



Calendar

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

Feb 21 - 2 Girls Alone performs (Elk Creek Inn, 6886 Sterratania Rd, Fairview PA) 9:30 Pm to 12:30 AM. "The Elk Creek Inn is in the western part of Erie County, just past I 90 on Sterretania Road." For more info, call the Inn at (814) 474-2013 or email twogirlsalone@att.net.

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

Feb 22 - Rainbow Cinema/Menspace meets (Erie PA) At Ash & Joel's. Double Feature starts at 7 PM. *Big Eden (2000)* and *Lola and Billy the Kid (1999)*. Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Feb 25 - TV: Rosie O'Donnell guests on *Judging Amy* CBS at 10 PM.

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

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

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

Mar 1 - Mardi Gras! at The Village (Erie PA) "Join both The Village & The Zone for the best N'awlins-style party north of the Mason-Dixon!! Come do it up bad before you have to be good for Lent! (rightttttt.)" 133 W 18th, Erie PA. For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check www.thevillageerie.com.

Mar 1 - Mardi Gras Zone Style! (Erie PA) "Join the parade from New Orleans to the Zone! Come in costume and dance the night away or show us some skin and we'll throw you some beads! Come party with us Zone Style!" 1711 State St., Erie PA. For more info,

call (814) 459-1711 or browse to www.zonedanceclub.com.

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

Mar 8 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) - 10% Network meets: Cause for Celebration Auction (Jamestown NY) 70 Prospect St., Jamestown. Please bring item



Partners Dave Mulholland and Gary Yubas

In This Issue...

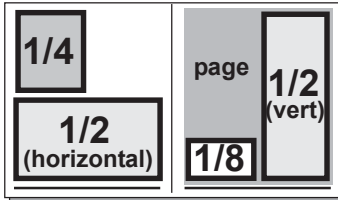
Calendar	1
Announcements	6
Servicemembers info and help	7
For Dawn Burger	7
PFLAG News	8
Your Health Focus... ..	9
Women's History Month at Behrend	11
Retreat for GLBT folk & friends	12
Costs of HIV	13
Entertainment notes	14
Deep Inside Hollywood	16
Michael Dithers: Hobbits in Love??	17
Toll-Free Legal Hotline for PA	18
Resource Directory	19

On the Cover...

"Dave Mulholland and Gary Yuhas"
 Photo courtesy of Gary



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.

Copyright 2003 by Erie Gay News.

Thank You:

To Neal, Jerry McCumber Suzanne Pessa and Ash Clark for collating and Dave for distributing last issue. Thanks! Thanks also to Gary (one of our coverboys this month) for proofing.

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

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 8 - Sabrina & Co. at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. Jamestown. Info (716) 484-7285.

Mar 9 - Jazz Brunch at The Village (Erie PA) "Noon til ??? Come eat, drink, gossip & relax! Great food, light jazz, Bloody Marys & the Sunday papers... Doors open at Noon." 133 W 18th, Erie PA. For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check www.thevillageerie.com.

Mar 10 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (Erie PA), at Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. "At the March 10th PFLAG meeting, from 7 to 9 PM at the Unitarian Church, there will be a guest speaker. Ms. Ida Page, case manager for the Ryan White Title III Program, will speak about HIV, AIDS, treatment, prevention and assistance programs available in the Erie area. Please encourage everyone to come. She said there is free HIV care available under certain circumstances. Her presentation is about a half hour. She will have materials to pass out also." 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.

Mar 15 - 10% Network meets: Cause for Celebration Party (David's, Jamestown NY) Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for details/questions or visit <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

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 - St. Patrick's Party at Rascals (Jamestown NY) 701 N. Main St. Jamestown. For more info, call (716) 484-7285.

Mar 15 - Shamrock Shakedown at The Village (Erie, PA) "Come see Erin-go-Braghless & find your Pot O'Gold at the end of *our* Rainbow! Magically delicious..." 133 W 18th, Erie PA. For info, call (814) 452-0125 or check www.thevillageerie.com.

Mar 15 - O'Zone Dance Party at the Zone (Erie PA) "Join us at the end of the rainbow as the Zone starts its St. Patrick's party early with an evening of dancing and fun!...and if you find the Leprechaun you



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

Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation
Delivery System (MHEDS)
(814) 453-6229 or (814) 453-4728

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

All services are free and confidential.
Specially trained outreach workers are available for in home appointments. (HIV testing only)

get to keep his gold! - Wear Green!" 1711 State St., Erie PA. For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to www.zonedanceclub.com.

Mar 16 - St. Patrick's Day Party at Sneakers (Jamestown NY) Corned beef and cabbage served. 100 Harrison St. (716)484-8816.

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 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 17 - St. Patrick's Day at the Zone (Erie PA) "We open at 4 so join us for a wee' bite to eat or happy hour as we celebrate this great Irish night with

friends!" 1711 State St., Erie PA) For more info, call (814) 459-1711 or browse to www.zonedanceclub.com.

Mar 19 - Performance: Tori Amos (Erie PA) Warner Theater 811 State. For more info, call (814) 452-4857 or email contact@venusmagazine.com.

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

March 26 - Fundraiser/Play: The Drawer Boy (Pittsburgh PA) 17th Annual Pittsburgh Public Theater benefit for Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force. 6 PM pre-performance party, followed by The Drawer Boy by Canadian playwright Michael Healey at 8 PM at the O'Reilly Theater in Pittsburgh. Play runs from March 13 - April 13. Tickets for special benefit start at \$75. Call (412) 242-2500 ext 115.

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

Mar 29 - 5th Annual Cause for Celebration - (Jamestown NY) Viking Hall, Washington & 4th Streets, Jamestown, NY. 8-11:30 PM. Fundraiser for AIDS Community Services. (Southern Tier office holds their Cause event on a different night than Buffalo, so that those who want to attend both may do so.) 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 - Rainbow Cinema/Menspace meets (Jeff Hill's, 1146 Brown Ave, Erie PA) Starts at 8 PM. *Trick (1999)*. Romantic comedy about 2 guys trying to make it in the big city. Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Mar 29 & 30 - Open Door Retreat (Olmstead Manor, Ludlow PA) Christian retreat for GLBT



Well-Being

Counseling...

...Hypnotherapy...

...Energy Work

Deb Monchon Cleer

(814)838-0123



Howard Hanna
Real Estate Services

Linda Foll Johnson, GRI, RRS
Associate Broker
814-864-3200 ext 325
or 814-397-0615
lfjohnson@howardhanna.com

people and their friends, families and supporters. See article on page 12.

