



Funny Money cashes in on laughter at Directors Circle



Henry (Larry Lewis) shows Jean (Cindy Willis) his briefcase containing L 735,000 or 1,234,900 US (photo by David Mitchell)

What would you do if a twist of fate rewarded you with a million dollars? Would you be honest and try to find the rightful owner or quietly deposit the money into your own account and go on living?

This is the dilemma Funny Money proposes. Under the direction of David W. Mitchell, the Directors Circle Theater presents the British farce Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. Funny Money debuted January 27 and completes its run February 19.

"This show is brilliantly written," says Mitchell, "Ray Cooney has been called the master of British farce." Audiences may remember the 1999 production of Run For Your Wife, which was also written by Ray Cooney.

Funny Money begins as Henry Perkins (Larry Lewis) discovers the British equivalent of \$1,234,800.00 in his briefcase. Despite the fact that the briefcase is obviously not his, Henry immediately decides to keep the cash and conveniently disappear with his wife.

However, Jean Perkins (Cindy Willis) has other plans. Henry arrives home to find a party in his honor. The guest list includes friends Vic and Betty portrayed by Paul Rogers and Karen Schelinski.

The chaos continues with the arrival of Detective Sergeant Davenport (Robert Wade) investigating Henry's peculiar behavior, a taxi driver (David W. Mitchell) who waits to take the has

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Golden Globes honoring the G L B T A community

Openly gay producer Bruce Cohen thanked gay mogul David Geffen of DreamWorks and superlawyer Alan Hergott in his acceptance speech for the Golden Globe win of Cohen and producing partner Dan Jinks's film American Beauty as best dramatic film of the year. Gay screenwriter Alan Ball also picked up an award for his gay-tinged script about dysfunctional suburban families, as did Beauty director Sam Mendes.

On the acting front, Hilary Swank continued her virtual sweep of best actress awards for 1999 with a win for her performance as transsexual Brandon Teena in Boys Don't Cry. Her long and celebratory speech— included mention of lesbian producer Christine Vachon's Killer Films— was rivaled only by the rambling and funny speech given by gay Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar, who took home the Best Foreign Film award for his hit All About My Mother. Other winners included Angelina Jolie as Best Supporting Actress for Girl, Interrupted and two globes for the gay-inclusive HBO series Sex and the City.

Like cruising the web? See page 4

Two sides of the same table: HOOTERS in Erie

His View...

It began as a challenge to find a different dining experience. Honestly the idea of going to Hooters intrigued me. Ok, ok. I will admit that it was not my top priority. The first thing of interest upon entering was the notable atmosphere of straight-male driven nuances that permeated everywhere, including the quaint pine wood and orange neon interior design. We, two guys and two girls (and not necessarily together in that fashion), were quickly greeted with a friendly smile and warm 'Hello.' After being escorted to our seat, I scanned the dining area, much like that of a picnic site, to find that most of the occupants had at one time or another taken a look in our direction. (Underlying gaydar at work? Hmm.)

It is true that my male friend was mortified and found it nauseating. [We were in 'their' territory.] I say "whatever." To me, it felt like David taking on Goliath. I wondered to myself, "What is it that men, and even society, find to be entertaining and terrific about this place?" (besides the 'Hooters') The answer was brought to my attention when our server came to the table to take our drink order. I do admit that despite my predications, I could not help but stare at the logo on her shirt. Well, let's just say that it was right there in my face.

Eventually when the snickering subsided, we finally ordered our late dinner. (It was about 10:30 P.M.) I ordered the chili (delightful) and their renowned breast of chicken sandwich. I found the dinner tasteful. During the course of conversation we noted that the servers were paying particular attention to the men in the place who were not accompanied by women. (Yes, there were other women there besides the staff.)

Overall, the food was decent and the mood enjoyable although I admit that I wasn't going to let the other customer glances influence my good time. Hooters can be entertaining when done with friends. So my recommendation, let us get together say 10 or more and meet for an evening of hilarity and fun. Besides, if the adolescent boys show up again, we can enjoy their looks of confusion together!

