Erie Cay Community Newsletter

Published by BRIDGES



August, 1993

Celebrating the goodness & diversity of Erie area's lesbian, gay & bisexual community

Women's Music Comes to Erie!

Tired of making those 200-mile round-trips to see women's music events? Well, now women's music is coming to Erie!

PINK SANDS is a brand-new women's music production company, based in Erie County.

A PINK SANDS spokeswoman explained why they decided to do this now: "So many events, activities, and groups now happen in northwestern Pennsylvania that we think the time is right to grow in yet another direction—women's music. PINK SANDS evolved because our community has shown support for experiment and because we believe that women's music and culture affects our community so positively." She pointed out that although women's music is about affirming women, men will be attending these events and are certainly welcome.

PINK SANDS will produce two concerts this fall.

Leah Zicari will perform Saturday September 18 at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$8.00. Susan Herrick will appear Friday October 8 at 8 p.m.; tickets will be \$10.00. The concerts will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie). Doors will open at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets for both concerts will be available in advance. Mail a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check payable to "CASH" to Pink Sands, Suite 123, 2115 W. 8th Street, Erie PA 16505. If you order advance tickets to both concerts—before September 9—you can save two bucks and

get them both for \$16.00. Tickets will also be available at the door, but since seating is limited, buying tickets in advance is recommended.

A sliding scale is available to those who need it and who write to them at least two weeks in advance of the concert date. Concerts are wheelchair accessible. Any person with special accessibility needs must write two weeks in advance of the concert, so that accomodations can be made.

After putting on the two concerts, PINK SANDS plans to step back, assess feedback from the community, determine if they accomplished what they set out to do, and see if their strength will allow them to continue to produce concerts.

Best of luck to PINK SANDS! Let's show our support for women's music and culture in the Erie area!

Leah Zicari

Lesbian recording artist Leah Zicari will perform at PINK SANDS' very first concert.

Leah's music is witty and fun, and she sings about the lives of women, gays, and lesbians. People who went to the Bridges' dance may remember when Leah's gay/ lesbian version of "Glory, Glory" was played, inspir-

lesbian version of "Glory, Glory" was played, inspiring and entertaining the crowd at the same time. In her song "Martina," about having a crush on Martina Navratilova, she implores "Martina I'm

wishing that you would serve me/Back and forehand me/Come on and court me/I'm wishing that love is the score." In "What Kind of Self-Respecting Lezzie is She?", she takes a poke at our own community's expectations of conformity and "political correctness".

Leah's work can also be heard on numerous recordings, including Jamie Anderson's "Center of Balance," "A Family of Friends" compilation recording from Tsunami and Frostfire Records, and on the 1993 March on Washington's Pride Anthem "Together, Proud, and Strong," which she also conducted. In 1991 and 1992 she won the *Hotwire* Reader's Choice Awards. Pioneer lesbian musician Alix Dobkin predicts, "Leah Zicari is going to take the Women's Music world by storm."

Sound like fun? See for yourself on September 18!

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Ad Rates

Businesses and Sponsors! Show your support and reach Erie's lesbigay community directly! Advertising space is now available in all issues for just \$20 for an eighth page ad, \$35 for a quarter page ad, and \$65 for a half page ad. Write the address above or call our Advertising Director at (814) 455-0549 for further details!

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.

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 lesbigay groups and individuals to help our community develop and thrive.

Why the Bridges Festival Was Cancelled

by the Festival Organizing Committee

The Bridges Festival (scheduled for Sept. 5) has been cancelled.

It was a hard decision to make, but it was the only one that made any sense.

The people on the Festival organizing committee agreed that although it would be *possible* to pull the festival together, it would cost us terribly. As the committee got rolling on the festival, we discovered that the festival was going to cost way more than was anticipated—possibly up to \$1,000. But we were more concerned about the human cost: because of the size and time length of the event, there was good reason to be concerned that the huge workload the festival required would burn out the festival's organizers and cause so much stress that relationships between organizers would be damaged.

Something like this was bound to happen to Bridges sooner or later. The incredibly quick and successful development of new gay/lesbian organizations and projects in our area has been nothing short of magical. With relatively little struggle, things have fallen into place, people and groups have cooperated with each other, the community has been supportive, and events and projects have usually been very successful. The Erie area gay/lesbian community and Bridges have been breaking through into areas that were once thought impossible for our little neck of the woods. Time and time again we've heard, "You won't be able to do that here," only to show that we most certainly *could* do it. And there's reason to take pride in all that.

The only problem was that, because of our successes, we developed a "We can do anything" frame of mind, and we just didn't look at this project as realistically as we could have.

Being only human, we realize that we are not always going to make good decisions. The best we can do is to try to learn from our mistakes and avoid making the same ones in the future, and to pass along lessons learned so that others won't make the same mistakes in the future.

What lessons did we learn?

First, before taking on a large project like this, do some serious and careful thinking about the work, money, and resources required. The festival was definitely something that was just jumped into with little discussion or thought.

