



True West with a feminine twist



By Rita L. Kilbane

Color blind casting, the concept permitting Will Smith to portray Jim West, traditionally a caucasian male, has become a trend in contemporary theater. Scott McClelland challenges the boundaries of this convention to a greater extent in the current Roadhouse production, *True West*.

Written by Sam Shepard, *True West* is a drama depicting the conflicting relationship of two brothers. The conflict lies within their personalities and contradictory lifestyles. Austin is a happily married, well-groomed screenwriter. Lee is an uncivilized brigand who steals small appliances to subsist in the desert.

The drama begins as Austin retreats to his mother's house to contemplate and compose a film. However, his period of reflection is disrupted by Lee's intrusion.

Lee's primary motivation is to borrow the keys to Austin's car. Against his better judgment, Austin agrees but only to have the house vacant so that he may meet privately with a movie producer.

Austin is granted the meeting, but Lee conveniently returns befriending Saul Kimmer, the producer. Lee pitches his own idea for a movie challenging Kimmer to a game of golf. The game leads to a wager that places Lee's idea above Austin's. Hence, Austin is coerced to collaborate with Lee.

The creative process lends itself to the real drama. Throughout the collaboration,

the brothers define their resentment toward one another. Though Lee envies Austin's talent, the younger brother envies his elder's freedom. An incredible reversal of roles occurs.

This production demands suspension of disbelief considering the brothers are played by women. Dressed in an overcoat, plaid pants and oversized sleeveless t-shirt, Kim Mc becomes Lee. Her masculine mannerisms and "Marlboro Man" strut convey the illusion that she is a man. However, the gender of the character is irrelevant. A skilled actor is capable of representing the emotional complexities of their character and Kim Mc proves once again that she is a master of tasks.

Christine Volk as Austin provides a more subtle characterization. Without the aid of a signature walk or overtly masculine traits, her portrayal is sincere.

Both principles master the depth of their role. Austin and Lee require actors with a great range of ability. A metamorphosis occurs in which each of the brothers takes on the nuances of the other's personality. Though this is a difficult challenge for an actor to embrace, Mc and Volk triumph.

Chrissy Marie, as Mom commands attention. Throughout the drama, we are led to believe that Dad is the reason for Lee's insanity and that Mom is the voice of logic. However, when she muses about meeting

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Schwartz endorsed by GLVPAC for Senate

from League of Gay and Lesbian Voters

The Gay and Lesbian Voters' Political Action Committee has endorsed State Senator Allyson Schwartz for US Senate in the April 4th, 2000 Democratic Primary Election.

"It's great to be able to endorse a candidate who is not only terrific on the issues of concern to our community, but who is also an extremely able legislator and campaigner." GLVPAC endorsed Schwartz based upon the unique combination of qualities she possesses.

First, her stances on issues of importance to our community, are impeccable, and are backed up with a history of supporting fair and equal treatment of lesbian and gay Pennsylvanians.

Second, she has proven herself an able legislator who is capable of working with diverse individuals to help shape legislation that moves the state forward, even in a state senate not controlled by her party.

Indeed, her list of endorsements shows her ability to pull together a broad base of support. She has demonstrated her viability as a candidate for US Senate through her ability to raise money, and her willingness to

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What's Inside...

4 ... New study shows dangers of oral sex.

9 ... Great food at Matthew's Trattoria.

11 ... A murder is announced at local theater

Local News

Pride Picnic is on for June 10th!

By Michael Mahler

Good news! Rick Blair has graciously volunteered to coordinate this year's Pride Picnic. The Picnic will be once again on the second Saturday in June (June 10) at Presque Isle State Park, Beach 11 Pavilion, as it has been for the past few years. If you would like to get involved, contact Rick Blair at (814) 461-9665 or rtblair@hotmail.com. More details next issue.

Leather group first meeting set for Sunday, April 16

By Michael A Miller

'Newly formed Erie Leather Group will be holding a friendly, informal meeting Sunday April 16th at 3pm at 1115 West 7th Street in Erie. We will be discussing ideas of "What the face of Erie's Leather Community should look like" and planning a fun Leather/Military Night for Saturday, May 20 at the Zone, 1711 State Street.

Anyone with a genuine interest in Leather and/or BDSM is welcome to attend either or both events. No experience necessary. Inquiries by all ages and types welcome!

For info contact Mike Miller at 1115 West 7th St., Erie PA 16502-1105, (814)456-9833 or swede@eriegaynews.com

West Central PA Events

by Deb Spilko

"Gatherings 2000" Social gatherings scheduled. Want to meet people in a friendly atmosphere? Want to hold one yourself? "Gatherings" is a way for GLBT people and allies to meet and break the isolation in the West Central PA region. For more info on the "Gatherings," call Tawney at 814-378-7276. Events already scheduled:

April 8. Michael's Cafe Rumors at 1413-11th Ave. Buffet meal and socializing after 4 pm to 7:30. Cafe: 814-941-2896 Home: 814-941-8941.

May 13. Celebrate the month of Earthmother. At Circle Blue (Houtzdale). Outdoor fun, room for tents. Games, acoustic music. Bring covered dish, outdoor gear, chairs. Tarps set up in case of rain. Info: Tawney at 814-378-7276.