Her View...

Hooters started out as a bit of a joke. We had told our one friend that the next time he couldn't decide on a place to eat we would decide for him and take him to Hooters. I don't think he actually believed us but lo and behold it happened one evening. He could not decide where he wanted to eat. Off we went to Hooters.

Upon entering the restaurant, I was immediately struck by an overwhelming sense of testosterone. The place was made for the heterosexual male.

Don't get me wrong, the food was good. The wings had a nice flavor and the New England clam chowder ranks in my personal top ten. But, the scenery was made for the single, straight male. Our waitress was a very nice young woman with a very tight low cut shirt. With the way she leaned over the table one could not help but look to the center of the logo on her shirt.

Aside from that scenery, the overall decorations of sports memorabilia, hard wood floors, open kitchen and wooden bar stools lends to the feeling of being down on the bayou. I had the strange feeling when we walked out of the door that there would be a swamp and a few alligators instead of the dusting of snow that we found.

I will say this about the trip. I think we stuck out. There was one man in our group who was mortified to be there, one who was curious and two women (myself included) who were critiquing the overall attractiveness of the waitresses. Aside from this, the four of us were chuckling for the first few minutes.

I think, on the flip side that we were the source of amusement for the employees of Hooters. We were not, I believe, the typical dining group for the restaurant.

We were also the source of confusion for some of the teenage boys that came into the restaurant as we were preparing to leave. I don't think they knew what to make of us and we found their ogling eyes quite amusing.

P.R.I.D.E.

Mission Statement:

P.R.I.D.E. is a nonprofit communiqué aimed at informing and entertaining the gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and ally community, we realize that we are limited to what we know. Ideas, comments, or suggestions, send them our way. You can contact us at: (814) 451-0385 or (814) 899-6275 or e-mail us at prideneews@hotmail.com. Submissions are gladly accepted but we ask that you contact us first for writing guidelines. When sending submissions please include your name, e-mail address, and phone number for contact. Anonymous submissions will not be printed. Views and opinions appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the P.R.I.D.E. Staff. We will not publish or reproduce any submissions that include the context of anger or discrimination against sexual orientation, gender, race, spirituality, or physical ability. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

Positively Representing Identities of Diversity in Erie



Missing Mississippi man murdered

PlanetOut News Staff

Tuesday, January 18, 2000 PM

SUMMARY: Robbery was the apparent motive in the killing of a gay man who disappeared after a New Year's party in Biloxi, Mississippi.

A gay man last seen celebrating the New Year at a Biloxi, Mississippi gay bar has been found murdered in Alabama, with two suspects arrested in California after traversing 18 states. Jamie Ray Tolbert, 24, had been staying with his parents in the town of Lucedale in George County, Mississippi while his own home in the same county was undergoing renovations, so his family became concerned immediately when he did not return from the Joey's On the Beach nightclub. They made up posters and distributed them around Biloxi, even going door-to-door; Tolbert's friends from the bar put the posters on their cars.

Failing to obtain assistance from Biloxi police, Tolbert's family turned to the George County Sheriffs, who began their search on January 5 and

were able to pick up the trail from charges on Tolbert's credit cards, which were used to buy gas about every 200 miles. Suspects Brent David Kabat, 19, and Jeremy Shawn Bentley, 22, allegedly kidnapped Tolbert in Biloxi, about 2am on January 1, killed him within a few hours near Grand Bay in Mobile County, Alabama, and drove his new Xterra to their native North Carolina. Turning west, they came within 50 miles of the Canadian border in North Dakota, but instead of leaving the country — which would have required showing ID and registration for the truck — continued on to California. Warned by the Southern sheriffs, on January 15 the California Highway Patrol set up a roadblock and with 13 cars and a helicopter intercepted the suspects near Yreka. Although the suspects had more than a dozen firearms in the Xterra, the arrest was uneventful, and the men are now jailed in the Siskiyou County, California jail, awaiting extradition to Alabama.