Keep the level of activities in line with what we can comfortably handle. We don't need to keep expanding the size and scope of our projects all the time to succeed. The idea for the festival came from a feeling that it was time for Bridges to move beyond dances and get into something much bigger. But why? There was nothing wrong with the size of the dances. And there is a group of people who have evolved to take on the work of the dances, and they work well together. If it isn't broken, let's not be in such a rush to fix it.

Expansion of activities should only take place when there has been an expansion of people willing to do the work required. Bridges didn't do that. We came up with a big project and expected lesbigay activists in the area to fall in line and help. That's really bad decision-making on our part, because these people were never consulted about whether or not they'd be into helping with the festival. We later realized this was the big area where relationships could be damaged: on the one hand you'd have the Festival organizers expecting all kinds of cooperation from people who never volunteered, and feeling resentful towards those people who asserted their right to say no; and on the other hand those people would end up feeling resentful toward the organizers for taking for granted that they would and should volunteer. Not exactly the sort of mood we had in mind for a festival that was going to be held as a celebration!

Summer is not a good time to be organizing a big event. The colleges are out (and students are a very important source of our support), working people are on vacation, and people are just generally in a more relaxed

Cont'd on page 16

= New or Modified Group/Event this issue

Calendar

Important Note: Events listed here are specifically gay or of interest to a lot of lesbigay 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 e-mail address! From CompuServe, 70431,1622 or from Internet 70431.1622@compuserve.com

→ Aug 7—2 Gírls Alone at Cup-a-Ccino's Showtime is from 9:00 til midnight. Cup-a-Ccino's is

at 18 North Park Row, Erie, PA.

Aug 8—Only Human: Sex on The Learning Channel (TLC-TV) at 9 pm. Explores several sexuality issues, including men who avoid wearing condoms and the idea that homosexuality can or should be "cured".

Aug 8—Annual Barbecue in Cleveland Sponsored by Chevrei Tikva, Twinsburg, OH. Tikva is Cleveland's gay/lesbian Jewish group. Call (216)932-5551 for location. \$5 for beverages.

Aug 9—Chanfilly Lace On Showtime. Focuses on lives of 7 women over a year, Ally Sheedy plays a

lesbian who comes out. At 1 am.

→ Aug 13—Men's Coffeehouse Game Night! Bring a dish to pass and games to play! 7:00 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie.

Aug 13-15—Gay Positive Men's Group Camp Out Weekend at Jones Pond in Angelica, NY

For info, **(716)884-8670**

Aug 14 (Changed from 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

■Aug 14—Rebel Without a Cause. A & E

(TV) Movie starring James Dean, 9 p.m.

Aug. 16—Deadline to Register for AIDS Council of Erie Walk-a-thon. To register, bring completed pledge sheet along with monies collected to AIDS Council office, 554 E. 10th. If you can't make it by this deadline, late registration will be taken the morning of the Walk-a-thon. Call (814)455-5492.

Aug. 18—The Ryan White Story on Lifetime-TV at 10 a.m. Movie about the boy whose struggles against AIDS and discrimination touched the hearts of people across the country.

Aug 20—Freddy Burch/Country & Western at Lizzie Bordon's Two shows: 10:30 pm & midnight. Each for one hour. Freddy encourages people to dance at his shows, so slap on them stompin' boots and kick up those heels!

Aug 21—AIDS Memorial Walk at Presque Isle AIDS Council of Erie County, Inc. at (814)455-5492. To honor the memories of those who've died because of AIDS and to help raise money for the AIDS Council of Erie, County, Inc. 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—Jamestown Social Group Game Night "Bring any games you would like to play and invite your friends. There will also be a discussion of plans for the group in the fall...anyone who wants to have some input into future meetings should attend." At 7 pm at Unitarian Church in Jamestown.

→ Aug. 22—The Fourth Man Movie on A&E-TV. Film noir about a gay alcoholic writer. Film uses images & symbols of religion, creativity, homoeroticism, and woman-hating. Directed by Paul Verhoeven, who also directed Basic Instinct

Firelane Shelter in Frick Park. Traditional and silly games. Bring-your-own picnic. Dancing. For more info, call (412)422-0114 or (412)322-4572

← Aug 23-29 — AIDS Awareness Week in Buffalo For complete information, call AIDS Alliance at (716)852-6778.

Aug 23—Declaration and Dedication of Life Memorial Park in Buffalo AIDS memorial park dedication, one of the first of its kind in the nation. 10 am corner of Normal & Parker Avenue. Hors d'oeuvres and reception follow. Call AIDS Alliance at (716)852-6778.

Durgh At Coca-Cola Star Lake Ampitheatre, Burgettstown, PA. The Divine Miss M's first major concert tour in 10 years. Tickets on sale at Ticket master.

→Aug. 25—Judy Garland: The Concert Years on Discovery-TV 10 p.m.

