don Craig, Kate Hentz and Jerry McCumber for distributing last issue. Big thanks to Bob for proofreading. Thanks!

If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.

Calendar

Feb 8 - Jazz Brunch at The Village 133 W 18th St, Erie PA 1 PM til whenever. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

Feb 9 - PFLAG Meeting (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway 7 PM - 9 PM. Regular meeting. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Feb 12 - HUGS East Valentine's Day Party (Mentor OH) 7 PM 8521 East Ave Mentor OH

Feb 12 -On TV: American Masters "James Baldwin: The Price of a Ticket" 12:30 AM WNED and WQLN (PBS affiliates; double-check listings). In-depth portrait of gay African-American author James Baldwin, "one of the great American authors of the 20th century, features archival material that reflects Baldwin's worldwide influence and appeal, and includes interviews with family members, friends and notable colleagues such as Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, William Styron, Amiri Baraka, Richard Avedon and Bobby Short."

Feb 14 - Red Hot Dance Party (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) "We're going to heat up your Valentine's Day! Wear Red or dress up as a Horny Devil, Leather Cupid, Drag Queen of Hearts or Flaming Fireman... just wear red! Wear your sexy heart-on boxers and find your hunka' hunka' burning love!" For more info, call (814) 459-1711

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day Party (Village, 133 W 18th St, Erie PA) For more info, call (814) 452-0125.

Feb 14 - Traci & Co. at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N Main St. (716) 484-3220.

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day Dance (Youngstown OH) sponsored by Youngstown Pride Center, 8 PM. Suggested donation \$5 (more if you can), First Unitarian Church, 1105 Elm St, Youngstown, (330) 747-7433, www.angelfire.com/oh5/youngstownpride.

Feb 15 - Deadline for March 2004 edition of Erie Gay News (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Feb 17 - Cyndi Lauper in concert (Lakewood OH) Lakewood Civic Auditorium, 14100 Franklin, Lakewood OH 44107 (216) 529-4081

Feb 20- Event: Common Ground 7 PM, at Central High School on Cherry Street in Erie. Five-hour event "brings together top-notch entertainment and a call to unity...several members of the gay and lesbian community are taking part." See details page 5!

Feb 21 - Menspace meets (Jeff's) 1146 Brown Ave, Erie PA. 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814)456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Feb 21- 10% Network meets: Movie Night (Jamestown) Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast, Jamestown NY 7:30 PM. Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: donjaye@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>

Feb 21 - National Black AIDS Awareness Day in Chautauqua Co. (Jamestown) see details page +++ or call Cathy Harrison at AIDS Community Services (716) 664-7855.

Feb 28 - 5 Empty Chambers at Uncle Charlie's (Edinboro) Special Guests TBA 10 PM

Feb 28 - Cause for Celebration "Roaring Twenties" (Buffalo) Gala fundraiser for AIDS Community Services of Western New York 9 PM Hyatt Regency, 2 Fountain Plaza (716)847-0340 or visit website for details www.aidscommunityservices.com for more information on how you can join the best Cause yet!

Mar 2 - New York Primary Election Don't forget to vote!!

Mar 2 - Ohio Primary Election Don't forget to vote!!!

(continued next page)

Calendar Listings are FREE!

please submit information by the 15th of the month



Real Estate Services

Linda Foll Johnson, GRI, RRS
Associate Broker
814-864-3200 ext 325
or 814-397-0615
lfjohnson@howardhanna.com



Calendar

Mar 3 - "Always Our Children" meets (Erie PA)

Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St. (814) 456-2091

Mar 6 - Menspace meets (Neal's, Erie PA) 7:30

PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833.

Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Mar 8 - PFLAG Meeting-Erie/Crawford (Erie PA)

7 PM - 9 PM. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Regular monthly meeting. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Mar 12 & 13 - Margaret Cho at the Improv (Home- stead, PA) Ticket Info: (412)462-5233. 21 & over.

Mar 14 - Jazz Brunch at The Village (Erie PA)

133 W. 18th St. 1 PM til whenever. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

Mar 15 - Deadline for April 2004 edition of Erie

Gay News Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Mar 20 - Cause for Celebration: "Stayin' Alive"

(Jamestown NY) Gala fundraiser for AIDS Community Services of WNY Crystal Ballroom, 110 W 3rd St. Disco theme this year. Details page 7.

Mar 27 & 28 - North Coast Men's Chorus concert: "Only in the Movies" (Cleveland)

Waetjen Auditorium, Cleveland State University, 2001 Euclid Ave, (800)766-6048, www.ncmchorus.org

Apr 6 - Passover

Apr 7 - Always Our Children meets (Catholic

Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA) For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Apr 11 (Sun) - Happy Easter!

