



Erie Gay Community Newsletter

June/Summer, 1993 — Special Pride Issue!!!

☛ = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

Events & Happenings

Important Note: Events listed here are specifically gay or of interest to a lot of lesbian/gay people. If you know of an event that should be listed here, please get the info to us by the 20th of the month. For out of town events, call a day or two before to confirm that it is still on; mistakes can occur and circumstances can change at the last moment. Also, please note our email address! From CompuServe, 70431,1622 or from Internet 70431.1622@compuserve.com

☛ **Jun 5—Bridges Dance "Somewhere Over the Pride Rainbow"** Sponsored by Bridges. At Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, from 8pm to 1 am. Open to all our friends. \$5 per person, \$4 with non-perishable item for AIDS Council of Erie County food pantry. Also at the dance, you'll be able to buy cassette tapes by lesbian musician Leah Zicari. ☎ Jacquelyn at (814) 455-0549 or Michael at (814) 456-9833 for more info or write to Bridges.

☛ **Jun 5—5th Annual AIDS Benefit/Reverse Raffle** At the Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge Street, Ashtabula, OH. Ticket price includes all you can drink & eat 7pm til midnight. \$40.00 donation, \$20.00 guest (guest price does not include raffle). Top prize \$500. "Our goal is to beat the \$1,000 raised last year."

☛ **Jun 6—LGLV-Erie Monthly Meeting** At AIDS Council of Erie County, Inc, 554 East 10th Street, Erie, PA at 5 pm.

☛ **Jun 6—Annual Gearing Up for Summer Party** At Ellicott Creek Park, Casino, Buffalo; 1-7 pm; pop, beer, lunch, music & dancing, entertainment.

☛ **Jun 10-12—The Sum of Us** Presented by the Erie Playhouse. A widowed father, concerned about his son's homosexuality, sacrifices his own need for love in order to find his son a lover. In the process, questions

arise about parental influence. This touching play, by David Stevens, explores the problems of a unique father-son relationship as the two men struggle to help each other find happiness. Directed by Randy Trapper. All shows performed at Mercyhurst Little Theatre. Part of "View Life from a Different Perspective" play series. All seats \$7. Call 454-2852 for reservations.

☛ **Jun 11—Men's Coffeehouse** Game/Potluck. At 7 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. Bring a dish and *dish!* Bring an indoor or outdoor game!

☛ **Jun 11—Brian Leonard Productions "All Male Revue"** at Lizzie Bordon's Showtime 11:30-1:00 am. 3412 West 12th Street, Erie.

☛ **Jun 12—Pride Picnic** Moved to September 5 Bridges Festival. More details next month

☛ **Jun 12—Stampede on Buffalo-The Party** Reunion of March on Washington. 9:00 pm to 1:00 am. Unitarian Universalist Church, Elmwood & West Ferry. Admission (sliding scale) \$2-\$5. Pizza, chickenwings, veggies, sweets, beer wine, soda...and dancing.

Jun 12—Cris Williamson & Tret Fure in Concert (Not!) There will definitely be no Cris or Tret on this date, though we're told that they'll be performing in the future. We'll try to keep you up to date on this.

☛ **Jun 12—"Gay Pride Story Time for Children in Honor of Gay History Month"** At Borders Book Store. 11:00 am. Borders is a straight book store in a suburban shopping mall outside of Cleveland (La Place Center at corner of Richmond Road & Cedar in Beachwood, OH) ☎ (216)292-2660

Jun 12—Rainbow of Love Concert (Rescheduled for September) More details later. Gala AIDS Benefit to be held in Cleveland with all proceeds going to Cleveland-area AIDS programs. Volunteers and support or services are needed. ☎ (216)582-3703 or (216)861-5916

➤ **Jun 13—Integrity: Prayer & Cook-Out** 233 Beverly Drive, Erie. Everyone welcome! Starts at 5 pm ☎ Jacquelyn at (814)455-0549 or Dor at (814) 774-0903

➤ **Jun 13—Gay & Lesbian Educators of Western NY Brunch (Buffalo)** Professional educators from the greater Erie area are very cordially invited to a brunch in Buffalo at 11:00 am at Reginald's, local community owned restaurant. This is the weekend of the Allentown Arts Festival and the brunch is being scheduled so that people may go there after if they wish. (Allentown is a gay neighborhood in Buffalo.) Also on schedule is a picnic in mid-July in Chafee NY for Buffalo, Rochester & Erie area educators. ☎ Peter at (716)883-6641 or Cecilia at (716) 838-5113

Jun 13—Heather Bishop in Concert-Cancelled!!!

Jun 13—Stonewall Cleveland Pride Dinner Cleveland OH. Stouffer Tower City Plaza Hotel, 6:30 PM ✍ Stonewall Cleveland, PO Box 5936, Cleveland, OH 44101 or ☎ (216)781-6736.

➤ **Jun 14—8th Annual Interfaith AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service** Buffalo. 8:00 pm. Trinity Episcopal Church, 371 Delaware Avenue (at West Tupper Street). Handicapped accessible, services interpreted for deaf & hard of hearing.

➤ **Jun 15—"Silverlake Life: The View from Here"** WQLN (PBS) TV-54 at 10:00 pm. Series premiere for *P.O.V.* A moving chronicle of the love & pain shared by two HIV-positive men. Filmmaker Peter Friedman inherited an enormous challenge when his friends Mark Massi and Tom Joslin asked him to complete their unfinished video diary documenting their struggle with AIDS. From 40 hours of footage, Friedman fashioned a wrenching and candid document of love commitment, and mortality. Winner of the 1993 Sundance Film Festival's coveted Grand Jury Prize, *Newsweek* calls "Silverlake Life" "a love story *in extremis*" *P.O.V.* is closed captioned for the deaf & hard of hearing.

➤ **Jun 16—Romanovsky & Philips Concert** At 8 pm in Buffalo. Popular gay male recording artists-funny, gay & lesbian affirming, socially conscious, and they sound good too! Marquee at the Tralf, 100 Theatre Place. Tickets \$12 reserved, \$10 general admission. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations or write to Alternative Expressions, PO Box 446, Buffalo, NY 14205. Reservations must be received by June 10. ☎ Alternative Expressions at (716)885-5980

Jun 18—Michael Feinstein in Concert 8:00 Fulton Theatre in Pittsburgh. Proceeds benefit Thursday Night Live Fund of the Lambda Foundation. Tickets \$32.50/\$25.00/\$15.00 ☎ (412)323-1919

Jun 18—10,000 Maniacs & World Party in Concert Star Lake Amphitheater, Burgettstown, PA. On sale at Ticketmaster ☎ (412) 323-1919

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➔ **Jun 18—ACT UP Benefit** Cleveland. Piano Recital at Congregational Church, 9606 Euclid (near University Circle) 7:30 pm. \$8 adv/\$10 door ☎(216)321-3440

➔ **Jun 18 & 19—"Puttin' on the Ritz" Concert** Performed by the North Coast Men's Chorus, Lakewood High School and Try-Out Theater, Franklin & Bunts Rd, Lakewood OH 8:00 pm. \$10 adv/\$12 at the door ☎(216) 473-8919

➔ **Jun 19—Cleveland Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual Pride March & Festival "We Have a Life, Not A Lifestyle"** The march will be emceed by Karen Williams (nationally known African-American lesbian comedian) from the Cleveland area and Michelle Crone (who produced activities at the main stage of the March on Washington). Gay & lesbian bands from the Cleveland area, DJ playing dance music, Blessing of couples, several local politicians, and lesbian/gay community leaders speaking. March assembles at 10:00am at 22nd & Euclid in Cleveland, then leaves at 10:30 to the rally site on the northwest quadrant of Public Square, northwest quadrant. Rally runs from 11:30 am-4pm. Free admission.