→ August 28—An Early Frost on Lifetime-TV at 8 p.m. Drama about a young, successful attorney who is infected with HIV by his supposedly monogamous

August'93

lover. Much of the story focuses on how his family deals with learning he is gay and has AIDS.

Aug 29—Integrity Picnic at Barb and Dor's 9501 Westlake Road (from Erie: 3 miles past intersection of Rtes 98 & 5. Watch for pink and purple balloons.) Please come and feel welcome; you needn't belong to Integrity. 3 pm till whenever. 455-0549.

Aug 29—Summer Music Festival in Williamsville, NY (Near Buffalo) At Unitarian Church of Amherst, 6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY. 2-8 pm, continuous gay & lesbian performers. Culminates with candlelight wish ceremony. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. ((716)683-7489

-Aug 29—End of Summer Festival at Buddies in Buffalo 1 p.m. til midnight. Winds up AIDS Awareness Week. AIDS fundraiser. DJ music, dancing, cocktails, sit-down dinner, pig roast, casino gambling, bidders auctions, games of chance, fun. 31 Johnson Park & Elmwood. Call (716)855-1313

-Aug 29—Basic Instinct on Showtime at 9 p.m.. Controversial thriller that many gay/lesbian groups protested as defamatory. Stars Sharon Stone and Michael Douglas.

Sep 1—AIDS Council of Erie Officially Moved. Their new location is at 110 West 10th, hours



13 West 10th Street

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August 5-8, 12-15, 19-21 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



Entertainment Notes

- We missed this last month so its': a teensy bit late...MTV's second season of "The Real World" features a lesbian roommate. This real-life look at seven young adults living together is on at 10 p.m. on Thursdays and lasts 22 weeks. The 22-year-old lesbian, Beth, was a mid-series replacement.
- Fox-TV's Melrose Place will bring real-life gay actor Christopher Hayes to play the boyfriend of gay character Matt Fielding (Doug Savant). Hayes will appear in three episodes in the new season. It's also rumored that Fielding's role will be expanded.
- ☆ It's not clear if it will be shown in Erie, but the movie Orlando is getting rave reviews around the country. It's based on the novel Orlando, which was written by Virgina Woolf, as a love letter to Vita Sackville-West. Lord Orlando (Tilda Swinton) is commanded by Queen Elizabeth (Quentin Crisp-who better to play a Queen than a queen!!??) to never age. Orlando travels through 3 centuries and after having sex with a man becomes a woman. Interesting gender genre stuff. Jimmy Sommerville plays an angel.

ON HBO...

- Why am I Gay? will be broadcast on: Aug. 10 (10:15 p.m.), August 16 (10:15 p.m.) and August 25 (7 p.m.).
- Throughout August watch for A League of Their Own, the comedy film based on the real-life story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in the 1940s. Stars Madonna, Geena Davis, Tom Hanks. For a behind-the-scenes look at the making of this movie, check out Making of a League of Their Own. Check listings for times.
- If you're into gender-bending stuff, watch Switch, a movie about a murdered male chauvinist who comes back as a woman. Check listings for times.

and phone numbers will remain the same. They invite you to stop in and check out their new location.

Sep 4—2 Girls Alone at Cup-a-ccino's. 18

N. Park Row, Erie. 9 p.m. to midnight.

→ Sep 4—In a New Light '93 on ABC-TV Information/Educational special about AIDS. Lily Tomlin will appear as that sassy, snorting telephone operator Ernestine who'll be answering calls at an AIDS hotline. She'll be giving funny but factual information about AIDS. Other celebs too. See local listings.

Gay men's retreat/campground in Angelica NY. Friday and Saturday DJ, dancing, campfire. Sunday comedy drag show at 10 followed by DJ and dancing. Sunday at midnight, raffle for Jones Pond Memorial Building Fund (they're building a 25 foot gazebo with garden to memorialize those Jones Ponders who've passed away.) Jones Pond accomodations are basically camping—tents, large RVs, whatever, with water and power hookups. Also other environments—dining hall, socializing area, weight room, more. For info call (716)567-8100.

Sep 5—BRIDGES FESTIVAL CANCELLED!!!!!

See article this issue.

-Sep 6—Pittsburgh Labor Day Picnic 11a.m. till 7 p.m. at the spacious North Park Lodge. DJ Dancing (regular & country/western—in two separate areas), all-you can-eat menu of traditional picnic food and snacks, vendors. Volleyball and horeseshoes. Carnival-type games of fun, chance and skill. 1500 attendees expected. Map is on back of tickets. Put on by Pittsburgh Tavern Guild, portion of ticket donations benefits Lambda Foundation/Borelli AIDS Fund. Tickets: \$14 donation in advance, \$20 at the gate (Nonrefundable). Call (814)456-3674 (in Erie) if you want to pick up advance tickets locally, or order by mail by Aug. 25 by sending a check to Lambda Foundation,



PO Box 5169, Pittsburgh PA 15206. Advance tickets will be available also at most Pittsburgh gay bars up until the night before, plus Saint Elmo's Bookstore, Jazi's and other Pittsburgh gay & lesbian businesses. Festivities don't end when picnic is over, because bars and clubs will have after-picnic specials.

