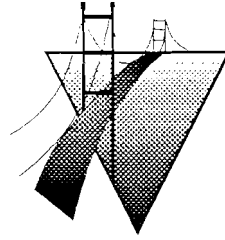


Erie Gay Community Newsletter

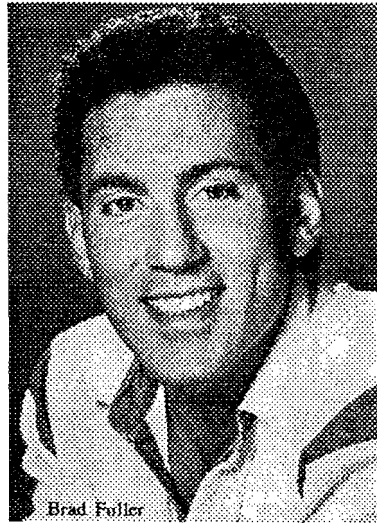
Published by BRIDGES



April, 1994

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

Erie's First Lesbigan Book Fair!



Brad Fuller

On April 23, Waldenbooks is bringing \$6,000 worth of lesbigan titles to the Bridges dance. 20% of the profits will go to Bridges/EGCN, to help finance publication of the newsletter and other Bridges projects.

The Book Fair will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway.

See calendar for more details.

Brad Fuller, author of *Men of Fire Island Present: Hot Cookin'*, will be on hand at the Book Fair to sign copies of his book. See calendar for details!

Mysteries  Love Stories  Parenting
Coming Out  Comics  Spirituality
Novels  Lesbigan History
Biography  Humor  Short Stories
Poetry and more!



Statement of Purpose

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

Ad Rates

Businesses and Sponsors! Show your support and reach Erie's lesbigay community directly! Advertising space is now available 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 or 456-9833 for further details!

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Thanks to Micheal Miller for
groovy 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.

Before submitting, please send SASE for writer's guidelines.

☛ = New or Modified Group/Event this issue

Calendar

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

☛ **Apr 2—Manpower of Columbus at Leeward Lounge** \$3 cover.

☛ **Apr 2—2 Girls Alone at Cup-a-ccino's** From 9 to midnight

☛ **Apr 4—Ohio Residents: Last Day to Register to Vote**

☛ **Apr 7—Deadline for EGO Art Exhibit** Info: Patrick Hiller at (814)734-5014 or 732-2297

☛ **Apr 7—Healing and the Mind with Bill Moyers: Meditation and Psychotherapy** WQLN-TV at 10 p.m. Part 3 of 5.

☛ **Apr 7-10—Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt (Columbus OH)** 648 memorial panels and one signature panel. Ohio State Student Union Ballroom. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Info: Aimee at (614)488-2437.

☛ **Apr 8—Debut of Radio Program: "The Words that Dance on the Tongue"** WPSE Radio 1450 AM at 7 p.m. Electronic literary magazine, brought to you by Cup-a-Ccino's. See details in local news.

☛ **Apr 8—Men's Coffeehouse** at 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie. Info: 456-9833.

☛ **Apr 8—Show: "Sister Act" at Lizzie Bordon's** Bobbi B., Jackee Regina, Gene Brandt and special guest. Showtime 11:30 p.m.

☛ **Apr 9—Romanovsky and Phillips in Erie!!!** Don't miss this internationally famous gay comedy and musical duo. 8 p.m. at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. Tickets are \$10 in advance from Cocoon at 1164 W. 10th Street in Erie (459-6608). Michael at (814) 456-9833 for more info.

☛ **Apr 9—Antique Show at Rainbow Gardens** At Waldameer Park, in Erie. Starts 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

☛ **Apr 9—"Brothers, Sing Out!" Concert** Joint concert with two gay men's choruses: the North Coast Men's Chorus (Cleveland) and Renaissance City Choir

(Pittsburgh). 8 p.m. at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium, near the corner of Franklin and Bunts, in Lakewood OH. \$10 advance, \$12 day of show, for tickets call 1-800-766-6048. Info (216)473-6048.

☛ **Apr 9—Once is Not Enough (1975)** The bright spot in this trashy soap opera is the subplot of two lesbians in a warm, loving relationship. On Lifetime at 3:30 p.m.

☛ **Apr 10—Rainbow Cruise '94 (Pittsburgh)** River cruise, buffet, live band, dancing, live entertainment by Bambi and Laritta Not-So-Young. Various raffles from Lambda Foundation and Fun Packs and special gifts donated by lesbian/gay businesses in Pittsburgh. Also, Lambda Foundation recognizes "Unsung Heroes." Must be 21 with proper ID. Board ship by 5:30 p.m. (at Station Square) Cruise lasts from 6:00-10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40. Benefits the Lambda Foundation. To get tickets: Erie people can contact Harvey at 456-3674. Or, send check or money order to Lambda Foundation, P.O. Box 5169, Pittsburgh PA 15206. They can also be picked up at most Pittsburgh lesbian/gay businesses.

☛ **Apr 10—Erie's League of Gay and Lesbian Voters Meets** 3 p.m. at 227 W. 5th, Erie. If you are



ROMANOVSKY & PHILLIPS
IN CONCERT ON APRIL 9
IN ERIE!!
SEE CALENDAR FOR INFO!

interested in helping protect gay people's rights, come see how you can help! Info: 833-3258.

Apr 10—Spaghetti Dinner by Integrity & HIV/AIDS Ministry of the Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal) From 12-5pm. At St. Paul's 133 W. 6th. Fundraiser at the Cathedral to raise funds for the AIDS Food Pantry. Cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children. No Integrity Meeting will follow.

☛ **Apr 10—Polyester (1981)** John Waters comedy starring cross-dresser Divine, who bears an odd resemblance to Delta Burke in this movie. On Comedy Central Channel at 1 p.m.

Apr 10-15—Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO) Art Show Bates Gallery, Loveland Hall, at Edinboro. Info: Patrick Hiller, 734-5014 or 732-2297.

Apr 11—Last Day to Register to Vote (PA Residents) Registration should be *in* voters' registration office by this date.

☛ **Apr 11—"Queer Talk" Panel at Penn State Behrend (Erie)** Take-off on the ("Straight

Talk") panels that gay people speak on, in which they are asked questions like, "How long have you known you were straight?" Straight couples will be interviewed by gay people. Good-humored but expected to raise consciousness. Organized by Trigon. At Reed Lecture Hall, at 8 p.m. for info call 898-7050.

Apr 12—Gene Brandt & Company Show at Lizzie Bordon's \$2 cover charge.

Apr 12—Cabaret (Edinboro) 8 p.m., Memorial Auditorium. Tickets \$5 for adults, \$4 senior citizens and others. Ticket reservations/info 732-2518. A Cultural Series performance.

Apr 12—Rainbow Connection (Warren PA) Info: Denny at (814)757-8583.

☛ **Apr 12—HIV/AIDS Support Group of Catholic Charities** 7:30 p.m., transportation provided if needed! Call Cheryl Weber at 452-6113.

☛ **Apr 12—AIDS Research: The Story So Far** On WQLN at 10 p.m.

Apr 13—Artists Reception at EGO Art Show (Edinboro) 7-9 p.m. If you are interested in buying any of the works on exhibit, this is when and where to do it.

☛ **Apr 14—Take Back the Night Events (Erie)** First time ever in downtown Erie. Held to denounce sexual violence and celebrate survival...held in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Rally will be at 7 p.m. in Perry Square, then a march through the city, and afterwards there will be a reception in Gannon's "Scrounge," with food, entertainment, and women's art. Organized by Behrend's Women Today, cosponsored by Trigon, Behrend Human Relations Programming Council, *Erie Times*, Hammermill, JET-FM 102, Gannon Pan-Hellenic Council, Behrend Pan-Hellenic Council, Hamot, Behrend Residents Life. Info: 898-7050.

☛ **Apr 14—Healing and the Mind with Bill Moyers** On WQLN-TV at 10 p.m. part 4 of 5.

☛ **Apr 14—Top Hat (1935)** AMC 7 p.m. & 11 p.m. Not much of a plot, but considered one of the very best of the old musicals. Elegant art-deco sets, a chorus of men in tuxedos, Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, Irving Berlin songs, and lots of dancing magic!