➔ **Jun 19—Buffalo Gay & Lesbian First Parade** (permit pending). Beginning at noon from Symphony Circle, down Wadsworth to Allen to Elmwood to Johnson Park. Floats, music, celebration of our community and lead off for Annual Buddies Festival. ☎(716)883-4750

➔ **Jun 19—Third Annual Buffalo Community Pride Celebration** at Johnson Park (Buffalo) dusk to 10 pm. ☎(716)873-2677

➔ **Jun 19-20—Buddies Summer Festival** Games, flea market, food, drink, fun, entertainment, annual fundraiser for AIDS. Johnson Park & South Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo ☎(716)847-0315

➔ **Jun 19—Sober Dance (Pride-related Event)** West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, Rock River, OH (near Cleveland). 9-midnight, \$5 ☎(216)651-5001 or (216)397-0354

➔ **Jun 20—Cruise Aboard Good Time III** GIFT cruise along Cuyahoga River & Lake Erie, North Coast Harbor, E 9th Street (Cleveland), 6:30 pm, \$16 advance. *May be sold out by now.* ☎(216)661-2971

➔ **Jun 21—AIDS Council of Erie County, Inc Board Meeting** 7:30 am at AIDS Council. Meeting open to observers.

➔ **Jun 21—Fundamentalist Anti-Gay Video: "The Gay Agenda"** Gay Town Hall Meeting in Cleveland. Sponsored by Stonewall Cleveland. Also shown will be our community's rebuttal, *Hate, Lies & Videotape*. Also, a representative from the Campaign for Military Service will speak. At Cleveland State University at 6:30 pm. The Christian Right is using *The Gay Agenda* to stir up hatred against us. This is a very important video to know about and respond to. ☎(216)781-6736 or (216)651-8338.

➔ **Jun 23—"Armistead Maupin is a Man I Dreamt Up"** WQLN (PBS) TV-54 at 9:00 pm. profiles the author of the series of novels, *Tales of the City*, an outgrowth of his *San Francisco Chronicle* col-


THE ERIE PLAYHOUSE

13 West 10th Street
presents

MAN OF LA MANCHA - June 10 to June 26
PLAY FESTIVAL '93 - June 3 to June 26
"View Life from a Different Perspective"
ARSENIC & OLD LACE - July 8 to July 24
GREASE - August 5 to August 21

Ticket prices:
Adults - \$14, Senior Cit - \$13, Students - \$7
Call 454-2852 for reservations

The Erie Playhouse is air-conditioned for your comfort
Group rates available
Seats available at the door
Call 454-2852 for a FREE Brochure



umn of the same name. The program includes interviews with Maupin and his friends, frank discussion of homosexuality and the gay lifestyle, readings from his books, and an examination of the San Francisco milieu.

➔ **Jun 23—"Larry Kramer"** WQLN (PBS) TV-54 at 10:00 pm. Profile interview focuses on Larry Kramer, the gay & AIDS movement's voice of anger, author of *The Normal Heart*, *The Destiny of Me*, and *Faggots*, who is also cofounder of Gay Men's Health Crisis and ACT UP.

➔ **Jun 25—"Coca Vega" at Lizzie Bordon's** Showtime 12:00-1:00 am. 3412 West 12th Street, Erie.

➔ **Jun 25 & 27—Pittsburgh's Queer Theater Presents Jonathan Katys' "Coming Out"** In Pittsburgh. At U of Pitt ☎ (412)734-8303

➔ **Jun 26—"Hot Summer Nights" Drag Show at Silver Slipper in Erie** At 11:30 pm. \$2 cover charge. MC for evening is Bobbi B. With Gene Brandt, Georgia Jackson & Brandy La'monte

Jun 26—Pittsburgh Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Parade & Rally Parade, rally, picnic. With Julie Harris, rock/blues musician. The parade will start at 11:00 am at the Civic Arena followed by a rally in Point State Park. Picnic at Schenley Park on Prospect Drive following the rally. Evening of humor with lesbian comedienne Kate Clinton, who will perform at 8 pm at Carlow College (\$15 in advance, \$17 at door). (See the ad this issue!) Kate Clinton calls herself a "fumerist"—that's feminist and humorist combined. She's a stand-up comic and political satirist whose comedy is enjoyed

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Erie, Pa, PA 456-6642
Thursday-Sat. 7:30am-12pm

Nationally Known Lesbian Feminist Comic!

KATE CLINTON

Saturday, June 26th at 8 PM

Carlow College, Pittsburgh, PA

Tickets \$15 (advance) \$17 (door)

For Mail Orders send checks by June 16 to: Gift of the Heart, BOX 108, 6393 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206

For information, call (412) 363-2991

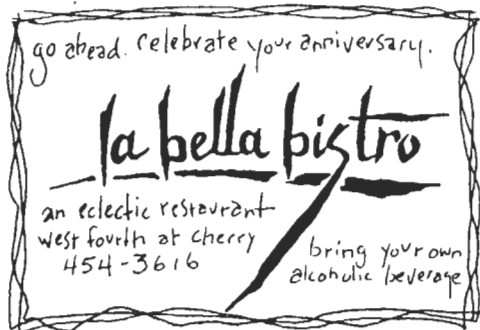
by both men and women. She's outrageous, irreverent and delightfully fun, and she's coming back to Pittsburgh for the first time since her sold out performance in 1990.. ☎ (412)363-2991 for tickets for Kate Clinton, (412) 681-3129 for Pride Parade info. Sally Meiser wants to get a contingent of Erie people to march in the parade. Call her at (814) 454-2713.

➔ **Jun 26—Women of Color Dance** Buffalo. Open to all women; 9-1am; music, dancing, refreshments, drink and wall-to-wall women. Unitarian Church, 695 Elmwood. ☎ (716)845-6512

➔ **Jun 27—Integrity: Holy Communion** 7 pm at Cathedral of Saint Paul, 133 West 6th, Erie

➔ **Jun 27—Lesbian & Gay Pride Day (Toronto)** At this writing we couldn't get anything more specific than this. You should be able to get a Pride brochure and schedule about the second week of June by calling (416)601-9865. Toronto's events center in the heart of the city's gay ghetto, at Church & Wellesley. There will be stuff going on Church Street in Cawthra Park. The Parade should step off around 2 or 3. It goes up Yonge Street (Toronto's main street) & over Bloor & Carlton. Dancing, 2 stages with entertainment going on all day, beer garden, booths, AIDS related fundraisers, speakers, dedication of AIDS memorial. By the way, in last year's Toronto Pride Parade, the Toronto School Board marched in front of the Parade!

➔ **Jun 30—Fundamentalist Anti-Gay Video: "The Gay Agenda"** In Mentor, OH. Repeat showing. See entry on June 21. Shown by Stonewall Cleveland. Also shown will be our community's rebut-



tal, *Hate, Lies & Videotape*. Sponsored by HUGS East at Unitarian Church, 8181 South Center Street (Rt 615) in Mentor at 7:00 pm. ☎ (216)974-8909

➤ **Jul 3—Big Picnic in Venango County/Franklin, PA** At Venango County Coon & Fox Club, 1pm to 2 am. \$10/person. Price includes food (4-6 pm), beverages (pop, coffee, beer). DJ 8-2am all types music. Also karaoke singalong, 50/50 raffles. Plenty room, bring frisbees, horseshoes, etc. Camping possible. Accommodations: tent space on grounds & motel nearby. At the Fox Club off Rte. 8. Turn at the Ri-Ge Motel & follow the pink balloons. ☎ Call Chick or Kel (814)437-6412. Indoor/outdoor rain or shine.

➤ **Jul 4—Gateway Clipper Cruise in Pittsburgh** We have no details at this time. Contact the Gay & Lesbian Community Ctr of Pgh at (412)422-0114

➤ **Jul 9—"Destiny" All Women Band & Vocalists at Lizzie Bordon's** Lesbian recording artists will be performing their very out, very lesbian music. Adult contemporary musical style. Showtime 12:00-1:00 am. 3412 West 12th Street, Erie.