Mar 29 & 30 - North Coast Men's Chorus Concert: "Everything's Coming Up Sondheim" (Cleveland OH) Saturday 8 PM, Sunday 3 PM at Cleveland State University's Waelten Auditorium, 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.

Apr 2 - "Always Our Children" meets Catholic Charities, 329 W 10th St, Erie PA. Support group for Catholic parents of gay children (814) 456-2091.

Apr 8 - 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.

Apr 12 - Menspace meets (Meadville PA) At Geoff's. Gay/bi men's social group. Contact Michael at info@eriegaynews.com or (814) 456-9833 or browse <http://menspace.eriegaynews.com>.

Apr 14 - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County Meets (Erie PA) Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 7180 New Perry Highway, Erie PA. Details: See "Regularly Meeting Groups" section.

Apr 16 - Movie: "Far from Heaven" (Mercyhurst College, D'Angelo Music Center, Erie PA) 8 PM at Mercyhurst College D'Angelo Music Center. Todd Haynes' film set in the 1950's and done in that cinematic style tells of a housewife facing both marital crisis (husband Dennis Quaid comes out as gay) and racial tension. Admission is \$4, \$3 for students and seniors. For more info, call (814) 824-3000.

Apr 19 - 10% Network meets: Movie Night (Jamestown NY) Unitarian Church, 1255 Prendergast, Jamestown NY. Contact Don or Martin at (716) 484-9659 or donjaye@hotmail.com for de-

tails/questions or visit <http://jamestowntenpercent.tripod.com>

Apr 30 - Movie: "8 Women" (Mercyhurst College, D'Angelo Music Center, Erie PA) 8 PM at Mercyhurst College D'Angelo Music Center. Satire/comedy/musical/murder mystery about 8 women trapped in a house with a dead body. Featuring lesbian icon Catherine Deneuve. Admission is \$4, \$3 for students and seniors. For more info, call (814) 824-3000.

Regularly Meeting Groups

Be Ye Kind One To Another (BYKOTA) Nondenominational 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.

(continued)

Need Legal Help



24/7?

Prepaid Legal Plan \$27/month for
You & Your Domestic Partner

John Daly King
Independent Associate
814-454-1392

Because you are 3 times more likely
to be in Court than in a Hospital.

reservations appreciated **455-7766**

- Fresh seafood
- Thai & international fusion cuisine
- Live nightly entertainment

An illuminating experience in the arts & fusion cuisine

Sunday jazz brunch
sushi
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

papermoon
14th & state
www.artaloneendures.com

Announcements

Virginia Ayres had a baby boy 6 lb 13 oz on September 24, 2002, at 7:07 PM. His name is Stanley Maximillian Ayres-Aronson. He has a sister, Sofia 22 months old. His proud mama's are Virginia Ayres and Sarah Aronson.

Abbey Atkinson, Trigon coordinator and organizer of last September's very successful Pride weekend, won the first Barry H. Marshall Undergraduate scholarship from Penn State for LGBT community leadership/ activism/involvement. Recipients of the award will be recognized at the end of each academic year at the Commission on LGBT Equity Award night and the Lavender Graduation Celebration. The event this year will take place on April 25, 2003.

Northwest Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance

**GET
TESTED :
YOU
NEED TO
KNOW**

Provides access to educational, medical, financial, and supportive services for those affected with HIV/AIDS in Northwest Pennsylvania

*For more information contact us at:
15870 Route 322
Clarion, PA 16214
814-764-6066 or 800-359-AIDS
(2437)*

*In Erie contact us at:
1001 State St. Suite 806
Renaissance Centre
Erie, PA 16501
814-456-8849 or 800-400-AIDS*



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.NORTHWESTALLIANCE.ORG

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO PREVENTION



Regularly meeting groups

(continued from previous page)

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

Identity/EUP Edinboro University GLBT and allies groups. Meets Mondays at 8 PM in Butterfield Hall, room 213. Also has open movie night most Fridays 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 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.

Servicemembers info and help

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) has issued a fact-sheet regarding issues of concern to lesbian, gay and bisexual military personnel who may be impacted by recent deployments to the Middle East. The memo, which is available online at www.sldn.org, answers questions regarding personnel and legal assistance issues service members may face in preparation for a deployment abroad. "A conflict with Iraq would mean the largest deployment of military personnel since the implementation of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Sharra E. Greer, SLDN's Legal Director. "SLDN's memo is meant to provide guidance to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military personnel, including reservists, who may be unfamiliar with the how the law is implemented during times of deployment." The memo covers topics such as stop-loss orders, power of attorney, making a will and notifying domestic partners in case of an accident or death while a service member is deployed abroad. The memo also includes information on relaying messages from domestic partners through the American Red Cross. "It is important to remember that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' remains in full effect, even during a deployment," Greer said. "Service members should be aware of all the resources available to them while serving abroad." Service members may contact SLDN directly for confidential, free legal counseling by calling (202) 328-FAIR or by email, at legal@sldn.org. On the web at www.sldn.org

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
addresses don't appear on messages.

For Dawn Burger

On Dec 28th I got a phone call that no one wants to get. My best friend had unexpectedly died. We were all in shock. Dawn Burger, 53, gone. We had planned to retire at 55 and leave our "younger" partners in winter to go to Florida. I moved to Erie in 1968. Dawn was the first person I befriended in this town. We worked together, we played together, we came out together.

Dawn and Kathy had been together for 20 years, Annie and I for 23 years.

We all had a lot in common and spent much time and many a vacation together. I talk about my loss, but worse, my heart breaks for Kathy. She goes to sleep each night and wakes each morning without her Dawn. I can't imagine...

There is a Legacy site online. We call it Dawn's chat room. I would like to invite you who knew Dawn or Kathy, or me, to come visit. Or even if you don't know us, come visit a site about love and loss. A site about a beautiful life! As Dawn's mom wrote, "I know Dawn is smiling down on all her friends and family. We miss her dearly. Rather than mourn the flame, let us celebrate how brightly it burned."

Johanna

The Legacy site is at www.Legacy.com The EGN website will also have a link to the Guestbook for Dawn.

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.

