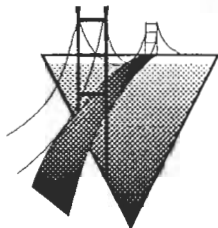


Erie Gay Community Newsletter

Published by BRIDGES



October, 1993

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

☛ = 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

☛ **Oct 4—Last Day to Register to Vote: PA Residents** Registration forms *must* be in Voters Registration office by this date.

☛ **Oct 4—Liberace (1988)** on Lifetime at 4 p.m. Biographical drama about the beyond-flamboyant entertainer, Liberace.

Oct 8—Susan Herrick in Concert at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie At 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway (Rte. 97).

Enjoy an evening with lesbian recording artist Susan Herrick, whose sexy and healing womyn's music blends folk, jazz, blues, and pop styles. *Ladyslipper* said of Susan, "A remarkable artist and performer—one we recently experienced in concert for the first time, and, quite frankly, were blown away!... Her lyrics are full of depth and grace, her voice tender yet strong, her harmonies sweet." Sharon Washington of the Washington Sisters says, "The combination of Susan's voice and music is reminiscent of a warm embrace—soothing and energizing." Recording artist Kay Gardner calls

Susan's music "Charismatic... healing... feminist... unique!" Tickets are \$10. Put on by Pink Sands Productions. *Goldenrod will have womyn's music for sale at the concert! CD's, tapes, etc of various artists. Maybe pick up some Holiday gifts! For more info, contact Pink Sands, Suite 123, 2115 W. 8th, Erie PA 16505 or call Deb at (814)453-2785.*

Oct 8-10—Womynspace Gathering: A Community-Creating Experience CANCELLED.

☛ **Oct 8-10—Octoberfest at Jones Pond** Gay men's campground, Angelica, NY (716) 567-8100.

☛ **Oct 9—Karaoke Night at Leeward Lounge** 10 p.m. - 2 a.m., 1022 Bridge St., Ashtabula OH

☛ **Oct 9—Stampede Out of the Closet Party: Launching of Buffalo NY Stonewall 25 Committee.** Free food, cheap drinks, and dancing. Sliding scale \$2-5, 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 695 Elmwood, Buffalo. (716)881-3414.

☛ **Oct 9—Multiculturalism in America: Chautauqua Lectures** 11 a.m. WQLN-radio. Presentation about acceptance of many different types of people within American society. Multiculturalism is a concept with a lot of connections to gay/lesbian acceptance and equality.

Oct 10—Student Health and Well-Being On The Learning Channel. A look at schools that are being pushed to develop AIDS awareness curricula. No air



Calendar - turn to page 5

Ad Rates

Businesses and Sponsors! Show your support and reach Erie's lesbian 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!

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 groups and individuals to help our community develop and thrive.

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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.

AIDS Council Update

Dr. Craig Bennett is no longer the executive director at the AIDS Council of Erie. His unsolicited resignation was accepted at a meeting of the executive Committee meeting effective Sept. 14, 1993. His departure was highly publicized in local TV and newspapers, and the public was somewhat confused about what actually happened. In an open board meeting on September 21, Board members clarified that Dr. Bennett had indeed submitted his resignation, and it was accepted.

The main focus of the Sept.21 meeting was to reassess the Council's structure and discuss how to make it better able to meet the needs of the HIV-affected community in Erie County. Present at the meeting were Erie County Executive Judy Lynch, and Eastside Assemblyperson Linda Bebko Jones. Lynch expressed concern about the fact the the AIDS Council had had four directors in its six-year existence, and brought up the possibility of Erie County sharing in the responsibility for AIDS/HIV education, awareness, and prevention programs.

Bebko Jones stated that all the personnel changes at the AIDS Council make the agency look unstable to people in Harrisburg and that perception makes it difficult to secure funding for the agency. Board member Fr. Mike McGraw responded that it is not unusual for AIDS organizations to have a higher-than-average turnover rate for directors, because burnout is such a problem. McGraw mentioned that within the 13 counties of the northwestern PA area, the AIDS Council is the only AIDS organization that has paid staff.

The AIDS Council staff wants to assure clients that they care about them and that they will try to make sure their needs continue to be met. They hope the personnel changes will not cause clients to feel abandoned, and they will do what they can to make sure there is no interruption of services.

We at *EGCN* will be keeping our readers updated about this important issue. ▼

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Research seems to show that lesbians have a higher rate of breast cancer than the general population. It has nothing to do with lesbian sexual practices, but may be related to such disparate factors as not bearing children, higher body fat, and level of alcohol consumption.

There are no local presentations specifically dealing with lesbians and breast cancer, but in October there will be breast cancer programs of general interest. Check *Showcase* magazine throughout October to see what's being offered.

In a future issue, we'll be examining the issue of lesbians and breast cancer. ▼

Bridges Schedule Announced

Been curious about when the next great Bridges event is going to be? Then look no further! We have the schedule for 1994 all worked out. All three dances will be taking place at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie (7180 New Perry Highway), with Phil Huntley providing music.

Jan 22—"Escape to the Tropics" Pizza and Dance Come celebrate with us! We wanted to try adding something to our events, so for just \$8 join us at 6 pm for pizza, followed by casual chat and stay for the dance! (You can pay at the door, but please call Michael at (814) 456-9833 if you are coming for pizza so we know how much to get). If you just want to dance, it's just \$5 if you join us from 8 pm to midnight. You can take \$1 off if you bring a non-perishable food item for the AIDS Council of Erie County, Inc.

Apr 23—Spring Prom More details later.

Jun 11—PridErie Picnic/Potluck at Presque Isle, Cabin 3 Join us in celebrating Pride month at the beach.

Sep 24—Fall Dance More details later. ▼

Entertainment Notes

- ☆ *Paula Poundstone's* new TV series premieres on Oct. 30, but it's not clear exactly what kind of comedy format it will be. We didn't know about Paula's Erie appearance till after EGCN had been published last month...hope you caught her. Paula is so funny. She took out 15 pro-gay billboards in Colorado after that state voted for anti-gay rights legislation. One of the billboards read, "Maybe you misunderstood the question. Nobody's asking you to have sex with gay people, just give them equal rights."
- ☆ The cover story in the Sept. 21 issue of *The Advocate* is an interview with *Amanda Bearse* from Fox-TV's *Married...With Children*. In the interview, Bearse formally comes out, reveals she had a 2½ year relationship with Sandra Bernhard, and tells about her committed relationship with TV-ad producer Amy Shomer, who is helping her raise Bearse's adopted daughter (Shomer hopes to coadopt). The tabloids had actually started outing Bearse in 1991, and Bearse says, "I wanted to tell my side of things and set the record straight—for lack of a better word."
- ☆ On October 12, CBS will be airing a *School Break Special* episode about a boy (Justin Whalin) being raised by a lesbian couple (played by Meredith Baxter and Joann Cassidy). However, WSEE-TV won't be airing it on the October 12 date, but will

be taping it to be shown at some later point. When we called they weren't able to tell us when they would be showing it, but you might want to give a call to WSEE and ask for Programming; maybe they'll know more by then. And we'll pass it along if we find out on time. By the way, the name of the episode (and you'll want this if you're talking to Programming) is "*Other Mothers*"

- ☆ Tom Cruise will play the vampire Lestat in the film version of Anne Rice's book *Interview With a Vampire*, and Lestat fans are biting mad! Word has it that Cruise will play Lestat much straighter than in the book, choosing female victims rather than male. Hmph. Rice has written several books in the vampire series. Gay male fans rave that Rice has an uncanny ability to write in a way that really appeals to their sensibilities, and Rice herself has stated that she feels like a gay man writing in a woman's body. Her books are available in most bookstores.
- ☆ A couple lesbian vampire videos you may be able to rent from area video stores are *The Hunger* (with Catherine Deneuve) and *The Vampire Lovers. Daughters of Darkness* is another lesbian vampire flick, but not as easy to locate locally.
- ☆ The Taiwanese film *The Wedding Banquet* has proven to be a surprise hit. In it, a young Taiwanese gay man living in the U.S. fakes wedding plans to get his parents back home to stop pestering him about getting married. The parents don't want to miss out, so they come to America to attend the wedding. Making the situation even more interesting: the Taiwanese man is heavily involved with an American man. The film should be playing in "secondary markets" soon.
- ☆ The Roadhouse Theater will be presenting *Cabaret* Oct. 28-31, Nov. 4-7, 11-14, 18-21. at 8 p.m. A musical drama, set in Berlin just before Hitler's rise to power.