➤ **Jul 11—Integrity** The Episcopal Diocese will be having their church picnic at Waldameer Park in Erie, and Integrity people will be there. Tickets include buffet, Waterworld, and rides. Everyone welcome...people who belong to the Episcopal Church, and friends. ☎ for info & tickets, Jacquelyn at (814)455-0549 or Dor at (814)774-0903

➤ **Jul 17—"Christmas in July" Drag Show at Silver Slipper in Erie** At 11:45 pm. \$2 cover charge. MC for evening is Miss Downtown Erie, Jackee Regina. With Bobbi B & Gene Brandt

Jul 17—Jamestown Social Group Picnic At Ottawa Park on Route 5 in Westfield, 4-10 pm. Bring dish to share & own table setting. Enclosed pavilion in case of rain. Alcohol not permitted in park. Picnic will be laid-back & low-key: quiet games, talking & nature walks. This group (which includes people from their 20's to their mid-50's) would like to connect with & get to know Erie people. This is definitely not a hard partying scene. About a mile east of light on Rt 5 at Barcelona (Westfield) Entrance to park is opposite KOA Campground. \$1/car charge for parking. ☎ (716)484-7285

➤ **Jul 25—Integrity: Newcomers' Night, Evening Prayer and Discussion** If you've been thinking about going to Integrity, or have questions about being Christian & gay, Integrity would like to encourage you to come to this special night. Newcomers are welcome to ask questions, introduce themselves, meet other Integrity people, and feel welcomed. Integrity is hoping to start having more of these Newcomers' Nights. 7 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, 133 West 6th, Erie

➤ **Jul 20-25—Starwood XIII** In Sherman, NY. Festival of people into Earth-centered spirituality. Mixed, but definitely lesbian friendly. Lots of stuff: Annual Faerie Circle, Lunacy (a gay male pagan musical duo), Womyn's folk groups, Chaotic Good & KIVA, Jade (feminist & editor of *Of A Like Mind*), children's program for 5-15 & lots, lots more. ✍ Association for Consciousness Exploration, 1643 Lee Road #9, Cleve-



INTEGRITY

A Christian-based spiritual and support group sponsored by the Episcopalian Church that welcomes people of all faiths. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 7 pm at St. Paul's Cathedral, 133 W 6th St. Erie, PA. Our mailing address is: Integrity-NWPA, PO Box 1782, Erie, PA 16507-1782. For more information, call (814) 455-0549



**The Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Erie invites
you to join us for worship
10:30 am, Sundays
7180 New Perry Highway
Childcare provided
Rev. Terry Kime, Minister**

Since 1970 our denomination has welcomed the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities and supported them in their struggle for equal rights and acceptance. We recognize gay and lesbian ceremonies of union, and affirm openly lesbian and gay clergy. For further information, call 864-9300.

land Heights, OH, 44118 ☎ (800)446-4962 or (216)932-5421

Jul 25—8th Annual Community Picnic & Games: An AIDS Fundraiser Buffalo at Ellicott Creek Park Island, 2800 Niagara Falls Blvd, Tonawanda NY, noon-7 pm. \$10/adv, \$12 at the gate. Persons under 16 must be accompanied by guardian. Includes lunch, music, games, fun. County Law: No alcohol but can bring in canned beer in limited quantities. Information tables: must register, call Tim or Tony at (716)881-1459

➤ **Aug 1—Dancin' in the Streets** Downtown Cleveland. Music, dancing, entertainment, food, raffle, info booths & lots of surprises! 2000-3000 people expected. This year's theme is "Rodeo." 1 pm to 10 pm at W 9th Street & St. Clair. Donation is \$5, "more if you can, less if you can't." Organized by Health Issues Task Force of Cleveland ✍ HIT, 2250 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland OH 44115 ☎ (216)621-0766

Aug 21—AIDS Memorial Walk at Presque Isle ☎ AIDS Council of Erie County, Inc. at (814)455-5492. Call now to help out! Pledge sheets will be available at the AIDS Council. Call Mary Lee at (814)455-5492 for further info.

Aug 21—Bridges Potluck/Discussion at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie Open to all! Potluck at 6:00 pm, open discussion at 7:00 pm

➤ **Sep 5—Bridges Festival** All day, dance from 7 to 11 pm. At Glinodo Conference Center in Erie County. Festival runs from noon to 11 pm. Cost: \$8 in

advance/\$10 at the door, kids 15 & under \$3 (all costs, more if you can, less if you can, contact Bridges for advance tickets). Swimming pool, volleyball, softball, games, treasure hunt, merchants and lots of neat people like you! The Lesbian Moms Support Group will be organizing childcare & children's activities. (Those under 16 must be accompanied by guardian). Vendors welcomed. Call Jacquelyn at (814)455-0549 for details or Michael at (814)456-9833.

Groups & Organizations

AIDS Council of Erie

Location: 554 East 10th Street; Erie, PA 16503-1314. ☎ (814) 455-5492. 🕒 *Hours:* 8:30 to 4:30 Mon.-Fri. *Activities:* Living with HIV Group: 1st Wed of month, 6 pm. Coffeehouse/Social every other Fri. Pot-Luck Supper (open) last Wed. of month. Also bi-monthly newsletter, weekly Food Pantry, Memorial service, Buddies program, Bereavement group. Call for more info.

Bridges

A coalition of organizations which seeks to use networking and communication skills to build a better community. Also publishes *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* and puts on community dances and quarterly potluck dinners/forums. ✍ Bridges, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. ☎ (814) 455-0549 or (814) 456-9833.

Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People

A committee of students, faculty, & administrators who work together to educate, bring speakers, offer films, and address concerns that relate to gay and lesbian issues specific to the Allegheny Community. ✍ CSGLBP, Box 186, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA 16335. ☎ Paula at (814) 332-4356 or Erny at (814) 332-4375

Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO)

Student group, primarily social. *Meetings:* On vacation till school year resumes. Tuesdays from 8-10 pm in Hendricks Hall, Room G13 (📍). ☎ Jessica at (814) 732-2574 or David at (814) 732-4278.

Erie Sisters

Non-sexual social support group for TV/TS/CD. Good manners, taste & common sense expected. Monthly meetings, newsletter, Meetings in even numbered months are social events held at accepting establishments. Changing room provided. Interview with a club officer required before first meeting. ✍Erie Sisters, 2115 West 8th Street, Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505

Friends Alike (Oil City, PA)

Number disconnected. Currently checking this out.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance - the Other 10% (GALA 10)

Support group for gay men and lesbians and friends and family. Open to public. *Meetings:* On vacation till September! 3rd Wednesday of month at 8:00 pm, call for site. Next meeting is Sep 15.. ✍Mercy Institute, 501 East 38th Street, Erie, PA 16546. Attn: Sr Marlene Lehmkuhl ☎Sr Marlene at (814) 824-2572.

Gay and Lesbian Drug & Alcohol Abuse Support Group (Jamestown, NY)

Meetings: Thursdays at 7:00 pm at Jamestown Community College (in Chautauqua room at the Library). ☎(716) 664-5556 or (716) 483-0749

Girth & Mirth

For big men & their admirers. ✍PO Box 7048, Erie, PA 16510-7048 ☎TC at (814) 899-0202.

HUGS East (Mentor, OH)

Activities, events & groups for the gay and lesbian community of Ashtabula, Lake & Geauga counties. Newsletter published ✍HUGS East, PO Box 253, Mentor, OH 44060 ☎(216) 974-8909.

Integrity

A Christian-based spiritual and support group, sponsored by the Episcopal Church that welcomes people of all faiths. *Meetings:* 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month (7:00pm) at St. Paul's Cathedral, 133 West 6th Street. ✍Integrity-NWPA, PO Box 1782, Erie, PA, 16507-1782. ☎(814) 455-0549.

