



Calendar

Please note that this calendar is also online at www.eriegaynews.com/calendar.html

Jan 23 - 2 Girls Alone performs (Aroma's, 2174 W 8th St, Erie PA) 7-9 PM. For more info, email twogirlsalone@att.net.

Jan 23-25 - Margaret Cho at the Improv (Pittsburgh) Info (412) 462-5233

Jan 25 - Greg Ropp performs (Harmony Pi Coffeehouse, Unity Church, Edinboro PA) Harmony Pi Coffeehouse is held in the basement of the Unity Church in Edinboro (right next to Burger King). Other musicians will also be performing. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated. Show begins at 7 PM. He usually goes on around 9. For information call (814)734-8541 or visit Greg's website at www.angelfire.com/pa/5emptychambers/

Jan 26 - Soup-er Bowl Party (The Village, 133 W 18th, Erie PA) "Come watch the pigskin fly and 'pig out' on a delicious selection of Game Munchies!! Homemade soups & desserts. Pregame fun starts at 4

PM." For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check www.thevillageerie.com.

Jan 26 - Super Bowl Party (Rascals, 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY) For more info, call (716) 484-7285.

Jan 26 - Super Bowl Party (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown NY) For more info, call (716) 484-8816.

Feb 1 - Drag Show: "Sabrina & Co." (Rascals, 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY) Info (716)484-7285.

Feb 5 - "Always Our Children" meets (Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA) Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Feb 6 - Safer Sex Cabaret (McGarvey Commons, Penn State Behrend, Erie PA) 7:30 PM. Fun/educational event is open to non-Behrend community as well. Contact Abbey Atkinson/Trigon at (814) 898-7162 or trigonpsu@hotmail.com for details. See article on page 9.

Feb 8 - Menspace meets (Dave Amy's, 3123 Raspberry St - NE corner of 32nd and Raspberry, Erie PA) Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Feb 9 - Valentine's Jazz Brunch (The Village, 133 W 18th, Erie PA) Doors open at noon. For more info, call (814) 452-0125 or browse to www.thevillageerie.com.

Feb 10 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (UU Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA) Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section.

Feb 11 - Straight Spouse Network of PFLAG (Call for location) PFLAG has a national and now also a local group called Straight Spouse Network for people whose spouses come out as GLBT. See Regularly Meeting Groups section for PFLAG contact info.



Dee, Laurie, Jan and Sue at Dance Escape

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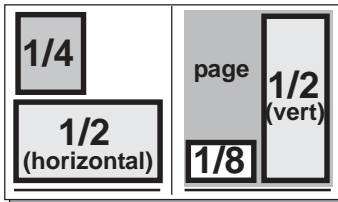
On the Cover...

**“Dee, Laurie, Jan & Sue
at Dance Escape”**

Photo by: Mike Mahler



EGN Ad Rates



Ad Size	Price/Issue	Dimensions
Eighth	\$30 (\$27 prepaid)	1-5/8" high X 2-7/8" wide
Quarter	\$50 (\$45 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 2-7/8" wide
Half (horiz)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	3-1/2" high X 6" wide
Half (vert)	\$90 (\$81 prepaid)	7" high X 2-7/8" wide
Page	\$160 (\$144 prepaid)	7-1/2" high X 6" wide

call 456-9833 or email info@eriegaynews.com
Deadline for ads is the 15th



Erie Gay News
1115 West 7th St.
Erie PA 16502-1105

(814) 456-9833

info@eriegaynews.com
www.eriegaynews.com

Deadline: the 15th of each month.

The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people (GLBT's), their families, friends & supporters in the Erie and Northwest Pennsylvania Area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments and opinions of interest to local GLBT's for publication in these pages. We will consider for publication any nonfiction article, blurb or illustration graphic which upholds this spirit. Please include your contact information with any piece that you submit.

We will not publish any material which promotes hatred or discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, religion, age, class, physical ability or any other reason. We do not support the exploitation of minors.

Views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the EGN staff.

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Thank You:

To Neal, Jim, Jerry McCumber and Paul Grubbs for collating and Dave for distributing last issue. Thanks! Thanks also to Gary for proofing.

If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com for date/time.

Feb 14 - "A Very Merry Un-Valentine to You!" (The Village, 133 W 18th, Erie PA) "Join us at The Village. Single? Frustrated? Bitter? Heartbroken? Come join us... wear black. We *all* will be. Sylvia Plath's ghost is slated to appear, leading tours to our ovens. Many... No waiting. Drink specials. Arrrrrgh. Come drown in *our* beer." For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check www.thevillageerie.com.

Feb 14 - Karaoke Finals (Sneakers, 100 W Harrison St, Jamestown NY) Contests going on from now till the finals. For more info, call (716) 484-8816.

Feb 15 - 10% Network meets: Sleighting Party (1378 Harris Hollow Rd, Gerry NY) For directions, contact Mike at mike@madbbs.com. Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for details/questions or <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>.

Feb 15 - Valentine's Day Dance Escape (Perry Hi Way Hose Co, 8170 Peach St., Erie PA) 8 PM - 1 AM. Gay/Gay-friendly event/ \$6 prepay, \$8.00 admission at the door. BYOB and Bring Your Own Snacks. Ice is available. *Must be 21 years of age with valid ID.* 50/50 drawing and other prizes. Wear red to receive chance at grand prize! Catch up with old friends and meet new friends! Song requests always welcome. Bring your

favorite CD. Smoke free and fun filled. Contact Cheryl at (814) 835-9090, danceescape@lycos.com or <http://danceescape.tripod.com>

Feb 15 - "Come Get A Heart-On with Anita Cox!" (The Village, 133 W 18th, Erie PA) "Let her bemuse, befuddle, bewilder and, yes, entertain you... Show starts at 11 PM!" For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check www.thevillageerie.com.

Feb 15 - Red Hot Dance Party (The Zone, 1711 State St, Erie PA) "We're going to heat up your Valentine's Day! Wear Red or dress up as a Horny Devil, Leather Cupid, Drag Queen of Hearts or Flaming Fireman... just wear red! Wear your sexy heart-on boxers and find your hunka' hunka' burning love!" For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to www.zonedanceclub.com.