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Erie, Pa. PH 456-6642
Thursday-Sat. 11:30am-12pm.

Cont'd on page 14

Calendar, cont'd from page 1

time available at this writing. Check *TV Guide* for listings.

Oct 11—National Coming Out Day October 11 is an annual celebration of gay/lesbian/bisexual visibility, with events planned around the country and in our area. Watch the TV talk shows around this time, since there's bound to be a program or two that deals with Coming Out Day. And check out the next few items.

• **Oct 11—WLKK-Radio: DeeDee Foll** 7:00 a.m. till? Kick off Coming Out Day by tuning in to local lesbian DeeDee Foll speaking on WLKK (1400-AM). Call in during the show or throughout the day, and speak your mind! (814)451-1400.

• **Oct 11—Ally Day at Behrend College.** Trigon, in celebration of National Coming Out Day, presents Ally Day at Behrend College! Trigon is Behrend's lesbigay coalition, and wishes to rally support from friends and allies of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. Trigon invites allies and members of the lesbigay community to stop in and see the art exhibit which will be in Behrend's Wintergarden all day. A reception and discussion will be held 7:00 p.m. in Reed Lecture Hall. All are welcome to attend! For more info call Dan at 866-7387, after 2 p.m. See you there!

• **Oct 11—Coming Out Day Picnic for Northern Chautauqua County NY.** First event of new gay/lesbian/bisexual support group for Northern Chautauqua County. Call Patrick McNamara at 1-800-735-2986 for info.

• **Oct 11-18—SUNY-Fredonia Gay & Lesbian Awareness Week** Fredonia NY. This observation is largely focused on the student body at Fredonia. For more info on events call SUNY-Fredonia student affairs office at (716)673-3424 and ask for Dan.

• **Oct 11—Car Wash (1976)** 12:30 a.m. on WGN-TV. Comedy about working at a car wash. Antonio Fargas plays a wonderfully sassy drag queen.

• **Oct 12—Madonna In Concert In Toronto** Classy 100 (WXKC-FM) is doing a bus caravan from Erie, and they still have seats as of this writing. Call 868-5355 for details.

• **Oct 14—AIDS Forum at St. Paul's Cathedral** With Rev. Brian McHugh of Rhode Island. At 7 pm at 133 West 6th Street, Erie. *Everyone* is invited to attend. Reception follows.

• **Oct 14—The International Sweethearts of Rhythm** Discovery-TV (check *TV Guide* for time.)

Cris Williamson & Tret Fure

Fri Oct 22 8 pm

Chatham College Chapel in Pittsburgh
Adv Tickets: \$15, \$50, \$100, At the door,
\$20 (Sliding scale also)

Call for local tickets 814-835-2380
Benefits Persad Center.

Call (412)441-9786 for more info or write:
5368 Sardis Road, Murrysville PA 15668

Fans of women's music will want to catch this highly-acclaimed documentary about a multiracial, all-women jazz band of the 1940s.

• **Oct 15-17—Integrity Retreat: "Gays, Lesbians and the Liberation of Jesus"** At Glinodo Conference Center, 6270 East Lake Road, Erie. Retreat will be led by Rev. Brian McHugh, openly-gay Episcopalian priest from Rhode Island. Topics include "Lesbian and Gay Christian Pride," "Rage and Prayer," "The True Gospel: Claiming a New Myth for Christianity," and "The Spirituality Demanded of Lesbians and Gay

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Group rates available

Seats available at the door

Call 454-2852 for a FREE brochure

OPENING October 28th... I HATE HAMLET!

Directed by Fr. Tom McSweeney



Men for a New Age of Christian Morality." For info call Dor at 774-0903

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 Herrick Concert. Check out the concert!

• **Oct 15—Pumpkin Carving Contest at Leeward Lounge** Bring your own pumpkins (already carved). Pumpkins will be kept then all fit up on night of Leeward Lounge's Halloween Party (Oct. 23).

• **Oct 15—Julia (1977)** Biographical drama about the lives of two women who may have been lovers; one of whom becomes involved in the resistance movement against fascism in the 1930s. Lifetime 4pm.

• **Oct 16—Jamestown Social Group Regular Meeting** Unitarian Church, 1255 Prendergast 7:00-11:00 p.m. Info (716)484-7285

• **Oct 16—Potluck Reunion Dinner by OWLS (Older, Wiser Lesbians)** In Cleveland. 3 p.m. till ? call Barbara (216)226-0458

• **Oct 16—Annual "Play Safe" Dance for Adolescents/Buffalo** 8-11 p.m., Gloria J. Parks Community Center, for more info call (716)847-0315

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 are \$15 and available now. ((814)456-3674 (in Erie) if you want to pick up advance tickets locally. *Tickets are expected to be sold out before the cruise, so move quickly!*

• **Oct 17—The Ryan White Story (1989)** Lifetime 4:00 p.m. AIDS docudrama about a young boy who suffers discrimination when it is learned he has AIDS.

• **Oct 18—Rod & Bob Jackson-Paris at Fredonia NY** 8:00 p.m., SUNY-Fredonia Campus Center, Main Floor, Fredonia NY. Presenting "Love Against the Odds", a powerful lecture about gay rights, human dignity, and being true to yourself. Rod and Bob are married, and nationally-known body-builders (one is a former Mr. Universe). They are active in building awareness around issues of gay and lesbian youth and coming out. For info call Student Affairs office (716)673-3424.

• **Oct 18—An Early Frost (1985)** On Lifetime at 4 p.m. Drama about a young gay man who is infected with the AIDS virus, and how his family deals with the news that he is gay and that he has AIDS.

• **Oct 22—Cris Williamson & Tret Fure Benefit Concert in Pittsburgh** At Chatham College Chapel at 8 pm. Tickets are \$15 for general seating, \$20 at the

door (limited seating), \$50 (selected seating), and \$100 (priority seating); call about sliding scale pricing. *DJ Dance after concert*, sponsored by Bloomers; \$5 at Dining Hall. All proceeds benefit Pittsburgh's Persad Center (for sexual minorities) For more info or to order, call (412)795-5141 or (412)441-9786. By mail, make checks payable to Persad Senter, Inc. and mail to c/o Concert, 5368 Sardis Road, Murrysville, PA 15668. See ad this issue!

• **Oct 22—Comedy Drag With C.C. Ray** Midnight at Lizzie's, 3412 W. 12th, Erie

• **Oct 23—Halloween Party at Leeward Lounge** 8 p.m.-2:30 a.m. 1022 Bridge St., Ashtabula . \$5 cover includes food. Drink specials. Prizes for costumes \$50-1st, \$25 -2nd, \$15-3rd.

• **Oct 26—Erie Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gay Men Meets** 7-9 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. Info call Kathy at 838-6020.

Oct 26—Depeche Mode in Concert Richfield Coliseum, Richfield OH . Tickets (216)659-9100.

• **Oct 27 —AIDS Council: Educational Seminar/Teleconference: Nursing Issues with Antiretroviral Therapy** 2:15 p.m. at AIDS Council of Erie County, 110 West 10th Street, Suite 214, Erie. Continuing education credits are available and there is no charge. For info contact Mary Lee at (814)455-5492.