PFLAG News

From Our House to the Schoolhouse in Erie

by Maureen Koseff
PFLAG-Erie/Crawford County

On February 5, we met with a teacher at McDowell High School to discuss implementing PFLAG's "From Our House to the Schoolhouse" campaign at McDowell. This campaign is approximately a three year project, whereby, local PFLAG chapters try to assess what problems need to be addressed in order to ensure a safe and inclusive school climate for all students in their local area, and to help establish policies and practices that ensure safety and inclusiveness. During the first year, we try to identify supportive parent groups, teachers or educational groups, community groups, or local media outlets. In the second year, we work with them to assess the obstacles to implementing policies that ensure a safe and inclusive environment and to educate the public and those in a position to make the necessary changes. During the third year,

we work to establish the policies and practices that are needed. The goal is to establish a safe and inclusive environment, one school at a time, until the area adopts a policy that ensures a safe and inclusive environment for all schools. The PFLAG Erie and Crawford County Chapter is working first with McDowell High School to implement this program. We are hoping to establish a successful program at McDowell, which we can then use as a model at other schools in the area.

At the February 5 meeting, PFLAG provided information about harassment of students in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, and the detrimental effect it has, not only on the students who are harassed, but on the rest of the student body. We also provided PFLAG information about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) people for the school to use for teaching materials. We discussed the role of McDowell's newly-established Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), and possible roles for that group in the school safely campaign. Shortly we will have stickers available for teachers and staff members at McDowell to use to identify their offices as "safe zones" where students can come to discuss problems related to GLBT issues. The February 5th discussions were very promising.

Readers of this newsletter can help by pointing us to people they know in educational circles that will support us in these efforts.

Meeting Notes: We will have a guest speaker at our March 10th PFLAG meeting (7-9 PM at the Unitarian Church on route 97). Ms. Ida Page, a Case Manager from *Community Health Net*, will speak about HIV/AIDS, its treatment, and programs available to the public. *Community Health Net* is a Federally Qualified Health Care Network that provides quality comprehensive primary health care services to families and individuals in NW PA. It is supported by a Ryan White, Title III Grant. We hope you will take this opportunity to learn about these services and ask any questions you may have. We want to have a good turnout. Please bring a friend !!! Special St. Patrick's Day refreshments will be served.

Dependable Cars Affordable Terms

Bad Credit?
No Credit?
No Problem!



*"Come in and see a family member
you can trust."*

Jim Moski
Sales Consultant

4125 Peach Street, Erie, PA 16509
(814)868-0700
Fax (814)864-1155

The typical high school student hears **anti-gay slurs 25.5 times a day**. Source: Carter, Kelley, "Gay Slurs Abound," in *The Des Moines Register*, March 7, 1997

Your Health Focus...

Awareness and Prevention

by Christine D. Hudak, MD

Welcome to what I hope will be a new regular feature in the *Erie Gay News*. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Christine Hudak and I am a family physician new to the Erie area. Being lesbian, it is important to me to connect with the community here. One way I thought I could do that was by writing about medical topics that may not get the amount of coverage that HIV and breast cancer do. I am open to suggestions for topics you'd like to read about — please send them to christine.hudak@hamot.org.

An exciting event is going to be taking place this month: The First National LGBT Health Awareness Week, March 16 - 22, 2003. This is being sponsored by the National Coalition on LGBT Health (www.lgbthealth.net). They have organized a big campaign in Washington DC to raise public awareness, educate the LGBTB community about important health issues, and reach out to the medical community with tools to promote the program as well as cultural competency in caring for LGBT patients. The point is to bring a national spotlight on the special and unique health care needs of our community that have been underserved by the current medical establishment.

I love that phrase — “cultural competency.” Doctors so often botch up communication with LGBT patients. I share an example from my own prior practice. While covering for me, the other physician in my office asked a lesbian patient of mine repeatedly about birth control, despite the chart being marked with her partner's name and the symbol I use for a same sex relationship! How frustrating. This is a mild example, compared to others I've heard, but it still makes the point that doctors have to get with it already. No matter how many health issues I address in these columns, the single most important factor in improving health care for our community will be the ability for us to openly talk to our health care providers. When we are heard and not judged, the path for good health care begins.

The first medical topic I thought I would focus on is prevention. Though many of us have real obstacles to getting health care, the fact of the matter is preventing illness is always better than treating it once it gets there. So many patients ask me, “Why should I

get a physical? I'm young and healthy.” Exactly, and we'd like to keep it that way! There are many screening recommendations for the young and healthy to identify people at high risk for developing illness, or to catch illnesses in an earlier, more easily treatable stage.

Something as simple as blood pressure should be checked at least once a year. “High” blood pressure is considered a reading greater than 140/90. High blood pressure typically shows up sometime between the 20s and the 40s. Most people who have high blood pressure have no symptoms, but if it goes untreated it may lead to problems like stroke and heart disease. If caught when mild and in the early stages, high blood pressure can often be treated without medication. Lifestyle changes such as weight loss, regular exercise, and stopping smoking might be enough to keep it in check.

What about cholesterol screening? It is recommended that people have their cholesterol checked at least every 5 years. High cholesterol is another one of those things that has no symptoms, but can cause dam-

*Lake Erie
Antique Gallery*

*9 Village West
3330 West 26th Street
Erie, PA. 16506*

— offering a fine collection of —
- Glassware - Pottery - Porcelain -
- Victorian Furniture & Lighting -

814-836-7555

*Monday-Saturday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 11am - 3pm*

*bring this ad in for a
15% discount*

age to blood vessels and lead to heart disease. Being aware of your numbers will help you focus diet and exercise choices. In addition, people who have very high cholesterol may benefit from medications to lower those numbers. For average risk people, the goal numbers are total cholesterol less than 200, HDL (good cholesterol) greater than 40, LDL (bad cholesterol) less than 130, and triglycerides less than 150. Remember, high cholesterol sometimes runs in families as an inherited disease. So, no matter how thin you are or how much you exercise, don't assume your cholesterol is fine without a blood test. Knowledge is power - the sooner you know, the sooner you can do something about it.

That brings up a good point—family history. This is one of the very important things that can be identified at your prevention check up. If you have a strong family history of sugar diabetes, it makes sense for you to be checked for that regularly. The same goes for certain cancers (breast, colon, skin, prostate) and other medical illnesses like heart disease and thyroid problems.

Next issue I would like to dedicate to the importance of Pap smear screening in women for cervical cancer, and in some men for detection of anal cancer. Screening men is something new—being studied in the last 5 years or so. But there is no excuse for the women—the pap smear has been around since 1941! The importance of breast cancer screening with mammograms and breast exams cannot be overstated.