Feb 1 - Drag Show: "Traci" (Rascals, 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY) For more info, call (716) 484-7285.

Feb 15 - Deadline for March print edition of Erie Gay News! Be sure to have articles, calendar entries, ads, etc in by this date. Contact Michael Mahler at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833.

Feb 21 - Bear Night (Rascals, 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY) For more info, call (716) 484-7285.



DANCE ESCAPE

Gay/Gay-friendly Event

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15TH Perry Hi-Way Hose Co.

8270 Peach Street Erie, PA 16509

8:00 PM until 1:00 am

BYOB and Bring Your Own Snacks (ice available) Must be 21 or older

Call 814-835-9090 or Email at danceescape@lycos.com

Prepay for \$6.00— Admission at the door \$8.00

50/50 drawing and other prizes/wear red to receive chance at grand prize

Catch up with old friends and meet new friends!

Song requests always welcome/Bring your favorite CD

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Visit us at <http://danceescape.tripod.com/>

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Feb 28 - Strippers (The Zone, 1711 State St., Erie PA) For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to www.zonedanceclub.com.

Feb 28 - Leather Night (Rascals, 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY) For more info, call (716) 484-7285.

Mar 1 - Performance: Tori Amos (Warner Theatre, 811 State St, Erie PA) For more info, call (814) 452-4857 or email contact@venusmagazine.com.

Mar 1 - Strippers "Cameron" (Rascals, 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY) For more info, call (716) 484-7285.

Mar 5 - "Always Our Children" meets (Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St., Erie PA) Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Mar 7-22 - Musical: "La Cage Aux Folles" (Meadville Community Theatre, Meadville PA) Gender

bending/gay themed musical "La Cage Aux Folles" runs March 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 at 8:15 PM and Sundays, March 16 at 2:15 PM. Presented by Meadville Community Theatre in Odd Fellows Building, N Main St, Meadville PA. Directed by Jim Snyder. Tickets are \$12 for adults, and \$10 for students and seniors. Call (814) 333-1773 for reservations/info.

Mar 8 - Menspace meets (Neal's, Erie PA) Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Mar 10 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (U Erie, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA) Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section.

Mar 11 - Straight Spouse Network of PFLAG (Call for location) PFLAG has a national and now also a local group called Straight Spouse Network for people whose spouses come out as GLBT. See Regularly Meeting Groups section for PFLAG contact info.

March 15 - Cause for Celebration (Buffalo, NY) Gala fundraiser for AIDS Community Services of WNY. This year's Cause, "An Evening Among the Stars" moves to the beautiful Hyatt Regency in downtown Buffalo. Details (716) 847-2441 or check www.aidscommunityservices.com.

Mar 15 - 10% Network meets: Cause for Celebration Auction (70 Prospect St, Jamestown NY) Please bring item or items for the auction along with money to support this worthy cause. Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for details/questions or <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

Mar 16 - Ecumenical Service: Witness Our Welcome (Erie PA) You are invited to attend the worship service of Third Sunday WOW (Witness Our Welcome) - an informal, confidential, ecumenical welcoming worship group that offers Christian community and affirming fellowship for lesbian, gay, bisexual

Correction: Phone number for Kathy Bussiere/Hair Expressions was incorrect in last issue. Please note corrected phone number in ad below. Our apologies to any who may have been inconvenienced by this error.

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and transgender people and their supporters. A pot luck dinner will follow the service. Please bring a dish to share. Please bring a friend and help spread the word about the services. Third Sunday of July, and September always at 5 PM with communion, and always followed by a pot luck. The services are some of the most awesome and Spirit-filled those who attend have ever experienced. Questions: Robin Cuneo, cuneo@cecomet.net, Rev. Lyta Seddig, rseddig@allegheny.edu

Mar 21 - Bear Night (Rascals, 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY) For more info, call (716) 484-7285.

March 26 - Fundraiser/Play: The Drawer Boy (O'Reilly Theater, Pittsburgh PA) 17th Annual Pittsburgh Public Theater benefit for Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. 6 PM party, play at 8 PM. Play runs from March 13 - April 13. Tickets for special benefit start at \$75. Call (412) 242-2500.

Mar 28 - Leather Night (Rascals, 701 N Main St, Jamestown NY) For more info, call (716) 484-7285.

Mar 29 - 5th Annual Cause for Celebration - Jamestown (Viking Hall, Washington & 4th Streets, Jamestown, NY) 8-11:30 PM. Fundraiser for AIDS Community Services. Dance to INFINITY and a DJ in the Ballroom. Complimentary Desserts and Light Beverages, Gaming Casino & Full Service Bar. Minimum Donation \$20 For more info, call Kim at AIDS Community Services at (888) 664-7855 or check www.aidscommunityservices.com.

Mar 29 & 30 - Concert: "Everything's Coming Up Sondheim" (Cleveland State University, Cleveland OH) Part of North Coast Men's Chorus (NCMC) 15th Anniversary. Concert Saturday 8 PM, Sunday 3 PM at Cleveland State University's Waetjen Auditorium, Music and Communications Bldg, 2001 Euclid Ave at E 21st St, Cleveland OH. Tickets available at www.tickets.com or by calling (800) 766-6048. Single ticket price: \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door.

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319 W 8th St.
Erie PA 16502

Regularly Meeting Groups

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) Non-denominational Christian group for GLBT people. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 7 to 9 PM at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Meadville, 346 Chestnut St. (on Diamond Park, corner of Chestnut & S. Main. Info: Lyta Seddig at rseddig@allegheny.edu
Erie Sisters Club (ESC) (CD/TV/TS/TG) 4th Saturday of the month at accepting establishments. Changing facilities available. For more info write to 1903 W 8th St. Ste 162, Erie PA 16505-4936, browse www.eriesisters.org or email eriesisters@eriesisters.org.
GLBT AA Group Currently on hiatus. For more info, contact Bernie at (814) 459-7262 (home) or (814) 452-3935 (work) or bredright@velocity.net.

HIV/AIDS Support Group Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 at St. Mark's. Call Cheryl Weber at the St. Martin Center at (814) 452-6113 ext 20 for more info.