• **Oct 27—California Suite (1978)** On TBS at 2:05 a.m. Comedy that peeks into the lives of several people at a ritzy hotel. Michael Caine plays the gay husband of a movie star.

• **Oct 27—The American Experience: Amelia Earhart** 9 p.m. WQLN-TV Exploits of the woman aviator who became a national heroine.

• **Oct 30—Halloween Dance at Lizzie's**, 3412 W. 12th, Erie

• **Oct 30—2 Girls Alone! Celebrate Halloween at Cup-a-ccino's** 18 North Park Row, Erie. 9 p.m.-midnight

• **Oct 30—Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)** on Fox-TV at 11 p.m. Can't you just wait to see what kind of commercials they run?

• **Oct 30—Womyn's Halloween Dance in Buffalo** Unitarian Church, 695 Elmwood. Costume contest, DJ Dance, prizes. 8:30 p.m.- 1:00 a.m. \$5.00 (more if you can, less if you can't)

• **Oct 30—Forum on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth** In Pittsburgh. The conference program, "What Can I Do? Developing Skills and Building

Alliances for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth," designed for educators, religious and counseling professionals, and youth. Continuing education credits are available. Keynote speaker will be David LaFontaine of Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth in Massachusetts. The commission's report, "Making Schools Safe for Gay and Lesbian Youth: Breaking Silence in Schools and Families," has been endorsed by Massachusetts Governor William Weld. Cost of the forum is \$45 (\$10 for youth) and includes lunch. To register or for more info call (412)441-9786 or write 5150 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15224-1627.

• **Oct 30—Burning Times—The Witches!** The Learning Channel at 10 pm. Documentary about the witch persecutions, in which the woman-oriented Old European Religion and healing practices were systematically and cruelly wiped out during the Middle Ages.

• **Oct 31—Too Much Sun (1991)** HBO 5:15 a.m. Comedy about a millionaire with a gay son and lesbian daughter whose will decrees that one of them must bear an heir. Don't expect an excess of tastefulness.

• **Oct 31—Polyester (1981)** Comedy Central 4:00 p.m. And don't expect tastefulness here, either! This John Waters comedy stars female impersonator Divine as a housewife who's hot for a guy played by '50s heartthrob Tab Hunter.

• **Nov 2—Election Day** Pick up your copy of the LGLV's *Voters Guide* and let your vote count!

• **Nov 3—Tom Paniccia Speaks on Gays in the Military** At Gannon University, Erie, 7:30 p.m. in Zurn Science Center, Room 104, 143 West 7th St. Admission free.. Enlisting in the Air Force in 1981, Tom Paniccia went on to become an outstanding recruit. He had been named "Noncommissioned Officer of the Year," won a Commendation Medal and had one of the brightest futures in the Air Force. When he came out on national television in 1992, the Air Force quickly stripped him of his military career and gave him an honorable discharge. His lawsuit against the U.S. Dept. of Defense and the U.S. Air Force provoked a look at the constitutionality of the ban on gays. *Reception:* LGLV-Erie is planning to have a reception after Paniccia's presentation. As of this writing the details haven't been firmed up, but if you're interested and want more info call 456-9833 or 833-3258

• **Nov 5—Drag Show: "Stars on Broadway"** Midnight at Lizzie's. Mostly show tunes, songs from movies, and older disco. Performing: Destiny Divine (Miss Erie 1992 and 1993), Theresa Jean, Chantel Chablis, and guests.

• **Nov 6—2 Girls Alone! at Bruno's Nightclub (Penn State/Behrend)** 8:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m. (Bruno's is in Reed Hall), Erie.

• **Nov 6—Third Annual "Mending of the Hearts" Project Day** In Buffalo NY. On this day, family members, friends, and loved ones will gather to construct memorial panels for loved ones who have died from AIDS. It will be an afternoon of remembrances, renewing old friendships, and meeting new friends. Looking for artists and people good with sewing who can help in the construction and creation of panels. Will be held 1-6 p.m. For info and location contact Dennis Long at (716)847-0315.

• **Nov 13—Day of Remembrance: Buffalo** An interfaith time of reflection for those who have lost someone to AIDS. Includes talks on the importance of remembering, time to share with others, a period of quiet reflection, and a prayer service on hope. Donation \$15, scholarships available. Call (716) 881-7795..

• **Nov 19 & 20—Processing the Psychosocial Aspects of AIDS** Buffalo NY. AIDS Weekend Experience Seminar; contact AIDS Community Services at (716)847-0315

• **Nov 20 —Cleveland's 3rd Annual Talent Show** Presented by the Lesbian-Gay Community Service Center in cooperation with Cleveland's *Gay People's Chronicle*. At the Civic, in Cleveland. Gay and lesbian comics, dancers, musicians, actors, etc. For more info (216)781-6736

• **Nov 27—2 Girls Alone! at Cup-a-ccino's** 9-midnight, 18 N. Park Row, Erie.

• **Dec 3—AIDS Benefit at Lizzie's** Details next month.

• **Jan 22, 1994—Bridges Dance/Pizza Party** Details next month.

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Warm, gay-affirmative counseling for a full range of individual, couple & family problems

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Fees based on a sliding fee scale

Festivals & Conferences

Oct 8-18—Pittsburgh International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival P.O. Box 9007, Pittsburgh PA 15224. Call (412)521-9089 for more info. *The number that had been running in previous issues should not be used.*

➤**Oct 15-17—Unitarian Lesbian-Gay-Bi Conference** In Pittsburgh. "Living Beyond Fear, Religious Response to Homophobia," First Unitarian Church.

➤**Oct 16 & 17—Third Annual Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Workplace Issues Conference** At Stanford University in Connecticut. Put on by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. Info hotline (415)241-1565.

➤**Nov 14-16—Fourth Annual Statewide (NY State) HIV/AIDS Policy Conference** Albany NY. For info call (518)473-8484.

➤**Nov 25-28—Hawaii Fest (Thanksgiving Weekend)** on Oahu Island. For info contact ECLF, 2854 Coastal Hiway #7, St. Augustine FL (904)826-0410.

Unity '94 International Pride Celebration in New York City June 18-26, 1994: It's not too early to make your vacation and travel plans now for this humungous celebration! A million people from all over the world are expected on the peak day, so the closer it gets to June, the harder it will be to find convenient and reasonably-priced accommodations. For info on accommodations and/or travel contact Unity 94's official travel agency: Pride Tours, 1-800-368-8412. For an information/registration packet, contact Unity 94, 19 West 21st Street, Suite 1202, New York NY 10010 or call (212)633-9494.

➤**June 18-25, 1994—Gay Games IV** 15,000 lesbian and gay athletes from around the world will compete in this event, to coincide with Stonewall 25, half a million spectators are expected.

➤**June 26, 1994—Stonewall 25** International celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion in New York City, which is commonly regarded as the beginning of the modern gay rights movement. A million people are expected.

➤**June 18-26—Cultural Festival** Gay and lesbian artists and performers from around the world. Contact them if you are interested in performing or showing your work.

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. ▼

To Mattressa: Now that you're 30, do you find yourself yearning for those youthful days when your name really meant something? Greg

Professional couple, seeks 21-45 yr old gay man to share apt, own suite, utilities & cable included. Parking near Gannon. Reply PO Box 6604, Erie, PA 16512

Join us for the next
Bridges event!
"Escape to the Tropics"
Pizza and Dance on
January 22! Be there!

Local News

Womynspace Needs New Space

Womynspace Coffeeshouse needs to find a new place to meet.

The GROW Center had provided a comfortable and accessible downtown location, but Marquette Savings & Loan bought that building and several others on the block, so they could demolish them and put in a parking lot and drive-through window.

Members of the Womynspace community would like to find another location in or near the downtown area of Erie. If you have a space or know of one, the Womynspace Building Committee would like you to contact them. Call Deb at 453-2785 or Sally at 454-2713.

