

September 2004



EGN



Erie Gay News

Pride March/Rally on Sun, Oct 3

by Michael Mahler

Erie will be having a Pride March/Rally on Sunday, October 3. (Please note that this is a Sunday, and not a Saturday!) Because of the importance of the election this year for our community, a major focus will be to get folks registered to vote and enthused about voting, as well as participating in the political process.

We will begin by meeting on the steps of the Erie County Courthouse, 140 W 6th St, at 12:30 PM sharp. We will take the traditional Family Portrait on the steps of the Courthouse, and then step for the March at 1 PM up State Street. (Last year's March was the first ever for State Street.)

The Rally itself will be held at the Village Supper Club, and should begin around 2 PM. We are planning on having speakers, performers, vendors and tables with info from area groups and political organizations.

Because the Village Supper Club is having one of their yummy Jazz Brunches, we will not only have food on hand for purchase, but those people who are under 21 can attend as well.



Marchers in last year's Pride March, the first ever on State Street.

Photo by Deb Spilko.

As at the previous Pride Picnic this year, we will be collecting nonperishable items for the Second Harvest Food Bank of NW PA. We are also planning on having door prizes as well. To enter the drawing, just sign one of the registration forms.

We ask for your support and attendance for this very important event! If you would like to be involved with planning, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com. Thanks!

Erie County HRC update

by Michael Mahler

On Tuesday, July 27, Erie County Council unanimously voted for a pair of changes that will reestablish the dormant Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC), and also make it eligible for a grant from HUD of \$115,000 per year for the next 3 years. This will also make the ECHRC more independent. In 2003, although there was funding for the agency in the county's budget, County Executive Rick Schenker eliminated all staff, except for a secretary, who forwarded all complaints to the State Human Relations Commission. The State HRC doesn't cover sexual orientation and gender identity, so a case involving an area gay person couldn't be investigated.

On August 4, 2004, Rick Schenker signed the ordinances. He also offered some amendments to the ordinance concerning qualifications for staff. The current director, William McCarthy, did not oppose the amendments. There will be 9 members appointed to the commission (1 by each of the 7 County Council members, 1 by the County Executive, and 1 by the City of Erie.)

This is a great victory for our community and we thank everyone who made this possible.

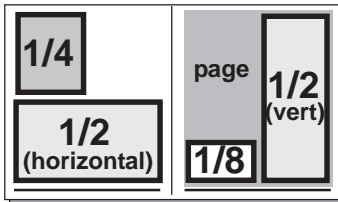
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On the Cover...

2003 Pride March. Photo by Deb Spilko

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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 NW PA 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.

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

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Calendar

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

Aug 21 - 2 Girls Alone performance at Two Friends Italian Market 25 E. 10th St, Erie PA. 8 - 10:30 PM. Performing during Celebrate Erie at Two Friends Italian Market. Email: twogirlsalone@att.net.

Aug 21 & 22 - Fourth Annual Book It! Crime Victim Center fundraiser Held 9 AM-1 PM Saturday and 11 AM to 2 PM Sunday at their office, 125 W. 18th St., Erie. (814)455-9414.

Aug 22 - Pride at the Pier (Buffalo) Presented by Pride Center of WNY Noon to 7 PM. Food, music, dancing, guest DJs and more. Tickets \$15. Info and tickets: www.pridecenterwny.org Call (716) 852-PRIDE (7743) 21 and over.

Aug 28 - Gayfest at Paramount Canada's Wonderland (Toronto) Now always scheduled the last Saturday in August. There really isn't an organization that sponsors it these days, just an underground calling to the Canadians. www.gayday.com

Aug 29 - 2004 Raise a Racquet Party (Erie PA) "Party to support Karen Morton's 2004 LPRA tour will be held 2 to 6 PM at Jerry Uht Park (SeaWolves Stadium) at 10th and French Streets. Wonderful Italian food from Two Friends, wine, beer, silent auction, music by 2 Girls Alone and also by the Dixie Doodlers Jazz, and more. \$10 advance ticket price (\$15 at the gate.)" Tickets available from Two Friends Italian Market at 10th & French. Email: sgaia@att.net.

Sep 1- Always Our Children meets (Erie) At Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. For Catholic parents of GLBT children. (814) 456-2091.

Sep 3- Pride Night at Six Flags World of Adventure (Aurora OH) Sponsored by Lesbian & Gay

Community Center of Greater Cleveland. 6 PM to midnight, (330)995-7822.

Sep 3 - Cher-A-Bration Glow Party and Show at The Village "That's right! Cher in our own backyard?? Come to The Village for a Glow Party and see all our talented 'Cher's after seeing the real thing;"

Sep 3 Vertigo Party (Butler PA) VertigoV@aol.com

Sep 4 - Labor Day Weekend Street Fair (Akron OH), and '70s Disco Dance, part of the Out in Akron cultural festival, noon, \$5 includes hot dog and Coke, Kenmore and Lakeshore Blvds, Akron, (330)2532220, www.akronpridecenter.org.

Sep 6 - Buddies Annual Labor Day BBQ (Buffalo) (716) 855-1313.

Sep 6 - 5th Annual Labor Day Fest (Medina NY) Day of games, sun and food with Dignity/Buffalo and Dignity/Integrity Rochester. Dignity is a GLBT Catholic organization. (716) 833-8995 www.dignitybuffalo.org/

Sep 11 - Sabrina, Martika, Tiffany & Billy Jo at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main (716)484-3220.