June 10. Grill Out at Park with Grover. Grover is bringing meats, you bring side dishes and beverages. NO alcohol in park. Info: Grover at 814-885-6531.

P.R.I.D.E.

Newsletter is printing with a run of approximately 425 issues each month.

Information on advertising is available by calling and leaving a message at 461-3102 or Email: pridenews@hotmail.com



Erie will be the host of one decadent queen when Sir Elton John arrives for a solo concert here at the Erie Civic Center on Sunday April 9th. Look for a concert review next month!

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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. If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions, send them our way. You can contact us by pager at: (814) 461-3102 or Email us at pridenews@hotmail.com. Submission are gladly accepted but we ask that you contact us first for writing guidelines. When sending submissions please include your name, Email 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. Subscriptions are available for \$15.00 per year. Check or money orders can be made out to P.R.I.D.E. and mailed to P.R.I.D.E. Subscriptions, 3882 Hereford Road, Erie, PA 16510-2457. Please include your mailing address when sending payment. Subscriptions will begin the month following receipt of payment.

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AIDS study reveals that oral sex is not safe

Practice is more dangerous than researchers thought

Associated Press

San Francisco - Oral sex, long regarded by many gay men as a low-risk practice, appears to be a surprisingly frequent way of spreading AIDS.

A study released this year found that oral sex was probably the cause of 8 percent of recent HIV infections among a group of homosexual men examined in San Francisco. In the past, there have been occasional reports of people apparently catching HIV orally. But health investigators have had difficulty being certain, since gay men who have oral sex also may engage in riskier sex practices.

Now diagnostic test allow doctors to narrow down the timing of HIV infections. They were used in the latest study, described as the most definitive on the subject to date. The work was conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of California at San Francisco at a scientific conference.

"While oral sex may still be safer than anal intercourse or vaginal intercourse, it is not without risk and perhaps has higher risk than we would expect otherwise," said Dr. Helene Gayle, the CDC's AIDS chief.

The researchers sought to learn the means of infection in 102 gay and bisexual men who had recently been diagnosed HIV positive. When all other possible means of infection were ruled out, oral sex turned out to be the only risk behavior in eight of these men. Most of them said they thought oral sex had no or little risk.

Because of the strict criteria used, the real number of cases resulting from oral sex may actually have been higher. For instance, two men said they had oral sex but not anal sex. But they also said they had blacked out once and could not be sure what had happened so they were excluded from the total.

All of the men apparently caught the virus by giving oral sex, rather than receiving it, and none used condoms or any form of protection.

"We know that the only safe sex is total abstinence or sex with a mutually monogamous, non-HIV infected partner," Gayle said. "Everything else has some degree of risk. The sense that oral sex is safe sex may have been an unfortunate message." Gayle said she assumes that the risk of oral sex when properly using a condom is close to zero. She also said that if oral sex alone has played a large role in the spread of AIDS, that would already have become obvious during the 20 years of the epidemic. Dr. Frederick M. Hecht, of the San Francisco General Hospital - a cofounder of the study, said anal intercourse may be 100 times riskier than oral sex. "The message is not that everyone will get infected through oral sex," he said.

Because of declines in unprotected anal intercourse, there has been a big reduction in high-risk exposure, Hecht said, but there is still plenty of low-risk exposure through oral sex without condoms, "and that low risk adds up."

St. John's Wort herb Considered Potential Health Risk for HIV Positive Individuals

Reports were announced in February this year that the herbal stress reducer, St. John's wort, could develop future problems for persons that are HIV positive. Stephen Piscitelli, of the National Institutes of Health, announced that "When St. John's Wort and the protease inhibitor Indinavir are taken together, the levels of Indinavir in the blood drop dramatically." This information is important when considering the proposed theory that St. John's Wort could prompt the AIDS virus to rebound in an HIV infected person and therefore potentially cause it to be drug-resistant in its new form. *USA Today* 021400

Don't forget to check out the ad for
Boxer Shock on Wed. April 12th at The Zone.

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BY SAM SHEPARD



With Sam Shepard's TRUE WEST we return to a play and a playwright that set the Roadhouse Theatre's style in the late 1980's. This time, however, there's a twist. A gender bending cyclone of a twist that will have you questioning every notion and belief you've ever held. The show casts artistic director Kim Mc. and Christine Volk as "brothers" *Lee & Austin*, with Paula Barrett and Chrissie Marie as *Saul Kimmer* and *Mom*, respectively. Expect to check every bias you have at the door (along with your rationality) and buckle in for a wild ride through Mr. Shepard's amazing TRUE WEST.

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TV Listings *by Deb Spilko*

April 1 *Aliens* - Encore. *Silkwood* - The Movie Channel. Fact based environmental thriller, with Cher as Silkwood's lesbian friend and roommate. *Some Like It Hot* - Turner Classic Movies. *True Hollywood Story: The Village People* - E!

April 2 *As Good As It Gets* - Showtime. *Kiss Me Guido* - Showtime. *Pecker* - Starz.

April 3 *Alien* (1979) - Encore. *Marlon Brando: The Wild One American* - Movie Channel.

April 5 *It's Pat* - Cinemax. *Phil* - Flix.