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



Counseling...
...Hypnotherapy...
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Deb Monohon Cleer
(814)838-0123

more info, call ECDH at (814) 451-6727. Other times can be arranged.

Identity/EUP Edinboro University GLBT and allies groups. Meets Thursdays at 8 PM in Butterfield Hall, room 213. Also has open movie night every Friday at 8 PM. Contact Alana Atchinson at (814) 732-2019 or aatchinson@edinboro.edu or Gerry Hoffman at (814) 732-2813 or ghoffman@edinboro.edu for more info or www.angelfire.com/pa5/identityeup/.

Mercyhurst Rainbow Club Meets in room 205 of Old Main the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 8 PM. Student/faculty group open to non-Mercyhurst folks as well. For more info, call Jason at (814) 572-5590, or email freakyhippoboy@aol.com.

PFLAG Erie/Crawford County PFLAG-ERIE/CRAWFORD COUNTY: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) support group meets 2nd Monday each month, 7-9 PM at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 New Perry Hwy (Rte 97), Erie PA. Also Straight Spouse Network focus group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month (call for location for this meeting.) Call Maureen (814)-898-8341, email pflagerie@adelphia.net or write to PFLAG-Erie, PO Box 133, Harborcreek PA 16421.

Pride & Respect for Youth in Sexual Minority (PRYSM) (Western NY) Provides a safe, comfortable meeting place for 14-20 year-old lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, questioning youth, and their straight allies. Southern Chautauqua County group meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday. Northern Chautauqua County group meets 3rd Mon. (716)485-8628. cwhite2@alltel.net. www.gaychautauqua.org/youth.htm

Trigon (Penn State University - Behrend, Multi-Cultural Center Suite, Erie PA) 12:15 PM on Thursdays. GLBT/Allies group at Behrend. Contact Abbey Atkinson/Trigon at trigonpsu@hotmail.com or at (814) 898-7162 for details.

Letters

PFLAG DuBois changes

We would like to express our congratulations and continued good wishes to the loyal staff of EGN for resurrecting this excellent monthly publication. EGN has been a welcome part of our household for many years as well a part of our DuBois PFLAG meetings each month.

After 17 years of LGBT involvement we, too, can relate to the amount of time and energy needed to provide avenues of support for LGBT folks while striving to bring diversity awareness to the public eye. At this point in our journey, with retirement awaiting us in 2004, we must reduce our outreach commitments. It was not an easy decision but, as of January, 2003, we have discontinued our monthly PFLAG meetings. Our plan is to remain available for support calls/visits and for speaking invitations, should these needs arise.

The part we will miss the most is being able to share with so many warm, brave, down-to-earth people. In our eight years of facilitating PFLAG DuBois, we have come to know the hearts and souls of human diversity in person. We thank all who, in any way, participated in supporting the PFLAG DuBois mission; a united spirit, we hope, has made a difference for each one of us. We ask you always to remember how precious you are, and how much your life matters to us. Maybe, one day, PFLAG DuBois will be resurrected by new leadership. Maybe, one day, there will be no need for these support groups. This is our ultimate hope.

We can be reached by phone at 814-371-8962 or by E-Mail at pflagdubois@usachoice.com.

**Jack and Karen Kressley
PFLAG DuBois**

a Play...a Party...a Purpose

17th Annual
Pittsburgh Public
Theater Benefit
for the
Pittsburgh
AIDS
Task Force



March 26
O'Reilly
Theater
6 p.m. Party
8 p.m. Play:
The
Drawer Boy

Tickets start at \$75. Call 412-242-2500 ext. 122.

Join the hundreds of people on the
Erie GLBT email list
Sign up at www.eriegaynews.com or
email info@eriegaynews.com,
Email list is **confidential**, and not
sold to or shared with anyone. Recipients'
email address don't appear on messages.

PFLAG News

PFLAG Transitions from 2002 to 2003

by Maureen Koseff
PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County

2002 was filled with new experiences for PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter. We had our first fundraiser, supported a great Gay Pride March, networked at PFLAG's national conference, established a Straight Spouse Network, and initiated contacts with Erie High Schools. We learned a lot, and are anxious to capitalize on the positive experiences of 2002.

We hope to have a fundraiser in March, and will continue with our support groups, including the Straight Spouse Network. Our chapter is growing. We didn't realize it, but 121 people attended our support group sessions last year, 88 of whom came for the first time. We welcome all of you to return, and hope you can help us serve you better.

We plan to develop relationships with high schools during 2003. Mike Mahler and Maureen Koseff met with McDowell High School students and staff in November, in an effort to help students establish their Gay-Straight Alliance. We are hoping to implement PFLAG's "From Our House to the Schoolhouse" program with McDowell. It focuses on setting a safe environment for GLBT students. Also, Marcha Vecchio will help us to continue supporting PFLAG's Transgender Network, and participate in Pennsylvania's PFLAG State Council.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM PFLAG



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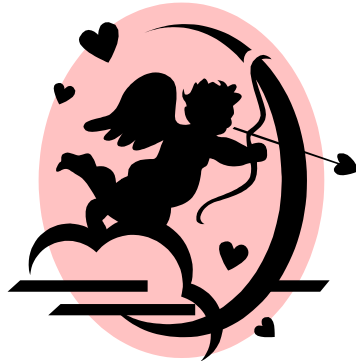
David Mulholland

Tax Associate

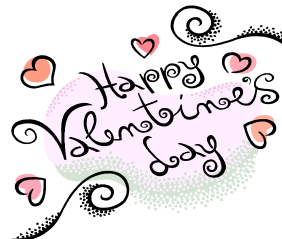
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**Erie County Department of Health
HIV/AIDS Education & Training
Program**

606 West 2nd St. Erie, PA 16507
(814) 451-6727

e mail: aidshed@ecdh.org

Funding for this program is provided by the
PA Department of Health, Northwest PA Rural AIDS
Alliance, and Erie County Government



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National Condom Awareness Day

by Patty Puline

Erie County Dept. of Health

Valentine's Day, February 14 is the time for love, roses and champagne. Remember, feelings of love and intense emotion are no protection against sexually transmitted diseases. (STDS). Whether you are Gay, lesbian, straight or transgendered, condoms are one thing that can help you stay HIV and STD free! National Condom Day is observed on Valentine's Day to promote safer sexual practices. To keep you and your Valentine safe, just say, "**yes**" to condoms.

