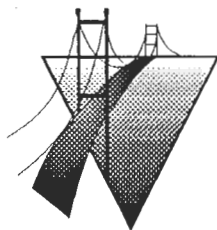


Erie Gay Community Newsletter

Published by BRIDGES



November, 1993

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

☛ = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

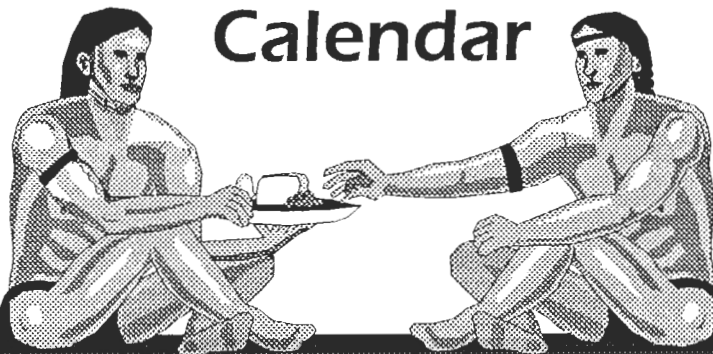
Calendar

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

☛ **Nov 5—Rave Dance in Fredonia NY** Sponsored by SUNY-Fredonia Gay & Lesbian Student Union. Techno-rave dance at 9 pm at Fredonia Grange, 58 West Main Street, Fredonia NY. For info call (716)673-3424.

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

☛ **Nov 5—Skin Flicks: Short Films by Women Directors (Buffalo)** In Buffalo at Hallwalls, 700 Main Street, 8 p.m. Collection of independent films



dealing with female identity, desire, and sexuality, including a new lesbian love story.

☛ **Nov 5—Terry L. Jewell: The Black Women's Gumbo Ya-Ya (Cleveland)** Jewell will be in Cleveland at Gifts of Athena Bookstore, 2199 Lee Rd, 7 p.m. Her book is a collection of quotations by and about the affirmative within Black women's lives. Info (216)371-1937.

☛ **Nov 5—Nirvana in Concert (Buffalo NY)** The straight band that smells like gay spirit will play at Alumni Arena, N. Campus, University of Buffalo, (716)645-2353.

☛ **Nov 6—AIDS Awareness Presentation at Penn State/Behrend** In Reed Union Building Lecture Hall. Movie presentation at 6:00 pm. After the movie there will be two speakers from the AIDS Council of Erie County, Inc. Following will be a half-hour of refreshments and then 2 Girls Alone! will perform in Bruno's Nightclub (in Reed Hall). Open to the public and community! Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, Trigon, Student Activities, Multicultural Club, Student Government Association & Penn State/Behrend Health Advisory Board

☛ **Nov 5—Skin Flicks: Short Films by Women Directors (Buffalo)** In Buffalo at Hallwalls, 700 Main Street, 8 p.m. Collection of independent films

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!

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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.

Thanks to Micheal
Miller for the cover art!

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.

Please send SASE for writer's guidelines.

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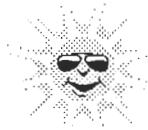


INTEGRITY

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) 774-0903



Bridges' "Escape to the Tropics"

Dance on Sat, Jan 22

Join us at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway!

Dance starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets are: \$5 or \$4

with a non-perishable food item for AIDS Council of Erie. Or join us for both pizza at

6:00 pm and the dance for just \$8!

Benefits Erie Gay Community Newsletter.

Call Michael at (814) 456-9833 for more info.

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Margie Adam in Erie on November 7!

In the early 1970s, feminism and lesbianism blended together, and one of the products of that was something called "womyn's music." A whole lesbian musical subculture developed, with its own music festivals, concerts, record companies, publications, and performers. Out of the many talented performers in womyn's music "The Big Four" emerged: Holly Near, Meg Christian, Chris Williamson, and Margie Adam.

Adam has recorded several albums, and performed at the historic March on Washington in April of 1993. Her song, "We Shall Go Forth" has been placed in the Smithsonian Institution. She performed on NBC's "Today Show," and has been on NPR's "All Things Considered," "The Morning Edition," and "Horizons."

Margie is currently on tour to promote her new album *Another Place*.

Her music is hard to define, but you could call it a jazzy kind of pop. She accompanies herself on piano, singing with a rich alto voice. She sings about lesbian relationships, AIDS, the environment, and other issues. Her music can be serious and pensive, up-tempo and fun, and points in between.

She'll be performing in Erie on November 7 at 7:00 p.m. The concert is at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 Perry Highway (Route 97)

Advance tickets are \$10, at the door \$12. Advance tickets can be bought from Cocoon, 1164 W.10th Street, Erie PA. The concert is produced by Pink Sands. Call 734-1358 for more information. ▼

Calendar, cont'd from page 1

Nov 6—Third Annual "Mending of the Hearts" Project Day (Buffalo). On this day, family members, friends, and loved ones will gather to construct memorial panels for loved ones who have died from AIDS. Will be held 1-6 p.m. For info and location contact Dennis Long at (716)847-0315.

Nov 7—Margie Adam in Concert in Erie! That's right, one of the biggest names in lesbian music will be performing in Erie. Margie performed at the big concert the night before the March on Washington. Advance tickets are \$10, at the door, \$12.00. 7:00 pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway (1 mile north exit 7 off I-90). Make checks payable to "CASH" Mail self-addressed stamped envelopes to: Pink Sands, Suite 123, 2155 West 8th Street, Erie, PA 16505. Call (814) 734-1358 for more info.

Nov 8—Bodybuilding ESPN 9 p.m.

Nov 9—Rainbow Connection Meeting (Warren PA) Warren County's own brand-new gay and lesbian group meets at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Warren. Call Denny at (814)273-1719.

Nov 9—"Homophobia" Discussion at Penn State/Behrend A Behrend discussion program called *Sweet Daddy's World*, (which host Jamal Adams describes as "a cross between *Oprah* and *Arsenio Hall*") will be featuring a panel with input from the audience. Host Adams is regarded as a strong ally of gay people, and will not allow the discussion to get out of control, and told us all are cordially invited to attend. At the Wintergreen (known to non Behrenders non-Behrenders as the cafeteria) Starts at 9 p.m. n Reed Hall.+++

Nov 9—The Group (1966) On TNT at 12:30 a.m. Candice Bergen plays a sophisticated lesbian in this drama about a close group of college friends in the 1930s.

Nov 9—Sunday Bloody Sunday (1971) On TNT 3:10 p.m. Drama about a young bisexual man involved with a woman and a gay man. The kiss between the two men shocked audiences at the time when this film was first shown. Murray Head, Peter Finch, Glenda Jackson.

Nov 11—Edinboro Coming Out Day at Edinboro University Supporters are asked to wear purple to show their support. Out people—students and otherwise—are asked to wear their Pride shirts. EGO will be sponsoring a Panel Discussion in Doucette Hall Rm 119 at 8:30 pm. The main topic will be relationships, with sub-topics to include sex, love, religion, stereotypes and laws. The room may possibly be changed, so look for signs! For info call Jim MacCluskie M-W-F at 732-2574

Nov 11—Blue Skies Again (1983) Comedy drama on Lifetime at 10 a.m. A great female ballplayer is determined to get on a minor league team.

Nov 12—"Challenging Homophobia: A Workshop for Human Services Professionals" (Jamestown) From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Jamestown Community College, in the Jamestown Community Education Theater. Workshops are: "Identifying Homophobia," "Challenging Homophobia" and "Techniques for Working with Gay/Lesbian Clients." Developed on by National Association of Social Workers-NY State Chapter. Cost is \$20, checks payable to Jamestown Community College (Send to JCC, Dept. of Training Services, P.O. Box 20, Jamestown NY14702-0020.) Reading materials and handouts will be available at the workshop. For more info, call (716)665-5220 ext 446 or ext 377. Targeted audience is social workers, educators, counselors, and others working with the general public.

