



Erie Gay Community Newsletter

☛ = 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 in writing by the 15th 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. **New e-mail address!** From Internet mikemahler@aol.com or from CompuServe, 70431,1622

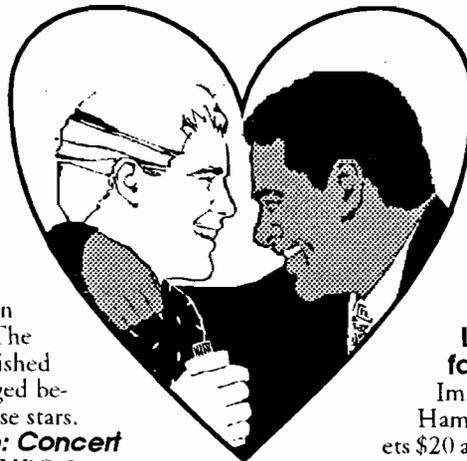
Feb 4—Womynspace

"Are you feeling lucky? Come to Casino Night! Play the night away with our freshly printed dyke dollars. We begin at 7:30 p.m. and go to elevenish. Newcomers welcome! For more info, call Sal the Casino Queen at 454-2713."

☛ **Feb 6—Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story** On NBC, check listings for time. The story of a woman with a distinguished military career who was discharged because she is a lesbian. Glenn Close stars.

☛ **Feb 6—Whitney Houston: Concert for a New South Africa** On HBO 8 p.m.

☛ **Feb 8—In the Life** WNEB 9 p.m. (PBS-Buffalo-Ch. 23) A look at the gay/lesbian experience within the African-American community. Also focuses on gay couples with children, interracial couples, and commitment ceremonies.



☛ **Feb 9—Biography: Donna Summer** A&E 8 p.m. Profiles the disco diva who was beloved by millions of gay and lesbian fans in the '70s and then turned born-again and homophobic.

☛ **Feb 10—Menspace** "We know you are out there, do you know we are here?? Tired of being one in a crowd? Join us for a social evening of lighthearted conversation and coffee. There is no set agenda, just the opportunity to hang out and talk. Bring yourself, bring a friend." 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. For more information, call 899-8507 or 459-8877.

☛ **Feb 11—Rainbow Social Club Valentine Party (Pittsburgh)** First United Methodist Church. Info and directions Kirt at (412)731-4781.

☛ **Feb 11—2 girls alone!** at Cup-a-Ccino's 18 N. Park Row, 9-midnite.

☛ **Feb 11—Second Annual Leather and Lace Ball (Buffalo)** Presented by BFLO and the Imperial Court of Buffalo, Inc. at Hamlin House, 432 Franklin St. Tickets \$20 at door. 4 hours open bar (10 p.m.-2am) and entertainment. "Creative attire encouraged." Proceeds benefit Benedict House.

Info (716)884-4653, (716)884-0670 or (716)884-8871.

☛ **Feb 11—Black & White Men Together Valentine's Dinner (Cleveland)** Info (216)397-BWMT.

Thanks to Micheal Miller
for this month's
cover art

***Our Readers Notice
When You Advertise
in EGCN!
Call us at 456-9833
or fax to 452-1392!***

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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 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, \$65 for a half page ad or \$125 for a full page ad. Call our Advertising Director at (814) 734-8155 or 456-9833 for further details!

Editorial Policy

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

We won't 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 don't 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.

Mailing address: EGCN; PO Box 3063; Erie, PA 16508-3063. Fax is (814) 452-1392. Call (814) 456-9833 for more information. Email: from Internet: mikemahler@aol.com or CompuServe: 70431, 1622. Deadline is the 15th of the month. Before submitting articles, please send SASE for writer's guidelines.

Feb 11—1995 Miss Pennsylvania USA Female Impersonator Pageant and Ball (Philadelphia) "An Evening of Glitter, Glamour, & Dance." Black tie audience of 500 expected. Produced by Keystone Pageantry System USA. Keystone donates substantially to AIDS-related organizations. Info: (215) 893-1145.

Feb 12—Integrity Meeting Eucharist, "What Does It Mean to be Christian & Gay/Lesbian?" 6:00 pm at St Paul's Cathedral, 133 West 6th Street.

Feb 12—Silkwood (1983) 1 p.m. on Lifetime.

Feb 14—HIV/AIDS Support at St. Mark's Transportation if you need it. Call Cheryl weber at 452-6113 or 825-1085.

Feb 14—Rainbow Connection (Warren PA) Info: Fred or Marshall at 726-1808.

Feb 16—Reflections in a Golden Eye (1967) Cinemax 12:30 p.m. Strange and kinky movie about a gay army officer (Marlon Brando) stationed in Georgia.

Feb 17—Denni at Cup-a-Ccino's 18 N. Park Row. Wide variety of music, from Melissa Etheridge to country to Big Band, and more. 9-midnite.

Feb 17-19—Wicked Women's Wild Winter Weekend (Buffalo) Fri. nite: "The Clit Club": The Sexiest Dance Party of the Year. Hallwalls, 2495 Main St. Suite. 425, Tri-Main Center 10 p.m. (Benefits Buffalo

Dyke-TV \$5-\$8 sliding scale). Sat. 2/18 Young Women's Social Group - 4-6 p.m. Solid Grounds Cafe 431 Elmwood. Join lesbians 22 & under for hot coffee, warm conversation, leading to creation of an empowering social network for young lesbians. Sun. 2/19 Champagne Brunch 11 a.m.-2p.m. Mother's Bakery 33 Virginia Place. \$8 donation for EAGLES & DYKE TV.

Feb 18—The Color Purple (1985) Whoopi Goldberg on Lifetime 3 p.m.

Feb 18—The Women of Brewster Place (Parts 1 & 2) Lifetime 6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Looks at the lives of several black women and their relationships with each other, including a lesbian couple. The stories are often tragic, but there is a certain survival thing that triumphs throughout.

Feb 18—10% Network: NY Pride Agenda Presentation (Jamestown) New York State's lesbian/gay civil rights organization will talk about the situation with gay rights since the big right-wing victory this past fall. Video about the right wing and gay rights will be shown. First Unitarian Church 1225 Prendergast. Info (716) 484-7285.

Feb 18—20th Annual Womyn's Variety Show (Cleveland) 8 p.m. at The Great Hall-The Civic, 3130 Mayfield Road. Variety show by and for lesbians.

Family Service of Jamestown, NY, Inc.

332 East Fourth St.
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45 East Main St.
Fredonia, NY 14063
1-(800)399-1971



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(18 and over). Advance tickets recommended (order tickets from Gifts of Athena Books 216-371-1937). Get there early (they open 6:30 p.m.) to get a good seat and to have time to look over the stuff the merchants are selling; refreshments, drinks and music available when doors open. Sober support, child care available (call by Feb. 11), interpreted for deaf and hard of hearing. For more info: (216)321-7799.

Feb 18—CANCELLED Womyn's Valentine Dance (Buffalo) CANCELLED

☛ **Feb 19—Out There II** 3 p.m. Comedy Central.

☛ **Feb 21—Barnes & Noble Fiction Discussion Group: *The Mists of Avalon*** Group will discuss the Marion Zimmer Bradley book *The Mists of Avalon*, which looks at King Arthur and his time through women's eyes. 7:30 p.m.; the book will be available for 30% discount.

☛ **Feb 22—Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gay Men (Erie)** 7:30 p.m. Kathy Harris 838-6020.

Feb 23—Films: *Sink or Swim/I Need a Man Like You* (Edinboro PA) Films 7 p.m. University Center, 9:30 p.m. Memorial Auditorium. *I Need a Man Like You* is described as a satire of lesbian life. *Sink or Swim* is a film about a woman and her father. Part of Edinboro's Alternative Film Festival.

Feb 25—6th Annual Cause for Celebration 1995 (Jamestown) Benefits for AIDS Community Services of Western NY. Silent auction. The group is looking for donations of goods or services from individuals and businesses in Erie, Chautauqua, Warren Counties and elsewhere. They do not have to be gay-oriented (most of last year's items were not). If you would like to donate, call John at (716) 484-7285.