Sexually transmitted diseases live in body fluids, which are exchanged during all types of sexual activity. Oral sex, vaginal sex, and anal sex all are risky when condoms are not used correctly and consistently every time. To insure your personal safety, read the directions on the condom package.

Did you know that bacterial STDs such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are treatable and can be cured if individuals seek out medical help? Right now, the highest rates of HIV and STDs are found in people among the ages of 15-24. That is the age group of sexual exploration and experimentation.

Remember, condoms may not always prevent viral infections such as herpes and warts. The blisters of these sexually transmitted diseases can live in the cracks and folds of skin surrounding the genitals, and on the inner thighs. Also, with the high increase in oral sexual activities, remember that lips and noses can be infected with herpes or warts, externally and internally. These can be passed from partner to partner through oral sex. Skin to skin contact may transmit these "**love bugs**" that will love you for life. Not the best present to receive on Valentine's Day, is it?

Be aware that drugs and alcohol can have a negative impact on an individual's decision about practicing safe sex. The Erie County Dept of Health will be placing "Valentine Condom Packs" at gay bars, and several other nightclubs in Erie. We want people to

have a happy and safe Valentine's Day, so stay safe, and use a condom.

We also provide free HIV testing on a regular basis and information about sexually transmitted diseases. Your sexual health should be important to you, so if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Patty Puline, Erie County Dept of Health, HIV/AIDS Education & Training, (814) 451-6543, or visit our website @ www.ecdh.org

Safer Sex Cabaret is Cumming...

by Abbey Atkinson

Clear your calendars for Trigon at 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 6th! That time of year is here and the 6th Annual Safer Sex Cabaret will be back on stage at Penn State Behrend in the McGarvey Commons. Young college men and womyn will be performing skits and demonstrating safer sex tactics for your pleasure. Ever wondered how to use a dental dam? We'll show you. Wanna make sure you're putting that condom on correctly? We'll test you. Pick up some tips on your erotic dancing routine, masturbation techniques, and get advice about the best tasting lubes. Feel free to join in for a round of "Sex, Truth, and Deception" and test your knowledge for prizes. Maybe you'll want to take notes during the erogenous zone or phone sex sketches; maybe you'll want to volunteer your expertise! There could be drag queens; there could be drag kings... anything goes during this night! We'll *wrap it up* with a forbidden fashion show and what you do after the show is all up to you- we just hope to inspire a satisfying night and enough wisdom to make sure you're *up* to the activities the next time unbridled passion may *arise*.

Trigon is the GLBT student group at Penn State Behrend. The event is open to the general community. For more info, call the Trigon office at (814)898-7162 or email trigonpsu@hotmail.com.

Due to space limitations our Resources Page was omitted this month. You can access it online at www.eriegaynews.com

Erie Gay Dads People of the Year

Parents, attorney fight for families

Reprinted with permission from Philadelphia Gay News

Most parents will do anything for their children — that's a parent's role, after all. But two Pennsylvania families and their attorney went a bit further for their children — and children of gay and lesbian Pennsylvanians — when they took on the Commonwealth, and won.

Two couples who tried and were denied second-parent adoptions — Joey and Jeff Grego of Erie County and Barbara and Carole Fryberger of Lancaster County — appealed their case, and in August prevailed.

Their attorney, Christine Biancheria of Pittsburgh, agreed to take the case for free because she believed in it."

For persevering and prevailing, the people behind Pennsylvania's second-parent adoption case — the Gregos, the Frybergers and Biancheria — are PGN's 2002 People of the Year.

Their case is historic because it marks the first time in Pennsylvania that gay and lesbian families have equal status with their straight counterparts. What's more, the ruling stopped punishing the children of gay and lesbian Pennsylvanians for not having straight parents.

The statewide ban on second-parent adoption came from a November 2000 state Superior Court ruling, which equated the adoptions with gay marriage.

Prior to this ruling, in some counties, including Philadelphia, second-parent adoptions for gay and lesbian parents were considered with the same scrutiny used in cases for heterosexual parents. But in other counties, including Erie and Lancaster, judges refused to even hear cases, leaving families at the mercy of local judges' interpretation of adoption law, even when that reading was skewed by anti-gay bias.

By denying second-parent adoptions to some, judges denied children the right to have two legal parents.

So if the adoptive or biological parent died, the surviving partner would not automatically have custody of the child or children.

Furthermore, many of the privileges that two-parent households take for granted, like health and life insurance benefits, were unavailable to these families.



Clay and Zoey with their Dads Joey and Jeff

The Gregos and Frybergers decided that was unacceptable for their families. They appealed to the higher courts.

Biancheria backed their decision, and with the help of a host of legal groups and agencies, pursued the case.

Both the families and their attorney knew the case was a gamble with serious consequences: If they lost, all second-parent adoptions in the commonwealth would cease.

In 2000, their worst fears seemed to come true when the Superior Court ruled against the families.

But the team forged ahead with another appeal.

Their perseverance paid off Aug. 20, when the state Supreme Court unanimously overturned the lower court's ruling, and legalized second-parent adoption.

On several occasions, the state's highest court called the lower court's ruling "absurd."

"It's absurd because the [state] Adoption Act is there to serve a child's best interest, and the lower court's ruling undermined that," Biancheria told PGN in August.

Now courts in all areas of the commonwealth must hear second-parent adoption cases the way they should be heard: with the best interest of the children in mind.

And for the first time, gay and lesbian parents in Pennsylvania have the opportunity to be legally equal to their heterosexual counterparts.

It's important to note the work of numerous local, state and national groups and individuals who provided legal support and wrote friend-of-the-court briefs for this case.

It's also important to note the children involved in this and similar cases, who are not involved in any civil-rights movement of their own, but yet were harmed the most by anti-gay laws and officials who denied them two legal parents.

This injustice was righted by the Supreme Court's Aug. 20 decision.