Nov 12—Women's Comedy Extravaganza (Cleveland) Performing will be lesbian comics Karen

I HATE HAMLET

Directed by Fr. Tom McSweeney

ABOUT THE PLAY...

A successful television star, played by **Andy Yoos**, is cast as the melancholy Dane in a Shakespeare-in-the-Park production of "Hamlet". The actor rents an apartment in Greenwich Village which was once owned by John Barrymore, only to discover that the ghost of the great Shakespearean thespian, played by **James Gandolfo**, haunts the gothic duplex and is on hand to offer advice on love, living in New York City, and in passing, the art of acting. **Mina Eisenberg** plays the young actor's agent who has bittersweet memories of the womanizing Barrymore.

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Nov 18th!

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Thanksgiving
to All!

Williams, Suzanne Westenhofer, plus Sara Cutron and Sherry Tolliver. Show begins at 8 p.m. with tickets costing \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Part of the National Women's Comedy Conference (Nov. 12-14) being held in Cleveland; see Festivals Section for details. For additional info on the show or the performance, call 1-800-653-1417 or (216)289-5885.

• **Nov 12—"Art with a Heart" AIDS Auction (Pittsburgh)** Art donated by local artists, nationally-known artists and celebrity artists. Sponsored by the American Institute for Graphic Art and Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. Tickets cost \$10. Held at the Center for Personality Development. Info: Pgh Aids Task Force(412)242-2500.

• **Nov 12—American Muscle Magazine ESPN** 7:30 p.m.

• **Nov 13—Day of Remembrance (Buffalo)** An interfaith time of reflection for those who have lost someone to AIDS. Donation \$15, scholarships available. Call (716) 881-7795.

• **Nov 13—Tenth Anniversary Celebration of Gerie's Bookstore (Pittsburgh)** Book fair, DJ dance, program honoring past members of book store cooperative, and light buffet...a celebration of the first decade of Pittsburgh's Gertrude Stein bookstore, which sells lesbian and women's books. Wheelchair accessible, and sign language interpreted. 8 p.m. to midnight at Pittsburgh's Downtown YWCA. For info call store at (412)481-9666.

• **Nov 14—Leeward Lounge Road Rally (Ashtabula)** Starts around 5 p.m. For info call the bar at (216)964-9935.

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

• **Nov 14 and 15—A Time of AIDS** On Discovery. Various times and dates, check breakdown in our Entertainment Notes.

• **Nov 16—Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Warner Theater—CANCELED!**

• **Nov 16—Jamestown Community College Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Club** 7:00 p.m. at Greg Rabb's house in Jamestown. While this group is sponsored by Jamestown Community College, it is not limited to JCC students. Any gay/lesbian/bisexual person may attend. For info call Greg at JCC at (716)665-5220.

• **Nov 19—Freddy Burch at Lizzie's** Country western performer will do two shows, 10:30 p.m. and

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midnight. And remember, Freddy encourages people to dance at his shows!

• **Nov 19—Liberace (1988)** Lifetime 10 a.m. Biographical drama about the flamboyant gay superentertainer who died of AIDS in 1987.

• **Nov 19—Women's College Volleyball** On ESPN at midnight.

• **Nov 19—Harvest Dance in Youngstown PA** At Pioneer Pavilion in Mill Creek Park at 7 pm. Put on by LGB Coffeehouse. Call Jean at (216) 744-4126 for more info.

• **Nov 19-21—Chevrei Tikva's 10th Anniversary Weekend (Cleveland)** Cleveland's gay Jewish organization celebrates its first anniversary. Shabbat Services, Torah study, workshops (one is about gay parenting) gala anniversary dinner, a dance, and lots of food. Also guest scholar Rabbi Yoel H. Kahn from San Francisco. You can attend all or part of the scheduled events. Housing is available for out-of-town guests. Info (216)932-5551.

• **Nov 20—Jamestown Social Group** This marks the first anniversary of the group. Bring a dish to pass for the pot-luck. The group picked a new name for itself (10% Network) and will begin calling itself such as of

la bella bistro

an eclectic
restaurant
sure to please

bring your own alcoholic beverage

west fourth at
cherry
454-3636

this meeting. Plans for future meetings will be discussed. 7:00 p.m. at Unitarian Church, 1255 Prendergrast, Jamestown. For info call John at (716)484-7285.

➤ **Nov 20—Cleveland Talent Show CANCELED!**

➤ **Nov 21—Sneakers AIDS Benefit Drag Show (Jamestown)** 100 Harrison, Jamestown NY. Cocktail party at 5:00 p.m. and professional drag show from Buffalo at 6 p.m. All proceeds will be given directly to people living with AIDS in the Jamestown community (for expenses like rent, utilities, and other needs). For info (716)484-8816.

➤ **Nov 21—Paula Poundstone: Cats, Cops and Stuff** On Comedy Central (cable channel) at 11 p.m.

➤ **Nov 22—Billiards** ESPN 9 p.m.

➤ **Nov 24—Erie PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Gays) Meeting** Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7-9 p.m. For info call Kathy 838-6020.

➤ **Nov 24—Wild Turkey Night at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula)** They'll be raffling off turkeys and drinking Wild Turkeys, and the bar's owner says, "This is one of our wildest nights!" 1022 Bridge St. in Ashtabula, OH.

➤ **Nov 24—Sade: An "In the Spotlight Special"** WQLN-TV at 8 p.m. Performance by Nigerian-born singer Sade.

➤ **Nov 25—Here is Mariah Carey** On NBC at 10 p.m.

➤ **Nov 25—Women's Pro Beach Volleyball** Noon on ESPN.

➤ **Nov 26—Bill Moyers' Journal** 9 p.m. on WQLN-TV. Moyers travels to Colorado Springs, where right-wing Christian groups passed a bill restricting gay civil rights.

➤ **Nov 27—"Silver Slipper Presents Showgirls"** Drag show starring Gene Brandt, Destiny Divine, Jackee Regina, and Theresa Jean. Showtime is 11:30 p.m., \$2 cover. At the Silver Slipper, 1317 State, Erie.
➤ **Nov 27—2 Girls Alone! at Cup-a-ccino's** 9-midnight, 18 N. Park Row, Erie.

➤ **Nov 27—Amazons (1984)** On Lifetime at 4 p.m. Drama about group of women with uncanny powers.

➤ **Dec 1—World AIDS Day** Organized by the U.N.'s World Health Organization, which coordinates global efforts in AIDS education, research, control, and prevention. For more info: (202)466-5883.

➤ **Dec 1—World AIDS Awareness Day (Erie)** AIDS Council of Erie is organizing but details aren't worked out yet. Call the Council at 455-5492.

➤ **Dec 1—World AIDS Awareness Day Nationwide TV Broadcast** No details available at this writing, check listings.

➤ **Dec 1—World AIDS Awareness Day Memorial Service (Pittsburgh)** At the beautiful Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside, 7:30-9 p.m. Reception follows. Theme is "The Time to Act." For info contact Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (412)363-6500.

➤ **Dec 3—AIDS Benefit at Lizzie Bordon's.** No details yet, check at the bar.

➤ **Dec 3—Out There** on Comedy Central at 10 p.m. TV's first hour-long show dedicated to gay and lesbian humor. Taped on National Coming Out Day in San Francisco, the show will present a variety of gay and lesbian comics and is hosted by comic Lea DeLaria. Among the performers will be Suzanne Westenhoefer, Bob Smith (from Funny Gay Males), Marga Gomez, Steven Moore, singer Phranc, and actor David Drake.