Sep 11 - Menspace meets at Gordon, Bill & Doug's (Edinboro PA) 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Sep 11 - Dance Escape: Gay/Gay-Friendly Event Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA 8 PM - Midnight. *Please note new location!* \$5 admission at the door. 50/50 drawing to benefit Because You Care animal rescue. Catch up with old friends and meet new friends! Tess Dunlap from TreeHug Trading Co will be selling her Pride goods. Song requests always welcome. Bring your favorite CD. BYOB and Bring Your Own Snacks. Must



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Calendar

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Sep 13 - PFLAG-Erie Meets Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. 7 - 9 PM. Regular monthly meeting Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Sep 16 - 19 - Great Lakes Film Festival Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Arts, 145 W 11th St, Erie (814)873-5069. questions@greatlakesfilmfest.com. www.greatlakesfilmfest.com/. See article page 6

Sep 19 - Third Sunday W.O.W. Retreat (Findley Lake NY) "We'll explore the labyrinth, journaling, poetry as prayer, prayer beads, etc." Please RSVP by Sep 17 by leaving a message at (716)769-7394 or (814)870-1739. Details on page 17.

Sep 25 - Rainbow Cinema Club: Bent (Peter and Tim's, Erie PA) Feature film will be *Bent* www.imdb.com/title/tt0118698/ Also showing excerpts from *Tackle Happy* www.imdb.com/title/tt0236783/. Email Peter at paguy@gmx.net, browse to http://menspace.eriegaynews.com or Michael at (814)456-9833.

Sep 25 - Erie Sisters meets (Erie PA) Transgender/crossdresser support group. Contact for location of meeting by email, phone or write to LEG, PO Box 1131, Erie PA 16512-0131 Phone: (724) 368-3793. Email: eriesisters@eriesisters.org. www.eriesisters.org.

Sep 25 Comedy Hour with Jose Castigliano at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main (716) 484-3220.

Oct 3 - Erie Pride March/Rally Meet on steps on Erie County Courthouse at 12:30 PM for Family Portrait, step off for March on State St at 1 PM, and Rally will be at Village Supper Club. See article on front page.

Oct 3 - Jazz Brunch at The Village 133 W 18th St, Erie PA 1 PM.

Oct 6 - Always Our Children meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA For Catholic parents of GLBT children Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Oct 11- National Coming Out Day If you have a Coming Out Day event that you want publicized in EGN, please send info by September 15!

Oct 11- PFLAG-Erie Meeting Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, 7 PM - 9 PM. "On October 11th at 7:30 PM at the Monthly PFLAG meeting, we will present a Community Educator from Crime Victim Center of Erie County. The educator will present an agency overview and sexual assault risk reduction program. The presentation will be held at our normal meeting location at the Unitarian Church and is free and open to the public. For more info on this presentation, Please contact Marcha at (814) 323-6055 or email at marchadenise@hotmail.com" Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Oct 23 - Erie Sisters meets (Erie PA) Transgender/crossdresser support group. Contact for location of meeting by email, phone or write to LEG, PO Box 1131, Erie PA 16512-0131 (724) 368-3793. eriesisters@eriesisters.org. www.eriesisters.org.

Oct 24 - 26 - New York & Pennsylvania HIV Conference (Chautauqua County NY) Contact: Michael. Phone: (716) 898-4714. Email: mchase@ecmc.edu. Browse to http://aidscenter.ecmc.org.

Oct 31 - Pittsburgh Boat Cruise Tickets at the Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA.

Nov 2- General Election Don't forget to vote!!!

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Great Lakes Film Festival returns

by Greg Ropp

The Great Lakes Film Festival is returning to Erie, September 16, 17, 18, & 19th!

This year the entire event will be held at the Roadhouse Theater and once again features films of interest to the GLBT audience, including a very controversial documentary called *The Other Side of AIDS* and *The Rules*, about a bored housewife who finds herself drawn to another woman. As of this writing, films are still being selected and posted on the website. (www.greatlakesfilmfest.com). Special guests include cast members from the original *Night of the Living Dead* who will be with us for a special midnight showing of this landmark horror classic!

The Erie Horror Film Festival will be held at the Roadhouse Theater October 8th and 9th! An offshoot of the Great Lakes Film Festival, this event focuses on the often overlooked genre of horror and science fiction movies. Special guests include Conrad Brooks, star of several of Ed Wood's classic B-movies from the late 1950's, including the infamous *Plan 9 From Outer Space* and the cross-dressing classic, *Glen or Glenda!* Brooks was also in Tim Burton's bio-pic, *Ed Wood*. A campy time is guaranteed for all!

Check the Great Lakes Film Festival page for updates and schedules! For more info contact Steve @ 873-5069. For the horror fest, contact Greg @ 873-7074.



Check Out Our Website at: www.eriegaynews.com
for our list of locations

On stage

Selected area events that may be of interest to GLBT audiences

Lady Day at the Emerson Bar and Grill Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art, 145 West 11th Street, Erie, PA. Opens July 9 and runs thru August 29. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 PM. Starring Mary Alice Brown as "Billie Holiday" Box Office (814) 456-5656.

Jason Stuart September 9-12 - Improv Comedy Club Cleveland (216) 696-7723. www.jasonstuart.com

National Gay and Lesbian Theater Festival, Sep 9 through 18, Columbus, Ohio. Over two dozen plays, performed by groups from around the country. www.columbus-theatre-festival.com, (614)2639448.

Special Benefit Presentation of Confessions at Buffalo United Artists September 10. www.buffalobua.org/enter1.html

The Best Man at Erie Playhouse, September 16-26, Premiere weekend Sept. 10 & 11. 13 W. 10th Street, (814) 454-2852.