But that ruling would not have happened if two couples, backed by an attorney willing to shoulder a huge risk, never stood up for their children and their rights as a family.

Runners-up

PGN's People of the Year and runners-up were determined by who had the greatest impact on Philadelphia's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities:

- Temple University President David Adamany
- Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights
- Former Dignity president Mary Louise Cervone
- William Devlin
- Hate-crimes bill activists
- New Jersey marriage plaintiffs
- Pennsylvania House Majority Leader John Perzel
- Gov.-elect Ed Rendell
- William Way Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center

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Romance questionnaire

We recently sent out a romance questionnaire to the Erie GLBT email list. Here's what people said:

What do you think about Valentine's Day?

If I have a boyfriend then it's cool, if not I'm sad on Valentine's Day. [Mark S, Conneaut OH, minderaser200@hotmail.com]

I think it is so cool and I love romantic things. [Eric Savoy, ericsavoy_69rocks@hotmail.com]

V-day is a great excuse to have a dressy-up dinner and a movie. Wonderful way to get your gf to take you out. [Sara M Culver, Orange CA/Corry PA, s_m_c_16407@yahoo.com]

St. V. day, is for romance, and should be the day we show are honest, and true love towards one another. [Fred May, fred@suite224.net]

Just another marketing gimmick to sell stuff. After all if you think that being in love is a special thing for once a year you really need to rethink what is love. [Hobbes, Erie]

It lost its meaning in 1975 when they attached a price tag to it, along with everything else. :) [Mykel B, mykelb@velocity.net]

Depends on whether or not I'm in a relationship and if I'm with my honey at the time. [Connie Jo Wolf, Erie, biwvvegq69@hotmail.com]

Some would say it's a "Hallmark Holiday" and it may be, but in this fast paced world we are living in today, I think Valentine's Day gives us a reminder to let that special person in our life know just how much they mean and how important they are to us. [Laurie, Erie]

Valentine's day is just one more time out of the year when it's especially obvious to single people that they are single. [Daniel Thomas]

The love that we have for each other and how complete our lives are now after all these years. [Anonymous 1]

A bit commercialized and straight-happy, but also a nice day that reminds us to remember those that we love. [Jaimi]

It's a corporate generated excuse to expand on a capitalistic consumer society, but thoughtful gifts from my girlfriend still make me super happy and excited. [Abbey, Erie, karma4950@aol.com]

I think it is too commercialized. It's another day for business to get richer with flowers, candy, cards, etc..... [Janice, Erie]

Pretty much just another day, but it can be nice to send and receive wishes of the day to those who like to observe it. Plus, I like seeing row upon row of red cellophane-wrapped heart-shaped boxes of candy at WalMart and the finer drug stores. [Jonathan Heid]

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What is romantic for you?

My favorite poetic form is the sonnet - receiving or giving an original one is knockout. My most precious possession is a hand knitted scarf that was a gift. Time is one gift that is most valuable because it can never be taken back: so quiet sharing time, spooning, eating B&J's phish food is special. A single red rose with a ribbon, a champagne flute filled with the same and sinful chocolates. Watching a sunset hand in hand on a deserted beach. - a cliché but until you've tried it . . . Tightly held slow dancing to a live orchestra [Paul]

Going out to dinner and movie, coming home and making out. [Mark S]

My boyfriend when he says he loves me and some one giving me a pink roses. [Eric Savoy]

An evening of "just us." Can be at home or out, but phones are off and attention is paid only to each other without worries of work or school for just a few blissful hours. [Sara]

Evenings, alone, with the one you love, soft music, and sharing your day with your beloved, also sharing a candle light, and wine, supper. [Fred]

Cuddling under the stars at the lakefront or camping. [Hobbes]

Could be anything, and it shouldn't just consist of the general things that most people consider romantic. Romance is an act of love being committed by one individual towards another, expressing his feelings. Such acts can involve hugging kissing, touching, being together, sending flowers, and cute cards neatly adorned with Hearts and Cupids. To me, I consider a man romantic when they go out on a limb to acquire something and make something special. I recall once a past lover driving several hours, through bad weather and a tight work schedule, just to visit with me while i was ill. [Mykel B]

Kissing. My boyfriend doesn't seem to enjoy kissing anywhere near as much as I do, so it's a rare treat. [Connie Jo Wolf]

A drive out to Presque Isle. Any time of the year will do, but warm summer evening drives are the best....you can take a blanket, and lay on the sand listening to the waves and watch the sun go down. We like the lighthouse beach....the lighthouse takes over as the sun sinks into the horizon. [Laurie]

Sitting quietly and watching TV with my beau. [Daniel Thomas]

A nice candlelight dinner or a beautifully candlelit bedroom and cuddling and knowing each other cares so much about the other one. [Anonymous 1]

Romantic is cozy blankets and snuggling on a Saturday night. [Jaimi]

Unexpected expressions of passion like my partner waking me up an hour earlier than the alarm was set just to kiss and thoughtful expressions of love like running a bath and lighting candles without being asked after your partner's bad day at work. [Abbey]

Just being with my wife and doing whatever we feel like doing. [Janice]

Being able to "meld" with people I love, as per Sylvia Browne's description of how people intimately know each other on The Other Side. This is a neat concept because it transcends gender / identity issues as we know them here. [Jonathan Heid]

What does "true love" mean to you?

When you are willing to give up your life for that person. [Mark S]

I do not know. I just know that my boyfriend is my true love! [Eric Savoy]

Hard work. True love means you gotta work hard at it every minute of every day. Love means saying



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you're sorry every time you're wrong, and sometimes when you're not. [Sara]

True love, is honesty, sharing, and standing by one another, no matter what. Also true trust of one another. [Fred]

Trust, care, the ability to listen and understand each other, and interest in each other in both the physical and emotional sense. [Hobbes]

True love, to be completely in love. isn't possible. Nothing can be a full 100 percent. [Mykel B]

I'm still trying to figure that out. [Connie Jo Wolf]

Your true love is your companion, your best friend, and the one who makes your life complete. The one who makes coming home feel like the place you want to be. [Laurie]

True love means taking someone despite the problems you might have with them that you can't change, being willing to work out the problems you can because you want the person just that much, and being able and willing to make the same effort to change yourself for them. [Daniel Thomas]

Spending special time with that special some one and knowing that he cares as much about you as you do about him. [Anonymous 1]

True love is looking at your partner and, simply by doing so, knowing what the word "partner" means. [Jaimi]

Unconditional and undying. [Abbey]

Spending quality time with my wife wherever we are. Doing the little things for her that she likes. [Janice]

I think it exists. People have to know themselves damn well in terms of what they want to give and receive in a relationship, though, before they can really find it. [Jonathan Heid]

What movie or story seemed romantic to you?