➤ **Dec 4—2 Girls Alone!** Cup-a-ccino's, 18 N. Park Row, Erie, 9 p.m. to midnight.

➤ **Dec 4—Leeward Lounge's Sixth Anniversary Party (Ashtabula)** Food and champagne, join the celebration at the Lounge, 1022 Bridge Street, Ashtabula.

➤ **Dec 9—Funny Gay Males (Pittsburgh)** Hilarious trio of gay male comics will perform at Pittsburgh's Metropol. Tickets are \$21 advance, \$23 at door, and proceeds benefit the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters. Ticket price includes: *Hors d'oeuvres* (hot and cold) starting at 6 p.m., *Show* starting at 7 p.m., *Dance* after the show (alternative music), and *Cash Bar*. Provincetown Magazine Called them "electrifying performers," and Variety called them "Fresh, even bracing..." For advance tickets send \$21 for each person to

LGLV, Penn West Office Building, Suite 150, Pittsburgh PA 15221. For more info call (412)243-8337 or (412)362-8406.

• **Dec 11—Gay and Lesbian Book Fair (Jamestown)** 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Jamestown, 1255 Prendergrast. This is a fundraiser for the Jamestown Social Group (now called 10% Network). "Many gay and lesbian titles will be featured, as well as other gift books and calendars for those who wish to shop for Christmas. Refreshments, Christmas carols, and wrapping materials will also be featured. No credit cards; cash or checks only. 20% of the profits go to our group." This event should be considered a regular meeting of the group. They're having it a week earlier than usual to accommodate another function at the church. Info, call John (716)664-5556.

• **Dec 14, 15, 19—Johnny Mathis Christmas Show (Cleveland)** Palace Theater, 1615 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland (216)241-6000.

• **Dec 18—Christmas Party at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula)** Bring a covered dish. 1022 Bridge St.

• **Dec 31 (New Year's Eve)—2 Girls Alone! at First Night Erie** 9:30-11:30 p.m. at the Courthouse.

• **Dec 31—New Year's Eve Party at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula)** \$5 includes food and champagne. 1022 Bridge St.

• **Jan 13—Lips Together Teeth Apart** Performance of the play on this date will benefit an AIDS fund. Benefits Lambda Foundation/Borelli AIDS Fund. Call City Theatre at (412) 431-CITY for more info. Full Details next month.

Jan 22, 1994—Bridges Dance/Pizza Party

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Festivals & Conferences

• **Nov 12-14—First National Women's Comedy Conference (Cleveland)** This conference is designed to be an annual event to establish a network and community of women interested in women's comedy and humor. Comics, actors, public speakers, writers, cartoonists, therapists, health professionals, recovery specialists, and the general public are invited to attend. They will have workshops, Comics Jam Session and Open Mic, catered luncheon and Comedy extravaganza. For additional info or to register, call (800)653-1417 or (216)289-5885.

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

• **March 25-27—Dinah Shore Weekend** Palms Springs CA Info: (213)460-2531. "20,000 chic lesbians." Co-sponsored by *Out* magazine.

• **Jun 24-25—"Family Values": 15th Conference of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition, New York City** Held during Unity '94 celebrations, so act now to reserve your accommodations if you're planning on going. (202)583-8029.

• **Unity '94 International Pride Celebration in New York City June 18-26, 1994:** 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

June 26, 1994—Stonewall 25

June 18-26—Cultural Festival

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Entertainment Notes

- ☆ *Out* magazine reports that *Northern Exposure's* gay male couple, Ron and Erick (Doug Ballard and Don R. McManus) will be recurring characters on the show. According to the article, the two are real-life lovers...The program's beautifully-done lesbian episode (entitled *Cicely*) is now available on video for \$19.95 from MCA/Universal Home Video. If you can't find it locally, contact Lambda Rising (202) 621-6969.
- ☆ *k.d. lang* is among *Glamour* magazine's 35 nominees for that publication's "Woman of the Year" award. The award honors women who were "movers and shakers" in the previous year. Other nominees include Barbra Streisand and actress Jane Alexander. Winners will be announced at the Nov. 8 ceremony. Also, Lee Simpson, vice-president of Canada's largest women's magazine (*Chatelaine*) recently revealed that that magazine's two most popular cover subjects were Princess Di and k.d.
- ☆ *In the Face of AIDS III*, a multimedia exhibition about AIDS, is going on now in Dunkirk NY (Oct. 15-Nov. 14). It features the works of artists and poets from around the U.S. To close the show on Nov. 14, there will be a performance of *Words Forgotten*, described as "dramatic monologues regarding AIDS," by Colleen Hammond. Changing attitudes unfold with the progress of AIDS as this theatrical ensemble moves together to examine social and individual beliefs about AIDS." The performance will be at 7:30 p.m. Exhibition and show are at Adams Art Gallery, 600 Central Ave., Dunkirk NY (716)366-7450. Hours: Wed.-Th 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Fri 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 1-4 p.m.
- ☆ *The Death of Marilyn Monroe* will air on A & E Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 10 at 8 a.m.
- ☆ Sometime in November, NBC will be airing *The Beat is Back: A Look Back at the 70s*, which will feature lot of disco performers. Date and air time not known at this writing, watch the listings.
- ☆ *Discovery Journal* will be airing a four-part program called *A Time of AIDS*. Below are brief descriptions of each part, with broadcast dates and times.
 - Fighting for Life*: looks at the social complications of AIDS. Nov. 15 at 9 p.m. and midnight, Dec. 4 at 5pm & 2 am and Dec 5 at 1 pm.
 - The End of the Beginning* is a highly medical look at the disease...treatments, research, etc. Nov. 15 at 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., Dec. 11 at 5 pm & 2 am and Dec 12 at 1 pm.
 - The Zero Factor*: doctors who saw the first KS and pneumonia in gay patients, and "Patient Zero". Nov. 14 at 9 p.m. and midnight, Nov. 20 & 27 at 5 p.m., and Nov. 21 at 1 p.m.
 - The Hunt for the Virus* follows the hunt from the CDC's acceptance that AIDS could be epidemic, to Africa where they find it running rampant. Nov. 14 at 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., Nov. 27 at 2 a.m. and Nov. 28 at 1p.m.
- ☆ In *Medusa: Dare to Be Truthful*, Julie Brown spoofs Madonna. On Showtime, 11/8 2:30 a.m., 11/19 at 12:30 a.m., 11/30 at 3:25 a.m.
- ☆ *TV Guide* reports that after news got out that a couple CBS affiliates refused to air two episodes of *Picket Fences* (one of which explored attraction between two teenage girls), the ratings for the series actually improved.
- ☆ *Lily Tomlin* will be showing up in two half-hour programs featuring Edith Ann. The first *Life and Times of Edith Ann* will air towards the end of November on ABC. Check listings.
- ☆ Gannon Theater's production of *Parables* depicted a gay-bashing in a modern-day look at the Good Samaritan: A man is gay-bashed, and every-

body passes by him, except the compassionate Good Samaritan. The play was an original adaptation of the book *The Tales Christ Told*, by April Oursler Armstrong, and set the parables in the modern world. Director William Doan and musical director Shawn Clerkin collaborated on the adaptation.