April 6 *Hollow Reed Ind.* - Film Channel. *Out There II* - Comedy Central. All-gay comedy show.

April 7 *Silkwood* - The Movie Channel.

April 8 *Pecker* - Starz. *Investigative Reports: Heaven's Gate Cult* - A&E.

April 9 *Alien* (1979) - Encore.

Schwartz, GLVPAC

continued from page 1

campaign hard, which has resulted in her being a top contender in this race.

VPAC also believes Schwartz has the best chance of defeating right-wing incumbent Senator Rick Santorum. "Schwartz is the only candidate of the top three candidates who presents a real alternative to Santorum," said Young.

The VPAC believes that Klink does not offer enough of a contrast to take votes away from Santorum, and Foley comes across as too vague for voters to be compelled to vote for him.

Also, Klink very narrowly avoided defeat two years ago by relatively unknown right-wing candidate Michael Turzai, and Foley has already lost two statewide races, proving he can lose but not that he can win.

Schwartz has a consistent track record of winning, even in adverse circumstances, demonstrating both her broad appeal and her work ethic. GLVPAC is Pennsylvania's statewide Political Action Committee, committed to electing candidates who support fair and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, and transgender people, and defeating those who do not.

GLVPAC was formed by the League of Gay and Lesbian Voters and TRIPAC, and is a Gay and Lesbian Voters organization. GLVPAC 5819-B Foward Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15217 Email: glvpac@lglv.org phone: (412) 421-4470.

April 10. *Kids* - Cinemax.
April 11 *ABBA: The Movie* - Encore. *Dietrich: Shadow and Light* - American Movie Channel.

April 12 *The Opposite of Sex* - The Movie Channel. *Silkwood* - The Movie Channel. *Pecker* - Starz. - A&E

April 13 *Aliens* 1986 - Encore. *Performance* - Ind. Film Channel. *Designing Women* 8:30 am - Lifetime.

April 14 *As Good As It Gets* - Showtime. *Educate About Hate* - Discovery. *Tommy Evil Among Us; Hate in America* - Discovery. 8 pm, 11 p.m.

April 15 *Kiss Me Guido* - Showtime. *This Boy's Life* - TBS. *Midnight in Savannah* - A&E. Looks at the events inspiring the book and film *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

April 16 *Silkwood* - The Movie Channel. *History's Crimes and Trials: The True Story of Bonnie and Clyde* - History. *Dietrich: Shadow and Light* - AMC

April 17 *ABBA: The Movie* - Encore. *Investigative Reports: Teen Suicide* - A&E

April 18 *Hollow Reed* - Ind. Film Channel. *Biography: Dr. Laura Schlessinger* - A&E. Profiles the homophobic advice show host.

April 19 *Hollow Reed* - Ind. Film Channel. *Without You I'm Nothing* (Sandra

April 20 *Joe: The Elizabeth Taylor Story* - Lifetime.

April 21 *ABBA: The Movie* - Encore. *Alien* (1979) and *Aliens* (1986) - Encore. The films that made Sigourney Weaver a lesbian icon in the 1980s. *Performance* - Ind. Film Channel.

April 22 *The Opposite of Sex* - The Movie Channel. *As Good As It Gets* - Showtime.

April 23 *Twelfth Night* - Bravo.

April 24 *Sirens* - Starz. *Buffalo Girls* - Lifetime. *Stargate* - Showtime

April 25 *The Deep End of the Ocean* - HBO. *Silkwood* - The Movie Channel.

April 26 *Century: America's Time "Starting Over"* Looks at the late 1970s, including gay rights, disco, etc. - History Channel.

April 27 *Kids* - Cinemax. *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* - Independent Film Channel. *Love Chronicles* - A&E.

April 28 *Hairspray* - TBS. *LPGA Chick-fil-A Charity Championship* (April 28-30) - ESPN2.

April 29 *Las Vegas Uncovered* - The Learning Channel. *We're Funny That Way* - MoMax 5am. Canada's first international festival of gay humor. *Midnight in Savannah* - A&E

April 30 *The Opposite of Sex* - The Movie Channel. *Sex and the City* - HBO. "Charlotte falls in with a squad of high-powered

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Calender of Events

By Michael Mahler

Apr 1- Womynspace HAG Theatre is returning to Womynspace on April 1st (no joke) to perform "The Return of Joan of Arc". Tickets will be available soon and will be priced at \$8.00 for students/seniors in advance, \$10.00 regular admission in advance, and \$12.00 for all at the door. If possible, please buy in advance not only to save money but so we can have a better idea of attendance (and how many refreshments to have on hand!!). The public is welcome to this performance and it is sure to be a hit. Look for advertising posters around town soon. Call Robin for tickets and/or more information at (814) 868-8969. Hope to see you there! "The Second Coming of Joan of Arc gives voice to a character conspicuous in her absence from heteropatriarchal theatre: the angry young woman. This Joan of Arc is a far cry from the eroticized and idealized Joan or Jean Anouilh or Shaw. This Joan — like the historical one — is a teenager, a runaway from an alcoholic home and incestuous father, a girl with severe eating disorders, and a lesbian. No longer a martyr or a victim, this Joan redeems her experience through unmasking her betrayers and rallying contemporary women with a rousing call to arms. HAG Theatre's Kate Elliott will play Joan as she revives this "une femme" (one woman) show first presented by HAG Theatre in 1995."