☛ **Apr 15—Kate Clinton (Buffalo)** Lesbian comic Kate Clinton will perform at Marquee at the Tralf, 100 Theater Place. MC is Elaine Leitner. Showtime 8 p.m., doors open 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$13 advance/\$15 door, available at all Ticketmaster locations and Marquee Box office. Put on by Soldierheart Productions. Info: (716)852-0522.

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☛ **Apr 15—After Goodbye: An AIDS Story** On WQLN at 10 p.m. The anguish and sadness of loss and the strength of human spirit to endure. Focuses on Dallas' Turtle Creek Chorale, a 190-member men's chorus that has lost more than 60 people to AIDS.

☛ **Apr 15—Ancient Mysteries: Cities of Evil—Sodom & Gomorrah** On A&E 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. The Biblical account of the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah is often cited by anti-gay religious people as evidence of God's anger over homosexuality. The program notes indicate that this documentary will look at the archeological evidence, including the view that the cities were actually destroyed in wars between rival kingdoms.

☛ **Apr 15 & 16—"Choreographers' Showcase" Ballet** Hosted by Lake Erie Ballet at their studios at 609 French St., Erie at 8 p.m.

April 15-17—Rainbow Wranglers Country Dancers Weekend (Cleveland) Line dancing, lessons, entertainment. Saturday there'll be a tour around Cleveland to line dance in bars all over the city. Lesbian comic Karen Williams will perform Saturday night, also other performers. Call if you need help finding a hotel, "Or if you're on a budget, we can put you up!" Info call Gerry Wheeler at (216) 671-0727 or Bob Downing (216) 621-0228.

☛ **Apr 16—Friends from the Heart Meets at la bella bistro** 11 p.m. at la bella bistro restaurant, West Fourth and Cherry Streets. Info: 838-0123.

☛ **Apr 16—10% Network Get-Together (Jamestown)** Dan Talley, director of the Art Gallery of Jamestown Community College, will be presenting a talk and slide show on artists' response to the AIDS Crisis. Talley organized and presented the first show of this kind in Atlanta, GA. 7 p.m. at Unitarian Church 1255 Prendergast. Info (716) 484-7285.

☛ **Apr 16—Victor/Victoria (1983)** Comedy on TNT at 2:05 a.m.

☛ **Apr 19—Orlando (1993)** Film at Mercyhurst College, Zurn Auditorium, 501 E. 38th, 7 p.m. Based on the book that Virginia Woolf wrote as a love letter to Vita Sackville-West, this story follows the life of a person who starts out as a man in Elizabethan England and later becomes a woman living in our own times. Explores issues of identity, gender, and history. Great dance music, too! Heidi

Hosey introduces and leads discussion afterward. \$3 general public, free to Mercyhurst Community.

☛ **Apr 22-24—Pittsburgh Country Roundup #1** Weekend of dancing and entertainment to benefit Shepherd Wellness Community. For information or advance ticket info: (412) 561-0432.

☛ **Apr 23—Bridges Lesbigan Book Fair & Dance** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Info: 456-9833.

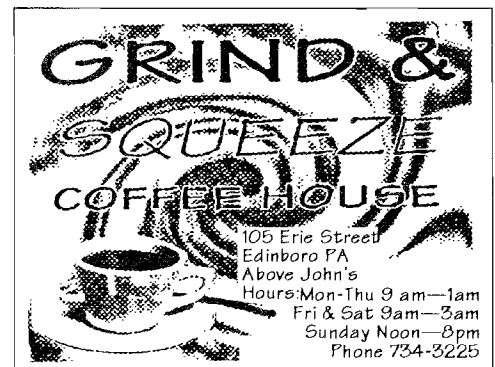
BookFair Waldenbooks is bringing in \$6,000 worth of lesbigan books! Starts at 6 p.m., runs till 11 p.m. Get there early for best selection. From 6-8 p.m. admission to the Book Fair is free. After 8 p.m., or if you decide to stay for the dance, you'll need to pay admission. *Important: Bookseller cannot take credit cards, though checks are okay.*

Book Signing Brad Fuller, author of *Men of Fire Island Present: Hot Cookin'*, will be on hand to autograph copies of his book (a collection of recipes and photos). Brad will be there as long as the Book Fair is going on.

"Spring Informal" Dance DJ Dance with Phil Huntley, 8 p.m. till midnight. Admission is \$5 per person, or \$4 with non-perishable food item for Friends from the Heart AIDS food pantry.

Other Activities Like Games, etc? Not everyone likes to dance...so bring along your favorite game and enjoy yourself!

Apr 23—Coronation 1994: "Light the Lights, A Trip Down Broadway" (Buffalo) The Coronation Ball is "A night full of festivities, fun, and entertainment." Put on by The Imperial Court of Buffalo, Inc. ("House of Unity and Strength, Court of Song and Dance") to benefit HIV/AIDS organizations. For more info (on event or accommodations) call David Carr or Guido Tomassi at (716) 884-8871.



Apr 23—Concert for Life (Buffalo) Had to be rescheduled (originally Feb. 18) because of illness. Benefits Life Memorial Park (AIDS memorial park in Buffalo). Holy Angels Church, corner of Porter and Fargo. Performances by Leah Zicari, Michael J. Maffei, Madeline Davis, The Queen City Chorus, Anne Marie Szapakowska, and very special guests. (716)298-4313.

✦ **Apr 25—The Broadcast Tapes of Dr. Peter** Oscar-nominated AIDS video diary. HBO at 5:40 p.m.s

✦ **Apr 26—The Wedding Banquet (1993)** Film at Mercyhurst College's Zurn Auditorium, 501 E. 38th, Erie. This is the story of Wai Tung, a gay man from Taiwan who is involved with an American man. Wai's parents are after him to marry; when he lies and tells them he is getting married, they insist on attending, and then the plot thickens! Nominated for an Oscar. Introduced and with discussion afterward with Phillip Supina, Mercyhurst College History Department, and Dan Doyal from the NYU Film School. Film starts 7 p.m., \$3 gen. public, free Mercyhurst Community.

✦ **Apr 26—HIV/AIDS Support Group of Catholic Charities** Transportation provided if needed. Call Cheryl Weber at 452-6113.

✦ **Apr 27—Mame (1974)** On Lifetime at 4 p.m., musical starring Lucille Ball and with Beatrice Arthur. Film critic Pauline Kael wrote: "Mame is a female-impersonator's dream woman..." Kael thought Bea Arthur and not Lucille Ball should have been given the role, since Bea brought a camp sensibility to the movie.

✦ **Apr 27—PFLAG-Erie Meets** Info: Kathy at 838-6020.

Apr 29—First Class Male Revue at Lizzie Bordon's Male & Female dancers. Showtime & cover charge next issue.

Apr 30—Dykes Do Drag (Buffalo) Performance at the Pfeiffer Theater in downtown Buffalo (Main St.

near Tupper). Info call Margaret (716)884-5984. Proceeds benefit a local lesbian health care project.

✦ **Apr 30—"A Pennsylvania Dance Celebration"** Co-hosted by North Coast Ballet and Dafmark Dance Theater of Erie. Companies from around the state will participate in this event at 8 p.m. at the Warner Theater in Erie. Tickets are available at the Civic Center Box Office (814)452-4857.

✦ **Apr 30—"Encore '94, an SBA Choral Reunion" Fundraiser for the Inner-City Fund** 8 p.m. at Gannon University's Hammermill Center, 7th and Peach, Tickets are \$8. More than 100 alumnae of St. Benedict Academy will present a choral program under the direction of Sister Mary David Callahan. This is the first fundraiser for the Inner-City Fund, a project of the Erie Benedictine Sisters which will provide inner-city kids with programs that are cultural, social, developmental, educational in nature. The first two projects include scholarships and a summer arts program, but may move into programs for tutoring, for latchkey kids, and for teaching conflict resolution to youngsters. Tickets and info: Benedictine Sisters Development Office, 345 E. Ninth, Erie PA 16503, Ph. 459-7199.

✦ **Apr 30—Earth Day at Perry Square** Noon to 5 p.m. Stop by the booths of Friends from the Heart, Cocoon, the Benedictine Sisters' Chapter 57...and also find out how to be kind to your Mother (Earth)! Cup-a-Ccino's will be doing something in observance of Earth Day, too (check out the postings at Cups to see what they're up to!)