- ☆ As you may know, gay-friendly comedian *Roseanne Arnold* has been writing an advice column for the five Iowa weeklies she bought with her husband Tom. Recently a 15-year-old girl wrote in to say she was afraid that she might be a lesbian. Roseanne's advice: "Confusion and crushes on other girls is perfectly normal at your age. ...Others may tell you different, but being a lesbian is OK! In general, they are great people!"
- ☆ *Mary Travers*, of the musical group Peter, Paul and Mary, has a song out that promotes acceptance of gay people in a gentle way. In the song, called "Home Is Where the Heart Is," a mother explains same-sex love to a small child.
- ☆ A number in *Madonna's* national tour (called "The Girlie Show") is a medley that salutes 20 years of the lesbian and gay movement, using songs like "Express Yourself," "Deeper & Deeper" and "Why It's Hard." Also during the show, she speaks of the friends she has lost to AIDS. In New York City she complained about the bad reviews she'd been receiving, telling the crowd, "They send uptight, straight men to review me. They hate me! Don't they know I'm a gay man in a woman's body? Why don't they send gay men?"
- ☆ Two films about Chinese opera divas who are really men in drag will be released this month. The one you'll be most likely to have access to is *M. Butterfly*, with Jeremy Irons as the man who marries a woman he later discovers is really a man (duhh...). The other is called *Concubine*.
- ☆ A new alternative rock compilation benefits AIDS organizations around the world. *No Alternative* (Arista) pulls together 21 alternative rock acts like Soul Asylum, Sonic Youth, Urge Overkill, Nirvana, Patti Smith, and Matthew Sweet. It should be out in stores now.
- ☆ Here's a good one: a book store owned by lesbians had a Halloween window display of scary books, and right smack in the middle was *Rush Limbaugh's* book!
- ☆ Country music group *Confederate Railroad* have caused a minor wave of male drag among country music fans. The group appeared in drag in their video for "Trashy Women," and this has inspired a lot of male country fans to try it out for themselves!
- ☆ Last month we reported that WSEE wouldn't be broadcasting the lesbian mother episode of *School Break Special* (called "Other Mothers") when the CBS was broadcasting it. The programming director at WSEE said that it would be taped for showing at a yet-to-be-determined later date. When we called WSEE back this month, we asked when the episode would be shown and the director said he never told us it would be shown later, just that it would be taped and sent to the intermediate unit (he did in fact tell us about the intermediate unit thing, but he also said they'd be broadcasting it at some point). When asked if the reason it wasn't aired had to do with its content, he said that it did not, that they trust whatever the network sends them, and they also trust this show because the program is reviewed by psychologists. But, he said, they just don't air *School Break Special*. Which is too bad, if it's true, because it's a high-quality, Emmy-winning teen program that deals with the tough topics. By the way, many CBS affiliates around the country did pull this episode. The network is to be commended for being brave enough to deal with this, as are the director and the cast (who worked for scale because they wanted the story to be told...Meredith Baxter received all of \$2500 for her work in it).
- ☆ Fitness queen Richard Simmons has a new video out, called *Sweatin' to the Oldies 3* (60 min., \$79.99). *USA Today* gave the video its highest rating. ▼

Local News

Cocoon: New Gay-Friendly Store

A new store in Erie sells items of interest to the gay community. Cocoon, at 1164 W. 10th, sells gay and lesbian bumperstickers, buttons, T-shirts, and pink triangles made of rose quartz (you can buy them alone or as jewelry). They have just ordered freedom rings and are planning on having some gay and lesbian music toward Christmas. Plus they distribute *EGCN*. They are selling advance tickets to the Margie Adam concert on Nov. 7.

Cocoon is not a gay store per se. Their inventory emphasizes alternative spirituality and consciousness—crystals, drums, jewelry, that sort of thing.

They can also do a special order for you *Womynspace Update*

From now until March of 1994, *Womynspace Coffeeshouse* will be meeting at the Unitarian Univer-

salist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway (Route 97), in Erie.

This may or may not end up being its permanent home. Many *Womynspace* regulars would like to stay closer to the downtown area. But the Unitarian certainly has advantages, too. At any rate, if you know of or would like to offer other possibilities, contact Deb at 453-2785 or Sally at 454-2713.

Next coffeehouse dates are Nov. 6, Dec. 4, and New Year's Day (Jan. 1). The December coffeehouse will have a Christmas theme.

AIDS Council Update

The AIDS Council's two staff members—Mary Lee Brooks and Jeff Schwenk—have rescinded their resignations and will be staying on. "The AIDS Council Board is *very* happy about this," said Board president Carolyn Beck. The local media had reported on the resignations, the circumstances of which were somewhat confusing.

Beck further reports that the AIDS Council has the support of County Executive Judy Lynch. Lynch had expressed concern over the county's continued funding of the AIDS Council after hearing reports that executive director Craig Bennett had been fired (he had, in fact, turned in a letter of resignation).

"We are still concerned about remaining financially solvent," says Beck. "If anyone has suggestions about funding sources or fund-raising, please contact us. We are communicating with elected officials. Rep. Linda Bebkos' support in this has been invaluable, and we are in contact with others. And we have a Board member who is committed to leading the Council's development committee."

Franklin Transsexual Sues Over Job Loss

A 37-year-old transsexual woman is suing an Oil City for \$200,000 because she believes he is at least partly responsible for her being fired from her job. She had been employed at the Northwest Pennsylvania Training Partnership Consortium as an employment assessment specialist, and was fired after she began the

Dignity/USA

Now our lived experience of being lesbian, gay or bisexual and people of faith compels us to be silent no more. Our conscience calls us to action.

A national organization for lesbian, gay and bisexual Roman Catholics, their family and friends. For information contact Dignity/Erie Tri-State, PO Box 3746, Erie, PA 16508-0746

Telephone 814-864-4627

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process of changing from a man to a woman. Kristine Holt, who was Richard Holt before the change, believes she was fired from her job because of the gender change. She said she was unaware of any problems with the public or co-workers, but said that officials at Northwest Consortium said they'd consider written complaints. The husband of a co-worker, James Nelson, did write a letter stating "careers and employment have been placed in jeopardy" because of Holt's presence, and expressing concern about violence because "we are dealing with an obviously unstable person who may pose a threat to the people in the employment office."

Besides the suit against Nelson, Holt is also seeking to be reinstated to her job.

Syphilis Outbreak

The Erie County Health Dept. reports an increase in the incidence of syphilis. Normally the agency sees less than ten cases per year, but recently they saw eight cases in only two months.

"We can't nail it down to one group," says Carolyn Beck, Epidemiological Investigator for the Erie County Dept. of Health. "It's not just one group or race. This outbreak does appear to be largely heterosexual...as far as we can see. But then, people aren't always honest about these things." She noted that this sort of outbreak seems to happen when the disease is introduced to a community, and suggested that drug use was a possible culprit in this situation, particularly if people are exchanging sex for drugs or sex for money to get drugs.

Health officials look at rates for infection of sexually transmitted diseases like syphilis and gonorrhea as indicators of how much unsafe sex is going on.

Beck advises people who suspect they may be infected to get a blood test. "This disease can be very serious," she says. Untreated syphilis can lead to organ damage, brain damage and even death. If you have symptoms of the disease, please get tested. You can get tested at the health department, you can go to your doctor or neighborhood clinic if you feel more comfortable with them, but you should get it checked."

The first symptom of syphilis is a chancre (sore) in the mouth, rectum, or genitals (which may not be visible to you). The most common symptoms of the

second stage include skin rash, lymph node swelling, and patchy hair loss. If you don't treat the disease at this stage, you could go on to develop life-threatening complications.

Unfortunately, 40% of syphilis cases have no symptoms. So even if you have no symptoms, you should also get a test if you have had: multiple sex partners, sex with a partner involved in illicit drugs, or sex for drugs or money.

Note also that a syphilis sore can open up a "portal of entry" for HIV, thereby increasing risk of being infected by that virus. ▼

Wills, Living Wills, Closings & Criminal Law

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

Gobble Gobble?