☛ **Feb 25—6th Annual Cause for Celebration 1995 (Buffalo)** Benefits AIDS Community Svcs. of W. NY. Parties going on all around the city, then people join each other at 10 p.m. for a gala evening at the Main Place Mall. Silent art auction, dancing, casino gambling, live music, Buffalo's finest desserts. For information, call Michelle Rudnicki at (716) 847-0212.

☛ **Feb 25—Stars of the '90s: Marisa Tomei** Profiles the woman whose biggest role so far is as a Soviet lesbian guard in Tony Kushner's big Broadway hit *Slavs!* On Showtime 4:15 p.m.

☛ **Feb 28—Rainbow Connection (Warren OH)** Fred or Marshall at (814)726-1808.

☛ **Feb 28—HIV/AIDS Support Group at St. Mark's** Transportation if you need it! Info: Cheryl Weber at 452-6113 or 825-1085.

The Erie Playhouse Presents...



Combine the timelessness of Shakespeare with contemporary theatre and throw in Cole Porter's greatest score and what do you have? A wonderful night of theatre!

For Tickets Call 454-2852
Adults \$16, Sr.s \$15, Students \$7

On TV This Month

These movies and programs are on more than once during the month.

Mrs. Doubtfire (1993) Robin Williams playing sweet Mrs. Doubtfire. Cinemax 2/3 (9:40 p.m.), 2/8 (10:30 a.m.), 2/13 (8 p.m.), 2/19 (4 p.m.), 2/25 (8 p.m.)

A Raisin in the Sun (1961) Based on the play by black lesbian playwright Lorraine Hansberry, this drama is based on a real incident in Hansberry's life. A black family saves enough money to move out of the slums and into a nice neighborhood, and the white neighbors respond with hatred. Disney Channel 2/5 (1 a.m.), 2/21 (12 a.m.). The title is from a poem ("Harlem") by black gay poet and writer Langston Hughes: "What happens to a dream deferred?/Does it dry up/like a raisin in the sun?/Or fester like a sore—/and then run?/Does it stink like rotten meat?/Or crust and sugar over—/like a syrupy sweet?/ Maybe it just sags/like a heavy load./ Or does it explode?"

Women's Sports NCAA Woman of the Year Award: On SPC and KBL 2/7 (5 a.m.), 2/14 (2:30 a.m.), 2/26 12:30 a.m. Colgate Women's Games: SPC & KBL 2/22 4 a.m.

☛ **Mar 1—Red Hot + Country: Country AIDS Awareness Special** On The Nashville Network at 8 p.m. and midnight. Appearances include Kathy Mattea (who spearheaded the project), Billy Ray Cyrus, Rodney Foster, Jimmy Dale Gilmore, Nanci Griffith, Carl Perkins, the Mavericks, Waylon Jennings, and Sammy Kershaw.

☛ **Mar 4—Womynspace Potluck** "Bring a dish (and food, too!). Eat and talk and eat some more. And also—A penny for your thoughts! Share your ideas about future Womynspace coffeehouses. We dine at seven. Newcomers welcome!" For more info, call Sal at 454-2713.

☛ **Mar 6—Visions Meeting** Organization working to make Chautauqua Co. a better place for lesbians and gay men to live. Info (716)484-7285.

Mar 12—Integrity Meeting Clown Ministry-Liturgy of Word, Eucharist, potluck follows. 6:00 pm at St Paul's Cathedral, 133 West 6th Street.

☛ **Mar 18—2 girls alone! at Cup-a-Ccino's** 18 N. Park Row 9-midnight. 9-midnight.

☛ **Mar 31—Denni at Cup-a-Ccino's** 18 N. Park Row 9-midnight.

Mar 31-Apr 2—"Fabric of Remembrance" Canisius College Display of AIDS Memorial Quilt (Buffalo) Exhibit times are Friday March 31, 1995 from 10am to 9pm, Saturday April 1, 1995 from 10am to 8pm, and Sunday April 2, 1995 from 11am to 5pm. All are at Koessler Athletic Center at Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14208, (716) 888-2433. For more information or to volunteer to work, call Greg Rabb at (716) 665-5220 or (716) 664-9174.

☛ **April 1—Womynspace: "Mirror, Mirror..."** A slide show and discussion about body image by Jean Kennedy-Keck. Details next month.

☛ **Apr 28-30—Creating Healthy Sexuality (Chautauqua)** "A unique experiential training weekend for professionals to better understand the diverse spectrum of sexuality issues." Sponsored by AIDS Community Services, SUNY Buffalo Sexuality Education center, Buffalo State College Sexuality Center and WNY Society of Sexuality Professionals. Info from Laura, Education Dept. AIDS Community Services (716)847-0315.

☛ **June 10—R.E.M. & Luscious Jackson in Concert (Pittsburgh)** Coca-Cola Star Lake Amphitheater, Burgettstown. (Sonic Youth will not be performing with R.E.M. this summer. Tickets at Ticketmaster.

☛ **June 10—R.E.M. & Luscious Jackson (Cleveland)** Gund Arena. Tickets at Ticketmaster.

Festivals & Conferences

☛ **Feb 11-12—"Do It on the Ice!" Toronto Lesbian and Gay Curling Bonspiel (Toronto)** (Note: Curling is a popular Canadian sport that has nothing to do with Toni home perms). Info: Gary Manz (416)363-9398.

☛ **Feb 16-20—Eighth Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference (Los Angeles)** "Black Lesbians and Gays: Our Families Make a Difference," highlighting the positive and diverse family structures of black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. For info call (213)964-7864. They alternate coasts each year, so if L.A. is too far for you, remember next year at this same time it'll be held on the east coast.

☛ **April 7-9—Freedom Fest '95 (Bowling Green OH)** Conference and Comedy/Music Festival. Info Bowling Green State University—Freedom Fest '95, 340 Lighthouse Drive, Suite #9, Perrysburg OH 43551.

☛ **May 12-14—Virginia Women's Music Festival** Performers, swimming, fishing, videos, beach volleyball, more. Info: INTOUCH, Rt. 2 Box 1096, Kent's Store VA 23084 (804) 589-6542.

☛ **August 17-20—Abundant Life Now: A Retreat for Gay Religious and Priests** If you are a gay man who is a priest and/or religious, and are interested in this retreat, send your name, address and phone number to David Schimmel, 4520 N. Clarendon #801, Chicago IL 60640-6171.

☛ **July 16-22—National Association of Black and White Men Together '95 Convention** Info 1-800-NA4-BWMT, (202)462-3599 or write NABWMT, 1747 Connecticut Ave N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington DC 20009-1108. By the way, the 1996 convention will be held in Cleveland!

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Entertainment Notes

- ☆ **NEW OUT THERE:** Comedy Central announces that they will be presenting the third *Out There* comedy special in the fall of 1995. Hosted by former *Kids in the Hall* cast member Scott Thompson, *Out There in Hollywood* will be taped in April 1995.
- ☆ **THE OTHER LOUISA MAY:** With the release of the new film version of *Little Women*, author **Louisa May Alcott** has enjoyed a new upsurge of popularity. In the book *Alternative Alcott*, edited by Elaine Showalter (Rutgers \$15), we learn that there were many less-known dimensions to

this reknowned feminist author. For instance, in an 1883 interview with writer Louise Chandler Moulton, Alcott revealed that "I have fallen in love in my life with so many pretty girls, and never the least bit with any man." *Alternative Alcott* features three short stories about "romantic friendships" between women ("Work," "Diana and Persis," and "An Old-Fashioned Girl") as well as a number of other Alcott stories that are less well-known.

