

EGN
Erie Gay News



ERIE PRIDE 2003!

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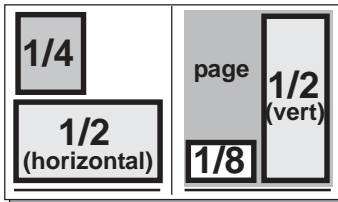
On the Cover...

Marching down State Street

Photo from the 2003 Pride Weekend

by Deb Spilko

EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
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Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

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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 do not necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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Thank You:

To Jerry McCumber, James von Loewe, Marshall and Paul Grubbs for folding and Dave S for distributing last issue. Thanks! Thanks also to Bob for proofing.

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

Calendar

Sep 25 - The Second Chance Prom (Pittsburgh) Sanctuary - Strip District, 1620 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh at 8 PM. "If your prom was a disaster, here's your second chance to do it right at this fantastic event! Prom dress is encouraged, dates are not required!" Event will raise money to directly benefit the clients of the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. Contact: Gina Focareta. Info: commdir@city-net.com or www.patf.org.

Sep 24 - Season Premiere: *Will & Grace* NBC.

Sep 27 - Rainbow Cinema: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Erie PA) 7:30 PM. Feature Film: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Followed by Excerpts: *Eddie Izzard: Dressed to Kill*. Contact: Peter. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: paguy@gmx.net.

Sep 27 - Performance: Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's West 8th & Chestnut, 8 PM - 10 PM.

Sep 27 - The Void at the Boro Bar (Edinboro PA) 117 Meadville St. See article page 21.

Oct 1 - "Always Our Children" meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Oct 1 - Series Premiere: *It's All Relative* ABC Wednesday 8:30 PM. Sitcom involving the parents of an engaged couple: one set of parents is traditional working class Irish Catholic, the other parents are two sophisticated gay dads.

Oct 4 - Pre-Halloween Black Party at the Zone (Erie PA) "Join us for some fun in the dark as we party with the creatures of the night! - Wear black! - black denim, black leather, black lace, black boots or black underwear!" 1711 State Street phone: (814) 459-1711.

Oct 4 - Laura Presutti w/ Combo at Two Friends Italian Market 10th & French, Erie.

Oct 5 - Solidarity Sunday The GLBT Catholic organization Dignity/USA initiated Solidarity Sunday in 1995 as a faith-based way of making their opposition to anti-gay violence visible. Always held the week before National Coming Out Day. Browse to www.dignityusa.org

Oct 6 - Last Day to Register to Vote for November 4 Election

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Dear Members of the Erie GLBT Community,

As a professional financial advisor, I am well aware of the legal and social realities that affect the GLBT community, and how they can affect you from a financial standpoint. That's why I am proud to be a part of the Erie Gay News, and proud to support the GLBT community here in the Erie Area!

With this in mind I would like to offer as a service to the community a complimentary financial consultation with no strings attached. So whether you are single or in a relationship, whether you have a lot of money or a little, Call me today to set up your complimentary financial consultation.

As an added show of support to the GLBT Community, for everyone who meets with me in August or September I will donate \$25 in your name to your favorite GLBT Charity.

Thanks for helping me help the community,
Wally Billingham 814-454-5856 ext.228



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Oct 6-Nov 1 - Big Top of Terror! 5th Annual Haunted Bar! at the Zone (Erie PA) "Lions, and tigers, and Scares!... Oh my! The Dementia Brothers Circus has rolled into town this Halloween and has set up their tent at the Zone! Enjoy a drink with friends as you stroll the Monster Midway, dance the night away under the Big-Top, or have some real carnival food from the Zone's own kitchen! ...but *beware* the Evil Clowns who are looking for victims to join the Circus Freak Side Show! Surprises! Fun! Entertainment!- all month long!!" Zone Dance Club, 1711 State St, phone: (814) 459-1711.

Oct 10 - American Dream & Co. at Rascals (Jamestown NY) Male strippers. 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220.

Oct 10-12 - Load the Boat XIII (Cleveland OH) "It's our annual weekend of GLBT square dancing in Cleveland, sponsored by the Cleveland City Country Dancers." At Ceska Sin Sokol Hall, 4314 Clark Ave Contact: Browse to www.iagsdc.org

Oct 11 - National Coming Out Day

Oct 11 - Menspace meets (Bob's, Erie PA) 7:30 PM. Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com. Browse to <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Oct 11 - Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's West 8th & Chestnut. 8-10 PM

Oct 12 - Jazz Brunch at The Village Supper Club (Erie PA) 133 W 18th St. Noon till whenever. Phone: (814) 452-0125.

Oct 12 - Three Rivers Cruise (Pittsburgh) Station Square, 1 Station Square, 4:30 PM - 9 PM. Boarding time 4:30 PM to 5. Leaves at 5 PM, docks at 8:30 PM. Party till 9 PM. Tickets \$20 in advance. Available at the Zone, 1711 State St, Erie and all Pittsburgh Bars. \$25 (if available!) at the boat. Contact: Zone at (814) 459-1711. Browse to www.gatewayclipper.com.

Oct 13 - 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.

Oct 15 - Deadline for November 2003 edition of Erie Gay News Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Oct 16-18 - Paula Poundstone at Jr's Last Laugh (Erie PA) 1402 State Info: 461-0911.

Oct 17-19 - Fall "Open Door Retreat" (Westminster Highlands, a Presbyterian Camp in Emlenton PA) See article in Community Announcements on page 18. Contact: Lyta Seddig. Email: rseddig@allegheny.edu.

Oct 17-26 - 18th Annual Pittsburgh International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (Pittsburgh PA) Selection of films at various venues dealing with GLBT community. Phone: (412) 232-3277. Email: pilgff@aol.com. Browse to www.pilgff.org.

Oct 18 - 10% Network meets: Potluck Dinner (Jamestown NY) Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown NY. 7:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661.



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Oct 24 - Amateur Strip Night at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220.

Oct 25 - Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's West 8th & Chestnut. 8-10 PM

Oct 29 - Series Premiere: A Minute with Stan Hooper. Sitcom on Fox, Wednesdays 8:30 PM. A Manhattan reporter (Norm McDonald) moves to a small town in Wisconsin, where a gay couple owns a diner.

Oct 30 - Red Hot Halloween (Pittsburgh PA) Sanctuary (Strip District), 1620 Penn Avenue. Benefits the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force & the Pittsburgh International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Phone: (412) 242-2500. Email: commdir@city-net.com. Browse to <http://www.patf.org>.