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((614)267-DYKE

-Sep 12—Cleveland's 11th Annual "We Are Family" Picnic Wildwood Water Park, Columbia Station OH. 3,000-5,000 expected. Dancing (regular, square, other), games, shows, picnic, free beer & pop, waterslides, paddleboat, good mix of people & environments. More details in our Septmeber issue, or you can call Cleveland's Gay/Lesbian Hotline at (216)781-6736.

*Sep 12—Boot Cruise in Buffalo 6:30 til 9:30, boarding time 6:00, at Miss Buffalo Boat Dock, Erie Basin Marina, near Buffalo Auditorium. Cash bar. Tickets \$8, may go up a buck. Put on by Gay and Lesbian Youth Services. Call (716)855-0221 or write

190 Franklin St, Buffalo NY 14202.

 Sep 17—Depeche Mode in Concert in Pittsburgh at Civic Arena. For tickets ((412)333-SEAT.
 Sep 18—Legh Zicgri in Concert at Unitgr-

ian Universalist Congregation of Erie At 8 pm. Tickets are \$8. Produced by Pink Sands Productions. See front page story.

Sep 23—Bonnie Bitch at Lizzie Bordon's

Comedian (male). From midnight to 1 am.

→Sep 23—2 Girls Alone at Pie in the Sky 463

W. 8th, Erie. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Oct 8—Susan Herrick Concert at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie At 8 pm.
 Tickets are \$10. Produced by Pink Sands Productions
 Oct 15—Men's Coffeehouse At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie at 7 pm. Moved to

3rd Friday of the month for October only to accommodate Susan Homisk Consort, Charlette out

date Susan Herrick Concert. Check it out!

Oct 17—Pittsburgh Cruise Put on by Pittsburgh Tavern Guild. Three hours of boating on all 3 rivers. Dancing, drinking, good times, cash bar, food. Tickets: \$15 in advance (strongly recommended!!!). Tickets should be available after Labor Day Picnic.

((814)456-3674 (in Erie) if you want to pick up advance tickets locally. Expected to be sold out. Move quickly! ◆Oct 26—Depeche Mode in Cleveland Details later

Festivals & Conferences

→Aug 10-15—Michigan Womyn's Music **Festival** The largest of all the lesbian festivals. Near Hart, MI. Call WWTMC at (616)757-4866

 Aug 14-16
 —Madonnathon '93 Madonna fan convention in Detroit, MI.. Contact Bassline Enter-

tainment at (313)353-6681

Aug 19-22—First Annual National Lesbian Golf Tournament in Minneapolis Sponsored by Women's Golf Tours 2 (800)373-7244 or (612)823-7244

Aug 20-22—Queen Fan Club Annual Convention In Oberlin, OH. Fans will be blanketing Oberlin College with Names Project quilts memorializing Freddy Mercury, Queen's lead singer who died of AIDS complications in 1991. For info on showing times, call (216)960-2050 or 1-800-447-7163. Local fan club, Queen Fiends, can be reached by calling Lynne at (814)454-8820

Sep 2-6—Womongathering in PA Poconos Women's spirituality gathering; yoga, drumming, circles, rituals, spiral dance, experiential workshops. Write to Campfest Festivals, RR 5 Box 185, Franklinville NI 08322. Call (609)694-2037.

Sep 4-5—"Fight the Right" Midwest Regional Summit Workshops will include coalition building, boycotts, direct action, media skills, advanced media advocacy. Hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce and Stonewall Cincinatti. For info, contact (513)541-8778.

fan convention in Detroi, MI.. Contact Bassline Enter-

tainment at (313)353-6681

Sep 10-12—Sisterspace Pocono Weekend In the PA Poconos. Write to Sisterspace, 351 South 47th Street B-101, Philadelphia, PA 19143 🕿 (215)476-2424

Cot 1-3—Annual Lonestar Women's Music Festival on Guadalupe River Write to PO Box 2650, Austin, TX 78768 (512)929-0002

→Oct 8-18—Pittsburgh International Lesbian & Gay Film Festiva P.O. Box 9007, Pittsburgh PA 15224 (412)687-0609

3412 West 12th STRFFT FRIF Mixed, disco, shows HRS: MON-SAT 9-2 A SLICE OF THE GOOD LIFE **Groups & Organizations**

AIDS Council of Erie Location: 554 East 10th Street; Erie, PA 16503-1314. Moving to United Way Building, 110 West 10th Street, Erie, PA 16501 on September 1. 2 (814) 455-5492. Hours: 8:30 to 4:30 Mon.-Fri. Activities: Bimonthly newsletter, weekly Food Pantry, Memorial service, Buddies program, Bereavement group. Call for more info.