Jamestown HIV Positive Support Group

☎ Jill Johnson at (716) 664-7855

Jamestown PFLAG

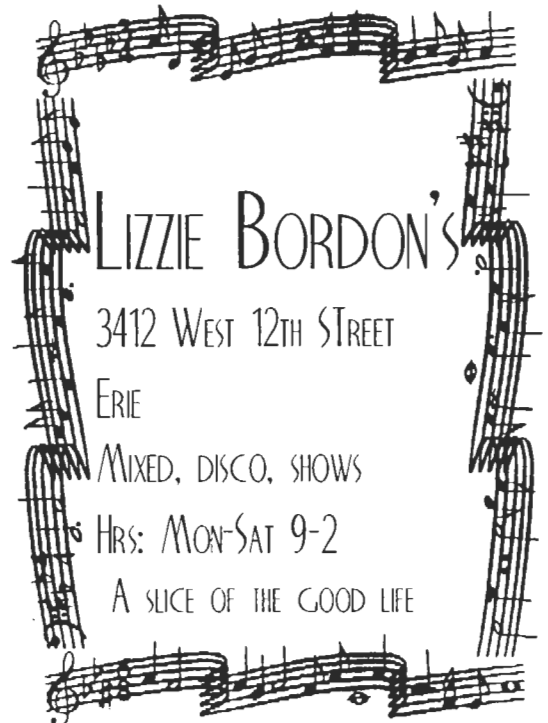
For parents & friends of lesbians & gays. Meets last Tuesday of the month, call for site. Meeting Dates: Jun 29, Jul 26 & Aug 30. ☎(716) 488-1264 or (716) 763-1529

Jamestown Social Group

For men & women. Smoke & alcohol-free. Meets 3rd Saturday of the month at 7 pm at First Unitarian Society of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast. Meeting Dates: Jun 19, Jul 17 & Aug 21. ☎ (716) 484-7285 or (716) 664-5556.

League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)

Non partisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for primary and general election, voter registration/education, lobbying. *Meetings:* 1st Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm at AIDS Council, 554 East 10th Street in Erie. Next are Jun 6, Jul 11 & Aug 1 (note date change due to Jul 4 being a Sunday!). ☎Michael at (814) 456-9833. ✍LGLV-Erie, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. ☎



LIZZIE BORDON'S
3412 WEST 12TH STREET
ERIE
MIXED, DISCO, SHOWS
HRS: MON-SAT 9-2
A SLICE OF THE GOOD LIFE

Lesbian Moms Support Group

Support group for lesbian moms, co-partners and women interested in parenting. Meets 3rd Saturday of each month. ✍ Lucinda Marsh, 214 Walnut Street, Waterford, PA 16441. ☎ (814) 796-3535.

Life's Blood

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for Gays and Lesbians. *Meetings:* Sundays at 8:00 pm at the AIDS Council, 554 East 10th Street in Erie. ☎

Men's Coffeehouse

The Men's Coffeehouse is an alcohol & smoke-free environment with a particular theme, topic or activity for each month. They get together on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:00 pm. Meetings: Jun 11, Jul 9 & Aug 14. ☎ (814) 455-9049 for more info. ☎

Out & Proud

Support group for media issues, those dealing with coming out. ✍ OP, PO Box 3063, Erie PA 16508-3063 ☎ (814) 456-9833

Trigon

Support group for Behrend students, faculty, alumni. On vacation til September. ✍ College Mailroom, Box 1054, Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563. ☎ (814) 453-6232

Womynspace Coffeehouse

The Womyn's Coffeehouse is an alcohol & smoke-free environment for lesbians, with a particular theme, topic or activity for each month. They get together on the 1st Saturday of each month at 7:30 pm. They also have parties, picnics, softball & other activities. Next Meet: Jun 5 (closing up early to head to the Bridges Dance. See you there!), Jul 3 & Aug 7. ☎ Sally at (814) 454-2713.

Conferences, Festivals & Gatherings

✍ **Jul 9-11—Fifth National Conference for AIDS Massage and Bodyworks** In Minneapolis, MN. A healing, nurturing, bonding weekend open to people at all levels of involvement and interest in therapeutic touch and HIV, sponsored by the AIDS Massage Project of Minnesota, Stuart Holland, 3601 14th Ave. South, Minn, MN 55407 ☎ (612)729-8924

✍ **Jul 21-25—Taking Care of Each Other: Making Our Voices Heard** In Houston, TX. Lesbian & gay health conference, includes 11 full-day pre-conference institutes and over 200 workshops. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, TX ☎ (202)994-4285

COME HERE OFTEN?

Tired of All

HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU BEFORE?

the same

BEEN HERE LONG?

old lines?

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?

Let a Personal Call Dating ad put you on line with someone new

You'll get a FREE ad, FREE voice greeting, and FREE message retrieval one time per week. That makes it really easy for interested people to respond to your ad.

So call and start making those connections today!

Place your FREE Personal Ad today!

1-800-842-4545

Listen & respond to other Personal Ads already running by calling

1-900-420-5020

(Call costs \$1.49 per minute - must be 18+)

UU & The Ban

Boo to us for mislaying this bit of information. Well, it's still very much worth noting that the Social Responsibility Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie released a Declaration of Conscience supporting President Clinton's efforts to end the ban on gays and lesbians in the U.S. military. 88 members and friends of the Congregation signed the Declaration to indicate their agreement. For more information about the Declaration, contact Dan Mitchell (814)866-6202. ▼

Potluck/Discussion

The Bridges Potluck/Discussion gatherings are turning into a really great place to meet people who are into building community and to share ideas with each other, as well as working on concrete actions..

On May 15, two dozen people got together at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. The turnout was a big surprise, since the weather was gorgeous.

We all feasted and yakked, with gay and lesbian music (by Leah Zicari and Romanovsky & Phillips) playing in the background (thanks, Peter, for sharing your tapes and player!).

The Lesbian Moms Group, which would have normally gotten together on the same night, decided to join us, and we were happy to see them there. Michelle suggested that the the Bridges Festival (Sept. 5) have some sort of childcare, and the Moms have graciously offered to organize and help provide it.

The Bridges Festival organizers asked for input about what would be a fair admission price for the festival. The group there basically agreed that a fair scale would be \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, & kids 15 & under for \$3. Sally added the usual lesbian slogan "More if you can, less if you can't." Vendors are actively being sought. Call Jacquelyn at (814)455-0549 for more details.

Douglas mentioned that he saw the need for a group that dealt with the needs of gay and lesbian youth. Michael Mahler said that he thought a project like that should come

out of a local PFLAG chapter, since they would be pretty much a straight organization, and therefore quite a bit less vulnerable to accusations of wrongdoing.

Michael again brought up the need to encourage the formation of a PFLAG chapter in our area. He said that his mother had shown some interest, especially after a friend of hers tearfully confided that her own son was gay. Robin said she'd talk to her mom, who used to be president of Erie's Parents and Friends of Gays (PFLAG's precursor), which is now defunct. (This is now a reality! See back page for more info!!!)

Doug and Sally announced that they are organizing people from the Erie area to march together in the Pittsburgh Pride Parade on June 26th. Call Sally at (814)454-2713 for more info.

Great stuff went on even after the meeting was over.

Right after the meeting, about eight educators got together to start laying the groundwork for an educators group in the Erie area. They are including librarians in the group as well as teachers. (Educators: note that there will be a gay/lesbian educators event on June 13, details in EGCN calendar; this is not, however, the group that formed here).

Also, the Moms group headed over to Cup-a-ccino's to take in the music and great company, until they started closing the place up.