Oct 31 - Halloween Party at Rascals (Jamestown NY) Costume contest. 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220.

Oct 31 - Halloween Party at The Village (Erie PA) 133 W. 18th St. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

Nov 1 - Big Top of Terror - 3-Ring Halloween Party! at Zone Dance Club (Erie PA) "Come one! Come all, to the Scariest show on earth! - Party the

night away under the Big-Top with your friends as the Dementia Brothers Circus puts on its final show! Prizes!, Fun!, and Excitement! Run away and join the circus! Dress as Evil Clowns or Side-Show Freaks (strong man, snake woman, fortune teller, bearded lady, magician, trapeze artist) Just come and have fun! Get into the Zone! Your bar for Fright and Fun!" 1711 State St, phone: (814) 459-1711.

Nov 4 - Election Day

Nov 5 - "Always Our Children" meets (Erie PA) Catholic Charities, 329 W. 10th St. Phone: (814) 456-2091.

Nov 8 - Miss Jamestown Pageant at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. (716)484-3220.

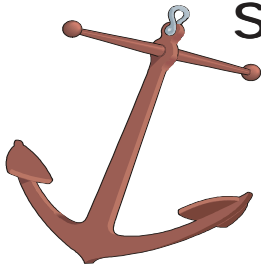
Nov 8 - Laura Presutti at Papa Joe's West 8th & Chestnut. 8-10 PM

Nov 9 - Jazz Brunch at The Village (Erie PA) 133 W. 18th St. Noon til whenever. Phone: (814) 452-0125. Email: village@velocity.net.

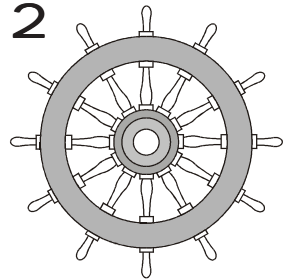
Nov 10 - PFLAG Meeting (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, 7 PM-9 PM. Regular monthly meeting. Contact: Maureen Koseff. Phone: (814) 898-8341. Email: pflagerie@adelphia.net.

Three Rivers Cruise

Sunday, October 12
In Pittsburgh



*Boarding time 4:30 PM till 5
Leaves at 5 PM, docks at 8:30 PM
Party til 9 PM.*



Tickets \$20 in advance

(available at the Zone, 1711 State St, Erie and all Pittsburgh local bars)

\$25 (if available!) at the boat.

Nov 15 - Deadline for December 2003 edition of Erie Gay News Contact: Michael Mahler. Phone: (814) 456-9833. Email: info@eriegaynews.com.

Nov 15 - 10% Network meets: Game Night (Jamestown NY) Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, 7:30 PM. Contact: Don. Phone: (716) 484-1661. Email: donjaye@hotmail.com. Browse to <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com/>.

Nov 22 - Tret Fure in Concert (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, 8 PM. **Leah Zicari** will do opening set. See page 22 for more details. Tickets are \$15 and are available at UU, at Aroma's Coffeeshouse, 2174 W 8th St or from Tomboygirl.com. Phone: (716) 326-7480. Email: tomboygirls@aol.com. Browse to <http://www.tomboygirl.com>.

Nov 20-22 - Fifth Annual Lake Erie Gala (Erie PA) At the Holiday Inn-Downtown in Erie. More info on page 18. You can see a PDF of brochure at www.eriesisters.org/gala03.pdf. Browse to www.eriesisters.org/GALA1.html. email gala@eriesister.org

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

It was thrilling that Pride Weekend was such a success! Kudos to those whose hard work created something enjoyable and uplifting for us all. However, I was recently reminded that Pride can also be an everyday thing. For the past few months, I have been dating man named James. One of our activities is going for a walk with my dog Morgaine Imelda. So we walk through the neighborhood, and generally I hold Morgaine's leash with my right hand, and I hold James' hand with my left. It's sort of a nice, comfy feeling. A while ago, we were sauntering down 9th street, when 3 small boys saw the dog and asked to pet her. This was amusing as the youngest was barely taller than Morgaine stood. Anywho, they gave her some nice pets, and we walked on. James heard one of the boys remark that we were "holding hands like they were married" and then nonchalantly went back to playing.

The closest thing that we had to trouble was when we went to the German Heritage Festival. James' family is from Germany, and he was the first member of his immediate family born in the US. We have sort of been taking a whack at ballroom dance, so when we heard a band playing a waltz and saw folks dancing, we went out on the dance floor and joined in. No problems and some folks smiled. One woman noticed us dancing and later asked me if I knew when the Pride Weekend was. Towards the end, a woman pulled us outside the tent and said that she had "been a lesbian for 13 years." The first thought that ran through my head was "Hmm, and apparently not a very good one." She also said that we were "breaking the heart of the God who made us." I kept calm and politely explained that I felt that James and I were as the Divine wanted us to be. (She then said something again about God and used He. Figuring that since she didn't understand the Gay thing, she probably wasn't clued in to the fact that not everyone is Christian, I came out as a Pagan and referred to God as She. She tried to correct me by saying "He" and I responded with "She!" The nice part is that a (presumably straight) guy standing nearby told James that it was good that we were so out, and everyone else at the festival was pleasant.

I recently started a blog (online diary) at www.eriegaynews.com/mahlerblog, so more pointless blather is available! It's still embryonic, but a neat learning experience for how to set it up.

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(2437)*

*In Erie contact us at:
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Erie, PA 16501
814-456-8849 or 800-400-AIDS*



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Regularly Meeting Groups

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) Non-denominational Christian group for GLBT people. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 7 to 9 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Meadville, 346 Chestnut St. (on Diamond Park, corner of Chestnut & S. Main.) Info: Lyta Seddig at rseddig@allegheny.edu
Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. Info: 1903 W 8th St. Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, browse www.eriesisters.org or email eriesisters@eriesisters.org.

HIV/AIDS Support Group Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 at St. Mark's. Call Cheryl Weber at the St. Martin Center at (814) 452-6113 ext 20 for more info.

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

Identity/EUP Edinboro University GLBT and allies groups. Mondays, 9-11 PM, Women's Center lounge, Room 111, Centennial Hall. Info Gerry Hoffman at (814) 732-2813 or ghoffman@edinboro.edu.

Mercyhurst Rainbow Club Student/faculty group open to non-Mercyhurst folks as well. On hiatus for the summer. For more info, call Jason at (814) 572-5590, or email freakyhippoboy@aol.com.

PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets 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, email pflagerie@adelphia.net or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421.

Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority (PRYSM) (W NY) Southern Chautauqua County group meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday. Northern Chautauqua County group meets 3rd Mon. (716)485-8628. cwhite2@alltel.net. www.gaychautauqua.org/youth.htm

Trigon (Penn State University - Behrend, Multi-Cultural Center Suite, Erie PA) Thursdays at 7:30 PM in Multicultural Center, Reed Union Building. Info Jeff or Danielle/Trigon at trigonpsu@hotmail.com or (814) 898-7162.

Obituary

Sister Mary Louise St. John

Was spiritual companion to gays and lesbians

Sister Mary Louise St. John, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, died Sunday, September 14, 2003 of complications of muscular dystrophy. She was 60.

She was born March 13, 1943, in Glens Falls NY, daughter of the late Joseph and Alvarez DeMarsh St. John.

She entered the community of Regina Mundi in Devon in 1970. In 1978, she transferred to the Erie Benedictine community and professed her perpetual monastic vows at Mount St. Benedict in 1982.

She worked as a cytotechnologist at Regina Mundi in Devon from 1974 to 1976 and as a tutor there from 1976 to 1978. She also tutored students at Mount St. Benedict from 1979 to 1983, served as the business manager of the monastery's Benet Press from 1980 to 1985 and had ministered as a retreat guide and spiritual companion to gays and lesbians since 1985.

She was key to making the Womynspace Coffeehouse a reality in 1989, and she spoke at the 1998 Erie Pride Rally.

An advocate for the rights of people with physical disabilities, she was on the board of directors of Community Resources for Independence in Erie.

She is said to have received the heritage of a fighter from her mother, who fought for her daughter's right to an education at a time when persons with physical disabilities experienced serious discrimination in access to schooling. And throughout her life, she showed great will and ability to overcome the many obstacles she faced.

Those who knew her remember feeling great warmth and understanding from her.

Sister Mary Louise was preceded in death by a sister, Maria Alvarez St. John.

A service of memories was held September 15 at the Mount St. Benedict Monastery.

Memorials may be made to the Mount St. Benedict Monastery chapel renovation fund, 6101 East Lake Road, Erie PA 16511.

You may view or contribute to her guest book until October 15, by visiting www.goerie.com

Erie Pride 2003

Erie Pride Weekend

“We had bigger speakers and more drag queens in Perry Square downtown, so people tended to stick around a little longer,” Erie Pride organizer Abbey Atkinson said in an interview with the Gay People’s Chronicle. “More businesses sponsored us this year, and more came out to the park and participated.”

“The big thing, in my opinion,” she continued, “was the march. Not only are we out of the closet, but have grown too large to be stuck on the sidewalk!”

Check the website for more photos. The Pride 2003 Photo Gallery will be up soon Photos by Deb Spilko

Friday evening



The weekend began with the PFLAG OUTrageous Bingo on Friday, September 12. About 70 people attended, and drag queens participated including Rhiannon Angelina (above), Haley Alexander and Devon. A successful Kick-Off Party at the Village followed with drag performances by Rhiannon Angelina, Haley Alexander, Miss Connie, Taylor Morgan, and Angelica Redd.

The Pride March

On Saturday, the Pride March began at The Village. Chris Young of the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters addressed the crowd. The group of about 100 people marched down State Street, holding banners, rainbow flags, and signs, and shouting slogans like “What do we want?” “Equal Rights!” “When do we want ’em?” “Now!” It was a colorful and inspiring sight.

The 2002 March had gone down Peach Street, with marchers staying on the sidewalks. This year, the marchers traveled right on State Street, with police escorts.

Media that covered the March were Erie Times-News, WSEE TV 35 and WICU-TV 12.



Mark Hoovler and Marshall Snyder in Pride March

Erie Pride 2003

Rally

The Rally in Perry Square drew about 200-300 people over the course of the event. This was about the same amount as last year. Speakers at the Pride Rally included PA Rep. Linda Bebko Jones (D-1st District), Erie Mayor Rick Fillipi, and David Greer, HIV/AIDS Advisory to the Bush Administration. Drag performers followed included Rhiannon Angelina (Miss Village 2003), Haley Alexander (Miss Great Lakes World 2003, Miss Louisiana National), Miss Connie, and Miss Angelica Red (Miss Erie 2003). Organizations with tables at the rally included ACLU, Green Party, NOW, Crime Victim Center, Erie Co. Health Dept, PFLAG, NW PA Trans Family Identity, Trigon, LGLV, 3rd Sunday WOW and Erie Gay News. Businesses at the Rally included Aromas, Papermoon, Edie & Debbie, Ellenbee's, Diverse Universe, DJ Julie, Angelic Pride and Blue Girl Tuesday. Amusement/rides included bounce house, bouncy boxing, and dunking booth.



Marcy Jones, Cyndi Wright, Buffy Beerbower and Jordan at Rally

Police respond quickly



Erie police responded quickly when Abbey Atkinson called to report a group of men who were drinking and making homophobic threats and remarks. Offending persons were moved to the east side of the park, away from the rally.

Also...

The Village had a “**Rainbow Under the Sea**” **Kick Off Party** on Friday with about 200 people attending. About the same number were at the Zone Saturday night for the Rainbow Pride Underwear Party.

Identity had a showing of **Rocky Horror Picture Show Saturday** night. About 57 people attended and interacted with the movie.

About 50 people showed up to watch or play **Dykes vs. Drag Queens** softball at Hagerty Field on Sunday. A slight drizzle didn't seem to stop people from wanting to play. The Dykes won over the Drag Queens 19 to 15.

Following the game, there was a relaxing **Tailgaters' Brunch** at The Village. **Ellenbee's** set up in the game room, offering “rainbow gifts and cards.”

Erie Pride 2003

How did you feel?

This was the first time that a Pride march moved down State Street in Erie. We asked participants who are on the Erie GLBT email list:

How did it feel to be part of a Pride March going down State Street in Erie, Pennsylvania?

I marched Saturday and it was with the most awesome feeling of pride and complete happiness! I felt like I had come home and was with my family.
NattyK

I think that the march on State Street was a big step forward for Erie GLBT organizations. I felt a sense of accomplishment and pride; it sent a meaningful message to the rest of the Erie community that GLBT issues need to be addressed—Thank you for all that participated and helped make the weekend a success!
Carrie Rodgers

Bystanders' reactions



The response from bystanders and people driving by was often supportive, with drivers honking horns and people waving. These ladies sitting by the PNC Bank smiled and waved to the marchers passing by.