- ☆ **AT THE MOVIES:** Some movies of interest will be released this month. *Boys On the Side* is a female road-movie, with **Whoopi Goldberg** playing a lesbian musician travelling with a middle-class straight woman with HIV and a free-spirited younger woman. The three, who try to make up a family, travel across the country together. The new *Brady Bunch* movie, also set for release in February, is supposed to have a lesbian subplot. Meadville's **Sharon Stone** will be playing a tough gunslinger in the new western *The Quick and the Dead*. . . For March, there's a movie out with a really festive theme: In *Outbreak*, **Dustin Hoffman** and **Rene Russo** play surviving spouses of people who died in an epidemic of a killer virus that has come to America via an African monkey.

Reviews

No Illusions
(Hot Wings Entertainment)
Reviewed by Peter

What a great production! This work is "A Compilation of Songs from 15 of Buffalo's Best Women Singer-Songwriters." It includes the work of Donna Bursie, Valerie Carrigan, Tanya Diona, Jenn Guitart, The Jazzabels, Rosaleen Marion, Katie Miller, Kathy Moriarty, Alison Pipitone, Stefynie Rosenfeld, Susan Rozler, Liz Spiro-Carmen, Summers at Netsche's, Michel Weber and Leah Zicari.

One might think that this would be a simple collection of regional talent, but that would be far from reality. This is a world class collection of women's music. The varying styles and sounds of the performers make this a truly eclectic compilation. The quality of production is superb. And remember...one does not need to be a woman and/or lesbian to enjoy such fine quality in women's music!

No Illusions can be ordered by mail: Send \$14 per CD, \$9 per cassette (New York State residents must add sales tax) to: Hot Wings, 429 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo NY 14222.) Hot Wings even pays the postage!

- ☆ **THEATER OFFERINGS** In Buffalo, *Falsettos* will be playing January 26-Feb. 19 (Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 4 p.m. at the Pfeifer Theater, performed by Summerfare! (716) 847-6461. Ron Ehmke performs *Not for Profit*, "a new comic monologue about art, money, work, friendship, like, death etc. (lots of gay content) with a different women's music musical guest each week. The Feb. 4 performance features Katie Miller, Feb. 11 The Jazzabels and Feb. 25 Michel Weber. Feb. 4, 11, 25 at Hallwalls 8 p.m. (716)835-7362. . .In Pittsburgh, the City Theater will present *Spunk*, based on the short stories of African-American author Zora Neale Hurston from Feb. 24-March 19. An art exhibit inspired by Zora—called "Images of Zora" will be on display at the theater during the run of this play (Ann Tanksley, artist).

Call (412)431-CITY. **Streamers** will be playing at Pittsburgh's Upstairs Theater (March 2-25). Set in a barrack during the Vietnam War, one of the four characters is a mischievous, intellectual gay man.

- ☆ **DRAG KINGS: Dykes Do Drag** is a major live-performance lesbian event in Buffalo (It'll be held May 6). If you think you'd like to perform, you are invited to audition Feb. 23 (6:30 p.m. and Feb. 25 (noon) at Hallwalls, 2495 main St. (4th Floor). Any questions? Call (716) 884-5984.
- ☆ **TV SHORTS: Nora Dunn** plays a lesbian who gets pregnant by her close friend's husband on NBC's *Sisters*. She told *TV Guide*, "What our show is trying to say is that families are about love—not who you love, but how you love."... **Roseanne** has bought the rights to produce an American version of the British sitcom **Absolutely Fabulous**.
- ☆ **TENGO HOMBRE:** A new travel phrase book is aimed specifically at les/bi/gay people looking for

loooove. Called *Hot Spanish! For Guys and Gals*, the book contains useful phrases for les/bi/gay dating, romance, and sex and retails for \$8.95. Due to be released in late spring is *Hot International*, a gay phrase book that will be in English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese, and Czech. To order, call Babelcom Publishers at 1-800-692-2235 for credit card, money order and personal check. They also expect that the Erie Book Store & Pathways will be carrying the book as well by early February. They do have distribution currently with Waldenbooks nationally, but the Waldenbooks store in Erie has an extremely small selection of lesbigay titles. They are pursuing distribution with other national chains (including Barnes & Noble.)

The Religious Right is Wrong

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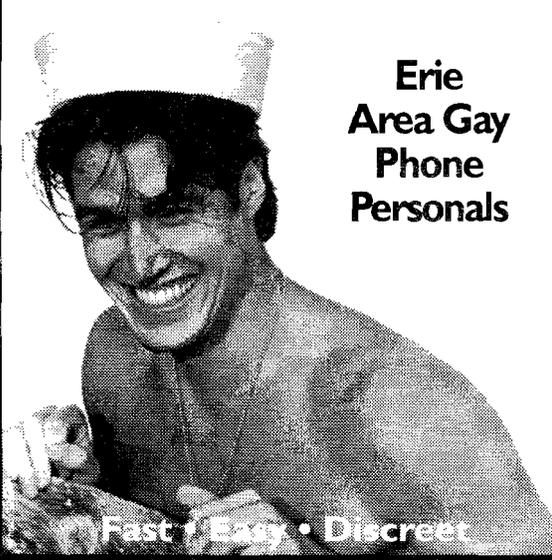
Media Watch

By Al Kielwasser
GLAAD-San Francisco

☆ **STRANGE NEW WORLDS, SAME OLD HOMOPHOBIA:** When the cult series first began in 1966, viewers of *Star Trek* were invited to “explore strange new worlds...to seek out new life and new civilizations...to boldly go where no man has gone before!” That message (minus the sexist language) also greeted viewers of the more-recent series, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Before he died, the creator of both TV shows—Gene Roddenberry—boldly promised that lesbian, gay, and bisexual characters would be a routine part of the *Star Trek* universe. Shortly before his death, Roddenberry met with members of a lesbian/gay *Star Trek* fan club and told them that since racism was not tolerated in his 24th century world, neither would homophobia be acceptable; to that end, he hoped to include openly (an unmistakably) lesbian/gay main characters in future pro-

grams. Unfortunately, Roddenberry’s deathbed wish has never been honored. To date, lesbians and gays have been conspicuously absent from the otherwise diverse world of *Star Trek*. In a fantastic universe populated by everyone from Borg to Klingons, there are no queers to be found. However, this situation could change with the advent of the latest *Star Trek* spin-off, *Star Trek: Voyager*. Perhaps at last this glaring and galactic case of homophobic omission will be corrected. Encourage the show’s producers to finally go where no *Star Trek* series has gone before. Write: Rick Berman, Michael Pillar, and Jeri Taylor, Producers/*Star Trek: Voyager*/Paramount/5555 Melrose Avenue/Los Angeles CA 90038 (213)956-5951. [Editors’ Note: *Star Trek: Voyager* can be seen in our area on WSEE (Channel 35) 11:30 p.m. on Saturdays.]

☆ **SERVING ISN’T SILENCED:** On February 6—and during sweeps week, no less—NBC will air the made-for-television movie *Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story*. A group calling itself the “Family Defense Fund” recently initiated a campaign to halt the showing of a lesbian kissing scene in *Serving in Silence*. “Family Defense Fund” members were instructed to call the NBC Audience Response Line and demand that the network censor any visible signs of lesbian love. However, a number of lesbian/gay/bisexual community groups got wind of this attempt, and succeeded in sending a different message to NBC. The network received a rush of supportive calls and, as a result, NBC promised that it would not censor or edit the kiss. The importance of this victory shouldn’t be underestimated. For the most part, television networks continue to insist that it’s acceptable to show two people of the same sex killing—but not kissing—each other. Send comments to Warren Littlefield, President, NBC Entertainment, 3000 West Alameda Ave. Burbank CA 91523. NBC Audience Response Line: (212)664-2333 [Ed. Note: Your comments to the Response Line are important even if you are reading this after the show has aired!]