Titanic, Total Eclipse. [Mark S]

Titanic. [Eric Savoy]

The *Gremlins* movie was wonderfully romantic. Billy was wonderful to his girl and kept her clear thru the sequel... He helped her through a rough holiday season and they were stronger because of it. [Sara]

The Sound of Music and State Fair [Fred]

Christopher Rice's *A Density of Souls.* [Mykel B]

Different For Girls. I like that despite everything, he still falls in love with Kim. [Connie Jo Wolf]

I have always liked the movie *Somewhere In Time* with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. *Claire Of The Moon* is a lesbian classic too! [Laurie]

Arwen and Aragorn in *Lord of the Rings.* They weren't so snugly in the book. [Daniel Thomas]

To Russia with Love [Anonymous 1]

I always liked Johnny and Baby in *Dirty Dancing*, but only because of the way they looked at each other and laughed at the end of the movie. [Jaimi]

Many, but lately I've been trying to remember a movie that made me cry years and years ago... Christopher Reeves (maybe I spelled that wrong) fell in love with a woman from the past and was torn away when reminded of the future by a modern penny... can't think of the name [Abbey]

Borrowed Hearts...A Holiday Romance with Roma Downey, Eric McCormack, and Hector Elizando. (Yep, a straight flick. I always pretend I'm Roma Downey when I see it.) [Jonathan Heid]

How do you think that people's ideas about romance affects their ability to have real relationships?

I think if you are a romantic type person, you will have better luck with a real relationship. Sometimes I think it's hard to show your romantic side, gay or str8. [Mark S]

I think it's cool. [Eric Savoy]

I think people who expect the moon will be sorely disappointed. It is only when we realize that each other is human and can accept those limitations that we can truly love without conditions. [Sara]

I feel that romance is good for a relationship as long as it is not over done. But it is important that we know that our love for each other is real, honest, and trusting. I think that a relationship can not be just physical. True love to me, is spiritual, physical, and sharing. [Fred]



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LOL, What I see is that to gay men and straight men alike unfortunately is that the equation is Sex = Love and it isn't so. [Hobbes]

I think that most people consider someone being romantic as the "big no no", unless your completely and totally in love and committed to that one person. and that shouldn't be the case. Romance is fun and healthy for everyone, and should be done more often. [Mykel B]

If they have a negative view of relationships and romance, they tend to do anything they can to avoid getting in a relationship, even pushing away people who are friendly. If they have an overly positive view, they fall head-over-heels only to get hurt over and over again. [Connie Jo Wolf]

I think you have to be a "romantic" to have a whole, rewarding relationship....You have to be open and share your thoughts and feelings with your partner....good or bad. Communication is essential. You have to give of your self to receive. [Laurie]

An idealized vision of what a relationship is supposed to be and how true love works will cripple your ability to have a relationship because you'll always be looking for that special someone who meets all your criteria. S/he doesn't exist. Your true love is the person you can work out disagreements and differences and learn to compromise with well enough that you are happy together. [Daniel Thomas]

People often think that romance is just having sex with another person; however, true romance is much more than this. Of course, it is a big part of it; however, it, also, includes sharing special time together, doing special things together, sharing intimate feelings with each other, and appreciating each other for what the other adds to your life by complementing it. [Anonymous 1]

I think, but I'm not sure, that people who know what they are looking for generally eventually find it. [Jaimi]

Because love is supposed to be such a joyride, people enter relationships expecting everything to go smoothly rather than working to build anything real, solid, or stable... [Abbey]

I think people try to be something they aren't when they are dating and it's too hard to keep up with all that. [Janice]

People have to be careful of it, because romance is often confused for a relationship. However, it can be a f***ing neat adjunct to a relationship, can't it? :) [Jonathan Heid]

Anything else you'd like to add?

I have the nicest boyfriend ever, whom I love. [Eric Savoy]

Be safe and be spontaneous... take each other out and do something fun. Heck, take *yourself* out and do something fun. [Sara]

Questionnaires like this make me feel like I am filling out one of those teen mags "how to catch a BF" surveys. [Hobbes]

Saying thanks to your partner for the little everyday things they do for you will help the relationship last. Thanks Janice, for listening to me. Thanks for the laundry you do, and packing the lunches. Thanks for sharing your love with me. I love you - Laurie. [Laurie]

We met two years ago in chat and then met personally shortly thereafter; ever since, our love for each other has continued to grow as we have done some very special things with each other and shared our most intimate parts of our lives with each other. It is so neat to know that there is that some one special in your life with whom you can share your most intimate feelings. [Anonymous 1]

I think if people would just be who and what they are from the start, then true love will come to you when the time is right. No one has to be someone or something they aren't just to "find" someone. I believe there is someone out there for everyone, some of us just find them sooner than others. You will be found when you least expect it and you aren't looking. We all remember the old saying....."good things come to those who wait?" Well it is true. [Janice]

Send me Eric McCormack wrapped in red cellophane for Valentine's Day, in exchange for responding to this. Just get his wife's approval first. :) [Jonathan Heid]

Crossword Solution:

G	R	A	O			R	S		R	N	S	R
R	V	H		D	A				T	Z	O	G
R	N	O	V	R	O	O	L	N	I			
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H	V	R	I		G			R	L	V	H	
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G	O	H	R		A	S			D	V	T	A