Rocky Horror in Concert at Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Arts 145 W 11th St, Erie PA "September 24 & 25, October 1 & 2 Rocky Horror In Concert! All the songs! Live Band! Party afterwards at The Plymouth!" roadhousetheatre@yahoo.com www.goerie.com/roadhouse/

The Full Monty An Erie Broadway Presentation October 21 at the Warner Theater, 811 State Street Call (814)452-4857

Websites and email lists for appearances by area performers:

Greg Ropp www.gregropp.com

Jocelyn Porter Project www.playerie.com/artists/jocelyn_porter/

Leah Zicari www.leahzicari.com

Two Girls Alone <http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com>
email list: twogirlsalone@att.net

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

A rather busy month here! Most of you have probably heard about the Erie Pride March/Rally on Sunday, October 3. I was previously thinking that we were too close to the event to do it this year, but some folks pushed for it being such an important election. The choices in the presidential race are pretty stark. However, I am taken aback by those who don't seem to think that spending as much as 15 minutes to vote is important. We won't even talk about gay folks who support Bush, which I find unfathomable. I recently got off the dance floor after dancing with a friend, when I overheard someone say something about voting for Bush, that "this is Bush country" (in a gay bar??? I DON'T think so!) and not wanting to even mention the name of the other candidate. Remember? Bush opposed repealing the sodomy laws in Texas when he was governor of Texas. Remember? Bush has been trying to permanently make gay folks second class citizens denied equal rights under the law. I tried to keep my cool around this person. I resisted the urge to ask him if he couldn't start off with something slightly less morally reprehensible, such as, I don't know, selling heroin to pre-schoolers or throwing puppies into a blender. I walked away because I felt so angry.

I talked with someone else recently who admitted that they didn't always vote. This was a very nice young man, and when I pointed out that voting against Bush was effectively a vote for maybe someday being able to marry his boyfriend, he said, "Hmm! I never thought of it that way before." Ka-ching! A point to remember to make to votes thinking of sitting this one out.

Heck, I am single and may remain that way for the rest of my life for all I know, but it's important to not have doors slammed shut. There are many other issues that will determine what happens in this country and the world for decades, not just the next 4 years.

So, what can you do? The most obvious thing is to register to vote (the forms have to be at your County Courthouse by Monday, October 4) and to vote on November 2. Do NOT sit this one out!!!

You can also attend the Pride March/Rally on Sunday, October 3. The reason for the date is that it is the last chance to register to vote and we also hope that people will leave the event enthused. By the way, note that the Vote for Change concert is coming to

the Warner on Friday, October 1, and Ani DiFranco's VOTE DAMMIT tour is coming through that Saturday.

Interested in doing some easy grass-level stuff? Steve Black, the head of PA-GALA will be here to work on forming a Northwest PA chapter of the state-wide GLBT political organization on Sunday, August 29. Details are in the calendar. There is also an Erie chapter of America Coming Together. Check them out at www.act4victory.org or call the local office at (814) 449-3067. There also should be political groups at the Pride Rally. You can spend as much time or effort as you like, and you are guaranteed to feel good afterward.

It was very hard for us to write about the Daryl Williams tragedy. (Yes, that is a rather abrupt shift.) The facts aren't clear, and we are trying to steer between ignoring an important occurrence versus sensationalism. It is also tough judging what is being supportive of individuals in the community versus the community's right to be informed. Hopefully, we got it somewhere close to right.

On an odd note, I thought the recent events around the announcement by Gov. Jim McGreevey was a sign of progress. As noted in this month's National News, he came out as a gay American after details about an extramarital affair with another man came to light. It sounds murky, and there could very well be new details after this goes to press. As I am writing this, his boyfriend, Golan Cipel, was claiming to be straight and the subject of sexual harassment, but another man has stepped forward as having been involved with Cipel while he was with the governor. (I.e. supposedly straight boy may have had another boyfriend on the side.)

What shows progress for our community is the way that some folks reacted. A governor came out, and announced his resignation, and many wondered what the REAL scandal was. That is, just being gay seemed like the good news in whatever the real scandal might or might not be, and something ELSE is the real bad news. It is also important to notice that the governor's approval rating climbed by a few points AFTER coming out.

As bad as things may look, recent events show that we are getting better. All we have to do is keep on going!

Get OUT the Vote!

Some of the area events aimed at getting people registered and voting in this year's very important election.

Erie

Sep 13 - Rock the Vote's "Campus Invasion" is in the works now. At present it looks like they will be in Edinboro University September 13. Check www.rockthevote.com or "B" Sides records in Edinboro.

Oct 1 - Vote for Change comes to Erie With Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne, and Keb Mo.' (Others to be announced). See article on this page. www.moveonpac.org/vfc/

Oct 2 - Ani DiFranco at the Warner. As part of her "VOTE DAMMIT" Tour, Ani will be in Erie at the Warner Theater. Special guest Dan Bern. www.righteousbabe.com

Oct 3- Erie Pride March and Rally (see article on front cover)

Out of Town

Aug 29 - "Pride at the Polls" Voter Registration Drive at Buddies Fest from 3 PM to 6 PM. 31 Johnson Park in downtown Buffalo NY. For more information, visit www.stonewalldemocratswny.org.

Aug 29 - Cleveland Stonewall Democrats Summer Picnic Free annual event to network with candidates and elected officials 1 -4 PM Edgewater Park Upper Level Picnic Pavilion (216) 991-4991 www.clevelandstonewalldemocrats.org/

Oct 1 - Vote for Change Tour comes to Pittsburgh With Dixie Chicks and James Taylor.

Oct 2 -Vote for Change Tour comes to Cleveland with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, R.E.M., Bright Eyes, Dixie Chicks, James Taylor

Oct 30 - "Get Out the Vote" Rally & "Bar Raids" Union Station / Bounce, 2814 Detroit Ave, Cleveland 8 PM. www.clevelandstonewalldemocrats.org

Vote for Change Tour in Erie

by Michael Mahler

As this issue was going to press, it had just been announced that the Vote for Change tour was coming to Erie. Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne and Keb' Mo' are scheduled to perform on Friday, October 1 at 8 PM at the Warner Theatre at 8 PM. All 3 performers are long time political activists in addition to being musicians.