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**The 20th Annual
Womyn's Variety Show**



WOMYN ONLY EVENT

Saturday, Feb 18th

8:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM)

**The Great Hall, The Civic
3130 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland Heights**

Followed by the **Fabulous Variety Show Party**

**Sound: Myrna Johnston, Audio
Michigan Womyn's Festival Stage Sound Engineers**

*Tickets: \$16 - in advance or at the door
(more if you can, less if you can't)*

Available in advance @ the Bookstore on W 25th
& Gifts of Athena Bookstore, 2199 Lee Rd

**Refreshments, drinks & music available
when doors open at 6:30**

Sober Support, Womyn only, 18 or older please

Childcare available only if reserved by Feb 11th
Interpreted for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

To volunteer, work exchange, or info call 321-7788

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

EARN \$150 to \$1000

We are looking for **men** and **women** who are **HIV Positive** to participate in medically supervised research studies that involve taking medications and having laboratory tests done. These studies involve marketed and unmarketed investigational medications.

All participants must pass a free physical examination. Some studies are done on an out-patient basis and others require overnight stays.

If you qualify, you could earn between
\$150 and \$1000.

For more information,
call **(412) 363-7218**
or **1-800-756-5227**

There is no obligation if you call.



Pharmaceutical Research Services

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Local News

Local News—Northwest PA

DuBois PFLAG Chapter

There is now a chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in DuBois. Besides serving as a support group, they also want to go talk to people in agencies, church groups, organizations, etc. If you're from that neck of the woods, and have ideas about groups, etc. that they could speak at, give these folks a call. For more information, contact John and Karen Kressley at (814)371-8962.

Dancing Lessons

Lately *EGCN* has been getting requests from readers who would like to take dancing lessons, but in a gay-friendly situation. There's probably a market here for some enterprising instructor. If you are qualified to teach dancing, and would be interested in pursuing this, contact *EGCN* at 456-9833. (You wouldn't have to be out about it, but we could just pass the word to people who asked).

Allegheny Update

By Roy Cerise, CSGLP

MEADVILLE—Dr. John P. De Cecco, a 1946 alum of Allegheny, will return to speak on campus on April 12, 1995. Since 1977, De Cecco has been the editor of the prestigious *Journal of Homosexuality*. He is Professor of Psychology in the Center for Research and Education in Sexuality (CERES) at San Francisco State University. In addition, he is Gay & Lesbian Studies Editor-in-Chief for The Haworth Press, Inc.,

and has also authored numerous publications, books and articles. Details on his visit will be available in March.

A group of College employees has formally requested that the College address the topic of domestic partner benefits. Several years ago, Allegheny revised its nondiscrimination statement to include sexual orientation. At the same time, the College reaffirmed its commitment to a policy of nondiscrimination. Nevertheless, there are still many instances of discrimination that occur based on sexual orientation as a result of outdated benefit policy. The employee group has asked for a review of all personnel/benefit policies to ensure that they are administered in a nondiscriminatory manner to all employees and their families, including gay and lesbian families.

The Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual People (CSGLBP) has joined in the creation of a campus-wide Diversity Council. The council also includes members from Advancement of Black Culture, Allegheny B'nai B'rith Hillel, Allegheny Non-Traditional Students, Association for Asian and Asian-American Awareness, Committee on Racial Issues, International Club, Multicultural Affairs, Society for the Advancement of Gender Issues, Union Latina, and Women's Studies. The group was established to create a forum in which campus leaders can address issues of ethnicity, gender, race, class, age, sexual orientation, and physical ability as they relate to our diverse community. The group's formation is seen as a first step in coalition building among groups with many similar goals.

"Affirming Our Sexual Orientations" is a new support group being organized by the Counseling Center to provide a safe and supportive environment for gay, lesbian and bisexual students to talk about their concerns.

CSGLBP now has office space in the Campus Center to serve as a base of operations for student members. It is also home to nearly a dozen lesbian/gay publications that the Committee now subscribes to as a student resource. Plans are beginning to seek funds for computerization of the office with a link to the massive lesbian/gay resources available on the Internet.



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Local News—Western NY

Visions of a Better Community

(From 10% Network Newsletter)

Several months ago, a number of gay and lesbian activists in Chautauqua County started meeting to discuss how they could make this a better place for lesbian/gay/bi people. There are a number of projects being discussed by this group. There is much discussion about political issues, media, community-building, youth issues, local lesbian/gay information lines, etc. At the January meeting, there was a discussion about developing a mission statement for the group, as well as a name. These need to be in place to proceed toward incorporating and seeking funding. Two names were brought before the group: One was VBC - Vision: Building Community; the other was The Committee on Justice and Social Progress. Two mission statements were discussed as well. These are (1) By the year 2000, it will be absolutely OK to be lesbian or gay, and diversity will be valued and celebrated, and (2) [*Group Name*]'s mission is to provide professional support services for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (including youth, adults, elders) and to advocate community awareness and acceptance of people experiencing issues of sexual orientation. [*Group name*] supports and respects individual differences and affirms the rights of all persons to live free from fear, prejudice, and violence.

There will be further discussion on these mission statements at the next meeting on Monday, Feb. 6 in Fredonia. Anyone who is interested may attend these meetings and your suggestions on a name and/or mission statement would be welcomed. If you have any ideas for this group or wish to get more information, call John at (716)484-7285.

North County Support Group

By Patrick McNamara

There is a new group forming in the northern part of Chautauqua County, NY. The North County Support Group meets the second Monday of each month at Pathways Bookstore, 21 Water Street, Fredonia NY from 8 to 10 pm.

From 3 to 8 people attend each meeting. It is a safe place to discuss what is going on in your life and to get

support from a group of friendly, caring gay men and lesbians.

Recent topics have been coming out, is it a choice, telling one's parents, living a happy life, etc. Please join us next month. Any questions, call Patrick at (716) 679-3430.

Warning

Recently, *EGCN* was told that a local man with HIV is practicing unsafe sex with various partners. We have been asked to warn our readers about this. "He is a nice guy otherwise," said a friend of this man. The friend was concerned that people who know what a nice guy he is would figure he would never do anything to intentionally expose someone to the virus, and trust him when he assures them he is safe.

So, consider yourself warned. But instead of trying to figure out who we're talking about, remember...it could be anyone. Most people who know they have the virus are responsible toward their partners. Then again, some people don't care who they infect. Some "otherwise nice" HIV+ people *do* expose others to the virus, maybe because having HIV can do bad stuff to your head. And then, of course, there are those many people who don't know yet that they even have the virus.

If you have HIV and keep having unsafe sex, please contact a counselor who understands what you're going through, so you can figure out what's going on and stop what you're doing.

If you don't have HIV and you're having unsafe sex, *wake up*. The fact is, HIV is here in *our* area. Yet many people still boink unsafely like it's the 1960s.

So please, protect yourself, and protect our community.

We care.

-EGCN/Bridges

African-American and Gay/Lesbian

There are a number of groups and organizations that are formed by and for Gay/Lesbian/Bi African-Americans or for gay people who are specially focused on racial harmony and diversity.

Although all the gay groups in our area are opposed to racism and welcome people of color, *EGCN* knows of no local gay organizations where blacks are in the majority or where black culture and sensibilities are an important part of that group. Hopefully this will change in the future. In the meantime, there are groups within traveling distance. It's also incomplete...please send us any corrections or additions! Here they are.

By the way, if you'd like a copy of the Feb. 1994 issue of *EGCN* which had lots of other black les/bi/gay stuff in it, send an SASE to *EGCN*, P.O. Box 3063, Erie PA 16508.

National

✦ **National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum** (213) 964-7864.

✦ **National Association of Black and White Men Together** You'll notice they have chapters in all the cities listed here. (They also call themselves Men of All Colors Together). The organization is "committed to fostering respect, honesty and communication and understanding between and among men of different races and cultural backgrounds." You don't have to be in a couple or in an interracial relationship to belong to BWMT or to participate in their activities. You don't have to be in a chapter either...you can become a member-at-large for \$15. For more info or to join: 1-800-NA4-BWMT 4753 or NABWMT, North Broadway, Suite 1200, Chicago IL 60640-4907.