Remember that HIV has been found in pre-ejaculatory fluid (pre-cum). HIV can be transmitted by oral sex, as can other serious STDs. A condom helps protect you during oral sex. There condoms that don't have an unpleasant taste, like Gold Circle Coins or Kiss of Mint.

1993 - A Healthy Sex Message from your friends at Bridges and the Erie Gay Community Newsletter

National/World News Bits

Censorship News

WASHINGTON—School censorship efforts became more successful in the 1992-1993 school year. According to the People for the American Way's recently-released report "Attacks on the Freedom to Learn 1992-93," a record 41% of censorship efforts were successful. Materials with Satanic references (real or imagined) were the single biggest target for censorship efforts. Second were materials with references to gay men and lesbians, and third were those materials containing obscene language. Pennsylvania had the second-highest number of right-wing censorship efforts of all states in the nation; Ohio was seventh, New York eighth.

Religion

CHICAGO—The Bible supports gay/lesbian acceptance and same-sex marriages, it is morally imperative to teach teens about safer sex and encourage them to use condoms, and masturbation is "generally appropriate and healthy." So says a draft report on sexuality for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), released in October.

The 21-page report, "The Church and Human Sexuality: A Lutheran Perspective," was released to the Church's pastors and church leaders. It is not an official stand by the 5.2 million-member denomination, but recommendations by a task force assigned to focus on issues of sexuality and the ELCA. Church members may respond to the report until June, at which time the task force will work on a second draft, which will deal with and incorporate those responses.

Karen Bloomquist, director of the study, points out that although the study is liberal in some ways, "This is not anything goes. There are some things they stand against." These include sexual abuse, pornography, promiscuity, anti-gay violence, adultery, prostitution, and exploiting sex in advertising. The report upholds traditional teachings about marriage and premarital sex.

A conservative groups within the ELCA has condemned the study.

The Pope and Sexuality

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul's newest encyclical (called "Veritatis Splendor"), reaffirms the Catholic Church's condemnation of homosexuality, contraception, alternative insemination, masturbation, sterilization, and premarital sexual relations. The encyclical's sexuality issues received the most publicity, but a lot of other issues were addressed as well. These include dissent, relationships and roles of bishops and theologians, and mortal and venial sin.

The encyclical was published in its entirety in the October 14 issue of *Origins*. If you'd like a copy send \$5 to CNS, 3211 Fourth Street N.W., Washington DC 20017-1100 (202)541-3290.

No Same-Sex Marriage in Germany

KARLSRUHE, Germany—Germany's supreme court has decided to allow that country's ban on same sex marriages to stand, while at the same time acknowledging that same-sex couples need more legal protection.

An anonymous same-sex couple had appealed the ruling of a lower court.

Labor Supports Gay Rights

SAN FRANCISCO—The nation's leading labor union has passed a resolution condemning gay-bashing and anti-gay rights measures. The AFL-CIO unanimously passed the resolution on Oct. 6 at its biennial convention. The resolution also pledges that the AFL-CIO will actively support efforts to stop anti-gay rights efforts. The resolution doesn't limit itself to sexual orientation issues, but also denounces "violence motivated by bigotry, prejudice and hate, specifically naming cross burning, police brutality, church defacement..."

AIDS Vaccine

SAN FRANCISCO—A researcher has announced that a new AIDS vaccine, called GP-120, will be tested on several thousand gay men and I.V. drug users in late 1994. Dr. Donald Francis, a researcher at Genentech Inc. of South San Francisco, stated that the vaccine has already been tested on 300 people, with “remarkable results.”

“One-hundred percent of the humans produced neutralizing antibodies, which are cross-productive against various types of the virus,” said Dr. Francis, but he also pointed out that research hadn’t showed whether or not they were producing enough to actually protect against infection by the virus. So far the only reported side effects have been sore arms. The vaccine could be available by 1997.

Dr. Francis, a doctor with the Centers for Disease Control until 1992, when he retired in anger and frustration. He was one of the first in the scientific community to sound the alarm about the AIDS epidemic. His real-life role in AIDS activism was described in Randy Shilts’ 630-page account of the early days of the AIDS epidemic, “And the Band Played On,” and he was also depicted in the HBO docudrama of the same name.

AIDS Czar on Teen Sex

WASHINGTON—AIDS adviser Kristine Gebbie told a conference on teenage pregnancy that the United States needs to take a more positive attitude toward sexuality and to stop dealing with sex “in terms of don’ts and diseases.” Until we change our attitudes, she said, “we will continue to be a repressed, Victorian society that misrepresents information, denies sexuality early, denies homosexual sexuality particularly in teens, and leaves people abandoned with no place to go.”

Gebbie made the remarks Oct. 20 at conference sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Social Health Association, and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals. By October 21, Gebbie’s stand was altered—apparently by the White House—with Gebbie issuing a statement that emphasized sexual abstinence and responsibility to prevent HIV infection.

New, Improved Condoms

Look for condoms made of polyurethane to be made available in 1994. According to reports, the new condoms will be an improvement over those made of latex: they allow more sensitivity, they can be used with oil-based lubricants, and are stronger and more transparent.

The Arts

WASHINGTON—Despite efforts by the Christian right to abolish the National Endowment for the Arts, the House has voted 304-119 to extend the agency for another two years. Christian right organizations had mounted a campaign against federal funding of the NEA, pointing to projects with gay or “pornographic” content.

Many House members were swayed by the argument that actress Jane Alexander, the newly-confirmed NEA chairwoman, should be given the chance to do her job.

During Alexander’s confirmation hearings, she pledged to mediate between artists producing works with gay or sexually-explicit subject matter and those who are offended by that content.

NEA supporters have argued that opponents of the agency use examples that are either incorrect or out-of-date.

The bill now heads to the Senate.

This holiday season,
give a gift that will
last the whole year!
Give the gift of *Erie
Gay Community
Newsletter* to some-
one you really care
about!



Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

Wow! What a busy and nifty month October was! Just a few snippety-bits and thoughts to share with you.

I went to the Susan Herrick Concert put on by Pink Sands at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation on October 8th. Everyone there (yours truly very definitely included) had a *wonderful* time! Susan was extremely professional and very friendly. It was very definitely a woman-centered event, but it felt very inviting and inclusive. I can see why womyn's music is so important to lesbians. The attitude of Susan, Pink Sands, and the attendees typifies one of the things I like best about the way most lesbigay people are here in Erie, contrasted with some larger cities: there is a sense of unity, a lack of divisiveness. Let us support these concerts; what Pink Sands is doing is a very important service to our community. You should also note that Perceptions, the New Age bookstore at 2654 Peach, and Cocoon, the new shop at 1164 West 10th Street, will be carrying womyn's music and other items of interest to our community. This is neat stuff and we need to support it if we want to see it in the future.

Does anyone realize just how many people made National Coming Out Day on October 11 something incredibly special? I listened to DeeDee Foll and Kim Mano on WLKK 1400-AM from 7-8 am. Some of you called in. Good for you! There were some nasty homophobes who called in as well and I think both women are to be lauded for their efforts. They did a marvelous job and it takes a great deal of courage to speak out like that. I hope we can look forward to these people continuing to speak out and for more people to be open and honest.

I thought it was also more than cool that all the college-based groups did something for the day. Sue, Dan and the other Trigon people did a *fantastic* job of putting on Ally Day at Penn State-Behrend. They had a movie, a table, an artists' showing (kudos to all of the artists who also supported our community), a reception and all kinds of good stuff. The crowds were impressive, and I think most of the groups in the Erie area were represented. Local business owners who

donated food and help included Bella Bistro, Cup-cino's, and South Gate Pizza. Thank and support them. Trigon should well be proud. Putting on an event of this size and quality is not an easy job at all.