Apr 1- April Fool's Day at The Zone "The Zone wants you to come get crazy and march into our April Fool's Day Party. Join your friends for a night of foolishness and fun! No cover. Wear a crazy costume or parade around in your underwear! Show us some skin and get some beads! Let loose and join your friends for a night of music and merriment! Don't be a fool and miss this party!" At The Zone Dance Club, 1711 State St. Erie, PA., (814) 459-1711

Apr 6-The Brandon Teena Story: Pelletier Library Auditorium, Allegheny College, Meadville PA Showing of documentary film. Part of Women's Studies Film Series. Part of commemoration of National Day of Silence.

Apr 6-Kwan-Yin Ritual 7 PM. Oriental ritual honoring Boddasitva of goddess of compassion by GLBT-friendly coven of Brighidshaven at Unitarian-Universalist

Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie, PA. Bring a drinking vessel and dish to pass for the potluck following. A \$3 donation is asked to defray the cost of site rental. For more info, contact Selkie at eala@cecomet.net or (814) 438-9262.

Apr 8- 2 girls alone at 1000 French 7 to 10 PM. For more info, Email twogirlsalone@att.net or browse <http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com>

Apr 8-Menspace 7:30 PM. "Springtime, when men's hearts begin to go pitter-patter! Celebrate the coming of Spring! Someone at the April Menspace will be the proud recipient of a Spring Basket of Decadency! Who knows what might be in that wicker!" Bring a dish or snack to share if you like or not if you don't. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or Email info@eriegaynews.com.

Apr 11-David Sedaris, Humorist (Ohio Theatre, Cleveland OH) For more info, call (800) 766-6048.

Apr 12-Boxer Shock (The Zone) AIDS Outreach of Erie HIV/AIDS awareness. 18 & over at The Zone Dance Club, 1711 State St. Erie, PA. (814) 459-1711. For more info, browse <http://community.webtv.net/aidsoutreach/boxershock>

Apr 13- 2 girls alone at Aroma's Coffeehouse 7 to 10 PM, 2164 W 8th St. For more info, Email twogirlsalone@att.net or browse <http://twogirlsalone.iuma.com>

Apr 15-10% Network meets: Potluck Dinner and Movie Night (Jamestown NY) "We will be making a banner for the Buffalo Pride Parade." 7 PM at Unitarian Church of Jamestown, 1255 Prendergast Ave, Jamestown NY. For more info, call John (716) 484-7285 or Email otto@madbbs.com

Apr 15-Take It Off 2 at The Zone "Amateur strip contest. Open to men, women, couples. See TC for details on how to enter. Cash Prizes! Join your friends for a night of fun and see who can strut their stuff!" At The Zone Dance Club, 1711 State St. Erie, PA. (814) 459-1711

Apr 15-G/L Party (Fox and Coon Club, Reno, PA) There will be a great party coming up on April 15th at the Fox and Coon Club in Reno, PA (just outside of Franklin, PA). The party is BYOB and has a great dance floor, and the DJ plays requests and keeps the party pumping. It usually has a \$5 cover. It starts at 8 PM and goes till 2 AM or whenever. For more info contact zippywahoo@csonline.com

Apr 20-Happy Passover!

Apr 22-Erie Sisters Club: CD Flea Market Transgender (CD, TV and TS) group. "Bring in those old 40D's and all those nice dresses you can't fit into any more! Of course, you can meet us at The Zone after about 10:30 when meetings are in Erie." Meets at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. For more info, write to ESC, 1903 W 8th St., Suite 261... Erie, PA 16505.

Apr 23-Happy Easter!

Apr 27--The Mystery of Irma Vep" PATF Benefit performance (Pittsburgh) DON'T MISS... The Pittsburgh Tavern Guild's AIDS BENEFIT supporting the Frank Borelli AIDS Fund and Shepherd Wellness Center. This performance is a yearly function. performance donated by CITY THEATRE! THURSDAY, APRIL 27. Pre Show Cocktail Reception in the Luxurious "Gordon Lounge" 6 PM. Preferred Seating. Performance Intermission Party. Post Show Blast ONLY \$50. General Seating 8 PM, Intermission Party. Post Show Blast, ONLY \$25. FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION, CALL DONNY'S PLACE (412) 682-9869 SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE AND HAVE A BLAST AT THE HOTTEST THEATRE IN THE BURG CITY THEATRE!!!

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Apr 29- Miss Erie 2000 Pageant at The Zone "An elegant evening of entertainment. Hosted by Miss Ginger. Miss Erie 1976. Judged events include: Presentation, Talent, Evening Gown, Question & answer. Applications available at the bar. Application fee \$20. No cover charge for the event... Join us as we crown the new Miss Erie." At The Zone Dance Club, 1711 State St. Erie, PA. (814) 459-1711

Apr 30-March on Washington Check www.mmow.org

May 3-Beltaine 7 PM. Pagan holiday celebration by GLBT-friendly coven of

Brighidshaven at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Wear green. bring a drinking vessel and dish to pass for the potluck following. A \$3 donation is asked to defray the cost of site rental. For more info, contact Sharon at medhbh@velocity.net or (814) 438-9262.