✦ **Apr 30—HUGS East Spring Dance (Mentor OH)** 8 p.m.-midnight, East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 8181 S. Center St. (Rte. 615). \$5 (more/less). Non-alcoholic beverages and snacks. (216)974-8909 for more info.

Apr 30—Gay Prom (Youngstown) At the X-Change, 114 Javit Court, Austintown Township (west of Youngstown). \$8 per person, \$14 per couple. Formal attire requested. Carnival theme. Not clear whether this is for 21 and over (the X-Change is a bar), or what kind of age range they're aiming at. You can call them at (216)792-MARY.

✦ **May 2 & 3—Leave off Items for Unitarian Garage Sale (Erie)** Between hours of 7-9 p.m. at the church, 7180 New Perry Highway. Anything and everything, "including those items you thought were a good idea when you bought them and you haven't used them since." (Two things they can't sell and don't want: adult clothes that aren't in style, and upholstered



18 North Park Row

Erie, Pa 16501

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furniture with stains or holes). Info: 864-9300 or 734-1979.

✦ **May 7—"The Hundred Family Garage Sale" at the Unitarian (Erie)** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Amazing assortment of items. At the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway.

✦ **May 7—Womynspace: Rescheduled for May 14** For months of May and June Womynspace will be rescheduled. After that it will return to normal. June date has not been confirmed at this writing. Info: Sal at 454-2713 or Deb at 453-2785.

✦ **May 7—"Spring Fling" at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula OH)** Info: (216) 964-9935.

✦ **May 10—PA Spring Primary Election**

✦ **May 10—HIV/AIDS Support Group of Catholic Charities** Pharmacist Jim Molezan is scheduled answer questions about medications. Call Cheryl Weber 452-6113.

✦ **May 14—Womynspace** has been rescheduled for this date.

✦ **May 28—2 Girls Alone at Cup-a-ccino's** 18 N. Park Row, from 9 to midnight.

✦ **Jun 11—AIDS Benefit at Leeward Lounge (Ashtabula)**. All evening. Talent show, line dancing. Info: (216)964-9935.

Festivals & Conferences

✦ **May 21 and 22—Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) Pocono Regional Conference (Amherst NY)** Info from P-FLAG Helpline at (716) 883-0384.

✦ **May 25-30—Campfest '94** Women's festival in southeast PA. Entertainment, sports, activities. Info: Campfest Festivals, R.R. 5, Box 185, Franklinville NJ 08322.

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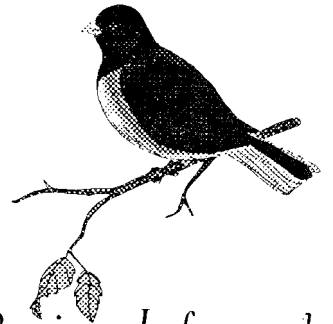
These programs appear on TV more than once during the month.

☆ **Biography: Madonna** Rags-to-riches documentary of one of the world's most popular entertainers. A&E April 19 (8 p.m., 12 a.m.) and April 23 (12 p.m.)

☆ **The Forbidden Dance (1990)** Earth Day-themed but silly...a Brazilian woman teaches the world to dance the Lambada to save the rainforest. On HBO April 10, 14, 20, 23, 29.

☆ **L-Shaped Room (1962)** British drama about an unwed pregnant French girl who decides against an abortion and moves into a London boarding-house. Dame Cicely Courtneidge is cast in the role of motherly, happy older lesbian whose partner has passed on; she tries to distract the girl from her worries by performing routines from her music-hall days. Also living at the boarding house is a gay jazz musician, played by Brock Peters. On Encore Apr 3, 8, 12, 13, 19, 20, 27.

☆ **LifeStories: Families in Crisis "Blood Brothers: The Joey DiPaolo Story"** Shows on HBO April 3, 14, 25. AIDS drama.



Bridges Spring Informal
Dance on April 23

See calendar for details.

Entertainment Notes

☆ **ERIETHEATER:** The Erie Playhouse's production of **and the World Goes 'Round** will be a treat for people who like musical theater. It's jam-packed with the songs of John Kander and Fred Ebb. Some of those songs are: musical numbers from *The Kiss of the Spider Woman* (gay-themed Broadway musical hit), "Cabaret", "New York, New York," "Maybe This Time," and "How Lucky Can You Get." The cast of five are John Burton, Amanda Daggett, Tammy Gandolfo, Linda Troyer, and Charles Corritore. Corritore is also director and choreographer of the show. Besides singing, the talented cast dances, roller skates, tap dances, and plays banjo. The show will be at the Erie Playhouse April 7-10, 14-17, 21-23. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$13 for senior citizens, and \$7 for students. For tickets call 454-2852.

☆ **PITTSBURGH THEATER:** Pittsburgh's Upstairs Theater will be producing two plays by militant gay activist Larry Kramer about the AIDS crisis. *The Normal Heart* takes place in the early years of the crisis. *The Destiny of Me* takes place ten years later. The shows run between April 14 and May 8. *The Normal Heart* is performed on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. *The Destiny of Me* is performed Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. For info call (412)361-5443.

☆ **BUFFALO GAY/LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL:** Hallwalls will be holding its annual Outrage Lesbian/Gay Film Festival in late April and early May. If you'd like to get a copy of the schedule,

send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Outrage Festival, Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, 2495 Main Street, Buffalo NY. For info call: (716)835-7362.



☆ **A KISS IS JUST A KISS:** Unless it involves **Roseanne Arnold**, and then it becomes television history. Actually, Roseanne's kiss with Mariel Hemingway on the March 1 episode of *Roseanne* was not a network first; that distinction belongs to *L.A. Law*. Speaking on NBC's *Later with Greg Kinnear*, Roseanne pointed out that the episode wasn't about a lesbian kiss, but about examining your own feelings, which she thinks is important what with the epidemic of hate crimes against gays and other minorities. Shortly after all this, Roseanne won for Best Actress on the *People's Choice Awards*, and presenter **Carol Burnett** planted a big kiss on Roseanne's mouth (complete with Carol dipping Roseanne!) The script for the controversial episode was written by lesbian comic Lois Bromfield, who is profiled in the March 22 issue of *The Advocate*.

☆ **MARIEL'S OTHER LESBIAN KISS:** *Personal Best (1982)* featured **Mariel Hemingway** and **Patrice Donnelly** as runners in love. The video's easily available, but take note...after about the first half-hour, you'll be able to see the obnoxious direction the film is going in and some lesbian viewers find they like the movie better if they stop it at that point. It's also interesting that when this film was released, society still was not used to seeing women who were this physically strong, and the film deserves to be recognized for depicting this.

☆ **TV'S OTHER FORBIDDEN KISS:** What was the first time American TV showed an interracial kiss? It was **Star Trek**, on the "Plato's Stepchildren" episode. The uproar that surrounded that kiss rivaled that of *Roseanne's*. The script called for Captain Kirk (**William Shatner**) and Lieutenant Uhura (**Nichelle Nichols**) to kiss. When network big shots got wind of the scene they called Nichelle to the office and told her they couldn't go through with a kiss between a black woman and a white man, because affiliates in the South would pull the plug on the "highly offensive" show. They suggested that Nichelle's character would kiss **Spock** instead, apparently thinking a kiss between an alien and a black woman would be more acceptable than one between two humans with different coloring. The kiss scene was shot—twice. In one version Kirk and Uhuru actually kiss. In the other they sort of air-kiss. That's the version that got aired. Producer **Gene Roddenberry** was responsible for making sure it was shown at all.

☆ **OSCAR NIGHT AFFIRMATIONS:** Whoopi Goldberg, hosting the 66th Annual Academy Awards, said she wanted to first get her political remarks off her chest, and playfully named off the many causes that concern her: "Save the whales, save the spotted owl, gay rights, men's rights, women's rights, human rights, feed the homeless, more gun control, free the Chinese dissidents, peace in Bosnia, choose choice, ACT UP, more AIDS research..." Tom Hanks, accepting his award for Best Actor in *Philadelphia*, offered tribute to people who have succumbed to AIDS.

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"The streets of heaven are too crowded with angels," he said with a trembling voice. "They number a thousand for each of the red ribbons we wear." Hanks also remembered two gay people who were important in his life—a gay drama teacher, and a gay classmate who died of AIDS three years ago.