Going on also that day was a button distribution and party by the folks of EGO. Imagine! One actually had choices of what to do for NCOD. GALA-10, the Mercyhurst group, also distributed buttons. One of the members of GALA-10 said he saw a few students wearing pink triangle buttons a few days *after* they were passed out.

Kudos also to the SUNY-Fredonia group. They had Bob & Rod Jackson-Paris, the famous gay male couple speak on October 18th. There were easily 500 people in attendance (which probably makes it the largest gathering of lesbigay/gay-friendly people in Chataqua County ever) and everyone seemed to be positive.

It has also been very heartening to see people going to different meetings. As I mentioned before, there was good representation from most of the groups at Trigon's event. The last GALA-10 meeting I went to had several EGO attendees, which I think generates a good sense of community and energy. We are all in this together and it is just fabulous to see people giving ideas and support back and forth.

There are groups forming that could use our support. Groups like the Rainbow Connection in Warren, PA are very important because lesbigays in rural areas are much more likely to lack a support system. The chapter of Dignity forming in Erie is important because many lesbigay people believe their sexuality is completely opposed to who they are spiritually. Please, let's support these folks!

Oh yeah, an update: you may remember me blathering about naming my Snookie Bear as my spouse as beneficiary on my IRA, and how the insurance agent acted, shall we say, reticent? I just got notice from the company today and Micheal is indeed listed as beneficiary and the relationship is listed as Spouse. I am thinking of having the letter framed. ▼

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Catholic Group Forming

A local chapter of Dignity/USA, the national organization of lesbian, gay and bisexual Roman Catholics, their families and friends is forming in the Erie Tri-State area. Founded in 1969, Dignity/USA is a family of over 4,000 members in 85 chapters across the United States. We provide communities of faith and hope in cities all around the country. These communities provide opportunities for worship and fellowship, education and service. For most of our members, we are their primary contact with the wider Catholic church.

Dignity offers a ministry of witness to the larger Church and to society, working for our civil rights and our rights in the church, as well. Our vision is that, some day, neither our society nor our church will discriminate against people because of their sexual orientation.

As a national movement, and in its local chapters, Dignity works to overcome fear and prejudice. We are continuously educating the church—both clergy and laity—about who we are and what we hope for. Dignity provides clear information to dispel the myths and stereotypes that perpetuate hatred and bigotry and that shut people out and drive them away from their church and religious heritage.

Dignity provides educational materials and gets them to those who need them. We develop innovative programs to help heal those who have been alienated by ministers of the church. We help in the HIV/AIDS crisis through one-to-one practical support for persons living with AIDS and their care givers. We create liturgical expressions of lesbian, gay and bisexual spirituality, and explore linkages with other justice movements through attention to women's concerns, inclusive language and multi-culturalism. We fight the increasing incidence of gay-bashing, physical and verbal, with political action and public witness to the holiness of our lives.

And we give our members hope, hope that enables people to grow in faith and service to others. If you are interested in this important and life-giving movement in the church as a lesbian, gay or bisexual Catholic, their families and friends contact: Dignity Erie Tri-

State P.O. Box 3746, Erie, Pennsylvania, 16508-0746.
Complete confidentiality is assured. ▼

Review of Susan Herrick Concert

October 8 Concert
produced by Pink Sands
By Lynne

Since I had never heard of Susan Herrick, I wasn't too excited to see her. But I hadn't heard of Leah Zicari either, and I loved her performance. So I took a chance on Susan. She certainly got my attention right off the bat! What a voice!

It feels so good to hear a talented woman performing music that I can relate to. How often do we get to hear positive messages about our partners? Or about recovery from abuse? Susan Herrick touched on these subjects and more with her powerful, sensual, and moving music.

Her song "No One Loves Me Like You Do" was especially stirring. Susan shows exceptional courage when she sings about sexual abuse. It is a subject all too often silenced.

If I'm giving the impression that this was a serious and fun-free concert, forgive me. While there were serious moments, it was by no means a therapy session—or was it?

I certainly had fun with Susan's off-the-cuff performance of "Sweetness," which was an audience participation song. We gave her the words and she wove our words into a song. Her song "You Deserve" was very uplifting and affirming.

If you ever get a chance to see Susan Herrick—go! You deserve it!

You can order Susan Herrick's music through Perceptions, 2654 Peach Street, Erie PA ▼

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to EGCM!*

Coming Out Day Events: What Happened

PennState Behrend

The Behrend group (Trigon) blended Coming Out Day with something called Ally Day, a day in which non-gay supporters of gay people could come out too, by showing their support.

Trigon had originally planned to do Coming Out Day, then decided that they wanted allies to come out, too. "This campus is extremely homophobic," Trigon president Sharain Naylor said. "If heterosexuals celebrate too, it helps to create a better environment."

From 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., there was an art show and table set up in Behrend's Wintergarden. The art show featured over 20 paintings and photographs by local people, and was coordinated by Christelle DeCrease from Cup-a-ccino's.

The table carried brochures and newsletters, buttons, lapel stickers, bumperstickers, leaflets, and T-shirts. Those materials reflected both Coming Out Day and Ally Day sentiments, with a strong emphasis on Ally Day. There was also a sign-up sheet for allies, which said, "I am an Ally to Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People. To show my support and acknowledge their rights as people, I sign below." Allies indeed did show their support, staffing the table and helping in other ways. "It took many Allies to put this event together," said Naylor.

At 7 p.m. there was a film called "Not All Parents are Straight," shown in Reed Lecture Hall. The film was about parents who were lesbians or gay men.

After the film there was a reception back in the Wintergarden, with food generously donated by La Bella Bistro, Pie in the Sky, and South Gate Pizza. About 100 people mingled, met, and schmoozed. In addition to the artists and Behrend students and faculty, there were a lot of others in attendance: EGO sent a big delegation up, there were people from GALA-10, Mercyhurst, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Womynspace, Bridges and *EGCN*, and others. Representatives from these organizations each said a little about what they did.

The day was clearly a success for Trigon and a landmark event for lesbian/gay people at Behrend. The



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school newspaper put the event on the front page and page 3, and Naylor reports that the atmosphere at the school has become more open and accepting.

Edinboro Gay Organization

A large group of EGO-ites went to the Trigon Ally Day celebration, then came back to the campus to their own party and dance.

The party/dance had about 40 people attending, with a couple of older, non-students joining in. They had music, snacks, pop, and a great time!

EGO's made the festivities succeed despite some lack of cooperation from the school. An announcement for the event was taken to the campus radio station (WFSE), and was reportedly "ripped into little pieces" by someone at the station. EGO member John Wetsell reported that he went to the campus print shop to have them print up buttons for the event—and as an established campus group, EGO had the right to expect that—but the print shop kept coming up with excuses and never did print them up.

EGO will be having a public coming out day/ally day on November 11. See calendar for details! For info call Jim MacCluskie at 732-2590 MWF 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Fredonia College

A presentation by Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris wrapped up a Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week that started at SUNY at Fredonia, organized by the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual student union on that campus.

About 500 people attended the talk by this gay married couple, who speak around the country on gay civil rights and gay pride, and their life together.

Bob is a former Mr. Universe, and Rod is a model of international stature. When they were younger, they both had difficulty confronting their own gayness. Their decision to speak publicly about themselves comes from their wish to make things easier on younger gay people, especially after receiving thousands of letters from lonely and suicidal gay teens.

The couple came out when *Iron Man Magazine* did an article about Bob.

The Oct. 25 issue of Fredonia's campus newspaper (*The Leader*), had Bob and Rod on the front page, and on the inside the newspaper printed a guide to Chautauqua County Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual organizations.

