

Erie County Council meeting includes HRC testimony

by Deb Spilko and Michael Mahler
of www.eriegaynews.com

ERIE, March 6-About 100 people attended the March 6 meeting of the Erie County Council. Most of those in attendance had come because Council had placed on the agenda revisions to the Human Relations Commission (HRC) ordinance. Of particular interest was the addition of "sexual orientation" as a protected category. On January 29, the HRC had voted unanimously to accept "sexual orientation" as a protected category. (See story.)

The decision regarding whether or not it will become law rests with County Council. Because of the importance of the Council's decision, attendance at the March meeting drew a very large crowd, and the meeting had to be moved from Courtroom H to accommodate all attendees.

About 20 speakers addressed the issue of inclusion of sexual orientation in the ordinance. Because of the large number of speakers, each speaker was limited to three minutes. Among those who spoke in favor of the inclusion of sexual orientation, the tone varied widely, from quiet requests to anger. Some speakers expressed frustration regarding an article that appeared in the March 3 edition of the Erie-Times News.

In the article, several Council members were asked to comment on the sexual orientation revision, and seemed to give the impression they had already decided to vote against it. County Council member Mark Divecchio was the sponsor of the measure and the sole vote at the meeting to not delay. He also spoke in favor of including it in the Erie Times News article. County Council member Joe Giles was not at the meeting and also was the only County Council member not to comment on the issue in the article.

Among those speaking in favor of including sexual orientation protection: The national president of Pax Christi USA; Maureen Koseff, president of Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) of Erie and Crawford County, Jayne May, vice president of the same group; Sr. Marlene Bertke; Sr. Mary Louise St. John OSB; Rabbi John Bush of Temple Anshe Hessed; Bill McCarthy (current head of the Human Relations Commission); a straight mother who had attended the 1998 and 1999 Pride Rally event; 2 representatives of the United Electrical Workers local at GE and Bob Cogan, president of the Erie Chap-

ter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU.)

There were a number of GLBT persons speaking as individuals. Among them were Gary Yuhas, who directly addressed Council member Joy Greco, because Mrs. Greco had spoken at the 1998 Erie Pride Rally, but had expressed a lack of support for the sexual orientation inclusion in the ordinance. Greco stated that she came there with a "message of love" and stated that "I don't agree with that lifestyle." Micheal Miller addressed the argument that the protection wasn't needed, by asking the predominately gay crowd to raise their hands. Brian Skelly asked why Erie always seems to be lagging behind in trends.

A minority of speakers were opposed to the measure. The first person to speak against it was Patrick Kennedy, pastor of the First Baptist Church of North East. He claimed that churches and religious groups would not exempt from the proposed ordinance.

"Churches would be forced to hire people of a homosexual persuasion, as would other religious groups," he said.

The ordinance does not mandate quotas for any protected category, either sexual orientation, gender, religion, etc.

All of the speakers opposed to the ordinance were male and included some kind of reference to gays as potential pedophiles, or sexual predators.

Although feelings ran high at the meeting, those attending the meeting were generally respectful of other speakers, and there were no outbursts or other incidents. Two sheriff's deputies were at the meeting, reportedly due to a threat or threats of violence. No details on that threat or threats were available at this time.

County Council voted to table the measure because, they stated, the wording of the revised version of the ordinance was problematic. Although County Council seems to regard sexual orientation as the most controversial aspect, there are some other issues, some of which are technical, that they also wanted to address.

For more information on any of this, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

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Judy Shepard at Mercyhurst!

Mercyhurst College alumnus and film producer Brent Scarpo will be accompanied by the mother of slain student Matthew Shepard when he returns to his alma mater for the screening of his documentary on hate crimes, "Journey to a Hate Free Millennium: Stories of Compassion and Hope."

The public is invited to share in an evening of frank discussion about the ongoing problem of hate crimes in the United States when Scarpo and Judy Shepard appear at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, in the Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center. Also appearing will be Randy Driscoll, a San Diego singer-songwriter who wrote the song about Matthew that Shepard chose for inclusion into the film.

"This is a rather rare occasion since Judy and I both present programs all over the country, and we are not often in the same place together," said Scarpo, a 1984 graduate of the college, who has orchestrated the visit by Shepard and Driscoll because of his ties with Mercyhurst. "I wanted to do something more since I am returning to my alma mater."

Scarpo has been traveling the country speaking about the film, which includes conversations with the families of many victims of hate crimes, including Shepard, the students of Columbine High School in Colorado and the family of James Byrd Jr. in Texas. Over the past 18 months, Scarpo has been to over 120 colleges, plus film festivals and high schools. But none of it, he said, will be like returning to Mercyhurst College.

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CLUB 201 opens in Jamestown!

Club 201 located at 201 Winsor Street opened its doors at 8pm on Friday, March 2nd. It is located at the former site of The Nite Spot.

The program Thursday thru Sunday is completely non-alcoholic and 80% smoke free. Juices, Energy drinks, Soda, Bottled Water and Coffee/Tea is available.

Principal DJ and the producer/director of the Sunday Female Illusionist shows is the former manager of Backstreets, Mirage, Liberty, Heaven of Rochester and Club E of Buffalo.

Tom Hoey coordinated the entire entertainment policy all four evenings which features live dj music involving the use of Vinyl, CD's & computerized dance music.

Thursdays are Student Body night with Best Chest Contests, Friday (other than the opening nite) is Teen Night featuring Hip Hop and Top 40, Saturday is "Smile" a progressive dance night and features an after hours scene, Sunday is Drag, drag, drag. Welcome back Tracy! The club has received a complete makeover but many more changes and additions are on the way. Gone will be the typical Gay Bar and in will be a facility that best represents the feelings and moods prevailing in the year 2001.

Ric Raymond and Tom Hoey invite all their friends to stop by in Jamestown and visit their newest project.

For more information please see <http://club201.hypermart.net>, call (716) 473-0567, or write us at club201jamestown@hotmail.com

CLUB 201

Presenting an up-scale clean housing

with good artistic vibes, house to intelligent music, non-alcoholic drinks served. Places to sit and chill.

All dancers, artists and music listeners are welcome!

AFTER HOURS TILL 4AM

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CALL 716.483.0567 AFTER 3pm.
- AUDITIONS ONLY!

P.L.U.R. in effect - No Thugs or Weapons, No Streetwear, alcohol or drugs on person. NO ATTITUDE!
NO ALCOHOL AVAILABLE AND NONE ALLOWED IN THE CLUB

THURSDAY - STUDENT BODY - BEST CHEST CONTEST. MALE

FRIDAY - TEEN NIGHT 7PM TO 11PM
HIP HOP AND TOP 40 - 17 & UP PLUS
AFTERHOURS AFTER 11PM

Saturdays - Sexual Persuasion - Gay, Hetero, Lesbian, Bi . whatever you are this week Progressive Dance Mix of: *Trance/Acid Techno, House Drums & Mc's, Hard Progressive House, GOA Psychadelic, Junglistic, Experimental Beats, Retro & New Wav HINRG*

SUNDAY - "GLITZ" - FEMALE ILLUSION REVUE STARRING TRACY

WEEKLY Dance Chart - DJ Tom

ADMISSION CHARGE IS \$6 WITH LINE PASS.