The concert is 2 days before the Erie Pride March/Rally. The Monday after the concert is the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming election

The tour will include approximately 40 shows in 30 cities in 9 battleground states over the course of 10 days. The tour is presented by MoveOn PAC and will benefit the work of Americans Coming Together (ACT). www.moveonpac.org/vfc

In an article in the *Erie Times News* on Wednesday, August 18, reaction from area residents was varied, but civil. Pro-Bush voters and Republican leaders felt that the concert was unlikely to sway voters, but recognized the right of the artists to present their message. Pro-Kerry voters and Democratic leaders were excited and hopefully that the concert would motivate younger people to turn out to vote. The tone of all responses seemed to be quite civil and respectful.

The concert in Erie was apparently a change of venue as the performers were recently scheduled for the same date in Williamsport. Pennsylvania is expected to be a battleground state in this election. Erie is one of the top 10 ad markets for both presidential political campaigns.

Tickets range from \$47.50 to \$57.50 For reservations, call (814) 456-7070 or call www.ticketmaster.com.

The fact that this concert is Erie shows how incredibly important this election is. *Erie Gay News* strongly urges all of its readers to register to vote by no later than Monday, October 4 and to go to the polls and vote on Tuesday, November 2!

YOUR VOTE COUNTS! Register Online

Residents of any state can register online from the home page of *Erie Gay News* www.eriegaynews.com

National News Briefs

by Bob

New Jersey Governor Resigns: Says "I'm Gay"

In surprise announcement, New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey has resigned after acknowledging that he had an extramarital affair with another man. "My truth is that I am a gay American," he said.

"Shamefully, I engaged in adult consensual affairs with another man, which violates my bonds of matrimony," the married father of two said. "It was wrong, it was foolish, it was inexcusable."

McGreevey said he would step down because his secret — both his sexuality and his affair — leaves the governor's office vulnerable. The governor, who took office 2 1/2 years ago, said his resignation would be effective Nov. 15.

California Gay Marriages Ruled Illegal

The California Supreme Court has ruled unanimously that the Mayor of San Francisco overstepped his authority by issuing same-sex marriage licenses this spring. In addition, the court voided all the marriages of gay and lesbian couples sanctioned by the city.

In its ruling, the court said San Francisco violated the law when it issued the certificates and performed the marriage ceremonies since both legislation and a voter-approved measure defined marriage as a union between a man and woman.

However, the court did not resolve the issue of whether the California Constitution permits same-sex marriages, ruling instead on the narrow issue of

whether local officials could bypass California's judicial and legislative branches.

California Chief Justice Ronald George noted that the ruling doesn't address "the substantive legal rights of same sex couples. In actuality, the legal issue before us implicates the interest of all individuals in ensuring that public officials execute their official duties in a manner that respects the limits of the authorities granted to them as officeholders."

Missouri Voters Pass Marriage Ban

Missouri residents have overwhelmingly voted in favor of amending the state's Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. The measure, which easily passed with 71 percent of the vote, was on the state's August primary election ballot.

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest GLBT advocacy group, strongly criticized the vote and the motives behind it.

"This was motivated by politics, pure and simple," said HRC President Cheryl Jacques. "This was part of an effort by President Bush to distract Missourians from the fact that the state has lost almost 80,000 jobs over the past three and half years."

The Missouri vote is being looked at as a test of how upcoming votes on similar proposed constitutional amendments may go in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah. Initiatives are also pending in Michigan, North Dakota and Ohio.

(continued next page)

 PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter
PFLAG: The National Organization for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People

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National News Briefs

Seattle Judge Issues Marriage Ruling

A King County (Washington) Superior Court Judge has issued an articulate ruling in favor of same-sex marriage in the case of eight Seattle-area couples, sending their case on to the state's Supreme Court.

Addressing issues that other courts have either avoided or manipulated, Judge William L. Downing ruled that the fundamental right to marry extends to gay and lesbian couples along with everyone else.

Antigay lawyers and courts have long argued that, while the fundamental right to marry is sacrosanct, there exists no "fundamental right to have a same-sex marriage." They further argue that because the word "marry" refers to a heterosexual activity, the "fundamental right to marry" is inherently a heterosexual right.

Judge Downing rejected this argument in ruling that the right to marry extends to all couples, include those of the same sex. His decision is perhaps the first to take the most direct legal route to a determination that marriage equality is a constitutional mandate.

Most legal observers expect the Washington Supreme Court to put this case on a fast track.

Utah Proposal Could Hurt Heterosexual Couples

All three of the candidates for attorney general of Utah are opposing a proposed state constitutional amendment on marriage that will be considered by voters this November.

The three candidates, including the sitting attorney general, Republican Mark Shurtleff, Democrat Greg Skordas, and Libertarian Andrew McCullough, agree that the amendment is written so broadly it could backfire against heterosexual couples. It could also nullify basic rights for unmarried couples of any sexual orientation.

Erie Pride March/Rally on Sunday, October 1

See details on front page this issue and also at www.eriegaynews.com

The amendment starts out with the usual definition of marriage as "only the legal union between a man and a woman." However, the language goes on to state that "no other domestic status or union, however denominated, between persons is valid or recognized or may be authorized, sanctioned or given the same or substantively equivalent legal effect as a marriage."

In a rare joint statement, the three candidates said the proposed amendment will hurt the residents of Utah by preempting the state legislature from passing virtually any new rights or benefits for unmarried couples.

Falwell Wins Web Site Case

A federal judge has ruled that a gay activist must change the name of a Web site criticizing anti-gay minister the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton ruled that the Web site, fallwell.com, was too similar to Falwell's own name, which the minister has trademarked. The judge also ruled that Christopher Lamparello of New York, operator of the web site, wanted to make a profit by selling a book on his site by an amazon.com link.

Lamparello's attorney, Paul Levy of Public Citizen Litigation Group, told the Associated Press that his client plans to appeal based on his constitutional right to use the domain name.

"Because it's a permissible use of a trademark word to describe the trademark item, the First Amendment protects your right to use that word in a nonconfusing manner," Levy said.