Bridges A coalition of organizations & people 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,

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

and address concerns that relate to gay and lesbian issues specific to the Allegheny Community. SCSGLBP, Box 186, Allegheny College, Meadville, PA 16335. Paula at (814) 332-4356 or Erny at (814) 332-4375

Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO)

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

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. APMercy Institute, 501

Wills, Living Wills, Closings & Criminal Law

John E. Cooper, Esq 227 W. 5th Street Erie, PA 16507 (814) 455-3436 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

HUGS East (Mentor, OH)

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

Integrity

A Christian-based spiritual and support group, sponsored by the Episcopalian 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 or (814)774-0903.

Jamestown HIV Positive Support Group

T 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: 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: Aug 21. (716) 484-7285 or (716) 664-5556.

League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)

Currently reorganizing. Planning Gay town hall meeting in September to show *The Gay Agenda*, an antigay hate video putout by the religious right. Lobbying for PA State SB1218 (also introduced in House), which would outlaw gay-bashing. Non partisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for primary and general election, voter registration/education, lobbying. *Meetings:* See schedule or call. Michael at (814) 456-9833. LGLV-Erie, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063.

Lesbian Moms Support Group

Support group for lesbian moms, co-parents and women interested in parenting. Meets 3rd Saturday of each month. Lucinda Marsh, 214 Walnut Street, Waterford, PA 16441. (2014) 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: Aug 14, Sep 10 & Oct 15 (Oct is moved from the 8th to make room for the concert). \$\frac{15}{2}\$ (814) 455-9049 for more info. \$\frac{15}{2}\$

Out & Proud

Support group for media issues, those dealing with coming out. &OP, PO Box 3063, Erie PA 16508-3063

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: Aug 7 & Sep 4. Sally at (814) 454-2713.



MOVED: Jacquelyn & Lynne, into their new dream home. It was tough, but they think it's worth it. They'll be having an open house when they get settled. Way to go, girls!

BETROTHED: Michael Mahler & Michael Miller, at Starwood on Friday, June 23. (And no, the names are not made up and, yes, they do like M&M's.) The happy couple is planning on a handfasting/wedding next June. More details as this develops.

News

Local Bits & Pieces

A bunch of Bridges folks went up to a work party at the Unitarian Universalist Church on July 30. Dan. Greg, Paul, Michael, and Deb painted up a storm! We were glad to help out, because the Unitarians, in Erie as well as elsewhere, are so supportive to our community. If you like to do building-ish type of things, consider getting involved in the next work party. Give us a call at 456-9833 and we'll get back to you for the next work party.

The Jamestown Social Group invited Erie people to join them at the park in Westfield NY. There were about a dozen of us and a couple dozen Jamestowners. It was fun and the sunset was gorgeous! Our thanks to the Jamestown group for the invitation, and we hope to get to know you

all better in the future.

Media

In July, LGLV-Erie was successful in getting the video documentary *To Support and Defend*, produced by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. LGLV was successfulin getting the cable community access channel to air the documentary on July 11 and July 14. The video is narrated by Cybil Shepherd and presents information on gay and lesbian people who are serving or have served in the U.S. military. WJET-TV interviewed LGLV spokesman Michael Mahler about the video on July 11.

Mahler was also interviewed abut the issue of gays in the military by WSEE-TV (July 19, *The Erie Morning-News* (July 20), and the Jim DeSantis Show on WLKK-radio. All three callers on Jim DeSantis' show were relatively unsympathetic. The first caller was hostile, and kept calling gay people "bitches and bastards," and was cut off by the host. One caller expressed concern about straight men being ogled by gay men in the showers. Mahler said gay men do not see all straight men as "luscious morsels," and that straight men ought not turn down what hasn't been offered. DeSantis joked that *he* was a luscious morsel and the next caller—a male—joked that he thought Jim DeSantis was a luscious morsel, too. At the end of the interview, DeSantis thanked Mahler for doing "verbal battle" with the callers.

Barry Grossman at Flagship-1560 wanted a female veteran to speak on his show, but none could be found.

Chris Young chair of LGLV was connected from Pittsburgh and appeared on the show by phone. The callers were mostly sympathetic.

Work

AMSTERDAM, the Netherlands—Amsterdam's city council designated June 24 as "Pink Civil Servants' Day" to honor gay and lesbian city employees. "It's like women's day but for homosexuals," explained Mirjam Tuerkama, coordinator of Amsterdam's lesbian/gay rights committee.

Clinton Appointments

President Clinton has named *Kristine Gebbie* as the first national AIDS coordinator, or "AIDS Czar."

Gebbie served as the state of Washington's health secretary since 1989. For the previous 11 years she served as administrator of the health division of the Oregon Department of Human Resources. In that position, she became one of the first public officials in the nation to call for TV ads promoting the use of condoms to battle AIDS, and she also helped establish AIDS centers in smaller towns. Since 1989, she has chaired the Center for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on the Prevention of HIV Infection. She had been criticized for being in support of reporting HIV+ people to state health officials. In the August 10 issue of *The Advocate*, she insists that that isn't true, and stated, "I absolutely do not believe in anything that would lead to individuals' names being publicly revealed in any way or made accessible in any way." President Reagan appointed Gebbie to the president's commission on AIDS, and Gebbie co-wrote a report critical of the Reagan administration.