We do note the following that:
THIS IS A small CLUB.

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Corpus Christi comes to Erie!

The Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art presents the most controversial and talked about play in decades, **CORPUS CHRISTI** by Terrance McNally.

The play begins: "We are going to tell you an old and familiar story." But from that point on, nothing feels quite familiar again. What follows is a story that parallels the New Testament's, and its subject is nothing less than the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. But McNally's Christ figure is a character named Joshua, a young man born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas, in the early 1950s.

Different from the other boys because he is a homosexual, Joshua grows up in isolation and torment, an object of scorn. He flees Corpus Christi in search of a more accepting environment, gathering a group of disciples who are bound to his message of love and tolerance.

Returning to Corpus Christi, he is betrayed by his lover Judas and crucified in front of the jeering throngs who hated him as a boy, and still do. His plea, that we look upon all souls as equal in the sight of God, falls unattended.

Directed by The Erie Playhouse's Richard Davis, **CORPUS CHRISTI** features the incredible talents of Jeffrey Shiffman, Jody Maas, Jason Fried, Jeremy Jeziorski, Michael Mahler, Michael Miller, Eric La Price, Jeffrey Rodland, Rick Blair, Nicholas Smith, Sean Morgan, David Molar, and Glenn Teeter.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm May 4th through June 16th. There are no performances on Friday, May 18th and Saturday, May 19th. Please phone the box office at 814-456-5656 reservations.

Note: CORPUS CHRISTI contains adult subject matter and language, and is for mature audiences only!

P.R.I.D.E.

Our Mission Statement:

P.R.I.D.E. is a nonprofit communicative 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 leaving an Email for us at pridenews@hotmail.com. Submissions 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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EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

The following is a message from the Northwest PA Chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW). If you need any other information please contact Becky Pruveadenti, the current president of the Northwest PA chapter of NOW at (814) 838-9034 or at beckypruves@hotmail.com

It usually takes many months to plan and organize a major march in Washington, D.C., but we have much less time. George W. Bush has moved quickly to mount a **direct attack on Reproductive Rights**, and his Republican cohorts are busily introducing Neanderthal legislation designed to catapult women back to the dark ages. Add to this, reliable reports that Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will retire at the end of this term, paving the way for a conservative anti-choice replacement to be nominated as early as July.

Clearly there is no time to waste!

We must act now to demonstrate our strength in numbers; to prove to legislators that their votes will be

counted by the legions of pro-choice Americans; and to remind George W. Bush...

that he does not have a mandate for his outrageous policies!

NOW, along with **NARAL**, **Planned Parenthood**, and other major **pro-choice** organizations, is calling for an **emergency action** in the form of a **massive march and rally in Washington, D.C. on April 22nd of this year.**

NW PA NOW has reserved a bus so that area activists can take part. Cost of a seat on the bus will be about \$50. The bus will leave Erie late Saturday evening and return late Sunday evening. The bus will also make stops in Edinboro and Meadville to pick up activists from those areas.

More specific information will be available to those interested in coming along.

It's time to stand up and be counted !!!! Please join us!!

If you cannot attend yourself, we urge you to help by sponsoring, or partially sponsoring, a seat for someone who

can't afford the cost but will go in your place.

We can't allow everything we've gained to be lost at the hands of this "annointed" administration. Let's go tell 'em we won't stand for it!!

Please respond by **March 31st.!!!**

Send in the following information: Name, Phone #, Address, Email address, & Action:

- (1) Yes! I want to go with you (include check amount),
- (2) I can't go but will sponsor a seat (include check amount),
- (3) I can't go but want to help (include check amount),
- (4) I want to go but need a sponsored seat. Put me on the waiting list.

Make checks payable to NW PA NOW, P.O. Box 93, Edinboro, PA, 16412.

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P.R.I.D.E.

Newsletter is currently printing and circulating with a run of approximately 425 issues each press thanks to your

support and commitment. Businesses, groups, event organizers, and organizations can get information to the staff about upcoming events and find out how to advertise with us by leaving a message for the staff by email at:

pridenews@hotmail.com

Or you can write us with your thoughts and comments at:
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 Erie PA 16510-2457**

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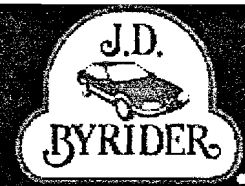
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The Gay Virgin ~ Exploring the world we know

by Gary N. Snyder

The Gay Virgin is a new monthly fictional column of real thoughts, moments, experiences and situations from the view point of one man's journey through life. His story constantly reaffirms for him the process of learning; that at we are all virgins the first time we ever do anything.

In the pursuit of happiness for personal indulgence, my friend Marlon and I decided to leave the lakefront home we were 'quite' used to and traverse up to the Great North: Canada, for a weekend. Sure, I thought that maybe I might find a handsome Canadian Mounty man to be a love slave to for one night or an eternity, if he was 'the right one.'

Our excursion first took us to Niagara Falls, Ontario, the north's version of Branson, Atlantic City, and Vegas modge podged into one big tourist trap. We arrived late Friday evening after much confusion in driving around Buffalo (be forewarned that you drive east, then north, then west to get to 'the Falls.'). Having missed the lights on the falls, we headed straight off to find our hotel, a rather cheap place discovered on-line earlier in the week. Having arrived at our comfortable abode for the weekend a little frazzled, we unpacked and decided on hitting the gay scene.

To our surprise we readily discovered that there is no 'gay' scene in the Falls! All the clubs listed to visit in the area are either closed (web pages need updating more readily I say) or their clientele is 'straight' based. We did find one club that was considered popular, Rumours, downtown on Clifton Hill - the main drag, having a two block line waiting to get in. Dismayed and disappointed, we ventured onto St. Catherine's, a small town a half hour away from 'the Falls' in pursuit of the only local listed gay establishment, Rendezvous.

After stopping for directions (the Internet is great, but sooo vague), we found our newest destination. Rendezvous is a nice small local bar with a dance floor, game room and upper level area for lounging. Quite surprisingly, it felt like home. Who knew that Canada had their own version of The Zone? Not only that, it was complete with dancing queens, quiet and closeted gay folk, adorable lesbians, drag queen wanna be's, and of course the gossip mongers. (They were the ones who kept looking in our general direction ever so nonchalantly while taking a drag on their cigarettes and sipping their drink. They rarely made eye contact because they were too busy noting the clothes I wore, the way I

did my hair, and the fact that I had a cocksure smirk on my face that said "Yes, I know what you're doing 'cause I've done it before.")

Of course, they have their employees too. Rather nice looking guys, who work on looking good in the name of conversation/gossip and making tips. Despite the looks, casual smiles and few but noticeable stares (I mean remember WE were the out-of-towners), Marlon and I enjoyed discussing the humorous situation we had found ourselves in. We wanted to get away from the scene at home and landed nearly 3 hours away in a different country with the same type of people we knew back home. The situation was profound as well. I mean did we really need to get away from what we knew only to discover that it is the same elsewhere?