I'd like to think that letting us march in the street means that we finally have credibility as a group. Once you have credibility, more people will listen. When more people listen, more people begin to understand you. When more people understand where you are coming from, less people are afraid of you.....anyhow, you get my drift! I think letting us march in the street was a significant step forward! I'm glad Janice and I were able to participate!
Laurie Finch

At first I was a bit nervous, not knowing what to expect, but the "family" atmosphere soon took over and I felt pride in walking with my gay brothers and sisters to affirm our dignity and worth.
Marshall Snyder

I thought it was awesome that we marched down State St. There was not a whole lot of people that got to see that we are fighting for the same things that they have, but that we are willing to do what it takes to get those same rights.
Janice Hanusik

This was my first *ever* pride march and rally. It was satisfying in a spiritually (having that ubiquitous sense of camaraderie in knowing I was with GLBT persons like myself and their supporters), emotionally (feeling empowered and united, as well as safe, with an escort of Erie's Finest), and physically. (In terms of getting my jogging in, keeping up with Roving Reporter Deb Spilko, as she trotted dutifully to get prime pics of the marchers.)

Seriously, it was a great time and I look forward to doing it again.
Jonathan

Erie Pride Weekend was organized by Trigon, the GLBT student group at Penn State Behrend, and PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County.

All Photos by Deb Spilko except those from PFLAG/Bingo Night, which were taken by Mike Mahler.

Erie Pride 2003

Pride committee thanks...

Sponsors of the Pride Weekend included:

Trigon at Penn State Behrend, Erie County Health Department, The Village Supper Club, The Zone Dance Club, PFLAG of Erie/Crawford Counties, Palermo's Deli, Possibilities, Gary Maas & Gary's Flower Shoppe, Modern Adult News, and Erie Battery Alternator & Starters.

Volunteers included:

Gary Maas, Scott King, Michael Lecker, Leslie Clifton, Danielle Stahlbaum, Carrie Rodgers, The Hibbs Family, Mike Watterson, Judy, Trigon members and many more.

Donors of goods used in the Chinese Auction included:

KFC, Arby's, Bruster's Ice Cream, Circuit City Foundation, Scott Enterprises-Splash Lagoon, Veronica's Day Spa, Blue Heron Inn, Healing Touch Massage, Roadhouse Theatre, Lares Floral Design, Pie in the Sky, Whole Foods Co-op, AOL/Time Warner, Sara's Ice Cream, Tobaccoland, Buzz n B's, Buddha's Body Art, JR's Last Laugh, Cinemark - Millcreek 6, Cinemark, Tinseltown, Pride Connection, Bath & Body Works, Holiday Hair, Philip James Hair Studio, Petsmart, Dave Hallman Ford and Salon NRG.

Pride March on State Street September 13, 2003

"Someday I would like to see a gay pride parade in Erie. Wouldn't that be nice?"

***Dee Dee Foll
Erie Gay News
Spring 1993***



PFLAG News

by Maureen Koseff
PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County

Pride Weekend

PFLAG is very grateful for all the hard work Abbey Atkinson did planning and leading the Gay Pride Weekend festivities. We believe it benefited not only the GLBT community, but the public as well, by educating and fostering cohesiveness, understanding and acceptance. We are very much indebted to Abbey for all her hard work. It was a tremendous success! PFLAG is indebted also to Mike Mahler, who again, found numerous ways to help us accomplish our goals. We also thank everyone who attended our bingo fundraiser on Sept 12th. We had a great crowd, making it a big success. We would not have been able to have our bingo game without the help and expertise of Patty Puline. Thanks so much, Patty. Kudos to our drag queens, Rhiannon, Haley and Devon, who set the tone for a happy, fun-filled evening. You did an excellent job! Thank you. Special thanks also to Jeff Hill, Jean and Carl Swanson, John Daly King, and Mark Hoovler for making our bingo party a success.

Lobbying

You are going to hear that word — Lobbying — a lot in the next few months, because election time is here. Please don't forget that the freedom and civil rights we now enjoy (limited as they may be) were achieved only by others' hard work in the past. We need to keep lobbying for our rights so that those in position to enact legislation understand our point of view. On August 26th, PFLAG met with State Representative, Tom Scrimenti, to discuss bills now in the Pennsylvania legislature. They propose adding, "sexual orientation and gender identity or expression" to the proposed amendments to the PA Human Relations Act. Rep. Scrimenti had done research on the bills, independently, and seemed to understand our position well. He responded positively to our views. We hope to meet with other state representatives in the near future.

Again, we urge everyone to make every effort to attend the PA State Human Relations Commission meetings on Monday, September 22nd at the Avalon hotel. Public attendance is permitted from 11 AM on. We need a good turnout in order to make a

statement to our county officials that the Erie County Human Relations Commission must stay. It is in grave danger of being eradicated. In addition to attending the September 22 meetings as a public statement, we must send letters to County Executive Rick Schenker and County Council members, urging them to keep the Human Relations Commission alive.

MEETING NOTES: Our October support group meeting is Monday, Oct. 13th, 7-9 PM at the Unitarian Church on Route 97, Erie. Please contact Maureen (phone: 898-8341 or email: pflagerie@adelphia.net) if you have questions, or if you want to attend our "Straight Spouse Support Group" meetings.

Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets 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 email pflagerie@adelphia.net



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Your Health Focus...

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by *Christine D. Hudak, MD*

In some way, breast cancer will touch all of our lives. My grandmother had breast cancer, as well as one of my aunts and my best friend. Though October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I can often be heard saying "Every month is breast cancer awareness month!"

Every year there are 240,000 new cases of breast cancer in the United States. But, breast cancer does not have to be a death sentence: there are 40,000 deaths each year from breast cancer – only a fraction of the total number of cases. Breast cancer treatment has become quite advanced recently, and the cure rate has gone way up to 90% in cancers that are detected early. If cancers are detected later in the disease, our odds of cure are only 50/50 – a figure that has not improved over the last 25 years despite our technologic advances.

So, how do we detect breast cancer in its early stages? For now, we primarily rely on the mammogram and breast exam. OK – I know mammograms are not a pleasant test. They can be uncomfortable – both from some physical discomfort during the test, and the embarrassment of having to put your breast on a plexiglass plate in front of a total stranger! However, mammograms can detect breast cancer very early – before it can ever be felt on an exam. These are the cancers that we have a high success rate of curing.