Entertainment notes

by Deb Spilko

Black and Proud

In a growing number of cities, people are celebrating two kinds of pride—as people of African descent who are also GLBT. Over a couple dozen North American cities have Black Gay Pride observances. In our area, the Cleveland **Black Unity Celebration 2003** will take place July 31 - August 3. Info: (216)462-0257, (888)825-5226 or check the *Chronicle*. Detroit Black Gay Pride will be holding their **7th Hotter Than July Festival** July 24-28 web info: www.hotterthanjuly.com **TorontoBlackPride** is held during the same time as that city's huge Caribana festivities (that is, the first weekend of August). The organizers of the Pride event told me, "TorontoBlackPride is not part of the Caribana but coincides with the event that already draws LGBT visitors and it was strategically held to capitalize on the visitors to have a choice in attending such an event." Updated information at www.torontoblackpride.com

Chocolate City USA keeps a list of all the Black gay pride events around North America, but at this writing it hasn't been updated for 2003 yet. Check them out at www.chocolatecityusa.com

On the way to looking up this information, I discovered some interesting resources. **Black Stripe** is a very good website that has a lot of good links of interest to African-American GLBT people. That's at www.blackstripe.com We'll be entering that into our resources list on the EGN website. **BlackLight** offers a thought-provoking website at www.blacklightonline.com **Venus** is a magazine for men and women, and includes entertainment, health, and news Their website is at www.venusmagazine.com (currently being updated) and includes a Black GLBT

"All forms of bigotry and discrimination are equally wrong and should be opposed by right-thinking Americans everywhere... I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream to make room at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people." Coretta Scott King, speaking before the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in 2001

Pride calendar. To subscribe: 6 Issues \$14.95 Cothran Publications, Inc. P. O. Box 4167 Hamilton, NJ 08610 **Women in the Life** serves up a nice mix of entertainment, health, sexuality/erotica and news in their website www.womenintheLife.com or quarterly magazine (\$20, send check and info to WITL, 1623 Connecticut Ave., NW - rear, Washington, DC 20009) or contact editor@womenintheLife.com

I also would like members of the black community to know they are welcome and encouraged to submit information, reviews, letters, and thoughts to *Erie Gay News* and/or to the EGN website.

Cause for Celebration

The Southern Tier office of **AIDS Community Services of WNY** celebrates its **5th Cause for Celebration** fundraiser on March 29. There will be dinner parties held around the Southern Tier area, at which participants make a donation (\$20 or more).

Then the party moves to Jamestown's Viking Hall for a gala celebration. The Ballroom will be decorated with a spring theme. There will be a DJ as well as live music from the Infinity Project. "They play funk, jazz, rock...upbeat music," says Chris White from AIDS Community Services. "They're awesome musicians—the crowd is really into this group."

There will be lots of complimentary desserts donated by area bakeries, companies and individuals. Light beverages are free, and there is a full service cash bar. A gaming casino will offer blackjack and other games of chance. How to dress for this event? "It is a formal event with tuxes and all," says Chris. "But people normally don't seem to feel out of place if they dress informally." People who can't or don't want to attend a dinner party can simply go to the celebration at the Viking Hall. Admission would be \$20.

The theme for this Cause is "Hope for Tomorrow," which Chris says was chosen to emphasize that new treatments and other developments offer reason for optimism.

The Southern Tier office holds their Cause for Celebration on a different weekend than the one held in Buffalo, so that people who wish to attend both events may do so.

To host a party, or for more details, call Chris or Kim at AIDS Community Services (716) 664-7855.

Gender Identity not in SONDA

From GenderPAC

(ALBANY, NY, December 18, 2002) - 31 years after it was introduced, the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA) finally passed the Republican-led New York State Senate and been signed into law by Republican Gov. George Pataki.

Yet even as members of the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA), the state's largest gay rights group, celebrated the bill's passage, over a hundred transgender and gender rights activists gathered outside the Albany State House to protest the bill's exclusion of gender protections.

Said Executive Director Riki Wilchins, "While we applaud ESPA's historic victory in finally passing a difficult piece of legislation, we continue to believe the bill would better protect gay, transgender, and straight employees if it included 'gender expression and identity' protections.

"New York is a flag-bearer for the nation, and we look forward to ESPA's effort to pass gender legislation in the near future." GenderPAC has been supporting a lawsuit brought by Dawn Dawson, a 32 year-old City lesbian who was allegedly fired from her job in New York City because her supervisor said she was "too butch." In addition, numerous transgender employees have testified publicly about workplace discrimination, most recently during the successful fight to pass an inclusive New York City nondiscrimination ordinance.

SONDA would prohibit discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and housing based on sexual orientation. A last-minute amendment by State Sen. Tom Duane, one of two openly gay State Senators, would have added protection for employees' gender expression and identity, but was defeated.

SONDA was passed only after a deal in which Senate Republicans agreed to allowed it to come to a vote in exchange for ESPA's endorsement of Gov. Pataki's reelection.

Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC) can be reached at 1743 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009-110 202-462-6610. gpac@gpac.org web: www.gpac.org

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Michael Dithers: On love & loss

by Michael Mahler

This is kind of an odd column to write. As some of you, maybe many/most of you, are aware, Mike Miller and I have split up after having been together for 9 1/2 years. It has been amicable, and as I write this, he is down in DC looking for a new job. I wish him the best, and he has been good about being decent through this whole process. We actually had our first discussion about this back in October, and held back on talking about it because of starting up the newsletter again. It made for some awkward moments and conversations. It felt really odd because we had been so public as a couple. It felt like I was letting the team down or something like that.

When Mike and I were first getting together during the first run of Erie Gay News, back in 1993, I was sort of apprehensive writing about the newly forming relationship, because I felt that if it didn't work out, I would feel like a public idiot or something. When I first started telling friends and people I knew about the break up, I heard a fair number of remarks like "you guys are a landmark/institution." I suppose that could have made me feel sadder, but in a weird way, it was an acknowledgment that it had been real and genuine. I feel that by having been open and vulnerable to love, that the end of the relationship was easier than feeling that it had only been a half hearted attempt. If you never really try for something, you never get anything.