In summary, there are lots of screening tests available for health promotion and disease prevention. Though the health care system is still in evolution when it comes to serving the LGTB community, we cannot let the imperfect system stand in the way of getting the health care we need and deserve. So let's celebrate the First National LGBT Health Awareness Week by taking a look at those health issues we need to address. Wishing you health and happiness!

For more information, contact Christine at christine.budak@bamot.org or in care of this publication.

Remember our deadline
for ads, articles, calendar
announcements, letters and emails
is the 15th of the month!

About the Crime Victim Center

By Angela Porfilio, CVC

Crime Victim Center of Erie County (formerly Rape Crisis Center/Victim Witness Services) provided assistance to 5,520 victims, their family members and witnesses to crimes in 2002. The agency saw 427 more clients than the previous year. Seven hundred eighty-five (785) of the victims receiving services were children - more than half under the age of twelve.

Services provided by the Center include crisis intervention 24 hours a day, individual and group counseling, court accompaniment, case status information and help in filing claims for Crime Victims Compensation. Crime Victims Compensation, a state fund of money administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, awarded 58 claims from victims in Erie County last year totaling nearly \$130,000. The awards covered medical expenses, lost wages and, in some cases, funeral expenses.

The Center presented 675 prevention/education programs to 20,986 students (pre school through college ages) on topics such as sexual abuse, bullying, date rape and Internet safety. The agency offers counseling one day each week at satellite offices in Corry, Girard, Edinboro, North East and Union City. Victim advocates are on site in the Offices of the District Attorney and Juvenile Probation. The City of Erie Housing Authority also provides space for an agency outreach worker to provide assistance to crime victims living in public housing communities.

For more information about programs and services, call (814) 455-9414 or (814) 455-9515.



PFLAG-Erie and Crawford Counties Chapter

Support, Education, Advocacy
for GLBT People, their families and friends

(814) 898-8341

pflagerie@adelphia.net

[PFLAG-TNET marchadenise@hotmail.com](mailto:PFLAG-TNETmarchadenise@hotmail.com)

North Atlantic Transgender Coordinator

Women's History Month at Behrend

Behrend speakers address the evolution of the feminist movement

It's not your mother's feminism any more—or so say Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, authors of *Manifesta: Young women, Feminism, and the Future*. The two will speak at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, on Friday, March 21, at 7:00 PM in the McGarvey Commons of the Reed Union Building. Their presentation, part of the college's celebration of Women's History Month, is free and open to the public.

"It's hard for college students to imagine life without the effects of feminism," said Colleen Kelley, head of the women's studies minor at Penn State Erie, which cosponsors the presentation. "They never knew

a time when girls didn't have varsity sports teams, when all girls took home economics and boys took shop, and the Miss America Pageant was the biggest source of scholarship money for women. Society really has changed, but it's hard for young women and young men to realize."

Penn State Behrend psychology major Jaime Bonczar looked at Baumgardner and Richard's presentation a bit differently.

"The residence life staff at Penn State Behrend believes college students should experience diversity as part of their education," said Bonczar. "I think these two authors bring a new point of view for both college-age men and women about politics, social justice, and equality in pay and employment issues."

Baumgardner and Richards have both written for *Ms.* and other feminist publications. Richards is cofounder of the Third Wave Foundation, an activist group for your feminists. In *Manifesta*, the two examine the snags in the women's movement, but also demonstrate its successful evolution. They also detail important political goals that need to be achieved and make clear what a world with true equality would look like.

The presentation by Baumgardner and Richards is cosponsored by Women Today, a support group dedicated to the education, growth, and awareness of students, faculty, and staff concerning the issues of women.

Penn State Behrend will present a variety of events in celebration of Women's History Month, including movies, musical presentations, a participatory reading, and a panel discussion. For more information on these events, call 814-898-6063.

Penn State Erie events

Below is the calendar for Women's History Month events at Penn State Erie (Behrend). For more information on these events, call 814-898-6063

March

- 18 *The Princess and the Warrior*, Women's Film Series, Penn State Behrend, Reed Union Building 117, 7 PM
- 19 Alif Laila, sitar player, Rhythms of Life Series, Penn State Behrend, Smith Chapel, 7 PM
- 21 *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future*, lecture by authors Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, Penn State Behrend, Reed Union Building, McGarvey Commons, 7 PM
- 24 Panel discussion featuring Penn State Behrend faculty. Penn State Behrend, Reed Union Building 117, 7 PM
- 25 *Ouch!* Women's Film Series, Penn State Behrend, Reed Union Building 117, 7 PM
- 28 Ariel Winds, and all-female woodwind quintet, Music at Noon: The Logan Music Series, Penn State Behrend, Wintergarden, Noon
- 28 A Participatory Reading of the *Vagina Monologues*, Penn State Behrend, Studio Theatre, 6 to 8 PM

April

- 1 *Sales*, women's Film Series, Penn State Behrend, Reed Union Building 117, 7 PM

Mark your calendars now for
this year's
Erie Pride Picnic
June 14
at Presque Isle, Beach 11

Retreat for GLBT folk & friends

from Lyta Seddig

You are invited to participate in: The Open Door.

Be welcome, rest, laugh, share your story, be yourself. Allow Gods Spirit to touch your hurts and gently lead you home.

March 29-30, 2003

Olmsted Manor, Ludlow, PA located east of Warren, PA in the Allegheny National Forest Accommodations include a Tudor mansion and a modern lodge. Our gathering will include workshops, prayer, discussion, Bible study, free time, socializing, and worship on Sunday morning. *Time:* Saturday, March 29, 10:00 AM registration until Sunday, March 30, after lunch. *Cost:* Overnight accommodations, four meals, and program: \$85. (You may choose to come Friday evening; staying both nights will cost \$121.)

Let Us Know: Please send your reservation with a \$15 deposit to Lyta Seddig, 396 Bylesby Avenue, Meadville, PA 16335 Questions? Call Lyta 814-724-1832 or email rseddig@allegheny.edu

Return deposit and registration by February 28, 2003. Please note that the deadline has been extended a week from when first announced!

Retreat Leadership

Lyta Seddig is an ordained Presbyterian minister, Spiritual Director of Olmsted Manor, the first Protestant Campus Minister at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Stated Supply Pastor of Irvine Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Spiritual Formation Leadership Network of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Justice and inclusivity concerns are an integral part of her ministry: she is a founding member of Lake Erie Presbyterys "More Light" group, a member of the Covenant Network, and welcomes among her spiritual directees those who are lgbt. She serves on the Presbyterys Nominating Committee, and co-convenes Synod Womens Ministries. She and her husband, Bob, are parents of two adult daughters, one of whom is gay.