Lizzie's

Lizzie Borden's had a nice little snack spread for National Coming Out Day, and it was nice to stop by and get together with people on that occasion.

WLKK

Coming Out Day started bright and early with a morning appearance by Kim Manno and Dee Dee Foll on WLKK-radio. The two women are lesbians who live in Erie.

Host Mark Modlo was pretty even-handed in the interview, and with one exception, avoided sensationalizing the subject.

Mark started the interview by asking the women why come out? Kim said she thinks it's important for gay people to come out because coming out counters discrimination against gay people. In coming out, gay people will show that "we're like everybody else." She said she also sees it as a way "to build our community and make us stronger and reduce our personal limitations." DeeDee said that in this interview she'd like to have straight people express their concerns about gay people so that we can talk about it. She also said she

wanted to know why so many people are angry at gay people.

Mark stated that there must be a certain risk that the women were taking in coming out, and asked how this fit into their employment picture. Both women said they were lucky because people where they work are pretty accepting (they work in the same place). DeeDee said, "We *should* take advantage of our situation when we are in a situation where we can be free to do things like this...to come out and be open with ourselves, so hopefully we can provide support for other people and make a change somewhere along the line."

But, said Mark, heterosexuals will ask, why have this day to proclaim being gay, when straight people don't proclaim days to be straight? Kim said if straight people would just stop the gay-bashing and such, there wouldn't be a need for special days. She said it's homophobic people who create the need for days like this, that we're not trying to shove this down people's throats, and we don't want special rights, but just want the rights that everybody else has. Mark responded, "That seems fair."

He then asked about the various ways to come out. DeeDee said that a person doesn't have to come out in the media or to a group of people—which can be very scary. It can also mean self-acceptance, which can be very hard for gay people, but which is important for personal growth. Coming out can also mean coming out to one good friend, being honest with yourself and your friend, or coming out to your family.

The first person who called into the show said she thought the subject was disgusting and she was sick of hearing about it, and the second caller said gay people "have to hide because they're doing something that's not normal." Modlo responded, "What's not normal—having loving emotions for another human being? How can we sit in judgment?" The caller, still on the line, responded, "Because I'm a Christian."

A lesbian then called in and said, "They seem to have a very distorted view of what's normal. We as gay people get bombarded daily, constantly, with the heterosexual lifestyle...television, radio, advertising. And we don't even have the right to have one day to tell people and to try to make them understand what we

Continued on page 19

Military Policy Causes Confusion

By Greg Valiga

President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" military policy has gone the way of gays and lesbians who have recently come out in the armed forces...it has been placed on standby reserve status.

The October 1st implementation date has come and gone, but there is currently no ban on lesbians and gays in the military due to events that have left many totally baffled.

A key player in the effort to end the ban is federal district court judge Terry Hatter, whose ruling in the Keith Meinhold case has forced the government to temporarily comply with his order to stop the ban. Indeed, Defense department spokeswoman Kathleen deLaski has stated that eight individuals who had been on standby reserve status during the six month debate on the ban are now welcome to return to active duty if they so choose.

But if the government wins an appeal now, or if the matter ends up before the Supreme Court and the ban is found constitutional, then the legislation recently passed by Congress will be even more restrictive than Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell"—and lesbians and gays will have lost a very important battle.

A chronology of events to date:

September 9: The Senate, by a 63-33 vote, approves an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization Bill which brands homosexuality an "unacceptable risk" to military morale. Stricter than "DA, DT", the amendment makes no mention of stopping witchhunts or even-handed enforcement of the code of conduct, but allows a future Secretary of Defense to reinstate the policy of asking recruits about sexual orientation. Both PA Senators-Wofford and Specter-vote for this amendment.

September 23: Judge Terry Hatter threatens to charge Defense Secretary Les Aspin with contempt if he and other senior Defense officials can't "show cause" for continuing to enforce the policy against gays and lesbians. Hatter had ruled the ban unconstitutional in the Keith Meinhold case.

September 28: The House of Representatives approves an amendment which codifies the "DA, DT"

policy, but with the same harsher provisions contained in the Senate version. In the 301-134 vote, PA Representatives Ridge and Clinger vote with the majority. In the process, the House rejects two other amendments concerning the ban, one of which would have ended the ban completely.

Washington, D.C. federal judge Louis Oberdorfer blocks the discharge of Navy lieutenant Richard Selland because he revealed to his commander that he was gay. Oberdorfer said the Navy was "perilously close" to being in contempt of judge Hatter's January ruling.

September 30: Hatter amends his earlier ruling which declared the military's ban unconstitutional. The judge broadened the ruling by prohibiting the armed forces from changing the enlistment status, denying enlistment, creating records, and interfering with promotions based on sexual orientation. This could possibly make the "DA, DT" policy illegal. Hatter had threatened to fine Pentagon officials \$10,000 a day, but didn't find the government in contempt.

deLaski tells reporters that the military will delay implementing "DA, DT" to allow the Pentagon to advise the armed forces about new guidelines.

October 1: The government asks an appeals court to block the ruling outlawing the ban until the appeal can be heard. The lawyers said the order would prevent implementation of "DA, DT" and the recent amendments passed by Congress.

October 7: The Clinton Administration tells the armed forces to suspend actions against gays and lesbians.

October 9: The appeals court refuses to overrule Hatter's order. Department General Counsel Jamie Gorelick said the Pentagon would appeal to the Supreme Court if the appeals court delays. Meanwhile, deLaski announces that the Pentagon "will seek extraordinary relief from the Supreme Court" to delay the enforcement of judge Hatter's ruling.

October 18: The Justice Department denies a decision has been reached to ask the Supreme Court to block the Hatter decision.

Marine Sergeant Justin Elzie will be returned to active duty because of Hatter's order, and deLaski

confirms that seven others on standby reserve status can return to duty if they want.

UPI reports that there is no drop in morale after nearly three weeks with no ban on lesbians and gays in the military.

October 20: Elzie returns to duty with no repercussion.

October 21: Pentagon officials begin pushing for Supreme Court intervention, but the Justice Department resists because Solicitor General Drew S. Days is still not ready to argue the necessity of an emergency stay.

October 29: In response to request by Clinton administration, Supreme Court rescinds Judge Hatter's injunction preventing the military from discriminating against lesbian people in the military. The ban is back in place (except for Keith Meinhold). Case now goes back to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for a hearing on the merits of the case (as opposed to the injunction). The appeal is expected to be heard in December. ▼

Places to get EGCN...

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St.

Erie

Cocoon, 1164 W. 10th

Cup-a-ccino's, 18 N. Park Row

Lizzie Bordon's, 3412 W. 12th

Perceptions, 2654 Peach

Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street

Edinboro

Book Shelf, 200 Plum

Earthshine, 131 Meadville Street

EGO meetings

Jamestown NY & Warren PA

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown

Rainbow Connection, Warren 723-1719

Sneakers, 100 Harrison, Jamestown

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Coming Out Day, Cont'd from pg 17

are. I don't think that Christians have any right to pass moral judgment on anybody. I believe in God, and my God loves me for what I am, and I'm created in His own image." Mark responded that he was brought up with Christian teaching that says that it isn't natural, that two penises don't go together and two vaginas don't go together. The caller replied that we believe that way because some people programmed us to believe that, but it was only unnatural to him because he didn't have those feelings and wasn't born with them. "What *you* do is unnatural to *me*," she said. Mark replied, "No problem."

Another caller called in response to the issue of penises not going together and vaginas not going together by saying that there's a lot more to sexuality than just intercourse. Mark shifted into his only jab at sensationalism here, talking about how the meaning of life was about procreation. When the caller said that one doesn't have to be heterosexual to procreate, and that there were alternative means of procreation, Mark made a crack about how "Ovaries now emit sperm."