☆ **BIG IRISH HOMOPHOBIA:** The **Lemonheads** were on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* on St. Patrick's Day, singing "Big Gay Heart." Behind them were video images of a St. Patrick's Day parade, a reference to the blatantly homophobic organizers of St. Pat's parades in New York and Boston.

☆ **EARTH DAY MOVIE:** April's the month we are reminded to take care of our planet. One environmental movie that *ECCN* readers might want to check out is *Silkwood (1984)*, which is based on the story of Karen Silkwood, who died while trying to expose some of the serious dangers at the nuclear power plant she worked at in 1975. **Cher** plays Karen's lesbian friend/co-worker/room-mate, **Meryl Streep** plays Karen. An interesting local tie-in: At the same time that Karen's experiences took place, Penelec was planning to build an "energy park" in western Erie County, which would have included *ten* nuclear power plants and *ten* coal-fired plants. Penelec ridiculed the fears of local people who opposed the "park," but the opposition was too strong, so they built their nuclear plants elsewhere...at a little place called Three Mile Island.

THE MOVIE STOP

VISIT OUR NEWLY
EXPANDED
CARDS • COMICS & COLLECTIBLES
SECTION
PLUS..

NINTENDO • SUPER NINTENDO & SEGA
GAME DECKS TOO!

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SPECIAL ORDERS ARE NEVER A PROBLEM!

Local News

Ashtabula PFLAG

An Ashtabula native would like to start a chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in her community.

If you are interested, contact Sharon at (216)964-3350.

Also, she's looking for a place to meet that would be discreet and accepting. If you have or know of a such a place in or around Ashtabula, pass it along to Sharon.

Cups Sponsors

Literary Radio Show

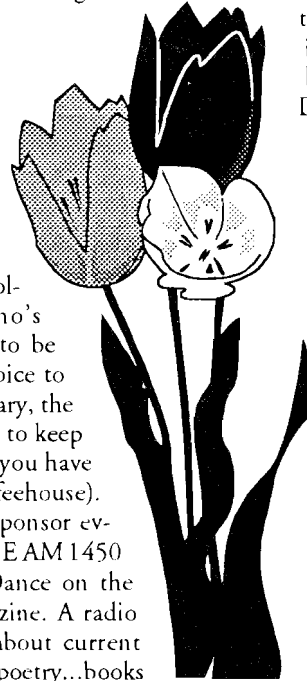
This is from Christelle DeCrease at Cup-a-Ccino's Coffeehouse:

A call to all writers, living poets, and authors of the literary imagination:

WPSE 1450 AM the Behrend College Radio Station and Cup-a-cino's Coffeenouse is offering you a forum to be heard, to say it, to bring the literary voice to the radio. Let it be quirky...the cautionary, the common, and the protest; join with us to keep the literary imagination alive!!! (Just as you have on Thursday Poetry Nights at the Coffeehouse).

Cup-a-Ccino's Coffeehouse will sponsor every Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. on WPSE AM 1450 a program called "The Words that Dance on the Tongue," the electronic literary magazine. A radio show that includes editorials...news about current and brilliant new authorship...fiction...poetry...books and articles. And exclusively featuring one local poet or writer each week reading their original work live.

Register for your Friday evening on the air at Cup-a-Ccino's, 18 North Park Row, Erie PA 16501. Phone 456-6642 or 456-1151. Bring your typewritten works, preferably in a manila envelope, to Cup-a-Ccino's...include your name, address, phone, and make sure to write *Attn: Jerri or Christelle* on the envelope that your work is in. We will contact you and meet with you, to bring it all together on WPSE. Think of it as being published live on a Friday night!



This is a heartfelt plea to gay and lesbian writers, poets, authors to come out and read their work...we should have so many things to write about, shouldn't we?

Womynspace Dates Change

Womynspace will not meet on its regular dates for the months of May and June. The May date will be the 14th, and the June date hasn't been confirmed yet.

From July on, Womynspace schedule returns to normal. For at least the foreseeable future, the meeting space will remain at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation. *EGCN* will keep you apprised of any changes. For info: Deb at 453-2785 or Sally at 454-2713.

Youth Group Changes

Please note that Gay Youth Pride Erie will no longer be using Mark's phone number. According to Mark, he was receiving a lot of phone calls from men he calls "perverts and pedophiles." His mother is asking that the phone calls be routed elsewhere. People who want to address gay youth issues may contact *EGCN*, or note other numbers in our Community Directory on page 23.

LGLV News—Skating

Party a Success!

From Greg Valiga at LGLV-Erie:

LGLV-Erie would like to say thanks to the owners of Skateway, our sponsors, members, and volunteers who helped make the March 14 Skating Party a success.

The 70 in attendance enjoyed themselves and were reluctant to leave—due partly to the relaxed, open atmosphere the staff and management provided. Another party is being planned for fall/winter.

The League's Voters' Guide project, which has covered candidates in western and central PA, has expanded again. The primary edition will cover the entire state for the first time and will be distributed in two editions with a total run of 10,000 copies. The local edition will be available at local lesbigay-friendly

establishments in late April. Advertisers may call (814)833-3258.

Allegheny May Have Gay Studies

While speaking at Allegheny March 6, gay historian Martin Duberman revealed that Allegheny College may become one of the few schools in the country that offer gay/lesbian studies as a minor.

Also, the campus bookstore there has a gay studies section.

Getting To Know People at the Bridges Dance

Some attendees at Bridges' dances have said they'd like to be able to comfortably introduce themselves to other people at the dance.

We'd like to try a new thing—it's up to the attendee whether to do it or not.

We'll have name tags when you come in, and you can write something about yourself when you come in. It can be anything, where you're from, what books you like to read, what your hobbies are. If you don't like the idea (and some people hate name tags), well, fine. Let's see how this works out.

Hope to see you there!

Transitions

BORN: To **Jan** and **Lisa**, a baby girl, **Emma Woods Nathanson**, on March 1. Emma attended her first concert on March 15, enjoying the music of the Flirtations with both her moms. She was 21" long and weighed 8 lb. 6 oz.

DIED: **Sister Lawrence Antoun, SSJ**, 66, on March 9, after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was a longtime champion of education for women, and as Chairwoman of Pennsylvania's state Board of Education, she encouraged pro-diversity elements in school curriculum. She had been president of Erie's Villa Maria College for 22 years.

MOVED: **Jamison Pifer**, to Pittsburgh. The "transition" from Los Angeles to Erie was a bit too extreme!

Take Out a Classified!

For \$10, you can take out an ad to find a job, get rid of your old *Advocates*, 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! 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 the newsletter at (814)456-9833. ▼

Need Gay-friendly electrician. Call 922-3058

Micheal, Happy 1 year anniversary on April 9. -Michael

National/local G/L/B groups e-mail contact list on Internet.
E-mail to disc@vector.casti.com

Happy Belated Birthday to Don Lucas from DLS. Thanks for all you do.

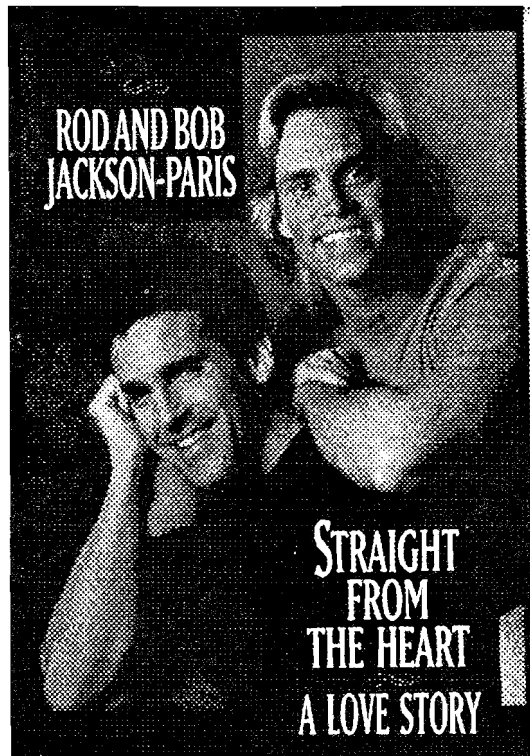
Your ad here!!!