Readily sure though, this bar had more and younger lesbians than back home - and that made me smile. From personal experience, I know not many gay men like lesbians. But honestly, I don't see what is the big deal. They like women, we like men. It's really very simple. They lick labia, we suck cock. But somewhere along the lines it becomes more than the sexual acts. They're 'fucking fish' and we're 'asshole faggots.'

Somewhere a schism occurred between the sexes. Maybe it's the fact that lesbians tend to be the masculinity gay men do not have inherently, and vice versa. All I know is that two of my best friends are lesbians, and they're having a commitment ceremony this coming winter. I love them and they love me. We get along fine. Sometimes we fight, but hey who doesn't?

At Rendezvous, beyond the rather flirty girls and their lesbos compadres, I did happen to cross glances with a nice looking northern bear or two. One was quite the local diva, eyebrows plucked to perfection and all I must say. In kind, I appreciated the grizzly stares I noticed coming in my direction that said they were pleased to see this cub too. Let's here it for diversity and sexual freedom.

But this night was not about hooking up. It was about getting out and having a good time. The good time though, in all honesty, was more spent on watching everyone else 'do their thing'; which for some was watching us watching them. Unfortunately no one came up to say 'Hello. I don't recall seeing you around here before. Are you visiting?' Is this too much to expect? Then again, how many times have we walked up to complete strangers and uttered a word beyond 'ex-

cuse me' while trying to walk onto 'our next thing'?

With the rest of the time passing uneventfully, we took the opportunity to dance for the last bit of the night and left at closing. Upon driving back to the hotel, we decided that Toronto was calling us on for the next night out. We wanted the 'Big City' experience that was only an hour away, and was it ever appealing.

Toronto - The Great North's NYC

Having watched Showtime's *Queer As Folk*, an invigorating weekly modern gay-drama, I secretly hoped to have some surreal experiences of my own. The following night, Marlon and I headed out to the great metropolis of Toronto with only one thing in mind, find the 'village' and have a fantastic adventure.

We arrived at Church Street, the gay district's main drag around 10p. Reasonably early to allow for taking in the sights and plotting our night's events. Unfortunately, being out-of-towners, we spent nearly 45 minutes trying to locate a parking space. Nearly every street sign stated no parking unless by permit. Well where the heck does one get a permit? I nearly decided to ignore the postings until we passed a car with a ticket on the front, then I decided not to risk whatever penalty could be ensued. Eventually we found a corner parking lot that allowed us to pay for space until 6a, which we figured was just fine in the hopes of finding an all night club.

The 'village' is refreshing to experience for those of us who have never been witness to an actively open and thriving 'gay' community. Pride flags hanging on the lamp-posts, businesses galore from clubs and bars to coffeehouses, restaurants, clothing stores, and even the local GLBTA community center are all located within say seven blocks of next to downtown. Being that we arrived when we did, most of the businesses were closed except for the night life establishments.

As we walked along passing couples openly holding hands, Marlon made fun of my interest in visiting the Black Eagle, the local leather/denim/bear bar. He wanted to hit the dance clubs and really listen to some good house music. After walking for a while and not truly determining where we could find a good club, I headed into the Black Eagle (BE) to get directions. Marlon jested that if I should decide to stay, just let him know and he'll find his own way around. Humored I entered the bar hoping

that my boots and jacket were enough to fit the dress code.

I was greeted (and cruised) just inside the door by a nice shaved head gentlemen in a leather vest and jeans. I obviously met the code considering he nearly nodded in my direction. I inquired with him quickly on two things - one, where the lou was (restroom) and two, if he happened to know - as ridiculous as this sounded - where a good dance club was at here in the 'village.'

He said he wasn't real familiar with the dance clubs but he had heard that there were two rather popular ones as of recent, FLY and 5ive. Both were said to be just a couple blocks north of the BE. I thanked him and headed off to the restrooms on the second floor. I had to keep from laughing at myself as I walked through the crowd of healthy looking men in the dim light. I could hear Marlon's words ringing in my ears, but I reminded myself that I was here to use the lou and then head off with him to find someplace reasonable to dance.

A few minutes later I met him on the street outside and the first things he says is that there are two rather popular clubs here called FLY and 5ive. I just stood there in disbelief that he had already determined this. (Did he come inside while I was upstairs? Nah.) Marlon explained that he stopped a male couple holding hands as they walked by and asked if they happened to know of any good places to listen to house music and go dancing, hence his deriving said establishments.

Amusedly we set off to determine where the clubs were located. I did take one up on Marlon though and picked a copy of the local news magazine for 'gay' Toronto and flipped open to the map of the 'village.' Marlon was annoyed that I even bothered to refer to the map while walking down the sidewalk. I laughed at his embarrassment in just thinking that we would naturally blend in, as if. Granted my walking with my head buried in a publication open to the map of the locale was not a big neon sign or anything.

Unfortunately, we had a difficult time in finding 5ive on St. Joseph Street, but then again I later determined part of the problem was in my understanding of how to read the map. Be that as it may, we purely by Marlon's intuition, found FLY. A small line had formed outside (maybe 7 people) it was still early. So we got in line and waited our turn to be checked for whatever regulations they had, I was truly naive about such things.

Nearly 20+ minutes later, we finally get to the front of the line, while behind us nearly 50 more people had filled in. Yikes!

Promising this was that we found the right place, but still, it's damn cold outside and I was nearly a popsicle. Forget the queeny twink who decided to forgo the jacket just so she didn't need to go to the coat check room.

Traveling down a flight of stairs first to get in, my orientation was truly being challenged. Ten bucks a head to get in, granted it's Canadian currency, but still - how cheap we are back home when paying more than a dollar to get in is highway robbery, welcome to the Big City! We then received tickets for a free giveaway that evening and were instructed on following the line through the downstairs bar area and subsequent lounge spaces to make our way to the stairs. Going up!

Now this is the part that truly moved me the most. We walked up a flight of steel steps with laser lights shooting out from underneath in some crazy and erratic but syncopated pattern to the club music coming down on us from above, where a small disco ball slowly spun irradiating light all around. We were promptly met by a largely built blackman who instructed us to go up to the third floor for the coat check.

We proceeded around the stairs to the next set, walking virtually two feet away from the dance floor where a nice crowd had already gathered. Hypnotic was the whole scene for me, Marlon on the other hand was in ecstasy. He turned around and said this is the type of club he would love to own. Good for him, me? I just wanted to find the coat check and get a feel for the place before making any judgements.

We traversed up to the third floor past two separate balcony platforms, for dancing and observing the floor below, and along the walkway hugging the wall to eventually find the hallway that led us nearly back to where we started on the level, but now at the coat check. Handing over our jackets, I noticed the glass marked 'tips, merci' so I obliged and put a two dollar coin in the glass and went to leave. This 'gentleman' behind the counter asks me what I put in. I look him over briefly and thought 'whatever' and told him the amount. He then informs me that it's a two dollar fee per coat! Fee!?! Fee!?! I thought since when is a 'tip' a fee??? I thought about leaving right then, but sucked it up and tossed in another two single dollar coins. (How annoying.)