May 13-Menspace 7:30 PM. Bring a dish or snack to share if you like or not if you don't. For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or Email info@eriegaynews.com.

May 13-Happy Mother's Day!

May 16-"Cabaret" (Pittsburgh) At the Benedum Center. For more information, call (412) 392-3300 or browse <http://www.broadwayseries.com/pittsburgh>

May 18-More Light Presbyterians meets 7:30 PM. First Presbyterian Church, 112 W 3rd St., Waterford, PA. For more info, contact Evon Lloyd McJunkin at (814) 864-1920 or Email evon@erie.net.

May 20- Leather/Military at The Zone (Tentative) Currently being planned as we went to press. Wear either leather/military gear. ELKS, the new Erie leather group will be on hand with information. At The Zone Dance Club, 1711 State St. Erie, PA. (814) 459-1711. For more info about ELKS, contact Micheal Miller, 1115 W 7th St., Erie PA 16502-1105, (814) 456-9833, swede@eriegaynews.com.

May 21-3rd Annual Run Around Erie The 3rd Annual Run Around Erie Event will take place on Sunday, May 21st beginning at Veterans Memorial Stadium at 26th and State, Erie, PA. A 15K race and 5K walk and fun run will begin at 8:00 AM - the event will take place all in the City of Erie. Proceeds to 3 area nonprofit corporations - Erie County Drug and Alcohol Coalition, Family Services Drug and Alcohol Unit and Serenity Hall, Inc. Visit the website at www.serenityhall.org for more information or call the race hotline at (814) 459-4775 ext. 58 for more details.

Jun 10-Annual Pride Erie Picnic (Prisque Isle State Park, Beach 11 Pavillion) More details next month, but it's on! For more details, contact Rick Blair at rtblair@hotmail.com or call (814) 461-9655.

Recurring Events

10% Network (Jamestown NY social group) Usually meets third Saturdays. Con-

tact John at (716) 484-7285 or otto@madbbs.com for more info.

"Always Our Children" First Wednesday (Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7) at 7 PM at Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St. Erie, PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Call (814) 456-2091 for more info.

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) (Ecumenical Christian Group) 2nd and 4th Thursdays (Apr 13, Apr 27, May 11, May 25, Jun 8, Jun 22) at 7 PM at Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway. Contact Sue or Julie at (814) 734-3959.

Erie Community Planning Committee (ECPC) (HIV/AIDS prevention/education) 3rd Monday (Apr 17, May 15, Jun 19) at 6 PM at Serenity Hall, 414 W 5th St., Erie PA.

Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. Write to 1903 W 8th St. Ste 162, Erie, PA. 16505-4936. Email Lothar.lk@cwix.com or browse www.geocities.com/Wellesley/1614 for more info.

GLBSU (SUNY-Fredonia GLBT group) Tuesdays at 10 PM. SUNY-Fredonia Room S-125 of the Williams Center. For more info, contact SUNY Fredonia GLBSU at glbsu@hotmail.com, (716) 673-3139 or (716) 673-3149.

HIV Counseling and Testing (Free) Erie County Department of Health, 606 W 2nd St. Erie, PA. Mondays 12 to 3:30 PM. Thursdays 9:30 AM to 1 PM. For more info, call ECDH at (814) 451-6727. Other times can be arranged.

Identity (Edinboro University GLBT group) Tuesdays at 8 PM. Edinboro University, Hednricks Hall, Room 101. For more info, call (814) 732-2647 or Email dburdick@edinboro.edu or mail Amy Terizzi, Box 173 Shafer Hall, Edinboro University, Edinboro PA 16444.

LGBU/Kent First and third Thursday (Apr 6, Apr 20, May 4) Kent State-Ashtabula Room C-133. Teens, young adults, students, adults... everyone welcome! For info, contact Jim Shiffer at (814) 763-2022 or shifferj@toolcity.net, Lisa at (440) 992-9139 (after 8:30 PM) or lisann_27@hotmail.com or Email jnk_nj@hotmail.com.

Menspace (gay/bi men's social group) Usually 2nd Saturday at 7:30 PM at varying locations. For more info, contact Michael

Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or Email info@eriegaynews.com.

Womynspace (gay bi women's social group) A particular Saturday at varying locations. For more info, contact Peggy at zippywahoo@csonline.net or call Robin at (814) 868-8969.

True West...

continued from page 1

Picasso downtown in 1950, the illusion of her sanity vanishes.

Paula Barret as Saul Kimmer, the producer, capitalizes on the stereotypes of Hollywood, utilizing flowing scarves and feigned affection. However, I had some difficulty believing that she was portraying a male character.

Every production has its flaws, but I attribute the tendency to flub lines and miss comedic timing in the leading characters to opening night jitters.

The stationary set of a kitchen table where the typewriter resides, a refrigerator, counter top and cupboards and the simple lighting, reds and blues to create an evening atmosphere and whites to color the day, create the perfect ambience for the performance.