November meeting will be at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. By the way, Womynspace won't publicize its regular location, and is willing to pay a fee for use of a building or room. Also, it is an alcohol- and smoke-free environment.

Erieite Takes Prize at Cleveland Picnic

The Grand Prize at Cleveland's annual "We are Family Picnic" went to Marty, from Erie. He won an all-expense-paid, 7-day trip for two to Cancun, Mexico. Marty says when they announced his name from the stage, he was so stunned he couldn't speak, and it took a couple days before it hit him that he actually had won. He says the Cleveland-based gay travel agency he's going through (Sun-Lovers Cruise and Travel) was really helpful, giving all kinds of tips for the gay traveller. We're looking forward to hearing all about it when he gets back. By the way, Marty and other Erie people who went to the Cleveland picnic said it was great fun.

Yeah Leah!

The Leah Zicari concert on Sept. 18 went over really well! It didn't take long for her to form a real bond with her audience.

After the concert Leah and concert-goers headed over to La Bella Bistro, where the management served free cups of coffee to people showing their concert tickets.

About 100 people attended. To Leah and Pink Sands Productions we say, GOOD SHOW! And don't forget to check out Susan Herrick, who'll be performing at the Unitarian on October 8!

North Chautauqua Co. Group Forms

A new gay/lesbian/bisexual support group is forming in northern Chautauqua County, NY. Their first event will be a Coming Out Day Picnic on Oct. 11. If you'd like to be a part of this group, call Patrick McNamara at 1-800-735-2986.

Gay AA Moves

Erie's gay Alcoholics Anonymous, Life's Blood, has moved its meetings to the AIDS Council's new location at 110 W. 10th, Suite 214.

Venango-Forest AIDS Support

HIV and AIDS-affected people in Venango and Forest Counties note: the Venango-Forest AIDS Support group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 16 Center Avenue, Oil City PA. For info call 1-800-359-2437. Mailing address: P.O. Box 834, Oil City PA 16301.

Gay-Friendly Local Book Store

Roseanne at Perceptions Book Store wants lesbian, gay and bisexual people to feel comfortable about

Being gay, lesbian or bi in a straight world can be stressful
⌘ Therapeutic massage ⌘
can help

Patrick McNamara 1-800-Relax Today
Massage Therapist, (1-800-735-2986)
Graduate, New Mexico Academy of Healing Arts
\$10 off initial massage when you mention this ad

ordering gay-themed books through her store. Although Perceptions is a "New Age" book store, Roseanne can order all kinds of books, and welcomes lesbian/gay customers. Perceptions is located at 2654 Peach Street in Erie. Phone 454-7364

Buy Womyn's Music Locally

Wanna buy tape/cd's of lesbian/womyn's performers? Well, there'll be a table set up at the Susan Herrick Concert on October 8th at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation. (See calendar for info on the concert.) The table will have a variety of artists available. By the way, Pink Sands Productions would like to know if there are businesses in town that would like to sell womyn's music. Contact them at Suite 123, 2115 West 8th Street, Erie PA 16505. ▼

Transitions

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Womynspace Coffeehouse is four years old in October.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Rev. Terry Kime, who became a full minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church on September 11.

MOVED: GROW Center, which had housed Womynspace Coffeehouse and which provides a lot of services to women in the Erie community. The GROW Center will now be located at 1039 East 37th Street.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Pete and Tim who are living under one roof again, and who have just bought a really nice house. Here's wishing them the best.

NOT RETURNING: Jessica Jopp, who had been the Edinboro Gay Organization's faculty advisor. EGO regrets losing her and wishes her the best of luck!

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

Out & About: Local Media & Gay Stuff

On September 25, "Probe" on WQLN-FM featured Dale Allgeier and Michael Mahler debating Reed Irvine, national head of the conservative group Accuracy in Media. Allgeier is a local therapist who has a large gay and lesbian clientele, and Mahler is a local gay activist.

Irvine had chosen the topic, "Is Homosexuality Genetic?" Irvine and his organization believe—like many conservative homophobes—that there is no validity to the gay gene theory, and that gay people can be cured of their "sickness" if they want to be.

However, during the debate, Irvine didn't seem interested in discussing the gay gene, but seemed to want to harp on and on that gay people brought AIDS on themselves by their "self-destructive lifestyle."

Mahler said that if one is going to make judgments about morality based on who gets AIDS, then lesbians must be God's chosen people, because they're the least likely to get AIDS.

Paul Brown asked Allgeier to discuss issues in his practice with gay men and lesbians, and he started out by stating that his practice was "gay-affirmative," and Irvine immediately interrupted, grumbling, "What's *that*?" Allgeier began explaining that he was non-judgmental about sexual orientation, and Irvine interrupted again, questioning Allgeier about whether or not he instructs them on safer sex. Allgeier said that in these days it would be unethical for a therapist to be dealing with sexual issues with a client and not deal with that, and then Irvine started railing against anal intercourse, and did he tell his clients not to have it. Allgeier said as a therapist he was not going to tell clients what to do, and further pointed out that not all gay men have anal intercourse. Allgeier also said that within a committed relationship between two men, the incidence of anal intercourse tends to go down after three years. Irvine interrupted again and ridiculed the idea that gay people have relationships.

cont'd on page 20

1% or 10%: Is Our Gay Community Shrinking?

by Greg Valiga

In late April, a federally funded survey by the Battelle Human Affairs Research Center found that only 1.1% of the American population consider themselves exclusively gay. This figure was immediately seized upon by religious right extremists who offered notable quotes such as this one by Traditional Values Coalition chairman Lou Sheldon, "Finally, the truth has surfaced. Homosexuality is a behavioral oddity, certainly not entitled to protected status."

But just as few researchers agree with the Kinsey study done in 1948 which found 10% of the population to be gay, many remain skeptical of the Battelle figure, also. Michael Bailey, an assistant professor of psychology at Northwestern University said, "I do think there is a tendency to push the 10% more than warranted," but added, "I don't think anybody should be prepared to accept this figure as being absolutely true." Koray Tanfer, a senior research scientist who worked on the study relates, "It's common wisdom...that people would tend to conceal their true identity rather than exaggerate it, so this would be an undercount rather than an overcount."

Upon closer examination, the major weaknesses of the Battelle study become clear. The study was conducted two years ago to examine sexual behavior relating to AIDS, not to count gays. 30% of the 4751 eligible men refused to take part in the survey. In fact, of the men who refused, 4% couldn't be interviewed because they were too ill. It is reasonable to suspect that a good portion of these men had AIDS. Add to this the fact that the interviewers were exclusively female and not trained to do sexual studies. "This was not done to count the number of gays in the United States." Tanfer said, "It was specifically done to look at risky behavior among heterosexuals. If we had wanted to count gays, we would have done a totally different study." But an accurate count may be next to impossible because of inherent flaws in many sex surveys. Caitlin Ryan, who holds a degree in human sexuality and is the co-author of the only national survey on lesbians, said, "You can't go up to a stranger and expect them to be honest about

sex." Ralph Bolton, Ph.D., and Peter Nardi, Ph.D., authors of an article in the June 1 edition of *The Advocate*, seem to agree. They also cite these reasons for skewed results in many sex surveys: It is impossible to prove the accuracy of the answers obtained; the responses are influenced by the interviewer; the results are extracted from samples and not the entire population; and the wording and interpretation of questions tends to impact on how people answer.