The day after Mike moved out, I took the day off to get some house stuff done, use up vacation time and maybe recover. A few days before, I joked with someone that I visualized my PDA going off with an alarm "10:30 AM Weep copiously", but actually it was a pretty good day. Heck, later on I was making Virgin White Chili for dinner, popped in an English County Dance CD and was surprised to find myself happily dancing around the kitchen. No clue where the euphoria came from, but I accepted it just the same.

Part of what eased the period was that I had so many helpful and thoughtful friends and family. One of the good things that can come out of adversity is finding, or at least being reminded, that human beings tend to be good and decent, and that there is a lot of simply human decency out of there. I also feel that Mike and I were quite civil, respectful and honest in how we dealt with each other. When I was talking with

my Mom, I told her that I didn't want to put out icky toxic nastiness, because I know it would mean slogging through it afterwards. It also helps one keep one's dignity and self-respect

The end of a romantic relationship doesn't mean that anyone failed. Sometimes, people grow apart, or something has run its course. To me, failure means holding back or not trying at all. The year before I met Mike, there was a guy I had met online that I had been chatting with for about a year or so. We had never actually met in person. So, I decided to take a train to meet him, and see what was really there. On the way there, I felt a slight sense of dread because I thought that the only 2 options were that I would find that I was in love with him, and that I would have to worry about uprooting myself and facing loss of the home that I had grown comfortable with, or that I would find out that it had all been a figment of my imagination, and I would feel like an unrealistic idiot. (Definitely did NOT want to be Norma Desmond on Sunset Boulevard.) I actually had a good time over the long weekend, and I found out that there really wasn't any chemistry, but it felt okay. There wasn't this sense of having never given what could potentially have been the one true love of my life a chance. On the way back. I just felt happy for having tried and having been open to facing something scary.

During the break up with Mike, I saw a therapist for a few sessions. I wasn't going tremendous amounts of angst, but I felt that it might be good to talk to someone. Although we list several excellent therapists here, I would have felt odd going to someone that I had dealt with for the newsletter. I ended up going to a therapist and just figured that if he wasn't gay-friendly, I would deal with it. It ended up being just fine. I was really glad to have an objective voice to help me through this.

So, it has been interesting reentering the dating scene, and being on my own. But I don't regret any of it and wouldn't have missed it. Whatever the next phase holds, I am grateful for what has gone before, and looking forward to whatever comes. So, call someone you know to just say hi, or smile for no big reason, or say something nice to the salesclerk. That which you do returns to you threefold. Even if you don't end up with what you originally thought that you wanted, the trip can still be very much worthwhile.

EGN Crossword

1	2	3	4			5	6		7	8	9	10
11					12				13			
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47						48				49		50
51						52				53		
54						55				56		

“Symbols”

by Mike Miller

*Themed clues

Solution on page 15

Across

1. Signal cloth, either waved or worn in pocket*
5. Queer California destination, for short
7. Prefix meaning red, espec. for plants
11. Gem of a computer language?
12. Gay hangout?
13. Before Krishna
14. Not a family value
15. Suffix to University web site
16. “____ imperfect world..”
17. Rose colored three-sided polygon*
20. Man in uniform, for short
21. Eastern philosophy
22. 11th letter of Greek alphabet*
26. Not fore
29. Ursine symbol for hirsute gay men
30. Member of Keebler’s cooking staff?
32. Employment Nondiscrimination Act
33. Aunt to Opie and Andy

34. Double headed Amazonian battle axe*
36. Hole punching tool
39. Bush, for short
40. Multicolored hoops*
47. Interested in (slang)
48. Latin mouths
49. Singular individual
51. Pistols at 10 paces?
52. A square one won’t go in a round hole
53. Nostril
54. Medieval serf
55. Tin, to a chemist
56. Was liened upon?

Down

1. Furlongs per hour
2. Jump
3. Before fact or ficial
4. Forested valley
5. Moslem leader Ibn Bani ____
6. With 38 down, slang for 40 across*
7. One-horned animal, if lavender*
8. Suspend by the neck until dead
9. Spoken examination
10. Eat
12. Come to pass in time
18. Soviet intelligence agency
19. Twelve step program
22. Confederate leader
23. Motorists’ club
24. Magoo, Moto, or T
25. Every one
26. Some, or even one
27. Feminine deodorant spray, for short
28. Drag queen’s “Aloha?”
29. Ammo for an air gun
31. Slang for a gay publication
32. Emergency room, to a nurse
35. Baltimore Washington Int’l Airport, to a pilot
36. Small chameleon-like reptile
37. Note this Latin acronym well
38. See 6 down*
40. Be transported by car, horse or roller coaster
41. Entry point to the colon
42. News article
43. Nesting “house” bird
44. Taboo, to a 2-year-old
45. To chew upon
46. Desert-dry
50. Shirt color for Gay Day riders at Disney*

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www.matthewstrattoria.com

HAPPY HOUR

TUES-SAT - 3-7PM

\$1 PINT DRAFTS

\$1.95 MIXED WELLS

30% OFF APPETIZERS

Tuesdays

*1 Pints - All Night

Wednesdays

*1 Imports - All Night

DJ LEE

9 to 11 pm

Thursdays

*1 Domestic - All Night

DJ LEE

9 to 11 pm

Fridays

*3.95 Cosmopolitans - All Night

don't leave your love in the cold
make your Valentine's reservation now!

**Oral HIV
testing now
available**

HIV Clinic

STD Clinic
451-6700

HIV COUNSELING & TESTING

WALK-IN CLINIC

No Appointment Necessary

Erie County Health Department

606 West Second Street

(Corner of West 2nd & Cherry Streets)

Monday 12 noon - 3:30 pm

Tuesday 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Appointments can be made at

the following locations:

(HIV Counseling/Testing Only)

Erie County Health Department

Erie Office, Outreach Services

(814) 451-6727

Erie County Health Department

Corry Office - (814) 663-3891

Hispanic American Council

(814) 455-0212

STD TESTING

WALK-IN CLINIC

No Appointment Necessary

Erie County Health Department

Monday 9:00 am—11:00 am

Wednesday 1:00 pm—3:30 pm

Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation

Delivery System (MHEDS)

(814) 453-6229 or (814) 453-4728

All services are free and confidential.

Specially trained outreach workers are available for in home appointments. (HIV testing only)