As an actor and director, I appreciate McClelland's use of properties. Maybe I was reading too far into it, but the symbolism of the golf clubs, typewriter and toaster intrigued me. Lee uses the golf club he receives as a bonus from Kimmer to destroy the object of his frustration, the typewriter. The primitive word processor symbolizes Austin's livelihood. Therefore, as Lee attempts to destroy the machine, he appears to be wreaking havoc upon Austin's work. The numerous toasters represent Lee's lifestyle. Austin gathers the toast it produces in an attempt to embrace Lee's freedom as his own. I don't know if this is what the playwright intended, but kudos to he who is responsible for such artistry.

Anyone with a penchant for feminism will appreciate the music incorporated. I found myself singing along with the Indigo Girls, k.d. Lang and Christine Volk's rendition of Hank Williams', "Ramblin' Man". Gender reversal is often a difficult concept to craft, but Scott McClelland and the women of *True West* prove that they are great artists in the medium. For more information on the show, please see the ad on page 5.

Matthew's serves up great cuisine in a New York City atmosphere

If you are looking for a chance to step out of Erie and have a good time Matthew's Trattoria at Lovell Place is a good destination. This is a restaurant with a casual New York jazz club feel and an excellent choice of meals.

The set up of this eatery includes a theater style kitchen where you can watch the co-owner, Chef Matthew, work his magic and a martini lounge that has more martinis than George Burns would know what to do with.

Before or after dinner one can take a seat in the lounge and enjoy a drink and conversation with a friend. On weekends the drinks and conversations mix with jazz music from the likes of Tangent with Michele Scrimenti and even Mary Alice Brown.

Dinner itself is not a rushed affair. I sat down with a friend and casually browsed the menu. Items range from simple pasta dishes to mouth watering fillet mignon with a price range to match. We enjoyed a bottle

of white wine while munching on flat bread dipped in olive oil flavored with Matthew's special blend of herbs.

For dinner my friend had the romano chicken that she described as "moist and tangy in an orange sauce."

For my meal, I splurged and had the Chilean sea bass. Seafood is a weakness of mine and this meal exceeded my expectations. The bass was in a creamy sauce and topped with pine nuts (another weakness). It virtually melted in my mouth.

Both meals were served with red potatoes and greens. Most times when I eat out I skip the side dishes. They are either something I don't like or something that does not taste good. At Matthew's, I cleaned my plate.

Stuffed as I and my companion were we just could not pass up dessert. The choices all sounded wonderful, but we managed to settle on splitting the canoli. Words just cannot do this canoli justice. Three pastry shells brimming with a light, homemade chocolate mousse that was to die for. To add style and

taste the dish was topped with small puffs of whipped cream and drizzled with chocolate syrup.

On the whole, I have to give Matthew's Trattoria an A. The other co-owner Cindy seated us quickly and our server B.J. was courteous, efficient and very pleasant.

Chef Matthew and his kitchen staff do wonders with food, and the martini lounge was a great way to finish off the evening. The bartender was fast and friendly and the music led to the atmosphere but did not dissuade conversation.

Since we took our time the whole evening took about three hours. Matthew's also offers business and leisure lunches as well as different specials.

Reservations are strongly suggested but walk-ins are welcome as long as seating is available.

To get more information or to make a reservation contact Matthew's Trattoria at (814) 459-6458.

Academy Awards was a winning night for gays in film

PlanetOut News Staff

It was a winning night for gays as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences distributed its 72nd "Oscar" awards on March 26 in Los Angeles.

American Beauty was the first Best Picture winner for DreamWorks since its 1994 founding by Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and gay David Geffen. The film's producers Dan Jinks and Bruce Cohen are both openly gay.

Best Original Score went to gay classical composer John Corigliano for *The Red Violin*. The Canadian-co-produced film had previously won him the 1999 Genie Award. In his acceptance speech, Corigliano noted the difference between the solitary activity of composing his classical oeuvre and the teamwork involved in filmmaking.

Previously little-known Hilary Swank was rocketed to fame by her work as real-life murdered Nebraska transgender Brandon Teena in the low-budget independent *Boys Don't Cry*, and the trophies she's been amassing as a result (Golden Globe, Los Angeles Film Critics Circle, New York Film Critics Circle, ShoWest Star of Tomorrow,

Independent Spirit) were capped with the Best Actress Oscar against first-rate competition.

She began her acceptance speech remarking, "We've come a long way," to a roar of self-appreciation from the industry audience. "I think this movie wouldn't've been made 3-1/2 years ago." She continued, "I think this movie opens the door to letting people know what's going on in society and putting an end to intolerance in the future. It is a very big night in history because of this." She noted that, "Everyone put their heart and their soul into this movie."

Swank saved her final appreciation for the person behind the film and said, "I want to thank Brandon Teena for being such an inspiration to us all. His legacy lives on in our movie to remind us to always be ourselves, to follow our hearts, to not conform. I pray for the day when we not only accept our differences but we actually celebrate our diversity."

During the parade of arrivals down the red carpet, *Boys Don't Cry* filmmaker Kimberly Peirce said she had searched the whole country to cast the part "and interviewed every butch lesbian and transsexual out

there" until finding the answer in Swank. And when Swank was asked about playing a male, she responded, "I was just trying to be a human being." In preparation for her role, she cross-dressed in public for a month.

The waggish creators of *South Park*, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, saw no reason to leave the fashion statements to the women. Parker came in a replica of the Versace gown Jennifer Lopez wore to the Grammys while Stone wore a copy of the pink Raiph Lauren gown Gwyneth Paltrow wore to last year's Oscars.