We then made our way back to the main dance floor and promptly decided to get our groove on. The most noticeable thing for me was the use of dry ice/smoke on the dance floor. It provided great laser light effects, but it was more than I ever have been used to witnessing and breathing.

We danced for nearly an hour straight, but towards the end I found my mind really wandering. The most striking thing for me was becoming more and more aware of the fact that I was the only person in the whole place who was more than 5 pounds over weight. Hell, I was the only fat person in the joint. Even the middle aged drunk dancing queen, who kept elbowing me as less and less room was available on the floor, was slender compared to me.

I knew then and there, this was not my place. Don't get me wrong, if I desired to be surrounded by replicated hairless, tan, mannequins, I suppose I could have been happy. BUT I wasn't. I actually started to detest being there. (And Marlon, when you read this, I wasn't mad at all with you. It's just the people were so not my style. And the music, well if it wasn't for the one or two songs I recognized, I would have left sooner.)

I quickly came to the decision to cut out and find a much more appealing place to hang out. We took a break from the dance floor and discussed leaving. As I should have known, Marlon was in heaven. He found out the club was open til 7a. I on the other hand had to get out of their and find some real men - who didn't have their faghag gals sloshing drinks all over the dancers and the floor.

We agreed to meet back at the car at 6a, when we needed to leave. I promptly grabbed my jacket and took off for the front door, completely forgetting that there was only one notable line coming in. The bouncer informed me that the exit was just off the main dance floor, back the way I just came from, isn't that the way of it?

I left the building to find that now the line was nearly two blocks long! Am I really missing something I asked myself, no. Not at all, especially since the 'boys' waiting to get in were not even remotely of any interest to me. More cloned modern disco divas and their boyfriends with their laser hair removal, lasik corrective eye surgery and those ever so fashionable spandex and vinyl club clothes. Thank the universe I was getting out back into reality where a person can be themselves and not feel inhibited.

I traveled back down along Church Street and decided to hit a couple of the bars so I could at least get a feel for the 'scene' here. I made my first stop at The Stable, a nice moderate size bar with wood floors and furniture as it's enticing theme throughout the place. My opinion was swayed more when I noticed the smell of mesquite in the air and determined that it was coming from the fully functioning stone fireplace near the bar next to the dance floor.

continued on page 10

Calendar of Upcoming Local Events

By Michael Mahler of
www.eriegaynews.com

Mar 23-Presentation: Loren Cameron Reed Union Building, Room 117 (Main Lecture Hall, Penn State Behrend, Erie PA) Loren Cameron, female to male transsexual author of "Body Alchemy" will speak in room 117 (main lecture hall) at Reed Union Building at Penn State Behrend. For more info, contact Trigon at (814) 898-6030 or trigonpsu@hotmail.com

Mar 31/April 1-Retreat: There's No Place Like Home (Olmstead Manor, Ludlow, PA) A retreat for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their friends, and supporters. Come share your wisdom, your courage and your heart. Fee: \$77.50, includes: lodging overnight, 4 meals and weekend program. Sally Jo Snyder, Cascade United Methodist Church of Erie, PA, along with Lyta Seddig, Spiritual Director at Olmsted Manor, and joined by Sr. Mary Louise St. John of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie will be facilitating the weekend retreat. For more information or to send in a deposit, contact Lyta Seddig, 196 Byllesby Avenue, Meadville, PA 16335. A deposit of \$25.00 is required in advance. When sending in your registration, please include your name, address, city, state, zip, telephone number, physical/dietary needs, requested roommate info., and any other pertinent information. The Olmsted Manor Retreat Center is located in Northwestern Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest on US Route 6 in the village of Ludlow, PA - 20 miles east of Warren, PA and 9 miles West of Kane, PA. Traveling to Olmsted Manor, guests can enjoy a scenic drive from Erie, PA (90 miles), Pittsburgh, PA (150 miles), or Buffalo, NY (110 miles). The retreat center is 60 miles north of I-80 exits at DuBois, Brookville, or Shippenville; or 60 miles south of NY 17 exit at Bradford.

Apr 2-Judy Shepard/Brent Scarpo (Mercyhurst College, Erie PA) Details to follow. For more info, email Tim McNichol at tmaussie@hotmail.com.

Apr 4-"Always Our Children" meets (Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA) Support group for Catholic parents of gay children. Call (814) 456-2091 for more info.

Apr 9-PFLAG Erie Meets PFLAG-ERIE: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets second Monday each month, 7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA.. Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflageriecrewfd@aol.com or write to

PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details.

Apr 14-Menspace meets For more info, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com.

Apr 27-Koko Vega & Co (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) One of Erie's favorite entertainers returns to The Zone Dance Club. For more info, call (814) 459-1711

Recurring Events

Play: *Martin Yesterday* (Buffalo United Artists, 884 Main St, Buffalo NY) What happened after Poor Super Man? We revisit Matt, the central character from Fraser's Poor Superman (produced by Buffalo United Artists in 1994), a thriving comic book artist now involved with an openly gay older politician. Their relationship is explored, revealing some intensely dark secrets in the politician's personal life. The play introduces us to the gay culture of Toronto in the late 90's under the specter of HIV and AIDS. We also meet Yves, a French former lover of Martin's, Rex, a bisexual hustler entangled with Martin, and Rachel, the other half of Matt's successful alternative comic book. "It's about partnerships and commitment" - Fraser said in an interview during the play's premiere in Toronto. You must be 18 or over to purchase a ticket. Graphic scenes and language. Directed by Javier Bustillos. Starring Dave Haefner as Martin, Chris Kelly as Matt. Also starring: Caitlin Coleman, Matthew Hurley, Geoff. Runs from: March 16th - April 7th (Friday and Saturday only) at 8pm at BUA's Upstairs Cabaret, 884 Main Street, between Allen and Virginia, Buffalo NY Tickets: reservations and information call (716) 886-9239. Ticket prices: general admission \$17 / students \$10. Call (716) 886-9239 for reservations, group rates available. Visit us online at <http://www.buffalobua.org>

Play: *ART* by Yasmina Yeza (Roadhouse Theatre, 145 11th St, Erie PA) 'ART', is the play with the most Olivier Award nominations ever, having received five in 1997, and the New York production won both the 1998 Tony Award and the New York Critics Award for 'Best Play'. Directed by Scott McClelland. Starring Jim Gandolfo, Mark Tanenbaum, and John Stockhausen. Runs from: March 9th - April 21st (Friday and Saturday only) at 8pm at Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art, 145 West 11th St, Erie PA Tickets: reservations and information call (814) 456-5656. Ticket prices: general admission \$10 / students \$5. Call (814) 456-5656 for reservations, group rates available. Visit us online at <http://www.georie.com/roadhouse>

Please see the PRIDE review of ART, on page 7 for more information.