On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Last Sunday in June, Buffalo United Artists, opens January 23-Feb. 14. "It's gay pride day in New York City—the last for Michael and Tom, because after seven years together on Christopher Street they're buying a house in Nyack. Meanwhile, their apartment has become the ideal place for their friends to view the annual gay pride parade, including the newly out and enthusiastic Joe, witty writer Brad, and opera buff Charles. Add to the mix a conflicted ex-boyfriend who has decided to marry a woman and a hot guy without a shirt and you have Jonathan Tolin's funny, surprising and touching look at the genre of the contemporary gay play." (716)886-9239 www.buffalobua.org

Gore Vidal's "The Best Man" Lucille Ball Little Theater 18 E. 2nd Street, Jamestown NY "...makes you wish that Vidal were writing the dialogue for the presidential debates. It brings to the backstabbing worlds of campaigning the bright verbal fire that *All About Eve* and *Sweet Smell of Success* brought to the world of show business and journalism." —*NY Times*. Performances Feb. 6-8 & Feb. 12-14 Box office: (716) 483-1095

Here's to the Men February 9 & 10 at Erie Playhouse as part of the Composer/Lyricist series. "All the great leading men of musical theatre in song." 13 W. 10th, Erie PA Box office: 454-2852, ext. 0

A Night with Dame Edna Feb 17-29 Barry Humphries performs as Dame Edna Everage. Cleveland Playhouse Square Center Cleveland OH Toll Free Phone: (800) 766-6048 Website: www.playhousesquare.com

Saturday Night Fever February 23 at Erie's Warner Theater, as part of the Erie Broadway Series Recently a hit on Broadway, Inspired by the phenomenally successful movie, features 12 Top Ten hit disco songs and exciting choreography. (814) 452-4857 or (814) 456-7070 or visit the Erie Civic Center at 809 French Street, all Ticketmaster locations or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Websites and email lists for appearances by area performers:

Greg Ropp www.gregropp.com.

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

reservations appreciated 455-7766

- Fresh seafood
- Thai & international fusion cuisine
- Live nightly entertainment

An illuminating experience in the arts & fusion cuisine

Sunday jazz brunch

sushi Thursday Friday Saturday

papermoon.

14th & state www.artaloneendures.com

Common Ground: *Tearing down the walls that divide us*

Local performing artist, **Cathi Koehler**, has rallied some of the best of Erie's performers for a night of top notch entertainment and a call to unity. Bringing together performers of different beliefs, ages, and races, Koehler hopes to have all of the performers lay aside the things that make them different to concentrate on the one thing that unites them. There are several members of the gay and lesbian community taking part in the event as well.

Common Ground is a five-hour performance, to be held Friday, February 20th, beginning at 7 PM, at Central High School, 3325 Cherry Street in Erie. Tickets are only \$9.00 at the door. *Common Ground* T-shirts are available for \$12.00 (\$14.00 for XXL or larger) and will get you free admission to the event, if worn. In addition, anyone spotted wearing a T-shirt before the 20th by one of three of our performers will receive two complimentary tickets.

Lights, sound and stage management will be under the direction of **Carolyn Veale**, Central's theatre teacher, featuring some of her students. Proceeds from the tickets sales will be given to the theatre department at Central.

Bands, vocal groups, several solo acts and dance groups will share the stage, concluding the night with all of the performers returning to the stage to sing the *Common Ground* theme song written by Koehler and Christine Volk.

The Band **Out of the Blue** will conclude the first set, with the **Telefonics** concluding the second set. Vocalists include **Alethea Bodine**, **Christine Volk** of Jocelyn Porter Project and Koehler, dance groups are **Chronic Dance**, **Tolerance** and **His Voice**, with the possibility of authentic African dancers performing as well.

The MC for the night is **Billy Williams**, the "vocal powerhouse" who starred in *Celebration* at the Directors Circle and *Ragtime* at the Erie Playhouse.

Koehler is hoping to continue with the venue throughout the year with follow up performances and shows to include visual arts as well.

Is Erie ready to lay down the many things that divide us to come together for one night? Are you?

You can contact Koehler at 454-8563 for more information or pre-sale T-shirts. Many volunteers are needed as well.

—submitted by *Common Ground*

PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie Chapter

BINGO!!!!

PFLAG continues to work with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie to plan for our big OUTRAGEOUS BINGO Party on Saturday, February 7 at the UU Church in Erie, 6 to 9:30 PM. (Route 97 North of I-90.) We need good attendance to make it a successful fundraiser for both the UU Church and PFLAG-Erie. You won't be disappointed when you come! There will be a Chinese auction with great prizes, drag queen helpers/verifiers with a voting contest for the best dressed, and the \$10 admission gets you a lot of bingo cards to play. Sandwiches and snacks will be sold also. Parking is free. Please come and bring a friend. If the turnout is good, we will try to make it a regular event. Please call Mike at 456-9833 for information.

Meeting Notes

Our next PFLAG meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: February 9th, at the UU Church on Route 97, Erie, from 7-9 PM.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets the 2nd Monday each month, 7-9 PM at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie, PA. Also Straight Spouse Network focus group meets ad hoc (call for location/time for this meeting.) Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421 or pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Community Announcements

Panel to discuss: "Is the U.S.A. a Christian Nation?"

On Thursday, February 5, the Northwest Pennsylvania Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State is sponsoring a panel discussion of the question, "Is the United States of America a Christian Nation?" If America is a Christian nation, is there a place in our society for citizens who choose non-Christian religions, or for those with no religious faith? To what extent should Christianity be permitted to influence our laws and our society?

The 2-hour program starts at 7:30 PM on Feb. 5 in Walker Recital Hall (Hirt Center) at Mercyhurst College. [Hirt Center is 100 feet up hill from parking ramp. Access through Mercyhurst front gate on East 38th street or from Briggs Ave.]