Buffalo

(For more information call *Buffalo Gay & Lesbian Community Network* 716-883-4750)

Shades, the organization for Lesbians of Color Shades organizes dances, social events, political activism, and other activities. An article in Buffalo's *Pridepath* explained why Shades (and many people of color) feel the need for such a group. "In the past, many women of color felt disconnected. They were disconnected from the white lesbians and even from each other. They faced discriminatory practices in many bars...They often felt discouraged by the lack of women of color at

community-wide lesbian events. The invisibility that lesbians and gays experience has been especially difficult for lesbians of color (and for gay men of color, too). Breaking the silence—speaking our truths, being proud of who we are—is the path of our healing. Shades is helping that healing happen for many lesbians. For lesbians of color and for their white friends, too, who are proud that our Buffalo community is becoming more diverse, and stronger because of that diversity." Contact Shades at P.O. Box 1591, Buffalo NY 14205 (716)845-6152.

HIV+ African American Men (716)854-1624

Cleveland

(For more information call *Cleveland Lesbian/Gay Hotline* 216-861-5454 or the *Community Center* during the day at 216-522-1999)

Response. Cleveland's African-American Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual community now has its own publication. Send \$3 for 10 issues (payable to African-American Caucus) to CLGCC, P.O. Box 6177, Cleveland OH 44101. For information call the Cleveland Lesbian/Gay Community Center (216)522-1999 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

Black & White Men Together-Cleveland P.O. Box 5144, Cleveland OH 44101. (216)397-2968 Parties, socializing, activities, newsletter of activities.

You Are Needed: Lesbian/Gay AA At this writing this is predominately black lesbians. Meets every Thursday 8 p.m. at St. Jehosephat's, 1411 E. 33rd (33rd & St. Clair). More more info call Cleveland AA at (216)241-7387.

Pittsburgh

Black & White Men Together-Pittsburgh Rap sessions, outdoor activities (like Laurel Caverns and Fallingwater), social activities, newsletter and more. Call Paul or Marlon at (412)323-3808 or write BWMT-Pgh, P.O. Box 101430, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Youngstown

Black & White Men Together-Youngstown P.O. Box 1131, Youngstown OH Black & White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together. Social activities, bowling, rap nights, events, publish newsletter. For location call 1-800-NA4-BWMT.

Black Love Stories

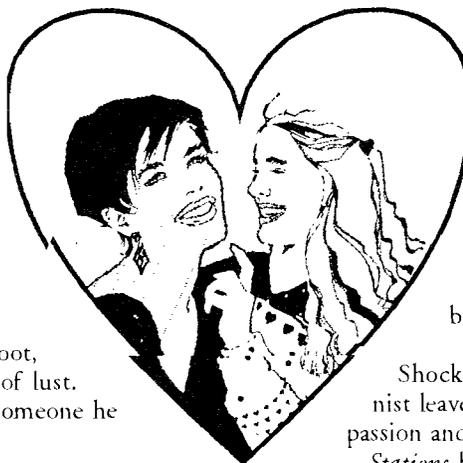
Because this is also Valentine's month, here are some romantic and erotic books and magazines by and about gay/lesbian bisexual African Americans.

Periodicals

BLK Publications puts out several publications for black gay/lesbian/bisexual people. Among these are two erotic publications. *BlackFire* is an erotic magazine for black gay men. *Black Lace* is an erotic magazine for black lesbians. To subscribe to either publication or to find out about the other BLK publications, write or call BLK at P.O. Box 83912, Los Angeles CA (310)410-0808.

Books

B-Boy Blues: A Seriously Sexy, Fiercely Funny, Black-on-Black Love Story by Earl Hardy (Alyson \$9.95). Mitchell Crawford's fantasy has always been a hip-hop-lovin' street-struttin', cool-posin', crazy crotch-grabbin' brotha. And he finally fulfills that fantasy when he meets Raheim Rivers, a six-foot, mocha-chocolate muscled vision of lust. But he doesn't count on finding someone he can love.



Captain Swing, by Larry DuPlechan (Alyson \$15.95). Johnny Ray Rousseau loses his lover, his homophobic father is dying, he somehow manages to learn to love again, even though he's not sure he should.

Coffee Will Make You Black, by April Sinclair (Hyperion \$19.95). A novel about growing up as a black girl in the 1960s and realizing you're more attracted to the school nurse than your boyfriend.

Erotique Noire: Black Erotica, edited by Miriam DeCosta, Martin Willis, and Roseann Bell. A collection of erotica by black writers—male, female, gay, straight.

Invisible Life (Anchor \$9.95) and *Just As I Am* by E. Lynn Harris (Doubleday \$21.95). These two books reflect several years in the life of Raymond, a black man who struggles with his love for men and women and finally comes to accept himself as a black gay man who loves men.

Loving Her by Ann Allen Shockley (Naiad \$7.95). A black pianist leaves her abusive husband to find passion and true love with Terry.

Stations, by Assotto Saint (Galiens \$7.00)

A poetry cycle about the love between a black man and a white man.

"For African Americans, 'home' means a sanctuary from a world that, on racism alone, can destroy us. You go downtown and they call you a nigger. When you go back home, your mother, your sister, and your brother, they know how it feels. But when I go downtown and get called a faggot, even if my family is supportive, I still have to spend time teaching them how it feels."

—**Phill Wilson, Black Gay Activist**

HIV/AIDS News

HIV/AIDS - Sex

Dutch Attitudes About Sex

A recent segment on NBC's *Dateline* (Dec. 30) focused on Dutch attitudes toward sexuality showed a more enlightened attitude than in the U.S. Sexuality and safer sex are taught to school children in a frank and open manner. The narrator of the piece pointed out that the American uproar over Jocelyn Elders' remarks about discussing masturbation in the schools is something that the Dutch wouldn't raise an eyebrow over. Sex educators and teachers were shown discussing the encouragement of acceptance of masturbation as a valid sexual activity. In fact, one family planning educator pointed out that when young people come to them for contraception, the agency does not ask "Are you sexually active?" because to the Dutch, masturbating constitutes sexual activity. Youth sexuality is accepted and discussed in a rational and helpful manner. One TV program, *Sex With Angela*, features an adult

talking about healthy and responsible sex. Does all this positive acceptance of teen sexuality result in irresponsible and unsafe teen sexual activity? Well, one indicator is teen pregnancy, and the Dutch have the lowest rate in the developed world.

Lesbian Safer Sex Video

Well Sexy Women is a video by and about safer sex for woman-woman sex. It features several British lesbians talking candidly and factually about sexuality and safer sex, with demonstrations of lesbian safer sex practices. The Movie Stop carries it, or you can buy it from a number of lesbian-friendly mail order sources. One of these places is Ladyslipper Music, P.O. Box 3124-R, Durham NC 27715 (credit card orders: 1-800-634-6044). Send \$39.98 plus \$2.75 shipping.

Gay Men's Safe Sex Video Contest

Think you can make a hot male-male safe sex video? Then why not enter the Third Annual Gay Men's Safe Sex Video Contest. Winners get cash prizes. Call for entry information. It's sponsored by Falcon Studios, Frameline, and the San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. For entries and info write now to: Safe Sex Video III, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, P.O. Box 426182, San Francisco CA 94142.

HIV/AIDS - Northwest PA

Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition

The Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition is associated with the American Red Cross and meets at noon on the third Thursday of each month at the Red Cross Chapter House on the corner of Chestnut and Liberty Streets, phone 337-3241. It is open to groups and individuals, and offers information, conducts educational programs, and supports the following support groups.

Support Group for Persons With HIV/AIDS meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month at the Red Cross Chapter House on the corner of Chestnut and Liberty Streets. Phone 337-3241 or Rosemary Buzzard at 333-2307.

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Serving the HIV-Affected Community

Support Group for Family and Friends of Persons With HIV/AIDS meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at the Red Cross Chapter House on the corner of Chestnut and Liberty Streets. Phone 337-3241, or Erny Schwarz at 337-2307.