During a break for news, the two women told Mark they didn't want to get into this area, and were very uncomfortable with the direction the discussion was going in. When the show resumed, Mark got back on track, saying that there clearly was more to sex than just intercourse.

The next caller was a 67-year-old straight woman who had worked with Kim and DeeDee for several years. She said she liked them a lot and "They were two wonderful people to work with. And when I looked at them and talked with them, I never thought of what they were doing in their bedrooms. I just talked with them like they were any other person. They were wonderful to us." Mark raised the issue with the caller that it would be annoying to have people look at you and be thinking of what you did in bed.

Mike Mahler called in and raised many points about hatred, mentioning how it causes high numbers of gay teens to become suicidal. He remarked on people who use religion as an excuse for hatred, saying that "Religion does not equal hatred of gay and lesbian people." He also said that if the purpose of life is to procreate, and people who choose not to procreate are

condemned to burn in hell, then that includes the Roman Catholic clergy and Christ himself. He mentioned a dear friend who is a devoted Christian and who is sickened by the hatred so many Christians show toward gay people, brought up Biblical admonition, "Judge not, lest ye be judged," and pointed out that people seem to pick and choose what parts of the Bible they'll go by, and said, "I saw no members of the Christian community stand up when a gay man was murdered a couple years ago." On the issue of coming out, Mike pointed out that studies show people who personally know gay people tend to be more accepting of them, saying that "People have to realize that gay and lesbian people are the people they already know and love..." as co-workers or members of the family or church.

DeeDee and Kim talked a little about how a straight person can think you're just wonderful until they find out you're gay, and suddenly when they find out you're gay they see you in a whole negative light. Kim said there was no choice in being gay, that "It's who I am, and I can't do anything about it."

A straight Catholic woman called in and said she was always upset about anti-gay attitudes among Christians. "How these people treat anyone as meanly and in such hate as these Christians do is amazing to me, because that's not the Christianity I was brought up with," she said. She talked about people picking and choosing what parts of the Bible they'll follow. "Gayness is in nature. It's natural. God created it. When people call it unnatural, they're calling one of God's creations unnatural." When Mark brought up the recent Papal Encyclical (which condemns homosexuality), the caller said, "I believe the Pope is wrong. He's promoting hatred and he's wrong."

A lesbian called in to tell about coming out eight years ago in Meadville's tool and die industry, and how

surprised she was when she was accepted with open arms. She closed with, "I just wanted to call and say 'Hang in, everybody, there *is* hope!'" She closed by cheering Kim and DeeDee on with, "You go, girls!"

For closing remarks, DeeDee said, "Coming out is a very, very important part of your self-acceptance, and we all need that to be peaceful with everyone else." Kim said, "Just because somebody's different, whether it's being gay or something else, give them a chance. You

don't have to understand it (the difference), but don't hate them because of it." Mark summarized their message as being about diffusing hatred and seeking the healing effect of understanding, and closed with "I hope that it's successful."

Kim went to work shortly after leaving the studio, and discovered that everyone there had tuned in to the show. She said there were a few people who didn't know she was gay, but they commended her on "having the guts to do something like that." Neither DeeDee nor Kim reported any problems after their appearance on the show.

A short commentary on Kim's and DeeDee's first call-in radio appearance The two women were scheduled on the morning show because WLKK's program manager (who also co-hosts and would have interviewed them), had encouraged it, stating that she and her co-host would handle the issue with more compassion. The two had felt reassured by the impression that they might be handled with respect, and that the program director had received background materials on Coming Out Day and DeeDee's personal experiences coming out. On the morning of the interview, they arrived at the station feeling relatively self-assured, but that assurance was shattered when they found that the program manager (who was



going to do much of the interview) had suddenly called in sick, and she had not prepared her co-host at all (he had not seen the materials she was given and had not even been told that there would be guests on the show.) That was the point at which Dee Dee went from self-assurance to panic. Dee Dee said that after that, she can't even remember what she said because she was so terrified. Kim didn't react so strongly, but reports that she was thrown off by all that.

At this point we need to direct our comments to that program manager and to other media people who will be contacting our community for people to interview: Please try to be sensitive to how frightening it is to come out in the media. It is much more scary than speaking about a city ordinance or a theory on UFOs. Nobody's asking you to agree with everything or even anything that they say, just understand how important it is to them that you treat them with respect and consideration. It's good for your business to be able to have gay people willing to talk openly to you, and there are people in our community who welcome the opportunity to do so. But if you treat these people insensitively, your supply of interviewees will dry up.

By the way, after the interview, Kim and Dee Dee spent some time talking about the interview. After they settled down a little, Kim said she felt exhilarated by what they had just done, and the two looked at each other and said, "Let's do that again!" ▼

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, 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.

Chautauqua Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers

A support group for gay & lesbian parents in Chautauqua County & neighboring counties and a play group for their kids. ☎(716)672-6682.

Chautauqua Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Youth Group

Those interested in forming a youth group for Chautauqua county gay, lesbian & bisexual youth, please call Patrick McNamara at (800)735-2986.

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.

Dignity/Erie Tri-State

A national organization for lesbian, gay and bisexual Roamn Catholics, their families and friends. ✍Dignity/Erie Tri-State, PO Box 3746, Erie PA 16508-0746 ☎(814) 864-4627.

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 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:* 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month. Call for site. Confidentiality respected. ✍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)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.

☛JCC Support Group

A support group run by Jamestown Community College for gays and lesbians. Open to all community members. Meets off-campus. Contact: Greg Rabb. ☎(716)665-5220.

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:* 2nd Friday of the month at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. ☎(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.

☛PFLAG-Erie

Support group for Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gys. *Next Meeting:* Wed, Nov 24 ☎Kathy Harris at (814) 838-6020 or ✍PFLAG-Erie c/o Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA 16508.

☛Rainbow Connection (Warren, PA area)

Warren, PA and surrounding area. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month. ☎(814) 723-1719.

☛SUNY-Fredonia Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Student Union

A support group for students at SUNY Fredonia. ☎(716)673-3424

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.

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:

See back page!

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:

Dignity 864-4627
 Integrity 774-0903
 Unitarian Universalist Congreg. of Erie 864-9300

Social Organizations:

Men's Coffeehouse 455-9049
 Jamestown Social Grp (716) 484-7285/664-5556
 Rainbow Connection (Warren PA) 723-1719
 Womynspace Coffeehouse 454-2713

Student Organizations/Youth:

Chautauqua Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers
 (716)672-6682

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)

JCC Support Grp (716)665-5220

National Runaway Switchboard . 1-800-621-4000

SUNY-Fredonia G/L/B Student U(716)673-3424

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, 110 W 10

*All numbers are area code 814 unless
 otherwise noted.*

A Foundation for the Community

**Providing Grants and
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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 coffehouse, 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).

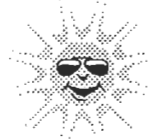
Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street. Open Mon-Sat. Live DJ music 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. On Friday the DJ plays oldies till 10:30 p.m. (50s, 60s and 70s). Food served. The Slipper will be expanding as soon as the PA LCB okays it. It will mainly be a seating area, with 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.



Bridges' "Escape to the Tropics" Dance on Sat, Jan 22

Join us at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway!
Dance starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets are: \$5 or \$4 with a non-perishable food item for AIDS Council of Erie. Or join us for both pizza at 6:00 pm and the dance for just \$8!

Benefits Erie Gay Community Newsletter.

Call Michael at (814) 456-9833 for more info.

Bridges...Building Community!

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