Groups

10% Network (Jamestown NY social group) Usually meets third Saturdays. Contact John at (716) 484-7285 or otto@madbbs.com for more info.

"Always Our Children" First Wednesday 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 gay/lesbian/bisexual Christian Group) 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7. Contact Sue or Julie at (814) 734-3959.

Chautauqua County Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority (PRYSM) (Chautauqua County, NY) Discussion and support for youth ages 14 to 20. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7-8:30 PM. Contact Bill Reese at (716) 488-1917 or email reesewh@interlatice.net.

Closet Culture (Informal GLBT youth group) "You can find 'Closet Culture' meetings on Monday nights at Cup-A-Ccino's, 18 North Park Row, Erie, PA 16501. We usually meet around 7:30 pm, but people can show up at anytime. Meetings are very informal. Please email Josh at ColorMeJosh83@aol.com or Nick at BowlerBoy82@aol.com or browse to <http://www.angelfire.com/pa3/ErieGayTeens/closetculture.html> for more information! Ages Of members can be anywhere from 15 to 23 (with some exceptions) and members vary in sexuality. We have Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered... and even straight people who are involved regularly in meetings. Not everyone in the coffeehouse is "Gay" on Monday nights, or involved in Closet Culture. And more often than not we are in the smoking room. If you are uncomfortable going to a place with a room full of strangers email one of the contacts above and we can try to arrange to meet beforehand for your comfort. It is really a lot of fun, and a unique way to meet people you can relate to, and normally not get a chance to talk to. So what are you waiting for? Join in!"

Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. Write: 1903 W 8th St Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, email eriesisters@yahoo.com or browse www.geocities.com/Wellesley/1614

continued on page 7

Roadhouse Theatre presents 'ART'

by Rita L. Kilbane

The Oxford American Dictionary defines "art" as "the production of something beautiful." Under the direction of Scott McClelland, The Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art defines *Art* as their latest production.

Written by Tony Award Winner Yasmina Yeza, *Art* debuted at the Roadhouse on March 9.

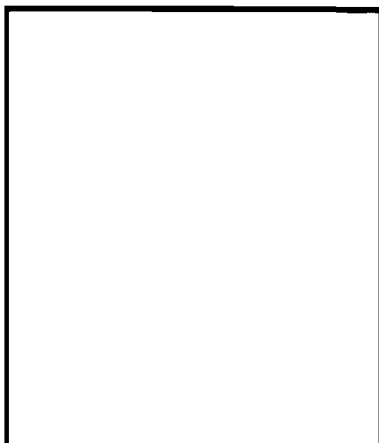
The plot is fairly simple. Serge purchases a white painting for \$200,000. Proud of this accomplishment, he invites his friends Yvan and Marc to his home to view the painting. Of course what appears to be beautiful to one may not be true for another and therein lies the conflict.

John Stockhausen portrays Serge. Stockhausen's interpretation of the role leads the audience to believe that Serge is someone who has tried to impress his companions all his life. The white painting becomes a symbol of his status.

Marc, however, is not impressed. Jim Gandolfo plays the antagonist to perfection. In an attempt to express his opinion to his friend, he creates tension.

Mark Tanenbaum as Yvan comically acts as the mediator trying to ease the intensity created by this difference of opinion.

The drama is not action driven and therefore the success of the play depends on the



actors' interpretation of the dialogue. *Art* is a strong ensemble piece. Each performer displays a great range of skill. Both Tanenbaum and Gandolfo share the art of facial expression and gesture. In the presence of two such veterans, it would be very easy for Stockhausen to falter. However, he successfully overcomes the pressure.

As director, Scott McClelland incorporates the use of spotlights that permit the individuals to step outside the situation and reflect upon his own thoughts. I consider this use of "soliloquy" very effective.

The set again is simple, a contemporary living room graced by the large white canvas. Costumes are relatively moderate and sufficient. The set and wardrobe however, are secondary to the actors' performance and the witty dialogue of the piece.

It is my opinion that this comedy is truly a work of art. But the appraisal of art is subject to opinion. *Art* can be seen at the Roadhouse Theatre for Contemporary Art Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. until April 21st. The Roadhouse Theatre is located at 145 West 11th St, Erie PA. For tickets reservations and information call the box office at: (814) 456-5656. Ticket prices: general admission \$10 / students \$5.

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.

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.

Parents Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Erie/Crawford Counties support group meets second Monday each month,

7-9pm at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflageriecrawfd@aol.com or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421-0133 for details. Note new email address!

Trigon GLBT Student group at Penn State Behrend. Open to all (including non-members of Behrend community.) Meets every Friday at noon in Multi-Cultural Center Suite in Reed Union Building. More info: email trigonpsu@hotmail.com or (814) 898-6030.

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Buffalo's Off-Broadway

What happened after Poor Super Man?

Martin Yesterday

by Brad Fraser

We revisit Matt, the central character from Fraser's *Poor Superman* (produced by Buffalo United Artists in 1994), a thriving comic book artist now involved with an openly gay older politician. Their relationship is explored, revealing some intensely dark secrets in the politician's personal life. The play introduces us to the gay culture of Toronto in the late 90's under the specter of HIV and AIDS. We also meet Yves, a French former lover of Martin's, Rex, a bisexual hustler entangled with Martin, and Rachel, the other half of Matt's successful alternative comic book.

"It's about partnerships and commitment" –Fraser said in an interview during the play's premiere in Toronto.

*You must be 18 or over to purchase a ticket.
Graphic scenes and language*

Directed by Javier Bustillos

Starring Dave Haefner as Martin, Chris Kelly as Matt

**Also starring: Caitlin Coleman,
Matthew Hurley, Geoff Kumm**

what: *Martin Yesterday* by Brad Fraser

when: March 16th – April 7th (Friday and Saturday only)

**time: 8pm where: BUA's Upstairs Cabaret,
884 Main Street, between Allen and Virginia**

tickets: reservations and information call 886-9239

**Ticket prices: general admission \$17 / students \$10
call 886-9239 for reservations, group rates available**

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1-800-359-AIDS

Case Management

Northwest Alliance
1001 States Street
Suite #806

Renaissance Center
Erie PA 16501-1828
nwpaids@erie.net
1-800-400-AIDS

Her Thoughts ~ His Thoughts on **queerasfolk**

Her thoughts. . . .

On December 3, 2000, *Queer as Folk*, based on the British mini-series of the same name, debuted on Showtime Networks. *Queer as Folk* examines the culture of gay America. The characters who comprise the story portray many of the stereotypes the public has imposed upon the culture.

Brian is the hot young executive with an insatiable appetite for beautiful boys. Michael, Brian's loyal sidekick since the age of 14, is the all-American, comic-book reading, boy-next-door. The dynamic duo's supporting cast includes the flamboyant Emmett, the accountant Ted, PFLAG parent Debbie, newly "out" Justin, and lesbian couple Melanie and Lindsay.