Straight From the Heart: A Review

by Michael Mahler

Straight From the Heart: A Love Story
by Rod & Bob Jackson-Paris
(\$12.95, Warner Books)

Wow! What an incredibly uplifting book! Rod and Bob are arguably the most famous gay male couple in the US, if not the world. Bob is a former Mr. Universe and Rod is a model. The book is told in the first person, with both authors alternating paragraphs/sections. Bob & Rod are very candid and honest about their personal triumphs and struggles, both as individual gay men coming to grips with their identities, and as a couple. They were married in a non-legally binding ceremony on July 22, 1989, and have done many public appearances to speak for gay rights and in particular the concerns of youth.



Bob and Rod relate how they grew up, how they dealt with their families, how they met and how they have built a life together. The book also includes many photographs. The authors do a very good job of conveying realistically all the work and commitment that go into making a marriage work and the special challenges that we as lesbian/gay people face.

There are many moving experiences described in the book. One of the most touching concerns a letter they got from a fifteen-year-old who wrote to them after they appeared on *Oprah*. He had asked his high school counselor the day before what he thought of gay people. The counselor looked him in the eyes and said, "I think they should all kill themselves." The boy was all set to kill himself and wrote "It was so nice hearing you talk about love and realizing that I didn't have to be anything anybody told me to be. And I decided not to kill myself." Sometimes just being proud and content with who we are is the most powerful thing we can do.

I was really excited when I first saw this book. Their book was the cover story of *Out* magazine, and I probably put friction burns on my Visa card from calling up A Different Light bookstore so fast. (My sister has a motto that one is not done shopping until the card is smooth.) I plowed through the book when it arrived in an evening, enjoying all of it. As gay people, we almost never get to hear a love story. As I look forward to my and Micheal's wedding this June, I really feel that this way of being a role model is very important.

Important Note: Bob & Rod's book will be available at the Spring Informal Dance & Book Fair at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie on Saturday, April 23. The Book Fair will run from 6-11 and the dance will run from 8-midnight. There will be no charge if you want to stop out between 6&8 to look at books. We will have a very wide selection of new titles. As an extra attraction, we will have Brad Fuller, author of *Men of Fire Island Present: Hot Cookin'*, up from Texas to do a book signing. The book is a collection of yummy recipes and photography of yummier guys.

HIV/AIDS News - Local

Silver Slipper Benefit

On March 26 the Silver Slipper held a benefit for the HIV/AIDS Food Pantry of the HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul). The benefit raised \$306 and collected six boxes of food. Performers included Reba, Monet Michaels, Heavenly Deavenly, and Cherry Lane. And a little something different...the line dancers danced a couple numbers. Cherry Lane organized the event. She also performed Liza Minelli's "The Day After That" with people in the bar holding raised candles during the number. (Minelli performed the song on World AIDS Day and wants it to be an anthem of hope for those fighting AIDS). Cherry estimates about 150 people came to the show.

Bridges Gives Out the Gold!

Bridges/EGCN made condoms available at the two Erie bars on St. Patrick's Day. Gold Circle Coin condoms (which are packaged to look like pieces of gold) were placed in a green derby. A poster placed near the condoms showed a rainbow and a pot of gold. People seemed enthusiastic about the condoms, though some people who were expecting chocolates inside were a little disappointed!

Ashtabula AIDS Benefit June 11

There will be an AIDS benefit at the Leeward Lounge in Ashtabula on June 11. It will be an all-evening talent show (with a variety of types of talent). For more info, call the Lounge at (216)964-9935.

10% Network Fundraiser - Jamestown

Jamestown's 10% Network raised \$750 at their Cause for Celebration! AIDS Fundraiser on Feb. 26. It was an auction, and people had donated some nice things: original artwork, gift certificates for hair salons, a subscription to *The Advocate*, contact lenses, a set of cookware, books, etc. What's amazing is that only 28 people took part in the auction, and they were able to

raise that much money. The money will go to the Jamestown office of AIDS Community Services.

Friends from the Heart Fundraisers

Friends from the Heart had a Bake Sale and Chinese Auction at the Whole Life Expo on March 25, 26, 27. They raised \$396.75. Another Friends benefit was a rock benefit held at the Bay City Hotel, March 24, which brought in \$140.

New Erie County Case Manager

Cheryl Weber is a new case manager for Erie County, working through Catholic Charities. Her office is private, and she has clients coming in for a number of reasons, so people concerned with confidentiality can feel comfortable here. Call her at St. Martin Center 452-6113.

Warren County Case Management

Deb Monohon, targeted case manager for Erie Co., announces she is interested in serving people in Warren County. "Warren County doesn't have its own case manager, so those people are really stuck," says Monohon. She noted that she already has one client in Warren County, and has become familiar with resources in Warren Co. Call her at 838-0123.



INTEGRITY

A Christian-based spiritual and support group sponsored by the Episcopalian Church that welcomes people of all faiths. Meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 6 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

HIV/AIDS News—National

Who's Getting Hit

ATLANTA—The Centers for Disease Control has announced current HIV/AIDS statistics:

HIV is spreading fastest among heterosexuals who have had no reported contact with bisexual men or intravenous drug users. Cases resulting from male-female sex increased by 130%.

Women now comprise about 20% of new cases of HIV infection. Of those, most acquired the infection via heterosexual sex.

The proportion of new infections attributable to male-male contact went from 66.5% to 47.6%.

Rates of infection are increasing among teenagers and young adults.

Also, the CDC noted that the number of cases more than doubled (an increase of 111%) in 1993. The large jump is due to the fact that the CDC adopted a much broader definition of the disease in 1993, which included people who wouldn't have previously been included in the statistics.

HIV-Positive Publications

There are now three national magazines aimed specifically at readers living with HIV/AIDS. All of them are glossy, upbeat, and emphasize getting the most out of life.

The first such magazine was *LIFETIMES2*, which just celebrated its first anniversary. The quarterly magazine is published as a service to the patients of Stadtlanders Pharmacy, a Pittsburgh-based pharmacy that is really exemplary in its service to the gay community and to people with HIV/AIDS (read about their Raise the Rainbow project in Stonewall 25 News this issue). The magazine include inspirational profiles of people living with AIDS, practical information on medication, nutrition, treatment issues, relationships, etc. Each issue focuses on a special theme and relates it to HIV/AIDS, such as employment, relationships, and exercise. To celebrate the first anniversary, the pharmacy is offering a free issue of the magazine to people who are living with HIV/AIDS, caregivers, and medical professionals. They expect to be able to provide free subs to people with HIV/AIDS for at least the

next year (the magazine was originally developed as a service to Stadtlanders patients). For a free copy of *LIFETIMES2*, or to discuss getting multiple copies, call (800)238-7828.

Poz is a magazine that just debuted, and it seems aimed specifically at gay men. It also has literary, carrying long, deep articles. Subscriptions for HIV-positive people are free. For other individuals send \$19.95 (institutions and corporations \$79.95) to *Poz Magazine* Subscription Department, 349 W. 12th St., New York NY 10014. It will also be sold on newsstands in major cities.

Plus Voice is another brand-new publication. It tries to appeal to a broad spectrum of HIV-positive people—women, African-Americans, I.V. drug users, as well as white gay men. It's full of practical advice about all kinds of things, like travelling, treatments, safer sex, finding a doctor who understands HIV issues. The magazine is also presented in an easy to read style with lots of short articles and tidbits. It will be distributed through HIV/AIDS organizations and Waldenbooks nationwide. HIV-positive people can subscribe for free. Others send \$30 to *Plus Voice*, 29 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1150, Chicago IL 60603.

**BRIDGES SPRING
INFORMAL DANCE
AND BOOK FAIR
ON APRIL 23!!**

**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF ERIE
PLEASE, CASH OR CHECKS ONLY
FOR BOOKS. NO CREDIT CARDS**

Other Voices: Spring Musings

by Terry Kime

Special days, whether religious (Christmas, Rosh Hashanah, Beltane) or not (birthdays, New Year's), offer us the chance to stop and remember something special, something important about our lives. This time of year we find an interesting blend of special days: Jewish Passover, Christian Easter and April Fools Day all occur in relatively close proximity to one another. What important themes might each of these ask us to reflect on as we find ourselves on the verge of Spring?

Passover is a time of remembrance and celebration of the Jewish people's deliverance from slavery, with God's help. One of its focuses is freedom: rejoicing at freedoms gained, remembering those who have made freedom possible for us, and considering areas where we are still without freedom.