Mammograms are not a perfect test – they can miss 10% of breast cancers. That's why it's important to still have a physician breast exam once a year, and to try to do a self breast exam monthly. New screening methods are being researched, but for now this is the best we have.

Many women don't get mammograms because they do not think they are at risk. I often hear "Well, it doesn't run in my family," or "I feel fine – if I felt something then I would have it checked." The fact is that most women who get breast cancer do not have a family history, and waiting until you feel a lump might be too late. There are some factors that do increase a person's chance of getting breast cancer: family history, late age at first pregnancy, or never having been pregnant or never having breastfed are some examples. Many lesbians have these risk factors and so need to be especially vigilant.

In my story, my grandmother got cancer late in life and went to heaven at the age of 90, and my aunt and best friend who were both diagnosed before the age of 50 are *cured*. So this month, don't miss the opportunity to ask the women you love to make sure they go for breast cancer screening. For additional information you can check out the following web sites: www.4woman.gov, www.mautnerproject.org, and www.cancer.org.

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.

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National News Briefs

by Bob

TV's "Gay Summer" Not Good News for All

The reality dating show "Boy Meets Boy" had more than its share of controversy, but for one participant, it meant the loss of his job because he is gay.

Michael Tiner, 26, who went by his middle name, Jason, on the show, was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy after violating the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Tiner was one of the first contestants eliminated from the show. At the time of his discharge, he was a combat systems instructor based in San Diego and taught at the Navy's Submarine Learning Center.

"It's another example of the double standard that exists in the military," said Steve Ralls, a spokesman with the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). "If he'd been a heterosexual member on a heterosexual dating show, it would've been a nonissue. I think fair-minded Americans will see that Jason has been held to a double standard and will be outraged that the military has lost his talents because he's gay."

Winning Pays Big Bucks

Chip Arndt and Reichen Lehmkuhl will be the first to admit that they were surprised when they won "The Amazing Race" this summer taking home the \$1 million prize. The gay couple, who the show consistently identified as married, said their victory also shined the spotlight on another race — the battle for equality.

The couple played up the fact that they didn't win because they were gay; they took first place because they were strong competitors.

"When we went into this and found out that we were going to be on the 'Race,' we said, 'We're gay and we'd like to show America that gay people can do anything straight people can do,'" said Reichen, a former U.S. Air Force officer and current flight instructor. "There's such a stereotype of the feminine, homosexual male and we wanted to break that and show that we can do anything."

Three Transgender Women Killed

Illegal silicone injections have killed three transgender women in the Houston area in recent months.

According to the Associated Press, the most recent victim was 22 and died just days after receiving silicone injections from Guadalupe Camarena, 32. The older woman was charged with aggravated assault and is free on \$50,000 bond.

Brenda Thomas, a transsexual activist in Houston, told AP the practice of injecting silicone is not uncommon.

"These girls didn't want to wait three to five years for hormone-induced breasts to grow," she said.

The practice of injecting silicone is not approved by plastic surgeons and is outlawed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Health officials warn that while injected silicone may enlarge breasts, buttocks, cheeks and other body parts for the short term, the end result can be disfiguring as the silicone migrates, changes shape or hardens.

(continued next page)

American Women's Services

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Downtown Erie

National News

(continued from previous page)

More Companies Becoming Gay Friendly

According to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a growing number of the nation's largest companies are now considered "gay-friendly."

The 2003 HRC Corporate Equality Index gives the 250 companies listed a score between zero and 100 based on how they treat their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees, consumers and investors. The companies in the index were compiled from the Fortune 500 and the Forbes list of the 200 largest privately held firms.

This year, the index saw the number of firms with a perfect score nearly double. In addition, no firms received a zero score, 80 improved their scores from last year and 95 percent of the companies now have a sexual orientation nondiscrimination policy.

The index lists 21 firms with perfect scores of 100, including first-timers Bank One Corp., Capital One Financial Corp., Hewlett-Packard Co., IBM Corp., Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., Levi Strauss and Co., MetLife Inc., PG&E Corp., Prudential Financial Inc. and S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.

North Carolina County Extends Benefits

Durham County, North Carolina has become the first county in that state to grant health insurance to same-sex domestic partners of county employees.

The unanimous 5-0 vote of the County Commissioners followed 10 months of debate on the issue, but opponents have vowed to sue over the decision, according to the Durham Herald-Sun.

County employees requested the change after the cities of Durham, Chapel Hill and Carrboro extended similar benefits to city workers.

"Gay" Billboard Banned

While Durham County officials are looking ahead, others in North Carolina are going in the other direction.

Apparently the word "gay" is too much for some people in Charlotte, the state's largest city. An Atlanta-based outdoor advertising company has rejected a billboard campaign sponsored by Charlotte youth group Time Out Youth, because the group's slogan contains the word "gay."

Adams Outdoor Advertising told Time Out Youth officials that its slogan, "It's okay to be gay," would be offensive to some groups and will only allow billboards without the word "gay."

In 2001, the same advertising company allowed Time Out Youth to put up five billboards carrying the slogan "We are your gay youth."

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CDC -New AIDS Cases Rose in 2002

AIDS Continues to Rise in Gay Community

from Patty Puline
Erie County Department of Health

The number of gay and bisexual men contracting HIV has risen for the third consecutive year. The number of new cases overall rose by 2.2 percent last year, but among gay and bi men the increase was 7.1 percent. Over the past three years the increase is a staggering 17.7 percent. (CDC 2002 statistics)

"These numbers are a national tragedy and should be seen as a wake-up call that we need a swift and sweeping national commitment to a comprehensive science-based prevention plan to combat HIV/AIDS in this country," said Human Rights Campaign Political Director Winnie Stachelberg.

The CDC is chopping funds to HIV prevention groups under a new strategy that will concentrate on people already infected. Some \$42 million is being diverted from prevention programs primarily aimed at gays and African Americans, two of the largest groups most susceptible to HIV/AIDS. Some of the programs, aimed at gay men, have come under attack from the far right for being too blatant. A series of San Francisco safe sex workshops have been called "*how-to classes on homosexual sex*". Funds have been cut to some organizations such as Stop AIDS, a San Francisco prevention program, by Doreen Brandt 365Gay.com Newscenter Washington Bureau ©365Gay.com® 2003

How do we continue to reach the GLBT population with funding being directly cut to these groups? The Erie County Dept of Health has education programs available for GLBT groups. Please call Patty

Puline, HIV Health Educator to schedule a class for your group. "Sexy is Safer Sex" is a fun, interactive HIV prevention program. To contact Patty, call 451-6543 or email ppuline@ecdh.org.