Lamparello's web site features a disclaimer stating that the fallwell.com is not a part of Jerry Falwell Ministries.

Congressional Study Cites Marriage Benefits

A new study conducted by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) says that allowing same-sex couples to marry would have a positive impact on the U.S. federal budget to the tune of an additional \$400 million per year until the end of this decade.

According to the study, allowing same-sex couples to marry would boost federal income tax rev-

National News

enues mainly due to the alleviation of the so-called “marriage penalty” income tax — a glitch in the tax code that prior to last year’s tax-cut legislation, imposed a penalty on newlyweds.

In a letter to Rep. Steve Chabot R-Ohio), who requested the study, CBO Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin said that Social Security payments would also rise over time, as would spending on spousal health insurance benefits for federal workers, if gay couples were allowed to legally marry. However, spending on Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income would fall.

The net impact would be a federal budget savings of nearly \$1 billion per year, assuming that same-sex marriages are legalized in all 50 states and recognized by the federal government, Holtz-Eakin reported.

“The CBO report adds to the growing weight of studies showing that same-sex marriage makes sense from an economic perspective,” noted economist Lee Badgett of the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS).

ABA Eyes New Rules for Judges

The American Bar Association (ABA) is examining changes in its ethics rules that could prohibit judges from belonging to any organization or club that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation.

Judges are already prohibited from joining clubs that discriminate based on race or sex. An ABA panel is now debating whether to make groups that discriminate against gays off limits too.

The ABA is the nation’s largest lawyers’ group with more than 400,000 members, and writes conduct rules for judges and lawyers. States and federal courts generally adopt them, with some changes.

If adopted, the rule would prohibit judges from being involved in such groups as the Boy Scouts that have policies against hiring gays or having homosexual leaders, or some veterans groups that restrict membership to heterosexuals.

The ABA is not expected to vote on any changes until next year. It would be the first overhaul of the rules in more than a decade.

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Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

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No Appointment Necessary

Erie County Health Department

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Wednesday 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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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.
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for in home appointments (HIV testing only).

Quote-Unquote

“The results of more than a century of anthropological research on households, kinship relationships and families, across cultures and through time, provide no support whatsoever for the view that either civilization or viable social orders depend upon marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution.

“Rather, anthropological research supports the conclusion that a vast array of family types, including families built upon same-sex partnerships, can contribute to stable and humane societies.”

— American Anthropological Association,
February 26, 2004

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HIV/AIDS News

by *Patty Puline, Health Educator*

HIV is an STD – fact! People fear HIV, and guard against infection. But few people recognize the connection between HIV and STD. There is a direct correlation between the AIDS virus and STD infection.

Facts:

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are two infections that go together, and can often happen at the same time. Both can be easily spread by oral, vaginal or anal sex. Both can be treated with antibiotics, but can cause serious damage if left undetected, or untreated.

Chlamydia: The # 1 STD

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. More than half of all Chlamydia cases show no outward signs of infection. Only a doctor can diagnose this through a complete medical exam.

If left untreated, Chlamydia may cause infertility in males and females. In men, painful swelling of the testicles (epididymitis) and in females, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) may occur in advanced stages of untreated Chlamydia.

Gonorrhea: The # 2 STD

Gonorrhea is the second most frequently reported STD in the United States. It can infect the urethra, anus, mouth, throat, and vagina or cervix. Symptoms may take as long as 30 days to appear.

Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms occur only 25% of the time for gonorrhea or Chlamydia:

- Fever
- Pain in testicles, lower abdomen
- Yellowish-green purulent discharge
- Burning during urination
- Swelling, soreness of genitals

Stay informed!
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email info@eriegaynews.com

Are gay men more at risk?

Any type of sexual contact can transmit gonorrhea or Chlamydia – vaginal, anal or oral. However, men who have sex with men and practice anal sex are especially at risk. Semen that carries the infection has greater access to the bloodstream through the anus, and dendritic cells in the anal canal have an affinity for HIV.

Some people often show no signs of infection, so it is up to you to practice SAFER sex. There is no such thing as SAFE sex – just SAFER. Condoms are the main form of protection for most forms of sexual activity.

Good News

Both Chlamydia and gonorrhea are totally curable because they are bacterial infections.

Viral infections such as herpes, warts or HPV (human papilloma virus), hepatitis are not curable, and need vaccines for prevention from infection.

How to prevent infection

The only 100% method to avoid being infected is to practice abstinence. Refraining from all forms of sexual contact will maintain your optimum sexual health.

However, if you choose to be sexually active, always wear a condom. Wearing a condom during vaginal, anal or oral sex can help prevent HIV and STD infection.

Tips

- Always wear a condom
- Don't use drugs or alcohol while having sex
- Have sex while sober
- Get to know your partner well before having sex
- Get checked for STD or HIV

The health department provides free, confidential testing for HIV and STD. IF you would like a confidential HIV test, call me at 572-3155 anytime. Here's to your health!

Patty Puline, Health Educator
Erie County Dept of Health
(814) 451-6543
ppuline@ecdh.org

In the Front Row

Gay movie reviews by *Tim and Doug*

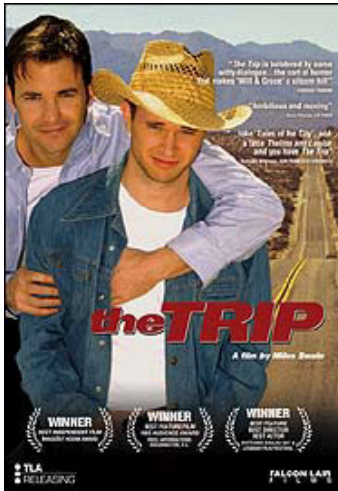
“The Trip”

The homosexual lifestyle has only two ages, the “young and twenty-nine”. For those of you that belong to the latter, “The Trip” will bring back a flood of memories from the past three decades. For the “young”, it provides a brief, humorous history lesson on gay culture over the past thirty years. Either way, “The Trip” is an excellent example of gay cinema and that is why we chose to make it the first movie review for *Erie Gay News*.