So how does this relate to the Erie area gay community? By applying the 10% estimate to Erie County population figures, we could estimate a population of about 25,000. Of course, few would believe it, considering the lack of opportunities for gays and the conservative nature of the area, which tends to drive gays away. Judging from the majority of recent studies, an average of from 2-4% of the general population and about 9% of major urban populations identify exclusively as gay, so Erie County may have approximately 5000 (perhaps more) gay residents. Overlooked Opinions, Inc., a gay/lesbian research firm, found in a recent survey that the median income of gay men in the U.S. is \$42,689, and 92% were registered voters. If these statistics are anywhere near accurate (the survey claims to be accurate +/-1% at the 98% confidence level), this means that the silent, closeted Erie gay community has a substantial economic and political voice. The real problem is harnessing that power to nurture and support our community and to fight for our rights. One area where it may have happened already is the 1992 Eastside Assembly race, which pitted fear mongerer Jerry Knight against the eventual winner, Representative Linda Bebko Jones. From all indications, the gay community was firmly behind Bebko Jones. Whether the gay vote count was enough to ensure her 1000 vote victory is unlikely, but a few hundred votes is more than enough to decide a close race and further unite our community, regardless of the perceived size. ▼

National News Bits

Kid Stuff

RICHMOND, Va.—There will be an appeal of the ruling of a Virginia court that took a lesbian mother's two-year-old son from her, awarding custody to the boy's grandmother. The grandmother who won custody (Kay Bottoms) is the lesbian's mother.

Circuit Judge Buford Parsons Jr. stated that he made the ruling because Sharon Bottoms, the boy's mother, lives with a female lover and thus is "immoral" and "an unfit parent." He pointed to Sharon Bottoms' admission that she and her lover had engaged in oral sex, which is a felony in Virginia.

There were no accusations of any wrongdoing. Sharon Bottoms' lesbian relationship was the only "shortcoming" cited. A psychiatrist testified that Sharon and her lover are a "healthy, well-functioning couple." Elizabeth Bartholet, a Harvard family law expert, called the ruling "really an amazing decision. In our society, the biological parents' rights are almost absolute." Predictably, conservative groups praised the decision.

Sharon did, however, testify that throughout her teenage years she had been sexually abused by the man her mother Kay was living with.

The case has received a lot of nationwide attention, with talk-shows eager to have them as guests and producer Aaron Spelling talking with them about TV movie rights.

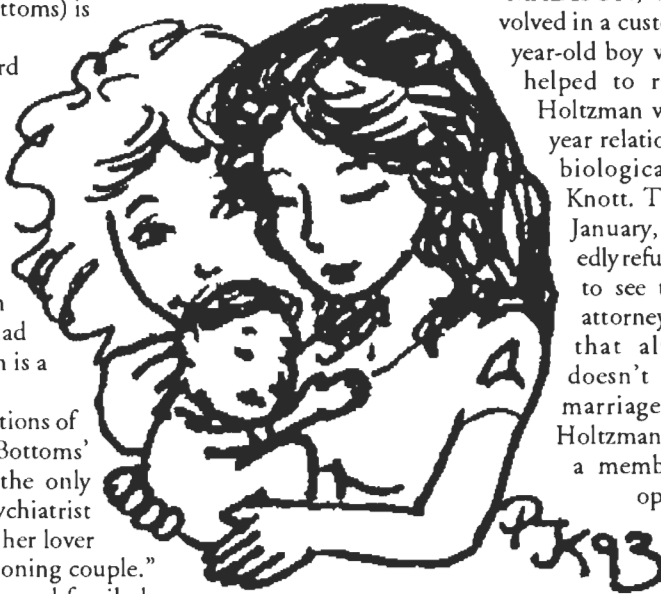
BOSTON—Two prominent lesbian physicians have become the first same-sex couple in Massachusetts to win joint adoption of a child. The two have raised the girl ("Tammy") since her birth five years ago. "Tammy" was conceived through artificial insemina-

tion. A majority on the Massachusetts Supreme Court said there nothing in Massachusetts law prohibits adoption by same-sex couples. Other states that allow same-sex adoptions are Alaska, California, New York, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

MADISON, Wis.—A lesbian is involved in a custody battle over a five-year-old boy whom she claims she helped to raise. Sandra Lynne Holtzman was involved in a ten-year relationship with the boy's biological mother, Elsbeth Knott. The couple split up in January, and Knott has allegedly refused to allow Holtzman to see the boy. Holtzman's attorney, Carol Gapen, says that although Wisconsin doesn't recognize same-sex marriages, "Under the law Holtzman has the same status as a member of an unmarried opposite-sex couple who split after raising the child." Gapen says the boy has said he does want to see Holtzman.

LOS ANGELES—A lesbian mother pleaded innocent to felony child abduction for fleeing to Pittsburgh with her daughter after the court awarded custody to a gay man who is not the girl's biological father. The man, Kevin Thomas, had been friends with the mother, Catherine Thomas, and had cared for the girl almost all of her life. He is also listed as her father on the birth certificate, and had taken her last name. The man had been awarded custody of the girl in July, because the judge felt he was better equipped to care for the developmentally-disabled girl.

BELLINGHAM, Wash.—After learning that the son she had put up for adoption would be going to a gay male couple, the birth mother decided she wants her 3-year-old boy back. Megan Lucas, 22, gave up the boy



last year because she couldn't care for him at the time. State officials say she missed the deadline for revoking her surrender of parental rights. A hearing is expected.

The Arts

WASHINGTON—In another effort by conservatives to abolish the National Endowment for the Arts, the Christian Action Network sent President Clinton and Congress members tapes of "sexually explicit" excerpts from three films that were shown in the 1991 Pittsburgh International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. An NEA spokeswoman said that the NEA provided no money for the making of those films, and the money they did provide was for the 1992 festival, when different films were shown. Since 1965, the NEA has distributed about 100,000 grants, but the right has targeted a handful of "offensive" works and used them to portray the NEA in an unflattering light.

MARIETTA, Ga—Paul Newman and JoAnne Woodward will donate \$20,000 to the theatre that lost its county funding because county commissioners believed the arts were bringing the "gay agenda" into their community. The couple pledged \$20,000 if the theater could raise the same amount.

WASHINGTON—Jane Alexander, President Clinton's liberal nominee to head up the National Endowment for the Arts, looks like she'll easily win Senate confirmation to the post.

Lesbians and AIDS

AUSTIN, Tx.—Texas health officials are investigating two HIV-positive lesbians to determine if they were infected through woman-to-woman sex. If they were, they would be among the first women in the U.S. to have contracted the virus through that route. The two women have no other risk factors, *i.e.*, they did not have sex with men, use intravenous drugs, or receive transfusions of infected blood.

A 1991 CDC study of 164 lesbians who had developed AIDS found that all had other risk factors for the disease. About 93% were I.V. drug users, and the others had received blood transfusions before 1985, when screening for HIV antibodies had not yet become routine. Susan Chu, a CDC epidemiologist who oversaw the CDC study, stated that her analysis finds woman-to-woman transmission extremely rare, but

not impossible. "Just because you're having sex with other women doesn't mean you're not at risk," Chu said in an interview.

Torie Osborn Resigns

LOS ANGELES—The head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announced on Sept. 3 that she is resigning. Torie Osborn has been executive director of the NGLTF since March, and—among other accomplishments during her short tenure—had engineered the historic meeting between President Clinton and national gay and lesbian leaders. In her resignation letter she wrote, "The avalanche of support for NGLTF over the past months has made it virtually impossible for me to effectively do both the movement-building, external, public role that is my passion, and also the necessary day-to-day management work that is required of this job." Osborn will leave Nov. 11. She plans to stay in Washington and devote more time to consulting, lecturing, and writing.

AIDS Awareness Stamp Issued

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Postal Service announced it will release a 29-cent postage stamp promoting AIDS awareness. The stamp will be released Dec. 1, which is World AIDS Day. It features a red ribbon. The Postal Service will also sell AIDS stamp lapel pins at cost to non-profit groups, for fundraising efforts. Also, it will waive the licensing fee on use of the design for non-profit groups wanting to use it in fundraising efforts.