Hospice Training

Karen Moski of Hospice announces that in the spring Hospice of Metropolitan Erie will be having training sessions Hospice care. For information call Karen Moski at 456-6689

HIV/AIDS - WNY

Call for Auction Donations

The 10% Network is putting out a call for donations of goods or services to be offered at the Silent Auction fundraiser on February 25. The goods do not need to be gay-themed or AIDS-themed (most of the donations from last year were neither). Donations from outside the Jamestown area would be appreciated also. The funds will go to AIDS Community Services of Western NY. For information, call (716) 484-7285.

HIV/AIDS - US & World

Fundamentalist Gives Lesbian False HIV Diagnosis

NEW HAVEN—Three years ago, a lesbian getting an HIV test at the New Haven health department was told by a nurse there that she was HIV-positive. The nurse told her that Jesus Christ forgives those who repent, and gave her a brochure for a fundamentalist Christian ministry to gays who want to change. She began treatments, and although she was examined by physicians at Yale University's medical facility, nobody looked twice at the HIV positive diagnosis. A couple years later, one man, looking at her T Cell count, noticed that the woman had a T Cell count that was too high for someone with AIDS. The lesbian was retested and found to be negative. Although she is happy to have her life back, she is angry because she believes the woman at the health department intentionally lied to her (the health department's own record for that test showed it was negative). The treatments are toxic to people who aren't HIV positive and her

health has been damaged by them. She is planning legal action against the nurse who initially gave her the false diagnosis.

Large-Scale AIDS Vaccine Tests

GENEVA, Switzerland—The World Health Organization (WHO) will begin the first human tests of two AIDS vaccines. Brazilian gay men and straight male drug users in Thailand have volunteered to participate in the tests. Thai woman will be included in initial tests. The vaccines, known as gp-120, have already been tested on humans in smaller tests. Other vaccines will not be ready for human tests for years. WHO is the health agency of the United Nations.

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National/World News Bits

World's First All-Gay Village

BANGKOK, Thailand—It will have cafes, health clubs, swimming pools, karaoke bars, and 90 acres of lakes, fountains, and well-tended lawns. It's Flower Town, a new village that will soon be home for 2,000 gay men in Thailand. It is believed to be the first all-gay community in the world, in a country that is very accepting of gay people.

Simpson Beatings

LOS ANGELES—In 1988, O.J. Simpson beat up his wife when she let a gay man kiss their son. This incident was among the many documents about O.J.'s abuse released by prosecutors in the Simpson trial. The incident was recorded in Nicole's diary. O.J. stated the real reason he beat her up that day was because she called O.J.'s father a "fag."

College Freshmen Oppose Anti-Gay Legislation

WASHINGTON—An annual study of attitudes of college freshmen found that support for anti-gay laws is losing popularity. Only 33.9 percent favor such laws. This is an all-time low, and shows a trend favoring gay civil rights. (In 1993 36.2 percent favored anti-gay laws, in 1987 53.2 percent did.)

Oscar Wilde Finally Honored

LONDON—Oscar Wilde, the 19th century gay playwright and novelist who was imprisoned for sodomy 100 years ago, has finally received well-deserved honors. In January, a plaque honoring Wilde was placed in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey.

Terrorists Bombed Gay Bar

NEW YORK, Nov. 13—A Manhattan gay bar was bombed in 1990 by extremist Muslim terrorist El-Sayyid Nosair. Nosair is one of twelve terrorists accused of planning to kill Mikhail Gorbachev, and bombing the United Nations, the FBI headquarters and other locations. Federal prosecutors revealed that they had evidence that Nosair bombed the gay bar

because "homosexuality is contrary to Islam." Three people were injured in the explosion, but no one was killed.

Helms Wastes No Time

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—In the first indication that anti-gay extremists in the new Republican-controlled Congress may target lesbian and gay Americans in discriminatory legislation, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) has introduced two bills that would promote hate speech and discrimination against federal workers who are gay/lesbian/bisexual. The Helms bills mark the first two pieces of anti-gay legislation in the 104th Congress. The first bill, numbered S. 23, would allow homophobic federal employees to make anti-gay remarks about co-workers without any fear of reprisals, even if there is a nondiscrimination policy in effect. It would allow discrimination by denying lesbian employee groups (there are currently twenty-two of them, comparable to groups representing blacks and women) the same rights to free speech given to other employee organizations.

The second bill, S. 25, would prohibit government funding for programs which recruit lesbians for employment due to their sexual orientation, or that teaches employees to accept, condone, or celebrate the lesbian lifestyle as being normal or legitimate.

People are encouraged to write to their Congressmembers and senators to reject legislation that singles out lesbian and gay people for discrimination.

Newt's Lesbian Stepsister

NEW YORK—While being interviewed by Connie Chung on CBS' Eye to Eye, Gingrich's lesbian stepsister, Candace Gingrich, said she probably wouldn't vote for him. She said that she and her brother have never discussed her sexual orientation, but noted, "He's probably more embarrassed that I'm a Democrat."

Study: Gay Men's Fingerprints and Hearing Differ

A Canadian study has found that there is some difference between the fingerprints of gay men and heterosexual men. Most people have more ridges in the fingerprints of their right hands. In the study, 30 per cent of gay men showed more ridges on their left hands compared with only 14 per cent of the heterosexual men. The research team also discovered a difference in the way the gay men hear. Most people hear better out of their right ear, but the researchers found that some of the gay men in the study hear equally well with both ears. The researchers say that this finding could be related to better transmission of information between the brain's hemispheres. (A recent study found gay men have a larger anterior commissure, which helps transmit information between the brain's hemispheres). The researchers also noted that the anterior commissure and fingerprint ridges both begin to develop around the seventh week of a fetus' life. The study was published in the December issue of *Behavioral Neuroscience*.

Barney Verbally Gay-Bashed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27—The House's No. 2 Republican leader referred to gay congressman Barney Frank as "Barney Fag." House Republican Rep. leader Dick Army made the remarks during a radio interview. The remark drew heavy criticism, including from Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, and Army was quick to apologize, stating that he has trouble with pronunciation, and really did mean to use Frank's proper name. The exact quote, made in reference to a book deal, was as follows: "I like peace and quiet, and I don't need to listen to Barney Fag [pause] Barney Frank haranguing in my ear because I made a few bucks off a book."

First Gay Conference in India

NEW DELHI, Dec. 30—About 75 gay men, mostly from India, met in secret to discuss gay and AIDS issues in that country and region. They went public on Dec. 31. Their major concern was changing India's laws against gays; presently people found guilty of homosexual acts can be imprisoned, chained in their cells, and compelled to do forced labor.

Vatican Fires Outspoken Bishop

PARIS, Jan. 22—The Vatican fired a French Bishop who defended lesbians and gay men, recommended the use of condoms, and endorsed the ordination of married priests. The outspoken bishop, Jacques Gaillot, outraged the Vatican for years, offering to bless same-sex marriages and insisting that the church should recognize same-sex marriages. The dismissal angered many, and thousands demonstrated in his support. Many commentators since the firing have noted that this is another example of the growing division between the Vatican and French Catholics.

Fascists for Human Rights

ROME, Jan. 5—The granddaughter of the late Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini says that the Italian extreme right should not be homophobic. Alessandra Mussolini, who is a parliamentarian in the extreme right. National Alliance Party, made the statements in an interview with a gay Italian magazine. She also said gays should be allowed to adopt children.

Deaths

DIED: John Boswell, 47, of complications due to AIDS. Boswell was chair of the Yale University history department, and had written a body of scholarly works about homosexuality. Among these were such landmark books as *Same-Sex Unions in Premodern Europe* and *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality*.

Any two people
that
live together and
love each other
are a real family.

—Scott Valentine

Families

Hospital's New Year Baby Born to Lesbian Couple

CLEVELAND, Jan. 1—The first baby born at Cleveland's MetroHealth Center was born to a lesbian couple. Ashley Marie Ferguson was born at 12:15 a.m. to Patty Ferguson and Joyce Liptak.