“The Trip” traces two parallel stories. First it follows the relationship between Allen, the closeted, republican writer and Tommy, an out and proud activist from Texas. The relationship starts out simple and becomes complicated by hidden truths.

Next, the movie follows the long journey that is the gay rights movement in America. Beginning with the start of the gay rights movement in the early seventies, “The Trip” uses actual news clips to cover such topics as Anita Bryant’s anti gay movement in Florida, Councilman Harvey Milk’s assassination in San Francisco, through the beginning of the AIDS epidemic.

The movie does an excellent job of using music to show the changes over the decades as well as the changes in the relationship between Allen and Tommy. It starts with 70’s classics such as “Bang a Gong; Get it On,” “Shambala,” and Charlie Rich’s “Behind Closed Doors.” It ends with in the nineties with Bruce



Springsteen’s “Cover Me.” There is one really funny scene that involves the Pointer Sister’s eighties hit “Jump” and a striptease. It is amazing how the music does such a great job of expressing what is going on in the relationship and also showing the passing of decades.

Tim: “I saw a love story that made me think and laugh and I listened to a lot of music that I really enjoyed. What more could you ask for from a movie?”

Doug: “The characters were outstanding, especially Jill St. John and Alexis Arquette (David’s younger brother). Jill St. John was hilarious in her portrayal of Allen’s mother. She could be headed for the PFLAG Hall of Fame. Alexis Arquette plays Tommy’s flaming roommate Michael. I love the way Michael’s character and hair styles change with the decades.”

The music and characters combine to make “The Trip” a great movie that is a lot of fun to watch. We give it a five.

“The Trip” is available at most local book and video stores.

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Letters

In defense of marriage

To say that gay marriage threatens the “sanctity of marriage” is about as ludicrous as saying that racial, cultural or biological differences, threaten the purist race.

When are we ever going to really appreciate people for their diversity? For a nation that prides itself for being a melting pot, we sure have done a good job of molding a template of polarized, generic, hateful consumers who view anything different as negative and threatening. Do we realize that gays and lesbians are the sole remaining populous still deemed socially acceptable for public slander? (next to blonde jokes, of course). You wouldn't dare share a racial joke today at the water cooler; but go ahead and poke fun about the “girlie man” who keeps his house immaculate and makes his own curtains and you're sure to win laughs.

What's happening, behind the scenes, is that those people who do this condemnation are actually perpetuating residual side effects upon sexual minorities, many of whom are caring, wonderful people and productive members of society. An overwhelming number of gays and lesbians are recovering alcoholics, and some suffer from depression because they live in a society that devalues their existence. Just go ahead, for fun, try and hide who you truly are for one week (that goes for your spouse, too). Do this for decades and see what it does to your insides.

I met my life-partner, Christine, 12 years ago, and let me inform those who oppose of gays and lesbians:

We are not weirdo child molesters, nor do we perform cult activities in our basement. We are just two ordinary people who are faithfully committed and dedicated to each other. How is this “threatening” to marriage? I think adultery, spousal abuse and down-right meanness to your partner is threatening to marriage in general, not monogamous and steadfast commitment between two consenting adults.

Who am I? I served my country for nearly a decade. I made a difference in my community by working with poor and disadvantaged women. I earned 2 degrees and gave back as a teacher. I am a family caregiver and a devoted daughter. I do my best to be helpful and available to my neighbors. I'm rated the

#1 employee for excellent customer service skills and dedication to the job. Yet, for many, my sexual orientation negates all of this.

I can go on in life with the reality that I may never see gay marriages become legal in this country, but I cannot wholeheartedly enjoy my own pursuit of happiness knowing that gays and lesbians will continue to be seen as second-class citizens. Please people, open your minds and hearts.

**Anonymous (and not by choice)
in Pittsburgh**

HRC Ordinance Change thanks

Congratulations to all who fought so hard and so successfully to retain an active, effective, and properly funded Human Relations Commission in Erie County. At the state level we are extremely proud of your extraordinary efforts to protect the rights of all minorities and wish you success in all of your future Commission activities. Please let us know how we can continue to be supportive and we will be happy to do so whenever we are asked for assistance.

**Stephen A. Glassman, AIA
Chairperson, Pennsylvania Human
Relations Commission**

(continued on next page)

Letters are welcome on relevant topics.

If possible, please email your submission to info@eriegaynews.com Please state that you are sending something in to be considered for publication in the print edition. We are willing to consider withholding your name when printing, but we do require your actual contact info to confirm authenticity.

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Letters

Arlen Specter Is No Friend of the LGBT Community

I am writing to urge readers not to support Arlen Specter in his current run for reelection to the Senate. Many Pennsylvanians see Arlen Specter as a moderate. For some of us Democrats, splitting our ticket to vote for Arlen Specter has been a longtime habit. Some of us remember his opposition to the nomination of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court. That was way back in 1987. In the 17 years since then, Specter has moved far to the right. Here are three of Specter's most outrageous recent votes:

- Supported the nomination of former mining lobbyist and anti-environmental extremist William Myers to the 9th Circuit Court
- Supported the nomination of anti-choice extremist James Leon Holmes to the US District Court of the Eastern District of Arkansas
- Supported the cloture motion to attempt to bring the Federal Marriage Amendment (S.J. Res 40) to a vote in the Senate, voting along with antigay extremist Senators Rick Santorum and Bill Frist.

In the past, Specter would take conservative positions during the primary in order to fire up the Republican base, and then move to the center in order to gain the votes of moderate Democrats. This year, he's not even bothering to pretend to be a moderate. Pennsylvania already has one antigay extremist Senator – Santorum – and we don't need two, especially with at least three Supreme Court justices likely to retire after 2004.