Among the questions the panelists will discuss are these:

- Does the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution impose a wall of separation between Church and State, or is this a modern myth?
- Was it unconstitutional to add "under God" to our Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag?
- Should taxpayers fund federal "faith-based initiatives"?
- Is it appropriate to display the Ten Commandments or nativity scenes on government property?
- In Pennsylvania, would tuition vouchers be a valid way to offer choice in education, or an illegal means of funding religious instruction from the public treasury?

The invited panel is composed of lawyers, clergy, and historians. The panelists are Attorney Dick Ruth, professors Dan Frankforter, Baher Ghosheh & Bob Rhodes, William Godfrey, and Diane Gramley (President, American Family Association of PA). The program will be moderated by Jerry Trambley.

You won't want to miss this lively exchange among experts on both sides of the issue. There will be ample time for questions and comments from the audience. The program is free and open to the public.

Americans United is a religious liberty watchdog group based in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1947, the organization educates Americans about the impor-

ance of church-state separation in safeguarding religious freedom.

For information, call 455-9730

Pittsburgh Public Theater Benefit for Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force

The Pittsburgh Public Theater will present its 18th Annual benefit for the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force with the performance of Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

The performance will take place at 8 PM March 17 at the O'Reilly Theater, Penn Avenue, Cultural District. Pre-performance party (6 PM) will feature more than 20 of Pittsburgh's finest caterers. Performance begins at 8 PM. There will be a coffee and dessert reception at intermission.

Donny Thinner (organizer of the gay cruises and other events) will accept the Kerry Stoner Award on behalf of Pittsburgh's Tavern Guild, an association of GLBT bars who have supported the Pittsburgh Public Theater Benefit since its inception.

For more information, please contact Gina Forcareta, communications director, at (412) 242-2500 ext. 123 or commdir@city-net.com.

Black AIDS Day in Chautauqua County

National Black AIDS Day is February 7th. The local AIDS Community Services in conjunction with the Jamestown Department of Youth Services is planning a National Black AIDS Day Wellness and Fun Fair set for February 21. It will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 509 Prendergast St, Jamestown NY.

This day will have numerous wellness activities including AIDS testing, blood pressure testing, cholesterol screening and testing, diabetes testing and screening, and stress management. There will be food and drinks, and prizes. More information is forthcoming.

Contact Cathy Harrison at AIDS Community Services at (716) 664-7855.

Community Announcements

Cause for Celebration galas celebrated in WNY

Time for the Fifteenth Annual Cause for Celebration! AIDS Community Services of Western New York will hold their gala fundraiser on two different dates—one taking place in Buffalo (February 28) and one in the Southern Tier (March 27). Visit www.aidscommunityservices.com for more information on how you can join the best Cause yet!

Buffalo event: “Roaring Twenties”

Buffalo’s most exciting Winter event is just around the corner!

The Fifteenth Annual Cause for Celebration will bring the *Roaring Twenties* roaring into the Hyatt Regency in downtown Buffalo on Saturday, **February 28**, at 9:00 PM. Of course there will be music and dancing, casino gaming, a silent art auction, and luscious desserts from the area’s finest bakeries and restaurants. But this year’s Cause will also have a few surprises in store, so don’t miss it! Cause for Celebration may be just around the corner but it’s not too late to host a party, volunteer, or purchase a ticket. Call (716)847-0340 or visit website for details.

Southern Tier event: “Stayin’ Alive!”

Break out those platform shoes and leisure suits! The Southern Tier presents *Cause for Celebration: Stayin’ Alive!* on Saturday, **March 27**, at the Crystal Ballroom in the Hotel Jamestown (3rd Street in Jamestown, NY).

This promises to be the disco party of the season, complete with music and dancing, casino gaming, luscious desserts, a silent art auction, and more polyester than you can shake a stick at. For more information about Cause for Celebration: Stayin’ Alive! See next month’s *Erie Gay News*, or please call the Southern Tier office at (716)664-7855.

Info from AIDS Community Services of Western New York

Letters

Thanks to Rainbow Cinema & Menspace

I would like to thank the guys at the Menspace rainbow cinema for the Birthday cake and the song. Having that many men sing Happy Birthday to me was absolutely wonderful. I also like to thank everyone who sent cards and emails. To that little bird who told everyone that it was my birthday.

Thanks for making my 37th a good one.

**Thank you,
James von Loewe**

Trying to start something??

Announce it here!

Please include contact information

Travel info

You can click on these URLs at the Erie Gay News website

ALL LOCATIONS

WeatherUnderground

www.wunderground.com

ERIE COUNTY

452-2000, Ext. 7669 (SNOW)

PENNSYLVANIA

Interstate Conditions 1-888-783-6783

Roads & Weather <http://65.246.225.166/site/site.nsf/mainpage>

NEW YORK

Roads 1-800-847-8929

Roads & Weather www.thruway.state.ny.us/weather/index.shtml

OHIO

Roads 1-888-264-7623

Roads & Weather www.buckeyetraffic.org

National Condom Day

Patty Puline
Erie County Dept. of Health

Dear Readers:

February is here, and you know what that means, don't you? Valentine's Day!