Gebbie's appointment has been met with mixed reviews by AIDS activists.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, President Clinton's nominee to the Supreme Court, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on August 3. Sen. Edward Kennedy asked Ginsburg about her stand on civil rights for gay men and lesbians, citing a statement she had made in 1979 ("I think discrimination based on sexual orientation should be deplored"). Ginsburg reaffirmed that belief, and praised diversity and tolerance. However, she stopped short of stating how she would rule on government regulations that penalize lesbians and gay men, or if same-sex behavior would be protected by the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law.

Ginsburg is replacing Justice Byron White, who in 1986 wrote the Court's decision to uphold states' rights to make private gay sex illegal (Bowers vs. Hardwick). White wrote the decision in explicitly anti-gay language.

Ginsburg has also been a strong advocate for women's rights.

Couples

A number of entertainment industry giants are extending health insurance coverage to same-sex partners of employees. WarnerBrothers, Universal Studios, and Viacom International (parent to Showtime and MTV) have all done so recently. HBO is doing it on a trial basis. Disney, Fox, and Columbia are expected to follow.

Laws

The Colorado Supreme Court has delivered a blow to the state's anti-gay rights amendment (Amendment 2). A lower court ordered an injunction against the amendment, which kept it from being enforced; the state's supreme court kept that injunction in effect.

Amendment 2 was passed by 53 percent of the state's voters in last fall's election. The amendment would ban state and local gay rights legislation, and strike down gay rights ordinances in effect in Denver, Aspen, and Boulder.

The Supreme Court stated, "One's right to life, liberty, and property...and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to a vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections." The Court ruling stated that the antigay rights Amendment 2 probably violated the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment, which forbids states from denying equal rights to anyone.

A trial to determine the law's constitutionality will be held in October.

Oregon's Governor Barbara Roberts signed a bill preventing communities from putting anti-gay rights laws into effect. A campaign by the religious right succeeded in passing anti-gay rights ordinances in several Oregon communities; they hoped to get dozens of communities across the state to pass similar laws. The governor's signed the bill in hopes of thwarting the anti-gay rights campaign.

The Male Couple's Guide

Book Review by Michael Mahler

This book provides a fairly comprehensive guide to the issues facing gay male couples. Author Eric Marcus has a very easy-to-read style. The chapters include sections on Finding a Man (on which my lover, who gave me the book, exclaimed, "Check!"), Getting Along, Monogamy/ Nonmonogamy, Making a Home, Family, Parenting, Work and Play, Getting Physical, Legalizing Your Relationship, Money, Insurance, Rituals and Religion, Health, Aging, On the Rocks, and Loss.

What I liked about how the author handled the subjects was the way he brought up topics and issues that affect couples without insisting that there was only one possible way of resolving them. I felt he gave an

even-handed approach to all topics. He was also very good in listing resources and guides for

further research on all topics. I also appreciated the way he avoided writing definitively on areas where the information was too changeable or varied to speak with certainty. For example, in dealing with HIV/AIDS he did not state that there was any point at which a monogamous couple should assume they no longer need to practice safe sex.

It also helped that he included anecdotes and interviews with couples. All too often, the major, if not only, image we get of gay males is that of sex gargoyles on the make.

There are many of us who want to find someone, settle down and build a life together. As gays we do not tend to have the societal support and information that heterosexual couples do. I feel this book provides useful perspectives and resources.

The revised edition of *The Male Couple's Guide* is written by Eric Marcus and was originally published by Harper & Rowin 1988. The revised edition is copywritten in 1992 and is published by Harper Collins.

Lesbian Literature

by Christelle DeCrease

If you do not travel the world constantly, then you should read often!

There is more splendid "literary" gay and lesbian literature than you might imagine. It's just that we cannot find it in Erie.

In the broad spectrum of gay life there have been historically and in the present—great and diverse, creative and imaginative people who also happened to be gay and lesbian!

In Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in the 20th Century (Penguin Books, \$12), authoress Lillian Faderman tells about these intriguing lives, and offers information about the history and lesbian life in the 20th century, including how the word "lesbian" even

came into being. This book won a Lambda Literary Award.

On the fictitious side, Jeanette Winterson has written *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit* (Atlantic Monthly Press, \$8.95). Winterson, who is the author of numerous books on homo-

sexual and lesbian themes, has written one of the most beautiful, quirky and witty novels I've read in a long time. It's a story about a girl coming of age and coming out in the British 1960s. The charm of this book is the wonderfully sarcastic way she

handles right-to-the-heart

issues through the lives of her characters. The comic relief is refreshing and really brings perspective to your own issues. Read the book before you see the movie.