Fortunately, the Democrats are running a strong candidate in Joe Hoeffel, currently the U.S. Congressman representing the 13th District. Joe Hoeffel supports the LGBT community, is firmly pro-choice, and has a fine record on the environment and other progressive issues. Check out his website: www.hoeffelforsenate.com. Joe Hoeffel has supported our community, and he deserves our support in November.

Sincerely,
D Reppert
Conshohocken, PA

Announcements

Edinboro student honored

David Moore, a graduate student at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania has been named a Collaborative for Excellence in Teacher Preparation (CETP-PA) Scholarship winner for the 2004-05 school year. David is seeking his masters degree in education at Edinboro and has also been named the regional student president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

PFLAG News

by PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

PFLAG Activities

We thank those of you who contacted your county council member concerning the Human Relations Commission proposals. As you know by now, they passed unanimously, and have been signed by Rick Schenker.

PFLAG has voter registration forms. If you are not registered to vote, please contact us (phone: 898-8341 or email: pflagerie@adelphia.net), and we will get the forms to you (and deliver them to the courthouse, if you wish.) Remember, if you once were registered, and haven't voted in the past 5 years, your name will no longer be on the rolls, and you should register again.

Meeting Notes

Our next PFLAG support group meeting is, as usual, the second Monday of the month: September 13. The meeting will be at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie, from 7 to 9 PM.

(Take exit 27 off of Rte 90, and go North about a half mile.) In addition to this regularly-scheduled meeting, PFLAG will hold ad hoc meetings, as needed. (For example, for parents who have just recently been informed that their child is gay, or for spouses of GLBT people.) To contact PFLAG, call Maureen (814-898-8341), email us at pflagerie@adelphia.net, or write to: P.O. Box 133, Harborcreek, PA 16421.

Spirituality

Third Sunday W.O.W. Retreat

by Robin Cuneo

Third Sunday W.O.W. will have a Half-Day Spiritual Exploration Retreat Saturday, Sept. 19, 3 PM until whenever. Please bring a friend and a dish to share.

Led mostly by Rev. Sally Jo Snyder and some by Robin Cuneo. We'll explore the labyrinth, journaling, poetry as prayer, prayer beads, etc.

Please RSVP by leaving a message at 716-769-7394 or 814-870-1739 by 5 PM Sept. 17 so we'll know how much stuff to have on hand. (But we'll have extra, so feel free to bring an extra person.)

LOCATION: Pat and Robin Cuneo's yard at Findley Lake, 10143 Meadows Road.

Directions: Take I-90 to I-86 (formerly Route 17, or Southern Tier Expressway.) Take 86 to the Findley Lake exit. Turn R off the exit and go to the blinking red light (only traffic light for miles.) Turn L and drive through the little town. Keeping Jesus on your left (he's painted large on the side of a building) turn R onto Route 426. You'll be hugging the lake. From that turn, Meadows Road is exactly 1.7 miles. Meadows only turns R. If you start going around the lake, you've gone too far. Meadows goes about a block and becomes a "T." Bear R, and its the first on the left, behind the hedges. Please enter through the arbor in the hedges. Please do not park past the driveway. The neighbors go ballistic.

THIRD SUNDAY W.O.W. is an ecumenical group of just folks and some clergy who meet for occasional worship in an atmosphere of love and acceptance for **ALL** people. Those who attend are generally people who are working for change in their own denominations, or no longer feel comfortable in standard houses of worship. And some aren't even "religious" at all. Many find Third Sundays nurture and fellowship unparalleled. We hope you'll join us!

Marriage info & updates

To stay informed and updated on marriage issues and events around the country, visit the **Freedom to Marry** website at www.freedomtomarry.org

Daryl Williams tragedy

by Michael Mahler

On Friday, July 30, Erie resident Daryl Williams, 48 years old, was found dead at his home. He had suffered from multiple sclerosis, and was unable to drink, eat or relieve himself. Williams appeared to be malnourished and covered in filth. The body was infested with fleas, ticks, maggots and apparently had been gnawed on by rats, possibly while Williams was still alive. Emergency responders had to remove the body through a second story window because the debris and waste in the room effectively blocked the door.

His sole caregiver was Raymond Carinci, 49, had just returned from a three day vacation in Las Vegas. Carinci has been suspended from his job as a social studies teacher at Central High School. Carinci is also known to some Erie GLBT's as Ginger, a drag performer.

On Thursday, August 5, Carinci was charged with involuntary manslaughter and reckless endangerment in the death of Daryl Williams. The case has not yet been gone to trial, so EGN is unable to comment fully. The circumstances appear to be grisly and horrific, and we extend our sympathies to the family and friends of all concerned.

On Sunday, August 8, local TV news included a request for information about the case specifically from the GLBT community from Erie Detective John Holmes. I called and spoke with Det. Holmes. The police had received some calls after Williams' death alleging possible neglectful behavior by Carinci, but the callers were unwilling to testify, so therefore the evidence couldn't be used at all. It is hoped that if there is indeed reliable information, that the persons having it will step forward.

It is my belief that the probable reason the police were reaching out to the GLBT community is that Carinci would have been most likely to speak openly with us, as opposed to other segments of the population, with whom Ray would have been more likely to conceal the fact that he was involved with another man. It did not appear to me that they were fishing for other charges possible, but just to get complete evidence about the charges that had already been filed.

Community

LGBT Rights group meets in NW PA

The Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) will hold a Northwestern Pennsylvania Organizing Meeting on Sunday, August 29 from 3 PM until 5 PM in the Admiral Room of the Blasco Erie County Library, 160 Front Street (Holland Street and Bayfront Highway). PA-GALA is the largest LGBT political organization in Pennsylvania with nearly 1,400 members across the state and a mailing list approaching 75,000. PA-GALA seeks to increase involvement by individuals in NWPA. The meeting will focus discussion on voter registration and voter identification; the PA LGBT Civil Rights Bills; the anti-LGBT Birmelein Amendments in the State House; future plans for marriage equality; structure of the PA-GALA NWPA region; and, selection of a representative to the PA-GALA Board. All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information contact Steve Black, PA-GALA Political Director at 610-863-0227 or pagala@epix.net. Visit PA-GALA's on the web at www.pa-gala.org.