Directions

Olmsted Manor Retreat Center is located in northwestern Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest on US Route 6 in the village of Ludlow, 20 miles east of Warren and 9 miles west of Kane. Traveling to Olmsted Manor, guests can enjoy a scenic drive from Erie (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 I-86 (NY 17) exit at Bradford.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Physical/Dietary Needs: _____

Requested Roommate: _____

Please reserve an overnight for me on Friday evening: Yes _____ No _____

Lake Erie Counseling Associates

*Gay Affirmative Therapy for
Individuals - Couples - Families*

Dale Allgeier, LCSW, ACSW
William Stanley, LCSW, QCSW
Debra Brown, LSW

*Insurance Accepted
Sliding Fee Scale*

**301 West Tenth Street
Erie, PA 16502
814-455-4009**

*Proudly serving the Gay & Lesbian Community
since 1994*

Costs of HIV

by **Patty Puline**
Erie County Dept. of Health

I lost a friend this year, just a few months ago, to the ravages of AIDS. He was infected years ago through a life of careless living. He lost his wife to AIDS, had grown children, and grandchildren that ended up caring for his physical needs.

I met this man five years ago when he was a guest speaker in schools. He talked to students about HIV prevention. At the time, no one really knew just how sick he was, or how much the illness had depleted his immune system. HIV had become AIDS, and opportunistic infections began to destroy his body.

But this man, who died in his thirties, did not die in vain. His testimonial to students in schools was always positive, but it came with a take home message "If you do not have this disease, you don't want it. Don't get it. Listen to me, it is not fun to take this many pills, to live your life in fear of stigma and discrimination, to worry about contaminating your own family members."

And they did listen, hundreds of them listened, and learned, and sent messages, and when he was sick, they sent get-well cards. He became a friend, a mentor, a counselor, and a motivational speaker. Even now, his message speaks from beyond the grave. When students learned of his death, they send sorrowful letters of sympathy to the family. These same students, who held each other and cried when he talked to them in their school classrooms about his impending death, now offered consolation to those he left behind.

I lost a friend, but we lost a soldier in the battle against HIV infection. I would hold up his last few years of prevention education as a lamp of instruction. I would say, look here, this disease has a price tag, and the cost is not just your life.

The cost is physical as your body changes through seroconversion to accommodate the many

HIV rates have increased for the first time in a decade, according to the CDC. In a 25-state study, HIV diagnoses increased by eight percent between 1999 and 2001. Among men who have sex with men, it increased by 14 percent.

opportunistic infections. The cost is social as you lose friendships and family members. The cost is emotional, as the roller coaster rides of health and illness play each other through so many ebbs and tides. The cost is spiritual as you begin to face your own mortality, and question accountability to a higher being.

People need to realize that HIV becomes a real cellular invasion of your own DNA, and thus replicates once again to infect thousands of others. The real virus here is the germ of indifference, the seed of apathy.

Help us carry the message of concern. It's time to listen, learn and live. HIV is preventable, wear a condom. Practice safe sex. We are trying to save lives in this pandemic of HIV. Right now we look at the icebergs of AIDS, but do not see the oceans of HIV underneath. Be careful where you swim, the waters may be shark infested.

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

GAYELLOW PAGES™

INFORMING THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL
& TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1973

Accommodations, bars, business and not-for-profit resources
Separate **WOMEN'S** and **ETHNIC/MULTICULTURAL** sections

USA/CANADA: \$16 by first class mail.

All states and provinces, national headquarters of
organizations, mail order companies, etc.

EAST and SOUTH Edition: \$12 by first class mail

AL, AR, AZ, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD,
ME, MO, MS, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, PR, RI,
SC, TN, TX, US Virgin Is, VA, VT, WV

Find us at **gay-friendly stores like**

Body Language, Cleveland 216-251-3330

Rainbow Pride Gift Shop, Buffalo 716-855-0222

and many others at <http://gayellowpages.com/2buy.htm>

For an application to be listed (no charge), current
editions and prices, mailing labels, etc., please send a
self-addressed stamped envelope

to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN,
Village Station, New York, NY 10014

212-674-0120 Fax: 212-420-1126

Email: gayellowpages@earthlink.net

<http://gayellowpages.com>

Entertainment notes

by Deb Spilko

It has been very difficult for me to work on this month's Entertainment Notes.

At a time when I should be writing about leprechauns and dreams of spring, our country is plunging headlong into war.

There are those who feel that GLBT organizations and individuals have no place in weighing in on this issue. But we are citizens of this country and of this planet, and there are few issues facing us now that are of such concern to *all* of us.

I am not one of those folks who believes that war is always wrong. But I do believe that it is always horrible, and I don't know if the Bush administration—or indeed, a lot of Americans—get that. Night after night I see comedians on TV making jokes about war with Iraq with the about the same amount of concern they would show for a Hollywood sex scandal.

Many GLBT artists and entertainers have taken a stand against war with Iraq. In December, 100 members of the entertainment industry, calling themselves **Artists United to Win Without War**, signed an open letter to President Bush. While it would be unwise to think that stars have any more to say on current events than anyone else, this is an entertainment column, and I think their open letter states the case as thoughtfully and succinctly as any I have seen: “War talk in Washington is alarming and unnecessary. We are patriotic Americans who share the belief that Saddam Hussein cannot be allowed to possess weapons of mass destruction. We support rigorous UN weapons inspections to assure Iraq's effective disarmament. However, a preemptive military invasion of Iraq will harm American national interests. Such a war will increase human suffering, arouse animosity toward our country, increase the likelihood of terrorist attacks, damage the economy, and undermine our moral standing in the world. It will make us less, not more, secure. We reject the doctrine — a reversal of long-held American tradition that our country, alone, has the right to launch first-strike attacks. The valid U.S. and UN objective of disarming Saddam Hussein can be achieved through legal diplomatic means. There is no need for war. Let us instead devote our resources to improving the security and well-being of people here at home and around the world.”

On March 3, Buffalo's lesbian theater group, **Hag Theater**, will participate in the first worldwide theatrical event for peace, called the **Lysistrata Project**. Hundreds of groups around the world—at this writing they number about 400— will simultaneously read the ancient Greek antiwar play *Lysistrata*. Hag Theater presents their reading at Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave., in Buffalo (\$5 admission), with proceeds benefiting WNY Peace Center, Women in Black and Amnesty International.