Passover can invite us to examine our lives around the theme of freedom. We might consider, "In the past year, what freedoms have I experienced?" For some of us, coming out, first to ourselves and later to good friends, family, or coworkers, can be a moment of liberation. Maybe you have experienced that recently. Or maybe you've been more accepting of yourself, affirming your inherent goodness and have found new freedom in that. Maybe you've found freedom in making peace with your religious tradition regarding the issue of homosexuality.

A second question about freedom to consider is, "Who has helped me on the road to freedom?" Does this have a spiritual component for you in addition to the people who have affected you? Some of the people who have helped us we know personally, and it can be important to take the time to thank these special people in our lives who support and encourage us to be honest and loving. Some of these people we don't know personally, but their stories empower us. In June, the Stonewall celebration in New York will be a time when we collectively celebrate, remember and honor those who said, "We will no longer be slaves," and rebelled against oppression, opening the way for much of the freedom and pride we now have.

Terry Kime is the minister at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie.

Lastly, thinking about freedom, we may wish to ask, "Where am I still in bondage, without freedom of choice, to something that is unhealthy to me?" "Where, collectively, are we in bondage?" "Who else, besides our particular minority of lesbians, gays and bisexuals, lacks freedom and opportunity?" With our answers to these questions we can then consider ways we can move toward freedom in those areas identified. What particular area can you give support to next year, in your personal life, in the life of the gay/lesbian/bisexual community, in the life of other liberation struggles such as African American, women, Jewish people, Muslims? None of us can do it all, but even small steps are better than none.

The Christian Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, and in a larger sense, the victory of life over death. In this time of Spring, when nature itself is abundant with examples of this victory, we may wish to reflect on this theme and ask, "What has died in ourselves over the past year, and what is being born?" If we are alive, we are changing, growing creatures. We discover parts that no longer serve us, no longer help us have full, healthy lives, and when we let those parts go, new behaviors that do encourage our well being can develop, with our attention. Any loss we have is painful, and most of us have experienced this in terms of relationships. Grieving is important, recognition of that death essential, and at some point new life is affirmed and grasped for. When the committed partnership I was in ended, a woman in my church told me, "It takes two years to get over it." I found that was, more or less, true for myself, although one never really "gets over it," and each person must honor their grief for the time appropriate to them. But one can begin to turn back to life instead of death, and Easter and Spring are reminders of such turning. They affirm it is possible and offer hope to all who suffer loss.

And good old April Fools Day. What could it have to tell us? Perhaps that it's important to laugh at ourselves, to have fun, be silly once in a while and occasionally risk being foolish. When was the last time you did any of those things? We take ourselves so

Continued on next page

Stonewall 25 News

Largest Rainbow Flag in History!

On June 26, 1994, the world will be watching the historic Stonewall 25 March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Gay and Lesbian People.

In the parade held on that day, a rainbow flag one mile long and 30 feet wide will be carried by 10,000 proud gay men and lesbians.

That flag will make a powerful statement for gay and lesbian pride, but it is also going to raise half a million dollars for organizations that are fighting AIDS.



Cleve Jones & Gilbert Baker are spearheading "Raise the Rainbow." photo by Mick Hicks/Boston

The first 10,000 people to contribute \$50 or more to the flag project will receive a piece of the flag at the end of the march (quite a souvenir!). 100% of the contributions made will go to AIDS organizations. The actual cost of the flag is being underwritten by Stadtlanders Pharmacy, a nationwide pharmacy specializing in serving the needs of individuals living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic conditions. Additional sponsors include the publications *Genre*, *NEXT*, and *The Advocate*.

To become a part of this project, send your name, address, and daytime phone to: The Stadtlanders Foundation, 600 Penn Center Boulevard, Pittsburgh PA 15235-5810. Include your tax-deductible contribution of \$50 or more payable to The Stadtlanders Foundation. Or call toll-free 800-NYC-1994.

The Stadtlanders Foundation has commissioned Gilbert Baker to personally supervise the production of the flag. Baker is the creator of the original rainbow flag, flown for the first time in the 1978 San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day celebration.

Stonewall 25 Directory

Stonewall 25 Official Travel Agent (accommodations and travel) 1-800-SW25-NYC
Gay Games & Cultural Festival Info (June 18-25)
 (212)633-9494
Stonewall 25/Erie Tri-State..... Dan at 476-7926

Other Voices-Spring from page 16

seriously! And yes, there is a lot about our lives and the world that needs our serious attention. There is also a lot in our lives and the world that needs some joy and the gentle laughter at the shared joke of our common humanity and weaknesses. Most of us could use some balance between seriousness and playfulness. What can you do to adjust that balance in your life?

Passover, Easter, April Fools Day. Each has been used by folks throughout history to create time for reflection, renewal, connection. May their teachings touch us this springtime.

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

Wow! What a lot of nifty things have been happening/are going to be happening! About 75-100 folks stopped out to have a great time at the LGLV-Erie Skating Party on March 14th. The event was also a good fundraiser for the League's important work. Nice job to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success and to the people who attended!

The Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People (at Allegheny College in Meadville) put on the Stonewall 25 Celebration. There were numerous activities. It was extremely exciting and quite nifty to join the other 100-150 people who went to the Flirtations concert on March 15th. It was also very heartening to see men and women, gay and straight enjoying a very upbeat and professional concert. I got one of their tapes because it had a song I had first heard performed at a gay wedding reception I went to. The Flirts may be in Pittsburgh this June; we will keep you posted. Do not miss the chance to catch them; I guarantee you will not regret it!

Speaking of lesbigay performers, mark Saturday, April 9th on your calendars for the Romanovsky & Phillips Concert at 8 at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie. Romanovsky and Phillips are internationally-acclaimed and do a wide range of musical styles and comedy. It is a major piece of good luck to get two performers of this caliber here. Actually, I already had April 9th marked on my calendar—it is the one year anniversary of the day Micheal and I first met.

We at Bridges are very excited about the Dance/Book Fair on Saturday April 23 (two weeks after the concert, also at the UU.) It is also a nice major goody dropped in our lap to get Brad Fuller to sign copies of his book, *Men of Fire Island Present: Hot Cookin'*, which features yummy recipes and yummy guys. Micheal and I have already made several recipes (which turned out rather well, thank you) from the book. We will be bringing in a wide variety of books for sale. Not only will you be getting some very nifty and not that-easy-to-purchase-locally books, you will also be helping to support Bridges and *EGCN*, as part of the sales goes to Bridges. Please stop out.

Micheal and I have been working on getting together our wedding on June 18. We have already purchased our wedding rings and have begun work on planning the ceremony. We both feel very strongly that weddings are the public declaration of two people to share their lives. The ceremony will be a reflection of who we are: personally, spiritually and in many other ways. We are writing our own ceremony. Fortunately, Micheal and I both belong to a spiritual tradition that is very gay-friendly overall and we also have found the Unitarians to be very supportive of all people. I have heard and read people who have said that gay people who want to marry are just buying into a heterosexual institution, with which I could not disagree more. Micheal and I describe our relationship as being married and refer to each other as husbands because that is what is right for us. We both very strongly want the wedding to focus on our love and our commitment and not on making or spending money, having impressive outfits or any of the minor details that seem to obscure the main point of many weddings. By the way, this is also true for all couples, gay and straight. We do this because it is what we want to do and how we want to do it.

So some of the elements that some people expect to see at a wedding will not be there. There will be no garter or bouquet to throw. Neither of us is a "bride" (although we do have both a Priest and a Priestess from our tradition.) We are making the ceremony open to all those who want to support this. We want to let people know that they need not bring a gift, but maybe to bring a dish to pass if they feel like it. Weddings are about love and commitment, not about getting stuff.

Better Gay
than
Grumpy!

National/World News Bits

St. Patrick's Day Parades

NEW YORK—Organizers of the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade won a court battle to keep the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization from participating in the parade. The ILGO held its own rally; about 102 of those people were arrested for disorderly conduct.

BOSTON—Organizers of Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade cancelled the parade rather than abide by a court ruling requiring the parade to allow participation by lesbian and gay marchers. David O'Connor, spokesman for the Gay, Lesbian Irish Bisexual Group said this dispute doesn't exist in Ireland, and gay people march in parades in Dublin and Cork without any problem.

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization marched in San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was the first time, and the sponsors welcomed their participation.