It is also National Condom Day – February 14th

Oh yes, and even though some people will not be with that *certain someone* on Valentine's Day, most people will not want to be alone on that day. So what happens? People hook up seeking romance and passion and things may progress to unprotected sexual activity. Before engaging in sexual activity, make a decision to protect yourself against STD (sexually transmitted diseases)

Syphilis and gonorrhea do not sound romantic, HIV, herpes and warts may not have much to do with passion, but on a day when love is foremost in everyone's mind, people need to think about the consequences of having unprotected sex.

Today, as many as 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS and more than 20 million

people have died. One in four adults will have an STD this year. Chlamydia is the most common bacterial infection among STDs, and often goes unnoticed because of the mild signs and symptoms.

Herpes, HIV, and genital warts are the "love bugs" of all viral STDs; because they will always love you back. Always. Because they are viruses, they never go away. Never, and just when you think you have them under control? They are back!

Take responsibility for sexual health by *always* using condoms and having regular sexual health checks. The HIV and STD clinic at the Erie County Dept of Health is free and confidential. The clinic hours and information can be found on our website: www.ecdh.org, or in the ad on the back page of this issue of *Erie Gay News*.

The Erie County Department of Health is reminding people on National Condom Day to buy flow-ers, buy candy, and buy condoms!

Think you know about STD? Take this quick STD quiz to find out just how much you really know (or don't know) about STD.

STD Jeopardy—name the disease by the description given in each statement.

1. Intense itching, pinhead blood spots on underwear
 2. Three stages, chancre, rash, systemic
 3. DNA/RNA make a vaccine for this disease improbable
 4. Painful urination, greenish yellow discharge
 5. White patches in the mouth, cottage cheese like pockets of infection
- (Answers: 1. *Crabs*, 2. *syphilis*, 3. *HIV*, 4. *gonorrhea*, 5. *candidiasis*)

To learn more about HIV education programs, please contact:

Patty Puline, Health Teacher
Erie County Dept of Health
451-6543
ppuline@ecdh.org

GAYELLOW PAGES™

INFORMING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL
& TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1973

Accommodations, bars, business and not-for-profit resources
Separate WOMEN'S and ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL sections

USA/CANADA: \$16 by first class mail.

All states and provinces, national headquarters of
organizations, mail order companies, etc.

EAST and SOUTH Edition: \$12 by first class mail
AL, AR, AZ, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD,
ME, MO, MS, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, PR, RI,
SC, TN, TX, US Virgin Is, VA, VT, WV

Find us at gay-friendly stores like
Body Language, Cleveland 216-251-3330
Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo 716-855-0222
and many others at <http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

For an application to be listed (no charge), current
editions and prices, mailing labels, etc., please send a
self-addressed stamped envelope
to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN,
Village Station, New York, NY 10014
212-674-0120 Fax: 212-420-1126
Email: gayellowpages@earthlink.net

<http://gayellowpages.com>

Youth

By Don Craig

Gay youth and suicide issues

Young people who are gay are more affected by the issue of suicide than heterosexual young people.

Homosexually oriented males account for more than half of male youth suicide problems in the United States. What makes this statistic so high? Well, because today gay youth tend to go through so much in their lives that, unfortunately, it leads to them seriously injuring themselves or—worst of all—committing suicide. Reasons include feelings of rejection, depression, and being unloved; hatred among family members/friends/school peers; personal/interpersonal turmoil about their sexual orientation; and substance abuse. Did you know that the average age for homosexual youth suicide occurs around the age of 15? Did you also know that the average age that a gay youth is coming out to friends and loved ones is 16 years old? Studies show that's a decrease from the ages of 19 to 23 .

Here are signs that your friend, peer, or child may be thinking of suicide:

1. Severe changes in behavior, attitudes, school performance.
2. Giving away prized possessions.
3. Putting oneself down for the smallest failure.
4. Extremely upset and depressed over everyday happenings.
5. Giving a verbal message that could be taken as a "goodbye": "I just can't take it any more . . . Something's got to give.
6. Any action or way of behaving that seems unusual for the person, for example: driving recklessly;

eating or drinking more or less than usual; a student with a good academic record quits studying.

What can you as a friend, peer, or parent do to help? Try these methods:

- Take the person seriously.
- Listen to their feelings, without giving a lot of advice or suggesting simple solutions.
- If the person's words or actions scare you, tell them. Don't be cheerful or phony.

Help the person find a support group or a mental health professional they can talk to, preferably someone who has worked with GLBT youth before and who understands their needs. Make sure it is *not* someone whose philosophy is that GLBT people should change their sexual orientations or gender identities or who feels GLBT people are sick, or immoral. There is no reliable evidence that so-called "reparative therapy" works, and it can do serious harm.

I bring this topic up because I have been through all this for years. Going through the stages of homosexual growing up took a toll on me and at one point I couldn't learn to live with being gay. I had hardly any friends to talk to. I wanted to join the military, but deep down I knew it wasn't for me because they don't accept a person of my sexuality. I was very confused growing up living in a small town where everyone was ashamed to be who they really are. I became depressed and self-destructive, and seriously considered suicide.