Each individual plays an integral part in the progression of the drama as the story lines of all involved are spun into an intricate web. It would be ludicrous to confine the plot to three columns. Perhaps a brief synopsis would suffice. Ready? Here we go...

Brian hooks up with Justin. ** Justin spends his days pining for Brian's affection while dodging minor assaults. ** Debbie, Michael's mom, welcomes "Sunshine" into her home after Justin chooses to leave his own home due to conflicts with his father. ** Michael meets a handsome chiropractor who asks him to co-habitate. ** Ted recovers from a drug - induced coma. ** Emmett "sees the light" after joining an "ex-gay" organization. ** Lindsay and Melanie experience tension in their relationship as they attempt to raise their son born from artificial insemination. Since Melanie has difficulty tolerating Brian, the fact that he is Gus' biological father leads to friction between the two lovers.

Pheww!!! And all this happens in Pittsburgh, PA.

There have been debates over whether or not the sets honestly portray Pittsburgh. In my opinion, the setting is secondary to the plot and characters and therefore should not be a factor in enjoying the program. The producers wanted to represent common denominators by placing the individuals in an all-American city to give the series a more universal appeal.

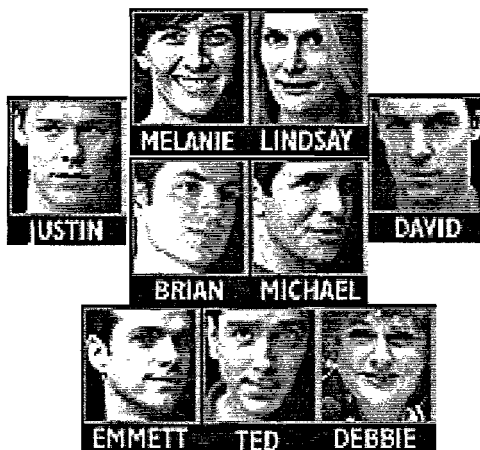
To my knowledge, *Queer as Folk* is quite accurate in illustrating the lifestyle. Granted, I am a woman. I do not have first hand knowledge on how realistic the show truly is. However, as a lesbian, I find it very enlightening. I do not live the homosexual male "lifestyle" but, I constantly find myself inquiring about it. Therefore, watching the show is a learning experience.

Although there are only a few women, I am pleased that they are included. At times, Melanie and Lindsay tend to be melodramatic, but at least the lesbian population is represented. I am especially enamored by the fact that *Queer as Folk* permits gays and lesbians to co-exist disproving

the notion that gay men and lesbians do not get along.

My partner and I subscribed to Showtime Networks for the sole purpose of being able to experience, *Queer as Folk*. It is interesting to note that in England, the original mini-series aired on a standard network. However, Americans must pay for the privilege of seeing their "folk" represented. Perhaps one day, that will change. Until then enjoy *Queer as Folk* Sunday evenings at 10 p.m. on Showtime. If you do not subscribe to the premium network, you can visit *Queer as Folk* on the web at <http://www.show.com/queer>.

Rita



QAF Renewed!!! Good news-- the series has been renewed for a second season!

His thoughts. . . .

Now that nearly the whole gay world is aware there is this new show called *Queer As Folk*, I decided it was time that I spent some words on what my thoughts are on the newest gay modern-drama to hit television. Personally, I'm hooked. But why am I hooked? Is it the 'gayness' of the characters? Or could it be as simple as we enjoy QAF because it helps us escape reality? Truth be told, I enjoy this show so much and can't wait for the next weekly episode because it speaks on many levels.

First, it's original in it's fresh perspective on the representation of gays and lesbians. Men who love men, women who love women, and the sexes get along with each other. Gratuitous sex scenes! Let's just say it. Men on the television screen making out and having sex is hot! And for that matter, so it is the same with the lesbians getting it on. (Okay, okay. I don't really get off on the women making it, but hey, my friends here on the staff think it's the shit, so what the hell, right?)

Secondly, the realism of the character's lives is a big hit for me. Granted there is not a particular one that I resonate with specifically, but each individually shows me parts of who I have been, who I am now, and who I can be. Brian, he's cocky, head strong and makes no excuses. Mikey, he's sweet and tries to be everybody's friend. Ted, he's

quiet and provocative with a flair for art. Emmett, the queen who can be oh so diva. Lindsay, the sentimental and loving care giver. Melanie, the harsh and cut-throat but determined work-aholic. Justin, the naive and just coming-out teen who has a long road ahead of him. Debbie, the supportive and wise-cracking mom we all wished we had and sometimes didn't have. Every single one of them I admire for their truth in perspective on life, its dramas, and the times we live in.

Third, the setting that this all takes place in. Okay, I do know that it is not the Pittsburgh I know and have come more recently into loving. It's Toronto. Well, let me clarify that it's Toronto's sidewalks and outdoor scenes. As for everything else, well.... let's just say sets and lighting design are well thought out and articulated in the series. QAF is like a virtual 'my gay life' kinda place. Everything there IS gay, or so it seems. Now this does create it's own advantage and disadvantage. The advantage is making the viewer, feel better about themselves because there is a gay life to live. The disadvantage is that no one's life that I've known in my lifetime is anything like that of these characters. So I say to each their own.

Fourth, QAF is many things to many people. It's pulse pounding when they show the reality of over-dosing on drugs and determining if a person's life is easy to weigh out while they're in a coma. It's thought provoking to see what some people's lives may actually be like in another part of the world. The series is truly invigorating to see gay men and women being true to their nature, hedonistic and all. Episode after episode more psychodynamics evolve for the viewer to be drawn into making us think about what is important in our own lives. In my opinion, this is entertainment.

Lastly, QAF has a fantastic website. For those of you who are not into the internet, sorry. But those that are, check this place out! Each character is given their own back story, 'journal' and biographical information on the who, what, where, when things came from and where they are going. Not only do we get to view the characters in such depth, the actors and actresses who represent these roles are detailed as well! Let's here it for the positive reinforcement in giving credit where credit is justly due.

Overall, I personally feel this show is groundbreaking entertainment that just opens the path wider and farther for more true-to-life media representation of how we live through the days. It is being said that ever since Ellen DeGeneres came out both personally, professionally, and on her television sitcom, the entertainment world has never been the same. If someone makes the correlation that her opening the closet door has introduced today's current shows, then let *Queer As Folk* and the Showtime Network be given applause for taking the effort to step forth and keep the closet door open for our future and prosperity.

Gary

The Gay Virgin continued from page 5

If it wasn't for my curiosity to explore other places I probably would have stayed and danced a storm with a certain red bear that noticeably enjoyed dancing as much as I, which seems to be few and far between from my experience. I continued on my way to the famed Woody's further up the street to see what the truth was behind QAF's representation. Upon entering I immediately became aware that it was rather empty in the front but as I traveled around to the actual bar area, the cacophony from the crowd was alerting me to more than meets the eye.