Gay Rights at 1963 March Commemoration

WASHINGTON—Gay and lesbian rights were given a place at the 30th anniversary commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for civil rights for black Americans (the event where Martin Luther King made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech). A number of groups and causes were given space, with their assembly sites designated by colored balloons: Blue for civil rights, purple for gay men and lesbians, green for environmental groups, black for the National Urban League, etc. A gay law student at the event said he was there because there was a lot of black support for this April's March on Washington for gay and lesbian

rights, "and this is a way to return the favor." Among the speakers at the event was a black gay man who has AIDS.

DC-Sex OK

WASHINGTON—Sodomy is now legal in Washington DC, because Congress allowed the law against it to lapse into history. For the past 12 years, DC Gay rights groups and civil libertarians had been fighting to repeal the law. It called for prison terms of up to ten years and up to \$10,000 in fines.

Work

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of State now includes sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy.

Housing

SAN DIEGO, Ca.—A troubled San Diego neighborhood is trying to recruit gay and lesbian neighbors. The residents there say gay people make good neighbors, and they want them to move to their neighborhood, hoping they'll fix up their homes, improve property values, and generally improve the neighborhood. Some of the residents even marched in the San Diego Lesbian-Gay Pride Parade, carrying signs and a banner encouraging gay people to move to their neighborhood.

New Surgeon General

WASHINGTON—Joycelyn Elders was confirmed by the Senate as Surgeon General. Conservatives had fought against her confirmation because she is an advocate of aggressive AIDS and safer sex education and distribution of condoms in schools.

Achtenberg: Clinton Good for Gay Progress

NEW YORK—Even though President Clinton didn't do well on the issue of gays in the military, he has still contributed a lot to gay acceptance and equality, said Roberta Achtenberg, undersecretary for Housing and Urban Development. "Clinton has made a step forward by allowing gays and lesbians to prove our mettle in a way that no other president has done," she said. Achtenberg, highest-ranking openly gay person in the Clinton administration, was speaking at the

National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Conference. She named 14 other openly-gay people serving important positions in the Clinton administration.

Around the World

New Zealand has passed a bill making it illegal to discriminate because of sexual orientation. It was part of a human rights law that outlawed other forms of discrimination. . ▼

Entertainment Notes, cont'd from page 4

- ☆ Gannon will be putting on a play called *Parables* in early October (couldn't get specifics at this writing). It's not a gay play, but one that gay Christians might find interesting. The play speculates how Jesus might react to our time period. There may be a gay male couple among slides shown in the background. For info call Box Office 871-7494 or Student Activities 871-7657.
- ☆ In October, Showtime will be showing *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life*, which is Lily Tomlin's wildly successful one-woman Broadway show. Comedy—various characters as only Lily can do them. The show was written by Lily's lover, Jane Wagner. Oct. 3 at 12:00 p.m., Oct. 12 at 11:30 a.m. and 4:50 p.m., and Oct. 16 at 2:00 p.m. Comedy.
- ☆ Why should gay people be interested in the history of birth control? Watch *The Portrait of a Rebel: Remarkable Mrs. Sanger* and see why. It's a biographical drama about Margaret Sanger, who fought long and hard to get birth control information distributed in the U.S. early 20th century, when it was actually illegal to do so. The similarities between this struggle and the current fight to get safer sex information to kids is striking. Bonnie Franklin plays Sanger, and she does it well enough that you actually soon stop thinking of her as that dippy mom on *One Day at a Time*. On HBO Oct. 14 at 12:00 p.m. and Oct. 23 at 6:15 a.m.

AIDS Education and the Generation Gap

by Matt Bogardus

When AIDS became a national/international issue, and as it advanced so diabolically through the gay community, it brought change. The fear, ignorance, and lack of compassion felt by gays worldwide seemed to unify the community. An adversary like no other had attacked and had the advantage of invisibility. It was not understood and virtually ignored by the medical community because it was only killing "fags." It took a united voice, a united scream, to arouse action in discovering this killer. As research began, so did education. Gays were inundated with information in an attempt to slow down the advance of the disease and to decrease the number of dying and grieving. The unification, education, and attention that was initiated by AIDS was remarkable and inspiring. Yet it seems that a group has been missed as this enlightenment moves on.

A recent magazine editorial called attention to the number of young gay men under the age of twenty engaging in unprotected sex. According to CDC statistics (1988), one in five people HIV positive is between twenty and thirty years of age. Figuring in the latency period of AIDS, these individuals were probably infected in their early to mid teens. With so much information available, the article questioned why young gay men would endanger themselves. The author alluded to the idea of invincibility that young people feel regarding death and disease. But it probably goes far beyond naivety. When the education movement began, it had to target the gay community where it congregated—bars. Obviously information was available elsewhere but not to the same degree. Information reached vast numbers of gay men and women but missed young gay people unable to get into bars.

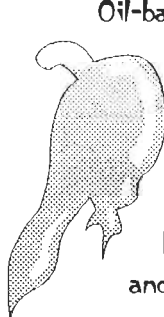
The American education system has also failed to reach youth about AIDS. Insufficient support exists for sex education and all but disappears when sexually transmitted diseases are mentioned. Young gay men and women are left looking to their peers and the media for information and may even lack peer support if hiding their sexuality. The media attempts to educate

but in a halfhearted way and only with sponsor support.

It is a bleak picture, but the future can be changed. It may or has become our responsibility to educate the up-and-coming gay generation. They are our future and will continue to advance the visibility we now have. Let us not fail them as society has so far failed us. Let us share our knowledge, experiences and let us be role models for the young men and women that follow, as we battle one of many obstacles to acceptance and equality.

It's Scary!

Oil-based lubricants destroy latex condoms with frightening speed. Unless you want your rubber dissolving like a ghost in the night, use only water-based lubes like K-Y. Check the lube's label and make sure that it says it's safe for condoms.



1993 a Healthy Sex Message from
Bridges/Erie Gay Community Newsletter



Employer Survey Reveals Confusion, Resistance

by Greg Valiga

At which of Erie County's largest employers can you be open about your sexuality and not fret over the possibility of firing? This was the focus of the League of Gay and Lesbian Voter's First ever survey related to sexual orientation.

The goal of the survey was to discover and report on the Equal Employment Opportunity policies of all Erie County employers with over 200 workers.

The response was less than fairly enthusiastic, and the League feels that the experience was a positive effort which furthered the discussion of lesbian equality among area employers.

The survey was mailed to 60-70 companies on August 10th. It contained only 2 questions, asking first if the company had a policy of non-discrimination as to sexual orientation in hiring and promotion, and second, if the company had a policy protecting lesbian employees from harassment. The mailing also contained a cover letter explaining LGLV's intentions, and a stamped envelope to increase response.

After follow up phone calls to roughly one-half of the companies, the League received a 14% response. Although this is fairly high, the answers and documentation exposed the weaknesses of the survey. Some employers confused "harassment based on sexual orientation" with "sexual harassment," which really didn't address the questions. Others responded "yes" to the questions, but wither didn't provide the required documentation or responded by sending a policy with no explicit mention of "sexual orientation."

The follow up calling was done to increase the rate of return because few responses were received by the August 25th deadline.

Most employers stated that they do not answer surveys unless specifically governmental. The next most popular reason for not responding was "We never got it." Nearly every spokesperson was calm and polite. The only interesting reaction was from Paul Carney, the Director of Personnel for the City of Erie. His refusal to even discuss the issue was blatantly political. "We feel we're damned if we do and damned if we don't," he stated. Obviously, decisions that publicly elected officials make pertaining to lesbian citizens are not public information.

The League would like to thank all of the companies who had the courage to respond.