—Info from *Gay People's Chronicle*

Elderly Couple Challenges Canadian Pension Law

COURTENAY, British Columbia—Jack Nesbit and Jim Egan have been together since 1948. Now they are both retired, and Nesbit wants spousal benefits from Egan's pension. The Supreme Court of Canada will decide if the couple, who are a model married couple, is entitled to the same benefits as heterosexual couples. The Court will make the decision some time this year, and the decision is expected to have far-reaching effects on gay and lesbian civil rights in Canada.

Dale A. Allgeier, LSW, ACSW

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Illinois: Lesbian Couples Can't Adopt

CHICAGO, Nov. 28—Under Illinois law, two lesbian couples are not allowed to adopt children. Cook County Associate Circuit Judge Marian Staniec said that Illinois law does not allow for unmarried couples to adopt children, regardless of sexual orientation. The American Civil Liberties Union will appeal the decision.

Oregon Gay Couple Wins Custody

SEATTLE, Dec. 21—A gay couple who had been foster parents to a 4 year-old boy have been granted adoption rights. The case became national news when the boy's mother, Megan Lucas—who had given up parental rights to the boy—tried to get him back after learning he had been placed with a gay couple. A Virginia-based religious right organization joined Lucas in the fight. Lucas, who has a history of child neglect, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide attempts, was denied parental rights in 1993.

Australia's Family Judge: Give Gays Parents' Rights

SYDNEY, Jan. 4—Same-sex couples and their children should be recognized as legal families, stated Australia's Chief Family Court Judge Alistair Nicholson. Nicholson said that in his court he sees many custody battles between same-sex and heterosexual couples. "I think it is more than time that we in the law recognize this," he said. Last year, Australia's International Year of the Family advisory council called for a government inquiry into the issue of same-sex families.

Nebraska: No Gay Foster Parents

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 26—A new state policy mandates that foster children will not be placed in homes of known lesbians and gay men. Unmarried, unrelated heterosexual adults who are living together would also not be allowed to become foster parents.

Michael Dithers

by Michael Mahler

There are many folks Bridges would like to thank for our Dance/Social Night on January 28th. First and foremost, we'd like to thank all of you who attended and had such a great time.

Thanks also to David of County Market for the donation of the lovely floral arrangements and to the Kueblers for the ice. Thanks to Phil for DJ'ing. Kudos to Greg for coordinating and to Sharon, Greg, MaryKaye, Matt, Jackie, Micheal for setup. Thanks to Karen, Laura, Dan, Paul, Robin, Nancy, Sharon, MaryKaye, Pete & Tim for working the door. Thanks to Deb, Kel, Sharon, MaryKaye, Greg, Jackie, Micheal, Pete, Tim, and several other folks whose names we did not catch for cleanup and all the other work that went into making the event a success. You folks are beautiful.

It felt really good seeing so many diverse elements within our community represented. At one point I looked out on the dance floor and saw some of the folks from Closet Culture (the youth group) hanging out together and two fiftyish women dancing happily together.

Thanks to all!



How to Contact Us

There are several ways you can get information in to us here at *EGCN*.

If you have access to e-mail, our Internet address is MikeMahler@aol.com and our Compuserve address is 70431,1622.

We have just added a new fax number here at *EGCN*. Fax any time to 814-452-1392.

Our mailing address is still: EGC Coalition, PO Box 3063, Erie PA 16508-0063.

Our voice number is still 814-456-9833 and there is also an answering machine available.

The best ways to reach us are e-mail, fax and the PO Box. These methods are more likely to give you the wording you want and to be more accurate. We cannot guarantee that we will always accept voice-delivered messages for publication.

Healthy Sex Cum-bax

"If we're in love, why do we have to have safe sex?"

- ♥ "Love doesn't stop HIV, latex does."
- ♥ "If you love me, you'll want me to take care of myself."
- ♥ "I love you, and that's why I want to protect you, too."
- ♥ "I know you wouldn't do anything to hurt me, but you know how things are these days."
- ♥ "Why do you think they call it a 'love glove'?"
- ♥ "If you have a heart-on for me, put a rubber on for me!"
- ♥ "Let's show our love for each other and both get tested."



A Healthy Sex Message
from *EGCN/Bridges*

Places to get EGCN...

Ashtabula

Leeward Lounge, 1022 Bridge St.

Erie

Barnes & Noble, 5909 Peach Street
Cup-a-Ccino's, 18 N. Park Row
The Embers, 1711 State Street
Lizzie Bordon's, 3412 W. 12th
Well Being, 710 Beaumont

Edinboro

Book Shelf, 200 Plum
Earthshine, 131 Meadville Street
Identity (formerly EGO) meetings

Fredonia

Pathways, 21 Water Street

Jamestown NY & Warren PA

AIDS Community Services, Tue Mansion
Nite Spot, 201 Winsor, Jamestown
Rainbow Connection, Warren 726-1808
Sneakers, 100 Harrison, Jamestown

Meadville PA

Allegheny College Bookstore
CSGLBP Meetings

Venango County

Oil Region Book Store, Oil City

Area Bars & Places

Ashtabula

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

Erie & Edinboro

Cup-a-Ccino's, 18 North Park Row. Mon-Wed 7:30am-11pm, Thur-Fri. 7:30 am-12 mid., Sat 9 a.m.-midnight. 456-1511. A gay-friendly coffeehouse. New expanded space, non-smoking section, retail store. Poetry and story nights on alternating Thursdays, live music most Saturdays, some Fridays. Wheelchair accessible. Bike rack for cyclists.

The Embers, 1711 State St. 454-9171. Open Mon-Sat. 8pm-2am. Live DJ music Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10 pm-2am. Pool table.

Grind and Squeeze Coffeehouse, 105 Erie Street, Edinboro. CLOSED

Lizzie Bordon's Part II, 3412 West 12th. Open Mon-Sat., patio open Mon.-Tues.-Thurs. Bowling on Tuesday 9 pm till? Country Line dancing Wed. 9-11 p.m. w/ live DJ. 90s dance music DJ on Fri. (11-2 a.m.) & Sat. (9pm-2a.m.) Shows on some Fridays. Carries *Out & GPC*

Silver Slipper, 1317 State Street. CLOSED

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. Nitely 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 Fri and Sat 10-2. Sundays: Pool tournaments, starting 4 p.m.

REMEMBER OUR
DEADLINE

15TH OF THE MONTH

Groups & Organizations

10% Network and Social Group (Chautauqua County)

Meets every 3rd Saturday of the month 7-11 pm at First Unitarian Society of Jamestown. No smoking or alcohol. ☎ (716) 484-7285.

← 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 sponsors community dances and potluck dinners/forums. ↗ Bridges, PO Box 3063, Erie, PA 16508-0063. ☎ (814) 456-9833. E-mail to CompuServe 70431,1622 or from Internet: mikemahler@aol.com or fax to (814) 452-1392.

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.

Closet Culture

Focuses on social activities. Open to any lesbian, gay or bisexual 22 or younger in Erie or surrounding area. Write to: PO Box 10274, Erie PA 16514-0274. Phone ☎ (814) 825-0530. The phone is private so feel free to be open if you need to leave a message.

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. Email to Roy Cerise at csglbp@alleg.edu

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.

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.

Identity (formerly Edinboro Gay Organization (EGO))

Student group at Edinboro University. For next meeting, call advisor Mark McTague at his office 732-2265 starting Jan 18. Social activities (♿). ☎ John at 1-398-8005 or Dee Dee at 734-8155. E-mail to John Wetsell j663104w@vax.edinboro.edu

Integrity

A Christian-based spiritual and support group, sponsored by the Episcopalian 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 Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group

JCC Group is a joint community/school group. Ages of members varies from 15 into 50's. Meeting date, time & place vary. Contact:

Gregory P. Rabb. Write to JCC, 525 Falconer St, PO Box 20, Jamestown NY 14702-0020 or ☎ (716) 665-5220 ext 204 or (716)-664-9174.