Parker's song "Blame Canada", co-written with gay Marc Shaiman (whose outfit was described as "Puff Daddy-ish"), didn't win Best Original Song, but Robin Williams' performance of it -- temporarily gagged to avoid broadcasting one of the "Seven Words You Can't Say on Television" -- was a highlight of the show.

And among numerous references to Best Actress nominee Annette Bening's imminently concluding pregnancy, Crystal said, "I hope the baby doesn't look like David Crosby," referring to the recent revelation of the paternity of rocker Melissa Etheridge's and filmmaker Julie Cypher's two children.

Pennsylvania Mr. Drummer & Pennsylvania Drummerboy 2000 Competitions



**MISTER
DRUMMER**

at

PITTSBURGH LEATHER CENTRAL

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1226 Herron Avenue, Pittsburgh PA

Saturday, May 6th, 2000 - 9:00pm

Tickets \$5.00

For More Information Call (412) 322-9241

The Queen of Crime takes another shot in the dark at the Directors Circle Theatre!

A Murder Is Announced to take place at the Directors Circle Theatre. Friends please accept this as the only intimation!

For the sleuth in you, a murder mystery awaits at the Directors Circle Theatre with the current production of Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced!* This delightful show brings together 11 intriguing characters to the house of Little Paddocks in the small but provincial town of Chipping Cleghorn, England during the 1950's.

Miss Letty Blacklock (Bobbie Kocher) is a beautifully aged, worldly woman who finds her home the site of a murder and ensuing investigation amongst family and friends who witness the tragic events. Family members, Julia Simmons (Denise Mankoski) and her brother, Patrick (Derek Sweet), are staying with their Aunt Letty while Patrick attends college and Julia works for the local hospital. Phillipa Haymes (Carole Hoffman), a young widowed mother Miss Blacklock has taken in, is staying in the house as well while she works in town restoring the gardens as a trained horticulturist at Dayas Hall. Also residing in Little Paddock is Miss Dora Bunner, affectionately called Bunny (RuthThoma Andrews), an amusingly airy companion and childhood friend to Miss Blacklock. Topping off the household is the ever emotional Mitzi (Jennifer Perry), the temperamental and suspicious Hungarian housemaid.

The events and mayhem start unfolding when an announcement in the local paper reveals that a murder will take place that evening, Friday, October the 13th to be precise. Speculation amongst the characters starts their nerves and fears working. Adding to the apprehension is the introduction of the nosy neighbors Clara Swettenhem (Kelly Pryke), a diplomat's widow, and her son, Edmund (Scott Frisina) who is an aspiring but unemployed writer. Their persona of curiosity approaches from the stance of spectators who want an experience for themselves. The appearance of the ever helpful Miss Marple (Doris Snell), the classic busybody sleuth, insights a curious question of who will become the victim?

Unfortunately a body is discovered and theories abound about who committed the

murder and why it occurred. Inspector Craddock (Jeff Rodland) and his assistant Sgt. Mellors (Gary Snyder) arrive to begin the investigation, bantling egos and sometimes clashing personalities. As questions and accusations form, a second murder is committed and those that are left ponder who the murderer could be and if they are still lurking in the house. A will and fortune's to be made is uncovered as speculation unfolds on who would attempt to commit the murder, or murders as the case may be.

Under the direction of Michael Weiss, this production has brought together a terrific ensemble of talent. *A Murder Is Announced*, adapted by Leslie Darbon, is from the original novel written in 1950 by Agatha Christie, the Duchess of Death herself, as her fiftieth murder mystery. At the time of release, rave reviews were accolades to the writer including the report that "Prime Minister Clement Atlee took time out from matters of State (sic) to laud his 'favorite writer.'"

It is understood that *A Murder Is Announced* is once again bringing praise for its insightful use of Miss Christie's characters, wit, and puzzling weave of plots, bodies, and weapons. The Duchess of Death's presentation of *A Murder Is Announced* runs from March 23rd through April 15th at the Directors Circle Theatre located at 653 West 16th Street, at the corner of 16th and in the Columbus Square Building. Performances are Thursday, March 23rd to Saturday, March 25th, Thursday March 30th to Saturday April 1st, Friday and Saturday April 7th & 8th, and Friday and Saturday April 14th & 15th. All performances will begin at 8 p.m. The box office and theatre open at 7pm each night. Tickets are available at \$9 for adults and \$6 for seniors and students respectively. The show runs approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes in length, including a 15 minute intermission between two acts. Tickets can be reserved ahead by calling and leaving a message at 451-0036. Please be sure to include: the date of attendance, how many tickets are being reserved, the reservation name, and a contact number for confirmation.

What do you think the face of Erie's Leather Community should look like



erie leather & kink society

Will be holding a friendly, informal meeting for folks interested in leather and/or BDSM to get together and discuss ideas.

Sunday April 16th 3pm
1115 West 7th St. in Erie

We will also be planning a small, fun, open event for May.