These books can be ordered by mail from Saint Elmo's Music & Bookstore, 2214 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh PA 15203 (412)431-9100.

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Announcements

African American Condoms

A company owned by African-Americans has launched a line of safer sex products that appeals specifically to the African-American community.

Umoja Sasa condoms (Umoja Sasa is Swahili for "Unity Now") come in packages with attractive afrocentric

designs. The packages contain three condoms—one red, one green, and one black—the colors of black nationalism. Inside the package are well-illustrated, clearly stated instructions on the correct use of a condom.

The company calls its campaign "Protect the Blood." The slogan has two meanings—one meaning literally protecting blood, and the other being a play on the African-American slang term for family or friend.

The company also carries "Protect the Blood" posters, brochures, bumper stickers, buttons, and Tshirts. They are trying to get their product distributed through agencies as well as retail facilities in the African-American communities, like local stores, bars, beauty salons, barber shops, etc.

The Umoja Sasa condoms have a real appeal for African-Americans in studies that have been done. The AIDS Council of Erie wants to bring this product line into Erie County,

and is just waiting for funding it. Businesses and organizations who are convinced that they'd like to try this product line can contact the company by writing or calling Umoja Sasa Products Corporation, P.O. Box 41401, Baltimore MD 21203-6401 (410)576-8688.

Artists Wanted

The AIDS Council of Erie needs canvas art for a fundraising calendar they are putting out.

The art doesn't have to be about AIDS or being gay, and you don't have to be a professional artist to submit work or to have it accepted.

If you are interested, contact Mary Lee at the AIDS Council at (814)455-5492

Film Festival Seeks Entries

The Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film

Festival (Oct. 8-18) is accepting entries in film and video formats. Entries and other informats be received by Sept. 15.

For more info call Dan Schott (412)731-2237.

So You Like To Talk About Yourself?

Up till now, there hasn't been a really accurate way of taking surveys in the gay and lesbian community. But no more.

The March on Washington organization has sponsored a project to look for gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgendered people to participate in surveys about our community. They hope that developing such a database will allow our needs to be identified and promote develop a greater understanding of the issues affecting us.

If you're interested in being a participant in social research projects, contact MOW, 1201 E. Pike St., Seattle WA 98122. The project inists that names will be held in strict confidence

and released only to research projects approved by that committee.

Gay Travel by Computer

A new online information service for gay and lesbian travelers is now available from The Damron Company, the people who publish gay/lesbian travel guides. The service is called The Navigator, and it will allow you to find



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our about upcoming events in cities throughout North America, to find gay/lesbian friendly businesses and organizations, and to find people who are interested in hosting out of town visitors.

The Navigator is accessible 24 hours a day via telephone, fax, and soon computer.

To find gay/lesbian friendly businesses and organizations in cities throughout North America, call (703)951-4433 and follow instructions online. If you're interested in hosting our of town guests in your city, call (703)951-4433 to post a free ad on The Navigator. Categories include: cinema/theatre fans, private parties, tour guides, real estate agents, sports/outdoor activities, and more.

This is not a dating service.



AIN'T TOO COOL

Heat causes latex to deteriorate. Don't store your condoms where they'll be exposed to heat; like your car, or near sunny windows or heat generating appliances.

Play safe, be cool!

Why not subscribe to EGCN Today??

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.

Congrats to Lynne & Jacquelyn on their new house!

Scott: The pie was great, but friendship is more fulfilling than food. L.

Music, Meditation & Massage: A relaxation workshop. Limit of 30 people, you must pre-register to attend this workshop. For more info, (814)455-9049

Snookie Bear, I love you & wanna spend the rest of my life with you. Michael M

Lesbian Chic

Once considered "the invisible minority," lesbians have suddenly become the very visible darlings of the mass media, which has declared them chic. Lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhoefer quips "We're like the Evian water of the '90s. Everybody wants to know a lesbian or to be with a lesbian or just to dress like one."

Huh? Well, in case you haven't been keeping up, here

is what's been going on:

- In July, the TV talk show Geraldo featured several prominent and "glamorous" lesbians. Appearing were comedians Karen Williams and Suzanne Westenhoefer, two performers from the lesbian musical group Femme 2 Femme, lesbian author Joann Loulan ("Lesbian Sex", " The Lesbian Erotic Dance") and a co-founder of Olivia—lesbian record company and cruise travel company. In the show's beginning, ending, and at commercial breaks, they showed Femme 2 Femme's sexy lesbian music video, Madonna talking dykey to ex-girlfriend Sandra Bernhard, lesbians at the March on Washington, Madonna singing "Fever" ("chicks'll give you fever, fever all through the night"), and more. The show was basically upbeat and fun.
- ☆ A few days after that, Maury Povich had a "Lesbian Chic" show, with a number of lesbians, including comedian Kate Clinton. This show, too, was basically upbeat.
- ☆ "Lesbian Chic: The Bold, Brave World of Gay Women" was the cover story of the May 10 issue of New York magazine, with a pensive-looking k.d. lang as the cover girl. Inside the magazine, several pages were devoted to discussing the phenomenon.
- Lesbians were also the cover story of the June 21 issue of *Newsweek*. Two conventionally attractive lesbian lovers graced the magazine's cover, with a big fat headline "LESBIANS."
- ☆ Rolling Stone magazine, which recently released its annual "HOT LIST," named lesbians "THE Hot Subculture," declaring, "You're in if you're out."