.For more info visit www.hagtheatre.org www.lysistrataproject.com or call Margaret Smith, Hag Theater Director 716-884-5984.

Temenos, the progressive online GLBT community has a lot of articles and discussions about war against Iraq and GLBT attitudes towards it. Go to www.temenos.net and click on activism..

For people who want to understand modern American attitudes about war, I think **Hearts and Minds** is a very important film to see. This documentary about the how we got involved in the Vietnam War and American attitudes towards the people we are warring with won an Oscar in 1975. I have tried to make “of GLBT-interest” connections to this film for the readers of this publication. I can't do much with that, though...it's just an important movie that any American concerned with current events would do well to sit down and watch. I would say this, though...when I first saw this film, I thought that connecting the football footage with a documentary about a war was a bit clumsy. Maybe I finally got the point of that last November, when I was listening to some straight white guys talking about the Republicans winning in the elections saying “Now we can start bombing Iraq!” It was discussed with the same sort of seriousness as one might discuss the Steelers taking down the Browns. In fact, they were probably taking football more seriously than war.

Pray for peace.

Other stuff

Rosie O'Donnell will appear on the February 25 episode of the **Judging Amy**. A fan of that CBS drama, O'Donnell will play a judge who hears the case against the boy who killed Amy's stalker. On a less serious note, the March 7 episode of **The Drew**

Carey Show will find Drew and a woman friend romantically interested in the same woman (ABC 9:30pm).

Bravo will be airing a fun series in July, called **The Queer Eye for the Straight Guy**. Basically, five gay men—experts in the areas of fashion, grooming, interior design, culture, and food & wine—will descend onto a straight male subject (with his consent, of course) to give him a style makeover. Also on Bravo, due to the success of the *Gay Weddings* series, the cable channel will offer the all-new **Gay Weddings 2** starting in June.

Ellen DeGeneres performs in Toronto at Massey Hall April 26 and Pittsburgh's Benedum Center April 27...**Margaret Cho** brings her Revolution Tour to Cleveland's Lake Wood Civic March 21 and to Toronto's Convocation Hall April 4...**Judy Tenuta** is at Cleveland's Improv March 28, 29, and 30 (all Improv shows 21+)

Erasure performs in Toronto at Massey Hall March 5... **Concrete Blonde** will be at Pittsburgh's Metropol April 5 (412) 261-2232 and May 4 at Cleveland's Odeon Concert Club...**Ani DiFranco** performs at Cleveland's Palace Theatre April 10 ... A little in the future, **Cher** will be performing May 3 at Buffalo's HSBC Arena, May 16 at Cleveland's Gund Arena, and June 8 at State College's Bryce Jordan Center.

Meadville Community Theatre will present **La Cage Aux Folles**, March 7 through March 22. Tickets are \$12; \$10 for students and seniors. Shows start 8:15 pm Fridays and Saturdays; on Sunday March 16 it starts at 2:15 pm. Odd Fellows Building, N. Main St, Meadville, PA 16335. Tickets (814)-3331773.

The Laramie Project, will be performed at **Oakland Center for the Arts**, 220 W. Boardman Street, Youngstown, OH The play deals with the brutal 1998 murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard. February 27 and 28, March 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 at 8:00 PM, and March 9 at 2:30 PM 330-7460404, www.oaklandcenter.com.

The **Youngstown State University Theater** will present **Stop Kiss**. This Obie-winning play is about two women friends who become attracted to one another, and the hate crime that tests their courage and commitment. It is funny, romantic, and sexy and poignant, disturbing and serious. The play will be followed each evening by a panel discussion. It runs

March 27-29 and April 4-6 at YSU. For more info call the YSU box office at 330-941-3105.

The **Cleveland Playhouse** presents **Dirty Blonde**, the comedy based on the life of Mae West from April 8 to May 4.

Travel

For people traveling to one of the nearby cities, there's a new feature on the EGN website, called **Out-of-Town**. The major reason for that feature is to provide you with connections to the various venues listed in the EGN calendar and Entertainment Notes, like theaters and nightclubs. The venue websites can provide you with a lot of helpful information and details like tickets, directions, parking, seating, accessibility, and any admissions issues you might have questions about like possible age-restrictions. There is also contact info for the various visitors bureaus—check their websites, call them, or drop them a card to get general visitors info for their city or area that includes city maps and info on things like shopping, events, accommodations, dining, and what to do and see. The Buffalo and Toronto listings also have information on US-Canada Border Crossing Wait Times, and the Toronto tourism website has additional features like currency exchange and Canadian holidays. And finally, where available, there are listings for GLBT info sources for that city. Cities and areas covered include **Ashtabula, Buffalo, Cleveland, Chautauqua County, Erie, Meadville, Pittsburgh, Toronto** and **Youngstown**. Hope this helps to make your travels more enjoyable!

By the way, the Toronto Convention & Visitors Association has published **Gay & Lesbian Toronto 2003/2004**, a nice guide filled with events and information of GLBT and general interest. To get your free copy go to www.torontotourism.com call Phone: 416.203.2600 or write Toronto Convention & Visitors Association, PO Box 126207 Queens Quay West, Toronto, Ontario Canada M5J 1A7 email toronto@torcvb.com

The **Provincetown Business Guild** has a very helpful (and fun) website that can provide you with information on events, accommodations, dining, and more. Visit www.ptown.org you can also contact them at: 3 Freeman Street, #2, PO Box 421-94; Provincetown, MA 02657 (800) 637-8696 info@ptown.org

Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

Anything Goes for Kline

Oscar winner and sometime gay-player Kevin Kline has got famed gay songwriter Cole Porter under his skin. Kline is set to star as Porter in *De-Lovely*, a biopic that will feature more than 30 songs from the composer's amazing repertoire of playfully popular hits. Porter, who married a woman but had numerous affairs with men, had an intense relationship with his tough, socialite wife, Linda Lee Porter, whom he viewed as his muse. His career took off only after they married, and he stopped working completely after she died. No actress has been signed to play opposite Kline as the lovely Linda, but Romeo thinks butchy-but-straight Frances McDormand or Holly Hunter would be just de-lightful in the role.