Hospice support groups

Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, Inc. offers support groups for anyone who has suffered a loss. Our support groups meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM & every 3rd Thursday of the month at 10 AM. Meetings are at Hospice of Metropolitan Erie, Inc., 202 East 10th Street, Erie, PA 16503, (814) 456-6689

Meeting schedule for August 2004

Tuesday August 10, 2004 at 7 PM

Thursday August 19, 2004 at 10 AM

Pittsburgh's Women's Variety Show

Third Annual Celebrate the Night Women's Variety Show will be held October 2 at the Ober Brau Haus 3340 Liberty Ave. in honor of National Coming Out Day. Poetry, song, comedy music. Followed by a DJ Dance (smoke free event).

For tickets and table reservations call (412)884-5774, advance tickets required. Proceeds benefit Gay & Lesbian Community Center.

Crime Victims Center Workshop

The Crime Victim Center of Erie County is offering a workshop on child abuse and mandated reporting requirements for healthcare workers. During the three-hour workshop participants will learn about the Child Protective Services Law, signs and symptoms of physical, sexual, and mental abuse, what is required of mandated reporters and how to complete a Childline report. Anyone who comes into contact with children during the course of their work is considered a mandated reporter. Last year the Crime Victim Center provided services to 1,280 children - victims of sexual or physical violence. The workshop will be held Thursday, August 26 from 9 AM to noon at the Center, 125 West 18 Street. The workshop is funded by a grant from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Erie County Medical Society Alliance. It is being offered at no charge to participants. Call (814) 455-9414 to register.

Lambda Ball

The Lambda Foundation of Pittsburgh will hold its annual Lambda Ball will be held November 20. The gala event benefits the Foundations work sponsoring gay & lesbian positive projects in the Greater Pittsburgh Area.

The Lambda Foundation exists to foster for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered People educational, social, cultural, health and artistic projects and programs in the Western Pennsylvania Tri-State Area through Grants and Scholarships to Organizations and Individuals. General Grants, Lambda Scholarships, Pittsburgh Tavern Guild Frank Borrelli AIDS Fund, Buzz Pusateri Alpha to Omega AIDS Fund.

The Lambda Foundation was incorporated in 1983. The first grants were awarded in 1984. Over the past 20 years the Foundation has raised nearly a half a million dollars and has granted back to the community nearly \$500,000.

P.O. Box 5169, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. (412) 521-5444 Email lambdapgh@mail.com
www.lambdapgh.com

*Community Announcements appear for free.
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This & That

by Deb Spilko

To find out what's up with the **new fall TV season**, check out PlanetOut, Gay.com and TV Gay Guide at Queery.com. Also The Advocate and Advocate.com always carry a great feature early in September, with a look at the seasons's television shows as well as upcoming films, theater and other arts and entertainment news.

There's a new group for gay seniors that's just starting up in Buffalo. Called **Rainbow Seniors**, the group will get together for socializing and support at Pride Center of Western New York, 18 Trinity Place, Buffalo. If you are interested, call Madeline at (716)875-9809 or Danny at (716)881-7234. Their events will also be listed on the Pride Center's calendar at <http://pridecenterwny.org>

The new Eric Broadway Series has been announced. Among its offerings are **The Full Monty** to the Warner on October 21, and **Stomp** will perform November 3 and 4.

Joanne Lynne Benjamin announces that **WKJCE GLBT Radio** is back on the air at <http://scorpius.spaceports.com/~wkjce/> and it looks like the request server is running again as well.

David Sedaris comes to the area in October: At University at Buffalo Center for the Arts October 16 (716) 645-ARTS. www.ubcfa.org Playhouse Square in Cleveland October 24, www.playhousesquare.com and October 28 to Seton Hill University in Greenville PA ... **Barry Manilow** comes to Pittsburgh's Mellon Arena October 8 and Cleveland's Gund Arena October 15 ... **Melissa Ferrick** comes to Pittsburgh's Club Cafe September 25 ...A reminder that if you are under 21 and you are traveling to a show out of town, it's a good idea to make sure the venue is not 21 and over.

There's a brand-new online group for lesbians in the Jamestown area, called—appropriately enough—**Jamestown NY Lesbians**. It was set up by Faith, and modeled after her very successful online group Buffalo NY Lesbians, which has 222 members. The group talks online and shares activities as well—like monthly dinners, a picnic, and they have even organized a Buffalo NY Lesbians Pool Tournament. “I just wanted women to get together in the cyber world that could turn into real time and make long lasting friendships,” says Faith. “It isn't a

dating site. It has worked so far. We monitor the site for inappropriate language problems. There is a also a chat room. The Jamestown group is new and doesn't really have that many members. It is very hard for me to find the resources in Jamestown to spread the word. I know that the membership will not be as big as the Buffalo group's but I know there are women there wanting to meet others like them that have the same things in common and in desperate need for a friend to reach out to and I'm hoping the group will help them succeed in doing just that. I will also be looking for someone to will help me in creating a lively group for Jamestown, someone who will volunteer to be an owner with me. I just want every lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning woman in Jamestown to know that it cannot be possible without them and they have to get out there and meet, network and stop hiding who we are.” You can link to Jamestown NY Lesbians from the Buffalo NY Lesbians website which is at <http://hometown.aol.com/buffalolez/myhomepage/gaylesbian.html> or email Buffalolez@aol.com

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Sue Bobosky at:

1-800-359-AIDS 2437