I'm happy to still be here with everyone. Things do get better after awhile, especially when you talk about your problems to someone, whether it's being a friend, family members, or anyone you can trust. I've noticed a big change from just two years ago in my life: I'm finally meeting new friends and accomplishing my dreams. I just can't imagine what things would be like for my friends and family if I had perished forever. Things are tough out there in the world, but consider looking ahead into the future. Write down what you want to do with your life and follow the plan of your life. Just remember, there will be good days and bad days, but always look forward to the good

(continued next page)

Bethany J. Robson, CSW-R

515 Pine St.
Jamestown, New York 14701
Phone: 716-483-5830
Fax: 716-664-5186

**Relationship Coach
Personal Life Coach
Certified Social Worker**



Call me for a free sample!

Youth suicide

(continued from previous page)

days (there tends to be more of them.) You're loved by everyone you're around, even though they may not seem to show you the love—it is with them and with you.

I hope you had a great holiday season last year—if you didn't, look ahead and improve on what went wrong.

The facts used in writing this article can be found at the following web addresses:

www.metrokc.gov/health/glbtyouthsuicide.htm
www.outproud.org/article_suicide.html

Youth crisis numbers

These numbers are toll-free.

Crisis Intervention Center [800] 999-9999
Trevor Talkline for Suicidal Gay Youth [800] 850-8078

Northwest Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance

**GET
TESTED :
YOU
NEED TO
KNOW**

Provides access to educational, medical, financial, and supportive services for those affected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pennsylvania

*For more information contact us at:
15870 Route 322
Clarion, PA 16214
814-764-6066 or 800-359-AIDS
(2437)*

*In Erie contact us at:
1001 State St. Suite 806
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501
814-456-8849 or 800-400-AIDS*



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.NORTHWESTALLIANCE.ORG

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION



List of Black GLBT resources

Compiled by Deb Spilko

Here is a varied assortment of great sites on the web that serve African-American GLBT people. More can be found in the February 2003 issue of EGN, archived at the Erie Gay News website.

FO' Brothas is a new website "for the black same gender loving man." It features personals, discussion board, advice, chat, social groups, book club, and poetry. Also deals with the whole person (A banner slogan says, "It's more than the life"), by also carrying resources and features like dating & relationships, self-discovery, health & fitness, spirituality, money, as well as sex. Visit www.fobrothas.com

Kuma is a site for black lesbians, "a sort of soul café where adults of all ages can roam and browse freely through our vast array of erotic art, poetry, short stories and audio. Some have even managed to connect with other sistahs who share these same interests through our Personals." Kuma is at www.kuma2.net.

Keith Boykin is a black gay author, activist and lecturer. His website is full of news, reviews and commentary on politics, sports, culture, books, sexuality and spirituality. Of particular interest in this election year! Visit www.keithboykin.com

Blacklist is a list of notable lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of African Descent, that was first developed in response to requests for names of GLBT people to include in Black History Month 1994 celebrations. Blacklist is now at www.blackstripe.com

BlackOut Unlimited describes itself as "Cleveland's premier organization serving the African-American Same Gender Loving Community." They're at BlackOut Unlimited, 2800 Euclid #400, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. Parties, events, education, and activities for African-American GLBT men, women and youth. They maintain a mailing list for those who want to be kept up-to-date. Visit www.blackoutunlimited.org

Giovanni's Room is a large GLBT bookstore with a big selection of black titles. You can browse online at www.giovannisroom.com If you need help, call or email them; they are very helpful: (215) 923-2960 or giphilp@netaxs.com

National News Briefs

by Bob

Two States Extend Rights to Gays

Michigan and New Jersey are the sites of the latest victories for GLBT rights.

In December, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D) issued an order banning discrimination against lesbians and gays.

“The employment practices of state government should promote public confidence in the fairness and integrity of government and should reflect a commitment to equal employment opportunities,” Granholm’s spokeswoman Liz Boyd said in a news release.

The order, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation for state jobs, covers the executive branch of state government. According to the Associated Press, the order covers about 55,000 employees, about 95 percent of all state workers.

In New Jersey, Gov. James McGreevey (D) has signed into law a new domestic partner bill which was passed by the state legislature. The law passed by a wide margin in the state Senate, but by only one vote in the state Assembly.

The new partnership law gives same-sex couples, and seniors over 62, certain survivor rights, hospital visitation and control of each other’s medical decisions. Domestic partners of state employees will also receive workplace benefits. In addition, state insurance companies will be obliged to make partner coverage available to private companies as well. Private companies, however, will retain the choice of whether to offer partner perks.

While federal law prohibits employment discrimination based on race, age, religion and gender, it does not cover sexual orientation.

Dean Picks Up More Gay Support

While endorsements from former Vice President Al Gore and former Sen. Bill Bradley have grabbed much of the attention, Howard Dean’s presidential campaign has also received a boost from some gay Democrats.

The New York-based Gay and Lesbian Independent Democrats (GLID) has announced its endorsement of the former Vermont governor.

“Gov. Dean won GLID’s endorsement because he clearly has the strongest record on GLBT issues,” said Brad Hoylman, president of GLID. “Also, his campaign, which has moved from strength to strength, has shown that he has the best chance of taking back the White House.”

The San Diego Democratic Club, a chapter of the National Stonewall Democrats (NSD), endorsed Dean in December. One other GLBT Democratic group, the Stonewall Democrats of New York City, has also joined the Dean campaign.