Not Responding: American Sterilizer Company, Associated Spring Barnes, Better Baked Foods, Inc., Cherry Hill/Division of Ethan Allen, City of Erie, Copes-Vulcan, Inc., Corry-Hiebert, Country Fair, Inc. Office, County of Erie Government, Electric Materials Company, Elgin Electronics, EMI Company, Erie Plastics, Ervite Division, Festival Foods, First National Bank, Foamex Products, Gannon University, General Electric Corp., Gertrude Barber Center, Greater Erie Community Action Center, GTE North, Hamot Health Systems, Integra Financial Corp, J. C. Penney Company, Johnson Controls, Inc, Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical, Kaufmann's, Lord Corporation, McInnes Steel Company, Meadow Brook Dairy Company, Mercyhurst College, Metro Health Center, Millcreek Community Hospital, Millcreek Mall Merchants Association, National Fuel Gas, Nick Scott Enterprises, Parker Die Casting, PEC Management, PHB Incorporated, Plastek Industries, Pleasant Ridge Manor, PNC Bank, Port Erie Plastics, Inc., Rich Products, Ridg-U-Rak, Riley Stoker Corp, Saint Vincent Health Center, School District of the City of Erie, Smith Meters, Inc, Snap-Tite, Inc., Spectrum Control, Teledyne Penn-Union, Times Publishing Company, Van De Kamp Frozen Foods, Veterans Affairs Hospital, Wegmans, Welch Foods, Inc., YMCA of Greater Erie, & Zurn Industries. ▼

Results of LGLV's Employer Survey			
Company	Non Discrim Policy?	Harass Policy?	Document
Edinboro University	yes	unclear	yes
Erie County Assistance	yes	unclear	yes
International Paper (Hammermill)	yes	no	yes
<i>The above are the only companies responding with non discrimination policies with sexual orientation language clearly documented.</i>			
Erie Insurance Group	no	no	yes
*Penelec	no	no	yes
*US Postal Service	no	no	yes
*Eriez Magnetics	no	no	yes
*Erie Forge and Steel	unclear	unclear	no
*Lake Erie Institute of Rehabilitation	unclear	unclear	no
<i>*No specific language pertaining to sexual orientation, when documentation provided, even though they claimed to have a policy in place. Many said they did not support discrimination of any kind and specified other categories (such as racial, religious, etc.)</i>			
<i>"Unclear" is used wherever an employer claims to have a policy, but doesn't back up the claim with proper documentation</i>			

On Coming Out, or Michael Rants

by Michael Mahler

Hey there! Monday, October 11th is National Coming Out Day. It is important for all of us to take pride in who we are. Studies consistently show that the people who are the most understanding and tolerant of lesbian and gay people, are those who know us. Just being proud and honest about who we are is a major step to increasing respect.

Let me tell you about how I came out initially. It will be 2 years ago in December that Donald Kremer, a local gay man, was murdered by two men who had a history of harassing gay people. A year ago May I got a call from TV-35 News because they had my number for announcing a Bridges function, and they knew I belonged to LGLV. They asked me if I was willing to give them a few sound bites. "Okay," I said. They then told me that they could black out my face and disguise my voice. I thought about this, and how I had felt when I saw people looking like Mafia informants. I was so tired of always seeing local gay people having to hide who they were. I told them that would not be necessary. To the best of my knowledge, that made me the first person in Erie to be identified by either name or face in the local media as a gay person.

Let me tell you, I was terrified after I did that. I worried about being fired or harassed at my job, about being violently attacked or being kicked out of my apartment. These fears are not entirely groundless. But you know what? Everyone I have come out to has been okay, if not extra nice. I cannot tell you what a relief it was to not feel like I had a dirty secret, to have to constantly monitored how I talked, and what I talked about. You know what else? I really think that I may have helped to get some co-workers and people I have met to realize that gays are real human beings, deserving just as much respect as anyone else. I sort of feel as if I were to die right now, I would be satisfied with how I lived my life and what I did with it.

You can have this wonderful sense of freedom and pride. No, you don't have to come out on TV or the front page of the Erie Sunday News (like I did to my dad.) Think about telling a friend. There are going to

be several radio call in shows on National Coming Out Day. Call in and let people know what it is to be a gay human being. Lend your support. The Debinatrix felt that this was an important reason to publish the info before Dale and I were on WQLN and the review after. I want to thank all of those people who called in and I want to encourage you all to call in when Deedee and other people are on. You don't know how much it means to get at least one positive response.

By this I want to be very clear that I understand that there are indeed many people who cannot be fully out. I know several people in education and other areas that have very real and legitimate concerns about employment, housing, etc. But do think about what you *can* do.

Most of us are very afraid of the hatred the religious right is targeting at us. I have sometimes felt like I was in Berlin in the late 30's. But the only way to fight this threat is to take action. How many people do you think who ended up in the concentration camps wished that they had said or done more when they had the chance? Maybe enough people taking action could have prevented the Holocaust. Don't forget that the pink triangle, which is the symbol of gay and lesbian pride, started out as the symbol the Nazis used to identify gays in the camps. Think about it!

The Reed Irvine radio interview on the 25th of September was not as intimidating as I thought. (See Deb's write up on page 10.) See, I foolishly thought we were going to hear actual data or possibly something vaguely resembling logic from Accuracy in Media (Inaccurate and Mediocre?)

Note that there have been many interesting & nifty developments with groups of late. Some of us went down to the first EGO meeting and they really seemed to be taking off like a rocket. The Ally Day that Trigon is putting on for Coming Out Day on October 11 really deserves our support. These people are working on a Good Thing. We had the pleasure of speaking with Sr. Malu of GALA-10 (the Mercyhurst group) and have heard that there is a bumper crop of freshman interested. Maybe there should be some form of inter-collegiate coalition/network? ▼

Concert Review - Leah Zicari

Sept 18 produced by Pink Sands by Jacquelyn

Leah is just too cool! Her song "Glory, Glory" put goose bumps on my arms. Her vocal range is very wide and she plays her guitar like it is an extension of her body and not something separate. She has such mastery of the instrument that it is exciting to just watch her play. I think she is a fine example of the maturing of women's music. Remember how they all used to sound like Joni Mitchell and Joan Baez? Not no more, honey, there is some kick, spunk and bite to the lyrics and guitar riffs.

My sweetheart did not want to go. I took her screaming and hissing anyway as she dug trenches with her dragging feet. We even drove separately so she could leave at intermission if she wanted. This concert was something she thought she wouldn't like. She ended up liking it a lot partly because Leah involves her audience so much. We both laughed a bunch. It was wonderful to be watching a very out and open gay performer. Our sexuality was absolutely and wonderfully affirmed. It felt great to be lesbian. Rah, rah, dykes of the world, unite!

My girlfriend did *not* leave at intermission. Instead, she raced out with ten of our dollars and bought one of Leah's tapes. She is so cute when she just *has* to admit she liked something she was convinced she wouldn't. She ducks her head and looks at me through lowered lashes and says, "Okay, you got me again."

We will go to more concerts, I'm sure. Maybe the next time the grooves she leaves in the ground with her protesting feet will not be so deep. ▼

Call-In Talk Radio and Gay Visibility

Even if you're not ready to go on TV talking about being gay, you can still speak out about it. Call-in radio allows you to share your thoughts and feelings without requiring you to give your name and go really public with it. It's important to do it, too, to counterbalance the parade of cranky homophobes who dominate much of local talk radio.

Here are some Erie area radio programs that let you speak out. Whether or not they have a guest at a given time varies. If there is no guest you can usually speak about whatever is on your mind.

WLKK AM-1400
(814)451-1400

Call-in talk radio from 6:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. (except the hours between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. when Rush Limbaugh gets to do his arrogant right wing thing)

WQLN-FM
(814)864-3000

Two Cents Worth airs from noon to 12:30 p.m. every weekday with Paul Brown hosting. *Probe* airs from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, also hosted by Paul Brown. Callers tend to be respectful and a bit more sedate and well-informed than on



other call-in shows.