Based on information from the suspects, Tolbert's body was recovered on January 16 and an autopsy confirmed the identification on January 17. He had been strangled and repeatedly bashed in the head with a blunt instrument. Extradition proceedings are underway with each man facing charges of capital murder in the commission of a robbery and capital murder in the commission of a kidnapping.

Authorities are not yet willing to make public all they've discovered about the crime, but they believe the motive was robbery. Apparently there is a witness who saw two men with

Tolbert at Joey's before his disappearance. The attack on Tolbert, 5'9" and 165 - 170 pounds, came as a shock to those who knew him.

Family members said he would never hurt anyone; one remarked that, "If anybody needed anything, he'd put what he planned out of the way and do for them before he'd do for himself." Tolbert, a safety and training specialist, worked on the offshore oil rigs, like his father and brother. According to a reporter with the Charlotte, North Carolina "Observer," both suspects have criminal histories.

Kabat had convictions for breaking and entering and larceny, forgery, and seven counts of conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon, receiving sentences of probation in each case. Bentley had a conviction for assault with a deadly weapon against a law enforcement officer, for which he was also sentenced to probation.

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Don't forget to visit Erie's website where you can find

P.R.I.D.E.

and for the latest GLBT News Updates and Information Browsers, look up:

www.erlegaynews.com

Don't forget that Valentine's Day, on February 14th, is not only a day to spend with someone you love, but to show how much you love them by helping endorse National Condom Day!

Calls keep pouring into Vermont over ruling

More than 8,600 phone calls, faxes, and E-mails have poured in to the Vermont statehouse since the state supreme court ruled that gay and lesbian couples should be entitled to the same benefits as heterosexual duos.

According to a forward by the National Gay Lobby radio personality Dr. Laura urged her listeners to flood the Vermont Legislative Council and Governor's office with faxes and phone calls expressing their disappointment over the ruling.

This led to urging by the National Gay Lobby for supporters of the ruling to let their voice be heard.

A bulk of the initial correspondence condemned the court decision (and pledged boycotts of Vermont-made products and travel to the Green Mountain State).

Most of the more recent mail has praised the judges and the legislature's subsequent efforts to craft a new law giving same-sex couples the legal benefits of marriage.

The office of Gov. Howard Dean has been forced to hire an extra staff member to help filter through all the messages.

You can contact the governor's office to voice your opinion by calling (802) 828-3333 or faxing a letter to (802) 828-3339. Calls must be made between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

Cruising...The Web

We've been cruising the web to find cool and interesting sites to check out if your bored, looking for laughs or something different to do. So far we have enough sites to fill this newsletter but we don't want to keep you tied to the computer for hours so we'll just give you a few sites each month as we go along.

Need a job, check out this site!

<http://www.gaywork.com> -- This site offers the opportunity to job search, post your resume and research employers. If you are an employee or a recruiter you can post opportunities. The site's statement is, "All job openings on Gaywork.com are truly equal opportunity employers. Most have nondiscrimination policies. Many have health care benefits for same-sex couples and some even have GLBT employee groups.

Looking for some literature that enlightens and tantalizes?

<http://www.adlbooks.com> -- This site is home of A Different Light Bookstore. This bookstore is "Your gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender bookseller. This bookstore has reasonable shipping prices and a decent search engine for both fiction and non-fiction books.

For the artistic desires of your heart, try this spot out.

<http://www.sappho.com/poetry> -- "Celebrating the beauty of love between women." This site offers posted poems from historical to contemporary. It also has resources for poets and readers.

We found this website extremely helpful.

<http://www.planetout.com/pno/radio/news/> -- This site offers daily updates on international news relating to GLBT issues. You can listen to current news using RealPlayer. You can also check out archives to see what has been happening. The news reports come out of Los Angeles.