Dean for America announced on Jan. 8 that Elizabeth Birch, the former executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest GLBT political group, has become a senior advisor to Dean.

Birch, a former high-tech executive in Silicon Valley, stepped down last month from her position at HRC. Cheryl Jacques, a former Massachusetts state senator, is the HRC’s new leader.

“Governor Dean has lived his principles of inclusion by treating the gay community of America with respect and fairness,” Birch said in a statement. “But just as important, I am also confident that on a broad range of policy issues and approaches from the economy to health care and the management of our international relations, he has the best long-term prescription for a healthy America, domestically and abroad.”

As Governor of Vermont, Dean signed that state’s landmark civil union law in 2000, and he — like other Democratic candidates — has pledged support for a national employment nondiscrimination law, hate crimes law and the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” among other pro-GLBT policies.

(continued next page)

Save The Date

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

The 18th Annual Pittsburgh Public Theater Benefit
for the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force
Accidental Death of An Anarchist
by Dario Fo



Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force
Where Every Life Matters

Get your tickets early.
Call 412-242-2500 ext. 122

National News

(continued from previous page)

New Poll Shows Support for Gays in the Military

A new poll measuring Americans' attitudes towards gays in the military reveals significant support for allowing lesbians and gay men to serve openly.

The CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll showed that 79 percent of the 1,004 adults surveyed said they believe people who are openly gay should be allowed to serve.

The poll, conducted December 5-7, found that 91 percent of people aged 18-29 were supportive of allowing gays to serve openly, as were 85 percent of all women and 73 percent of all men. These numbers represent a significant increase in Americans' support for gay and lesbian servicemembers in recent years.

In August 2003, a poll by Fox News found 64 percent of the public supported gays serving openly in the military, and a 2001 MIT poll placed the figure at 56 percent.

"After 10 years of Don't Ask, Don't tell, the public understands that discrimination undermines military effectiveness," said Geoffrey Bateman, Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military (CSSMM) at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Approximately 10,000 gay and lesbian servicemembers have been discharged under the policy since its inception in 1993.

Where can you pick up EGN?

Check our website for a list of locations
www.eriegaynews.com

Archbishop Urges Lawyers to Fight Gay Marriage

In a special Sunday mass honoring Catholic lawyers and judges, Boston Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley told listeners they should fight the issue of same-sex marriage and "cannot afford to run for cover."

The remarks were part of his sermon during the annual Red Mass, which is dedicated to people in the legal profession, at the city's Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

"Your baptism and your profession invest you with a great responsibility. Use your wisdom to defend the truth, to defend marriage. Do it with a passion and do what is right," he said.

O'Malley has been highly critical of the recent Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling that the state can not ban gay marriage. The Archbishop said the court's decision undermines and dilutes the religious institution of marriage.

"We live in an age when our hubris has made us blind to the madness around us, where our courts have undermined the value of life itself and now attempt to dilute the meaning of marriage," O'Malley said. "In diluting the meaning of marriage, we risk diminishing our own humanity."

Subscribe Now!
EGN \$20 per year

Name _____

Addr _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Phone and email are optional

Send \$20 Check to:
EGC Coalition
1115 W 7th St.

EGN will be mailed discreetly in a plain envelope every

All information held in confidence.

Your Health Focus...

When the Heart Doesn't Go Pitter-Patter

by **Christine D. Hudak, MD**

Seeing all the Valentine's Day decorations and hearts led me to the topic of this month's article: heart disease. (Indeed – I am a diehard romantic!) Seems like a pretty boring subject, right? Well, here's why we need to pay attention to it: it's THE number one cause of death in our country. About 700,000 people died of heart disease last year, and they are not just older folks. People in their 30s, 40s and 50s are dying, too.

We've gotten a bit relaxed about heart disease with the onset of all the fancy medical stuff we can do once someone's had a heart attack. We've got "clot-busting" medications, catheter procedures to open up blocked arteries and open-heart surgeries, too. I think these medical marvels are fantastic, but there is one little catch. The catch is that only 2 out of 3 people who have heart attacks live to get that chance at treatment. One-third of heart attack sufferers die right on the spot with the first attack. Boom – dead.

So what is a heart attack? When the blood flow to the heart muscle gets cut off, that part of the muscle dies. The arteries that supply the heart with blood can get blocked over time with stuff called "plaque." The opening in the artery gets smaller and smaller until one day a little blood clot forms and blocks it 100%. Without the oxygen in the blood, that part of the heart will not be able to pump anymore. When this happens people often get symptoms of chest pressure, shortness of breath, pain radiating up to the jaw or down the left arm, nausea, sweating and dizziness.

Factors that cause plaque to build up include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, being overweight, lack of exercise and a high fat diet. Having a family history of heart disease also increases your risk. There are some studies that suggest lesbians have a higher risk of heart disease because of higher body mass and increased smoking rates – but hey, the softball balances that out, right? (Sorry – couldn't resist and just kidding!) I don't think that matters much at all – we are all at risk. I do want to point out, though, that women often have different symptoms than men when they are having a heart attack. Women often report severe fatigue, shortness

of breath, arm weakness and indigestion – 30% of women never even have chest pain during a heart attack! This can delay the diagnosis and proper treatment.