Military Banned from Campuses

ALBANY, N.Y., March 15—The State University of New York will ban military recruiters from 34 of its campuses because of the military's anti-gay policies. The agreement was a result of a suit brought by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on the grounds that it violated Governor Cuomo's order prohibiting state agencies from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

Anti-Gay Hate Crime Rates

There was an overall 14% decrease in reported cases of anti-gay hate crimes in 1993, according to statistics released March 7 by gay/lesbian rights groups. The crimes range from verbal harassment to murder. There were three offenses which did experience increases: arson, vandalism, and harassment.

Of the cities researched, only Denver experienced an increase (of 12%), which has been attributed to a proposal to limit gay rights. 1992 saw a record number of anti-gay incidents in the U.S., which was attributed to the strong anti-gay rhetoric of the 1992 Republican National Convention.

Gay and lesbian rights activists warn that although the statistics are encouraging, anti-gay hate crime remains an epidemic.

New Zealand Wants You

The government of New Zealand has launched a campaign to attract gay Australian tourists. Marketing research revealed that Australian gays have high disposable incomes and well-paying jobs.

PA Legislators Rated

The Human Rights Campaign Fund says that, on the whole, Pennsylvania's congressional delegation is becoming more sympathetic to gay people. It also rated legislators' records in 1993. Out of a possible 100%, these legislators received the following ratings: Sen. Arlen Specter 78%, Sen. Harris Wofford 89%, Congressman Tom Ridge 14%, Congressman William Clinger 14%.

'96 Olympics

ATLANTA—The 1996 Olympics, to be held in Atlanta, are already experiencing their first controversies. Gay rights groups are protesting the volleyball venue, located in Cobb County, where local commissioners recently passed anti-gay legislation. On a bigger scale, civil rights organizations are protesting the Georgia flag, which contains the emblem of the Confederate flag; Georgia adopted that flag in 1956 to symbolize their defiance of court-ordered racial integration.

Religion Notes

OAKLAND—A gay Lutheran minister has been fired from the church parish he served for over ten years. Rev. Ross Merkel said he is in a committed relationship with another man, and came out to his 270 parishioners last year. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to which Merkel's church belongs, bans practicing gay people from serving as clergy.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20—The *Los Angeles Times* has conducted a poll of Roman Catholic priests and nuns in the United States, on a variety of issues. Among the findings:

Only 33% of nuns and 46% of priests believe it is a sin to use condoms to prevent HIV transmission.

Homosexual behavior is regarded as a sin by 73% of priests and 62% of nuns.

57% of nuns and 44% of priests are in favor of ordination of women.

BRISTOL, England, March 12—For the first time, the Church of England has ordained 32 women to the priesthood. Many are rejoicing in the decision, others are threatening to convert to the Roman Catholic faith in protest. The Church of England and the American Episcopalian Church are part of Anglicanism; the Episcopal church has ordained women priests for years.

Surgeon General Takes on Homophobia

WASHINGTON—In an interview with *The Advocate*, Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders denounced homophobia, and advocated acceptance of homosexuality. She stated that she was in favor of adoptions by same-sex couples, and criticized the religious right's attitudes toward sexuality.

Fair Shake for Gay Quake Victims

WASHINGTON—Congress passed legislation mandating that gay and lesbian victims of the January 17 earthquake may not be discriminated against when applying for federal aid. David Smith, of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said that this is a first, and noted also that there was no opposition to the measure.

Couples

TORONTO, March 1—The province of Ontario now requires companies to provide health benefits to gay couples. The law is believed to be the first of its kind in North America. Four years ago, the province voted for same-sex spouse benefits in the public sector.

VITORIA, Spain, March 5—Same-sex couples in this Spanish town can now formalize their commitment in a confidential register. The register is the first of its kind in Spain, and it is hoped that it will help increase the legal and social standing of the couples.

HIV+ and Gay Games

WASHINGTON, March 25—Persons with HIV may enter the United States if they are attending the

Gay Games in June. HIV+ people are not allowed entry into the country, but U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno has temporarily suspended the ban. Visas granted under the special arrangement allow the visitor to stay in the country for ten days. President Clinton has tried to remove the ban entirely, but Congress has voted against it.

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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, 328 W. 6th

Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street

Edinboro

Book Shelf, 200 Plum

Earthshine, 131 Meadville Street

EGO meetings

Grind & Squeeze Coffeeshouse, 105 Erie St.

Jamestown NY & Warren PA

Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown

Rainbow Connection, Warren 723-1719

Sneakers, 100 Harrison, Jamestown

Want to make newsletters available in your group, community, or business? Call us at (814)456-9833!

Deadlines, or How to Get the Word Out

We are going to give you some tips that will help you publicize your event or group.

Let us tell you how we get together *EGCN*. One of the most popular features that we print is the calendar and especially the TV/cable listings, so we set our printing schedule according to when we get those in. We do not get this information until almost the end of the month previous (days before it begins to be outdated.) We have no way of getting this type of info any earlier. At this point, most people get our newsletter while out on the weekends.

To get the most out of the info we have, we strive to get the newsletters back from being printed by the Thursday before the first Saturday of the month. This way, people can pick the newsletter up at the beginning of the month and still have most of the TV stuff be current. To get the newsletter back by that Thursday, we have to get it out by absolutely no later than Monday night. The last Saturday of the month is when our big crunch time is, usually involving being up til at least 2 or 3 am a few nights running. We have copies for our proofreaders on the Thursday before the crunch weekend so that we can catch at least some of the typos and problems that inevitably crop up. The typos that happen from Thursday through to when we drop *EGCN* to be printed we have to catch as we are doing it. Any stage of this process can develop problems (the cable listings are late, computer problems, the printer runs into a problem, people are late with important info, etc) which will delay subsequent steps. This is why we have set the deadline of the 20th of the month which gives us a few days to get all the information entered and laid out. Laying out can be done ahead of time to only a relatively minimal degree, as most of the newsletter component sections are changing in size up until the last moment.

So, why is this important to you? Simple! If you are organizing an important event or meeting, you can easily miss getting the info out if you don't get it to us in time. If your event is in the first half of the month, you may miss getting much notice out or **any notice whatsoever!** This is with potentially up to a month's notice. We have also had info come in that was incomplete.

How can you get your event to be well publicized? If you get the information to us 2 months beforehand, you are virtually guaranteed you will have at least a months notice. If you are only a month ahead of schedule, you may not get it in at all if you plan poorly. If you can e-mail it to us, that is wonderful! Few people have access to this, so please then neatly type it and mail it to PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-0063 or drop it in the holder on the door in my home. (Call Mike at 456-9833 for address.) We can also take a few different DOS-based word processing formats. This is almost as good as e-mail. Please try to use the answering machine as a last resort only if your event can be described briefly. We would rather hear and try to get the info in rather than not hear about it at all. If you do not have a contact phone that you want listed in the newsletter, please include a contact number for just the staff so we can call you if we need more info.

These are the priorities for what we publish:

☛ **Current**

Something that can be run later *will be* if we have to cut to make things fit.

☛ **Local and/or unlikely to be heard of elsewhere**

This is the only source of info for what is happening in the lesbigay community in this area.

☛ **Boosting local groups/activism**

One of the most important things that Bridges does is encourage healthy communication and an active and functional community.

☛ **Brevity**

It is easier to fit many small things rather than one large thing. People are *far* more likely to read short snippety bits than longer pieces.

☛ **Generating money for Bridges/*EGCN***

So we can continue doing this! Alas, none of us are independently wealthy.

These priorities are in no absolute order, except that current is usually the most important.

Disclaimer: While we do our absolute best to maintain the accuracy of the info we print, we cannot absolutely guarantee against typographical and factual errors. ▼

Groups & Organizations

10% Network (Formerly 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.

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.

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 Roman 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, meetings include a business hour followed by a social hour. *Meetings:* Thursdays at 8:45 pm at Butterfield, Rm 302 (♿). ☎ Jim MacCluskie MW 2-pm, TuTh 1:30-2:30 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.

Friends from the Heart

Volunteers helping deliver help with food, rent, transportation, moving and clothing to people with AIDS. Call Deb Monohon at (814) 838-0123 to see how you can help. Donations greatly appreciated.

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

Support group for gay men and lesbians and friends and family. Open to public. *Meetings:* Call for site & time. 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.

HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of St. Paul Cathedral

Call 452-3779.