- The July Vogue devoted several pages to lesbians and lesbian chic, and USA Today put the story right on the front and center of their Lifestyle section. Mademoiselle and Vanity Fair have also recently done stories about lesbians.
- ☆ The August Vanity Fair made k.d. lang their cover story, with k.d. being shown getting shaved by model Cindy Crawford. Inside was a profile of the singer, and a playful photo of Cindy and k.d. getting hot with each other.
- Lesbian comic Lea DeLaria performed on Arsenio Hall driving the audience wild with her in-your-face lesbian humor.

Some lesbians have raised concerns about the trend, saying that it celebrates lesbians who are attractive or glamorous by heterosexual standards, while rejecting those other lesbians who, as Geraldo put it, "wear comfortable shoes." It's a valid concern, though it doesn't usually take into account that k.d. lang has been mentioned—if not prominently featured—in almost all of these shows and articles. And lang certainly seems to be of the, um, comfortable shoe variety of lesbians. Another concern is that the trendy, popculture approach might be trivializing lesbians' concerns and issues.

Whatever the case, it's certainly an interesting development, and one worth watching



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

Community Directory

24 Hour Counseling:
Saint Vincent
Family Crisis
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.
Silver Slipper Lounge, 1317 State St.
Jamestown, NY Nite Spot, 201 Windsor St.
Sneakers, 100 Harrison
Community Service Organizations:
Bridges
Out and Proud (Speakers' Bureau) 456-9833
Counseling:
Lisa DiPlacido, MS, 452-4366
South Shore Counseling Group
For more info, call Greg 833-3258
E-Mail for EGCN. LGLV, Bridges:
From CompuServe
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)
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
Political/Advocacy Organizations:
League of Gay & Lesbian Voters 456-9833
Publications:
Erie Gay Community Newsletter 456-9833
Religious Organizations:
Integrity
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 Buffalo (716)855-0221
Indianapolis Gay Youth Hotline 1-800-347-8336
(Under 21; Available Thu-Sun 7pm to Midnight)
National Runaway Switchboard 1-800-621-4000
Teen Hotline (412) 771-8336
Trigon (Behrend College)
Support Groups:
Erie PFLAG
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
Lifes Blood (AA) Sundays, 8:00 PM, 554 E. 10th

All numbers are area code 814 unless otherwise noted.



South Shore Counseling Group 55 E Main Street

North East PA 16428

Warm, gay-affirmative counseling for a full range

of individual, couple & family problems

Dale A. Allgeier, MSW, LSW (814) 725-8504

Fees based on a sliding fee scale

Bridges Festival Cancelled Cont'd

mode. That's not just a gay thing; it's just how people are. We need to acknowledge and respect that fact.

Over the next year, Bridges will be trying to bring the Erie community many of the sorts of events that would have been held at the festival: workshops, performances, games, picnics, and, of course, dances. We need and want your help and input in putting these events together, so please think about how you can get involved. A good place to start is at the August 14 Potluck/Discussion. We hold these events on a quarterly basis and they give us the chance to talk about what's happening in our community and what we'd like to see happen. Details about the August 14 Potluck/Discussion are in the calendar. Hope to see you there!

In our calendar and in the Festivals listing you'll also see listings for Labor Day weekend events going on out-of-town. (Note especially the Pittsburgh picnic!) There are also some great things going on before and after Labor Day, so check those out too. Bridges will be getting together for a picnic on Sept.5, too; though it'll be much smaller and more toned down than the Festival would have been. Call Mike at 456-9833 or Jacquelyn at 455-0549 for further details.

Our apologies to those people who are going to be disappointed with this. Please be patient with us as we grow. And thanks for your support!

Area Bars and Places

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.

Fri & Sat - \$1 cover, half goes into a 50-50 raffle drawn at the end of the night, other half goes to person taking the cover. Cleveland *Gay People's Chronicle* for free here.

Erie

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). Food served.

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 PA LCB okays it. It will mainly be a seating area, with tables and booths.

Jamestown & Southwest NY

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown. Open Tues-Sun 7pm-2am. Closed Mon. DJ Fri & Sat 10pm-2am. Sun Drag show, DJ after 9:30 pm, no cover. Nightly specials.

Rocking Duck Inn, 28 Genesee Parkway, Cuba NY. Near Olean, 100 miles from Erie. Gay-owned Bed & Breakfast. Call (716)968-3335 for more info.

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

Subscription Form	
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