And don't forget what lies in our own backyard!

<http://www.eriegaynews.com> -- The EGN continues to thrive as an online newsletter offering updates on local events with the hard to miss style of Michael Miller and Michael Mahler. You can check out the latest happenings of Erie and the surrounding area.

First Lady comes out against gay marriage

Gay rights advocates in the state voice disappointment.

WHITE PLAINS, NY —

Hillary Rodham Clinton said on a campaign swing through New York on Monday that while she favors full benefits for gay and lesbian couples, marriage is an institution that should be restricted to opposite sex couples. "Marriage has got historic, religious and moral content that goes back to the beginning of time, and I think a marriage is as a marriage has always been, between a man and a woman," the Associated Press quoted Mrs. Clinton after a press briefing.

David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign also voiced disappoint-

ment with the first lady's statement on Monday. "While domestic partnership recognition is important and we continue to work toward achieving that recognition, it still represents a separate-but-equal doctrine," Smith said. New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Mrs. Clinton's likely Republican opponent in the Senate race, had no immediate comment.

In one of her more controversial statements on the gay marriage issue, Mrs. Clinton responded affirmatively when asked if she would have voted in favor of the federal Defense of

Marriage Act in 1996. The law, signed by the president, nominally allowed states to pass laws refusing to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and restricted federal benefits to gay marriages.

Asked if she would support a New York version of DOMA, she said no. "I think that would be divisive, I don't think it's necessary. I think we ought to provide partnership benefits and make it possible for people to do with their loved ones what anyone in a relationship should be able to do."

Taken from the data.lounge.com website

Who is running P.R.I.D.E. anyway?

P.R.I.D.E. could be considered a phoenix rising from the ashes. When da Mikes' (Michael Miller & Michael Mahler) announced their decision to discontinue their efforts in putting together the printed Erie Gay News, I personally became concerned at the idea of our community not having a voice.

After several discussions with both of them, I approached my co-hort in crime Heather. We discussed the idea of continuing the newsletter and decided to put our minds and efforts to it. This in turn, is our product, P.R.I.D.E. I do admit that along the way we have learned lots of information. I also want to thank both da Mikes' for the phone calls/e-mails/help.

In the past, I personally have worked on newsletters and other publications. I have looked upon this as another project on the plate. I have a desire to help the community be just that, a community. My goal is to help relate news and information to the Erie region and let our family keep in touch. This is not going to be easy AND it can not be done alone. Heather and I have done this much so far, but our brothers and sisters need to lend a hand as well.

Gary N.
Snyder

One notable difference in this premiere issue is that we have not included an upcoming events section. This has not been omitted on purpose. We both feel that letting the community know about our local events is important. But we have decided to let the community make itself proactive and decide what it wants to announce. Therefore with next month's issue, we want to begin again the upcoming events column. All submissions for this column need to be submitted by the 15th of the previous month. Please feel free to contact us.

Heather M.
Malobisky

P.R.I.D.E. for me is a chance to get back to what I love to do - edit and write. When the Mikes' announced the end of the hard copy EGN I immediately thought of how nice it would be to work on a newsletter, but other commitments and concerns clouded my perceptions and I did not jump at the chance. Then Gary came along and expressed his interest and I thought two of us would make this a manageable undertaking.

Just to let you know where I'm coming from. I ran a college weekly newspaper for a year and a half. I have also interned at the Erie Morning News. P.R.I.D.E. is a chance to work at something I enjoy but it is also so much more.

I think I have some big dreams for this newsletter. First, I see this as a chance to keep the community close. It is also a chance to let everyone know what is going on in the rest of the world. Gary and I have worked hard on this first issue but we need your help for future issues. We are looking for everything from submissions to upcoming events to support through advertising. Any help would be appreciated and ideas are always welcome.