Lambda Group AA

Alcoholics Anonymous for Lesbians. Closed discussion. Meets Sunday evenings at 8:00 pm at Unitarian Universalist Church of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Open to all Lesbians who think they may have a problem with drugs and/or alcohol. You are not alone. For more info call 452-2675 ♿.

League of Gay and Lesbian Voters (LGLV)

Non-partisan voters group. Publishes Voters' Guide for elections, voter registration/education, lobbying, advocacy. Interested in clipping newspaper articles and/or writing summaries? Contact us for details. ☎ Greg at (814) 833-3258. ↗ LGLV-Erie, PO Box 8083, Erie, PA 16505-0083. E-mail to kidithart@aol.com

Meadville Group

Now forming. ☎ Tex at (814) 337-5122.

Menspace

Meets on 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. ☎ (814) 899-8507 or 459-8877 for info.

← North County Support Group (Fredonia NY area)

Meets second Monday of each month at Pathways Bookstore, 21 Water Street, Fredonia, NY from 8-10 pm ☎ Patrick at (716) 679-3430.

Oasis

A social/support group for the gender community. Crossdress/Transvestite/Transsexual. Write to PO Box 622, Meadville, PA 16335.

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.

Pitt-Bradford/BiGALA

Support group for students. ☎ (814) 362-2179 or (814) 362-3158. or write to: University of Pitt Bradford BiGALA, Attn: Director of Student Activities, 300 Campus Drive/235 Commons, Bradford, PA 16701. Email to klfst20@vms.cis.pitt.edu

Rainbow Connection (Warren, PA area)

Support group for Warren, PA and surrounding area. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month. Call for location and meeting dates/times Fred or Marshall at (814) 726-1808.

SUNY-Fredonia B-GLAD

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

Support Groups for Persons with HIV/AIDS

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 Cheryl Weber at 452-6113 ♿.

Trigon

Support group for Behrend students, faculty, alumni. For more info, call Sue Daley (814) 898-6164. or ↗ College Mailroom, Box 1054, Behrend College, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.

Venango-Forest AIDS Support

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 16 Center Avenue, Oil City, PA For more info, call 800-359-2437

Womynspace Coffeehouse

An alcohol & smoke-free environment for lesbians, with a particular theme, topic or activity for each month. Meet 1st Saturday of each month at 7:30 pm. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. Contact Sally at (814) 454-2713.

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)
..... (216) 998-1020
- HIV+ Support Group (216)350-2554

Jamestown NY/Chautauqua Co.

- AIDS Community Services (716)664-7855

Meadville PA/Crawford County

- Case Manager - Debbie Miller ... (800)359-AIDS
- Crawford Co. AIDS Coalition 337-3241
- HIV+ Support Groups Rosemary Buzzard at 333-5800

“One in ten women will get breast cancer, yet we never know who has it; we don’t see one another. I’ve never seen a woman in the gym who has had a mastectomy. Lesbians and other oppressed people have a bigger burden to bear because the rest of the world spends a lot of time telling us we should feel bad about ourselves. There’s been a lot of damage we have to undo.”

—Nancy Lanoue
**Founder of the Lesbian
 Community Cancer Center**

Erie PA/Erie County

- ☛ Case Manager - Deb Monohon 838-0123
- ☛ Case Manager - Mary Richardson 456-8849
- ☛ Case Manager - Cheryl Weber 825-1085
- ☛ St. Mark’s/Catholic Charities Support Group
..... Cheryl Weber at 825-1085 or 452-6113
- ☛ AIDS Network Jackie Tamarro at 451-6700
- ☛ Friends from the Heart (Direct Client Services)
..... 838-0123
- ☛ HIV/AIDS Outreach Ministry of Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal) 452-3779
- ☛ N.W. PA Rural AIDS Alliance (Erie office) 456-8849 or 1(800)400-AIDS
- ☛ Well Being HIV+ Support Group 838-0123

Venango/Forest County

- Venango-Forest AIDS Support .. 1-800-359-2437
- Case Manager - Debbie Miller ... (800)359-AIDS

Warren County

- ☛ Case Manager - Deb Monohon 838-0123
- ☛ Case Manager - Tammi Shilling 1(800)359-AIDS or (814)226-2743

HIV/AIDS COUNSELING AND TESTING PROGRAMS (free):

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

- ☛ (Corry) Erie Co. Dept. of Health 663-3891
- ☛ (Erie) Erie Co. Dept. of Health 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

Anonymous Sites:

- (Ashtabula) Family Planning Associates (\$30)
..... (216)992-5953
- Painesville OH (216)354-AIDS
- Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (412)242-2500

☛ =Member of HIV/AIDS Service Network for Erie County PA

Community Directory

24 Hour Counseling:

Erie Hotline 453-5656
or (800) 628-0190
 Saint Vincent 452-5151
 Family Crisis 456-2014
 Hamot 877-6136

Community-Building Organizations:

Bridges 456-9833

Counseling:

Deb Monohon 838-0123
 Chautauqua Co. Gay InfoLine..... (716)679-3560
 Family Service of Jamestown N.Y. (716)488-1971
 Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
 Peninsula Counseling Services 835-5204
 For more info, call Greg 833-3258

E-Mail Addresses

CSSLB/Allegheny College..... csglbp@alleg.edu
 EGCN/Bridges (Internet) .. mikemahler@aol.com
 EGCN/Bridges (CompuServe) 70431,1622
 Identity j663104w@vax.edinboro.edu
 LGLV-Erie kidithart@aol.com
 Pitt-Bradford BiGALA... klfst20@vms.cis.pitt.edu

Funding and Fundraising:

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

Health:

PA Breast Cancer Coalition 455-7833

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
 Integrity 774-0903
 Gay Catholic Community Rev. Cash at 835-8302
 Unitarian Universalist Congreg. of Erie 864-9300

Social Organizations:

Menspace 899-8507 or 459-8877
 10% Network
 (716)484-7285 or (716)664-5556
 Rainbow Connection (Warren PA) 726-1808

Womynspace Coffeehouse 454-2713

Student Organizations/Youth:

Cmte. in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual
 People (Allegheny College, Meadville) .. 332-4368
 Closet Culture 825-0530
 Covenant House Teen Hotline .. 1-800-999-9999
 Gay & Lesbian Youth of Buffalo .. (716)855-0221
 Identity (formerly EGO) .. 398-8005 or 734-8155
 Jamestown Comm. College Grp... (716)665-5220
 ext 204
 National Runaway Switchboard . 1-800-621-4000
 North County Support Group (716)679-3430
 Pitt-Bradford BiGALA .. 1-362-2179 or 362-3158
 SUNY-Fredonia B-GLAD .. Dr. Susan Malone at
 (716)673-3424
 Teen Hotline (412)771-8336
 Trigon (Penn State Behrend) 898-6164

Support Groups

Chautauqua Gay Fathers & Lesbian Mothers
 (716)672-6682
 Elder Action in a Gay and Lesbian Environment
 (716)882-2959
 Erie Sisters 2115 W. 8th St., # 261, Erie, PA
 16505
 Lambda Group—Gay AA 452-2675
*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:

24 hour Hotline (Domestic abuse/Sexual Assault,
 women and men) (814)726-1030
 Erie Hospitality House (Domestic abuse, women
 and men) (814)454-8161
 Hate Crimes (US Justice Dept.).... 800-347-4283
 Jamestown - YWCA Alternatives to Violence
 (Domestic abuse, women and men) Daytime
 (716)488-2237, evenings (716)484-0052.
 Women's Center of Warren & Forest Counties 24
 hour Hotline (Domestic abuse/Sexual Assault,
 women and men) (814)726-1030

***All numbers are area code 814 unless
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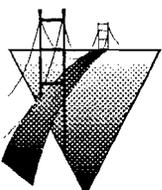
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INTEGRITY
 A Christian-based spiritual and support group sponsored by the Episcopal Church that welcomes people of all faiths. Meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Cathedral, 133 W 6th St. Erie, PA. Our mailing address is: Integrity-NWPA, PO Box 1782, Erie, PA 16507-1782. For more information, call (814) 774-0903