The next Potluck will be on August 21. ▼

Transitions & People

Bev Nugent (aka She Who Walks the Path of Springtime) announces that the cancer she had been struggling with for the past year and a half has been beaten. A medical doctor recently told her that he was not able to detect any cancer in her at all. She has now started a therapeutic massage practice, "incorporating alternative well-being techniques," specializing in women, children, and infants. If you would like to schedule a massage or help Bev celebrate life, call her at (814)453-4928. Welcome back, Bev!

Congratulations also to Jacquelyn, who has very graciously taken up the post as EGCN's Advertising Director. As you can see by this issue, she is really starting off wonderfully! Please direct all inquiries concerning advertising to her at (814)455-0549.

Great news for Erie area fans of womyn's music! Starting this fall, Pink Sands Production Company will start producing womyn's cultural events locally. Stay tuned for details as we get 'em!

For all you serious geeks out there: we have access to email. If you are on CompuServe, our address is 70431.1622 or from Internet, 70431.1622@compuserve.com ▼

EGCN Gets a Grant!

In May, the Erie Gay Community Newsletter received a grant from the Lambda Foundation for the costs of printing this newsletter over the next year. In addition, the Lambda Foundation bought 12 1/8 page ads to be printed in each newsletter over the next year.

The Lambda Foundation is a Pittsburgh-based organization that provides grants and scholarships to the gay, lesbian and bisexual community in PA, NY and OH.

We here at *EGCN* and Bridges are extremely grateful for this money. It will be a tremendous help to us during our start-up period. We are concerned, however, that our readers might be less likely to subscribe or send us contributions in the mistaken belief that we are now all set financially.

We're not all set. It costs a lot of money to do this newsletter. This issue alone will cost well over \$200 just for printing! Then there is the cost of postage, of monthly long-distance phone calls to round up all that great info on out-of-town events. Our newsletter looks professional because of the computer, the scanner, our laser printer. These things all cost money. We are paying for the scanner over the next year at a cost of roughly \$550. Currently one of our staff is paying for this out of their own pocket.

Part of the way the Lambda Foundation will be evaluating the success of the grant will be the amount of contributions & donations we receive. This demonstrates that we are making a difference in our community and proves that we are achieving our goals.

So, please consider taking out a subscription or making a contribution today. It will make sure we'll be around tomorrow.

A Foundation for the Community

Providing Grants and Scholarships to the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community.

For information on applying for grants, scholarships, making donations or simply getting involved contact:

The Lambda Foundation

PO Box 5169, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • 412/521-5444

Contributions to the Lambda Foundation may be mailed to PO Box 5169, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. They may be reached at (412)521-5444. ▼

Area Bars

The *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* is pleased to begin including more information about our area bars. Although we started out emphasizing news and events about organizations, we realized that by not including bar information, we were omitting a whole area of gay life.

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge Street. Open 7 days a week, 7 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. Food is served from 7 p.m. till 1:30 a.m.

Friday and Saturday there is a \$1 cover charge, half of which goes into a 50-50 raffle that is drawn at the end of the night, the other half of which goes to the person taking the cover charge. On the Full moon, anything at the bar is \$1 a shot, plus there's pizza and hot dogs.

Cleveland *Gay People's Chronicle* for free here.

Erie

Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street. Live DJ music 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. On Friday the DJ plays oldies till 10:30 p.m. (50s, 60s and 70s).

The Slipper will be expanding as soon as the PALCB okays it. It will mainly be a seating area, with tables and booths.

Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th. Bowling on Tuesday nights from 9 pm till whenever. Requests & Country played on Wednesdays. DJ on Friday & Saturday. Shows on some Fridays.

Carries Pittsburgh *Out* newspaper (free).

Jamestown

Sneakers, 100 Harrison. (716)484-8816. Open 7 days a week, 3:30 to 2. DJ Fridays and Saturdays 10-2. Country/Western every Sunday 5-10.

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor. We couldn't get the information in time for this issue, but we'll try to have it for the next. ▼

The March

The Bus Trip

By Dee Foll

The Erie March on Washington Committee and Edinboro Gay Organization chartered an Anderson Tours bus leaving from Erie, Edinboro, and Meadville. For awhile there, it looked like it wasn't going to come together. Even at the beginning of April, there were only three or four people who'd signed up for the bus. Two EGO members--David Neubauer and Scott--put in enormous amounts of energy and really helped make the Erie bus happen.

DeeDee Foll, a former Edinboro student and EGO member, relates what happened on that bus trip.

The bus that left from Erie was filled to its legal capacity, with all seats full and three people in the aisle. We were ahead of schedule all the way down.

The atmosphere on the bus was interesting. On the one hand, people were quiet, and the mood seemed heavy and calming, like a fog. But at the same time, people were very excited about what we were about to do.

People on the bus were congenial and respectful to one another. There were different areas of the bus for people to do different things. People who wanted to sleep went to the back of the bus, and people who wanted to watch movies on the VCR stayed up front. We passed around a notebook for people to record their thoughts before and after the March, and that went over really well. Also, some people talked quietly amongst themselves.

There were some straight and bisexual people on the bus, people who didn't know a single soul on the bus, but they just believed in the whole freedom concept and wanted to support the cause.

The bus driver was just great. He set out a dish of candies for us, and was really friendly to us. We stopped

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March Media Coverage

The March on Washington was all over the print and broadcast media--locally as well as nationally. Here's some of the coverage of interest to area people.

MTV interviewed younger passengers of the bus from Erie. Two of them, Jamie Pifer and a woman who did not want to give her name, were shown full face on MTV (nationally!) talking about their impressions of the March. Jamie Pifer has a tape of that broadcast.

On Friday, April 23, WICU came to Michael Mahler's home and filmed him leaving for the March. He stated that the March on Washington was for equal rights, not special rights.

On Saturday, April 24, *The Weekender* put the story about the March on the front page, with the headline, "Gay Community is About to Invade US Capital." Although the article provided a balanced account, some people in the local gay and lesbian community were bothered by the use of the word "invade," which communicates that the March is a negative, destructive action.

Saturday April 24, WSEE-TV's Randy MacIlwain interviewed Sally Meiser from the Erie March on Washington Committee. She explained that the March was about civil rights. The camera focused on Meiser's button, which said "Hate is Not a Family Value."

The front page Monday's *Erie Morning-News* carried a color photo of numerous gay and lesbian March participants who were on motorcycles, carrying full-size, fluttering rainbow flags. A number of local gay and lesbian readers were disappointed or offended by the photo the paper chose because it didn't show the size of the March and they felt it went for the stereotypical or "fringe" images of the gay community instead of showing typical gay/

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The March: Impressions

We asked Erie area folks who had been at the March on Washington on April 25th to tell us what made the strongest impression on them...

All the lesbians...on the highway (clear back to I-79), at rest stops and McDonald's.

We went to the concert on Saturday night with Margie Adam and Romanovsky & Phillips and Karen Williams, and that was wonderful. It was so much fun before the march to be all together.

-Lisa

The group that impressed me the most were the Colorado folks. They were there, they were angry, and they were positive, and they were so visible.

We saw many parents there of the children who were gay and lesbian. And they were very positive. The service at the Washington National Cathedral was that way, there were a lot of people there with their kids. There was a "Service of Hope," and there were thousands of people there; you couldn't even get in. It just showed how many of us are involved in spirituality.

-Jan

It was incredible to be surrounded by so much positive energy & positive affirmation. I really felt like a human being, not a freak of nature, and felt love all around me. And it was so nice being able to hold hands with my lover & not to have to deal with all that negative garbage we all have to put up with.

-Scott

The most memorable parts of the march were, number one, the number of people, and the fact that everybody got along, everybody was so tolerant and accepting of everybody else, even though there was a wide variety of people there. The one thing that really struck me was, when we were over in the vendors' area, PFLAG had a booth, and you could go up and get a hug from

somebody's mom. And that was so neat that they were there and they'd just hug anybody who needed it.