Funny Money

Continued from page 1

Perkins to the airport and Mr. Big (Stan Chwatek) who has come to collect his briefcase. The climax of the production occurs when another detective, Sergeant Slater (Dave DiCola) arrives to announce the death of Henry Perkins whose body could only be identified by the presence of a briefcase discovered floating in the river near the corpse.

According to Mitchell, "I chose to direct a Cooney show this time, not just for the witty dialogue, physical comedy or the complex plot, but for both the audience and the performers to have fun. It's definitely a challenge to keep up with the plot, but I guarantee this show will leave the audience in stitches."

Funny Money will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 27 to February 19. Curtain rises at 8 p.m. at the Directors Circle Theater located in Columbus Square, 653 West 16th Street. Admission is \$9 for adult and \$6 for students and Seniors. Mitchell encourages readers to see a preview by visiting <http://members.aol.com/elton1101/index.html>.

Advertise with us

We have started with a print run of 500 issues for this month. Have your business seen.

To find out about our low prices, see page two for P.R.I.D.E. contact information.

United States Supreme Court to hear Boy Scout Appeal

Taking on emotional issues of free speech and homosexuality, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed Friday to decide whether the Boy Scouts of America can exclude gays as members and troop leaders. The justices said they will decide whether the organization had a constitutional right to oust a young troop leader after learning he is gay. The court is expected to hear arguments in April and issue a decision by July. New Jersey's highest court ruled last summer that the Boy Scouts' denial of membership to homosexual boys and leaders violates a state law banning discrimination in public accommodations.

But the Scouts' lawyer contends that law violates the organization's rights of free speech and free association under the Constitution's First Amendment. "Scouting adheres to a moral belief...that homosexual conduct is not moral," lawyer George A. Davidson said after the high court granted review Friday. An openly gay person would not be a proper Scout role model, Davidson said, adding, "Boy Scouting is really all about sending messages. The message is that you should be morally straight."

But the attorney for James Dale, the former assistant scoutmaster whose leadership role was revoked, says opposition to homosexuality is not one of the Scouts' main purposes. "As gay people, we know how important the First Amendment is," said lawyer Evan Wolfson of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"Their First Amendment rights are bigotry in the first place."

Dale was 20 and an assistant scoutmaster of a Matawan, N.J., troop when in 1990 he was identified in a newspaper article as co-president of a campus lesbian and gay student group at Rutgers University. He previously had attained the rank of Eagle, which only 2% of all scouts achieve, and had been elected to the Order of the Arrow, a Scouting honor society. The Scouts' Monmouth Council revoked Dale's registration as an adult leader. Dale was told the Boy Scouts "does not admit avowed homosexuals to membership in the organization."

Dale sued the Monmouth Council and the national organization in 1992, contending they violated the New Jersey law against discrimination. His lawsuit seeks reinstatement and monetary damages. A state trial judge threw out the case, ruling that the Boy Scouts is not a place of public accommodation and therefore is not covered by the law. But an appeals court and the New Jersey supreme court ruled for Dale.

The state supreme court rejected the organization's argument that accepting homosexuals would violate the Scout Oath's commitment to remain "morally straight" and the Scout Law's commitment to remain "clean." Its decision added: "The Boy Scouts' expulsion of Dale is based on little more than prejudice and not on a unified Boy Scout position."

Taken from the Advocate.com website

Resource Directory

24 Hour Counseling

Erie Hotline (814)453-5656 Toll Free (800)628-0190
Hamot Health Center (814)877-6136
St. Vincent Health Center (814)452-5151

Bars

Sneakers 100 W. Harrison St., Jamestown NY 14701-6615
 Email: artemistoo@mindspring.com
 Open 2pm-2am 7 days/ week (715)484-8816
Rascals 701 N. Main St., Jamestown NY 14701-5031
 Open 3pm-2am 7 days/week (716)484-3220
The Village 133 W. 18th St., Erie, PA
 Open 8pm-2am 7days/week (814)452-0125
The Zone Dance Club 1711 State St., Erie, PA
 Open 4pm-2am Monday to Friday
 Open 8pm-2pm Saturday (814)459-1711