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 Sunday of the month (6:00pm) 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

☎ Eric Anderson 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.

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.

Lambda Group (formerly Life's Blood)

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for Gays and Lesbians. *Meetings:* Sundays at 8:00 pm at Unitarian Universalist Church of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. ☎

League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)

Non-partisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for elections, voter registration/education, lobbying. Currently pushing Senate Bill 1218, which provides stiffer penalties for gay bashers. **We urgently need your help!** ☎ Greg at (814) 833-3258. ☎ LGLV-Erie, PO Box 8083, Erie, PA 16505-0083. *Note new address!!!*

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.

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 & Gays. Meets last Wed. of month. ☎ Kathy Harris at (814) 838-6020 or ☎ PFLAG-Erie c/o Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, PO Box 3495, Erie, PA 16508.

Rainbow Connection (Warren, PA area)

Warren, PA and surrounding area. Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at the YWCA. ☎ Denny at (814) 757-8583.

Stone Wall 25/Erie

Organizing for June 26. Call now to get involved/make reservations. ☎ Stonewall 25/Erie Committee, PO Box 3746, Erie PA 16508-0746. ☎ Dan at (814) 476-7926.

SUNY-Fredonia Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Student Union

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

Support Groups for Persons with HIV/AIDS

One group for Persons with HIV/AIDS, other for their families and loved ones. Open to people of all faiths. *Meetings:* 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at Catholic Charities, St.

Mark Catholic Center, 429 East Grandview Blvd. For more info, call Barbara Nitkiewicz at 824-1250.

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.

Venango-Forest AIDS Support

All welcome! Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 16 Center Avenue, Oil City, PA. For more info, call 800-359-2437 or PO Box 834, Oil City, PA 16301

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 meet at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. Presently looking for/open to new location. Contact Deb at (814)453-2785 or Sally at (814)454-2713.

**Wills, Living Wills,
Closings & Cohabitation**
John E. Cooper, Esq
227 W. 5th Street
Erie, PA 16507
(814) 455-3436

HIV/AIDS Directory

AIDS Organizations & Services:

National

- AIDS Factline 1-800-324-AIDS
- National AIDS Hotline 1-800-662-6080
- Spanish AIDS Hotline 1-800-344-7432

Ashtabula OH/Ashtabula County

- AIDS Task Force Mary Ellen Conigli at (216)998-1020
- HIV+ Support Group (216)350-2554

Jamestown NY/Chautauqua Co.

- AIDS Community Services (716)664-7855
- Jamestown HIV+ Support Group (716)664-7855

Meadville PA/Crawford County

- Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition 337-3241
- HIV+ Support Group & Family Support Group
- Rosemary Buzzard at 333-5800

Erie PA/Erie County

- Case Manager. - Deb Monohon 838-0123
- Case Manager. - Cheryl Weber 452-6113
- Catholic Charities Support Grp. Cheryl Weber at 452-6113
- Erie Co. AIDS Task Force .. Stephen Brockwell at 833-0942
- Erie Co. AIDS Network Stephen Brockwell at 833-0942
- Friends from the Heart (Direct Client Services) 838-0123
- HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cathedral of St.

- Paul (Episcopal) 452-3779
- Well Being HIV+ Support Group 838-0123

Venango/Forest County

- Venango-Forest AIDS Support .. 1-800-359-2437

Warren County

- Case Manager. - Deb Monohon 838-0123

HIV/AIDS COUNSELING AND TESTING PROGRAMS:

The following locations offer free, confidential counseling, testing, and referral.

- (Erie) Dept. of Health—STD Clinic ... 451-6700
- (Erie) MHEDS 453-6229 or 453-4728
- Jamestown or Buffalo (716)847-4520
- Meadville PA (814)332-6947
- Pittsburgh (412)578-8332
- Sharon PA (412)983-5150
- Youngstown OH (216)747-4805

South Shore Counseling Group
55 E Main Street
North East PA 16428
Warm, gay-affirmative counseling for a full range of individual, couple & family problems
Dale A. Allgeier, MSW, LSW
(814) 725-8504
Fees based on a sliding fee scale

Community Directory

24 Hour Counseling:

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

Bars:

See back page!

Community-Building Organizations:

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

Counseling:

Deb Monohon 838-0123
 South Shore Counseling Group 725-8504
 For more info, call Greg 833-3258

E-Mail for EGCN, LGLV, Bridges:

From CompuServe 70431,1622

Funding and Fundraising:

Lambda Foundation, .. P.O. Box 5169 Pittsburgh
 PA 15206 (412)521-5444
 Imperial Court 266 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo NY
 14222

Legal:

John Cooper, Esq. 455-3436

Political/Advocacy Organizations:

League of Gay & Lesbian Voters 833-3258

Publications:

Erie Gay Community Newsletter 456-9833

Religious Organizations:

Commitment Vows Terry Kime at 864-9300
 Dignity 864-4627
 Integrity 774-0903
 Unitarian Universalist Congreg. of Erie 864-9300

Social Organizations:

Men's Coffeehouse 456-9833
 10% Network (formerly Jamestown Social Group
 (716)484-7285 or (716)664-5556
 Rainbow Connection (Warren PA) 757-8583
 Womynspace Coffeehouse 454-2713 or 453-2785

Student Organizations/Youth:

Cmte. in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual
 People (Allegheny College, Meadville) .. 332-4368
 Covenant House Teen Hotline .. 1-800-999-9999
 Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO) 732-2574
 GALA 10 (Mercyhurst College) 824-2572
 Gay Youth Pride Erie . *suspended operations for the*

time being

Gay & Lesbian Youth of Buffalo .. (716)855-0221
 Indianapolis Gay Youth Hotline 1-800-347-8336
 . (Under 21; Available Thu-Sun 7pm to Midnight)
 Jamestown Comm. College Grp... (716)665-5220
 National Runaway Switchboard . 1-800-621-4000
 SUNY-Fredonia G/L/B Student U Dan at
 (716)673-3424
 Teen Hotline (412)771-8336
 Trigon (Penn State Behrend) ... 866-7387 or 898-
 7050

Support Groups

Chautauqua Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers
 (716)672-6682
 Erie Sisters 2115 W. 8th St., # 261, Erie, PA
 16505
 Jamestown Gay/Lesbian Drug & Alcohol Abuse..
 (716) 483-0749
 Lesbian Moms Support Group 796-3535
 Lambda Group—Gay AA (formerly Life's Blood)
Every Sunday, 8:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Erie.
 PFLAG-Ashtabula OH (216)964-3350
 PFLAG-Erie Kathy at 838-6020
 PFLAG-Jamestown NY .. (716) 488-1264 or 763-
 1529

Violence and Abuse:

Hate Crimes (US Justice Dept.) 800-347-4283
*All numbers are area code 814 unless
 otherwise noted. Are you a lesbigay-
 friendly physician or professional? Please
 let us know so we can list you!*

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

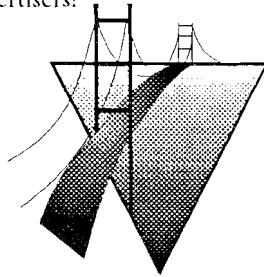
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The cost of your subscription includes the 12 months of newsletters mailed discreetly to you in a security envelope for 1 year. Please send this with your check for \$15 made payable to "EGC Coalition" to EGCN, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-3063. CompuServe: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



Bridges Book Fair!!

Bridges will have \$6,000 in book titles of interest to the lesbian community at our Spring Informal Dance on April 23. The Dance will be at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway from 8 pm to midnight.

Cash or Checks for Books, please. Bookseller can't take Credit Cards



Area Bars and Places

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge Street. Open 7 days, 7 p.m. - 2:30 a.m., food served till 1:30 a.m. (216)964-9935. Fri & Sat - \$1 cover, half goes into a 50-50 drawn at end of the night, other half goes to person taking the cover. Carries *Gay People's Chronicle*. AIDS Food Pantry collection site.

Erie

Cup-a-Ccino's, 18 North Park Row. Mon-Wed 7:30am-11pm, Thur-Sat 7:30 am-12 mid. A gay-friendly coffeehouse. 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's *Out*.

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. Carries *Gay People's Chronicle*.

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, 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. DJ Fridays and Saturdays 10-2. Sundays: Pool tournaments, starting 4 p.m.



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