Prevention, as I mentioned before, is key. Take an assessment of yourself and count your risk factors. If you've got 2 or 3 of them, it's time to consider a change. This being said, change is *the hardest* thing to do. Prioritize what you need to do and what you can do right now. Set realistic goals. Some patients will come in basically hopeless saying "I need to lose 100 pounds!" and it's important I counter with "Let's start with your first goal of 10 pounds." This way we are set up to succeed, not fail.

If you have more than 3 risk factors for heart disease, please work closely with your doctor to try to decrease your risks. In addition to lifestyle changes, there are some medications and/or testing that might be appropriate. Though none of us can control life and death, we can certainly try to work the odds in our favor.

One last bit of advice: if you are having symptoms do not blow them off and think this couldn't possibly be happening to you. That kind of denial is foolish, and potentially lethal. For the record, doctors do not think it's silly for you to get this checked out. In my own practice experience, a 46 year-old man did not heed advice to go to the ER when having chest pain – he thought it was just a pulled muscle and so wanted to try a hot shower first. He died in the shower. On the other hand, a 48 year-old woman having chest pain allowed me to send her from my office to the hospital, where her artery blockage was diagnosed and treated, and she does well to this day.

Wishing you health and happiness ...Christine

Christine D. Hudak, MD is a family physician in Erie. She attended the Ohio State University College of Medicine, and currently works at Hamot, teaching in the Family Medicine residency. She is interested in health issues and education for the LGBT community. Comments about the column can be directed to: Christine.Hudak@hamot.org.

What do you say?

We asked the Erie GLBT list:

What's a good way to meet people (for friendship and/or romance)?

Judy

I feel that a good way to meet people for friendship/ relationship is to find out what social events are going on in your area and show up, if you are shy about meeting others, encourage a friend to go with you. Pride weekend, is a good social time, always a lot of exciting people there.

Jeremy Person

I would have to say going out for coffee and a movie. That's about all there is to do in Erie when you are under 21.

Dave Amy

I think one of the best ways to meet people is at social gatherings like Menspace. I have met some really nice people and have developed good friendships. For me, being at these gatherings I feel at ease being with my friends and to meet new people and learn about them. It tends to put men who may be new to the gay life style at ease having someone to talk to and to learn about the gay life here.

Lynne S

Depends on what you're looking for. "Bar-beef" would be found at the local bars. Like-minded folks would be found where you go (grocery store, church, gym, park, coffeehouse, yard sales, volunteering, taking a class...). Try saying hello to someone you don't know. If you don't go anywhere — figure out what you like to do, and go do it. Then try saying hello and being genuinely conversational. If nothing else, you'll wind up with some great new friends who enjoy some of the same things you do!

Ms. Marcha

Meeting for friendship I find the coffee shops are best, and the Zone second best. The groups I am in are third. As for romance, LOL, I've been single too many years, but the Haus Berlin in Cleveland is my choice. People there are all kinky like me.

Sheila Dudley

I am trying out the personal ads on the world wide web for the first time to find romance. Of course my idea of romance starts with friendship and progresses from there. So on the search for romance I go surfing the www. For friendship, I have been blessed to be open with conversation with people. When in the correct mood, I can chat up any person I meet so have blessed with blarney from my Irish roots:) I took the chance of emailing via the www for my best friend, X, whom introduced me to a lot of my current friends, Z. Name deleted to protect the not so innocent. So I have to say that the WWW has been the best place for me to meet friends. And I hope it will be good to me for finding romance.

Joanne Lynne

I have used the Internet and email to meet some of my current friends and met one of them in person at the pride event. A word of caution though is remember never give out personal info like address, etc. If you're going to meet someone it's best to do it in a public place (with other people around). I have been reunited with a few of my old friends at my Trans therapy center and have met new ones.

I met my current fiancee at my mother's house after church.

So there are a few good places to met people :)

Brian

Personally I have high regards for Gay.com for both friendship and romance.

Larry and I met in gay.com over two years ago and it's been going great ever since. We have met others that have also met there and they seem to be going well also. As for friendship, we have met a lot of people on line but have met very few in person. We have only kept in touch with maybe 3 other couples.

The one couple that we have kept in contact with the most we met at the Erie County Fair. Now I would not say this is an easy way to meet people but it is definitely a unique way.

Stay connected!
Subscribe to the Erie GLBT list at
<http://erieglbt@eriegaynews.com>

What do you say

(continued from previous page)

Michael Mahler

Some of what works is attitude and setting small achievable goals. In the early 1990's, I wasn't really out or connected with the local scene. What I did to get around it was to go every once in a while to Lizzy Bordon's and made myself a deal that I just had to say the word Hi to one other person in the course of the evening. I didn't have to find a soul mate or a best buddy or the scorching hot guy du jour, just one small bit of social interaction. I also internally gave myself pats on the back for trying, even if it felt like it wasn't much or I was feeling like a doofus. But, if you say Hi enough, it is easier to work into a conversation. (And I guess I am at least a little bit more in touch with the local GLBT community these days, so it must have worked.)

Rich D

A funny story popped in my head from the past that I thought I might share.