Counseling

Virginia Ayres, Ph.D. 835-3829
Family Service of Jamestown NY (716)488-1971
Family Service of Fredonia Office (716)679-3455
Gay and Lesbian National Hotline (6pm-11pm Mon-Fri)
 1-888-843-4564
Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
Well Being Center (Deb Monohan) 838-0123

Info-Lines

Chataqua County NY (North) (716)679-3560
Chataqua County NY (South) (716)484-8434
Erie 456-9833

Religious Organizations

BYKOTA
Be Ye Kind One To Another Ecumenical. Open to Christians
 of all denominations/orientations. 734-3959 (Susan Laurie)
Temple Anshe Hessed (Reform Congregation)
 930 Liberty St., Erie PA 454-2426
Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal)
 134 W 7th St., Erie PA 452-3779
More Light Presbyterians Evon Lloyd McJunkin evon@erie.net
 Meetings are on certain Thurs. at 7:30 P.M. at the First Presbyte-
 rian Church 112 W 3rd St., Waterford PA. (day) (814)864-1920
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie
 7180 New Perry Highway Erie, PA 864-9300
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown
 "Always Our Children" For the Catholic parents of GLBT
 children. Supportive, but for parents only. 456-2091

Social Organizations/Youth

10% Network Chataqua County, NY (716)484-7285 (John)
Menspace in Erie 456-9833 (Michael)
Womynspace in Erie info@eriegaysnews.com (814)456-9833
 www.geocities.com/womynspace Meeting occasionally.

Student Organizations/Youth

**Allegheny Gay Pride/Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian &
 Bisexual People** Miranda Crotsley Box 173, Meadville PA
 Email at crostlm@alleg.edu or call (814)332-3216
Closet Culture (GLBT's 22 or younger, Erie) 899-6528 (Mark)
Covenant House Teen Hotline 800-999-9999
Identity (Edinboro U.) Email dburdick@edinboro.edu
Jamestown Community College Group (716)665-5220 ext. 204
 664-9174 (Greg Rabb)
LGBU/Kent (Ashtabula) (814)763-2022 (Jim Shiffer)
Mercyhurst College Gay/Straight Alliance 824-2371 (Dr. Watters)
National Runaway Switchboard 800-621-4000
SUNY-Fredonia GLBSU (716)673-3139 or (716)673-3149
Teen Hotline (412)771-8336
Trigon (PSU Behrend) 898-6164 (Sue Daley)

Support Groups

Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group (TV/TS/CD)
 Send mail to Erie Sisters, 1903 W 8th St.,
 Suite 261, Erie PA 16505
 459-7262 (Bernie)
GayAA (814)664-7090 (Luella)
Partners (LesBiGay group, Corry, PA) (814)664-7090 (Luella)
PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
PFLAG-DuBois PA Karen or John Kressley at 371-8962
PFLAG-Erie Mary of Robin 868-8962
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) 453-5656 (Erie Hotline)

HIV/AIDS Resources

AIDS Bereavement Support Group and HIV/AIDS Outreach
Ministry of Cath. of St. Paul 452-3779 (Sue Kuebler)
AIDS Network Information HIV testing at Health Department
 Monday Noon-3:30, Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.
 Evening hours by appt. only 451-6727
Friends from the Heart 838-0123 (Deb Monohan)
St. Mark's/Catholic Charities Support Group
 455-3786 (Cheryl Weber), if no answer 825-1085
AIDS Community Services (Jamestown, NY) (716)664-7855

**Is your Group/Organization Missing from
 the Resource Directory?
 Think there is anything we should add?**

**Comments and Suggestions can be sent to:
 P.R.I.D.E.
 3882 Hereford Road
 Erie, PA 16510-2457**

or e-mail us: pridenews@hotmail.com

Matthew's Trattoria

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