Woody's claims to be the place where Toronto's men go to hang out. From my view of things after several walk throughs and raising a few eyebrows, I would have to agree that there were lots of men there, a couple bears too. In fact two were a couple which brought me slight amusement when one caught my eye in stare and then whispered to his partner, who then cruised me. I continued on trying my best to stifle the laugh erupting from within me. I don't know why I found it so funny, but it was amusing for me to see such open provocatives.

Sailors is connected to Woody's and apparently owned by the same company. At one time my understanding is that Woody's expanded to the side and adapted the other bar area into a nautical theme, hence the name. Sailors was not as busy, but not every bar needs to be 'hopping' as we say. The artwork in both establishments was refreshing to gaze over as I perused the space. Sailors took up of course depictions of vessels, men in uniform and the such.

Woody's used it's logo, the rhinoceros - a once upon a time gay pride icon, as it's main point in the art for it's walls. The piece that caught my eye the most was a colored pencil representation of a naked woman laying on the back of a rhinoceros. I actually thought the picture to be sensual. What I truly found inspiring was the curiosity invoked when I pondered the concept of artwork that included a naked woman framed, on the wall of a gay men's bar.

After deciding that something better lay in store I returned to the Black Eagle. Here I was surprised to find a different gentleman tending the door. Again I received the nod of approval and made my way past the first bar where I had to be careful not to stare. There behind the bar was an incredible sight. A handsome Asian man wearing a red fire dept. shirt and baseball cap. What struck me most was the thick beard he was sporting. It was fairly dense and appeared to have grown over an expanse of time. At first I

thought surely this isn't what I'm seeing, but alas I determined it to be the genuine article.

After trying not to look like a gawking teenager, I moved to the back bar where again I was overcome with visual stuntedness upon seeing a fine man of virility serving drinks, complete with semi-muscular build, black tank top and leather daisy dukes. He so reminded me of a certain bartender from back home. And then it also occurred to me that he was probably engaged in a relationship with either one of the owners, another employee or some other adonis of masculinity. Such is the way of things.

I got a beer and decided to check out things on the upper floor - the forbidden zone it seemed. I had seen men go up and not come back. 'What could be up there?' I thought. My answer came in the form of a door immediately to the left of the restroom that stated "Sex anywhere in the establishment is strictly prohibited. Enter at your own risk!" Well my goodness, what a tempt of fate. I passed on the foreboding door for now and took the hall to the right to be greeted by the doorman from early who was now working the coat check, or should I say 'Leather Holding room.'

I continued down the hall into the front room which at first appeared to be pitch black. A little hesitant, I stepped forward cautiously wondering if a great brute of manliness was suddenly going to make me his bitch for the night. To some relief, my eyesight adjusted and I found myself in a room with differing men standing around variously watching the television screen above the mini-bar in the corner. Pornography was playing of a little BDSM scene with Steve Hurley as the main focus.

I was able to detect a lot of conversing from beyond the tarp hanging in the middle of the room. On the other side I found a sling set-up (notably not being used - a prop obviously, remember the sign) with over a dozen 'chatty cathy's' chattering away about anything from the latest dentist who does fabulous work to the upcoming vacation plans of this couple and that. I turned my face hoping that the wry smile which had crept across my face was not noticed by the group masticating away.

I watched the 'standees' and deduced that this part of the bar was strictly for cruising. With that filed in the back of my mind, I decided to try out the door with the sign of warning. Once I realized that the padlock on said door was unsecured, I proceeded beyond and found myself on a tarp enclosed roof section of the bar. Out here where the air was crisp with the tell-tale sign of an early March night, I scanned the space to see a

few long men smoking cigars and a small group of men enjoying the tale from one of its members. This was the smoking space, funny I had not noticed that before.

The chill became too much after a short time and I retreated inside to get another beer from Mr. Easy-on-the-Eyes at the back bar. That's when I noticed him. The bar back with huge muscular hairy thighs in his cutoff jean shorts moving about the bar refilling this and that. He was sporting a black self-made tank top t-shirt that said "This ain't Kansas" and how true it seemed to me. I watched this new eye candy for quite a time and decided to head up to the front area and take a bar stool against the wall where I spent time watching the porn being played.

The video being shown was actually educational considering I am not one familiar with all the events that take place in these uh... 'play' parties as a compatriot of mine has named them. I nearly fell off my stool when not only I but several other men in the bar squirmed and even looked away in disbelief as one man made room for um, how do I put this politely, another man's appendage to elbow depth. (Now you know why we squirmed.)

Before I realized it, the bar was announcing last call and I decided one last Labatt's Blue would do the trick. I spotted a certain red bear who appeared to be popular with the staff. (He received lots of hello hugs and greetings.) He noticed me watching him but seemed indifferent to it all. 'C'est la vie' as the french would say.

I decided upon closing that I should at least hit the street and find my way to another establishment and pass the time until Marlon was to return to the car. If worse came to worse, I could always go sleep in the car while waiting for him. Fate on the other hand, had other ideas for me.

While walking up the sidewalk towards the community center, I passed two men walking the other direction. Correction, one man was in skag drag and the other was done up in full face, using his masculine crop cut coif, while working a silver sequined pantsuit the queens back home would kill to have in their collection. I looked them over and smiled in amusement. (Toronto sure makes me smile a lot!) I mean how often do we see this back home?

The taller and more handsome of the two (the skag drag) says to me, "Do you have something to say?" I stopped where I was and turned on heel. "Well it appears to me that you started the conversation." I replied. "Oh, well then. You are a cute one." was his response. (My goodness I thought. How often does this happen?)

continued on page 11

"The Harris Guide 2001" is Available!

We are delighted to announce that "The Harris Guide 2001" (ISBN: 09701274-0-5) - the most comprehensive directory of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender press worldwide ever published - is now available through Amazon.com, and will be available through other bookstores within days.

The book at 330 pages is 50% larger than last year's edition which was nominated for the prestigious Lambda Literary Award. This year's edition also contains for the first time information about gay and lesbian radio and television programming from around the world. In addition it contains an interview with Mubarak Dahir about how to go about self-syndicating your work. The book will be useful to activists, academics, journalists, cartoonists, organizations, those working in public relations, advertising and marketing seeking to reach the gay market, as well as everyone else interested in the gay press.

The book will be available from good bookstores as it reaches them from the distributors. Read what people had to say about last year's book:

"Paul Harris has performed a huge and impressive labor of love in gathering these crucial resources into The Queer Press Guide. This book will be INVALUABLE to writers, arts organizations and community activists all over the country! A must have on EVERYONE'S desk!" - Tim Miller (Performer/Activist)

"As the publisher of a regional, gay-interest magazine, being listed in the Queer Press Guide has proven to be invaluable. Freelancer journalists, writers, and marketing companies have seen our listing and submitted material for publication. The Guide offers information on the guidelines and practices of each publication which is extremely accurate and timely—I know because Mr. Harris corresponded directly with me shortly prior to going to press to ensure that the Guide contained the most up-to-date information possible. If you are involved in any aspect of the gay press, you need to have this book!" - Tom Hroncich from Outlook-Long Island, New York

The Gay Virgin continued from page 10

He immediately introduced himself as Kalyb and his 'girl' friend was Oskar. They were finishing their five day stay in Toronto this night out. They were actually on their way back to the hotel when we passed. Flirtatious comments abounded from the rather handsome bearish scag, even with his MAC eye shadow and all aglow.