We had instances where we would be on the metro or at restaurants, and people would take one look at us and would move away from us. And then we had other times when we'd get on or off the metro, and there'd be people standing there waiting to get on or off the metro and they'd clap for us.

There was an awful lot of openness in town, the entire weekend. Everywhere you went, people had their buttons on. And nobody bothered us. It was a really different experience from what life normally is like.

-Mary Ann

Saturday came and it was time to pound the pavement and see the sights. First was the Vietnam Wall, and since my uncle died in the that senseless War, it was very moving to me. How sad for me that all we have left, except his memory, is 9 letters on marble slate. After viewing that, my friend and I traveled to the Smithsonian Buildings. In our journey there we came upon another memorial, "The Names Project," or the AIDS Quilt. This piece of work was so contradicting, I didn't know where to start. The colors were vibrant & alive, yet to me they represented death. All these souls who had succumbed to AIDS were being "displayed" happily. This was hard to understand. I didn't see one dry eye and since no one cries alone in my presence, I joined in. Then all of a sudden, the message was there. All of this color and brightness was there for a reason. It was a celebration! There was an overcast of death pushed out by the love for the souls taken so early. Friends, family and "new friends" were not only mourning, but in a way they were saying, "We knew you, we cared for you, we will fight for you..."

Well, happy to be able to be at the quilt, I know that as a gay male I need to do what I can, for legislation, for more money, better education on AIDS, and an expansion on the rights everyone should have to live life with dignity and respect. To be able to walk, in public, hand in hand,

whether it be for the Vietnam Wall, the Names Project, or for all the love and compassion I felt at the quilt that day.

-Mark Anthony Yeast

I guess the high point was when I ran into the Christian fundamentalists on the subway. There was a young kid, he was about 19 or 20, and he had on an Iowa hat. You could tell he was one of the corn-fed boys.

He had his Bible in his hand, and asked me, "Why are you here?" And he basically said that to the whole subway. I told him because we were fighting for our civil rights. And he said, "Well, what do you want?" I told him that we want the right to be free, and to the pursuit of happiness, and the entire Constitutional thing.

He kept asking questions about what we believed in. He asked at one point if we believed in God, and I said, "Well, Yeah! Most of us are Christian, and we have our study groups where we sit down and study the Bible like you do. If you learn nothing else from the Bible, the one message Jesus Christ was trying to get out is to love your neighbor as you love yourself, and treat them the way you want to be treated. That's all we want, is to be treated like human beings, and not to have our children taken away from us, and not to be kicked out of our apartments, and not to be fired from our jobs." He kept asking questions, and I kept answering them, and at that point the subway had gotten quiet (everybody was listening), and he said, "Do you think I'm wrong to believe what I believe?" I told him, "It's a free country, you're entitled to believe whatever you believe, but you don't have the right to force your beliefs on me or on us." He asked "Could I read you something from the Scriptures?" I said "You can read or say whatever you want, but I don't have to listen." He said, "Well, why do you do this when the Scriptures say it's wrong?" He started pulling out a passage for me. Now the kid who was with him was black. I said "You know there are people who believe that black people are an abomination, and that they are not equal to white people, and that they don't have any rights. And those same people can reach into those Scriptures that you're holding in your hand, and pull out passages that they will tell you that it states, that it's a fact, in God's word, that black people have

no rights. Do you believe that? Do you believe that this man here has no rights? We're all human beings, and we all have rights. And that's all we want are our rights. We don't want privileges, we don't want quotas, we just want the right to live and be happy."

As we were getting further into it, the guy got concerned about getting off at the right place. I said, "Don't worry, we're getting off there too. We won't leave you." As we were getting off the subway, I said, "Have a safe trip home!" And he turned around said, "I'll think about what you said if you'll think about what I said." And said "Sure I will, that's a promise."

I started thinking that if we could just talk one-on-one to Christian fundamentalists. Because they don't look at us as people. They look at us as a group. And it's easy when you're going this group against that group. But when you bring it down to one-on-one, it's not so easy to do that.

-Sara

I went down with a carload with four other guys. It was very exciting to pass by all those other cars (especially all those nifty lesbians from Michigan), and know that we were all coming from all over the nation to the same celebration. Saturday night I went to the Radical Faerie Drumming Circle in Dupont Circle. It was wonderful sharing spirituality and rejoicing with all these people; very powerful and happy. While I was dancing to some drummers, I looked over to notice a woman I had met at the Starwood festival last year and we excitedly hugged and caught up on old times. We taught the Goddess chant to some of the people dancing with us.

Seeing all those couples walking hand in hand was terrific too. I even saw Rob & Bob Jackson-Paris (the famous body building gay male spouses whom I had seen on Donahue and other places a few times)! It was very moving to see so many people simply able to just be who they are without shame or fear. I wished that I could have walked down the street with the man I love, but he wasn't able to make it. (But we did walk hand in hand on Presque Isle last week. The March is a moveable feast, after all!)

-Michael Mahler



If You Missed the March...

Are you one of the people who missed the March on Washington? Do you feel bummed because you feel like you just missed your chance to take part in history?

Well, here's what you can do to snap out of it:

- ▼ Make plans to attend the Stonewall 25 International March on the United Nations on June 26, 1994.

Over a million people are expected in New York City for this global celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion (generally regarded as the beginning of the modern gay/lesbian movement), and it will certainly be of historic importance.

- ▼ You can still be at the March in spirit by sending a contribution to the national March on Washington office in DC. The cost of organizing such a massive event cost around \$1,000,000, and they could surely use anything you'd send. Their address is MOW, 1012 14th Street, NW, #705, Washington, DC 20005 (202)628-0493. Or you can donate to the Erie March on Washington Committee, which organized a bus from Erie and came up a little short. **Make checks out to:** EGC Coalition.

- ▼ Get involved. Keep in mind that historic social change is not made by big demonstrations alone. It is also made by the countless individuals and small groups who volunteer to stuff envelopes, do fundraising, clean up after a benefit, write letters, make phone calls, work an information table, and dozens of other tasks that add up to a strong grassroots movement for gay and lesbian rights. This is a historic period of time for us, and there's quite a lot you can

do to be a part of that. If you're not sure where to start, give us a call at (814)456-9833 and we'll help you get connected.

- ▼ Write a check to your favorite gay/lesbian organization. Our organizations and projects need money as well as people-power. ▼

March Briefs

Thanks to Home Video Exchange in Edinboro for donating gay-themed tapes to the bus that left the Erie area for the March. *The Life and Times of Harvey Milk* and *Torch Song Trilogy* went over really well. Thanks a lot for the donation.

How many people from the Erie area attended the March? Estimates range from 150 to 200. How about if all you Marchers out there write in and tell us who all you went down with (first names are just fine). Bus people...we've already got you counted, so save your postage!

Tips to make your next march more comfortable: take stuff to eat and drink while on the march, a moist cloth to wipe off with, sunglasses, sunhat, & sunscreen.

The March on Washington brought in over \$177 million to DC area businesses and was probably the biggest money-making event in

history for that area, according to the Washington Convention and Visitors Association. Thomas Murphy, the association's spokesman, stated, "No other single recent event, including the record-breaking 1993 presidential inauguration, has ever made such an impact on the nation's capital, making it a financial landmark for the city." Murphy said he accepted the March organizers' estimate of 1 million participants. ▼



Bus Trip, Continued from page 11

at a couple places on the way down and the way back. The places that we stopped at were just loaded with people traveling to the March. It was a nice build-up to the event. I pretty much sat by myself at the rest stops and just watched the people...the smiles that they couldn't get rid of, the laughing and joking around. There was a real sense of togetherness.

We pulled into DC about 7:30 a.m. A woman from the March on Washington organization came on our bus to welcome us and to give us some helpful information. She gave us information like how to use the subway, what number to call in case we got lost (they would come and find you), and that we were in an unsafe part of town and should not walk alone. It made us feel a lot more comfortable to have all that information.