Statistics for the United States reveal 42,136 AIDS diagnoses last year, a 2.2 percent increase from the previous year and the first rise since 1993. The increase in HIV cases continue to rise because people are not diagnosed early enough and pass the infection to others before they know they have HIV. I remember how difficult it was for my friend, who died of AIDS last year, to adhere to complex HIV drug regimens. They often made him sick, and forgetful (one of the side effects of AIDS medications). He took the time to speak to younger generations that do not remember the devastation of the AIDS epidemic, or have a lack of concern because of life-extending AIDS-treatment drugs. To convince them of the reality of HIV, he often spilled out his meds on the desks, and then it was obvious that this was the reality of living with AIDS.

In Erie, Pennsylvania, the Erie County Dept of Health has confirmed fifteen cases of AIDS reported in Erie County in 2003, compared with 14 reported cases for all of 2002. Twelve cases were reported in 2001. Erie County Department of Health has seen this increase because the data changes regularly. New laws put into effect in October, 2003 mandate reporting of HIV infection, whereas before only AIDS cases were being reported in our state. For instance, if someone moves to Erie, but is diagnosed in Ohio, the "case" remains counted as an Ohio statistic. It will be some time before these numbers are clear.

HIV Counseling and Testing is available at the Erie County Dept of Health. Testing is available through STD Clinic and HIV clinic. Call 451-6700 to schedule and appointment. HIV testing is free, anonymous and confidential. Early testing is essential for early treatment.



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

Support, Education, Advocacy
for GLBT People, their families and friends

(814) 898-8341

pflagerie@adelphia.net

PFLAG-TNET marchadenise@hotmail.com

North Atlantic Transgender Coordinator

OUR DEADLINE

for ads, articles, calendar
announcements, letters and emails is the

15th of the month!

Community announcements

Erie Sisters host Lake Erie Gala

from *Erie Sisters*

Our fifth annual Lake Erie Gala is November 20-22 [Thursday, Friday, Saturday] at the Holiday Inn - Downtown in Erie.

Our event is an inexpensive crossdressing weekend and insanely affordable if you room with another girl. Fifty-four great gals attended last year's event and we had too much fun hanging out explaining crossdressing to the Princeton Women's Hockey Team! The Holiday Inn is a great host and very accepting of the TG community. We venture out for day wine-tasting tours and shopping. At night there is dinner and entertainment, followed by dancing at two TG-Friendly clubs within walking distance. We're also planning a first-ever trip to JR's Last Laugh Comedy Club on Thursday night! We again plan to have some excellent vendors, including Miz Moe (clothing and jewelry consignment), Veronica's Day Spa (nails, makeup and other beauty services, Herman J's Photo Studio and Wigs By Carrie. Erie Sisters is again proud to announce our featured headliner is the brassy-but-still-classy Ms. Eda Bagel, a Pittsburgh transgendered entertainer known nationally for her impersonation of Carol Burnett. Bagel's show was absolutely fabulous last year! The former Miss Pegasus 2001, as always, promises us another unique show in November!

You can see a PDF of the brochure at www.eriesisters.org/gala03.pdf. Email: gala@eriesister.org. Browse to www.eriesisters.org/GALA1.html.

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start something??**

Announce it here!

Please include contact information

"Open Door Retreat"

From Lyta Seddig

Open Door" Retreat - ecumenical retreat for LGBTQs and their friends and supporters

Friday, October 17 (arrive after supper, no formal program that evening) through Sunday, October 19 (leave after lunch). Location: Westminster Highlands, Emlenton PA (directions sent to those who register)

Theme: "Letting Go" (of those who hate)

Cost: \$45, plus a bit for food (We're doing our own cooking). Bring sleeping bags or bedding, towels, and pillows.

Send a \$15 deposit (checks made out to Lyta Seddig, 396 Byllesby Avenue, Meadville, PA 16335) by **October 7.**

Questions? Call Lyta at (814)724-1832, or email rseddig@allegheny.edu or lseddig@mercyhurst.edu.

Important information about American Women's Health Services

By the time this is published, American Women's Health Services is expected to have begun performing abortions in its Erie clinic.

We mention this because the clinic runs an ad in this publication that advertises free STD treatment and counseling, free breast cancer screening, free condoms, and other services.

We wish to make our readers aware of the abortion services, so that persons who use the services listed in the EGN ad aren't completely taken by surprise. This could be particularly confusing if someone going to the clinic for a free mammogram or condoms unexpectedly encounters a line of protesters.

We also would like to hear about any experiences our readers might have with the American Women's Health Services office in Erie

-Deb Spilko.

Letters

The obtrusive rise of religious fundamentalism in the United States of America

As I watch the news each day in the U.S., I am alarmed at the rise of religious intolerance on the part of many where no religious beliefs at all should be self-evident. In Alabama, we have the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court defying a Federal Court, which has ordered the removal of a granite monument to the Ten Commandments that has been set up inside of the justice building. This legal battle has been raging on for about 6 years now, and still this monument to one of the tenants of the Christian faith is still in place.


Why as a Christian, Catholic clergy member should this bother me? It bothers me because it violates one of the principles of our democracy, separation of Church and State. I don't want the State in my business, and I don't want to be in the State's business. But beyond that, what does this say when non-Chris-

tians enter into that building? What if it were a copy of the Koran, instead of the Ten Commandments? Would the people of Alabama be just as happy to have that monument to religion in their justice building? Would a Hindu shrine be out of place in another part of the lobby?

The theory goes that our country and laws are founded on Christianity. Well, in fact, our laws are based on Old English Common law, and have grown since then through *stare decisis*. But if one concedes that somehow all of our laws come down to us through the Ten Commandments, how does that make all equal under the law if one is not a Christian? Do we not promise equal treatment under the law? Is not Lady Liberty blindfolded? How does a defendant who is an atheist, or of another religion, Christian or not, *know* that he is being treated fairly because of his personal beliefs?