Phantom Is a Menace to Make

Talented tunesmith Andrew Lloyd Webber wants to make beautiful music with queer director Joel Schumacher. Webber has just bought back the screen rights to his uber-successful Broadway musical *Phan-*

tom of the Opera from Warner Bros., where the showstopper has been stalled in development hell for well over a decade. Webber is convinced that following the success of *Moulin Rouge* and *Chicago*, *Phantom* can be made into a blockbuster film. He hopes to reteam with Schumacher, who took a crack at the project years ago. Hunky heartthrob Antonio Banderas has long wanted to play the titular role in *Phantom*, but now rumors are circulating that awesome Aussie Hugh Jackman might don the mask in the big-screen version, which is aiming to start production in late 2003 or early 2004.

The *Platinum* Touch

Openly gay TV execs Robert Greenblatt and David Janollari, whose company produces shows like *Six Feet Under* and *The Hughleys*, are working on the tentatively titled *Screwball Homicide*, a one-hour comedy series for Lifetime about a brilliant female detective who is professionally teamed with her ex-husband. Even though their marriage went bust, the two still try to make their crime-solving relationship work. Greenblatt and Janollari, recently named to *Out* magazine's list of 100 most influential people, are also behind *Platinum*, an hour-long show about two brothers who start their own hip-hop record label. *Platinum* spins its way on UPN, with an additional broadcast on MTV, in April.

D.E.B.S. Will Debut in Theaters

Out filmmaker Angela Robinson didn't win an award for her short film, *D.E.B.S.*, at this year's Sundance Film Festival, but she scored something even better - a green light to make a feature-length version. Robinson's wickedly funny film - the recipient of a 2002 grant from POWER UP, the Hollywood power-dyke organization - centers on four high school seductresses whose SAT scores show they have so much aptitude for lying, killing, and cheating that they're drafted as secret agents. In the feature version, Robinson promises a gorgeous villain and plenty of girl-on-girl action. Production is set to begin in May. No word if leading lesbian Tammy Lynn Michaels, who starred in the short, will reprise her role.

Romeo San Vicente had the exact same SAT scores as the kid who sat in front of him. He can be reached care of this publication or at Write2Romeo@yahoo.com.



Q What Does that Alphabet Soup Mean?

A All of Us.

Because we want to be inclusive and it's just too hard to say "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning" and so forth all the time, we will use "GLBT", "LGBT" or "GLBTQ" instead.

Michael Dithers: Hobbits in Love??

by Michael Mahler

Hope that everyone had a good month. Things are going pretty well here. For those of you who like to plan ahead, we have already reserved the traditional Presque Isle Beach 11 pavilion for the 11th annual Pride Erie Picnic for Saturday, June 14. We had a record number of people last year, and hope to exceed that this year. We will probably start meetings about it in April. One of the best ways to help out is just add to the word of mouth. I was amused last fall when talking with someone who was expressing discontent that there weren't any big Pride events here in Erie. The funny thing is that we were standing no more than 20 feet from the poster for the Pride Rally weekend that was happening the next day. I turned him around and pointed it out. Signs, email, etc are fine, but sometimes, the most effective agent of change or getting the word out is one-on-one interaction. For all of the high tech stuff that I have been involved with, you'd be surprised by how often it comes down to faces and voices!

I should have links to the web based version of this column, but there have been a huge number of postings on various online bulletin boards, most notably those at the Datalounge about speculation that 2 of the actors from *The Lord of the Rings* being deeply in love. The print edition of the *Advocate* commented on this a few months ago, and there was also an interesting article in *The Guardian* (a mainstream, relatively progressive newspaper in the UK) that also talked about the possible relationship between the actors, without referring to the specific site(s) where it was being discussed, or naming the "hit film franchise." The actors referred to are Elijah Wood (who plays Frodo) and Dominic Monaghan (who plays Merry, one of the other hobbits, but not the one is mostly onscreen with Elijah in the most recent installment, *The Two Towers*.) The threads at the Datalounge go back almost a year. There have probably been tens of thousands from folks all over the globe about the topic.

I have been reading Datalounge online for a few years now. It has a good mix of generic GLBT news, and the gossip forum has been a guilty pleasure. Sometimes it was silly, sometimes it was very moving. When I was at work on September 11, 2001, there were a number of generic news websites that were down.

Several folks posted news about the terrorist attack in the hours after it happened on the gossip forum.

Part of what makes the recent speculative threads about Wood and Monaghan so enticing is that it probably taps into some Jungian archetypes of the lovers who are keeping their relationship a secret from potentially hostile authority figures. An interesting twist that happened on the thread is that around November 2002, there were some cryptic anonymous posts on the board about color combinations or other appearance related info, that were shortly followed by the actors wearing said colors in publicity photos, which some on the board were a semi-covert means of signaling support or affirmation. (Referred to as "shout outs.") That was part of the reason that *The Guardian* did the article alluding to the online bulletin board and the rumors. Speculating about famous people being (semi) secretly gay or being couples is hardly news (had been rumors/speculation a while ago about Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire as being a couple; neither actor is out or may even be gay), but the idea that someone well known being speculated about might be covertly inching out of the closet via the Internet is something new.

There were a few mainstream media happenings that I have to admit made me think "Hmm, I wonder..." When Elijah Wood was asked by Ted Casablanca of *E!* in December to complete the sentence "Hobbits who play together..." Wood shot back with "Make sweet love together." (Okay, let me admit that I **love** that quote!) The *Advocate* included that quote by the way in a recent print edition. Dom's response to the same question was "Live together." There was a charming end to an interview with Monaghan on *Starz* where just after the credits, Wood came in and kissed Dom's hand, and both actors giggled and acted silly. It could be seen as clowning around and being comfortable with a friend, or it could be something else. Not definitive.

It should be noted that this is all speculation, and it is quite entirely conjectural, and the two actors might be straight, or not together, or possibly together, but not doing any of the "shout outs" referred to, and that this is just a big misunderstanding. Maybe they are just 2 straight guys who are friends and who are

gently amused by being thought a couple, and are just good-naturedly playing along.

A fair number of posts on the board are basically off topic or crap or annoying, but there have been a few deeply moving thoughts that have been shared that deal with larger issues of being kind or loving or standing up for beliefs. It's kind of addictive. One poster joking referred to the threads as "heroin in pixels." A possibly ironic twist is that there have been several posts from folks who said that they felt inspired to be more honest or loving just because of having read some of the more thoughtful posts. So, even if the central story turns out not to be factually based, it still seems to have had some positive effect. There was a cute story from someone who reported overhearing a bunch of (presumably straight) teenage girls chatting while watching the movie in the theatre. They oohed and aahed over some of the male cast members. Early on, when Elijah was onscreen, they were supposedly quieter because "he's taken." When Dominic was on, they supposedly said, "that's his boyfriend."