As soon as we got off the bus, tons of people came at us, asking us to buy a gay newspaper, or take part in a survey, or some other thing. MTV was there and they interviewed some of the people on our bus. Jamie Pifer and a woman, both from Erie, were actually shown on MTV.

There were vendors all over, selling food and drinks, gay T-shirts and other merchandise. Because we got into town a few hours before the March, we broke up into little groups and went sight-seeing. We'd go to see the AIDS Quilt, the Vietnam Memorial Wall, the Reflecting Pool, and other things.

The March was divided into 99 contingents—all the 50 states, plus groups like gay veterans and parents groups. The people on the bus went to the Pennsylvania section. We ran into a lot of other Erie area people there, and that was nice.

The people from the March organization counted the marchers by going up to each marcher, taking their name, and giving them a pink sticker that said they were counted. The National Park Service said there were only 300,000 people at the March, but there's no way that was true. There had to be at least a million people. There were so many of us, we couldn't all march at once, but would have to wait till our section could move forward. The Pennsyl-

vania section stood 3½ hours before we were even able to start marching, and there were still 66 sections behind us!

After waiting around so long, people were starting to lose their enthusiasm. But once we started to march, the enthusiasm came right back. It was incredible, the amount of people, hanging out of buildings, out of trees, stop lights, everywhere!

After the March, people were exhausted, and sprawled out everywhere, resting up. And thirsty! You couldn't get out of line to get a drink, so if you didn't bring something to drink, you'd be dying of thirst.

On the way back, as the trip home began, people were excited, talking and happy about what we had just done, where they had gone, and things like that. People didn't seem to be gayed-out, though I was getting there. But it was too big of an event, it filled you with too much pride and inspiration, that it would have been hard to get gayed-out.

I do feel different since then. I was so proud to have been a part of that event. I would not have missed it for the world. So many people in one spot, for the same reason.

Maybe our time **has** come. Sometimes you can get geared up for something and it turns out to be a false start. But this time, it feels for real. ▼

Why Not Subscribe to EGCN Today?

March Media, Continued from page 11

lesbian Marchers. Morning-News editor Jeff Pinski told one angry reader that he chose that photo because it was the best available.

On Monday, April 26, WSEE-TV's Randy MacIlwain interviewed Michael Mahler and Sally Meiser about their impressions of the March. Both expressed that they felt good about not being in the minority, that the March celebrated diversity, and expressed the hope that this event would inspire people to work for change. The camera again focused on Meiser's button, which this time read, "We are the people you already know and like."

Couples

June is the month for weddings, and here are some items of interest to our readers.

♥ We're putting out a call for photographers who do or want to do portraits of lesbian and gay couples. Like heterosexual couples, same-sex couples like capturing their love and commitment to one another by being photographed together. Most don't do it because they don't want to have this very special time be contaminated by any unaccepting attitudes that a photographer might have. So, let's hear from people who want to do same-sex couple portraits (and photography or video for commitment/blessing ceremonies). We'd also like consumer reports from couples who've had portraits done. Write or call EGCN, P.O. Box 3063, Erie PA 16508 (814)456-9833.

♥ Beginning July 1, Ohio State University is going to allow same-sex couples who live in a "committed relationship" to live in a 400-unit student-housing complex that had been reserved for students who are married or have children.

♥ Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will be offering family health insurance coverage to employees involved in committed relationships with the same sex.

♥ Hawaii's Supreme Court ruled the state's ban on gay marriages may be unconstitutional because it amounts to sex discrimination, which is illegal in Hawaii. The court said that marriage was a civil right, and when the state dictates who may and may not marry, it violates the guarantee of equal protection under the law. It could take up to two years for the state to settle the issue, which could greatly influence the legal status of same-sex marriage in other states.

♥ There'll be a blessing of couples ceremony at the Cleveland Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual Pride March & Festival on June 19. For info call (216) 621-5280. ▼



Take Out a Happy Ad!

For \$10, you can take out an ad to declare your love, wish someone a happy birthday, or happy anniversary, celebrate coming out, send congratulations, announce a group forming...or use your imagination!

Ads must have no more than 25 words and no sleaze, puh-leez! Ads are \$10, pre-paid, and should be in by the 20th of the month.

Because we won't out anyone, we will not publish someone's full name unless they've already been out in our pages at their own request.

Send your ad copy with your check for \$10 made out to "EGC Coalition" to EGCN, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. For more info, call our Advertising Director, Jacquelyn, at (814)455-0549. ▼

Queen fans: local fan club organizing. Looking for ways to raise money for AIDS charities & have a good time. Call Lynne Anderson at (814)454-8820.

Jacquelyn Loves Lynn!e!

Earth-centered spirituality group. Write to PO Box 3904, Erie, PA 16508-3904 for more info

Goodbye, Lucena Jean, goodbye. I will love you always. Loving you gave my spirit hope. Your baby sister.

Erie Area PFLAG Chapter forming. Call Kathy Harris at (814)838-6020

Johnnie Phelps, Sam Nunn, and the Ban: An Opinion

by Greg Valiga

In 1946, Sergeant Johnnie Phelps, under direct command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, dutifully agreed to draw up a list of suspected lesbians in her battalion. "But," Phelps courageously disclosed, "You've got to know, when you get my list back, my name's going to be first." The order was rescinded after Sergeant Phelps explained that most of Eisenhower's key personnel would be gone, a move both gutsy and true. Nonetheless, this attempted purge of lesbians would be repeated many times over, usually with success. The rate of lesbian discharges would average 3-4 times those of gay men, according to government statistics.

With the number of discharges so disproportionately high, I was puzzled over the lack of attention given to lesbians in the military—surely this information would be a valuable implement to counter arguments by proponents of the ban. On May 10, the nausea I felt as a result of viewing C-Span was an indication that the shameless video assault by Senator Sam Nunn had reached its intended target—i.e. men—while purposely excluding anything which might weaken its focus—i.e. women.

The "Sam Nunn Entertainment Hour"—the rights no doubt are being bid on by the *National Enquirer*—was shown in its entirety because, as Sen. Nunn put it, "The American people have to know." The half-hour I witnessed on Nunn's little PR ploy exposed the true arrogance of the military's male power-elite. The segment was rife with views of bunks, bathrooms, and shower stalls. The only thing missing was a shot of a naked cadet bending over in the shower for soap with that deer-caught-in-the-headlights look of panic in his eyes. I saw no women being interviewed, in fact, no women whatsoever. Arguably, women's opinions have rarely been solicited throughout the debate, because, simply, this is a man's problem. Nunn's focus was to exploit the fears of men because this is where his battle will be won. After all, it is up to real men to not only protect and defend the US from being invaded by demented freedom-haters, but to protect themselves

from what these same leaders have presented as the certain undoing of military cohesion: sexual harassment.

Like the spoiled child who feels compelled to take every toy a playmate picks up, some of these same men have repeatedly taken liberties with women, claiming innocence and overreaction when an incident is brought to the public's attention. What the gay issue was done to men, in effect, has been to threaten to pry the toys out of the spoiled child's hands and give them back to the playmate. As a result, the most pitiful irony comes to light—these powerful men suddenly understand what years of abuse of women has not made evident—that sexual harassment is a tangible, humiliating experience. All these big, strong men have suddenly turned sensitive on us overnight, and expect the American public (women included) to react with proper vigilance to this atrocity.

As July draws near, a compromise seems imminent. Senator Nunn will surely get his way, much to the delight of straight America. The lesson to be learned is not as much about hatred and homophobia as it is about power and politics; for even as top military brass offer dramatic testimony defending the ban, stories surface about how differently these same men react off the record. This may be a bitter pill to swallow, but it serves to inspire some to step up the fight. Just ask Sergeant Phelps. ▼

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material which broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and each other. Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the staff nor those of the component groups.