This is the reason that religion must be kept out of the Courtroom and out of our Justice system. I have seen first hand, in the case of *Michigan v. Batey*,

(continued next page)



Oral HIV testing now available

HIV Clinic

STD Clinic
451-6700

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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) 451-6727

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)

Letters

(continued from previous page)

1998, where Christian prejudice played a role in creating a kangaroo court whereupon a gay man was unfairly tried, convicted, and sentenced to 45 years in jail because he allegedly gave oral sex to his 16-year-old nephew. A charge the nephew later withdrew.

Now, it seems our good politicians, our elected representatives including the President of the United States, who was put in the White House to represent *all* the people, has called gay people sinners when it comes to same-sex marriage. He is not alone. Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania also felt free to spout his bigotry regarding the rights of gay people to have private consensual sex; the same right the rest of America takes for granted. How many politicians daily, some on the floor of the People's Congress, make statements that separate, stigmatize, and discriminate against the gay, lesbian, bisexual population of this great country? Where does it give the people we elect to power the right under law to divide us, and downgrade our citizenship? How about we put all Italians in second-class status and tell them they can't have sex? Think that would work?

Not for my Italian friends, that's for sure.

So we have the courts, the legislatures and many, many churches wringing their hands in angst over the plight of society because of the "phenomenon" (The Vatican's term) of homosexuality. All this is religion-based hysteria. All in an attempt to protect the "institution of marriage" and the "family". Well here is a news flash: The institution of marriage and the family have been in trouble for 50 years, and it has nothing to do with gay people. It has to do with human nature, *nature*, in that people fail to make the ideal the reality of life.

So, it is with great temperance that I say that we have not only religious fundamentalism in the Middle East to fear, but our very own home grown full-fledged, whip me with a chain, fanatics that would burn your house down as soon as spit in your eye. Many hate groups such as the KKK, and the American Nazi Party, have at their core, a fervent Christian fever lapping at their sheets and armbands. Never since its inception, has the United States Constitution been in such danger as it is now. Ashcroft is running around Washington shooting holes in the Constitution, watering down the very rights of the American people that we have come to learn about in school, and count on to keep the state in check. The President is fumbling behind the scenes with far right Republicans fashioning an amendment to the Constitution that will for the first time, single out a specific group of Americans, and take away a right that the rest of America enjoys as a matter of life. So much for the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Americans, gay and straight, beware, as Rev. Martin Niemöller, an anti-Nazi Lutheran minister said, "When the Nazis arrested the Communists, I said nothing; after all, I was not a Communist; when they locked up the Social Democrats, I said nothing; after all, I was not a Social Democrat. When they arrested the trade unionists, I said nothing; after all, I was not a trade unionist. When they arrested the Jews, I said nothing; after all, I was not a Jew. When they arrested me, there was no longer anyone who could protest."

Those who refuse to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.

Most Reverend Bruce J. Simpson, PhD
Archbishop Benedictine Order of St. John the Beloved, an Old Catholic Religious Order
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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.

Music

Return of The Void

by Greg Ropp

Once upon a time there was a band called The Void.

They were from a little nowhere place called Edinboro. In the course of less than 7 years they performed hundreds of live shows and over 15 people would be members of the band. Three albums were recorded and released, shows were largely bootlegged and traded amongst fans. The critics loved 'em. The press ate 'em up. Eventually The Void was voted as one of Erie's best original bands of all time and holds that distinction to this very day.

The 1980's were an odd time. The Void were an odd band.

They played mostly original material when other bands played covers, they attracted hippies and head bangers to their shows, and they mixed every kind of music imaginable into some kind of cohesive whole.

I was the lead singer and songwriter for The Void.

I guess you could say, looking back, that we were pretty cool. Hahaha...

I walked away from The Void in 1994 for many reasons, not the least of which was a decision to live... and vowed never to return to the rock scene...and I kept that promise.

In 1998 I released an album of tracks under the name of 5 Empty Chambers called "Wasted & Spent". I used studio only musicians and with the exceptions of two parties, never played any of the songs with a full band in a live setting.

"Wasted and Spent" was given 4 star reviews, earned a place on several top 10 lists (which included major artists as well) and landed 5 Empty Chambers as Best Original Band in Erie County. (Sort of funny considering we were never really a band to begin with...)

Since then I have concentrated on film soundtracks, live acoustic shows, and kept away from the entire rock scene.

...Well... until now... lol

This September 27th, 5 Empty Chambers is debuting as a full fledged live band!

And *yes*, I am returning to the stage and have never been happier.

For those of you who have asked, YES, we are performing tons of Void material as well as stuff off of the "Wasted & Spent" CD, most of which has never been performed live. Expect lots of new material too!

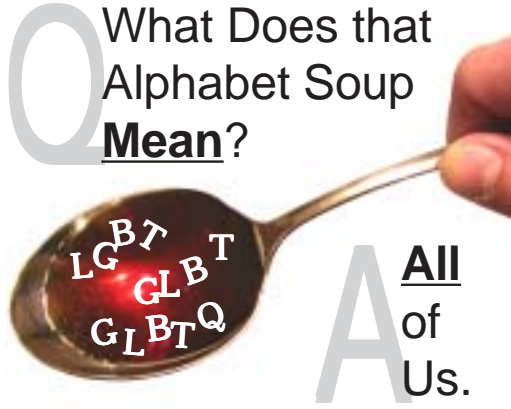
Duane Krautter, original member of The Void, returns as lead guitar player. Jack Dearborn, the drummer on the "Wasted & Spent" CD is back with us, Dave Hale, long time friend and fan joins us on bass and newbie Charlie Meyer fleshes things out with his killer keys!

Expect a party...

Many dates are currently in the works, but only one has been confirmed: September 27th at the Boro Bar in Edinboro. (The birthplace of The Void). Special guest Zomo will be opening for us and a great time is guaranteed! ZOMO ROCKS by the way so get there early to see them!!!

Hope to see you all on this little "tour" these next few months.

Peace,
And thanks!
-Greg



Q What Does that Alphabet Soup Mean?

A All of Us.

Because we want to be inclusive and it's just too hard to say "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning" and so forth all the time, we will use "GLBT", "LGBT" or "GLBTQ" instead.

Entertainment Notes

by Deb Spilko

On stage

Great news for area fans of lesbian/women's music!

Tret Fure will be performing in Erie November 22 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie 7180 Perry Hiway. **Leah Zicari** will perform the opening set.