It took place when I about 16 and without giving my age it was back when I lived with my parents and they had a "Party Phone Line", which was usually shared with someone within a several block radius of your home, so yes it was prior to home computers. (by the way I thought I was straight back then too, boy a lot has changed-lol)anyway I use to chat late at night from a phone in my bedroom with two girls, one of which was on our Party Line. They chatted almost nightly and either I would pick up and chat with them or they would pick up on me and chat. Well as you know with youths of that age, a little friendly chat and soon the hormones were working and all 3 of us had made mild innuendo's and flirtations. Well being a little sneaky I found that if you unscrewed the mouth piece on the old style phone and take out the mouth piece inside you could pickup the receiver and they didn't hear the click and you could ease drop which I use to do after I talked with them to hear what they said about me. OK yes I use to be a little devilish way back then, like I said a lot has changed-lol. Well I ended up meeting both girls (separately) and dated the one briefly, well very briefly but it was a nice experience. So that was my first "chat room meeting"

Entertainment notes

by Deb Spilko

Margaret Cho will be at the Improv in Pittsburgh March 12 and 13. Margaret recently got slammed with a horrendous barrage of hateful rightwing email. She had just taken part in judging the best anti-Bush ads for MoveOn.org on January 12. (other celebrity judges included gay director Gus Van Sant, Janine Garafolo, and Michael Moore). A rightwing campaign was mounted in response to her appearance at that event, and Cho began receiving a flood of hateful email—at one point they estimated about 100 per hour. The comments were vile—extremely homophobic, anti-female, and, particularly, racist. She has since received an outpouring of support from fans and others. If you want to read about it or other things she's been up to, visit www.margaretcho.com

Any Erie area viewers still looking for **Ellen DeGeneres'** syndicated talk show..I have a couple channels you can check out. It's still not available to an on-air channels (that means you need cable or satellite). The WB airs it at 11 AM (available to Erie area cable users as WBEP), Oxygen runs it at 11:30 PM (I understand these are a week behind, though). Western New York viewers can watch it on WTVB at 10 AM.

Since this is the time of year when people put in for vacation days, here are dates of **upcoming events** that seem to be popular with people in this area:

April 30-May 2 Rainbow Wranglers Roundup (Cleveland) GLBT country dance weekend. www.rainbowwranglers.org

May 20-30 Inside Out GLBT Film Festival (Toronto) www.insideout.on.ca

June 1-7 Gay Days Orlando gaydays.com

July 22-25 - National Women's Music Festival (Columbus) www.wiaonline.org/nwfmf

Aug 10-15 Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (near Hart MI) www.michfest.com

Aug 16-Leather Ball (Toronto) www.mrlt.com
weekend of parties and events.

Complete Resources Listing
can be found at
www.eriegaynews.com

Love stuff!

Ab, February...Valentine's Day is coming, and many people are thinking of romance. Or brooding about our lack of such. Well, here are a few assorted goodies for everyone... whether you are in love or out, whether you are looking for love, friendship or tawdry encounter. ~deb

GetRomantic.com is chock full of ideas and tips for romance. It is aimed at heterosexuals, but it is the best romance-oriented site I've found online—and most romantics will feel comfortable visiting the site regardless of their orientation: www.getromantic.com

Wolfe Video specializes in GLBT video and DVD, and they have a nice selection that includes lots of romantic and erotica titles: www.wolfevideo.com

As for online personals, **Glimpse.com** ("the gay & lesbian relationship network") comes highly recommended as a service that specializes in serving those seeking friendship or relationships. **Edwina.com** looks like it has a fun approach to online dating.

There are still a few correspondence clubs around, for those who prefer that sort of approach.

The New Dawn is a well-established correspondence club for lesbians. Visit them at <http://thenewdawn.freeyellow.com> **Chanton.com** is a correspondence club that serves gay, bi, lesbian singles and couples, as well as GLBT people with disabilities and HIV+ people (looking for friendship and/or relationships.)

At the **Rainbow Sauce** site you'll find the GLBT books they offer listed in neat lists like romance fiction, erotica, poetry, and relationships (they're at www.rainbowsauce.com). Lists are further broken down by gay male, lesbian, and bi and transgender.

If you are dealing with a painful breakup, you may want to pick up a copy of **How to Survive the Loss of a Love** by Peter McWilliams, Harold H. Bloomfield, and Melba Colgrove (Mary Book/Prelude \$6.95). First published in 1976, it is still probably the best book to help you get through the hurt and loneliness. Written by two counselors and a poet, it is comforting, encouraging, and easy to read. You may even find yourself smiling in a couple of places!

HIV COUNSELING & TESTING

**Oral HIV
testing now
available**

HIV Clinic

STD Clinic
451-6700

WALK-IN CLINIC

No Appointment Necessary

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

Monday 12 noon - 3:30 pm
Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

STD TESTING

WALK IN CLINIC

No Appointment Necessary

Erie County Health Department

Monday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Wednesday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Appointments can be made
at the following locations:**

Erie County Health Department
Erie Office, Outreach Services
(814) 451-6732

Erie County Health Department
Corry Office - (814) 663-3891

Hispanic American Council
(814) 455-0212

Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation
Delivery System (MHEDS)
(814) 453-6229 or (814) 453-4728

All services are free and confidential.
Specially trained outreach workers are available
for in home appointments (HIV testing only).