Some that I learned from my mom was that if you basically acted in good faith and did what you felt to be the right thing, you can't go too far wrong. I have exchanged a few really nice emails with a woman who also posts on the board. I felt that it has also been a good way of generically writing about the coming out process when I have made a few posts on the board.

One particular reason that I wanted to write about this is that I recently got a very nice email from a friend who has been making more friends in the gay community, but thinks of himself as not being out. What I have found increasingly true is that being out is not some all or nothing check box. "Out" generally means - to whom? In what situations? Admittedly, if there was a contest for being the "most out" locally, I would probably at least be a semifinalist. However, lots of people make a difference without even realizing it just by pushing the envelope or even just being themselves and increasing understanding. If you look at the situation as a huge gulf to be leaped from closeted scared person to fearless flag waving champion, it seems impossible. However, when you realize that neither extreme really exists, and that lots of people are at different points, and that no one has to go to any predetermined point, it's not so bad.

Online resources for this story

Datalounge "Prancing Pony Inn" forum (Lord of the Rings related stuff)

www.datalounge.com/datalounge/forums/index.html?forum=29

"Cliff Notes" recap of previous threads about De&E

www.datalounge.com/datalounge/forums/index.html?thread=1452721&stack=2,3;thread,1;thread

E! Online column with "Make sweet love" quote from Wood

www.eonline.com/Gossip/Awful/cauth/Archive2002/021219.html?fdmain1

Pictures including the 2 actors, site also great source of info

www.bagendinn.com/domlijpix.htm

Toll-Free Legal Hotline for PA

LGBT people living in Pennsylvania can call the Legal Hotline of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights on a toll-free hotline. The toll-free number is:

1-866-LGBT-LAW

The Center has assisted more than 1,600 LGBT people through its legal hotline. With the new toll-free number, the cost of a call will not stop people in need from seeking the Center's services. People in the Philadelphia area should continue contacting the Center through our regular phone number, 215-731-1447. This new toll-free number is for the Legal Hotline only. Specific extensions can not be reached through the toll-free number.

Resource Directory

This is an abbreviated listing! For a complete listing, either go to www.eriegaynews.com/resources.html or call us at (814) 456-9833. All phone numbers are (814) unless otherwise noted.

Accommodations

- Camp Davis (724) 637-2402
 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers PA
 Jones Pond Campground (716) 567-8100
 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica NY
 Partridge Sheldon Mansion Bed and Breakfast (716) 484-9659
 70 Prospect St., Jamestown NY

Bars

- Rascals (716) 484-3220
 701 N Main St., Jamestown NY, 3 PM to 2 AM 7 days a week
 Sneakers (716) 484-8816
 Village Supper Club 452-0125
 133 W 18th St., Erie PA. Open 8 PM to 2 AM Mon-Sun
 Zone Dance Club 459-1711
 1711 State St., Erie PA. Open Mon-Sat.

Coffeeshouses & Restaurants

- Aroma's Coffeeshouse 456-5282
 2174 W 8th St., Erie PA
 Matthew's Trattoria 459-6458
 153 E 13th St., Erie PA
 Papa Joe's Pepperoni Cafe 455-1292
 402 W 8th St., Erie PA
 papermoon 455-7766
 1325 State St., Erie PA

Counseling

- Community Integration Crisis Services 456-2014
 1330 W 26th St., Erie PA toll free # (800) 300-9558
 David J Johnson, PHD 838-9408
 Lake Erie Counseling Associates 455-4009
 Vivian Tamburello 877-7065
 Well Being Center 838-0123

Groups

For regularly meeting groups, see the Calendar

Health

- Community Health Net 454-4530
 1202 State St, Erie PA
 Erie County Dept of Health 451-6700
 606 W 2nd St., Erie PA
 Healing Touch Therapeutic Massage 452-2812
 410 Cranberry St., Ste 130, Erie PA
 NW PA Rural AIDS Alliance 456-8849
 1001 State St., Ste 806, Erie PA

HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing

- Community Health Net 454-4530
 1202 State St, Erie PA (No appointment necessary)
 Erie County Dept of Health 451-6700

606 W 2nd St., Erie PA. Mon: 12 noon to 3:30 PM, Tue 9:30 AM to 1 PM. Other times by appt.
 Minority Health Education and Delivery System (MHEDS). 453-6229
 2928 Peach St., Erie PA. Open to all races/ethnicities. Call for appt.

Infolines

- Erie Gay News 456-9833
www.eriegaynews.com
 Erie Gay Teens www.eriegayteens.com
 Gay Chautauqua (877)235-4188
www.gaychautauqua.org

Professional Services

- Patty Ambrose (Lawyer) 452-3069
 John Cooper (Lawyer) 455-3626
 Linda Foll-Johnson, Realtor 864-3200 ext 325
 Tom NeCastro, Realtor 452-2100 ext 125
 Levine Law Office 454-3819

Retail

- Jim Moski/J.D. Byrider Auto Sales 868-0700
 Lake Erie Antique Gallery 836-7555
 9 Village West, 3330 W 26th St., Erie PA
 Larese Floral Design 461-0904
 2602 Myrtle St., Erie PA



Subscribe Now!

EGN \$20 per year

Name _____

Addr _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Phone and email are optional

Send \$20 Check to:
EGC Coalition
 1115 W 7th St.
 Erie PA 16502

EGN will be mailed
 discreetly in a plain
 envelope every month
 for 1 full year.

All information held in confidence.

DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR HEALTH !

TAKE CHARGE !!

GET TESTED EARLY – GET TESTED OFTEN !!!

CONFIDENTIAL ORAL HIV TESTING IS FREE

**Community Health Net offers Comprehensive Medical & Dental
& Specialty Healthcare Services !**

New Patients Welcome!

- ✓ **Complete primary Medical, Dental, and Vision Healthcare for people living with HIV/AIDS**
- ✓ **Early intervention and compassionate HIV/AIDS care.**
- ✓ **Case management/Social Services**
- ✓ **Easy access with over seven (7) sites to serve you**

**WE ACCEPT BLUE CROSS, PRIVATE INSURANCE,
MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND UNINSURED PATIENTS.**

QUESTIONS? CALL (814) 454-4530 EX. 233