If you aren't familiar with Tret's music, you'll want to visit her website to enjoy some online samples. Check out Tret Fure's music at www.tretfure.com

Leah's tunes can be sampled at her website: www.leahzicari.com

Tickets for the concert are \$15 and available at the UU church, Aromas (2174 W. 8th 814-456-5282) or by calling 716-326-7480 or online at www.tomboygirl.com

From Tret's website:

"In the early 1970s, when mainstream music was largely inaccessible to women, Tret set about rewriting the rules...becoming a writer, producer, engineer, vocalist, and gifted instrumentalist.

"After becoming one of the first women sound engineers in the country, she left the mainstream music industry. Armed with a fierce desire to retain full artistic control, Fure began exploring the independent side of the industry and soon discovered the blossoming genre known as Women's Music.

"In 1981, Fure engineered a children's record for singer-songwriter Cris Williamson. She subsequently produced and engineered Williamson's next five solo projects as well as the three releases they recorded as a duo: *Postcards from Paradise*, *Between the Covers* and *Radio Quiet*.

"Fure's acclaimed solo releases include *Terminal Hold*, *Edges of the Heart*, *Time Turns the Moon*, and *Back Home*, which took both "Album of the Year" and "Single of the Year" awards for 2001 from *Outvoice Top 40*.

"Fure has just released her latest and best work to date, *My Shoes*, which stands to earn her further acclaim in 2003. Each collection spotlights Fure's gift for creating lyrical and musical vignettes. Whether it is her signature disarming piano ballad 'That Side of the Moon,' the moving and beautiful story of her Norwe-

gian grandparents "Ancestors," or the gorgeous love song, 'Dream Time,' Fure's words transform inaccessible and complex emotions into that which listeners can viscerally touch."

Bars

Coyote Blue Bar and Night Club has now become, as they phrase it, "Dunkirk's first alternative lifestyle restaurant, bar, and night club." Haven't made it there yet myself but here's some of the information they gave us: "We are now open. We've also decided to go with 18 & over, with proper ID, of course! Open from 6 PM to 2 AM every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. Large private parking lot, motel on site." They are located at 3731 Lake Shore Drive East (Route 5), Dunkirk, NY 14048. For info call: (716) 363-1136 Email: lalunacoyoteblue@netsync.net

Gary from Jamestown's **Rascals** Bar says they will soon be opening their kitchen. "It'll be chicken wings, chicken strips, deep-fried stuff to start with," he said. "Then as we get used to it we hope to expand the menu."

Film

The **18th Annual Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival** will take place October 17-26. Scheduled offerings include features, documentaries, and shorts. Visit their website at www.pilgff.org/contact.htm to find out about schedules, venues, film descriptions and more.

Where can you pick up EGN?

Check our website at
www.eriegaynews.com

Resources Directory

This is an abbreviated listing! For a complete listing, either go to www.eriegaynews.com/resources.html or call us at (814) 456-9833. All phone numbers are (814) unless otherwise noted.

Accommodations

- Camp Davis (724) 637-2402
 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers PA
 Jones Pond Campground (716) 567-8100
 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica NY

Bars

- Rascals (716) 484-3220
 701 N Main St., Jamestown NY, 3 PM to 2 AM 7 days a week
 Sneakers (716) 484-8816
 Village Supper Club 452-0125
 133 W 18th St., Erie PA. Open 8 PM to 2 AM Mon-Sun
 Zone Dance Club 459-1711
 1711 State St., Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat.

Coffeehouses & Restaurants

- Aroma's Coffeehouse 456-5282
 2174 W 8th St., Erie PA
 Matthew's Trattoria 459-6458
 153 E 13th St., Erie PA
 Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe 455-1292
 402 W 8th St., Erie PA
 papermoon 455-7766
 1325 State St., Erie PA

Counseling

- Community Integration Crisis Services 456-2014
 1330 W 26th St., Erie PA toll free # (800) 300-9558
 David J Johnson, PHD 838-9408
 Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009

Groups

For regularly meeting groups, see the Calendar

Health

- Community Health Net 454-4530
 1202 State St, Erie PA
 Erie County Dept of Health 451-6700
 606 W 2nd St., Erie PA
 Healing Touch Therapeutic Massage 452-2812
 410 Cranberry St., Ste 130, Erie PA
 NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance 456-8849
 1001 State St., Ste 806, Erie PA

HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing

- Community Health Net 454-4530
 1202 State St, Erie PA (No appointment necessary)
 Erie County Dept of Health 451-6700
 606 W 2nd St., Erie PA. Mon: 12 noon to 3:30 PM, Tue 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Other times by appt.
 Minority Health Education and Delivery System (MHEDS). 453-6229

2928 Peach St., Erie PA. Open to all races/ethnicities. Call for appt.

Infolines

- Erie Gay News 456-9833
www.eriegaynews.com
 Erie Gay Teens www.eriegayteens.com
 Gay Chautauqua (877)235-4188
www.gaychautauqua.org

Professional Services

- Patty Ambrose (Lawyer) 452-3069
 John Cooper (Lawyer) 455-3436
 Linda Foll-Johnson, Realtor 864-3200 ext 325
 Tom NeCastro, Realtor 452-2100 ext 125
 Levine Law Office 454-3819

Retail

- Lake Erie Antique Gallery 836-7555
 9 Village West, 3330 W 26th St., Erie PA
 Larese Floral Design 461-0904
 2602 Myrtle St., Erie PA



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 Erie PA 16502

EGN will be mailed
 discreetly in a plain
 envelope every month
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All information held in confidence.

No way Donny has been here for 30 years, just look at him!



Donny's 30th Anniversary Celebration

Prizes, Specials & Fun

Daily Prizes

Aug. 16 - Oct. 12

Weekly Prizes

Apr. 18 - Oct. 12

All names will have a chance to win the Grand Prize:

**An all-expenses paid 7-day
Caribbean cruise for two.**

Grand Prize drawing:

Sunday, October 12

Winner has one week to claim the prize or
another name will be chosen. No purchase is necessary.

Open Bar!

**Sat., Oct. 11, 8-10pm
plus free food**

**All Bars open
at 8 p.m.**

Open Bar!

**After the Fall Boat Ride,
Oct. 12, 9-10pm
plus Free food**

Two Additional Prizes!

Everyone who enters is also eligible to win

one of two trips to Niagara Falls

Must be present to win.

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Monday - Saturday: 4pm-2am • Sunday: 3pm-2am

ATM Machine for your convenience • Always Free Parking

designated drivers always recommended • condoms save lives, there's living proof!

Many thanks to Bob and the Zone Dance Club for their support!