WFLP-AM Flagship 1530
(814)838-1530

Call in between 7:00 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. In November they move to 5000 watts and 24 hours. ▼

Local Media Stuff, cont'd from pg 10

Irvine then got started on what percentage of the population is gay, insisting it is much smaller than the 10% that has been assumed till recently, saying, "You homosexuals have been exaggerating this number and you're not going to get away with it anymore." Mahler said that research indicating that gays are only 1% of the population was seriously flawed [see the article "1% or 10%" on P. 11] and asked what percentage of the population a group has to be to get just and equal treatment. Irvine said, "You don't want equal treatment, you want special treatment," and started in on AIDS again, and that gays had allowed AIDS to spread in secrecy and not be dealt with.

A lesbian called in and said she was involved in a long-term relationship and had been with someone nine years before this, and that she knows many gay couples involved in real relationships. She also said she was quite healthy and that health has never been an issue.

Host Paul Brown again tried to have Allgeier explain what sorts of issues he deals with, and Allgeier explained, he counsels same-sex couples, and people having trouble with the coming out process because of society's pressures.

A caller agreed with Irvine about gays and AIDS, and then Mahler stated that worldwide, AIDS is a heterosexual disease, according to World Health Organization statistics. Irvine said that was untrue, and said that what was going on in Africa and undeveloped countries was irrelevant. Mahler said his theory was that we're all human beings. Irvine called Mahler's arguments "homosexual disinformation." A caller phoned in and said AIDS is not just a gay disease, and Irvine again responded, "*More* homosexual disinformation." Mahler said that what Irvine was doing with the program was another strategy of the religious right, that the program was to have been about homosexuality and genes, and Irvine had turned it into another rant about gays being the awful bearers of death and destruction.

Mahler then tried to get into genetics again, mentioning that he had several gay male relatives, past and present. He also criticized the idea of marrying someone for social conformity.

Brown gave Irvine the last word, and he chose to close by grumbling about "Scat, rimming, fisting," the National Endowment for the Arts, and gay artist Robert Mapplethorpe. Mahler informed Irvine that he had no personal experience with the aforementioned sex acts, and asked why he (Irvine) seemed so obsessed with certain sex acts. ▼

It's Our Turn: Gay Youth of Erie

by Mark

It's our turn. Now what do I mean by that?

I mean that it is our turn to speak out on who we are. I mean it's our turn to have pride in who we are. I mean it's our turn to start ignoring the churches who say we're wrong to be who we are without having to worry about being killed in the streets. I mean it's our turn to be able to say "I'm gay" and not lose friends and family over that simple truth. Most of all, I mean it's our turn to be, to love who we want to love, and to be able to have any feelings we want to without people telling us we're wrong to feel them.

Now, what does that have to do with being a gay youth of Erie? Everything. How many of you out there can say "I'm gay" with pride? How many of you can go to your parents and tell them that you are gay? Not many, I bet. And that is the whole problem with the gay youth community—not many of you can say that one thing with pride. I'm not saying for you to run right home and announce you're gay—that would be stupid and painful. All that I am saying is that many gay youths can't even say to *themselves* that they are gay and proud, and that is the problem.

About coming out to parents. First, take a long look at your relationship with them. If it isn't good, then maybe you should hold off on coming out to them until it improves, or they might just think you are saying this to hurt them. If their reactions are good and they can respect people who are different than them, that's great. If not, then again maybe you should hold off on coming out to them. If you feel that your relationship with your parents is strong enough to be able to withstand a shock like this, by all means, come

on outta that closet and join all us happy gay people out in life.

This article is not meant to sound like how you should run your personal life. It was just meant to be a suggestion on coming out and how to go about it.

Listed below are some names of a few resources for gay youth you can write to for information on stuff from AIDS to a comic book for gay youth. Be sure to include a long, self-addressed stamped envelope when sending for informations.

May your closets hold only your clothing. Blessed be!

Gaylactic Network

P.O. Box 127
Brookline MA 02149.

This is a group for all you sci-fi junkies out there. They publish the Gaylactic Gayzette, available for \$3.00.

Hetrick-Martin Institute

401 West Street, Second Floor
New York NY 10014

They publish a comic book called "Tales From the Closet", price unknown.

National Gay Youth Alliance

P.O. Box 846
San Francisco CA 94101-0846

Publishes a gay community newsletter, \$1.00, "We are Here Guide" (A listing of gay youth organizations, \$5.00. and other books of interest to gay youth.)

National Gay Alliance for Young Adults

P.O. Box 190712
Dallas TX 75219

Offers a gay pen friend club.

Alyson Publications

40 Plympton
Boston MA 02118.

Offers a gay pen friend club. ▼



Groups & Organizations

AIDS Council of Erie

Location: United Way Building, 110 West 10th Street, Suite 214, Erie, PA 16501. ☎(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, 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:* Thursdays at 8:45 pm at Butterfield, Rm 302 (☎). ☎ Jim MacCluskie MWF 11am-1pm at (814)732-2590.

Erie Sisters

Non-sexual social support group for TV/TS/CD. Good manners, taste & common sense expected. Monthly meetings, newsletter, Meetings in even numbered



INTEGRITY

A Christian-based spiritual and support group sponsored by the Episcopal 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

months are social events held at accepting establishments. Changing room provided. Interview with a club officer required before first meeting. ✍Eric 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:* Date, to be determined, Site is Rm 311 in Old Main. ✍GALA-10/Sr. Maria Lucia Serrano, 3409 Garden Avenue, Erie PA 16508 ✍Sr. Malu at 864-4889 around 7 pm or 824-2290 between 11am and 1 pm.

✍**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 ✍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 or (814)774-0903.

✍**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. ✍(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. ✍(716) 484-7285 or (716) 664-5556.

✍**League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)**

Conducting survey on anti-discrimination policies of area employers. Lobbying for PA State Senate Bill 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. ✍(814) 796-3535.

✍**Life's Blood**

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for Gays and Lesbians. *Meetings:* Sundays at 8:00 pm at the AIDS Council, 110 West 10th St, Suite 214, Erie, PA 16501. &

✍**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: Oct 15 (Oct is moved from the 8th to make room for the concert).* ✍(814) 455-9049 for more info.

✍**NW PA Gay and Lesbian Task Force**

Now forming in Tionesta/Titusville area for political/media advocacy. Write to: PO Box 213, Tionesta, PA 16353-0213

✍**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. For more info, call (814)866-7387 or ✍College Mailroom, Box 1054, Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.

✍**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: Nov 6 at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. Presently looking for new location. Contact Deb at 814-453-2785 or Sally at (814) 454-2713.

Why not give a holiday gift of an **EGCN** sub?

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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 Comm. 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:

- South Shore Counseling Group 725-8504
- For more info, call Greg 833-3258

E-Mail for EGCN, LGLV, Bridges:

- From CompuServe 70431,1622

Hotlines/National:

- Hate Crimes (US Justice Dept) 800-347-4283
- Spanish AIDS Hotline 800-344-7432

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 - no longer doing HIV tests

Political/Advocacy Organizations:

- League of Gay & Lesbian Voters 456-9833

Publications:

- Erie Gay Community Newsletter 456-9833

Religious Organizations:

- Integrity 455-0549 or 774-0903
- Unitarian Universalist Congreg. of Erie 864-9300

Social Organizations:

- Men's Coffeehouse 455-9049
- Jamestown Social Grp (716) 484-7285 or 664-5556
- Womynspace Coffeeshouse 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) 866-7387

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



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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

Cup-a-ccino's, 18 North Park Row. Mon-Wed 7:30am-11pm, Thur-Sat 7:30 am-12 mid. A coffeehouse, a place to gather and meet. Poetry every other week.
Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th. Open Mon-Sat. Bowling on Tuesday nights from 9 pm till whenever. Country played on Wednesdays. DJ with dance instruction 9:30 to 11. DJ on Friday & Saturday. Shows on some Fridays. Carries Pittsburgh *Out* newspaper (free).

Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street. Open Mon-Sat. 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). Food served. 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.



OCTOBER 11

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