For info, call or write:

Mike Miller
1115 West 7th St
Erie PA 16502-1105
(814)456-9833
swede@eriegaynews.com

*No experience necessary.
Inquiries by all ages, types welcome.*

News from Around the Nation

Colorado: Matthew Shepard's death in one of the most infamous anti-gay crimes in history is the focus of a new theatrical documentary production titled *The Laramie Project*. Performances began in February by the Denver Center Theatre Company. The show focuses on the community and its coming to terms with the tragedy. "The decision not to put Matthew Shepard onstage was important," says Donovan Marley, artistic director of the company. "They're not staging a murder or trial, which allows them to concentrate on the bigger story, which is how does a gross act like that touch humanity. I think it's the part of the story that didn't get told." Research was compiled from approximately 200 interviews with the townspeople of Laramie, Wyoming by director/writer Moises Kaufman and members of the New York-based Tectonic Theatre Project. *USA Today* 021100

Washington, D.C.: In March, a report released by the Servicemembers Legal De-

fense Network states that an increasing number of military commanders are ignoring the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals by quietly refusing to discharge openly gay troops. The SLDN reports that 26 people in the last two years admitted they were gay in order to escape harassment but were allowed to remain in the military, despite the six year old policy that says those who "tell" must be discharged. *USA Today* 030900

Ohio: The Ohio Supreme Court was asked to take a precedent setting step to reinstate the claim of sexual harassment by Doug Retterer of Marion, Ohio. His claim of same-sex sexual harassment was dismissed by the common pleas court and the same ruling was upheld by the appeals court for Marion County. What makes this case more specific in nature is that the alleged harassment took place in 1979-80 at the Whirlpool Manufacturing Site, nearly twenty years ago. *The Columbus Dispatch* 022600

Various States: Employers are taking unprecedented steps to reach out to gay and lesbian employees and job recruits, a growing emphasis triggered in part by labor shortages and employee groups pushing for change. Here are some examples of what is happening: Bell Atlantic participates in business expos for gays and lesbians. J.P. Morgan incorporated sexual orientation into nondiscrimination policies. Boeing has extended benefits for employees' same-sex partners. J.P. Morgan and American Express, which both have domestic partner benefits, cosponsored a dinner on Wall Street for gay and lesbian business school students. Not to mention that Xerox and other companies have been advertising in different forms of media including magazines like *The Advocate*. The Human Rights Campaign reports that over 2,800 employers offer benefits to domestic partners, and two-thirds of them provide the benefits to both same-sex and opposite-sex partners. *USA Today* 022800

A Murder Is Announced!

At the Directors Circle Theatre, 653 West 16th Street, at the Columbus Square Building. In celebration of Agatha Christie's 50th Novel as an adaptation by Leslie Darbon.

Showcasing: Bobbie Kocher, Jeff Rodland, and Doris Snell as Miss Marple.

Each murder will take place at 8 P.M.

Fridays & Saturdays, March 30th - April 15th

Tickets are: \$9/adults & \$6/students, seniors
Reservations are available by calling 451-0036

Friends please accept this,
as the only intimation!

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 and Restaurants

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

Matthew's Trattoria 153 E. 13th St., Erie, PA (814)459-6455
 See ad in issue.

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 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

Chatauqua County NY (North) (716)679-3560
Chatauqua 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 Hesed (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 Presbyterian 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 Chatauqua County, NY (716)484-7285 (John)
Menspace in Erie 456-9833 (Michael)
Womynspace in Erie info@eriegaysnews.com (814)456-9833

Student Organizations/Youth

Allegheny Gay Pride/Committee in Support of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People Miranda Cretney, Box 173, Meadville PA
 Email at crosstim@aleg.edu or call (814)332-3216

Closet Culture (GLBT's 22 on campus) Erie 899-6528 (Mark)
Covenant House Teen Hotline 800-999-9999

Identity (Edinboro U) Email: drandick@edinboro.edu
Jamestown Community College Group (716)665-5220 ext. 204
 664-9174 (Greg Rabb)

LGBU Kent (Ashtabula) 514-763-2022 (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

GayAA 459-7262 (Bernie)
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 appointment 451-6727
Friends from the Heart 838-1123 (Deb Monohan)
St. Mark's Catholic Charities Support Group 825-1185
AIDS Community Services (Jamestown, NY) (716)664-7855

Is your Group/Organization Missing?
 Think there is anything we should add?

Comments/Suggestions can be sent to:

PRIDE

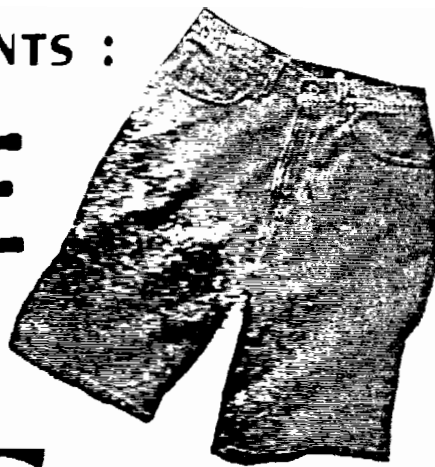
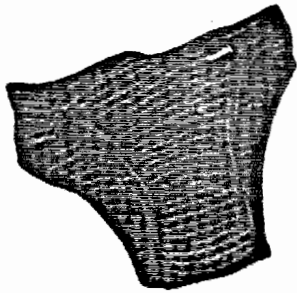
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