Kalyb was on holiday from 'university' in London where he was studying Psychology. Oskar was just taking a vacation from his life in Las Vegas where he is living off a trust fund from his family back home in Johannesburg, South Africa. (What an interesting night this has turned out to be.)

We chatted about many different things including the fact that I have performed and complimented them on their choice of and style of makeup with fashion. Kalyb was sporting a pair of black with silver pinstriped pants and an iridescent black short sleeved shirt. (Kalyb should have brought his fur as did Oskar at least.)

I told them of how I and Marlon ended up in Toronto and how I grew to dislike FLY, hence walking the strip after the bars closed. 'FLY?' they inquired. Apparently they had tried to get in there earlier this night but found the cold and the two block line too much to be dealing with and never made it in. I told them that Marlon was probably still there if they wanted to have a go at it again, and set off to blaze a trail.

We were nearly half a block away from the club when I spotted Marlon across the street heading in the opposite direction. I called him over and made introductions. We caught up briefly on things and Marlon revealed that the smoke became too much for his contacts and his feet were killing him from all the dancing. So he decided to head back to the car in the hopes that I would be around there and we could head on out.

With that said, I offered to give the 'boys' a ride back to the hotel. They accepted and we made our way back to the car. When we got there, Oskar commented that we were nearly at the hotel already. I felt bad but we did make the brief jaunt over to the hotel parking garage where we exchanged phone numbers and e-mail addresses before departing.

Marlon and I decided to head back to the 'Falls' and get some rest before heading home as the morning of this new day arose. My eyelids were quite heavy so Marlon drove back and we promptly packed our things and crashed in our room. Waking up just at check out time, we loaded the car and headed home.

Kalyb and I still keep in touch by e-mail while Oskar invited me to come out to Vegas sometime and crash at his pad. Who knows, I just might take him up on that offer someday. One thing's for sure, my weekend trip proved to me that the world is larger than our own back yard and thank the heaven's for that! ☺

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Bars and Restaurants

- Sneakers** (715)484-8816
100 W. Harrison ST., Jamestown NY
14701-6615 Open 2pm-2am 7 days/ week
Email: artemistoo@mindspring.com
- Rascals** (716)484-3220
701 N. Main St., Jamestown NY 14701-
5031 Open 3pm-2am 7 days/week
- BayBreeze** (814)835-0808
2727 W Eighth St., Erie PA 16505
Open 3pm-2am Monday-Saturday, 3pm-
9pm Sundays, Email: baybreeze@erie.net
- Matthew's Trattoria** (814)459-6458
153 E. 13th St., Erie, PA 16503
Open Monday-Friday 11am-2pm, Tuesday-
Saturday 5pm-Close. Contact for reserva-
tions and entertainment listing.
- South Shore Inn** (814)725-5522
1120 Freeport Rd (Route 98) North East,
PA 16428 Karaoke every Tuesday night
@ 7pm. Make you dinner reservations now.
Email: careleswhisper@landofillusion.com
- The Village** (814)452-0125
133 W. 18th St., Erie, PA 16501
Open 8pm-2am 7 days a week
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1711 State St., Erie, PA 16501
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Counseling

- Virginia Ayres, Ph.D.** (814)835-3829
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Fredonia NY Office (716)679-3455
Gay and Lesbian National Hotline
(6pm-11pm Mon-Fri) 1-888-843-4564
Lake Erie Counseling Associates
(814)455-4009
Well Being Center (Deb Monohan)
(814)838-0123

Information Lines

- Chatauqua County NY (North)**
(716)679-3560
Chatauqua County NY (South)
(716)484-8434
Erie (814)456-9833

Religious Organizations

- BYKOTA Be Ye Kind One To An-
other** (Susan Laurie) Ecumenical.
Open to Christians of all denominations/
orientations. 734-3959
- Temple Anshe Hese**
(Reform Congregation)
930 Liberty St., Erie PA 16502
(814)454-2426
- Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal)**
134 W 7th St., Erie PA 16501
(814)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 Email: evon@erie.net
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Erie** 7180 New Perry Highway
Erie, PA 16509 (814)864-9300
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Jamestown** Unitarian Church of
Jamestown 1255 Prendergast Ave
Jamestown NY 14701-3144
(716)488-1902
- "Always Our Children"** For the
Catholic parents of GLBT children.
Supportive, but for parents only.
(814)456-2091

Social Organizations/Youth

- 10% Network** (John)
Chatauqua County, NY (716)484-7285
- Burgh Bears** Pittsburgh, PA
<http://www.burghbears.org>
or call the info line: (412)422-8850
- Menspace in Erie** (Michael)
(814)456-9833
- Womynspace in Erie**
tjunger@toolcity.net (814)456-9833

24 Hour Information & Referral Services

- Erie Hotline** (814)453-5656
[http://www.ncinter.net/~ejmet/
hotline.html](http://www.ncinter.net/~ejmet/hotline.html)
- Hamot Health Center** (814)877-6136
St.Vincent Health Center
(814)452-5151

Student Organizations/Youth

- Covenant House Teen Hotline**
1-800-999-9999
- Erie Gay Youth Website**
<http://www.angelfire.com/pa3/ErieGayTeens>
- National Runaway Switchboard**
1-800-621-4000
- Chatauqua County PRYSM: Pride &
Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority**
For more information, call Bill Reese
(Coordinator) at (716)488-1917
- Mercyhurst College Alliance**
Tim McNichol (814)454-7320
- PennState Trigon** Abby (814)898-6030

Support Groups

- Erie Sisters Transgender Support Group**
(TV/TS/CD) Send mail to Erie Sisters,
1903 W 8th St., Suite 261, Erie PA 16505
or check out their website at:
www.geocities.com/0080/Wellesley/1614
- GayAA** (Bernie) (814)459-7262
- Partners (LesBiGay group, Corry, PA)**
(814)664-7090 (Luella)
- Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays**
PFLAG-DuBois PA Karen/John Kressley
371-8962
- PFLAG-Erie/Crawford** Maureen Koseff,
PO Box 133, Haroborcreek, PA 16421
(814)898-8341 or you can send Email:
pflageriecrawfd@aol.com
- 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 test-
ing at Health Department Monday Noon-
3:30, Tues. & Thurs. 9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Evening hours by appt. only 451-6727

Website Resources

- <http://www.gaychatauqua.org>
<http://www.eriegaynews.com>
<http://www.geocities.com/womynspace>
<http://www.youthresource.com>
<http://www.stophiv.com>
<http://www.lesbiansoutandabout.com>

Is your Group/Organization Missing? Is there anything we should add? Comments/Suggestions can be sent to:

P. R. I. D. E. 3882 Hereford Road Erie, PA 16510-2457
or you can Email us: pridenews@hotmail.com