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

All materials submitted must be signed so we can contact the authors should we need to consider editorial revisions. However, within the pages of the newsletter, articles may appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. If you wish to have your full name published, you must send a written and signed note that gives us permission to do so. This publication will not "out" anyone.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit news for publication and to share your comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us.

Materials should be sent to: *EGCN*, PO Box 3063; Erie, PA 16508-3063. Call (814) 456-9833 for more information. Email: CompuServe: 70431, 1622.

Gays in the Local Media: Out & About

LGLV-Erie in the Erie

On March 31, the headline across the top of the *Erie Daily Times*' front page read "Erie Area Gay Group Solicits Candidates' Views." The article discussed the candidate questionnaires that the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters' Erie chapter sent out to some 200 candidates in primary races in the eight counties that that chapter served. LGLV-Erie spokesman Michael Mahler is quoted as stating that the League does not endorse candidates, and that the questionnaires were only for purposes of informing voters. Erie County Democratic chairman Ian Murray said that he was neither encouraging nor discouraging candidates about filling out the questionnaires, but did state that the party was concerned about responses being used against a candidate. Erie County Republican chairman John Mizner said that he was discouraging candidates from filling out the questionnaires. Mizner stated, "We don't want to know who all the gays and lesbians are, but all these people should come forward and engage in a public debate. Is it (the League) one person who makes himself a group?"

Afterwards, several letters to the editor appeared on the subject. Greg Valiga wrote in (April 14), stating that Mizner seemed to be off on his own. Chris Young, LGLV chairman, wrote (April 12) in to correct errors and explain that the electoral process needs good information. Michael Mahler wrote in (April 8) asking why the paper thought it was necessary to feature the LGLV so prominently. A couple anti-gay letters were also published.

Pat Howard of the *Erie Daily Times* wrote an article ("Questionnaires, Gays and Candidates" April 10) in which he responded to Mahler's objections to the Times making the questionnaires a front page story. In the article, Howard explained—with a good bit of sensitivity—why the media would consider gay issues more newsworthy.

On April 4, WSEE-TV had a story with interviews by Michael Mahler and John Mizner. Mahler stated that if gays are important enough to talk about, they should be important enough to talk with.

On April 5, Mizner was a guest on Barry Dane Steinhagen's show on WLKK-radio. Another caller was Linda Bebkco-Jones, who won the 1st District state representative race after facing a homophobic campaign against Republican Jerry Knight. Mahler called in, stating again that if the LGLV was important enough to talk about, they should be important enough to talk with. Jerry Knight called in and claimed that the LGLV was not sharing its information. Mr. Knight wrote a letter to the editor that was reportedly read over the air and appeared later in the *Erie Daily Times*. In the letter, Knight indicated that he was getting irritated with LGLV and Michael Mahler.

Speaking to Groups

On March 31, a lesbian and a gay man—Sally Meiser & Doug—spoke on a panel at Mercyhurst College celebrating Diversity Month. The title of the panel was "Different Faces of Love." Also on the panel were an interracial couple, an American man and a Japanese woman who were married and Sr. Marlene Lehmkuhl, faculty advisor of GALA-10. The panel was facilitated by Randy MacIlwain, a reporter from WSEE-TV 35. MacIlwain discouraged hostility from the audience. Most of the people attending were accepting and open.

In May, Sally Meiser and Jim (a local gay man) spoke to a Human Sexuality class at Mercyhurst College. They were encouraged to talk about their lives and the students had very good questions and the discussion was very good.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of *Erie Gay Community Newsletter* is to serve as a voice for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and our friends & families in the Erie area. We wish this newsletter to be a source of information, support and affirmation. We also see *EGCN* as a vehicle for celebration of the goodness and diversity of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities. *EGCN* is a cooperative effort between lesbian, gay and bisexual groups and individuals to help our community develop and thrive.

Community Directory

24 Hour Counseling:

- Saint Vincent 452-5151
 Family Crisis 456-2014
 Hamot 877-6136

AIDS Services:

- AIDS Council of Erie, Inc. 455-5492
 AIDS Community Svcs of Jamestown(716)664-7855
 AIDS Factline 1-800-324-AIDS
 National AIDS Hotline 1-800-662-6080

Bars:

- Ashtabula, OH* Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St.
Erie, PA Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th St.
 833-4059
 Silver Slipper Lounge, 1317 State St.
Jamestown, NY Nite Spot, 201 Windsor St.
 Sneakers, 100 Harrison

Community Service Organizations:

- Bridges 455-0549
 Out and Proud (Speakers' Bureau) 456-9833

Counseling:

- Lisa DiPlacido, MS, 452-4366
 South Shore Counseling Group 725-8504
 For more info, call Greg 833-3258

E-Mail for EGCN. LGLV, Bridges:

- From CompuServe 70431,1622
 From Internet 70431.1622@compuserve.com

Medical Services and HIV/AIDS Testing:

- Erie Co. Dept. of Health (STD Clinic/AIDS
 Testing; confidential and anonymous); 2nd &
 Cherry St., walk-in (Mon. & Thurs., 9:30-3:30)
 451-6700
 Martin Luther King Center (misc. medical/AIDS
 Testing), 312 Chestnut St. 459-2761 (by appt only)
 Minority Health & Education Delivery Services
 (misc. medical/AIDS Testing), 325 West 26th
 Street, appt only. 453-4728

Political/Advocacy Organizations:

- League of Gay & Lesbian Voters 456-9833

Publications:

- Erie Gay Community Newsletter 456-9833

Religious Organizations:

- Integrity 455-0549
 Unitarian Universalist Congreg. of Erie ... 864-9300

Social Organizations:

- Men's Coffeehouse 455-9049
 Jamestown Social Grp (716) 484-7285 or 664-5556
 Womynspace Coffeehouse 454-2713

Student Organizations/Youth:

- Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual
 People (Allegheny College, Meadville) 332-4368
 Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO) 732-2574
 GALA 10 (Mercyhurst College) 824-2572
 Gay & Lesbian Youth of Buff (716)855-0221
 National Runaway Switchboard ... 1-800-621-4000
 Teen Hotline (412) 771-8336
 Trigon (Behrend College) 453-6232

Support Groups:

- Erie PFLAG 838-6020
 Erie Sisters 2115 W. 8th St., # 261, Erie, PA 16505
 Friends Alike (Oil City) number disconnected.
 Gay/Lesbian Drug & Alcohol Abuse 716-483-0749
 Jamestown HIV+ Support Group .. (716) 664-7855
 Jamestown PFLAG (716) 488-1264 or 763-1529
 Lesbian Moms Support Group 796-3535
 Lifes Blood (AA) ... Sundays, 8:00 PM, 554 E. 10th

All numbers are area code 814 unless otherwise noted.

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Bridges Festival

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- All day celebration from noon to 11 pm
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- Swimming pool with life guard
- Softball, volleyball, treasure hunt, other games
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- BYOB (if you wish)
- Lots of great people just like you!

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

Kids 15 & under are \$3. Proceeds benefit Erie Gay Community Newsletter & other Bridges projects.

For general info, call Michael at (814) 456-9833. For vendor info, call Jacquelyn at (814)455-0549

Bridges — Building Community!

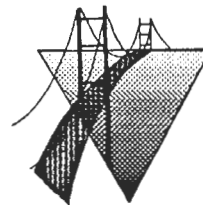
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The cost of your subscription includes the 12 months of newsletter mailed discreetly to you in a security envelope for 1 year. Please send this with your check for \$15 made payable to "EGC Coalition" to EGCN, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. CompuServe: 70431,1622. Please remember to support our advertisers!



Erie PFLAG Chapter Forming!

Kathy Harris is organizing an Erie chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Persons interested should call (814)838-6020 for further details.

Ad Rates

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